

Dakshinapatha Varthavani (Monthly Bulletin)

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SRI KRISHNASHTAMI (August 16)

The Puranas say that Lord Krishna was born in the Rohini star at the stroke of midnight on the Ashtami thithi of the dark fortnight in the Sraavana month of the Sreemukha during the Dwaapara Yuga. Lord Krishna was the complete incarnation of Lord Vishnu and hence he is called Krishna Paramaathma. Krishnashtami festival is the birthday of our beloved Lord Krishna. The Lord should be worshipped early in the morning on this auspicious day with all sixteen rites.



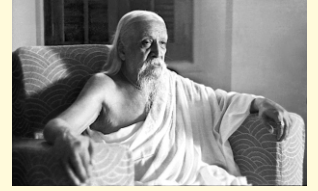
The Dharma Sastras say that one should read about the Lord's divine deeds after the worshipping. It is not enough if we just worship the Lord. We should also try to acquire at least a few of His good qualities on the day such as getting rid of selfishness, envy and jealousy in everything. We should aim to imbibe values of human life.

Lord Krishna preached his devotees through his divine deeds. We can find purpose and hidden meaning in all his deeds. He conducted himself above love and hatred in saving dharma. All our sins will be removed if we worship the Lord on this day. Skanda Purana says that one can attain dharma, artha, kaama and moksha by understanding the Lord's philosophy. Bhavishyottara Purana says that all our desires will be fulfilled if we pour water on the Moon idol made of gold or silver placing it in a gold vessel on this auspicious day.

The Maharshis say that all our sins will be removed if we worship Bheeshma Pitamaha on this day. The childless will be blessed with an issue if they worship Bala Gopala with Sanatana Gopala mantra. Those aspiring to get married and those who are unsuccessful in their efforts to get married will soon get married if they read the Rukmini Kalyanam on this day. Lastly, if we understand and practice the Lord's teaching "do your duty sincerely and leave the result to me", we can all live happily.

SRI AUROBINDO JAYANTHI (August 15)

Sri Aurobindo was born on August 15, 1872 in Calcutta (now Kolkata). When he was seven years old, he went to England to study. He studied in London's St. Paul's School and Cambridge King's College. On returning to India in 1893, he served the Maharaja of the Princely State of Baroda as Professor at Baroda College for 13 years. He also joined a revolutionary organization during that period. He played an important role in the secret efforts to revolt against the British government.



In 1906, immediately after the Partition of Bengal, Sri Aurobindo left his job and returned to Calcutta and became one of the prominent leaders of the nationalist movement. He was the first political leader to publicly advocate complete freedom for India in his journal Bande Mataram. He faced trial once for conspiracy and twice for treason but was let off for lack of evidence.

Sri Aurobindo started practicing yoga in 1905 in Baroda. He received his first spiritual awakening in 1908. He left politics in 1910 and went to Pondicherry for fulfilment of his his spiritual growth. During his forty years at Pondicherry, he developed a new way of spiritual development called Samagra Yoga. It aims not only to enlighten man but also transform his nature. In 1962, he founded the Aurobindo Asrama along with the Mother, his spiritual guide. The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga, and Savitri are some the most famous books written by him. Sri Aurobindo left his earthly body on December 05, 1950.

SRI NARAYANA GURU JAYANTHI (August 20)

Sri Narayana Guru was one of the saintly figures who gave a special direction to social change. He was the saviour of the downtrodden and the suffering. He was a saintly person, who preached the message of "one society, one Dharma and one God".



