

# **HINDU ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)**

## **MAHA KUMBHABHISHEKAM CEREMONIES**

### **RATHNA STHAPANAM (Placing of 9 Precious Stones)**

One of the important ceremonies leading up to the MahaKumbabishekam is the installation of the new icons in their respective shrines. This will take place on the evening of Monday, 5 September 2005 at 7.30 pm. Before this is done, devotees will be given the opportunity of placing 9 precious stones on the pedestal on which the stone / marble icons will be installed. This ceremony is referred to as RATHNA STAPANAM.

The Rathna Stapanam is one of the ceremonies which together contribute to the purification and sanctification of the icons in the New Temple and the creation of positive energies.

Precious stones have always been held in great esteem by all civilizations, and the Hindus attach special significance to each stone, for warding off negative forces and bringing health, strength and success. It is believed that the combination of the nine precious stones brings about a synergy that accentuates the positive qualities.

The nine precious stones are ruby (*manika*), emerald (*marakata*), coral (*vidruma*), pearl (*mukta*), sapphire (*nila*), garnet (*gomedaka*), topaz (*pusyaraga*), cat's eye (*vaidurya*), and diamond (*vajra*).

In order to offer devotees the opportunity to place these precious stones on the pedestals of the deities of their choice, the Temple has ordered a number of sets of precious stones. Three (3) sets of nine stones, together with a brass tray, can be obtained for a donation of \$51 to the Temple. Devotees will appreciate that only a limited number of sets are available, and those who wish to obtain these sets are requested to e-mail [hon\\_secretary@yahoo.com.au](mailto:hon_secretary@yahoo.com.au) or write their names on the form on the Temple Notice Board.

**Rathna Sthapanam will take place on Monday 5 September 2005 from 5.00 pm to 7.30 pm.**

### **THAILA APPIYANGAM**

This is another ceremony in which all devotees can participate directly. This is the application of pure gingely (sesame seed) oil on the statues with Kusa Grass. This action is believed to purify the devotees from egoism and other shortcomings resulting from their actions, speech and thought. This is the only occasion when devotees will be permitted to enter the shrines after the icons have been installed.

**Devotees will be able to perform the Thaila Appiyangam from 12 noon on Tuesday 6 September to 12 noon on Wednesday 7 September 2005.**