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AYYAPPAVANI

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SABARIMALA AYYAPPA SEVA SAMAJAM (SASS)
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SHRADHANJALI - SHRI. V. P. MANMADHAN NAIR

Senior Guruswamy and Founder Trustee of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam, Shri. V. P. Manmadhan Nair attained moksham at the divine feet of Swami Ayyappa on 22nd April, 2023. Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam pays tribute and express its deepest condolences on the demise of Shri. V. P. Manmadhan Nair.



Shri. V. P. Manmadhan Nair, residing at Pathanamthitta, aged 78 years, was retired from service as DYSP. He was suffering from serious health issues for a long time, and was in bed-rest at his house, supported by his wife. He breathed his last at about 4.00 pm on 22nd April 2023. He is survived by his wife Smt. Suseela Devi, son Shri. M. Kannan and daughter Smt. M. Rani. The funeral was held on 25th April at his house after the arrival of his daughter from USA.

He was an ardent Ayyappa devotee and had served many times at Sannidhanam during his service also. He was one of the three founder trustees of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam, registered in 2008 and had served as the National Treasurer of the organization till 2020. He had served as the President of Viswa Hindu Parishad, Pathanamthitta District Committee. He was associated with many religious and spiritual organisations.

Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam National Chairman Shri. T. B. Shekhar, General Secretary Shri. Erode Rajan, Kerala State President Brahmashree Akkeeraman Kalidasan Bhattathiripad, and General Secretary Shri. Murali Kolangad in a joint statement noted that the departing of Shri. Manmadhan Nair is a great loss to the organization. Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam offers shradhanjali with prayers for salvation of the departed soul.

DR. N. GOPALAKRISHNAN

Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan breathed his last and attained moksham in the divine feet of Lord Vishnu. Eminent scientist, renowned spiritual lecturer and thinker Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan (68 years) passed away in a private hospital at Ernakulam, on April 27th at 9.00 pm following heart attack.



His works combining science and spirituality; talks,

texts, studies, YouTube discussions - everything was very interesting. He analyzed Indian philosophies and spirituality through the lens of modern science. He is the founder of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage. He had served as Scientist in CSIR for 25 years.

He has also served as visiting faculty member in educational Institutions & Universities in India and abroad. He had published about 50 research papers in national and international scientific journals. Also got six patents in the field of science and technology. Very active till the last moment in the spiritual field, his sudden demise has left a void in the Hindu community.

He has given guidance in the field of Hindu Philosophy through his spontaneous oratory, rational, style of discourses in various forums of the Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam. On March 6, 2021, his lecture - “Maha Yajna for Regaining Dharma Consciousness” on the online platform of SASS, was published in Ayyappavani also.

Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam pays homage to the departed soul with prayers for Moksham.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



The National Executive Committee meeting of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam (SASS) was held at Karnavathi (Ahmedabad) in Gujarath for two days on 08/09 April 2023. Delegates from 14 states, comprising National and State level Karyakarthas, attended the sessions and deliberated in detail relating to the organisational works of SASS. Shri. T B. Shekhar, Chairman hoisted the SASS flag and presided over the meetings. Shri. Erode Rajan, General Secretary coordinated the sessions.

Detailed discussions were held on the proposed concluding functions of Harivarasanam Centenary Celebrations in January 2024. Shri. S. Sethumadhavan and Shri. A. R. Mohanan, senior karyakarthas were present throughout the two days meet to give necessary guidances for the growth of the organization.

HARIVARASANAM CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS, GUJARATH





A grand public function was conducted at the Prakash High School Auditorium, Karnavathi on 09 April 2023 from 6.00 to 9.00 pm with packed audience. Shri. T B Sekhar, National Chairman Inaugurated the program with deepaprajwalanam, presided over the same. Poojya Swamini. Shamadamrita Prana, Head of Mata Amruthanandamayi Mutt, in her felicitation speech detailed the importance and relevance of Ayyappa dharma. Shri A. R. Mohan, Senior Karyakartha of SASS made key note address and explained the need of propagation of Ayyappa Dharma through the centenary celebrations of Harivarasanam. Other dignitaries present on the dais and made felicitation speeches are Shri.Erode Rajan, General Secretary, Shri. S. Sethumadhavan, Patron, and Shri. Bharat Bhai Patel, RSS Gujarath Pranth Sangachalak. Shri. C. V. Narayanan made welcome speech and Shri. C. Prabhakaran made opening remarks.

