

## NRI Newsletter



An Initiative of SRI KANCHI KAMAKOTI PEETAM  
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**Message from Acharya Swamigal to NRI's devotees**

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

**Acharya Swamigal's call on need for temple protection.**

*As much as temples protect us, today we must strive towards protecting our temple heritage.*

God has given the divine medicine of Dharma for Mankind to be good, prosperous, happy, peaceful, and healthy. That Dharma, whose beginning cannot be comprehended, eternally protects Mankind, and satisfies the divine.

Temples are primarily here to cultivate this Dharma in our thought process. They are here to make us understand and realize the divinity which is existing in the entire creation. From Bhagavathi Amman temple in Kanyakumari to Ksheer Bhavani Temple in Kashmir, there are thousands of temples in India. Also, there are several Kshetrams like Jyotirlinga Kshetras, 51 Shakti Peethams, Pancha Bhoota Sthalams, Kshetras in origin of rivers, confluence of rivers and confluence of river and sea. In the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal there are thousands of temples. Kailasha Parvatha in the Himalayas is also to be noted.

Worshipping divinity in Vighrahas is an intrinsic part of our system. By this worship method, we attain divine energy, concentration power, involvement in Sadvisshyas. Temples are classified in to three types, Swayambhu, Rishi Pratishtha & Manava Pratishtha. The third type is based on Shilpa Shastras, Agama Shastras (Shaiva & Vaishnava) and Vaidika Paddhati as ordained by Maharishis. Right from soil testing till invoking the divine power in the idols, performing Kumbhabhishekams every 12 years, Utsavams all these are detailed in them and are related to temple heritage. Sixty-four arts mentioned in our culture are also developed in temples. Specific ragas are played in specific hours to please the Lord. Theverams, Prabandhas, Vedas are all chanted in Temples, which are important centres for our Sanathana Dharma.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the temples in North India could not be protected in its fullest form. Fortunately, due to the relatively peaceful situation in South India, devotees, to some extents were able to protect temple heritage in the region. 'Worship in temples is very good', 'Always wish to perform Dharma', 'Do not stay in a place where there are no temples' are some of the famous adages in Tamil language. Hence temples are places which motivate, inspire, unite, cultivate good thoughts, steady the mind, imbibe lofty culture and civilizational values in mankind. Through Music, Sculptures, Archanas, Pujas, Alankaras, Processions, Naivedyam, Parayanams, Upanyasams, protection of environment- Sthala Vrukshams & water conservation; temples protect the devotees in some form or the other. In Hinduism there is devotion for Lord, desire for protecting environment, and promotion of music & literature. We can know our real history involving our ancestors, our kings & Rishis by visiting temples. The Dharmas & endowments created by them is known through inscription in temples. This Dharma helps us in development of human minds and helps in prosperity.

In Independent India, though there was a need to develop these spiritual centres, unfortunately we have lagged behind due to several reasons. The Nation is developing fast in the areas of food security, basic needs, hygiene, business, scientific advancements etc. There is no doubt that Development is necessary. But there is also need for more development which will impact our common people. People should get pure water to drink. The Shloka 'Gange Ca Yamune Chaiva Godavri Saraswati. Narmade Sindhu Kaveri Jalesmin Sannidhim Kuru' which is chanted by devotees in their daily prayers, denotes National Unity through rivers. A shloka on Cauvery says that the River remove impurities in our bodies & minds, helps in fulfilling good

desires and blesses to attain highest knowledge of Advaita by developing our minds. We have to celebrate and protect our divine rivers. This will help in agriculture, religious needs, help the common man by increasing quality of life. We may acquire both merit-Punya and goodness.

Several people are working towards protecting our rivers and temple heritage. Devotees being subdued towards Lord is a very good virtue. We come across names of great Kings named as Padmanabha Dasa, Bruhadamba Dasa etc. But devotees whose real inner liberation lies in temples, should work relentlessly for its liberation (in terms of worldly sense) and stop being subdued towards negligence and indifferent attitude towards our temple heritage. Those who have knowledge & belief in Shastras, those who are involved in Dharma Karyas should participate, and with involvement of devotees, well-wishers & government, should work towards realising the real intent behind establishment of temples. With use of new technology, we should see that every aspect of temple is rejuvenated and that temples transforms as places of Dharmic Vidya, Centres for propagating philosophy, Centres which unite people and promote peace & harmony.

By following the dictums of Shastras and practice of austerity we will be recipients of merit. While we get fruits for our prayers, we should also strive to acquire Punya. All should beget Punya.

Today common people play a major role in temple development by contributions. But participation is the call of the day. Contribution & participation together with proper worship methods as per Agamas & Shastras, sound administration through proper legal framework and finally by a dedicated and devoted society formed through good family system will help in sustaining our temple heritage.

Our ancestors did not limit temple activity by just construction but have created endowments right from lighting of Deepams to grants for Utsavams etc for perpetual performance of Dharmic activity.

By protecting our temple heritage, we can regain our past glory, we can prosper and also help the world. Hence, we should develop and protect our temples. We should create a good spiritual atmosphere to enable to get the Anugraha of the divine lord to all Bhaktas. In ration we see PDS Public Distribution System. Temples help in taking Dharmic thoughts to the reach of common people. This can also be definition of PDS - Public Devotion Service!

