

# S.V. Temple Newsletter



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# Navagrahas – The Nine Planetary Gods in Hinduism

## Meaning of Navagraha and their significance

Navagraha is a Sanskrit word - ‘nava’ is nine and ‘graha’ is a planet, a celestial body. ‘Navagrahas’ referred to as nine planetary Gods in Hindu religion and believed to play a key role in one’s life to decide the destiny. Hindu Astronomy, Vedic Birth charts, Horoscopes are all designed/calculated based on the position of these nine planets. When a person is born his potential in life and also good/ bad timings are determined on the location / positioning of these Navagrahas in the planetary system (astronomical sphere). These placements not only have influence on individuals but also on world’s all-round prosperity.

According to Vedas, the Navagrahas are the instruments of God, by which the law of karma operates. These Navagrahas are treated as deities with specific powers, nature and characteristic qualities depending on what each one offers (positive or negative effects) to an individual or to the world in general.

## The Names of Navagraha

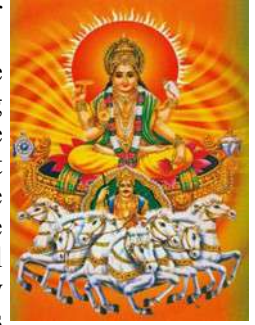
The Shloka below gives us the names of all nine planets:

“Aadityaya Somaya Mangalaya Budhaayacha  
Guru Shukra Shanibhyashcha Rahave Ketave namaha”

The names of these Navagrahas are Adityaya-Surya (Sun), Somaya-Chandra (Moon), Mangalaya (Mars), Budhaya (Mercury), Guru-Brihaspati (Jupiter), Shukra (Venus), Shani (Saturn), Rahu (North Lunar Node) and Ketu (South Lunar Node). Out of these nine planets, five (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn) are named after the planets in the solar system and the other four (Sun, Moon, Rahu and Ketu) are not. These 9 planets are worshipped by Hindus as deities to overcome any hindrance, obstacles or bad luck. Navagrahas are mostly found collectively in all most all Shiva temples and the faithful believers worship them sincerely by offering their favorite grains, wearing their favorite gemstones in jewelry, doing japas etc., to please them. Placing the sun in the center all the other eight planets represent eight directions. The below table gives us the idea of all Navagrahas in which direction they are facing, the colors, grains and the stones we need to use for each planet.



**Sun (Aditya):** Aditya meaning first born. The other names are Surya, Ravi, Bhaskara etc. In Vedic Astrology, sun is the epicenter of all planets and he rules all the planets. So, he is normally shown facing towards east standing in the center. Around him are the rest of the planets facing all different directions but not towards each other. He rides a chariot with one wheel which is pulled by seven horses symbolizing the seven days of the week. He is considered as a royal Planet and giver of life. The day of the Sun is Sunday and gemstone used is Ruby. Surya Namaskar (used as exercises) is a good practice for attaining a healthy life. Every individual can worship planet Surya by chanting the below shloka for 6 times.



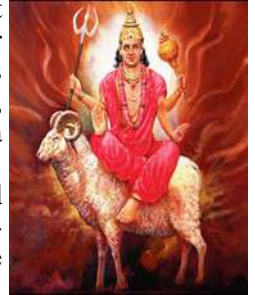
japaakusuma sankashaM kaashyapeyaM mahaaDhyuthim |  
thamorima sarvapaapaghanaM praNamaami dhivaakaram ||

**Moon (Soma):** Also called Chandra. He is normally shown riding a chariot pulled by 10 horses. It is said that moon was born from the mind of 'Kalpurusha'. So, he rules the mind, emotions, feelings, beauty and happiness & the overall life of a person. He is faced in the direction of south east. He is shown with one face and two hands but no body. The day of the Moon is Monday and gemstone used is Pearl. For mental stability and wellbeing of an individual, one must worship the planet chandra with the below shloka by chanting it for 10 times.



