

HINDU NEWS



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NEW TASKS IN THE NEW YEAR



The Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) extends its New Year 2017 and Pongal wishes to all devotees and well-wishers. We also take this opportunity to wish all Singaporeans a Happy Lunar New Year in the Year of the Rooster.

Looking back at 2016, it has been a very busy year for HEB. Thaipusam 2016 saw many new proposals in the area of managing the Festival and enhancing the availability of music points along the procession route. The fresh arrangements were welcomed by both kavadi carriers and devotees walking the route. We are pleased to make further improvements to the Festival in 2017 and you would have got the news by now that the number of music points will be increased along the 3.1 kilometre route from Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple to Sri Thendayuthapani Temple.

HEB is also looking at some of the religious practices in our four Temples and with the help of the management committee and religious experts, efforts have been made to improve them and to involve devotees in as many pujas and festivals as possible. The Temples are for the people and rightfully so.

Redevelopment plans for the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple have been finalised and as you can see, work has already started behind the Sri Vinayagar sanctum, to extend the current temple kitchen. Devotees will see more work getting underway and we request one and all to bear with some inconveniences over the next one year.

On the community side, HEB has been extending help to as many families as possible, particularly those in need of financial help. This has been done through food delivery programmes, handing out bursaries and working closely with SINDA and other help agencies to reach out the less fortunate in the community.

Moving forward to 2017, HEB has its hands full.

Bringing more improvements to Thaipusam Festival is top on the agenda. And this can only succeed if both hands clap – the organising agency and the devotee. We appreciate the cooperation of all devotees to ensure that the Festival runs smoothly but one area of concern always remains – the need for kavadis to leave Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple on time and reach Sri Thendayuthapani Temple on time. It is all about being disciplined ourselves and unless we show that we have that ‘can do spirit’ to keep to the rules of the Festival, only then will the authorities and the licensing agency take our community seriously in wanting to conduct the Festival harmoniously and religiously.

Next, Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple – the next 12 year Maha Samprokshanam of the Temple will be held before May 2018. The Bhalasthanapanam (temporary housing of deities) will be held in November 2017. Even before that, devotees would have to face the inconveniences of scaffolding structures around the Temple as painting works begin.

The Board’s various educational and community projects will continue in full steam. More

venues are being lined up for Project Bhakti and many more programmes are being looked at to help those in need of help.

HEB has also computerised its services and devotees can make bookings for various sevas in any of its four Temples, online from the comfort of their homes and workplaces. We intend to intensify our publicity in 2017 on how devotees can better make use of our online services.

And all these will not be possible without the support of all of you, the devotees and well-wishers who patronise our Temples and donate generously from your heart. HEB looks forward to a fruitful year, together with you.

Maha Sivarathri: Change In Chariot Procession Date

Please be informed that the annual Maha Sivarathiri Chariot procession will take place on 18 February 2017 at 6.00pm instead of 23 February 2017. There will be no change to the four stop-points, namely, Sri Senpaga Vinayagar Temple, the Sindhi Merchants Association at Sindhu House, Bedok Reservoir Road (Opposite Eunus CC) & Circuit Road (Opposite MacPherson CC).



மஹா சிவராத்திரி இரத ஊர்வலம்

கேலாங் ஈஸ்ட் ஸ்ட்ரீ சிவன் கோயிலில் மஹா சிவராத்திரி விழாவின் இரத ஊர்வலம் 18.02.2017 சனிக்கிழமையன்று மாலை 6.00 மணிமுதல் நடைபெறும் என்பதை உங்களுக்கு தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறோம்.



Deepavali 2017

Deepavali in 2017 will be observed on Wednesday, 18 October 2017.

REJUVENATING A NATIONAL MONUMENT

As the good old saying goes, "Time Just Flies". It will already be twelve years in 2017, since the last Maha Samprokshanam for Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple (SSPT), a National Monument administered by the Hindu Endowments Board (HEB), took place on 29 May 2005.

The SSPT management committee, under guidance from HEB, has already set in motion the masterplans approved by Preservation of Sites and Monuments Advisory Board for the renovation and redevelopment work for the Temple. For this, the ceremonial brick laying ceremony was held on 6 July 2016.

Many devotees would have already noticed the construction work that is going on behind the Sri Vishnu Durgai sanctum. This is where the enlarged kitchen and other supporting facilities will be located ('Agni Moola') to serve the increasing number of devotees better in the years to come. More details follow later in the article.

Over the next few months, the remaining work schedule for the renovations will go on full speed. This may cause some inconveniences to the devotees. We request all devotees to bear with the inconveniences for a few months to enable our Perumal Temple offer a more divine experience for one and all.

We have approached the whole effort with the twin objective of:

- offering fine tuned agama routines for the daily and special poojas;
- providing better facilities to the devotees to enhance their divine experience.

The Development Plans

When the works are in full swing, a Bhalasthaapanam ceremony to temporarily transfer the divine powers enshrined on the Kalasams (pinnacles) onto a picture depicting the kalasams has to be performed on an auspicious day and time soon.

The Vimaanam and Rajagopuram Bhalasthaapanam has been scheduled to take place on 30 April 2017.

Work will then begin on the repairs and repainting of the tower and domes. The next major phase of works in the inner sanctum sanctorum areas is likely to take place after Thaipusam 2018. As much space is needed for kavadi preparations, the Temple's Management is mindful of the need to ensure that the arrangements for the annual Thaipusam Festival are taken into consideration in the planning of the renovation works.

The next Maha Samprokshanam is being planned in March or April 2018 during the more auspicious Utthraayanam period (Thai to Aani months in 2018).

Now a bit more about the works that are going to be done:

Behind the Sri Vishnu Durgai sanctum will be the extension of the 'Thirumadapalli', what all of us know as the temple kitchen.

A special area will now be dedicated to prepare the daily thalighai (neivedyams) for the Lord's daily pooja sessions starting from Suprabhatam and Viswaroopam till the Aarthajama Poojai. The neivedyam preparation area, which has been determined with the help of esteemed Vaastu experts, will not be mixed with the common madapalli which prepares the daily meals for the staff and the prasadam for public distribution and annathanam.

"It is very important that our Temples always uphold the sanctity of the daily poojas and the neivedyams that our priests offer to the Lord. It is with this in mind that we have decided to further enhance this area by dedicating a separate kitchen, stoves and utensils just for preparing thalighai for Swami. This practice has already started in a few of our other Temples when the kitchens were redesigned and we are doing it now for SSPT more elaborately under the current redevelopment programme," explained HEB Chairman, Mr R Jayachandran.

Renovations will also take place behind the Temple at the staff quarters and the HEB office. The Temple office will also be made more user friendly. Once completed, devotees will have better dining facilities accommodating comfortably large numbers at one stretch.

Religious Practices

The traditions and Pooja procedures at Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple are steeped in Vaikhaanasa Agama principles and it is every intention of the Temple's Management to improve on the way poojas and ubayams are done with the help of top Vaishnava scholars.



