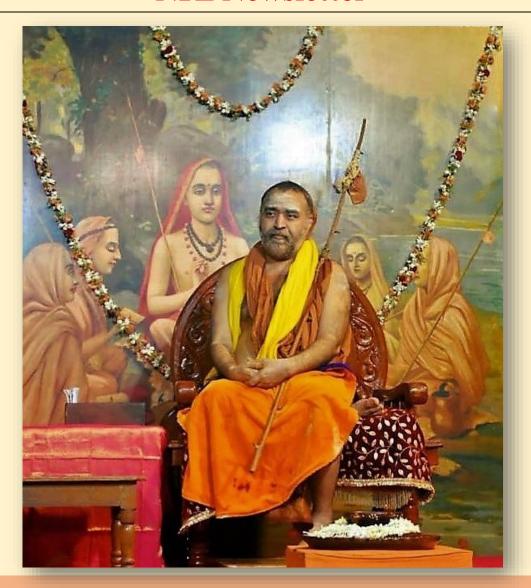








NRI Newsletter



An Initiative of SRI KANCHI KAMAKOTI PEETAM Volume V, Issue II – March 2023 – Kanchipuram (For private circulation only)



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

Kanchi Mahaswamy - Life & Teachings

We should remember Mahaperiyaval not just on the Aradhana day, but in every living moment (like in the saying of Manickavachaga: May Siva live in my mind without leaving even for the time of batting the eyelid). He protected Sastras and history; he created history. The way he protected Sastras is known to all. He enlivened Sastras through discourses, advice, help; he brought Dharma to a safe unassailable condition; he has covered the glory of Tirukkural also in his discourse.

He was a protective wall for Dharma for a hundred years. He removed the doubts and difficulties in practice of Dharma, and explained the essence of Dharma in a manner comprehensible to all. He guided even foreigners who thirsted after Gnana Marga and came to him for direction. The directions were made to suit different family faiths that are in force; but not deviating from the basic aspects of dharma; not becoming 'fundamentalist', but grounded in fundamentals of Dharma. To make Dharma simple even for ordinary folk, he took many steps including propagating Tiruppavai and Tiruvembavai.

He made it a point to send Prasadam of Vibhuti, Kunkum etc. to patients in hospitals. He established Veda Rakshana Nidhi Trust, Kachi Mudur Archakas Kshema Rakshana Nidhi Trust, Veda Patha Nidhi Trust for Pujaris, Gurukkal, Bhattacharyas. In 1983, in his 90th Year, He started the Trust to help aged Vidvans with finance and encouragement; to make them feel that society respects the need for them.

Our Dharma and Sastra encompass the whole world both historically and philosophically – 'Sarve Jana: Sukhino bhavantu' has been our motto. All the service activities initiated by Mahaperiyaval teach this.

Our Dharma is beginningless and glorious; its beginnings are from the time of creation itself. We should know this Dharma well and propagate it. In earlier period, there was the requirement of working for the nation's freedom and growth. Protection of Dharma, which is the life-breath of the nation, should be undertaken alongside the other works. Our Dharma connects many generations. We believe in previous birth and rebirth. Dharma is said to protect ten previous and ten succeeding generations.

Our Sanatana Dharma is aimed at doing good to one and all without exception with equanimity. It provides equal opportunity to all to earn Punya (religious merit). Those who do Parayanam earn Punya; those who listen also earn.

We have to understand Dharma and spirituality properly. We have a lot of glory in our past. Whatever it takes to maintain that glory, we must do by learning from Guru with bhakti; that gives us energy. Similarly we can get energy from mere remembrance of great persons, who have rendered great services in the past – living ideal lives, raising us through teaching and guidance. The only humble way of expressing our gratitude to Mahaperiyaval is to render services to the maximum extent in the cause of Vedas, Sastras, Bhakti marga etc. All should take part in this effort and, apart from fulfilling mundane needs, all should develop bhakti in order to progress on the path of Gnana. It is said: "Iswaranugrahadeva Pumsam Advaita Vasana",

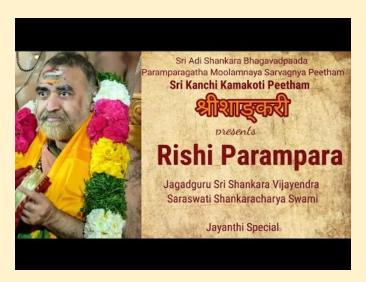
"Taste for Advaita develops only with the blessings of Iswara". For that, Acharya bhakti is essential. All should strive for this and attain bliss and peace.



Jaya Jaya Sankara Hara Sankara



Editorial: A year of Vijaya Yatra across temples & town cities, villages & agraharams along the rivers and shores of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana covering 28 places in 12 months. Here's a virtual tour of Acharya Swamigal's camps over the last year (better viewed on a computer). Geospatial view



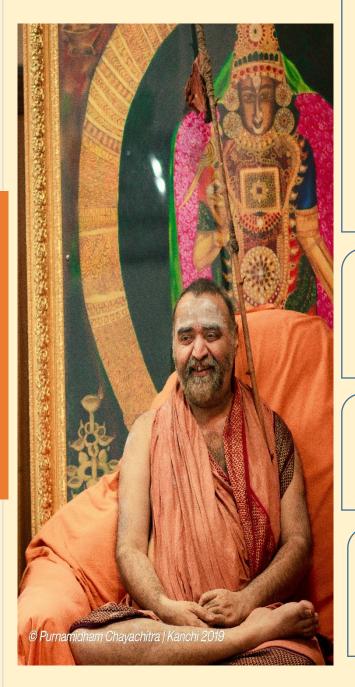
Annual Shankara Jayanthi on Vaishakha Shukla Panchami (25th April 2023) will be specially observed at Shankaracharya Hills, Srinagar, Kashmir, Kanchi Math at Sikkim, Shankara temple, Pashupatinath, Nepal apart from all Shankar Math branches and centers overseas.



Acharya Swamigal ordained discourse to be carried out "Vayam Brahmanaha - Naam andhanargal". This was diligently done by Shri Vijatyaraghava Shastrigal in the Brahmama Sabha Pancha Dravida forum. You can watch the series in the above link. Posting this honoring his memory.

Devotees are encouraged to send their queries on religious/spiritual matters to nrikanchinews@gmail.com and the team will consult with experts in the field at Sri Matam and facilitate response as appropriate in the subsequent editions.





Jagadguru Vacanam

Acharya Swamigal is blessing us with many important messages in HIS Anugraha Bhashanam on various occasions. Sri Shaankari team has compiled many of them as short capsules (arulurai). Excerpts from Anugraha Bashanam of Acharya Swamigal are shared as quotes and audios on regular basis.

Instagram @Jagadguruvacanam
Facebook.com/Jagadguruvacanam
Telegram @JagadguruVacanam
Twitter - @jagadguruvacan

కామకోటి వాణి -Kamakoti Vani - Newsletter in Telugu - Feb 2023 edition is available now at

https://kamakoti.org/telugu/newsletter/kama koti-vani-telugu-newsletter.html

Kamakoti Vani Marathi Newsletter - January 2023 edition

 $\frac{https://www.kamakoti.org/kamakoti/Marathi/N}{ewsletter/}$

Sri Kamakoti Pradeepam - Monthly spiritual magazine in Tamil - December 2022 edition is now available. Access the newsletter and other prior editions at

https://connect.kamakoti.org/kamakotiprade epam

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 prosterity, 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/CnnUZXNfMtudwgZW9

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 15th January 2023 by HIS HOLINESS PUJYASRI SANKARA VIJAYENDRA SARASWATI SANKARAACHARYA SWAMIGAL:

Period	Camp Location
25-Dec-2022 till 22-Feb-2023	Sri Shankara Matam, Dwarka Nagar, Vishakapatnam
23-Feb-2023 till 26-Feb-2023	Srikakulam, Badaga
27-Feb-2023 till 28-Feb-2023	Vizianagaram, Ramanarayanam, Korukunda Road
01-Mar-2023 till 02-Mar-2023	Anakapelle, Sri Kanyaka Paramaeshwari Temple
03-Mar-2023 till 09-Mar-2023	Andhra Geervana Vidyapeetham, Kovvur
10-Mar-2023 till 12-Mar-2023	Hukkumpet

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.

