With his neck, consecrated by the flow of water flowing from the thick forest-like locks of hair, and on the neck, where the lofty snake is hanging garland, and the Damaru drum making the sound of Damat Damat Damat Damat, Lord Shiva did the auspicious dance of Tandava and may He shower prosperity on us all.

I have a very deep interest in Lord Shiva, whose head is glorified by
the rows of moving waves of the celestial river Ganga, agitating in the deep well of his hair-locks, and who has the brilliant fire flaming on the surface of his forehead, and who has the crescent moon as a jewel on his head.

धराधरेःनदिनीविलाससचन्द्रभुवनेऽ
King of mountains-daughter-sportive-kith-beautiful-
स्फुरिहिगुस्तसन्ततिप्रमोदमानमासे।
glorious-horizon-all living beings-rejoicing-mind
कृपाकटाक्षोपिरणिकुडुर्धरापदिः
compassion-look-continuous flow-obstructed-hardships
कचिदिगम्बरे(कचिचिदिग्म्बरे) मनो विनोदमेलु वस्तुनिः॥३॥
some time-in the omnipresent-mind-pleasure-may seek-in a thing

May my mind seek happiness in the Lord Shiva, in whose mind all the living beings of the glorious universe exist, who is the sportive companion of Parvati (daughter of the mountain king), who controls invincible hardships with the flow of his compassionate look, who is all-persuasive (the directions are his clothes).

लताभुजपिलसुरमिणूभा वरः जटाभुजः
creeping-snake-reddish brown-shining-hood-gem-luster-
कदम्बकृम्मविप्रतितिदिग्वृहोपेः।
variegated-red dye-melting-applied-directions-beloved-face
मदान्यसिन्धुफुरत्सुगुतीयमेलुरे
intoxicated-elephant-glittering-skin-upper garment-covered
मनो विनोदमेलु विभर्तु भूतभर्तरि॥४॥
mind-pleasure-wonderful-may it seek-in him who supports all life

May I seek wonderful pleasure in Lord Shiva, who is supporter of all life, who with his creeping snake with reddish brown hood and with the luster of his gem on it spreading out variegated colors on the beautiful faces of the maidens of directions, who is covered with a glittering upper garment made of the skin of a huge intoxicated
elephant.

Indra/Vishnu-and others-all-lined up-heads-

flower-dust-force-grayed-feet-seat

snake-red-garland (with) tied-locked hair

for the prosperity-for a long time-may he be-Cakora bird-relative-on head

May Lord Shiva give us prosperity, who has the moon (relative of the Cakora bird) as his head-jewel, whose hair is tied by the red snake-garland, whose foot-stool is grayed by the flow of dust from the flowers from the rows of heads of all the Gods, Indra/Vishnu and others.

for the Siddhi-prosperity-head-locked hair-may it be-to us

May we get the wealth of Siddhis from Shiva's locks of hair, which devoured the God of Love with the sparks of the fire flaming in His forehead, who is bowed by all the celestial leaders, who is beautiful with a crescent moon

fire-offered-powerful-God of Love

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king of mountains-daughter-breast-tip-colorful-decorative lines
-drawingSOLE-artist - in the three-eyed -deep interest-mine

My interest is in Lord Shiva, who has three eyes, who has offered the powerful God of Love into the fire, flaming Dhagad Dhagad on the flat surface of his forehead who is the sole expert artist of drawing decorative lines on the tips of breasts of Parvati, the daughter of the mountain king.

new-cloud-circle - obstructed-harsh-striking-

new moon-midnight-darkness-tightly-tied-neck

May Lord Shiva give us prosperity, who bears the burden of this universe, who is lovely with the moon, who is red wearing the skin, who has the celestial river Ganga, whose neck is dark as midnight of new moon night covered by many layers of clouds.

Manmatha-killer-city-destroyer-mundane life -destroyer-sacrifice destroyer

elephant-killer-demon-killer-him-destroyer of Lord Yama-I worship

I pray to Lord Shiva, whose neck is tied with the luster of the temples
hanging on the neck with the glory of the fully-bloomed blue lotuses which looked like the blackness (sins) of the universe, who is the killer of Manmatha, who destroyed Tripuras, who destroyed the bonds of worldly life, who destroyed the sacrifice, who destroyed the demon Andhaka, the destroyer of the elephants, and who controlled the God of death, Yama.

