

bharata darshan

In Search of Self



CS Balachandra Sunku



Sarve Bhavanthu Sukhinaha



bharata

— darshan —

In Search of Self

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Sri Gowra Srinivas

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bharata

— darshan —

In Search of Self

Dedicated to the
Searching Souls of My Soil

With Love & Life
Balachandra



Publisher's Note

My association with CS Balachandra Sunku is entering Silver Jubilee Year (25 years), ever since we met in the year 1996, every moment with him is either learning or enlightenment. Because of good deeds and prayers of my parents, I always have an attitude of helping...that is fuelled by Bala's association and today Bala says I am his Professional Guru and I say he is my Spiritual Guru.

I read and heard that many Spiritual and Political leaders could attain highest elevation and "Paripurnatvam" only after the going around India...The noble land. Swami Vivekananda also traveled across and country, in the process he could have surely understood about the country; realised the greatness of the country.

Bharat Darshan certainly elevated Bala to the next level in service to the "Sarvaprani". I am also fortunate to be part of his Bharat Darshan for couple of days in Delhi, understood how difficult it is, it requires tremendous strength and perseverance...

I believe this Bharat Darshan has granted him tremendous strength, understanding the Vedic glory of the Bharat Matha. I and on behalf of countrymen pray to GOD to give him more and more strength for serving the Sarvaprani and Prakruthi.

I am happy to be the publisher of this wonderful book along with Sri Gowra Srinivas for the sake of those who wish to explore India. The value of the book is invaluable and hence this can be treated as Pustaka Prasadam even if it's purchased by the reader as the sale proceeds will be going to abhaya Foundation for the betterment of those in need across the country.

Jai Bharat Matha



Devaki Vasudeva Rao

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Mangalasanams from HH Sri Thridandi Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji

Jai Srimannarayana! We are sure that your experience of Bharat Darshan has taken you to the next level of wonderful service to the divine form of God. It is good that you are documenting your experiences and sharing them so that others get inspired to travel and get the divine feel firsthand.

Bharat is not just a continent, not just a piece of land that makes up the earth, it is the place where God's divine foot touched the earth's soil when He revealed Himself in His avatars. It is the soil where in every nook and corner there are temples where God resides in the Deity form.

It is the land where in ancient times, sages and seers experienced divine knowledge and bequeathed it to us in the form of Vedas. The very atmosphere that surrounds Bharat has been purified for centuries by chanting of Vedic Shlokas.

There is a lot for anyone to see in Bharat, but they shouldn't limit themselves to seeing its gushing waterfalls, its flowing rivers, its overpowering mountains, they should have darshan of the divinity within them. For that, they will have to see with the eyes of their souls. They must listen to its birds chirping in myriad notes, its lions impressive roaring, with the ears of their souls.

The civilisation and culture of Bharat has withstood invasions and years of foreign domination because it is like a tree, whose roots are nourished by divine knowledge, the Vedas. When people see poverty around, let them go beyond and also see the determination in the hearts of these people to face their hurdles, yet keep their faith alive. When they see the riches in the palaces, go beyond and see the compassion with which they do danam to keep their faith alive. When people see illiteracy, let them go beyond

and see the Bhakti in the hearts of the illiterate. These are not excuses for poverty and illiteracy but a call to see that these are external sheaths and within we are all one.... children of the Supreme Lord.

Bharat is a beautiful place for invoking and experiencing God, on this planet Earth. God reveals Himself in various exquisite forms on this holy land. Each place we visit, and different forms we explore will illustrate a kind of beauty of God in that particular form.

The mystery of God's existence is revealed by Him at different times, only to those who are sincere and pure at heart, striving to offer good services expecting nothing in return.

Your Bharat Darshan will definitely open the doors for understanding humanity in general, especially the poor and the needy, inspiring people to serve them in a better way for a peaceful and enjoyable life. Your spotless, untiring efforts should continue in experiencing and understanding this diversified culture of our country whose powerful undercurrent is the Vedic knowledge and its uncompromising practices.

Be proud of Bharat and its ability to accept and be home to different religions and varied cultures. Always remember: Worship your own and respect all others. Through your Bharat Darshan may you absorb the echoes of the past, integrate them with your present and together move to a bright and vibrant future with consideration for all beings, inspiring others to do the same.

Our Mangalasanams are there with you always for your brighter future.

=Chinna Jeeyar=



This is a must read book for any young Indian

*Rathna Kara Dhoutapada
Himalaya Kiritinam
Deva Raja Rishi Ratnadhayam
Vandhe Bharatha Matharam*

History tells us that since the beginning of mankind, travelling has been part and parcel of human life, first for food and water, then for shelter, thereafter for capturing others' possessions or territories and today for business and tourism.

In an evolved society like ours travelling is undertaken for seeking Knowledge, Spirituality and Peace. From the time of Ramayana and Mahabharata, we find many enlightened people and sages wandering from one place to another in search of evolved scholars from whom they could seek knowledge and wisdom.

Even the initial invaders like Alexander and those from the Middle East came to this country when they learnt of its rich cultural and spiritual heritage. Material gain like gold and money was a secondary goal while gaining knowledge and witnessing the magnificence of this civilisation was the primary goal.

The Chinese travellers and historians associated with the kings of other nations like Fa-Hein, Megasthenes, Marco Polo have documented the greatness of our vibrant culture and socio-economic advancement of our society.

The Himalayas are not mere mountains of ice, they are Tapobhumi for many even today, whereas in Switzerland the same snow mountains are places of mere adventure and pleasure. The caves in India are not mere sites for recreation but are places of tranquillity and enlightenment.

Balarama, Arjuna, Acharya Shankara, Swami Vivekanada and many more rushis have wandered across this Bharatha Bhumi to feel and resonate with the purity and the spirituality of each and every part of it. Amongst many of our travelogues, the Puranas, Itihasas and Kavyas mention about many places and their speciality from spiritual, cultural and aesthetic points of view.

Like Shankara and Ramanuja, Shri. Balachandra also has travelled the entire Arya Vartha and has given us the fruits of his experience in the form of this great book as prasada to the seekers of nectar. Through his splendid writing, he takes us through a journey with him into the spiritual and cultural greatness of our nation while exploring its serene natural beauty, society and knowledge.

Even a professional traveller, who has visited all these places while going through the narrations and observations of the author will definitely feel that they have missed out on certain aspects.

This is a must read book for any young Indian before saying **MERA BHARAT MAHAN.**



With Best Wishes

V V Lakshmi Narayana, IPS
Addl Director General of Police (Rtd.)
Hyderabad.

I remember the three days of his stay in Alleppey

I am always reminded of the words by CS Balachandra Sunku, Founder, abhaya Foundation, a Fellow Member of ICSI, Law Graduate and a Science Graduate.... who turned his vision of serving needy into reality by founding abhaya with his salary saving of Rs. 10,000/- in 2006 which is presently serving the most needy people in the country with the support of various groups of people like Engineers, Doctors, Politicians, Industrialists, Chartered Accountants, Corporate heads etc.

At the very first meeting with him at my office an year back during flood relief activities at Kerala, the following verbs ignited my soul:

"Kshanam Vittam - Kshanam Chittam
Kshanam Jeevanamaavayoho
Yamasya Karunaa Naasti
Dharmasya Twarita Gathihi"

Which means wealth is unstable, mind is unstable, our life too is not permanent. As Yama has no pity, one should do good works quickly before he takes us from this world.

When I heard about his Bharata Darshan, for a moment I felt like Sri Adi Shankaracharya had initiated the DIGVIJAYAM again through CS Balachandra Sunku, which he made centuries ago. I heard about his travel to different places in the state of Kerala, he lost his backpack in the bus journey. Though I was busy with elections and counting at Alleppy as Dist Sub Collector at that time, I decided to do my duty of giving my support to him...remembering his words...'Dharmasya Twaritha Gathihi'. In fact this is what I always do in life during all the tough times. My office colleagues received him and took care of his personal needs, surprisingly

he got back his backpack which was returned by Kottayam Police, the very next day. I remember how, he recalled his backpack as it was not just a bag but it is bundle of love and care he received from well wishers.