<u>Kanikkai samarpanam can be performed through e-seva portal www.kanchimuttseva.org.</u> or by scanning the QR code.



Prashnottara Ratna Malika

This is the eternal and perennial wisdom of the great savant called Adi Shankara Bhagawat Pada in the form of searching questions and pithy answers. This literally means Garland of Gems of questions and answers

We encourage the younger generation (10 or above till 25 or so) to reach out if you have any questions and the answers to the same can be published in this section. You can submit your entries to nrikanchinews@gmail.com

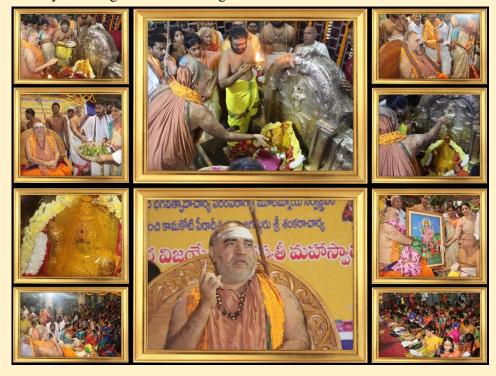


Questions	Answers
What is fit to be heard like nectar by the ears	Teachings of the good
What is the cause of greatness	That which is known as not asking for favours
What is inscrutable	The conduct of women
Who is clever	One who is not won by that
What is unhappiness	Cheerlessness
What is easy	Asking the lowly for help
What is livelihood	That which is blemish less
What is un-intelligence	Not repeating what is learnt
Who is wakeful	One who discriminates
What is sleep	The stupidity of living being
What is transient like water on the lotus leaf	Youth, wealth and life
Who is equal to the rays of the moon	Only good people
What is hell	Being in another's control i.e. control of another person
What is comfort	That disgust towards any kind of attachment
What is to be done	The good of the creatures
And what is dear for all creatures	Life
What results in evil	Conceit
What bestows happiness	Friendship with good people



Kanakadhara Stotram and Mahalakshmi stavam chanted at Sri Kanaka Mahalakshmi temple in Vishakapatnamm (25-Jan-2023)

Kanakadhara stotram and Mahalakshmi stavam were chanted in Sri Kanaka Mahalakshmi temple, Vishakapatnam. Acharya Swamigal offered blessings to the devotees.



Soundaryalahari Yantra Puja at Shrimatam camp Vishakapatnam (27-Jan-2023)

Watch Shri Soundaryalahari Yantra Puja at Shrimatam camp Vishakapatnam performed with benign blessings of Acharya Swamgal.



Rathasaptami - Pujas and Surya namaskaram performed at Vishakapatnam (28-Jan-2023)

On Rathasapthami, Acharya Swamigal performed parvakala mangala snanam which was followed by surya and saura namaskarams at R K Beach in Vishakapatnam. Raju Ganapati garu chanted the slokas and significance of the same was elucidated by MahaMahopadhyaya Sri Vishwanatha Gopal Krishna Shastry.



Visit to Sri Sampath Vinayaka Temple in Vishakapatnam (01-Feb-2023)

Acharya Swamigal visited Sri Sampath Vinayaka Temple, Vishakapatnam and offered blessing to the devotees



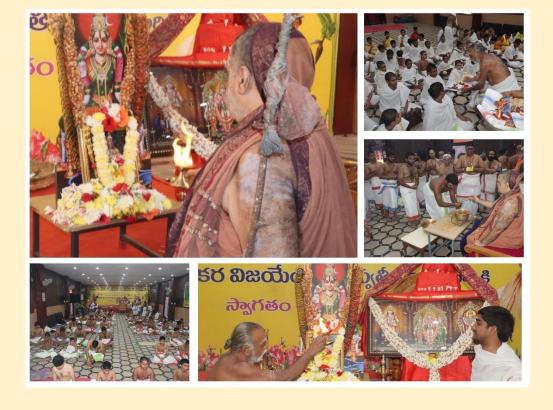
Pournami - Chandi Homam and Lalita Sahasranama Parayanam performed (05-Feb-2023)

Acharya Swamigal performed pournami abhisekam puja and then visited Sri Panduranga Devalayam, Vishakapatnam and performed Lalitha Sahasranamam Parayanam and gave anugraha bashanam to the devottees.



Thai Poosam - Sri Subrahmanya Puja and Subrahmanya Bhujana Parayanam performed (05-Feb-2023)

With blessings of Acharya Swamigal, Sri Subrahmanya puja and Subrahmanya Bhujanga parayanam was performed at Shrimatam camp at Vishakapatnam followed by Kumara Bhojanam



Mahashivaratri - Abhishekam dravyams distributed to Shiva Temples (16-Feb-2023)

With blessings of Acharya Swamigal, the Tirukkovil Vazhipattu Kuzhu (Temple Worship group) distributed abhishekam and puja dravyams to various Shiva temples in remote places / dilapidated conditions where regular pujas are not being offered.

Devotees interested in providing assistance to support lighting lamps, offering naivedhyam or for any kind of temple support, please reach out to nrikanchinews@gmail.com



Jayanthi Mahotsavam of Acharya Swamigal

Jayanthi Mahotsavam of Acharya Swamigal was celebrated at Shrimatam camp at Vishakapatnam, at Kanchipuram and various other places with divine fervor.

At Vishakapatnam, where Acharya Swamigal is camping as part of Vijaya Yatra, the Jayanthi day began with Mangala Vadyam early in the morning, with more than 10 sets of Nadaswaram and Tavil artists rendering melliflous ragas ushering in the dawn. The devotees who were keenly awaiting the first darshan of the day (Vishwaroopa darshan) had the opportunity to witness the Go-Puja in the Sri Chandramouleeswara Swami Sannadhi. Acharya Swamigal accepted garlands of flowers, turmeric, cardamom, flower kreetams, and other offerings made by devotees, before proceeding to perform Sri Chandramouleeswara puja.