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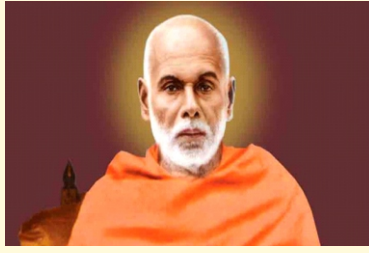
Dakshinapatha Studies Bulletin

ఈ పత్రిక లో దక్షిణాపథ యొక్క ఆర్థిక సామాజిక సాంస్కృతిక రాజకీయ చరిత్ర పై మీ వ్యాసాలు ప్రచురించాలంటే సంప్రదించండి

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Narayana Guru was born to Madanasaan and Kutti Amma of the Eelava caste on August 20 1854 in Kerala's Champajandi village. Everyone called him Naanu. He studied Sanskrit under the guidance of Kunjan Pillai, known as Chatthaambi Swamy. He learnt yoga from Tikkaad Ayyabbu. He did penance for a long period in the Aruvipuram forest. He realised the truth that the real happiness lays in helping others. He set up his asram there and started serving the girijans and harijans who were suffering. When he was travelling in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, he saw the assault of the Christian Fathers on the Hindu society and decided to oppose it. The devils of caste and untouchability were haunting the Kerala society in those days. This is the reason Swamy Vivekananda called Kerala a mental asylum. Narayana Guru resolved to end this devilish practice. He built a Siva temple in his asrama. "All are equal before God. "The Lord is above the feeling of high and low" preached Narayana Guru. He built many temples and allowed harijan worship in them. Those temples became places of Hindu movements. Thus, Narayana Guru gave a new direction to the society. He led a movement to remove the superstitions of the people. He could not tolerate cruelty on the animals and was successful in stopping animal sacrifice. He taught the importance of cleanliness and a simple life. He brought back many people who had converted to Christianity back to the Hinduism.



He started the Advaita Asram in Aluwai in 1913. There were programs with the message of "om sahodaryam sarvam" and the message of equality. "Sarvatra Bandhutva" gatherings were held from Mangalore to Simhala coast. Great people like Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi also visited Narayana Guru. He wrote a book called "Jaathi Meemamsa". Having given the message that "the nation will develop only when every citizen takes part in the movement." Narayana Guru passed away on September 20, 1928.

(Courtesy VSK, Andhra Pradesh)

CHITRADURG FORT

Chitradurg Fort is in the Chitradurg district of Karnataka. It is built on huge rock pillars on a hill. Locals also call it Chittal Durga. It is a secure fort built in the 10th century and was in use till the 18th century. Its chief builders were Chalukyas, Hoyasalas and the Vijayanagara empire. After the fall of Vijayanagara empire, its maintenance continued for 250 years under the Nayak dynasty.

There are 18 temples in the upper part of the fort. A big temple is dedicated to Devi in the lower part of the fort. The most curious of this group is the Hidimbeswara temple dedicated to Hidimbi, who was the wife of Bheema in the Mahabharata. Other temples in this group are dedicated to Gopala Krishna, Nandi, Subbaraya, Ekanathamma, Hanuman, Phalneswar and Siddheswar.



There are 18 temples and some mosques inside the fort. These mosques were built by Hyder Ali on by destroying the temples.

The fort has large facilities to store and supply rain water so as to be independent of outside sources. Due to this, the fort was able to sustain for a such a long period.

Among the famous legends associated with this fort, there is the story of Onake Obavva who fought single-handedly for an entry into the fort.

Hyder Ali captured her after sometime but Obavva's heroism survived the passage of time as a symbol of Hindu revolt against tyranny and plunder of the Islamist barbarism.

BHARAVUNIPALLI MASSACRE (August 27)

During the Nizam rule, Muslim fundamentalists and razakars used to plunder villages, collect taxes and set the houses to fire.

A similar incident happened in the Bhairavunipalli village of the then Nalgonda district, which is now in Siddipet district. The people of Bhairavunipalli village resisted the razakars under the leadership of Immadi Rajireddy and proved their self-respect. To quote his words "razakars became majakars and plundered villages recklessly. They used to demand donations and set fire to villages which did not obey." The razakars sent a notice to Bhairavunipalli village demanding a donation of Rs 1200. The entire village was surrounded by a fort with a tower. This was of a great protection to the village. Villagers used to guard the fort round the clock with the help of guns and gunpowder on the fort. On seeing razakars, they used to sound the alarm and villagers used to gather. Six to seven villages nearby used to follow this method. Fifty people used to go around with sticks and axes telling people not to fear. Sri Viswanath Bhatt Joshi used to cycle around these villages serving as a wireless messenger of the villagers and the farmers.