I remember the three days of his stay in Alleppey during which he reviewed the final phase of flood relief activities undertaken by abhaya Foundation for the 9 months period. He visited the new houses constructed by abhaya with the support of CSR Funds, Fishermen to whom abhaya handed over canoes, Students to whom abhaya lend bridge scholarships etc.,. I am happy to have abhaya Foundation and Balachandra as partners of our Dist Initiative 'I am for Alleppey'.

I am sure, his experiences while travelling across the breadth and corner of this noble land will surely beneficial to the readers of this book. I convey my best wishes to him and all those who stood by him during Bharata Darshan.



With Best Wishes

MVR Krishna Teja IAS

Addl Director General
Kerala Tourism

His journey will inspire each one of us to reach out to a higher sense of life

Sri Balachandra Sunku has established abhaya Foundation as an instrument to serve the needy, empower the less privileged and for enlightenment in search of higher purpose in life set on to Bharata Darshan.

It was purely God's will which made him select the same route of Aadi Shankara's Digvijayam and be able to successfully complete inspite of challenging moments in between.

The journey was undeterred and he could cover the length and breadth of the vast country, touching Nepal, Tibet and China. He had been to Manasa Sarovar and Mt Kailash which personifies purity, absolves all sins to reach HIM Blessed darshan of various places and deities en route further made his search more resolute for a highest purpose in life.

Sri Balachandra Sunku journey is empowered by many from a monkey to saint who by his virtue of love, purity and generosity surrendered to his prayers! His journey will inspire each one of us to reach out to a higher sense of life.

Bharata Darshan echoes the need for present generation to traverse through the experience of Sri Balachandra Sunku and silently reflect on incidents, experiences which he had were not different from what Saints and Sadgurus had. The book is

sending a strong message, the need for each one of us to look into a mirror and experience as to how beautiful we are, our land is the fragrance of Dharma is afresh though subtle. It's time to know and let world know the transformation of this nation into a modern entity on strong fundamental principles of Sanathana Dharma remain intact.

His journey has inspired me personally to set a higher purpose and reach out to a higher sense of Life!



With Best Wishes

B Sumathi, IPS
SP - Women Safety Wing
Telangana

On The Trail of Adi Shankara

No journal or travelogue or book of this sort can contain the spiritual experiences and enlightenment one goes through when one embarks upon a spiritual journey on the trail of His Holiness Sri Adi Shankaracharya. But, Bala has done a stupendous work in bringing most of his experiences in the form of this book for our benefit.

“Why is Bala troubling himself?”, was my first reaction, when he told me about his desire to undertake Bharat Darshan on the trail of Adi Shankara. According to me there was nothing more for him to achieve through this journey, as he has already been on the path of Karma Yoga. But within no time, he convinced me why should he undertake Bharat Darshan and I ended up giving suggestions on 'how to be safe' on such an arduous journey. I even got a 'body bag' for him, which we can see on him in most of the pictures of this book.

As a childhood friend, I have seen Bala growing with loving heart and helping hand. His inclination for spirituality and social service are matchless. This journey which he undertook must have only strengthened his inner resolve that 'service to humanity is service to god'.

One remarkable aspect of this Bharat Darshan is that Bala went around as a common man, as a “budget traveller”. During his entire spiritual odyssey, I was in touch with him and wished to join him at least for a few days. Even though, I could never make it, my thoughts were with him all along.

As we run through the pages of this book, we can see that Bala has recharged himself through Bharat Darshan. What is required now is intense Karma Yoga with unbounded courage and indomitable strength in the heart. Then only will the people of the country be roused.



Dr. P.V. Pradeep Kumar, IRS
Addl. Commissioner of Income Tax,
Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Samasta Loka Sukhinobhavanthu

The yearning to lead a life of purity surging towards Divinity has been Balachandra's goal in life and in the process render Seva to the needy ... This is a clear directive of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the entire story of Bala revolves around that !

Having established abhaya Foundation which is his dream cum true, Bala left no stone unturned to achieve his passion to Serve his Motherland...It's a phenomenal journey... from the land of Anantapuram to Hyderabad and across India... Bala has put his heart and soul to abhaya H.E.A.R.T (Health - Education - Awareness - Rural Development - Transformation) program.

The thought within to learn more and do more... was something unexpected to most of us who knew Bala, his love for his motherland must have reflected at the Bhadradi Seetarama Temple to give him the intuition of Bharata Darshanam as God is nothing but a Refelction, Reaction and Resound of one's own self. With the Divine Blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who has been his guide , Philosopher and Ista Daivam coupled with the blessings and direction of His Holiness Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji made him plunge into the act of going on a Bharata Darshan in the same Digvijayam route of Sri Adi Sankaracharya .

This books is a compendium for any spiritual seekers, as it explains the importance of our culture and ancient heritage of Bharat. Bala has never planned his travel, but roamed like a wondering monk...highlighting the importance of the place and giving spiritual meaning as well as sanctity of the same . He has also made a decent effort of getting the construction and architectural details of the places (Courtesy Wikipedia) so that the reader can relate oneself to the grandeur of the place.

Covering the distance by walk, road, rail and air across different geographies is not easy... with language difficulties, climatic and weather aberrations, sometimes can make journey more difficult...Yet Bala with his sankalpa has made it with determination, devotion and dedication. The most important part of the travel is that he ensured that his travel is economical facing the rigors of life which sparkles with the aspect of detachment to world life!

It is quite astounding as to how he has been accepted across boundaries of the 24 states and 4 countries (India, Nepal, Tibet and China) with a lot of respect and Love which clearly indicates attitude of Loving people of India! The support that he has

obtained ... from Family and Friends ... from Holy Saints and the powerful of the country shows as to how much he is looked upon as a Person Living with a Purpose! My Hearty congratulations on that front to Bala!

Covering 12 Jyothi Lingams, 18 Shakti Peethams, 108 Vaishna Divya Deshams requires a lot of physical and mental strength ...It is remarkable to see that despite the ordeals during his journey. What is phenomenal in this journey is that his travel has brought in a Unity in Diversity as his journey is also associated with 6 major religions of the World – Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism ...which clearly indicates that Humaneness is more important to Humans which is beyond Caste, Creed, Region or religion which is one of the most important tenets of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba learnt at a very young age by him. He has succeeded in completing Bharata Darshan with a strong and silent prayer for the well-being of the mankind which echoes from the Sathya Sai dictum of " SAMASTA LOKA SUKHINOBHAVANTHU".

This 200 pages book will give every reader a deep insight of the Glory of Bharat and also motivate many young / old to pursue the spiritual path and also learn greater details of every place. His lucid way of presentation will give a feel of a live running commentary inspiring and helping you to visualize the happenings of each day during his Bharata Darshan.

I thank Bala for this opportunity to read through the manuscript and help out in writing this loving note, recommending one and all that this is a must read book for anyone who intends to tread the path of spirituality. Sai Ram.



With Pranams

Gopi Krishna Pidatala

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, India.

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First thing which came to my mind... "is he mad?"

If I remember rightly, it was 21st April 2019, Balachandra travelled to Bangalore to discuss with us his Bharata Dharshan. When he put forth the subject before all the family members, we were astonished to hear his proposal and intent. The first thing which came to my mind is "is he mad?". It is our further surprise, when he narrated that he would like to travel in the same path of Sri Adi Shankaracharya who toured India for 4 times and he wished to do it by public transport without a specific plan like a wandering monk. I have not come across anyone who did this kind of Bharata Dharshan, in my 54 years life.

While he was narrating his plan of action to our mother, she was in tears and our ailing father was staring at Balachandra. Finally father has nodded his head in agreement and mother had no choice but to accept. My wife, my daughter and I advised very vehemently that he should take care of his health, on time taking food and not compromise on facilities. We all assured that we stand by him and support in all respects for this holy purpose.

While he was away on Bharata Darshan, my wife and daughter had scheduled to travel to USA during May and June for spending her semester holidays with our elder daughter Mrs. Vaishnavi Uday, who got married in November 2018. I was alone with my parents during their travel to USA. My wife Sailaja has requested Balachandra that he can travel the path he has chosen but he should return to home when they leave to USA and stay with our parents.

