

शुभमस्तु
Subhamastu

अविघ्नमस्तु
Avighnamastu

विजयोस्तु
Vijayostu

आलय संदेशः



[Aalaya Sandeshaha] Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter

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Dear Devotees,

Seasons Greetings to one and all, on behalf of all Trustees, I thank every one once again, on the grand success of Diwali celebrations. We have a busy month at the temple, until Sankranti day. Please pay particular attention to Goda Devi pujas throughout the month, concluding with Goda Devi Kalyaanam on Bhogi – 14th of January.

Parents of children aged 5 and under— bring your children on Bhogi to temple, for special fun activity for them and blessings from every one. Be sure to attend Vaikuntha Ekaadasi Festival which is very auspicious and take the opportunity of entering Vaikuntha Dwaaram for infinite blessings of Lord Sri Vishnu, on Thursday, 16th December. The celebration continues on Friday the 17th.

Please mark your calendars for “Festival of India and Health Fair” on Saturday, March the 5th, 2011. The Board of Trustees will appreciate active and enthusiastic participation of volunteers and financial help by every one in the community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mahesh Maruvada

President, STHS

Maasaanaam Maargaseershosmi

In Geeta, Sri Krishna Bhagawan said, “Maasanam Maargaseersshoham” (I am the month of Margaseersha among all months). In “Amarakosam” (Guru Bala Prabodha) the word “Margaseersham” is explained as “the month when full moon is associated with ‘Mrigasira’ star”. Maargaseersham is the month of the “Geetopadesam” by Sri Krishna to Arjuna, when Sri Krishna Paramatma gave “Viswaroopa Darsanam”. In Saivite tradition, in “Marghazi” month,

“Tiruvembaavai” (written by “Maanikya Vaachakar”, one of the Nayanaars) is read. Thus in this month come, “Vaikuntha Ekaadasi for Vaishnavites, and “Aardhraa Darsanotsavam” for Saivites and is important to both Shaivas and Vaishnavas. We see Siva’s names in Vishnu Sahasra Naamas (thousand names of Vishnu) such as “Eeswara”, “Siva”, “Sarva”, “Sthaanu”, “Sambhu”, “Rudra”.

शिवाय विष्णु रूपाय शिव रूपाय विष्णवे SivAya viShNu rUpAya Siva rUpAya viShNavE
शिवस्य हृदयम् विष्णुहृदयम् शिवः Sivasya hRudayam viShnuhu viSnOSca hRudayam SivaH
यदान्त्रम् नपश्यामि तधामे स्वस्तिरायुषि yadAntram napaSyAmi tadhAmE svastirAyuShi

Meaning—Siva is in the form of Vishnu, Vishnu is in the form of Siva. Their hearts belong to each other, I can’t see difference in them.

The 6th day of the first fortnight of this month (Maagasira Suddha Shashti) is “Subrahmanya Shashti”. He is head of “Brahma Vidya” and “Santaana Praapti”.

कनक कुण्डल मण्डित षण्मुखम् वनजराति विराजित विग्रहम् ।
निखिल सास्र सरासन धारिणम् सर्वनोद्धवमीश सुतम् भजे ॥
kanaka kunDala manDita ShaNmuKam vanajarAti virAjita vighram |
niKila sAsra sarAsana dhArinam sarvanOdBavamISa sutam BajE ||

(I pray to the one with six faces, decorated by golden kundalaas, body glowing with padma maalika, born as the son of Eeswara.)

Importance of Dhanurmasam

When sun enters “Dhanu Raasi” (Sagittarius), It is known as Dhanurmasam. This solar month that falls between December 16 and January 15 is observed by Vaishnavas as very auspicious. People wake up at “brahma muhurtam” (4 am.), and perform their austerities. “Sri Andal” chose this month for her vratam. “Tiruppavai is given by Goda Devi, after she did “Tiruppavai Vratam” with utmost devotion. It has 30 ‘paasuraas’. The belief of “Bhagavan is the goal” increases with Dhanurmasa Vratam. This vratam gives both “Bhagavataiswaryam” and worldly riches. Goda Devi mixed “Upanishadsaram” and “vedasaram” and gave us a composite product. In Tiruppavai, the first 15 paasuraas are “Bhaagavatha Samaasrayana Vratam” and later 15 are “Vratam of serving God”. In Tiruppaavai manual, Sri Andal was “Dwaapara yuga Gopika” emotionally, and “Kaliyuga Godaa Devi” physically, thus saw advaitam as “Paadikkoduttaal”, sang melodiously and became “Deveri” of “Sri Ranga Naadha”.

Vaikuntha Ekaadasi

Maargasira Suddha Ekaadasi (First Ekaadasi of margasira month) is celebrated and “Vaikuntha Ekaadasi”. This auspicious day is more popular as the “Guruvayour Ekaadasi” in Tamil Nadu. Special festival celebrations mark the day at the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple of Srirangam. Vaikuntha is the abode of Lord vishnu. It is believed that the north gate of Vaikuntha, which is

closed through out year, is opened only on this day. This is also known as “Mukkoti Ekadasi”, since all three crores of devathas come to see and pray Lord Vishnu, after he wakes up from ‘Yoga Nidra’. People believe, Lord Vishnu’s Darsan in temples on this day, is the same as the darsan in Vaikuntha. Darsan of Lord Vishnu on this day gives ‘punya’ of seeing not only Him but also all of the devathas. In Vaishnava Temples, the north gate is left opened on this day and it is believed that if people enter through that gate on this day at early morning 4 am., all sins will be vanished and they attain ‘Moksha’.

On this day ‘Upavasa Vratam’ is important. All day, one has to remain focused on Sri Hari and read puraanas if possible. Next day, those who have children should not observe ‘absolute fasting’. They can drink milk, eat fruits. Doing ‘Anna Daanam’ on Dwadasi day doubles the ‘punyam’, according to “Veda Puranam”. For those who can not observe fasting, “Vaayu Puranam” suggested alternatives.

नक्तम् हविष्यान्न नोदवम् वा । naktam haviShyAnna nOdavam vA |

फलम् तिलम् क्षीरमधाम्बु बाज्यम् ॥ Phalam tilam kShIramadhAmbu bAjyam ||

यात्रुन्चगव्यम् यदावापि वायुहु । yAtruncagavyam yadAvApi vAyuhu |

प्रशस्त मन्त्रोत्तर मुत्तरम्च ॥ praSasta mantrottara muttaramca ||

Meaning—When one cannot fast, it is alright to drink water, milk, ghee, tila, fruits; if that is not possible, it is alright to eat non-cooked food; if even that is not possible, one can eat only once in that day. Puraanaas say, performing “Upavasa Vratam” is equal to giving ‘Daanam’ during Surya and Chandra Grahanas (Sun and Moon eclipses) and performing ‘Aswamedha yaagam’, or even better than “Vaikuntha Dwara Darsanam”.

Because Maargasira Suddha Ekaadasi is when Geeta was born, by reading all eighteen adhyaayas one can attain Moksha. At the beginning of Kurukshetra war, Sri Krishna did “Geetopadesam” to Arjuna, making him understand that only by fighting his enemy he can perform his duty and leave the results to god. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “If I cannot resolve a difficult situation by my thinking power, I depend on Geeta for guidance.

Geetopadesa saaram (The Essence of Geeta)

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।

karmaNyEvAdhikArastE mA PalEShu kadAcana |

You have a right to perform your prescribed action,
but you are not entitled to the fruits of your action.

*** Om Tat Sat ***