

NRI Newsletter



An Initiative of SRI KANCHI KAMAKOTI PEETAM
Volume IV, Issue I – February 2022 – Kanchipuram
(For private circulation only)

॥ श्रीः ॥

Message from Acharya Swamigal to NRI's devotees

**Shruti Smriti Puranānām Ālayam Karunālayam
Namaami Bhagavadpāda Shankaram Loka Shankaram
Sadāshiva Samārambhām Shankarāchārya Madhyamām
Asmad Ācharya Paryantam Vande Guruparamparām**

DHARMA

It is Dharma, which guides and protects every individual, every family, every region, every nation and the whole world. To understand that Dharma properly, we need merit acquired from previous lives. We should perform good deeds and earn merit in our present birth also; we should do it in multiple ways. This is the message of our Dharma. What we achieve should be measured on the scale of Dharma. It may be satisfactory and even honourable from mundane point of view to measure attainments on the basis of wealth, position and degrees; yet it is Dharma alone to which we ascribe truth and honour. In every Indian's mind there is that resolve to sacrifice various pleasures and comforts and do good things in life in order to protect Dharma and to act in accord with Dharma.

The thought of Dharma, the study of Dharma and the experience of Dharma is not just to see Dharma in books or in images; we look at them in relation to life; that is Dharma. Beyond books and recitations, we relate Dharma to any circumstance at any time, be it among friends or in the environs we live; thus our unwavering strong effort and faith grow further. Though we may say we protect Dharma, it is indeed Dharma which protects us. Though we may talk of Dharma as an attainment for the sake of our satisfaction and joy, Dharma is indeed the true guide in life at every stage. Starting from necessary peace of mind, followed by clarity in mind, and resulting in attainment of all good things, it is Dharma which acts as protective shield and guide. In order to propagate Dharma in various ways, through Japa, through observance of rituals, through practice of Dharmic ideals in our lives, we are undertaking several ventures and implementing several programmes so that Dharmic thought can always be remembered, never to be lost sight of.

Dharma is very important in our lives. We should put in more and more efforts in order to derive the satisfaction of participating in understanding and appreciating Dharma, in recognising the glory of Dharma and in putting Dharma to practice.

(Excerpts from Speech given at Sri Rama Samaj, West Mambalam, Chennai on 28.09.2019.)



Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara



Editorial: We are happy to share Kanchi NRI Family members generously contributed recently at Orikkai to the following three trusts recently, with the Blessings of HH on an Auspicious Silver Chariot Day of Sri Kamakshi Ambal. They are:

Shastiabdapoorthi Trust: Started on the occasion of Shastiabdapoorthi of His Holiness Pujya Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal, 68th Acharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam & Sanyasasweekara year of Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal in 1954 for Veda Bhashya Samrakshanam. Lands were donated by devotees to the trust. The accrued income thereof is used for Veda Bhashya studies. In the 68th year since inception, the Trust with the blessings of His Holiness carries on the objectives and supports Vidyarthi who pursue Veda Bhashya. The Trust also organises Veda Bhashya examination at Sri Kanchi Math.

Uttankita Vidya Aranya Trust: The name "UTTANKITA VIDYA ARANYA" means "The Forest of Sculpted Knowledge". As the name indicates, the Trust, to which Holiness Jagadguru Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Sankaracharya Swamigal at Sri Kanchi Kamakon Matam endowed this name, seeks, with His Blessings, to delve into, and publish, in a codified and chronological manner as many as possible of the important Sanskrit Epigraphic records of India and of her culture as may be presently available within India and abroad, and which in substantial part, are found inscribed on stone tablets, copper plates and the like. Indeed, this effort by the Trust has been inspired by the deep and abiding interest and concern of His Holiness in preserving, for India and for the world, the rich and profound cultural heritage of the land and its people.

The Task of The Uttankita Vidya-Aranya Trust: This trust is registered at Mysore, Karnataka.

First, The Trust's work should be collation, chronological serialization and presentation in Nagar Script with English translation and notes of important epigraphs relating to India.

Second, while epigraphs are in many Indian languages priority to be given to those in Sanskrit concerning the most important subjects namely History; Religion cum Philosophy Literature. Grants and Proclamations

Third, the work of the trust should be done on a strictly non-sectarian basis, totally objective and free of subjective basis

SKKP Adya Sankara Mandir Trust: This trust is registered in Shankar Math Branch, Pune. Primarily, the trust runs the Rig Veda Pathashala at the Pune branch. Additionally it supports Archakas of Jyotirlinga Kshetras in Maharashtra who perform Pujas to Adi Shankara Bhagavtpada Murthi consecrated by Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal in early 1980's in all the 5 Jyotirlingams.

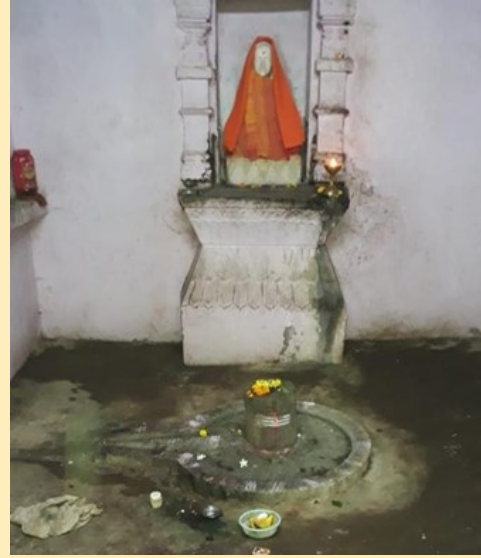
Sanman to Sri Madhukar Gawande - Pradhan Archak at **Bhima Shankar** and who does Puja at Adi Shankara shrine.



Adi Shankara shrine in **Trayambak**



Adi Sankara Shrine in **Aundha Naganath**



Adi Shankara shrine in **Parle Vaidyanath**. Puja activities now being taken care by temple volunteers.