Works on-going for the Temple office to make it more user-friendly

In November 2016, a two-day workshop was conducted for Temple's Management Committee members, priests of SSPT, and members of the HEB and the Hindu Advisory Board on the current practices carried out at Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam (TTD).

The sessions were conducted by a renowned scholar from TTD and advisor to the Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel, who shared in great detail all the religious proceedings in Tirumala for Lord Venkateswara from Suprabhatam till sanctum closing time.

"It was an eye-opener for me and my team on the kind of intricate details that the Bhattachars at Tirumala attend to in their daily seva for Lord Venkateswara even to the extent of what neivedyams should be offered to the Lord at different times of the day and for major festivals. Now with the setting up of the new special kitchen for neivedyams, my team will look into all these details and work towards implementing them once the facilities are ready," says Dr K Vellayappan, Chairman of the SSPT Management Committee.

The workshop session also threw up several ideas which the Temple committee could consider implementing under guidance from HEB as part of routine poojas. These will also give a golden opportunity for more devotees to take part in the ceremonies and be part and parcel of the SSPT divine community.

Hindu News looks forward to a much refreshed Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple and will bring you regular updates on the Temple's redevelopment works progress in our subsequent issues in 2017.



The new Temple kitchen under construction

Bhalasthapanam Prayers

The Bhalasthapanam Prayers for the Temple Rajagopuram and Vimanams (domes) will be held on Sunday, 30 April 2017 between 10.30am and 11.30am. Thereafter, sculptural and painting works will commence.

NEW HOME FOR SILVER CHARIOT

Visitors to the PGP Hall next to Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple would have noticed the construction of a new structure at the entrance to the Hall. This is where the present silver chariot of Sri Mariamman Temple will be stored once the facility is completed.

According to the Vastu Sastras, the new facility being readied is the most appropriate position to house the chariot.

Vastu And Its Meaning

What is Vastu? Here is a simple definition. Vastu Shastra is a traditional Hindu system of architecture which literally translates to 'science of architecture'. These are texts which describe principles of design, layout, measurements, ground preparation and space arrangement.



New home for the silver chariot under construction

Though Vastu started out with the construction rules for Hindu temples, it soon branched out to cover residential houses, office buildings, vehicles, sculpture, paintings and even what kind of furniture to buy for the home, office and Temple rooms, how to place the conference table in a meeting room and where the leader of an organisation should sit to conduct meetings.

If you have noticed in many South Indian Temples, the chariot storage position of the larger wooden chariots in India is just next to the Temple Gopuram. Accordingly, the Hindu Endowments Board has been advised by experts in Vastu that the entrance near the PGP Hall is well suited to position the silver chariot.

Chariots Bring Divine Blessings

It is no secret that the silver chariot housed at the Perumal Temple grounds and managed by an able team of volunteers from Sri Mariamman Temple is the most popular chariot being deployed for Ratha Urchavams (Chariot Processions) in many temples in Singapore. In a year, the silver chariot has nearly 20 runs all over Singapore.

Urchavamoorthis from many temples have been divinely decorated with garlands and flowers and placed on the chariot to be brought around different parts of Singapore to bless devotees in the heartlands and other Temples.

Couples getting married and having their 'Thirumangalya dharanam' (tying of thaali) performed at the PGP Hall's premises can't ask for anything better than to have the darshan of a divine chariot placed at the entrance of the wedding hall to bless them with abundant grace, peace, harmony and prosperity as the couple make their grand entrance into the Hall for their wedding ceremonies.

Do bear with the little inconvenience for the time being while the construction goes on. The ultimate aim is to shower Divine Blessings to all those who patronise the PGP Hall for all events.

THAIPUSAM 2017

Thaipusam is an annual Hindu festival celebrated in honour of Lord Murugan. Thaipusam was observed on 9 February this year. Around 50,000 participants and observers gathered for the Festival which stretched from Serangoon Road to Tank Road. Hindu News brings you the highlights of the Festival in pictures.



Devotees preparing their paalkudams in the early hours on Thaipusam day



One of the first few batches of devotees carrying paalkudam leaving Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple for Sri Thendayuthapani Temple



A Festival for one and all – a non-Hindu devotee offering prayers before mounting his kavadi



A priest sprinkling holy water on devotees and kavadi bearers as they embark on their journey of faith



Guest of Honour, Education Minister (Higher Education and Skills) Ong Ye Kung (in red shawl), interacting with kavadi bearers in Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple



A kavadi bearer along Penang Road – most of the AM kavadi bearers had a smooth walk to Sri Thendayuthapani Temple



Kavadi bearers dancing at the “live” music point at Bras Basah Green



Mr K Shanmugam (Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law) meets kavadi bearers and thanneer pandhal volunteers during his walk along the procession route



Crowds along the procession route cheering for a kavadi bearer



A kavadi bearer finally reaches his destination – Sri Thendayuthapani Temple

PROJECT BHAKTI TURNS 15

By Jayasri Prushuathamun



Children learning to make Panchamritam



Newcomer volunteer teacher Rajkirren explaining how to make crowns for Krishna Jayanti

Over 220 children from the different Project Bhakti (PB) centres had the time of their lives at this year's Annual PB Day and 15th Anniversary Celebrations held at PGP Hall on 11 September 2016.

As with every year, the full-day event was well attended by eager and knowledge-thirsty children who had put their hearts and souls into preparing for different segments of the activities for the day. In conjunction with the milestone celebrations, the theme for 2016 was Hindu Festivals and how they are celebrated. As enthusiastic as the children were to begin the day with opening prayers and mingling with their friends, the eagerness to get hands on the crafts and games painstakingly planned and prepared by the teachers won hands down.

Each Centre had colourful, prop-bearing booths set up so the children could experience what the different festivals would be like – all in the same day. There were interactive stalls like that of Deepavali and Holi which enticed the children to get their hands dirty playing with coloured powder and decorating clay diyas respectively.

The kids clustered around the Vinayagar Chathurthi booth got to make their own pooja thaali (prayer tray), while the little ones at the Shivaratri booth got to dig in and mould Shivalingas out of modelling clay. From handmade peacock-inspired crowns symbolising Krishna Jayanti to freshly-made Panchamritam (sweet fruit salad) in celebration of Thaipusam. In lieu of Navratri beginning a few weeks later, the children got into the festivities by doing quizzes and dancing 'Dandiya' to get in the mood.

While it was fun and games for the young participants, the 32 volunteer teachers got together on weekends and even weeknights to create the educational aspect of the day. “Not only did we have to organise the entire day and also the special segments to mark the 15th year of PB, we had to prepare props, activities and a performance segment for the kids in the Centre we teach at,” said Saravanan Pannir Selvam and Anupriya Paneerselvan, organisers for 2016’s Annual Day.