I pray to Lord Shiva, who has bees flying all over because of the sweet honey from the beautiful bunch of auspicious Kadamba flowers, who is the killer of Manmatha, who destroyed Tripuras, who destroyed the bonds of worldly life, who destroyed the sacrifice, who destroyed the demon Andhaka, the killer of the elephants, and who controlled the God of death, Yama.

Lord Shiva, whose dance of Tandava is in tune with the series of loud sounds of drum making Dhimid Dhimid sounds, who has the fire
on the great forehead, the fire that is spreading out because of the breath of the snake wandering in whirling motion in the glorious sky.

When will I worship Lord Sadasiva (eternally auspicious) God, with equal vision towards the people and an emperor, and a blade of grass and lotus-like eye, towards both friends and enemies, towards the valuable gem and some lump of dirt, towards a snake and a garland and towards varied ways of the world

When will I be happy, living in the hollow place near the celestial river, Ganga, carrying the folded hands on my head all the time, with my bad thinking washed away, and uttering the mantra of Lord Shiva and devoted in the God with glorious forehead with vibrating eyes.
reading-remembering-saying-a person-sanctity-gets-always
हरे गुरो सुभक्तिमायु याति नान्यथा गतिः
in Shiva-in Guru-deep devotion-quickly-gets-no-other-way
विमोहनं हि देहिनं सुशाङ्रस्य चित्तनम् ॥ १४॥
removal of delusion-indeed-for the people-blessed Shiva’s thought

Whoever reads, remembers and says this best stotra as it is said here, gets purified for ever, and obtains devotion in the great Guru Shiva. For this devotion, there is no other way. Just the mere thought of Lord Shiva indeed removes the delusion.

पूजावसानसमये दशवक्रणीति
worship-end-time-Ravana-sung

यः शाम्यपूजनपरं पठिते पदोषे ।
who-Shiva-worship-dedicated-reads-early in the evening, after sunset
tस्य स्थिरं रथगजेन्द्रतुरज्ञयुक्तं
to him-stable-chariot-elephant-horse-having

लक्ष्मी सदैव सुमुखिं प्रदातिः शाम्मुः ॥ १५॥
LakShmi-always-definitely-favourable-gives-Shiva

In the evening, after sunset, at the end of Puja, whoever utters this stotra dedicated to the worship of Shiva, Lord Shiva blessed him with very stable LakShmi (prosperity) with all the richness of chariots, elephants and horses.

इति श्रीरावण-कृतम्
thus sri-Ravana-done

शिव-ताण्डव-स्तोत्रम्
Shiva-tandava-stotra

सम्पूर्णम्
ends.

Thus ends the Shiva-Tandava Stotra written by Ravana.

The word-meanings and translation have been kindly provided by
Dr. Sarasvati Mohan and her students at Samskrit Academy, San Jose CA, USA. She teaches samskrit in the Bay area.
The typing of these was done by SArada kALiTty

The stotra is in panchachAmara Chanda, in which there are 16 varna-s per line, each line begins with a laghu and the laghu and guru varna-s alternate. So there are eight LG (laghu-guru) pairs, making up 16 syllables of each line. The last shloka is in Vasanta-tilakA metre.

Some versions of the stotra carry 17-19 verses. For total 17 version, there are two as follows that devotee can add during prayers.

Divine beauty of different parts of Lord Shiva which are enlightened by fragrance of the flowers decorating the twisted hair locks of angels may always bless us with happiness and pleasure.

The Shakti (energy) which is capable of burning all the sins and spreading welfare of all and the pleasant sound produced by angels during enchanting the pious Shiv mantra at the time of Shiv-Parvati Vivah may win over and destroy all the sufferings of the world.

There are two additional verses seen in some version

सार्थ्यशिवतांष्टोत्त्रम्

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Salutations to consort of Parvati,
Salutations to lord of Ganga,
Salutations to the one who is kind to worshippers,
Salutations to the one having an eye in the forehead,
Salutations to the one adorned with Moon crescent as a crown,
Salutations to the one who liberates from sorrow
I meditate upon his lotus like feet, Salutations to the dancing Shiva.

and the last (19) in conclusion
The one who recites the praise composed by Ravana, fully associated near Shiva, receives happiness generated by children and grandchildren (and other desirable things) and also attains salvation.

Shivatandavastotra with meaning
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Please send corrections to sanskrit@cheerful.com