We may not be able to create such a great infrastructure as we see in our temples, but we have atleast been blessed with the fortune of protecting this great heritage. Right efforts in this direction will help. Our Nation while making material progress, should also ensure cultural protection & environment protection.

Hará Hará Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara



**Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara**



**Editorial:** Essence of Bhikshavandanam, an extract from “Bhikshavandanam” published by Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Kainkarya Sabha

Guru is the one who removes the darkness of ignorance or ajnana. We say, krishnam vande jagatgurum. Krishna Paratma gave upadesham on both Pravrtthi Dharma and Nivritti Dharma, on how we should live our lives in this world and on the path of renunciation. Although the gita upadesham was given to Arjuna, it is always meant for everyone. Hence Lord Krishna is called jagatguru. Acharya Swamigal is likewise a guru for jagat, a universal guru, and a guru here and now, Pratyaksha Guru.

Acharya Swamigal is Sankaracharya, an Acharya in the Sankaracharyav advaita sampradaya. Acharya is defined as one who has thoroughly analysed the sastras, conducts himself according to the acharas laid down in the sastras, teaches the same to others and makes them remain stable in the acharas. There is a slokha which conveys this:

*Achinoti hi sastraathaath aachaare sthaapayathyapi Swayam Acharathe Yascha Tham Aacharyam prachakshate*

Maheperiava emphasises, swyam aacharthe – an acharya must practise what he preaches and thereby sustain a tradition.

To witness the Chandramouleeswarar trikala puja performed by the Acharya is one of the greatest blessings one can ever have. All the pujas are performed for the welfare of everyone. Several education and charitable institutions are run under the aegis of the mutt. Acharya Swamigal occupies the exalted position of Indra Saraswathi. Indra here means parabrahmavasi embodiment of advaita parabrahma satyam. Kamakoti Peetam is also Vakabhava kutam, essence of vak sakthi and jnana sakthi – hence Saraswathi.

Acharya Swamigal is importantly a sanyasi. A Sanyasi is one who has given up everything and therefore subsists on Bhiksha. Although the word Bhiksha is loosely translated as alms, a sanyasi does not seek Bhiksha. On the other hand, it is enjoined upon grihastas to seek out and offer Bhiksha to sanyasis – that is the reason, grihastarama is called uttama ashrama. The term used for offering Bhiksha is called samarpanam.

Bhiksavandanam is a vandanam, paying obeisance. Through bhiksha: total humility, sraddha and involvement are far more important than the money or the materials contributed. The normal practice, especially when it is a Samasti or group bhiksavandanam, is that the bhiksha covers not only the minimal bhiksha for Periyaval, but, flowers, fruits and other materials for the tri-kala puja and neivedyam supply of full range of groceries, provisions, food grains, vegetables and other cooking materials for prasadam and anna danam and vastram for Niyama Brahmanas. If it is a Tuesday or Friday, sarees for Suhasini pujai is included as well.



This issue covers the Holy Camp from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 by HIS HOLINESS PUJYASRI SANKARA VIJAYENDRA SARASWATI SANKARAACHARYA SWAMIGAL:

Period	Camp Location
04-Mar-2021 till 14-Mar-2021	Sri Sankara Matam, Kumbakonam
15-Mar-2021 till 20-Mar-2021	Govindapuram
21-Mar-2021 till date	Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Kanchipuram

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

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

Kanikkai samarpanam can be performed through e-seva portal [www.kanchimuttseva.org](http://www.kanchimuttseva.org).



**Acharya Swamigal Anugraha Bhashanam Tamil New Year's Day 2021 (video)**



## Anugraha Bhashanam of Periyavaa at Serugudi, Thanjavur district on (10-Mar-2021)

Today you all have jointly completed the Kumbhabhishekam of Tiripura Sundari Amman samedha Virupaaksheswarar temple in a grand manner. Our fore fathers have told us not to stay in a place, where there is no temple( கோவில் இல்லா ஊரில் குடியிருக்க வேண்டாம்).

The people should lead a happy life and healthy life, by helping each other in a cohesive way. All should lead a life without hunger and thirst and with plenty.

All should lead a healthy life without physical ailments and mental worries.

All over the villages, temples were built to worship and remove our ailments related to physical body and also other related to hatred, anger, jealousy and desires.

The temples are built in various forms and worshipped, even though God is everywhere and all pervasive.

The presiding deity of this temple is Virupaaksheswarar. In various temples, the names are different and called as Mayuranathar at Mayuram, vedaranyeswarar at Vedaranyam and Lord Shiva with various names in different temples blesses all.

So too the Goddesses as Mangalambikai. It is a great tradition to have the names of God's and Goddesses to our children. It is our great tradition and faith to have the names of our kula deviam to our children for generations.

Our temples are divided into three categories.

The first one is Swayambu, wherein the God has appeared on His own and promised to bless from that place.

The second one is a place of worship, wherein great Sages, Seers and Saints have worshipped temples with tapas and Anustanam, austerity and simplicity, brahmacharya and brahmanishta for the welfare of the whole



world. They worshipped without any selfishness and prayed for the well being of people for generations to come. Many names of Shiva is associated with the Rishis, who worshipped the Lord.