Since additional non-teaching volunteers were roped in to manage the flow of traffic between booths and to aid the kids in their craft and games on that day, the teachers were able to fully enjoy the day with the children. “I was truly heartened to see the children learning about Hinduism from props and activities we had created. To be able to work with like-minded individuals intent on achieving a common goal and to gel extraordinarily over a short period of time was an excellent experience. PB has almost become a second family to me these days,” said newcomer volunteer teacher Rajkirren Rajendran.

The parents were not left out in the day’s excitement. Over 400 parents flocked to have their children diligently bathe and anoint their feet with turmeric and kumkum before blessing them. It only got better from there – the parents were treated to show-stopping performances showcasing the skills and knowledge they had learnt while preparing for their centre’s chosen festival.

The highlight was reserved for the finale – the official launch of the PB books and CDs, the revealing of the PB logo and the introduction of the PB Teens’ book on Hinduism FAQs to great fanfare. Although the children were more excited about the cake cutting that followed, the teachers’ highlight seemed to be “seeing the children excited and enjoying themselves throughout the entire day of celebrations”.



Mothers blessing their children at the completion of 'Maatru Pooja' where the children perform a prayer for them



A performance by children during the finale segment

SAVING A LIFE COMES FIRST

By Dinesh Natarajan

This story that you are about to read has been told in all the mainstream media in Singapore. Nevertheless, the individuals involved in this episode have done our community proud, they deserve to be held up as role models for many to emulate.

On Sunday, 23 October 2016, a group of Hindu devotees who were on their way to the firewalking ceremony held at Sri Mariamman Temple had helped a Chinese man who had collapsed while attempting to inflate his bicycle tyres at a Shell petrol station along Serangoon Road, which is beside Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple. The group dressed in ceremonial attire, was pictured holding up a veshti to shelter the unconscious man, with one devotee performing cardiopulmonary

resuscitation (CPR) on the Chinese man. It was later reported that the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) was alerted to the incident and the man, who was in his 60s, was taken to Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

The man credited with performing the CPR on the elderly man was Mr. U. Silvakumar. After checking that the unconscious man had no pulse or signs of breathing, Mr. Kumar commenced performing CPR on him. Fortunately, the man showed signs of response before the ambulance arrived. It was later reported that the elderly man had died in hospital later that day.

Mr. Kumar, who is a Signals specialist with the Singapore Army, was given the SCDF Public Spiritedness Award for his efforts. He said that he had learned CPR in the army 1982. In his interviews with the media, Mr. Kumar said, "I think everybody should try to help. Don't look at color or religion, look at life. We can have our opinions, opinions can change, but life will never change. So I think we should put lives first - I think that's very important."



Mr Silvakumar rendering CPR on the elderly man on Fire Walking day



For his civic-mindedness, Mr Silvakumar received the Public Spiritedness Award from Singapore Civil Defence Force

Mr. Kumar has been lauded for his selflessness and his tendency to help others. One such prime example is his service to Saraswathy Kindergarten, a project of the Hindu Endowments Board. He and his wife have been volunteering at the kindergarten for about 13 years. Mr. Kumar is also an ardent volunteer in several Temples in Singapore. He has a special interest in ensuring that religious prayers are conducted well in Temples. When we spoke to Mr. Kumar, he said, "What you get you pass forward. Wherever you are, with your presence make the place better for all. This is what I believe and I live by it."

Editor's Note

Mr. Kumar is a great role model to us and our community. He has demonstrated that everyone can be a hero in their own right by doing simple, everyday acts. Let us endeavor to mimic these traits demonstrated by Mr. Kumar and strive to lend a fellow citizen a helping hand regardless of race, language or religion. The Hindu Endowments Board salutes the group of devotees who helped the elderly man and congratulates Mr. Kumar for receiving the SCDF Public Spiritedness Award.

DEEPAVALI CELEBRATIONS WITH SANA HINDU RELIGIOUS GROUP



Children performing at Deepa Maalai

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association or SANA and HEB-Ashram jointly organised the inaugural Deepavali festive dinner 'Deepa Maalai' on 5 November 2016 at SANA's headquarters. HEB Vice-Chairman, Mr R Dhinakaran, graced the event. Close to 150 residents, ex-residents and their family members attended the event. This event aimed at promoting family togetherness. Besides participating in some fun-filled entertainment and games, about 40 current and ex-residents were each presented with Deepavali goodies and NTUC vouchers.

PRESENTATION OF BOOK VOUCHERS

HEB-Ashram Management Committee has placed great emphasis in the rehabilitation and reintegration of the residents so that they are able to lead a normal life after their release. On 27 November 2016, HEB-Ashram Halfway House organised the 'Back to School' event for Ashram's current and ex-residents' children. During this annual event, Ashram gave away book vouchers worth \$100/- and a voucher worth \$50/- to purchase school shoes to about 40 children. Mr Murali Pillai, Member of Parliament for Bukit Batok, presented the vouchers to the children.



Mr Pillai with some of the children who received the book vouchers

GIFT FROM THE HEART (GFTH)



50 packed food rations were delivered to needy families

On 17 December 2016, 30 personnel from the 1st batch of the Pioneer Commandos from Singapore Armed Forces came forward to support HEB-Ashram by sponsoring the food rations for 50 needy families who are under the GFTH Programme. The ex-commandos also helped deliver the rations to the door steps of the needy families on the same day. The team was with full of enthusiasm and was excited to be part of the honourable cause in reaching out to the less fortunate ones. The group leader, Mr Robert Chung, said, "It is the responsibility of every citizen to pay-back to the society in whatever way we can afford."

MCCY APPRECIATION DINNER 2016

(Photo credits: Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth)



Mr S Lakshmanan receiving the Friend of MCCY Award from Minister Grace Fu HAB Secretary, Mr S Ramesh receiving his award from Minister Grace Fu

Each year, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) holds an annual Appreciation Dinner to honour its stakeholders from the arts, heritage, sports, community and youth sectors. On 8 November 2016, two members from the Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) and Hindu Advisory Board (HAB) received the Friends of MCCY Award 2016 from Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth.

Hindu News congratulates Mr S Lakshmanan (Member, HEB) and Mr S Ramesh (Secretary, HAB) on the Friends of MCCY Award 2016.

In his 30 years of community service, Mr Lakshmanan has played many key roles. He was a member of Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple's Management Committee, Chairman of The Ashram, Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of Sri Sivan Temple. Currently, he is an advisor at Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple and feels 'happy to make a difference in the community'.

Sharing his experiences, Mr Ramesh who has been a part of both HEB and HAB for the last 16 years said, "The HEB in particular has gone beyond just temple services by also addressing the needs of lower income families and students who need help to further their studies."

MOVING ON TO A NEW PHASE OF LIFE

Graduation Ceremony

Saraswathy Kindergarten (SKG) and Saraswathy Darma Muneeswaran Kindergarten (SDMKG) had their annual Graduation Ceremony on 4 November 2016. Dr T. Tamilselvan, the former Chairman of the Kindergartens Committee of Management, was the Guest-of-Honour for the ceremony. The graduating cohort of 2016 comprised 66 children from both Kindergartens. In total, 1465 children have graduated from SKG since 1990 and 436 children have graduated from SDMKG since 2005.