dhaDhishankha thushaaraabhaM kSheerodhaarnava saMbhavam |  
namaami shashinaM somaM shambhormukuta bhooShanam ||

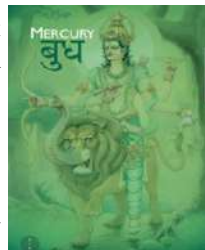
**Mars: (Mangala):** Mars is often referred to as a 'hot planet' and a warrior. He is said to be the commander in chief and the protector of Dharma. He represents the physical strength, focused energy, determination, opinions, fire in an individual. Mangala or Kuja is a Ferocious God, facing the South direction riding ram. The day of Mars is Tuesday and gemstone used is red Coral. The Mangala graha shloka below helps the mankind in controlling their courage, strength, and fire when chanted for 7 times.



DharaNee garbha saMbhoothama vidhyuthkaanthi samaprabham |  
kumaaraM shakthihasthaM thaM mangalaM praNamaaMyaham ||

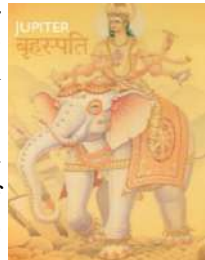
**Mercury (Budha):** Mercury always stands for thinking capacity in a person, which in Sanskrit would be called "Buddhi" (intelligence). So, in the Vedic astrology, Mercury is termed as 'Budha' and represents the speech and communication, skills and one's intelligence. He signifies

talkativeness and tactfulness in an individual. This Planet governs the nervous system. Budha has four hands and rides on a Lion. He is placed facing the northeast direction. The day of Mercury is Wednesday and gemstone used is Emerald. To clear nervous system disorders and to have good lungs and respiratory system, one must worship the budha graha with the below Shloka chanting for 17 times.



priyaangu kalikaashyaamaM rupeNa prathimaM buDham |  
sauMyaM sauMyaguNopethaM thvaM buDhaM praNamaaMyaham ||

**Jupiter (Guru):** The vedic name for Jupiter is Brihaspathi or Guru. In the Skanda purana, it is said that Brihaspathi worshipped Lord Shiva for a thousand years and as a reward Lord Shiva made him to be the planet Jupiter. Of all nine planets, Jupiter is the largest planet. So, he rules things like knowledge, wisdom, love and spirituality of an individual. He is said to be the presiding deity of mental powers and teacher (guru) of Gods. He is faced to North direction. The day of Jupiter is Thursday and the Gemstone used is yellow sapphire. He is worshipped for knowledge and good heart health. To acquire this, one must recite the Shloka below for 16 times.



dhevaanaaMcha RishiNaaMcha gurukaanchana sannibham |  
buDhdhir bhoothaM thrilokshaM thvaM namaami bRihaspathim ||

**Venus (Shukra):** Shukra is the teacher of Demons. He symbolizes love and passion. He rules over all types of desirable things such as art, music, love, beauty etc. He is placed facing east direction. The day of Venus is Friday and gemstone used is Diamond. Venus will grant full of good things in life. To attain this, one must chant the below Shloka for 20 times.



himakundha mRiNaalaabhaM dhaithyaanaaM paramaM gurum |  
sarvashaasthra pravakthaaraM bhaargavaM praNamaaMyaham ||

**Saturn (Shani):** The other name given to Saturn is Shani or 'Shaniswara'. Saturn is the last of all nine planets in the planetary system. Shani is often referred to as a 'dark planet' and symbolizes longevity, misery and grief. Shani is the god who changes fortunes by his placement, so individuals usually fear him. Saturn is considered as the slowest moving graha and represents more time related aspects in the life of an individual. He rules the tough times in a person's lifetime. He is shown riding a black



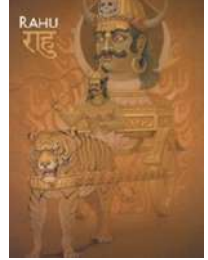
crow, facing west direction. The day of Saturn is Saturday and the gemstone used is Blue Sapphire. If a person wishes to please Shani, should recite the below shloka for 19 times.

neelaanjana samaabhaasaM raviputhraM yamaagrajam |

Chaayaa maarthaaNda saMbhoorthaM tvaM namaami shanaishcharam ||

The next two planets Rahu and Ketu were born during the time of churning of the Milk Ocean (PALA KADALI) for Nectar/ Amritam (a drink used for immortality). Rahu and Ketu are two parts of the same Danava (demon / Rakshasa) and are 1800 apart from each other. Rahu is described of having only a face and the Ketu is depicted like a serpent's tail.

