

HINDU NEWS

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REST IN PEACE, MR S R NATHAN

Singapore's Sixth President, Mr S R Nathan passed away on 22 August 2016. He was cremated on 26 August 2016 after being accorded a State Funeral. Mr Nathan had been President for 12 years from September 1999 and stood down from the post on 31 August 2011.

The Hindu Endowments Board and the Hindu Advisory Board deeply mourn the loss and expresses its heartfelt condolences to Mrs Nathan and the family.



Mr S R Nathan And HEB

Mr Nathan served as the Chairman of the Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) from 1983 to 1988. His contributions to the Indian community were shared by several leaders in their condolence messages on the social media and at the State Funeral during their eulogies.

A close friend and former Chairman of the Hindu Advisory Board, Mr Gopinath Pillai recounted that the Late S R Nathan's priorities for HEB were clear. "He wanted to get the accounts up to date because we were handling money from a large number of devotees. He brought in an excellent finance member who not only cleaned up the accounts, but also instituted strict measures to ensure there were no leakages," said Mr Pillai.

Mr Pillai had also once asked the Late S R Nathan why he had agreed to be Chairman of HEB. "He explained that in the political arena, there were credible Indian ministers who had won the respect of all races. He thought the various Indian institutions should also be credible. It was incumbent on those who have succeeded to be involved in the running community organisations. He felt strongly that those who have done well should not cut themselves off from their respective communities," said Mr Pillai.



Mr Nathan unveiling a plaque at the Maha-kumbabishegam of Sri Sivan Temple



Mr Nathan with HEB and HAB members

Mr Nathan was also mindful of religious sensitivities said Mr Pillai. "Once every 12 years, large amounts are spent to refresh Hindu temples – the belief is that this is necessary to maintain the temple's divine powers. When I suggested discontinuing this practice, Mr Nathan advised me not to change established traditions. He reminded me that our task was to run an efficient system, not to tinker with people's beliefs," pointed out Mr Pillai in his moving eulogy at the State Funeral held at the University Cultural Centre.

HEB-HAB's Tribute

Both the Hindu Endowments Board and the Hindu Advisory Board jointly issued a special tribute to Mr S R Nathan upon announcement of his death by the Prime Minister's Office on 22 August 2016.

“Service to Man is Service to God”

It was based on this overriding motto and fervent belief, that Mr Nathan fulfilled his social and community roles through the Hindu Endowments Board and other Indian organisations, to which he had lent his extensive expertise and time.

Mr Nathan began his career as a social worker with an innate passion to do community service for the benefit of all Singaporeans. This was seen in the many projects he launched before, during and after his term as the sixth President of Singapore.

Mr Nathan took a particularly keen interest in the functions of the Hindu Endowments Board, its temples and its social and community objectives. He felt it was important for the Board, as a religious body, to play an active role in the promotion of inter-religious and inter-racial harmony. Hindu Endowments Board thus became a founding member of the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) where Mr Nathan was the Patron. With the introduction of the MRT system in the 1980s and the related revised land use planning, Mr Nathan was instrumental in the proper relocation of two of the Board's temples – ensuring that the Hindu community's religious needs continued to be fulfilled.

During Mr Nathan's tenure at the Hindu Endowments Board, foundations for strengthening governance and accounting standards for the Board's operating units were laid – bringing to focus strong public sector ethos and practices. Likewise, encouraging our young to come forward to serve was something Mr Nathan believed in and he helped groom a new generation of leaders for the Board, its temples and subsidiaries.

During his tenure as President of Singapore and even after he stepped down, he never failed to attend key religious events like Theemidhi, Makara Vilakku, Thaipusam and Maha Sivarathri. Through these visits Mr Nathan kept in touch with the ground, met Hindus and got first hand devotee opinions on their expectations of Hindu organisations. As a result of his interactions and observations, Mr Nathan was able to provide continuous, insightful feedback and observations to the Board.

Mr S R Nathan strongly believed in putting the interest of the community uppermost and this belief he shared with everyone, including the Hindu Endowments Board. He will be truly missed by everyone at the Hindu Endowments and Hindu Advisory Boards.

திரு எஸ் ஆர் நாதனுக்குப் புகழாரம்

திரு எஸ் ஆர் நாதன் 1982 முதல் 1983 வரை இந்து ஆலோசனை மன்றத்தின் தலைவராகவும், 1983 முதல் 1988 வரை இந்து அறக்கட்டளை வாரியத்தின் தலைவராகவும் சேவையாற்றினார்.

“மனிதனுக்குச் செய்யும் சேவை இறைவனுக்குச் செய்யும் சேவை”

இந்தத் தலையாயக் கொள்கை, பற்றுமிக்க நம்பிக்கை ஆகியவற்றின் அடிப்படையில்தான், இந்து அறக்கட்டளை வாரியம், மற்ற இந்திய அமைப்புகள் மூலம் திரு நாதன் தனது சமுதாய, சமூகப் பொறுப்புகளை நிறைவேற்றினார். தனது திறனையும் நேரத்தையும் இந்த அமைப்புகளுக்காகச் செலவிட்டார்.

சிங்கப்பூரர்கள் அனைவரின் நன்மைக்காகவும் சமூகச் சேவையாற்றவேண்டும் என்ற உள்ளார்வத்துடன் சமூக சேவையாளராகத் தனது வாழ்க்கைத் தொழிலைத் தொடங்கினார் திரு நாதன். சிங்கப்பூரின் ஆறாவது அதிபராகப் பொறுப்பேற்பதற்கு முன்பும், அதிபராகச் சேவையாற்றிய போதும், அதற்குப் பிறகும் அவர் தொடங்கிவைத்த பற்பல திட்டப்பணிகளில் இந்த உள்ளார்வம் வெளிப்படுகிறது.

இந்து அறக்கட்டளை வாரியம், அதன் கோயில்கள், அதன் சமுதாய, சமூக நோக்கங்கள் ஆகியவற்றில் திரு நாதன் கூர்ந்த ஆர்வம் காட்டினார். சமய அமைப்பு என்ற முறையில், பல சமய, பல இன நல்லிணக்கத்தை வளர்ப்பதில் வாரியம் ஈடுபாட்டுடன் பங்காற்றுவது முக்கியம் என்று அவர் கருதினார். எனவே, திரு நாதன் புரவலராக இருந்த அனைத்து சமய அமைப்பைத் தோற்றுவித்த உறுப்பினர்களில் ஒன்றாவது இந்து அறக்கட்டளை வாரியம். பெருவிரைவு இரயில் சேவை 1980களில் அறிமுகமாகி, அதற்காக நிலப் பயன்பாட்டுத் திட்டங்கள் திருத்தப்பட்டபோது, வாரியத்தின் கோயில்களில் இரண்டு கோயில்கள் வேறிடங்களுக்கு முறையாக மாற்றப்படுவதில் திரு நாதன் முக்கிய பங்காற்றி, இந்து சமூகத்தின் சமயத் தேவைகள் தொடர்ந்து நிறைவேற்றப்படுவதை உறுதிப்படுத்தினார்.

திரு நாதன் இந்து அறக்கட்டளை வாரியத்தில் பொறுப்பேற்றிருந்த காலகட்டத்தில், வாரியத்தின் செயலாக்கப் பிரிவுகள் வலுவான நிர்வாக, கணக்கியல் தரங்களுடன் செயல்படுவதற்கான அடிப்படைகளை நிலைநாட்டினார். வலுவான பொதுத்துறை கட்டொழுங்கு நடைமுறைகளில் அவர் கவனம் செலுத்தினார். அதேபோல, இளைய தலைமுறையினர் முன்வந்து சேவையாற்ற ஊக்குவிப்பதிலும் திரு நாதன் நம்பிக்கை கொண்டிருந்தார். வாரியம், அதன் கோயில்கள், துணை அமைப்புகள் ஆகியவற்றுக்குப் புதிய தலைமுறை தலைவர்களை உருவாக்க அவர் உதவினார்.

அதிபராகச் சேவையாற்றிய போதும் அதற்குப் பிறகும், தீமிதி, மகர விளக்கு, தைப்பூசம், மஹா சிவராத்திரி போன்ற முக்கிய சமய விழாக்களில் அவர் கலந்துகொள்ளத் தவறியதில்லை. இந்த வருகைகளின்மூலம், திரு நாதன் அடித்தளத்துடனான தொடர்பைக் கட்டிக்காத்து, இந்துக்களைச் சந்தித்து, இந்து அமைப்புகளிடம் பக்தர்கள் என்ன எதிர்பார்க்கிறார்கள் என்பது பற்றி பக்தர்களிடமிருந்தே நேரடியாகக் கருத்துகளைக் கேட்டறிந்தார். இந்தக் கலந்துறவாடல், நேரடி அனுபவங்கள் மூலம், திரு நாதன் பயன்மிக்கக் கருத்துகளையும் விவரங்களையும் வாரியத்திற்குத் தொடர்ந்து வழங்கினார்.

