

Durmukhi New Year Greetings

We wish all our devotees and well-wishers a very Happy Durmukhi New Year. இனிய தூர்முகி ஆண்டு வாழ்த்துக்கள்.



A SUCCESSFUL THAIPUSAM 2016



Team effort – One of the briefing sessions for the many volunteers who were deployed for Thaipusam.

Singapore's Hindu Community had experienced a Thaipusam Festival which it has not had for quite a while on 24 January 2016, thanks to the collective efforts of many people through the past year, said Law and Home Affairs Minister, Mr K Shanmugam.

Both Minister Shanmugam and Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Mr S Iswaran, were the guests-of-honour at two separate appreciation events for the hundreds of volunteers, officials and Temple Committee members of many Temples in Singapore, who had played a critical role towards the success of the event.

"It is an important religious event for all of us as Hindus and for the devotees to fulfil their vows. But it is also an important event that tells everyone clearly the kind of society we are in Singapore. We come together to celebrate each other's festivities. We don't just participate, very often we come in and contribute with our time and effort in order to make it a success. I want to put on record, my deep appreciation, on behalf of the Government to all of you," said Minister Iswaran.

"The Festival could not have gone off the way it did, if not for the very hard work put in by the HEB, Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple and Sri Thendayuthapani Temple Trustees and team. The agencies contributed to it, the Police and others, but the volunteers, without you it would not have been possible," lauded Mr Shanmugam.

Minister Shanmugam himself spent nearly three hours walking the route from Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple and stopping along the way to view for himself some of the changes which had been implemented for Thaipusam 2016.

Among them an increase in music points, live music points, resting bays for the elderly and dedicated lanes for women, children and the elderly.

Mr Shanmugam told the audience that from his speaking to devotees along the route, the general feedback was that they were satisfied with the arrangements and that the needs of the community for Thaipusam had been well taken care of.

"They were uniformly happy. It was a sanctified and dignified event," said Mr Shanmugam.

For Thaipusam 2017, Mr Shanmugam had several suggestions for the Organising Committee - among them, further improving the coordination between HEB/Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple and Sri Thendayuthapani Temple. On its part, HEB will be focussing on five areas:

- a) Community Partnership – working closely with the community in organising the

event. Mr Shanmugam has also suggested engaging the Member of Parliament for the respective areas and the Inter Racial Committees in the discussions.

- b) Ownership of the event – Thaipusam is not just an event of the two Temples.
- c) Growing the volunteer pool and tapping on many more organisations in multi-racial Singapore.
- d) Harnessing technology greater, like using electronic message boards and mobile applications to convey key messages and announcements along the route.
- e) Using the social media better on educating the devotees and Singaporeans at large about Thaipusam and its significance and meaning.

Mr Shanmugam believes all these efforts will further build the rapport and trust with the Community.

Thaipusam 2017 will take place on Thursday, 9 February 2017.



Mr Shanmugam viewing kavadis at the 'live' music point at Bras Basah Green



Falling on a weekend, Thaipusam 2016 saw an increased number of devotees participating in the Festival



Mr Shanmugam presenting certificates of appreciation to a volunteer during the appreciation ceremony.



Devotees leaving Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple enroute to Sri Thendayuthapani Temple

COMBATING DRUG ABUSE

By Dinesh Venkatesh

Battling social evils like drug abuse with the help of the community is a challenge faced by all communities in Singapore. The Indian community has not been spared either. Recent statistics about the national drug abuse problem across all ethnic groups is of great concern to the community. In this article, we take a closer look at some of the trends in the community and what the Hindu Endowments Board's team of volunteers at HEB-Ashram, a halfway house managed by HEB, is doing to help addicts and their families address the problem.



Healthy lifestyle - Residents of the Ashram playing a game of basketball

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) reported that there was a 6 percent increase in the number of drug abusers arrested in 2015 compared to 2014, with a 20 percent climb in the number of new drug abusers arrested. The CNB arrested 3,338 drug abusers in 2015, a climb from the 3,158 arrested in 2014. Amongst this, 1,311 were new abusers, an increase from 2014's 1,093 and a staggering 69% were below the age of 30, according to a CNB press release on 15 February 2016.

Further to these statistics, CNB highlighted an increase in the number of abusers arrested across all ethnic groups with the number of Malay abusers arrested increasing by 7 percent on-year to 1,738 in 2015. This was followed by Indian abusers, which went up 3 percent from 505 in 2014 to 519 last year, and Chinese abusers, up from 971 to 993 over the same time period, it showed.

Of the new abusers arrested, there was a rise of 35 percent among Indians from 150 in 2014 to 202 in 2015. Chinese abusers increased 24 percent from 314 to 388, while Malay abusers increased 13 percent from 600 to 679 over the same timeframe, the agency said.

The Hindu News sat down with the Chairman of HEB-Ashram, Prof. N. Ganapathy, to get his views on the latest statistics as well as to better understand how the Ashram aids in combating the drug abuse situation.

When asked about the 35% increase in new addicts in the Indian community compared to



Ashram's computer laboratory was set up in 2014 as part of efforts to provide vocational training to residents to enhance their employability before they leave the Ashram.

the other two major communities and what needs to be done to bring this figures down, Prof. Ganapathy remarked that there are two parts to fighting against drug abuse. Prof. Ganapathy said that the first part is to control and interdict the supply and this important work is done by the enforcement agencies.

The second part is to curtail demand. “In this regard, preventive education is the key in the fight against drug abuse. I would say that non-criminal justice agencies have a heavier responsibility and they include but not limited to schools, family, community institutions both secular and ethnic, labour market, etc.” Prof Ganapathy is of the view that there is no ethnic-specific factor that would explain the surge in numbers highlighted above.

HEB-Ashram, set up in 1999, is a halfway house to rehabilitate and reintegrate Indian substance abusers into society. Prof. Ganapathy explained that the Ashram has a range of secular and religious programmes like yoga, Hindu counselling, computer literacy, pro-social activities emphasising healthy lifestyle, family bonding, community outreach and service, compulsory skills training, among others.

The Ashram targets to have a resident acquire at least one set of skills or qualification – academic or vocational - that will enhance employability before they leave the Ashram. Prof. Ganapathy said, “These programmes are designed to prepare our residents for the outside world when they leave the Ashram so that they can be a functioning and contributing member of our society. In the course of our work, we also ‘bring’ the community into Ashram. This is achieved through inviting volunteers to work with us, creating awareness on the need to give second chance for returning offenders, initiating joint projects with other institutions in our community, and bridging ties with the community to bring about opportunities for our residents.”