African-themed performance by the students from SDMKG

The theme for the graduation concert this year was 'What a Wonderful World'. The children brought home the message of making the world a better place, where people love and care for one another, and for countries to be peaceful and harmonious to live in.



Graduating cohort of 2016

Appreciation Dinner for Kindergarten Staff and Committee Members

With more preschools offering Tamil language, enrolment in SKG and SDMKG had dropped drastically over the past few years. Recognising the benefits of children in Singapore learning and growing in a multi-racial environment, as well as to reallocate its resources to other areas of need in the community, HEB announced in July 2016 its decision to stop its preschool programme from December 2017.

Mr R Jayachandran, Chairman, HEB hosted an appreciation dinner for staff of the two Kindergartens, as well as current and past chairmen and members of the Kindergartens' Committee of Management on 23 November 2016. Speaking at the event, Mr R Jayachandran expressed his appreciation to everyone for helping HEB offer a quality preschool programme for more than 25 years.



Teaching staff of SKG and SDMKG with current and past chairmen and members of the Kindergartens' Committee of Management

மார்கழி மாத மகிமை

சேங்காலிபுரம் S.K. வாசுதேவ பட்டாச்சாரியார்



இறைவனுடைய திருவருளாலும் முன்னோர்களின் ஆசியாலும் கிடைக்கப்பெற்றுள்ள இந்த மனித பிறவி கிடைத்துள்ள நம் அனைவருக்கும் இறைவனுடைய திருவருள் மிகவும் அவசியமாகும். ஸ்ரீ பகவானுடைய சரித்திரங்களை கேட்பது, அவரது நாமாக்களை கீர்த்தனம் (பஜனை) செய்வது, அவரது திவ்ய ஸ்வரூபத்தை தியானம் செய்வது, நமஸ்காரம் செய்வது, வில்வம், துளசி, மலர்கள் போன்றவற்றை அர்ச்சனை செய்வது, இரு கரம் கூப்பி வணங்குவது, ஆலயங்களில் தொண்டுழியம் செய்வது, தன்னையே கடவுளுக்கு அர்ப்பணம் செய்வது ஆகிய பக்தி மார்கத்தை ஸ்ரீ பிரகலாதன் அருளிச் செய்துள்ளார்.

மேற்கூறிய வண்ணம் பக்தி மார்க்கத்தில் ஈடுபடுவதற்கு மிகவும் உகந்த மாதம் மார்கழி மாதமாகும். நமக்கு ஒரு வருடம் என்பது தேவர்களுக்கும் பித்ருகளுக்கும் ஒரு நாளாக கணக்கிடப்படுகிறது. தமிழ் மாதம் தை மாதம் முதல் ஆனி வரை தேவர்களின் பகல் நேரமாகும் (உத்தரயாணம்). பிறகு ஆடி மாதம் முதல் மார்கழி வரை இரவு நேரமாகும் (தஷீணாயணம்). இவ்விதம் பார்க்கும்போது மார்கழி மாதம் தேவர்களின் விடியற்காலை நேரமாகும் (4am-6am). இந்த நேரம் பிரம்ம முகூர்த்த காலமாகும். எனவே அனைத்து

ஆலயங்களிலும் மார்கழி மாதத்தில் விடியற்காலையில் பூஜைகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன. மேலும் ஸ்ரீ கிருஷ்ணன் பகவத் கீதையில் மாதங்களுக்குள்ளே மார்கழி மாதத்தில் தான் தாம் இருப்பதாக அர்ஜுனனிடம் உபதேசித்ததன் மூலம் மார்கழி மாத சிறப்பு விளங்கும்.

பன்னிரு ஆழ்வார்களில் ஒருவரான ஸ்ரீ ஆண்டாள் நாச்சியார் பாவை நோன்பு இருந்து ஸ்ரீ அரங்கநாதரையே கணவனாக அடையும் பாக்கியம் பெற்றார். ஸ்ரீ ஆண்டாள் அருளி செய்த திருப்பாவை முப்பது பாசுரங்களை செவிப்பதே இந்த மார்கழியின் சிறப்பு அம்சமாகும்.

மார்கழி மாதத்தில் வரும் வளர்பிறை ஏகாதசியே 'வைகுண்ட ஏகாதசி' எனப் போற்றப்படுகிறது. வைகுண்ட ஏகாதசியன்று சொர்க்க வாசல் (வடக்கு வாசல்) வழியாக எழுந்தருளும் பெருமாளை தரிசிப்பதால் அனைத்து பாவங்களிலிருந்தும் விடுபட்டு சொர்க்கலோகம், வைகுண்டலோகம் பதவியை அடைகிறோம்.

மார்கழி மாதம் வரும் திருவாதிரை நட்சத்திரம் ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ திருக்கோலம் பூண்ட சிவபெருமாளை வணங்கிட உகந்த நாளாகும். மாணிக்கவாசகர் திருவெம்பாவை படித்து அதிகாலையில் ஸ்ரீ நடராஜருக்கு அபிஷேக ஆராதனை செய்து வழிபட்டால் நம் தோஷங்கள் விலகி, வியாதிகள் நீங்கி நீண்ட ஆயுளை பெறலாம்.



மார்கழி மாதம் வரும் மூல நட்சத்திரத்தில் (அமாவாசை) ஸ்ரீ ஆஞ்சநேய ஜெயந்தி தினமாகும்.

இவ்விதம் பல்வேறு சிறப்புகள் கூடிய மார்கழி மாதத்தில் விடியற்காலை பொழுதில் நீராடி கடவுளை வழிபட்டு நீண்ட ஆயுள், ஆரோக்கியம், அஷ்ட ஐஸ்வர்யம் ஆகிய நன்மைகளை அடைவோம்.



50 YEARS OF MAKARA VILAKKU CELEBRATIONS

The history starts with the formation of the Singapore Malayalee Hindu Samajam (in short known as Samajam). Samajam started in March 1926 by a group of enthusiastic Malayalees headed by Mr M K Chathukutty, with the sole aim of helping destitute Malayalees in Singapore providing a decent burial in the event of death, not only for them but their families as well. From available records, it is noted that the then President, Mr Chathukutty was doing such a fine job that he was nominated to be a permanent Chairman for many years.



Makara Vilakku celebrations in 1973

After several years of inactivity, the Samajam was revived and it was in 1966/1967 the Samajam started celebrating the Makara Vilakku with the help of Singapore Dakshina Bharatha Brahmana Sabha at an old temple situated at Silat Road.

In the subsequent years, the celebrations were observed at Sri Senpaga Vinayagar Temple at Ceylon Road and for many years at the PGP Hall at Serangoon Road. It was during this period when the Samajam approached Late Mr P Govindasamy, who was then the MP for Anson CC and also the Chairman of Hindu Advisory Board for an exclusive place for Samajam to worship Lord Ayyappa.