Sopana sangeetham, a semi classical group dance specially choreographed with Harivarasanam song, Mass chanting of this divine song were the specialities of the function. Shri. S. Lekshminarayanan - National Joint General Secretary, Shri. C. Prabhakaran - Secretary_ Organization and Shri. C. V. Narayanan - North Gujarath State President, along with their vibrant team well managed the whole programmes in professional manner.

GOLLAPUDI AYYAPPA TEMPLE (First Ayyappa Temple in Andhra Pradesh)



Poojya Swami Vimochanananda was instrumental in introducing Swami Ayyappa to people outside Kerala, including Telugu speaking people in Andhra Pradesh

(present Andhra & Telangana states). Swamy (also known as Krishnan Nair from Thiruvananthapuram) resigned his job in government service and dedicated entire life for propagation of Ayyappa Dharma. After undergoing tapas/ penance at Sabarimala Sannidhanam, as per the call of Swamy Ayyappa, he toured entire Bharath to promote Ayyappa dharma and pilgrimage to Sabarimala. As it is not easy for all pilgrims to visit Sabarimala regularly, he started new Ayyappa temples at Varanasi (Kasi), Haridwar, Sreerangam, Karupattur and Vijayawada.

In 1960, Vimochanananda Swamy repeatedly visited Temple of ‘Kanakadurga Amman” at Vijayawada. He stayed at the top of the hill - INDRA KEELADRI, preached specialties and relevance of Ayyappa Dharma and attracted many devotees. He took many devotees along with him from Vijayawada area to Sabarimala, making them observe strict Vrutham and reached Sabarimala, trekking through the traditional forest route.

In 1967, he decided to construct an Ayyappa Temple at the banks of ‘Krishna’ river in AP, creating a new organization - SriAyyappa Devasthanam Trust. It was also decided that the new temple should be similar to the Sabarimala Temple in all aspects. Though it was difficult to get sufficient land in a city like Vijayawada, a piece of land measuring 750 sq.yards was donated by Sri. Mutyala Ramabrahmam. However, as it was not sufficient, another fertile land of 2429 sq. yards at Gollapudi village, within Vijayawada Metropolitan Area was gifted to Swami by GELLIS family and registered on 22.02.1973. Paridhavi Nama Samvatsara, Magha Bahula Panchami, Swathi star, Mesha lagna, Thursday, 10.25 am, SANKHU STHAPANA (laying of foundation stone) was performed. Ayyappa idol in Panchaloha, similar to the idol at Sabarimala Temple, was sculptured by famous artisan Kumbakonam Krishna swamy. On the auspicious day on 21.05.1975, at 9.42 am the Ayyappa idol was consecrated by Poojya Swami Vimochanananda, in the presence of Brahmasree Krishnan Namboothiri, Palakkad.

This is the first Ayyappa temple in Andhra Pradesh, on Hyderabad NH, 7 km from Vijayawada. It became more popular, being adjacent to the famous ‘Kanakadurga Amman temple”, which is also famous after Tirupati. Nowadays, lacs of devotees in Andhra and Telangana visit this Ayyappa temple, like Sabarimala. All the rituals - Manthra and Tantra Sasthra - observed at Sabarimala are adhered to here also. Makara jyothi, Mandala pooja, Pankuni Uthram etc. are celebrated with devotion. Here also the priest is always from Kerala, present melsanthi is Brahmashree R.P. Hariharan Namboodiri. Deities of Ganapathi, Nagaraja, Malikappuram - Upadevathas and dwajasthambam/flag post are also available here as at Sabarimala.

