

♦ OM NAMAH SHIVAYA ♦

# Maha Shivratri Celebration 2026

*A Sacred Night of Devotion, Community, and Divine Grace*

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The auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri — the great night of Lord Shiva — was celebrated with extraordinary devotion and reverence on February 15th and 16th, 2026. True to its timeless spirit, the festival brought together hundreds of faithful devotees in an atmosphere charged with spiritual energy, the fragrance of incense, and the soul-stirring resonance of sacred chants.

Maha Shivratri, which translates to "the Great Night of Shiva," is one of the most significant festivals in the Hindu calendar. It commemorates the night when Lord Shiva performed the Tandava — the cosmic dance of creation, preservation, and dissolution — as well as commemoration of the union of Shiva and Shakti and is observed with fasting, night-long vigils, and heartfelt puja offerings. This year's celebration embodied all of that sacred tradition and more.

## A Day of Continuous Prayer

Under the learned and gracious guidance of Dr. Bishnupada Goswami, Chief Priest of the SDKKM Temple, the sacred pujas unfolded in a seamless cascade of devotion throughout the day. Beginning promptly at 7:00 AM and continuing with unwavering dedication every two hours until 9:00 PM, the rituals kept the divine flame of worship burning from dawn to dusk.

Dr. Goswami, whose deep scholarship and spiritual authority lend a rare authenticity to every ritual he presides over, guided the congregation through the ancient rites with patience and grace. Each puja session was a journey into the heart of Shaiva tradition — the Shiva Linga was bathed with milk, honey, yogurt, ghee, and sacred water; bilva leaves were offered with reverence; and the air resonated with the chanting of the Shiva Panchakshara Stotra and the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra.

The rhythmic continuity of puja every two hours ensured that the temple remained a living, breathing sanctuary of worship all day

**long — a tribute to the ancient tradition of the four praharas (watches) of Shivratri, each believed to grant unique blessings to the devotee who stays awake in prayer.**

## **Hundreds Gather in Faith and Fellowship**

**Word of the celebration had spread widely, and hundreds of devotees arrived throughout the day — families with young children, elders carrying memories of Shivratri celebrations spanning decades, and young people discovering the depth of this tradition for the first time. The temple grounds hummed with a warmth that only communal devotion can generate.**

**Dressed in traditional attire, with vermillion on foreheads and flowers in hand, worshippers joined the congregation in prayer, collectively becoming part of a tapestry of faith that felt both deeply personal and magnificently universal. The gathering was a powerful reminder that Shivratri is not merely an individual observance but a shared celebration of the divine.**

## **A Feast of Love: The Sacred Lunch Prasad**

**No community celebration is complete without the sharing of food, and this year's Shivratri set an especially high standard for culinary devotion. The delicious lunch prasad — a blessed offering to all who attended — was lovingly sponsored and prepared by Biman and Monika Goswami, whose generosity and culinary skill drew praise from every corner of the gathering.**

**To prepare and serve a meal for hundreds of people is no small undertaking, and Biman and Monika poured both heart and effort into every dish. The prasad was more than food — it was an act of seva (selfless service), offered with the understanding that feeding a devotee on Shivratri is among the most meritorious of deeds. The satisfaction on the faces of those who received the prasad was itself a blessing.**

## **The Pillars Behind the Celebration**

**Every successful festival rests on the shoulders of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and this Shivratri was blessed with an exceptional team. Ruma and Ashok Chatterjee played a central role in both the puja proceedings and in coordinating the volunteer efforts, bringing their characteristic**

**dedication and calm authority to ensure everything flowed seamlessly.**

**Mumu Choudhury was a vital presence throughout the day, lending her energy and thoughtfulness to every aspect of the preparations. Suchitra Jana brought meticulous attention to the ritual arrangements, ensuring that each puja session had everything it needed to proceed with dignity and completeness. Soumee Choudhury contributed her time and enthusiasm with an infectious spirit of service that inspired others around her.**

**Partha and Srabanti Mukherjee rounded out this remarkable team of volunteers, offering their efforts across multiple aspects of the celebration. Together, these dedicated individuals exemplified the spirit of nishkama seva — selfless service offered without expectation of reward — which is itself a form of worship.**

## **A Night to Remember**

**As the final puja of the evening concluded and the lamps were offered in the warm glow of the aarti, there was a palpable sense of fulfillment in the air.**

**The Maha Shivratri celebration of 2026 at SDKKM Temple was, by every measure, a resounding success — a tribute to the faith of the community, the leadership of Dr. Bishnupada Goswami, the generosity of Biman and Monika, and the tireless dedication of every volunteer. May Lord Shiva's blessings continue to grace all who participated, and may this tradition grow stronger with every passing year.**

***Om Tryambakam Yajamahe Sugandhim Pushtivardhanam***

***Urvarukamiva Bandhanat Mrityor Mukshiya Maamritat***

***— Mahamrityunjaya Mantra —***

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## Photo Gallery

*Maha Shivratri Celebration 2026 · SDKKM Temple*

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