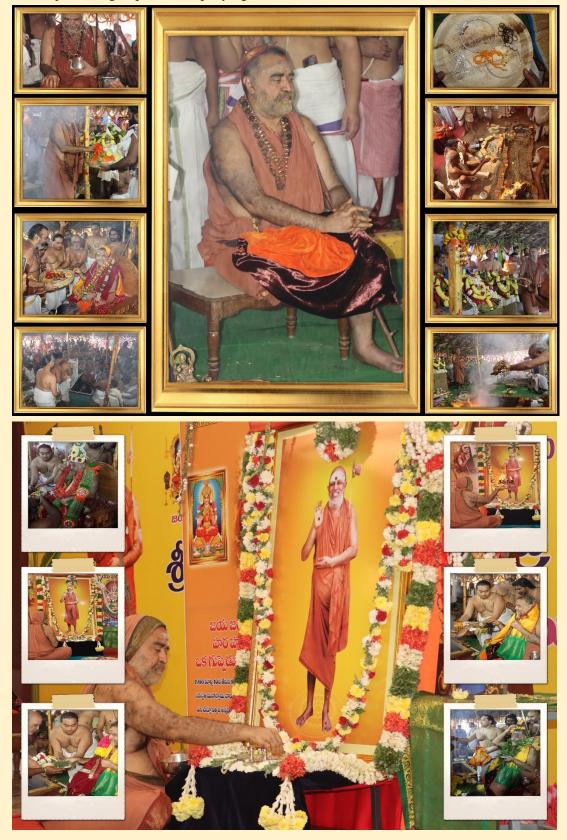
After the puja, Acharya Swamigal visited the Yagashala where the Maharudram and Shata Chandi Yagams were being performed since the 14th Feb 2023, and blessed the devotees with Puja teertha prasadam. The Poornahuti of the ishtis, and homams were performed in the benign presence of Acharya Swamigal. Abhishekam was performed to Acharya Swamigal with the sanctified water from the homa kalashams accompanied by chanting of veda mantras.

Prasadam from various temples were offered to Acharya Swamigal, including Sri Kanchi Kamakshi Ammavaru Devasthanam and Sri Bangaru Kamakshi temple, Thanjavur. Sri Venkateswara Swami prasadam from Tirumala- Tirupati Devasthanam was offered by priests with chanting of veda mantras and Sri Srinivasa Gadyam, in presence of TTD Chairman Sri Subba Reddy and other officials. Prasadam from Sri Akhilandeswari temple, Tiruvanaikovil, Srirangam temple, Sri Ucchi Pillayar- Malaikottai, Sri Samayapuram Mariyamman, Sri Sathyanarayana Swami Devasthanam Annavaram, Simhachalam Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swami, Sri Kanaka Mahalaskhi temple, Sri Bhodendra Swamigal Brindvana Prasadam, Mavattakudi Sri Bhumi Neela Sametha Sri Prasanna Venkatramana Swami, Mavattakudi Sri Sivakami Ambal Sameta Sri Kailasanatha

Swami, Sri Kasi Viswanatha Swami, Skandagiri Sri Subrahmanya Swamig, Sri Sampath Vinayakar (Vizag) and other temples were offered.

Kanya Puja, Vatu Puja and Dhampati Pujas were performed which witnessed the enthusiastic participation of a large number of devotees. Acharya Swamigal performed Swarna pada puja to Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal, and proceeded to perform the Mahashivaratri pujas.

Nada Samarpanam was performed in the evening by Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Aasthana vidwan Sri Mandolin U Rajesh and group of accompanying artists.



Jayanti mahotsavam of Acharya Swamigal - An article in The Hindu & Express

https://www.thehindu.com/society/faith/sri-sankara-vijayendra-saraswatis-jayanti-on-february-18/article66516498.ece

⊚Express SATURDAY 18-02-2023 | 4



Pujya Sri Sankara Vijayenda Saras-wati Shankaracharya Swamiji – a life dedicated to Service

dedicated to Service

any rishis, sages and saints
have emerged in our holy
iand, Bharat, guided people
onto the virtuous path and provided
solace. There are occasions when we
must venerate such noble souls. The
55th Jayanti of Sri Sankara Vijayenfra Saraswalt, 70th Peetadhipati
of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Pitam, on
18.2.2023 is an appropriate occasion to trace the remarkable journey
of the Acharya, who adopted a life sion to trace the remarkable journey of the Acharya, who adopted a life of renunciation and dedication, for upliftment of society. The Jayanti is being observed at several places in our country and abroad. Since March last, Pulya Swamigal has been on Vijaya Yatra and the camp is researble at Visakhanathar

Greatness of Sri Kamakoti Peetam

Greatness of Sri Kamakoti Peetam Kanchipuram is a Mokshapuri and the only one in the Southern part of India. It is one among the Pancha Bhuta Sthalas. Moreover, Kanchi Kamakshi Amman Temple, is one of the Sakhi Peetams. In and around Kanchipuram, there are innumerable temples, and is hence known as "temple city". In this holy Kanchipuram, over 2500 years ago, Jagadguru Adi Sankara established Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam which has an unbroken lineage of 70 Acharyas. Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal, Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal known as "Kanchi Triveni" have contributed immensely to religion and society.

Birth & Early years

Sri Sankaranarayanan - that was Sri Vijayendra Saraswati's Purvasrama name - was born on February 13th, 1969, in Arani village in Tiruval-lur district. He was Initiated into the study of Rig Veda by his father and Vedic scholar Sri Krishnamurti Scatterica He become her west to and Vedic scholar's r Krisnamurti Sastry, and the young boy went to a school in Thandalam village. He walked four km to Kakkavakkam, a village to learn Sanskrit from Sri Mahadeva Sastri, a pundit. A bril-liant period in school, where he was an outstanding student in both reademire. academics and demeanour ended, education shifting to the Gurukulam mode after class six. He enrolled at the Polur Veda Patasala, where his father was Adhyapaka (teacher).

A Child Prodigy

Quick grasp and extraordinary mem-ory put his learning on a fast track and he completed the Rig Veda course in two years against the nor-

major works in Sanskrit. Interest in Tamil had brought proficiency in the language and Telugu being his mother tongue, the student excelled on many fronts, the linguistic talent coming to the fore in the later years, when he delivered speeches. The quotations and examples that the Acharya cites from literary texts and the undercurrent of humour make not only his orations but even conversations memorable. He was selected as the first student in various Vedic examinations and competitions and won many prizes and medals. So it was not a wonder that he got command of Sanskrit language in Allur Veda Patasala in Tirchy at his tender age. He spent his childhood and early youth in learning, in small villages and towns. This made him aware of the suffering of the poor, who could not have access to hospitals, schools and other essential facilities. These yesteryear impressions led to the Acharya blessing

time, had the opportunity to be in close proximity for five days. The se-renity of Mahaswami and his single-minded concentration left a deep impression on Sri Sankaran.

impression on Sri Sankaran. Sri Jayendra Saraswati had already decided that Sri Sankaran was going to be his disciple. The next logical step was gaining the approval of Mahaswami. The time came in the form of examinations in Vedic literature and allied subjects, where Sri Sankaran faced none other than the great Mahaswami. He passed the litmus test in flying colours, in fact, with a gold medal. Mahaswami indeed was impressed with Sri Sanindeed was impressed indeed was impressed with Sri San-karan's versatility and knowledge. Later Sri Vijayendra Saraswati would Later Sri Vijayendra Saraswatt would say, "It was an exciting and unfor-gettable experience," Coming back to his anointment, was Sri Sankaran ready for sanyasashramam and take his place in the Moolamnaya Sar-yanna Kamakuti Pita Jinayaga The vagna Kamakoti Pita lineage?

Rakshanam, Advaita propagation and social welfare – the three pri-mary objectives of Kanchi Kama-koti Pitam. The numerous patasalas started by his Guru and Paramagu-tus tesses untured by Sri Wilsongotkotl Pitam. The numerous patasalas started by his Guru and Paramaguru were nurtured by Sri Vijayendra Saraswati, who was fully engaged with the concept apart from promoting the protection of the cow and the environment. With the siddh iof Sri Jayendra Saraswati in 2018, the mantle fell on him. It is with renewed vigout that the Swamigal has been pursuing multifarious good deeds. The dual system of patasala education, where the viloyarthis learn the Vedas along with regular subjects, have earned a huge fillip under his guidance. In his eyes, education is a tool of development and progress, which is equally important for both genders. It was with this principle that the Sampradaya School was blessing for girl children. Also high in the priority list are aid for Validians.

says, we must preserve our identity, and that education blended with Desha Bhakt and devotion to God is necessary. Moreover, he used to say that the confluence of Dakshina Budhi and Ultrar Shakthi would increase India's strength.