சமூகத்தின் நலனுக்குத் தலையாய முக்கியத்துவம் அளிப்பதில் வலுவான நம்பிக்கை கொண்டிருந்த திரு எஸ் ஆர் நாதன், இந்து அறக்கட்டளை வாரியம் உட்பட, அனைவருடனும் இந்த நம்பிக்கையைப் பகிர்ந்து கொண்டார்.

இந்து அறக்கட்டளை வாரியம், இந்து ஆலோசனை மன்றம் ஆகியவற்றிலுள்ள அனைவரும் திரு எஸ் ஆர் நாதனின் மறைவால் வருந்துகிறோம். திருமதி ஊர்மிளா நாதன், ஜூதிகா, ஓசித், குடும்ப உறுப்பினர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் எங்களது ஆழ்ந்த இரங்கலைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறோம்.



Memories Of Mr S R Nathan

“Mr Nathan also played an active role in uplifting the Indian community when he was Chairman of the Hindu Endowments Board and founding member of SINDA and its term trustee till 1999. I will always remember S R as a courageous, approachable and honourable gentleman who was deeply committed to Singapore. Whether as a steadfast diplomat or as a resolute advocate for social causes, S R’s lifetime focus was always on how Singapore can be a better home for Singaporeans. His heart for the people of Singapore is an inspiration for me and for all Singaporeans.”

– Dr Tony Tan Keng Yan, President of the Republic of Singapore

“I have met few people who lived and breathed Singapore the way he did. His fondness for friends of every race and from all walks of life. His complete absence of airs. His love of food. And his remarkable memory of events in our history, small and big, and of everyone he had met along the way.”

– Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister

“Mr Nathan has touched the hearts and minds of many. Whether through his firm, yet paternal mentoring. Or his genuine kindness and compassion for every person. We will miss his wise counsel; and that disarming smile that could put anyone at ease almost instantly.”

– K Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Home Affairs

“He was truly a People’s President who met many world leaders and captains of industry but also touched the lives of many ordinary citizens with his acts of kindness, warmth and approachable manner.”

– Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry)

S R NATHAN – GEM OF A PERSON, GREAT SOUL

On 8 September 2016, Singaporeans both young and old from the Indian community came together for a common cause – to honour and celebrate the life and achievements of the community’s son, the Late S R Nathan, the sixth President of Singapore. Mr Nathan died at the age of 92 on 22 August 2016. The Tribute was jointly hosted by Hindu Endowments Board, SINDA, Narpani Peravai and various Indian organisations.



Mrs Nathan attended the Tribute with her children, grandchildren and relatives. Also present were Deputy Prime Minister, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Mr S Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Law and Finance, Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister of State for Education, Dr Janil Puthucheary, Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC, Mr Daryl David, and leaders from the Indian Muslim and Sikh communities too. The solemn ceremony commenced with a minute’s silence for the departed soul.

S R Nathan And HEB

Among the speakers were the Chairman of the Hindu Endowments Board, Mr R Jayachandran, former Cabinet Minister, Mr S Dhanabalan, Hindu Advisory Board Member and Ambassador-at-large, Mr K Kesavapany and a young recipient of an SR Nathan Education Award given out by SINDA.

Mr Jayachandran recounted the Late Mr Nathan's love and passion for the work done by the Hindu Endowments Board not only in the Temples and social services it managed but for the entire Hindu community.

One of Mr Nathan's trademarks was his personally handwritten letters and memos about his thoughts, worries and sometimes criticisms of the work of the HEB and his suggestions to improve in areas he felt needed improvement.

"His mind was always focussed on issues affecting the community and how to go about finding practical solutions. In this context, I felt SINDA and HEB were foremost in his mind. This came out loud and clear in many of the conversations," said Mr Jayachandran in his tribute.

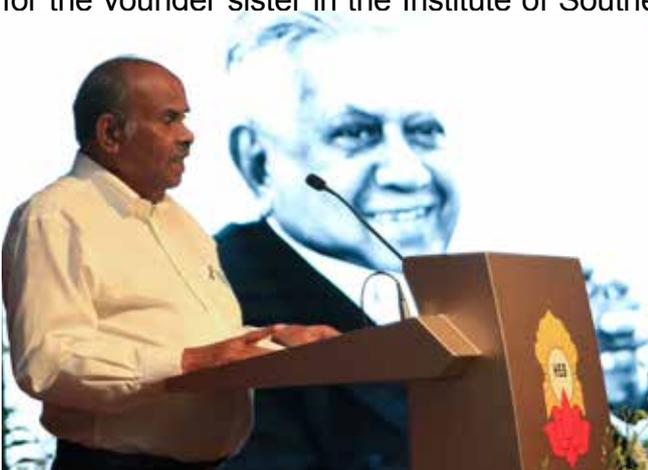
"His seriousness was such that he would discuss matters concerning HEB in the hospital while undergoing dialysis. Invariably, this would be followed by handwritten memos on yellow paper, some of which were fairly long. The last one I received was just a few weeks before he was finally admitted to hospital. These memos were blunt and hard hitting in highlighting issues which he felt we were yet to focus on. His networking capability was something so amazing and he was getting information from the ground so effortlessly, we were kept on our toes all the time. The net result was that as volunteers, we were churning out much more than the full timers in many other organisations to avoid getting more memos from him," quipped Mr Jayachandran. He added, "You will all agree Mr S R Nathan was a gem of a person and a great soul. I will miss him and his memos."

S R Nathan And The People

Two issues were uppermost in the Late Mr Nathan's mind in the last few months before his passing on, says Ambassador Kesavapany. First, the needs of the underclass and the concern over income inequality.

"A few minutes after news of Mr Nathan's demise became known, I received a SMS from someone who wrote "We have lost our grandfather". As I had no clue who the sender was, I asked my wife. She immediately recognised from the name that it was one of two sisters. Having lost their parents in quick succession, they were all alone with no money to eat or leave their flat. At their wits end, they were contemplating suicide. Mr Nathan rang me up and I was able to get a job for the vounaer sister in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Subsequently, the older sister too got a job in the Ministry of Education. Saved in the nick of time, they have been grateful to Mr Nathan, whom they never had the chance to meet," recounted Mr Pany.

Mr Nathan's second major concern was the need for heightened action to be taken to enhance religious harmony. Towards this end, and as the Patron of the Singapore Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO), Mr Nathan directly involved himself to make the IRO more responsive to the needs of our times.





Mr Nathan's family at the tribute session



Mr Santhiran Ezhavarasan (S R Nathan Award Winner) meeting Mrs Nathan

The Late Mr Nathan's work in the IRO and in the advancement of religious harmony in Singapore, will be continued by his daughter, Ms Juthika Ramanathan, announced Mr Pany.

At the conclusion of the community tribute, an album with a collection of pictures of the Late S R Nathan's involvement and closeness with the Indian community was presented to Mrs Nathan and the family by DPM Tharman and Minister Iswaran.

The community will miss you, Mr Nathan. May you find peace at the feet of the Lord.



Guests signing condolence books

IN SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY

Appointment ceremonies for the new terms of the four Temple Management Committees were held over two sessions in June and July this year. The Committees began their new term on 1 July 2016.

The first ceremony was held on 28 June 2016 at the PGP Hall and attended by the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Ms Grace Fu, who presented the appointment letters to the Temple Management Committees.

The Temple: A Focal Point

Minister Fu observed that for devotees, the temples are where their major life milestones, such as weddings and the naming of their new-born children, are celebrated.

"For the Hindu community, the temples are also the focal points for communal festivals and activities. Hence, the Temple Management Committees shoulder a heavy responsibility in managing religious practices, festivals and rituals. They also look into volunteer and devotee management, as well as administrative issues such as the upkeep of temple premises. They do all these to maintain the temples as a safe and peaceful space for devotees to worship, celebrate, and connect with one another. It is by no means an easy task," she explained.



Maintaining Social Harmony

There's yet another role for religious institutions and leaders says Ms Fu. Religious and community leaders, together with temples, mosques, churches, and other places of worship, play an important role in strengthening Singapore's religious diversity and social harmony.

She added, "To our temple leaders, I am heartened to learn that you keep the doors open, welcoming people of other faiths to visit and learn about the Hindu religion and the rich Indian culture. You participate in interfaith activities as members of the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles to forge stronger relationships with other religious leaders. You hold major festivals, such as Thaipusam, publicly, so that the wider Singapore society can join in the celebrations. Your temples run Project Bhakti classes to inculcate Hindu values in children, and inspire them to live up to those values. I am sure these children will grow up and do their part in giving back to society."

Every MC Member Has A Role

Hindu Endowments Board Chairman, Mr R Jayachandran who spoke at both presentation ceremonies on 28 June and 23 July, had a clear message for all management committee appointees – that each and everyone in the committee has an important role to play in ensuring the effective management of the Temple they have been appointed. His message to all of them was to put the interests and concerns of the devotees upfront and ensure they are properly attended to always.

