



The New Saiva Neri

The Newsletter of the Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam
1294 Mountain Highway The Basin, VIC 3154 T: 03 9762 1835
W: www.melbournevinayagar.org.au E: admin@melbournevinayagar.org.au



*Lambodhara Jaya Gajanana
Parvathi Nandana Parama Dayaghana
Lambodhara Jaya Gajanana
Bandha Vimochana Bhava Bhaya Bhanjana
Pranava Swaroopa Hey Shiva Nandana
Pahi Prabho Mam Pahi Gajanana*

**Hey Lambodhara (pot bellied One), victory to You, hey Gajaaanana!
Hey son of Parvati, the personification of compassion, the One who liberates (devotees) from bondage
and the cycle of birth and death, the One with the Primeval form, Son of Shiva, please protect me,
Lord, please protect Lord Ganesha.**

A note from the Editorial Team

Welcome to the latest issue of **The New Saiva Neri**.

In this issue, we share some key updates from the last quarter as well as what's happening in the next half of the year for our Temple.

Please get in touch with us if you would like to contribute or provide feedback by emailing admin@melbournevinayagar.org.au. Thank you for your support in growing this newsletter.

Yours in service of Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar,
The Editorial Team

PAST EVENTS

Tamil New Year

On 14 April, Tamil New Year celebrations were held at the Temple. Annathanam was served to about 1,000 devotees during lunch time. The evening's ubayam was sponsored by about 25 youth for a second consecutive year.



Annual Mahotsavam

This year's annual Mahotsavam took place from 19 April to 28 April 2019 and was an outstanding success. The event brought together many volunteers and was well-attended by devotees during the 10 days. The main highlight was the Thaer which went around the Temple which attracted thousands of devotees as well as onlookers.

Some new initiatives this year were introduced to improve the experience of devotees attending the festival.

For the first time this year, the Management Committee organised a question and answer session during the festival. Every night, Nithyanandam Gurukkal and Suthan Gurukkal fielded questions from young people who asked them impromptu questions on a range of topics such as why certain rituals were being done in a certain way, why do we observe certain practices and what was the meaning of certain mantras. Many of these questions were asked by younger people in English and translated into Tamil. The answers given by the priests were also in English and Tamil, with Nithyanandam Gurukkal answering in Tamil and Suthan Gurukkal in English. The learned priests provided accurate and interesting answers that were also relevant to our contemporary lives. Highlights of these question and answer will be shared on the Temple's website and social media channels in the coming weeks.

Another highlight were musicians from Sri Lanka who played during the festival. Yazhpanam Eezha Nallur, P.S. Balamurugan and P.S. Jeyshankar played the Nadhaswaram and the Thavil was played by P.S. Senthil and P. Uthayashankar. These world famous musicians were sponsored by some ardent devotees.

Annathanam was organised for lunch and dinner this year as well. This year also saw the introduction of self-service queues which reduced waiting times significantly. Annathanam was also served to thousands of devotees on Thaer day during lunch.







Balasthapanam

The Nagathambiran and Anjaneyar Balasthapanam was successfully conducted in a grand fashion by Sri Nithyanatham Kurukkal, Sri Balasundaram Kurukkal and Sri Suthan Kurukkal. The event took place from 27 to 29 May 2019.

Nagathambiran and Anjaneyar deities are now near the dining hall.



Visit by Liberal and Labor candidates during the Election campaign

The Temple Management Committee hosted Aston MP Alan Tudge and Labor candidate for Aston Kadira Pethiyagoda.



Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple on ABC TV



The Management Committee was contacted by ABC TV for the show Art Bites which featured Sri Lankan-Australian artist Ramesh Nithiyendran.

Ramesh talks about growing up in Sydney and references the influence of Hindu culture, art and Temple visits in his interview for the series. ABC TV filmed the interiors and exteriors of our Temple for a reenactment. The reenactment featured an actual devotee of the Temple, 10-year old Kapilan Sutharsan who played the younger version of Ramesh in the filming. You can [watch the full episode here](#).

