



J.E.T. NEWS

THE DHANURMA:SA VRATHAM (16th Dec to 14th Jan)

According to the tradition Bhu:devi (one of the consorts of Lord Vishnu) had incarnated as A:ndal (also known as Goda) out of Her causeless mercy, for the sake of enlightening the people about the easiest means of emancipation. Even as a young girl she had developed aversion towards the material things and aspired to marry the Supreme Lord in the form of Ranganattha. She asked her father Vishnuchiththa (also known as PeriyaA:lwar to tell her the means to attain the Lord. The Gopis had obtained communion with the Lord by performing a Katyaini Vratham (observing a vow) in the month of Margali (December-January). Hence *Vishnu chiththa* who was a great devotee of the Lord advised her to perform a similar *Vratham*. As per the advice of her father A:ndal observed a austere *Vratham* for thirty days. Every day she used to rise early in the morning and worship the Lord in a prescribed procedure. She compiled one hymn everyday and presented the same to her beloved Lord during the *Vratham*. The thirty hymns compiled by A:ndal during

her *Vratham* is combinedly called as *Thiruppa:vai*. (Divine songs)

Thiruppa:vai is a spiritual odyssey that gives the glimpses of the various glories and pastimes of the Lord. All the *Pu:rva:cha:ryas* used to observe the *Thiruppavai Vratham* and they used to reflect on the esoteric meaning of these hymns. Only the people who were in the tradition used to observe the *Thiruppavai Vratham* as it was not revealed to others due to various reasons. However H.H. Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Chinna Srimannarayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji started to organize *Thiruppavai Vrathams* in large scale and started to give discourses on the same. Today *Thiruppavai* is known to almost everyone in the state and the *Vrathams* are being organized even in small villages in the region, only due to His mercy. The *Thiruppavai Vratham* is also called as *Margali Vratham* and *Dhanurmasa Vratham* i.e. after the name of the month in which it falls.

This year H.H Sri Swamiji's *Thiruppavai* discourses were organized in Pittalava:ni Palem in Guntur district in

between 16th Dec and 14th Jan. H.H. left for Pittalava:ni Palem by 10.00 A.M, on the 16th of December. H.H. reached Pittalava:ni Palem by around 1.00 P.M. HH Sri Swamiji was received by thousands of people headed by the Thiruppavai committee president Sriman Devi Murali Krishnamraju (proprietor of MAA-TV), Sriman Manthani Anantha Verma, Sriman Gokaraju Subbaraju of UK and others. H.H. went to VT office in Pittalava:ni Palem and from there the deities of Lakshmi Narayana were taken in a grand procession to the event venue.

H.H. delivered His nectarine discourses on *Thiruppavai* for thirty days while staying in Sriman Gokakaraju Subbaraju's residence at Pittalava:ni Palem. Many events were organized as a part of Dhanurmasa celebrations. Few important events among them are-

1) Akhanda Vishnu Sahasranama parayanam (non stop 24 Hr chanting of Sri Vishnu Sahasranama) for forty days starting from 5th of Dec. People from Pittalava:ni Palem and neighboring villages participated in the chanting, in batches of two hours duration for all the forty days.

2) A congregational Sri Krishna pu:ja was organized on 20th

December.

3) A congregational Sri Rama Pu:ja was organized on 27th December.

4) New Year celebrations were organized on the 1st of January. H.H. delivered a benedictory New Year discourse which was followed by Thi:rtthago:shtti.

5) A congregational Lakshmi pu:ja was organized on the 3rd of January.

6) H.H. delivered a lecture on 'THE FUTURE OF INDIA AND THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS' on the 5th of January. More than three thousand school students and teachers participated in the event.

7) H.H. spoke on 'OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SOCIETY' on the 6th of January. T.T.D. J.E.O. Sriman Balasubramanyam also participated in the event. Many representatives of scheduled castes and tribes attended that event. More than one thousand Tulasi (basil) plants were distributed on that occasion.

8) HH Sri Swamiji spoke on 'THE ROLE OF TEMPLES IN MAINTAINING HARMONY IN THE SOCIETY' on the 7th of January. Endowments minister Sriman Dandu Sivaramaraju, Endowments Commissioner Sriman D.N. Murthy, many priests and the Administrative staff of various temples in the

region participated in that event. 9) Special celebrations were organized on the twenty fourth and twenty seventh days of the *Vratham* i.e. on the 'anru ivvulagam alanday' day i.e. on 8th Jan and 'Ku:da:rai' day i.e. on 11th of Jan. *Ku:da:rai pa: yasam* was offered in hundred and eight containers to the Lord and the same was distributed to all the devotees on the day of *Ku:da:rai Uthsavam*.

10) 'SA:NTHI YA:THRA' a mega rally for Peace was organized on 12th of January, to promote harmony in the society. Hundred and twenty Tractors, eighty cars, hundred and fifty two wheelers and many people participated in the rally. The rally started by 11.00 a.m. and concluded by 9.00 p.m. the vast stretch of more than sixty kilometers was covered as the part of the Peace rally. Many people thronged in various villages on the route of the rally, to see and listen to H.H.

11) Fortunately this year the concluding day of the *Vratham* colluded with the *Vaikuntta Eka:dasi*. Concluding rituals of the *Vratham* started with *Vaikuntta Uththara Dwa:ra Darsanam* and *Thi:rttha goshti* on the 14th of Jan. A congregational Lakshmi Na:ra:yana pu:ja and *Sankirtans* were organized till evening. *Go:da Rangamannar Kalayana*

Maho:thsavam was performed with enlightening commentary by HH Sri Swamiji. It was followed by *Laksha Di:po:thsavam* (one lakh lamps were offered to the Lord), *Kuchipudi* dance and an orchestra of devotional songs by Gazal Srinivas and group. The celebrations went on till 4.00 a.m. of 15th Jan. H.H. left for Naddigaddapalem by 4.a.m. on the 15th of January.