"HEB's Temple Management Committees are made up of people who are dedicated, serious and who are motivated by the desire to serve the community. It is not easy to find people with such passions whilst having the right management and leadership skills. But HEB has so far managed to find the right persons for our TMCs. All of you possess the unique qualities to represent HEB temples. I trust that you will, with dedication, continue the mission of keeping our Hindu Temples relevant to the times and help to foster appreciation of Hindu traditions in our future generations", said Mr Jayachandran.

The current term of the four Temple Management Committees is from 1 July 2016 till 30 June 2018.

Hindu News spoke to the four Temple Chairpersons about their priorities in the new term.



Ms Fu chatting with Temple MC members



"I am honoured to take on this journey for another term in leading and managing the temple. First, I will continue to improve quality of service to temple devotees to meet their expectations. I propose to provide a more inclusive platform for the Management Committee and staff to work on addressing areas for improvement.

Second, to motivate volunteers and get them to work in synergy, more interaction time will be devoted for strengthening and consolidating of relationship with the many volunteer groups to

inspire and engage them in the various temple activities to serve devotees better. And third, channelling resources cost-effectively to upkeep temple maintenance. Closer monitoring processes of maintenance and repairs will be put in place to ensure that temple is in good order. Last but not least would be to continue to cement the relationship with the stakeholders and grassroots organisations in Chinatown. The Temple Management Committee together with the staff and volunteers, is ready to usher in a new term with more vitality to provide quality service to our devotees.”

– Mr S Nallathamby, Chairman, Sri Mariamman Temple

“My Temple Management Committee, comprising dedicated volunteers from different professions will strive to meet the realistic demands of the ever increasing devotee population of SSPT. We consider our role as ‘Service to GOD’. No effort will be spared and we will ensure that strict Agama practices are followed by the priests.

The redevelopment of SSPT is about to commence in a couple of months. Plans have been drawn to increase the storage area, enlarge and modernise the kitchen. There will be special area to prepare the Neivediyam (food offered to the Lord) for the deities. A new dining area will be created just behind the temple to facilitate comfortable dining for the devotees.

The Temple office will be improved and the IT-trained admin staff will assist and you can book your ubayams and prasadam online. We value our devotees and we will make sure they enjoy the visits to the Temple and go home satisfied with the blessings of Lord Srinivasa Perumal.

– Dr K Vellayappan, Chairman, Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple



“I am humbled by the task before me, grateful for the trust the Board has bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our past committees. I am blessed with a young, vibrant and dedicated team who together with me look forward to devoting ourselves to further improving religious services in the Temple. One key area is in the provision of post-death services to the Hindu community. Upkeep and cleanliness is another important area coupled with hygiene in the kitchen which churns out a large quantity of holy prasadam for the poojas and post death prayers performed by families. We will keep a close eye on quality and timely

delivery of Sevas. I am also encouraged by the good usage of the various facilities in the Temple like the multi-purpose hall by several religious organisations for their routine activities like children’s programmes and yoga. This is something which my team will continue to encourage.”

– Mr N Venkatesh, Chairman, Sri Sivan Temple

“My team and I are very honoured to have been entrusted with the responsibility to manage the Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple for a second term. As the Temple’s Management Committee, in line with initiatives carried out by the Hindu Endowments Board, we would focus on the following two aspects:

1. Efficient and effective use of resources in temple operation, and
2. Improve delivery of temple services.

We will continue to pay close attention to the spiritual needs of our Temple devotees and improve on the quality of services rendered by temple staff. In particular, emphasis will be placed in the conduct of key religious activities of significance to the temple such as Chithira Pournami

Brahmotsavam, Santhanakudam Abishekam, Periyachi Amman Pooja and Makara Villaku. More cultural events and religious talks will be organised in conjunction with some of these events.

Emphasis will also be placed on improving the cleanliness of the temple premises and maintenance of the temple’s structures and facilities for the benefit of temple devotees. We will continue to work with key stakeholders such as temple volunteers, religious groups, the IRCC and the relevant CCC to strengthen cooperation and engagement with the community. We hope to carry out our work with Ambal’s blessings and the temple congregation’s support and cooperation.”

– S Satish Appoo, Chairman, Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple



TEMPLE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Sri Mariamman Temple



Advisor: Dr T Chandroo

Chairman: Mr S Nallathamby

Vice Chairman: Mr Ramachandra Hegde

Secretary: Mr P P Raj

Finance Member: Mr C Nantha Kumar

Members:

Mr Krishnasamy Rajaram

Mr Kathirasan s/o P Shanmugam

Mr Vishnu s/o Karuppiah Thandavam

Mr Kanayan Manogaran

Co-Opted Members:

Ms Thevaini d/o Muthair

Ms Kalaichelvie d/o Sambasivam

Mr Murugaian Ravikumar

Mr Elango s/o Athiramulahi Letchumanan

Mr R Chandra Segaran

Mr Doraraj S

Mr Kabilan s/o Subramaniam

Mr Vjayvarmman s/o Gnanasekaran

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple



Advisor: Mr K Rajandeeran

Chairman: Dr Vellayappan s/o Karruppiah

Vice Chairman: Mr Pallippakkam

Sivaraman Somasekharan

Secretary: Mr P Rajaperian

Finance Member: Mr T G Gritharan

Members:

Mr Periasamy Seagar

Mr Krishnasamy Siva Sambo

Mr Suresh Kumar R

Mr Jaiganth Arumugam

Co-Opted Members:

Mr Sivakumaran Sathappan

Ms Valathammai d/o Muthupalaniappan

Mr Gaanesh Loganathan

Mr G K Pillai

Mr R Natarajan

Mr KV Aiyappan

Mr C Sivakandan

Mr Shanmuganathan s/o Sinniah

Sri Sivan Temple



Advisor: Mr A Dinakaran

Chairman: Mr Venkatesh Narayanaswamy

Vice Chairman: Mr S Pannirselvam

Secretary: Mr Thangavelu Anbalagan

Finance Member: Mr Malaiappan s/o Sinnakaruppan

Members:

Mr Sumit Aggarwal
Ms Rajashree Rajan
Mr Sasidharan Nair
Mr K S Rajendran

Co-Opted Members:

Mr Suresh Venkataraman
Mr Segaran Muthiah
Mr Subramaniam s/o Manogaran
Mr K S Ja Raman
Mr Bobba Srinivas
Dr Satish Lele
Mr Dinesh Natarajan s/o Venkatesh
Mr Kumar Lakshmanan
Ms Ishita Dhamani
Mr Anantha Sayanam s/o Chockalingam

Sri Vairavimada Kaliamman Temple



Advisor: Mr S Lakshmanan

Chairman: Mr Satish s/o Appoo

Vice Chairman: Mr Shankar s/o Naganambalagaran Ramasamy

Secretary: Mr Muthulingam s/o Kamalanathan

Finance Member: Mr Praboo s/o K Veerasamy

Members:

Mr N Anandaraja
Mr Ramanathan s/o Ramanathan
Mr Uthayakumar Ratnam
Mr M Kunaseakanan
Mr K S Rajendran

Co-Opted Members:

Mr Annamalai Saravanan
Mr Ganesan Arasapam
Mr Suppiah Gunasekaran
Mr Sivakumaran Thangavelu
Mr Krishnappan Ramanathan
Mr Mohan Babu s/o Rajindaran
Mr S Vikneshwaran

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr N Prushuathamun, Vice Chairman of the Hindu Advisory Board has been conferred the Public Service Medal (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat) by the President of the Republic of Singapore for National Day 2016. The Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) and the Hindu Advisory Board (HAB) congratulate Mr Prushuathamun for this special award.

“Serving the HAB and HEB over the years has been quite a journey: one of learning, serving and friendship. It has been a very rewarding experience. Receiving a National Day Award is indeed a double reward,” said Mr Prush of the National Day Award conferred on him.





(Photo credit: Tamil Murasu)

Mr K Kesavapany, member of the Hindu Advisory Board, has been conferred tabla's Community Champion 2016 award. He was presented with the award by Senior Minister of State Sim Ann on 22 September 2016. The annual award is given to a member of the Indian community who has carried out extensive work with the less fortunate.

Mr Kesavapany is the President of the Singapore Indian Association, where he initiated a programme called 'Helping people from falling through the cracks' offering financial aid to the needy. He is also a term trustee at SINDA, where he is a member of the Indian Community Aftercare Council, which runs programmes to help ex-prisoners and drug offenders integrate into society.

UNDERSTANDING VINAYAGAR CHATURTHI

By Vidhiya Ramasamy

If there is one Hindu God that everyone adores in worship, both young and old, without any doubt that it is Lord Ganesha or Sri Vinayagar – call him by whatever name.