Temple renovations underway

Renovations to the Temple have now commenced after Council planning approval was obtained.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Spiritual Talk by Mr Angajan MK - 4 August

Melbourne Yuva will be organising a spiritual talk by Mr Angajan MK who will speak on the topic: 5 Daily practices for life mastery. He will share more about the daily practices for a high impact day. The talk will be held in the canteen hall on Sunday, 4 August from 3:30pm to 5pm.

- Vinayagar Chathurthi - 2 September
- Purattasi Sani - Every Saturday, from 21 September to 12 October
- Navarathri - 29 September to 8 October

NOTICES



The Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam Inc.

GRANITE MOOLASTHANAM DONATIONS.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DONATION

1 THE ENTIRE SIVAN SHRINE			\$ 30,000
2 THE ENTIRE AMBAL SHRINE			\$ 30,000
3 THE ENTIRE CHANDIKESWARAR SHRINE			\$ 25,000
5 PILARS AND DECORATIONS AROUND THE KOSTUM DEITIES (ONLY 5 AVAILABLE)			
0.1 NARTHANA-GANAPATHY			\$ 15,000
0.2 VISHNU			\$ 15,000
0.3 THEDCHANAMOORTHY			\$ 15,000
0.4 BRAHMA			\$ 15,000
0.5 VISHNU DURGA			\$ 15,000
6 16 VINAYAGARS EACH	TAKEN		\$ 5,000
7 ONE MAIN VINAYAGAR IN THE FRONT	TAKEN		\$ 10,000
8 STONES ONLY 400 PIECES		EACH	\$ 2,000
9 DECORATED PILLARS	ONLY 26 PIECES	EACH	\$ 3,000

NOTE:

ANYONE THAT DONATES \$50,000 AND MORE WILL HAVE THEIR NAME INSCRIBED FOR POSTERITY

As items are being constantly taken, we request ask prospective donors to contact the Temple office to check for availability of the items

Temple Office Contacts are:
templeofficemvhs@gmail.com
Dr Srinivasan 0470 203 500

Obituary

Mr Raj Nagarajan

The sudden passing of Mr Raj Nagarajan, former president and life member of the Sangam, greatly saddens us all. Mr Nagarajan was soft-spoken and friendly who offered a helping hand to all those who asked for it. As president for two terms, Mr Nagarajan oversaw the building of the multicultural hall, the creation of small shrines for Nagathambiran and Hanuman, and bought and commissioned the Ther which we currently use. May Sri Vakrathunda bless his soul. Our condolences to him and his family.

Mr Pushparaja Chelliah

Mr Pushparaja, a life member of the Sangam, recently passed away. Mr Pushparaja was a devoted member of the congregation. He worked as a committee member, internal auditor as well as a volunteer for the Sangam. May Sri Vakrathunda bless his soul. Our condolences to him and his family.

- The Temple canteen is open on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, for dinner between 6.30 pm and 9.00 pm. and for lunch on weekends between 11.30 am and 2.00 pm. The Brunch is on every 1st Sunday and 3rd Sunday of the month. The revised brunch prices are: \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. For canteen opening hours, [please see the Temple website.](#)
- Natheswaram classes are currently being held in the Temple. This is a unique opportunity for anyone in Melbourne to learn such an art form. No other institution is teaching this art form. The classes are conducted by Dr Srinivasan who holds a PhD in Natheswaram. For more information, please contact the Temple office on 03 9762 1835.
- Those interested in requiring the services of the resident Musicians Dr K Srinivasan (Natheswaram) and Mr AB Ramadoss (Thavil) can contact the Temple office on 03 9762 1835.
- For upcoming poojas, please refer to our Temple calendar. For the full list of Temple services, [please see the Temple website.](#)

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

With the Temple building in its initial stages, here's an article explaining the significance of a granite temple written by our very own priests.

