NRI Newsletter

An Initiative of SRI KANCHI KAMAKOTI PEETAM
Volume IV, Issue III – May 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

Only if spirituality, science and patriotism grow together, country will become prosperous

श्रुति स्मरिति पुराणानां अलयम करुणालयम्
नामामी भगवदपादसंकारां लोकसंकाराः
सदाशिव समारंभाम संकाराचार्यां मध्यमाः
अस्माद आचार्यां पर्यांतम वांदे गुरुपरमपराः

Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Maheswara, Guru is Parabrahman incarnate. Obeisance to that Guru.

Science Day is being celebrated here. A lot of research and advancement have happened in the field of Information Technology now. Through the efforts of many people, we now have the facility of reaching information to masses of people. In earlier times, rural children used to walk 5-6 miles to school for study. Many did not have the means to go to school. Ramanujan, the mathematics genius, studied and progressed without any computer and calculator. As mentioned by Padmabhushan Kasturirangan, one must employ 90% of knowledge and 10% of instruments to advance in attainment.

Now state government has allocated crores of rupees for education in the budget. As schools started to come up in villages, private sector is also taking part, and the fields of education and science have advanced. Talented and enthusiastic students should be groomed. The fruit of expense incurred should be the simultaneous to growth of science and spirituality.

To remove poverty, production must be increased. Materials stored in Public Storage Facilities should reach all intended people. Only if spirituality, science and patriotism grow together, our country will become prosperous.

Kasturirangan has earned significant titles from Government. He has come here to enthuse students to bring about growth of modern science in our country. We can now find out from internet very quickly and easily the research work being done abroad. We bless the students that just as people performed austerities and grew spiritually in olden times, the students should grow inscience and spirituality through efforts with concentration, interest, enthusiasm and spiritual thirst.

Hara Hara Sankara, Jaya Jaya Sankara

Excerpts from Anugrha Bhashanam given by Acharya Swamigal on National Science Day (Enathur Deemed University- 04-Mar-2001)

Jaya Jaya Sankara Hara Hara Sankara
Editorial: It is great pride & privilege to include the role played by Sri Matam on National integration from where the seeds were sowed by Sri Adi Sankaracharya and diligently followed by every Acharya in the lineage who has strived for promotion of peace and harmony in the society. Extract of PHD thesis of Kum. Chandra Banu.

Hinduism is a composite faith and hence has numerous forms of beliefs and philosophies. Unity in diversity is the distinctive character of Hinduism from the very beginning as in the case of our nation. Hinduism has been binding the people of India into one for ages and has been the very foundation of our national life.

Indian culture is mostly Hindu culture, the diversity of languages, pluralist tradition, different cultures, difference in climate, flora and fauna has not come in the way of the recognition that, India constitutes a single entity. The real meaning of religion us that man must live from awakened soul and not from his inflated ego. The inner spirit is indeed one but in enjoins freedom to vary in itself. The message of saints of the world emphasis on unity, harmony and integration:

Sri Adi Sankara was a pioneer in establishing monastic institutions at important centers of India for safeguarding and propagating our culture with an objective to integrate and fuse the diverse elements of Indian culture. The tradition is being followed by his successor i.e. matadipathis who have undertaken tours to various parts of India accompanied by their disciples with a purpose of pilgrimage, to meet people throughout the country.

Kanchi – A religious and cultural evolution:

It once flourished for learning, power and prosperity. It is one of the seven sacred cities in India on par with Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya (Haridwar), Kasi, Avanti and Dwarka promosing moksa (salvation) to an individual. It is also one of the eighteen sakti pithams in India. Kanchi was famous along with Taksasila, Varanasi, Valabhi, Nalanda and other great centre’s for learning.

It was also a place where a particular type of educational institution known as Ghatika developed. From a religious viewpoint, Kanchi is a place of pilgrimage for people of all faiths such as Saivism, Vaisnavism, Jainism and Buddhism. This is attested by the fact that the city was broadly divided into four sectors namely Siva Kanchi, Vishnu Kanchi, Jina Kanchi and Buddha Kanchi. Except Buddha Kanchi the other names are still in use.

The region in which Kanchi is situated is generally known a Tondainadu or Tondaimandalam in ancient times. The Sangam works like Ahananuru and Kuruntogai mentions the name Tondaimandalam. Kanchi is also addressed a Kaccipedu, Kanchinagara and Kanchimanagara.

The chief industry of the town and the neighbourhood is silk weaving. Due to the quality and the exquisite design of silk goods. Kanchi has won a place on the international map for this.

Kanchi preserves its ancient layout, broad streets laid around the numerous old temples standing as prominent landmarks of history. There are still many streets bearing the older names such as Rajavidhi or Kingsway.

The etymological implications of the names of the city interestingly enough, highlight the fact that Kanchi was the focal point of literary and artistic activity in South India since third century B.C. In Sanskrit the word Kanchi has a connotation namely “Oddiyana”, a golden girdle worn as an ornament around the waist by women. Kanchi is so called because it is like the navel position for the earth.

National Integration:

The Vedas, Upanishads, Epics and Puranas present the finest conception of national unity. Significantly, there is in them a conscious attempt to awaken the consciousness of the people to the fundamental unity of Matrubhumi (Motherland) and to elevate patriotism to a noble, selfless creed, a
religious duty. At the time when Sri Adi Sankara was born, India was a land of many states, many religions, many societies and many cultures. What India required for all comprehensive philosophy and an all-harmonizing view of life which might rally under one spiritual banner all her moral, religious and cultural forces which would peacefully bring about unity among the races, tribes, castes and sects of this vast country. This was a mammoth task which Sri Adi Sankara undertook to execute.

Sri Adi Sankara felt that spiritual unity alone can be the surest and strongest unifying force. Sri Adi Sankara focusses at stabilizing and integrating the Indian culture National integration was not a mere slogan, it was life breadth rather. This was achieved by twin-integration i.e. national integration through integration between theory and practice by Sri Adi Sankara’s personal example, a rational explanation of love. “Love thy neighbor as thyself”. Indian culture was threatened by destabilizing forces and enabled our culture to arm itself with 3A’s and 3R’s i.e. “acceptance, accommodation, assimilation” and “reinterpretation, re-orientation and rejuvenation”.