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joint projects with other institutions in our community, and bridging ties with the community to bring about opportunities for our residents.”

Prof. Ganapathy added that one of the cornerstones of Ashram’s approach to rehabilitation and reintegration is to work with the residents’ families. He said, “We identify families and children who need all sorts of help and link them up with the relevant community organisations, and importantly, do the follow-up with them to make sure that their needs are being looked into”.



Celebrating Mother’s Day at the Ashram as part of its family engagement

Prof. Ganapathy further added that, “Although this is not our primary mandate, we have begun to reach out to families particularly children at risk with a view that they do not fall into the same structural trap as their loved ones. We want to interdict what criminologists would call the “inter-generational” criminality.”

Prof. Ganapathy also explained that domestic statistics have to be read in the context of recent international trends which show an increasing tolerance for drug abuse as witnessed in the legalisation of cannabis use in a number of states in the USA. Prof Ganapathy emphasised that we should not take

that path for it only creates generations after generations of people to become dependent on drugs which lead to many social and medical problems such as violence, unemployment, social dysfunctionality, crime, and a range of medico-psychological issues.

Prof. Ganapathy concluded, “We need to upstream our efforts, and build social resilience amongst our children from a very young age. Socialisation is key. We need to strengthen the families, introduce policies that increase attachment to pro-social role models, intensify involvement in conventional activities, enhance social stakes among our youth so that they will not deviate from community norms and expectations whilst instilling in them that drugs of any kind are simply destructive.”

HEB is committed in doing its part in keeping our community drugs-free. We urge the rest of the community to come together in combatting drug abuse.

Engaging the community – Minister Shanmugam at the HEB-Ashram SG50 GFTH Project in 2015 where festive goodies were delivered to around 500 needy families by volunteers



MISSION TRIP TO CAMBODIA

A total of 30 medical volunteers from both HEB-MSS and SGH went for the missionary trip to Cambodia from 21 – 27 February 2016. Some 400 people in Baray received basic medical checks i.e. glucose, blood pressure, eye and breast cancer examination. About 100 students in Siem Reap, 200 kids from Phnom Penh and 120 high school students received health hygiene packs, stationeries, clothes and dry ration food stuffs.

The volunteers also visited other neighboring 3 villages in Baray and gave groceries, rice, soya sauce, slippers, sarongs and other foodstuff. Oral hygiene was taught to about 150 school children and given out hygiene packs which consisted tooth brush, paste, comb, nail clipper and soap.



The medical camp set up by volunteers from HEB-MSS and SGH



Medical screening for the local residents in Baray, Cambodia



Sister Saraswathy from HEB MSS presenting some packed groceries to the local residents



The mission is a success – Team members with a large plaque card with words of appreciation presented to them by the locals

JNANA VELVI 2016



Swami Omkarananda's lecture series was held at the Sri Sivan Temple and attracted around 250 devotees, especially in the evenings.

Swami Omkarananda is an accomplished speaker whose style is simple yet very captivating and convincing. His fluency both in Tamil and Sanskrit scriptures is a rare combination today. He is gifted with the ability to quote several shlokas from various scriptures, especially Gita and Thirukural alike. He teaches in the traditional manner (sampradaya) in Advaita philosophy.

At Jnana Velvi 2016 held at Sri Sivan Temple from 11 March to 18 March 2016, Swamiji delivered lectures on Kathopanishad in the mornings and the Bhagavad Gita in the evenings.

Swamiji started with Chapter 5 of Bhagavad Gita after having completed Chapter 4 during his last visit. In the process, he analysed the three philosophies of Dwaita, Vishistadwaita and Advaita in a clear manner and laid the foundation for his talks under the Advaita concept. He then explained how Karma Yoga becomes Karma sanyasa viz. action without attachments leads to detachment.

While there are differences in the external affairs, at the pure consciousness level, there exists no such inequality. A person with such an equal vision in all matters is considered a 'Jnani' (knowledgeable person). Even then, he leads a normal life like others but one which

is firmly entrenched in this knowledge. To get such knowledge, a Guru is very important and necessary in our tradition.

Swamiji then summarised the sixth chapter on the last day, explaining the various aspects of Dhyana Yoga or meditation.

Kathopanishad is a Hindu philosophical text in the form of a conversation between a young boy, in quest of the ultimate knowledge by which the state of bliss will be understood, and Lord Yama. Lord Yama offers the young boy various worldly boons to check his true quest and when the boy persists not wanting to accept those boons, Lord Yama gives the true knowledge that only body gets destroyed but not the Atman (soul). Once the realisation comes that there is only one all-pervasive power of which Atman is also part, the real bliss is understood and the outward developments will not affect the inner peace of that person.

Continuing his lectures, Swamiji recollected this story briefly. He then explained the concepts of 'Shreyas' and 'Prayas', being the desire for knowledge and worldly things respectively, and how Shreyas should be always be sought. He further expounded the reply of Yama on Atma, which is nothing but all pervading consciousness and is not subject to any change. It remains unaffected by pleasure or sorrow affects. He explained that for getting this self-knowledge, one should have full control over one's sense organs.



Swamiji's talks captivated audiences young and old

GITA JAYANTI CELEBRATED WITH FERVOUR

By Krishna Kumar M.

The Gita was born a few millennia ago in a place called Kurukshetra, some 150 km away from New Delhi, the capital of India. And it was born in very dramatic circumstances, in the background of the greatest battle of that era, one which wiped out a very significant percentage of population. The epic war was between the right and wrong, Pandavas on the side of the right and Kauravas that of the wrong.

Just before the war begins, Arjuna, one of the master archers of the Pandavas and friend of Lord Krishna, develops cold feet and falls despondent seeing the vast assemblage of warriors whom he has to fight and kill, in order to win back the kingdom, which he and his brothers richly deserve. The warriors include his highly respected teachers, respected elders of the dynasty and friends and relatives. The Gita was the response of Lord Krishna to his friend and disciple Arjuna out of this terrible quandary.

Just as Arjuna was inspired at the battlefield of Kurukshetra, leaders and thinking men and women of India from diverse areas were inspired by the Gita since then. In the medieval India, Gita and Upanishads were translated to Persian by Dara Shikoh, the great grandson of great Mughal emperor, Akbar the great.