Adi Sankara shrine in **Ghrushneahwar**



Those who would wish to involve in any of the above activity may write to kanchimutt@gmail.com

*With the blessings of Sri Periyava HH Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal,
The Brahmaildia Group in association with KKSf, USA and SKBK, USA is pleased to present*

GITA 2022

"Traditional Knowledge of our scriptures in Contemporary form"

SRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA

Free Online Course in English

(Simple – Systematic – Structured)

- Certified web-based Program.
- Course content will be provided upfront.
- Open to all (Strees: Ladies & Purushas: Gentlemen) above 8 years.
- Learn chanting of verses, Logical break up & connection of words
- Correct interpretation and essence of all slokhas, with concepts & overall meanings.
- Contextual references to other texts.
- Formal knowledge of Sanskrit is not required
- Interactive lectures with live Q&A at the end of the session



COURSE FACULTY

Sri Karthik ji
Vedanta & Bhagavad Gita Teacher
Brahmaildia Group

COURSE TIMINGS

Every Thursday
07:30 am - 08:30 am IST
Every Wednesday
09:00 pm - 10:00 pm EST
08:00 pm - 09:00 pm CST
06:00 pm - 07:00 pm PST

*Shloka 1 – Chapter 1
Started on Thu 17th Feb 2022*

To register kindly click on the Google form link

<https://bit.ly/bv-gita22>



Brahmana Sabha Pancha Dravida (BSPD)

Brahmins who live in south of Vindhya mountains are called Pancha-Dravida Brahmins and they speak Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati and Malayalam. BSPD is an organization for and of Panchadravida Brahmins across the globe formed to promote, preserve and pass onto posterity, the traditional values and cultural identity of the community.

Jataka Parivartana

Parents of Brahmin boys and girls for whom alliance is being sought are welcome to register with BSPD by clicking on the below link or contacting us.

<https://forms.gle/NFFeP8r6Cs1xnJpDA>

Contact details: +91 7358 399425, +91 9940 236425 or email at brahmanasabha.org@gmail.com

www.brahmanasabha.org



This issue covers the Holy Camp from 31st Dec 2021 by HIS HOLINESS PUJYASRI SANKARA VIJAYENDRA SARASWATI SANKARAACHARYA SWAMIGAL:

Period	Camp Location
31-Dec-2021 till 13-Feb-2022	Shri Kanchi Shankara Matam Maha Paduka Mandapam, Alipiri, Tirupati
14-Feb-2022 till date	Manimandapam, Orikai, Kanchipuram

Devotees are encouraged to share spiritual/religious events in their respective cities which can be included in the subsequent edition. You are invited to get in touch with any one of the devotees comprising the editorial team of this issue of the Newsletter.

To make the future NRI Newsletters more informative and useful, we welcome your feedback.

Kanikkai samarpanam can be performed through e-seva portal www.kanchimuttseva.org



MAHABHARATA - YAKSHA PRASHNA SERIES (Part III)

The episode known as *Yaksha Prashna* in Mahabharata relates to the exchange of questions and answers between Yama in the guise of a Yaksha who poses 126 questions to Yudhishtira who gives the most fitting answers to those questions.

We encourage the younger generation (10 or above till 25 or so) to write about your favourite Yaksha's questions with Yudhishtira's answers from the great epic of Mahabharata in simple English (with a rationale on why it is their favourite question) which can be published in this section. You can submit your entries to nrikanchinews@gmail.com



Yaksha's questions	Yudhishtira's response
Who is the guest for all beings?	Agni is the guest for all beings.
What is the ancient (or eternal) dharma?	Adherence to truthfulness is the ancient (eternal) dharma.
Which is nectar, O King?	Cowmilk and somarasa are nectar
What pervades all the world?	The whole of this world is pervaded by air.
Who moves about alone?	The sun moves on its path alone.
Who is reborn again and again?	The moon is born again after waning out.
What is the remedy for biting cold?	Fire is the remedy for biting cold.
Which is the greatest of fields (where crops grow)?	The earth is the hugest field.
What is the basis of dharma?	Generosity is the basis of dharma.
What is the basis of fame?	Charity (dāna, gifting) is the cause of fame.
What leads a person to heaven?	Truthfulness leads to heaven.
What is the ground of happiness?	Good conduct (Virtue) is the foundation of happiness
What is the soul of man?	Son is the soul (atma) of man.
Who is man's God-gifted friend?	Wife is the god-gifted friend.
What is his means of livelihood?	Clouds(Rain) are the means of livelihood.
What is his ultimate refuge?	Charity (dana, gifting) is his ultimate refuge.

**28th Aradhana Mahotsavam of HH Pujiyashri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Mahaswamigal
(30-Dec-2021)**

The 28th Aradhana Mahotsavam of HH Pujiyashri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Mahaswamigal - the 68th Shankaracharya of Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam was performed at His Holy Brindavanam in Shrimatam – on 30th Dec 2021.

The Aradhana celebrations commenced on 28th Dec with Veda Parayanam, Veda Vidwat Sadas, religious discourses, bhajans and sangitanjali by leading artists were performed.

Ekadasa Rudra Japa and special homams for loka kshema were conducted on the Aradhana Day. Vasordhara, Poornahuti and Mahabishekam at the Brindavanam was performed. Pancharatna Kritis were rendered by Carnatic music vidwans. Teertha narayana puja was performed in the presence of Acharya Swamigal. Prasadam from various temples including Sri Kamakshi Ambal Devasthanam-Kanchipuram, Sri Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam- Tirumala, Sri Akhilandeswari temple- Tiruvanaikovil, Sri Nataraja Swami Temple-Chidambaram were offered at the Adhistanam by Acharya Swamigal. Acharya Swamigal blessed devotees with Akshata Prasadam after the Aradhana and started for Tirupati where Shrimatam camp is at present.

In the evening, Swarna Rathotsavam was performed led by the chenda melam. Sangeeta samarpanam was performed by Sri U. Rajesh on Mandolin with accompanying artists.



Suryanamaskaram at Mahapaduka Mandapam, Kanchi Math, Alipiri, Tirupati (02-Jan-2022)

Surya Namaskaram was performed in the Pooja Hall led by Brahmashri Kannan Ghanapatigal in the divine presence of Acharya Swamigal. Devotees and students from Kanchi Math Pathashala participated.



Akhanda Bhagavat Gita Parayanam held at Tirumala (13-Jan-2022)

Bhagavat Gita is ideology, philosophy and intelligence of Bharatiya Sanatana Dharma said the Seer of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Acharya Swamigal rendering Anugraha Bhashanam on the auspicious occasion of Akhanda Bhagavat Gita Parayanam held on Vaikunta Ekadasi day at Nada Neerajana Mandapam on Thursday evening at Tirumala.

Acharya Swamigal said the Gita enlightens the inner souls of everyone towards the path of salvation by leading a righteous way of life.