This appeal was acceded to when the Hindu Endowments Board, under the leadership of Late Mr S R Nathan, allocated some space for the standalone Sri Ayyappan sanctum to be constructed at the Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamma Temple at Toa Payoh. (Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamma Temple had to move from Somerset Road in the early 80s to make way for the MRT development works). Hence, the Temple was able to set aside some space for the construction of the Ayyappan sanctum. This 2016/2017 commemorates the glorious 50 years of Makara Vilakku celebrations.



Devotees singing bhajans as part of Makara Vilakku celebrations at the Temple



Devotees carrying the Irumudi as part of Makara Vilakku prayers



Prayers for Sri Ayyappan at Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple on 14 January 2017



Special guest Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Home Affairs (seated, third from left) at the event



Special pyrotechnics to mark the 50th Anniversary of Makara Vilakku celebrations on 14 January 2017

SRP PARTICIPANTS VISIT SST



Visit by participants of the 2nd Studies in Inter-Religious Relations on Plural Societies (SRP) Executive Programme held at Sri Sivan Temple in November 2016

SIVADAS BURSARY AWARDS



Some of the 236 Sivadas Bursary Awards recipients along with the Trustees managing the Fund on 12 November 2016. Around \$540,000 was disbursed to students for furthering their tertiary education in 2016.

SRI MAHA KALA BHAIRAVAR ASHTAMI



Devotees' paalkudam during the Sri Maha Kala Bhairavar Ashtami prayers held at Sri Sivan Temple on 21 November 2016

THIRUKARTHIGAI THIRUVIZHA



Involving well-wishers from the community – MP for Macpherson, Ms Tin Pei Ling, at Thirukarthigai at Sri Sivan Temple on 12 December 2016

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR ACEH & RAKHINE STATE



16 December 2016 – Representatives from various faith groups came together and presented cheques totalling \$21,000 to the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF) in support of the donation drive for humanitarian relief for the affected communities in Aceh and Rakhine State. HEB and HAB was represented by Mr K Kesavapany.

HANUMAN JAYANTHI



Sri Hanuman Jayanthi alankaram at Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple on 29 December 2016

INTERRELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Members of the various interfaith groups at the Archdiocesan Interreligious Christmas celebration held on 29 December 2016 at Cathedral of the Good Shepherd

VAIKUNDA EKADASI



Vaikunda Ekadasi prayers (opening of the Swargavasa) were held at Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple on 8 January 2017.

SARASWATHY POOJAI



Children performing a prayer to seek the blessings of Sri Saraswathy (Goddess of Knowledge) at Sri Mariamman Temple on 8 January 2017

LUNAR NEW YEAR REUNION



Seniors from Banyan Home tossing 'yusheng' or prosperity salad during the Chinese New Year Reunion Lunch at Sri Mariamman Temple as part of the Temple's initiative to promote community bonding and providing support for the less fortunate.

BE LIKE A BEE

By Swami Vimokshananda
President, Ramakrishna Mission, Singapore

Let us recollect what Swami Vivekananda says:

“Gita is the best commentary we have on the Vedanta philosophy – curiously enough the scene is laid on the battlefield, where Krishna teaches this philosophy to Arjuna; and the doctrine which stands out luminously in every page of the Gita is intense activity, but in the midst of it, eternal calmness. This is the secret of work.”

The Bhagavad Gita forms part of the great Indian epic, the Mahabharata. The words of this 'song celestial' have flowed from Bhagawan, Sri Krishna Himself. The Gita chanting is generally preceded with what is known as 'Gita Dhyanam' – nine introductory verses in praise of Bhagavad Gita. It is customary to recite the meditative verses (Dhyana shlokas) before beginning the study of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita proper. The poet-devotee, who composed these nine verses, has charmingly explained the purpose, principle and the practice of the Gita in these meditative verses.



*pārāśaryavacaḥ sarojamamalaṁ gītārthagandhotkaṭaṁ
nānākhyānakakesaraṁ harikathāsambodhanābodhitam
loke sajjanaṣaṭpadairaharaḥ pepīyamānaṁ mudā
bhūyādbhāratapaṅkajaṁ kalimalapradhvamsi naḥ śreyase*

Meaning: May this lotus of the Mahabharata, born in the lake of the words of the son of Parashara (Vyasa), sweet with the fragrance of the meaning of the Gita, with many stories as its stamens, fully opened by the discourses on Hari, the destroyer of the sins of Kali, and drunk joyously day by day by the six-legged bees of good men in the world, become the bestower of good to us. – Gita Dhyanam, 7

Vast and Deep

In the above seventh verse, the poet-devotee stresses the utmost importance of the knowledge contained in the Mahabharata. He says that the Gita is like a full-blown lotus, grown in the vast lake of words dictated by the son of the Sage Parashara, thereby meaning Sri Veda Vyasa (author of the Mahabharata). The significance of not saying the name of Vyasa but indicating him as son of Parashara lies in the wonderful combination of wisdom of the Rishi with practical sense of a fisherwoman, Satyavati, who was the mother of Vyasa. Sage Vyasa, like his father Parashara, had a broad, vast knowledge of the Vedas and like his mother, Satyavati, who would go deep into the river to catch fish, also went deep into the meaning of the Vedas.

Petals and Fragrance

The full-blown lotus has an extremely sweet fragrance and many soft petals. The insight of the Gita is said to be the fragrance and the varied stories and sub-stories that form the elaborate Mahabharata, the petals. The lotus is full blown by the speech of Lord Sri Krishna, who is verily Lord Hari (Vishnu) Himself.

The poet-devotee further says that in this world noble men joyously drink, day by day meaning again and again, the nectar issuing from the lotus flower like 'a six-legged bee'.



The Drink And The Drunk

A bee continues its unending search for nectar from many flowers. But it is the flower that is most beautiful and exuberantly filled with sweet honey that attracts it the most. Likewise, we have a number of scriptures. Of them, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, which forms part of the world's largest epic, the Mahabharata, contains that nectar which makes the learner go beyond birth and death.

The insight that the Gita provides in controlling our life's destiny is unparalleled. The Gita gives us wonderful courage to deal with the many challenges that life poses. In order to gain the rich experience that the Gita enumerates, noblemen – men of character – searching for the true meaning of life come to study the Gita.

The poet-devotee of the meditative verses compares a noble-minded person with the untiring bee. Bees, unlike other insects or birds, go much deeper into flowers. They go to the very source.

So it is clear that if we want to obtain the knowledge of the Gita, superficial study is not enough. Merely chanting the Gita may give us a sense of peace; a little more study may lead us on a good path to enjoy the blessings of a noble life. But only a deeper study can provide the knowledge of Atman (Soul) which is the real nectar of the Gita. Like a bee, we must go deep – meditate deeply on each verse of the Gita. This will light up the lamp of knowledge that is within each of us. Mahapurush Maharaj, known as Swami Shivananda, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna once said, "You must meditate on them. Then, only will you assimilate them. Hari Maharaj (Swami Turiyananda) used to meditate on each verse until he had mastered it."

