FAQ on Sri Lalita Kum Kumarchana

1. Is this event open to everyone, even if they are not familiar with Sri Lalita?

Yes, the event is open to everyone need not to be part of SRRP. You don't need to know any stotrams or have prior knowledge of Sri Lalita. All you need is Bhakti, sanctity, good intention, trust and belief to participate in the Kum Kumarchana.

2. Is it required to start from the day of Sankalpam?

No, it is not required to start from the day of Sankalpam. You can begin the Kum Kumarchana on any day that is convenient for you.

3. What time do I need to start Kum Kumarchana?

Currently, we are planning to start sessions at every hour from 6 PM till 9 PM CST-like 6 PM, 7 PM, 8 PM sessions. If you have any specific preference, please contact us in our whatsapp help group: https://chat.whatsapp.com/JfMvrsJhlVBFaEOPw2YExZ or submit a request at: https://srirajarajeshwaripeetham.org/help

4. Is it mandatory to do all days till the count is reached?

No, it is not mandatory to perform the ritual every day until the count is reached. You can perform it according to your convenience.

5. Can my parents from India join the Kum Kumarchana?

Yes, your parents from India can join the Kum Kumarchana using Zoom



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sukhing bhavanti

I don't have an Sri Lalita Devi idol/vigraha to do archana, what should I do?

If you do not have Sri Lalita Devi Idol/Vigraha, you can use any deity vigraham or Devi Photos to perform the archana.

7. Can more than one person perform the Kum Kumarchana for the same idol/vigraha?

Yes, more than one person can perform the Kum Kumarchana for the same idol or vigraha.

8. What should I do with the kumkum after finishing the Kum Kumarchana?

After finishing the Kum Kumarchana, you can distribute the kumkum to the participants as prasadam, or you can apply it on your forehead and other sacred places in your home or you can re-use for another kum kumarchana. If disposal is necessary, it should be done in a natural body of water or clean soil.

9. What are the benefits of participating in Kum Kumarchana?

Participating in Kum Kumarchana is believed to invoke the blessings of Sri Lalita, bringing peace, prosperity, and spiritual growth. It also fosters a sense of community and shared devotion among participants.

10. What kind of preparations should I make before participating?

It is strictly advised to take a bath and wear clean, traditional clothes before participating. Maintain a peaceful and devotional mindset and bring required offerings as informed by the organizers.

11. How long does the Kum Kumarchana ceremony usually last?

The duration of the Kum Kumarchana may take 45 minutes to 1 hour.

garve jana gukhino dhavantu

12. Is there a specific mantra to chant during Kum Kumarchana?

Yes, the recitation of Lalita Sahasranama (1000 names of the goddess) is typically performed during Sri Lalita Kum Kumarchana. Specific mantras will be provided by the organizers.

13. Can children participate in Kum Kumarchana?

Yes, children can participate in Kum Kumarchana under the guidance of adults. It is a good way to introduce them to spiritual practices.

14. Do I need to fast before participating in Kum Kumarchana?

Eat what ever saatvik food is required

15. Can I participate in Kum Kumarchana if I am new to this ritual?

Yes, newcomers are welcome to participate. The ritual will be guided, and you will receive instructions from experienced practitioners.

16. What should I do if I cannot attend the ceremony in person?

If you cannot attend the ceremony in person, you can participate through Zoom.

17. Is there any specific significance to the number of times kumkum is offered?

We are doing Poojas each Namam as mentioned in Sri Lalita sahasranamam (1000) times.



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18. Can we perform Kum Kumarchana in any month, or is there a specific time to perform it?

Kum Kumarchana can be performed at any time. However, certain auspicious days, such as Fridays, Pournami (full moon days), and during Navaratri, are considered particularly favorable.

19. Can I use other materials besides kumkum for the archana?

While other offerings like Turmeric powder, flowers or Akshatas is allowed inplace of kumkuma but our sankalpam is to do with kumkuma.

20. What should I do with the other offerings after the Kum Kumarchana?

Other offerings like fruits and flowers can be distributed as prasadam among the participants or used to decorate the altar at home.

21. Can we perform Kum Kumarchana outdoors, or does it have to be indoors?

Kum Kumarchana can be performed either indoors or outdoors, as long as the environment is clean, peaceful, and suitable for a devotional atmosphere.

