NRI Newsletter

An Initiative of SRI KANCHI KAMAKOTI PEETAM
Volume IV, Issue II – April 2022 – Kanchipuram
(For private circulation only)
Message from Acharya Swamigal to NRI’s devotees

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

Education
सा विद्या या विमुक्तये

(Education is that which leads to Liberation)

Tirukkural: Letters of alphabet have ‘a’ as their beginning; the world has the Primal Bhagavan as its beginning.

Today in Kanchipuram we have internet facility, live telecast facility etc., which serve to unite science and spirituality, good conduct, simple life and united effort. Two thousand years ago, when this kind of technology was not available, knowledge spread from this Kanchipuram over 4000 km long distances extending to China and other places; this tells us about the effort, the concentration, the knowledge, the importance they gave to education, prevalent at that time.

Today, when we have information technology facilities in plenty, India should shine as the treasurehouse, the fountain of knowledge. The South has had a name in this regard. Sankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, Vallabhacharya and others; masters in modern science like Dr.Ramanujam of Kumbakonam, who was a celebrity in mathematics even at a young age, Dr.Abdul Kalam in recent times, who was well versed in philosophy and fine arts like music as well as modern technology, and such other great men of the South have achieved a lot. For human life, we need culture and education as well as modern inventions. With these three aspects in mind, courses like engineering, history, literature like Tamil and Samskrit, Ayurveda etc. have been introduced. For Ayurveda, Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Ayurvedic college has been functioning for over 25 years. ‘Plus two’ students are taken and taught Samskrit afresh and Ayurveda. For learning Ayurveda, they have planted herbal trees and plants; the medicine is all from nature.

Hence we have modern education as well as traditional learning. Here the phrase ‘traditional learning’ is used in two senses: learning what is there in our tradition; learning the traditional way, i.e. retaining the knowledge in the mind without having to refer to notes, to prepare answers to questions based on model question paper etc. Students have come here from different states, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha etc. to do the traditional learning. Though the languages differ, the spirit is the same. That is the greatness of our country. Students should study well in a way that brings credit to family and to their educational organisation, with a sense of patriotism, and acquire the capacity and the will to help the poor. Study should be aimed at acquiring सा विद्या या विमुक्तये, that knowledge, which helps in true development, true freedom and Gnana. We wish that students study well, keeping in mind Sri Periyava’s efforts, and get his blessings.

Hail Siva, who is special in the South! Hail Siva, who is the Lord of all the worlds!

(Excerpts from Speech given on 23-July-2018 at Kanchipuram)
Editorial: Our Sacred Kanchi Math & Our Holy Acharyas

A special editorial on the auspicious day of Ugadi to understand our sacred Kanchi Math and its holy Acharyas.

Sri Sankara Bhagavadpada Paramparagata Sri Moolamnaya Sarvajna Peetam Sri Kanchi Kamaktoti Peetam Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya Swamigal Srimatam Samsthanam was established by Pujyasri Sankara Bhagavadpadacharya in 482 B.C. The Central Seat or Principal place of the Srimatam Samsthanam is situated at Kanchipuram in the State of Tamilnadu.

Tradition has it that Pujyasri Sankara Bhagavadpada established the Advaita System of philosophy and founded Mutts or Seats of Learning in various places of this vast sub-continent. He installed His principal disciples as the Heads of these Vidya-Sthanas and He Himself assumed leadership of the Sarvajna Peetha or the Central Seat of Knowledge at Kanchipuram. The Great Acharya established Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Srimatam for His own residence, in Kanchipuram, which was the great converging centre of all faiths and cultures of this country. Here, He finally rested and entered into Eternal Bliss.

Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Shri Matam Samsthanam which has been adorned in a continuous line by the great Acharyas is a beacon light providing spiritual guidance of all devotees who turn to it with devotion and sincerity.

His Holiness Pujyasri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Sankaracharya Swamigal, the 68th Acharya of the Peetam and PujyasriJayendra Saraswati Sankaracharya Swamigal, the 69th Acharya of the Peetam travelled widely across the country initiated several Religious, Cultural and Social welfare projects supported by the Srimatam and its Branches located all over the Country and Blessed the people of the country.

This Great Spiritual Institution has been presided by Jagadguru Pujyasri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati Sankaracharya Swamigal, the 70thPeetadhipati in Succession.

A large concourse of devotees from all over the country gather at the Srimatam every day for having darshan of Sri Chandramouleeswara Pooja and Nitya and Namittika poojas at the Adhishtanams of the previous Acharyas.

