



Upasana

HINDU TEMPLE OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

NEWSLETTER 3 : MARCH 2008



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MAHASHIVARATHRI POOJA AND CELEBRATION, MARCH 8TH

The Hindu Temple of Bloomington-Normal performed MAHA SHIVARATHRI POOJA on March 08 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at One Normal Plaza, Beech St, Normal.

The priest, Sri Gurukul brought MahaShivalingam and performed Rudrabhisheka. Pictures and videotape of the event have been published on the temple website.

Thanks to Dr. Hariprasad and Ratna Pathi for sponsoring the Pooja Hall and also to Sri Bhagwan Seth, Sudhir and Indira Seth for sponsoring the priest.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE THE EVENT A SUCCESS

EVENT COORDINATION: Joshi, Rajendra

STAGE DÉCOR: Coordinators — Bhaskara, Rani; Mandava, Manasi; Srikanth, Swapna; Suresh, Padmashree

FACILITY SET UP: Coordinator — Krishna, Suresh; Joshi, Sriswaroop; Pai, Sudhir; Peddireddy, Ganesh; Suresh, Shreyas

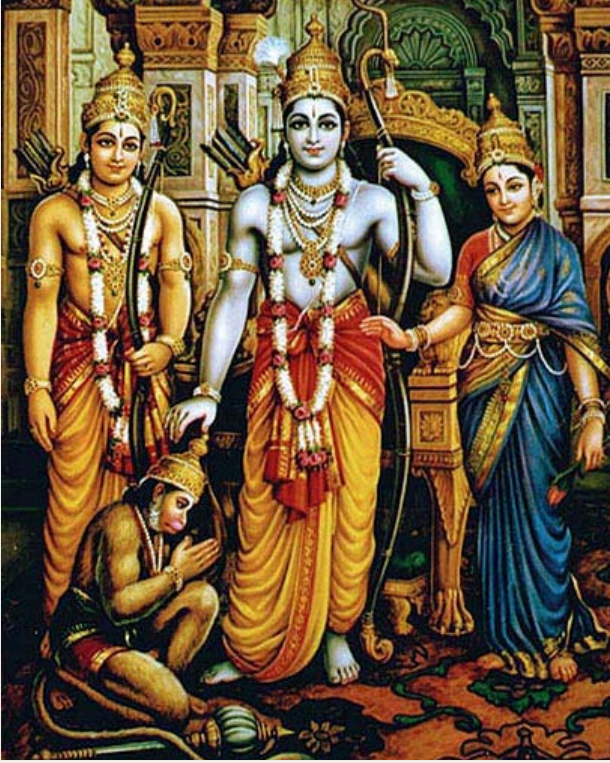
PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO: Tummala, Jaya; Suresh, Shreyas

ANNADATTAS: Coordinators — Desai, Jigna & Khurana, Arun & Ritu; Adala, Gauri; Baru, Vijaya; Bhaskara, Rani; Duvvuri, Lakshmi; Gowda, Sarva; Gupta, Jyotsna; Iyer, Deepa; Kallakuri, Uma; Kalavala, Anita; Kalpana P; Karthikeyan, Malar; Suresh, Padmashree; Lombar, Shilpa; Maneesha Manoharan, Mahi; Mani, Usha; Mukandan, Hemalatha; Munagapati, Ganesh; Mundalapudi, Aruna; Munjeti, Hiranmayi; Nambiar, Abha; Narendran, Bharti; Ravi, Girija; Santanam, Sudha; Saritha G; Shekara, Archana; Shetty, Aruna; Peddireddy, Shweta; Sreekakula, Vijaya; Sridhar, Chitra; Sridhar, Vijayanti; Todi, Beena; Vani Prasad, Latha

GIFT SHOP: Kallakuri, Mani Poojitha; Nambiar, Vinod; Shah, Ashka; Shah, Nihar; Sharma, Pankaj; Suresh, Shreyas

POOJA SPONSORS: Baru, Vijaya & Krishna; Bhardwaj, Davender & Anjala; Bhaskara, Sridhar & Rani; Chitta, Siva Kumar & Sai Sita Devi; Duvvuri, Visweswara Rao & Lakshmi; Ganta, Raghuveer & Kalpana; Suligavi, Basavaraj & Meera; Gupta, Indira & Jagadish; Jayaswal, R. K & Lata; Jonnalagadda, Balasankar; Khanna, Sushil & Manjula; Krishna, Suresh & Padmashree; Kulandaivadivel, Duraisamy and Sridevi; Malpani, Ajay & Vaishali; Mundlapudi, Rammohan & Aruna; Munjeti, Sreedhar & Hiranmayi; Patel, Haresh & Nisha; Patel, Vikram; Pathi, Hariprasad & Ratna; Seshadri, Krishnamohan & Sujatha; Seth, Hansraj Bhagwan; Shankar Ekambaram & Kamini Kavysala; Shekara, Chandra & Archana; Sreekakula, Ramakrishnaiah & Vijayalakshmi; Chappidi, Srikumar & Aparna; Vasudevan, Govindharaj & Uma Venkatesan; Velugubantla, Venkata Ramana & Lakshmi Annapurna; Venkatasubramanian, Kumar & Aparna Sunder; Vudaru, Madhusudhan Rao & Vijaya laxmi