To safeguard India’s cultural unity and Advaita philosophy, Sri Adi Sankara moved throughout the length and breadth of the country. Sri Adi Sankara made at least two extensive tours all over India. Sri Adi Sankara integrated six kinds of faith prevalent during that time by his Advaita philosophy. The six kinds of faith related to the worship of Ganapati (Ganapatyam), Kumara (Kaumaram), Siva (Saivam), Sakti (Saktam), Vishnu (Vaisnavism) and Surya (Sauram). So a house with Panchayatana poojai with stones from different parts of India is as though having the whole national consciousness frozen in it. It was against the background of the essential non-difference of man with all other forms of creation that Sri Adi Sankara sang the sonnet of “Universality”. Sri Adi Sankara by referring to the “whole world” as his family (Vasudaiva Kutumbakam) goes beyond merely national to international, embracing the whole of humanity.

The history of the mutt is a history of the Sankaracharyas. It has an unbroken succession of sages and saints since the days of Sri Adi Sankara. The successors have dedicated themselves to the cause of preserving the cultural heritage of the country which has played a pivotal role in integrating the people from the ancient times. Jagadguru Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Swamigal (fondly adored as Maha Periyava) says that “Our cultural heritage” is not exclusive to any community, caste, sect or region. And, if the Indian culture is neglected and decadence sets in, it will not be a mere sectional loss but a universal tragedy.

Tours of early Acharyas of the Mutt:

The 9th Acharya of the Sankara Mutt was Sri Krpa Sankara. During Sri Kripa Sankara’s time some degenerate and obscene practices had crept into the society. Sri Krpa Sankara pursued with vigour and re-established the sanmatha, travelled as far as Kasi and fixed yantras as Kasi, Kanchi, Tiruvottiyur and Tiravanaikkaval.

The 16th Acharya of the Sankara Mutt was Sri Ujjvala Sankara who went on Digvijaya and visited Kashmir. Sri Ujjvala Sankara attained Siddhi at Kalapuri which is since then known as Ujjvala Mahayatipura.

The 25th Acharya of the Sankara Mutt was Sri Sactidananda Ganedra Saraswathi travelled thrice all over India.

Similarly, the 38th, 47th, 53rd and 58th Acharyas have all travelled far & wide through the country to protect, preserve and promote the great Indian culture and to restore faith.

The 68th Acharya, Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati Swamigal – Maha Periyava travelled far and wide and worked steadily for the promotion of peace and amity among different religious faiths and preached the gospel of harmony of all religions despite their outward differences of approach. Maha Periyava started on twenty-year Vijaya yatra from Kumbakonam in 1919. The discourse of Maha Periyava during the tour instilled in the heart of people a sense of pride in our culture and fostered a feeling of oneness and love among people.
From 1918, when the Khadi movement came into prominence, Maha Periyava wore only khadi clothes. Maha Periyava asked devotees/followers to cast off the clothes they were wearing and gave two pairs of khadi clothes.

In 1922, Maha Periyava visited Rameswaram and as per traditional custom gathered the holy sands from the sea for the Ganga Yatra.

In 1924 there was great floods in Kaveri. Thousands of poor people were rendered homeless. When Maha Periyava came to know about this, food was arranged in substantial quantity from the Mutt. This arrangement continued for more than fifteen days where Maha Periyava looked after all the people who struggled because of the floods.

The period in which Maha Periyava undertook the Vijaya yatra was the period when the freedom movement was at its peak. Maha Periyava provided a philosophic and religious motivation to the struggle that was on. The discourses to the people in the villages and towns were simple yet profound and they were about the sages and saints who made heavy sacrifices to build up a rich tradition.


In 1970, Puthu Periyava undertook Vijaya yatra as per the tradition of the mutt. For five years (1970 to 1978), the tour was on foot captured the heart and imagination of many. Puthu Periyava travelled from Kanyakumari to Himalayas

In 1974, a conference of all religions was convened at Puri. Presiding over the conference, Puthu Periya said that conflict on religion was meaningless since all religion led to the same goal. Religion was founded on faith, acceptance of good and the moral and spiritual tenets and its object was to rouse faith in God and spread love among mankind.

The highlight of visit to Bombay (Sarwadharma Sammelan) in 1987 was undertaken to spread the message of national unity and integration. Puthu Periyava explained that all religions whether Hinduism, Islam, Christianity or any other religion emphasized love, brotherhood, peace and unity. This resulted in government passing several resolutions to address inter-communal conflict, violence and terrorism.

Till today the tradition continues and the 70th Acharya, Acharya Swamigal undertake tours to different parts of India and through multifarious activities spread the message of unity and integration. From Sri Adi Sankarar to Acharya Swamigal, there has been a vista through millennia, and this verily constitute the golden link with the past. Amidst all diversities found in the country based on religion, language, caste, sects and ideologies, the Acharyas of the Mutt follow the path laid by Sri Adi Sankara keeping the spirit of India aflame and alive.
Brahmana Sabha Pancha Dravida (BSPD)

Brahmins who live in south of Vindhyas 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 progeny, the traditional values and cultural identity of the community.

Jataka Parivartana

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

https://forms.gle/NFFeP8r6Cs1xnJpDA

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

www.brahmanasabha.org

This issue covers the Holy Camp from 2nd April 2022 by HIS HOLINESS PUJYASRI SANKARA VIJAYENDRA SARASWATI SANKARAACHARYA SWAMIGAL:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Camp Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-Apr-2022</td>
<td>Gangavati - Smt. Sarojamma Kalyana Mantapa, Anegundi Road, Gangavati, Koppala district, Karnataka – 583227</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-Apr-2022 till 17-Apr-2022</td>
<td>Raichur - Booba Bhavan, Behroon Quilla, Raichur, Karnataka – 584101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Apr-2022 till 19-Apr-2022</td>
<td>Mahbubnagar - Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Palamuru Chapter, Cotton Mill, Pillalamarri Road, Mahbubnagar, Telangana – 509001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-April-2022 onwards</td>
<td>Hyderabad - Sri Subramanyeswara Swamy Temple, Skandagiri, Kamakoti Nagar, Warasiguda, Secunderabad, Telangana - 500061</td>
</tr>
</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.kanchimuttseva.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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yaksha’s questions</th>
<th>Yudhishthira’s response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What overshadows the sphere?</td>
<td>Ignorance covers the sphere (the minds of men).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do men remain obscure?</td>
<td>Tamas hinders a man's blooming full.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do men shun friends?</td>
<td>Greed goads a man to shirk friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do men fail to be in heaven?</td>
<td>Evil company frustrates a man's prospect to be in heaven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why does a man live as if he is dead?</td>
<td>A poor man lives like a dead person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When is a kingdom called as being dead?</td>
<td>A kingdom is called dead when anarchy prevails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When are the last rites considered dead (incomplete)?</td>
<td>The last rites are considered incomplete in the absence of erudite priests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why is a sacrificial rite considered dead (incomplete even after its formal completion)?</td>
<td>A sacrificial rite is called dead (fruitless; incomplete) if gifts are not offered to the Brahmins who preside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What constitutes the way?</td>
<td>The way directed by the sages is the right path.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is spoken of as water?</td>
<td>The sky is the source of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is spoken of as food?</td>
<td>The cow is the source of food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is spoken of as poison?</td>
<td>Seeking favour (by a man of honour) from another person is abominable like poison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the proper time of the last rites and then drink and take away.</td>
<td>The time of the last rites comes when Brahmins consenting to have meals are available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Samooha Sammelan - Swayamvara Parvathi Homam