Paramapadothsavam of H.H. Sri Sri Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji (15th Jan)

H.H. reached Naddigaddipalem by 5.00 a.m. on the 15th of January. After *Anusttanam* and **Thi:rtthago:shti** H.H. led the celebrations of the 24th *Paramapado:thsavam* of Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji. An "Abhishe:kam" to Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji's deity and the discourse of H.H. were the highlights of the day. Foundation stone by the side of Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji's *Brundavanam*, for the construction of an 'OLD AGE HOME' was also laid on the occasion. More than five hundred people participated in the event. Immediately after the event a golden crown was offered to Lord Venkateswara through H.H. at Guntur. H.H. left for Vizag by night.

HH Sri Swamiji participated in the *Sapthathi*

pu:rthi maho:thsavam (the 71st birthday celebrations) of U.Ve. Sriman T.P. Sri Ramachandra charya Swami (Editor of Telugu Bhakthinivedana) from 16th to 18th January, at Vishakapatanam. There was *Thi:rtthago:shti* and benedictory discourses of HH Sri Swamiji on all the three days. Discourses of the reputed scholars of the region was also organized as a part of the *Maho:thsavam*. All the scholars led by HH Sri Swamiji lauded the contribution of Sriman T.P. Sri Ramachandracharya Swami to the tradition.

H.H. also attended a press meet on 17th Jan by 2.00 p.m. HH SriSwamiji briefed about our ongoing movement 'GI:THA JYOTHI' to the reporters of all the major News papers and journals, who participated in the meet. H.H. left for Hyderabad from Vizag on the 18th of January.

The seventh Go:pa:lo:pa:yana awards ceremony (19th Jan).

In the year 1997 H.H. instituted an award called '*Go:pa:lo:payana*' in the fond memory of His preceptor U.Ve. Sriman T.K. Gopala:charya Swamiji. The award was intended to honour a reputed scholar who has contributed for the growth of the *Samprada:ya*. This year the award giving ceremony was organized in the WHITE HOUSE

at Dilshuknagar (Hyderabad), on the 19th of January. This year the award was conferred by H.H. on two distinguished scholars namely Veda Chathus Sasthra Rathnakara, Maha Maho padhyaya Sri U.Ve. Sriman Naval Pakkam Satagopa Ramanuja Thathacharya Swami (of Tamil Nadu) and Vyakaranacharya, Veda:nta:charya U.Ve. Sriman Adhikari Madhu sudanacharya Swami (of Brundavanam U.P.). The award included a citation and fifty thousand rupees.

The award giving ceremony started with the invocation by 4.00 p.m. U.Ve. Sriman Dr. S.V. Ranga Ramanuja:charya swami of Kovvur who introduced the recipients of the award to the audience. Many distinguished personalities including the recipients of the award spoke on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion H.H. said "a country cannot be called as advanced just by mere material advancement. In fact spiritual advancement is the real advancement. Acquiring spiritual knowledge and disseminating the same is the indication of great personalities. If Pedda Jeeyar Swamiji and Gopala:charya Swami had not propagated the *Samprada:ya* today we would not have dared to walk around with

U:rdhvapundras (vertical mark)."

H.H. left for Palvoncha to participate in a Sudarsana yagnam at Navabharath Ferro Alloys and Thermal Electricity Unit on the 22nd of January.

HH Sri Swamiji at Tirupathi -

HH Sri Swamiji Visited Tirupathi to have the Darsan of the Lord of the seven hills, Sri Venkateswara. Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam officials were pleased to invite HH Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji and they explained the recent developments and various facilities provided to the devotees who come to visit Tirumala. Veda, Prabandha and Agama scholars who are blessed to be in the direct service of Lord Srinivasa, also met HH Sri Swamiji and took His blessings. In view of the latest developments special sessions were conducted in which TTD officials and also the scholars involved in the service of Lord, participated. HH Sri Swamiji detailed the importance of the Agama system being followed at Tirumala that has its root affinity with the Sampradaya ie., tradition ordained by Bhagavad Ramanuja. HH said that it is arranged such that Sri Pa:nchara:thra A:gama is followed in the Tirupathi Alimelumanga Tayaru (consort of Lord Venkateswara) temple and

on Tirumala, at Lord Venkateswara, Vaikhanasa A:gama is followed. HH said that both A:gamas are like two eyes to the Vedic tradition, brought more into light by Bhagavad Ramanuja. Having experienced the limitless compassion of the Lord, Bhagavad Ramanuja arranged so to make the blessings of the Lord reach more and more devotees for their welfare.

Every one was happy with the Darsan of HH Sri Swamiji and his benedictions. HH focussed on certain traditional practices that were carefully noted down interestingly by the officials and also by those who are in the Kainkaryam of Lord Sri Venkateswara. HH stressed on the importance of consulting Sa:sthra and also the perennial tradition from the time immemorial, in performing various se:va:s to the Lord and His Pariva:r and said no changes are allowed beyond the limits of the Vedic tradition, for what ever reason it be.

HH Sri Swamiji offered Mangala:sa:sanams to all of them for their devotion and commitment to face all the ordeals successfully in upkeeping the glorious tradition, to serve the devotees and thus, the Lord of this Universe Sri Srinivasa. On 2nd Feb, HH left to Hyderabad via Vijayawada to participate in the forth coming event of Bhi:shma E:ka:dasi.