Activities of Srimatam Samsthanam

Religious and Culture

❖ Sri Maha Tripurasundari Amba Sameta Sri Chandramouleeswara Swamy Trikala Puja
❖ Poojas in the Adhishtanams of the Purvacharyas of the Peetam.
❖ Bhikshavandanam, Pada Puja, Dravya Samarpanam etc,
❖ Vyasa Puja, Avatara Mahotsavam (Jayanti) and Aradana of Acharyas of the Peetam.
❖ Veda Parayanam, Japam, Yajnas and Homas
❖ Vakyartha Sadas, Agnihotra Sadas, Panchanga Sadas and Vysa Bharata KaladiSadas
❖ Honoring Veda Sastra Panditas, Agnihotris, Vidwans, Scholars, Temple Priests, Musicians, Artists, teachers and students and promotion of various welfare schemes for their support.
❖ Running and Supporting Veda, Saivagama, Vaikhanasa, Pancharatra and Tantra vidya Patasalas.
❖ Renovation of Ancient, dilapidated rural temples and Heritage Structures.
❖ Preservation of Traditional Art forms.
Charitable and Humanitarian Services

❖ Nitya Annadanam (Free food)
❖ Vidya and Vaidya projects
❖ Yatri-niwas in various places across the country for the benefit of all pilgrims.
❖ Helping poor families for marriage of daughters
❖ Vastra Danam
❖ Providing Shelter to the poor
❖ Homes for the Disabled
❖ Homes for the Aged (Vriddhasramas)
❖ Publication Books and Free Libraries
❖ Providing means to the un-employed youth for starting their own craft to earn their livelihood.
❖ Assistance to the affected people during famine, flood and other natural calamities.
❖ Contributions/Donations to the Prime Minister’s /Chief Ministers Relief Fund and other Government sponsored welfare initiatives.

Environment

❖ Cow Protection, Value added Panchagavya Products development and Waste management in Gausalas.
❖ Rishi-Krishi Projects
❖ Establishing Nandanavanams( Sacred groves)
❖ Temple Tank Renovation
❖ Pushkaram festivals across the country to highlight the importance and protection of sacred rivers
❖ Publication of books for bringing out the importance of Sacred groves, Vriksha dana, Vedic agriculture and Herbal Plantation etc.,
❖ Safe drinking water projects

The benefits the aforesaid schemes and activities of the Peetam reach All sections of the Society.

The infinite compassion and interest of His Holiness Jagadguru Pujyasri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati Sankaracharya Swamigal, the 70th Acharya of the Peetam, for the preservation of Sanatana Dharma, has no bound.

Acharya Swamigal has initiated educational schemes which will help in building & strengthening the cultural & spiritual foundations of our country. Acharya Swamigal has blessed Vedic programmes to be continuously to be held in J&K, North East India and Nepal to foster Shanti, Subhiksha & Suraksha in those regions. Acharya Swamigal is particularly interested in inculcating our youth in the various cultural, linguistic & Dharmic traditions of our country to enable them to understand Bharat’s Swadharma, Swarup & Swabhaav. Acharya Swamigal firmly believes that India is a Vedic nation where the tenets of Satya, Dharma, Tyaga, Shraddha, Bhakti & Gana is adhered even in remotest of its villages. Acharya Swamigal always strives in promoting greater understanding and performing one’s duties as Seva for betterment of individual, community, society and country. The Acharya also encourages people to people relations between countries based on arts, culture & human values for a sustained long term relationship. Acharya Swamigal is of firm conviction that in India’s growth, humanity will prosper and the world will be a better place to live.
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/NFFeP8r6Cs1xnJpDA

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

This issue covers the Holy Camp from 28th Feb 2022 by HIS HOLINESS PUJYASRI SANKARA VIJAYENDRA SARASWATI SANKARAACHARYA SWAMIGAL:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Camp Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-Feb-2022 till 15-Mar-2022</td>
<td>Manimandapam, Orikkai, Kanchipuram</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-Mar-2022</td>
<td>Tadipatri - Sri Gayatri Mata Temple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Mar-2022 till 30-Mar-2022</td>
<td>Sandur Eshwara swamy Temple, Shivapur, Hosapete Road, Sandur, Bellary District, Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-Mar-2022 till 12-Apr-2022</td>
<td>Hosapete - Sri Vidyaranya Vidyapeeta Trust, Veda Samskruta Patasala, Sandur Road, Hosapete, Vijayanagara District, Karnataka</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Kanikkai samarpanam can be performed through e-seva portal www.kanchimutteva.org.
The episode known as *Yaksha Prashna* in Mahabharata relates to the exchange of questions and answers between Yama in the guise of a Yaksha who poses 126 questions to Yudhishthira who gives the most fitting answers to those questions.

