

Vedanshi

The part of the sacred knowledge

My dear Arjuna, one who does not follow in human life the cycle of sacrifice thus established by the Vedas certainly leads a life full of sin. Living only for the satisfaction of the senses, such a person lives in vain.

Chapter 3, Verse 16; Bhagavad Gita

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 47: November 2017

Sanatan Hindu Sanskar Kendra

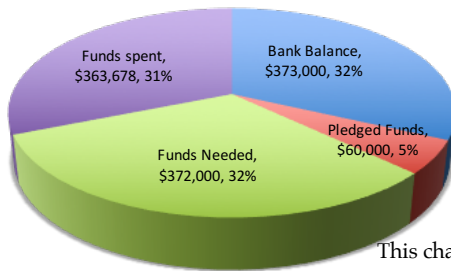
PO Box 80362, Lafayette, Louisiana - 70598
110, Hapsburg Lane, Lafayette, Louisiana - 70506
Email: shskendra@gmail.com, Website: sanatanlft.org



Temple - Fundraising Campaign

Total Estimated Cost: \$1,168,678

Fund Raising Challenge : \$150,000



This chart will be updated in next issue.

Challenge Accomplished
Funds Raised: \$157,503

Land Cost	\$200,000
Land Preparation	\$26,745
Architectural and Civil Engineering Services	\$43,433
Temple and Annex Building Construction including Parking Lot	\$548,500
Deities Statues Cost	\$50,000
Shikars (Gopuram) Cost including installation	\$200,000
Lighting, Security and Fencing	\$75,000
Operating Costs (4th Quarter 2017)	\$25,000
Total Cost	\$1,168,678

Challenge Update

For the second year in a row, Mr Ajay Patel put forth another challenge similar to 2016. This challenge was initiated in a Trustee Meeting conducted on March 12th, 2017. For every \$3 that is donated towards SHSK Temple, there will be a \$1 match. The matching contribution will max upto \$50,000 therefore taking the challenge amount to \$150,000. SHSK requested all the supporters to fulfill this challenge to obtain the funds needed for the temple to the amount of \$200,000, to get a step closer to the overall funds needed for the Temple project. Thanks to our generous supporters who came forward to contribute \$157,503 to accomplish the fundraising challenge. This challenge excludes already committed \$50,000 donation made prior to March 12th, 2017.

SHSK Board sincerely thank Mr Ajay Patel for his continued support to SHSK Temple Project.

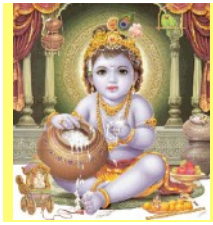
Sita Ram



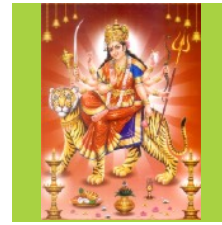
Ganesh



Krishna



Durga



Shiva



Consecration: Kumbhabhishekam

The temple consecration is called the kumbhabhishekam. Literally, this formidable term means the “sprinkling” (abhishekam) of the temple with sacred waters carried in a “water-pot” (kumbha). This is the most important ritual in the life of a newly built temple. It is especially significant for the many Indian communities that have built new temples in the United States. Every year they will observe the anniversary of this event as one of the temple’s major festivals.



The consecration rites extend over several days. The first rite in the series is the honoring of Ganesha, the Lord of Beginnings and the Remover of Obstacles. There will also be prayers to the earth (bhumi puja) for the support and blessing of the new building. The priests will tie a thread of blessing and protection (raksha bandhanam) around their wrists as they commit themselves to the rituals ahead. Sometimes grains will be planted and sprouted to assure the fruitfulness of the rites.

The main rites take place in a large tent erected adjacent to the new temple. The tent becomes a yajnasala, a “House of the Fire Offerings,” where the powerful rites of consecration are performed around the brick fire altars that have been constructed for the occasion. Surrounding the fire altars are hundreds of kumbhas, or copper pots, sponsored by various members of the community. They are filled with Ganges water and often the waters of U.S. rivers such as the Missouri and Mississippi as well. Each pot is topped with mango leaves and a coconut and each sits on a bed of rice, the picture of sheer auspiciousness.