Significance of Granite

-A study based on ancient Hindu scriptures and modern Science.

Hindu Temple:

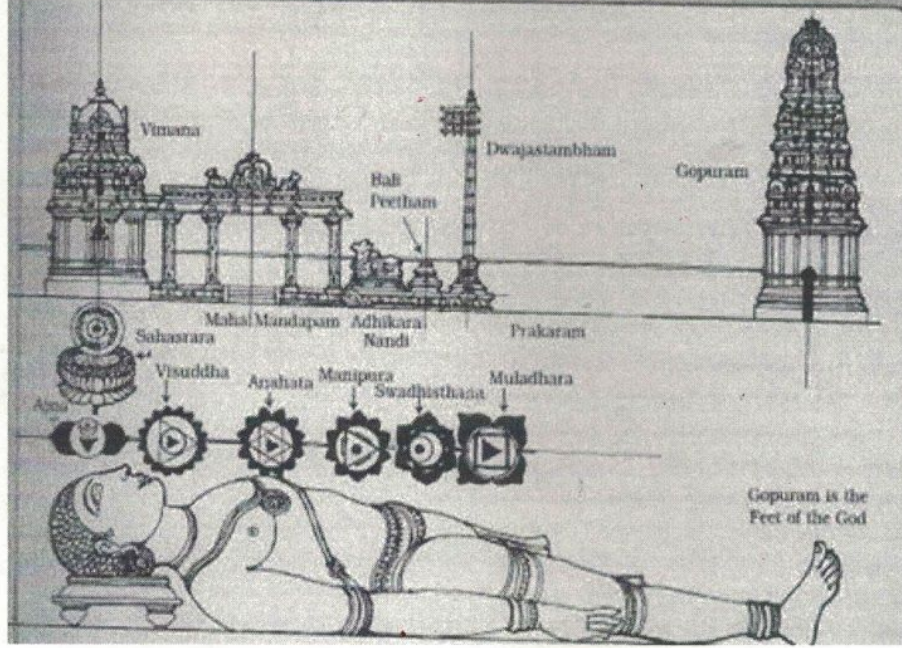
A Hindu temple is a structure designed to bring human beings and gods together, using symbolism to express the ideas and beliefs of Hinduism. A Hindu temple is a symbolic reconstruction of the universe and universal principles that make everything in it function. The temples reflect Hindu philosophy and its diverse views on cosmos and Truths.

The spiritual principles symbolically represented in Hindu temples are given in the ancient Sanskrit texts of India (agamas, Vedas and Upanishads), while their structural rules are described in various ancient Sanskrit treatises on architecture (Brhat Samhita, Vastu Sastras). The Hindu temple is often referred to in ancient Hindu texts on architecture (the Vastu Shastras) as the sacred mountain Meru or Kailasa, the dwelling of Lord Shiva in the Himalayas. To represent such spiritual structure in other places granite a part of the mountain was used to build temple in the ancient period. Chola dynasty was on top of the history to build such great Hindu temples where they exist thousands of years.

