



Sri Kalahasteswara Swamivari Temple: Sri Kalahasti

HISTORY :

Sri Kalahasti is named after the staunch devotees of Lord Shiva. They were the Spider (Sri), the Serpent (Kala) and the Elephant (Hasti). Appeared with their unflinching devotion, Lord Shiva gave them a boon that their names be merged with the Vayulinga and called as Sri Kalahasteswara. Parvati gained Shiva-Gnanam and came to be known as Gnana Prasunamba or Gnana.

Cursed to become a ghost Ghanakala prayed at Srikalahasti for 15 years and after chanting Bhairava Mantra many times Lord Shiva restored her original form. Mayura, Chandra and Devendra were also freed from their curses after taking bath in the river Swarnamukhi and prayed at Srikalahasti. Mahasivaratri is an important festival when lakhs of people offer prayers to seek the blessings of the Lord to attain Mukti. To Bhakta Markandeya, Lord Shiva appeared in Sri Kalahasti and preached that a Guru alone could make esoteric teachings and, therefore he is Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara. Cursed to become a ghost Ghanakala prayed at Srikalahasti for 15 years and after chanting Bhairava Mantra many times Lord Shiva restored her original form

Srikalahasti temple is a holy place near Tirupati in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It is located on the banks of the river Swarnamukhi, a tributary of the river Pennar. Site where Kannappa, one of the 63 Saivite Nayanars, was ready to offer both his eyes to cover blood flowing from the Siva linga before the Lord Siva stopped him and granted mukti. This temple was constructed in the 12th century by the Chola king, Rajarajendra. Vayu incarnated as Lord Shiva and is worshipped as Kalahasteswara. This temple's main idol is the vayu (air) linga. The temple is also associated with Rahu and Kethu (of the nine grahams or celestial bodies in the Indian astrological scheme). The river Suvarnamukhi takes the northerly course at Sri Kalahasthi almost washing the west wall of the famous Sri Kalahasthi temple in the Chittor district of A P.



Inside of the Temple



Temple Campus overview

Abhishekam

Morning: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 10: 30am

Evening: 5:30 pm everyday

Fridays: 4:30 onwards

The Abhishekams are performed to Lord Kalahasteswara and Goddess Gnana Prasunambika four times a day.



The Abhishekam

A ritual and part of daily prayers, Abhishekams (bathing the Lingam) are performed to Lord Kalahastesvara. The Abhishekam is done with Panchakarpura (camphor mixed with water, honey, milk, camphor and Panchamruta) along with chanting of the mantra, which signifies the act cleansing and singing melodious hymns of praises to the Lord. However, the main Lingam is not touched by any human hands and all the prayers and Panchkarpura Abhisheka are offered to the bronze idol called as Utsavamurty. Pilgrims who visit the temple can participate in the Abhishekam that are performed by priests belonging to Bhardwaja Gotra of Apsthmaba Sutra who take up the approved Diksha, a religious initiation, in the temple. During the Abhishekam, flowers, sandal paste and scared threads are offered to-the-lord.

Kinds of Abhishekams

Rudrabhishekam: A different kind of Abhishekam, it is a prayer that involves bathing the Lord with milk and camphor, while chanting mantras for purification. Devotees can take part into this by paying Rs 100. After the Abhishekam, the devotees are presented with trithprasadam.

Palabhishekam: A different kind of Abhishekam, it is a prayer that involves bathing the Lord with milk and camphor, while chanting mantras for purification. Devotees can take part into this by paying Rs 100. After the Abhishekam, the devotees are presented with trithprasadam.

RAHU-KETHU SARPA DOSHA NIVARANA PUJA



Srikalahasteswara Swamy Temple is reputed. as the Rahu - kethu Kshetra, If the People who have Rahu Kethu Doshas and sarpa Doshas the unmarried and No Children and those who are facing various problems for a long period perform the most effective "Rahu - Kethu Sarpa Dosha Nivarana Puja" in this Temple all the Doshas get removed and desired results occur. Thousands of devotees from the country and abroad perform this puja and fulfil their vows again and again after receiving good results. Rahu - Kethu Sarpa Dosha Nivarana Puja Can be performed daily between 6.30a.m and 9.00p.m.on payment of Rs.250/-, 600/-, 1000/-, 1500/-(The Devasthanam Will arrange all Puja Materials.).(These prices are subject to revision from time to time. Kindly consult devasthanam for up to date information)



RAHU KETU PUJA

What is Rahu and Ketu : Rahu & Ketu, the two Nodes of the Moon, take about 19 months to transit through a sign. Rahu will enter Pisces & Ketu in Virgo on 25th March 2005. They're unique in the sense that they're always transiting retrograde, indicating Karma from previous lives. Rahu & Ketu are the mysterious unseen points in space causing the eclipses. They're not technically planets but their influence is so significant that they're given the status of planets.

These two are next in importance to the other two planets -Jupiter and Saturn. These four are the slowest moving planets and require maximum attention when they are in transit.No planet is 100% malefic (bad). The transit effects depend on how we respond to the favorable & unfavorable situations. Rahu has a positive side, offering great boons in communications, new inventions, technology etc.