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

### Yaksha’s questions vs. Yudhisthira’s response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yaksha’s questions</th>
<th>Yudhisthira’s response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the best of all goodness?</td>
<td>Munificence is the best of all goodness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the best of all wealth?</td>
<td>Learning is the best of all wealth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the best of all gains?</td>
<td>Health is the best of all gains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the best of all happiness</td>
<td>Contentment is the best of all happiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the highest virtue?</td>
<td>Kindness is the best virtue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which duty always yields fruit?</td>
<td>Compliance with the Vedic prescriptions (ēk, Sama, Yajuþ) always yields fruit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What makes a man immune to sorrows?</td>
<td>The controlled mind cannot be overwhelmed with sorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What, if abandoned, makes a man popular?</td>
<td>Absence of pride makes a man well-liked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What, if abandoned, makes a man invulnerable to grief?</td>
<td>Absence of wrath makes a man shielded against grief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What, if abandoned, makes a man wealthy?</td>
<td>Absence of craving makes a man wealthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What, if abandoned, makes a man happy?</td>
<td>Absence of avarice makes a man happy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why are gifts offered to Brahmins?</td>
<td>Gifts are offered to Brahmins for the sake of dharma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why are gifts offered to actors and dancers?</td>
<td>Gifts are offered to actors and dancers to earn fame.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why are gifts offered to protégés?</td>
<td>Gifts are offered to the protégés to maintain them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why are gifts offered to the kings?</td>
<td>Gifts are offered to the kings to secure protection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jayanti Utsavam of Acharya Swamigal

Jayanti Mahotsavam - Viswaroopa Darshanam
West Mambalam Sri Shankara Matham Chennai

Thandalam

Thiruvanika | GURU Bakthi by Smt Vishaka Hari

Namasankeerthanam by New Jersey Sri Swaminatha Bhagavathar and group

Sivananda Lahari by Sri Vidya Samithi

Namasankeerthanam at Orikkai
Ishti was performed at Orikkai
Acharya Swamigal performed Pada puja at the adhistanam of Pujya Mahaswamigal and Pujya Sri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal at Shrimatam after arriving from Shrimatam camp at Orikkai by walk.

Shrimatam contribution to Government School upgradation at Polur & community college inauguration at Thandalam

On the occasion of Jayanthi Mahotsavam of Acharya Swamigal, Shrimatam contribution of Rs. 10 Lakhs was made towards the ugradation and renovation of Government School at Polur, near Tiruvannamalai.

On the occasion of Jayanthi Mahotsavam of Acharya Swamigal, community college inaugurated in Thandalam, Tiruvallur.
Acharya Swamigal performed Pada puja at the adhistanam of Pujya Mahaswamigal and Pujya Sri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal

Aradhana of the 67th Acharya Sri Mahadevendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal (03-Mar-2022)

Aradhana was performed on Phalguna Shukla Prathama at Orikkai, Kanchipuram in the presence of Acharya Swamigal at the Chaturmasya Gruham near Mani Mandapam at Orikkai. This is an ancestral house where Mahaperiyava has blessed in multiple occasions, including having stayed there for Chaturmasyam and performed the Chandramouleeswara pooja and the Vyasa pooja alongwith Sri Jayendra Periyava and Bala Periyava. Devotees were blessed to attend the Aradhana of Sri Mahaperiyava's Guru performed in this house.
Ponniamman temple Kumbabhishekam - Yagashala pujas performed in presence of Acharya Swamigal (03-Mar-2022)

Kumbabhishekam performed at Sri Shankar Math, Walajapet (04-Mar-2022)

Acharya Swamigal performed Kumbabhishekam of Shankar Math at Walajapet, North Arcot region of Tamil Nadu about 45 kms from Kanchipuram. Arriving late night after a visit to Ammaiayarkuppam near Sholingur, Acharya Swamigal traced the establishment of Shankar Math in 1984 when Kanchi Acharyas Pujya Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal, Pujya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya & Acharya Swamigal were on their way to Kanchipuram by Padayatra after the Kurnool Chaturmasyam. Acharya Swamigal recollected that the Math was build in record time to be blessed by Kanchi Acharyas. Today Kumbabhishekan was attended by Ratnagiri Swami & Kalavai Swami. Several devotees participated and sought blessings of Acharya Swamigal.
Kumbabhishekam performed at Adayapalam (06-Mar-2022)

Jeeranodharana Ashtabandana MahaKumbabhishekam of Sri Kalakanteswara temple, Sri Varadaraja Perumal temple and Sri Pratyaksha Ganapati -Vinayakar temple was performed at Adayapalam near Arani in the presence of Acharya Swamigal. Acharya Swamigal blessed the devotees with Anugraha Bhashanam.

Acharya Swamigal visited Veda Bhavan at Ranipet (6 Mar. 2022) and blessed devotees with Anugraha Bhashanam.
Aradhana Mahotsavam of HH Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal – 13th to 15th March 2022

The Fourth Samvatsara (Annual) Aradhana of HH Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal was performed (15th March. 2022) at the holy precincts of His Brindavanam in Shrimatam, Kanchipuram. Veda Parayanam, Vidwat Sadas, Japa- homam, spiritual discourses were performed commencing on the 13th March. Pancharatna Kritis were rendered by vidwans at the Brindavanam in the morning. Ekadasa Rudra Japa and special homams for loka kshema were conducted. Vasordhara, Poornahuti and Mahabishekam at the Brindavanam was performed. Teertha Narayana Puja was performed. Acharya Swamigal offered the Prasadams from Sri Venkateswara Swami Devasthanam, Tirumala, Sri Akhilandeshwari Temple from Tiruvanaikaval, Sri Kamakshi Ambal Temple, Kanchipuram, Chidambaram Sri Natarajaswami temple, Kumarakottam temple and various other temples at the Adhistanam. Sampradaya Bhajans were rendered.