Legs That Lead

Furthermore, the poet-devotee has used the words 'six-legged' when describing the bee. This also has a profound significance. Merely being noble may not be sufficient to understand the inner meaning of the Gita. Perhaps the man who is only 'two-legged' has to acquire another '4 legs' in order to grasp the inner meaning of the words that flow from Lord Sri Krishna's lips.



What then, are the 'six-legs' that a noble man has to possess? They are discrimination, detachment, devotion, deep yearning, deliberate effort and divine knowledge. Once a person of noble character possesses these 'six-legs' he will be able to hold onto the slippery petals and drive himself deep into the nectar of inner meaning. Therefore, a study once or twice is not enough. Again and again, one must devotedly pursue the study so that the bad samskaras – mental impressions – that are gained from birth to birth can be removed by continuous study of the Gita.

Thus the poet-devotee concludes in this verse of Dhyana shloka on Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, propounded by the Lord Himself, is great, bestows welfare and removes all the impurities that are born of this age (Kali Yuga).

பஞ்ச சபை ஸ்தலங்கள்



சிவபெருமானின் திருவிளையாடல்கள் சிவபுராணங்கள் கதைகளையொட்டி இந்தியாவில் உள்ள சிவாலயங்கள் பல வகையாக வகுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. இந்தியா முழுவதும் பன்னிரண்டு ஜோதிலிங்க கோயில்கள், 274 தேவாரம் பாடல் பெற்ற ஸ்தலங்கள், தமிழ் நாட்டில் பஞ்ச பூத ஸ்தலங்கள், நவகிரக கோயில்கள் என சில உதாரணங்கள் எடுத்து கூறலாம். இந்த கட்டுரையில் நடராஜ அம்சத்தில் அருள் புரியும் பஞ்ச சபை ஸ்தலங்களை கவனிப்போம்.

ஒவ்வொரு சிவாலயத்திலும் தெற்கு திசையை நோக்கி ஸ்ரீ சிவகாமி சமேத ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ பெருமான் காட்சியளித்து பக்தர்களுக்கு அருள் புரிகிறார்கள். கலைகளின் நாயனாக விளங்கும் ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ பெருமானுக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுத்து தமிழ் நாட்டில் ஐந்து கோயில்கள் பஞ்ச பூத ஸ்தலங்களாக திகழ்கின்றன. இந்த ஐந்து கோயில்களும் குறைந்தது ஆயிரத்து ஐநூறு ஆண்டுகள் பழமைவாய்ந்தவை. அனைத்தும் தேவார பாடல்கள் பெற்ற ஸ்தலங்களாகும்.

தமிழ் நாட்டின் வரை படத்தில் தெற்கிலிருந்து வடக்குவரை அமைந்திருக்கும் பஞ்ச பூத ஸ்தலங்கள் கீழ் வருமாறு:

திருகுற்றாலம்

குற்றாலம் என்றாலே நீர் வீழ்ச்சிகள் நிறைந்த சுற்றுலா இடமாக நமக்கு தெரிகிறது. சிலருக்கே குற்றால நீர் வீழ்ச்சி மிகவும் அருகே குற்றாலனாதர் கோயிலின் அருமையை அறிவர். பஞ்ச பூத ஸ்தலங்களில் இதை சித்திர சபை என அழைப்பர். இங்கு திருபுர தாண்டவம் புரிந்து நமக்கு இறைவன் அருள்புரிகிறார்.

திருநெல்வேலி

ஸ்ரீ காந்திமதி சமேத ஸ்ரீ நெல்லையப்பர் திருநெல்வேலியில் காட்சியளிக்கின்றனர். இந்த கோயிலில் தாமிர சபையில் முனிதாண்டவத்தில் ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ பெருமான் காட்சியளிக்கிறார். திருநெல்வேலி கோயிலுக்கும் குற்றாலனாதர் கோயிலுக்கும் இடையே சுமார் அறுபது கிலோமீட்டர் தூரம்தான் உள்ளது.



மதுரை

உலக புகழ்வாய்ந்த ஸ்ரீ மீனாட்சி சமேத ஸ்ரீ சுந்தரேஸ்வரர் கோயில் அடுத்த பஞ்ச சபை ஸ்தலமாகும். மற்ற பஞ்ச பூத ஸ்தலங்களைவிட மதுரையில் ஒரு வித்தியாசமுண்டு. இங்கே ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ பெருமான் கால்மாறி தனது வலது காலைத் தூக்கி வெள்ளியம்பலத்தில் சந்தியா தாண்டவம் புரிந்து அருள் புரிகிறார்.

சிதம்பரம்

இரண்டாயிரம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பே கோயில்களுக்கெல்லாம் கோயில் என்ற பெயரும் புகழுடன் திகழ்கிறது சிதம்பரம். தில்லையம்பல நடராஜ பெருமானின் கோயிலை வர்ணிக்க தனி கட்டுரையே தேவைப்படும். இந்த கோயிலில் மூலவரே ஸ்ரீ சிவகாமி சமேத ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ பெருமானாக காட்சியளித்து பக்தர்களுக்கு

அருள் புரிகிறார்கள். பொற்சபை, கனகசபை என்ற பெயர்களில் ஆனந்த தாண்டவத்தில் இறைவன் காட்சியளிக்கிறார்.

திருவலங்காடு

இறுதியாக சென்னை அருகே திருவலங்காடு கோயில் பஞ்ச பூத ஸ்தலமாக விளங்குகிறது. ரத்தின சபையில் ஊர்த்தவ தாண்டவம் அல்லது காளி தாண்டவம் புரிந்து அருள் இறைவன் புரிகிறார். ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ பெருமானுக்கும் ஸ்ரீ காளியம்மனுக்கும் கடும் நடன போட்டி நடைபெற்றது. இறுதியில் ஸ்ரீ நடராஜ பெருமான் தன் ஒரு காலைத் தன் தலைமேல் தூக்கி நடனம் புரிந்து வெற்றிபெற்ற கோலத்தில் இங்கு காட்சியளிக்கிறார்.

சிவாலயங்களில் வருடத்திற்கு ஆறு முறைகள் நடராஜ அபிஷேக பூஜைகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன. அவைகளில் முக்கியமாக மார்கழி மாதத்தின் திருவாதிரை நட்சத்திரத்தில் ஆருத்ரா தரிசனம் மற்றும் ஆனி மாதத்தின் உத்திர நட்சத்திரத்தில் ஆனித்திருமஞ்சன பூஜைகளை மிகவும் சிறப்பாகக் கொண்டாடப்படுகின்றன.