With the blessings and guidance of Acharya Swamigal, an initiative has been taken by Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam to organize “Swayamvara Parvathi Homam” for the well being of all communities. The homam is done every month for a community to facilitate early marriages within the said community. The community leaders work with the volunteers to spread the invitation for the event. On the day of the homam, breakfast and lunch are provided to all the participants. A sankalpam for marriage is done for each groom or bride. Apart from anna prasadam, all participants are given homam prasadam, Tamboolam bags for women and Kamakshi picture for men, all blessed by Acharya Swamigal.

Plava Year Schedule of Events

Kanchipuram
- Nadaswaram artists community
- Brahmins
- Mudaliars
- Vanniar
- Yadavas
- Nadars

Tirupati
- Kumra or Salivahana
- Brahmins
- Vysya

The community leaders have expressed their gratitude to Acharya Swamigal for HIS infinite kindness and blessings. The events unite everyone within the community and brings unity across all communities.
Vidyaranya Vidyaradhana Mahotsava

It is well known to the informed that – the respected and famed Vidyaranya Swami hailed from Kanchipuram. He was a shishya of the 51 Astharya of the hallowed Kanchi Kamakoti Moolammaraya Sarvajna Peetam, Shri Vidyateerthaswami Sarvajna Peetam, Shankaracharya and His disciple Shri Shankaranarayandasra Saravasti Shankaracharya. By their order he travelled in Karnataka and other regions along with eight other yatris for the preservation of Sanatana Dharma and created Matams. Out of Guna Bhatti, he promulgated the madra “Vidya Shankara” with the first words of their names.

In his purvavaramana he was known as Madhuvacharya and together with his puravashrama brother Sivayacharya he composed many content-laden texts in multiple shakru-s, and especially adorned the Veda-s with Bhashya-s. He established Dharma Rajya via the Harharu Bukha king. He was famed for erecting the temples such as that of Vingalakshmadara on the banks of Pampa. Finally he came to the Mekhapturi Kanchipur and attained Siddhi.

In the sacred memory of this Mahatma, the 68th Kamakoti Peetadhishwara Shri Chandrasekharendra Saravasti Shankaracharya Swami established the Vidyaranya Vidyapetam at Hosapete near the banks of Pampa. There he brightened the Vedic path by creating the examination system of shadanga and Veda bhashya along with Vedadhyayana for its full-focussed completeness, and by appointing eminent scholars for teaching them, by the paramparas of scholars who studied at this Vidyapetam and in this examination system, the vidya of Shadanga and Veda Bhashya still shines.

Further, the Acharya created the Uttarkidara Vidyaranya Nitya Trust to publish the inscriptions related to Vidyaranya Swami, and also other Samkrita language inscriptions in Bharat and even some other countries. Thus to honour Vidyaranya by vidya is something that is very dear to the Acharya.

Further, the 76th Acharya Shri Paramadhvendra Saravati was born on these very Pampa banks with the purvavrama name Shivaravatitala. He attained siddhi at Tirunakudlu near the merger of Kaveri with the sea. He also prepared many compilations.

At the beginning of the new shubhakalas samastas, our benovolent Guru the 70th Peetadhishwara Shri Shankarsha Vidyadnyen Saravasti Shankaracharya Swami will observe Vasantha Navarathra of the Mahatirupurastami Samatha Chandrasekharendra Puja from Prathama to Dashami of the Chatur Shukla Paksha

Vidyaranya Vidyaradhana Mahotsava at Hosapete, Karnataka (02-Apr-2022)
Forgotten Roots - Book released (02-Apr-2022)

Forgotten roots- a thought book was inaugurated online with blessings and presence of Pujyashri Shankaracharya Swamigal on 2 Apr. 2022 - GudiPadwa- Ugadi


Sri Kamakshi Temple Kumbhabhishekam performed at Hospet (06-Apr-2022)

Acharya Swamigal performed Kumbhabhishekam of the newly constructed Sri Kamakshi Temple at Baldota Colony, Hospet. The temple has Kamakshi sannidhi as main shrine and other Parivara Murthis in the Prathikshanam area. At around 9 AM Yaga Shala Poornahuti was held and then Kalashams were taken to the Gopuram Vimanam. Acharya Swamigal performed Kalasha pujas and then performed the Kumbhabhishekam.

Later Acharya Swamigal performed Mahabhishekam in the Garbha Gruha and other Pujas followed with Deeparadhana. Special Abharanams & Silver Crown were adorned to Kamakshi Amman. His Holiness blessed Prasadam to Sri Rangan Gowda and family members who built the temple. The Sandur Royal family, Sri Krishnadevaraya of Anegundi, Baldota family, local MLA participated in the event and received blessings of Acharya Swamigal.

Acharya Swamigal returned to Srimatam Camp at Sri Vidyaranya Vidya Peetham and performed the fifth day of Vasantha Navaratri Pujas.

Kumbhabhishekam video
Vasanta Navaratri and Sri Rama Navami pujas performed at Hospet (10-Apr-2022)

Sri Rama Navami - Vasantha Navaratri and Sri Rama Navami Mahotsvam was celebrated at Shrimatam camp at Sri Vidyaranya Vidyapeetham, Hospet.