SRI SEETHA RAMA KALYANA ON SUNDAY APRIL 13TH



VENUE:

One Normal Plaza, Normal

TIME:

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

PROGRAM:

9:30 am	Sponsors be present
10:00 am	Sri Seeta Rama Kalyanam
12:00	Kalyanam songs
12:15 pm	Announcements
12:30 pm	Prasadam
12:30 pm	Lunch — \$5 for age 12 years and above

Hindu Temple of Bloomington-Normal will be celebrating SRI RAMANAVAMI by conducting Shri Seetha Rama Kalyana Utsavam. The Temple is looking for the Sponsorship. Devotees interested in sponsoring the Pooja, please email at messages@ourhindutemple.org or contact the following,

Pooja Sponsorship : Rammohan Mundlapudi at 309 663 6304

Pooja Facility Sponsorship : Suresh Krishna at 309 661 4581

Prasadam Sponsorship : Seeta Damera at 309 662 2194 or Jyotsna Gupta at 309 663 9198

Pooja sponsorship is \$51/-. Priest (moorthis) sponsorship - \$375/-. Facility sponsorship is \$381/-.

Entire event sponsorship (Pooja, priest, facility and food) is \$1001/-.

Partial priest and facility sponsorship will be accepted. Sponsorships will also be accepted at the venue of Pooja.

All sponsors will be recognized for their generous support.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SRIRAMANAVAMI AND SRI SEETHA RAMA KALYANAM

Lord Sri Rama was a great king of Ikshvaku dynasty one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu born only to uproot demonic qualities and to uplift righteousness. He was an embodiment of moral excellence and perfection. The day of His birth is termed 'Sri Ramanavami' which is celebrated all over India with devotion and remembrance. It falls on the ninth day in the month of Chaitra, hence the word Navami. The nine day festival celebrations usually culminate with Seetharama Kalyanam — the celebration of the marriage of Sri Rama and Seetha Devi. It is considered auspicious to undertake a fast on the day in the name of Rama. The more devout fast for nine days, from Ugadi to Sri Ramanavami. The objective of the fast is not to ask for special favors of the deity but to seek perfection as a human being. Devotees perform elaborate poojas and chant the name of Rama. Temples of Rama have special services and bhajan sessions through the day. One significant and popular element of the celebration is the Ramayana parayana, a discourse on the Ramayana, by a pundit or a professional story-teller. It usually lasts nine days and ends on Ramanavami. The only special offerings to Rama for this festival, apart from the customary flowers and fruits, are Panagam, a light drink prepared from jaggery and fruit, and butter milk.

HINDU NEW YEAR

Depending on which part of the country we are from, we could be celebrating our traditional Hindu New Year at different times. So whether it is celebrated as Gudi Padva (Maharashtra) or Ugadi (Karnataka /Andhra) on April 7th, or as Vishu (Kerala) or Baisakhi (Punjab) or Puthaandu (Tamil) or Naba Barsha (Bengal) on April 13th, we wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

WHY CLEANSE OURSELVES WITH WATER BEFORE OBSERVING A RELIGIOUS RITE

We bathe every morning to keep ourselves clean. Its an integral part of our everyday morning routine. On special occasions we take a dip in the holy rivers. It is said in our scriptures a dip in Prayagraaj or Devprayaag (Ganga, Yammuna and Saraswathi, Allahabad) will lessen our karmas. Before we perform any religious rites for example: preparation for pooja, naivedhiyam (prasad) we generally take a bath. The natural property of water is to cleanse. This act of bathing is symbolic to remove our ego and unwanted thoughts behind and elevate us to the next level — to serve the Lord. Washing hands and feet before entering a temple signifies the same. We may not be physically dirty and we may have a pure heart, but our body hosts our vasanas which we have to aim to get rid off. So the act of bathing or washing becomes spiritual. This act is practiced in most eastern religions including Buddhism and Shintoism (Japanese religion).

A bath keeps us healthy, its hygienic but there are other aspects as well... Polygraphic studies prove that water enhances electro-magnetic activity. In the context of this finding, religious practices like washing hands and feet before entering temples and taking bath everyday, worshipping with wet clothes and offering prayer standing in the middle of water chest-deep in rivers and tanks etc., seem to be more scientific. Our body is centre of electric currents and impulses. A continuous process of generation and consumption of electric energy takes place in our body. Maharshi Vaatsyaayana has described the various power centres in human body. More energy is generated in our body whenever we are excited and indulge in intense physical activity. Washing our face or taking a bath helps ease that state. Physics describes about water and electromagnetism in great detail. Therefore, taking bath has a scientific reasoning also!

_ archana shekara

UPCOMING EVENT: SRI MAHAVISHNU POOJA AND BHAJANS SATURDAY MAY 17TH

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donate generously to make our dream a reality for our kids and future generations. Become a temple volunteer by participating in the temple activities. Register your name, address and email contact using temple website: www.OurHinduTemple.org. Send your suggestions and comments to messages@ourhindutemple.org

If you are interested in sharing articles that help us learn about our Vedic culture, traditions and practice, please email them to messages@ourhindutemple.org and attention: Communications team.