I remember he was mentioning that only on couple of occasions he will break his Yatra and one is father's departure. He returned Bengaluru from Delhi on 27th June 2019 due to unavailability of tickets to Himalayan States and as per his intuition and advice of my wife... he was back at home. When father breathed his last on 29th May 2019 in the presence of my mother, Balachandra and sister Revathi, I was reminded of Sri Adi Shankaracharya who reached his mother who passed away during his Yatra. It may be a co-incidence, but Balachandra's intuition is evident.

It is needless to say that Balachandra's personality viz. service to mankind, selflessness, caring / concern to society, humbleness is incomparable. He has dedicated his life to serve needy. He has resigned from Corporate Job with handsome salary and led the life like a saint. The Path he has chosen is very

difficult for an ordinary human being, but with the blessings of god he is able to achieve his aspirations. He would like to bring happiness in the lives of deprived people. He finds his happiness in the smiles on the faces of these deprived people.

We all are blessed to have a person of this kind in our lives and indebted to god for providing an opportunity to serve society through abhaya FOUNDATION which was founded by us in the year 2006 backed by the ideology of Serving with H.E.A.R.T. We all Pray to god to give good health and strength to Balachandra to continue his service to this society for ever.

Balachandra spent almost 6 months on this holy Bharata Dharshan. He had varied experiences at each and every place visited. All these experiences were shared on real-time basis on social media platforms every day. This has been followed by entire abhaya fraternity along with other general public. Many well wishers opined that if these experiences are compiled into a book form with photos, then the knowledge, culture of different regions and communities are made available to each one of us and also for generations to come. It is fact that none of us can think of such kind of Bharata Dharshan to have experiences in this present mechanical world. I personally feel that it is an awesome experience to have a copy of this holy book and while reading I feel as if I have walked through such places.

My sincere thanks to all those donors and supporters for bringing these lively experiences in the form of a book.



With Best Wishes

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A MoUnk from Mother's Womb!

CS Balachandra Sunku:

He is a Company Secretary by Profession, was born at Tadipatri, Anantapuram District of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1970 on 6th, April (Amavasya, a day before Ugadi). He developed passion for community work right from his young age. His parents Smt. Rajeswari and Sri SS Rangaiah infused values in life and his Guru and teacher Smt. Naga Jyothi inspired him to 'Love and Lead Life with a Purpose'. As he grew up, many saintly people in the country blessed and inspired him to do good work.

Education and Enlightenment:

His degrees such as B.Sc., LL.B., F.C.S., are all the result of the support and help received from a number of kind-hearted people in the country. Selfless love and care shown by many such people in his life and the urge to do societal good made him to establish a Foundation with cash and kind contributions that he received during 'Upanayanam' (thread ceremony) conducted by his parents when he was 30. He was qualified as Company Secretary in the year 2001 and started his full time job at Hyderabad. With the blessings of elders and best wishes of near and dear... inspired by Sri Adi Shankaracharya, Swamy Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Alluri Seetha Rama Raju, Mother Theresa and his guiding light Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, he founded abhaya FOUNDATION in the year 2006 at Hyderabad with his salary savings.

Profession and Passion:

He served GVPR Group (2013), NCC Group (2011), ICOMM Group (2009), Siva Shakthi Group (2006), Surana Group (2001) Hyderabad as their Company Secretary and Advisor for 2 decades or so. His focus has always been how to serve fellow beings and used to spend most of his earnings for the community work. He is an excellent orator on subjects like Communication Skills, Time Management, Leadership, Personality Development, Spirituality, Philosophy etc. He has organised various exhibitions, seminars, workshops, plays etc to spread the message of love and care in society. He wishes to live for the country... doing good work... believing that in the process of doing good work, one would

transform into a better person. His passion is engaging everyone in the good work which is nothing but doing God's own work.

abhaya Foundation - Home of Happiness:

With a divine thought of living for those in need of shelter, sustenance, support and solicitude, he decided to establish abhaya Home of Happiness under the aegis of abhaya Foundation. The project is a reality within the shortest span of 12 months at Ibrahimpatnam, RR Dist., Telangana with public donations to the tune of Rs. 2 Crores and started functioning since 2012. Further, abhaya Foundation started constructing Youth Empowerment Centres at Anantapuram (AP) and Ajagondahally (Karnataka) with a project cost of Rs.3 Crores to impart livelihood skills and life skills for those in need. The Mission is on and continuing... motivating, inspiring, encouraging, involving, innovating while serving the country men.

Life and Mission:

As of now, he may have travelled around 10 lakh kilometres across the country in the last 4 decades spreading the cause of love and care among more than 15 lakhs of people of every age group. abhaya Foundation founded by him could have made a difference to more than 600 patients, 600 meritorious and poor students pursuing higher education, 25 Govt / Aided Schools benefiting 5000 students and teachers, 25 villages benefiting thousands of rural communities, 10,000 youth with free livelihood skills, 50,000 people who are shivering on the roads during winter season with blankets, 3,000 people who are suffering under the sun during the summer season with umbrellas etc., the list goes on.

The Youth and Women Empowerment Activities carried out by abhaya Foundation in many states are providing livelihood skills to thousands of young men and women in different fields, such as driving, plumbing, electrical work, mobile repair, tailoring, jute bags, tie making, kundani, computers, thread jewellery, beautician etc., paving a way for them to earn and live with dignity.

Contd...

Author - a MoUnk from Mother's Womb !

Keeping aside all the formal introduction, the author of this book... CS Balachandra Sunku is someone of whom I've heard from my mother. My mother's family lived next to his house at Tadipatri, my mother has always told me stories about her childhood and how they all played together as kids.

She has always told me that Balachandra was an exceptional child in the lot, he used to pray to God, perform Pooja and help others even during child's play. A few years later I got to witness this wonder in person. He has not become a Sanyasi by Sadhana but he was a monk... a monk by birth straight from his mother's womb.

And he is not just a Monk, but also a parent by birth. Even though he has not given birth to any children, he has treated all the children like his own flesh and blood. He has cared for every child like a mother and helped them like a father, which is why I nick named him Monk or MoUnc (Mom + Uncle). Every child who has been close to him can say that he is not just Uncle, he is Mom+Uncle.

He is my grandfather by relation, but he has been my Godfather by realisation for a decade. He has been my parent, guardian, mentor, guru and more than anything, an unconditional friend. Some Punya of my previous life has put me in this privileged position, to be closely associated to this man whom I call uncle!

He is a walking wonder to any rational human being, his skills and expertise are multi faceted, he is a writer, singer, performer, orator, organiser, multi tasking, pleader, team player, success coach and he has ensured to put all these talents to use only and only for good work. He doesn't just do good work all by himself but he paves the way for others to be involved in it. He doesn't just help people but he transforms their lives in the process.

I've seen him selflessly working for abhaya and others, as if he is working for himself. I've never seen anyone so passionate and dedicated to service. He has surrendered his entire life to God and his work of serving fellow beings as he believes "Sarva Jeeva Seva is Sarveswara Seva". I've seen him living every second

of his life for the well-being of others. I always used to question him in perplexity "Uncle where are you in your Life?" such is his passion and he has made all this possible with profound love and care for every human being, even if it is someone who has harmed him. One can learn to love from his love.

The Blessings and Beyond:

The speed with which he responds to serve those in need across the country brought him lots of appreciation from Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, HH Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, HH Sri Vidhu Sekhar Bharathi Thirtha Swamiji, Sri Sri Ravishankar, HH Sri Subhudendra Thirtha Swamiji, Leaders, Social Workers, Corporate Heads, Bureaucrats and Politicians. He brings the people to one platform with his leadership, he enlightens and motivates them as to how fortunate one is to serve the human kind, and with his love he brings out the best in people which fetches the best aid to the ones in need. HE is a living miracle in a nutshell.

Bharata Darshan:

He has excelled in his professional life, personal life, family life and social life and now he is walking towards attaining spiritual absoluteness. With divine will of GOD prevailing on him, he has taken up "Bharata Darshan". People call him a Sanyasi, Bramhachari, Philanthropist, Social worker, Reformer and what not. But I call him a no one, a person beyond religion, cast, creed, gender and all other social sects or cults. He is someone beyond definition, a no one who does not fall under any human sorts. Someone by him whom I am inspired and I aspire.