Services across Bharat

crease India's strength.

Services across Bharat

Considering the healthcare & cultural needs of North Eastern India, a well-equipped eye hospital and Purva Tirupati Balaji temple in Assam was established more than 25 years back. Sri Kamakoti Vidya Bharati School was established in Meghalaya. Special cultural events & Vishwa Shanti Havans are being held in Jammu & Kashmir for the welfare of the people. As a result of his pilgrimage to Nepal along with his predecessor, Vishwashanti Mahayagnas, cultural events are being conducted periodically, promoting good relations between the peoples. In tune with the challenges of the current times, the Acharya is especially concerned about the future of the youth and never fails to include them in conversations and is ever ready to lend an ear to them. The Acharya has an advise to the youth to be open to thoughts and ideas on contemporary subjects like Technology that emanate from anywhere, including the West, but to be firm in our Indian culture and Dharmic way of life.

In order to reach out to a larger number of people, the Acharya has been travelling far and wide, his feet

In order to reach out to a larger number of people, the Acharya has been travelling far and wide, his feet touching suburbs, towns, villages and timy hamlets. He is currently on a Vijaya Yatra across Andhra Pradesh. He left base on March 16, 2022, and has covered thousands of kilometres, across Andhra Karnataka, Relangana camping at Cuddapah, Kakinada, Sandur, Rajahmundry, Mukkamala, Draksharamam among other places. From February 22 to March 7, the camp will move to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Anakapalle, Thuni and Kowunear Rajahmundry, The Aradhana of Sri Jayendra Saraswati Swamiji will be observed on the banks of the Godavari at Goshpada Kshetra, Kovur on 4th March.

It is notable that this year, the Maha Shivaratri festival, which is dedicated to Lord Shiva, coincides with the Jayanthi celebration of the Acharya. Let us pray for blessings of His Holiness, who is ever smiling, simple, littles, and the sever smiling is simple. kind in words, endowed with the virtues of wisdom, spirituality and

Java Java Sankara Hara Hara Sankara



and encouraging the establishment of health centres, educational insti-tutions and rendering public service especially in rural areas, in addition to the Spiritual guidance conferred on one and all.

Attaining Asceticism

Attaining Asceticism

Deepening spiritual thirst, mother Ambalashmin had stoked the flames by teaching her son slokas, led Sri Sankaranarayanan to Kakavarakam, where Sri Jayendra Saraswati had camped with his puja. He watched the Chandramouliswara puja, keenly observing the method and procedures. The osmosis was natural, as he imbibed the padidhati and emulated it in the pujas he performed at home. The young vidyarthi's precocious talent drew the attention of Sri Jayendra Saraswati, who engaged young Sankaran in conversations and was impressed with kis knowledge. When both Acharyas had camped at Satara in Maharashtra, the pupil, who was 12 at that

bent to both was, yes. After all, his quest for the right path to serve both God and society was coming to an end. He had found his guru, rather the guru had found him. Sanyasa sweekaram took place on May 29, 1983, at Sri Kamakshi Temple, Kanchipuram, and the name chosen for him was Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati.

Saraswati.

But the legions of devotees, who were moved by the sight of the 14year child-sanyasi, glowing with seerne wisdom, preferred to call him 'Balaperiyava', a sobriquet he would
wear as a symbol of simplicity—east
to reach, the healing hand, compassionate eyes and kind words bringing solace to beleaguered souls. The
Acharya Triveni were Icha Shakti,
Gnana Shakti & Kriya Shakti to their
devotees.

Dedication to Religious & Community Services

young Pitadipathi wasted no in dedicating himself to Veda

kas and archakas and restoration of dilapidated temples. The Acharya underlines the importance of agriculture and exhorts people to be anchored to their roots and retain their ancestral connect in the villages. For less privileged students, boarding and lodging facilities are provided to study in the educational institutions run by Sri Mutt at a concessional fee. Hindu Samaya Mandram was reestablished along with publishing research works on Tamil literature, temple history and reaching it to common people. Cultural classes to school students during holidays are being imparted.

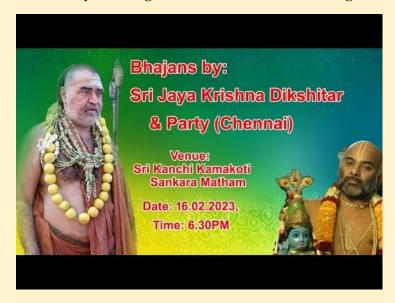
River Festivals in Tamilinadu

River Festivals in Tamilnadu

River Festivals in Tamilinadu
To celebrate rivers with the aim of
protecting our valuable water resources, Pushkara Festival was first
introduced by His Holiness in Tamil
Nadu to worship the rivers and preserve the ecosystem. In a grand way,
he conducted Kaveri Pushkaram and
Tamiraparani Pushkaram. He often



Nama Sankeertanam was performed by Sri Vittaldas Maharaj on 16-Feb-2023 Sri Shankara matam, Vishakapatnam. Acharya Swamigal blessed the devotees with Anguraha Bhashanam.



Aradhana of 67th Acharya Sri Mahadevendra Saraswathi Swamigal performed at Vishakapatnam

Aradhana of Jagadguru Pujyashri Mahadevendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal, the 67th Peethadhipathi of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham was performed at the Srimatham camp at Vishakapatnam in the presence of Acharya Swamigal. Sri Mahadevendra Saraswati attained mukti at Kalavai in Tamilnadu on Sukla Prathama Phalguna Prabhava -1907



Poura Abhinandana Sabha held at Vishakapatnam (21-Feb-2023)

Acharya Swamigal visits the Kali maata temple located at a very picturesque location right across the shores at







Vishakhapatnam. which Acharya Swamigal went on a Shobha Yatra from the temple to the AU convocation centre where a Poura Abhinandana Sabha organised by the Visakhapatnam Shankara Matam devotees to express their gratitude to the Jagadguru for having graced their place and stayed here for close to 2 months, showering His blessings on them in innumerable ways. programme The was attended by Sri Kota Satyanarayana Garu, Deputy Chief Minister of AP & Endowments Minister, Amarnath

Garu, Minister of Communications, Sri Venugopal Garu, Minister of Backward Classes, Justice Sri Somayajulu Garu and other important dignitaries from Vishakhapatnam city.

Vijaya yatra update - Visit to Kali temple in Vishakapatnam (21-Feb-2023)

Acharya Swamigal visited Kali mata Temple, Beach road at Vishakapatnam and blessed the devotees.

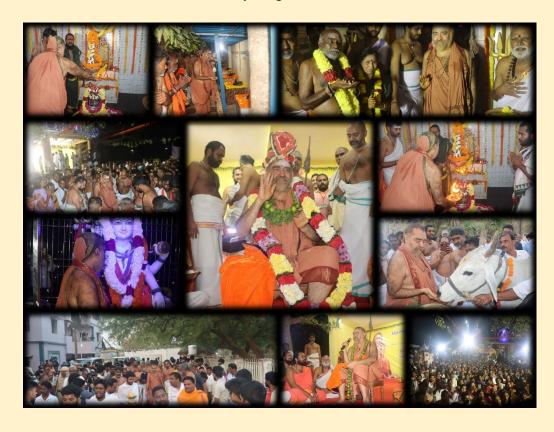


Acharya Swamigal's visit to a Goshala on the way to Srikakulam from Vishakapatnam) - (22-Feb-2023)



Acharya Swamigal blesses devotees at Sri Siva-Parvati temple at Krishnapeta in Srikakulam (23-Feb 2023)

Acharya Swamigal visited Sri Shiva-Parvathi Temple at Krishnapapeta, Srikakulam and blessed the devotees followed by anugraha bashanam.