At the brick fire altars sit the participating brahmin priests or acharyas, the learned ones, who kindle the fires and make offerings and libations into the fire. They chant the mantras and sacred texts that invoke the Divine presence to the fire altar and to the pots of water to be consecrated. It is through



these powerful words, mantras, that the Divine is made present. The “root mantras” (mula mantras) are different for each deity installed in the temple. The recitation of the mantras and the hymns required for these consecrations often takes hours and makes plain to young Americans the traditions of sacred memory these priests have preserved.

Along with the offerings of words, offerings of grain, flowers, spices, honey, and many other substances are poured forth. All are fed into the sacred flames along with ladles of traditional ghee, clarified butter. When the offerings are complete and all the mantras have been uttered, the priests and the community stand for the purnahuti, the ritual of completion. Together they recite the age-old prayer from the Isha Upanishad, dedicating the work to the fullness, the perfection of the eternal Brahman:



That Beyond is Fullness.

This here is Fullness.

From Fullness comes Fullness

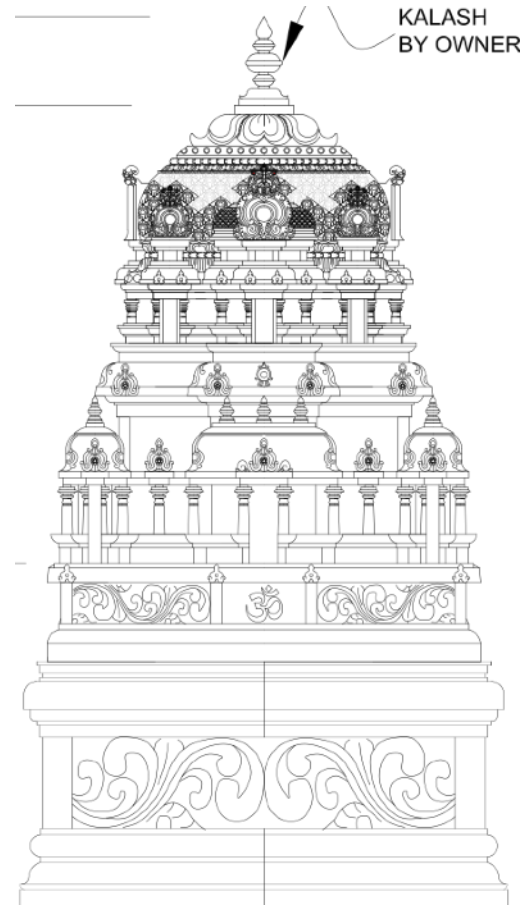
Drawing out the Fullness of the Fullness

Fullness yet remains.

Om, peace, peace, peace.

The rites of consecrating a temple include and parallel the rites of consecrating its primary deities (murtis) of the gods. At the conclusion of the rites, priests will circle the temple in festival procession bearing the largest of the kumbha pots on their heads. Hoisted to the temple roof on hydraulic lifts, they sprinkle the waters of consecration over the cupolas and on the eager crowd assembled below.

www.pluralism.org



SHSK MAIN SHIKAR/GOPURAM/
VIMANAM

December 2017 Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

02 Saturday	Dattatreya Jayanti
03 Sunday	Margashirsha Purnima
13 Wednesday	Saphala Ekadashi
15 Friday	Dhanu Sankranti
29 Friday	Pasha Putrada/ Vaikunta Ekadashi

For more details please refer
DrikPanchang.com

Significance of Dhanurmasam

In Hindu religion we find two types of calendars being followed viz. Solar Calendar known as Sauramana and Lunar calendar known as Chaandramana. In Solar Calendar the months derive their names based on the transit of Sun in a particular zodiac sign and in Lunar calendar it is based on the constellation (Nakshatra) occurring on the full moon day (Pournami). The period between two successive solar transits (sankramana) or the time taken by the Sun to pass through a zodiac sign is known as a Solar month.

Accordingly when Sun transits into Sagittarius (Dhanus Raasi) that month is denoted as Dhanurmasam. It marks the entry of Sun into Dhanus raasi that is known as Dhanus Sankramana which generally occurs around the middle of the winter month December. Dhanurmasam generally occurs in between the two lunar months Margasira and Pushya. As per English calendar, Dhanurmasam generally starts on 16th December and ends on January 13th or 14th on the Bhogi festival day. It is the ninth month of the zodiac starting from Aries (Mesha raasi) and is the last month before the onset of Uttarayana.