**Rahu (the Northern Lunar node):** Rahu planet signifies harm / destruction in astrology and does not have any special day dedicated to him. When Rahu afflicts a person, they face several miseries and obstacles in their lives. He is placed facing South-West direction. To please Rahu graha one must chant the below Shloka for 18 times.



arDhakaayaM mahaaveerama chandhraadhithya vimarDhanam |  
simhikaa garbha saMbhoorthaM thvaM raahuM praNamaaMyaham ||

**Ketu (the Southern Lunar node):** planet Ketu also signifies harm / destruction in Astrology and does not have any specific day / stone dedicated to him. In Sanskrit, Ketu means comet. It is said that he has a tail of a serpent as his body and his nature very much is matched to a comet. In Vedic astrology, Ketu is the representation of karmic collections of both good and bad spiritual and supernatural influences. He is placed facing North west direction and the gemstone used is Cats Eye. To worship Ketu, one must recite the below Shloka for 7 times.



phalaasha pushpsankaashaM thaarakaagraha masthakam |  
raudhraM raudhraathmakam ghoraM tvam kethuM praNamaaMyaham||

Considering the significance of Navagrahas in Astrology and in Hindu religion, Navagraha vigraha prathista took place at S.V. Temple in 2016. Any Puja requests like Navagraha puja/Shanti Homam and Kuja Dosha Nivarana, please contact S.V. Temple priests for more information or send email to [president@svtemplemn.org](mailto:president@svtemplemn.org).





# Importance of Fasting in Hinduism - Spiritual and Health Benefits

by Gautham Reddy, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago

Fasting (upavasam) is a significant part of Hindu life. For Hindu holy men and women such as yogis, sadhus, rishis, gurus, and mahabhaktas, fasting is a way of life. Fasting is a method of developing good karma and building strong faith and devotion (bhakti) to God. But for most of us, who are dedicated to our families and our work, fasting on a permanent basis is difficult. So, our great scholars and saints have recommended that we fast in moderation.

There are many ways to gain good karma and strengthen bhakti - giving charity (dana), visiting holy sites (tirthayatra), sponsoring and performing rituals, and taking care of family and community members are some examples. However, fasting is a uniquely personal spiritual practice. Fasting helps us to rise above our everyday concerns and focus on our individual connection to God. Regular fasting helps us develop a calm, reasonable, and spiritual personality.

What is fasting? Fasting means to abstain or give up something that is an important part of life. There are several types of fasting - we can fast from food, water, sexual activity, and speech. All major traditions of Hinduism promote fasting and many have special times and rules. The most general custom is to fast on a day in memory of one's favorite God (Ishtadevata). Popular days for fasting include Monday (Shiva), Thursday (Guru), and Saturday (Venkateshwara, Hanuman). On this day bhaktas give up non-veg and solid foods and typically consume fruits, milk, and water. Some bhaktas are so devoted they give up everything but water. Fasting is also important during festivals such as Shivarathri, Navarathri, Karvachauth, etc. Many people also fast on different moon cycles like ekadasi and purnima (full moon).

For full spiritual effect, fasting must be done while remembering God. This means when we fast, we must do things which keep us in a spiritual mind such as 1) chanting names of God, 2) singing and listening to religious songs, 3) hearing, reading, or watching stories of God, 4) discussing god with other spiritual people or 5) taking darshan of God. Fasting without remembering God does not give spiritual benefits.

