

Social Activity -- Mahashivratri

Date: 18 February 2023

Venue: Ghoradeshwar

Introduction: Mahashivratri celebrated by ASM IPS, CSIT & IBMR teaching, non-teaching and students at Ghoradeshwar Shiv Mandir.

Objective: ASM family gathered to celebrate “Mahashivratri”.

Report:

Maha Shivarati is a time for fasting, prayers and offerings. Unlike most Hindu festivals, this unique event is celebrated at night – just as Diwali celebrates light and color, its alter ego pays tribute to the dark, and the emptiness that comes before creation – a time when anything is possible. Maha Shivaratri is an annual Hindu festival, associated with fertility and family harmony. Taken from two words – Shiv and Ratri – it literally translates as "The Night of Lord Shiva" and is dedicated to the great Hindu god who creates, protects and transforms the universe. This is one of the most spiritually important nights in the Hindu calendar, so it's marked all over India, and is a national holiday in some other countries too. On the subcontinent, enormous gatherings materialize in temples nationwide, but the biggest can normally be found in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, which is where Lord Shiva supposedly once stayed. Devotees flock to Shiva shrines all over India, especially in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

The roots of the festival, and its modern significance, are entwined in ancient Indian mythology. According to legend, Maha Shivaratri marks the occasion when Shiva first performed the *Tandava Nritya* – also known as the dance of primordial creation, preservation, and destruction. It was through this dance of devotion that Lord Shiva saved the world from destruction.

Maha Shivaratri also marks the occasion of Shiva's marriage to the Goddess Parvati, and the day he became one with Mount Kailash. In the yogic tradition Shiva is revered, not as a God, but as the *Adi Guru* – the very first Guru from whom the science of Yoga originated. Maha

Shivarati is a night of stillness and quietude, inspired by and devoted to the stoic grace and discipline of Lord Shiva.

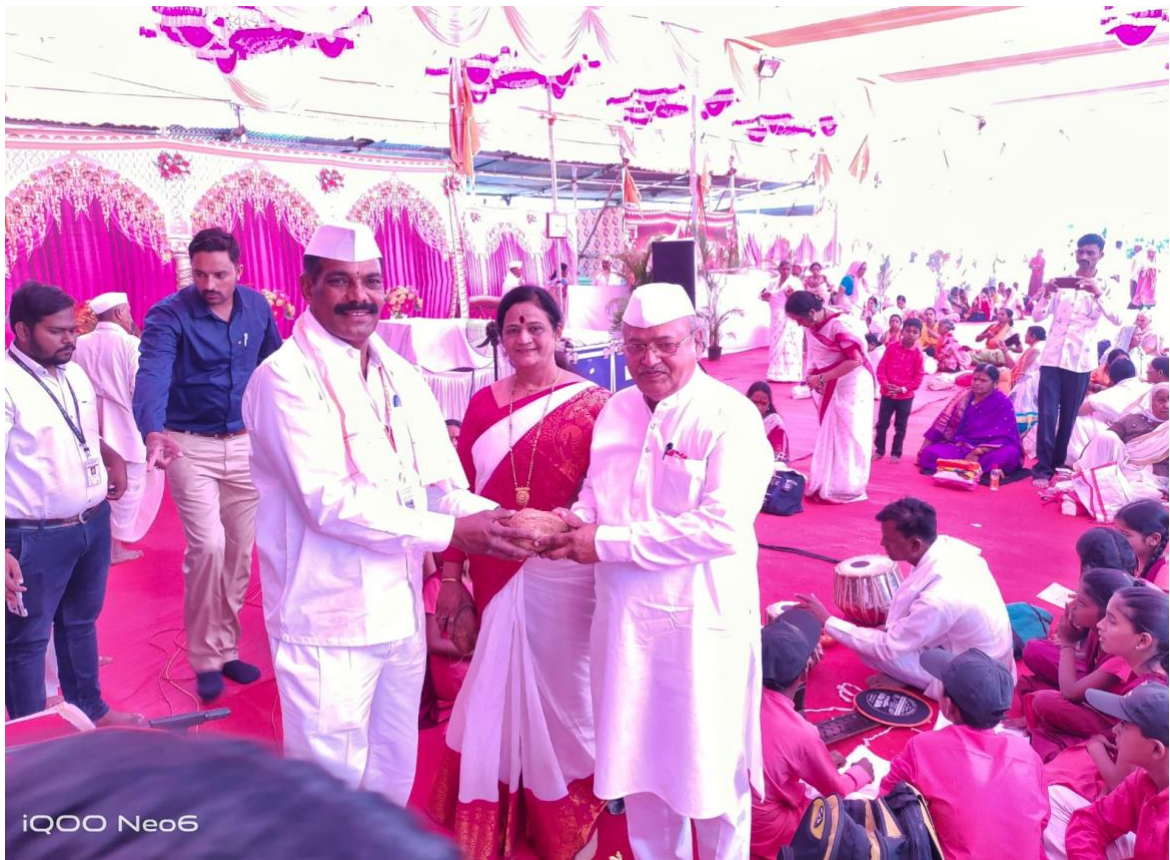
The festival combines all-day fasting and an all-night vigil. During daylight hours, devotees rise early and take a ritual bath. After these ablutions, they head over to the nearest temple dedicated to Shiva, to make offerings of milk, yoghurt, honey, ghee, sugar, and water (Abhishek).

In homes and temples throughout India, the sacred mantra of Shiva is chanted: "Om Namah Shivaya." Special *Puja* are held, during which incense is burned, lamps are lit, and streams of pilgrims continue to appear during the day and into the night.

On auspicious day of Mahashivratri, Master Aditya Pachpande & Dr. Sandeep Pachpande did "Abhishek" in Shiv Mandir at Ghoradeshwar. Small village of Ghoradeshwar had organized one event on Mahashivratri, Mr. Sanjay Vishwanath Bhegade, Indian politician, Dr. Sandeep Pachpande, Chairman of ASM, Dr. Dattatray Balsaraf, ASM General Committee member and Dr. Sudhakar Bokephode, Director of ASM IPS were present in this program as a special guest. After program Dr. Sandeep Pachpande donated food to all people who were present in the event. All students and teaching and non-teaching staff joined together to celebrate Mahashivratri.

Photos:











Outcomes: ASM Family celebrated Mahashivratri together at Ghoradeshwar. Everyone understood importance of Mahashivratri diwas.