What ancient scriptures such as agama and epics of Hinduism say

1. It is believed that using granite will cause the vibrations of the **mantras to resonate at a higher level,**.
2. There are many aspects involved in constructing a temple. The procedure for building a temple is extensively discussed, and it could be expressed in short as "Karshanadi Pratisthantam", meaning beginning with "Karshana" and ending with "Pratistha". The details of steps involved vary from one Agama to another, but broadly these are the steps in temple construction:
3. The proportional harmonization of design, therefore, is of utmost importance in the construction of a temple. It is believed that the power and purity of the structure radiates from its exact proportions and measures as specified in the texts. It is also believed that a meticulously well constructed temple radiates peace and joy; and ensures the welfare of the world and its people. **The rules of Vastu-shastra render beauty, structural stability and quality of spaces by virtue of light, sound and volume management.** They also evoke in the devotee an attuning of his person to its structure and ambience.
4. Hindu Temples take their cue from the structure of Human body. The vast Hindu canonical literature on Agamic texts, Devalaya Vastu (Temple Vastu astrology) and sacred geography describe the temple as a cosmic man, the 'Purusha' (cosmic man).
5. Garba-graham (main sanctum) is equated with human head; antarala (vestibule) is equated with human neck; ardha – mandapam (half-hall) is compared with human chest; maha – mandapam (main hall) is equated with the stomach; flag-post is viewed along with human male organ; and gopuram or temple gateway tower is viewed along with human feet. Since garba graham is equated with human refers to head how important to secure the head.
6. The Vastu Purusha is visualized as lying with his face and stomach touching the ground; to suggest as if he is carrying the weight of the structure. His head is at North East (ishanya) and his legs are at the South West corner (nairutya). The South West corner (nairutya) where the Vastu Purusha has his legs corresponds to the Muladhara chakra and denotes the earth

principle. Just as the legs support the weight of the body, the base (adhithana) for the muladhara should be stable and strong. Accordingly, the South West portion of the building is the load bearing area; (where garbagraham comes) and should be strong enough to support heavy weights. It denotes the grabagraham. Just as the feet are warm, the South West cell represents warmth and heat; even according to the atmospheric cycles the South West region receives comparatively more heat.



7. Granite stone is the only stone which has all 5 elements i.e. earth, water, heat/fire, air and space. These 5 elements are called; "Pancha boothas " and should be in the ratio as described by Sage Manivasagar in "Thiruvaasagam" .
8. Further, each element has one or more attributes such as rasa (taste), Gantham (smell), sparsha (touch/tangible), roopa (form/shape), spatha(sound) while mother earth has all these five attributes. Therefore, using a granite Stone for carving a deity and imbuing him with mantras will invoke the deity to come and give his blessings.
9. Sage Manivasagar says "God, (Iraivan) spreads his Holiness in the earth through the 5 elements, in the following ratios:

Five of earth, four of Water, three of fire, two of air, and one of space.

"பாரிடை ஐந்தாய் பரந்தாய் போற்றி
நீரிடை நான்காய் நிகழ்ந்தாய் போற்றி
தீயிடை மூன்றாய்த் திகழ்ந்தாய் போற்றி
வளியிடை இரண்டாய் மகிழ்ந்தாய் போற்றி
வெளியிடை ஒன்றாய் விளைந்தாய் போற்றி
அளிபவ ருள்ளத் தமுதே போற்றி!"

The Granite stone is the place where all these elements are found and hence is used to create deities throughout the Hindu culture.

In addition to the above spiritual explanation, ual can be explained scientifically by using Blackbody Radiation law which refers to an object or system (Idol or shrine) which absorbs all radiation incident upon it and re-radiates energy which is characteristic of this radiating system only, not dependent upon the type of radiation which is incident upon it. You can simply experience it while having panchamrutham given in the temple. You do the same mixing at home, nothing specially you feel in terms of smell and taste (gantham and rasa).

Further we look at the scientific features of granite

1. Granite characteristics include strength and durability. This unique and elegant natural stone is one of the oldest, hardest, and strongest stones available.
2. Granite is a highly durable siliceous stone. Compared to others, it is more resistant to the acids found in lemons, vinegars, and cleaning products which means most granites do not etch.
3. Most granites are also 'scratch proof'. They will not scratch even when cut on. Things such as keys, coins, utensils, and appliances won't scratch it either. Granite can actually dull your knives.
4. Granite can withstand heat up to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Granite stones have more sharpness on edges than others where it easily collects more electrons (the form of cosmic energy in Hinduism). Since the sanctum (garbhagraham) is made of granite stone it happens automatically where devotees get more praise from Lord Ganesha.

SRI NITHIYANANDA SIVACHARIYAR
SRI BALASUNDERA SIVACHARIYAR
SRI SUTHANANDA SIVACHARIYAR