After sometime the Riyasat Prime Minister of Hyderabad, Layaq Ali came on a tour of Cheryala. Villagers along with Immadi Rajireddy complained about the razakar attacks. He just told that all people should live with friendship and left. The people felt they had then no option left and started collecting arms for self defence. They placed the cannon



obtained from Vallapatla Ramachandra Rao Deshmukh on the fort. Sufficient gunpower used to be ready. The village blacksmith started making cannon balls. Bekkal, Dhulimitta, Torasal, Jalapally, Kondapur, Kutigal, Solipur and Ankusipur villages made similar arrangements for their self-defense. As Bhairavunipalli village used to oversee all these activities, razakars concentrated on it. Even the Deputy Collector of Bhuvanagiri, Hashim considered them rebels and attacked. He took it as a challenge and shot dead 40 innocent villagers in Kodakandla. He then attacked the fort. But when villagers resisted, his force could not withstand the cannon fire.

Exchange of fire was continued from 10 am till evening. Hashim could not enter the village even after a lot of effort. The Hashim gang could kill only 4 unarmed people in this fight. When his team lost more than 15 men, he had no option but to carry them on a cart. Having been defeated, he vowed that he would destroy the village. The people of Bhairavunipalli village were emboldened due to their successful resistance. They got the confidence that they could face the Razakar gangs. But they did not pay attention to the question of whether they could face the Nizam's army. Though they received news of the army surrounding them, they did not think to leave the village and escape into the forests. As a result, Bhairavunipalli Village could not escape from being destroyed completely.

When the villagers were returning home in the evening, it was a peaceful atmosphere all round. The rice fields were swaying in the wind. The fort tower stood before the village having withstood the test of time. The cowherds were returning home merrily with cows and calves. The women were drawing water from the wells and talking. Till evening no one imagined the catastrophe that was going to occur next morning. The unity of the villagers was the virtual fortress for them. The nearby villages took their bravery and determination as inspiration. Though the atrocities of razakars crossed all limits in other villages, they could not touch this village. Looting, murder, setting fire, and molestations became routine news in Nawapet, Nelatola, Yashwantpur, Komalla,

Chintakunta and Neeligonda villages. But the people of Bhairavunipalli village slept that night thinking that they were safe from these dangers. The Nizam's army reached Vallapatla via Mustyala to capture Bhairavunipalli village. The army was diverted and told to attack Bhairavunipalli village from another side. When the army was ready to attack, at 4.30 in the morning, a villager who went out to attend nature call was shocked to see it. He was none other than Viswanath Bhatt Joshi. The army was ordered to shoot him. But an officer MN Reddy who was present proved his innocence and saved him. But the soldiers caught Ulyangala Venkatanarasaiah. However, he escaped. Then the alarm on the fort was sounded. Firing started and all the nearby villages could hear it. Fire started in several villages and houses were burnt down.

It was daylight by that time. Two youth, Magutam Ramayya and Bheemayya, who were watching from the tower were hit by bullets and fell dead. All the important security material was destroyed. The villagers understood the situation and showed the white flag from the tower. The Nizam and his army behaved like wild animals and shot every villager they saw. Viswanath Bhatt Joshi and others lost their lives. Many villagers including a mother who had just delivered perished. The infant was found alive later. The village lost the revolutionary spirit completely. The Nizam's government and administration resorted to savage attacks. They destroyed the entire village and captured every young man. Women were molested. They plundered and set fire to hay stacks. They were not different from religious bigots and murderers. 92 villagers were brought to the village boundary and used as targets to test the officers' shooting ability with .303 rifles. Making the villagers stand in four rows one behind the other they started shooting. All the villagers were mercilessly killed as sport. The razakar army chief Qasim Rizvi played the major part in this massacre. Later the village Harijan were asked to throw the 90 bodies into the village well.