From then, the Gita has travelled across the world and many great personages have been inspired, intrigued and captivated by the wisdom encapsulated in it. They include Albert Einstein, Oppenheimer, Schopenhauer, Spinoza, Walt Whitman, Thoreau, Herman Hesse, Carl Jung, Emerson, Aldous Huxley etc.

We in Singapore too have been celebrating the birth of this great scripture of the Hindus for the last 18 years in a significant and community based fashion. The most unique aspect of these celebrations is the integrating function that it serves, for the several linguistic and regional groups the Hindus of Singapore fall into. Every year, a new organization takes the lead role with support from others. The South Indians and the North Indians have come together to make this event possible.

This year, the leadership role was with the Northern Indian group of Singapore Sindhi Association. Recently, yearlong celebrations culminated with a major Gita Havan (fire oblation) ceremony with 18 Havan Kunds (fire oblation pits) on Sunday, 20 March 2016. The Guest of Honour for the event was Minister S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry).

The event's main highlight was fire oblation for every single



Lord Krishna with Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra



The Bhagavad Gita



Hermann Hesse, a German-Swiss Nobel Laureate (Literature, in 1946) once said, "The marvel of the Bhagavad-Gita is its truly beautiful revelation of life's wisdom which enables philosophy to blossom into religion."

Gita enunciating the Gita from different perspectives. Swami Vinayakananda (India) and Mr Subhanu Saxena (UK) were the invited speakers and Prof. S. Jayakumar, former Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore inaugurated the Forum held in October 2015.

The monthly chanting of the Gita is held at different places to spread the message across and the full Gita was chanted at the Shree Lakshminarayan Temple on the Mokshada Ekadashi day, believed to be the actual day the Gita was revealed to the world.

The Gita Jayanti is growing from strength to strength every year and new activities are being introduced regularly to widen the scope and deepen the impact. It is certain that next year's celebrations will be taken to greater heights by the upcoming lead organisation, Sri Muneeswaran Temple.

For details on the Gita Jayanti celebrations, please visit www.gitajayanti.org.sg.

of the 700 verses of the Gita at the 18 Havan Kunds, while the verses are being chanted on the background. The event also has initial invocation rites, final grand Poornahuti as well as standard Hindu puja aspects like abhishekam, alankaram, arati etc. The event also featured a stage function where the baton for next year's event was passed to Sri Muneeswaran Temple of Queenstown. The event was witnessed by a large gathering of devotees of about 1000.

The year-long celebrations is catered to various age groups and include activities like competitions, monthly chanting at different places, full Gita chanting on the Mokshada Ekadashi, Gita Forum etc. The competitions include Gita chanting, essay, elocution and art competitions and they attract Gita enthusiast from the tender age of 4 years from kindergarten to primary, secondary and tertiary students as well as adults. The Gita Forum featured illustrious authorities of the



A large crowd of devotees had come together to witness the culmination of the Gita Havan



Devotees had the opportunity to chant and offer homa dravyam (sacred offerings) into the Havan Kunds

SUPERHERO HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE!

A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions". Oliver Wendell Holmes's words rang true for over 200 Project Bhakti students on 17 April as they were treated to a visual display of Lord Hanuman's adventures in 'Hanuman - The Superhero Monkey'.

As part of PB's 15th anniversary celebrations, nearly 180 children and 23 teachers got to get out of the classroom and away from stories, bhajans and craft activities for a day, to celebrate while watching Hanuman and his gang of fellow monkeys bring a part of the Ramayana to life through songs, cartoon graphics and live acting as they cleverly whisked Sita away from Ravana's clutches.

Although geared towards an audience with little knowledge of the great epic, teachers and students alike were extremely excited about how the Singapore Repertory Theatre would bring a legend like Hanuman to life. They were not disappointed as SRT delivered as promised — the children were pulled into a performance that was 'part cartoon, part film, part musical and part physical theatre, into a land of myth, mystery and many adventures'.

"I was really excited even though I was attending the show again but it did live up to my expectations even the second time round!", said Aarya Vignesh who got the chance to get up close and personal with the actors.

Although feeling really shy when one of the actors pulled him from the audience to go up on stage, he was quickly surrounded by a cheeky bunch of 'monkeys' who decided to welcome him into their crew with a test of strength. The captivated audience were then witnesses to a thumb fight between Hanuman and Aarya. "I knew Hanuman was going to lose intentionally because he was just an actor and not actually Lord Hanuman," said Aarya pragmatically.

Although Aarya's father was excited about his son's 'win', he and some teachers felt that Hanuman should have won instead to show his power.

"I was very excited before the show to see how the mighty Hanuman was going to be portrayed as he is one of my favourite Gods. We expound on his



The cast from the show



Student Aarya Vignesh got a special opportunity to get up close and personal with the cast on stage during the show.



Children getting autographs from the cast

virtues and superhuman strength in class but considering how protective and devoted Hanuman is to Rama and by allowing himself to 'lose' to a child, it shows the kids the softer side of Hanuman," said Anupriya Panneerselvan, a teacher with Darma Muneeswaran Temple centre.

Although many of the children were spellbound in their seats, some teachers felt that the youngest students may have been a little lost with the storyline. A K Vellienila, a teacher with Arulmigu Velmurugan Gnanamuneeswaran Temple centre said, "It was a first time theatre experience for many of the kids who came and by breaking the fourth wall and the characters' interaction with the audience, the children's attention was captured even though the younger students had some difficulty understanding the play".

As Clay P Bedford had said, "You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives". By that yardstick, the celebratory PB outing was definitely a success.



The children had a special photo opportunity with the cast of the show.

THAMIZHODU INAIVOM 2016

As part of the Tamil Language Festival, students from Saraswathy and Saraswathy Darma Muneeswaran Kindergartens hosted Thamizhodu Inaivom 2016 on 30 April at the PGP Hall. Parents and guests arriving at the venue were ushered to various activity booths and static displays. The students showcased a factual display about the Tamil language, a quiz, a collage craft and a teaching aid display. During the finale, the students enthralled the audience with captivating performances on stage.



Students from the kindergartens captivated the audience with colourful performances



A student dressed as Avvaiyar at the Tamil language booth



A display on Tamil teaching aids



Parents and guests trying out their hand on the collage craft

ANNUAL GAMES DAY

Saraswathy Kindergarten and Saraswathy Darma Muneeswaran Kindergarten held their Annual Games Day at Kallang Community Club on 14 May 2016.

