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## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM SRI RAJARAJESWARI PETTAM

N/A

### REGULAR SERVICES:

#### MONDAY TO FRIDAY

MORNINGS - 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

EVENINGS - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

#### SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

#### AND USA HOLIDAYS

ALL DAY ( 9:30 am – 9:00 pm )

- ? Pujas on Weekdays are at 9:30am, 12:30pm & 7:00p
- ? Pujas on Weekends are at 10am, 12:00pm & 6:00pm
- ? Abhishekam for the Devi is at 10:00am on Saturdays
- ? Navavarana Pujas are performed every Poomima



Sri Rrajarajeswari Peetam

6980/6970 East River Rd

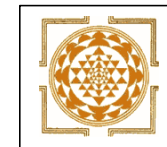
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## SRI CHAKRA

THE SOURCE OF THE COSMOSE

Blossom 6 Petal 3

April, 1994

CHAITRA, BHAVA

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**SRI RAJARAJESWARI**  
PEETAM, RUSH. N.Y

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**Purnahuthi During the  
omam at the Peetam**

# SRI CHAKRA

## THE SOURCE OF THE COSMOSE

### At The Peetam:

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The approach road to Devipuram was one big pothole. It rattled your teeth to drive in, and I always wondered if this was the time that the road would totally demolish the jeep. There were workers all along the road digging trenches along the sides for water runoff. They were just beginning to even out the road in front of *Kamakhya Peetham*, and there was still 1 km of road to finish.

There were no steps to either *Khamakhya Peetham* or to *Sivlayam* at the top of the hill. People had to climb up the- tough, rocky hill with great care.

Of the six dome houses that were to accommodate guests staying in Devipuram during the 3-day *Mahakumbhabhishekam* period, only two had been built. The bathroom and toilet facilities were still to begin.

I tried to capture the essence of Devipuram with my camera, but it was impossible to do, because each week things would shift and change. All of the above tasks were completed. But if you had seen Devipuram even two weeks before the function, you would never have

believed it possible to accomplish what got done in that short duration of time.

Watching Devipuram grow was in itself a real miracle. Where the resources, people and money came from that allowed each new phase to develop was miraculous. Guruji did not have to move from Devipuram to accomplish anything. As soon as he voiced what was needed and put it out to the Universe, time and time again that person or thing would simply show up! For all of us, this preparation period was a perfect lesson in trust -- trusting that the Mother was taking care of us in every way possible.

We had over 700 people staying at Devipuram for all three days -- almost half of which were volunteers from nearby communities.

We expected about 10,000 devotees to come on the first two days of the Ceremonies from the local towns and villages and we were not disappointed. On the final day, over 25,000 people participated in the grand event.

### **Participation from Rochester, Canada and U.S.**

Those people who were lucky enough to be able to attend the *Mahakumbhabhishekam* from our

Rochester and nearby *Peethams* were: Sri Chaitanyananda Natha and Sri Gnanamba; Sri Shashtishananda Natha (Sundara from Toronto); Sudarshan (Toronto); Devendara Makendiran and Chitra Makendiran (Toronto), Gayatri Amba (Shiela of Syracuse), Sri Vishuddha Avatara Baba (Bill Thomas of Rochester), Joe Caezza (Rochester), Michael Cain (Iowa), Bhavani Manikkasingham (Boston), Aravind (Princeton) and Devi Parvati.

### **Maha Kumbhabhishekam**

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The daily schedule for the *Mahakumbhabhishekam* was as follows: There were morning community prayers and spiritual discourses daily from 6:15 to 7:30 a.m. for the residents and guests. During this time devotees from our Rochester and Canada *Peethams* were in the *Bindu Sthanam* offering *Abhishekam* and *Alankaram* to *Sri Sahasrakshi* daily.

After breakfast the *homas* and *Navavarana Pujas* would start around 9 am. The *homas* and vedic rituals were presided over by a spiritually-powerful *Sri Vidya upasaka* and priest, *Sri S. Krishnayaji*. *Krishnayaji* is like a "soul brother" to *Guruji*. They are very close, each respecting the other deeply. They are like *Siva* and *Sakthi* together, each complementing the other. When *Guruji* asked *Krishnayaji* to perform the

*Mahakumbhabhishekam*, not only did he accept the invitation, but he offered to pay for half the expenses, so that he could bring ten *ritviks* instead of the five requested by Guruji, and to bring all the appropriate supplies to make the ceremonies the most perfect possible. Sri Krishnayaji was always in imposing sight -- his heavy 22k gold earrings and arm bracelets with rubies glittering in the sun as he walked regally to and from the *yajna shala* daily.