Fasting has important effects on personal character. How? Fasting creates opportunities to reflect on our relationship not only to god but to ourselves. When we give up important parts of our life, even for a brief time, we become aware of the strength of our desires. Knowing the power of desire is important in developing self-discipline, control of anger and negative thoughts, and a sense of detachment. Regular fasting can improve good personal qualities such as determination, patience, and compassion for others.

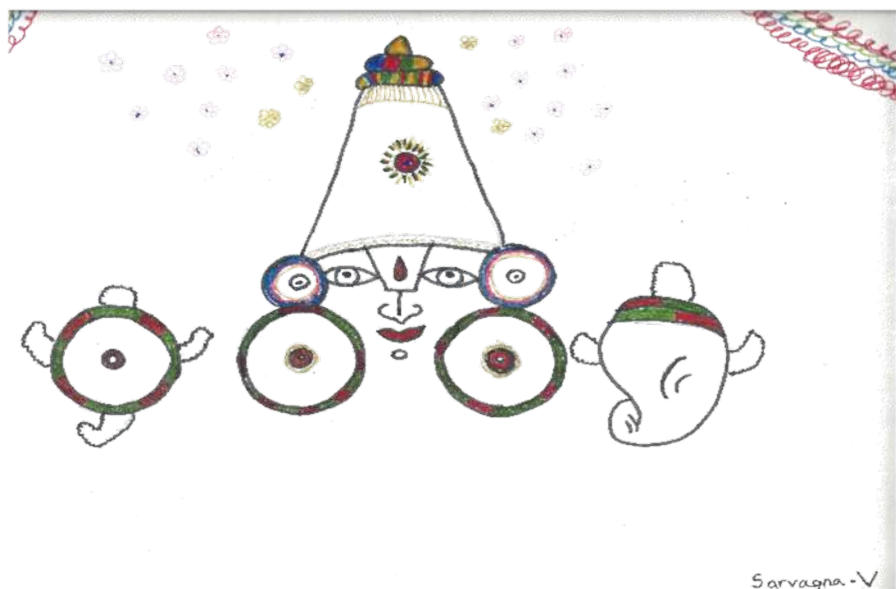
Fasting also has important mental and health benefits according to Ayurveda and Yoga. By avoiding rich foods, non-veg foods, alcohol, and sweets, fasting helps us develop mental clarity, an energetic feeling of lightness, and a sharpening of our five senses.

Today, benefits of fasting are also recognized by modern western medicine. Fasting gives important rest to the digestive system. In modern society we are prone to over-eating and filling our bodies with too much salt, sugar, and fat. This is due to consuming processed foods and eating in restaurants on a frequent basis. Regular fasting lowers cholesterol, improves cardiovascular health, and reduces risk of heart disease. Fasting lowers blood sugar and improves metabolism. This aids in burning unnecessary fat and reduces risk of diabetes. Fasting also reduces inflammation in the body which is a key factor in causing many diseases and chronic conditions associated with aging.

Fasting in moderation has many good impacts on our quality of life. It is important in developing spiritual life and has very useful moral, mental, and health outcomes.

## Kids Column

### Lord Venkateswara by Sarvagna Vempati



Venkateswara article.

When we say Lord Venkateswara he reminds us with a tall crown on his head, shanku chakras on either side and a dot on his chin. But have you

ever got a question why he has a dot on his chin? Some of you might know the story behind that but I would like to share the story that I know. We all know Vishnava guru Sri Ramanujacharya. Sri Ramanujacharya belongs to the 11th century. One of his favorite students was Sri Anantalvar. As a guru, Sri Ramanujacharya ordered his student Anantalvar to build a flower garden in the Tirumda hills (in India). He also told Anantalvar that all the flowers that were grown in the garden have to be used in the daily poojas of Lord Venkateswara. Anantalvar with the help of his wife started to build the garden. As his wife was pregnant during that time, she could not do the work she was supposed to do. Looking at the pregnant woman's hardship, Lord Venkateswara himself wanted to take part in building the garden. He came like a 12 year old boy. Since the boy interfered, the work got faster. This was all not known to Anantalvar. When the work was getting done faster, Anantalvar got a doubt and he started to spy. Then he noticed a boy was helping his wife. He got very angry at the boy and his wife. Anantalvar was very upset at his wife for disobeying his words and not telling him the truth. He was also very mad at himself as he disobeyed his gurus orders. Without having any control on his anger, Anantalvar threw the crowbar (tool used for gardening) which was in his hands. The boy started running and Anantalvar started chasing him. After going to some distance, the boy disappeared. Anantalvar returned home



