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TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS

SAPTHAGIRI

SPIRITUAL ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

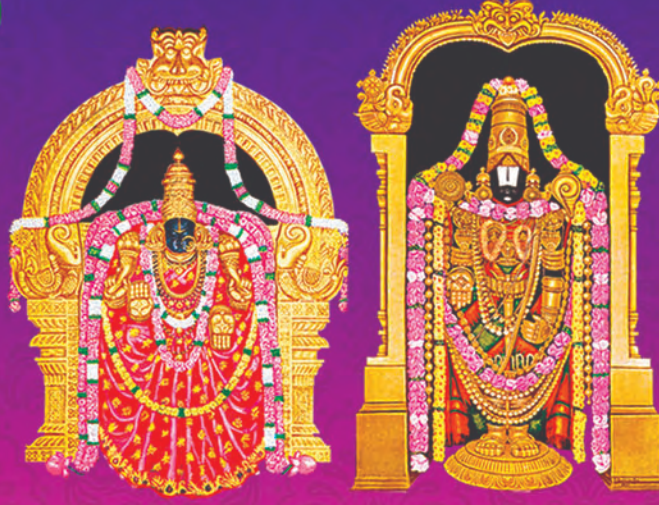
OCTOBER 2024

Rs. 20/-

SRIVARI GARUDA SEVA

ON 08.10.2024

TIRUMALA
SRI VENKATESWARA SWAMIVARI BRAHMOTSAVAMS
04.10.2024 TO 12.10.2024



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati

TIRUMALA
SRI VENKATESWARASWAMIVARI BRAHMOTSAVAMS
 From 04-10-2024 to 12-10-2024

| DATE | DAY | DAY UTSAVAM | NIGHT UTSAVAM |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 04-10-2024 | Friday | Dwajaroohanam | Peddaseshavahanam |
| 05-10-2024 | Saturday | Chinnaseshavahanam | Hamsavahanam |
| 06-10-2024 | Sunday | Simhavahanam | Muthyapupandirivahanam |
| 07-10-2024 | Monday | Kalpavrukshavahanam | Sarvabhupalavahanam |
| 08-10-2024 | Tuesday | Mohini Avataram in Pallaki | Garudavahanam |
| 09-10-2024 | Wednesday | Hanumadvahanam | Gajavahanam |
| Eve. Vasanhotsavam, Golden Chariot | | | |
| 10-10-2024 | Thursday | Suryaprabhavahanam | Chandraprabhavahanam |
| 11-10-2024 | Friday | Rathotsavam | Aswavahanam |
| 12-10-2024 | Saturday | Chakrasnanam | Dwajavarohanam |



BHAGAVADGITA

nā sato vidyate bhāvo
nā bhāvo vidyate sataḥ
ubhayor api dṛṣṭo ntaḥ tv
anayos tattvadarśibhiḥ

The unreal has no existence, and the
real never ceases to be; the reality of
both has thus been perceived by the
seers of truth.

(Chapter - 2, Sloka – 16)

INVOCATION

garuḍadhvaṇam beḷḷe kaṁalākṣu peṇḍḷiki
paruṣa laḍivō vacce baipai sēvīṇḱanu..

..garuḍa..

pāḍiri sōbānanadē bhāratīyu girījayu
āḍiri rambhāḍulaina accaralella
kūḍiri dēvata lella gumpulai śrī vēṅkaṭāḍri
vēḍukalu mīrage śrī vibhuni peṇḍḷikini..

..garuḍa..

kurise buvvala vāna kuppalai yendu cūcina
morase dēvadundubhi mrōtalellanu
berase sampadalella paṇṭalai śrī vēṅkaṭāḍri
tīramai mīṇcina dēvadēvuni peṇḍḷikini..

..garuḍa..

vēsiri kāṇukalella vēvēlu kopperala
pōsi radē talabālu puṇyasatulu
āsala śrī vēṅkaṭēṣuḍala mēlu maṅgādāsu
sēsala vēṭṭinayaṭṭi siṅgārapu peṇḍḷiki..

..garuḍa..



The Garuda flags were hoisted for the wedding of the lotus eyed Lord
Behold! The eminent ones are here to serve Him !

Goddess Saraswathi and Goddess Parvathi sang the benedictions,
Rambha and other celestial nymphs danced gracefully,
All the Devathas gathered in groups upon Sree Venkatadri hill,
to participate in the auspicious wedding ceremony of the Lord of Sree!

There was a shower of flowers forming heaps all around,
The sounds of the divine trumpets resonated,
All riches spread out like vast fields on Venkatadri hill,
For the Supreme, Eternal Lord's wedding!

Thousands and thousands of gifts were offered,
The yellow rice grains were showered on them by blessed women,
Sree Venkatesha and Sree Alamelumanga lovingly showered upon
each other, the yellow rice grains, during their beautiful wedding !

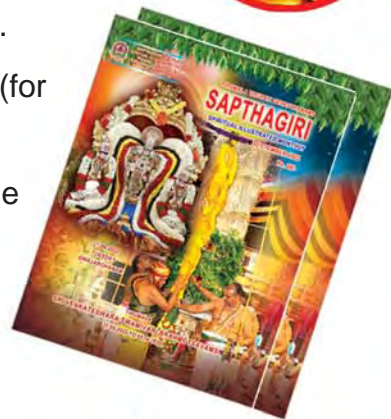
- Annamacharya

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Venkatadri Samamsthanam
Brahmande nasti kinchana



Venkatesa Samo Devo
Na Bhuto na Bhavishyati

SAPTHAGIRI

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No. 5

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Front Cover: Sri Malayappaswami on Garudavahanam at Tirumala

Back Cover: Chakrasnanam at Tirumala - A view



Invitation to Brahmotsavam

“Come, visit Tirumala during Brahmotsavam to get the blessings of Sri Venkateswara the Supreme Godhead,” said Garuda extending a divine invitation to all including celestials, humans and to all the beings of entire universe. The glory of Brahmotsavam is a must-see feast for the eyes. So, come and witness the glory.

People who come will have to first bow down to the majestic statue of Garutman at Alipiri and start their journey to Tirumala. Unmindful of the noise stemming from the vehicles, the devotees solely concentrate on getting the glimpse of the Lord. In fact, the noise in these pristine surroundings is also a cherished experience. Throughout the journey, either by footpath or vehicle, devotees chant “Govinda Nama” that reverberates through the surroundings, touching even the sky. It makes the Lord even more eager to give darshan as he is “Bhakta Jana Vatsala” (fond of devotees). He is ready to mount on the Vahana to bless us all, an eye catching event every moment.

On the hill, none feels tired, whether one walked all the way up or came by vehicle; they forget all the fatigue, rather they get more energetic because of the pure, aromatic wind that blows in Tirumala. The divine touch gives devotees a refreshing feel to their body and mind, at that instant wholly given to Lord Sri Venkateswara. The beauty of Tirumala also makes their journey delightful.

The entire hill is filled with vibrations of the chant of “Govinda, Govinda.” The spiritual music and dance at Nada Neerajanam give a visual treat to the pilgrims. The Asthana mandapam resonates with Vedic hymns. The delicious Prasadam at “Tarigonda Vengamamba Anna Prasada Complex” provides sumptuous meal to all the devotees. The Tirumala streets are decorated with fragrant flower garlands and fruits. The Lord is adorned with variety of ornaments and garments in each Vahanaseva. Each seva is magnificent when moving through the four Mada Streets. The festivities marked by Bhajans, Musical bands, Kolaatams, Prabhandha Goshti, Mangala Vaayidhyam are a celebration not only for the Lord but also for the devotees. Those who watch it in person are really blessed. Each of them is blessed with experiences of spiritual aura. “Hari Nama Sankeerthana” not only touches the sky, but also Sri Vaikunta. Devotees who participate in the services feel blessed. There are numerous Kainkaryas and Nivedanas are done to Swami’s Moolamurthy (main deity). At that time the darshan of Swami offers a unique spiritual experience.

The TTD ensures that all the devotees who come to Tirumala get good hospitality and facilities, so that they can enjoy their journey to Tirumala kshetra as well as watching the glory of Swami Seva. Let’s hope that all the devotees will visit Swami in traditional attire and with continuous chanting of divine name and get the blessings of Swami. Lord Venkateswara is incomplete without “Sri”. Hence, devotees can have a sense fulfilment by visiting Tiruchanur Goddess Padmavati devi as it mostly coincides with the time of the Navaratri festival.

Come Let’s plan to visit “Bhooloka Vaikuntam” to get enthralled by the mercy of Lord Srinivasa.

BRAHMOTSAVAMS

The Festival Performed by Lord Brahma

- Smt. D.K. Ahana Lakshmi

The celebration of Srivari

Brahmotsavams is the grandest spectacle of the year. Hundreds of thousands congregate at Tirumala to have the grand darshan of Lord Venkateswara as He moves around the streets on a different mount each morning and evening for nine days. Filled with excitement and devotion, the atmosphere is charged. These days, even those who cannot participate in person can participate virtually because of television and live streaming on TTD SVBC channel and other websites and the sharing of photos and videos on social media.

Celebration of festivals has been part of the culture of the temple at Tirumala since ancient times. For example, there is a reference in the Ahananooru, one of the eight anthologies (ettuthokai) of the Sangam Tamil literature to 'Vengadam, prosperous because of the festivals celebrated there.'

The earliest epigraphic references can be traced back to 966 CE citing the endowments made by the Pallava queen Samavai, and subsequently others such as the Telugu Pallava king Vijaya Ganda Gopala Deva, Tribhuvana Chakravarthi Tiruvenkatanatha Yadava Rayalu and Veera Prathapa Rayalu to organize the Brahmotsavams to the Lord at Tirumala.

But why the name 'Brahmotsavam', Brahma's festival?

In his book, 'Venkataachala Maahatmyam', Paravastu Venkata Ramanuja Swamy cites the Varaha Purana explaining the origin of the Brahmotsavam. Many eons ago, sages and yogis were being harassed by 'asuras,' especially Ravana. They went to Vaikunta in search of Mahavishnu, the only one who could save them. 'He is visiting the earth', said a dweller of Vaikunta. So, they made their way to the earth. On the way, they met the sage Narada and he suggested



that they all go and ask Lord Brahma for a solution. They prostrated before Lord Brahma and prayed for his help. Lord Brahma narrated the story of how Ravana's power was built through penance and that he could be killed only by a non-human. The only solution was to seek the help of Lord Mahavishnu. But where is he on earth? Lord Brahma opined that Lord Vishnu was at that time believed to be in Venkatadri, because it was after the Varaha 'avatara' and it was 'Varaha kshetram'.

Now, all the sages along with Lord Brahma trudged to Seshachalam. They searched here and there but could not find Lord Vishnu. Led by Lord Brahma, they performed penance. Meanwhile, the king Dasaratha who had no sons was advised by the sage Vasistha to head to Venkatadri. Bathing in the sacred waters and washing off his sins, he wandered around and saw many rishis immersed in the worship of Lord Vishnu. Amidst them was Lord Brahma on a tiger skin, His four faces glowing brilliantly as He meditated on Lord Srinivasa. Vasistha initiated Dasaratha with the 'Venkatesa Ashtakshari Mantra' and Dasaratha devotedly chanted. Lord Mahavishnu would not deny His beloved devotee a glimpse!

There was a blinding flash of light and suddenly they all found themselves in the abode of Lord Mahavishnu! Ecstatic at this rare divine vision, everyone eulogized the Lord. Pleased with their prayers, Lord Srinivasa asked them what their problem was. Lord Brahma, the sages like Agastya and Sanaka, and Dasaratha explained their difficulties to Him. The Lord smiled and said that He would solve all their problems. Full of relief and

happiness, the sages and others left. But Lord Brahma stayed behind.

Seeing him, Lord Srinivasa asked how he could help. Lord Brahma explained that it went to His heart that the Lord was not visible to the people. In Kaliyuga, people couldn't do penance to be able to see the Lord. It was important for the Lord to take care of His people as otherwise they would be condemned to Hell. Lord Brahma requested Lord Mahavishnu as Lord Srinivasa to stay back in Venkatadri in His physical form for all to see. And the Lord agreed that He would stay here in Venkatachala till the end of this 'Kalpa' along with His consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi.

Lord Brahma still stood there. Then Lord Vishnu asked Lord Brahma about his wish. To this, Lord Brahma replied that He wanted to celebrate Lord Srinivasa's glory by hoisting His 'dwaja' or flag and holding a festival. The Lord agreed to this also. This happened on the day of Shravana star in Kanya Month. Since Lord Brahma Himself conducted 'utsavas' for nine days ending on the day of the Lord's self-manifestation, this event is known as 'Brahmotsavams'.

Just as Lord Brahma invited all the gods, demi-Gods and others to participate in the festival, before the auspicious 'dwajaarohana', the 'utsava murthis' along with the 'parivar' (family) deities are taken around the four Mada streets in procession. Garuda flying high invites everyone to participate.

Let's take part in the grand divine festival and obtain the graceful blessings of Lord Srinivasa!



To this day, in commemoration to Brahmotsavam, a small empty chariot known as the 'Brahma Ratham' goes before the daily procession of the 'utsava murties' (processional deities) twice on the Brahmotsavam days.



As the saying 'Manava Sevaye Madhava Seva' goes, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is committed to providing basic services to the common pilgrim visiting the abode of Sri Venkateswara, including free darshan, food, drinking water, travel and tonsuring.

There are numerous facilities made available by the TTD for the benefit of the tens of thousands of pilgrims visiting the hill shrine. As many as 60000 to 80000 devotees take darshan of Swamivaru on an average everyday, which needs efficient crowd management mechanism and hassle-free token allotment system, which the TTD has effectively mastered.

While there will be just a couple of choices for devotees in other temples, the major factor that distinguishes the TTD is the large number of options to choose from while opting for Darshan.

The TTD is providing a multitude of services to ensure pilgrims for having a smooth and fulfilling experience during their pilgrimage from Tirupati bus station/railway station to Tirumala and back. Of course, the devotee has to carry some minimum amount towards payment of caution deposit for room/locker, which will be returned while vacating.

Note : The TTD may change the facilities from time to time depending on the exigencies of the situations. Readers are requested to note this point and follow the TTD website www.tirumala.org time to time.

TIRUMALA DARSHAN

A Hassle - Free Facility Offered by the TTD

- Sri Atthi Rangarajan



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Slotted Sarva Darshan (SSD)

: There are a number of avenues



through which a devotee can opt for Darshan. The first choice opted by most devotees is the SSD (Slotted Sarva Darshan) Tokens, which are free tokens allotted for darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. Most devotees arriving at Tirupati on an unscheduled visit can get SSD tokens at the counters in Srinivasam (opposite RTC Bus Station), Vishnu Nivasam (opposite Railway Station) and Bhudevi Complex (Alipiri Link Bus Station). Based on the time slot, they can reach Tirumala at the scheduled hour and have an eye-ful of Darshan of Srinivasa.

Special Entry Darshan (SED) :

The second major option that is used by devotees is the SED



(Special Entry Darshan) Tickets. These tickets can be booked online on payment of Rs.300 per person. This ticket is the most affordable for the middle class devotees who intend to visit Tirumala as per their itinerary and who want to stick to their travel plan. Unscheduled Sarvadarshan is also available for those who neither plan their schedule, nor book their SSD slot. Such devotees will be allowed into the queue line at regular intervals, but priority is given to those who have booked Darshan or Sevas.

Divyadarshan : Divyadarshan' is another format which is useful



for the devout who have taken a vow to trek the hills. A huge chunk of the devotees reaching Tirumala come on foot, which they believe will endear them to Lord Venkateswara and get his blessings. In view of the tiredness and fatigue involved in trekking the hills, such devotees find it difficult to spend long hours

standing in the queue lines. It was with the intention of reducing their strain that the TTD management is offering these 'Divyadarshan' tickets to the pilgrims as a token of relief for trekking the hills. Trekking devotees will have to get these tickets issued at the foot of the hill and get them validated/checked at a designated point mid way, on the trekking route in Srivarimettu. At present Divyadarshan tokens are being issued only in the Srivarimettu (in near future the old method will be resumed in the Alipiri foot path also).

