

Shravan Mass

According to the legends mentioned in Puranas, the holy month of *Shravan* is dedicated to worshipping Lord Shiva for success, marriage and prosperity. The fifth month of the Hindu calendar *Shravan* is one of the most auspicious months. During the course of the month the star *Shravan* rules the night sky and hence the month is named *Shravan*. This is the period where one attracts the blessings of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Many Hindus during this month observe fasting, especially on Mondays, which are dedicated to Lord Shiva and are known as '*Shravan Somvar Vrat*'. Some even, observe fasts on Tuesdays, which are known as '*Mangala Gauri Vrat*'. Monday is represented by Moon, which in turn symbolizes Mind. Lord Shiva bears on his head the crescent of the moon which indicates that He has controlled the mind perfectly and is believed to discipline the mind of the spiritual aspirant and the devotees. That is why Lord Shiva is especially worshipped on Monday. For those experiencing health issues, chanting 'Maha Mrityunjay Jap' daily for 108 times, is beneficial. Those who can manage can also perform 'Maha Mrityunjay Havan' every Shravan Somvar. Performing 'Rudra Abhishek' or simply 'Abhishek' on every Shravan Somvar also reduces problems related to Mangal Dosh.

In this holy month the Shiva temples are full of devotees who offer prayers to Shiva. It is believed, Shiva grants boon to devotees for success and prosperity during the month. During this month Shiv Bhaktas, known as Kanwariyas, in saffron coloured clothes carrying water from the holy Ganga or Gangotri, from where Ganga originates, or any other Ganga *Tirtha*, on their shoulders. Kanwar Mela is one of biggest annual celebration at Haridwar and receives millions of pilgrims within a short period of 15 days. Ritually, Kanwads carry the holy water of Ganga in small pitchers kept in two baskets fitted to a semicircular bamboo carrier, called Kanwar, to offer Lord Shiva (Shiva Lingam). They fill up these pots with the holy water and walk back towards their homes. After returning home they perform Puja and offer the holy water as 'Abhishek' to the Shivling on the day of Shivratri or Amavasya (new moon day). Due to Covid-19, this year (2020), Kanwar Yatra has been stopped. Unfortunately, today early morning about 3AM, lightning struck near the Brahmakund at Har Ki Pauri following which a transformer caught fire and the wall collapsed. No one was hurt

LORD SHIVA, HAR KI PADI (HARIDWAR on 21-7-2020)



