

EXPAND



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



Search

0

Home > Magazine

Day to rejoice rama's birth

By Ananda Shankar Jayant | Published: 01st April 2017 10:00 PM |
Last Updated: 30th March 2017 10:23 PM | A+ A A- |

2



Sita-rama Kalyanam

April 5 marks the birth of Sri Rama, celebrated as Ramnavmi across India. Valmiki describes the birth of Kausalya son as Tatascha Dwadashe Mase Chaitre Navamike Thitou (born on the ninth day of Chaitra month) under the sign Aditi in the zodiacal house of Karkata; an astrological connect over centuries that sees Hindus across the plan celebrating the birth of Sri Rama.

In the town of Bhadrachalam in Telangana, preparations are in full swing to celebrate the day as Sita-Ram Kalyanam, even as newspapers carry pictures of the preparation of the Mutyala Talambralu for the divine wedding.

Talambralu, an important ceremony in a Telugu wedding, is performed after mangalasutra ceremony, with the bride and groom showering each other with talambralu (rice mixed with saffron and turmeric), praying for happiness and contentment.



And Bhadrachalam too gets ready for the Divine Talambralu. The temple of Bhadrachalam and Sri Rama also inspired Kanchar Gopanna (1620-1680); and therein lies a magnificent tale.

Gopanna was appointed tehsildar (revenue collector) to Nawab Abul Hasan Shah (Taneshah) of Golconda Qutub Shahis. Seeing the dilapidated state of idols at Bhadrachalam, Gopanna, now called Ramadas, decided to build a temple for Rama using the revenue earned from villages.

Horrified at the depletion of his treasury, Taneshah banished Ramadas into the Golconda dungeons for 12 years, with many unspeakable tortures inflicted. Ramadas's bhakti only becomes stronger by the day, as he chided, implored and beseeched Rama through music and verse, for deliverance.

Ramadas implored Rama saying, "Ee theruga nannu daya juchedavo, and Paluke Bangaramayena Kodandapani (Will you not show me son compassion? Have words become so precious that you won't even talk?)."

When he saw no hope of leaving the dungeons, he pleads with Sita to put in a word on his behalf, and even chides the lord in a quintessential Ninu Stuti- "Do you think this temple came cheap?" He asks, "Ikshvaku kula tilaka, I did all this for you."

One day, lo and behold. The six lakh gold mohurs debt was repaid to Taneshah by two strange men—Ramoji and Laxmoji, and debt repayment received by the Taneshah finds its way to the jail where Ramadas was incarcerated.

Duly humbled at the divine visitation and mortified at having failed to recognise the greatness of Ramadas, Taneshah hurried to release this great devotee of Rama, making over a large deposit for the continued glory and maintenance of the temple, including the tradition of the state offering pearls for the Talambralu on Ramnavmi.

A tradition that has continued uninterrupted, and followed by every government in the state; a story of the co-existence of India's many layers, where Ithihasa, story, religion, faith, and culture came together to celebrate Sri Rama.

And of course music. Simple in delivery and melody, but deeply profound, Ramadas kirtanas suffuse the listener with melody and devotion.

Growing up in South India, many of us can sing along many a Ramadas kirtana, having heard the doyens such as M Balamuralikrishna, Nedunuri Krishnamurthy, M S Subbulakshmi and others. If Jaya Janaki Ramana and Takkuvemi Manaku were eulogistic, then Sri Rama Ne Nama—Entha Ruchi Ra sheer poetry. So, save the date for Sita-Rama Kalyanam at Bhadrachalam!

Jayant is a bureaucrat and classical dancer, choreographer and dance scholar. ananda.jayant@gmail.com

Looking for a life partner? Register FREE on [BharatMatrimony](http://BharatMatrimony.com).

WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?

powered by Yuukle





Airtel Postpaid Offers

Get a Postpaid Plan Suited for Your Need. Free Home Delivery in 2 Hrs.



Give a rating:

Latest

Leave a comment

ME

Post your opinion...

Name

Email

Post

Most Commented Articles

0

f

28



Paan Masala, gutkha banned on UP office premises, speedy disposal of files sought



Seven institutes from Karnataka among 100 best institutes in country; IISc tops list

G+

0



Dalai Lama flags off Anshu Jamsenpas fourth expedition to Mount Everest



Communal reservation will divide country: Venkaiah Naidu

✉

2



Meat of the matter: Vote bank politics behind crackdown delay



Has Pakistan walked into a Saudi trap?

More New

Professional Courses

Sponsored link

Technology Courses

Sponsored link



Get a Postpaid Plan Suited for Your Need. Free Home Delivery in 2 Hrs.



- 0
- 28
- 0
- 2

You VS MODE
0 pts

Who organized the Salt March (or Satyagraha) in India in 1930?

Jawaharlal Nehru

Mohammad Ali Jinnah

Lal Gangadhar Tilak

Mohandas Gandhi

Create your own at [INSTICATOR](#)

RELIANCE MUTUAL FUND

UNLEASHING A MUTUAL FUND REVOLUTION

Har mahine ki tarikh saat, Kijiye Mutual Fund ke aadat ki shuruwat!

Mission Prosperity
7th OF EVERY MONTH

Rollover to explore & save tax

Mutual Fund Investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Latest

- > Jishnu Prannoy case: Court grants bail for five
- > Malayalam mandatory in all Kerala schools
- > SC to hear pleas on demonetisation issue post summer vacation
- > NCBC Bill may be sent to RS Select Committee
- > Anna Salai in Chennai cracks up yet again
- > Armed men attack Philippine tourist island
- > Triple talaq impacts dignity of Muslim women, SC told
- > PV Sindhu nominated in Athletes' Commission

REVEALED: Arjun Kapoor's Real Life Half ...