Adapted from:

<http://eshwarthegod.blogspot.sg/2012/01/pancha-sabhai-sthalams.html>



PANCHA SABHAI TEMPLES

Based on Lord Shiva's stories in the Puranas, temples dedicated to Lord Shiva have been grouped into various categories such as Jothirlingas, Thevaram Padal Petra Sthalams, Ashta Veeratana Temples, Panchabhoota Temples, Pancha Sabhai Temples, etc. This article dwells on the Pancha Sabhai Temples depicting Lord Shiva in his Nataraja form. These Temples are also a part of the 274 Thevaaram Padal Petra Sthalams.

Lord Nataraja is the depiction of the cosmic ecstatic dancer. This form of dance is called 'Tandava', depending on the context of the dance. In all Lord Shiva Temples, Sri Natarajar is accompanied by Sri Sivagami, and faces the south direction. The five Pancha Sabhai Temples described below, are located in Tamil Nadu.

Kutralam

Kutralam is a popular tourist resort in southern Tamil Nadu bordering Kerala. It is well known for a series of waterfalls, picturesque surroundings and an inspiration of many a literary work. Few tourists / visitors realise that Kutralam represents one of the five Pancha Sabhais of Sri Nataraja. Kutralam is depicted as the Chitra Sabhai or picture hall. Here, Lord Natarajar performs the Tripura Tandavam.

Thirunelveli

Thirunelveli also is one of the five places where Lord Shiva is said to have performed his cosmic dance and all these places have stages/ ambalams. Thirunelveli has the Thaamirai (Copper) Ambalam, and Lord Natarajar performs the Muni Tandavam. The Nelloiyappar Temple at Thirunelveli is around 60 km away from Kutralam.

Madurai

The world-renowned Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple is one of the Pancha Sabhai temples. Here, it is referred to Velli or Silver Ambalam. Sri Natarajar performs the Sandhya Tandavam. A unique feature of Lord Nataraja here is that he is depicted dancing with his right leg raised.



Chidambaram

Since the past 2000 years, Thillai Ambala Natarajar Temple is most famous and significant that it is referred as the foremost of all temples, Kovil, to Saivites and has influenced worship, architecture, sculpture and performing arts. The main presiding deity is Sri Natarajar with his consort. Chidambaram houses the Kanaka Sabhai or golden hall. The Lord performs the Ananda Tandavam in Chidambaram.

Thiruvallangadu

Thiruvallangadu is located near Chennai. It houses the Ratna Sabha or gem hall and the Lord performs the Kali Tandavam. Lord Shiva and Goddess Kali competed in a dance performance. Finally, Lord Shiva raised one leg above his head and won the competition.

Festivals and Poojas

Each year, there are six Poojas performed for Lord Nataraja. Most significant poojas are Arudra Darisanam and Aani Thirumanjanam. Arudra Darisanam is held on the Thiruvathirai or Arudra nakshatram in the Tamil month of Margazhi (mid-December to mid-January). Aani Thirumanjanam is held on the Uthiram nakshatram in the Tamil month of Aani (mid-June to mid-July).

விரதமும் அதன் பலன்கள்

நமது கலாச்சாரத்தில் சில சம்பிரதாயங்கள் இருக்கிறது. அத்தகைய சம்பிரதாயங்களில் முக்கியமானது விரதம் இருத்தல் என்பதாகும்.

விரதம் இருப்பது என்றவுடன் உண்ணாமல் இருப்பது என்று மட்டுமே நினைத்துவிடுகிறோம். ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட நோக்கத்துடன் தனது அவயங்களை செயல்படாமல் வைப்பது விரதம் இருத்தல் என விளக்கலாம். நமது உணர்வு உறுப்புக்களின் செயலை ஒரு நோக்கத்துடன் தற்காலிகமாக நிறுத்தும் பொழுது அது விரதம் என கூறலாம்.

சாப்பிடாமல் விரதம் இருக்கும் முறையை உண்ணாவிரதம் என்றழைத்தோம். ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட நோக்கத்திற்காக வைராக்கியத்துடன் உணவு சாப்பிடாமல் இருக்கும் தன்மையை இவ்விரதம் சுட்டிக்காட்டுகிறது.

மௌனவிரதம் இருப்பது வாய் எனும் உறுப்பின் மற்றொரு விரதமாகும். மௌனவிரதத்தால் நமது உடல் மற்றும் மனது தூய்மை ஆகிறது. மௌனவிரதம் அனைவரும் இருக்க தகுந்த ஒரு விரதம். இதில் யாருக்கும் தடையில்லை. மௌனவிரதம் இருந்துவந்தால் உங்கள் உள்ளுணர்வு மிகவும் கூர்மையானதாக மாறி உங்களை விழிப்புணர்வாளர்களாக மாற்றும்.

உலக மதங்கள் எத்தனையோ இருந்தாலும் அதில் ஒர் அடிப்படை ஒற்றுமை உண்டு. அதற்கு சிறந்த உதாரணம் விரதம் எனும் தன்மை. உலகின் அனைத்து மதங்களில் விரதம் ஒரு புனித சடங்காக கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது.

விரதம் இருக்கும் பொழுது ஏற்படும் முக்கியமான பயன் மனது தனது செயலை மிகவும் குறைவாக செய்து தன்னில் அடங்கிவிடும். மனமற்ற தூய நிலையில் ஆன்மீக முன்னேற்றம் விரைவாக நடக்கும். பால், பழங்களை உண்டு விரதம் இருத்தல் ஒரு வகை. நீர் கூட குடிக்காமல் விரதம் இருப்பது மற்றொரு வகை. நமது உடலின் தன்மை வாழ்க்கை சூழல் பொருத்து விரதம் இருக்க வேண்டும்.

சந்திராம்ச விரதம் என ஒரு வகை விரதம் உண்டு. சந்திரனின் பிறைக்கு ஏற்க சாப்பிடும் விரதம் சந்திராம்ச விரதம். பெளர்ணமி அன்று முழுமைகாக சாப்பிட ஆரம்பித்து படிப்படியாக குறைப்பார்கள். அமாவாசை அன்று ஒன்றும் சாப்பிடாமல் இருப்பார்கள். அமாவாசைக்கு அடுத்தநாள் ஒரு கவளம் என படிப்படியாக உணவை கூட்டுவார்கள். சந்திராம்ச விரதத்தை பொருத்தவாரை மாதம் முழுவதும் விரத தினங்கள்தான்.

யார் எல்லாம் உண்ணா விரதம் இருக்க கூடாது? சஷ்டியப்த பூர்த்தி முடித்த முதியவர்கள், வியாதியினால் மருந்து உண்பவர்கள், கர்ப்பிணிகள், சன்யாசிகள். இவர்களை தவிர பிறர் உண்ணா நோன்பு இருக்கலாம் என்கிறது தர்ம சாஸ்திரம்.

பொதுவாக எந்த விழாவின் போது விரதம் இருந்தால் என்ன பலன் கிடைக்கும் என்பது அறிந்ததில்லை. சதுர்த்தி, சஷ்டி, ஏகாதசி, பிரதோஷம் ஆகிய திதிகளும், திங்கள் (சோம வாரம்), வியாழன் (குருவாரம்) கிழமைகளில் விரதமும் நமக்கு நன்மையை ஏற்படுத்தும். அன்றைய கோள்களின் நிலை நமது உடலின் சக்தியை மேலும் வலுசேர்க்கும்.