Each day, the *homas* and vedic recitation went on from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and again from 3 p.m. to 8 pm. each evening. Guruji and Amma were required to be in *the homas* from morning til night. Each day, six couples were picked by Guruji to perform the *homas* that day for the blessing of their families and for the world. There were six *homa kundas* in the *shala*, each with a different shape. At each one, sat one priest and one couple performing the *homas*.

The *yajna shala* was built only two weeks before the function. Guruji used the model of the dome houses to build it, with large arched openings on all four sides so that the devotees could sit and watch the proceedings from all around the outside of the dome. Inside the dome, the heat and smoke levels were minimal, because the 16-ft. height of the dome drew the smoke and heat upward and out. The curved shape of the dome really magnified the vibrations of the

full-throated vedic chanting as it filled the airways throughout the 10 acres of Devipuram. On the outside walls of the *yajna shala* are depicted the *Dasa Maha Vidyas*, which were sketched and painted there at Guruji's request by Rochester's own Joe Caezza.

At the same time that the *homas* were going on in the mornings, in the *Sri Meru Nilayam* all the 108 *vighras* of the *Khadgamala* Devis were receiving *Sri Chakra Navavarana Pujas*, performed by 108 devotees simultaneously. By the side of each of these devotees, others who were interested in learning the *Navavarana Pujas* were stationed to watch the proceedings. All around the *Sri Chakra Meru Nilayam*, thousands of local pilgrims stood in the hot sun watching the proceedings from outside the low enclosure. Sri K.V. Subbarao from Hyderabad led the devotees in the *pujas* using his beautiful tape of the *Navavarana Puja* as well as giving individualized instruction. It was a very moving and powerful experience.

While these *pujas* were going on, a select number of devotees from the U.S., Canada and India who were well-experienced in the *pujas* were led by either *Sri Chaitanyananda Natha* or others in reciting the *Sri Chakra Puja*, *Rudram*, *Chamakam*, *Purusha Suktam*, *Sri Lalita Sahasranamam* and devotional songs to *Sri Sahasrakshi Rajarajeshwari* in the *Bindu Sthanam*.

During the afternoons other activities were offered at the same time that the *homas* were continuing in the *yajna shala*: there were *Kumkuma Archanas* and *Sahasranama Pujas* performed in *Sri Meru Nilayam* or in front of the *Sivalayam*; uplifting bhajans were performed by Sri Chaitanyananda Natha or other talented devotees; and there were dance recitals, veena concerts and vocal recitals each evening from 4 -- 11 p.m.

One of the most difficult jobs to orchestrate during the *Mahakumbhabhishekam* festivities was to serve over 1000 people three meals, coffee and snacks daily and to give free *prasadam* to all the devotees who came to Devipuram from 11 -- 3 p.m. daily. Thanks to the hard work and organizational prowess of several of Guruji's Indian devotees and the volunteering help of over 200 people, this task was performed with surprising ease. (Even considering the 2000 villagers on the second day who somehow showed up for free lunch meals with meal tickets "found" by one of the volunteers! The caterers really earned their money that day.)

To-help Guruji and Amma keep their one-pointed focus of sourcing the *homas* and vedic rituals each day, a "Guruji Committee" was initiated. Because of the intensity of the power generated by the *Homa Diksha*, neither Guruji nor Amma was leave for their respective

cities throughout India. Guruji was filled with Divine Energy throughout the day, and although physically exhausted, you could see both he and Amma throughout the day and evening giving darshan to all the devotees

who came for his Blessings, laughing and joking and giving his undivided love and attention to everyone.

Although officially over, the *Mahakumbhabhishekam* excitement, hustle and bustle continued for days as many of the out-of-town guests stayed over for a few days to be able to connect with Guruji more directly. Throughout the weekend, we were all busy taking down the temporary shamianas and facilities erected for the event, cleaning and packing up rented utensils, pots and pans, chairs and tables, saying good-bye to newly-made friends and greeting the many pilgrims who came on the weekend that had not been able to see the *Mahakumbhabhishekam* festivities during the week.

For me personally, it was a very great honor and privilege to be able to spend five months at Devipuram doing in a small way whatever I could to help Guruji complete the first stages of the dream and vision of Devipuram -- which exists for all of us, wherever we live on the planet, not just for Guruji. Devipuram -- a place where we and all

people can come to uplift our spirits and nourish our minds and hearts through worship, ritual, meditation, yoga, music, dance and the arts, a place dedicated to serving God through helping and serving one's fellow living beings, a place dedicated to helping us mold our lives into Joyful Divinity, becoming the Mother Goddess Herself. Om *Santih, Santih, Santih.*