Main donors are members of the Gelli family - Sarvasree Nageswara Rao, Rajagopalan, Mohan Rao, Narendra and Prasanna Anjaneyalu. The services of Shreeram Radhakrishna Murthy, ex-president is also commendable. The temple administration, Annadanam and other services are well managed by a team lead by Shree. Mohan Rao. Recently, Shri. Erode Rajan, National General Secretary of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam had visited this temple.

VEER SAVARKAR

(140th Birth Anniversary on 28 May 2023)



Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was one of the fervent freedom fighters of India. But, he was not just a freedom fighter. He was a bold warrior, good orator, prolific writer, a poet, a historian, a philosopher, a social worker, a cautious leader, a bard and a staunch supporter of freedom and much more.

He was born in Bhagur, district, Nashik on 28th May, 1883. He spent his youth in fighting against the British Raj. As an extremely brilliant, outspoken and confident school boy, he was famous amongst his teachers and friends. In 1897, the British Officer, Walter Charles Rand had resorted to tyranny and force while managing the epidemic of plague in Pune. The Chaphekar brothers - Damodar, Balkrishna and Vasudev and their associate Mahadev Ranade were hanged to death for assassinating Rand. But, Chaphekar's martyrdom impressed him and he decided the freedom of the country as his foremost aim.

After matriculation in 1901, he took admission in Fergusson College of Poona. He was, however, more interested in India's freedom from the British rule. The young college students in Poona were influenced by the speeches by the patriots and political leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bhopatkar and others. The newspapers in Poona were also actively participating in creating anti-British atmosphere in to society and appealing society's feelings of Nationalism. Savarkar was the uncrowned leader of the youth in this movement. During his High School days, he used to organize Shivaji Utsav and Ganesh Utsav, started by Tilak (whom Savarkar considered as his Guru) and used these occasions to put up plays on nationalistic themes. He started writing poems, essays, plays, etc to inspire people which he had developed as a passion. In May 1904, he established an International Revolution

Institute named ‘Abhinav Bharat’. His instigating patriotic speeches and activities irritated the British Government. As a result his BA degree was withdrawn by the Government. In June 1906, he left for London to become a Barrister. However, in London, he united and inflamed the Indian students in England against the British. He believed in use of arms against the foreign rulers and created a network of Indians in England, equipped with weapons. Although he passed Barrister Examination in England, yet because of his anti-government activities, he was denied the degree.

Savarkar greatly nurtured the idea of bringing out an authentic informative research work on the Great Indian Revolt, which the British termed as ‘Sepoy Mutiny’ of 1857. Since, India Office Library was the only place which contained all records and documents, he was determined to undertake a detailed study, but was cautious enough not to make his intentions known. Hence, after landing in London, he wrote a biography of Gieuseppe Mazzini, the great revolutionary and leader of modern Italy who inspired his countrymen to overthrow the Austrian Empire’s yoke. Written in Marathi, the manuscript was smuggled out with great care which was published by his brother Baba. The book created a wave, 2000 copies sold out, secretly read and reread. By the British estimates, each copy was read by at least 30 people. Some could reproduce page after page in their voice. His brother, however, was imprisoned for printing the book.

At London, Savarkar undertook the mission of his life, to create awareness about the first Armed National Revolt in India in 1857. Through friends, he could get access to all much needed first hand information to prove that earlier countrywide effort, was a sincere one on the part of the leaders, princes, soldiers and commoners to drive away the British. It was the first national effort towards getting political independence and he rightly called his book “The Indian War of Independence”.

He wrote in Marathi and could not get it printed in Europe. All efforts to publish in India also failed. Ultimately, the book was published in Holland by Madam Cama without a cover or name and successfully smuggled to India. The book reached the right people through secret sympathizers in Ireland, France, Russia, USA, Egypt, Germany and Brazil.

