

BALAVIN KURAL

Balambika Divya Sangam



Editor's Desk...

April 10th 2017, the pournami day of the panguni month, will stay etched forever as the hallowed day of Rajya Bala's consecration in Malur. As the week long kumbhabhishekam festivity brought devotees from near and far to the heart of Malur, Sri Rajya Bala along with Her mother Sri Rajarajeshwari, Sri Rajyashyamala and Sri Varahi had taken their places in the homes and hearts of one and all. The pranaprathishta event was conducted flawlessly, with teams of shivacharyas, designated volunteers, sangam members and executive leads bringing Spirituality and gaiety together. With the inauguration of the Malur Sri Balambika Temple, Balambika DivyaSangam (BDS) has plunged a leap towards the lofty goal of serving Her and Her children, of bringing diverse communities together, of empowering the less fortunate in the world around us, of turning the dream of uniting karmamarga, jnanamarga and bhaktimarga into reality, for the sole purpose of 'sarve jana sukhinobhavanthu'. It is believed that as the venerated deities radiate their energy - from the sanctum to the agraharam of the temple, the town and townspeople will experience the aura, bringing one and all together to keep the mission going.

As the first step after the kumbhabhishekam, the mandala pooja was performed for the 45 day period that affirms our intent to keep our purpose undeterred. The mandala pooja for the deities, which entails the 'shodashopacharam' or the 16 steps of ritualistic worship, was religiously performed by BDS to set the pace and standards of our worship. In keeping with that ideal even now, each day brings yet another alankaram of Bala, another divine darshanam, from the shining jewels on Her crown, to the jingling anklets on Her feet, the radiant manja kaapu and sandana kaapu, which we cannot stop admiring. For the first time ever, Bala (moolavar) was adorned with a silver kavacham on Her thirunakshatram - Vaikasi Vishakam, and the birthday celebrations left no stone unturned in making each one present feel mesmerized by Her blessings! Propelled by Bala's dynamism, every festival, from Aadi pandigai to Gowri-Ganesha, to Mahanavarathri was a spectacular blend of rituals and revelation. From homams and upacharams and 'Nava alankaram' of Bala in the morning, to live musical entertainment in the evenings, followed by Bala's 'oorgolam' - the traditional palanquin ride for the deity around the prakaram, to the soul-filling mahaprasadam, each of the ten days of Mahanavarathri was a bhaktha's dream of living in that ecstasy forever. Devotees thronged to the temple to have a glimpse of Bala in the day's alankaram. True to our Hindu traditions and customs with its ever happening list of festivals, Malur Sri Balambika Temple celebrated the Karthigai festival with countless arrays of bright, glowing lamps, to which women - young and



Mrs. Asha Manoharan
President—BDS

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Balambika Divya Sangam

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old, prayed for a prosperous life that is as bright and glowing as the velakku themselves. For every festival celebrated here, such was the culmination of spiritual awakening with communal bliss, that all those present there felt unified at Her thiruvadi. As the momentum of the religious fervor continues to build and grow, each of us who is a part of Her will feel Her charisma, and experience Her showers of blessings each and every day of our lives.

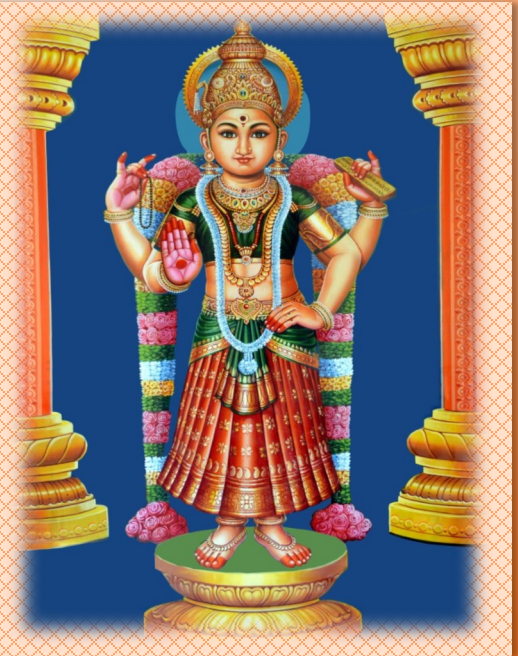
As a temple grows, so do the people in its precincts, and villages and towns have grown and flourished around temples, invigorated by the divinity. Living up to the goal of 'service to mankind is service to god', BDS's simple initiative to feed breakfast meals to little ones in the neighborhood schools, is a kick-start to the Annadanam scheme. BDS Outreach Team has been organizing Health and Hygiene programs in the local primary schools geared towards spreading awareness related to public and personal health. The Reading Club teaches learning with visual depictions, stories, and enacted plays, that fosters the willingness to learn, coaxing the most timid and reluctant child to come out of his shell to enjoy learning to read. Now a household name in the town of Malur, BDS feels blessed to be able to support a cause that works towards empowering underprivileged youth of today, who will be better prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow. As aptly said – it takes a village to raise a child - and BDS is a part of that global village as it strives to make a positive impact on these young minds. As enough has been said and done on this past year's accomplishments, it is time to reflect on the reason for the grand success of this organization - YOU - the members, sponsors and well-wishers, and most importantly, the tireless crew of selfless volunteers who show up at the right time, despite their personal busy schedule. We would not be here today without you. For those of us in the background, we are here to cheer us on to reach loftier ideals, scale greater heights, kindle brighter flames, and to keep the BDS flag billowing come rain or shine! BDS wishes each and every one a safe rest of 2017, and a peaceful year to come. Sarve jana sukhinobhavanthu.