SRIVANI ticket : The TTD gives priority in Darshan to those who donate to Sri Venkateswara Alaya Nirmana (SRIVANI) Trust formed with the intention of constructing and maintaining Sri Venkateswara temples across India. The trust also supports conduct of various festivals and religious rituals, besides taking up repair, renovation, maintenance and preservation of Gopurams and archaeological



buildings that reflect the glory of Indian culture. As a token of appreciation of the commitment exhibited by the donors who contribute Rs.10000 or above to SRIVANI TRUST, the TTD provides a one-time privilege of VIP Break darshan, which costs an additional Rs.500.

Senior Citizens and Differently abled : According special concern to age and



physical disability, the TTD offers special privilege to the senior citizens and the differently abled persons by providing them a separate slot in the queue lines, so that they need not undergo pushing and jostling with the regular crowd. Such people can avail darshan of Lord Venkateswara by booking tickets under the head 'Senior Citizen/ Differently Abled/Medical cases' at the TTD website 'www.ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.in'. The senior citizen must have completed 65 years of age and

the spouse is allowed as an attendant. Similarly, the Differently abled person should possess a certificate provided by the state or central government, and their spouse will be allowed to accompany as an attendant. As a special privilege to those having tough medical conditions, the TTD allows those who have undergone/are undergoing kidney transplantation, open heart surgery, dialysis, liver transplantation, brain surgery, cancer or spine surgery (unable to walk). Such cases should bring a medical certificate from the concerned surgeon or specialist. His/her spouse will be allowed as an attendant.

In all the above cases, a maximum of 1000 persons will be allowed from Monday to Saturday at 3 pm per day.

Srinivasa Divyanugraha Homam : The newly-launched 'Srinivasa Divyanugraha Homam' at the Alipiri Goshala offers yet another Darshan opportunity for the devout. The Homam is performed by the TTD for global well-being and general prosperity of all humans. Sri Venkateswara Vedic University has been entrusted with the task of providing qualified and skilled manpower to perform the ritual.



Those willing to participate in the Homam can do so on payment of Rs.1000 per couple, for which they will be allowed entry through the queue line meant for SED tickets (on purchase of tickets for Rs.300 each). The Homam is getting popular day by day and is getting huge response not only for getting the divine grace of Srinivasa, but also due to its popularity as a reliable mode of Tirumala darshan.

Srivari Sevak/Parakamani :

The TTD invites the public to render voluntary service to the devotees and involves them in several of its activities in the temple as well as outside the shrine such as in maintaining queue lines, vigilance, health, Annaprasadam distribution, garden, medical, transport,





Kalyanakatta, book stalls etc. The duties are allotted to the volunteers based on electronic dip system and as such, everyone may not get duty within the temple complex. The registered devotees will have to apply for the Seva and render voluntary service at the spot allotted to them. As a token of appreciation of their voluntary service, Darshan will be provided to them. Similarly, those volunteering to monitor the Parakamani (counting of currency and coins dropped in Srivari Hundi) will also get Darshan opportunity. Visit TTD website for more information.

Angapradakshinam : Angapradakshinam is the process of rolling one's body around the sanctum sanctorum in the 'Praakaram'. This is a centuries-old practice in vogue, performed to appease the Lord of Seven Hills. Pilgrims can perform Angapradakshinam by booking

the ticket well in advance through <https://ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.in/adp/login>. For this, the devotees should first take bath in Pushkarini and arrive at the temple in wet clothes. They have to produce the identity card



mentioned while booking to get into the temple for this purpose.

The Other Facilities for pilgrims : The TTD provides various facilities for the devotees visiting Tirumala. Right from drinking water to Annaprasadam, hot milk for infants and adults, toilets to lockers, everything is free.

For the pilgrims patiently waiting in the various queue lines for their turn of darshan, milk and Anna prasadam are supplied at regular intervals. This helps them maintain calm and chant the holy names of Lord Venkateswara during their period of stay, without having to worry about the waiting time.

Annaprasadam (food) is served at Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasada Kendram during most parts of the day. No pilgrim is required to spend a penny to buy food as the TTD provides steaming hot food to every visiting devotee. The high quality of food draws laurels from the devotees.

Similarly, pilgrims need not have to buy potable water to quench their thirst during their stay at Tirumala. Reverse Osmosis (RO) treated water is made available at regular intervals throughout the areas visited by pilgrims on the hills.

Tonsuring of head is done since time immemorial in fulfilment of a vow at Tirumala. Offering hair is considered one of the most significant contributions to Lord Venkateswara. It is hence tonsuring is done free of cost for the devotees.

For patients travelling to Tirumala and also for those falling sick during journey, there is a free emergency medical facility at Aswini Hospital and Vaikuntam queue complex. People in need of emergency and superior treatment are rushed to Tirupati downhill for the



same. In fact, there are ambulances kept ready on both the ghat roads to meet such exigencies.

Trekking devotees bringing heavy luggage need not bother about physically carrying them to the hills, as the TTD offers free luggage transportation service. Once the baggage is handed over to the centre at the foot of the hills, it will be transported by road to a similar point at the hill top, where the trekkers can pick up their bags.

Once a pilgrim arrives at the bus station or railway station downhill, there are free buses available to drop them at Alipiri and Srivarimettu, from where they can trek the hills. Similarly, free buses will be continuously roaming on Tirumala hills, which can be used by the pilgrims to reach their destination. Pilgrims will have to pay only if they are travelling by bus on the ghat road.

For pilgrims coming by own transport, the TTD has developed a number of parking

lots across the hill town. The parking places are planned and made available at regular intervals that thousands of cars arriving on a single day can be parked with ease.

The TTD has also made available battery-operated vehicles for the senior citizens and the disabled to move around the temple. The vehicles are used to ferry the aged and sick persons from the car parking up to the temple entrance.



AVOID PLASTIC

- Devotees are requested to avoid plastic materials like covers, water bottles and other plastic based material at Tirumala to safeguard the environment.
- Devotees walking along footpath routes are requested not to carry plastic bottles.
- They should not throw plastic covers and other related items in the ghat roads.
- Keep Tirumala clean and tidy.



The TTD has come up with a mobile app 'GOVINDA', which provides booking of all services at a single click. Pilgrims are advised to download the free app and get the facilities within minutes.

In view of the dynamic situation at Tirumala, all the services and facilities offered by the TTD are subject to change in the last minute. Pilgrims are advised to check for the services ahead of planning their travel.

Pilgrims are suggested to make their arrangements for pilgrimage well in advance and also make use of all the facilities available at Tirumala.

In a nutshell, a well-planned trip to Tirumala is always fruitful, comfortable and gratifying..!



MOVING IN BUSES.....

The pilgrims while moving in the buses / own vehicles from Tirupati to Tirumala must follow the instructions given below.

1. The pilgrims getting down from the bus are requested to note down the bus number in Alipiri.
2. The Pilgrims are requested to Co-operate with the security staff keeping in view the safety of Tirupati and Tirumala.
3. The Pilgrims are requested to carry their luggage to the scanner machine for scanning and afterwards move forward 100 mts. to get in the bus.
4. The pilgrims visiting Tirumala should not carry intoxicated goods like alcohol, meat or non-vegetarian foods and cigarettes with them.



Note : Co-operate with the vigilance staff while checking.

Lord Sri Mahavishnu left Vaikuntam and reached Venkatadri as Sri Venkateswara Swamy in order to protect and bless the devotees. Venkatadri is also known as Venkatachalam. It is one of the seven hills of Tirumala, considered a heavenly abode on the earth. The sanctum sanctorum where Sri Venkateswara Swamy resides in the temple was covered by a gold-plated 'gopuram' called 'Ananda Nilayam'.

In the sanctum sanctorum, Lord Venkateswara Swamy is in the divine form in the 'Brahma Sthaana.' The image of the Lord is over eight feet tall and is believed to be the self-manifested one. This Salagramamurthy is called 'Sthanakamurthy' because He is in the standing posture. He is Dhruvamurti or Dhruvabera because His idol is stable. The Lord is also called 'Sthanaka Virahamurthy' as He is the only one without His consorts.

*Entamatramuna nevaru dalachina antamatrame nivu
antarantamu lenci chuda bindanthe nipatiyannatlu
koluthuru mimu vaishnavulu kurimito visnudanu
palukuduru mimu vedantulu parabrahmambanachu
taluturu mimu saivulu tagina bhaktulu sivudanachu
alari pogududuru kapalikulu adi bhairavudanachu....*

—Thallapaka Annamacharya

You are that, what one perceives you as if appraised rightly, however the dough is, so turns out the pancake! If you are Sree Venkatapathi, the Lord who accepts us, right here I surrender unto you totally! For me this is the highest truth!

SRI SRINIVASA MAHAMBHAJE!

- Dr. I.L.N. Chandra Sekhar Rao

Standing on the Padma Peetham the Lord wears a sword called 'Nandaka'. The manifestation of the Lord shines with Surya Katari, Crown, Thirunamam, Vyuha Lakshmi in His bosom along with Sankhu, Chakra, Varada and Kati 'hasthas', Naagabharanaas, Camphor on the chin. Now, here Let us see some specialities of the Lord in a glance.

1. Thirunamam

Thirunamam worn on the forehead of the Lord is called 'Urdvapundram.' It is offered once a week after Abhishekam every Friday. It is made of 16 tulas of 'pacchakarpuram' (camphor) and one and a half tula of 'kasturi' (musk). Before the Brahmotsavams and during the Brahmotsavas, on Fridays following the Brahmotsavams, double camphor and musk are used for 'Thirunamam.' Therefore, this 'namam' is called as 'Rettimpunamam' and on every Thursday this 'namam' is shortened and the Lord's eyes are clearly visible to the devotees.

2. Sankham and Chakram

The Lord appears with Sankham (conch) and Sudarshana Chakram (Discus) in both hands. They are said to have been established by Sri Ramanujacharya in his times.

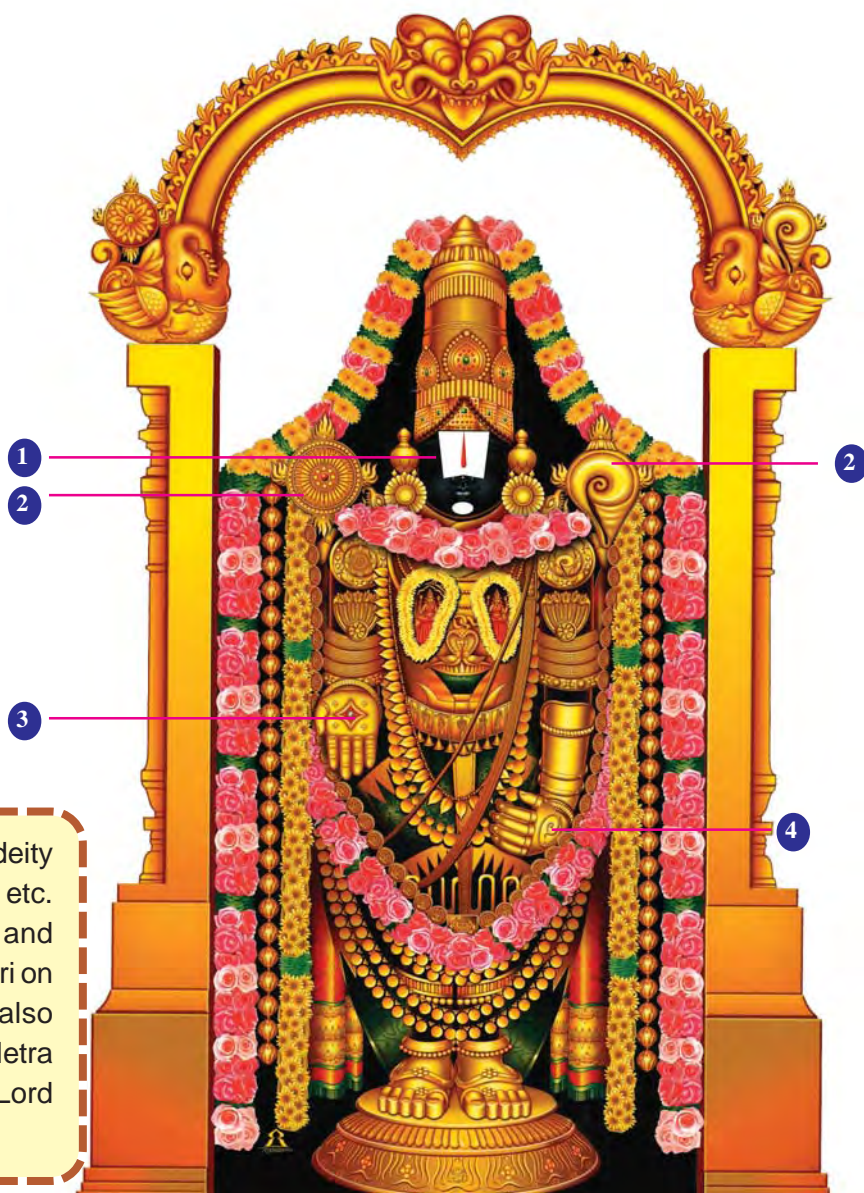
In Tirumala on every thursday, the main deity was divested of all ornaments, flowers etc. The deity was draped only in Dhoti and Uttareeyam. The Thirunamam and Kasturi on the forehead of the main deity were also reduced in size resulting in the unique 'Netra Darshan' (where the divine eyes of the Lord can be seen).

3. Varada Mudra

The two hands of Lord Venkateswara are called Varada Hastha and Kati Hashta. Varada Mudra is found in the right hand of the Lord. His right palm points downwards. Varada means giving boons. This is said to be an indication that who takes refuge at His holy lotus feet is a true devotee and will be blessed.

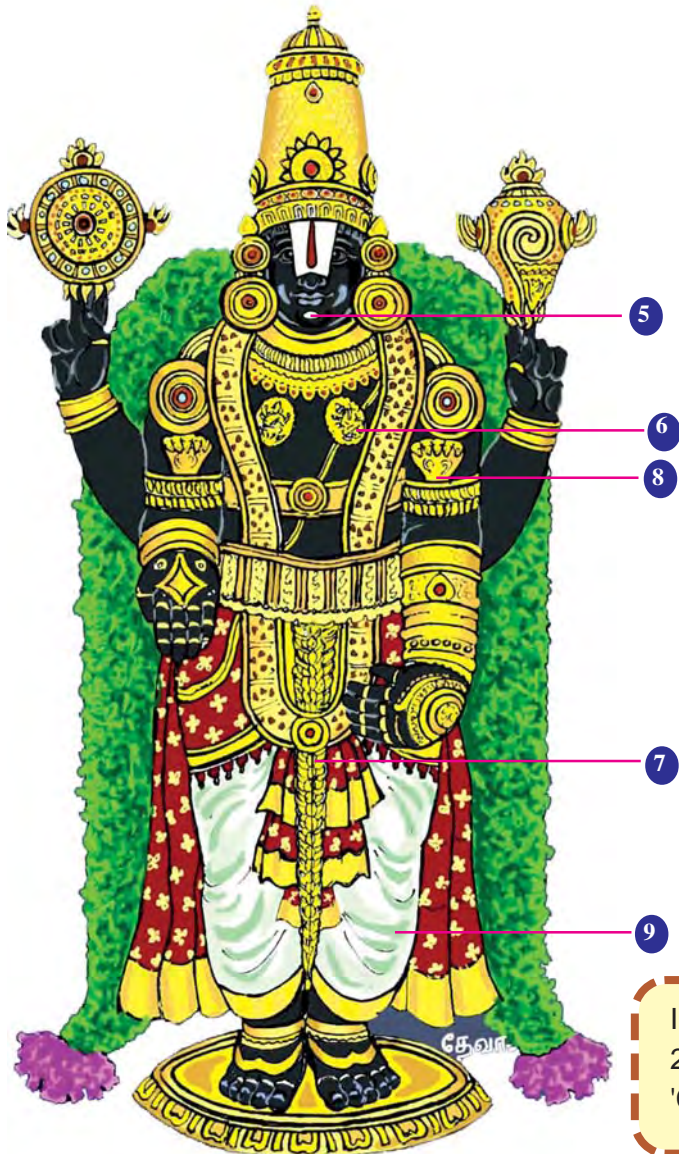
4. Kati Hastam

Swami holds Kati Hastam (left hand). Keeping the hand near His knees, kati, symbolizes that whoever surrenders at His feet will be blessed with boons. By placing His hand on the pelvis, the Lord reminds the vital part of man and warns him not to get too much attachment towards anything.