We need who can guide us in our life and these Sages and Seers are guiding our life. Similarly Thirumoolar, Nayanmarkal, Alwars.

This temple was constructed with stones(கருங்கல்), which is not available here more than a thousand years ago with so much of hard work and that too based on Shilpa Sastra enunciated by great Rishis - Kasyapar, Mareechi. They have given the measurement with which vigrahas, garbha Graham should be built. In the sastras, the measurement is given for each vigrahas. There are more than three thousand temples constructed with the shilpa Sastra in Thanjavur district.

The third type of temple is constructed by us through our own efforts, especially where we live.

So the first one is Swayambhu, the second us worshipped by Rishis and the third is temples constructed by us. This temple at Cherukuti is of the first type with a pond, good Mandapam and open space.

Here you have அரசு மரம்.(Royal tree). You should worship this tree by going around on Mondays and on the days of New Moon and do pradakshina. And get all the blessings.

Today evening there is going to be Kalyana utsavam. All of you should attend and jointly work for the wellbeing of one and all to develop Bakthi and desa Bakthi. For us mother country, mother language and our village of roots are important. All who have gone from villages should come back to their roots. Each and every village should be able to conduct daily pooja, rituals and festivals with all your co-operation and support. Through this culture, tradition and parampariyam should grow. We all should learn new things and at the same time should not forget our culture and tradition.

### **Pushpanjali at Brundavanam, Saankar Mutt, Kumbakonam (13-Mar-2021)**

Acharya Swamigal performed Pushpabhishekam at the Brundavanam of 62nd, 63rd & 64th Acharyas of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

Acharya Swamigal then delivered Anugraha Bhashanam. Importance of Jeernodharanam of temples, need to protect rivers, keeping banks of river clean, need to grow trees which are useful for temples, importance of performing small Dharmas, need to teach culture to youth & next generation are some of the points covered in the speech.

Video of Anugraha Bhashanam:



Aradhana of 67th Acharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Pujyasri Mahadevendra Saraswati V Shankaracharya Swamigal was performed 14-Mar-2021 at Sankara Matam, Kumbakonam in presence of Acharya Swamigal.



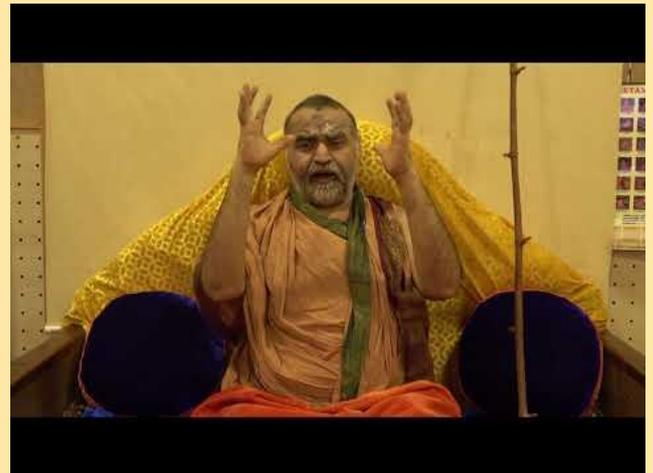
Camp at Govindapuram - Acharya Swamigal arrived at Govindapuram on 14-Mar-2021 evening from Kumbakonam.



Acharya Swamigal visited Alwanthipuram village near Kumbakonam.



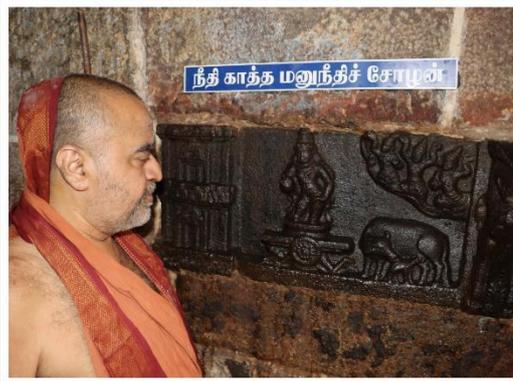
Anugraha Bashanam (video) message for Temple Protection Movement (05-Apr-2021)



Acharya Swamigal visited the Sri Kumbheswara swami temple in Kumbakonam on 14-Mar-2021



Acharya Swamigal visited the Sri Koteeshwara Swami temple at Tirukotaiyur , Kumbakonam.



Bhoushwinivisheshahomam was performed at Shrimatam camp at Govindapuram on 16-Mar-2021).  
Poornahuti was performed in presence of Acharya Swamigal.



Acharya Swamigal visited the Sankara Matam at Thiruvidadaimarudur on 15-Mar-2021. Renovation work of the Matam is in progress including the Perumal temple inside the Matam premises.



Acharya Swamigal visited the brindavanam of Bhagavannama Bhodendral - the 59th Acharya of Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam(from 1638 to 1692) at Govindapuram and performed visesha pujas on 16-Mar-2021. It was the Nama Siddhanta of Sri Bhodendral that was responsible for the evolution of Bhajana Sampradaya.



Acharya Swamigal visited the house of Saint Sridhara ayyaval who lived in the 1600s on 15-March-2021. According to the traditions of the Sri Sridhara Ayyaval Mutt, when Ayyaval recited the Gangashtakam, water from the holy Ganges river flowed out of the well in his house. He has composed several shlokas and other divine compositions.