Vijaya Yatra updates - Acharya Swamigal blesses students at Gayatri School in Srikakulam (23-Feb-2023)



New Car (THERU) for Sri Mangalambika Sametha Sri ADI Kumbeswara Swami, with Sri Mutt's Donation was put on trial

Pujai and yagnam were carried out by Sri Sethu Ramachandran, Sri Ramesh Sethuraman and Sri Ramasubramaniam in the function representing the Mutt.



श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः

Mahāshivarātri Sathsang, 18-Feb-2023, Brahmavidya Foundation नमः शिवायेति शिवं प्रपद्ये, शिवः प्रसीदेति शिवं प्रपद्ये । शिवात्परं नेति शिवं प्रपद्ये, शिवोहमस्मीति शिवं प्रपद्ये ॥

As the shloka exalts Lord Mahadeva and personifies the core principle of Advaita Vedanta-the path to Eternal Happiness, what could be more befitting to the students of Brahmavidya Foundation (BVF) than to celebrate the Holy Maha Shivaratri which was blessed directly by HH Sri Periyava. Core BVF members visited Periyava in the Mutt camp & received Utharavu for the program. HH Sri Periyava was extremely pleased to see the program details and gave Paripoorna Anugraham for the success of this **ONLINE** event.

With Sri Periyava's grace & guidance from Sri Karthik-Guruji, the BVF core program team arranged the **2023 Mahā Shivarathri Sathsang** via zoom session, wherein 170+ Brahmavidya students and their families participated with great Shraddha & Bhakti. The Sathsang started at 10:40 PM IST with Vedic chanting of **Sri Rudram** by Sri Lakshminarasimhan, Sri Karthik Nagarajan, Sri Ram Ramasubbu & Sri Venkitaraman.

As part of the Prārthana slokas, the day being HH Sri Periyava's Jayanti, Sri Guruji taught all the participants the Stuti-shloka on Sri Periyava: Chaturdasha Vayahprapta..., & also explained the meaning of this Shloka to all the participants. Sri Vishwajit provided a brief introduction & Sri Ramasubbu recited Vedic Chants in praise of Lord Shiva. Smt Shivani beautifully sang the invocation song: Saint Sri Thyagaraja's Kriti Nāda TanuManisham in Chitta Ranjani. This was followed by reverentially rendering of Totakāshtakam by Sri Vishwajit.

Next, Sri Guruji initiated all the eagerly awaiting students and their families with the **Shiva Panchakshara Mantra**, focused on attaining Chitta Shuddhi. What else could be more beneficial than getting the Mantra Deeksha directly from the Guru on the Holy Shivaratri day?

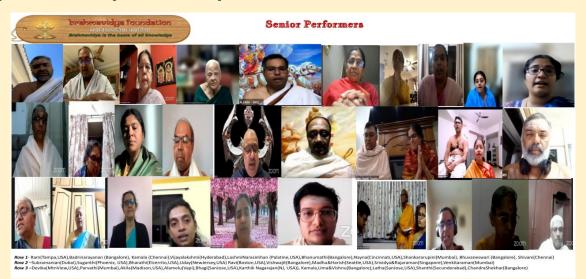
The students were blessed with Sri Guruji's **Upanyasam on Maneesha Panchakam**. The word **Maneesha** means **conviction** and **Panchakam** means a **collection of five**. In this short composition of **five verses**, Sri Adi Shankara brings out the essence of the entire **Advaita-Vedanta** (one-ness of Jivatma & Paramatma) with conviction. This Upanyasam was very relevant to Shivarathri, as **Lord Shiva** himself appeared as a Chandala to inspire Sri Shankara to compose this great **Prakarana Grantha: Maneesha Panchakam**. Sri Guruji explained how **each verse in this text** is built upon the **Upanishadic Mahavakyas** taken from the four Vedas.



Over the next five & half hours, there was a wonderful rendition of Shiva-stotrams/Bhajans/Carnatic Kritis by various performers. Participants from Asia were awake through the night & participants from USA / rest of the world participated enthusiastically. All performers/performances were well received & cheered by the audience. Children started the first hour of devotional offering segment with Shiv Tandav by Kum. Medhavi & Shiva Panchakshara stotram by Kum. Tara Subramanian. Kum. Keerthana and Chi. Karthik sang the bhajan Namah Pārvati Pataye and Kum. Shriya chanted Vaidyanatha Ashtakam. Kum. Maya Anand sang the Swarajathi Sambasivāyanave and Chi. Raghav Ganesh offered Sri Gopalakrishna Bharati's Kriti Thiruvadi

Charanam. Swarna Anand chanted the Thiruppugazh BhaktiyAl Naan Unnai. Kum. Janani sang the Bhajan Shankara Shiva Shankara, Baby Tripura chanted Ganesha Pancharatnam, and Kum. Tvisha Sriraman concluded this segment with Sri Adi Shankarā's Atma shatakam

After a session of **Shiva Panchakshara Mantra chanting** by all participants, the next devotional offering began with Smt Akhila singing **Sri Papanasam Sivan's Kana Vendumo**. Smt Srividya Rajaraman sang the Purandara Dasa Kriti **Kodu Bega Divya-mati**. Smt. Kamala & Smt Uma sang **Mahadeva Shiva Shambo** accompanied by Sri Vishnu on Mridangam, Sri Chandrashekhar chanted **Shivāshtakam**, Smt. Vijayalakshmi sang **Mayaviddhai seigirane**, Smt Bhanumathi sang **Shambho Mahadeva Charana**m, Sri Subramanian chanted **Lingashtakam**, Smt. Shankararupini sang **Mannadi Bhootam**, Smt. Mridula ji chanted a **Thevaram**, and Sri. Uday concluded the segment with the **Bhajan Damaru Bhaje**



After the next session of Shiva Panchakshara Mantra chanting, Kum. Pravarha and Chi. Archish sang Sri Mahaperiyava's composition Hara Hara Shankara, Chi. Abhirath chanted Ganga Stotram, and Kum. Janani sang the Kanaka Dasa Kriti Nee Māyeyolago. Chi. Kashyap sang Giri Priyam Gangadharam and Smt. Suganthi chanted Shiva Manasa Stotram. Smt. Shanthi Shree sang Shiva-pada bhajana seyave manasa. Then, Sri Harish Janagama shared their family's experiences and learnings from attending the BVF Bhagavad Gita & Vedanta classes.

All the participants were fully energized for the next round of Shiva Panchakshara mantra chanting. Next, Smt. Bhagi sang a Bhajan Shambhu Nāda Chandra Chooda, Smt. Parvathi Shiva Shiva Hara Hara Shambho, Smt. Kamala sang a Bhajan on Sri Mahaperiyava followed by Smt. Bharati Seshadri's chanting of Shiva Panchakshara stotram. Smt. Alamelu Iyer recited Shiva Manasa Pooja Stotram, Smt Bhuvaneshwari chanted Uma Maheshwara stotram & Durga Ganesh played the Muthiah Bhagavathar Kriti Sudhamayi Sudhanidhe on the violin, Pratah-Smaraneeya Shiva stotram by Smt Nayna, Shiva Puranam by Smt. Devika & Bilvashtakam by Sri Badrinarayana & an impromptu performance of Jagannatha Dāsarapada Yennantha bhaktaru by Sri Ravi NG. Smt. Latha Ganesh concluded the devotional offerings with Shiva Nāmavali Ashtakam. Following a set of live Q&A by Sri Subbaraman and Sri Chetan Sharma with Sri Guruji, the blissful program concluded at around 5am IST, with Sri Guruji's explanation on the significance and greatness of Maha Shivarathri, with a valuable take away of Karma-Bhakti yoga (Bhajans and Chanting), Upāsanā yoga (Shiva-Panchākshara Mantra) & Gnāna yoga (Maneesha Panchakam).