On Ugadi - Panchanga Puja was performed and Panchanga Pathanam was done. Navaratri Sankalpam and Yagasala Pratishta was performed. Srividya Homam, Avarana Puja Homam, Sri Rama Shadakshari Homam, Srimad Valmiki Ramayana Mula Parayanam, Damanotsavam was performed every day. On the concluding day, Poornahuti and Sri Rama Pattabhishekam was performed and the parayanam of "Pattabhisheka Sarga" from Yudha Kanda in Ramayana was performed. The Vidyaranya Vidyaradhana Utsavam, Advaita Sabha & Veda Bhashya Sabhas were held.

Visit to Sri Virupaksheshwara temple and Sri Vidyaranya Math at Hampi (11-Apr-2022)

Vijaya Yatra updates - of Acharya Swamigal visited Sri Virupaksheshwara temple & Sri Vidyaranya Math at Hampi, Vijayanagaram. Peethadhipati of Sri Vidyaranya Math Sri Virupaksha Vidyaranya Swami received Acharya Swamigal at the Virupaksha Swamy Shrine & took Acharya Swamigal to the place where Pujya Kanchi Mahaswami performed Chaturmasya in 1978/79. Then Acharya Swamigal was received at the Math where Sri Hampi Swami showed the Puja Gruha and other important places.
Vijaya Yatra - Acharya Swamigal arrived at Gangavati, Karnataka. Shrimatam camp was at Smt. Sarojamma Kalyana Mantapa, Anegundi Road, Gangavati, Koppala district, Karnataka – 583227

Acharya Swamigal performed Pujas and then left for Gangavathi. Enroute Acharya Swamigal visited Vaidyanathaswamy temple at Bhuta Gumpha Cross, Koppal District and then arrived at Shiva Temple, Gangavathi. From temple, Acharya Swamigal was then taken in procession to Shrimatam Camp at a Kalyana Mandapam on Gangavathi-Anegundi route. Acharya Swamigal delivered Anugraha Bhashanam on arrival. Sri Ramulu a four-time MP and an ardent devotee of Kanchi Acharyas, local MLA and devotees received Acharya Swamigal.

Vijaya yatra - Shrimatam camp at Raichur upto 17 Apr. 2022 (13-Apr-2022)

Acharya Swamigal arrived at Raichur as part of Vijaya yatra. Shrimatam Camp was at Seth Rikhabchand Parasmal Sukhani PU college (SRPS PU College), Raichur, Karnataka. Visesha pujas including Pradosha puja, Pournami and Shukravara pujas were performed.
Visit to Sri Ganpathy Temple in Sindhanur (13-Apr-2022)

Acharya Swamigal visited Sri Ganpathy Temple in Sindhanur, Raichur District.

Navaratri and Sri Rama Navami Pujas performed (14-Apr-2022)

Sri Rama Navami - Vasantha Navaratri and Sri Rama Navami Mahotsavam were celebrated at Shrimatam camp at Sri Vidyaranya Vidyapeetham, Hospet.

On Ugadi - Panchanga Puja was performed and Panchanga Pathanam was done. Navaratri Sankalpam and Yagasala Pratishta was performed. Srividya Homam, Avarana Puja Homam, Sri Rama Shadakshari Homam, Srimad Valmiki Ramayana Mula Parayanam, Damanotsavam was performed everyday. On the concluding day, Poornahuti and Sri Rama Pattabhishekam was performed and the parayanam of "Pattabhisheka Sarga" from Yudha Kanda in Ramayana was performed. The Vidyaranya Vidyaradhana Utsavam, Advaita Sabha & Veda Bhashya Sabhas were held.

Vijaya Yatra - Swagata Sabha at Hyderabad (19-Apr-2022)

Vijaya Yatra of Acharya Swamigal - Swagata Sabha held at Hyderabad on arrival of Acharya Swamigal as part of the vijaya yatra after covering various parts of Tamilnadu, Andhra and Karnataka and Telangana (video)
Brahmotsavam commences at Sri Gomantak Tirupati Balaji mandir at Goa (19-Apr-2022)

The Annual Vardhanti Utsav of Sri Gomantak Tirupati Balaji Mandir started with Dhawajrohan (Flag Hosting) at 05.30 am, with the Blessings of Acharya Swamigal of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. Pujas, havans, and morning programme concluded with Aarti at Yagnyamantap followed by Mahaprasad in the afternoon.

Sri Balaji Palkhi seva was performed at 06.00 pm with procession around Sri Balaji, Devi Padmavati and Mahaganpati Temples with Dindi Pathak followed by devotees. Large number of devotees took Mahaprasad in the morning and evening.

Swarna Bandhana Mahakumbabhishhekam of Sri Subrahmanya Swamy Devalayam at Skandagiri, Secunderabad was performed by Acharya Swamigal on (21-Apr-2022)
Sri Valli Sri Devasena Sameta Sri Subrahmanya Swamy Thiru Kalyana Mahotsavam was performed at Skandagiri, Secunderabad in presence of Acharya Swamigal. (21-Apr-2022)

Pancha Murthy Giri Valam and Sri Subrahmanya Swamy Rathotsavam was performed later.
Kumbabhishekam of Sri Kamakshi & Anushtana Kendram by Acharya Swamigal on (25-Apr-2022) at Samshabad

Chandi Homam Purnahuthi, Veda Sabha and commencement of Shankara Jayanthi Utsavam (01-May-2022)
Sri Samaveda Shanmukha Sharma Upayasa Poorthi (02-May-2022)

Akshaya Tritiya (03-May-2022) Acharya Swamigal blessed commencement of Swarna Ratha work at Subrahmanya Swamy Devalayam.

In the evening Acharya Swamigal blessed Veda Rakshana Nidhi Trust certificate distribution function.