Acharya Swamigal visited Thirupananthal Sri Kashi Matam on Adeenam Jayanti (17-March-2021)



Acharya Swamigal visited Manikkudi Sri Bruhannayaki sametha sri Panchavarneshwara Swami near Thiruppanthal on 17-Mar-2021



**Acharya Swamigal's 53<sup>rd</sup> Jayanthi celebrations (09-Mar-2021) – Detailed coverage**

Jayanti Mahotsavam of HH PujyaSri Shankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal - Veda parayanam and kalvaitavaram held at Srimatam, Kanchipuram



Jayanti Mahotsavam of Pujyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal- Poornahuti was performed at Sankara Matam, Kumbakonam in presence of Acharyal Swamigal. Abhishekam was performed to Acharya Swamigal with kalasa teertham.



Pushpanjali was performed at the vadakodi brindavanam by Acharya Swamigal and Pushpanjali and Swarna kaanikkai to Acharya Swamigal by mahalakshmi charitable trust at kumbakonam



Jayanti Mahotsavam at Matunga Sankara Matam, Mumbai (video below)



Jayanti Mahotsavam of Pujoyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal- visesha homam and veda parayanam held at Sri Sankara Matam, Rameshwaram



New vision centre commenced at Chatrapur, Orissa by Sankara Eye Hospital on the auspicious occasion of Jayanti Mahotsavam of Acharya Swamigal. Free glaucoma screening camp was carried out at the centre till 13th March 2021



Jayanti Mahotsavam of Pujoyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal- visesha homam and veda parayanam held at Sri Kamakshi Ambal Devasthanam, Kanchipuram



Jayanti Mahotsavam of Pujoyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal- deepa puja and swarna Rathotsavam performed on 9th May evening held at Srimatam, Kanchipuram



Jayanti Mahotsavam of Acharya Swamigal - Srisuktam, Durga Suktam, Dhanvantri homam and Veda parayanam was performed at the Veda Patashala in Polur, near Tiruvannamalai. In his poorvashrama, Acharya Swamigal performed Rig Veda Adhyayana at this Veda Patashala.



Jayanti Mahotsavam Of Pujoyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal- Ghopuja, vissha veda Parayanam and homam was performed at Shivalayam in Mukkamala village, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh



Jayanti Mahotsavam Of Pujoyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal- annadaanam was performed by Sri Sankara Matam at Kalavai village in Tamilnadu.



Jayanti Mahotsavam of HH Pujyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal was celebrated at Thandalam Village in Tamilnadu from 1 to 9 March 2021 with Rig Samhita Homam, Chaturveda Parayanam, Suryanamaskaram, Sundarakanda Parayanam, Lalita Sahasranama Archana, Pavamana Parayanam.



Jayanti Mahotsavam of Pujyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal- visesha homam and veda parayanam was performed at Sri Sankara Matam, Mahendramangalam



Jayanti Mahotsavam of HH Pujyashri Shankaracharya Swamiji- veda parayanam was performed yesterday on the banks of the holy Ganga at Varanasi by Sri Agnihotri Somayaji and disciples.





Jayanti Mahotsavam Of Pujyashri Shankaracharya swamigal - vedaparayana done by vidyardhis in Sri Kamakoti Chandrasekara Veda Patashala - Goshala in , Iragavaram West godavari district



**Aradhana of Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal performed (26-Mar-2021)**

Aradhana of HH Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal was performed at the holy precincts of His Brindavanam. Veda Parayanam, Vidwat Sadas, Japan- homam, spiritual discourses were performed. Teertha Narayana Puja was performed. Prasadam from Sri Venkateswara Swamy Devasthanam, Tirupati and other temples were offered to the Adhistanam. Sampradaya Bhajans were rendered.



## Aradhana of HH Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal performed at Kurnool

Abhishekam to Kamakshamma on the occasion of the worship of Sri Sri Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Purva Peetadhipathi Sri Sri Sri Jayendra Saraswati Swamy on the 26th Friday morning at Kurnool Shankara Mandir, short (121 times) Rudrabhishekam, Rudra Homa, Gurupada Pooja will be held so all the devotees can participate in this program and take the pilgrimage of the Lord and get the blessings of the Lord.



### From around the world, as shared by devotees.

**Dubai, UAE:** EKA DINA AKANDA RAMA NAMA JAPAM - By the Grace of Datta Guru, Acharyal and all the saints who have showed the path of true devotion and service to Lord, It has been planned to conduct the 20<sup>th</sup> Eka Dina Akanda Rama Nama Japam. (Continuous Chanting of Rama Namam for 24 hours). The virtual japam commenced at 7:00 AM UAE TIME on 02-April-2021 (Fri) and concluded at 7:00 AM UAE TIME on 03-April-2021 (Sat) followed by chanting of Vishnu Sahasranamam, Hanuman Chalisa and Bhajans. In line with the tradition there will be periodical Aartis and Neivedhyams.