**சங்கடஹர சதுர்த்தி:**

நமக்கு ஏற்படும் சங்கடங்கள் அனைத்தும் தீர்ந்து மனதில் அமைதி நிலவும்.

விநாயக சதுர்த்தி:

வாழ்வின் விக்னங்கள் அனைத்தும் தீர்ந்து விநாயகனின் பூரணமான அருள் கிட்டும்.

**திருவோண விரதம்:**

குடும்பத்தில் அனைவரிடமும் ஒற்றுமை பெருகி, ஆனந்தமும், சந்தோஷமும் கிட்டும்.

சஷ்டி விரதம்:

மனதில் எண்ணிய காரியங்கள் அனைத்தும் இனிதே நிறைவேறும். புண்ணியம் தரும்.

கார்த்திகை விரதம்:

எல்லாவிதமான நன்மைகளும் வந்தடையும். முருகனின் பரிபூரண ஆசிகிடைக்கும்

**வைகுண்ட ஏகாதசி:**

குடும்பத்தில் நிலவி வந்த வறுமைகள் அனைத்தும் நீங்கி, செல்வ வளம் கொழித்திடும்.

கோகுலாஷ்டமி விரதம்:

மனநலம், நீண்ட நல் ஆயுள், குறையாத செல்வம் அனைத்தும் கிடைக்கப் பெறுவர்.

**கௌரி விரதம்:**

குறையாத செல்வமும், நீண்ட ஆயுளும், நல் மனைவியும், குழந்தைகளும் கிடைக்கும்.

வரலெஷ்மி விரதம்:

மாங்கல்ய பாக்கியம் கிடைத்திடும். திருமணமான தம்பதியரிடையே நல் ஒற்றுமை நிலவும்.

நவராத்திரி விரதம்:

மனநலம், நீண்ட நல் ஆயுள், குறையாத செல்வம் அனைத்தும் கிடைக்கப் பெறுவர்.

**பிரதோஷ விரதம்:**

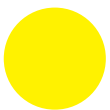
மன அமைதி கிடைத்திடும், நீண்ட நாள் ஆயுள் அமைந்திடும். செல்வ வளம் பெருகிடும்.

மகா சிவராத்திரி:

சிவ பெருமானின் அருள் கிடைக்கும், வாழ்வில் அனைத்து நன்மைகளும் உண்டாகும்.

**அமாவாசை விரதம்:**

பித்ருக்களுக்கு செய்யும் தர்ப்பணத்தால், அவர்களது ஆசிகள் அனைத்தும் கிடைக்கும்.

**பௌர்ணமி விரதம்:**

வாழ்வில் ஏற்பட்ட அனைத்து கஷ்டங்களும் விலகி, சுகமான வாழ்வு அமையும்.

UPCOMING TEMPLE EVENTS IN 2017



Sri Sivan Temple

Silver Chariot Procession

Saturday, 18 February

Maha Sivarathri

Friday, 24 February



Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple

Sri Navakshari Laksha Jaba Maha Yagam (10th year)

Monday, 13 March – Sunday, 19 March



Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

Panguni Brahmotsavam

Wednesday, 15 March –

Monday, 27 March

Rajagopuram & Vimana

Bhalasthapanam

Sunday, 30 April 2017 (between 10.30am & 11.30am)



Sri Mariamman Temple

Sri Satha Chandi Maha Yaagam

Thursday, 23 March 2017 –

Sunday, 2 April

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Holiday	Date
New Year's Day	¹ Sunday, 1 January
Chinese New Year	Saturday, 28 January
	^{2,3} Sunday, 29 January
Good Friday	Friday, 14 April
Labour Day	Monday, 1 May
Vesak Day	Wednesday, 10 May
Hari Raya Puasa	⁴ Sunday, 25 June
National Day	Wednesday, 9 August
Hari Raya Haji	Friday, 1 September
Deepavali	Wednesday, 18 October
Christmas Day	Monday, 25 December

Note:

- 1 – Monday, 2 January, will be a public holiday.
- 2 – Monday, 30 January, will be a public holiday.
- 3 – Tuesday, 31 January, will be a school holiday.
- 4 – Monday, 26 June, will be a public holiday.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Semester 1	
Between Terms 1 and 2	Saturday, 11 March – Sunday, 19 March
Between Semesters 1 and 2	Saturday, 27 May – Sunday, 25 June

Semester 2	
Youth Day	Sunday, 2 July & Monday, 3 July
Day after National Day	Thursday, 10 August
Teachers' Day	Thursday, 31 August
Between Terms 3 and 4	Saturday, 2 September – Sunday, 10 September
Children's Day	Friday, 6 October (for Primary Schools only)
At the End of School Year	Saturday, 18 November – Sunday, 31 December

Nataraja is a depiction of Lord Shiva as the cosmic dancer. His dance is called 'Tandavam'. One of the famous temples dedicated to Lord Nataraja is located in Chidambaram, Tamilnadu (India). Colour the picture to give it a complete look.



Category 1 (Age group: 5–8 years)

Name: _____

Age: _____

Contact number: _____

Address: _____

Send in your entries, complete with details
by 15 March 2017 to:

The Editor, Hindu News
Hindu Endowments Board
8 Jalan Lembah Kallang
#03-01, Min Ghee Building
Singapore 339564



Secret Word Discovery

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

1. Twin Gods
(W A S N I H I K M S R U A)

2. Lord of Ayurveda
(T R A I N N A V H D A)

3. Guru of the Devas
(P T I A R B I S H A)

4. Guru of the Asuras
(K S U H A R A R A C Y H)

5. Lord of Justice
(A R A J R H A D A M)

6. The greatest devotee
(N U H A N M A)

7. Goddess of fruits and vegetables
(A S H R B A I M K A)

8. The sage who was rescued from Lord Yama
by Lord Shiva
(Y E A D R A M N K A)

9. Father of Sage Vyasa
(A S H A R A A R P)

10. Goddess of Earth
(E I V D H I U M B)

Category 2 (Age group: 9–12 years)

Name: _____

Age: _____

Contact number: _____

Address: _____

Send in your entries, complete with details by 15 March 2017 to:

The Editor, Hindu News
Hindu Endowments Board
8 Jalan Lembah Kallang
#03-01, Min Ghee Building
Singapore 339564

Here are the winners of the Kids Zone activities from Hindu News Issue 03-2016:

Category 1 prize winners:

1st prize: S. K. Sunjaiy

2nd prize: R Srivikash

3rd prize: Madhumita

Category 2 prize winners:

1st prize: Shivesh s/o Sivaperakas

2nd prize: V. Akshaya

3rd prize: Vishaline Suresh

Congratulations to all of you!