

# Mahā Kumbhābhishekam

July 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

Shiva-Vishnu Temple, Livermore CA, USA



## Communication to Devotees About Balalayam

Shiva-Vishnu Temple, Livermore, CA, is conducting its **third MAHAKUMBHABHISHEKAM 2022 (MKA 2022) event from July 6th to July 10th 2022**. The Agamas, which are the Hindu scriptures, prescribe that this ritual be conducted every twelve (12) years. The main purpose of the event is to re-energize and re-invigorate temple to provide sustained ritual and spiritual experience. As part of this function, two significant execution items are the replacement of the bonding agent (called Ashtabhandanam) that binds the idols to the pedestal (peetam) **and** abhishekha of Kumbhas.

The MKA 2022 event provides an opportunity for the Temple management to carry out major repairs within the Temple including the sacred inner sanctums (Garbagruhas) where the deities reside. To make the inner sanctum accessible to the workers, the Agamas prescribe that the divine energy of the Gods be transferred temporarily from the Deities to Kalashas (metal water jugs). If it takes more than a week to complete the maintenance work, agamas prescribe that the divine energy be subsequently transferred from the Kalashas to the respective deity image drawn on a wooden plank (Chitra Pata). During the time of the repairs, the Chitra Patas, carrying the divine energy, are placed in a makeshift temple called Balalayam. The Balalayam is considered the temple. After the repairs are complete, a series of religious rituals are performed, following which, sanctified water is poured over the spires of the Temple Vimanams and Shrine Gopurams to transfer the divine energy back to the Temple and the Deities.

As a part of MKA 2022, the organizing team and the Temple management have identified the need to perform some major repairs that would take about 4 months. To facilitate this, the priests have determined that March 5th as being an auspicious day to transfer the divine energy from Deities and subsequently move to the Balalayam and transfer the energy to Chitra Patas.

**For continuing uninterrupted Nithya pujas and other regular pujas and the convenience of devotees, temple management has decided that the Balalayam will be setup in the Akella Hall.**

During the weekend of **March 4th - March 6th**, elaborate religious rituals will be performed in the temple hall as well as in the Akella Hall to religiously cleanse the hall and subsequently transfer the energy from Deities to Chitra Patas. Chitra Patas and all the Utsava Murthis will be moved to the Balalayam in the Akella Hall.

Starting from March 7th till July 10th, construction crews will be performing maintenance work in the main temple including sanctums. All daily rituals, festivals, and special events will be performed to Utsava Murthis and Chitra Patas in the Balalayam. This will continue until July 5th when Mahakumbhabhishekam rituals start. On July 10th when the Mahakumbhabhishekam rituals are completed, the divine energy is then transferred back to the deities.

We request all devotees to continue to avail the services offered by the temple during this time as normal and offer prayers in the Balalayam. We will be continuously updating our website with latest information. Please visit [www.livermoretemple.org](http://www.livermoretemple.org) or <https://www.livermoretemple.org/hints/mka2022/>

Sincerely,

Jyothi Sarma, M.D  
Chairperson (HCCC)

Venugopal Surakanti  
President (HCCC)

Sreeni Malireddy  
Chairman (MKA 2022)