

Balambika Divya Sangam

Balavin Kural

BDS Events

Bala Sahasranamam

Parayanam:

Mythili Sundararajan's residence,
Bangalore, India

• myyasundar@gmail.com

Chakravarthy's residence,
Ohio, USA.

• 9schikki@gmail.com

Anuradha Srinivasan's residence,
Chicago, USA

• asriniv65@gmail.com

Dolai Utsavam:

Dolai Utsavam will be performed for
Sanchara Bala, in the privacy of one's
home, amidst a social gathering.

Devotees who are interested,
please contact

Smt. Asha Manoharan

• asha.raji@gmail.com

Annadhanam Scheme:

Annadhanam for 80+ Physically/
Mentally challenged children in Malur.

Those who are interested in contrib-
uting towards this cause, please con-
tact

Smt. Asha Manoharan

• asha.raji@gmail.com

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Editor's Desk...

Dear Readers,

This editorial is about dolai utsavam and its significance. Some of you have invited Bala and had the privilege of serving Her and others are speculating on whether it should be done or not. Many of you have expressed concern about inviting Bala, because you feel that your home is not as sanctified as a temple. Remember, it is God but also a Mother you are inviting into your home, she loves any place where Her children resides. For those of you who are not familiar with this concept, here is a gist of it.

The dolai utsavam, or the swing festival is an informal and popular celebration, to honor Gods and Goddesses in the privacy and comfort of one's own home, although a set of traditions and rituals do form a part of this custom. The utsava murthy, usually an idol made of panchaloham is solely dedicated for this purpose of sancharam. In addition to chanting of Sahasranamam and namavali, and narrating stories of the leelas of Gods and Goddesses, the dolai utsavam also focuses on singing bhajans in praise of them. The young enjoy this gaiety, while the old who are unable to visit the temple feel extremely gratified by this experience.

Sri Balambika dolai utsavam celebrates Bala, the nine year old manifestation of Goddess Lalithambika. To rejoice and revel in Her glory, the home to which Sri Bala is invited, is decorated to welcome her as an honored guest. The Goddess who resides in a temple is thus taking special time to visit the homes of those who invite Her, and She becomes a part of that household for that auspicious period of time. Amidst the priest's vedic chanting, the abhishekam or thirumanjanam is performed with milk, honey, turmeric water and pan-chamrutham. After the traditional abhishekam and alankaram, there is a lot of rejoicing and merriment, as Sri Bala adorned in all Her finery, swings blissfully in the dolai, specially crafted for this celebration.

Sri Bala, as a little girl is believed to enjoy all the childlike enchantments of a nine year old.

The dolai utsavam is the perfect ambient experience that brings prayer and devotion together along with the simple satisfaction of enjoying Sri Bala as a child. As she steps into the threshold of many a home, She sprinkles Her charm and vibrance, and bestows on us the 16 wealths: kalayaada kalvium (indestructible knowledge), kurayaada vayasum (full life), kapatu varaada natpoo (unblemished friendship), kunraada valamaiyum



Mrs. Asha Manoharan
President of Balambika Divya
Sangam

EDITORIAL TEAM

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2. Mrs. Latha Chakravarthy
3. Mr. Ramesh Chakravarthy
4. Mr. Raghu Ranganathan
5. Mr. Anthil Anbazhagan

(unending prosperity), kunraada ilamaiyum (everlasting youth), kazhupini illada udalum (diseaseless body), saliyaada manasum (untiring mind), anbuahalaada manaiviyum (everloving wife), thavaraada santhanamum (good progeny), thaazhaada keertiyum (ever brimming fame), maaraada vaartayum (steadfast words), thadaigal varaada kodaiyum (unimpeded charity), tholayaada nidhiyum (ever gaining wealth), konaada kolum (favorable planets), thunbam illada vazhuvum (sorrowless life), thuyyanin paadathil anbum udavi (love and shelter at Her holy feet). Let us express our unconditional love that every child seeks, and She will begin to dwell in our homes and hearts.

So be prepared to welcome Her into your homes and rejoice the time She stays there. It is an out of the world experience, which I feel each of you should experience in a lifetime. You can also arrange in a near by temple or hall and invite all your friends, neighbours and celebrate the experience with them. If you are interested, kindly download/copy the form and fill it in and email me as usual at asha.raji@gmail.com.

Dolai Utsavam Sponsorship Form

Sponsor's Name :-----

Address:-----

City:-----

State:-----

Country:-----

Phone:----- **Email:**-----

Additional Information:-----



Note to Devotees

In the past Dolai Utsavam sponsorship was only available to local families in Bangalore. We are now extending the opportunity to Bhaktas residing outside Bangalore as well. The Dolai Utsavam can be performed at Malur where Sri Balambika temple is being constructed, Bala's House in Koramangala or at your choice of residence in Bangalore.



Bala Speaks

Faith, called astikya in Sanskrit, is the fourth of ten spiritual practices called niyamas, literally meaning "to unleash". The niyamas are ethical and religious practices that release or cultivate one's refined, soul qualities. The cultivation of faith can be compared to the growth of a tree. As a young sapling, it can easily be uprooted, just as faith based solely on belief can easily be shaken or destroyed. Faith bolstered with philosophical knowledge is like a medium-size tree, strong and not easily disturbed. Faith matured by personal experience of God and the Gods is like a full-grown tree which can withstand external forces.