Dhanurmasam has acquired a unique significance of auspiciousness in Hindu spiritual calendar for devotional activities especially worshiping of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu. More significance is given for worshipping Lord Vishnu in Dhanurmasam during the early hours before Sunrise known as Arunodaya Kaala. In this month one is expected to perform pooja rituals during the auspicious Brahmi Muhurtha approx two hours before the Sunrise when the stars are still twinkling in the sky. During Dhanurmasam a special dish known as Huggi (Mudganna) prepared with Rice and Moong dal mixed in equal proportions is offered to Lord Vishnu as Naivedya.



Lot of significance is given to Dhanurmasam in Vaishnava Sampradaya and all the Vishnu related temples perform special rituals and poojas early in the morning during this month. We find temples offering to the Lord, sweet Pongal, Kara Pongal, and Pulihora as Naivedya and distributing the same as prasadam to the devotees during Dhanurmasam. There is also a health significance attached in prescribing these food items during Dhanurmasam. At Tirumala Kshetra, the abode of Lord Sri Venkateswara, we find the priests reciting

Tiruppavai a celestial song composed by Sri Godadevi (Aandaal) an ardent devotee of Lord Sri Krishna, instead of regular Suprabhatham.



At Tirumala temple Lord Venkateswara is worshiped daily with Bilva leaves (Bilva Pathra) during Dhanurmasam. It is highly meritorious to recite Sri Vishnu Sahasra Nama Sthothram, Purusha Sooktham, Sri Vishnu Sooktham and Narayana Upanishad during this auspicious period of Dhanurmasam. Worshipping Goddess Sri Maha Lakshmi along with Lord Vishnu is also prescribed during Dhanurmasam.

Sukla paksha Ekaadasi (either in Margasira or Pushya maasam) associated with Dhanurmasam is revered as Vaikunta Ekaadasi or Mukkoti Ekaadasi the most auspicious day to worship Lord Sri Maha Vishnu. Next day is known as Mukkoti Dwaadasi. Vyatheepatha yoga during Dhanurmasam (Dhanur-Vyatheepaatha Yoga) is given lot of prominence and it is believed that any Pithru kaarya or charity given in respectful reverence to one's Pithrus on this day is considered as highly meritorious.

As per Sri Venkatachala Mahatmya it is said that, taking bath in Sri Swami Pushkarini Theertha at Tirumala on the day of Sukla Dwadasi (Mukkoti Dwaadasi) in the month of Dhanurmasam during Arunodaya time is considered as highly sacred and celestial. On this day it is said that, more than three crores of sacred theerthas in the entire Bhoomandala will enter into Sri Swami Pushkarini. Taking bath on this day in Swami Pushkarini is considered highly meritorious and equivalent to taking bath in all the three crores of sacred theerthas. It is revered as Sri Swami Pushkarini Theertha Koti day in the almanac of Tirumala temple.

Considering the superior sacredness and spirituality attached to the Dhanurmasam, auspicious functions like Marriage, Gruha Pravesam etc. are not generally performed during this month. It is only to give more focus and attention to the Divine worship rather than mundane materialistic activities.

Why Arunodaya time is prescribed for worshipping the Lord during Dhanurmasam?

As per the concept of Hindu time element, it is said that, one day for Devathas is equal to one human year comprising of 6 months of Uttarayana and 6

months of Dakshinayana. That means Uttarayana is the day time and Dakshinayana is the night time for devathas. Accordingly one human month is equal to two hours for Deities. The period of Dhanurmasam falling at the fag end of Dakshinayana indicates the last leg of the night time for Devathas (Arunodaya) when they worship Lord Sri Hari. Hence, it is befitting for human beings also to worship Lord Sri Maha Vishnu at a time that coincides with the Arunodaya Kaala for Devathas. This incidentally coincides with the Dhanurmasam. This auspicious period is known as Arunodaya or Brahmi Muhurtha.