శుక్రవారం జనవరి 14, 2022

భగవద్గీత భారతీయ జ్ఞాన సారం

తిరుమల: భగవద్గీతలో భారతీయ సనాతన ధర్మానికి సంబంధించిన తత్వశాస్త్రం, జ్ఞానం, భావజాలం దాగుండున్న శ్రీ కంచీరామకోటి పీఠాధిపతి శ్రీ విజయేంద్ర సరస్వతి స్వామీజీ అన్నారు. గురువారం రాత్రి స్థానిక నాదనీరాజనం వేదికపై అఖండ భగవద్గీత పారాయణం సందర్భంగా అనుగ్రహభాషణం చేశారు. స్వామీజీ మాట్లాడుతూ.. ప్రతి వ్యక్తి ధర్మబుద్ధమైన జీవితం సాగిస్తూ మోక్షమార్గంపై తీసుకెళ్లేలా భగవద్గీత మానవజీవిత సాఫల్యానికి దారిచూపుతుందని తెలిపారు. తితిదే చేపట్టిన పారాయణాలతో పిల్లల నుంచి పెద్దల వరకు ఆధ్యాత్మిక చింతన వైపు తమ దృష్టిని సారీస్తున్నారని అభినందించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా తితిదే అదనపు ఈవ్ ఏవ్ ధర్మారెడ్డి దంపతులు, పండితులు విశ్వనాథశర్మ, కాళీపతి, నరసింహం, శేషారెడ్డిలను పునంగా స్వామీజీ సన్మానించారు.

భగవద్గీత.. సనాతన ధర్మ భావజాలం

కంచి కామకోటి పీఠాధిపతి విజయేంద్ర సరస్వతి

తిరుమల : భగవద్గీత అనేది భారతీయ సనాతన ధర్మానికి చెందిన భావజాలం, తత్వశాస్త్రం అని కంచి కామకోటి పీఠాధిపతి విజయేంద్ర సరస్వతి తెలిపారు. వైకుంఠ ఏకాదశి రోజైన గురువారం సాయంత్రం తిరుమలలోని నాదనీరాజనం వేదిక మండపంలో జరిగిన భగవద్గీత పారాయణంలో ఆయన పాల్గొని మాట్లాడారు. ధర్మబుద్ధమైన జీవన విధానాన్ని అనుసరించడం ద్వారా ప్రతిఒక్కరి అంతరంగాన్ని మోక్ష మార్గం వైపు గీత జ్ఞానోదయం చేస్తుందన్నారు. నాలుగు గంటల పాటు జరిగిన ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో టీటీడీ అడిషనల్ ఈఓ ధర్మారెడ్డి తదితర అధికారులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

Makara Sankranti -Puja performed (14-Jan-2022)

On the auspicious occasion of Makara Sankranti, Pujas were performed to Sri Suryanarayana Swamy at Shrimatam camp in Tirupati by Acharya Swamigal.



Makara Sankranti Anugraha Bhashanam by Acharya Swamigal's



Anugraha Bhashanam in Telugu <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l40KXaidbIs>

Mattu pongal was celebrated at Shrimatam camp at Tirupati in presence of Acharya Swamigal (15-Jan-2022)



Samucchaya Navagraha Shanti performed at Tirupati Shankara Matam (18-Jan-2022)



Samucchaya Navagraha Shanti performed at Sri Kanchi Matham Maha Paduka Mantapam, Alipiri, Tirupati for Lokakshema in the benign presence of Acharya Swamigal.



Sthala Puranas - discourse series commenced on (23-Jan-2022)

"Sthala Puranas" - series of discourses commenced on 23rd Jan 2022. The programme commenced at 6 pm with Anugraha Bhashanam of Acharya Swamigal.

காஞ்சி காமகோடி பீடாதிபதி ஜகத்குரு பூஜ்யஸ்ரீ சங்கர விஜயேந்திர சரஸ்வதி ஸ்வாமிகள் ஆகையினின்படியும்,

பக்தர்களிடையேயும், ஆன்மிக

இளைஞர்களிடையேயும், பாரம்பரிய கலாசார தகவல் களஞ்சியமாக வலம் வருகின்ற www.thanjavurparampara.com இணைய தளத்தின் ஆதரவோடும், www.Kamakoti.tv எனும் இணையத்தின் பங்களிப்புடனும், "ஸ்தல புராணங்கள்"

எனும் தலைப்பில் மாபெரும் தொடர் சொற்பொழிவு வாரம் தோறும் ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமைகளில் மாலை 6.00 முதல் 7.00 மணி வரை, பன்மொழி அறிஞர் உபன்யாஸ

திலகம், பிரபல மும்பை ப்ரும்மஸ்ரீ . P. R. கண்ணன்

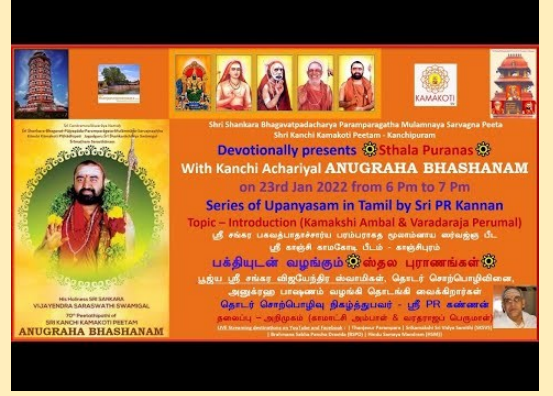
அவர்கள் நிகழ்த்துகிறார்கள். "ஸ்தலம், தீர்த்தம், மூர்த்தி" என்று அனைத்து சிறப்புகளையும் கொண்ட சிவன், விஷ்ணு அம்பாள் ஆலயங்கள் என இப் புனித பூமியில், நாம் அறிந்தும் அறியாமலும் நிறைய உள்ளன. பெருமைமிக்க இத் தலங்கள் பற்றிய விவரங்களை நாம் அறிந்து கொள்ள அரிய வாய்ப்பு இணைய தளம் வாயிலாக, கற்றறிந்த நல்லதோர் அறிஞரின் முகத்தான் நம் இல்லம் தேடி வருகிறது. இதனை வணங்கி வரவேற்று பற்பல தலங்களின் வரலாற்றை அறிந்து கொள்ள வேண்டுகிறோம். சொற்பொழிவு தொடங்கும், நேரம், காலம் மற்றும் இணைப்பு விவரங்கள் தனியே தரப்பட்டுள்ளன.

Part II - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pleW2YKxBFA>

Part III - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA-6qQb5vuY>

Part IV - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ds-Gci878rI>

Part V - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow8eiLJtZ6U>



Acharya blessed the Assamese to build a Sri Balaji Temple in Gauhati.