All BVF members offer our Namaskārams to Sri Periyava & seek the blessings of HH Sri Periyava & Lord Mahadeva (as Dakshinamurthy) for Lokakshemam and Gnana-prapti (lead us to the goal of life, which is acquisition of **Brahmavidya**).

The program can be viewed on **BVF Youtube channel** at https://bit.ly/Mahashivaratri-BVF. Also, all about BVF is available in our website www.brahmavidyafoundation.org with details regarding our (4) weekly Gita-Vedanta classes & upcoming programs. For any further information, please write to sahaya@brahmavidyafoundation.org

Acharya Swamigal blesses devotees at Sri Siva-Parvati temple at Krishnapeta in Srikakulam (23-Feb-23)



Acharya Swamigal says "Unity among all sections is our aim"

 $\underline{https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/unity-among-all-sections-is-our-aim-says-kanchi-kamakoti-peetham-head-vijayendra-saraswati/article66556218.ece$

Vijaya Yatra - Shrimatam Camp reaches Vizianagaram (26th Feb 2023)

Vijaya yatra updates- (Sunday, evening) - Acharya Swamigal arrived at Ramanarayana Temple, Vizianagaram where devotees received Acharya Swamigal with poornakumbham, and traditional welcome.

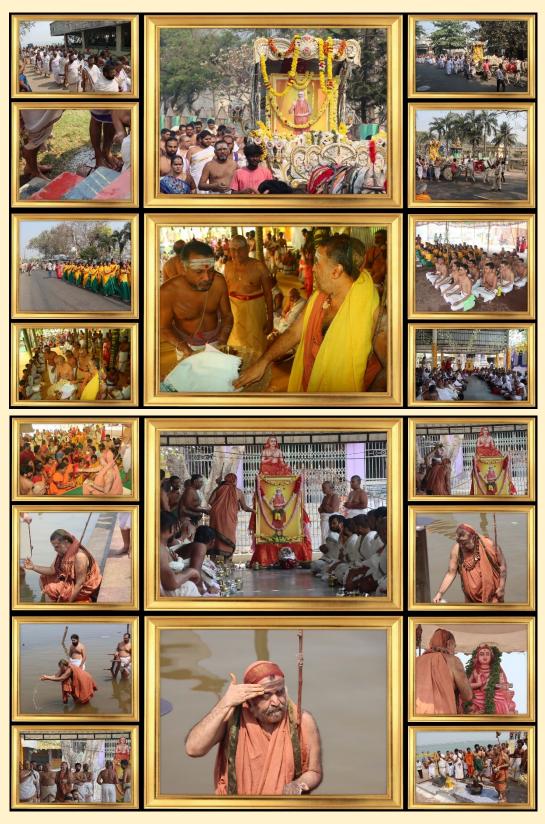




Aradhana Mahotsavam of HH Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal

The fifth Varshika Aradhana of HH Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal was performed on 4th March 2023 at the holy precincts of His Brindavanam at Shrimatam. From 2nd March onwards, Veda Parayanam, Shastra Sabha, Bhagavata Upanyasam, Sangeetanjali and several other spiritual activities will be performed.

At Shrimatam camp at Kovvuru in Andhra Pradesh, the Aradhana was performed on the 4th March in the presence of Acharya Swamigal, with the commencement of Chaturveda Panchashakha Parayanam and Rig Samhita Homam on the 28th Feb 2023.



<u>Devotee's experience – contributed by Sri. K. Guruvayurappan</u>

அரசியலுக்கு ஒருவர்! ஆன்மீகத்திற்குஒருவர்!

H.H. Sri Maha Perivaa handpicked two devotees from the hundreds and thousands of HIS devotees for அரசியலுக்கு ஒருவர்! ஆன்மீகத்திற்கு ஒருவர்! – Anna Sri Ra. Ganapati (for Aanmeekam) and Dr. Subramanian Swamy (for Arasiyal)! With Their Holiness Blessings I got connected with the former in 1995 and with the latter in 2005. Interestingly all the three of us belong to Kashyapa Gothram with Birthstar Hastam.

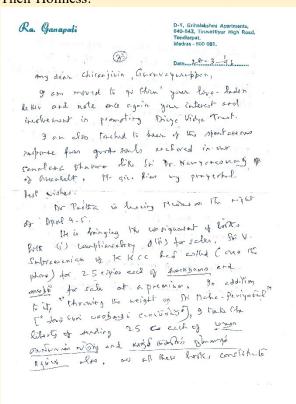
Anna Sri Ra. Ganapati's contribution for our entire society in spreading HH Sri Maha Perivaa's countless speeches, discourses through Deivathin Kural, which was published originally in Tamil. There were dozens of Books in Tamil that were also brought out by him about HH Sri Maha Perivaa over a period of many years which were very remarkable.

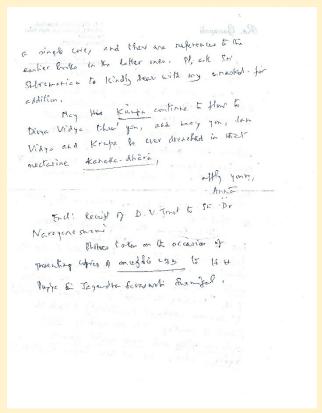
Out of the so many books – the twin Books of Karunaik KanchiKanakadharai and Maitriem Bhajatha are outstanding as it was ordained by HH to come out ONLY after HH Mukthi. Please see one of the letters that was sent by Anna about the books. Deivathin Kural was later published in many languages and please see the photos of the release of English, Telugu version releases in USA and Marathi version in Nagpur. Anna Sri Ra. Ganapati Anna attained Mukthi on Sri Maha Sivarathri night of 2012. This article is a fitting memory to Anna's great contribution for Sri Matam Devotees through Kanchi NRI Newsletter on this Auspicious Sri Maha Sivarathri time with HH 55th Jayanthi Celebrations!

In late 70's when two of the devotees (Sri Sreenath Iyer and Smt. Suganda Sreenath Iyer) of Secunderabad got Blessed by HH Sri Perivaa (Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal) to use the Skandagiri Temple for her dance class instantaneously (when she was looking for a place to teach Bharata Natyam for children. The devotees very so delighted and named the school after HH "Jayendra Kalakendra" which was very successful and when the couple migrated to USA, she started with the same name in California.

Blessed were the couple that on HH Sri Maha Perivaa's 125 Jayanthi on 20th May 2018 – they were offered with a copy of Voice of God and Sri Matam calendar that was brought out by Kamakshi Seva Samithi.

While keeping a detailed experience of how HH connected us with Dr. Swamy and a few other Karma Yogis through JaiSriKrishna for a later edition, please enjoy the photos to cherish the memory and the Blessings of Their Holiness!









From around the world, as shared by devotees

Abu Dhabi: Anusham, Avittam and Uthiradam was celebrated with great fervour across multiple locations with participation from several families.



