



# Ganesha Vani Special edition

**DEVI SHARAN  
NAVARATRI MAHOTSAVAM  
SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> – OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025**





# Ganesha Vani

## Special edition

Dear Devotees,

We hope this message finds you well.

The Missouri Ganesha Temple joyfully celebrated **Devi Sharan Navaratri** from **September 22nd to October 2nd, 2025**, with devotion, grandeur, and community participation. Throughout the ten days, devotees came together to honor Devi Ma and seek her blessings for happiness, prosperity, and divine grace.

The celebrations commenced on the morning of **September 22nd** with **Mahaganapathi Pooja, Devi Rajarajeshwari Abhishekam, Swasthi Punyavachanam, Durga Lakshmi Saraswathi Devi Ghata Sthapanam, and the Navagraha Homam.**

### ✨ Highlights of the Celebrations

- **Daily poojas, alankarams, and homams** created a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.
- **Lalitha Sahasranama Kumkuma Archana** was performed each day with great devotion.
- **Cultural programs every evening** showcased the incredible talents of our local community, adding joy and festivity to the occasion.

### 🌸 Special Events

- **September 28th** – *Suvasini Puja with 108 Suvasinis* (a blessed and fully registered event).
- **September 29th** – *Sri Durga Ashtami* marked by the powerful *Sri Chandri Homam*.
- **October 2nd (Vijayadashami)** – The grand finale included the *Shirdi Sai Baba Guru Homam, Mula Muthy Abhishekam*, and the offering of *108 varieties of prasadam*, lovingly prepared and shared by devotees.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the devotees, volunteers, priests, and community members whose dedication and participation made this year's Navaratri Mahotsavam a truly divine experience.

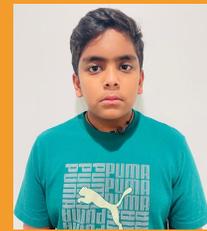
May Devi Ma's blessings continue to guide and protect you and your families.

**With gratitude,**

Missouri Ganesha Temple



# DEVI SHARAN NAVARATRI MAHOTSAVAM



By Abhinav Sanjith

Navratri, meaning “nine nights,” is celebrated to honor Goddess Durga’s victory over the demon Mahishasura. The festival is observed in diverse ways across regions — through prayers and fasting, setting up Golu displays, and performing traditional dances like Garba.

### Why it is celebrated:

Navaratri is a festival that celebrates the Divine Feminine, especially Goddess Durga, Saraswati, and Parvati. It lasts for nine days and nights, during which people worship different forms of the Goddess. The festival marks her victories over evil forces, especially her fight with the powerful demon Mahishasura, who could not be defeated by any man or god. On the tenth day, called Vijayadashami, Durga Ma won the battle and brought peace.

### How MO Ganesh temple celebrated:

#### Day 5 - 8 of Sharan Navaratri Mahotsavam at Missouri Ganesha Temple:

#### Day 5 – Lalitha Devi (Om Sri Matre Namah – Mother of all beings in earth)

The alankaram of Lalitha Devi was truly divine — so beautiful that one would need countless eyes to behold her splendor. The Goddess was seated gracefully on a lotus, with Lord Shiva as her resting bed, holding a sugarcane bow in her hand. Devotees recited the Lalitha Sahasranamam, a sacred hymn revealed by the Vaag Devis and later rewritten by Sage Agastya under the guidance of Lord Hayagriva. It is believed that chanting this Sahasranamam even once in a lifetime blesses one with both Bhogam (worldly prosperity) and Moksha (spiritual liberation).

#### Day 6 – Sarawati Devi

Maa Saraswati’s *alankaram* was beautifully realistic, adorned in *venpattu* silk and holding the *veena* with grace. During the *Aksharabharanam* ceremony, children offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati and received her divine blessings for wisdom and learning.