The four sides of Pujya Jayendra Saraswathi Swamiji's Adhistanam have Sri Krishna in four forms. The East-facing slab has Mannargudi Rajagopalaswami, the place being closest to Irulneeki. The other sides have Dwaraka Krishna, Guruvayur and Pandavathooda Perumal of Kanchipuram. Besides, Dwadasa lingams and flowers of various kinds are sculpted. On the Aradhana, the Krishna Vigrahas were adorned with new Golden kavachams that were given as a samarpanam by a devotee.

Various Sanyasis and Sadhus participated. Annadaanam was performed. In the evening, Swarna rathotsavam was held around the Raja Veethis. The Aradhana Mahotsavam was observed at various Shrimatam branches and centres with Veda Parayanam and other spiritual activities. In the evening, Sangeeta samarpanam was performed by Shivaswamy Sri Kumaraswamy on the Saxophone.
Kumbabhishekam of Sri Shankara Vinayaka Swami temple at Orikkai performed (16-Mar-2022)

Acharya Swamigal performed the Kumbabhishekam of Sri Vinayakar temple at Orikkai near Kanchipuram.
Acharya Swamigal also visited the Sri Adi Karivarda swami temple in Orikkai.

Acharya Swamigal starts the Vijaya yatra to Andhra, Karnataka and Telangana on 16-Mar-2022

Visit to Sri Lalita Parameshwari Temple (19-Mar-2022)

Kadapa Sri Lalita Parameswari Temple Visit by Acharya Swamigal
Vijaya Yatra - Rajampeta Sri Anjaneyaswami temple visit (19-Mar-2022)
Rajampettai Rama Anjaneyar Temple Visit by Acharya Swamigal

VijayaYatra updates- Camp Cudappah - 20-Mar-2022
Acharya Swamigal gave darshan to devotees and performed Trikala Puja. In the evening Acharya Swamigal gave darshan and left for Vasavi Kanyaka Prameshwari Temple near Bazzar in Cuddapah and delivered Anugraha Bhashanam. Acharya Swamigal then returned to Srimatam camp at Ahobilam Math.
Visesha pujas to Narasimha Swami at Cudappah (21-Mar-2022)

Acharya Swamigal performed Trikala Puja early in the day. Special Harathis were held at Narasimha Shrine in Ahobilam Math temple coinciding Swati Nakshatram. Acharya Swamigal then gave Teertha Prasadam to all devotees for more than one and half hours. Acharya Swamigal addressed Archaka Samithi of Cuddapah district and Srimatam camp left for Tadipatri from Cuddapah.

Vijaya yatra updates- Shrimatam camp at Tadipatri (21-Mar-2022)

Acharya Swamigal arrived at Tadipatri and was taken in procession from main road to Gayatri temple, place of Srimatam Camp. People participated in large numbers and welcomed Acharya Swamigal. Special Harathis were performed in the temple followed with Anugraha Bhashanam. Trikala Puja was performed by Acharya Swamigal.
Vijaya Yatra - Arrival at Anantapur (22-Mar-2022)

Acharya Swamigal visited Chintala Venkatramana Swamy temple, Prasanna Parvathi Sametha Bugga Ramalingaswamy temple, Dr. Varahu Garden (Kanchi Paramacharya stayed in Tadipatri) Vasavi Temple, Brahmana Samithi Bhavan and other places at Tadipatri and reached Ananthapur.

Acharya Swamigal was received by the people of Anantapur and taken in procession from Gandhi Bazaar till College grounds led by Veda Parayanam, Nadaswara, Elephant, folk artists and devotees. Acharya Swamigal was given Swagatha Patrika at the grounds where Acharya Swamigal delivered Anugraha Bhashanam.

Touching on a range of topics about Hindu Dharma & social matters faced by Hindu Samaj, Acharya Swamigal spoke about inculcating

Dharma Parignanam - Knowing about our Dharma
Dharma Acharanam - Practising Dharma
Dharma Prachara - Propogating Dharma
Dharma Jagruti - Being aware & vigilant.

Acharya Swamigal blessed the assembled crowd to perform Dharmic deeds and concluded his speech. Acharya Swamigal arrived at Srimatam camp at Abhaya Anjaneya Swami temple.