Abu Dhabi: Acharya Swamigal Jayanthi celebrated with ekadasa rudra poorvaka paduka abhisegam and archanai. Sangeetha samarpanam done by Miss. Shruthi.M and Manasa.M



Dubai: Anusham celebrated in a grand manner. The event started with Vinayagar poojai, Sodasodhasa poojai, Kumbha avahanam, Guru avahanam, & Rudrabhishegam. Many devotees participated in person.



Dubai: Eakadasa Rudram hommam was performed in Dubai on 26-Feb-2023. Ekadasa denotes Eleven (11) is said to be eleven elements of life, eleven forms of Lord Rudra. The following were carried out on the day.

Maha Ganesha Puja, Varuna Avahanam, Navagraha Pooja, Mahanyasam (invoking of Lord Shiva) Rudra Trishati Archana, Ekadasa Rudhrabishekam to Lord Rudra-Lord Shiva by Chanting Rudram and Chamakam, Vedic Chant (Eleven recitations of Rudram followed by one recitation of Chamakam)

Abishekam to Lord Shiva. Chanting Mrityunjaya Mantra, Performing Rudra Ekadasini Alankaram Karma Archaranai, Chatur Veda Parayanam followed by Deeparadhanai, Neiyvedhyam of Maha Prasadham & mariyadhai to Guru & Rithviks



Minneapolis: On the occasion of Maha Shivarathri and Sri Sri Bala Periyava's Jayanthi, MN Mahaperiyava Satsangam performed the following religious event. On the day of Mahashivarathri here in Minnesota, Ekadasha Rudra Parayanam was performed. This religious event started off early in the morning with Mahaperiyava's visit to one of our satsangis's home. Poorna Kumbham was given to Mahaperiyava at that time. The event started with the Poorvanga poojai which included the Anugnya, Sri Vigneshwara Poojai, Mahasankalpam, Nandi Dhanangal, Kalashadi poojai and Punyahavachanam. Then Mahanyasam was performed which concluded with Ashtanga Namaskaram. This was followed by Sambha Parameshwara Shodasha Upacharam which included Kalasha shodasha upachara poojai. 11 Kalasams along with Sambha Parameshwara Kalasam and Punyahavachana Kalasam were arranged for this and Avahanam was done. This was followed by Trishathi Archanai. Then pradakshinam and namaskarams (13) were offered and then prarthana was done by chanting Chamakam. Then Sri Rudra japa purvanga poojai was done followed by the chanting of Sri Rudram 11 times with each anuvakam of Chamakam chanted at the end of each iteration of Sri Rudra Parayanam. Finally, the



Kenya: Anusham celebrated in a grand manner in Kenya.

Kalasha abhishekam was done both to Sri Sri Mahaperiyava and also to Sri Sri Bala periyava's Padhugai and then the event concluded with doopa, deepa, nivedhanam and mangala haarathi. The event started at around 6:30 am in the morning and continued until 12:45 pm in the afternoon. It was a very blissful event for all ritwiks and the satsangis that were present during that time. In the evening we had Shiva Nama Sankeerthanam. Our Satsang's Gurukulam Vidhyarthis chanted slokams and sang bhajans on Shiva. With Sri Periyava's blessings everyone was in Shiva Smaranai and enjoyed the bliss.



Houston: Shri Periyava Jayanthi at Shri Paramacharya Paduka Mandapam. Highlights of the event- Svasthi



Vachanam, Rudra Vidhana Poojai and Rudrabhishekam, Trishati and Kamakshi Ashtotharam, Veda, Purana, Sangeetham Avadhana Sevai, Maitreem Bhajatha, Totakashtakam. Event was led by Veda Brahmashri Kalyanakrishna Shastrigal

Shri Periyava Aradhana at Shri Paramacharya Paduka Mandapam Houston. Highlights of the event- Svasthi Vachanam, Rudrabhishekam, Veda, Purana, Sangeetham Avadhana Sevai, Maitreem Bhajatha, Totakashtakam. The event was led by Veda Brahmashri Kalyanakrishna Shastrigal



Portland (KKSF): With Pujyashri Periyavas grace, Thai Anusham was celebrated last weekend at Smt Pavithra Shravan's home. The hosts did Paduka Pooja and kids did archanai for HH Mahaperiyava, HH Jayendra Periyava, HH Sankara Vijayendra Periyava. Devotees recited Sadhguru Dashakam, Stotra malika, composed by HH Periyava, Chandrasekhara Ashtakam, HH Mahaperiyava Stuti Panchakam. Kids did Sangeetha, Shloka Samarpanam for Acharyas. The musical couple hosts also did a small Sangeetha Samarpanam to Their Holiness. The shodasha upacharah concluded with Dhoopam, Deepam, Naivedyam, Harathi, Thotakaashtakam, Maitreem bhajata. Hosts received Sri Matam prasadams and this was also distributed to devotees. Program held with HH Periyavas grace



With Pujyashri Periyavas grace, Maasi Anusham/HH Periyava's 55th Jayanthi was celebrated last weekend at Smt Akila Satish's home. For HH Periyava's Jayanthi, the hosts did Paduka Abhishekam amidst Sri Rudram and Chamakam chanting by devotees. This was followed by archanai for HH Mahaperiyava, HH Jayendra Periyava, HH Sankara Vijayendra Periyava by the host family. Many children offered their Sangeetha, Shloka Samarpanam for Acharyas. The shodasha upachaara concluded with Dhoopam, Deepam, Naivedyam, Harathi, Thotaka Ashtakam, Maitreem bhajata. Hosts received Sri Matam prasadams and this was also distributed to devotees. Program held with HH Periyavas grace



Tampa (KKSF): With the Blessings and Anugrahams of Guru Parampara, KKSF Tampa Chapter celebrated

January Month's Anusham Pooja on January 21st @ Smt. Padma and Sri. Lakshmi Narasimhan's Residence. Pooja Started at 4 PM with Ritweeks and families. Guru Pooja started with Vishnu Sahasranama parayanam, Swasti, Ganapathy Pooja, Varuna Kalasa Sthapana, Panchamritha vishesha dravyodhaka snanam, Ekavara Rudrabhishekam for Shivan and Periyava, Pancha Suktam Chanting, Ashtothram for Shivan, Adi Shankara, Periyava, Pudhu Periyava. Program continued with lots of ragas and Lalitha Sahasranama Parayanam. Followed by Thotakashtakam and concluded with Naivedhyam, Maha Aarthi and distribution of Mahaprasadam.



Seattle: Washington Periyava Satsangam(WAPS) & Brahmana Mahasabha of North America - Seattle 55th Jayanti Mahotsavam was celebrated at the home of Smt. Priya and Sri. Ramesh with Lalitha Sahasranamam and mooka saram parayanam.



A sangita samarpanam karyakrama was held where several children and adults offered their samarpanam including Kum. Meenakshi, Kum. Janani and her paati, Kum. Janhavi, Chi. Vidhyuth, Kum. Swara, Kum.Shivani, Smt. Hema Vaidy, Smt. Remya Janardhana and Smt. Ramya Gopalan

This was followed by padhuka pujai, veda parayanam, totakashtakam along with stotram samarpanam by children of Seattle Bala Bhajana Mandali with Chi.Arjun Karthick, Kum. Vibha, Kum. Sanjana, Kum. Madhura, Chi. Guruguhan who chanted:

Netherlands: Rudram recitation in Netherlands after Maha Periyava Guru Pooja and Pradhosham.