Around 200 children, 30 ex-students and their parents attended the event. A variety of games were organised for the children. Children displayed their gross and fine motor skills which they had acquired in the Kindergartens while participating in the games. Kabaddi matches were also organised for parents.



Parents having a friendly kabaddi match



Students demonstrating fine motor skills through activities



Learning valuable lessons while having fun



A student enjoying the game station with his parents

PANCHANGAM – AN OVERVIEW

Reading the Panchangam in all temples on the first day of the Tamil New Year is an age old practice. Panchangam forms the basis for fixing the time and date for marriages and other auspicious events. It is also used to determine the tithi or date of death of our deceased beloved to perform annual prayers to get their blessings. Therefore, it might be useful for us to know some details about the Panchangam.

The word 'Panchangam' is a combination of the words 'panch' (five) and 'angam' (parts or components). The five component parts of a Panchangam are vaara, tithi, nakshatram, yogam and karanam.

Vaar refers to the days in a week. Apart from Raghu and Kethu, all other names of the grahas or planets of the Navagrahas are assigned to a particular day of the week. Consider the Tamil names for the days of the week – Nyayiru (Sun), Thinggal (Moon), Sevvai (Mars) Budhan (Mercury), Viyalan (Jupiter), Velli (Venus) and Sani (Saturn).



Panchangam sravanam or the traditional reading of the Panchangam on the first day of the Tamil New Year at Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple.

The Vedic day begins at sunrise and lasts till the next dawn. This is unlike the Gregorian calendar in which the day begins at midnight and lasts till the next. The Panchangam mentions the exact time for the dawn of each day. One wonders how our ancestors could have devised such precise mathematical calculations without the aid of instruments such as computers back in ancient times!

One day consists of 60 naaligai (1 naaligai = 24 minutes). An hour consists of two and a half naaligai. Three and three quarters of naaligai (i.e. 90 minutes) make up one muhurtham and sixteen muhurthams make a day.

Tithi refers to the distance between the Sun and the Moon. Twelve degrees of that distance is calculated as one tithi. Therefore, 360 degrees equals to 30 tithis. The first day of the ascending crescent in the Shuklapaksha (Valarpirai) lasting for 15 days and culminating with the full moon and the first day of the descending crescent in the Krishnapaksha (Theipirai) lasting for another 15 days give a total of 30 days. In the past, the word tithi used to mean a day.

Nakshatram is the second component part of the Panchangam. This refers to the constellation on which the moon is positioned. There are 27 Nakshatras, beginning with Ashwini and ending with Revathi. The naaligai mentioned in the Panchangam is the ending period of the Nakshatara. It has been the tradition of the Tamils to consider each Nakshatra as a day.

Yoga means the union and as per the Panchangam, the joint motion of the Sun and the Moon is combined to calculate it. There are three periods of yogam. Marana-yogam is considered as malicious while Siddha-yogam and Amitha-yogam are considered as good.

Karanams are based on the tithi. One Karana is assigned to each half of the tithi (day). Therefore, there are sixty Karanams. The name of the ending Karana and its naaligai are mentioned in the Panchangam.

There are three types of Panchangam. The first one is based on the solar year (souramaanam). The second one is based on the lunar year (chandramaanam) and lastly, the soura-chandramaanam is one that is based on the Moon but corrections made based on solar year. The beginning of the Tamil month and the New Year are based on the souramaana system. The month begins when the Sun moves from one Raasi to another. Tamil New Year falls on the day when the Sun moves to Mesham Raasi (Aries).

The Raasi mandala or the constellation in which the Sun moves is divided into 12 equal parts of 30 degrees in length. They are named as Mesham (Aries), Idapam (Taurus), Mithunam (Gemini), Kadakam (Cancer), Simham (Leo), Kanni (Virgo), Thulam (Libra), Vrishchikam (Scorpio), Dhanusu (Sagittarius), Makaram (Capricorn), Kumbham (Aquarius) and Meenam (Pisces).

The names are given in accordance with the shape of the groups of stars within the constellation. The period that the Sun enters the Mesham Raasi and crosses all the other 11 Raasis before coming back to Mesham Raasi is considered as a year. It contains 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes and 9.5 seconds. These are the soura-maathams or the months based on the solar year system.

The names of the months in the Tamil calendar starting from Chitrai and ending with Panguni are based on this system. However, the Tamils of yesteryears had calculated the number of months based on the candramaanam (lunar) method. That is why the word 'Thinggal' in Tamil means month.

The three types of Panchangams being used in South India are the Vakkiya Panchangam, Siddhantha Panchangam and Thirukkanitha Panchangam. They are also used to find out occurrences of events such as eclipses, festivals, virathams (fasts) and the predictions for the year.



Devotees worship Sri Navagrahams

NAVAKSHARI YAGAM



Annual Navakshari Yagam at Sri Vairavimada Kalamman Temple



Prayers are also done for 9 'sumangalis' (married ladies) and 9 'kanyas' (girls) during the Yagam

SMT'S MAHA YAGAM



Sri Mariamman Temple's annual Maha Yagam ceremonies

SSPT BRAHMOTSAVAM



Thirukalyanam being performed for Sri Srinivasa Perumal and Padmavathy Thayar



Sri Mariamman Temple's annual Maha Yagam ceremonies



Pushpayagam or the offering of flowers concluded the Brahmothsavam festivities



Teerthavari or holy dip forms part of the ninth day festivities

SST BRAHMOTSAVAM



Procession of Sri Viswanathar and Sri Visalakshi after Thirukalyanam



Dwajrohanam – hoisting of the ceremonial flag



Gold chariot procession on the ninth day of Brahmothsavam

VASANTHA UTSAVAM



Yagasalai poojas during Brahmothsavam 2016



'Seetha Swayamvaram' alankaram for Vasantha Utsavam at Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

SVKT CHITRAI BRAHMOTSAVAM



Sri Vairavimada Kalamman Temple's Chitrai Brahmotsavam ceremonies



Silver chariot procession of Sri Vairavimada Kalamman to Ang Mo Kio

பலன்களை அள்ளித்தரும் பவுர்ணமி விரதம்

மாதங்களில் முதல் மாதமாக வருவது சித்திரை. அதில் சூரியன் வரும்பொழுது ஆண்டு தொடங்குவதாகப் பஞ்சாங்கம் அறிவிக்கின்றது. அந்தச் சித்திரை மாதத்தில் சூரியன் உச்சம் பெறுகின்றார். அந்த மாதத்தில் வரும் பவுர்ணமி அன்று சந்திரன் முழுமையடைகின்றார். நவக்கிரகங்களில் ராஜ கிரகங்களான சூரியனும், சந்திரனும் பலம் பெறும் நாள் தான் 'சித்ரா பவுர்ணமி' விழாவாகக் கொண்டாடப்படுகின்றது.