Next morning, when Anantalvar went to the Tirumala Temple for doing his daily poojas. He saw Lord Venkateswara's chin bleeding. That is when Anantalvar realized the 12yr old boy was none other than Lord Venkateswara. Then Anantalvar cleaned the blood and applied Green Camphor to the Lord's chin. From that day on, there is a tradition of applying Green Camphor to the Lord Venkateswara in the Tirumala Temple.

— Sarvagna Vempati

## Religious/Cultural Events since July 2017

Below is the recap of the cultural/religious events that took place since July 2017. We thank all the volunteers and organizers who made all these events a great success. We are looking forward to similar support for the upcoming events.

Temple Brahmostavam – July 26 - 30th, 2017.  
S.V. Temple celebrated its very first Brahmostavam event (anniversary event from Prathistapana in 2016) in a grand way under the guidance of our temple priests and Narasimha charya garu, priest at PanchaMukha Hanuman temple, LA.



Program started with Ankurarorpana, Garuda Dhwaaja Aarohana. Abhishekam was performed to all our Moolavar vigrahams including Venkateswara swamy, Lakshmi, Andal and Ramanuja. Last day, we had swamy vaari kalyanam and procession of swamy and Ammavaru on Garuda Vahanam around the temple in a grand way. Many devotees participated in dancing, chanting and singing bhajans during procession and got Swami vaari blessings. Local and out of state artists performed music and dance in front of Gods and audience. Delicious food was prepared for all days and served by temple Food Volunteers.

**Sri Vara Lakshmi Vratam** – August 4th, 2017. Samuhika Vara Lakshmi Vratam was performed and many Indian married women participated in the vratham by performing puja by themselves in front of Goddess Lakshmi under the guidance of priests and got the blessings.

**Yajurveda Upakarma** – August 7th, 2017. Samuhika Yajurveda Upakarma was performed in 3 batches and temple provided all the supplies including sacred thread needed for Upakarma.

**Sri Krishna Janmashtami** – August 14, 2017. A special event for kids called “Utti Utsavam” was arranged in the temple where all kids dressed up like “little krishnas” and participated in the event. Sri Krishna Aradhana, Mukunda mala stotra parayana and other bhajans were done and followed by offering of various prasadams to Lord Krishna. Krishna Abhishekam was done in the morning.

**Ganesha making Workshop for Kids** – August 20, 2017. Temple provided an opportunity for our community kids to take part in the Ganesha making workshop where clay and other materials were supplied, and kids were encouraged to take home their clay Ganesha for Ganesha Chaturdhi puja. (Clay Ganesh idols are not only eco-friendly but also more traditional and S.V. Temple supports this).

**Ganesha Chaturdhi** – August 24, 2017. Like every year, 5 ft. Clay Ganesha vigraham was prepared by our local artist Ganesh Kamath for this event. Samuhika Ganesha puja, Vratam and katha parayanam were performed and lots of devotees participated in bhajans. A huge laddu was prepared by our priests and food volunteers that was auctioned at the end of the event for \$2001.00 (one devotee family bought the laddu) and all the proceeds went to temple. Delicious dinner was served by food volunteers.



**Sri Maha Ganapathi Nimarjan** – August 26, 2017. Huge procession of Clay Ganesha vigraham was organized around the temple and the

vigraham was immersed in water with chantings of “Ganapathi Pappa Moriya” under the guidance of our temple priests.