DHARMAPURI LAKSHMI NARASIMHA TEMPLE

Dharmapuri is one of the most sacred places and prime pilgrim place in Telangana. Lord Lakshmi Narasimha is the deity of the temple in the form of Yoga Narasimha and Ugra Narasimha. This pilgrim place, located 65km from Karimnagar in North Telangana is 27km from Jagityala on the Godavari coast. The Godavari here flows south in this temple town. Having a lot of historical importance, this place is known for many ancient traditions and customs, religious studies and astrology.

Once upon a time the king Dharmavarma did penance for Lord Narasimha and the Lord thereupon appeared as Yoga Narasimha along with goddess Lakshmi in this place. The place is famous for ceremonies for forefathers and Kuja Dosha nivarana. Those suffering due to Kuja Dosha will be relieved if they perform the

Lord's Kalyana here. Usually, problems like Kuja dosha are resolved before marriage but some people marry not knowing that they have this problem. Worshipping at Dharmapuri is the solution for such problems encountered after marriage. Couples who take the holy bath in the Godavari and worship the Lord can get rid of every problem. A local poet Kakutsam Seshappa wrote Sri Narasimha Satakam.



Dharmapuri's greatness is described in the Skanda Purana. Once upon a time there was a king called Bali Varma. As his son was born with a short life, he performed the dharma yaga and saved his son. Dharma Varma made this place his capital and ruled the Andhra kingdom. Lord Brahma and other gods instructed Dharma Varma to do penance on Lord Narasimha. The Lord appeared here as a result. His Kalyana is performed in the month of Phalguna. It is the place where the righteous man worshipped the Lord in the 3 births — Dharma Sarma, Dharma Varma, Dharma Dasu. It is here that Satyavati Devi took a holy bath in the Godavari and saved her husband, Dharmangada, from the serpent form. The sand pillar built by the holy lady to prove her pativratiyam still stands here. Brahma and other gods, maharshis, and saints worshipped the Lord here and attained greatness. The poetic satakam starts with Bhushana Vikasa Dharmapura Nivasa, Dushta Samhara, Narasimha, Duritadura.

This place, having a long history and tradition is famous for Indian traditional studies and astrology. It is learnt that it was at its peak of its glory during the time of Satavahanas, Badami Chalukyas, and Kalyani Chalukyas and even during the Nizam's time. History tells us that Allauddin Khilji destroyed the temple in 1309.

GANAPATHI NAVARATRI (from August 27)

The people of India are ready to celebrate Ganesh navaratri. Arrangements on a big scale are being made all over the country. Ganesh navaratri is especially celebrated in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Hindus gather and collectively celebrate the navaratri.

On the first day of Vinayaka Chaviti, people welcome the Lord by keeping his idol in their homes. Lord Vinayaka is worshipped with a lot of devotion, decorating him with flowers and nine types of leaves. Worshipping thus for nine days, Lord Vinayaka is then sent off through nimajjanam.

For those who keep Lord Vinayaka at home, the question of how many days to worship is to be decided by themselves. Lord Vinayaka is installed at several places and worshipped for nine days. There are a

number of stories behind the nine-day celebration of Vinayaka worship.



Though there are many stories behind Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations, these celebrations are regarded as a symbol of patriotism and national unity. We are aware that Bala Gangadhar Tilak started this festival to unite the people, leaving behind their caste differences. It can be concluded that Vinayaka Chavithi is celebrated by all irrespective of age and wealth.

IMPORTANT DAYS IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2025

1. Varalakshmi Vratam, August 08
2. Sravana Pournami, Raksha Bandhan, August 09
3. Independence Day, August 15
4. Harthalika Vratam, Onam, August 26
5. Radhashtami, August 31

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