# DEVI SHARAN NAVARATRI MAHOTSAVAM



By Abhinav Sanjith

## Day 7 – Suvasini Puja

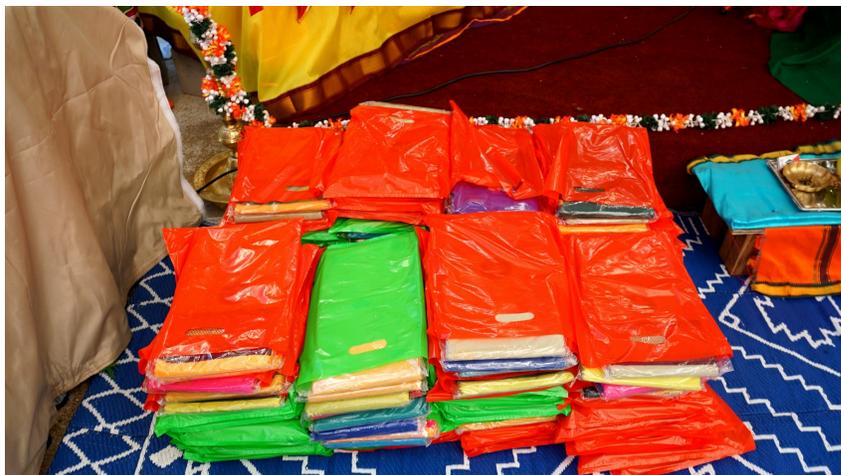
As part of this day, 108 *Suvasinis* (married women) are honored, since performing *puja* for a *Suvasini* is believed to be equivalent to worshipping Goddess Rajarajeshwari herself - which reflects the true essence of *Suvarchana Preetha* from the *Lalitha Sahasranamam*. Following temple tradition, each *Suvasini* is offered a saree, *haldi*(turmeric), *Kumkum* (Vermillion), and *pakshanam* (Snacks), welcomed with *paadabhishekam* (washing of the feet). The *Suvasini* registration is done free of charge, reflecting the true spirit of devotion and ensuring equality among all participants, without any distinction or discrepancy.



On this day, Maa is beautifully adorned as Chandika Parameshwari, decorated with neem leaves and a garland of lemons. During the Chandi Homam, the priest recited all 13 Adhyayams (chapters) and performed Purnahuti thirteen times, followed by Bali, where a pumpkin is offered in place of the traditional Narabhali practiced in earlier times. Participating in the Chandi Homam, which lasts around four hours, requires dedication and devotion, and is considered a great blessing. It is believed to bestow wisdom, prosperity, and victory upon the devotees.



During all days of Navaratri, women performed Kumkuma Archana for the Sri Chakra, a sacred symbol regarded as a cosmic map. This archana is believed to invoke Goddess Lalitha Tripurasundari, bringing both materialistic wealth and spirituality to the devotees.





# DEVI SHARAN NAVARATRI MAHOTSAVAM



By SA. Yagshini Saai Shree

On September 30 and October 1, the Missouri Ganesha Temple was filled with devotion, colors, and chants as the Sri Sharada Devi Alankar Pooja took place. The festival honors Holy Mother Sri Sharada Devi, worshiped as the Divine Mother of purity, wisdom, and love. She was the spiritual wife of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, and her teachings remind people to live with patience, compassion, and humility.

The celebration began with the Kumkum Archana Pooja, where devotees offered kumkum and flowers while chanting the 108 names of the Devi. Each name expressed gratitude, and the red kumkum symbolized energy, protection, and blessings. During the Alankaram, the Devi idol was beautifully decorated with a silk saree, shining ornaments, and fresh jasmine garlands. The Alankaram represents the love and devotion offered to the goddess. A Homam was performed, where priests chanted sacred Vedic mantras while offering ghee, herbs, and rice into the sacred fire. The chanting of "Om" filled the temple, creating a peaceful and divine atmosphere. The festival honors Sri Sharada Devi's pure heart and motherly nature. She taught that love should be given to everyone, just as a mother loves all her children, saying, "I am the mother of the good, At the Missouri Ganesha Temple, the pooja was celebrated grandly. The temple was decorated with flowers, rangolis, and lights. Devotees sang bhajans and performed aarti while chanting "Jai Ma Sharada!" and "Jai Mata Durga!" A special moment was when everyone sang the Devi Durgai Aha song, which praises both Durga Devi and Sharada Devi. The Tamil line goes, "Devi Durgai Aha, Paadum Nam Geetham, Raksha Ma Devi, En Nenjil Deepam," which means, "O Goddess Durga, this is our song for you. Protect us, Divine Mother, and keep the lamp of wisdom glowing in our hearts. Children and families joined together with excitement, decorating the Devi with kumkum and flowers. After the pooja, prasadam, pongal, sweets, and fruits, was shared with everyone. The entire temple glowed with devotion, unity, and happiness. This celebration reminded everyone that true Alankaram is not just in the jewelry or saree, but in the love, kindness, and faith that come from within the heart, just as Sri Sharada Devi taught.