**Mahalaya Pitru Paksham & Mahalaya Amavasya** – September 6 - 19, 2017. Mahalaya Amavasya also called Pitru Paksha, is one of the India’s ageless culture and is a special day for those who would like to offer their remembrance and gratitude to their ancestors called Pitru. Til Tarpan (offerings of black sesame seeds) was performed.

**SVT School Open House** – September 10, 2017. For more updates on SVT School please see the article on S.V. Temple school updates. This year we had a very successful enrollment of 99 kids and most of our classes were filled up on the day of open house itself. S.V. Temple Management would like to thank all our committed volunteer teachers and parents who are supporting our school. More classes were started to accommodate this unprecedented number of kid’s enrollment. We are still looking for volunteer teachers and front desk support staff so if anyone is interested, please contact Temple school management.

**Shrannavaratri and Dussera Celebrations** – September 20 - 30, 2017.

The nine days of celebrations were performed with Asta Lakshmi Kumkum Archana, Lalitha Sahasranama Parayana along with, Gouri Puja, Sami puja and Samuhika Saraswathi Puja. Many devotees visited and took part in all rituals. Each day Abhishekam was performed to one form of Lakshmi and on final day to Moolavar Maha Lakshmi. Different A lankarams (decorations) were done daily. Delicious prasadam were distributed every day. Bommala koluvu, a very old tradition during Dussera, was set up with so many varieties of dolls and lights for all 9 days and kids enjoyed watching all these dolls and were taught the importance of this by their parents.

**Diwali Celebrations** – October 18 - 19, 2017. More than 2500 devotees participated in these celebrations. Devotee families and children participated with great delight and took part in the worship of Goddess Lakshmi with Swarna pushpams (golden flowers, a special puja done on this day only) and enjoyed delicious & special dinner prepared by food volunteers. This year also S.V. Temple organized the fireworks to celebrate the festival of lights. Many devotees from nearby cities also visited the temple and participated in fireworks.



**Super Singer USA Season 2 and Diwali Cultural Event** – October 28 – 29, 2017. Kalanjali, the cultural wing of SV Temple has been a pioneer in bringing innovative programs to Twin cities of Minneapolis/ St. Paul with the intent of giving back to the community and retain a culture for upcoming generation growing in USA. This year Kalanjali in collaboration with Parthu Nemani, a well-known South Indian Music Director, conducted Super Singer USA Season to celebrate Diwali on Oct 28th and 29th. The program was a competition for filmy Indian music with no language / age barriers. Judging was done in the categories of Filmy Romantic, Filmy Classical, Filmy Devotional, Filmy Patriotic, Filmy Folk and solo / Duet singing during this competition.

This year, a Special segment “Paahimaam” was introduced to promote the rare Annamacharya compositions from Paahimaam CDs (a special project sponsored by Reddy foundation to record the non-composed Annamacharya kritis in CD form as a fund-raising project for S.V. Temple).

The program was very successful with 120 participants. The feedback for the program was very positive since the judging was done by Parthu Nemani Garu. Also, to celebrate Diwali, we had a cultural program on 28th evening with varieties of dances, music and mimicry, which was enjoyed by all the audiences and parents. All ages from 3 and above participated in the program. The excitement of the young faces during the prize distribution was worth all the effort.



This program was conducted by cultural coordinators Venkat and Vishala. The event logistics was supported by temple founders Madhu Reddy and Dr. Jyothsna Reddy along with food committee chairperson



Kalpana and other volunteers. We are looking forward to introducing more events like this in the future.

**Karthika Masam Abhishekams** – October 23rd - November 13th, 2017. During Karthika masam, temple priests performed Rudraabhishekam to Lord Shiva on every Monday for 4 weeks. Samuhika Sri Satyanarayana Swami Vratam was performed on full moon day (purnima) and since it is a very auspicious day, many couples participated in Vratam. Maha Lakshmi Puja and Karthika Deepaotsavam (lighting of Diyas with 365 wicks) by all married women under the guidance of priests took place in the temple. Aakasa Deepam was placed on Dhawaja Stambam during the month of karthika masam.