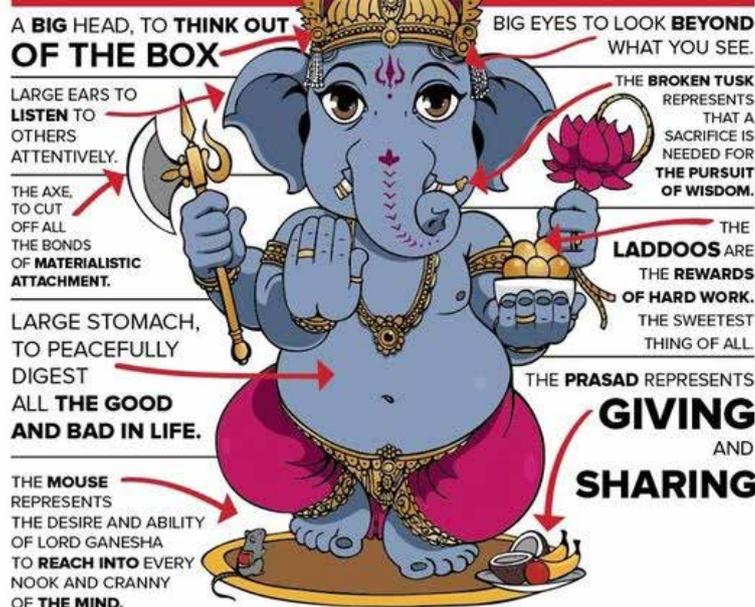
On 9 July 2016, a talk on Vinayagar Chaturthi was held at Sri Mariamman Temple in South Bridge Road. Organised by the Hindu Studies Committee, it was attended by participants from all walks of life, aimed at building an understanding behind Vinayagar Chaturthi through education.

Participants were first introduced to the various aspects of Lord Vinayagar and the science behind them. Being the most revered God and loved by all, Lord Vinayagar has lots of myths and legends. The speaker, Mr Kathirasan, shared the most popular story of how Lord Vinayagar loses his head and the significance to Vinayagar Chaturthi.

As Lord Vinayagar's most prominent aspect is his head, participants learnt how the Pranava mantra "Om" is associated with it. He is also the first to be worshipped during any auspicious event. The science behind the spirituality was verified during the first hour. Participants also took part in games and activities.

During the second half of the talk, a simple home pooja was taught. As time is generally limited on weekdays, a quick pooja can help to clarify the mind and body, before we leave for work and when we reach home in the evening. As the participants observed the pooja, they felt certain that they could inculcate the habit of doing it daily. A simple Vinayagar shloka was introduced to the participants

THINGS TO LEARN FROM GANESHA



whose recital on a regular basis with complete faith and devotion is known to bring positive results.

We also had a cooking demonstration on modakam making. Vinayagar Chathurthi is incomplete without modakam – the favourite food of Lord Vinayagar. Modakam is dumpling made with rice flour, filled with coconut and jaggery, and steamed.

The modakam represents spiritual joy that you will receive from full devotion, while being endowed with knowledge. Though the ingredients can be easily purchased, the method of making modakam requires patience as the folds are to be neat and smooth, without cracks. Participants had hands-on experience by learning the tricks in making the outer covering by shaping the dough.

The talk was well-received by the participants who have been practicing this festival for years without knowing the actual facts. They felt happy to know the significance of the culture, tradition and practices of Vinayagar Chathurthi in Singapore.

One participant, Saratha Sanmugam, said, "I learnt the proper way in offering prasadam and to do the relevant prayers on the Vinayagar Chathurthi. The modakam making is so useful because nowadays we hardly make our traditional savouries and we just purchase them. Hope to attend more of such talks organised by HEB."



Participants taking part in the games during the talk



Participants trying out modakam making

HEALTH FAIR: SUGATHARA VIZHA 2016

By Dinesh Natarajan

The Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) and Mediacorp Oli 96.8FM jointly organised a Health Fair on 24 July 2016 which took place at the PGP Hall. It is the second consecutive year that the HEB and Oli have collaborated together in organising this event. Professor S Jayakumar, the former Deputy Prime Minister was the guest of honour gracing the event.

In his welcome address, Dr. L Jayaram, the Chairman of HEB-Medical Support Services (HEB-MSS), explained that the objectives of the medical fair are two-fold. Firstly, it is to create awareness among the public on the common chronic illness like heart diseases, diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol which are known to affect our Silver and Pioneer Generations more than the average population. Secondly, the Medical Fair aims to reach out to the younger generations with the view to inculcate the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle, and to make sound dietary decisions. Dr. Jayaram added, "With these two objectives, it is very clear that our medical fairs are very inclusive and one that caters to all in the community."

A highlight in this year's fair was the inclusion of a children's section. There was a section dedicated to special screenings and educational programs for children this year that included febrile fit care and child obesity for children below the age of 12. This was specially included arising from feedback

drawn from last year's event and the Hindu News is pleased to note that the organisers have taken the effort to expand the focus of the fair to include children this year.

At the Fair this year, there were about 1,500 people from various ethnic and religious backgrounds who spent their Sunday morning getting themselves screened and educated. With about 20 health screening booths, which included on-site medical screenings such as eye screening, colorectal cancer screening, mammogram cervical screening, prostate cancer/incontinence, dental screening and many more. Participants at the Fair also had a booth which aided with appointment bookings for mammogram. The Feath Fair also catered to nurturing the participants with education and awareness booths on CPR, elderly care, first aid, cancer, diabetes, mind wellness and effects of smoking.

Many of the participants were happy that through various checks and tests conducted, they were able to detect any symptoms of blood pressure and diabetes early and take the necessary precautions. The Hindu News was also told that the medical volunteers at the Health Fair will be following up with the participants whose tests results may have shown symptoms of those ailments.



A participant getting his blood glucose level checked



Public education talks at the Health Fair

on coming. We live far and my husband had just completed his night shift but I did not want to miss this opportunity." Mrs. Rajkumar added that she found the children's section particularly useful as she has a 10 year-old son. She said, "I now know better on the type of food I should be giving my son and since his weight is slightly above the normal range, they taught me what I can do to improve his diet which will eventually help bring his weight down to the normal range."

Furthermore, the success of the Health Fair over the years have seen the HEB-MSS being invited by many community and grassroots organisations including religious institutions of different faiths to help them organise health fairs. Dr. Jayaram highlighted, "HEB-MSS has been accommodating and coordinating these requests to not only spread the message of staying healthy but also promote social cohesiveness across the various ethnic and religious communities in Singapore." Dr. Jayaram added that he hopes to see more people turn up next year and also hope to see the number of non-Indian participants increase.



Professor S Jayakumar thanks supporters and sponsors



Going for a perfect score in eyesight

Editor's Note

It was particularly satisfying to see the number of volunteers who took the effort to spend their Sunday morning rendering their expertise to the participants with a smile on their faces. The Editor remarked, "What struck me most was the diverse ethnic representation amongst both the volunteers and participants. It was heartening to see us united and harmonious as one." The organisers continue to strive to make the Health Fair a bigger success next year and will hear your feedbacks on any improvements that can be made. HEB thanks everyone who has played a part in making this Medical Fair a success and looks forward to their continued support.

SMT HOSTS VISITS BY FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

Sri Mariamman Temple hosted two foreign delegations recently. On 11 August 2016, a delegation led by the US Secretary of Education visited the Temple. Separately commenting on the visit, Ms Camille Dawson, Counsellor for Public Affairs from the US Embassy here said, "Thank you so much for hosting. The delegation enjoyed the visit tremendously and we truly appreciate the time you gave us!"

The Sub Saharan Africa High Level Ministerial delegation visited the Temple on 22 August 2016. Both delegations were given an introduction of the Temple and its history, and a video presentation of Fire Walking Festival.



Temple management committee members with the delegation from USA



The Sub Saharan High Level Ministerial delegation watching a video presentation on the Fire Walking Festival

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE

This year, Sri Sivan Temple Thondargal, the volunteer corps of the Temple, celebrated 30 years of voluntary services. Veterans and new members attended the ceremony to mark the occasion. Some volunteers have been serving the Temple since its days at Orchard Road. They play an instrumental role in the smooth conduct of many events in the Temple, key among them, the Maha Sivarathri Festival. Hindu News wishes the team many more years of seva.



SIVADAS-HEB BURSARY AWARDS

At the Sivadas-HEB Bursary Awards presentation ceremony on 16 July 2016, a total of 111 bursaries worth \$211,000 were presented by Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Mr S Iswaran.



One of the bursary award recipients, Mr Mageswaran Sukumaran, shared how the bursary award has helped him and his family with the education fees



Some of the bursary award recipients along with the Trustees managing the Fund and Minister Iswaran

STARTING SSPT'S REDEVELOPMENT WORKS

Redevelopment works at Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple have commenced. A special brick laying ceremony and Vastu Pooja was held on 6 July 2016 to symbolically commence the works. The next Maha Samprokshanam is being scheduled in 2018.

As part of the fund raising efforts for the redevelopment works, Sri Vishnu Sahasranama Kodi Nama Parayanams were held on 2 July, 28 August and 25 September 2016 to seek the blessings of Lord Sri Srinivasa Perumal for the smooth conduct of the redevelopment works for the Temple.