I've been asked to write this note ...as I have been assigned by uncle to collect, correct and create his "Bharata Darshan" updates on day to day basis. By doing so, in the process, I must have read and imbibed the "Bharata Darshan" more than thrice.

Bharata Darshan is the reverberation emanated from the intuition at Bhadrachala Ramachandra Swamy Sannidhi on on 6th April 2019 and the inspiration from "Adi Sankaracharya' Digvijayam at Sitalamba Sannidhi at Pavagada on 21st April 2019.

Contd...

He had set himself on “Bharata Darshan” in search of self. In the process he has braced himself for the grace of God who is helping him to tread towards absolute spiritual bliss. Throughout the journey you will see him making the only wish with a burning desire of “Samastha Lokah Sukhinobavanthu”.

He has prayed, bowed and prostrated in front of God with this request. This is a beautiful journey, which unfolds the diversity of the unified Bharat, whose fundamental philosophy is serving and loving mankind. Bharat is a realm of spirituality, service, love and God which offers seeker of every kind, innumerable alternatives to pursue the path of spirituality.

I have not visited most of the places mentioned in the Bharata Darshan chronicles, but it has definitely given me virtual experience of all the places he visited. Such is the uncanny narrative power of the author. You will witness the fact that God shall go hand in hand with us when our intentions are pure. And not God alone, all Mankind shall become kind and support us in fulfilling the purpose. We will see how a person can be at bliss, despite the tedious and dynamic travel. Throughout the book we will experience a roller coaster ride of emotions and experiences and this will offer us infinite new insights which may leave us in complete wonderment.

We will also witness how the saintly people, have established Holy Places in all the corners of the Country in order to protect the virtues for the coming generations. One will also observe that the spiritual well being which has gained popularity amongst the masses all over the world in the recent times, is an essential requirement for every human being which has been emphasised by Hinduism since inception. And it is because this very awareness, every person that the author came across during Barata Darshan has treated him, perceiving his saintly nature.

Bharata Darshan - the Book:

The book will offer wonderful insights of our rich cultural heritage, efforts undertaken to preserve the values, on the purpose of being a human etc.,

Bharata Darshan, book is a reminiscence for travel and pilgrimage enthusiasts. It shall also pave the path forward for spiritual seekers. Moreover the author has deliberately made the commentary in simple English to make it lucid for any reader. Seeker or not, believer or not one will thoroughly enjoy this Journey. The ecstatic experiences of the author will put you through a state of excitement, envy and bliss all together.

Bharat is the land of mysteries and mystics, it is a home for heterogeneous cultures and creations with the underlying spirit of Vasudhaika Kutumbakam and Bharata Darshan will stand as a testimony to this truth.

I am humbled, grateful and in gratitude to uncle Balachandra for making me a part of his journey – Bharata Darshan.



With Love & Prayers

S Lalitha Lahari, B.Com, LL.B., (CS)

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Author's Note:

Bharata Darshan is a reality with the Divine Will. Publication of "Bharata Darshan" in a book form is the experiences in a celestial scripting.

Each day in Bharata Darshan granted me so many insights, observations, realisations, experiences, exposures and opportunities for my own refinement and conversance. I started recording everything...both good and bad each day of my journey before retiring for the day. Also shared them on social media and hundreds of family members, friends, colleagues, well wishers, known and unknown people regularly followed.

Many people, suggested that I should publish all these experiences in the form of a book enabling the present and future generations take benefit of knowing the grandeur and glory of Bharat in her true spirit and splendour.

Ms. Somisetty Lalitha Lahari, my grand child took pain to collect all the travel chronicles on daily basis and started compiling them in the form of a book. Having returned to Hyderabad, I went through the first draft. Together we reviewed and refined the content. Sri Pidatala Gopikrishna, CA Kashyap H Choksi spared their precious time for value additions.

Sri Gowra Srinivas, Sri Ch Venkateswara Rao and CS Devaki Vasudevarao, knowing about my idea of publishing the book very generously evinced financial support saying that the book is to be given like holy oblation(Prasadam) rather than a saleable commodity.

Dr. Kamaraju Suguna Ratnakar, Director, Global Medical Education & Research, Global Hospitals, Hyderabad and Sri H Srinivasulu, All India Coordinator, (Techno Group), Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation and Sri Kandukuri Ramesh Babu, Journalist, CS B Kiran Kumar, Prof. Venkata Reddy (EFLU), Sri Phanindra and few others who very lovingly and caringly read the book and provided their suggestions and comments.

Following message from Dr KS Ratnakar is sent on 13th Nov 2019, worth noting as he left the world on 18th Nov 2019. (Prayers for the departed soul)

"Dear Balachandra, Sai Ram. I am blessed to go through your amazing journey and equally appreciative narration. There is no place where my pen could find to

correct or modify. Kindly organize a befitting release function, preferably in a holy place."

HH Sri Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji very graciously granted Mangalasanams for Bharata Darshan. Further he has kindly consented to launch the book.

CS. Devaki Vasudevarao, Sri VV Lakshminarayana IPS Retd., Sri MVR Krishnateja IAS, Smt. B Sumathi IPS, Dr. PV Pradeep Kumar IRS, Sri P Gopikrishna, CA SN Rangaiah, Ms Lalitha Lahari and CA Kashyap H Choksi added their words of wisdom and penned their love for the book.

Sri A Rajasekhar Reddy, graphic designer and the well wisher whom I have known for a decade, sat with me at nights after his office hours in designing the book. Sai Keshav Graphics, Hyderabad put in their best efforts in printing out a beautiful book. I further take this opportunity, to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one who had lent their supporting hands to bring out this beautiful book to reach the readers. Prayers for the well-being of those who added their words, wisdom and wealth for this book.

Hope that this Book will be of some use to all generations which intend to know about Bharat today...tomorrow...forever!

Finally, I bow down at the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for being my constant companion throughout my life as nothing happens without His blessings and Grace. Samastha Lokah Sukhinobhavanthu.



Love & Life for the Country

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Bharata Darshan | The Path Divine

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The Divine Intuition on Birthday
@ Bhadrachalam (6th April, 2019)



“Bharata Darshan”

In Search of Self...

The Divine Intuition on Birthday @ Bhadrachalam

“I am Thy servant to do Thy will,
and that will is sweeter to me than
position or riches or fame,
and I choose it above
all the things on Earth or in Heaven.”

I was at the divine lotus feet of Lord Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy at Bhadrachalam, by thy WILL, a divine direction hit my heart that I must take up “Bharata Darshan”. My gratitude to Sri Motukuri Narayan Rao and CS Devaki Vasudeva Rao, Khammam, who were the reason behind my visit to Bhadrachalam on April 6th, 2019. The day was the auspicious Vikari Naama Ugadi, which also happened to be my 49th birthday. While witnessing abhishekam (sacred bath to the deities) in the sanctum sanctorum, I was crying aloud inside the heart seeking the divine blessings for the life ahead of 50 years. It was that time I received a divine intuition of Bharatha Darshan. Without any hesitation or asking my self, the rhetoric questions like what, when and where, I resolved to take up “Bharata Darshan” with a heartfull of divine vibrations.



Divya Saketham: While witnessing the celestial wedding of Sri Sita Rama at Divya Saketham, Hyderabad on Sri Ramanavami Day (April 14th, 2019) I mailed my thoughts to HH Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, seeking guidance and directions for the "Bharata Darshan", Sanyasa Deeksha (referring to the dream I got few months ago), abhaya Foundation (abhaya / www.abhayafoundation.org) and its Mission. Swamiji responded just saying..."Jai Srimannarayana! Currently you are a Sanyasi only but in white clothes."

Indrakiladri: I was thrilled to receive such a holy response. However, the interaction did not get me an answer about Bharata Darshan and other things. After three days, I got an opportunity to have darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga at Indrakiladri, Vijayawada with my friend, CA BV Prasad and I prayed there for direction for Bharata Darshan and also sought the blessings for my friend and his family.