During his stay in London, Savarkar organized festivals like Rakshabandhan and Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti and tried to create awareness among Indian students but the activity was banned. The slogan Savarkar coined for Indian festivals became a unifying factor. “One Country, One God”; “One Caste, One Mind” ; “Brothers all of us - Without Difference, Without Doubt”. It was during this period that Savarkar helped to design the first Indian National Flag which Madam Bhikaji Cama unfurled at the World Socialist Conference at Stuttgart, Germany.

Ganesh Savarkar, elder brother of V.D. Savarkar, another staunch nationalist, had led an armed uprising against the Morley Minto reforms of 1909. He was also a staunch revolutionary imprisoned in Andaman Cellular jail. Savarkar was involved in the investigation by British police for allegedly planning the crime. Savarkar moved to Madame Cama's house in Paris to escape detention. Despite this, he was apprehended by police on March 13, 1910 and ordered to be sent back to India. In India, punishments were very harsh, tortuous and the greatest crime of the land was that of sedition which could easily send one to the gallows. He was sent on a ship 'Morena' which was to halt briefly at Marseilles in France.

Savarkar and his friends then attempted a brave escape which has since become a legendary story. Savarkar was to jump from a sailing ship, swim the sea waters and his friends were supposed to pick him there and lead to freedom. Savarkar was under a strict watch. There was no way out. With constable waiting outside, he entered the toilet, broke the window, wriggled out somehow and jumped into the ocean to swim his way to Marseilles port. Unfortunately the rescue party was late by a few minutes and the French Police on guard returned the prisoner to the British cops.

The arrest of Savarkar in Marseilles led the French government to protest the British. The case sparked a lot of debate and was widely discussed in the French press, and it was thought to include a fascinating international issue of asylum rights. When Savarkar arrived in Bombay, he was taken to the Yerwada Central Jail in Pune. The abetment to the murder of Nashik Collector Jackson was one of the charges levelled against Savarkar. The second was waging a plot against the King-Emperor in violation of Indian penal code 121-A. Following the two trials, Savarkar, who was 28 at the time, was found guilty and sentenced to 50 years in prison, and was transported to the notorious Cellular Jail (Kalapani) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on July 4, 1911.



Conditions in jail were inhuman as there were tortuous job of stone breaking, rope making and milling. Quite often the prisoners had to grind copra in the mill, tied like oxen. Each had to grind out 30 pounds of oil every day. Some died of sheer exhaustion and inhuman treatment of beating and whipping. Bad food, insanitary conditions, stone beds, loneliness, physical and mental torture and cold weather in winter used to take their toll.

The political prisoners were treated like hardened criminals. They had no access to ‘luxury’ like pen and paper. The poet in Savarkar was restless and uneasy. Finally, he found a nail and wrote (itched) his epic “Kamala” consisting thousands of lines on the plastered mud wall of his cell in the darkness. A Hindi journalist friend who was taught Marathi by Savarkar came to his cell when Savarkar was removed all of a sudden to another remote cell. The friend learnt the entire poem by heart and later when he was released, put it on paper and sent it to Savarkar’s relatives.

Savarkar filed mercy petitions 3-4 times to the British Government for release from the fatal jail, but was denied all times. After spending 16 years in Andamans, Savarkar was transferred to the Ratnagiri jail and then kept under a house arrest. He was reunited with his wife. (He had married before leaving for England, it was a long separation). A daughter and later a son were born. Savarkar was charged with co-conspiracy in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, but the court acquitted him due to a lack of evidence. After the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 1998, and again in 2014, with the Modi-led BJP government at the top, Savarkar resurfaced in public discourse.

Now, he was known for his book on 1857, (War of Independence) throughout the world. Two generations of Indians were influenced by his magnum opus. The second edition was printed in the USA by Savarkar’s revolutionary friends. Third edition was brought out by Bhagat Singh and its Punjabi and Urdu translations followed and were widely read in India and Far East. Even in the Indian National Army of Subhash Chandra Bose, Tamil translation of this work was read out like a Gita by the South Indian soldiers in Singapore.