BDS Events Corner

Important Dates:

- ◆ 16th December: Marghayi Masam
- ◆ 22nd December: Chathurthi
- ◆ 23rd December: Panchami
- ◆ 29th December: Vaikunta Ekadasi



BALAMBIKA DIVYA SANGAM OUTREACH INITIATIVES 2017

♦ BDS adopts schools at Malur and signs Memorandum of understanding

BDS has adopted following 3 schools in Malur for the period of 5 years by signing Memorandum of Understanding with Block Education Officer of Kolar District. This partnership would enable BDS to seamlessly serve the under privileged schools and bring about development in various spheres such as Education, Infrastructure, Sports etc. Below is the outline of schools adopted and the programs that will be undertaken for next 5 years.

The above Education programs and Development schemes cannot be fulfilled without sponsorships, hence we

BDS Adopted Schools	Programs Ongoing / Planned	Development Schemes Planned
Neelakanta Agrahara Primary School	Health and Hygiene	Construction of Classrooms & Toilets and basic Infrastructure
Hanumantha Nagar Primary School	Reading & Homework Club	Sponsoring Computers and Projectors
MC Halli Higher Primary School, Malur	Dental Awareness Drive	Sponsoring Lab & Sports Equipment
	Breakfast Meal	Advanced / State of art Teaching tools
		Sponsoring basic amenities for Children

look forward for your support to make this Nobel intention a reality.

If you are interested to sponsor for any of the development schemes, please contact BDS Fund raising committee -Mrs Padma Srinivas / Mr. Srinivasan Chakravarthy at 9902703113 / +1 8478404838 or email us at outreachprogram.bds@gmail.com.

♦ Reading Club at Malur

BDS Outreach Team conducted Reading Club at MC Halli, School, Malur from Aug 4th 2017 to 16th Sep 2017 for 4th and 5th standard. Reading Club is geared towards inculcating Reading habits for young children (age group of 7-8 years) with primary focus on vocabulary, pronunciation & to enable children to be comfortable with English language. With the help of interactive activities, games and storytelling, the whole program is designed to make reading more interesting for kids.

If you are interested to join Reading Club at Malur as volunteer or if you would like to be part of creative team, please contact the Program Anchor Mrs Priya K Rangan at 805051146 / outreachprogram.bds@gmail.com.

♦ Health and Hygiene programs at Malur

The H&H program was the first of the BDS outreach initiatives. This program is aimed at children who are in their adolescence, hoping to inculcate good personal hygiene practices in and around them. These weekly workshops encompass varied branches of hygiene viz. hand hygiene, bathing hygiene and oral hygiene.

We have been doing these 6 week workshops in schools in Malur for over 6 years and have witnessed the children applying these techniques in their day to day lives. In this season, H&H program was conducted in the month of August and September 2017 at MC, Halli Govt Higher Primary School for 6th and 7th Grade students.

If you are interested to join H&H program at Malur as a volunteer please contact the Program Anchors Mrs Sharanya S Rajan / Mrs Padma Srinivas at 9663422335 / 9902703113 / outreachprogram.bds@gmail.com.

♦ Breakfast Meal Program at Malur

BDS Outreach team provides Breakfast Meals for 230 underprivileged children belonging to 3 Government Schools (Neelakanta Agrahara Primary School, Hanumantha Nagar Primary School and MC Halli Higher Primary School, Malur) twice a week. This program is funded by our esteemed sponsors, we take this opportunity to thank them for their noble gesture. Please join hands with us and help us serve these children in a better way.

For details, please contact Program Anchors Mrs Kousalya Raman / Mrs Priya K Rangan at 8050511146 / outreachprogram.bds@gmail.com.

To Contribute towards breakfast meal program, Cheques can be issued in the name of Sri Balambika Divya Sangam or refer to the Indian bank details for online transfer.

BDS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES 2017 PHOTOS



KUMBHABHISHEKAM 2017 PHOTOS



NAVARATRI 2017 PHOTOS



KARTHIGAI VILAKKU POOJAI 2017 PHOTOS



KARTHIGAI ALANKARAM 2017 PHOTOS



Sponsors' Corner

Pooja Item Sponsors

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