இந்த விழாவைக் கொண்டாடுவதன் மூலம் வாழ்வில் சீரும், சிறப்பும், செல்வாக்கும் பெற வழிபிறக்கின்றது.

பொதுவாக மனிதனின் வாழ்க்கைத் தேவைகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்வது தெய்வ வழிபாடுகளும், விரதங்களும் தான். அந்த விரதங்களில் நிலவு நிறைந்த நாளிலும், நிலவு மறைந்த நாளிலும் மேற்கொள்ளும் விரதங்கள் உடனடிப்பலனை வழங்கும் என்பதை நாம் அனுபவத்தின் வாயிலாகத்தான் உணரமுடியும்.

இது போன்ற சந்திர பலம் பெற்ற நாட்களில் கடல் தண்ணீர் மேல்நோக்கிப் பொங்கி எழும். கடல் அலை சீறிப்பாயும், அலைபாயும் அந்த நாளில் நாம் விரதமிருந்தால் அலைபாயும் மனதில் அமைதி கிடைக்கும். அப்படிப்பட்ட நாட்களில் ஓர் அற்புதமான நாள் தான் சித்ரா பவுர்ணமி ஆகும்.

சித்ரா பவுர்ணமி விரதம் இருப்பவர்கள் விரதத்தை தொடங்க வேண்டிய நாள் சித்திரை மாதம் வரும் சித்ரா பவுர்ணமி அன்று தான். விரதத்தை மேற்கொள்பவர்கள் இரவு நிலவு பார்த்து வழிபட்ட பின்னரே உணவு அருந்த வேண்டும்.

எந்தக்கிழமையில் பவுர்ணமி வருகின்றதோ அந்தக் கிழமைக்கு உரிய கிரகத்தின் ஆதிபத்யமும் வழிபடுபவர்களுக்கு கிடைக்கும். இந்தப் பவுர்ணமி குரு வாரம் வருகின்றது. 'வியாழன் கூடனால விவாகம் கூடும்;' என்பது பழமொழி. எனவே சித்ரா பவுர்ணமி விரதத்தின் மூலம் திருமண யோகமும் கிட்டும். தித்திப்பான வாழ்க்கையும் அமையும்.



BADRINATH – ABODE OF LORD VISHNU

Badrinarayan Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Vishnu situated in the town of Badrinath in Uttarakhand, India, along the banks of Alaknanda River. The Temple is also one of the 108 Divya Desams (holy shrines for Vaishnavites) dedicated to Lord Vishnu, who is worshipped as Lord Badrinath here. The temple is only open for six months in a year from May to October because of extreme weather conditions in the Himalayan region. During these months, close to one million devotees brave the cold weather to make their offerings to the Lord.

The image of the presiding deity worshipped in the Temple is a black stone statue of Lord Vishnu in the seated posture. The statue is considered by many Hindus to be one of eight 'swayam vyakta kshetras' or self-manifested statues of Vishnu.

Although Badrinath is located in North India, the head priest, or Rawal, is traditionally a Nambudiri Brahmin chosen from the South Indian state of Kerala. The temple is mentioned in ancient religious texts like Vishnu Purana and Skanda Purana, and glorified in the Divya Prabandha.



A rare image of Lord Badrinath enshrined in the sanctum sanctorum.



Badrinath Temple façade

பத்ரிநாத் அல்லது பத்ரிநாராயணன் ஆலயம்



For six months of the year, the Temple town is blanketed in thick snow.

ஆலயங்களைக் குறிப்பிட்டு வழிபடுங்கின்றன. அதில் வட துருவமாக பத்ரிநாத் ஆலயம் திகழ்கிறது. மற்றவை கிழக்கில் பூரியில் அமைந்துள்ள ஜகநாதன் ஆலயம். தெற்கே இராமேஸ்வரம், மேற்கே துவாரகாவில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

பத்ரிநாத் ஆலயம் மிகவும் பழமைானது. விஷ்ணு புராணம், கந்த புராணம், திவ்ய பிரமந்தம் ஆகிய நூல்களிலும் இந்த ஆலயத்தைக் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுக்கிறது.

இங்கு மாதா மூர்த்தி மேளம் என்ற திருவிழா மிகவும் விமர்சையாகக் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது. கங்கா தேவி பூமிக்கு வந்தடைந்து பன்னிரண்டு பிரிவுகளாக பிரிந்ததை இவ்விழாவின் நோக்கம். மற்றும் ஜூன் மாதத்தில் பத்ரிநாத் - கேடர்நாத் திருவிழா இந்தியாவில் உள்ள கலைஞர்கள் திரண்டு கலை நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் பங்கேற்பார்கள்.

ஒவ்வொரு விஜய தசமியன்று ஆலயம் மூடப்பட்டு 64 கிலோமீட்டர் தொலைவிலுள்ள ஜோதிர்மாத் எனும் இடத்தில் நரசிம்மர் ஆலயத்தில் ஆறு மாதத்திற்குச் செயல்படும்.



The Temple is situated along the banks of Alaknanda River

ஆற்காடு பஞ்சாங்கம் - ராசி பலன்



மேஷ ராசி, (அசுவனி, பரணி, கார்த்திகை 1ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிகாரர்களுக்கு மிகவும் சுமாரான காலமிது. வருமானத்தைப் பெறவே போராட்டம் நடத்த வேண்டியிருக்கும். கடுமையான முயற்சியின் பேரில் சுபகாரியங்கள் நடத்தலாம். கடன் சுமை கூடும். உடல் நலிவு உண்டாக வாய்ப்புண்டு. தெய்வ வழியாட்டினால் கடுமை குறையும்.