Sri Shankara Jayanti Mahotsavam
Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti - Mahotsavam was celebrated at Ravindra Bharthi auditorium at hyderabad with the blessings and presence of Pujiyashri Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal on 07-May-2022. Acharya Swamigal. A special postal cover and stamp commemorating the Kumbabhishekam of Sri Subrahmanya Swami temple at Skandagiri was released. Eminent scholars and various others were honoured on the occasion.
Visesha pujas and alankaram at Shrimatam camp at Skandagiri from 1st May 2022 till Shankara Jayanthi

Visesha pujas and Alankaram at Shrimatam, Kanchipuram

Shankara Jayanthi celebrations in Bengaluru, Malleshwaram Sri Shankara Matham. (video)
Shankara Jayanti Special Anugraha Bashanam. Tamil and Telugu (videos)

Shankara Jayanti - Abhishekam and Rathotsavam at Skandagiri and Kanchi (video)

Shankara Jayanthi celebrations in Tiruvanaikovil (photos) & Bengaluru (video)
Acharya Swamigal blessed the Mahakumbabhishekam of Rajagopuram of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Sri Shyam Mandir at Kachiguda, Hyderabad.

Vargal Visit (10-May-2022)

Acharya Swamigal visited Saraswathi temple at Vargal about 50 kms from Skandagiri. It was Navami day. The temple run with blessings of Kanchi Acharyas has Sannidhis for Saraswathi, Skanda and Venkateshwara Swamy. The temple also runs a Smartha Veda Pathashala to train Veda Pathis and Purohits. So far about 175 such students have passed out with the blessings of Acharya Swamigal.

Several devotees throng the temple for performing Aksharabhyasam. The committee led by Sri Chandrashekhara Siddhanti has done a phenomenal work in expanding the temple, pathashala and facilities for devotees.

Acharya Swamigal in his speech invoked Veda Mantras and Dhyana shlokas on Saraswathi Devi and said that the place has become a divine Kshetra for Saraswathi with blessings of Kanchi Jagadgurus and sustained spiritual activities.
Visit to Pushpagiri Matam (11-May-2022)

Visit to Sri Shiva Temple at Yadagirigutta (12-May-2022)

Acharya Swamigal visited Yadagirigutta Sri Shiva temple and performed abhishekam and vishesha pujas
Visit to Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swami Temple (12-May-2022)

Acharya Swamigal visited Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple

Shivacharyas Meet (19-May-2022)

Acharya Swamigal presided over a Shivacharyas Sabha at Skandagiri temple Mandapam yesterday evening.

Visit to Ganesh Mandir (20-May-2022)

Acharya Swamigal visited Ganesh Mandir near Secunderabad Railway Station today morning. Acharya Swamigal was received by Telangana Endowments Department officials & Pujaris and Special Pujas were performed at the shrine.

Guru Krupa Lahari Chanting held (20-May-2022)

With the benign blessings of Acharya Swamigal ‘Guru Krupa Lahari’ a devotional treatise about Kanchi Mahaswami in Sanskrit language, was recited by Smt Sudha & students. Kanya Puja & Deepa Puja was held on the occasion. A website for training girl students by Vijayawada team led by Kanakadurga Temple Sthanacharya Sri Shivaprasad Sarma Dampati was also blessed by Acharya Swamigal.
Sthala Puranas - Discourse series

Parthasarathy Swamy Temple

Sri Jayantipura Mahatmyam (part 1)

Sri Jayantipura Mahatmyam (part 2)

Sri Svetaranya Kshetra Mahatmyam

Kashmir Series

Ethnic Cleansing of Kashmiri Hindus

Why we are all Kashmiris

The Chronicles of Kashmir—Biography of Shri Amarnath Vaishnavi

Takshashila—Kashmir's Past Glory

NRI Newsletter from Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. Date 29-May-2022  Page 22 of 37
From around the world, as shared by devotees

**Abu Dhabi:** Anusham, Avittam and Uthiradam celebrations

**Dubai:** Akanda Rama Nama Japam was performed on 09-Apr-2022 i.e. Rama Nama japam was performed for 24 hours non-stop and it was concluded with Vishnu Sahasranamam and Hanuman Chalisa. Collage includes Anusham celebrations as well.
Netherlands: Pradhosham rudra japam & Vishnu Sahasranamam parayanam

Germany: Rudram at kamakshi ambal temple at Hamm Germany


Houston (KKSF): Houston, Texas Chapter held a satsangham on Friday, April 29th, 2022, at Shri Guru Nivas Dhyana Kendra (Meditation Center) in Houston. This center has been made available for Satsangham events thanks to the munificence of a traditional Srimatam devotee and his family. This was the first satsangham in this facility. Dr. Smt.Sita Sundar Ram, Sanskrit Scholar and Researcher, Secretary of KSRI, Secretary of the Samskrit Academy- Madras, Committee Member- PS Education Society Group of Institutions spoke on “Sanskrit and Ancient Mathematics: A Bird’s eye view”. Sri Sundar Ram, Chairman, NRI Parents and Relatives Association, Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam spoke on “How NRIS may engage in Kanchi Srimatams initiatives”. The devotees felt very enthused by the talks.
Arizona (KKSF): Paduka Yatra - With His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Periyava’s anugraham and apaara kaarunyam, KKSF Arizona Periyava Paduka Yatra completed successfully. Planning for this event started 3 months before the event by forming a core team of 10 Periyava bhaktas from AZ.

For the 1st time Paduka Yatra was performed with the Holy Padukas of:

- Sri Sri Sri Maha Periyava
- Sri Sri S Sri Pudhu Periyava and
- Sri Sri Sri Periyava Padhukas

Periyava graced the homes of 43 families in and around the suburbs of Phoenix starting from Mar 31 2022 evening through Apr 03 2022 night. Every day, we started the Yatra around 5 AM and ended around 11 PM. Arun Sitaraman joined the Yatra on Sat, April 2nd

The Holy Paduka puja of Three Periyavas started with Ganapati Puja followed by sankalpam, shodasa upacharam, Sri Maha Periyava Ashtothram, Sri Pudhu Periyava Ashtothram and Nidhanapataaye for Sri Periyava. After the archanas devotees chanted Totakashtakam and Maitreem Bhajatha. Swasti was chanted in each devotee’s home while their family was blessed with Holy Srimatam Prasadams from Sri Sri Sri Periyava. In almost all homes devotees sang in front of Periyavas after the puja.

Two pilot vehicles with two volunteers wearing traditional dress went to each devotee’s home 30-45 minutes before The Periyavas graced their homes with all the necessary puja materials. They made sure that everything for the puja is arranged and devotees are ready to receive The Periyavas in traditional manner with Poorna Kumbham. All the devotees were regularly updated about the schedule through various communication methods.