Savarkar stood by what he wrote till his last, and never compromised with ‘adjustments,’ ‘reforms’ and peaceful solution which, according to him meant, nothing. He was very active throughout his life in forging unity among hindus, “ghar vapasi/shudhi kriya to bring back converted hindus and ignite the spirit of nationalism in the minds of lacs of people. He earnestly believed that Indian Independence was a reality not because of a few individuals, leaders or sections of society but it was possible because of the participation of the commoners who prayed to their family deities everyday and the youngsters who went to gallows to see their motherland free.

He was a living ‘Sthitaprajna’ as described in ‘Bhagavad Gita’ and used to live as per the philosophy of ‘Bhagavad Gita’. His house in Bhagur, 9 kilometers away from Nashik, is being preserved as National Monument by the Government of India. He breathed his last at the age of 83, on Saturday, 26th February, 1966. ‘Prayopveshana’, meaning fast till death, was what he observed and refused any intake of food. His death was like a true warrior. Death did not grab him; he approached death voluntarily with erect head.

Recently, CM of Maharashtra State has declared that the birth anniversary of Savarkar will be celebrated as “Swatan-

trya Veer Savarkar Din” and conduct a range of events to promote his ideology. Further, many patriots wish that Veer Savarkar should be respected by conferring the prestigious “Bharath Ratna’ award.

VAISHAKHAM - AKSHAYA TRITIYA

It is now the holy month of Vaishakh, which began on Friday, April 21. Vaishakh is the most suitable month for Vishnu Bhajan, with tenfold results!

Vaishakh month is the most special month for Lord Vishnu. It is also known as ‘Madhava month’ as it is dear to ‘Madhava’. It is believed that Lord Vishnu stays on earth with Goddess Lakshmi throughout this month. ‘Vaishaka Mahatmyam’ / importance of Vayshakh is described in detail in Skanda Purana and Padma Purana.

“Akshaya Tritiya” is the most famous of the holy days of Vaishakh month. This tithi is named Akshaya Tritiya as it is believed that all deeds done on this day become Akshaya (imperishable). Describing the importance of Akshaya Tritiya, the great Puranas – Matsya Purana, Skanda Purana, Bhavishya Purana, Padma Purana – repeatedly speak about the glory of dana/giving on Akshaya Tritiya and the results of Vishnu Puja performed on that day. Tritiya (Vaisakha Shukla Tritiya) which is the third tithi of Vaisakha month, Shuklapaksha is known as ‘Akshaya Tritiya’. The meaning of ‘Akshaya’ word in ‘Shabdakalpadruma’ is ‘Nasti Kshayo Yasya Sah’ or ‘the one without decay’. The Padma Purana states that Tritiya is among the tithis most favoured by Vishnu. ‘Tritiyachashtami Chaiva Navameecha Chaturdashi, Ekadashi Vishesena Tithiresha Haripriya, Sarvatirthadhikam Punyam Satyam Satyam Na Samsayah” - (Padma Purana Uttarakhand 38:105).

Vaisakh month is an important time for charity. All pious deeds performed during this time will reap tenfold results. The greatness of this month also highlights that the three incarnations of Lord Narasimha, Parashurama and Balarama took place in Vaisakh. It is said in the Puranas that Parasuramavatara and Balaramaavatara took place on Akshayatritiya day and Naramsimhaavatara took place on Shukla Chaturdashi.

This is the most auspicious time for Vishnu Bhajan with fasting. Vishnu Sahasranamam, Ashtakshari Mantra (Om Namo Narayanayaya), Dvadasakshari Mantra (Om Namo Bhagavathe Vasudevaya) and Bhagavata Parayanam will give abhishtasiddhi/desired results during Madhava month. It is good to meditate on the Lord by fasting for the entire month of Vaisakh. It is believed that fasting on the Shukla Dwadashi and the full moon of Vaisakh will also bring unique results. The famous Guruvayoor tem-

ple is extremely crowded during the month of Vaishakhham. Vaishakhham month is observed as auspicious season in Vaishnava temples including Guruvayur.