5. Camphor on the Chin

The Lord's chin is decorated with 'pacchakarpooram' and appears white. Earlier, a devotee named Ananthalar reached Tirumala and developed a flower garden to serve the Lord. With the help of his wife, he used to dig the garden well. During this time the Lord appeared as a boy and tried to help in digging. But Ananthalar refused. But the boy continued to help Ananthalar's wife. Ananthalar got angry and threw the crowbar on the boy. The boy got injured. Later the boy was identified as the Lord and 'pacchakarpooram' was applied to the wound on the chin.



6. Vakshasthala Lakshmi

Goddess Sri Mahalakshmi is on the chest of Lord Srinivasa. Actually, it appears that Goddess Lakshmi is on both sides of the Lord's bosom, but Ammavaru is on one side of Moolavirattu's bosom. Ammavaru is invisible due to decoration. During Abhishekam, Ammavaru appears clearly. She is smeared with turmeric powder. It is said that Ammavaru is the main reason for 'Abhishekam' to the Lord on Friday. After chanting the Lord's Sahasranama and Ashtottaranama thrice daily, Goddess is worshipped with the 24 names from the Varaha Puranam. The name of this worship is 'Chaturvimshati Namavali Puja'. The grand 'darshan' of the Lord holding the goddess in Her bosom brings grace to both. Moreover, the Lord tells the world the real position of a wife which is very significant.

7. Surya Katari

Sword is one of Lord Vishnu's five weapons. It is known as Nandakam and Surya Katari. It is believed that this weapon is meant to punish the wicked and protect the righteous. Pada kavita Pithamaha Thallapaka Annamacharya emerged from the sword called Nandaka to write 'keerthanas' on Lord Venkateswara and condemn the sinfulness of the world. The message given by the Lord through this sword is to remove ignorance, carelessness and disregard on the part of the human beings.

8. Nagabaranas

The Lord appears wearing 'nagabharanas' on both the lower sides of the shoulders and above the elbows. These jewels are symbolic of

In Tirumala on every Friday, Goddess is worshipped with 24 names from the Varaha Puranam called 'Chaturvimshati Namavali Puja'.

STIPULATED TIME

Devotees who are having SED/SSD tokens are requested to enter the queue lines at the stipulated time only at Tirumala. They will not be allowed to enter the queue lines before the stipulated time.

Adishesha and the Lord shows His benevolence by making His followers the part of His body. It is remarkable that Seshu is the first vehicle in the Brahmotsavams.

9. Silk Clothes

Every Friday after Abhishekam, a 24 mura long and 4 mura wide 'dhoti' is used for decorating Lord Venkateswara. Apart from this, a 12 mura long and two mura wide silk cloth is worn as Uttareeyam. On Thursday, these are removed and the 'dhoti' is decorated and the Uttariyam is put up like 'yajnopaveetham'

Brahma Kadigina Paadamu

Brahmamu taane nee paadamu....

- Sri Thallapaka Annamacharya

The Lord stands on Padmapeetham. His lotus feet are always covered with golden sheet, wonderful flowers and 'tulsi' leaves. It is possible to see the Lord's feet only on the day of 'Abhishekam i.e., Friday. While worshipping the Lord's feet, taking shelter and serving Him means that the devotee has given up his pride at the Lord's feet and becomes His true devotee by his humbleness.

Sri Venkataachalaadheesham
sriyadyaasitha vakshasam
Srithachetana mandaaram
sreenivasa mahambhaje!!



28-11-2024, Thursday

Day : Dwajaroohanam

Night : Chinnaseshavahanam

29-11-2024, Friday

Day : Peddaseshavahanam

Night : Hamsavahanam

30-11-2024, Saturday

Day : Muthyapupandirivahanam

Night : Simhavahanam

01-12-2024, Sunday

Day : Kalpavrukshavahanam

Night : Hanumadvahanam

02-12-2024, Monday

Day : Pallaki Utsavam

Even. : Vasanthotsavam

Night : Gajavahanam

03-12-2024, Tuesday

Day : Sarvabhupalavahanam,

Golden Chariot

Night : Garudavahanam

04-12-2024, Wednesday

Day : Suryaprabhavahanam

Night : Chandraprabhavahanam

05-12-2024, Thursday

Day : Rathotsavam

Night : Aswavahanam

06-12-2024, Friday

Day : Tiruchhi Utsavam,

Panchami Theertham

Night : Dwajavarohanam

UNVEILING TIRUMALA

A Complete Guide to Exploring the City of Piety, Its Iconic Sites and Hidden Gems
- Kum. A.R. Vasupradha

Tirumala, often represented as the 'City of God', is a destination that enchants pilgrims with its rich history, remarkable architecture and absolute devotion. There is no place in this world which can be regarded as an equivalent to Venkatadri. There did not originate any God like Lord Venkateswara in the past nor will it happen in future because He is the God who manifests when pleaded for.

There are some interesting spots to be visited by the devotees during their pilgrimage to Tirumala. The first one is Swamy Pushkarini, followed by the holy Tirthas and other important spots. The following are some of the must-visit places for devotees during their Tirumala trip. Visit these beautiful spots and enjoy your journey.

Bedi Anjaneya Swamy Temple

Just opposite to Sri Vari temple in Tirumala on the mound, we find Bedi Anjaneya Swamy. There is a story that Lord Sri Rama met Hanuman for the first time here. History also states that when Hanuman was being mischievous, he was put in fetters by his mother, which is the reason for the word 'Bedi' (meaning handcuff), while in Kannada, 'Bedi' means worship. Pilgrims worship Anjaneya Swamy as a part of their prayer at Tirumala.

Akkagarla Temple

When the pilgrims begin their journey to Tirumala on foot from Alipiri, Akkagarla Temple can be seen in the middle of their journey on their left after crossing the Narasimha Swamy Temple. Akkagarlu are believed to hold immense powers like the village deities. During heavy downpour, the water falls through the crevices of the boulders of the hill, which is considered by the devotees as divine and having





medicinal powers. Devotees can also see the Akkagarlu (deities) in their return journey on the right side while travelling on the ghat road.

Silathoranam

Silathoranam is one of the few natural bridges or arches to be found in Tirumala. It is a natural rock formation and has the peculiar shape that appears to be the hood of a serpent and a conch, when seen from atop Dharmagiri. This is perhaps why it is believed that the deity of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala is exactly of the same height as the Silathoranam. The assessed geological age of the rock arch is 2.5 million years.

On the second Ghat road, visitors can witness elephant-shaped hill as portrayed in the Gajendra Moksha in Srimad Bhagavata. Similarly, the ten-headed serpent Sesha shows himself in the form of the hills starting from the city of Tirupati towards Karakambadi.

Garuda greets from the Ghats

Garuda is Lord Sri Venkateswara's favourite vehicle. The rock formation can be viewed from the Ghat roads of Tirumala, as this looks exactly in the pose of Lord Garuda standing and holding his palms together in the position of Namaskara. To locate the exact rock formation, one must look for the windmill as it is situated right above the rock.

Srivaari Paadalu

Srivaari Paadalu literally translates to 'Lord Venkateswara's feet.' It is believed that Srivaru set foot at this spot upon descending on the Tirumala hill ranges. Devotees have a strong faith that His sacred feet touched the ground on Narayanagiri Hills, one among the seven divine hills.

Srivaari Paadalu is at Tirumala, about 3 km away from Lord Sri Venkateswara Temple near Silathoranam. Pilgrims can reach the site after climbing around 300 steps and offer their prayers to the heavenly feet. Presently, one can find these divine footprints of the Lord enclosed in a glass frame, positioned on a stable rock foundation.

Sri Varaha Swamy Temple

As depicted in the Varaha Purana, Sri Adi Varaha Swamy rescued Earth from the Patalaloka, while Garuda fetched the Kridadri, an extensive natural hill with lofty peaks embedded with gold and precious stones, to the Earth. Ever since Sri Varaha rescued the Earth and simultaneously Garuda brought the Venkatadri from Vaikuntha and deposited it on the Earth, Varaha Swami resides on this hill invisibly. It was with the permission of the landlord Varaha Swamy that Sri Venkateswara took up his residence here, as stated in the Brahma Purana. Devotees pay their obeisances to Sri Adi Varaha Swamy even before praying to Sri Venkateswara Swamy. Sri Varaha temple is situated to the north of Sri Venkateswara Temple, on the banks of Swamyvari Pushkarini.

Hayagreeva Swamy Temple

Hayagreeva Swamy is represented as the horse-headed deity with a human body. Sri Hayagreeva Swamy is considered to impart knowledge and good education to the children. His Sannidhi is in the North Mada Street.

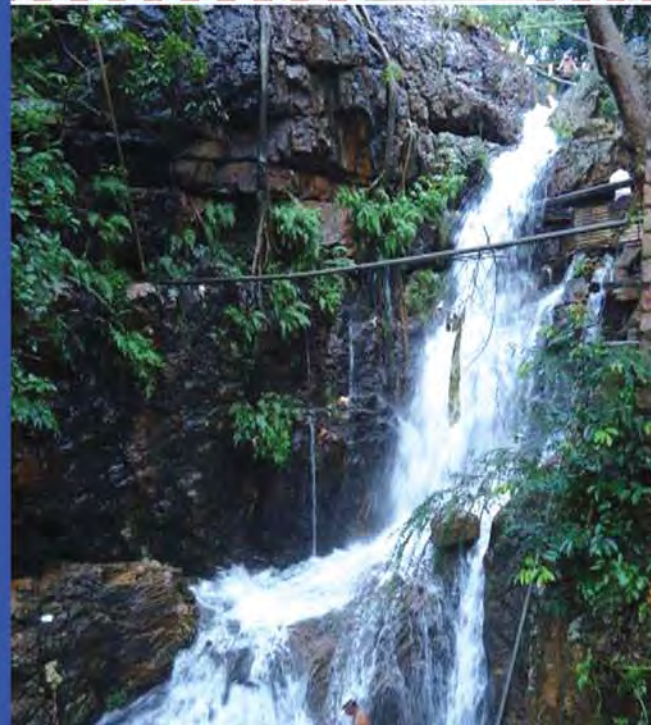
Akasa Ganga Teertha

Located 3km north from Sri Venkateswara temple, Akasa Ganga is the most sacred waterfall near Tirumala temple. 'Akasa Ganga' literally means 'Ganga flowing from the heaven.'

In the Tretayuga, Anjanadevi performed penance here for 12 years to give birth to Anjaneya Swamy. In the past, Tirumalai Nambi, one of the most ardent devotees of the Lord, started the tradition of carrying the holy water from here to Lord Venkateswara temple for his daily rituals. Since the falls are situated in the dense forests, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) laid pipelines to access water effortlessly.

Kalyanakatta

Pilgrims often visit Tirumala to get their heads tonsured as part of fulfilment of their vow. It is believed that submission of one's hair to the Lord is like the removal of weeds from the crops. Similarly, one sheds his ego before worshipping the Lord. Kalyanakatta is a huge complex in Tirumala where pilgrims get their head tonsured. One can find this complex opposite to the free meals building, near Pilgrim Amenities Complex (PAC) 3.





Japali Theertha

Japali is one beautiful waterfall, located 2 miles away in the north to Swamyvari Pushkarini. Japali's hermitage, and a powerful Anjaneya temple is also situated here. In the Puranas, it is mentioned that Kings have performed oblations to the Lord.

Papavinasam Teertha

This Teertha is situated around 3 miles away in the North to Srivari Pushkarini. As the name suggests, taking a holy dip in this fall is said to wash away one's sins. Pipeline was laid for the first time in 1952 from here to meet the drinking water needs of Tirumala.

There are many other teerthas one can visit during their pilgrimage.

Sri Vaikuntha Teertha, Pandava Teertha, Kataaha Teertha, Chakra Teertha, Tumburu Teertha, Ramakrishna Teertha, Tantrikaloya Teertha, Malvadi Gundam etc.

S.V. Museum, Tirumala

The Hall of Antiques was first established in 1980 in Thousand Pillar mandapam opposite to the main shrine in Tirumala. Now the S.V. Museum is situated in a sprawling building with an area of 1.25 lakh sq. ft. opposite to Vaikuntham Queue Complex. It is located in a kaleidoscopic environs of Tirumala surrounded by beautiful gardens and it is an ennobling place for visiting pilgrims.

This museum is an epitome of the traditions of Tirumala, Vaishnavism, and Hindu culture. It houses more than 6000 items of historical interest ranging in date from very early period to the present. The collections are spread over ten sections ranging from archaeology to contemporary items.

Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh, has been a repository of rich heritage, cherished by the kings, nobles, poets, sculptors, dancers, musicians all gathered in Tirumala and enriched the temple lore. It contains valuable antique materials to enable an art historian to trace the history and development of temple art.

Different galleries in the S.V. Museum host and display its acquisitions, donations, and offerings bequeathed from the unknown past. Vahanam gallery presents an array of Srivari Vahanams used during Brahmotsavams. Original copper plates of Annamayya's compositions enthral the visitors. Pilgrims can have a look at the Varaha Swamy Copper inscription, a cherished treasure of Tirumala.

Narayanagiri and Ananthalwar Gardens

Narayanagiri park is one of the great initiatives by TTD for the pilgrims. Visitors can spend their quality time after their darshan at the temple. The park is open from 5 am in the morning and closes at 8 pm. Visitors can experience greenery at this park, which is just 10 minutes away from the temple.

Ananthalwar was one of the Lord's ardent devotees who offered floral services to his rituals. Ananthalwar raised his garden on the way of Maha Pradakshinam to the southwest of Srivari Temple and his Samadhi is in the middle of the garden. Devotees are blessed to visit the garden that Malayappa Swamy visits twice a year to bless Ananthalwar even today.

Kalyana Vedika

TTD's Kalyana Vedika is a program for the registration of marriages in Tirumala. Free marriages are registered online. As Lord Sri Venkateswara is the ceremonial lord of marriage, people believe that getting married on the sacred hills enlightens the marital life with his blessings.

Nadaneerajana Mandapam

Nadaneerajana Mandapam is an open theatre where cultural activities are conducted on the sacred hills of Tirumala. Artists from various places come here to perform their arts at the holy feet of the Swamy.