Brick laying ceremony and Vastu Pooja on 6 July 2016



Devotees participating in the Sri Vishnu Sahasranama Kodi Nama Parayanam

GURU PEYARCHI & AADI AMAVASAI 2016



Special abishegams for Sri Guru and Sri Navagrahams during Guru Peyarchi on 2 August 2016



More than 1000 devotees performed Tharpanam on Aadi Amavasai at Sri Sivan Temple. Special arrangements were made to accommodate the elderly and Annathanam was served to devotees all-day.

SRI PERIYACHI AMMAN POOJAI



Sri Periyachi Amman Poojai was conducted on 7 August 2016 as a prelude to the all-important Kodiyetram for the annual Fire Walking Festival (Theemithi) which falls on Sunday, 23 October 2016



Sri Drowpathai Amman Kodiyetram drew a large crowd as it fell on the eve of National Day this year

ஆடி மாதம்

அற்புதங்கள் நிறைந்த ஆடி மாதம்!

தட்சிணாயன புண்ணிய காலமான ஆடி மாதத்தில்தான் பூமாதேவி அவதரித்ததாகச் சொல்கின்றன புராணங்கள். இந்த மாதத்தில் வரும் திதி, நட்சத்திரம் மற்றும் கிழமைகள் யாவும் மகிமைவாய்ந்தன என்று ஞானநூல்கள் பலவும் சிறப்பிக்கின்றன. மேலும், கோ பத்ம விரதம், நாக தோஷ பூஜை, புதுமணத் தம்பதிக்கு ஆடிப்பால் அளித்தல்... இப்படி, நாம் அறிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டிய ஆடி மாத விசேஷ வைபவங்கள் பல உண்டு. தெரிந்துகொள்வோமா?

ஆடியில் செவ்வாய் விரதம்

ஆடியில், செவ்வாய்க்கிழமைதோறும் சுமங்கலிப் பெண்கள் மஞ்சள் பூசிக் குளிப்பதால், மாங்கல்ய பலம் கூடும். கணவனின் ஆயுள் நீடிக்கவும், குழந்தை வரம் வேண்டியும், குடும்பத்தில் மகிழ்ச்சி தங்கவும், கன்னிப் பெண்களுக்கு விரைவில் திருமண வரம்

கிடைக்கவும் இந்த விரத வழிபாட்டின் மூலம் பிரார்த்தித்துக் கொள்வார்கள். கடைசி செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை அன்று குழந்தைகளை வீட்டுக்கு வரவழைத்து அவர்களை தெய்வமாக வழிபட்டு விருந்தளிப்பார்கள். ஆடி - செவ்வாய்க்கிழமைகளில் அம்பாளை வழிபட்டு, மங்கல கௌரி விரதம் கடைப்பிடிப்பதாலும் விசேஷ பலன்கள் கைகூடும்.

திருவிளக்கை ஏற்றி வைப்போம்

ஆடி மழைக்காலத்தின் துவக்கமாகும். பருவநிலை மாற்றத்தால் ஏற்படும் நோய்க்கிருமிகளைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தும் ஆற்றல் வேப்பிலைக்கும் எலுமிச்சைக்கும் உண்டு. எனவே, ஆடி வழிபாடுகளில் இவை இரண்டும் முக்கியத்துவம் பெறும்.

திருமணமாகாத பெண்கள் ஆடி வெள்ளியில் குத்துவிளக்கினை அலங்கரித்து தீபம் ஏற்றி, அம்மனை எழுந்தருளச் செய்து, லலிதா சஹஸ்ரநாமம் பாராயணம் செய்து வழிபட நல்ல கணவன் அமைவார்கள். மேலும், ஆடி வெள்ளிக்கிழமைகளில் கன்யா பூஜை, ராகு கால பூஜை, நாக தோஷ பூஜை செய்வதால், குடும்பத்தில் மகீழ்ச்சீ பெருகும்.

கருடன் பிறந்த ஆடிச் சுவாதி

பெரிய திருவடியான கருடாழ்வார் பிறந்தது ஆடி மாதம் சுவாதி நட்சத்திரத்தன்றுதான். இந்தத் திருநாளில் கருட தரிசனம் செய்வ தாலும், கருடனை வழிபடுவதாலும் சகல தோஷங்களும் நீங்கும் மாங்கல்யம் பலம் பெறும். மதுரை மீனாட்சி அம்மன் கோயிலில் ஆடி முளைகொட்டு விழா பத்து நாட்களுக்கு நடைபெறும். நான்கு ஆடி வீதிகளிலும் அம்பாள் வீதியுலா வருவாள். அதேபோல், ஆடி சுவாதி தினத்தில் சுந்தர மூர்த்தி சுவாமிகளுக்கு ஆராதனையும், புறப்பாடும் நடைபெறும்.

முருகனுக்கு உகந்த ஆடிக்கிருத்திகை

வருடத்தில் மூன்று கார்த்திகை தினங்கள் அதீத முக்கியத்துவம் பெறும். அவை: உத்தராயன துவக்கமான தை மாதம் வரும் தை கிருத்திகை, கார்த்திகை மாதம் வரும் பெரிய கிருத்திகை மற்றும் தட்சிணாயன துவக்கமான ஆடி மாதத்தில் வரும் ஆடிக் கிருத்திகை. இந்த மூன்றும் கார்த்திகேயக் கடவுளுக்கு உகந்த நாட்கள். ஆடிக்கிருத்திகையில் விரதம் இருந்து முருகனை வழிபடுவதால் வேண்டிய வரங்கள் கிடைக்கும். ஆடிக்கிருத்திகையை முன்னிட்டு விரதம் இருக்கும் முருக பக்தர்கள், அன்று புண்ணிய தீர்த்தங்களில் நீராடி, முருகனை வழிபடுவார்கள். குறிப்பாக பழநியில், பக்தர்கள் சண்முகா நதியில் நீராடி முருகனை வணங்கி, தங்களின் விரதத்தை பூர்த்தி செய்வார்கள்.

வரலட்சுமி விரதம்

ஆடி மாதம் வளர்பிறையில் கடைசி வெள்ளிக் கிழமை அனுசரிக்கவேண்டிய விரதம் இது. விரத நாளன்று திருமகளை கலசத்தில் எழுந்தருளச் செய்து, தேங்காய், பழம், வெற்றிலை-பாக்கு, கொழுக்கட்டை முதலானவற்றைச் சமர்ப்பித்து, திருமகளுக்கு உரிய



துதிப்பாடல்களைப் பாடி, தாமரை மலர்களால் அர்ச்சித்து வழிபட வேண்டும்.

இந்த வழிபாட்டில் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படும் நோன்பு கயிற்றை வயதில் மூத்த சுமங்கலிகளிடம் ஆசி பெற்று, அவர்கள் மூலம் கையில் கட்டிக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். இதனால் கன்னிப்பெண்களுக்கு விரைவில் நல்ல வரன் அமையும் சுமங்கலிகளுக்கு மாங்கல்ய பலம் பெருகும்.

வளம் பெருக்கும் ஆடிப்பெருக்கு

நதியைப் பெண்ணாக வணங்கும் நாள்! மழை பெய்து காவிரி முதலான நதிகளில் வெள்ளம் பெருகியோடும் ஆடி மாதத்தின், 18-ம் நாள் ஆடிப் பெருக்காகக் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது. அன்று புத்தாடை அணிந்து, சர்க்கரைப் பொங்கல், புளியோதரை, எலுமிச்சை, தயிர் சாதம், வடகம் முதலான பதார்த்தங்களை எடுத்துச்சென்று, நதிக் கரைகளில் அமர்ந்து நதிகளை தாயாகக் கருதி பூஜித்து விருந்துண்டு மகிழ்வார்கள். இந்த தினத்தில் செய்யப்படும் மங்கல காரியங்கள் பன்மடங்கு பலன் தரும் என்பது ஐதீகம்.



குருபகவான், தட்சிணாமூர்த்தி குரு பெயர்ச்சிக்கு யாருக்கு பரிகாரம்?

நவக்கிரகங்களில் ஒருவரான குரு பகவானையும் (வியாழன்), ஞான குருவான தட்சிணாமூர்த்தியையும் போட்டு குழப்பிக்கொள்ளும் வழக்கம் அண்மைக் காலமாக அதிகரித்து வருகிறது. குருபகவானுக்கு செய்யவேண்டிய அனைத்து பரிகாரங்களையும் மோன நிலையில் உள்ள தட்சிணாமூர்த்திக்கு செய்கிறோம். “அந்த குரு தான் இந்த குரு!” என்று சொல்வது வழக்கம். கோவில்களில் வியாழக்கிழமைகளில் குரு பரிகாரத்துக்காக கூடும் கூட்டத்தை மனதில் கொண்டும் அதன் மூலம் பல்வேறு விதங்களில் கிடைக்கும் வருவாயை மனதில் கொண்டும், இந்த தவறு அனுமதிக்கப்படுகிறது. பல கோவில்களில் இதை வழக்கமாகவே ஆக்கிவிட்டார்கள்.