Rahu is extroverted, affirming, and ambitious, while Ketu is introverted, negating and detached. Rahu's transits show where someone is likely to expand, driven, try new things and disperse their energy into materialistic pursuits. Ketu's transits show where someone is likely to experience restriction, detachment, completion or focus and deepen their spiritual pursuits. If both the running period & transit effects are bad, the overall effect ought to be bad. Therefore, you can reduce the malefic effects by performing remedies.

ACCOMMODATION:

The Temple is providing accommodation at the below mentioned guest houses at affordable prices.

Trinetra Guest House : Shankara Muni Complex : Shiva Sadan : Bharadwaja Sadan

HOW TO REACH:

Sri Kalahasti Town is a well known town and it is easily accessible by AIR, Rail and Bus. The nearest major towns are Tirupati and Nellore.

AIR:

There are daily services from Hyderabad, New Delhi and Visakhapatnam to Renigunta Air Port which is only about 20 kms from Sri Kalahasti. It is only 2 hours of drive from Chennai International Airport.

RAIL:

Sri Kalahasti has a Railway Station and it receives people from different parts of India. The temple runs a free Bus service from the station to the temple for the sake of pilgrims. People from Chennai may getdown at Renigunta Junction or Naidupeta or Sullurpeta or Gudur Junction and reach the temple by bus which is only less than one hour drive from these stations.

ROAD: The state government runs Non Stop bus service to this place from Tirupati. The pilgrims have the facility of Bus services to almost all the places of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand the pilgrims may hire affordable private taxis to cover all the places of Tirupati, Tirumala, Sri Kalahasti and Kanipakam to save time.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST : Bhakta Kannappa Temple : Bharadwaj Sadan :



ARTS AT SRI KALAHASTI

KALANKARI

Sri Kalahasti region besides hosting the world famous Sri Kalahasteswara Temple is also reputed for the artisans who are engaged in KALANKARI ART AND WOOD CRAFT AND WOOD CARVING.

KALANKAARI ART: **Kalamkari** or **Qalamkari** is a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile, produced in parts of India. The word is derived from the Persian words *kalam* (pen) and *kari* (craftmanship), meaning drawing with a pen.

The craft made at Pedana near by Machilipatnam in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, evolved with patronage of the Mughals and the Golconda sultanate.

There are two distinctive styles of kalamkari art in India - one, the **Srikalahasti style** and the other, the **Machalipatnam style** of art.

The Srikalahasti style of Kalamkari, wherein the "kalam" or pen is used for free hand drawing of the subject and filling in the colours, is entirely hand worked. This style flowered around temples and their patronage and so had an almost religious identity - scrolls, temple hangings, chariot banners and the like, depicted deities and scenes taken from the great Hindu epics - Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas and the mythological classics. This style owes its present status to Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay who popularised the art as the first Chairperson of the All India Handicrafts Board. Only natural dyes are used in Kalamkari and it involves seventeen painstaking steps.



Sri Kalahasti is place where the people can satisfy their thirst for art and sculpture. They can visit the Market around the temple to shop for these Kalankari clothes. The term Kalamkari is applied to the fabrics produced in this place only because the ancient tradition of patterning with the Kalam is still practised here. Even where the fabric is block printed the Kalam is used to draw finer details and for application of some colours. The Mughal who patronized this craft in the Coromandel and Golconda province called the practitioners of this craft "Qua-lamkars" and the distinctive term "Kalamkari", for goods produced in this region persists even to this day. Sri Kalahasti is now the heart of this ART.



Woodcarving



Though woodcarving is practiced as a craft form in Srikalahasti, its origins are in Madhava Maala - a small, picturesque village of about 200 households located just 2 kms off the highway between Srikalahasti and Tirupati. It is roughly midway between these two places of current tourist interest. Madhava Maala is a cluster of four interconnected hamlets with a total population of about 1200 people. Around 60-70 artisans are dependent on woodcarving for their livelihood. Woodcarving refers to carving by hand of different figures/pictures on wood using basic implements. It is locally called 'koyya bommala thayyaari'. The artisans know that this art is being practiced from the time of their forefathers and has spread over time to neighboring villages and towns. It is believed that the secrets of carving were closely held by a few Viswakarma families in the past. The sthaphathi in Sri Kalahasti are proficient craftsmen.

Woodcarving is done on different types of locally available wood including neem, mango and 'cheema chintakaaya'. The product portfolio includes wall panels, furniture, doorframes with religious motifs and flora and fauna. The artisans can create intricately carved products if designs are provided to them. Local landscaping is a mix of traditional and modern, with the former dominating the style of architecture. Since the settlement is small, there is not much problem of sewage and solid-waste disposal.

THE RANGE OF wooden crafted products in Chittoor consists of idols, carved wooden furniture, wooden panels and simply fashioned articles such as combs and white wood bird figures. Raw material is available in the surrounding forests of Tirupati and Sri Kalahasti. Red Sanders, Rakta chandhanam, grown around Tirupati and other local timbers are used.

1. Detail of a carved and painted idol of Shiva. The expressive details such as his hair, Goddess Ganga, fierce eyes, and snake have symbolic meaning.
2. Figure of a bird feeding its young, carved in white teak wood.
3. Carved, painted and varnished idols of Radha and Krishna made by traditional craftsmen of Sri Kalahasti