Vijaya Yatra - Visit to Sri Chintala Venkatramana Swamy temple at Tadipatri (22-Mar-2022)
Vijaya Yatra - Tadipatri - Sri Bugga Rameshwara Swami temple visit (22-Mar-2022)

Vijaya Yatra - Visit to Sri Kannika Parameshwari Temple at Tadipatri (22-Mar-2022)
Vijaya yatra of Acharya Swamigal - Arrival at Sandur in Karnataka (25-Mar-2022)

Srimatham camp started from Anantapur to Sandur on 24th March evening. Enroute Acharya Swamigal halted overnight at Bellary, blessed the devotees there with an Anugraha Bhashanam and Prasadam. Early hours on 25th March, Acharya Swamigal arrived at Sandur, a beautiful hamlet in the Bellary district, historically ruled by the Ghorpade family of the Maratha lineage. Srimatham camp is in the same Eshwara temple where Pujya Mahaperiyava had camped back in 1978. There is a small room in the precincts of this Shiva temple where Mahaperiyava stayed for about a month. Pujya Sri Jayendra Periyava also has blessed this place and performed the Chandramouleswara pooja on 12-June-1979. Acharya Swamigal performed the Shukravaara pooja yesterday and blessed devotees with Theertha Prasadam.
25-Mar-2022

- After arrival at Sandur in the morning Acharya Swamigal performed Puja and Shukravara Puja in the evening. Devotees had Teertha Prasadam and darshan.

- Trikala Puja was performed by Acharya Swamigal. In the evening Acharya Swamigal visited the cowshed where Kanchi Paramacharya would perform Anushthanams and where the then President of India, Neelam Sanjeev Reddy had darshan. Acharya Swamigal also blessed the residence of Ghorpade Family.

- This was followed with a procession into Sandur town which started at 6:30 and ended at 9:30 PM. It was a delight to be part of in this very memorable event.

26-Mar-2022

- On arrival back to Eashwaraswamy temple, A Swagatha Sabha was organised followed with Anugraha Bhashanam by Acharya Swamigal first in Kannada and then in Hindi for about an hour. Acharya Swamigal traced the Pada Yatra visit of Kanchi Mahaswamy and Pujya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal in 1978/79 to Sandur. Explaining the word “Aahuya Varada” Acharya Swamigal said that Sandur was fortunate as His Holiness who was worshipped by devotees fervently everywhere had came here on his own and blessed the region. Acharya Swamigal also said about the Bhakti of Ghorpade family to Kanchi Acharyas and appreciated their contribution to the development of the region. Acharya Swamigal blessed the gathering and retired for the day at 11:45 PM.

27-Mar-2022

- Acharya Swamigal performed Puja in the morning and blessed Teertha Prasadam. Acharya Swamigal visited Puja Gruha at Shivavilas Palace of Ghorpade family and also blessed their office.

- Devotees offered Swarna Pushpa Samarpanam in the evening. Acharya Swamigal gave darshan to devotees and then performed third Kala Puja.

28-Mar-2022

- Acharya Swamigal performed Puja and blessed Teertha Prasadam. Acharya Swamigal gave a special address to teachers in the evening. After a brief darshan to devotees Acharya Swamigal performed third Kala Puja.
Vijaya yatra - visit to Sandur palace - pada puja was performed by Maharaja of Sandur, Karnataka (27-Mar-2022)

Vijaya yatra of Acharya Swamigal  Shrimatam camp at arrives at Hosapete (31-Mar-2022)

Acharya Swamigal arrived at Hosapete from Sandur. Shrimatam camp is at Sri Vidyaranya Vidyapeeta trust Veda Samskruta Patashala, Sandur Road, Hosapete, Vijayanagara dt., Karnataka. Vasanta navaratri visesha pujas will be performed from 2nd to 10th April 2022
Sthala Puranas - Discourse series

Vaidiswarankoil Temple

Sri Arunachala Mahatmyam (part 1)

Kashmir Series

Kashmir's contribution in Fundamental Unity of India, Education, and National Integration

Kashmir's Spiritual Tradition

Bhārata and her Kāśmīra

Abhinavagupta Part 1
From around the world, as shared by devotees


**Dubai**: Anusham & Maha Sivaratri celebrations. Mahanyasam and 4 kala pooja’s along with Ekadasa Abhishekam were performed for 4 kalam on Maha sivaratri.
Netherlands:
Maha Sivarathri celebrations with Radha japam.