குருபகவானுக்கும் தட்சிணாமூர்த்திக்கும் உள்ள வேறுபாட்டை புரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். குருபகவானுக்கு செய்ய வேண்டிய பரிகாரங்களை தொடர்ந்து செய்யுங்கள். குருபகவானின் நல்லருளை பெறுங்கள்.

குரு பெயர்ச்சி காலத்தில் யாரைப் பணிவது? நவக்கிரக குருவையா, தட்சிணாமூர்த்தியையா?

சமீப காலமாக கோயில்களில், வியாழக்கிழமைகளில் தட்சிணாமூர்த்தி சந்நதியில் பக்தர்களின் கூட்டம் அதிகரித்து வருகிறது. இவர்களில் 99 சதவீதம் பேர் குருவுக்குப் பரிகாரம் செய்வதற்காக வருபவர்கள். அதே நேரத்தில் நவக்கிரகங்களில் ஒருவரான குரு பகவானை வழிபடுவோரின் எண்ணிக்கை மிகக் குறைவு. குரு பகவானுக்கும் தட்சிணாமூர்த்திக்கும் உள்ள வித்தியாசம் என்ன?

தட்சிணாமூர்த்தி என்பதற்கு தென்முகக் கடவுள் என்று பொருள். அதாவது, தெற்கு நோக்கி வீற்றிருப்பவர். நவக்கிரகங்களில் ஒருவரான வியாழ (குரு) பகவானின் திசை வடக்கு. திசையின் அடிப்படையிலேயே இருவரும் வேறுபடுகின்றனர்.

அதே போல வியாழனுக்கு உரிய நிறம், மஞ்சள். இவருக்கு உரிய தானியம், கொண்டைக் கடலை. தட்சிணாமூர்த்தியோ வெண்ணிற ஆடையை உடுத்தியிருப்பவர். (“ஸ்வேதாம்பரதரம் ஸ்வேதம்...” என்று உரைக்கிறது வேதம். ஸ்வேதம் என்றால்



வெள்ளை நிறம் என்று பொருள்.) உண்மை நிலை இவ்வாறு இருக்க வியாழனுக்கு பரிகாரம் செய்ய நினைப்பவர்கள், தட்சிணாமூர்த்திக்கு மஞ்சள் நிற வஸ்திரமும், கொண்டைக்கடலை மாலைகளும் சாற்றுகிறார்கள். ஞானம் வேண்டி தட்சிணாமூர்த்தியை வழிபடுபவர்களுக்கு கிழமை முக்கியமில்லை. வியாழன் அன்றுதான் வழிபட வேண்டும் என்ற அவசியமும் இல்லை. வியாழக்கிழமைக்கும் தட்சிணாமூர்த்திக்கும் எந்த சம்பந்தமும் இல்லை.

சிவபெருமான் ஞானத்தை போதிக்கும் குருவாக ஸநகாதி முனிவர்களுக்கு வேத ஆகமங்களின் பொருளை உபதேசிக்கும் திருவுருவமே தட்சிணாமூர்த்தி. கல்லால மரத்தின் கீழ் அமர்ந்திருப்பவராக காட்சியளிக்கிறார். இவர் ஆதிசுரு அல்லது ஞானசுரு என்று போற்றப்படுகிறார். அதே நேரத்தில் தேவர்களின் சபையில் ஆச்சாரியனாக,

தேவர்களுக்கு ஆசிரியராக பணி செய்பவர் வியாழன் என்று அழைக்கப்படும் ப்ருஹஸ்பதி. ஆசிரியர் தொழில் செய்வதால் இவரை குரு என்று அழைக்கின்றனர்.

இந்த உலகத்தில் நாம் ஆனந்தமாய் வாழ்ந்திடத் தேவையான அனைத்து சுகங்களையும் அருள்பவர் குரு பகவான். குரு பலம் இருந்தால் திருமணம் நடைபெறும். குருவின் அனுக்ரகம் இருந்தால் பிள்ளைப்பேறு கிட்டும். திருமணத்தடை நீங்கவும், புத்திரபாக்கியம் கிட்டவும், உயர் கல்வியில் இடம் பிடிக்கவும் குருவின் அருள் வேண்டி பரிகாரம் செய்ய விழைகின்றனர். அவ்வாறு பரிகாரம் செய்ய விரும்புவர்கள் இந்த குரு பெயர்ச்சி நாளிலும், இனி வரும் வியாழக்கிழமைகளிலும் நவகிரகங்களில் வடக்கு நோக்கி அருள்பாலிக்கும் வியாழ பகவானுக்கு மஞ்சள் நிற வஸ்திரம் சாற்றியும், கொண்டைக் கடலை மாலை அணிவித்தும் வழிபடலாம். கொண்டைக் கடலை சுண்டல் நைவேத்யம் செய்து, வரும் பக்தர்களுக்கு விநியோகம் செய்யலாம். வியாழன்தோறும் விரதம் இருந்து வடக்கு முகமாய் நெய் விளக்கு ஏற்றியும் வழிபடலாம்.

அதே நேரத்தில் ஞானமார்க்கத்தை நாடும் அன்பர்கள் தட்சிணாமூர்த்தியை வழிபடலாம். வியாழக்கிழமைதான் என்றில்லை, எந்த நாளிலும் அவரை வழிபடலாம். மனம் சஞ்சலத்திற்கு உள்ளாகும் எந்த நேரத்திலும் தட்சிணாமூர்த்தியின் சந்நதியில் அவருக்கு முன்பாக அமைதியாக அமர்ந்து தியானத்தில் ஈடுபடுங்கள். குழப்பங்கள் அகன்று மனம் தெளிவடையும்.

(Adapted from Sakthi Vikatan)

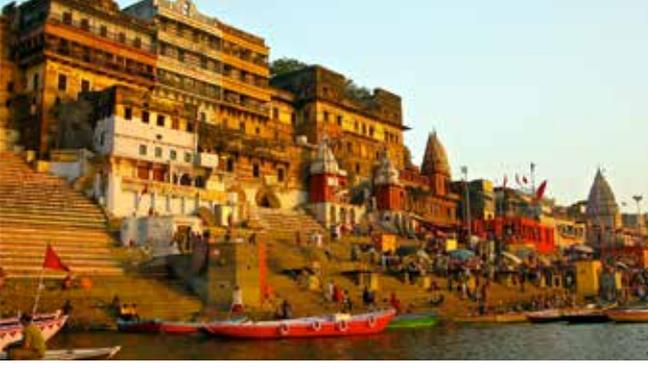
காசி விசுவநாதர் கோயில்

காசி விசுவநாதர் கோயில் என்பது மிகவும் புகழ்வாய்ந்த சிவபெருமானின் கோயிலாகும். இக்கோயில் உத்திரப்பிரதேச மாநிலம் வாராணாசி எனும் இடத்தில் அமைந்துள்ளது. வருணா - அசி ஆகிய இரு நதிகளின் சங்கமத் தலம் ஆதலின் இது “வாரணாசி” என்றாயிற்று. இத்தலத்தில் இறப்பவர்க்கு விசுவநாதப் பெருமான் தாரக மந்திரத்தை உபதேசித்து முத்தியருளுகின்றார் என்பது சாஸ்திரக் கருத்து. கால பைரவரின் காவலில் விளங்கும் தலம்.

வாரணாசி என்று தற்போது அழைக்கப்பெற்றாலும் பழங்காலத்தில் காசி என அழைக்கப்பட்டமையினால் இத்தலம் காசி விஸ்வநாதர் கோயில் என அழைக்கப்படுகின்றது.

சிறப்புக்கள்

ஜோதிர்லிங்கத் தலம் - முத்தித் தரும் தலங்கள் ஏழுனுள் ஒன்று. தம் வாழ்நாளில் ஒவ்வொருவரும் ஒரு முறையேனும் காசிக்குச் சென்று வழிபட வேண்டிய புண்ணிய தலம். இங்கே ஓடும் புண்ணிய நதியான கங்கையில் 84 படித்துறைகள் உள்ளன. இவ்வைந்திலும் நீராடுவது, நீரைத் தெளித்துக் கொள்வதை பஞ்சதீர்த்த ஸ்நானம் என்று சிறப்பாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது.



சுவாமி விசுவநாதருக்குத் தங்க விமானம் - சுவர்ண பந்தனம், மரகத மூர்த்தி, அவரவர் விருப்பப்படி தேன், பால், தயிர், தண்ணீர், வில்வம், விபூதி கொண்டு அபிஷேகம் செய்து தொட்டுக் கும்பிட்டு வழிபடலாம்.

“காசியில் இறக்க முத்தி” என்பதற்கு ஏற்ப “அரிச்சந்திர காட்” டில் பிணங்கள் எரிந்து கொண்டிருப்பதைக் கண் கூடாகக் காணலாம். இத்தலத்திற்கு இறந்து போவதற்கென்றே வருவோர் ஏராளம் பேர்.