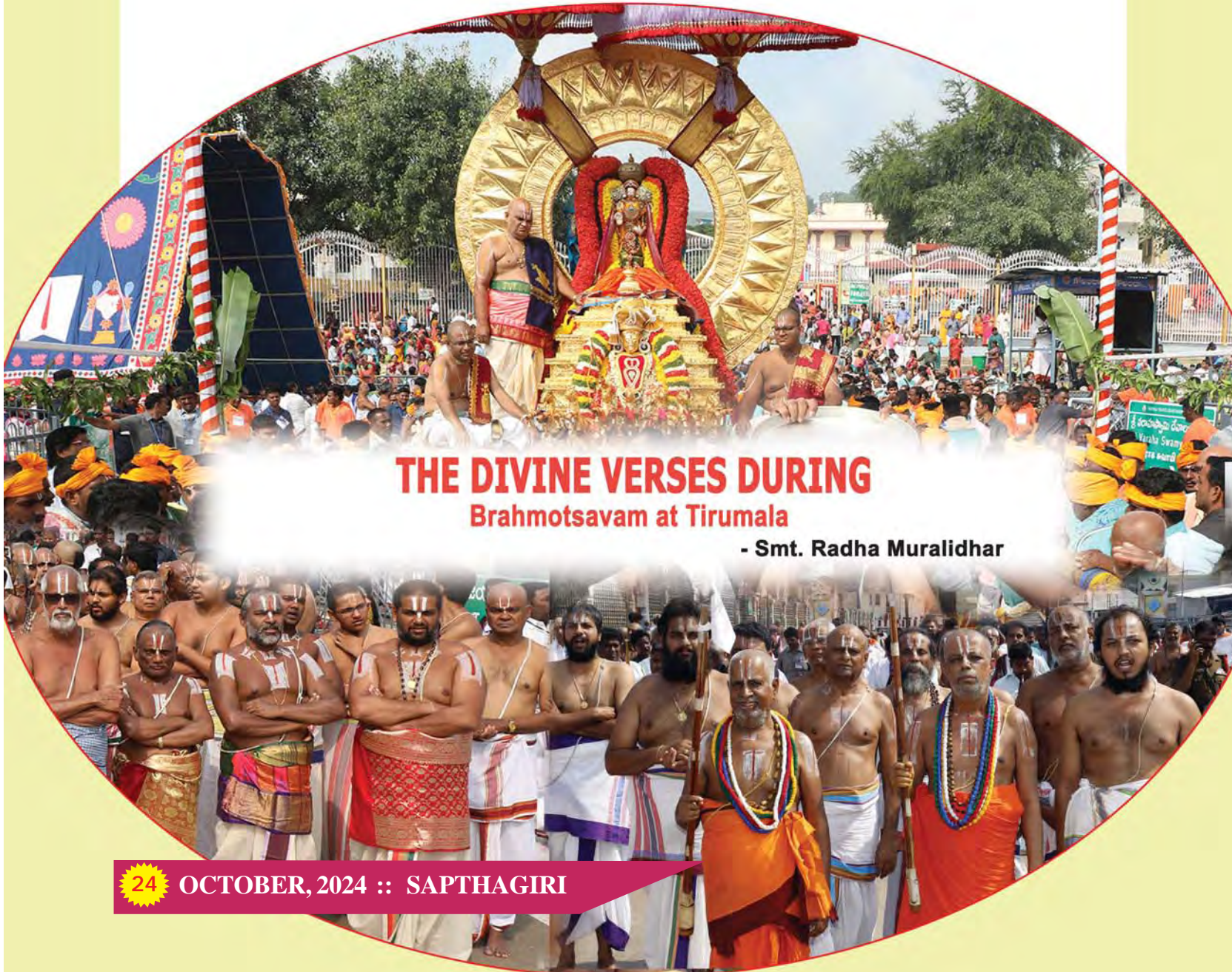
Historic spots to visit for making your pilgrimage complete. Hence, the pilgrims can visit not only the famous Venkateswara temple, but also these historical and mystical sites as they are a feast to the eyes, making their pilgrimage a fruitful one.



Srivari Brahmotsavams of this year will be celebrated between 4th October and 12th October 2024. The holy Thiru Vengadam Hills, perhaps the most famous place of pilgrimage, always carries a festive atmosphere with the crowds pouring in from all parts of the world and this vast land of ours. To many who come from faraway places, this pilgrimage is a sacred duty to be undertaken at least once in a lifetime. For many others, Lord Srinivasa is the family deity and the trek up the hills has to be done to mark occasions like marriages, the birth of children, and fulfillment of prayers. Other groups make it to the hills during the Tamil month 'Purattasi'

(September-October) with utmost devotion. The Saturdays of this month are considered to be very sacred. The pilgrims light lamps at the base of the hills and worship the hills. This crowd swells to a lakh and more during the annual Brahmotsavams!

The structure of the temple and the narrow interiors allow only a split-second darshan of the main deity to the devotees, though the sanctum sanctorum remains open and the Lord gives His grand 'darshan' through the day and night with a break of hardly an hour or so. This is of course a very special moment to be cherished, but most



THE DIVINE VERSES DURING Brahmotsavam at Tirumala

- Smt. Radha Muralidhar

of the devout pilgrims come out longing for more. Most console themselves saying, “What if I can’t see the Lord for long? He surely saw me and will shower His immense blessings on me! He has come from His celestial abode and is standing here to see us”.

The unfulfilled desire in the hearts of all pilgrims is satisfied by the grand Brahmotsavams conducted in the holy month of Purattasi when the Lord incarnated on the hills in Sravanam asterism. The Utsavam brings the processional deity, Malayappa Swami, with His divine consorts from the temple into the broad Mada streets in various floats twice every day in the morning and in the evening. Thousands of devotees who can sit on the stands have a glorious darshan and give their humble offerings to the Lord. The SVBC channel of the TTD brings the entire festive ambiance into our homes through their live telecast. Millions can watch the hoisting of the flag at the Dwaja Sthambha, the Agama rituals, the Vahana Sevas, and the salubrious environment of the hills and get a complete experience. Many elderly devotees used to stick to the television all nine days and feel blessed by the Lord.

The most important part of the Vahana Seva is the chanting of the Vedas in Tamil (the 4000 divine verses of the Alwar saints) leading the procession which is headed by the Jeeyar swamies in Tirumala. This demonstrates that the Lord of Thiru Vengadam is the Supreme Almighty who has been praised by both the Vedas. It is heartwarming to see the very large number of scholars taking part in this service. The role of the educational institutions run by the TTD for nurturing the Vedic, Prabhandha and Agama studies is highly commendable.

Four thousand verses are chanted

In the course of the nine days of the Brahmotsavams, the entire four thousand verses

are chanted. On the very first day when the Malayappa Swami ascends the Big Sesha Vahanam flanked by His consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi, the Mudal Thiruvandadhi of Poigai Piran is chanted. This Alwar’s birth asterism was on the sacred Thiruvonam star which also is the ‘Aavathara Thirunakshatram of Lord Srinivasa.

Poigai Alwar has sung about many Divya Deshas but the Seven Hills of Tirumala are very special to him and the Alwar’s magical verses on the ‘kshetra’ are very special to the Lord. At Tirumala, the chanting of Nalayira Divya Prabhandam is always started with Poigai Alwar’s Mudal Thiruvandadhi verses followed by the entire “Iyarpa” on subsequent Vahanas. The Lord of the Seven Hills is fondly called ‘Iyarppa Perumal’. Iyarpa is the last thousand verses of the Nalayira Divya Prabhandam and consists of Poigai Alwar’s Mudal Thiruvandadhi, Bhoothath Alwar’s Irandam Thiruvandadhi, Pei Alwar’s Moondram Thiruvandadhi, Thirumazhisai Alwar’s Nanmugan Thiruvandadhi, Nammalwar’s Thiruviruttam, Periya Thiruvandadhi and so on. On the day of Garuda Vahanam the Lord listens to the rendering of Nammalwar’s glorious Thiruviruttam wherein the Alwar describes the glory of the Thiru Vengadam Hills in numerous verses.

In many Srivaishnava ‘kshetras’, the chanting of Divya Prabhandham begins with mundane desires, men of wisdom, great souls like the Alwar saints who blessed the Lord with their powerful words of ‘mangalasasanam’ and the residents of the celestial land too.

In verse 37 of the same Prabhandham, Poigai Alwar describes an enchanting scene that unfolds before him. Streams of Vedic Scholars converging on the hills from all directions hurrying



Devotees are appealed to have patience while offering harati and have your peaceful darshan to avoid stampede during vahana sevas at Tirumala. Chant Govinda Naamaas while in Galleries till the vahanam arrives before you.

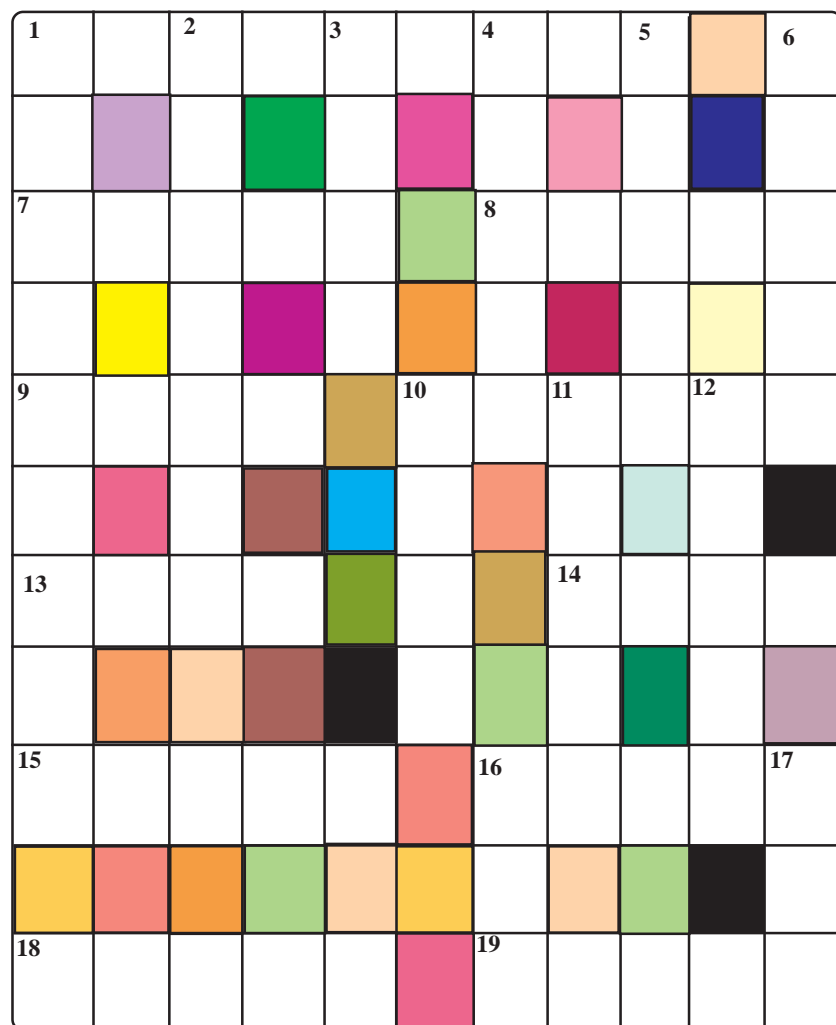
towards the temple are observed by the Alwar. These enlightened souls are carrying lamps, incense, pure water, and fresh flowers for the worship of the Lord. Swami Periyavachan Pillai in his commentary on this verse observes that the depiction of the Alwar seems to convey that there is a big festival, most probably the Brahmotsavams being conducted in the temple. The Mangalasasanam of the Alwar was conferred on the 'kshetra', the Lord of the Seven Hills, the devotees and the 'utsavam' too!

Today, as we watch the ceremonial commencement of the Divya Prabhandham recital during the Brahmotsavam in the South Mada Veedhi

near the shrine of 'Tirumalai Nambi', a deep conviction arises in the heart that it is the benedictory power of the Alwar's verses that has blessed Lord Venkatesa. It has made him the Supreme Deity of Kaliyuga and the Seven Hills a replica of the celestial land (Bhooloka Vaikuntam) on the earth. It has ensured that the flow of the faithful will always increase and the Lord's grace will flow towards all of them at all times. The Vedas and the devout devotees who abide by it will be protected by His abundant grace!



PUZZLE



Compiled by - Sri T.S. Jagan Mohan

CLUES FOR PUZZLE

01. Vani (9)
02. Gateway of Tirumala (7)
03. Person who lies (4)
04. Goda Devi (5)
05. Brahma (5)
06. Loud Sound (5)
10. Varuna (4)
11. Not Younger (5)
12. Siva (5)
16. Not night (3)
17. Father (3)

DOWN

01. Talking about unimportant matter (9)
07. Lift up (5)
08. Yama (5)
09. Travel in a boat or ship (4)
10. To request (6)
13. Dry (4)
14. Son of Bheema (4)
15. Sachi's Husband (5)
16. Feel Greatfear (5)
18. Parvathi (5)
19. Give up (5)

ACROSS

SAPTHARSHI STOTRAS ON SAPTHAGIRISA

Telugu Original by - Sri J. Balasubrahmanyam

English translation: Sri K. Damodar Rao

The seven Saptharshis, Kashyapa, Atri, Bharadwaja, Vishwamitra, Gowthama, Jamadagni and Vasishta, performed penance for thousands of years. Consequently, they obtained so immense powers that they shine as brilliant stars in the galaxies to this day. One could watch this stary constellation in the night in the north sky. The seven Maharshis are a team: they enjoy visiting places together, be it a pilgrimage or travel to other worlds, then exchanging and discussing details of the places and people. Their travels, visits and exchanges are primarily meant for the wellbeing of the world. Immersed in meditation in starry constellation, they remained unaware of how much the wheel of time has rotated, how many ages have passed. Regaining wakefulness after thousands of years of tapas they wished to visit all the celestial worlds. 'Why elsewhere, let's go to Vaikuntam first,' they all concurred. Later they wished to go to Kailasam. With the power of their tapas they reached Vaikuntam golden doorway straight from their starry constellation.

Even as they thought of going inside, they witnessed a scene much to their surprise. The guards at the doorway, Jaya and Vijaya were leisurely engaged in dice-play unmindful of the surroundings. Wondering what could be the reason for it, one of them uttered, 'Govinda!', another rishi said, 'Narayana!', and another, 'Laxmipathi', a wee bit loudly.

Hearing these sounds, Jaya and Vijaya turned their heads towards the Maharshis. "Who are you all? We don't remember having seen you in thousands of years. Whoever you are, our Swamy is not inside. He left the place thousands of years ago. We do not know which world He had gone to.

We are telling the truth. Don't curse us in haste. Besides, you are the all-knowing Rishis. What we can we say?" they said.

The Rishis were bewildered. Moving from the place, they reached Kailasam. The situation there was more perplexing than Vaikuntam. There was complete silence as they looked around. Meanwhile, two Lord Siva's followers came running. Their bodies, black and strange, almost naked, were ash-laden.

"Who are you? Looking like rishis! Some ages ago our Sivayya had left this place. We do not know where He had gone. Basavanna, Ganapayya, Kumarayya, all accompanied Him. You seem to know everything. With your vision, you can find His whereabouts," they said. The rishis wondered where the two – Hari and Hara—have gone. Brahma must have knowledge about them, they thought and in the blink of an eye reached Satyaloka.

Strange! They could meet one or two in Vaikuntam and Kailasam. No one could be seen in Satyaloka. The place was pleasant but solemn and silent. Frustrated, the rishis came out.

Meanwhile, they encountered Narada Maharshi. They exchanged greetings. "Supreme Rishis! After thousands of years I could meet you all at one place. What could be the reason for your visit to this place!" Devarshi expressed his surprise suppressing his curiosity.

"Oh!, Narada muni! We were really engaged in our world of tapas for many yugas. We wanted to see the Trimurtis and went to the three worlds ... but ..." even as they were saying, Narada burst into laughter.

"It appears you didn't have the darshan of Trimurtis. How could you, when they could not be found? Whichever world you go, you will not find anyone. You might wonder why: Let me explain the reason. Please listen intently.

"On the earth, in the southern part of Bharatha khanda, there is a marvellous hill called 'Venkatachala.' Countless legends about the hill's magic spell could be heard in all the three worlds. You all know that on that divine hill summit Srimannarayana manifested as 'Venkatapati.' Dear to his devotees, He is a giver

of boons. Brahmadeva is organizing Brahmotsavams in His honour on a grand scale for ten days. To watch the celebrations and get His blessings, all beings from all the worlds have thronged to Tirumala hill, known as 'Kaliyuga Vaikunta.' In that world, Sambasiva is the kshetrapalaka of Venkatachala. Lord Brahma has the pleasant responsibility of organizing the celebrations. That is the reason why all the worlds are empty.

