

# Maha-Kumbhabhishekam at AVG

Held between 13th to 17th June 2018

Each days puja beginning with *Purvanga* pujas on the 13th July began with the *guru-anujna* - The blessings of Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati were invoked through Guru puja at Gurutirtha.



Some significant steps in the process are:

- 1) **Anujna** = seeking permission and blessings from the lord, brahmanas, to do the entire kumbhabhishekam successfully.
- 2) **Vaastu shanthi, pravesha bali and Rakshogna Homam** are done to eliminate the non-visible inauspiciousness of the land and requesting certain *devatas* to protect the land.



*Anujna*



*VastuShanti and PreveshaBali*

3) The growth of the sprouts indicates whether the karma is done well or not. For the sprouts to sprout the sowing the seed happens to be the major work, which is known as **Ankurarpanam**.

4) The ritual collection of soil from the mother earth for the sake of sowing the seeds is called as **Mrit-sangrahanam**. A beautiful image of *bhudevi* is drawn and carved on mother earth and the *mrt* (Soil) from her abdominal region is collected for the ritual.



*Mrt-Sangrahanam*



*Agni-Sangrahanam*

5) **Raksha Bandhanam**-Tying of the sacred thread in the hand of the priest who is going to perform the ritual is *Rakshabandanam*. To overcome the *Ashaucha* - Spiritual impurity because of the death or birth of the parental relations 2) Because the *kumbhabhisekam* is done for the welfare and progress of entire universe the *acharya* undergoes an intense *vrata* in various layers of body and mind.



6) **Kumbhalankaram** –The symbolic representation of the deity in a pot during the *kumbhabhisekam* is *kumbham*. *Kumbhalankaram* literally means decorating the *kumbham* or pot .The ritual involves the physical decorations and also techniques with the help of *mantras* to transform the pot into a vessel suitable to receive and sustain the deity during the pujas until *kubhabhishekam* is complete.

7) **Kalakarshanam** – is an act of calling the deity from the murtas (idols) in the Balalayam to the kumbham. Here the deity from the idols is transferred to the kumbham. The deity is present in the Kumbhas until the power is transferred to the murta in the alayam on the culmination of Kumbhabhishekam,





8) **Yaga-shala-archana** is a puja done to the deity in the *kumbha* and in the *agni* in the *yagashala* for all the *Parivara Devathas*. The pujas can be done for a span of 2 days to 27 days. In the Gurukulam four *kaala* pujas were done over a period of three days starting 15th evening and culminating on 17th morning.

There were two *yagashalas* - the *pradhana yagashala* near the Daksinamurti shrine with a total of 14 *yagna-kundas* (Nine for Sri Medaha Daksinamurti, one each for Jnana ganapati, Narmadesvara, Jananesvari and the Kalasas) and a second *Yagashala* near the *Kalayana Subrahmanya* shrine with a single *yagnakunda* for lord *Kalyanasubrahmanya* Swami. The *yaga shalas* were built with clay and unbaked bricks, painted and decorated elaborately. There were well planned platforms to receive and place the *kumbhas* imbued with the *shakti* of the deities.



9) **Ashtabandhanam**- After the completion of *yagashala* puja the fixing of the *murtas* on the *peetham* was done with *Asta-Bhandanam* (A special herbal material prescribed in agamas for binding the *murtha* to the *peetham*). The herbs are also supported by an additional silver or gold binding which are called *rajata* or *swarna bandhanam*. All the *murtas* in the *gurukulam* have been adorned with *rajata-bandhanam*.



10) **Kumbhabhishekam** –taking the deity from the *kumbha* to the *murta* (idol) is done on the completion day of the *yagashala* puja during the *kumbhabhishekam*. The *abhishekam* is done for both the *kalasa* on the *vimana* and the *murta* in the *garbhagrham*. This was done on the morning of 17th July simultaneously at all the temples which is called *sama-kala-kumbhabhishekam*.

11, **Mahabhishekam** was done for Lord Kalyana subrahmanaya Swami immediately after the *Kumbhabhishekam*. The *Mahabhishekam* for *Sri Medha Daksinamurti* was performed by Swami Omkarananda Mahaswamigal in an elaborate manner with about 700 *kalasas* in the evening on the 17th July.

11) **Mandalabhishekam**- on the 45th day of the *kumbhabhishekam* after performing special prescribed *manadals* puja on daily basis ,*sankabhishekam* and *kalasabhishekam* will be done .Being *mandalabhishekam* the *abhishekam* is grandly done with 108 conches (*shanka*). *Mandalabhishekam* is scheduled for 26th July, 2018.

---

**Further photos of the various events of the Kumbhabhishekam can be seen in Wrapper2, 3 and 4.**