தலபெருமை

இக்கோயிலில் மணி அடிக்கும் சத்தம் கேட்கும்போது மக்கள் அனைவரும் தலையை குனிந்துகொள்கின்றனர். சிவனை இலைகளைப் போல் நிறைய நல்ல பாம்புகளுடன் அலங்கரித்த நிழல்கள் இருக்கும்போது அவர் தலையில் கங்கை நீரை ஊற்ற வைத்தும், ஐந்து தடவை செய்யும் ஆர்த்தி முக்கியமானது. பூஜை நடக்கும்போது நூற்றுக்கணக்கான மணி ஓசைகளும், மேள தாளங்களும் வாசிக்கும்போது கோயிலின் உள்ளே நுழைய மிகவும் உற்சாகம் கொடுக்கிறது.

கோயில் அமைப்பு

இக்கோயிலின் உயரம் 51 அடிகளாகும். இந்த காசியில் சிவலிங்கம் பிரசித்தி பெற்றது. கோயிலின் உள்ளே நேபாள மன்னரால் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு பெரிய மணி தொங்கவிடப்பட்டு இருக்கிறது. இதன் சத்தம் நீண்ட தூரம் கேட்கிறது. காலையிலும் மாலையிலும் விசுவநாதருக்கு பூசைகள் நடத்தப்பெறுகின்றன. காசி விசுவநாதரால் காசி முக்கிய ஸ்தலமாக இருக்கிறது.

விசாலாட்சி சந்நிதி தனிக்கோயில் - நகரத்தாரின் பொறுப்பில் உள்ளது. அர்த்தசாம வழிபாடும் அவர்களாலேயே நடத்தப்பெறுகின்றது. நாடொறும் இரவு 7.30 மணியளவில் விசுவநாதர் சந்நிதியில் நடைபெறும் சப்தரிஷி பூசையை அவசியம் தரிசிக்க வேண்டும்.

அன்னபூரணி கோயில்

அன்னபூரணி கோயில் காசி விசுவநாதர் கோயிலின் அருகே உள்ளது. இது பதினெட்டாவது நூற்றாண்டில் கட்டப்பெற்றது. அன்னபூரணி - தனிக்கோயில் ஆனது. அவள் ஒரு கையில் தங்கத்தாலான அன்ன பாத்திரம் மறுகையில் தங்கத்தாலான அகப்பை ஏந்தியிருக்க அருகில் பிச்சையோடு ஏந்தியவாறு பிட்சாடனர் வெள்ளி வடிவில் தரிசனம் தருகின்றார். ஆதி சங்கரர் விசுவநாத அஷ்டகம், அன்னபூரணி அஷ்டகம், மணி கர்ணிகா அஷ்டகம் முதலியவை பாடியுள்ளார். “அநுமான் காட்” பகுதியில் ஸ்ரீ சங்கரமடமும், “கேதார் காட்” பகுதியில் திருப்பனந்தாள் குமாரசாமி (ஸ்ரீ காசி மடம்) மடமும் உள்ளன.

கங்கா ஆர்த்தி

வாரணாசியில் கங்கை ஆற்றின் கரையில் தினமும் கங்கை ஆறுக்கு ஆர்த்தி வழிபாடு நடத்தப்பெறுவது கண்கொள்ளக்காட்சியாகும். இந்நிகழ்வை கங்கா ஆர்த்தி என்கின்றனர். கோயிலுக்கு வரும் பக்தர்கள் கங்கா ஆர்த்தியை ஆர்வமுடன் பார்க்க வருகின்றார்கள்.

KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE

Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The Varanasi city is also called Kashi, and hence the Temple is popularly called Kashi Vishwanath Temple. Located on the western banks of the holy Ganges, Varanasi is regarded among the holiest of the Hindu cities. The Kashi Vishwanath Temple is widely recognised as one of the most important places of worship for Hindus. Inside the Kashi Vishwanath Temple is the Jyotirlinga of Lord Shiva, Vishwanath.

The Temple has been referred to in Hindu Scriptures for a very long time and as a central part of worship in the Shaiva philosophy. It has been destroyed and re-constructed a number of times in the history. The last structure was demolished by Aurangzeb, the sixth Mughal emperor who constructed the Gyanvapi Mosque on its site.

As per Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva married Goddess Parvathi on Mahashivarathri. Residents of Kashi - the abode of Lord Vishwanath - celebrate the occasion in a grand style.

The Temple complex consists of a series of smaller shrines, located in a small lane called Vishwanath Galli, near the river. The main Temple is quadrangle and is surrounded by shrines of other Gods.

Many leading saints, including Adi Sankaracharya, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Goswami Tulsidas, Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Guru Nanak have visited the site. A visit to the Temple and a bath in the river Ganges is one of many methods believed to lead one on a path to Moksha (liberation). Thus, Hindus from all over the world try to visit the place at least once in their lifetime.

There is also a tradition that one should give up at least one desire after a pilgrimage the Temple, and the pilgrimage would also include a visit to the Temple at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu in Southern India, where people take water samples of the Ganges to perform prayer at the Temple and bring back sand from Rameshwaram. Many legends record that a true devotee achieves freedom



from life and death by the worship of Lord Shiva. There is a popular belief that Lord Shiva himself whispers the mantra of salvation into the ears of people who die naturally in Kashi.



EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

By Ravi Suppiah

Ask any parent if they want their children to be successful, and the most definite answer will be a resounding “YES!”. Probe a bit further, and focus on Asian or maybe even Indian parents, and ask what “being successful” means. You will most likely get an answer that goes along the lines of, “get a good education, get a good job (maybe doctor, engineer, lawyer, and more recently, software developer), or start your own company, and make lots of money”.

For a parent to have such dreams and desires for their child is perfectly normal and expected, and most parents will motivate their children to

pursue such a path in life. However, a very important thing that we have to ask ourselves is, “Whose dream is the child fulfilling?” Is it the child’s or the parents? In the extremely hectic and busy schedule that we live, did we stop to ask our children how exactly they want to live their lives? What is it that they want to achieve? And most importantly, what makes them happy?

Therein lies the crux of the matter-at-hand, which is even more pertinent for the current and future generations. Many parents have a mindset I mentioned because we were brought up in a similar environment where educational success meant economical success and that was the only way to lead a comfortable life.

That was more than 30 years back and the education landscape has changed so much today. The change that is always constant is being seen at all levels of our education system, from pre-school all the way to graduate studies. Students currently in Primary 1 this year will be the first batch to receive a new set of PSLE results that will have wider scoring bands instead of the aggregate score. The pupils are increasingly being encouraged to express themselves and embrace applied learning together with the development of character and life skills.

In 2004, the Direct School Admission (DSA) scheme was introduced, which allows secondary schools to admit students based not on just their grades but their artistic and sporting merits. At the tertiary level, polytechnics and universities are expanding their aptitude-based admissions to allow students who may not have the academic grades, but show interest and passion, to get into the course of their choice.

Our university sector is also developing itself into one that is in a better position to serve an increasingly sophisticated economy, by providing greater opportunities for our young to excel. Continuing Education and Training (CET) provides another viable degree pathway for many students who prefer to work and study at the same time.

Why is all this information important, especially for parents?

It shows that the Government recognises the changes in the educational landscape and the requirements for future generations, and it is taking the right steps to provide every child the best opportunity to fully develop himself in his own area of passion, at his own pace.



“Everybody is a Genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”
– Albert Einstein

Do not put undue pressure on your children to just get good grades, but encourage them more to embrace the culture of learning and derive joy from it. Focus more on getting them to enjoy what they are learning and let them see the bigger picture of why they need to acquire a better understanding of certain subjects. If they can see how it relates back to fulfilling their own dreams, they will move forward with an intrinsic desire to learn more.



“If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”

This is very important, because, many parents engage tutoring services for their children, and spend a considerable amount of money on it. If the child is unable to absorb the information from his class in school, and the tutor is following the same approach, then you can’t expect the child to benefit much from these additional classes. Spend some time to experiment and discover the best approach for your child. Sometimes, a drawing and some animated play is all that is needed to replace a chunk of words from a textbook, and the child understands it so much better after that.

Acquiring certain knowledge from school in the early stages of your life and expecting them to provide a solid career path in a particular profession may no longer be possible. The recent Future of Jobs report published last year argues that we are entering a “fourth industrial revolution” in which millions of white collar and administrative jobs will be destroyed through technological change in the next five years alone. Advancing sectors ranging from nanotechnology to robotics to data analysis will replace many of these jobs. The future economy will need strong vocational skills as well as soft skills. A top hiring manager at Google recently mentioned, “while good grades don’t hurt”, the company is looking for softer skills too: “leadership, humility, collaboration, adaptability and loving to learn and re-learn”.