And you must have received the invitation to take part in the Brahmotsavams by now! Whatever, we shall meet at the celebrations on the Sapthagiri in a festive atmosphere. Narayana! Narayana!" Narada Maharshi informed them and disappeared.

Even as they started walking Garuda Bhagawan appeared before them with the invitation of Brahmotsavams of Lord of the Seven Hills! "Maharshis! I searched for you in the galaxies. In the three worlds too. I had the fortune of meeting you here. Here is the invitation for the Brahmotsavams of the Lord of Universe!" Saying, he disappeared in a flash. The Saptharshis were pleased with the invitation extended by the king of birds. Without delay, they wanted to go to Venkatachala to participate in the divine celebrations where they could also see all the gods and more importantly, the Giver of Boons who would be receiving their worship and adulation. They started their journey to the Kaliyuga Vaikunta. They don't need any vehicles. Their will-power enabled them to reach Venkatachala.

THE RESPLENDECE OF SAPTHAGIRIS

Watching the spectacular radiance of the Seven Hills from the space they joined their palms in veneration. With sheer joy and amazement they looked at the 'Golden Abode' dazzling in the midst of imposing hills, at the cupola of the temple from above. They thought they were fortunate to witness the abode after thousands of years. Everywhere, there was hectic activity, with pleasantness writ large even in the commotion.

What could be the secret of this alluring glory! In Vaikunta, filled with solemn silence, only a few could enter. In contrast, this Bhooloka Vaikunta is attracting countless number of gods, humans, yakshas, kinneras, gandhravas from all the worlds, bustling with

human and celestial activity everyday exuding a glorious aura! There! Yogis, Yateeswaras, Avadhootas, Sanyasis, boys and girls, unmarried and married women, officials, blind people, scholars, illiterates, kings and presidents ... lakhs of devotees were immersed in devotional songs, dances, bhajans, keertanas, concerts, offerings, making the brilliantly lit seven hills a Blissful Abode. In fact, it is difficult to describe the dazzling surroundings and the divine atmosphere. The Saptharshis were absorbed, each one by himself, in treasuring the divine joy, glory of the hills, and the presiding deity, Sri Venkateswara.

THE DIVINITY OF BRAHMOTSAVAMS

Sri Venkatesa mati Sundara mohanangam
Sri Bhoomikantha maravinda dalayataksham
Pranapriyam pravimala Satkarunambu rashim
Brahmesa vandyam mamrutam varadam bhajami

Praying, the Saptharshis reached Venkatachala and took part in the Utsavams of the Brahmanda Nayaka from beginning to the last, savouring the divine taste of prasadam, in all a heavenly experience for them. The Brahmotsavams of Lord Srinivasa started with hoisting the flag, with the picture of Garuda on it, at the Dwjasthambham. The Saptharshis witnessed the proceedings in the morning and at night, took part in the Chariot-processions of Pedda Sesha, Chinna Sesha, Hamsa, Simha, Mutyala pandiri (Pearl-canopy), Kalpavriksha, Sarva Bhoopala, Mohini, Garuda, Hanuma, Gaja, Suryaprabha, Chandraprabha, Ashwa carriages: the rishis felt blessed. The next day, they also took part in the 'Chakra snana' at Sri Swamy Pushkarini.

Swamy pushkarini snanam Venkateswara darshanam
Maha prasada sweekara trayam, Trilokya durlabham

The water in the holy Pushkarini is pure with medicinal properties. And Sri Venkateswara is a wonderful physician who removes all ailments. The three pious acts of bathing in Pushkarini, Darshan of Sri Venkateswara and receiving Srivari prasadam

have positive, restorative effects. Nowhere else in the three worlds one could get such a fortune. 'Luckily, we got them,' thinking so the Saptharshis had holy dips in Pushkarini.

After the fruitful, successful completion of the celebrations, a holy gathering called 'Asthana' took place in Maha Manimandapa. Pleased with His devotees, Lord Srinivasa offered boons to them. On that occasion, Lord Sadasiva and Lord Brahma asked a question to the Saptharshis. "You have witnessed the glorious celebrations of the Lord of Universe! What are your experiences while taking part in the holy proceedings? Lord Srinivasa appears differently to each person, making each experience a unique one. All the devotees of the Lord have experienced it. So, Saptharshis, will you please explain your feelings and experiences in one sloka each! One condition is that the brief but loaded sloka should begin with the first letter in the name of the rishi reciting it.

In the court of Ananda Nilaya that day all the gods were present. Besides, all those who came from yaksha, kinnera, demon and human worlds were eagerly waiting for what the rishis would say. The Saptharshis stood up and prostrated before the Lord of Sapthagiris. Lord Srinivasa, accompanied by his consort, Lakshmi acknowledged them with a smile and nodded implying they could proceed. First, it was Kashyapa Maharshi who recited the sloka:

Kadi Hremantha vidyaya
praptaivya paradevata

Kalau Srivenkatesakhya,
tamaham saranam bhaje

“A manifestation of the holy mantra in this Kaliyuga is Sri Venkateswara. I, Kashyapa, had the fortune of having His darshan and so seek His refuge.”

Next, Athri Maharshi respectfully joining his hands recited:

Akaraadi ksha karantha,
varnai yah pratipadyate

Kalau sa Venkatesakhya
saranam mae Ramapati

“To Ramapati whose energy pervades all the letters manifested as Venkateswara in this Kaliyuga. I, Atri Maharshi, offer my salutations to Him and seek his graceful refuge.”

Next, it was Maharshi Bharadwaja's turn. Standing, he extolled Lord Srinivasa in glowing terms:

Bhagawan Bhargavikantho
Bhaktabheepitsa dayaka

Bhaktasya Venkatesakhya
Bharadwajasya mae gati

“Bhargavi is Lakshmi. She is the consort of Lord Srinivasa. He reassures his devotees and fulfills their desires by giving boons. I seek refuge in His presence.”

Rajarshi Vishwamitra, immersed as he was in watching Sri Venkateswara with devotion, praised Him:

Virat Vishnu Vidhata cha
vishwam vignana vighraha
Vishwamitra sya saranam
Venkatesa Vibhussada

“The Supreme Lord Vishnu manifested as Sri Venkateswara in this yuga. He is the Creator. This universe is a reflection of His wisdom-embodiment. To that Lord of the Universe, I, Vishwamitra offer my salutations,” he concluded.

Rishi Gowthama, in his turn, paid rich tributes to the glory of the Lord in his sloka:

Gow Gowrisha priyo nityam, Govindo gopati rvibhu
Saranam Gowthamasyastu Venkatadri Shiromani

“Beloved of Gowri is Parameswara. He cherishes His closeness with Govinda, the husband of Gopikas, the Chief of cow-herds. All beings in the universe worship Him! Resplendent through the ages, in so many ways, He is now Srinivasa Bhagawan, Lord of the Seven Hills. I salute Him seeking shelter near Him.”

Sage Jamadagni took his turn and offered his prayer to the Lord:

Jagatkarta jagadbharta jagaddharta jaganmaya
Jamadagni prapannyasa jeevesho Venkateswara

“To Venkateswara, the Lord who controls all the worlds, who bears all the burden, the all-pervading One whose reflection is found in every being, I, Jamadagni, offer my obeisance!”

Lastly, Vashishta Maharshi said in glowing terms:

Vastuvignana matram yah anni rvishesham Shubham cha sat
Tat Brahmaivaha manveeti Venkatesam bhaje sada

“To the devotees who seek His gorgeous presence, He is offering auspicious boons fulfilling their desires! Sri Venkateswara is shining as the Supreme Lord with brilliant aura; and that Bhagawan's name, I, Vashishta Maharshi, chant everyday!”

Hearing the Saptharshis' recitations, all those present in the court, Brahma and other gods felt enthralled by the endearing, magical words, and gave a huge applause in appreciation.

Lord Venkateswara was very much pleased, and with a smile looked around at all his devotees and said to the Saptharshis: “Maharshis! All your utterances have magical intones. The people who read them, recite them, will be freed from all fears, obstacles! In addition, they will be blessed with wellbeing, all good things in life! They will also flourish with riches!” The Lord expressed his pleasure and felicitated the Saptharshis with precious stone-studded shawls and blessed them.

Thus, the Saptharshis' slokas became dear to Sri Venkateswara, also ‘Kali Santaraka Stotra’ to the devotees. Brahma and other gods uttered that whoever recites or hears these slokas, they will shed their fears and meet with success everywhere in their endeavours:

Saptarshi rachitam Stotram sarvada yah patennaram
So-bhayam praapnuyaat satyam sarvatra vijayee bhaveth

Having concluded their journey to the earth fruitfully, the Saptharshis returned to their starry constellation reminiscing about their blissful experiences in a spiritually rich Kaliyuga Vaikunta, the wonder-abode of Sri Venkateswara. The stotras of Saptharshis on the Lord of Seven Hills, from that day onwards, came to be cherished by the Lord and His devotees.

Namah Sri Venkatesaya Shuddha gnana swarupine
Vasudevaya Shantaya Srinivasaya Mangalam!

The Seven Paths that Lead to Tirumala...

- Smt. Sudha Kollachana

The Tirumala Hills in Andhra Pradesh are home to Sri Venkateswara Temple, one of the world's most revered pilgrimage sites. The hills are part of the Seshachalam Hills and are approx. 853 meters above sea level. The temple is dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, who is believed to have appeared there to save humanity from Kali Yuga. The temple is built in the South Indian Tamil architectural style by the king Tondaiman, and later expanded by the Chola and Vijayanagara kings.

The hills are also significant for other reasons, including:

In ancient literature, Tirupati is referred to as 'Adi Varaha Kshetra', and the Puranas associate the site with Varaha, one of Vishnu's Dashavatara. The Varaha Purana says that Venkatadri is part of Mount Meru, which was brought to Earth by Garuda from Vishnu's abode, Vaikuntam. The seven peaks of the hills are also

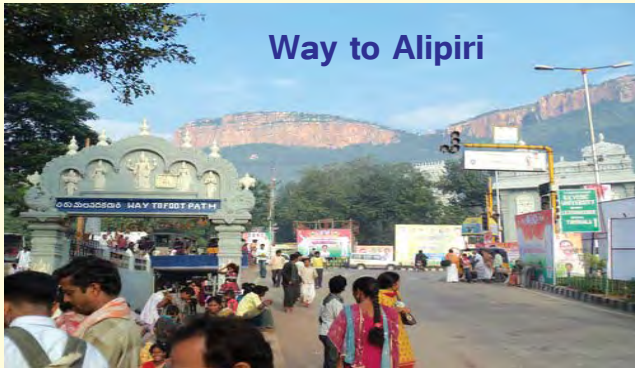
said to represent the seven heads of 'Adishesha'.

One of the hills, Vrishabadri, is said to have been the site of a battle between Lord Shiva and a demon named 'Vrishabasura'.

The Rig Veda and Astadasa Puranas mention the benefits of a pilgrimage to Venkatachala, describing Lord Venkateswara as a great giver of boons. The temple is also revered by Alvars in Divya Prabandham, and is classified as a Divyadesam, one of the 108 Vishnu temples mentioned in these books. Millions of devotees visit the temple every year.

Thulasiprasad

FACILITIES TO THE FOOT PATH PEDESTRIANS



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- ❁ Many pilgrims take a vow to go on foot from Alipiri to Tirumala and Srivarimettu through foot path. Pilgrims can use free facilities and bath at Pilgrim Amenities Hall at Srinivasam Complex, Opp. to RTC Complex, Tirupati.
- ❁ TTD runs free buses from Railway Station, Tirupati to Alipiri and Srivarimettu.
- ❁ Pilgrims are requested to keep their luggage in a box or bag with lock and key facility. They can deposit their luggage at the Alipiri foot path luggage centre, Srivarimettu and obtain a receipt from there. They can collect their luggage after submitting the receipt at luggage collection centre, Tirumala. Their luggage is transported at free of cost.
- ❁ Drinking Water and Toilets are available on the foot path. Pilgrims are advised to go in groups.

PRECAUTION

Pilgrims suffering from chronic ill-ness like BP, Heart and Lung diseases are advised not to climb up the hills on foot.

'Adri' means hill. Tirumala is the congregation of seven Hills namely Anjanadri, Garudadri, Venkatadri, Narayanadri, Vrishabhadri, Niladri and Seshadri. Lord Venkateswara Swamy, the Supreme deity of Kali Yuga, gives his darshan on these seven hills. It is said that centuries ago there were seven walking paths to reach Sathagiri, the Lord of seven hills.

Alipiri and Srivari Mettu

Alipiri Walkway, which is currently and prominently in use through which thousands of devotees come to have a glimpse of Lord Balaji,

has recently been modernized in various ways. This is the route developed by Sri Matti Kumar Anantaraya, the brother-in-law of the king Sri Krishna Deva Raya. At present, a large number of devotees of Srivara are reaching Tirumala through this route. TTD has made drinking water facility and safety arrangements on this steps, eight kilometers long route.

The second path is Srivari Mettu path. Actually Lord Srinivasa, himself reached Tirumala by this route. According to Puranas this is the first route to Tirumala. Later Saluva Narasimharaya has

shortened the distance to reach Tirumala through this route and modernized it. Tirumala can be reached within an hour on this 2100-step route. TTD has made many arrangements in this route also.

Annamayya reached Tirumala

The third route dates back to 15th century, from Thallapaka to Parveti Mandapam via Kukkaladoddi. Tallapaka Annamayya reached Tirumala by this route. Even now, a large number of devotees reach Tirumala on this route every year on Annamayya Jayanti.

The fourth one is from Tumburu Theertham via Kukkaladoddi to Someswara Temple in Kadapa district. Many people do not know this route and it has not been used for a long time.

Fifth is Tarigonda Vengamamba route. To reach Tirumala from Tarigonda, the hometown of Mathrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba, it passes through the forests of A.P. at Bakarapet, Talakona, Mogalipenta, Yuddhagala Tirtha and meets at the Vedic school established by TTD.

The sixth route is from Arodi Yudhgala Tirth to Palakonda. The Gandikota kings developed this



Sri Venkateswara 'Sapthagopradakshinasala' was opened at Alipiri to facilitate the devotees to perform 'Go-puja' before embarking on your sacred pilgrimage to Tirumala. Perform Gopuja and be blessed by the Gomatha.

TRADITIONAL DRESS CODE is Compulsory

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams made it compulsory for the devotees to wear Traditional Dress while coming for Darshan of Lord Venkateswara in the Tirumala temple. As part of this, T.T.D. implemented Traditional Dress Code to the devotees coming for Arjitha sevas and Rs.300/- darshan also.

**DEVOTEES COMING FOR
SWAMI DARSHAN
MUST FOLLOW THE
BELOW GIVEN DRESS CODE :**

Women : Saree with blouse, Halfsaree,
Punjabi Dress with Duppata
and Chudidhar with Duppata

Men : Pajama-Kurtha,
Dhoti- Uttariyam

route. This road is not in use now and has become a forgotten path.

The seventh is the path established by Emperor Thondaman. This route is from Karakambadi and it reaches Tirumala via Avvachari Kona. Many feudal lords during the British period raided in this path to capture the steps Srivari temple, but failed. Now it is a completely dense forest.

On this auspicious occasion of the Brahmotsavam, here at Tirumala, it's really a bliss knowing the holiness and the significance of the forgotten paths that lead us to the presiding deity, Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy.



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The Sanskrit technical word for sports is “*Krida*”. It keeps the body active and the mind calm. So we can see the importance of *Krida* in the Indian scriptures. There is a beautiful description of the “*Kridachala*” of Vaikuntha in Sri Venkatachal Mahatmyam in Varah Purana. Here the *krida* refers to the various activities (*leelas*) of Sri Vishnu. It is true that the *leelas* that Sri Vishnu performed on this mountain were amusing hence, this *Kridachala* was very dear to Him.

