



The Singapore Dakshina Bharatha Brahma Sabha

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For circulation to members only

Newsletter

1. HINDU / TAMIL CALENDAR VISHU VARUSHAM
CHITTIRAI / MESA MAASYA

<u>CHITTIRAI</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
1	SATURDAY	14-04-2001	VISHU VARUSHA PIRAPPU
6	THURSDAY	19-04-2001	EKADASI
8	SATURDAY	21-04-2001	PRADOSHAM / MASA SIVARATHIRI
10	MONDAY	23-04-2001	SARVA AMAVASYA / AMA SOMA PRADAKSHINAM
12	WEDNESDAY	25-04-2001	KARTHIGAI VRATAM
13	THURSDAY	26-04-2001	AKSHAYA THRITHEEYA / BALARAMA JAYANTHI
14	FRIDAY	27-04-2001	CHATURTHI VRATAM
15	SATURDAY	28-04-2001	SRI SANKARA JAYANTHI
16	SUNDAY	29-04-2001	SASHTI VRATAM
17	MONDAY	30-04-2001	SRI THYAGA BRAHMA JANANAM
20	THURSDAY	03-05-2001	SARVA EKADASI
23	SUNDAY	06-05-2001	NARASIMHA JAYANTHI / CHITRA GUPTA POOJA
24	MONDAY	07-05-2001	CHITRA POURNAMI (VISHAKAM NAKSHATHIRAM)
28	FRIDAY	11-05-2001	SANKATAHARA CHATURTHI
31	MONDAY	14-05-2001	SRAVANA VRATAM

TAMIL NEW YEAR'S DAY:

The new year day commences on the first day of Chittirai, which is considered very auspicious as the Sun enters the sign Aries of the Zodiac. Usually in the village, people desire to know the position of the various Planets, especially with reference to sun and its effect on men.. Thus arose the custom of reading Panchangam on this day. Panchangam means five limbs viz the **thithi**, the **varam**, the **nakshatram**, the **yogam**, and the **karanam**. Those who desire prosperity pays attention to the **thithi**, one desirous of long life understands about varam (the days of the week), for expiating sin, **nakshatram** is resorted to, the **yogam** for obtaining immunity from diseases and **karanam** is to secure success in all undertakings. Thus, a proper understanding of the planetary influence is essential for controlling them and hence the proverb "wise men rule the stars". (Mini Panchangam is enclosed)

VEDA & SLOKA CLASSES
COME & JOIN OUR VEDA & SLOKA CLASSES

For the benefit of members we are conducting Veda & Sloka classes at the following members houses at various districts:

DAYS	TIME	RESIDENCE OF	TOPIC
Wednesdays	7.30 – 8.30pm	Sri D. Ramesh Blk 112 #05-146 Bukit Batok West Ave 6 Tel: 565-4506	Devi Mahadmiyam Veda class
Wednesdays	7.30 – 8.30pm	Sri R Venkateshwaran Blk 125 #09-405 Pasir Ris Street 11 Tel: 583-3544	Veda Class
Thursdays	7.30 – 8.30pm	Sri V.S. Gururajan Blk 572 #04-3375 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 Tel: 454-0607	Veda class
Tuesdays/ Saturdays	7.30 – 8.30pm 3.30 – 5.00pm	Sri Muralidhara Sastrigal Blk 668 #09-04 Chander Road Tel: 297-8134	Veda class
2 nd & 4 th Sundays	4 – 5.30 pm	Sri G Srinivasan 16 Jalan Tamban Tel: 346-1850	Sloka class

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIMING OF CLASSES ON 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS

2. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following ordinary members to the Sabha.

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| <p>1 Sri Mohan R. (OM-48)
Blk 337 #06-28
Bukit Batok Street 34
Singapore 650337
Tel: 899-4708</p> | <p>2 Sri Ganesh Swaminathan (OG-45)
Blk 7 #03-167
Normanton Park
Singapore 119004
Tel: 272-3812</p> |
| <p>3 Sri Prasad M J (OP-20)
Blk 101 #23-02
Ah Hood Road
Singapore 320101
Tel: 353-1454</p> | <p>4 Sri Ramesh Krishnamoorthy (OR-173)
Blk 83 #09-253
Macpherson Lane
Singapore 360083
Tel: 744-0733</p> |
| <p>5 Sri Srivathsan D (OS-236)
14 Amber Gardens
#24-01 Amber Park
Singapore 439960
Tel: 348-2301</p> | |