Parents will generally feel that without good grades, their children won’t even get opportunities in reputable organisations. It is good to note that the mindset of the employer is also changing. Employers throughout the world report that the education system is not delivering the skills that they need. In 2015, more than a third of global companies reported difficulties filling open positions owing to shortages of people with key skills. As a result, many organisations are implementing their own assessment methods to select the right candidate for their organisation that goes beyond the grades obtained. Some of my own graduating students have secured positions in top MNC’s because they were able to effectively demonstrate their expertise and domain knowledge, even though, they didn’t have good grades to support them.

To end, I would like to encourage parents not to be overly concerned about the economical progress of your child in the future. Let them define “success” on their own terms and pursue their passion with all their heart. The traditional educational and career route are already losing their appeal amongst our youth. We may think that some of these non-traditional routes may not give them the economical success that is needed to survive in a competitive society like ours. Many children may see the current working population as merely running the rat-race and chose to live a life that is simple, and yet fulfilling. Give them the space they need to discover themselves and live life on their own terms. Have faith that the morals and values that you have nurtured them with, will guide them to figure things out as their life progresses. Most importantly, remember to ask them if they are really happy.

OBITUARIES

Ettikkan Sanmugam

The Hindu Endowments Board and the Hindu Advisory Board mourn the loss of Mr Ettikkan Sanmugam who passed away on 2 June 2016 at the age of 59. A memorial service was held to pay tribute to the departed soul on 2 July 2016 at Sri Sivan Temple. It was attended by the Late Sanmugam's wife, children, close family members and friends from his workplace and the Temple community which he had so passionately given all his time and life for many years.

The Vice-Chairman of the Hindu Advisory Board, Mr R Dhinakaran, and the Advisor of Sri Mariamman Temple and the Late Sanmugam's classmate, Dr T Chandroo, shared their thoughts at the solemn ceremony which began with a minute's silence.

The Late E Sanmugam had served with the Hindu Endowments Board and the Hindu Advisory Board in several capacities. He was Secretary of HAB for six years, committee member in Sri Mariamman Temple, Editor of the Hindu News and also Editor of Sri Mariamman Temple's Mahakumbabishegam commemorative publication.

Recounted Dr Chandroo, "His unstinting love for the Tamil language was of the highest order. And as a Broadcast Journalist with Mediacorp, he dedicated his entire life for the development of the Tamil language and culture. The best way that I can describe Shan is as a friend who would stick by in any weather; the type of friend that would stand in any storm, with rain pouring down his head, holding an umbrella, calmly and carefully, to make sure that my own head did not get wet. That's how selfless, he was."

Mr Sanmugam had also served in the various sub-committees of the Board and played a key role in the launching of the Project Bhakti. For his contribution to the community, he was conferred the National Day award, PBM. "We were all very lucky to have had him in our lives and as much as he will be missed by us all, he will remain with us all, every day as long as we can remember," concluded Dr Chandroo.

May his soul rest in peace at the feet of the Lord.



A. Vasugi

The Hindu Endowments Board and Hindu Advisory Board mourn the passing away of Mdm Aiyadurai Vasugi on 3 July 2016 at the age of 61.

She came on to support HEB with her volunteering services in 1990, where she helped to run the SSPT Family Counselling Services. Needy Hindu devotees were supported financially and through giving of food rations. This went on until the setting-up of SINDA's FSC, which later took over all the cases. Mdm Vasugi then took on the duties of looking after Mr Sivadas Sankaran together with several others from HEB and medical volunteers for 12 years. (Today, the HEB-Sivadas Bursary Award helps needy Hindu students with their tertiary education fees.) Concurrently, she was a religious counsellor with HEB-Ashram for its residents. Subsequently, she went on to serve in HEB-Ashram's Management Committee as its Secretary for a few terms.

In addition, she also took care of the management of Destitute Death cases for HEB. The team also fulfilled the needs of religious counselling at Hospices, SAF Detention Barracks, and Prisons, Medical hospitals / Institute of Mental Health by itself and through the use of Temple priests. For all her good services, she was honoured with numerous awards and even the Friend of MCYS award.

She was an ardent supporter and volunteer during the annual Thaipusam and Fire Walking Festival and Kumbabishegam related events. She was also a long-serving volunteer probation officer as well. She touched and motivated many lives to bring about change in the behaviour of her charges. Many of the former Ashram residents call her when they needed help or are were in a difficult situation. She was also teaching the student prisoners in prisons as well. Her contributions will never be forgotten. After providing selfless seva to HEB in all these 25 years on many fronts, she has finally gone back home to God. May her soul rest in peace.



FIRE WALKING FESTIVAL 2016

தீமிதி விழா 2016

The annual Fire Walking Festival will be held at Sri Mariamman Temple on Sunday, 23 October 2016. Special poojas for the Festival in the forthcoming days have been tabulated below.



Date / Day தேதி / நாள்	Time நேரம்	Programme நிகழ்ச்சி நிரல்
1-10-2016, Saturday	PM	Sri Mariamman Padi Iranguthal followed by Navarathri / ஸ்ரீ மாரியம்மன் படி இறங்குதல் மற்றும் நவராத்திரி
7-10-2016, Friday to 9-10-2016, Sunday	AM	Paalkudam / பால்குடம் Kumbiduthandam / கும்பிடுதண்டம் Angaprathachnam / அங்கப்பிரதட்சணம்
10-10-2016, Monday	PM	Sri Saraswathi Poojai / ஸ்ரீ சரஸ்வதி பூஜை
11-10-2016, Tuesday	PM	Sri Vijayadasami / Ambu Eithal / ஸ்ரீ விஜயதசமி / அம்பு எய்தல்
15-10-2016, Saturday	AM	Commencement of Firewalking Viratham / தீமிதி விரதம் துவக்கம்
14-10-2016, Friday to 16-10-2016, Sunday	AM	Paalkudam / பால்குடம் Kumbiduthandam / கும்பிடுதண்டம் Angaprathachnam / அங்கப்பிரதட்சணம்
17-10-2016, Monday to 20-10-2016, Thursday	AM	No Paalkudam / பால்குடம் இல்லை Kumbiduthandam / கும்பிடுதண்டம் Angaprathachnam / அங்கப்பிரதட்சணம்
21-10-2016, Friday to 22-10-2016, Saturday	AM	Paalkudam / பால்குடம் Kumbiduthandam / கும்பிடுதண்டம் Angaprathachnam / அங்கப்பிரதட்சணம்
21-10-2016, Friday	PM	Silver Chariot Procession – 1 st Day / வெள்ளி ரதம் ஊர்வலம் – முதல் நாள்
22-10-2016, Saturday	PM	Silver Chariot Procession – 2 nd Day / வெள்ளி ரதம் ஊர்வலம் – இரண்டாம் நாள்
23-10-2016, Sunday	Midnight	Paalkudam / பால்குடம்
	Midnight	Chakravarthi Kottai / சக்கவர்த்தி கோட்டை
	AM	Padukalam / படுகளம்
	PM	FIREWALKING CEREMONY / தீமிதித் திருவிழா
24-10-2016, Monday	PM	Silver Chariot Procession – 3 rd Day / வெள்ளி ரதம் ஊர்வலம் – மூன்றாம் நாள்
25-10-2016, Tuesday	AM	Closure of Firepit / தீக்குழி மூடுதல்
26-10-2016, Wednesday	PM	Sri Dharmaraja Pattabishegam / ஸ்ரீ தர்மராஜா பட்டாபிஷேகம்
27-10-2016, Thursday	PM	Manjal Neeraduthal / மஞ்சள் நீராடுதல்

Goddess Durga is worshipped in many forms during the Navarathri festival – Parvati, Lakshmi, Saraswathi, Kali, etc. In these forms, She protects her devotees from all evil forces and establishes peace on the earth. Colour the picture to give it a complete look.



Category 1 (Age group: 5–8 years)

Name: _____

Age: _____

Contact number: _____

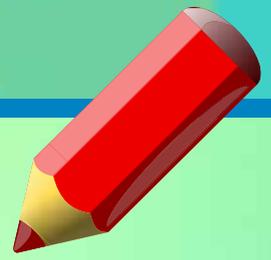
Address: _____

Send in your entries, complete with details
by 31 October 2016 to:

The Editor, Hindu News
Hindu Endowments Board
Singapore 218123

Cut along the line

Kids' Zone



During festive periods, intricate and colourful kolams and rangolis can be seen at entrances of homes. Such patterns are drawn for auspiciousness. In the space below, draw a colourful kolam or rangoli design.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin orange border, intended for drawing a colorful kolam or rangoli design.

Category 2 (Age group: 9–12 years)

Name: _____

Age: _____

Contact number: _____

Address: _____

Send in your entries, complete with details by 31 October 2016 to:

**The Editor, Hindu News
Hindu Endowments Board
Singapore 218123**

Here are the winners of the Kids Zone activities from Hindu News Issue 02-2016:

Category 1 prize winners:

1st prize: Sathiyabalan

2nd prize: S K Sunjaiy

3rd prize: Nivetha M.

Category 2 prize winners:

1st prize: Sahil M.

2nd prize: Shivesh S.

3rd prize: Devasree

Congratulations to all of you!