Sri Vishnu saved the earth in Adi Varaha Avatar. Then he wanted to live on the earth. That time he remembered the *Kridachala* of Vaikuntha. He brought the *Krida*

mountain to earth. That mountain is known by the holy name of *Venkatadri*. This article discusses the greatness of the '*Kridachala*' described in '*Sri Venkatachala Mahatmyam*'.

Once the sages asked Suta Maharshi – “O supreme sage! There are many divine places of Sri Vishnu. Among them we would like to hear about one interesting place of Sri Vishnu. He is omnipresent. Still his favorite places will be there. Inform us about one of those favorite places of Sri Vishnu. Where a devotee can see God Vishnu.” Suta was delighted to hear these words of the sages. He described a divine kshetra with holy sentiments. Suta Maharshi said – “One of the divine places of worship of Sri Vishnu is Seshachala known as 'Sri Venkateshwara Kshetra'. It is also described in Puranas as 'Adi Varaha Kshetra'. It is described as –
Punyam pabitramayushyam sarvmangalkarakam
Barahakalpabruttantam seshachalsamashrayam

Venkatachala Mahatmyam, 1.13

There is an interesting story behind it. The earth was submerged in sea water. Sri Vishnu took the incarnation of Varah (Boar) to save the earth from the water. After the rescue, all the beauties of the earth like mountains, forests, water, land, etc. were carefully arranged. He created life on earth. Then God expressed his desire to live on the beautiful earth. At this time, he remembered his *Krida* mountain, the sports hill of Vaikuntha and told Garuda to bring the divine *krida* mountain of Vaikuntha to the earth. Thus said:
Bhumau sthatum sthalam divyam buddhya nischitya madhavaha
Garudam presayamasa girimanetumadbhutam

Venkatachala Mahatmyam, 2.4

The name of the *Kridachala* in Vaikuntha was Narayangiri. This mountain was filled with many beautiful things. It's description in Venkatachala Mahatmya is very interesting. The mountain is full of jasmine and oleander flowers. Wild animals like lion and tigers live here. The mountain is three yojans long and 30 yojans wide. It



VENKATACHALA The Vaikuntha

- Dr. Bharat Bhushan Rath

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looks like Seshanaga. The mountain gives mokshya.
The description of Narayanagiri is like -

Vainateyopi paramam dham gatva dadarsha ha
Aprakrutamameyam cha sarvaratnamayam girim
Hiranmayamahasrungam
panchopanishadatmakam
Punnagachampakashokatalahintalasobhitam
Suradrumamukhairbrukshairaneih
kanchanarupakeih
Sobhitam pakhisanghaischa sukakokilahansakeih
Sravananandajanakcadhuralapasambhrameih
Mallikamatatibhischa nandyavartadibhistatha
Latabhihi puspitagraabhirdivyasourabhasalibhi
Simghashardulamatangasharbhakrodavanareih
Shobhitam kinnaribhischa gayatkinnarapanktibhihi
Anekanirjharakirnam manasahaladakarakam
Mukteirnitiehi kamarupehirnanarupeischa sevitam
Narayanagirim namna kridadrim paramesthinaha
Yojantrayavistharam trimsadyojanmayatam

**TTD
Launches
NEW MOBILE APP**

The new Mobile App, “T.T. Devasthanams” was released by TTD is a One stop solution for devotees. T.T.D. is providing all services evolving the needs of the pilgrims through this app. In this app, devotees can make their Darshan bookings, e-Hundi Payments, Donations etc. Devotees can also watch SVBC live programs in this app. Devotees may get utilise of this app and be blessed by Lord Srinivasa.



Seshakaram hareh sesham seshinam
sarvadehinam
Divyakaram mahapunyam pasyatam
mokshyadayakam.

Venkatachala Mahatmyam, 2.10-18

Garuda reached the surface of the earth carrying that divine mountain of Vaikuntha on his shoulders. By the order of Bhagavan Adi Varah, that mountain was placed in auspicious Tirumala region. All the beauty of the krida mountain was adorned on the surface of the earth. It was named as 'Venkatadri'. Sri Varaha Swamy resided in a magnificent mandapam on the banks of the Swami Pushkarini to the west of the divine forest. On the south side of the Swami Pushkarini Srinivas resided holding a conch and a wheel in both hands. Then the gods came and praised Srinivasa. Delighted, Srinivasa addressed the gods and said – “This place is similar to Vaikuntha. It will take the form of a divine sphere named Venkatadri. Here I will reside with Sridevi and Bhudevi.”

Sri Venkatachala Mahatmyam says-

Ityuktastaihi prasannatma soumyarupi
chaturbhujaha

Sribhumisahitastathau pundarikanibhekshyanaha
Saratpurnenduvadanaha sarvabharanabhusitaha
Srinivasaha suran sarvan samahuyedamvrabit
Vaikunthatparamo hyesha venkatakhya
nagottamaha

Attraiva nivasamyeva sribhumisahito hyayam.

Sri Venkatachala Mahatmyam-3.10-12

There are many secrets, many pilgrimage sites on this mountain. There are various deva-trees, the abode of the gods. Swami Pushkarini in this kshetra is a very holy shrine. Swami Pushkarini is one of the favorite places of Sridevi and Bhudevi on earth. Viraja River of Vaikuntha is Swami Pushkarini of this earth. It is God's leela pushkarini:

Swamipushkarini punya sarvapapapranashini
Vaikunthad bhagavatkridda vapii shribhumilalita

Aprakrutajalaughaa cha sugandha sumanohara
 Gangadi sarvateerthanam janmabhumihi
 subhodaka
 Aanita vainetyena kridartham tatra tisthatii
 Birajavadrajodoshpramukhaghavinashinii
 Swarnasteyasurapanadospramukhanasinii.
 Eihikarthaprada nityam snanamatre sarvada
 Darshanat sparsanat panat smaranat
 sarvasiddhida.

Sri Venkatachalamahatmyam 3.16-20

Swami pushkarini bath is very auspicious.
 Swami Pushkarini bath, Sadguru's puja and
 observance of Ekadasi vow, these three are very
 sacred. In fact, Venkatadri is a very holy place. Even

now this mountain is filled with many divine qualities.
 All the devotees come here year after year attracted
 by its sanctity. The fragrance in the air of this valley
 is not found anywhere else. The special experience
 after seeing Srinivasa overcomes all difficulties.

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2. *Baraha Purana* – Chaukhambha Prakashan, Varanasi
3. *Astadasapurana Vimarsha* – Bharatiya Vidya Prakashan, New Delhi.



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Anyone above 12 years of age can register and book the services. Children below 12 years do not need an entry ticket.

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Q. How do a pilgrim get refund?

The amount debited from the customer account shall be refunded within 7 working days (from the date of transaction).

Q. Is there any restriction to book Seva?

Bookings are allowed with any tickets and Seva booking tickets will be allowed after 180 days of the previous Seva.

Only after 180 days from the previous allotted seva one can register again.

Q. What are the necessary things to carry before performing a Seva?

Devotees should carry their original photo ID (which was submitted at the time of booking the Seva)

Q. Is a pilgrim allowed to avail facility of darshan after performing Seva in Tirumala?

Yes, a devotee can avail of the darshan after performing Seva.

Q. Is accommodation available for single person?

No, accommodation will not be provided for single person

Q. Can a pilgrim cancel the accommodation booking and special Entry Darshan tickets?

No, cancellation of booked accommodation and Special Entry Darshan is not allowed.

AGE-OLD TRADITIONS

- Smt. T.S. Rajalakshmi

“Sanatana” is eternal. So, one cannot find its origin, as it is very ancient. There are numerous ancient practices in Bharat which are followed even today. Especially in temples like Tirumala, one of the oldest temples in our country, many such practices are observed scrupulously. Few such instances are elaborated below for the readers of Sapthagiri.

“Jodu Panchelu” from Eruvada

Akilanda koti Brahmanda Nayaka is Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy. The contributions in the form of gifts are enormous to temple. Tirumala has many hidden traditions that will surprise us. One of them is Eruvada Jodu Panchelu (Dhoti), worn by Swami Vari Moolavirattu (main deity) during the Srivari Brahmotsavam held annually in Tirumala. These are being presented to Swamy from Gadwal Samasthanam. On flag hoisting, first day of Brahmotsavam, Moolamurthy is decorated with this Dhoti (Pancha). Since then, the Dhotis are worn all the year. Every Friday, it is taken out, cleaned, and

again decorated to the Lord. On the eve of Brahmotsavam, the old ones are removed and given as prasada to the Gadwal temple. The town of Gadwal is located approx. 188 km from Hyderabad, Telangana State. After tying the Dhoti, the chief priests will inform the Deity in his ears “Swami..! Eruvada Jodu Panchalu have been received.”

On the day of Brahmotsavam, new Dhotis are offered, and they reserve them for a year. It takes one Mandal period 41 days for preparing this Dhoti. It is customary to start the preparation in the month of Sravana. These are made by weavers, fasting daily from morning to evening. Three weavers weave and two more help them. From the start of



preparation till they are presented to the authorities in Tirumala, it is routine to start work by performing pujas and uttering “Govinda Nama” at home where the loom is located. Although there have been many revolutionary changes in weaving technology, these have been traditionally made with yarn combinations since times immemorial.

A Stay for Devotees (in down Tirumala)

'Parasala veedhi' (street) is an old street which was once a village in Tirupati, a hamlet few decades ago. The street that provides shelter to the people of 'Para' region and provides facilities to make their journey fruitful is called 'Parasala street'. Centuries ago, hundreds of Saurastrians who migrated to Tirupati were given lands near Ramulavari temple, Tirupati and they established a permanent residence there. They used to make a living by providing overnight accommodation to the devotees coming in groups from various places. some tall houses can still be seen on this Parasala



street. Devotees from various places who have been coming to Parasala veedhi for centuries, spend the night in Tirumala, enshrine Swami in those houses and offer naivedyam to the Lord.

Tailabhishekam Offering (Abhishekam with oil)

Abhishekam performed on Fridays for Tirumala Srivaru is very special. This is performed with sandalwood (Srigandham), Punugu (Civet Oil), Javvadi, etc. Palm Civets, surviving in Seshachalam forests have been providing the punugu oil required for abhishekam for some decades. A type of glue-like substance secreted from the bodies of Palm



Civets in the Seshachalam hills emits a wonderful fragrance. The material has been collected and used for decades in Srivari Abhisheka Seva.

Metlotsavam (Get Elevated at Every Step!)

In the past, sages, Rajarishis, and devotees like Sri Purandaradasa, Sri Vyasaratheerthar, Sriman Annamacharya, Sri Krishnadevaraya and many other nobles climbed the Spiritual Sapthagiri (Seven hills) with devotion. Metlotsavam is to walk in the footsteps of such people and get the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. It is a three-day Utsavam. On the first day of the quarterly Metlotsava under the auspicious TTD Dasa Sahitya Project, Bhajan Mandal artistes from various states reach the premises of Sri Govindarajaswamy Temple. During



these days there will be meditation, collective bhajans, Sankirtans, religious discourses and lectures. Musical and cultural programmes will be organized. On the third day, in the morning, they will reach the foot shrine of Alipiri Srivari Padala Mandapam by



like a mountain. Then, a small hole is made and filled with ghee. Then, using “Thiri – cotton bud,” lamp is lighted. Govinda Naamas

are recited. After the puja, rice flour with jaggery is distributed as prasadam.

Such ancient traditions give strength and moral support to the community. Let's delve deep into the ocean of Sanatana dharma to search for corals (traditions) and pearls (practices) with utmost devotion and sublimation for the welfare of society.



padayatra from the inns. Metlapuja (puja to foot steps) is performed under the leadership of TTD dignitaries who have come there. After that they will reach Tirumala on foot after performing traditional bhajans. On Annamayya's death anniversary, Metlapuja will be organized in Alipiri by TTD every year. Annamacharya's hymns in praise of Lord are sung there in an estatic manner.

Lighting the Lamp Offering

“Lighting the Lamp” is an ancient Indian tradition. There are various ways to light lamps. Especially in Tirupati (Down Tirumala and in Tirumala also) people have a tradition of lighting lamp using rice flour and jaggery during “Puratasi Month.” The lamp itself is considered as “Lord Srinivasa.” Married women wear traditional dress, decorate the puja room, break coconut, and start the pooja. Rice flour and jaggery are spread across in a plate or designed

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|--------|---|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1 S | M | 2 A | L | 3 L | T | 4 A | L | 5 K | | 6 N |
| A | | L | | I | | N | | A | | O |
| 7 R | A | I | S | E | | 8 D | A | N | D | I |
| A | | P | | R | | A | | J | | S |
| 9 S | A | I | L | | 10 P | L | E | A | 12 S | E |
| W | | R | | | A | | L | | A | |
| 13 A | R | I | D | | S | | 14 D | A | M | A |
| T | | | | | I | | E | | B | |
| 15 I | N | D | R | A | | 16 D | R | E | A | 17 D |
| | | | | | | A | | | | A |
| 18 A | A | D | Y | A | | 19 Y | I | E | L | D |

God takes necessary incarnations in this world in order to eliminate evil forces, to protect the virtuous and to uphold 'sanatana dharma.' The Gita explains the reasons for the incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Accordingly, He had taken different forms from time to time and showed the conduct of life and the path of salvation to human beings. Owing to the advent of Kaliyuga, the faith in the 'dharmic' values has diminished. Instead of taking the human form by Himself, He assumed the form of Acharyas or Alvars to continue His mission. Thus, we have got the 'Guru Parampara', commencing from God, right up to the present Gurus. One such 'avatar' is the incarnation of the Divine Bell as an Acharya called Sri Vedanta Desika in the early 13th century A.D near Kanchipuram in South India.



Sri Vedanta Desika's Glorification of THE LORD OF SEVEN HILLS

- Sri R. Narasimhan



When a brahmin couple called Sri Ananta Suri and Thotharambe prayed to the Lord Venkateswara of the Seven Hills for blessing them with a child, the Divine Bell took the human form through them. This child later became a great Srivaishnavite Acharya popularly known as "Nigamaantha" or "Vedanta Desika." His birth star was Sravanam of the Kanya Masa which synchronized with the concluding day of the Brahmotsavams of the Lord of the Seven

The ringing bells denote that the Lord inside the Sanctum is offered 'Naivedyam'. The man who rings this bell in the temple is called 'Ghantapani' Sri Vedanta Desika is considered to be avatar of the divine bell of Lord of Tirumala.

Hills. He sanctified the Viswamitra Gothra. It was said of him that he was an incarnation of none other than Lord Sri Venkateswara or Sri Bhagavat Ramanuja or the Avatar of the Divine Bell of the Lord of the Seven Hills. He is a 'Vilakshna Avatar' different from that of the Lord. The Lord is "Sastrapani", while the Acharya is a "Shastrapani". In order to show the easy way of approaching God, he propagated the doctrine of surrender which was preached by the previous Acharyas.

Throughout the life of Sri Vedanta Desika, he remained an embodiment of knowledge and renunciation. His maternal uncle became his spiritual 'guru.' Before he was twenty, he mastered all arts. He did penance at Tiruvaheendrapuram (near Cuddalore, South India) and Lord Hayagreeva was pleased with his penance and all ants came to adore him. The presiding deities at Srirangam, Tirupati, Kanchipuram and Melukote attracted him so much that he sang hymns in praise of them.

Being the 'avatar' of Lord Sri Venkateswara, as well as His Divine Bell, he had special devotion and attraction towards the Lord's abode as well as the Lord Himself. He considered the Seven Hills as sacred and offered his obeisance and called them as a representation of the Vedas themselves. He also recognized the sacredness of the several theerthas on the Hills, such as Swami Pushkarini, Papanasam and Akasa Ganga. According to Sri Vedanta Desika, the Lord is being worshipped not only by human beings but by the deities themselves. The Lord resides there and grants liberation to those who surrender at His lotus feet.