Any worship conducted during Arunodaya time is said to be of highest quality that yield meritorious results. It is said that worshipping Lord Sri Maha Vishnu during this auspicious and sacred period of Dhanurmasam, the dearest month for Lord Sri Hari even for a single day is equivalent to worshipping the Lord for 1000 years. In Hindu philosophy for everything a specific time measure is set and prescribed according to the concept of time element. It specifies the unique significance given to the month, day, thithi, Nakshatra etc in Hindu religion. Therefore perform right deeds at the right time and seek Divine blessings that yield higher results.

Checklist for Dhanurmasam

- Worship Lord Sri ManNarayana and Goddess Lakshmi Devi
- Perform pooja rituals during Arunodaya time two hours before Sunrise
- Offer Huggi as Naivedya to the Lord adding Shunti
- Recite Sri Vishnu Sahasra Nama Sthothram + Purusha Sooktham
- Observe fasting on Vaikunta Ekadasi day
- Perform Pithru Karya on the day of Dhanur Vyatheepatha yoga
- Avoid performing auspicious functions like marriage, etc.

Sri Krishnaarpanamasthu



SHSK BALAJI



SHSK Temple, Lafayette, Louisiana - Targeting April 2018 for completion and Inauguration

Are you Game for Life?

On the occasion of the inauguration of Vajra, a new sports facility at Isha Home School, Sadhguru joined the students to play a few games, after which he spoke about the significance of sports and of bringing intensity of involvement into every aspect of life.

Sadhguru: We are in a sporting arena. Sport is a place where people become strong and also shine. This is why we are calling this place Vajra, because I want you to shine like diamonds when you come here.

I must confess, I spent more time in the sports room and library than in any classroom. The teachers will not like what I am saying, but I think the sports room and library made a big difference for me. One gave me an agile body, and another gave me an agile mind. The body may not be so agile anymore, but it is good enough to beat you champions!

Playing Life to the Fullest

I want you to see sport not as just a game or one more discipline, but about becoming a sport for life – you are willing to play life to the fullest. The game is not just badminton, table tennis or volleyball. Living in this world is a game. Whatever we do is a certain kind of game. Education also is a certain kind of game. How good or bad you are is not the issue. It is the intensity of involvement. If you are fully involved, you will see it is enriching.

The simplest things become great because someone threw themselves into it absolutely. It does not

Dear All,

As we are moving towards our temple construction process, we need your support to spread the word to your friends and family for temple fundraising. To facilitate the fundraising we have created a gofundme link <https://www.gofundme.com/shskfundme>, we request each one of you to be an active voice in raising funds for our dream temple project. You can share the gofundme link through your Facebook, WhatsApp and email to your friends and family.

We hope with your collective effort we would be able to reach our target before end of this year.

Thank you for your continued support and blessings.

Sincerely,
SHSK Board

matter what one may choose, if you put everything you have into whatever you are doing, it is great. What is the big deal in hitting or kicking a ball? But the entire world sits up and watches when someone does it – not because of the ball or the goal – simply because someone is throwing himself into it like his life depends on it. It does not matter how good or bad you are at it, you cannot ever play a game halfheartedly. You know you can do

education halfheartedly! But you cannot play a game halfheartedly.

Intensity of Involvement

I want you to use sport to bring that sense of intensity of involvement. Whatever the hell is happening in our life, we are involved. You are in the school – involved. You go home – involved. You are playing a game – involved. Even if you just sit and breathe, the life that you are is absolutely involved. If you bring this intensity of involvement into every aspect of your life, it does not matter what you choose to do – life will be great.

And you cannot play a game without rules. It is the rules of the game that make the game. If you say, “I don’t like this rule,” you are clearly saying you do not like the game. If you understand, it is the rules that make the game and you play it to the hilt, every game is a fantastic game.

And I give you this assurance – I do not know whether you will pass your eleventh or twelfth standard, but all of you, when the time is up, one day you shall pass! I have revealed a great secret to you – there is no need for fear of failure! Do you think it ever happened that because you did not do life properly, they detained you? That never happened. Anyway we are going to pass, so let us do it well.

www.isha.sadguru.org

Thank you for your support and blessings.

**Sri Krishnaarpanamasthu
Srinivasan Ambatipati, Editor**