**Sharjah, UAE: EKA DINA AKANDA RAMA NAMA JAPAM - By the Grace of Datta Guru, Acharyal and all**



the saints who have showed the path of true devotion and service to Lord, It has been planned to conduct the 21<sup>st</sup> Eka Dina Akanda Rama Nama Japam. (Continuous Chanting of Rama Namam for 24 hours). The virtual japam commenced at 7:00 AM UAE TIME on 09-April-2021 (Fri) and concluded at 7:00 AM UAE TIME on 10-April-2021 (Sat)

followed by chanting of Vishnu Sahasranamam , Hanuman Chalisa and Bhajans. In line with the tradition there will be periodical Aartis and Neivedhyams.

**Ruwais, Abudhabi:** Sivarathiri pooja at Ruwais Abudhabi with Ekadasa rudra poorvaka abhisekam, Rudra trishathi, Ashtotharam to Sri. Mahaperiyava



**Ruwais, Abudhabi:** Monthly  
Avittam pooja



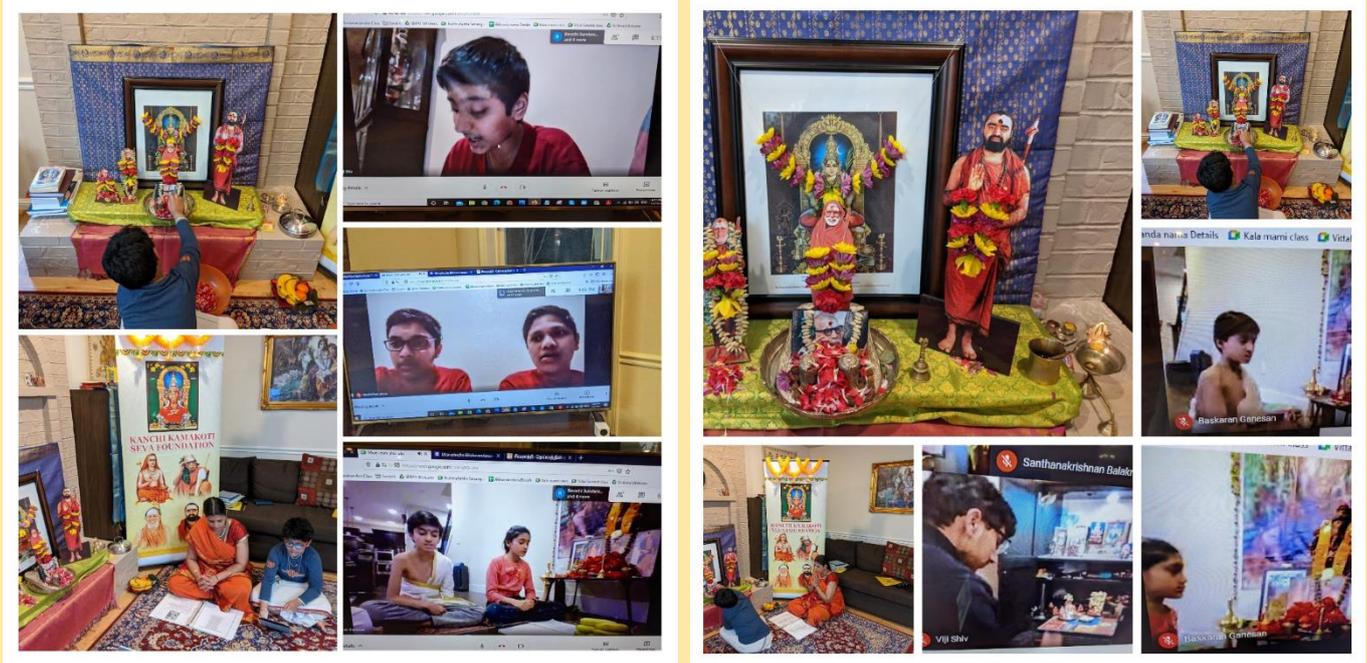
**Dubai, UAE:** Anusham poojai was carried out by the son (Sanjay) of Sri.Ramesh & Smt, Anusha. It was heartening to see the devotion to Acharyal from the younger generation.



**Portland Oregon (07-Apr):** With HH Periyava anugraham, devotees in Portland Oregon celebrated Panguni Maasa Anusham, HH Jayendra Periyava Aradhana virtually with archanas to HH Mahaperiyava, HH Jayendra Periyava done by kids. This was followed by Thotakaashtakam, Sadhguru Dashakam, Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Shlokamalika composed by Pujyashri Periyava, Guru Ashtakam, Shiva Guru nandana, Lalitha Pancharatnam, BhajaGovindam shlokas recited by kids. We also read Deivathin Kural and also did Rama Nama chanting for few minutes and concluded with Naivedyam and Harathi.



**Portland Oregon (23-Mar):** With HH Periyava anugraham, devotees in Portland Oregon celebrated Anusham, HH Periyava Jayanthi virtually with archanas to HH Mahaperiyava, HH Jayendra Periyava done by kids. This was followed by Thotakaastakam, Sadhguru Dashakam, Guru Ashtakam, Shiva Guru nandana shlokas recited by kids. Devotees also did Rama Nama chanting for few minutes and concluded with Naivedyam and Harathi.