Sri Chinna Jeeyar: It was on April 20th, I had the fortune of meeting HH Jeeyar Swamiji along with CS Devaki Vasudevarao and the team who campaigned with him during General Elections at Khammam in March 2019. While interacting with the team, HH Swamiji blessed me to take up "Bharata Darshan"... he also advised me to spread the cause of abhaya, values and mission during the travel. Reciting "Tadaiva lagnam Sudinam Tadeva"... he garlanded me and granted the Prasadam...fixing Vaisaka Dasami (April 14th, 2019) as Smuhurtham to start "Bharata Darshan".



Sitalamba Devi at Pawagda granted the route: On April 21st, 2019, I happened to travel with Ms. Leelavathi (abhaya Educare Member & Volunteer) to discuss about her marriage alliance in a village near Pawagada. While returning we visited Goddess "Sitalamba Devi" at Pawadaga. The temple carries a legend of 400 years. It was here, a Saint who installed a 6 feet tall stone pillar inscribed 72 bheejaksharas to protect the people of the area from a deadly drought by infusing the divine power of Goddess Sitalamba in that stone. When I enquired about the Goddess in the temple, the priest took me inside the sanctum sanctorum holding my hands. I was thrilled! It was beyond my imagination and it was here that I got another intuition and direction that, I should take up "Bharata Darshan" in the "Shankara Digvijayam" route. I further prayed at her feet for **Desa Sowjanyaam - Desa Sowbhagyam - Desa Sowshilyam**.

With Parents at Bengaluru: With the WILL of GOD prevailing on me, I sought the blessings of Parents, Family Members, Master and Board of Trustees of abhaya at Bengaluru... Having received the Divine intuition at the Lotus Feet of Bhadradri Sitarama, with the infinite blessings of my Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam and the holy blessings of HH Sri Tridandi Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, I moved forward seeking the higher purpose in life while I touched 50 of my soujourn on the Mother Earth to spread the cause of Love, care and abhaya Mission. I have taken up Bharatha Darshan on May 14th 2019, from Kalady, the birth place of Sri Adi Shankaracharya with a plan to cover all the places in the country.

Journey with abhaya Pushkara: The 12 years (Pushkara) journey with abhaya Foundation taught me as to how one has to melt for the country. The inner being started enquiring me about the learning, unlearning and re-learning for the holistic development of Life. I am of the opinion that God bestowed me the gift of "Bharata Darshan" to find the answers. As advised by the elders, I decided to meet as many seekers of Truth as possible in my journey. The Office Bearers, Board of Trustees agreed to take abhaya Mission to serve with H.E.A.R.T., forward in my absence during "Bharata Darshan". Accordingly I wrote to everyone that:



Heartfelt Prayers...

ఆత్మీయులందరికీ నమస్కరించి వ్రాయునది
భగవద్ అనుగ్రహ ప్రేరణతో... సర్వజన హితం
కోసమై... జీవిత పరమావధిని వెతుక్కుంటూ...
అందరికీ దైవానుగ్రహం ఆర్థిస్తూ... సర్వలోక
సంక్షేమార్థమై... భారతదర్శన యాత్ర సంకల్పం
చేసాను.

దేవుడిచ్చిన సంకల్పముతో... తల్లితండ్రులు,
బంధుమిత్రులు, గురువుల ప్రేమానురాగములు
మరియు అభయ పెద్దల ఆశీస్సులు తీసుకుని, 49
వసంతాలు నిండిన ఈ దేహం చేయాల్సిన పన్నెదైనా
మిగిలించేమో వెతుకుదాం అన్న భావనతో...

వైశాఖ మాస దశమి నాడు (మే 14, 2019)
బయలుదేరి భారతదర్శనం చేయాలని
వెళుతున్నాను. ఇందు కోసమై, శ్రీ శంకర
భగవద్వాదల వారు చేసిన భారత దిగ్విజయ
యాత్రమార్గమును ఎంచుకున్నాను. వారి జన్మ
స్థలమైన కాలడి నుండి ప్రయాణం ప్రారంభం
అవుతుంది.

యాత్ర చేసే సమయంలో నేను అరుదుగా మీకు
అందుబాటులో వుండొచ్చు. అవసరం వుంటే
మధ్యలో వచ్చి పనులు చూసుకుని మళ్ళీ
భారతయాత్ర చేసే విధంగా కల్పన చేస్తున్నాను.
నేను ఏమి చేసినా, ఎక్కడున్నామీ అందరి ప్రేమ
మరియు ప్రార్థనలు నాకు తోడు నిలచి ముందుకు
నడిపిస్తాయి అని మీరు గ్రహించండి.

దైవానుగ్రహం వుంటే మళ్ళీ అందరిని కలిసి... నా
అనుభవ పాఠాలను మీకు నివేదిస్తాను. శుభం
భూయాత్. సమస్తలోకాసుఖినోభవంతు

ప్రేమానురాగములతో మీ

CS Balachandra Sunku



Blessings for “Bharata Darshan”



“Don't just count your blessings. Be the blessing other people count on”

Since the thought of “Bharata Darshan” emerged on April 6th, 2019, many things happened in life. As prelude to Bharata Darshan, I decided to visit the Kaliyuga Daivam (Tirumala Venkateswara Swamy), Inti Daivam (Aluru Kona Ranganatha Swamy), Ista Daivam (Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prashanth Nilayam) and Parents at Bengaluru. My intention was to pray and seek their blessings for “Bharata Darshan”.

Sacrifice is the true essence of LIFE: Thanks to CA BV Prasad who made the arrangements for the journey. We reached Tirumala on foot and I offered my hair signifying removal of ego and negative thoughts from the self. I've been practising it for eight years as daily routine. While I was proceeding to Darshan in the Sarwa Darshananam queue line, I encountered a young man who was stopped by the police for not wearing a traditional outfit. I saw him requesting everyone for help. I just did the best thing I could by lending my new torso dhoti, as I could understand the pain behind waiting and walking on the queue for hours, for being stopped and sent out right before getting darshan. I have seen happiness in the eyes of the young man as he proceeded on the queue thanking me. I did not find him later.



As per plan, I visited Tadipatri and Aluru Kona to seek the blessings of senior family members and my family deity. I reached the place in the early hours of May 5th, 2019. My nephew Sunku Bala Krishna arranged a car to go to Aluru Kona. When I was getting ready to leave home, they offered me a new dhoti. In spite of turning down the offer, they handed over me the new Dhoti and to my surprise it was the

same Torso Dhoti which I gifted to the young man in Tirumala queue line in the hour of need. I felt it as a true blessing.