Shangai, China (Arul Tharum Mahaperiyava ATM): ATM Mahashivarathri and HH Pujyasri Sri Sri Balaperiyava Jeyanthi Celebrations

Mahashivarathri and HH Sri Sri Bala Periyava Jeyanthi was celebrated with first of its unique 12 hours of continuous Sath Sangam from 18-02-2023 5 PM to 19-02-2023 5 AM. The program includes Pravachanam, Carnatic Concert, Devotional Speech by kids, Pattimandram, Namasankeerthanam, Sloka reciting, Nama smaranai, Mangala Harathi. If you want to participate in ATM Sath Sangam and programs, you may send Whatsapp Message to Group Founder Smt. Vijayalakshmi Srinivasan at +8613472673759





ATM Gho/Ghaja Poojai - Arul Tharum Mahaperiyava Group once in a three months conduct Poojas, Annadhanam and various other Sathkaryam at different temples. On 19th February 2023, ATM organised Gho and Ghaja Poojai, Mariyadhai to ten Sivachariyars and Annaprasada kaingaryam at Thiruvaiyaaru temple. ATM group devotee participated in this divine Kaingaryam, some of them with family at the temple and remaining by Zoom.





Monthly Adi Sankara Jayanthi - ATM Monthly Adhi sankara poojai was held at Shri ATM Srinivasan's home at 5 PM on 26th January 2023. Sankara Bagawathpadal Ashtothram performed, songs by ATM Devotees and Veda Parayanam performed by Sri Bhoopala Vishnuvardhan Ganapadigal and vidyarthees of Sri Vedanarayana Vedapatasalai



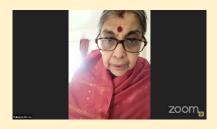


Monthly Anusha Poojai - ATM Monthly Anusha Pooja was performed on 17th January 2023 at Smt.Anuratha Venkatesh's home followed by songs by ATM Devotees and Rudram Chamakam by Shri Bhoopala Vishnuvardan Ghanapaadigal and Vidyarthees of Sri Vedanarayana Veda patashala. ATM Programs are available in ATM Youtube link:

https://www.youtube.com/c/ArultharumMahaperiyavaGroup/

ATM Kalyana Vaiboham Inauguration and ATM Second Song release - On 18-01-2023, Kalyana Vaiboham (marriage alliance kaingaryam) was inaugurated by Shri Hindu Ganesan Mama and Shri Chandramouli Mama. On the same event, second song on Arultharum Mahaperiyava written by ATM Srinivasan was released. Arul Tharum Mahaperiyava Song link attached. https://youtu.be/Ntynt3Ps WI





ATM learning class for Devi Mahatmiyam - In January 2023 Devi Mahatmiyam learning classes were started and large number of ATM members are learning with lot of interest.

ATM classes for Small Slokas - In Feb 2023, two batches of Small Sloka learning classes were started and large number of ATM members have joined to learn slokas.



ATM Saturday Sath Sangam - ATM so far have performed 120 Sath Sangam virtually with the participation of ATM Devotees across 10 countries. ATM Sath Sangam usually begins with Deivathin Kural by Smt. Vijayalakshmi Srinivasan followed by Enipadigalil Mandargal by a group member. Members of ATM participated in all Saturday Satsangam by singing song, bhajan, devotional experience etc. and eminent



personalities in the fields of music, speech were arranged to participate in ATM Saturday Sathsangam. Every Satsang have Mahaperiyava Ashtothra Archanai, Mahaperiyava Panchakam and Thotakashtakam

by ATM Members. If you want to participate in ATM Sath Sangam or participate in ATMGuru Poojai or ATM Group Ashtothram, you may send Whatsapp Message to Group Founder Smt. Vijayalakshmi Srinivasan at +8613472673759



ATM Saturday Sath Sangam - Arul Tharum Mahaperiyava Global Group from 5th February 2023, started weekly episodes of Mahaperiyava, Mahaperiyava Mahimai, to narrate Mahaperiyava Mahimai. Link of the three episodes attached. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XSL-TrI0OU&list=PL2xMdg6uFomr-I165c8eVc4sibb-Vw8qV



Kids participate @ ATM - With the objective of carry forward our traditional and cultural values to next generation, ATM arrange various programs with the participation of Kids and Children. Kids have been participating in ATM Satsang and various other programs of ATM by singing songs, reciting slokas, rendering speech etc. If you want your child to participate in ATM Sath Sangam to showcase talent or participate in ATM Sloka classes, you may send Whatsapp Message to Group Founder Smt.Vijayalakshmi Srinivasan at +8613472673759



Voice of Youth about their Village

Shreyas Balaji, 10 years residing at Virginia, USA - My grandfather's name is Sampath Srinivasan. My grandmother's name is Pushpa Sampath. My great grandfather's name is Srinivasan Iyengar. My great grandmother's name is Rukmini Srinivasan. My grandfather's ancestral village is Poyyapakkam. Poyyapakkam village is located in Viluppuram taluka of Viluppuram district in TamilNadu, India. It is situated 5km away from Viluppuram. My grandmother's ancestral village is Velamur near Cuddalore district.

River - Palar river flows around the Villupuram district

Grama Devata - Poyyapakam village's grama devata is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Varadharaja Perumal & Perundevi Thayar are the Grama Devata. Sri Varadaraja Perumal is in standing posture on round lotus peedam which is very

unique, with sangu chakra gadha.Sri Laksmi Narayanan with Srilakshmi in a sitting posture. This is a rare sight of two Moolavars in one sanctum sanctorum.

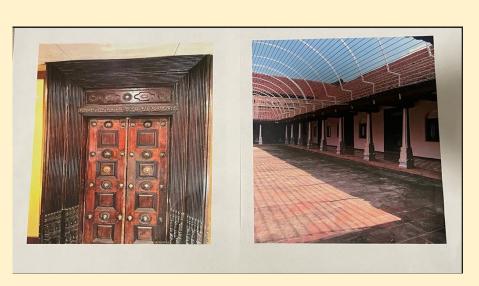
Temple celebrates Panguni Uthiram, Navarathri Utsavam, Bhramotstavam for the deities every year. Other temples in the village are Balamurugan temple.

Velamur grama devata is Sri Sundara Varadharaja Perumal. Velamur is located on Melmaruvathur to Vandavasi Road, about 12 Kms. from MelMaruvathur, near another village Ramapuram. In early years, this is the village where Sama vedam flourished under the leadership of Acharyan Upanishd Bhashyakaarar Sri Ranga Ramanuja Mahadesikan.



Madhura, 10 years residing at Seattle WA - My ancestor's village is Devakottai. Devakottai is in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. The name "Devakottai" is derived from the Tamil word "Devi Kottai", meaning the fort of a Goddess. It is one of the 96 villages in the Chettinad area; with a rich heritage of houses built with limestone called "Karai Veedu".

Below is my ancestor's house with grand doors and a mutram.







The town is known for its rich and traditional culture like the Kandar Sasti Vizha, a festival for the rich culture of Devakottai. This has been conducted by Kandar Sasti Vizha Kazhagam for the past 68 years at the Nagara Sivan Kovil.

Rivers - One of the rivers that flow around Devakottai is the Manimuthar river. This river branches out from Pambar and ends at the Bay of Bengal. The river goes below Devakottai or near the southern part of Devakottai.

Grama Deivam - Our Grama Deivam is in the village

'Ilayangudi'. Our kula Deivam is Sri Pagahachaala Ayyanar, and in this temple there are many deities but the main god of this temple for us is the Sri Pagahachaala Ayyanar. Some other deities are the Sri Medai Kalli, in this specific sannadhi only old people, kids, and male can visit it. Another deity is Sri Munnodiyan, this god i s usually worshiped before any journey.













Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara



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NRI Newsletter from Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. Date 11-Mar-2023

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