The Lord possesses all auspicious attributes. Among the noble qualities, His Mercy (Daya) stands

supreme, which pleases the Lord whenever human beings go wrong, commit sins and seek forgiveness. Intending to redeem mankind, Vedanta Desikan praised the Lord of Seven Hills in a hymn called "Daya Shatakam" (a hundred verses in praise of the Lord's mercy and Daya). According to Swami Desikan, Sri Daya Devi is the empress of all his virtues. The Lord's incarnations were Daya's influence to redeem mankind and to show the path of salvation.

The Seven Hills represent the Lord's mercy. Sri Devi, Sri Bhoomi Devi and Sri Neela Devi act as a recommendatory source, and Daya Devi also cools the wrath of the Lord and He extends His full grace on the devotees. The suffering mankind is protected by the Daya Devi like a mother to her children. She acts like a 'kavacha' and prevents our sins from reaching our hearts. She exhibits her compassion and does not differentiate the men who have sinned or not and makes them fit to receive the grace of the Lord.

Swami Desika fulfilled his mission expected of him by the Lord and preached the doctrine of surrender, which is the only way to obtain salvation. He lived for nearly a hundred years and lived like a saint, a life of renunciation and knowledge. He has the credit of being the only Acharya who sang in praise of Daya Devi, the consort of Lord Srinivasa. His name Sri Venkata Natha is derived from the Lord of the Seven Hills and will remain in the hearts of all devotees.

May the Lord of the Seven Hills protect one and all and keep them happy forever.



Deepavali
on
31-10-2024



DEEPAVALI

The Divine Victory

- Sri Venkata Viswanath Varun

them in his palace, stole the earrings of Aditi (the mother of the gods), and usurped some of her territories. His reign of terror knew no bounds, and the heavens trembled at his name.

The gods, unable to bear Narakasura's atrocities, approached Lord Krishna for help. Krishna, ever the protector of dharma (righteousness), decided to put an end to Narakasura's tyranny. He was accompanied by His wife Satyabhama, who played a crucial role in the battle. According to a prophecy, Narakasura could only be killed by his mother, and Satyabhama, being an incarnation of Bhumi Devi, was destined to fulfill this role.

Lord Krishna and Satyabhama set out for Pragjyotisha on Garuda, Lord Krishna's celestial mount. As they approached the city, they met with fierce resistance from Narakasura's army. The battle was intense, with Lord Krishna and Satyabhama displaying unparalleled valour and skill. Lord Krishna used His divine weapons to combat

Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion across India. Among the many legends associated with this festival, the story of Lord Krishna and His consort Satyabhama's victory over the demon Narakasura stands out. This tale is not only a testament to the triumph of good over evil but also highlights the divine partnership between Lord Krishna and Satyabhama. Let's delve into this story in detail, exploring the profound devotion and power that make Deepavali a truly unique and spiritual experience.

Narakasura, was a powerful demon who ruled the kingdom of Pragjyotisha. Despite his divine lineage, Narakasura turned to evil ways, causing immense suffering to the people and the gods. He captured 16,000 women and imprisoned

the demon forces, while Satyabhama, with her unwavering courage, fought alongside him.

Satyabhama sahayena Krishnena cha mahatmana,
Nihato Narakah papo lokanam hitakamyaya.

(With the assistance of the great soul Lord Krishna, Satyabhama killed the sinful Narakasura for the welfare of the world.)

This sloka from the scriptures highlights the divine partnership between Lord Krishna and Satyabhama, emphasizing their combined efforts in defeating Narakasura.

During the battle, Narakasura hurled a powerful weapon at Lord Krishna, causing him to feign unconsciousness. Thinking that Lord Krishna had fallen, Satyabhama was filled with anger and determination. She took up her bow and shot arrows at Narakasura. Her fierce onslaught overwhelmed the demon, and in a final act of valour, she struck him down, fulfilling the prophecy.

Satyabhama tada devi kruddha samprekshya Keshavam,
Uvacha Narakam daityam yudhyasveti punah punah.

(Then the goddess Satyabhama, seeing Lord Krishna, became enraged and repeatedly challenged the demon Narakasura to fight.)

This sloka captures the moment of Satyabhama's fierce determination and her pivotal role in the battle.

With Narakasura's death, the sixteen thousand women he had imprisoned were liberated. Lord Krishna and Satyabhama ensured their safe return and restored their dignity. This act of liberation is a significant aspect of the story, symbolizing the

triumph of good over evil and the restoration of 'sanatana dharma.'

The defeat of Narakasura is celebrated as Naraka Chaturdashi, a day before Deepavali. It marks the victory of light over darkness and the liberation of the oppressed. Homes are illuminated with oil lamps, symbolizing the dispelling of ignorance and the ushering in of knowledge and righteousness.

Tamo nashaya dipanam prajvalyante grihantare,
Narakasura vadhenaiwa Deepavali prakirtita.

(To dispel darkness, lamps are lit inside homes. With the slaying of Narakasura, Deepavali is celebrated.)

This sloka beautifully encapsulates the essence of Deepavali, highlighting the significance of lighting lamps to dispel darkness and celebrate the victory of good over evil.

The story of Lord Krishna and Satyabhama's victory over Narakasura is a profound narrative that embodies the essence of Deepavali. It teaches us the values of courage, righteousness, and the eternal struggle between good and evil. As one celebrates Deepavali, lighting lamps and sharing sweets, one is reminded of these timeless lessons and the divine power that guides one towards light and knowledge.

May the divine tales of Lord Krishna and Satyabhama inspire us to lead lives of virtue and devotion, and may the festival of Deepavali bring joy, peace, and prosperity to all!



The festival Navaratri has a profound religious significance. It is believed that during these days, Goddess Durga descended on the earth in a special way to bless Her devotees to annihilate evil and establish 'sanatana dharma' firmly in the world.

Goddess Durga is seen on a lion in a sitting posture. The lion is a symbol of uncontrolled animalistic emotions such as excessive anger, arrogance, selfishness, greed, jealousy and a strong desire to harm others. Goddess Durga is the Goddess of Power or the Supreme Energy and the lion is the embodiment of destructive powers which are controlled by the goddess.

Navaratri is celebrated four times in a calendar year and each time it is done with a definite focus. The Navaratri are named after the lunar month in which they are celebrated as Chaitra Navaratri, Ashadha Navaratri, Sharada Navaratri and Magha Navaratri. Though four in number, Chaitra and Sharada Navaratri are more prominent and the other two are known as hidden or 'gupta Navaratri.' The word Navaratri is the combination of two Sanskrit words. 'Nava' means 'nine' and 'Ratri' means 'night'.

Chaitra Navaratri is observed during the lunar month of Chaitra (March-April), the spring season and hence, its other name Vasanta Navaratri. It marks the beginning of the Hindu



NAVARATRI

- Smt. N. Uma Maheswari

New Year in many regions of India. In Maharashtra, it is celebrated as Gudi Padwa, marking the Marathi New Year. In Kashmir, it is known as Narveh, signifying the Kashmiri Hindu New Year. In Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and, Karnataka it is celebrated as Ugadi. Ninth day of this Navaratri is celebrated as Sri Rama Navami.

Sarada Navaratri is also known as Maha Navaratri which is the most popular one and is widely celebrated

Devi Navarathri
from 03-10-2024 to 12-10-2024

OCTOBER, 2024 :: SAPTHAGIRI

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with much enthusiasm, eagerness and devotion. It falls in the month of Ashwini (September -October). This celebrates the divine feminine energy of Durga, the powerful goddess who conquers the demon Mahishasura. It also signifies the triumph of good over evil and the importance of conquering the inner enemies of every individual. The tenth day, Vijayadashami, marks the victory of Goddess Durga.

This tenth day of Sarada Navaratri is also called 'Dussehra'. This marks the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana, symbolizing the destruction of evil. People burn effigies of Ravana, Meghanatha and Kumbhakarna to symbolize the victory of good over evil as Ramleela.

Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura is celebrated as Vijayadashami in West Bengal and southern parts of India. In West Bengal, people come together and celebrate the last five days in a pandal where beautifully decorated clay statues of Maa Durga, goddess Lakshmi and goddess Saraswati, Lord Ganesha and Lord Kartikeya are worshipped. On the tenth day, the idols are taken out on a procession to a river or oceanfront and are immersed in the waters for dissolution and farewell with the words that Maa Durga should come again soon to bless them all.

In other places like Gujarat and Rajasthan 'Ram Leela' is celebrated on the tenth day. Men and women adorned in traditional attire with bright hues perform energetic Dandiya Raas and graceful Garba dance that forms to vibrant, joyful creative and rhythmic music. In South India, it is celebrated in individual houses since special steps are built and idols are arranged on them in such a way to depict mythological stories in each step, which is called Golu. Friends and relatives are invited to take

part in daily 'pooja'. Mysore and, Karnataka are traditionally major centres for Dasara celebrations. Mysore palace is illuminated with thousands of lights, huge 'golu' steps are decorated with images of deities. All ten days the palace gates are open to the common man to visit and take part in the royal celebration and pooja.

Dasara has a special message and a symbolic meaning as well. At the individual level, it motivates every individual to strive hard to defeat his ten inner enemies namely Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada, Maatsarya, Aalasya, Dirgha sutrataa, Niraasha and Ahamkara by focusing his mind on the Almighty and become victorious. Cleansing one's inner impurities makes him an appropriate receptacle to receive His blessings and acquire spiritual growth.

Though Vasanta and Sarada Navaratri are more prominent and widely celebrated, Aashadha and Magha 'Gupta Navaratri' are celebrated mainly by Shakti Upasakas or divine feminine energy worshippers. These days are important for observing various tantric practices, many intense and severe penances with the desire to acquire more spiritual powers and to attain inner peace. In these two 'Gupta Navaratri' Maa Durga is worshipped in all Her nine forms with utmost devotion.

There is an interesting feature about the starting day of these Navaratri. Every year Maa Durga arrives on a specific vahanam to shower Her blessings on Her devotees. If Navaratri begins on a Sunday or a Monday, She comes on an elephant and this indicates more rain and prosperity to the world. If it commences on a Tuesday, She comes on a horse which indicates natural calamities and war-like situations and unrest among people. If it

begins on a Wednesday, Durga Maa arrives on a boat and it is considered to be very auspicious and beneficial to the world. If it begins on a Thursday or a Friday, She comes on a palanquin that is indicative of epidemic fear. Each 'vahana' carries specific connotations, and reflects rich Hindu tradition and beliefs. It also displays the multi-faceted nature of religious practices and its impact on our daily routine life.

A few more interesting practices observed during the festival, Navaratri:

****People observe fasting on all nine days. They take only liquids. Some consume only fruits and nuts.**

****Consumption of sattvic food—garlic, onion, and any other spicy items are avoided.**

****Usage of rock salt instead of regular salt.**

****All nine days only sprouted beans, green dal and peas are boiled and consumed.**

****Tubers and root vegetables are boiled and sprinkled with rock salt.**

****Sago food items are consumed.**

****Shakti worship is done.**

****A lamp is lighted on the first day of Navaratri and kept alight on all**

nine days. It symbolizes dispelling darkness of ignorance and acquiring knowledge.

****All devotional lyrics eulogizing goddess Devi are chanted.**

Raja Rajeshwari stotram, Durga Saptashati, SriDevi Mahatmyam, Mahishasura Mardini stotram, Sri Suktam, Sri Lakshmi Sahasranama, Sri Lalita Sahasranama and, Sri Shyamala Dandakam are chanted every day.

****In certain areas all nine forms of MaaGoddess Durga namely Maa Shailaputri, Brahmacharini, Chandra Durga, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayini, Kalaratri, Mahagauri and Siddhi Daatri are worshipped.**

****Commencement of learning or 'Vidyarambham' is done on Vijaya Dashami.**

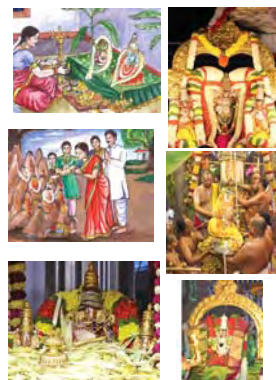
**** The blessings of 'gurus' and elders are sought.**

Thus, we find Navaratri displays a spectrum of activities such as religious practices, good dietary discipline, sacred rituals, brisk and vibrant dance forms, community pooja and individual observance of Golu. The common thread in all these is the destruction of the evil and the victory of the feminine power and the re-establishment of 'sanatana dharma' on earth in all its glorious form.



FESTIVALS AND RITUALS IN NOVEMBER 2024

- 01 Kedaragowrivratam
- 05 Nagulachavithi
- 09 Tirumala Srivari Pushpayagam
- 13 Kaisika Dwadasi
- 28.11.2024 to 06.12.2024
Tiruchanur Sri Padmavati
Ammavari Brahmotsavams
- 28 Sri Dhanvantari Jayanti



Lineage of Haridasas

CHILDREN CORNER

Sri Tande Venkatesha Vittala Dasa, Abhinava Pranesha Vittala Dasa, Sri Shyamasundara Dasa, Karpara Narahari Vittala Dasa, Sri Sundara Vittala Dasa, Sri Varadendra Vittala Dasa, Sri Varadesha Vittala, Sri Hasigyalu Govindadasa, Sri Varada Vittala Dasa, Sri Uragadri Vittala Dasa, Sri Tande Muddu Mohana Vittala Dasa, Sri Ananda Vittala Dasa, Sri Jayesha Vittala Dasa, Sri Guru Jagannatha Vittala Dasa, Sri Muddu Mohana Dasa, Sri Vara Vittala Dasa, Harpanahalli Bhimavva, Shresha Pranesha Vittala Dasa, Modalakallu Shesha Dasa, Sri Ebharamapura Appa, Sri Kamalesha Vittala Dasa, Sri Guru Pranesha Vittala Dasa, Sri Abhinava Janardhana Vittala Dasa, Srida Vittala Dasa, Sri Guru Shrishya Vittala Dasa, Sri Pranesha Dasa, Sri Jagannatha Dasa, Sri Mohana Dasa, Sri Gopala Dasa, Sri Vyasa Vittala Dasa, Sri Narasimha Vittala Dasa, Sri Vijaya Dasa, Sri Prasanna Venkata Dasa, Helavanakatte Giriyaamma, Sri Mahipathi Dasa, Sri Kanaka Dasa, Sri Purandara Dasa

PROVERB

What you do is more important than what you say

TONGUE TWISTERS

She sells seashells by the seashore.

Near an ear, a nearer ear, a nearly eerie ear.

MATCH THE WORDS In Column A with the Column B:

A

1. Dhruvaberam
2. Koutuka beram
3. Snapana beram
4. Bali beram
5. Utsava beram

B

- a. Utsava Srinivasa Murthy
- b. Koluvu Srinivasa Murthy
- c. Dhruva Murthy (Moola virat)
- d. Ugrasrinivasa Murthy
- e. Bhogasrinivasa Murthy

Answers : (1) c (2) e (3) d (4) b (5) a

RIDDLE

Name the three devotees who was blessed by Lord Srinivasa :

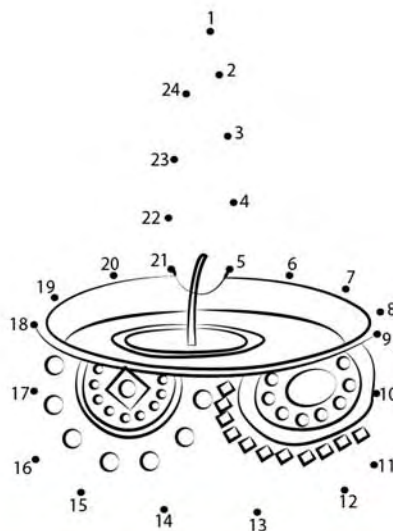
1. The idols of the three devotees are there in the Tirumala temple to this day.
2. The idols are made in copper.
3. Among the three, Raja Thodaramallu protected Tirumala from the invasions of Muslims and British.