# DEVI SHARAN NAVARATRI MAHOTSAVAM



By Aashvi Sharma

Vijaydasami, also known as dushera, is one of the most important Hindu festivals celebrated across India and around the world. It marks the victory of good over evil and the triumph of righteousness. The word "*Vijaya*" means victory, and "*Dashami*" refers to the tenth day, making it the "Day of Victory."

There are two main stories behind Vijayadashami's celebration. In northern India, it commemorates Lord Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. In southern India, it celebrates Goddess Durga's victory over the buffalo demon Mahishasura, representing the power of divine feminine energy. The festival also marks the end of the nine-day Navaratri celebration, when devotees worship different forms of the goddess. People celebrate Vijayadashami by performing Ramlila plays, burning effigies of Ravana, and offering prayers to Durga. It's also seen as an auspicious day to begin new ventures, buy books, or start learning something new, symbolizing renewal and wisdom.

At the **Missouri Ganesh Temple**, the celebration of Vijayadashami was filled with devotion, color, and community spirit. The day began with a **special homam (fire ritual)** and **Durga puja** performed by the temple priests. Families came dressed in traditional attire, offering flowers and sweets to Lord Ganesh and Goddess Durga. Children participated in **music and dance performances**, and the temple hall was decorated with bright garlands and lamps. The community joined together to chant prayers and sing *bhajans* celebrating the goddess's victory over evil. Later, everyone enjoyed a delicious prasadam meal, symbolizing unity and gratitude. The festival at the Missouri Ganesh Temple reminded everyone that victory isn't just about defeating others, it's about overcoming negativity, ignorance, and fear within ourselves.

Overall, the Vijayadashami celebration at the Missouri Ganesh Temple beautifully captured the spirit of the festival—it reminded everyone that true victory comes from conquering anger, selfishness, and negativity, and replacing them with kindness, courage, and wisdom. Festivals like Vijayadashami teach us that goodness will always prevail, no matter how strong darkness may seem. The day left everyone with hearts full of positivity, hope, and renewed spiritual strength for the year ahead. As prayers filled the temple and smiles lit up faces, the message of unity and compassion shone brightly. The celebration ended not just as a ritual, but as a meaningful reminder to carry goodness, patience, and love into everyday life.





# DEVI SHARAN NAVARATRI MAHOTSAVAM

## 108 SUVASINI POOJA

The Missouri Ganesh Temple organized a special Suvasini Pooja with 108 Suvasinis as part of our upcoming celebrations. This is a unique opportunity to receive and share divine blessings with the community.

### *Significance of Suvasini Pooja:*

*Suvasini Pooja is a beautiful and sacred ritual that honors married women (Suvasinis) as embodiments of Goddess Shakti, the divine feminine energy".*

In Hindu tradition, a Suvasini is revered as a symbol of prosperity, vitality, and well-being. By worshipping Suvasinis, devotees seek blessings for happiness, health, and harmony in their families. This pooja holds great spiritual importance as it acknowledges the power and grace of womanhood, symbolizing the presence of divine energy in the world. Offering prayers to Suvasinis is believed to invite the blessings of Goddess Durga, Parvati, and Lakshmi, fostering prosperity and peace in both the home and community.





# DEVI SHARAN NAVARATRI MAHOTSAVAM

**Sri Chandi Homam**, dedicated to Maa Durga in her fierce form as Devi Chandi, is designed to remove obstacles, doshas (negativities), and challenges from our lives. This powerful ritual invokes Maa Durga's blessings, helping us achieve success in difficult situations. It serves as spiritual support when our efforts may fall short, aligning us with divine energies that can clear our paths to success, peace, and happiness.

This highly anticipated event featured an extensive puja and Homam honoring Maa Durga, conducted with meticulous care to ensure its sanctity and devotion.

Key benefits of the Chandi Homam include:

1. Overcoming obstacles and removing barriers.
2. Achieving success in all endeavors and overcoming adversaries.
3. Fostering positivity, happiness, and peace.
4. Protection from negative energies and curses.

This grand Chandi Homam offers devotees a unique opportunity to seek Maa Durga's blessings for a more fulfilling life.