The Kumbabhishekam of Purva Tirupati Balaji Mandir, Guwahati, Assam took place on 2nd May 2010 in the benign presence of His Holiness Pujyasri Jayendra Saraswathi Sankaracharya Swamigal. His Holiness Pujyasri Jayendra Saraswathi Sankaracharya Swamiji arrived on the 30th April 2010 and witnessed the Yagasala Homas and Pujas. On the Kumbabhishekam day, immediately after the Kumbabhishekam, Abhishekam was performed to in the Sannadhis of Sri Mahaganapathy, Sri Venkateswara Swamy, Sri Pamdmavathi Thayar and Sri Durga. Refer to the link for a more detailed article [Guwahati Kumbabhishekam](http://www.guwahatibalajimandir.com/Guwahati-Kumbabhishekam)

Temple website:

<http://www.purvaturupatibalajimandir.com/>

One of the office bearers had his son's Upanayanam recently at Sti Matam.



Shree Sukta homam Poornahuti performed at Tiruchanoor (27-Jan-2022)

Acharya Swamigal had Darshan at Tiruchanoor Sri Padmavathy Ammavaru Temple on 27th Jan 2022 after gracing Shree Sukta Homam Purnahuti for Loka Kshema.



Performance of Ishtis at Shrimatam camp at Tirupati (03-Feb-2022)

Ishti Name	Date performed
Pavithreshti	03-Feb-2022
Mahapavithreshti	04-Feb-2022
Mitravindheshti	05-Feb-2022
Indraavaruneshti	06-Feb-2022
Sarvaprushteshti	07-Feb-2022
Mrugaareshti	08-Feb-2022

Ishtis* are being performed at Sri Kanchi Matham, Mahapaduka Mandapam, Alipiri, Tirupati for Loka Kshema with blessings of Acharya Swamigal

*A person who is knowledgeable in performing this ritual as per Vedic injunctions is called a Srautin. Shrauta Karmas are largely the Agni Hotra Worship, The Ishtis and the Soma Yagnas. Agni Hotra in general is worshipping Three Fires namely in the form of Brahma, Vishnu and Siva in specific shaped Agni Kundas (fire places), twice daily with the Brahma fire being kept burning for the life time of the worshipper. Such a person is called as an Agni Hothree. The next higher level of Srauta Karma are the Ishtis. These are miniature Yagnas that are performed of the Prathma day (i.e., the day after amavasya and the day after Pornami) by the Agnihothree. These are called as Darsa and Purnamasa Ishtis and are called as Havir Yagnas. A person performing these are called as Havir Yajee.



9-day Brahmotsavam at Balajipuram commenced on Vasanta Panchami (05-Feb-2022)

The Brahmotsavam at Sri Rukmani Balaji Mandir at Balajipuram, Betul, Madhya Pradesh happened from 5 to 13 February 2022 with benign blessings of Acharya Swamigal. Various yagnyas, pujas and veda parayanam were performed including Ganapati homam, Chandi homam, dhanvantri homam, Purusha sukta homam, srisukta homam, kalyanoysavam. Rath yatra and shoba yatra were performed. The Brahmotsavam will conclude with Mahapoornahuti followed by mahabhandara(annadaanam).



His Holiness blesses Matsyakara Samiti meet at Tirupati (06-Feb-2022)

Acharya Swamigal blessed a meeting organised by Matsyakara Samithi in the holy city of Tirupati. Acharya Swamigal said that in HIS anugraha bhashanam, Sanatana Dharma, Hinduism is a way of life and five elements (pancha bhoota) are worshipped in temples and also nurtured and nourished because all the elements are part of nature and which is an inseparable manifestation of the divine. Hence protecting nature and serving society are part of this great civilisation.

Acharya Swamigal recalled the great role of Sage Vyasa and appealed to the community to remember and get inspired by the great Sage who propounded Dharma in the deepest manner possible. Acharya Swamigal also advised them to follow the path of Dharma to build the society on the basis of Dharma as enshrined in Vedas to uphold Truth, respect elders, serve society, protect Mother land and do Seva for the wellbeing of the whole world.





Sri Kamakshi Ambal Devasthanam, Kanchipuram - Annual Brahmotsavam for the Plava year took place from 7th to 19th

February 2022. Commenced with Dwajaroohanam and Mooshika Vahanam, followed by other utsavams (detailed programme attached). On 19th February, Viswaroopa Darshanam in the morning was followed by Vidayatri utsavam commencement in the evening. Procession of Sri Adi Shankaracharya held daily evening from 10 to 14 Feb. 2022.

As part of Brahmotsavam, Nitya Veda Parayanam was performed at the temple.



Ratha Saptami Darshanam at Sri Venkateshwara Swamy temple, Tirumala (07-Feb-2022)

Acharya Swamigal participated in the Ratha Saptami Utsavam at Tirumala. The Utsavam was held in Ekantham at Kalyanotsava Mandapam. Darshan of Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Utsava Murthy in Sarva Bhoopala Vahanam & Chandra Prabha during Acharya Swamigal's visit.



Ekadasi Parayanam (12-Feb-2022)

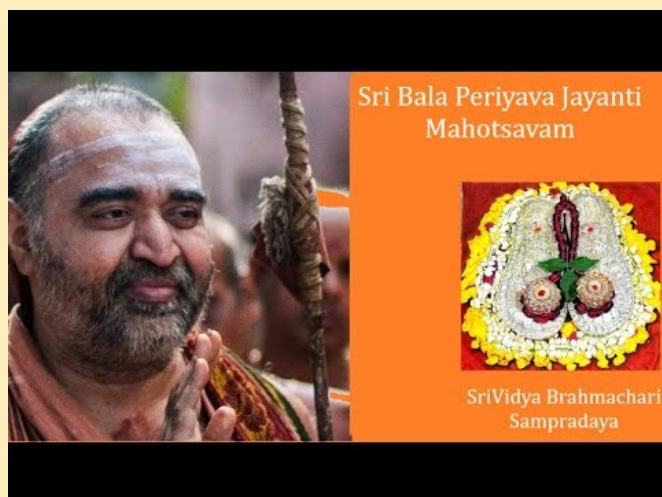
Vedic Scholars of Krishna Yajur Veda & Sama Veda performed Veda Parayanam on the auspicious Bhishma Ekadasi day at Sri Kanchi Math Mahapaduka Mandapam, Alipiri, Tirupati. Earlier in the day Acharya Swamigal graced Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam at Nada Neerajana Mandapam, Tirumala. Acharya Swamigal in his Anugraha Bhashanam spoke about importance and need for Pragya (Good wisdom) & Pratignya (Oath for doing good) in society.