**Connecticut: Acharya Swamigal Jayanthi - Sharvari Maaga Krishna Uttarashada**

Jayanti mahotsavam of Sri Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal of Sri Moolamnaya Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam was celebrated with traditional fervor by Connecticut Satsang on March 8, 2021 – Sharvari Maaga Krishna Uttarashada. Sri. Guruvayurappan mama from KKSF, NJ, had kindly brought Padhukais of Sri Mahaperiyava and Sri Jayendra Periyava. Sri Periyava has blessed his Padhukais to Sri. Sayee Natarajan of Wilton, CT. Abhishekams with ekadasa dravyams with chanting of Sri Rudram and Upanishads and Archana with Vilva patram were done to all three Pujya Padhukais. Since the day was ekadasi as well, portions from Divya Prabandham such as Neerattal and Thiruppallandu were also chanted at the appropriate time. Sri Matam Prasadams were given at the end of the Puja with a special



photo that was brought out for the Jayanthi was given to all. Swami Balgopal founder of Wilton Hindu Temple, graced the occasion by getting the Prasadams from Sri Matam & offering it to CT Satsang. The event was well attended physically and virually over Zoom. Some of the pictures are attached below. CT Periyava satsang is currently making plans for celebrating Sri Jayendra Periyava's Aradhana and Vaishaka Anusham – Jayanthi of Mahaperiyava



**Tampa, Florida (23-March-2021):** With the Blessings and Anugrahams of Guru Parampara KKSF Tampa Chapter Celebrated Monthly Anusham & Pudhu periyava Jayanthi for March on the Auspicious Krishna Paksha navami @ Smt Sangeetha Sri.Ravichandran Residences.

Pooja Started early at 4 PM with retweeks and families.Guru Pooja started with Vishnu Sahasranama parayanam,Ganapathy Dhyanam,Punyakavachanam, Rudrabhishekam for Shivan and Periyava,pancha suktam Chanting, Ashtothram for Shivan,Adi Shankara,Periyava, Pudhu periyava and concluded with Maha arathi.



## Tampa, Florida (23-March-2021): A detailed report on Guru Paduka Yatra. Program Synopsis

<p>Pudhu Periyava Aradhana Pooja @ Orlando-Florida</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020 morning pooja @ Sriram &amp; Aradhana Residences in Orlando.</li> <li>• Pudhu Periyava Aradhana &amp; Shukla Trayodasi Pooja @ Shri Vignesh &amp; Lakshmi Residences in Orlando</li> </ul>	<p>Pudhu Periyava Aradhana pooja @ Tampa-Florida</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 from 7 AM-1PM @ Shri.Vaidyanathan &amp; Nirupama Residences in Tampa</li> <li>• Aradhana pooja presided by Shri Gurudutt-Head Priest Hindu Temple of Florida-Tampa</li> </ul>	<p>Paduka Yatra to the Astheeka homes @ Tampa Bay area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27<sup>th</sup> April from 1 PM – 28<sup>th</sup> April 10 PM</li> <li>• Covering around 26+ Astheeka homes that belong to Smarthas, Advaitin, Dwaithis, Vishishtadvaitins &amp; various followers of other Gurus/Mutt</li> <li>• Covering around 300 miles in 1 ½ days.</li> <li>• All donation precedes to go for Kumbakonam Patashala.</li> <li>• Total 8 volunteers with 4 Teams</li> </ul>
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### Guru Paduka Vijayam

The Paduka yatra began on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> in Orlando and concluded on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> in Tampa. The divine Padukas of Maha Periyava and Pudu Periyava, were taken to the homes of 27 families covering a total distance of 300 miles.

The Padukas were welcomed at every home with a Poorna Kumbham. All the homes were decorated with exquisite ezhai kolams at the entrance. The Lotus Feet of our Acharyas were worshipped at each home Shodashopachara pooja, Ashtothram along with flowers, garlands, neivedhyam & mangala harathi by the devotees with ultimate Bakthi in their hearts. Everyone was dressed in traditional attire.

All of the devotees were magnanimous with their donations and funds, these donations and funds that were collected were donated to the Kumbakonam Patashala, as directed by Pujiyashri Bala Periyava. The whole exhilarating experience came to an end on Sunday night. A special thanks to everyone who made this rare opportunity a possibility. Over-all the event was a great success. There were many people of various places, cultures, and languages, but ultimately united by Guru Bakthi.



## Paduka Yatra – Taking Guru Bakthi to Next Generation

Kids and teenagers had a major participation in the event with utmost Bakthi and devotion. As directed earlier by Pujoyashri Bala-Periyava, the kids were taught shlokams and bhajans during 2019-2020 SDPA. The effort to teach slokas and bhajans through the SDPA initiatives were evident during the Paduka Yatra. The kids were chanting Suktams, the Bhagavat Geetha, and Slokas. They sang bhajan songs, did poojas with their parents and played musical instruments and offered the Sangeetha seva to their gurus. With the Periyava's blessings the Sanathana Dharma and our culture will grow deep into next generation.



## Paduka Yatra - Periyava Guru Bakthi

Elders who could not leave their house for health concerns viewed these paduka poojas as a direct blessing from the Periyava “Naan Irruken, Kavalai padethey” (No worries, I am here). All the elders received the Periyava with all their five senses totally surrendered to Him. Shivering with Bakthi, listening to the Veda gosha, taking every breath as the Periyava Sharanam, chanting loudly “Jaya Jaya Shankara, Hara Hara Shankara” and crying out of ecstasy. The elders took the Periyava, who came to change their fate, on their heads with a great river of exceeding tenderness, with ceaseless flow. The elders effortlessly sat on the floor and performed the pooja,



when otherwise they could not. 30 minutes was not enough for the families to feel their Bakhti with the Guru, and everyone, especially the elders, were filled with Bakhti.