**Geetha Jayanthi Celebrations** – November 29, 2017. Sri Krishna abhishekam and alankaram (decorations) to God and Viseshha Krishna archana was performed by our priests. Gita shlokams were recited. Variety of prasadam were offered to Sri Krishna.

**H.H. Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamy Visit** – December 3rd, 2017. There is a detailed description of the event in the newsletter under special column Sri Sri Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamy Ji Visit to S.V. Temple on December 3rd, 2017.

**Dhanurmasam Begins** – December 15th, 2017. Dhanurmasam is also known as Margazhi month as per the Tamil calendar. Temple follows the Vaishnava tradition in offering pujas to Lord Venkateswara Swamy and Goda devi. During this period, Andal Tiruppavai (pasurams) will be chanted by priests and Goshti group every day during this month.



Sandal wood (Chandanam) alankaram by our S.V. Temple Priests

# Sri Sri Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamy Visit to S.V. Temple on December 3, 2017



Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamy has been traveling all around USA for the last one month to raise funds for the completion of his project (Phase 1) "Statue of Equality". He visited S.V. Temple on December 3rd (Sunday) at 5.30 pm. Swami ji was received by our temple priests, Founders and Goshti group with Poorna Kumbham and garland. Swami ji visited the temple and took blessings from our Venkateswara swamy after Harati. S.V. Temple school kids sang few bhajans after the welcome. Introduction of Swami ji's project was done by temple president Mr. Madhu Reddy. The project was well-explained by Swami ji during this visit along with a video presentation of all the plans related to it. Recently, this project has received so many acknowledgements nationally and internationally by well-known religious leaders, businessmen and political leaders including India's Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi. During this visit, Swami ji gave a discourse about the importance of "Statue of Equality" and the

relationship of acharya Ramanuja with Venkateswara Swamy (Teacher and Student). The project is still under the construction in Hyderabad (Telangana) near Airport area and scheduled to be inaugurated on April 1st, 2018 by India's prime minister Sri Narendra Modi. This visit was well-received by our Minneapolis Indian community and about 450 + devotees visited the temple on that day to receive blessings of Swami ji and participated in our very successful fund-raising event. S.V. Temple was able to raise \$34,000 of cash/checks, 38 grams of gold, and \$50,000 or 1 kg. gold in pledges. All





these funds were donated directly to Swamy ji for the completion of this noble project, “Statue of Equality”. We sincerely thank S.V. Temple Founders Dr. Jyothsna Reddy & Sri Madhu Reddy, our temple Goshti group, temple volunteers, donors and devotees who supported this event and help make it successful.

## S.V. Temple School Updates

by Gopal Udipti, S.V. Temple School Principal

The Temple School is run on the premises of the Sri Venkateshwara Temple and aims to enlighten the students about their great culture, languages and heritage. The 2017-2018 academic year started off in an unprecedented manner with the enrollment reaching 99 class registrations! Due to the high number of enrollments in Languages and Music, additional sections were added



to ensure optimum student-teacher ratios and instructional attention for the students. Also, classrooms in the Temple lower level were made available to accommodate the larger class sizes and newer sections. The updated list of classes being offered at the Temple is presented in the table below:

The S.V. Temple expresses sincere appreciation towards the existing teachers and the new team members who have joined the team. All the teachers are providing excellent instruction to the students in their respective classes. The Temple School is always looking for additional Teachers to join the team and serve the community.

Class
Hindi Level I—Two Sections
Hindi Level II
Hindi Level III
Telugu Level I
Telugu Level II
Carnatic Music I
Carnatic Music II
Shloka Recitation
Culture

The school timings and the calendar have remained the same. Bhagwat-Gita discussion sessions for adults have been moved to 10:15 am to allow parents to attend the class immediately after the prayer assembly. The assembly prayer has been updated to include spiritually beneficial shlokas such as the Gayathri Mantra to provide students the knowledge and benefit of reciting them.