Jayanti Utsavam of Acharya Swamigal

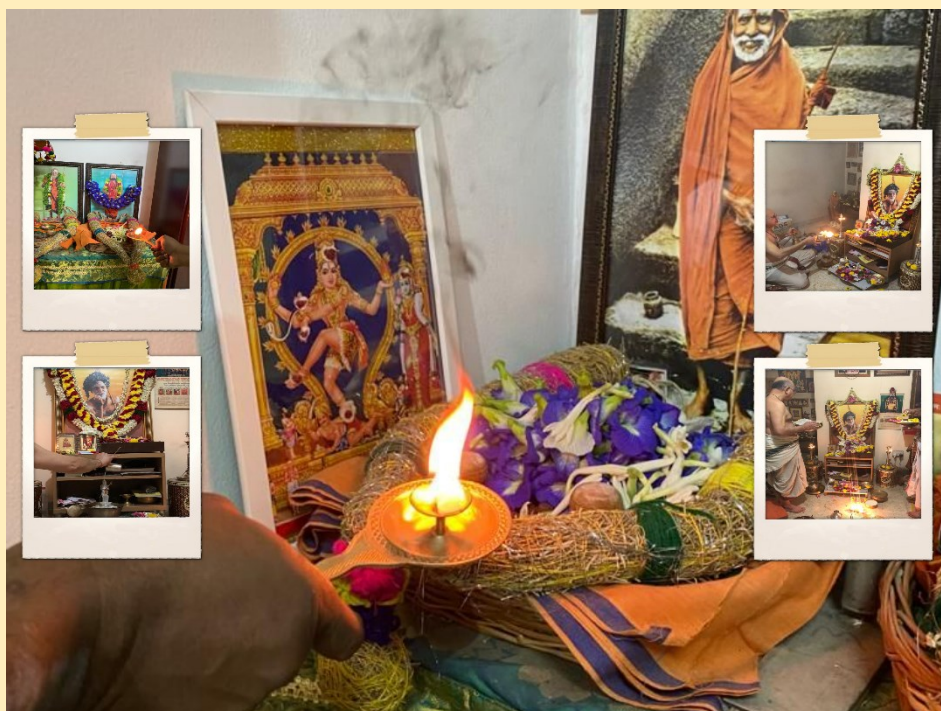
A wide variety of programs are planned and being observed with Veda parayanam and Rig Samhita, Mruthyunjaya, Ayushya, Avahanthi & Dhanvanthri Homam from 18th to 27th February 2022 at various places in India and overseas. Details of the celebrations and photos/videos will be shared in the next edition.

Guru Samarpanam



From around the world, as shared by devotees

Abu Dhabi: Maha Periyava Aradhanai, January Anusham, Avittam & Uthiradam celebrations



Dubai: Maha Periyava Aradhanai and January Anusham celebrations



Canada: Maha Periyava Aradhanai celebrations



Germany: South Indian Association, Germany and EU was started with Acharya Swamigal's blessings. Link to the blog. <https://kanchiperiyavageusia.blogspot.com>

The following activities are being conducted:

1. Sloka class for children
2. Sloka class for Mahilas
3. Free Jathaka Parivarthana for South Indian Brahmins

We can be reached on WhatsApp: +91 73382 33661

Houston: Maha Periyava Aradhanai celebrations



Boston (KKSF): MEDHA - an initiative of Sankara Healthcare Foundation, turns 2



“Medha”, meaning intellect, is an initiative to provide children in the autism spectrum and with other special-needs, a platform for social interaction, cultural instruction, and motor skills development and a community support forum for their families.

This project was initiated in November 2019, in Boston, MA with the blessings of His Holiness of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham Jagadguru Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal to provide support to differently

abled children of Hindu descent.

We are excited to announce that Medha was launched on the West coast this past Vijayadasami. The class, which started with 4 children in Boston 2019, now has 19 children across the 2 coasts.

The classes provide group instruction that encourage interaction with peers, as well as individual instruction that is catered towards specific needs of the child.

The volunteers (adults and youth) meet the children in group settings where they focus on basic yoga, samskritam greetings, nitya parayana slokas and bhajans, reading of short passages of our Hindu deities, as well as simple crafts to help with their motor skills.

In keeping with Acharya’s advice to include some life skills, we have started Math classes for the children, with the help of 2 trained volunteers. Medha students get to perform regularly at Guru Pujas and satsangs which serves as both a cultural and social platform for them.

With Acharya’s blessings, we would like to expand to more regions across the United States and also provide our students opportunities to participate in programs organized across the globe.

To learn more about Medha or Sankara Healthcare Foundation’s other efforts, please visit our website www.giftofhealth.us

Portland, Oregon (KKSF): With HH Periyava's blessings, HH MahaPeriyava's 28th Aradhana was held in Portland, Oregon at a devotee's residence on Dec 30, 2021. Hosts received Periyava's Holy padukas with Sanyasa Suktham, followed by Guru Shlokas, Swasti Vacanam and Abhishekam to Holy Padhukas. Devotees recited Lagunnyasam, Sri Rudram, Chamakam, Sukthams during Abhishekam. Ashtothra Archana to Lord Shiva, Kamakshi Ambaal, Jagadguru Adi Shankara, HH MahaPeriyava, HH Jayendra Periyava were performed. Kids and adults sang for HH MahaPeriyava. Lots of families participated in person for the Aradhana event. The program concluded with Thotakaashtakam and distribution of Sri Kanchi matam prasadam. Program was held with HH Periyava's krupai.

Thai Maasa Anusham:

With HH Periyava's blessings, Thai Maasam Anusham was held in Portland, Oregon at a devotee's residence recently. Devotees recited Guru Shlokas, Swasti Vacanam, followed by Ashtothra Archana to HH MahaPeriyava, HH Jayendra Periyava. Kids sang and submitted their humble Sangeetha Samarpanam. We also recited shlokas composed by Acharyas, Shiva Puraanam, read Deivathin Kural on "இளைஞர் கடமை". The program concluded with Thotakaashtakam and distribution of Sri Kanchi matam prasadam. Program was held with HH Periyava's krupai.



New Jersey (KKSF): With the blessings of HH Sri Bala Perivaa and the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam

Guruparampara, KKSF NJ celebrated the 28th Aradhana of H. H. Sri Maha Perivaa on January 8th, 2022 at Sri Radha Gopinath Temple. Around 50 people attended the Puja in person. Paduka Puja to the Holy Padukas of HH Sri Maha Perivaa & HH Sri Perivaa were performed, along with chanting of Rudram and Chamakam. This was followed by Ashtottara Archana to Lord Shiva, Sri Kamakshi Amman, Sri Adi Sankara, HH Sri Maha Perivaa and HH Sri Perivaa. There was reading of "Voice of GOD" by children and young adults, and finally Mangala Harathi along with offering of Prasadam from Sri Matam.