ரிஷப ராசி, (கார்த்திகை 2,3,4 ரோகினி, மிருகசீரிஷம்) – 1, 2ஆம் பாதம், இந்த ராசிகாரர்களுக்கு மிக சிறப்பான காலமிது. சுபகாரிய நிகழ்ச்சிகள் சிறப்பாக நடைபெறும். வருமானம் அதிகரிக்கும். பொன், வெள்ளி ஆபரண சேர்க்கைகள், சொத்து சேர்க்கைகள் உண்டாகும். குடும்பத்தில் சுபகாரிய நிகழ்ச்சிகள் விமரிசையாக நடக்கும். உறவினர்கள், நண்பர்களால் நன்மை உண்டாகும்.



மிதுன ராசி, (மிருகசீரிஷம் 3,4 திருவாதிரை, பூனர்பூசம் 1,2,3ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிகாரர்களுக்கு எதிலும் வெற்றி அடையக்கூடிய காலம். வருமானம் பெருகும். சேமிப்பு கூடும். பொன், வெள்ளி ஆபரண சேர்க்கைகள், சொத்து சேர்க்கைகள் உண்டாகும். குடும்பத்தில் சுபகாரிய நிகழ்ச்சிகள் விமரிசையாக நடக்கும். உறவினர்கள், நண்பர்களால் நன்மை உண்டாகும்.

கடக ராசி, (பூனர்பூசம் 1, பூசம் ஆயில்யம்) – இந்த ராசிகாரர்களுக்கு சுமாரான காலமிது. அதிக முயற்சியின் பேரில் சுபகாரியங்கள் நடைபெறும். வருமானம் இருக்கும். உறவினர்கள் உதவி செய்வார்கள். சிலர் புதிய சொத்துக்கள் கடன்பட்டு வாங்குவார். உடல் ஆரோக்கியமாக இருக்கும்.



சிம்ம ராசி, (மகம், பூரம், உத்திரம் 1ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிகாரர்களுக்கு சற்று சுமாரான காலமிது. ஒரு பக்கம் வருமானம் சிறப்பாக இருந்தாலும், விரையச் செலவுகளும் அதிகரிக்கும். குடும்பத்தில் சுபகாரிய நிகழ்ச்சிகளும் அதிகரிக்கும். உடல் நலனில் கவனம் தேவை.

கன்னி ராசி, (உத்திரம் 2,3,4 அஸ்தம், சித்திரை 1,2ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு சற்று யோகமான காலமிது. சுபகாரிய நிகழ்ச்சிகளை சிறப்பாக நடத்துவார்கள். வருமானம் அதிகரிக்கும். பொன், வெள்ளி ஆபரண சேர்க்கைகள் உண்டாகும். உடல் நலன் சிறப்பாக இருக்கும். நண்பர்கள் உறவினர்களால் நன்மை உண்டு. தெய்வ அருள் சிறப்பாக கிடைக்கும்.



துலா ராசி, (சித்திரை 3,4, சுவாதி, விசாகம் 1,2,3 ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு சுமாரான காலமிது. கடின முயற்சியின் பேரில் வருவாய் ஈட்டுவர். சேமிப்பு இராது. சுபகாரிய நிகழ்ச்சிகள் சிறப்பாக நடைபெறும். புதிய கடன்பட நேரிடும். உடல் ஆரோக்கியம் சுமாராக இருக்கும். தெய்வ அருள் சிறப்பாக கிடைக்கும்.

விருச்சிக ராசி, (விசாகம் 4, அனுஷம், கேட்டை) – இந்த ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு மிகவும் சுமாரான காலம். வருவாய் அதிகமாக வந்தாலும், பற்றாக்குறை இருக்கும். நிம்மதி இருக்காது. நண்பர்கள், உறவினர்கள் ஒதுங்கியே இருப்பார்கள். டல் நிலை சீராக இருக்காது. தெய்வ வழிபாட்டினால் கடுமை குறையும்.





தனுசு ராசி, (மூலம், பூராடம், உத்திராடம் 1ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு சுமாரான காலமிது. வருமானம் குறைந்து செலவுகள் அதிகரிக்கும். சுபநிகழ்ச்சிகள் கடுமையான முயற்சியின் பேரில் நடைபெறும். சிலர் கடன்பட நேரிடும். தொழில் முடக்கம் உண்டாகலாம். உடல் நலனை கவனிக்க வேண்டும். தெய்வ அருளை அதிக வழிபாட்டினால் பெறலாம்.

மகர ராசி, (உத்திராடம் 2,3,4 திருவோணம், அவிட்டம் 1,2 ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு மிகவும் யோகமான காலம். வருமானம் அதிகரிக்கும். சேமிப்பு கூடும். பொன், வெள்ளி சேர்க்கைகள் உண்டாகும். சொத்து வாங்கும் யோகம் உண்டு. நண்பர்கள், உறவினர்கள் வருகையால் மகிழ்ச்சி அதிகரிக்கும். குடும்பத்தில் சுபநிகழ்ச்சிகள் மிகவும் சிறப்பாக நடைபெறும். தெய்வ அனுக்கிரகம் பரிபூரணமாக கிடைக்கும்.



கும்ப ராசி, (அவிட்டம் 3,4, சதயம், பூரட்டாதி 1,2,3ம் பாதம்) – இந்த ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு ஓரளவு நன்மைகள் கிடைக்கும் காலம். சுபநிகழ்ச்சிகள் சிறப்பாக நடைபெறும். சேமிப்பு இராது. கடன்பட்டு பொன், வெள்ளி ஆபரண சேர்க்கை, சொத்து சேர்க்கை ஏற்படும்.. நண்பர்கள், உறவினர்கள் உதவி செய்வார்கள். தெய்வ அருள் கிடைக்கும்.

மீன ராசி, (பூரட்டாதி 4, உத்திரட்டாதி, ரேவதி) – இந்த ராசிக்காரர்களுக்கு மிகவும் யோகமான காலமிது. குடும்பத்தில் சுபநிகழ்ச்சிகள் சிறப்பாக நடைபெறும். பொன், வெள்ளி ஆபரண சேர்க்கைகள், சொத்து சேர்க்கை உண்டாகும். சேமிப்பு கூடும். நண்பர்கள், உறவினர்களால் சந்தோஷம் நிலவும். உடல் ஆரோக்கியம் நன்கு இருக்கும். தெய்வ அருள் நிறைந்திருக்கும்.