The Padhukas were held and carried by local volunteers including the devotees. Their emotions, feelings and happiness in doing such a kainkaryam for Kanchi Kamakoti Guru Parampara was clearly visible throughout the Yatra. Most of them said “Our fervent wishes to have this blissful experience again soon”

The hospitality and kindness at each and every devotee’s home was unimaginable and exemplary. We saw and felt the excitement, spiritual vibrations filled in the air at each and every home as they welcomed and did Pooja to The Periyavas. Some key highlights to share:

1. Each and every devotee was connected with Sri Matam.
2. Some devotees had received positive news related to their family activities just before or immediately after "The Periyavas" graced their homes.
3. In one of the homes, prasadams in form of flowers garlands and pavitra mala from Sri Venkatakrishna Kshetra (temple maintained by Puttige Matha, His Holiness Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji) was offered to Three Periyavas.
4. Periyavas visit to Ghosala with two cows in a devotee's home.
Portland (KKSF): Shankara Jayanthi was performed at Portland Jaya Hanuman Temple by devotees. Abhishe kam and Archanas were done for Lord Shiva, HH Mahaperiyava deity and Adi Shankara BhagavatpadAL followed by Thotakaashtakam.

With HH Periyava's anugraham, we celebrated Anusham a couple of days early at devotees place. The hosts, Smt. Hema and Lakshmanan did Paada Pooja to Holy Padukas and all kids did archana to Maha Periyava, HH Jayendra periyava. Devotees recited Sadhguru Dashakam, Stotra Maalika stotras composed by Pujyashri Periyava. This was followed by Sri Sri MahaPeriyava Panchakam, Lalitha Sahasranaamam, reading from Deivathin Kural, Rama Nama chanting, singing by kids and Thotakaashtakam. Sri Matam prasadams were distributed to the hosts family and devotees.


Adults and teens chanted on soundarya lahari, shivananda lahari, guru ashtakam, guru padhuka stotram, lakshmi narasimha karavalamba stotram, kanakadhara stotram and adi sankara avatara ghattah. Rudrabhishekam was performed with colorful abhisheka vastu such as strawberries, mangoes and avocado, along with the customary vastu. Children of Bala Mandal in Seattle and Sri Kamakshi Bala Vidyalaya also presented Sankara Charitram in a virtual samarapanam program organized by Dharmadhaara pathashala.
**Singapore**: Since 2014, Singapore Dakshina Bharatha Brahmana Sabha has been conducting annual mass chanting of Vishnu Sahasranamam under the banner of Eka Dina Koti Nama, Parayanam (EDKNP) with the theme, Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu.

This year too, the event was conducted successfully with Lord Narayana's grace on Sunday, 1st May at PGP hall in Singapore. Sri Periyava blessed the event in Paduka roopam. Chanters from the entire Hindu community joined the event in person and online through Zoom.

The One crore Namas were completed in 27 Avarthis over a period of six hours followed by Naivedhyam and food was distributed thereafter.

**Mahansya Purasthara Ekadasa Rudra Japa Homa Abhisheka to Sri Visalakshi Amba Samedha Sri Viswanatha Swamy at Sri Balasubramaniar Temple, Yishun, Singapore (27-Mar-2022)**
**Shanghai, China:** Pidi Arisi Thittam - Arul Tharum Mahaperiyava (ATM) Global Group launched Pidi Arisi Thittam on the auspicious day of Mahashivratri (01/03/2022) all over Tamil Nadu with a special feature of participation by NRIs. Purpose of this scheme is to involve many people in Anna dhana kaingaryam and spread the scheme.

ATM group devotees are donating pidi arisi thittam boxes exclusively manufactured for ATM Group, along with a printed scheme pamphlet to their friends and relatives. Devotees should encourage the person who collected the box to keep one pidi arisi on a daily basis in the box. The collected arisi will be donated to the nearby temple to prepare prasadam and distribute to the devotees who visit the temple.

Devotees from other countries (NRIs) also participate in this kaingaryam through their relatives/friends residing in India. NRIs can sponsor, and their friends or relatives take the initiative to distribute the boxes in their area.

ATM Pidi Arisi Thittam perfectly fits Mahaperiyava’s wish to carry out Anna dhana.

On 26th March 2022, Sri. Health Srinivasan Mama read the names of the devotees who joined Pidi Arisi thittam in Mahaperiyava and Pudhu Periyava adhishtanams. The Image of the box that will be used for Pidi arisi thittam was also kept in Mahaperiyava and Pudhu periyava’s adhishtanams before the distribution.

**Ram Navami Celebration:** ATM celebrated Ram Navami (10/04/2022) by organising Akhanda Rama Nama Japam to the group devotees. More than 300 devotees from various countries participated in Rama Nama Japam. Devotees were allotted time slots to chant Rama Nama. Separate time slots were allotted for Children and Youth to encourage them to participate. Rama Nama chanting went on for 12 hours starting from 5am to 5pm. Over 1 Lakh times Rama Nama was chanted by devotees. Around 4.30 am, Smt. Prema Krishnamurthy (Ram Ram maami) spoke about Rama Nama Mahimai and commenced the chanting.

ATM Sath Sangam usually begins with Deivathin Kural by Smt. Vijayalakshmi Srinivasan followed by Enipadigalil Mandargal by a group member.

**Children Sath Sangam:** ATM Children under 12 years spoke about Dashavataram for three weeks (26/02/2022 - 12/03/2022). Each child spoke about an Avatar story.

- Harshitha - Matsya
- Swetha - Kurma
- Harsini - Varaha
- Aishwarya, Ananth – Narasimha
- Vamshika - Vamana
- Pranav - Parashurama
- Adrith - Rama
- Anirudh - Balarama
- Akhayashree - Krishna
- Anagha - Kalki
To involve youngsters in spirituality, ATM organised the six weeks Youth Sath Sangam for age groups between 13 years to 25 years. The youngsters performed Bhajans, Devotional songs, Speech and Musical instruments in the sath sangam. All the youngsters participated enthusiastically.


Musical Instrument by S.Venkataraman - Veena, Violin
V.Mirudula - Flute
Rahul Narayanan, S.A.Sarvesh - Casio

Speech on various topics by S. Aradhana on Krishna Jananam Charithram, Maitreyi Krishnamoorthy on Hari Katha, Sai Kruthi on Sant Prabhaham and Arun Venkat on Kurai theerkum Guruvayurappan

Bhajan: C. Ashwath, Aradhana.S, Padmakshi & La Chitrangada, Ragashree & Varshini & Rakshitha


Australia & New Zealand: Rama Navami celebrations at Wellington, Auckland, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. The program started at 4:00 pm with introduction of guests of honour Dr G.V. Narasimham Rao garu, Dr.N.Krishna Veni.