Tampa (KKSF): With the Blessings and Anugrahams of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Guruparampara, KKSF Tampa celebrated MahaPeriyava Aradhanai and Monthly Anusham Mahotsavam on December 30, 2021 at Smt. Viji and Shri Ram Swaminathan's Residence. Pooja Started at 9 AM with Ritweeks and families. Guru Pooja started with Swasti, Ganapathy Dhyanam, Kalasa Stapanam, Mahanyasa Parayanam, Rudrabhishekam for Shivan and Periyava, Pancha Suktam Chanting, Upanishad Parayanam, Ashtothram for Shivan, Adi Shankara, Periyava. Kids offered their pranams with Bhajans and Sangeetha Seva. The program concluded with Thotakashtakam followed by Naivedhyam and Maha Aarthi. Some pictures from Guru Pooja.



Washington DC, MD, VA (KKSF): The 28th Aradhana Mahotsavam of HH MahaPeriyava Sri Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Sankaracharya Swamigal was celebrated in a grand fashion on December 30, 2021 at the home of Smt. Lakshmi and Sri Venkat Gopalan. The program included Guru Vandanam, Swasti Vachanam, Sri Maha Ganapati Puja, Punyavachanam, Sri Rudrabhishekam to Lord Siva and the Holy Padukas of Sri Sri Maha Periyavaa, Veda Parayanam, Ashtottara archana to Lord Shiva, Goddess Kamakshi. A very special highlight was the Maha Periyavaa Trisathi Archana, followed by Thotakashtagam, Mangala Arati, and offering of Holy Prasadam. After the traditional samaradhana to the priests, devotees received Akshadai Aseerwatham.



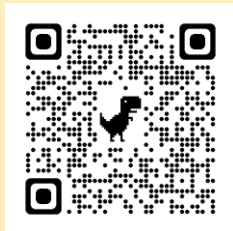


The monthly Padhuka Pooja was conducted at the home of Smt. Latha and Sri Ramakrishnan. Starting with Guru Vandanam, Swasti Vachanam, Sri Maha Ganapati Puja, the pooja included Punyavachanam, Sri Rudrabhishekam to Lord Siva and the Holy Padukas of Sri Sri Maha Perivavaa, Veda Parayanam, Ashtottara archana to Lord Shiva, Goddess Kamakshi and the holy Padhukas. Please see above for a short video of the Rudrabhishekam. The program concluded with Upachara poojas and with several children reciting shlokas and rendering songs.



North Carolina (KKSF): Vedam-nadam group, a group of around sixty dedicated devotees from India and USA under the guidance and leadership of Smt. Anuradha chivukula did Dhanur maasam parayanam reciting Narayana Hridayam & Kanakadhaara Stotram early morning for 30 days from Dec 16th to Jan 13th. It was a divine experience. Devotees also chanted various slokas as part of Syamala navaratri parayanam every day for 10 days from Feb 2-11th Sankata Nasana Ganesha Stotram* Pragya Vivardhana Karthikeya Stotram* Adhitya Hrudayam* Shyamala Dhandakam* Chandrashekara Ashtakam* Besides the parayanam, Smt. Anuradha garu also explained the importance & meaning of Syamala dandakam and how auspicious it is to chant the stotram during those days. At the end of the parayanam all the devotees had the opportunity to virtually have darsanam of Syamala Devin aarathi which really felt like a blessing to all the students for their devoted chanting. Hara Hara Sankara Siva Siva Sankara

Sri Kamakshi Sri Vidya Samiti, KKSF, USA: With the divine blessings and as ordained by HH Pujiyashri Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati Sankaracharya Swamigal SKSVS KKSF, USA, presented the second, third and fourth Parayanams of the Mukapanchashati rendition series, “KAARANA PARACHIDRUPAAYAI NAMAHA”. Sri Muka Kavi authored the Mukapanchshati after Sri Kamakshi’s blessings and subsequently became the 20th Sankaracharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. . All the previous Parayanams can be viewed on the Sri Kamskashi Srividya Samiti, KKSF USA, YouTube channel using this QR code.

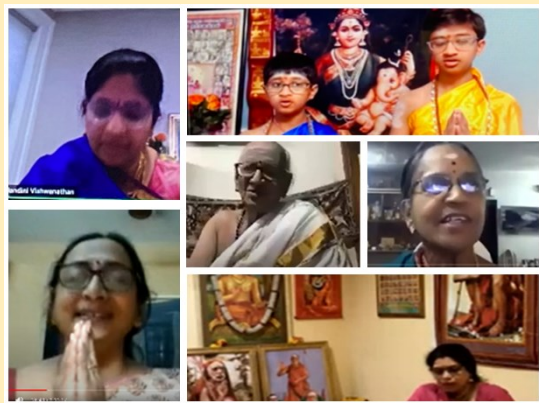


Padaravinda Shatakam Parayanam

The Padaravinda Shatakam Parayanam **was** held on Sunday December 25, 2021 which was the Margazhi Pooram day. The program started with Swasti Vachanam and Guru Vandanam, by two young children – Aditya Iyer and Dhruv Iyer from Massachusetts. A short introduction to the Samithi was given by Smt. Lakshmi Gopalan Mami followed by remarks from Smt. Kalpana Mani and Smt. Usha Ranganathan of Sri Kamakshi Srividya Samithi, Chennai, who explained the reasons behind why the Samithi was formed under the guidance of Pujiyashri Periyava and the activities it undertakes.