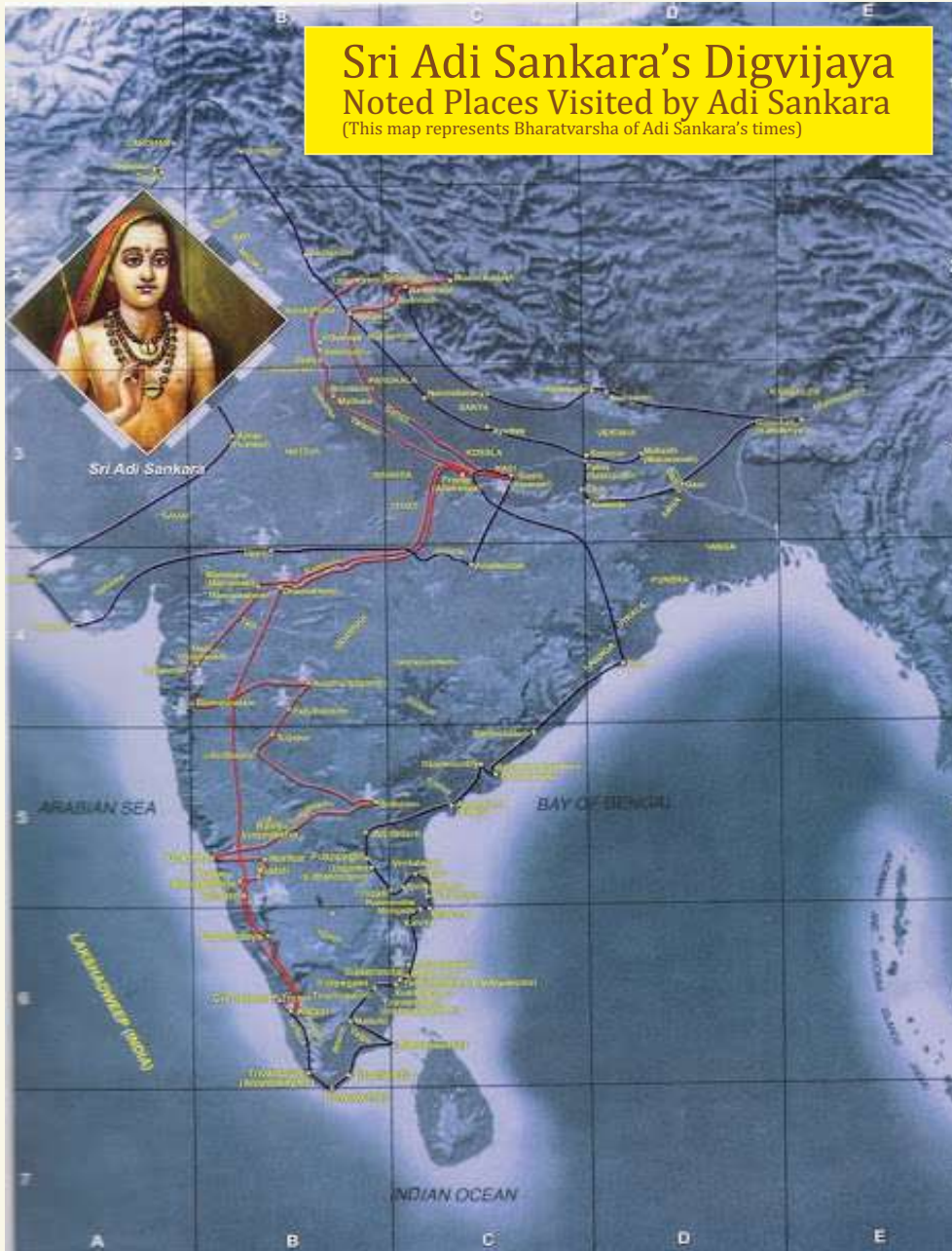
For the first time in life, I offered abhishekam at Aluru Kona. This is the place in Dandakaranya where Rama killed demon Thataki and the place where she fell down, later became Tataki Patri /Tadipatri. Sage Viswamitra did penance in the valley and Lord Ranganatha manifested as Swayambhu. Later, the local kings built a beautiful temple there. When the priest asked me for gotram and name I told: “Kashi Gotram, Bharata Darshana Sankalpa Sidhyartham, Sakala Jana Samarakshanartham, Sarva loka Samkshemartham, Prarthanam karishyami.” It means, offering the prayers on behalf every one across the universe.

Lord Hanuma's Blessings: I received abhisheka Prasadam after pooja and when I stepped out a big monkey grabbed the Prasadam from my hands and slurped the Panchamrutam and banana. I happily perceived the encounter as a blessing from Lord Hanuma while proceeding to Bharata Darshan.



Air Conditioning to Sri Ranganatha Swamy, the family deity: When I came out of temple, the priest who is familiar to Sunku family approached me with a request to provide an air-conditioner in the Antaralayam. This request was made by him to the founding members of abhaya Foundation little knowing that I was the Founder of the said NGO. I was thrilled by the appeal and I felt it as a great opportunity to serve our family deity before proceeding for the “Bharata Darshan”. I assured that the same will be arranged in three days time. The Priest conveyed the gratitude on behalf of the temple Management as in three days time the AC was fixed.





Places visited by Adi Sankara

Place Name
Ahobilam
Amarkantak
Aundha Naganath
Avanigadda (Avani)
Ayodhya
Badarinath
Bhimashankar
Chidambaram
Delhi (Indraprasta)
Drakshrama
Dwaraka
Gaur
Gaya
Gokarna
Gudur
Guruvayur
Gauwahati (Kamakhya)
Hampi (Virupaksha)
Haridwar
Harihar
Hastinapur
Joshimath
Jwalamukhi
Kalady
Kanchipuram
Kanyakumari
Kashi (Varanasi)
Kathmandu
Kedarnath
Kollur (Moogambika)
Kudali
Kumbakonam
Kurukshetra
Madurai
Mahesh (Mahismati)
Mahur
Mandaleshwar
Mangadu
Mathura
Mayavaram
Mount Kailash

Place Name
Mylapore
Naimisharanya
Nalanda
Nasik (Panchavati)
Neelkanth
Omkareshwar
Ontimitta (Kothandarama)
Pandharpur
Parli Baijnath
Patna (Pataliputra)
Peshawar
Poonamallee
Prayag (Allahabad)
Puri
Pushpagiri
Rajahmundry
Ramachandrapuram
Rameswaram
Simhachalam
Somnath
Sonpur
Sri Kalahasti
Srinagar
Sringeri
Srirangam
Srisailam
Subrahmanya
Swamimalai
Taxila
Tiruchirapalli
Tirupati
Tiruvanaikoli (Jambukeswaram)
Tiruvidaimarudur
Tiruvotriyur
Trichur
Trivandrum (Anantasayanam)
Triambak
Tuljapur
Ujjain
Uttar Kashi
Venkatagiri
Vidyalaya (Mahismati)
Vrindavan



Prashanthi Nilayam – Source of Inspiration:

My next visit was Puttaparthi. I offered Prayers at the abode of My GOD, GURU, GUIDE & GUARD - Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prashanthi Nilayam and then proceeded to visit my parents at Bengaluru. My father who is 82 years, confined to bed, served by my mother with help of an assistant. When I tried to explain him about my “Bharata Darshan” it seemed like he

understood and he gave a subtle gesture with his eyes in approval. Even though my mother was intimidated by the tedious journey involved, she permitted me with her blessings.

Boons and Beyond: Many well wishers and abhayans started showing their love and care. I am privileged to know that there are many kind hearted souls in my Life who blessed me, wished me, loved me, cared me, guided me, guarded me, directed me, comforted me and corrected me before proceeding on Bharata Darshan. Whenever I was on pilgrimage previously, it was for a short duration and I had enough resources. But when I resigned from NCC Group as Company Secretary in the year 2013, I became a full time social worker, living with minimal resources. Knowing about Bharata Darshan and my limited resources, hundreds of people pooled resources to the tune of Rs.6,00,000/-

Senior citizens, homemakers, children, students, employees, volunteers, well-wishers relatives, friends, colleagues and abhaya Trustees lend their hands of support. Each one of them stood as a reason for my “Bharata Darshan”. I may have to write a story of inspiration for each one of them as to how they responded. But I can only express my heartfelt gratitude to them and pray for their well being in the pages here but not able to do so due to space constraint. It is heart warming to receive small amounts from inmates of abhaya Home and abhaya staff which are filled with love and gratitude. Money from their hands is like adding honey to my mission.

Similarly, during my Bharata Darshan, I experienced help and support from many unknown hands signifying that Lord is there to protect me, guide me and help me realise the larger objectives of this journey of mine – Bharata Darshan.

Sri Chinna Jeeyar granted Prasadam:

April 13, 2019, Preparations are on in full swing and many wellwishers and children associated with me started assisting me in best possible ways. It was that time Sunil Vytla from Prashanthi Nilayam called me with a request to take them along to Divya Saketham and seek the Darshan of Sri Chinna Jeeyar. Though it was an obligation, I felt that may be a reason for me to go to Swamiji again a day in advance of Bharata Darshan. We all went (My Self with Sunil and Family along with a Film Artist Tarzan) to Aashram and for our surprise Swamiji granted us the personal audience and blessed me to take part in Loka Kalyana Yagnam and also granted me Prasadam post partaking it. He also enquired about the plan and mission. I profusely thanked the friends who became a reason for the blessings received.



