

## Do's and Don'ts of Maha Kumbhaabhishekam Deeksha and other General guidelines

This document explains a few salient points that all bhaktas must adhere to while attending the Maha Kumbhaabhishekam from 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Kindly note that these are for your benefit, and not view them as an imposition by the organizers. We respect everyone.. These are intended for couples - married men and women who undertake the Deeksha. However, cleanliness instructions are for all persons. This is a Dharmic event, and certain norms will be followed.

Maha Kumbhaabhishekam is one of the rare events you can attend in your life. You are witnessing the consecration of the alayam of (in this case) Sri Satyanarayana Swamy and Rama Devi. This is a long and complex process, and full of religious and devotional consequence.

1. People who are participating in the Deeksha are intimated by the temple management through emails. You can collect your Deeksha vastrams, which are specially consecrated, on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> June between 7 PM to 9 PM from the hands of a priest at the temple. On your arrival, please go to Deeksha Enquiry counter . The contacts there are Smt. Amruthavalli Tadepalli or Smt. Suguna Yajamana or Sri Sreenivas Devarakonda . They will be checking your names and ensure you have the Deeksha vastras . You may also collect them on 28<sup>th</sup> morning before the homam starts or anytime you come within these 3 days.
2. We expect the people who are eligible for Deeksha to participate in at least one homam on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>. Homam is done in the forenoon at 10.30 AM to 12.15 PM; and afternoon from 5 PM to 7.00 PM on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be from 10 AM on 30<sup>th</sup>. The event will conclude on 30<sup>th</sup> afternoon with Mahaprasadam.
3. Please come atleast 30 minutes prior to the timings mentioned above to participate in homam.
4. Cleanliness
  - a. Please take "Abhyangana Snaanam" or head bath in the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> June. Wear fresh clothes. You can change into your deeksha clothes after arrival at temple if you have already collected earlier. If not, You can collect Deeksha vastrams in the morning and change at the temple.
  - b. We can provide assistance to tie your Dhovati (for men) if you are unsure of how to manage it. You cannot participate in the homam without Deeksha clothes, so please come prepared.
  - c. Please tie your hair in a braid, bun, etc. It should not be left free. Wear flowers in your hair if available.
  - d. Please apply Kumkuma on your forehead.. We will also make arrangements to give you kumkuma before you enter the hall.
  - e. Please do not wear any foot wear into the hall. You should avoid even socks.
  - f. Please come early to avoid last minute rush at the venue, as large crowds are expected.
5. Dress Code
  - a. Ladies should wear the Deeksha vastra Saree only. Please be prepared to change at the temple if necessary. Kindly avoid arguments on why Deeksha vastras are required, etc. Only one set of deeksha vastras will be provided per family. To avoid forgetting deeksha

vastras, please leave it in your vehicle.. Men are required to wear Deeksha dhovati only. Help can be provided if needed.

- b. All cell phones need to be switched off or on vibrate only during yagjnyam( homam ).
6. Mental state needs to be with sattva guna:
    - a. Please keep your mind happy, with good thoughts. Whatever happens, kindly do not get angry, distressed or argumentative. This takes your focus away from realizing the fruits of your yagjnyam.
    - b. Please pray to Ganesha, Goddess Lalitha and Goddess Lakshmi the night before and early morning of 28<sup>th</sup> asking that you be allowed to complete the yagjnyam successfully.
    - c. Unless you have a medical condition, please avoid eating anything before coming to the 'yagjnya shaala' (Temple) in the morning.
    - d. Avoid eating non-vegetarian food the evening before, and for all three days, even if you don't attend all events for all three days. Avoid eating food with onions and garlic the evening before. For these three days, please eat food provided in the temple, or avoid eating food with onions or garlic.
    - e. Please bring your children, specially teenage girls and boys, to witness how the yagjnyam is performed. Please take care of your young kids at all times. .
  7. What do you need to bring?
    - a. Please bring some fruits and flowers with you as offering to Sri Satyanarayana Swamy and Rama Devi ammavaru. The organizers have made arrangements for the yagjnya including food.
    - b. Nothing else is expected of you.
    - c. Any offering you want to make, any donation you would like to give is entirely voluntary. We encourage you to give generously. Checks at the venue are to be given to concerned organizers. Cash to be deposited in the hundi. Make checks out to 'VEDA', and say 'Kumbabhishekam' on tag line of the check.
  8. The homam will take place at the homa gundam just outside the main hall of the temple in the yard. Each couple will be given the opportunity to do the yagjnyam in batches. Please follow the instructions given at the venue.
  9. Please note that the best benefits of a yagjnya are obtained when you do it sitting on the ground. In the case of medically needy, elderly, or pregnant ladies, etc. other arrangements may be made, but these are for people who cannot otherwise manage to sit on the ground. You should not normally ask for such facilities.
  10. Please encourage your teenage female children to volunteer at the event. They will be given training on how to properly greet the bhaktas as they enter the temple. Other instructions will also be given. They should come in traditional dress only (Langa, Oni). Please report at the front desk. Please arrive an hour early if possible.
  11. Please contact the reception desk for any guidelines you need.
  12. Food during 3 days are provided at temple for everyone visiting the temple irrespective of participation in deeksha