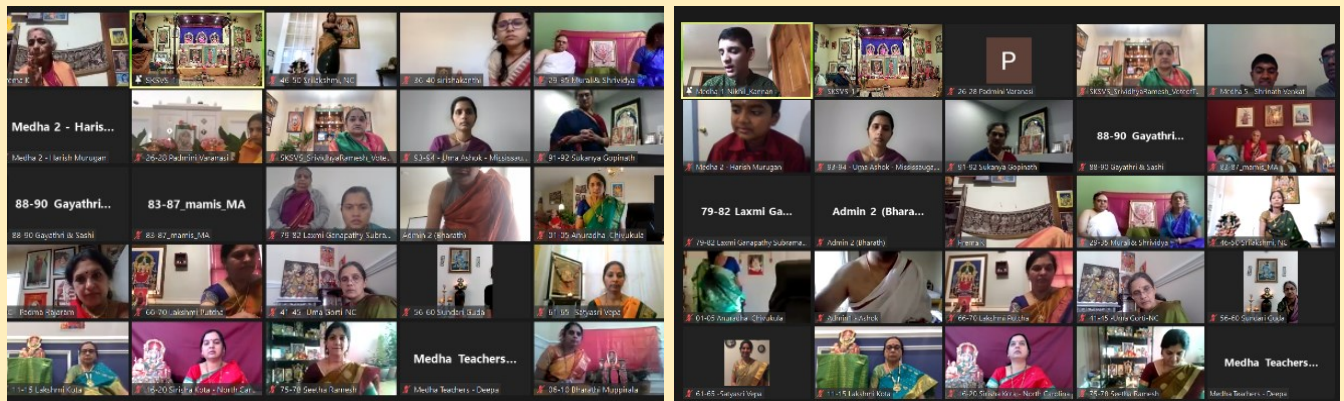
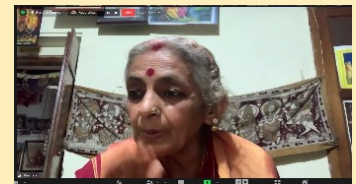
Vedamurthi Brahmasri Mullaivasal Krishnamurthy Sastigal spoke on the significance of mUkapanchashati. The actual Parayanam followed Mama’s thought-provoking words., with the lead teacher for this shatakam being Smt. Lakshmi Ganapathy of Massachusetts.

The chanters from all around USA had spent multiple hours practicing the slokams for over a month. The result was a blissful and soulful rendering of the Padharavindha shatakam with utmost devotion which was a treat to hear. The transition between chanters over zoom happened smoothly without giving us a feeling of being miles apart.



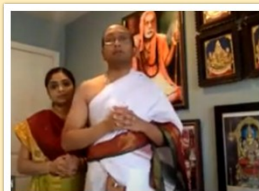
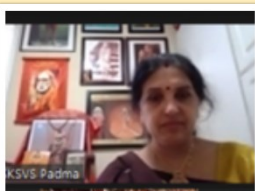
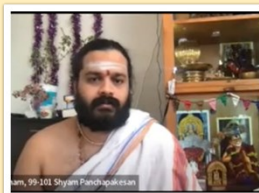
Yuvatis Sharadha Shivashankar, Srividya Shivashankar, Jhanavi Senapathy from Atlanta and Tanushri and Kirthipriya Narendran from Seattle, Washington rendered soulful kritis on Ambal. Smt. Padma Rajaram concluded the program with a vote of thanks.

Sthuthi Shatakam Parayanam The Sthuthi Shatakam parayanam was held on Sunday, January 23, 2022 (close to Thai Pooram). The Svasti Vacanam was rendered by Dinesh Suresh of Arizona. The program was emceed by Smt. Padma Rajaram of Atlanta. Differently abled children (special needs), Chi Nikhil Kannan, Chi Harish Murugan, Kum. Roshni Havaldar, Chi Shrinath Venkat recited shlokas. These children are taught with love and dedication the Medha teachers in Massachusetts. It was very inspirational to see the children recite excellently inspite of their challenges. This was a very appropriate tribute to Sri Muka Kavi. Vaideega Marga Darshini Smt. Prema Krishnamurthy continued her pravacanam on Sthree dharma speaking in Sanskrit, Tamil, English as well as Telugu. The Parayanam was headlined by Smt. Anuradha Chivukula of North Carolina, with participants from CA, CT, IL, MA, MI, MO, NC, NJ, Canada and India. Kumari Harini from Chicago, IL presented an Ambal krithi and Smt. Srividya Ramesh offered a vote of thanks.



Kataksha Shatakam Parayanam

On Sunday February 20th, the Kataksha Shatakam parayanam was held in the august presence of Vaideega Marga Darshini Smt. Prema Krishnamurthy. The program began with Swasti Vacanam by Hariharan



Krishnaswami of Monrovia, MD followed by a welcome address by Smt. Lakshmi Gopalan. The Master of Ceremonies for the program was NextGen yuvathi and 10th grade student, Kumari Amrithavarshini Subburaman of Edison, NJ who spoke in eloquent Tamil despite growing up in America. Smt. Prema Mami stressed the importance of continuing our traditions and educated the audience on how women can follow our dharma even in foreign lands. The Parayanam was headlined by Sri Shyam Panchapakesan who was the featured teacher. Participants from ten states (CA, CT, FL, MA, MO, NJ, PA, TX, WA, VA) & Canada chanted the shatakam with absolute devotion.

Ashwath Karunakaram, a young singer from Virginia, Suvasini Subburaman, a yuvathi from Arizona and Sowmya rinivasan from Arizona all presented songs on Ambal. A vote of thanks was proposed by Smt. Deepa Rajesh of Boston. The final shatakam in the series, Mandasmitha Shatakam is slated for March 2022 (Panguni masam) around the Pooram nakshatram. Please watch your email for the exact date.

KKSF, USA – Next Gen With the guidance and blessings of Acharya Swamigal the KKSF NextGEN was launched on the auspicious day of Vijayadasami, the 15th of October 2021. The Vision, Mission and Goals for KKSF NextGEN have been seeded by Acharya Swamigal. KKSF NextGEN is envisioned to be a Hindu Youth confluence by connecting globally dispersed Hindu youth to their roots for cultural continuity.

Our goal is to,

- Focus on the pillars of Culture, Wellness and Education
- Enable global cultural connections, fraternity and continuity
- Create and share curated content and programming

The team has been working together to launch various clubs to build engagement. We will be leveraging Kamakoti TV to cement and expand our network. Over the past few months, our team of volunteers have grown from 4 to 40. Together, we have launched the Bhagavatham Bhakthi Rasaa series for children, Yoga club for children and adults, and the Mahishasura Mardhini Stotram chanting club for children and adults. The work to launch many more clubs is currently in flight. We welcome more members to join our team. We are looking for volunteers to support with marketing, design, program coordination and to offer technical support.