3. CHANGE OF ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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|--|---|
| 1. Sri Seetharaman R (OS-105)
Blk 616 #04-265
Choa Chu Kang Street 62
Singapore 680616 | 2. Dr Krishnan C.S. (LK-03)
140 Palm Beach Drive
Patterson Lakes
Melbourne 3197, Australia |
| 3. Sri Krishnamoorthi Rajan (OR-81)
Blk 120 #04-54
Geylang East Central
Singapore 380120
Tel: 547-0794 | 4. Sri Sriraman R (OS-171)
Blk 257 #11-431
Jurong East Street 24
Singapore 600257
Tel: 897-3252 |
| 5. Sri Abhayakumar P (OA-29)
1 Ridgewood Close
#08-01 Liho Liho Rise
Singapore 276692
Tel: 875-1549 | Sri Venkataram S (OV-85)
Blk 260 #05-541
Jurong East St 24
Singapore 600260
Tel: 896-4249 |

4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4.1 POURNAMI POOJA - SATURDAY 7th APRIL 2001

Pournami Pooja (Hastha Nakshathiram) on **Saturday 7th April 2001** is being hosted by **Sri V Krishnakumar (OK-63)** at his residence **#02-03 The Waterside, 11 Tanjong Rhu Road, Tel:348-0512**. Programme is as follows:

7.00 pm	Veda Parayanam / Lalitha Sahasranama Archanai
8.00 pm	Deeparadhanai / Prasadam distribution

This month Pournami falls on **Hastha Nakshathiram**. Interested persons for sankalpam may contact Sri P S Ramanathan **Tel: 442-7841**.

Next Pournami Pooja on **Monday 7th May 2001** will be hosted by **Sri A K Varadharajan (OV-19)** and falls on **Visakha Nakshathiram**.

4.3 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 25th March 2001 the following members were re-elected to the Management Committee for the year 2001-2002

Sri K H K Rangan	LR-04	President
Sri G Srinivasan	LS-04	Vice-President
Sri P S Somasekharan	LS-08	Secretary
Sri V Hariharan	OH-01	Asst.Secretary
Sri V S Gururajan	OG-23	Treasurer
Sri S Pattabiraman	OP-15	Asst.Treasurer
Sri P S Ramanathan	LR-27	Committee Member
Sri R Venkataramani	LV-06	"
Sri R Venkateshwaran	OV-71	"
Sri S Ramanathan	OR-69	"
Sri D Ramesh	OR-123	"

The following members were elected as Honorary Auditors

Sri N Sankar	LS-24
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The Trustees of the Sabha are:

Sri D Natarajan	LN-01
Sri E Sukumar	LS-06
Sri R Shankar	LS-05

5. APPEAL

As mentioned in our last circular Sabha will present **Kalai Kadampam 2001 on Friday ,13th April 2001 at 7.30 pm at DBS Auditorium**. This year's programme will be "Light Music" by the famous playback singer 'Srinivas', Drama by ENM Creations and a Dance piece by Kum.Shyla Ganesan.

It has been decided to dedicate the net proceeds to the "GUJARAT EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND". **Our target is at least \$10,000/- Sad to say the response so far has been very discouraging. We therefore once again appeal to all members to buy at least one ticket priced at \$20/-**. Many of you might already have contributed but we are confident that you will still contribute and buy a ticket to enable Sabha to donate a decent sum to the Fund.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT

A Bharatanatyam performance titled "Glorious Traditions" by Sow.Lavanya daughter of Sri V Raghraman (OR-104) will be held at the Jubilee Hall, Raffles Hotel on Saturday 28th April 2001 at 7.30 pm.

A Vocal Music Concert by Mrs. R Vanathy, daughter and disciple of Dr S Ramanathan will be held at the Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum on Sunday 22nd April 2001 at 3.00 pm.

All members are invited to attend both the programmes.

7. MARRIAGE BUREAU

Alliance sought from suitable grooms for Tamil Iyengar girl, 28 yrs, Kaushika Gothram, Ph.D in Tissue Culture, working as a lecturer in Madurai. For further details please contact Mr. R.P. Sarathy at 91-452-674938 email kprpsarathy@eth.net or Mr.Srikanth at 9664-2615 (S'pore).