Guruvayur Temple

The most powerful name in Kali Yuga is ‘Hare Rama’. If you chant this nine times throughout the month of Vaisakhham, the impurities will be removed and the mind will be clear like the sun.

“Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare,
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare,
Sri Rama Rama Rameti Rame Rame Manorame,
Sahasranama is thathulyam Ramanama Varanane,
Sri Ramanama Varanana Om Nama Iti”.

It is believed that chanting this three times is equivalent to chanting the entire Vishnu Sahasranamam

KOTTIYUR VAISHAKHOTSAVAM

In 2023, May 6 to June 28 (Chothi to Chithira)



The Kottiyur Shiva Temple area (located in northern Kerala) is the place where the ‘Daksha Yaga’ was performed on the day of Vaishakhham. Legend has it that “after the creation of Kerala, Parasurama, who came to Kottiyur, tried to kill the demon Kali as Kali grabbed Him, and on the instructions of the Trimurtis, Kali was released on the assurance that no one will be affected by Kali in Kerala, and Vaishakhotsavam was started as a sign of happiness that no one will be affected by Kali in Kerala.” It starts with ‘Neiyattam’ and ends with ‘Tirukalasattam’. It is also believed that it was Jagadguru Shankaracharya organized the festival in its present form.

KARMA YOGA - SUCCESS IS EFFORT, NOT RESULT.

(Poojya S.B. KESHAVA SWAMI - (Svayam Bhagavan Keshava Swami is a spiritual author, community mentor, dynamic teacher and worldwide traveller, was a resident monk at ISKON UK).



If people have the wrong definition for success, they will have the wrong definition of failure also. According to spiritualists, success is not the result, success is not the achievement, success is not what you get at the end. That's not what defines success. According to spiritual teachings, success is in your endeavour, in efforts, intentions, the character that goes behind, the noble thing that you are trying to do. And once you have invested all of those things, whatever the results may be, is actually inconsequential. It is already a success, because in reality none of us are in control of the results. There are other factors in the universe beyond our control which are affecting the results that we gain. Therefore, if you try to measure success by the results, not only you will feel a failure, but you also be inhibited of even going on the journey for fear of failure. But when you understand that success is in the effort, the goal of life is not to be the best, the goal of life is to try your best, and in trying your best, if it's destiny's plan for you to be the best, for the purpose of service and making the world a better place, then so be it, and if destinies for your plan is not for you to be the best, it doesn't matter, You are still a success.

In the Bhagavad-Gita this is known as Karma-Yoga or the art of working, the art of detached work, and this is the most, one of the most powerful things that people can use in their life. People are so deflated, demoralized and depressed because they measure success in the wrong way. When we measure success in the wrong way, we fall to the cancers of the mind, competing with others, comparing with others, but you're on your own journey and you only need to do your best, and that's success.

BHAGAWATH GEETHA

(Chapter 2 – SANKHYA YOGA) Slokas: (6-10)



नासतो विद्यते भावो नाभावो विद्यते सतः ।

उभयोरपि दृष्टोऽन्तस्त्वनयोस्तत्त्वदर्शिभिः ॥ 16॥

nāsato vidyate bhāvo nābhāvo vidyate sataḥ
ubhayorapi dṛiṣṭo 'nta stvanayos tattva-
darśhibhiḥ

Meaning: Of the transient there is no endurance, and of the eternal there is no cessation. This has verily been observed and concluded by the seers of the Truth, after studying the nature of both.

अविनाशि तु तद्विद्धि येन सर्वमिदं ततम् ।

विनाशमव्ययस्यास्य न कश्चित्कर्तुमर्हति ॥ 17॥

avināśhi tu tadviddhi yena sarvam idaṁ tatam
vināśham avyayasyāsyā na kaśhchit kartum arhati

Meaning: That which pervades the entire body, know it to be indestructible. No one can cause the destruction of the imperishable soul.

