Research Paper Education

Kolan-Bharathi-The One and Only One Saraswathi Temple in Andhra Pradesh, Kolan-Bharathi- Utsavas

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ABSTRACT

Kolanu Bharathi Temple is the abode of Sri Bharathi. This place is a locally famous pilgrim destination. It has an ancient Saraswathi temple worshipped with the name of Bharathi. A small perennial stream forms a water body (kolanu) near the Bharathi temple. The word "Kolanu" (in Telugu) with usage over the years has become "Kollam". That is how the temple is known as "Kollam Bharathi". In the same temple complex also has seven temples dedicated to Siva (Sapta Linga Kshetram). Siva Ratri is a major festival here. It also has beautiful waterfalls. This temple is nestled in the hills of Nallamala forest. It is around 10 km from Kothapalle. The nearest village is Sivapuram about 4 km away. People who visit there should obey many rules and regulations there. They should be sacred meat and should not scarify animals there. They should not smoke or drink in the premiser and should not have non-vegetarian food there.

KEYWORDS Education, Kolan-Bharathi, Poojas, Siva Temples

INTRODUCTION

One and only one Saraswathi temple in Andhra Pradesh is Kolan-Bharathi (1). Kolan-Bharathi is located in Nallamala mountain region. Here the goddess Saraswathi-Mother of knowledge is located. In our country there are three Saraswathi temples. One in Kashmir, another in Adilabad district of Telangana state, called Baasara and third one in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh state. This is at Kothapalli mandal, near to Sivapuram village called 'Kolanu-Bharathi'. People come to this place not only from the Kurnool district, but also from different places. Every year on Vasantha Panchami-the birthday of Saraswathi Devi will be celebrated very grandly. On that day children will start their education by 'Aksharabhyasam'.

This Kolan-Bharathi is located 5 Km away from Sivapuram village of Kothapalli mandal goddess Saraswathi god of education, speech. So children start their education there. Name of Saraswathi Devi is seen several times in Rugveda. Bharathi, Vani, Saarada, Vaagdevi, Vajmayei are the different famous names. Only two temples of Saraswathi are famous. But as Telangana divides from Andhra Pradesh, Now in Andhra Pradesh, there is only one temple. In Kolan-Bharathi along with Saraswathi temple, there are seven Siva temples called Saptasiva temples are located in that forest region. From the name of Saraswathi only the name her come for that place. Pond is called Kolanu and Bharathi is name Saraswathi.

This Kolanu bharathi is also called Kollam Bharathi. According to books available there , in 11th century it was called Kolla. Later this Kolla has become Kollam and later called Kollan and later it became Kolan-Bharathi.

History of temple: In Kolan-Bharathi along with Saptasivalayas, Charughoshini river is present. In 11th century, during the region of Janamejayaraju, this temple was built. In front of the temple Srichakradharini is present as special event. From the surrounding mountains from the heights, the river Charughoshini will flow and absorbed near the feet of goddess Saraswathi (**Fig-A**). If anybody takes bath in river, their sins will go way. In this place there are seven Siva temples, one towards east, three towards north, three towards south. In all these temples, there was Eka dhwaja Piller and one Nandeswara.

This temple is from the time of Chalukya and even before that time, some history tells that it from the time of Mahabharatha and Janamejaya. This temple is facing towards north and it is also Garbha Gudi and Mukha Mantapas. Here even gills are attached recently.

Here Kolan-Bharathi is located on blooming lotus in the Aasan os Padmaasana and her Jatamakuta. This goddess has hangings and necklaces up to belly and has four hands, with Abhayahasta and Ankusha in right hand and books in the left hand. She has Aksharamala and Paasankusa. By seeing all these we can find out that the goddess is Saraswathi clearly, those children who are not mentally developed according to age will take the darshan of this goddess. Any children if they do darshan of this goddess their intelligence will be developed. If small children or infants start their education, here then will become good and famous scholars. Devotees believe in this manner.

Behind the Siva temples (**Fig-B**), there is a neem tree and below that the Kshetra palaka of Kolan-Bharathi called 'Bhairava', is located and receiving prayers and poojas of devotees (**Fig-C**). Bhairava is the god of people living in those surroundings. Whenever they are in difficulties then prey Bhairava and clear their mokku after their prayed work is completed.

To the left of Kolan-Bharathi temple, there is a bilam called 'Terubilam' there is underground way for this bilam. There is a story which is of folk type and is famous in this area nearer to this place there is Alampur-Jogulamba, Sangameswara Kaamakshamma, and in Musalamadugu will there is Durgam Ankalamma, all these three goddess reach Kolan-Bharathi through this bilam from the underground passage and four of these go to Srisaila Kshethra where Bhramarambastays and after that by early in the morning, they reach to their own places. This story is famous over there.

Every year in the month of Aswayuja Devi Navarathti Ustavas, in the month of Karthikam, in the month of Maagha Suddha Panchami, specific, specific Ustavas will be done for the goddess. Prathyekatha poojas in the month of Karthikam and on the day of Pournami in that month visesha poojas are done, even in Maha Sivaratri also jaathara will occur.

People who visit there should obey many rules and regulations

there. They should be sacred meat and should not scarify animals there. They should not smoke or drink in the premiser and should not have non-vegetarian food there. If they cross their rules these honey bees will come and attack them. Many people faced it. So everyone who go there should be neat and sacred.

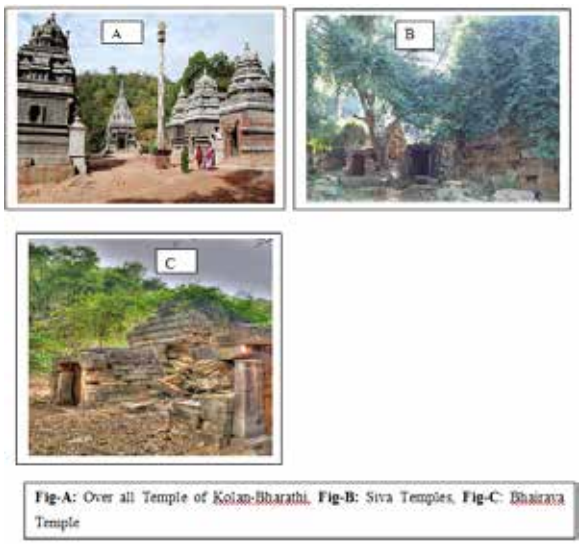


Fig-A: Over all Temple of Kolan-Bharathi. **Fig-B:** Siva Temples. **Fig-C:** Bhairava Temple

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1. Census of India. Retrieved 2007-05-17.