



Mahashivratri 2025 will be celebrated on **February 26, 2025**. This festival is considered highly auspicious for worshipping Lord Shiva and seeking his divine blessings. On this day, Shiva devotees observe fasting, stay awake throughout the night (Jagran), and perform **Jalabhishek** (ritualistic bathing of Shiva Lingam) to please Lord Shiva.

Significance of Mahashivratri

The word "**Mahashivratri**" means "**The Great Night of Shiva**." It is observed on the **Chaturdashi Tithi (fourteenth day) of Krishna Paksha in the month of Phalguna**. According to religious scriptures, this day marks the **divine marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati**. Another belief states that on this day, **Lord Shiva manifested himself in the form of a Shiva Lingam**.

For Shiva devotees, this occasion holds special significance, as **observing fast and staying awake in devotion destroys sins and leads to liberation (moksha)**.

[Lord Shiv Ji Vrat Katha](#)

[Shiv Ji Panchakshar Stotra](#)

Importance and Rituals of Jalabhishek on Mahashivratri

According to sacred texts, performing **Jalabhishek (offering water to Shiva Lingam)** on Mahashivratri **grants divine blessings** and fulfills wishes. This ritual involves using various holy ingredients.

Steps for Performing Jalabhishek

1. **Purification of the Shiva Lingam** – The Shiva Lingam is bathed with **Ganga water, milk, curd, ghee, honey, and sugarcane juice**.
2. **Offering Bilva Leaves** – Bilva leaves are sacred to Lord Shiva and must be placed on the Lingam after Jalabhishek.
3. **Offering Datura and Bhang** – Lord Shiva is pleased when devotees offer **Datura flowers and Bhang** on the Lingam.
4. **Chanting Rudrabhishek Mantras** – During Abhishek, "**Om Namah Shivaya**" should be chanted continuously. Additionally, **Rudrashtakam, Shiva Tandava Stotra, and Mahamrityunjaya Mantra** should also be recited for divine benefits.
5. **Lighting a Lamp and Performing Aarti** – After the Abhishek, a lamp is lit, and **Shiva Aarti** is performed, followed by offering **bhog (sacred food)**.

Fasting Rituals and Benefits of Mahashivratri

Fasting on Mahashivratri is believed to bring **Lord Shiva's divine blessings and freedom from life's sufferings**. Devotees observe strict fasting, consuming only fruits and water.

How to Observe the Fast?

- Take a **ritual bath in the morning**, wear clean clothes, and take a vow to observe the fast.
- **Perform Jalabhishek and worship Lord Shiva.**
- **Refrain from eating grains and cooked meals; only consume milk, fruits, or water.**
- Stay awake at night (Jagran) and **sing bhajans and hymns in devotion to Lord Shiva.**
- **Break the fast (Parana) the next morning** after offering prayers.

Benefits of Observing Mahashivratri Fast

- **Fulfills wishes and desires.**
- **Grants freedom from diseases and troubles.**
- **Brings harmony in marital life.**
- **Helps in attaining Moksha (salvation).**

Mythological Stories Related to Mahashivratri

1. The Story of Shiva-Parvati's Marriage

According to mythology, **Goddess Parvati performed severe penance** to attain Lord Shiva as her husband. Impressed by her devotion, Lord Shiva **accepted her as his consort**, and their wedding took place on **Phalguna Krishna Chaturdashi**. Hence, Mahashivratri is also celebrated as **Shiva-Parvati's Divine Wedding Anniversary**.

2. The Story of the Appearance of the Shiva Lingam

Another legend tells that once, **Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma** argued over **who was the supreme deity**. To settle their dispute, **Lord Shiva appeared as an infinite pillar of fire (Jyotirlinga)** and challenged them to find its **beginning and end**. Both gods failed and realized **Lord Shiva's greatness**. This event is commemorated on **Mahashivratri as the emergence of the Shiva Lingam**.

3. The Story of Lord Shiva Drinking Poison

During the **churning of the ocean (Samudra Manthan)**, a deadly poison emerged along with divine nectar. To save the world, **Lord Shiva consumed the poison and held it in his throat**, which turned blue, earning him the name **Neelkanth (the blue-throated one)**.

This selfless act symbolizes **sacrifice and divine protection**, which is why devotees **worship Lord Shiva with immense faith on Mahashivratri**.

What to Do and What to Avoid on Mahashivratri?

Things to Do:

- Offer water, milk, honey, and Ganga Jal to the Shiva Lingam.
- Chant "Om Namah Shivaya" continuously.

- Stay awake at night (Jagran) and recite Shiva Chalisa, Rudrashtakam, and Shiva Tandava Stotra.
- Donate food and clothes to the needy.

Things to Avoid:

- Do not eat grains, wheat, or heavy meals.
- Avoid telling lies, stealing, or engaging in negative actions.
- Refrain from disrespecting others or losing your temper.
- Do not offer Tulsi leaves to the Shiva Lingam.

Mahashivratri is a sacred festival that offers devotees an opportunity to **seek Lord Shiva's blessings for peace, prosperity, and liberation**. Fasting, performing **Jalabhishek**, and **staying awake in devotion** on this day removes sins and hardships from life.

By worshipping **Lord Shiva with sincerity**, one can attain **happiness, good fortune, and ultimate salvation**.

May this [Mahashivratri 2025](#) bring **divine blessings, peace, and prosperity into your life!**

Har Har Mahadev!

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