PRAYER

భద్రాద్రి రాముడు భారత దర్శన సంకల్పమిచ్చాడు
 దివ్యసాకేత రాముడు దానికి అక్షర రూపమిచ్చాడు
 శ్రీ చిన్న జియ్యర్ స్వామి వారు లగ్నము పెట్టినారు
 సీతలాంబ దేవి మార్గము సుగమము చేసినది
 తిరుమల కొండల్లో నడచి శ్రీనివాసుని చూసాను
 కోన రంగనాథుడే తమ బంటును పంపినాడు
 ప్రశాంతినిలయ మందు సాయి సన్నిధికి మ్రొక్కి
 తల్లి తండ్రులతో యాత్రకు అనుమతిని గైకొని
 బంధు మిత్రులందరి ప్రేమ బంధములు వేసుకుని
 అభయ ధర్మకర్తలందరి సౌజన్యమరసినాను
 వైశాఖ దశమి నాడు భారత దర్శన యాత్రకై
 అభయులందరి అభయము కోరుతున్నాను...
 కాసీంత ప్రేమను అభయకు పంచమంటున్నాను
 నెనున్న లేకున్న అభయ సేవలు ముందుకు సాగాలి
 నన్ను నేను శోధించి, సాధించి, పరమార్థ దర్శన కాంక్షతో
 భారత దర్శన్ కు బయలుదేరాను నేడు
 దేవుడి ఆశీస్సులకై హృత్ పూర్వక ప్రార్థనలతో

ప్రేమతో... మీ

బాలచంద్ర



May 14, 2019

KERALA - God's Own Country

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"



With the Will of GOD and in search of myself, as ordained by HH Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, on Vaisakha Dasami, I started from Hyderabad, with love and care of hundreds of well wishers and the dear ones (CS B Kiran Kumar Gupta, CS Baga Reddy, Dr K Sailatha, S Leelavathy, Viswanath Reddy and A Shivakumar Reddy) who saw me off at RGI Airport, Hyderabad.

Kalady: I reached Kalady, Shankara Mutt. On my request they gave me a dormitory, in the name of Jagadguru HH Sri Vidhu Sekhara Bharati Swamigal. Sringeri Sankaracharya Mutt, the most wonderful place to remember the mission

and life of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, the man who uplifted the Countrymen with Advaita Sidhantha (Non Dual Philosophy). Kalady is the birth place of Adi Shankaracharya. By the age of eight years, he had learnt 4 Vedas, by the age of 16 years, he explained Brahma Sutras and by the age of 32 years, he attained salvation. I visited his birth place on the banks of Purna River which is the standing testimonial of Birth, Life, Sanyasa, mother Aryamba and family deity Sri Krishna associated with Adi Shankara. Though His original lifespan was 16 years, it is widely believed that Sage Veda Vyasa blessed him with another 16 years.

I visited Sankara Vijaya Stupam in Kalady, which depicts his life story in pictorial form. Adi Shankara is an inspiration for me in life to be a Bramhachari. I am greatly influenced by his accomplished scholarship, renunciation at a tender age, Kanakadhara Sthavam, Bhaja Govinda Stotram, Non dual philosophy, Digvijayam which was done by him bare foot 4 times in life and establishment of 4 Pithas in India etc., and other wonderful things.

I remember, how I used to dress like Adi Shankaracharya when I was a child and repeat Bhaja Govindam in child's play, such was the deep influence He made on my life. In fact, these saints keep Hinduism alive till date. But, one has to learn that the life in true sense is understanding their teachings and philosophy. Kerala is called as God's own Country, Yes it's indeed God's Own Country, that will be perceived by us only when we travel in the state. I had the fortune of visiting various places of interest in the State of Kerala.





Guruvayur: This is also called Bhuloka Vaikuntha. Sri Maha Vishnu granted the Idol to the Yadava Kings and Krishna himself worshipped it. Later given to Lord Brahma and the same passed on to Suthapan couple when they did penance for children. He commanded them to worship the idol. Sri Maha Vishnu appeared before them and granted the boon of taking birth in three yugas to devotees. Prasnigarbhan in the 1st Birth, 2nd birth as Vamana in Krutha Yuga and 3rd birth as Sri Krishna in Dwapara Yuga.

While leaving the body, Lord Sri Krishna summoned Uddhava to safeguard the idol for the Mankind by installing it at a suitable place on the earth. Uddhava sought the help of

Deva Guru and Vayu Deva for the mission. All of them found one beautiful place on the Earth (Rudra Thirtham) where Lord Shiva was seen meditating. Seeing three, He advised to install the Lord's idol there and he moved away to a nearby place (Mahimayur).

Then, Guru and Vayu installed the idol, thereby the place became Guruvayur, attracting lakhs of people across the country. Lord Guruvayurappan stood by the test of times immemorial. It was again in Kaliyuga, Sri Adi Shankaracharya while travelling to Sringeri in sky way stopped near the temple, realising the Lord Guruvayurappan presence there, descended onto the Earth to offer prayers to the Lord. Even today, the direction in which Adi Shankaracharya descended to the temple is kept open on the top of the roof signifying the legend.

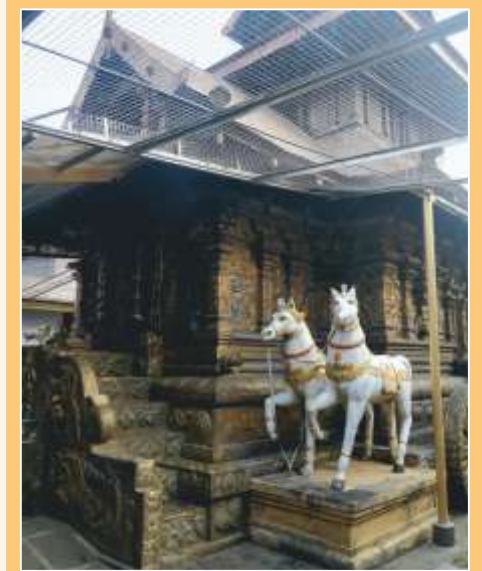
By the time, I reached the temple there was a huge rush and the Naivedyam was being offered to God. I spent more than two hours, looking at the walls, roof, gopuram and sculptures on the pillars of the temple and soon after I had the Divine Darshan of God.

Nava Mukundan: This the place where nine yogis installed Lord Vishnu's idols and worshipped ages ago of which eight idols went under the earth in passage of time. When Adi Shankaracharya visited the temple, knowing there are idols underground, He did pradakshina on his knees. The people around, laughed at him seeing the act, then in order to teach them a lesson, Goddess "Sri Mahalakshmi" changed her hands upside down. Even today we can see her different hand posture in the temple.



108 Vaishnava Divya Desams: A Divya desam is one of the 108 Vishnu Temples that are mentioned in the works of the Alvars (Saints). "Divya" means "Divine" and "Desam" indicates "place" (temple). Of the 108 temples, 105 are in India, one is in Nepal, and last two are believed to be outside the Earthly realms.

In India, they are spread over the states of Tamil Nadu (85), Kerala (11), Andhra Pradesh (2), Gujarat (1), Uttar Pradesh (4), Uttarakhand (2). Muktinath is the only Divya Desam in Nepal. The last two are Thirupalkadal and Paramapadam. Tirupalkadal is the ocean of milk and paramapadam is the Vaikuntha where Lord Vishnu resides. The Divya Desams are revered by the 12 Alvars in the Divya Prabandha, a collection of 4,000 Tamil verses (Pasurams). Hence, I planned to visit these 106 out of 108 Temples on the earth during my Bharata Darshan. Following are the brief account of the temples I visited as part of 108 Divya Desams at Kerala.





1) Thirumuikkode (Uyyavandha Perumal), 2) Thiruvanvaya (Nava Mukunda Perumal) and 3) Thiru Moozhikalam (Lakshman Perumal). I was the last person for the day at 8 PM. The priests inside the temple waited for me to have darshanam and then closed the doors for the day. I felt that the Lord was kind and merciful to permit me to have darshan. In fact during the tour I kept experiencing HIS blessings, carings directly and indirectly.

Other places of interest I have seen includes: Punatthur Kotta (Guruvayrappan Elephant Shelter and Training Center) Mammiyoor Shiva Temple Parthasarathy Temple (Choriate Temple) Chamundeswari Temple Venkatachalapathy Temple (Kerala Tirupahi) and further Rivers / Seas seen includes Bharata River, Purna River and Chavakkad beach.