KKSF NextGEN has designed several Dharmic clubs such as

- Yoga Club (Instructor: Amit Upadhye)
 - Ashtanga Yoga
 - Hatha Yoga
- Chanting Club
 - Dakshinamurti Stotram (Instructor: Pandit Samavedula)
 - Sri Mahishasura Mardini stotram (by Instructor: Pandit Bharadhwaj)
- Story Club
- Meditation Club
- Srimad Bhagavata Story Club (Instructor: Arthi Jaiganesh)
 - Dhyaana shlokas chanting
 - Kathaa-shravanam or Story time
 - Kaarya-kaala or Activity time
 - Shanti Mantra

Please **sign up**, today! For questions, to know more about the NextGEN team and activities, reach out to,

- Shailee Mehta <shailee.mehta@kksfusa.org>
- Balasubramanian Sivan <balusivan@kksfusa.org>
- Aishwarya Easwaran <aishwarya@kksfusa.org>



Perth, Australia –

On the auspicious day of Shashti, Shri Subramanya Bhujangam recitation by Vidhula



Virginia, USA - Vaishnavi Rajkumar, 10 years of age, born at Chennai, India. Her forefathers hailed from Attur at Salem District, Tamilnadu, India. She presently lives in Herndon at Virginia, United States of America with her parents, little brother, and grandma. She is studying 5th Grade with Oak Hill Elementary School at Herndon. Vaishnavi is fond of Painting, Indian Carnatic Music, Playing Violin, Chanting Slokas and learning them passionately



Sanatana Dharma is a set of duties followed by all Hindus in the World.

Sanatana Dharma contains Virtues, such as:

- Honesty
- Purity
- Goodwill
- Forgiveness
- Patience
- Avoiding injuring living beings
- Tolerance
- Generosity
- Self Resistant
- Attaining a Spiritual Ideal or Goal

How can we tune with Sanatana Dharma?

To start with this part of question, every person should understand the limits of actions, what it can affect around us, to yet the next generation. When the next generation comes and conquers, they should be aware of Sanatana Dharma.

Do not worry, no need to strive hard, follow the guidelines that our Forefathers left us with, to be in tune with Sanatana Dharma such as:

1. Obey our Parents.
2. Respect Teachers and Elders.
3. Pray to God every day.
4. Kind to all living beings.
5. Be Truthful.

Virginia, USA - Krishnan Shankar, a tenth grader living in Fairfax, Virginia, USA. I am very fortunate to learn Vedas and principles of Sanatana Dharma from my Guru, Brahmasri Venkatrama Sastrigal. I enjoy reciting Vedas and learning new shlokas and mantras for a better life. I strongly believe in the lessons and guidance of Sanatana Dharma, and how it can make life better, more enjoyable, and help fulfill the goal of life to attain Moksha.



Sanatana Dharma is a set of rules and recommendations to follow for living a better life and reaching Moksha, or liberation. It dates back thousands and thousands of years, and its principles originate from the Vedas, the words of God. Sanatana Dharma talks about the creation of the universe, and how everything originated from God and will eventually go back to him in

the end. It describes the three main gods of Sanatana Dharma, Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva, who are each responsible for creating, maintaining, and destroying the world respectively. Some of the main principles of Sanatana Dharma are karma and rebirth. Sanatana Dharma explains that any actions have a way of coming back to you, whether it be pleasure in response to a good deed, or misery in response to a bad deed. This karma decides many things, like your next life. Depending on your karma from your current life, you will be given a new life as some organism. The eventual goal is to fulfill all your karma during your life, and escape from the cycle of rebirth to attain Moksha.

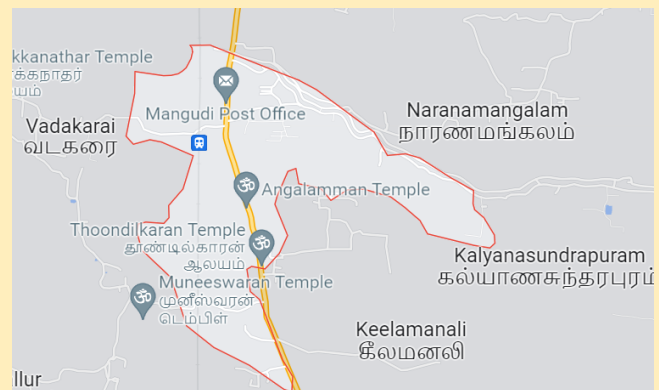


Know Your Village

Mangudi (Thiruvarur)

Om Sree Kali! This is the popular chant of our (paternal) kula deivam, Sri Mangudi Kali Amman. The village of Mangudi is 4 kms from Thiruvarur on the Thirutharaipoondi route. We can never be tired of hearing the happenings, miracles, and powerful blessings of our Kali Amman. My father N.Balachandran, who was born in Thiruvarur, lived in Mangudi throughout his childhood and now resides in Chennai. The temple's history is that the Goddess Kali appeared in the dream of a Brahmin and promised to come as Pancha Bootha Swarupini to the Mangudi village, in a river, on a specific day. Excited, he shared this dream with the villagers, and they gathered around the Pandavai river on the specific day to welcome the goddess with flowers, fruits, incense and camphor. The wait turned from morning to noon and evening leaving the villagers anxious. As the crowd started dispersing in the night, the Brahmin and a few firm believers alone stayed and waited. With darkness engulfing them and slowly getting weary but still hopeful, they peered in the waters with the lamps in their hands. Suddenly there was a divine fragrance that wafted in the air, a gentle breeze, that made the Brahmin stand up and walk towards the water in a trance. "She is here", he cried ecstatically as the others followed with the lamps in their hands. Yes, there was an unburnt earthen pot covered in neem leaves, dancing in the ripples of the gentle waves of the river, approaching them. The brahmin ran towards it, with tears of joy and hugged the pot close to him and wept, "Amma, Maa Kali! You have come as promised!"

He carried the pot on his head, danced in a joyful trance, chanted Her holy names and welcomed Goddess Kali into the village of Mangudi. The crowd followed him rejoicing the arrival of the divine Mother. Thus arrived the



Goddess as Pancha Bootha Swarupini – In an earthen pot (Earth), propelled by the wind (Air), floating on the river (Water), in the form of Neem leaves to reduce the heat (Fire) and without a form (Sky). She is worshipped as this divine Mother in a pot filled with the water from the river and covered in neem leaves, with Paanagam (jaggery water with cardamom) as her favorite prasadam. The temple also has a Ganesha sannidhi – the Ganesha idol was unearthed when my forefathers dug to construct their house. Hence the tradition of our family, and the village, is to offer Kozhukattai to this Pillayar and Maa Vilakku to Kali Amman on a Thai Velli (a Friday in the month of Thai). Lakshaarchana is also conducted during Navarathri. The temple had its Kumbhabhishekam in the year 2014. There is also a Kasi Viswananthar sametha Visalakshi temple to the east of the village.

Om Sree Kali! Om Namah Shivaya!

Pillayar Sannidhi



Sri Kali Amman Sannidhi



Please register here if you belong to Mangudi -- shorturl.at/kERSU





Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara



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