Schedule of Events

[FEBRUARY 2015]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Abhishekam Annadhanam	18	19	20 Abhishekam Annadhanam	21
22	23	24 Abhishekam Annadhanam	25	26	27 Abhishekam Annadhanam	28

[MARCH 2015]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Abhishekam Annadhanam	4	5 Pournami	6 Abhishekam Annadhanam	7
8	9	10 Abhishekam Annadhanam	11	12	13 Abhishekam Annadhanam	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Banana Leaf Meal

In banana leaf meals, white rice is served on a banana leaf with an assortment of vegetables, pickles, papadum and other regional condiments (usually sour, salty and/or spicy). The banana leaf acts as a



disposable plate and is in itself not consumed.

The choice of banana leaves is mainly due to the broad leaves as well as to the availability of the plant in South India. Traditionally, there will be two servings of rice, with the first being served with gravy, side dishes and condiments, whilst the second serving will be just rice with curd as a palate cleanser.

1. The leaf is placed in a way that the broader side comes on the right. This is because Indians eat with the right hand (eating with left hand is frowned upon due to historical issues of hygiene) and having the biggest part of the leaf close to the right hand makes it practical to move food from the leaf to the mouth.

2. Things that are less used (such as salt - that is usually kept separate to enable the diner to add it as per his/her taste) are kept on the left of the leaf. The things on the right are usually gravy, pickle and curry that are more frequently accessed.
3. Most of the wet items (including payasam and pachadi) are served on the top side away from the diner. Dry items such as rice and papad are usually served on the bottom side. This is because the liquids can flow towards the corner and you don't want it coming out on the diner. Also, rice is eaten more often and you want it close to the diner. The rice is also used to build a wall on the south side to prevent the liquid entry towards the guest.
4. Sweet items (such as kesari, pachadi) are usually served as the first items in a leaf. Indians equate sweet to good news and thus sweet items have a royal place on the leaf. The meal is also ended with a sweet (such as a payasam or curd) to leave a sweet taste in the guest's mouth.

Banana leaf meals are eaten with hand. Banana leaf meal etiquette also dictates that, after the meal, the guest must always fold the banana leaf inwards as a sign of gratitude to the host. However, when meals are served at funeral wakes, the leaf is folded outwards as a sign of condolence to the family of the deceased. Due to this, folding the leaf outwards is considered rude in any other circumstance. Many people sometimes fold their banana leaf outward as a sign of dissatisfaction for the meal. This is due to the erroneous belief that folding the leaf inwards or outwards is a way of rating the meal which is not.

Chandraghanta – Navadurga

Goddess Chandraghanta is worshipped on the third day of Navaratri in West Bengal. It is said that those who worship the Goddess are blessed with eternal strength and everlasting happiness. The Goddess wears the half moon shaped like a bell. Hence, this form of the Goddess is known as Chandraghanta. She has a golden complexion, has ten hands and rides a tiger. She has weapons in her eight hands and in the remaining two, one hand has a bell and the other he is in the pose of giving blessings to Her devotees. During the battle between the Gods and demons, the horrible sound of the Goddess' bell or ghanta sent thousands of demons to the abode of death. Her warring pose shows Her eagerness to destroy all the bad forces which are troubling Her devotees. Goddess Chandraghanta is the representation of Supreme bliss and knowledge. It is said that by Her blessings, all the sins, sufferings, bad energies, etc. are eliminated from Her devotees' life. By riding a tiger, She inspires Her devotees to be fearless. By worshipping Goddess Chandraghanta, one gets rid of all the worldly sorrows and attains supreme spiritual bliss.

















ONGOING EVENTS & PROGRAMMES FOR 2015

Pournami Pooja

SPONSORSHIP ₹ 2500 | \$40 USD | £ 27



Every Pournami (full moon) there will be a special pooja for Bala. Pournami pooja is done for prosperity and peace in the family.

EVENTS INCLUDE:

Abishekam / Sankalpam, Lalitha Sahasranamam, Pournami Pooja, Suhasini Pooja, Kanya Pooja, Devi Bhajans, Prasadam

Annadhanam

SPONSORSHIP ₹ 2000 | \$32 USD | £ 21



We have identified a school in Malur for handicapped children who are mentally challenged, physically disabled, and so on.

Please come forward with your generous contributions so we can help these children & the school which takes care of them.

MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED TWICE A WEEK FOR 80+ UNDERPRIVELEDGED CHILDREN

Balambika Divya Sangam

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6th D Cross,
Venkatapura, Koramangala,
Bangalore - 560034

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Vision of Balambika Divya Sangam

As passionate devotees of Goddess Balambika, and overwhelmed by her grace and benevolence, we have come together from diverse scenarios as one unifying force to form Balambika Divya Sangam. The principal focus of the Sangam is to pursue the age old tenet—**sarvejana sukhinobhavanthu** and pay obeisance to the divine Mother, who is the cause of welfare of the world. Through worship we realize that cast, creed, religion and social status, all melt away before her, for in her eyes, we are all her children.

Sarve Janah Sukhino Bhavanthu

We are on the Web!

<http://balambikathirupanitrust.webs.com/>

We thanks our Sponsors!

Archana Contributions:

1. Bala & Rajiv
2. P Narayanan & Saraja
3. Vasu and Latha Chakravarthy
4. Thangam and Sidhaiyan
5. Shruthi Muralidharan
6. Dev Iyengar
7. Lakshmi S
8. Vignesh Raghuram
9. P Narayanan
10. Krishna
11. Rishi Vaidyanath

Pooja Items—Bala's House:

1. Vasanthi
2. Lakshmi V
3. Roopa V
4. Banumathi
5. Jayalakshmi A
6. Sowmya Ganesh
7. Gowri Shekar
8. Radhika Venkat
9. Shashikala V
10. Thothadri
11. Bhuvana K
12. Lalitha R
13. Purnima Prasad
14. Indumathi Sundar
15. Usha Srikanth
16. Muralidharan & family