Answer : Lala khema ramu (Raja Todaramallu), Mata Mohana Devi, Pita Bibi.



Colour the Picture using the colours given according to the given colour image

Connect the dots using numbers and draw the Picture.

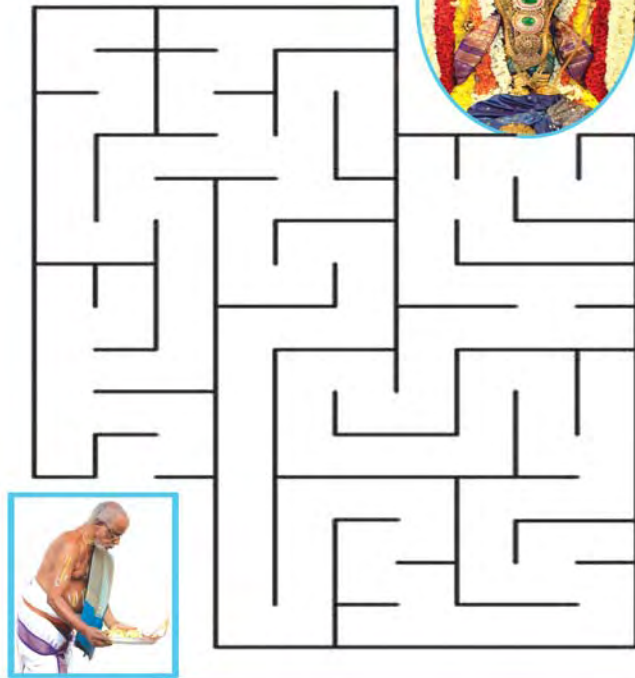


CHANT

Deepojyoti para brahma,
deepa sarvatham paha |
Deepena sadhyathe sarvam
sandhyadeepam namostute ||



FIND OUT THE PATH



The priest want to reach the Lord to give Harathi. Show the way to reach the Lord.

Jumble Solver

Kushmanda
Chandraghanta
Brahmacharini
Shailaputri

BECOMES

Kushmanda
Chandraghanta
Brahmacharini
Shailaputri

Ans. VIJAYADASAMI

The last
day
in the
Navarathri
Festival is
known
as

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A | M | I |
| | I | A | Y | A |
| V | J | A | D | S |

MATCH THE FOLLOWING WITH RELEVANT IMAGES



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

Answers : 1) d 2) e 3) b 4) a 5) c

According to Legends, who gave land to Lord Srinivasa?

L O R D V A R A H A



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams
SPIRITUAL SAPTHAGIRI MAGAZINE

QUIZ for Children - 27

'Sapthagiri' introduced QUIZ for Children. Read the entire Magazine and find out the answers for the Quiz and fill in the blanks with the answers following the Rules and Regulations given below.

1. The death of Narakasura is celebrated as
2. Garuda is the vehicle of
3. Where does Sri Varaha Swami temple situated in Tirumala
4. Name the Swamy just opposite to Srivari temple
5. Name the devotee who developed the flower garden in Tirumala to serve the Lord
6. The gold plated 'gopuram' covered the 'sanctum sanctorum' of the main temple is called
7. Name the App of the TTD
8. Name the foot-path from Tirupati to Tirumala
9. Name the free tokens allotted for 'darshan' at Tirupati
10. Name the TTD rest house located opposite Railway Station in Tirupati.
11. Who freed Vinata from slavery
12. Chakrasnanam falls on
13. On which day Abhishekam is being performed to the main deity at Tirumala
14. Name the Homam done in Alipiri Goshala
15. Nammalwar's Thiruviruttam is being rendered invahanam

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. This quiz is meant for the children aged below 15 years only.
2. The children who wish to participate must belong to Hindu religion only.
3. The parents of participating children must be the subscribers of 'Sapthagiri' magazine.
4. Answers for the quiz questions must be written in the prescribed place provided.
5. The photocopy of the answer scripts for quiz will also be considered with Subscription Number only.
6. There should be no marks of striking and corrections in the answers. Only use ball pointed pen. Avoid pencil, Sketch or Jel pen.
7. The last date for submitting the answers for the quiz is 25-10-2024.
8. Three winners will be selected through lucky dip among the participants who submit all the correct answers.
9. The names of the winners will be published in the magazine.
10. The children of the employees working in the office of the Chief Editor, T.T.D. are not eligible to participate in the quiz.
11. No information will be provided over phone regarding the quiz. Participants should send their details legibly.

Name of the Child :

Age : **Subscription No. :**

Full Address :

.....

.....

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**Your answers should be sent to the
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OCTOBER, 2024 :: SAPTHAGIRI



GENERAL PREDICTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024

- Brahmasri Thangirala Venkatakrishnapurna Prasada Sidhanti,
The T.T.D. Astrological Scholar, Relangi



Aries (Mesha) :

Peace of mind and fulfillment of auspicious dreams are indicated. The value of fixed assets and sources of income will increase from various ways. There is compatibility in all activities. Positive attitude at home and satisfaction are possible.



Taurus (Vrishabha) :

Co-ordination gap will appear among family members due to stress in work. It is better to avoid unnecessary expenses. Should work hard to get success. You will get close friends. Your prospects relating to job are favourable.



Gemini (Mithuna) :

Professional problems, the pressures from the officials and stomach problems are possible in the first part of this month. They can be solved during the second part of week. In this situation, you can get rid of your enemies.



Cancer (Karkataka) :

You are unable to analyze the situations. The arrogant atmosphere will occur. There will be a situation to speak lies. There is possibility to lose self-decision in making power. Your aspirations will be fulfilled. Wealth and property will increase.



Leo (Simha) :

Your business will be beneficial. You will get encouragement from all. There is a kind of favourable environment from siblings. You will get good news regarding children and experience happy movements from children.



Virgo (Kanya) :

Try to lead a peaceful life through self-criticism. Proper care is needed regarding your health. It is good not to care your enemies. Threats can backfire with weapons.



Libra (Tula) :

It is the time to spend happily with friends. New generation will emerge in the family. Financial balance and growth in financial activities will occur. Try to avoid expenses.



Scorpio (Virshchika) :

You will participate in spiritual activities. It is good time for house construction. Relatives will gather around you. You will get profits in profession. Immense wealth will arise. Works are completed as you expected.



Sagittarius (Dhanu) :

Efforts will be fruitful with courage, plan and persistence. Victory will be there in all sorts of efforts. You will fulfil any kind of activity easily. You will be considered a good speaker.



Capricorn (Makara) :

Higher expenses are there in initial days. There is a possibility to visit ENT doctor. You will purchase clothes and essential commodities. You will get sudden financial benefits. More enemies will be there.



Aquarius (Kumbha) :

Your social status will be improved. You will enjoy luxurious lifestyle. Children works will run smoothly. You have the capability to make wise decisions. Health should be taken care of.



Pisces (Meena) :

There is a possibility of experiencing mental and physical problems. The worship of Lord Subramanya is good to overcome the transit effect of Mars. It is better to avoid new plans.

Subham Subham Subham



PRIDE PRECEDES A FALL

PICTURE STORY

Original Story in Telugu by : Smt. Vavilala Nagavalli

Pictures by : Sri K. Dwarakanath

Translated by : Smt. J.C. Gnanaprasuna

Garutmantha freed his mother Vinata from slavery imposed by his elder mother. Later, he became a vehicle for Lord Vishnu. He became very proud. Lord Vishnu taught him a lesson for his haughtiness. Let's see what it is.... 1

'My dear father! I freed my mother from slavery. Please bless me.' 2

Ok!
I am so happy 3

A son like you is enough! You will shine as the vehicle of Lord Vishnu'. 4

'I am blessed, father! I am blessed!' 5

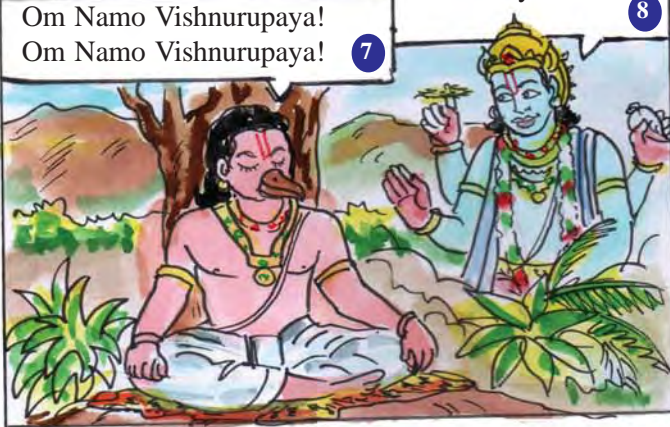


Garuda is doing severe penance for the grace of Lord Vishnu. 6

Oh! Garuda! I appreciate your penance. You will shine as my vehicle! 8

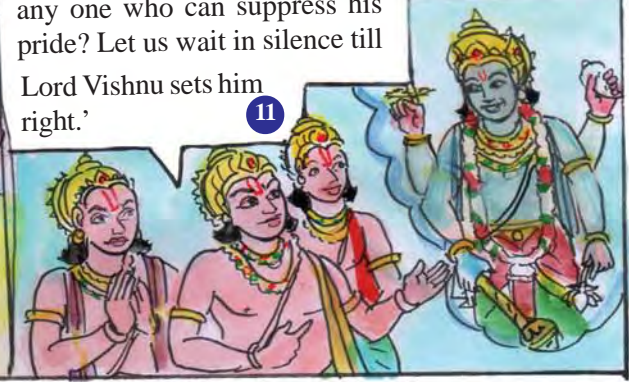
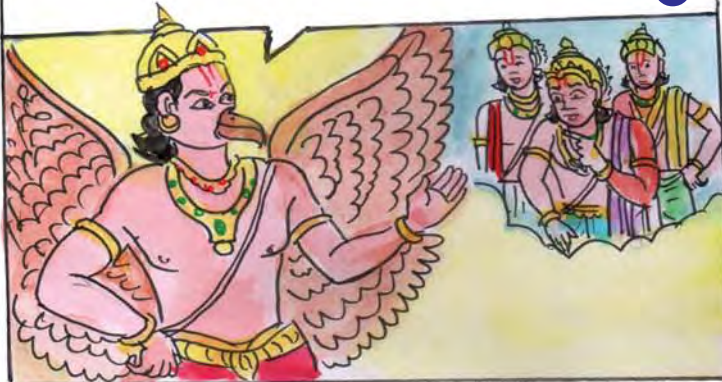
Om Namo Vishnurupaya!
Om Namo Vishnurupaya! 7

'Oh! I became Lord Vishnu's Vehicle now. After all, even the deities are nothing before me. Ha!Ha! Ha!' 9



The deities felt humiliation. 10

'What! Garutmantha seems to ill-treat us. Is there any one who can suppress his pride? Let us wait in silence till Lord Vishnu sets him right.' 11



Once the sage Narada came to see Lord Vishnu chanting Narayana! Narayana!

12

'Oh! Narada! Come on! Sit here.' How are you? 13

OK Swami! I am quite happy. 14



Oh! Garuda! Come here.' The Lord patted on the shoulder of Garutmantha and asked Narada 'What Narada! What is the news?' 15

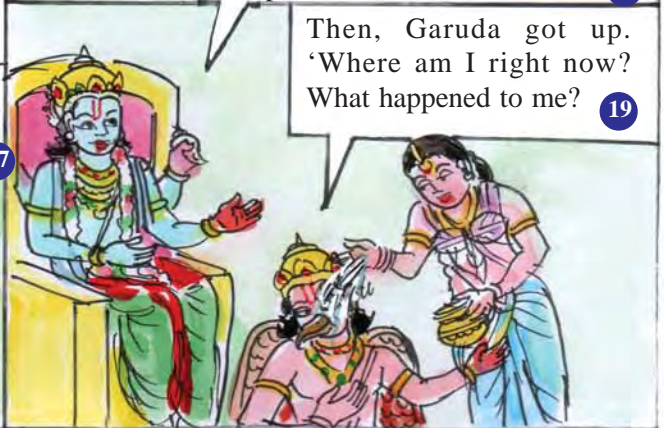


Meanwhile, Garuda's shoulder is getting pain. Garutmantha thought, 'I am unable to bear the pain. Swamy is not leaving me.' Garuda lost his consciousness. 16



The conversation between Narada and the Lord continued for a long time. 17

Oh! Garutmanta! What happened to you? Why did you fell like that? Please sprinkle some water on his face and wake him up!' 18



Then, Garuda got up. 'Where am I right now? What happened to me?' 19

'Ha... Swamy! I understood Your intention. Even for Your simple patting on my shoulder, I am not able to bear that weight. How could I fly in the air carrying You? I knew that it was due to the power of Your blessings. O! Lord! Excuse me. I am enlightened. Bless me as Your servant at Your feet. That's enough!' 20



'O! Garuda! All the world is under My control. I am the Creator. Did you notice it?' 21



'I understood everything, Swamy. I will obey Your order. I am blessed.' 22

Moral: One should not become blind with pride under any circumstances. One should never look down upon anyone. If one does that, one will lose one's self-respect in the eyes of God. One should respect others and get respect from them. 23

Please cut here



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**Answers for the
QUIZ**

**Published in the Month of
AUGUST 2024**

1. Devaki
2. Space or world
3. 27.08.2024
4. Kamsa
5. Eight
6. Garuda
7. Sarangapani
8. Sri Rukminidevi, Sri Satyabhama Devi and Lord Sri Venugopala Swami
9. Sri Kooru Narayana Jeeyar
10. Sri Nigamanta Mahadesikan
11. 20th August 2024
12. Pampa
13. Naanmugan Tiruvandaadi
14. The sage Durvasa
15. Drupada
16. Dhristadyumna
17. Salya
18. Dhaumya
19. 14-08-2024 to 17-08-2024
20. Shikhyotsavam

**Winner for the month
of August 2024**

AISHWARYA PAI

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KERALA.

KRISHNANAND. A. SHENOI

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ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.in

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K.T. Road, Tirupati – 517 507. Editor : Dr.V.G. Chokkalingam, M.A., Ph.D.



The annual 'Pavitrotsavams' was held at Tirumala temple from 15.08.2024 to 17.08.2024. TTD EO Sri J. Syamala Rao, I.A.S., along with his spouse accompanied by Tirumala Addl. EO Sri CH Venkaiah Choudary, I.R.S., took part in the celebrations.



The annual festival 'Vara Maha Lakshmi Vratam' was celebrated in Tiruchanur on 16.08.2024. On this occasion, TTD EO Sri J. Syamala Rao, I.A.S., along with his spouse and other higher officials participated.



Gopuja was held at TTD SV Gosamrakshanasala in Tirupati on 27.08.2024 on Gokulashtami day. On this occasion, TTD EO Sri J. Syamala Rao, I.A.S., along with his spouse accompanied by TTD Tirupati JEO Smt. M. Gouthami, I.A.S., (H&E) and other officials participated.



'Laksha Kumkumarchana' was held grandly to Sri Kamakshi Ammavaru in Sri Kapileswara Swamy temple at Tirupati on 30.08.2024.



The 78th Independence Day celebrations were held at the parade grounds of TTD A.D. building in Tirupati on 15.08.2024. TTD EO, Sri J. Syamala Rao, I.A.S. along with TTD Officials hoisted the National flag and received Military Salute with CV&SO Sri Sridhar, I.P.S.



The annual festival 'Vinayaka Chavithi' was celebrated on 07.09.2024 in Sri Kapileswara Swamy Temple at Tirupati. On this occasion, procession was conducted for Sri Vinayaka Swamy on Mushika Vahanam.



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CHAKRASNANAM

ON 12.10.2024