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எண்	விழா	தமிழ்	ஆங்கிலம்
		தேதி	கிழமை
	மாதம்	தேதி	கிழமை
01	துர்முகி தமிழ் வருடப் பிறப்பு	01	வியாழன்
02	ஸ்ரீ ராம நவமி	02	வெள்ளி
03	சித்திரா பெள்ளை	08	வியாழன்
04	அக்னி நட்சத்திரம் ஆரம்பம்	21	புதன்
05	அக்ஷய திருதியை	26	திங்கள்
06	வைகாசி விசாகம்	08	சனி
07	அக்னி நட்சத்திரம் பூர்த்தி	15	சனி
08	ஆனி உத்திரம்	26	ஞாயிறு
09	ஆடி முதல் வெள்ளி	07	வெள்ளி
10	ஆடி கார்த்திகை	13	வியாழன்
11	ஆடிப்பெருக்கு	18	செவ்வாய்
12	ஆடி அமாவாசை	18	செவ்வாய்
13	குரு பெயர்ச்சி	18	செவ்வாய்
14	ஆடிபூரம்	21	வெள்ளி
15	ஸ்ரீ வரலட்சுமி விரதம் / ஆடி கடைசி வெள்ளி	28	வெள்ளி
16	ஸ்ரீ கிருஷ்ண ஜெயந்தி / வைகாசியை ஸ்ரீ ஜெயந்தி	09	வியாழன்
17	ஸ்ரீ விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தி	20	திங்கள்
18	ஆவணி மூலம்	25	சனி
19	புரட்டாசி முதல் சனி	01	சனி
20	சர்வ மஹானய அமாவாசை	14	புரட்டாசி
21	நவராத்திரி விழா ஆரம்பம்	15	புரட்டாசி
22	சரஸ்வதி பூஜை	24	புரட்டாசி
23	விஜயதசமி	25	புரட்டாசி
24	புரட்டாசி கடைசி சனி	29	புரட்டாசி
25	திமிதி திருவிழா	07	ஐப்பசி
26	தீபாவளி பண்டிகை	13	ஐப்பசி
27	ஸ்ரீ கந்தசஷ்டி விழா ஆரம்பம்	15	ஐப்பசி
28	சூரசம்ஹாரம்	20	ஐப்பசி
29	திருக்கார்த்திகை தீபம்	27	கார்த்திகை
30	திருக்கார்த்திகை வைகாசை தீபம்	28	கார்த்திகை
31	ஸ்ரீ ஹனுமத் ஜெயந்தி	14	மார்கழி
32	ஸ்ரீ வைகுண்ட ஏகாதசி	17	மார்கழி
33	ஸ்ரீ வைகுண்ட ஏகாதசி	24	மார்கழி
34	ஆடுதூரா தரிசனம்	27	மார்கழி
35	தைப் பொங்கல்	01	தை
36	தை அமாவாசை	14	தை
37	தை கார்த்திகை	22	தை
38	தைப்பூசத் திருவிழா	27	தை
39	மகா சிவராத்திரி	12	மாசி
40	மாசிமகம்	27	மாசி
41	ஸ்ரீ ராம நவமி	23	பங்குனி
42	பங்குனி உத்திரம்	27	பங்குனி

LIST OF DURMUKHI YEAR IMPORTANT FESTIVALS

No	Festival	Tamil	English
		Date	Day
		Month	Date
01	Dhurmuki New Year	Chithirai	14.04.2016
02	Sri Rama Navami	Chithirai	15.04.2016
03	Chithira Pournami	Chithirai	21.04.2016
04	Commencement of Agni Nakshathiram	Chithirai	04.05.2016
05	Akshaya Thirithheyai	Chithirai	09.05.2016
06	Vaikasi Visagam	Vaikasi	21.05.2016
07	Conclusion of Agni Nakshathiram	Vaikasi	28.05.2016
08	Anni Uthiram	Anni	10.07.2016
09	Aadi 1st Friday	Aadi	22.07.2016
10	Aadi Karthigai	Aadi	28.07.2016
11	Aadi Perukku	Aadi	02.08.2016
12	Aadi Amavasai	Aadi	02.08.2016
13	Guru Peyarchi	Anni	02.08.2016
14	Aadi Pooram	Aadi	05.08.2016
15	Sri Varalakshmi Vratam / Aadi Last Friday	Aadi	12.08.2016
16	Sri Krishna Jayanthi / Sri Vaikanaasa Jayanthi	Aavani	25.08.2016
17	Sri Vinayagar Chathurthi	Aavani	05.09.2016
18	Aavani Moolam	Aavani	10.09.2016
19	Purattasi 1st Saturday	Purattasi	17.09.2016
20	Sarva Mahaalaya Amavasai	Purattasi	30.09.2016
21	Navarathiri Festival Commence	Purattasi	01.10.2016
22	Sri Saraswathy Poojai	Purattasi	10.10.2016
23	Vijayadasami	Purattasi	11.10.2016
24	Purattasi last Saturday (5th)	Purattasi	15.10.2016
25	Firewalking Festival	Aipasi	23.10.2016
26	Deepavali	Aipasi	29.10.2016
27	Skantha Shasti Festival begins	Aipasi	31.10.2016
28	Soorasamharam	Aipasi	05.11.2016
29	Thirukarthigai Deepam	Karthigai	12.12.2016
30	Thirukarthigai Vaikanaasa Deepam	Karthigai	13.12.2016
31	Sri Hanumath Jayanthi	Margazhi	29.12.2016
32	New Year's Day	Margazhi	01.01.2017
33	Sri Vaikunda Ekadasi	Margazhi	08.01.2017
34	Aanudra Dharisanam	Margazhi	11.01.2017
35	Thai Pongal	Thai	14.01.2017
36	Thai Amavasai	Thai	27.01.2017
37	Thai Karthigai	Thai	04.02.2017
38	Thaipusam Festival	Thai	09.02.2017
39	Maha Sivarathiri	Maasi	24.02.2017
40	Masi Magam	Maasi	11.03.2017
41	Sri Rama Navami	Panguni	05.04.2017
42	Panguni Uthiram	Panguni	09.04.2017