• Both have blessed the program and children from Wellington, Auckland, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne have participated enthusiastically.
• The program played with lots of ragas and kriti including, Malhari, Bangla, Kuntala varali, Echa Manohari, Madhyavathi, Raagamalika, Aarabhi, Bhairavi, Saveri

• Kritis included, starting from Lambodara, RaRa Rama, Sara SaraSamhari, Manasa Sri Ramachandruni, Nadupai Ballike Bhayavami Raghuramanam , Rama ninnumammina varamulum

• Rama neee gani nannu, Rama Bhadhra Raghu Veera, Padamule chaalu Rama Seetha nayaka, Rama Kodanda Rama, Rama Bhajana Cheyere, O Rama, Rama Kodandarama, Nee Padmula bhakti and many Bhadra chala Ramadasu Kirtans

• Sri Barath Ramachandran have conveyed the 9 types of Bhakti and in the words of Acharya Swamigal “I.T stands for Indian Traditions and further quoted children should be taught History & Heritage along with Adi Shankaracharya stotrams”.

• Finally, an excellent piece on Mridangam by Sri Charan and mangala Harati by Smt Madhuri Vasa brought the program to the conclusion.

Sydney, Australia: Adi Sankara Jayanthi and Mahaperiyava Jayanthi celebrated in Sydney, Australia

Australian Bhartiya Brahman Samajam (ABBS) and Sydney Maha Periyava Devotees jointly organised the celebrations of Adi Sankara Jayanthi and Maha Periyava Jayanthi on Sunday 15th May 2022 at the Ermington Community Hall in Sydney. Over 150 devotees attended this great occasion.

The grand celebrations commenced with a Poornakumbham welcome of Maha Periyava idol followed by Jayanthi Aradhana Puja to both AdiSankara and Mahaperiyava performed by Sri Venkatraman Sastrigal (son of esteemed Babu Sastrigal of Jamshedpur) and bakthas. The puja concluded with the Anugraha Bhashanam blessings from His Holiness Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamiji of Sri Kanchi Mutt and a recitation of Rudram by devotees followed by rendering of Thodakashtakam. Prayers were offered to Acharyas for lokakshema and for those impacted by the present pandemic situation. Sri Vish Viswanathan presented the activities of Australia Bharatha Brahman Samaj and Sri Jaishankar presented forthcoming programs of Mahaperiyava Group.

Smt Swetha Sivakumar compered the event and presented a grand classical cultural event commencing with a Mridangam talavadyam presented by students of R & S school of Mridangam (Vedanth Shivkumar, Praneet
Seella, Vedanth Manikandan and Keerthan Raja). Then Krishna Ashtakam was recited by children’s group consisting of Meghna, Sraavani, Sahana, Kirthana, Sthuti, Uthrasree, Druthi, Abhiraam and Ashwin. The Amba Ashtakam was recited by Prateeksha, Arundathi and Aishwarya. Devotional songs were also presented by Abhinav Harishankar, Aishwarya Harishankar, Jayanth Ramprasad, Sanjana Ramprasad and Avanthika. Smt Hemalatha Ganesan, a popular artiste from India recited a devotional song in praise of Adi Sankara. The Mridangam Accompaniment was provided by Santosh Jaishankar, Vaibhav Manikandan, Pavan Prasad and Aditya Thilak. The three hours of Acharya Jayanthi celebrations concluded with Maha Aarathi and distribution of Mahaprasadam.
Voice of Youth

Ananya, Dubai on Meenkulathi Amma or literally the mother who has a kolam or pond of fish for her selves. She is our kula or family deity and to take it a step more she is family. This is a temple of Meenakshi (the one who has the eyes of a meenam or fish) Amman in Pallassana village in Palakkad, Kerala. Because of its antiquity the temple is also called the pazyakavu.

Several hundred years back; due to an acute drought in Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu several families migrated westwards. Among them were three families belonging to the Veerasaiva Mannadiar clan. Enroute; they went to the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, which was their family deity. The eldest member of the family took a stone from there. After long days of traveling, in search of a place to stay they found Pallassana. Delighted by the forests surrounding the villages they settled there and prospered in the diamond trade.

He used to worship that stone as devi swaroopam. One day he kept his umbrella and the stone on the shore and entered the pond for his bath. While bathing he cried as he would no longer go to Madurai due to his age. After his bath he came out and wanted to go home but he could not lift the umbrella or that stone. An astrologer said that Meenakshi had manifested herself in the stone and that was why it could not be moved. Many people came there to witness the miracle. The place came to be known as Kudamannu. This place is still worshiped daily and called the moolasthanam.

The present temple and the adjacent temple tank were constructed over the next four centuries. Devi has manifested as Kali Shanti Swaroopini and she faces the north. The ashta durgas are consecrated around the sanctum sanctorum, because of which nobody is permitted to go round the sanctum. There are separate smaller shrines for Ganapati, Naagar, Ayyappa and Bhairava. The temple has two entrances, one towards the north and one on the west. Near the western gate is the temple pond which is full of fish and hence the name. The fish come and touch us when we go to take our bath before entering the temple.

The temple utsavam is held in Feb/Mar every year. Devi prathishtha dinam is celebrated every year in the month of midhunam on swathi nakshatra.

Dhriti Sriram, Hong Kong on Sanatana Dharma: Sanatana Dharma is a set of “eternal” universal laws, rules and duties one should follow (particularly to attain moksha). People who follow Sanatana Dharma are called Hindus.

Before you jump into any conclusions thinking you know what Dharma’s meaning is, you should know that it has multiple meanings. YES!! It has more than one meaning, as it is a Sanskrit word. Dharma can mean duties, righteousness, universal laws, eternal truth… but in most cases it means duties.

To really understand what Dharma is, we need to split it into three parts: purusharthas, varna and ashrama.