### Paduka Yatra – Generating Bakhti Pravaaham

The KKSF Tampa Paduka yatra volunteers were a very dedicated team with lots of energy and devotion. The team was split into two groups; one to oversee the preparation and arrangements and the other who carried holy padukas. The travel time was filled with Veda chanting and Bhajans, and it was the secret behind the yatra's success. Despite driving to all of the different homes and performing pujas at each home, the volunteers still maintained their energy for every pooja. All this was possible only because of Guru Parampara's Poorna anugraham. The intensity of the reverberation generated during the travel was transferred in the form of the Paduka pooja at the devotees' homes. Everyone was filled with Bliss and peace.



## Guru Aradhana

Pujyashri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Swamigal Mahaperiyava's and Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal Pudhu Periyava's Paduka's arrived in Tampa from New Jersey on Thursday, March 25th. The Samvatsara



Aradhana of Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal coupled with the monthly Anusham pooja was performed on a very grand scale on Saturday, March 27th starting at 7am in Tampa by the Head Priest of Hindu Temple Shri Gurudutt Ji. Astheekas from Orlando had also participated in the Pujyashri Pudhu Periyava Aradhana. The Aradhana started with Poorvanga Pooja followed by Kalasa Sthapana and Mahayasa parayana, Rudram Namakam-Chamakam, Pancha suktam and Taitriya Upanishad Parayanam

### Paduka Yatra Samaptham with Dhuli Pooja

सत्सङ्गत्वे निस्सङ्गत्वं  
निस्सङ्गत्वे निर्मोहत्वम् ।  
निर्मोहत्वे निश्चलतत्त्वं  
निश्चलतत्त्वे जीवन्मुक्तिः ॥ ९ ॥  
(भज गोविन्दं भज गोविन्दं...)

Through the company of the good, there arises non-attachment; through non-attachment there arises freedom from delusion; when there is freedom from delusion, there is the immutable Reality; on experiencing immutable Reality, there comes the state of liberated in life. [Bhaja Govindam Verse 9]

As Adi Shankaracharya states in the Bhaja govindam the importance of satsanga, Tampa bay Astheekas have been blessed with the best priests who selflessly guide our satsanga through performing various poojas to our acharyas, involving retweeks in events like Maharudram, Udakashanthi parayana, Aruna Parayana and Upanishad parayana, teaching Vedas to kids and adults. They are our biggest assets and it was Periyava's wish that the priests Guru Duttji & Ganesh ji would invite & receive the Holy padukas at the end of the Yatra and perform "Dhuli Pooja" for the Jagadguru

As the famous Subhashita goes like this

परोपकाराय फलन्ति वृक्षाः परोपकाराय वहन्ति नद्यः ।

परोपकाराय दुहन्ति गावः परोपकाराय शरीरम् एतत् ॥ ॥

Trees bear fruit to do good to others, River's flow to do good to others; Cow's milk to do good to others – This body is for doing good to others.

Though we experienced 3 continuous days of Guru's presence and immense Bakthi, all the Astheekas offered their selfless time and energy to help generate monetary support for the Kumbakonam patashala per Pujiyashri Periyava utharavu.

Our Krtagnai to Shri.Guruvayurappan mama for bringing the Holy Padukas to Tampa.

We offer our aneka koti namaskarams to the lotus feet of Guru Parampara and SriMatam for this opportunity to serve the ancient Kumbakonam patashala.

Sarvam Sri Krishnarpanamasthu.

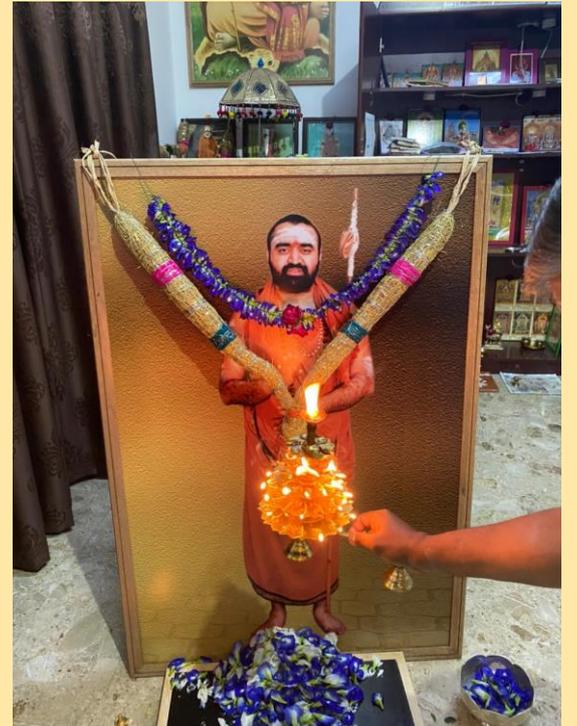
Jaya Jaya Shankara Hara Hara Shankara, Ram Ram.



**Sydney, Australia** - We performed this as part of the sampradaya patashala on 6<sup>th</sup> March for Acharya Swamigal's 53rd Jayanti.