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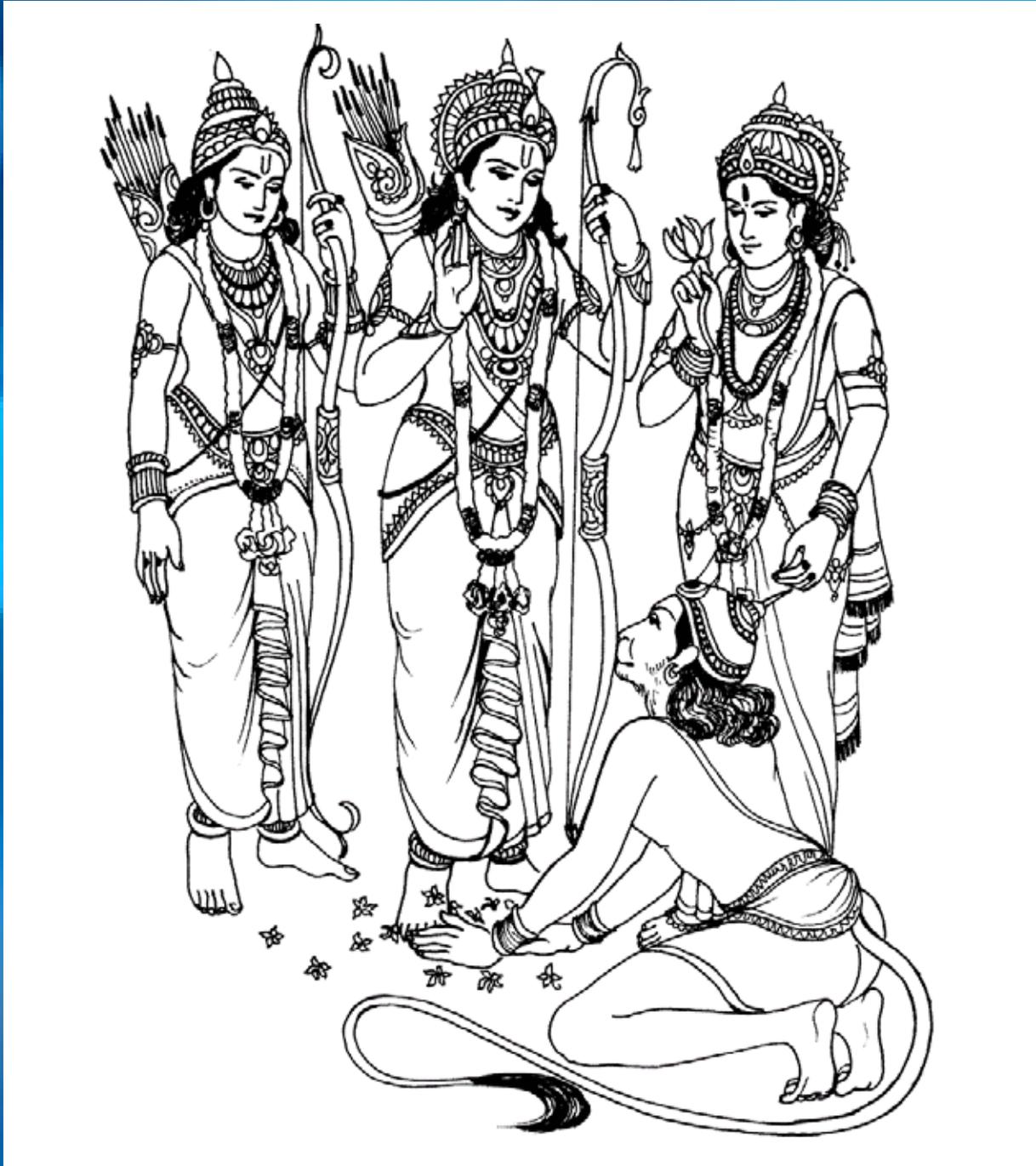
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KIDS' zone

During festive seasons intricate and colourful kolams and rangolis can be seen at the entrances of homes. Such patterns are drawn for auspiciousness. Add life to the rangoli below by colouring it to the best of your abilities!



Category 1 (Age group: 5–8 years)

Name: _____

Age: _____

Contact number: _____

Address: _____

Send in your entries, complete with details by 15 July 2016 to:

The Editor, Hindu News
Hindu Endowments Board
Singapore 218123



SECRET WORD DISCOVERY

Rearrange the scrambled letters to discover the secret word with the help of the clues provided.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Lord Shiva's bow
(A K I N P A)
_____</p> <p>2. Lord Vishnu's most powerful weapon
(D S A S A H K U R N A H A C A R)
_____</p> <p>3. Krishna's conch
(Y A N J C A N H A P A)
_____</p> <p>4. Arjuna's bow
(D A V N A G I)
_____</p> <p>5. Lord Vishnu's formless form
(A L H I A S M R G A)
_____</p> <p>6. Sacred plant
(U A I T S L)
_____</p> <p>7. One of Sita's names
(I D A E V I H)
_____</p> <p>8. Lord Vishnu's gada (mace)
(U M A D O A K I K)
_____</p> <p>9. Kingdom of the Pandava brothers
(A R P H A T D S N I A R)
_____</p> <p>10. Capital city of Kosala
(O A D Y H A Y)
_____</p> | <p>11. Sacred river
(O A V R G A D I)
_____</p> <p>12. Lord Rama's guru
(A S A H V T H I S H)
_____</p> <p>13. One of the Yugas
(R A P A V D A)
_____</p> <p>14. A Veda
(N H A A T A V A R)
_____</p> <p>15. A Navagraha deity
(A S I H R B A I P T)
_____</p> <p>16. A place associated with Lord Krishna
(A N V A D V N I R A)
_____</p> <p>17. Mount of Lord Ganesha
(I K H M S U A)
_____</p> <p>18. A festival
(A I R T V A N A R)
_____</p> <p>19. Abode of Lord Shiva
(H I L A K S A A)
_____</p> <p>20. Guru of Pandavas and Kauravas
(Y A R A H O C D N R A)
_____</p> |
|---|---|

Category 2 (Age group: 9–12 years)

Name: _____

Age: _____

Contact number: _____

Address: _____

Send in your entries, complete with details by 15 July 2016 to:

The Editor, Hindu News
Hindu Endowments Board
Singapore 218123

Here are the winners of the Kids Zone activities from Hindu News Issue 01/2015:

Category 1 prize winners:

1st prize: T. R. Sammyukta

2nd prize: Mohan Nivetha

3rd prize: Saravanan Deepakumar

Category 2 prize winners:

1st prize: J. Kerthika

2nd prize: Akshaya Mukund

3rd prize: Shreya Menon

Congratulations to all of you!