New Jersey (U.S.A.): Ekadasa Rudrabhishekham and Sri Bala Periyava Jayanthi Vaibhavam


Attached are some of the pictures from Guru Pooja.
Oregon (KKSF) : With the Blessings and Anugrahams of HH Periyavas, KKF Portland, Oregon Chapter celebrated Panguni Anusham, HH Jayendra Periyava Aradhana, HH Periyava’s Jayanthi Pooja on March 26th, 2022 @ Smt. Akila and Sri. Satish’s Residence. Devotees recited Swasthi, Guru Stotrams, Lalitha Sahasranamam, Govinda Naamavali, Sadhguru Dashakam, Jayendra Periyava Stotra Ratnamaalika composed by HH Periyava. This was followed by Rudrabhishekam for Periyava and Padukas, Pancha Suktam Chanting, Ashtothram for HH MahaPeriyava, HH Jayendra Periyava, HH Periyava, Thotakaashtakam and concluded with Naivedhyam and Maha Aarthi. Special Alankaram was performed by the Balaji temple priest to MahaPeriyava. He was seated on 2 elephants and fanned by a peacock feather! Sri Matam prasadams were distributed at the end of the event to the hosts and all the families.

Toronto, Canada (KKSF): Special Poojas on Thai Fridays

KKSF- Canada conducts special poojas to Sri Kamakshi with Lalitha Sahasranamam, Trisathi, Mooka Panchasati and Soundarya Lahari parayanams on all Fridays during the Tamil month of Thai. Sue to current pandemic conditions, the prayers were conducted online this year. More than fifty ladies participated in these weekly parayanams.
Anusham Poojas and Jayendrar Periyava Aradhana - Monthly Anusham pooja and HH Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal Aradhana were conducted in Februaay 2022.

Prayer classes for Sri Lalitha Upakhyanam, Kamakshi Vilasam and Mooka Panchasati

Regular classes are conducted every week in the evenings to learn to chant and understand the meanings of these famous works on Sri Lalitha and Sri Kamakshi. Classes are conducted online. Those interested can contact kamakoticanada@gmail.com

Sydney, Australia: Sampradaya Australia New Zealand devotees celebrate 54th Jayanthi of Acharya Swamigal

A large number of devotees including many children from Australia and New Zealand organised an online event on the occasion of 54th Jayanthi of Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswatiji of Kanchi Mutt on 27th February 2022.

The program commenced with a prayer to Lord Ganesh by children.

Smt Lavanya and her students rendered “Thodudiya Sivan – Thevaram”’’ Bolo Natha – Bhajan” and Bho Shambo”. Sri Chowdappa Narayanan and students presented Kuntha Gowra, Geetham on Lord Shiva, Malahari raga, Pahimam Sri, Kirtanai in Janaranjani Raga on Goddess Raja Rajeshwari and many other devotional songs.


The program was organised by Sri Srinivas Varanasi and Sri Vish Viswanathan, presented vote of thanks
Shangai, China: Arul Tharum Mahaperiyava (ATM) Global Group

Hanuman Jayanthi was celebrated by performing “Sundara Kandam Parayanam” for 3 days from 2nd to 4th January 2022 by the founder of ATM Shri. Srinivasan. Akanda Rama Nama Chanting was also performed by ATM group members on 2nd Jan 2022.


Tai Velli Special: Special Sadas was conducted on (04th Feb 2022) on topic “Mahaperiyava - Kamakshi Swaroopama or Eswara Swaroopama”? Sadas was between the two scholars “Shri.Ganesa Sarma and Shri.Ramanan”.

Sri Balaperiyava Jayanthi: Periyava Jayanthi was celebrated on 27th Feb 2022 with Children paamalai followed by pravachanam of “Guruparampara Dr.R.Vaithyanathan”. Shri.R.Vaithyanathan shared his experiences with Balaperiyava.

ATM regularly conducts weekly Saturday Sath Sangam on various topics like Experiences with Mahaperiyava, Women’s role in Spirituality, Swadharma, Mahaperiyava’s guidance to Spirituality/Bhakthi and so on by inviting eminent speakers. Bhajan groups and Classical dancers also performed in the Sath Sangam. ATM conducts Sath Sangam for Children too.
ATM Children Sath Sangam: Nine weeks Children Sath Sangam from 1st January 2022 are being performed by ATM children. It was inaugurated by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam. This includes kids performing Puja, Carnatic Music, Reciting Slokas, Bhajans, Upayams, Musical instruments.

Bhagavad Gita Moral Values Class and Skit: Virtual Bhagavad Gita class for children was initiated by ATM. Moral values of Bhagavad Gita are taught in the class.

- 26 Children in the age group of 4-12 years participated in a skit on “The Moral values of Bhagavad Gita”.
- Children spoke about the importance of Guru in our life. They also spoke as how Lord Krishna acted as Guru and guided Arjuna during the war. Children described as how food affects our thoughts. They explained about Satvic, Rajasic and Tamasic foods.

ATM activities (Kaingaryam)

Veda samrakshanam: ATM group has undertaken everyday anna dhana kaingeriyam of 3 veda patasalas in Mudikondan, Govindapuram and Edayapuram that are monitored by Sri Matam. Anna dhanam is done by the group members on special occasions like their wedding anniversary, birthdays, pitru dinam, festivals and so on.

Vedam at your Home: An initiative has been taken by ATM to make Vedam reach every members house every day. A 2-3 mins video of Vedam chanting is being recorded by a Veda Pandit and shared in the group.