अन्तवन्त इमे देहा नित्यस्योक्ताः शरीरिणः ।

अनाशिनोऽप्रमेयस्य तस्माद्ध्यस्व भारत ॥ 18॥

antavanta ime dehā nityasyoktāḥ śharīriṇaḥ
anāśhino 'prameyasya tasmād yudhyasva bhārata

Meaning: Only the material body is perishable; the embodied soul within is indestructible, immeasurable, and eternal. Therefore, fight, O descendent of Bharat.

य एनं वेत्ति हन्तारं यश्चैनं मन्यते हतम् ।

उभौ तौ न विजानीतो नायं हन्ति न हन्यते ॥ 19॥

ya enaṁ vetti hantāraṁ yaśh chainaṁ manyate hatam
ubhau tau na vijānīto nāyaṁ hanti na hanyate

Meaning: Neither of them is in knowledge—the one who thinks the soul can slay and the one who thinks the soul can be slain. For truly, the soul neither kills nor can it be killed.

न जायते म्रियते वा कदाचि
नायं भूत्वा भविता वा न भूयः ।
अजो नित्यः शाश्वतोऽयं पुराणो
न हन्यते हन्यमाने शरीरे ॥ 20॥
na jāyate mriyate vā kadāchin
nāyaṁ bhūtvā bhavitā vā na bhūyaḥ
ajo nityaḥ śhāśhvato 'yaṁ purāṇo
na hanyate hanyamāne śharīre

Meaning: The soul is neither born, nor does it ever die; nor having once existed, does it ever cease to be. The soul is without birth, eternal, immortal, and ageless. It is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.

(To be continued)

Subhashitham – 40

विवेकः सह संपत्त्या विनयो विद्यया सह ।
प्रभुत्वम् प्रश्रयोपेतम् चिह्नम् एतत् महात्मनाम् ॥

Vivekah saha sampathya vinaya vidyaya saha,
Prabhutwam prashrayopetham chinham ethat
mahathmanam.

Meaning: Discretion with wealth, Humility with scholarship & power with Courteousness- These are the qualities of great people.

मूर्खस्य पञ्च चिन्हानि गर्वो दुर्वचनं तथा ।
क्रोधश्च दृढवादश्च परवाक्येष्वनादरः ॥

Mookhasya pancha chinhani garvo durvachanam tata,
Krodhascha drudavatascha parakakye-shvanadarah.

Meaning: The five signs of foolishness are 1) extreme Ego 2) bad mouth 3) extreme Anger 4) Stubbornness & 5) not respecting other's opinions

QUIZ – 25

(Note: Questions are related to Sanatana Dharma and mainly based on matters published in our Ayyappa Vani. Answers will be published in the next Ayyappa Vani. Any body can

send answers in whatsapp to No.9447211722, within 20 days. Names & addresses of persons who answer to all questions correctly will be published in the next Ayyappa Vani)

Questions:

1. Which are the 'Chardhams' & main Deities there ?
2. 'Devi Mahatmyam' is part of which text?
3. Names of Conches of ShriKrishna & Arjuna ?
4. Salasar Balaji is which God ?
5. Who is goddess of Knowledge ?
6. Which was the first Ayyappa Temple in Andhra Pradesh?
7. Who was the famous freedom fighter who served 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in Andamans?
8. Who was the Guru of Adi Shankaracharya ?
9. In what form/ position idol of Swami Ayyappa is consecrated at Sabarimala Temple ?
10. What are 5 yogams/kalaries started by Swami Ayyappan continue even now?