22. Is there any specific way to dispose of the remaining kumkum after the ritual?

Remaining kumkum can be respectfully kept in the pooja room or given to devotees as prasadam. If disposal is necessary, it should be done in a natural body of water or clean soil.

23. Can I perform Kum Kumarchana during my menstrual cycle?

No, please resume only after completion of the cycles.



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24. What if I make a mistake during the Kum Kumarchana?

Mistakes are understandable, especially for beginners. Focus on your devotion and intent, and continue the ritual. The divine grace of Sri Lalita is believed to be forgiving and compassionate.

25. Are there any specific prayers or mantras to chant before starting Kum Kumarchana?

Yes, it is suggested to do Ganesh worship. This will be taken care of at peetham.

26. Can we perform Kum Kumarchana as a family?

Yes, performing Kum Kumarchana as a family can enhance the spiritual experience and strengthen familial bonds through shared devotion and prayer.

27. Is there a specific direction to face while performing Kum Kumarchana?

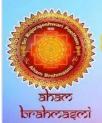
Traditionally, facing east or north is considered auspicious while performing Kum Kumarchana, but you can follow what is most convenient and appropriate for your setup.

28. Are there any restrictions on food or activities after performing Kum Kumarchana?

It is recommended to maintain a vegetarian diet and avoid tamasic (inhibiting spiritual progress) activities on the day of the ritual to retain the spiritual energy generated.

29. As part of the puja setup do we need to change the cloth used for the deity every time?

- It is not required to change the cloth every day if you plan to do the Kum Kumarchana regularly.
- If you are performing the ritual occasionally, it is advised to wash the cloth before reusing it.



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sarve jana

30. Can I do kukumarchana offline and submit the counts?

No, right now we are only considering kumkumarchanas performed as part of SRRP zoom sessions. We are flexible enough to arrange additional slots for requested times as needed, let us know prior.

31. What are the roles of chanters during the Kum Kumarchana?

Chanters play a critical spiritual role in maintaining the sanctity of the Kum Kumarchana; they should not bring their personal relations into this Maha-Yagnam. Each chanter should focus solely on chanting and follow these steps:

- Please signup in the column "Chanters" in the provided tracker: <u>Signup</u>
 <u>Tracker</u>. Try to sign up as early as you can for better planning.
- Please give all instructions along with focusing the camera towards
 Ammavaaru where they are performing Kumkumarchana, showing their hands
 doing the Pooja. Chanters should post a picture with a message before and
 after the session.
- Please instruct:
 - i. For each namam, please offer kumkum whatever you have taken into hand, and for the next namam, take fresh kumkum from the bowl.
 - ii. Once you have taken kumkum into hand, offer it fully without holding it in your hand.
- Requesting all chanters to please take the position as session lead and post a
 message with a picture before starting and after chanting. Please post the
 names of members who joined from the beginning and did archana till the
 end to take the count.
- Please chant the first 5 dhyana slokas from the sankalpam script provided by Guruvugaru.
- Start with "Asya Shree Lalita" with nyasas, pancha puja, and then start namavali.



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- Note: We are not doing shodasopacara puja but performing pancha puja physically, so make sure all participants do pancha puja.
- Give at least 20-30 (a few) seconds between each (gandham, pushpam, dhoopam, deepam, naivedyam).
- Close nyasas with dhyana slokas and Pancha puja.
- Perform Harati.
- Recite the basic Kshama prarthana, which Guruvugaru will share (a simple three-line prayer).
- Ensure each participant submits their counts using the provided form:
 Submission Form.

32. What are the roles of participants performing the Pooja?

Participants performing the Pooja should follow these steps:

- Sign up in the column "If you would like to do Pooja, Please write your Name
 as mentioned below against the time shown" in the provided tracker: <u>Signup</u>
 <u>Tracker</u>. Try to sign up as early as you can for better planning.
- Focus the camera on the kumkumarchana setup
- Physically perform the pancha puja as instructed.
- Please offer kukuma whatever is in your hand to Devi for each namam and take it again for the next namam.
- Please focus on either pooja or chanting, but not both.
- Perform Harati at the appropriate time.
- Submit your counts using the provided form: <u>Submission Form</u> immediately right after the archana.