**Abudhabi, UAE** - Sri. Periyava jayanthi at Ruwais Abudhabi with Rudra thirisathi archanai , Vishnu sahasranama parayanam and Lalitha sahasranama parayanam. Kum.Shruthi sree sung Divayanamam bhajans.



## Voice of Youth

**Dubai, UAE:** Harini Ramadurai on Madanam temple - A Spot For Ultimate Devotion



Muthu Mariammam temple is an exquisite sanctuary located approximately 5 kms away from Sirkazhi in a beautiful yet small village called Madanam. It is a wonderful place of worship which me and my family never fail to visit every year when we go to India. Even though it is a small temple it is very valuable and is of great importance to me and my family as it is our “Kula Daivam”. Every year my grandfather leads us and along with his guidance we are able to pay a visit to our Kula Daivam without fail.

We start our journey from Tiruchirappalli early morning and it takes us approximately 5 to 6 hours to get there. As me and my family live in a city, travelling to a place filled with greenery as far as the eye can see is very refreshing and relaxing. After reaching there, my mother, grandmother and perima’s set the

items needed for the upcoming rituals while me, my brother and my cousins glance through the place, wash our hands and legs and take a bath using a pump set. The people residing in the village and the people inside the temple are very welcoming and affectionate towards us. Knowing that me and my cousins have been born and brought up in cities they offer us a glimpse into their lives. They provide us with delicious food items including sweets and make sure that we are well taken care of.

Once the rituals begin, There is a small ceremony called “Mavilukku Ethardhu” which my grandmother leads. “Abhishekam” is then performed to the goddess while me and my family sit together and chant “Lalita Sahasranamam” and offer our prayers to main deity “Muthu Mariamman”. After that, there is a ceremony “Uruvaaru Eduthal” in which a doll made of clay is carried by us and is offered to the god. By performing this ritual, it is believed that the goddess cures all our ailments. Whenever we feel any big health issues, we always pray to the goddess that we will perform the “Uruvaru” the next time we visit the temple.

We spend almost all day in the temple and it brings my whole family so much relaxation and comfort by being with our loved ones and being with the goddess. My grandfather insists that my first and second cousins come together every year for this occasion and it brings me immense happiness to be able to spend my day with my extended family which brings us closer together.

I always look forward to going to this trip and I always return with many joyful memories. My “Kula Daivam” temple holds a very special place in my heart I hope that the magnificence of this place never fades away.

**Dubai, UAE:** Harishankaran on Sanatana Dharma

The ancient religion is based on one strong foundation on which are erected on the wall of its structure. The foundation is called Shruti “that which has been heard”, the walls are smriti “that which has been remembered”. The shruti has been given through very wise men who heard it and received from Devas; those sacred teachings were not written down till comparatively modern times, but were learnt by heart and constantly repeated. The teacher sang them to his pupils, and the pupils sang it after him, a few words at a time, over and over again, till they knew them thoroughly. Boys still learn the shruti in the same way as their forefathers learnt it in very ancient days, and you may hear them chanting it in any Vaidika Patashala, at the present time. The shruti consists of the chaturvedah, the 4 Vedas. Veda means knowledge, that which is known; and the knowledge which is the foundation of religion is given to man in the 4 Vedas. They are named: Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda. Each Veda is divided into 4 parts; Brahmana, Mantras, Upanishads and Puranas.



समस्थ लोका सुखिनो भवन्तु

राम राम

## Seattle, USA : Raghav Sunil on Hanuman

Hanuman has always been my Ishta Devata for as long as I can remember. Born to parents Anjana and Kesari, he was a vanara incarnation of Lord Shiva and an exemplification of strength, devotion, bravery and perseverance.



He was the greatest devotee and protector of Lord Ram, as Tulsidas describes in his Hanuman Chalisa, “राम दुआरे तुम रखवारे, होत न आज्ञा बिनु पैसारे; You are the sentry at the door of Shri Ram’s Divine Abode.

No one can enter it without your permission.” This is my favorite verse of any shloka about him because it describes the level of respect and trust he has earned from God (Ram) through his devotion and loyalty to him. Hanuman’s immense devotion to God is the greatest feature demonstrated by him of Sanatana Dharma. He was famously of a strong and large

build, which I think is best displayed by the large size of the idol in the Namakkal Hanuman temple, making it my favorite place of worship of Hanuman.



His qualities are those of one who never falls short, is disloyal, gives up, or allows fear to negatively affect him. He is an excellent exemplification of not only those qualities which so render him venerable, but also of how to follow God through our Dharma and strive for those qualities that help us achieve that goal.

His bravery, strength, devotion and perseverance allowed him to accomplish such feats that to us appear impossible as jumping across the ocean to Lanka, destroying Ravan and rescuing Sita; an illuminating demonstration of how striving to exemplify the qualities of God that so stand out to us by following our Dharma can render even that which appears to us impossible an effortless accomplishment. (Anjaneyar kovil, Namakkal) Jai Shri Ram!

## Sydney, Australia

Aditi and Anish’s recent violin performance at Thyagaraja Aradhana



Vidhula completes the Arya Shatakam of Mooka Pancha Shati in this video | Sri Mooka Pancha Shati | Arya Shatakam | 91 to 101 | Vidhula Sriram





**Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara**



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