Purusharthas are the four aims or “eternal goals” to human life: dharma, kama, artha and moksha. Dharma is fulfilling your religious and spiritual
duties, such as chanting your daily prayers to the gods and the goddesses. Kama is the aim of experiencing happiness and enjoyments such as desires and pleasures. Artha is the aim of success in work – earning money, providing for your family and doing a good job. Finally, moksha is liberation from the cycle of rebirth - it is when the soul becomes one with the one and only Brahman.

The second part of Sanatana Dharma is Varna. Varna is basically the path that should be followed by a Hindu depending on their varna or caste. The different castes are Brahmmins (teachers, learned men), Kshatriyas (soldiers, protectors and warriors), Vaishyas (businessmen, merchants/traders) and Shudras (cleaners, manual laborers). Depending on which caste you are in, you are meant to follow a certain path, but many disagree stating that this system is unfair and biased to certain castes.

The third and last part of Sanatana Dharma are Ashramas. The duties of life don't just depend on the caste a Hindu is born into, but they also depend on a person’s stage of life (ashrama). The first stage of life is a pupil or a student, the second stage is settling down, getting a job and a family, the third stage is when you slowly retire, giving more opportunities for spirituality and the fourth stage of life is when some people give up all the things of this world for spiritual purposes. This stage is not for everyone – a person living in the fourth ashrama is called a sannyasin.

Moksha and Brahman are integral part of sanatan dharma. Brahman is a formless, shapeless (ball of) energy which we visualize as God. It is invisible, so we have given It a form of a human, so it is easier for us to think of It. The first layer of Brahman is infinite, with no form, shape or gender, it is also visualized as ‘truth’, but we won’t go that deep into it. The second layer of Brahman is called Ishwara, and the second layer is also formless, but we can visualize Ishwara as a form. Iswara is omnipresent - he is widely spread (all-pervading), omnipotent (has unlimited power).

The third layer are the devatas. Devatas have a form, and they have a specific power which they are obligated to use for a certain purpose only (for example: Vayu is a devatha who has the power of air/wind, and he can only use that power). Like a wedding ring is a symbol of marriages, devathas are a symbol of Ishwara. The final layer of the Brahman is the avatar. They are the forms taken by “god” on Earth. Rama was an avatar of Vishnu, he indicated that “god” is existent.

Finally, moksha is the process of liberation. After every death, you are sent to heaven for the good deeds you have done, and you are sent to hell for the bad deeds you have done. After that, based on your actions you are reborn back into earth in a certain form (if you did a lot of good deeds, you can be reborn as a human, but if you did many bad things then you may be reborn as an ant, or as a worm). To attain moksha, you must have immense belief in God, and you must do as many good deeds as possible. When you attain moksha, you can avoid the process of reincarnation and directly be bonded with the first layer of Brahman.
Know Your Village

Mahadanapuram (Karur District) submitted by Smt. Uma Viswanathan

Mahadanapuram is a village in Karur District of Tamil Nadu. It is located 28 KM towards East from Karur and 370 KM from State capital Chennai.

Krishnarayapuram, Chinthalavadi, Kallapalli, Karuppathur, Thirukkampuliyyur are the nearby Villages to Mahadanapuram.

Mahadanapuram is a beautiful village on the banks of river Cauvery. Historically this place got its prominence from emperor Krishnadeva Rayar who camped in the nearby place which is today known as Krishnarayapuram. Krishnadeva Rayar created this village and gifted land houses to Vedic scholars to involve in teaching of Vedas and perform various Yagas and Yagnas. Thus, this place got its name as Mahadanapuram (the village of great gift). Four Sanyasis of the Nilamavu Mutt of Karnataka attained Samadhi at this place and their Adhishtana Mantapas are being looked after well with daily Poojas. A Pathasala is also functioning at this place.

Main deity of the village: Arulmigu Sri Visalakshi Ambal Sameda Sri Viswanathar Swami temple (East of Agraharam)

In the main temple “Arulmigu Arulmigu Sri Visalakshi Ambal Sameda Sri Viswanathar Swami” the following deities reside as well:

- Vinayagar
- Murugar
- Durgai Amman
- Dakshinamoorthy

Sri Varadaraja Perumal temple (west side of Agraharam)

Sri Mahalakshmi temple situated at Metu Mahadanapuram (2km from Agraharam).

Sri Pidari Amman temple situated among paddy fields is considered to be the “Oor Kaaval Deivam”
History of Sri Mahalakshmi temple: Once, a King by name Sivaperuman ruled over a small kingdom called Perumizhalai region. Saivite Saint Kurumbar Nayanar (one of the 63 Nayanars) was serving the King. Kurumbar Nayanar adopted Saivite Saint Sundaramurthy Nayanar as his Guru and was commanding respect from the public for his devotion to Lord Shiva.

Sri Aadi Mahalakshmi was the family deity of Kurumba Nayanar. Sri Mahalakshmi came into being when the milk ocean was churned by the Devas and the Demons. Lord Vishnu was distributing the Nectar to the Devas and the poison to the demons. As demon Andhakasura was slipping away from the place to avoid the poison, he saw Mahalakshmi and was tempted to get her. When Mahalakshmi ran away from him, he chased her up to Mettur Mahadanapuram where the Kurumbas were grazing their cattle. Mother Mahalakshmi hid herself in a hole. She was consuming the milk of the sheep which the Kurumbas noticed with surprise. They dig a wet place and found Mahalakshmi as a Swayambu. She begged the people to protect her from the Demon to test their devotion which people also understood. They covered the Goddess in the woolen cloth. But the demon fought with them and also caught Lakshmi.

People prayed to Lord Shiva but he did not listen to their prayers and did not turn up. As the three-eyed Shiva did not turn up, the devotees chose the coconut also having three eyes as Shiva and began to break it on their heads. Pleased with their determined devotion, Lord Shiva appeared and protected Mahalakshmi.

Yearly Thiruvizha: During the Aadi Peruku festival, devotees participate in a bizarre festival of breaking coconuts on their heads in return for fulfillment of their wishes in the Mahalakshmi temple. Thousands of devotees from various places come for this festival every year!

The village produces Paddy, sugarcane, Plantain, Betel Leaves are the main crops grown in the village. Agriculture still remains as the main source of income for the people in Mahadanapuram

In the year 2021, Mahadanapuram Village has received the "Best Panchayat" award from central government!

Radha Krishna Kalyanam at Agraharam:

Please register here if you belong to Mahadanapuram— shorturl.at/kERSU
Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara

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