Alliance sought for Iyer girl, aged 23 yrs, Srivatsa Gothram, Ayilyam Nakshathiram, appearing for C.A. Final. For further details please contact Mr.D. Srivatsan at 348-2301 or email dmsjk@singnet.com.sg

Suitable alliance sought from Kerala Iyer boys age 26-28 for Kaundinya Gothram, Thiruvonam Nakshathiram girl aged 22 year 5' 3", B.A. (Pol), Diploma in Computers. Currently working in Bank in Bombay. Only daughter. For further details please contact Shiva at Tel: 553-0049 or email kalpa@singnet.com.sg. Or dbeaswar@yahoo.co.in

8. CONDOLENCE

Mrs. Saroja Gurumurthy mother of Sri. G Natesh (ON-23) passed away on 20th March 2001 in India.

Our deepest condolence to the bereaved family.

P.S. Somasekharan
Hon. Secretary

EXCERPTS FROM THE HINDU – 4TH JAN 2001

“MUSINGS

NO CAUSE FOR ANXIETY

The rumours of the *mangalasutra* of Goddess Padmavathy at Tiruchanoor slipping from the idol's neck caused consternation and fear in a large part of the community, particularly among women. For Hindu the *mangalasutra* is the one single symbol of their wedded state, and any harm or danger to it is seen as an evil portent.

On Monday, January 29, when the news of what was supposed to have happened in Tiruchanoor broke, hundreds of women rushed to get yellow threads to tie around their necks, in a feverish attempt to ward off ill effects. Those who had actually got married on that day, which was a *subha muhurtham* (auspicious day) were even more upset at the incident, which the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam dismissed as totally untrue.

But, even assuming it were true, the knee-jerk reaction among the general public threw aside all rational explanations which might see the happening as a natural result of carelessness or just aging of the thread that bore the goddess's *mangalasutra*.

In this context, it is interesting to learn that the tying of the *mangalasutra*, which means auspicious thread or cord, is not a religious practice but a social one, and that too of recent origin.

It is surprising but true that this practice was not in vogue in ancient days of Hindu weddings. The *Gya-Sutras* do not mention the *mangalsutra* but only a *kankana bandhana*. The *kankana bandhana* or Protective cord was worn by the couple to protect them from all kinds of pollution before the *samvesana* (consummation). It appears the *mangalasutra* evolved more as a popular practice than as a scriptural observance.

The other explanation for the word *thaali*, which is commonly used in South India, is that in ancient days The leaves of the palm tree call *thaala uriksha* were strung together and used in the place of a cord or Thread.

In Hindu weddings in South India, at the precise moment of the tying of *thaali*, the *purohits* call for the *getti melam*. *Getti melam* means resounding percussion. This is done to submerge any discordant sound like a sneeze, cry or wail, which could distract the couple.

In North India weddings, the strains of the *shehnai* sound at this moment, accompanying the vedic chants of the priests.

The *mantra* that the groom utters while tying the *mangalasutra*, prays for 100 years of life as a *sumangali* for the bride. *Sumangali* means a woman who dons the auspicious thread. In other words, it prays for a 100 years more for the groom!

The *mangalasutra* smeared with the auspicious vermilion varies in form and style from region to region and sect to sect.

Here is a story associated with the *mangalsutra*: A woman whose husband was very ill, prayed to Lord Srinivasa (the same Lord Srinivasa who is the consort of Padmavathy!) that if his life was saved, she

would donate her *mangalasutra* to the temple *hundi*. He survived and when the moment came for her to make good the promise, she wavered. The Lord commanded her to fulfil the vow. She did it, in tears. The moment she did it, another *mangalasutra* appeared on her neck!

This parable only tells the confused mind not to worry over the material trappings that might symbolize a union, but rather concentrate on the spiritual significance attached to the married state. It also speaks of the benefit of total surrender to the Lord.

At a simple place then, there is no cause for anxiety over what supposedly happened in Tiruchanoor because the *mangalasutra* is a social rather than a religious practice. In the cosmic dimension, it is wise to remember that mortal fears should not be superimposed on what is considered immortal or divine. Let us remember and take heart from the qualities of the Lord as enunciated in the Vishnu Sahasranama ---- He controls every leaf that falls in this world, but is not tied down by its conventions because of his transcendence. He is the consort of Lakshmi, yet not bound to anyone or anything. He has a form yet is formless. It is in this endless series of apparent paradoxes that the true meaning of divinity lies.”