Sarvavyabi Jana Rakshakan: The objective of the group is to conduct group prayers for the welfare of the group members who are in tough times. Many members have shared positive outcome of group praying.

Sloka Mandal: Nithya sloka parayanam is done by group members every evening. Sloka classes are conducted for both Children and Adults.

Monthly Anusha Pujai and Adi Shankara pujai are performed by ATM members with the help of recorded audio of Pujai Manthram.
Voice of Youth

Whilst this section was introduced to encourage children living overseas to learn, contemplate & contribute, the overwhelming interest from within India has resulted in contributions from within India as well.

**Bhagavad Gita: Moral Values - Learning Experiences** by K.B.Akshayashree, Tanjore, Age 10 years

*Bhagavad Gita* - The word of the Lord has given abundant focus to look us inside, get inspired towards the right path in life. The teachings by God Krishna supported Arjuna’s perspective about life. As a child, I have understood the need for perceiving things in the right way, which improves my attitude either in my academics or moving with friends, relatives, and at home too. It portrayed the requisite of understanding the feeling of others and agreeing with their viewpoints. As an individual, Gita preached to me that I have to adapt to new situations, the environment where I can make difference through innovation and utilising new opportunities to explore life experiences. This has created a lot of challenges and enmities, animosity, and personal grudges. But the Gita has enthused me to be tolerant and extend forgiveness through the treasure of stories. Gita also teaches me about coping with stress and I usually said every day that I am a positive Child and nothing can stress me out. The professional management lessons of overcoming fear, anger management, encompassing charity also inspired me to get into practice in my life with a defined timeline. The values of thinking big dreams to be achieved in an ethical way and understanding impermanence, though both are contradictory, I am yet to practice. Thus, the essence of the Bhagavad Gita is a life game-changer that gives me a lovable friend Krishna and loving Guru Mahaperiyava who are pervasive and with me and you ever.

**Bhagawad Gita – by Vishnu Priya Venkataraman, Sydney Australia, Age 13 Years**

Bhagawad Gita is a manual guide for human life. Bhagawad Gita helps us to lead our life in a dharmic way. Bhagawad Gita has a solution to all our problems. Bhagavan gives us senses and it's for us to use them for the right reasons. He gives us shakthi.

Each and everyone has their own dharma to follow for example: Brahmins should learn vedam and should be satvik and kshatriyas/warriors should be rajasik and tamasik. The food that we eat also influences our Gunas.

Who will guide us to follow our guna? Arjuna refused to fight against his family in the kurukshetra war. Krishna, who is a friend of Arjuna, became a guru to Arjuna and guided him as to why he should fight the war. It is a guru who can guide us through difficulties and help us to follow our dharma. So it shows the importance of Guru in our life. Our guru is Mahaperiyava and we should follow Mahaperiyava’s principles. It is not just about reading Bhagawad Gita but also to understand and follow it. It helps us to reach Paramathma through Guru.
Know Your Village
Nagaianallur (Tiruchirappalli) by Smt. Archana Sunil

Location

Nagaianallur is a consortium of eight small villages located in Thottiyam Tehsil of Tiruchirappalli district in Tamil Nadu, India. As per 2009 stats, Nagaianallur is the gram panchayat of Nagaianallur village. The total geographical area of the village is 1938.9 hectares. Nagaianallur has a total population of 6,205. There are about 1,680 houses in Nagainallur.

Itihaasam

The original name of this graamam is believed to have been Muthu Veera Boobala Samudhram. It was named Nagaianallur after a Minister from Andhra Pradesh named Nagaiah settled here and built the Mallikarjunar temple after Lord Shiva appeared to him in his sleep.

Locals tell us that once upon a time the agrahaaram was mostly occupied by families from Haritha gothram and that is mostly the case even today. We are told that during the invasion of Tipu Sultan the villagers dispersed in different directions, many ending up in Palakkad, other parts of South India and some even escaped to as far as west or north India.

Tributaries of the river Kaveri flow through and around Nagainallur at different spots. It is said that many women with ancestry in Nagainallur have the name Kaveri as a result. Here is a seal from 10th or 11th century which shows that Nagainallur was a bustling trading center.

Temples of Nagainallur

Periandavar Sivan, a formless murthy, is the kula deivam for families of Haritha gothram. Families from Haritha gothram as well as others come to Nagainallur to perform annual offerings such as chudakarna, annaprasnam etc. to Periandavar. These offerings are to be performed in a very specific manner and only by the local pandaram family. Over four generations of this family have been the caretakers for Periandavar as well as the Kavaravatty Mariamman and Sri Madurakali amman kovil.

Sri Madurakali amman and the neighboring Kavaravatti Mariamman are believed to be sisters. They are both under the care of the same pandaram family. There is currently a campaign in progress to raise funds to restore this Kavarvatti Mariamman kovil due to its dilapidated and neglected condition. Both these temples are well known for the grand theyr festivals.

