

Utsavas and Jaatharas of Kurnool District, Nandikotkur Mandal-Sri Tharthuru Ranganatha Swamy Jathara



Social Science

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ABSTRACT

The Sri Laxmi Ranganatha Swamy Temple Tharthuru, Nandikotkur mandal, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh, India is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Ranganatha a resting form of Lord Vishnu. This temple, also called Sri Tharthuru Laxmi Ranganatha Swamy temple is one of the oldest temples in Tharthuru. which is 8 km away from Nandikotkur, Joopadu Banglow Mandal, Kurnool District. There is story behind this, why that God is located here. Just before the main entrance of the temple is a huge tower, called Gaaligipuram. Whatever it may be, every year, here Utsava, Thirunala will be done. Every it starts in Chaitra Suddha Paadyami i.e Ugaadi with Gramotsava of Sri Ranganatha Swamy and from Ashtami, the Utsava as Poola Chapparam, Simha Vaahana Seva, Hamsa Vaahana Seva, Sesa Vaahana Seva, Hanumad Vaahana Seva, Garuda Vaahana Seva, Gaja Vaahana Seva, Rathotsavam Seva, Theermaavali, and Vasanthotsavam. It occurs for many days. So farmers go for many small wages these days.

INTRODUCTION

In every village, there will be any Utsava, Jaathara or Uregimpu (procession) will be going on every year. Rathotsavas, Teppotsavas, and different types of sevas will be going on. On the name of God. All these will be done outside with many people joining to make Utsavas (Celebrations). Here all the people of the village can be seen at one place (Fig-1). These Utsavas and Jaatharas come according to some dates or some people. Ancestors would have found God in their dream and he would have asked to run that Jaathara in that mannaer.

Jaathara is also one of the types of festival. But this festival attracts pilgrims. So it is called Jaathara we can't give clear-cut difference between Utsavaa and Jaatharas. But in Jaathara there will be "bali of animals. Where they kill the animals for the sake of God. All people will participate in this by themselves without any force. Utsavas are those in which there will be procession of God like Sree Rama, Sree Krishna, Ranganatha etc.

In Rayalaseema Sri Tharthuru Ranganatha Swamy Jaathara is very famous. Sri Tharthuru Rnaganatha Swamy is located in Tharthuru village, which is 8 km away from Nandikotkur, Joopadu Banglow Mandal, Kurnool District. There is story behind this, why that God is located here. Many years ago, there was former named Raja Reddy in the Ulapaala vamsam in Tharthuru Village, his village where he born is Tharthuru and his gothram is Tharutla gothram. He was a good former. In Telangana, Vanaparathi Samstanam, which is near Peberu, there is village called Sri Rangapuram. In that village, there was very old Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple. In that village, there was a devotee named Rangamma in the Reddy caste and she was great devotee of God. Then Rangamma married Raja Reddy of Tharthuru village. They were leading their life very happily.

Once parents of Rangamma came there and look her to their house to put vadibiyam. In that, they will keep biyyam i. e rice, five fruits, turmeric, kumkum, blouse piece, mirror, comb, wood-dall, kumkum sharine etc in the Rangammas vadi. With that she was coming back to her own village Tharthuru. In that time there was no bus facility. So she was going on foot, after some time she went on a horse jatka. Rangamma while she was reaching to Tharthuru, the weight of her vadibiyam was raising then she was making smaran of Sri Ranganatha Swamy in her soul and she reached her village. When she was about to enter in to her house. She was doing pooja to gadapa and she fell down there itself. As it was raising in weight. She threw the wooden doll in the in their vadibiyam ox.

After some days Sri Ranganatha Swamy come in to the dream of Raja Reddy and told him that his wife Rangamma threw him near the ox and asked him to take that and do poojas and sevas. Every year from Chitra Suddha Ashtami to Chaitra banula vidya in the form of Utsavas and Thirunala and he disappeared or vanished. But Raja Reddy did not worry about that. Later after some days in his home, the entire ox and other tamed animals were digging and his children's and elders health started deteriorating. In early days, if something wrong happens like this they will call Erukala saani, who will tell fortune, when the asked her, she told then that in their house. Sri Ranganatha Swamy is there. When they tie the ox. She song all this in the form of a song and also told them to do pooja to god and asked them celebrate and Utsavas and Thirunala to Ranganatha Swamy, and if they do so, everything will be fine.

Fig-1: Devotees in Tharthuru Thirunala



Even for second time, Sri Ranganatha Swamy come in to the dream of Raja Reddy and told him to celebrate Utsavas. Even he did not do because they will eat meat and drink alcohol. So they should not do that work. Then Sri Ranganatha Swamy told that all those things are not necessary, if he has the good and good habits, it is enough to start Utsavas and he vanished. They has started celebrating Utsavas. For up to 2000 years, Sri Ranganatha Swamy was in Gadipadu only (i. e place where they tie ox). Later the devotees may be raised and they built Garbha-temple to Sri Lakshmi Devi and Sri Ranganatha Swamy, Gaaligopuras, Rathasaala, Brahmana Annasathram, they built all there with the help of donors money and gifts of devotees (Fig-2).

Fig-2: Temple and Shops

Whatever it may be, every year, here Utsava, Thirunala will be done. Every it starts in Chaitra Suddha Paadyami i.e Ugaadi with Gramotsava of Sri Ranganatha Swamy and from Ashtami, the Utsava goes on as follows

Chaitra Suddha Ashtami – Poola Chapparam

Chaitra Suddha Navami - Simha Vaahana Seva

Chaitra Suddha Dasami – Hamsa Vaahana Seva

Chaitra Suddha Ekadasi – Sesa Vaahana Seva

Chaitra Suddha Dwaadasi – Hanumad Vaahana Seva

Chaitra Suddha Trayodasi - Garuda Vaahana Seva

Chaitra Suddha Chathuradasi - Gaja Vaahana Seva

Chaitra Bahula Pournami – Rathotsavam Seva

Chaitra Bahula Vidiya – Theermaavali, Vasanthotsavam.

In this way the Utsavas of this village are called farmers Utsavas. It occurs for many days. So farmers go for many small wages these days. Those who knit, Medari Wruttula, Sheep sellers, Ox sellers, will participate in this Utsavas and they keep small cottages or shops. And all available. Here they will true sheep meat in front of us and sell it. It will be very tasty and many people go there to eat this even.

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