Answers of Quiz-24

1. Lord Hanuman forgot his power due to a curse from Rishis. He used to give trouble to Rishis with monkey's childish play, which forced the Rishis give a soft curse.
2. Lord Shiva is called as 'Chandrasekhara' because of the presence of Chandra/ baby moon/ crescent in his hair/ head. Prajapathi Daksha had cursed moon to lose his brightness, but Shiva took moon on his head to save him partially.
3. Peacock is the vehicle of Lord Karthikeya / Murugan..
4. Rishi Durvassa cursed Shakuntala 'to forget the person whom she was thinking' as she was in deep thoughts without caring the Rishi.
5. "Kaalaketty" is a village in Kottayam Dist near Mundakkayam, enroute Sabarimala trekking traditional route. Shiva had tied his vehicle Nandi – bull, here and both Lord Shiva and Devi Parvathy witnessed the fight of Manikantan with the demoness Mahishi. Bull in malayalam is 'Kaala', and the name Kaalaketty was derived from this.
6. Lord Ram visited and blessed Rishika Sabari, a tribal and ardent devotee of Ram, who was waiting her God Ram for years with vigorous penance, as per the advice of her Guru Rishi Mathanga. The name of the village/ mountain of Sabari was later known as Sabarimala from her name.
7. The Shodasha Samskaras - 16 samskaras/ vedic rituals, required to be performed for the preservation of Dharma, are explained in the famous ancient script 'Manusmriti'.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the Bhumi

- Puja for the upcoming Ram Mandir in Ramajanmabhum.
9. The tragic incident of Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919. A large peaceful crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab to protest against the Rowlatt Act and arrest of pro-independence activists Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal. In this cruel incident about 2000 people were massacred.
 10. The idol of a Horse, the vehicle of Swamy Ayyappa - Vaji Vahanan - is installed on the top of flag post at Sabarimala temple.

Names of persons who gave correct answers to all questions:
Nil

NEWS

- Today, May 02, 2023 Uthram - the auspicious day of Swami Ayyappan's divine birth star. On the instructions of SASS, Ayyappa devotees from all over the world perform Uthram Puja in their own homes and nearby temples with Deeparadhana, Bhajan, Neerajanam etc.
- Details of the 'National Executive Committee meeting of SASS & Harivarasanam Centenary Celebrations of Gujarath state are given in the first page.
- Annadanam - Vishu feast - to more than 2500 persons, including non- Ayyappas, were given by Vizhikkithode (near Erumely) Ayyappa Seva Kendram of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam on the Vishu day. Considering the hotels not in service due to Vishu, they prepared food for more persons and served free to all as Vishu Feast.
- Two Ayyappa Swamy devotees walked from the Mata Vaishno Devi temple in Jammu & Kashmir to Sabarimala in Kerala and paid obeisance. Nalinakshan Swami and Prabhakara Maniani Swami, natives of Madhur in Kasargod district, travelled nearly four thousand kilometers on foot covering 8 states. Welcoming them, food and shelter was provided to them at the Ayyappa Seva Kendras at Vizhikkithode and Erumely.
- A grand 'Mass Chanting of Harivarasanam', by about 10000 persons was conducted at Thrissur, Kerala during the Kerala State Conference of Hindu Aikya Vedi on 9th April at the Vadakkumnnathan Temple ground.

PRIME MINISTER to attend GLOBAL AYYAPPA MAHASANGAMAM



A team of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam visited Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modiji, on 24th April at Kochi and invited him as the Chief Guest for the Final Function of Harivarasanam Centenary Celebrations (HCC) - "Global Ayyappa Mahasangamam" at Kollam, Kerala, scheduled to be held on 20th January 2024.

Further, we have requested him to pay a visit to the holy Sabarimala Temple on Friday, the 19th January, 2024, the final day of Mandala-Makaravilakku season.

The team who visited PM included Shri. T. B. Shekhar, National Chairman; Shri. Erode N. Rajan, National General Secretary; Shri. S. Vinodkumar, National Joint General Secretary, Brahmashri Akkeeraman Kalidasan Bhattathirippad, Kerala State President and Shri. A. Padmakumar, Kshethreeya Seva Pramugh of RSS.

OPENING / CLOSING dates of Sabarimala Temple during the next 27 days.

The temple will be opened for Midhunam month puja at
5.00 pm on 14th May and
will be closed at 10 pm on 19th.

Again Opens on 29th May @ 5 pm for the special
Prathishta Dina puja on 30th, and
Closes on the same day @ 10 pm.

Disclaimer : The opinion expressed in this publication are of the authors only and do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of SASS or its members.

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