The folklore surrounding Sri Madurakali amman kovil which is about 700-800 years old is as follows. Once upon a time a few villagers from Nagainallur who were trained at the art of parakottu - a walking orchestra of a variety of handmade percussion instruments - came to Madurai to perform at a local thiruvizha(festival) for kali amman. When the programs ended they began their return journey and decided to play their drums to keep themselves entertained during their travels.
Unbeknownst to them kali amman followed them as she enjoyed their parakottu dearly, and this is why she is seen below with her head slightly tilted as she is listening to and enjoying the music. When they realized and stopped to rest at a few places along the way they established a kovil for this Madua-Kali-Amman, until she finally arrived in Nagainallur. This is the reason there are several temples for this amman in the route from Madurai to Nagainallur.

*Sri Pramarambika Sameta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy* is the main deity for Nagainallur. It is located on the banks of the village lake on one end of the agrahaaram and is said to have been built during the Pandya dynasty. Maha Shivaratri, pradosham, bhairavashthami along with Navaratri and other festivals are celebrated grandly with members from all the different communities coming together to play their parts.

The brahmins perform the chanting and pujai, oduvar-s offer their singing of ancient poems and songs, farmers offer neivedhya vastu and pushpam from their farms, all the ladies and the gurukkal prepare neivedhyams ; they decorate the surroundings and the sannidhi before such festivals with flowers, kolams and music.

The kumbhabhishekam was performed over several days in a grand manner in 2012 as per all the different traditions of the eight villages that form Nagainallur. Daily pujai is performed by Gurukkal Chi. Nagarajan from a neighboring village called Aiylur.

*Sri Neela Devi Sri Bhooma Devi Sameta Sri Lakshminarayana Swamy* kovil stands on the other end of the agrahaaram. This perumal is believed to be the brother of the two ambal sisters. Any offerings or celebrations for the two ambal sisters are accepted only after they have been initiated at the brother’s temple.
The kumbhabhishekam was performed about ten years ago for this temple which is about 700-800 years old. While doing pradakshinam we ran into a murthy of perumal and ambal behind the kovil sannidhi. Locals tell us that prior to the kumbhabhishekam the deities were Varadaraja perumal and thaayaar – hence several people from Nagainallur are named Varadarajan.

Due to a piece of her hand being chipped the deities were replaced with the Sri Lakshminarayana Swamy perumal with ambal affectionately seated on his lap. A campaign is underway to raise funds to build a madapalli for perumal’s neivedhyam and also for general repairs and upgrades to the structure.

Nagainallur Ramar Madam is very well known for its elaborate ten-day Rama Navami festivities every year. It is located in the agrahaaram and has been run by a private trust for over ninety-five years. Hundreds of families attend the grand Rama Navami festivities for ten days every year. It is a beautiful ambience to experience.

The well known Sanjeevaraya Perumal hill-top kovil in Talamalai is just a few kilometers from Nagainallur. Other temples in the area include Lord Aiyappa and Kizhpazhani temples.

**Occupations**

The lake adjacent to the sivan kovil has unfortunately been dried up for over three decades impacting the livelihoods of the farmers as farming is the main source of livelihood in this region. As a result, some farmers have been forced to resort to other ways of feeding their families such as construction work etc. Efforts are currently underway to seek support from local and central governments to resolve this issue.

Those who can sustain their farming produce staples like peanuts, sunflowers for oil, cotton, bananas, rice and few other crops.
People of Nagainallur

The agrahaaram has produced several famous cooks who continue to cater for events as small as a family to as large as weddings. Some of them prepare foods in Sankara matams and camps as well. They are especially famous for their Nagainallur rasam, the secret to which is believed to be in the very specific peringayam/hing and the rasam powder that is used in their preparations.

Nagainallur boasts of one of the smallest post offices, about 100 sq ft. The postmaster coordinates incoming and outgoing mail for the entire population of over 6200 people of Nagainallur.

Smt. Radha Subramanian and Shri. Venkitasubramanian, natives of Nagaianallur who retired and returned to live here twelve years ago, had been running a school for the poor children of the villages for over a decade. Due to several reasons the school is now closed. They hope to seek the blessings and guidance of Sri Periyava to decide how best to use the facilities. Veda pathashala or gaushala are some ideas being considered. They have recently built a small home on this property for the current and future gurukkals of the Mallikarjunar Sivan kovil to be able to live comfortably with their families. They have been leading efforts to restore all the temples, help the temple archakar-s and gurukkal-s receive their due compensations and other projects such as solving the water crisis for the farmers.

To learn more about Nagainallur or to contribute to the ongoing temple restoration projects please send an email to Smt. Archana Sunil at nagainallur21@gmail.com

Please register here if you belong to Nagaianallur -- shorturl.at/kERSU
Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara

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