The remaining months of 2017-2018 academic year are on course to be as exciting and fulfilling as the previous ones owing to the enthusiasm and energy from the teachers and students. Registration for the 2018-2019 academic year will open in June 2018.

# Upcoming Events and Festivals

Date	Event
January 1	New Year Day Celebrations
January 12	(Moolavar) Andal Abhishekam
January 13	Bhogi, Andal Kalayanam
January 14	Sankranthi/Pongal
January 15	Kanuma
January 23	Ratha Sapthami
January 27	Bheeshma Ekadasi
February 13	Mahasivarathri
March 1	Holi/Vasantothsavam
March 18	Ugadi/Gudi Padwa/Cheti Chand (Hemalamba)
March 25	Sri Rama Navami
March 31	Sri Hanumat Jayanthi
April 14	Tamil New Year/ Vishu/Baisakhi/Shani Trayodashi
April 18	Akshaya Tritiya
April 21	Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi
April 28	Sri Nrisimha Jayanthi & Shani Trayodashi
April 29	Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya Jayanthi
May 10	Hanumat Jayanthi
TBD in April	Natya Manjari
TBD in May	Naadotsavam
June 3	SVT School Annual Day
August 16 - 19	Temple Brahmotsavams



# S.V. Temple Priests - New Priest Introduction

Our New Priest Sri RamaKishore Molugu garu joined S.V. Temple's Archaka team at the end of July 2017 during our Brahmotsavam time. He got his Pancharatna Agama training from Guru Sri Panchangam Venkata Ranga Acharyulu (Pancharatna Agama Panditulu at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh).



Kishore swamy started working as a priest in 2000. He worked as the main priest at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple and Sri Ashtalakshmi Sametha Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple in Rajahmundry. He also worked at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Uppal (Telangana) and in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Most recently, before joining our temple, he worked briefly at SV Lotus Temple, Fairfax, Virginia.

Kishore Swamy has performed various alamkarams for Gods and Goddesses during Brahmotsavam and Navarathri Festival times in the temples. He also prepares all kinds of Prasadam, snacks, sweets and varieties of food items. He is an expert in reading Horoscopes and in doing Kuja Dosha Nivarana Pujas and Navagraha Shanti Pujas. He also is well trained in south Indian style Vaishnava and other weddings.

He speaks Telugu and Hindi languages fluently and manages in Tamil and English languages. We wish him good luck and would like to encourage our devotees to meet & get to know him during your next visit our temple.

## Comments and Articles

We are inviting all readers, devotees, followers, students, teachers, and writers, etc. to submit devotional stories, essays, and experiences to S.V. Temple Newsletter editor. After newsletter committee's review, selected articles will be published in the upcoming issues of the newsletter. Editor of the newsletter will have all the rights to modify the articles to address language, grammar, and space-constraint issues. Since the audience of this newsletter comes from various age groups, we request you to send articles that everybody can understand. Make sure that your articles are helpful in educating the readers in devotional field and encourage them to follow dharma. Also, you can send comments on the published articles and ideas for new articles that you want to see. You can email your articles to [news@svtemplemn.org](mailto:news@svtemplemn.org).



Om Namo Venkatesaaya  
Kaamitaartha Pradhaayine  
Pranatah Klesa Naasaaya  
Govindaaya Namo Namaha

I pay my obeisance to You, O' Lord Venkateswara – the Bestower of success and prosperity; and offer my salutations to You, O' Govinda – the Destroyer of evils and all sufferings.

### **Thanks from S.V. Temple:**

S.V. Temple earnestly thank all the generous donors, wonderful devotees, learned priests and dedicated volunteers that help to make our Temple a marvelous place of worship.

### **Temple Hours:**

The temple is open weekdays from 9:30 AM to Noon & 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM  
Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM  
Please visit [www.svtemplemn.org](http://www.svtemplemn.org) for updates and details.