May 16, 2019

Places of Interest I Covered after Kalady: 108 Vaishnava Desams: 4) Thirukakkara (Vamana Murthy Perumal) 5) Thirukodithanam (Adbhutha Narayan Perumal) - Sahadeva Pratishta. 6) Thiruvella (Sri Vallabha Nathan Perumal). 7) Thiruvandoor (Sri Paambanaiyappa Perumal) - Nakula Praththa. 8) Thiruchittaru (Imayavarappa Perumal) - Yudtara Praththa. 9) Thirupuliyoor (Maayapiraan) - Bhima Pratishta. 10) Aramula (Partha Sarathy) - Arjuna Pratishta Thiruvananthapuram

Learnings and Observations: Very important things, I observed while going around Vaishnava Desams are as under:

1) Each place has some connection to Sri Maha Vishnu / Srimad Bhagavatha. 2) These temples are more than 5000 years old. 3) The idol in the temple conveys a wonderful message to the mankind. 4) The Alwars referred these deities in their Pasurams in Divya Prabhandham. 5) Every temple is a master piece of

architectural wonder in Viswakarma Sthapathi way. (All wood and stone work) 6) Each temple is so vast in its dimensions, a feast for the devotee eye. 7) The deities are so beautiful and divine - glittering in the light of the oil lamps. 8) Every temple opens at 5 AM and closes by 11:30 AM. In the evening they open at 5 PM and close by 8 PM. 9) Though, they are scattered across the country, the human habitat are developed vastly around these temples. 10) The deities/ temples visited for the day are built by Pandavas and 11) The most beautiful deity I have seen today is Sri Vallabha Perumal.

Further visited Edappilly St George Church and Chotanikkara Bhagavathi Temple (Shankaracharya brought her from Kodathachala Hills in Karnataka)



Sabarimala, a Sacred Destination!

Thanks to Sri MVR Krishna Teja IAS who made the requisite arrangements for my stay and Darshanam. I could see the Pamba River, Vavar Masjid, Erumaly and Sabarimala.

The last place I visited for the day at 9 PM was Nelakkal. One has to take a public transport bus to reach there. After taking a holy dip in the river Pamba, one needs to trek 7 kms to Sabarimala. I could not take a dip but the trek was more or less a bath due to the perspiration. It took me almost two hours walk up to Sabarimala, during which, I kept chanting "Samastha Lokah Sukhinobhavanthu" and no other thought in mind though physical strain caused little inconvenience to the body.

May 17, 2019



Sabarimala, is an ultimate destination for crores of Indians. Though, I had the fortune of visiting Sabarimala previously, this time it is special as this visit is part of Bharata Darshan. I got an opportunity to take rest at the camp office of the Executive Magistrate which is just opposite to Daiva Sannidhanam.

Ayyappa Suprabhatham at 5AM woke me up from the 4 hours sleep. A sea of devotees seeking Ayyappa's darshan was seen. The Officer dropped me for darshan. I had the rare luxury of spending more than an hour at the temple. I had Abhiseka darshan of Lord Ayyappa again and again by doing Pradakshina and throughout the span of time my only thought, word and prayer was Samastha Loka Sukhinobavanthu. Soon after the darshan, I walked down 7 kms and reached Sabari River at Pamba around 8 AM This time, I did not lose the chance of taking holy bath in the river.

Learnings / Observations: Following are the different learnings / observations at Sabarimala: 1) Single point of focus brings in loads of Joy to everyone (Devotion of Ayyappa devotees), 2) Physical fitness is very much important even for spiritual journey, 3) Seeing the thick forests is a feast for eyes, 4) No proper food is to be seen for those coming from other states, 5) Nothing is going to help us at times of need even if you are ready with all solutions. What protects us is our passion to move ahead. (Sketchers Shoe, Umbrella, Clothes, Medicines, Phone, Money etc., made me to realise this), But, I must say one thing that, The Ego will shred to pieces during such tedious journeys. God will teach us all lessons in life the hard way for our good and rather than complaining for the hardships, we should be ready to learn from it willingly as HIS teachings and mature mentally in the process.



Jatayu: Wings of Valour – Chadayumangalam:

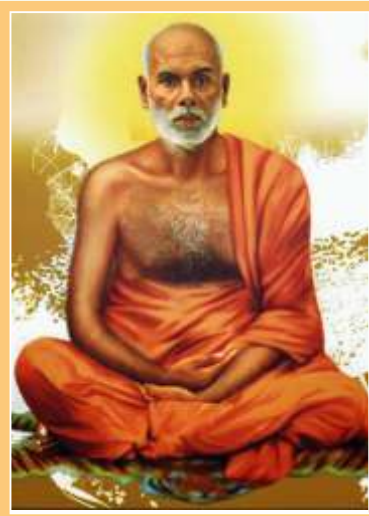
While I was on the way to Trivandrum, I came across Chadayumangalam. The taxi driver told me that this was the place where Jathayu bird fell when Demon King Ravana cut its wing. The legend says that the place is ruled by Nedila Paranthaka Nedumchadayan. He also told me about the latest tourist attraction Jatayu Earth's Center / Jatayu Nature Park / Jatayu Rock near the town. It holds the distinction of having the world's largest bird sculpture (200 feet (61 m) long, 150 feet (46 m) broad, 70 feet (21 m) in height and has 15,000 square feet of floor area of the great bird Jatayu.



The man behind such an inspiring project is Rajiv Anchal, a Malayalam film Director and Screen Play Writer and Sculptor. In 1997, he made Guru, India's official nomination in the Academy Award for Best Foreign language film category. His first English language film is Beyond The Soul (2003). It is impossible to humans to make such manifestations but he has made it possible by building it in Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Learnings / Observations: Jatayu is an embodiment of valour and chivalry. Risking life, he tried his best to save Mother Sita from her abductor. Hence, the Jatayu sculpture uprights as a towering tribute to women's safety and honour. Jatayu also represents a bygone era when humans, animals, birds and other living forms cared for each other and lived peacefully on the Mother Earth. In the words of Mr Rajiv Anchal, the symbolism has great relevance in today's social scenario since the crime rate against women is on a high. This place reminds us the supreme sacrifice of Jatayu to stand by women even if it means to sacrifice one's life, which was the need of the hour.





Siva Giri Mutt: Devotion, Equality, Spirituality, Social Work, Education, Upliftment, Philosophy the All-In-One Place put together stood as Siva Giri Mutt, Varkala, where Sri Narayana Guru lived long, supporting the people of the country. Sri Narayana Guru was an embodiment of all virtues, values and rare qualities seldom found in human race. He was a mystic, a teacher, a philosopher, a visionary, a scientist, a saint, a social reformer, a great Nation Builder and a poet, all blended into one. To millions of devotees Sri Narayana Guru is an incarnation of God who could impart wisdom and enlighten to a seeker of Truth. His teachings are simple and straight forward which bring out spiritual, moral and material revolution.

For many years, I've been thinking to visit this place. Finally on May 17th, I got an opportunity to be here. I was welcomed by Sri Rithubishananda Swamiji at the Ashram. Caringly, he arranged for my stay, food etc., I spent a day in the Ashram. I visited Sarada Mutt, Parna Shala, Guru Nivas, Bhodamaya Nanda Samadhi and the Maha Samadhi of His Holiness. Everyday thousands of people are fed at the Anna Shala in the Ashram. Whatever I have seen there made me realise the purpose of my Life. I was surprised to see that many of my thoughts are in line with the saint which are more than mere rituals, I could see and hear the spirit behind spiritual work. He composed mantras in Malayalam making them simple. Non Dual Philosophy created social revolution in the country. I was delighted to spend a day here as knowing about such a monk made my day in life.



The Hugging Saint-Amrutananda Mayi: After visiting Siva Giri Ashram at Varkala in Kollam District, on hearing about Amrutananda Mayi, the Hugging Saint, I decided to visit Amrutapuri. I searched for her availability on Google and to my fortune she scheduled her last Darshan for the week for last 2 days. I reached Amrutapuri Ashram at 8:30 PM on May 18th. The volunteers

received me with lots of care on hearing about my Bharata Darshan, provided room, facilities, assistance and food.

There are thousands of followers of Amma in the Ashram, as she was giving Darshanam. A volunteer accompanied me to the huge darshan hall. He introduced me to the Senior ashram mate and they took me straight to Amma on to the stage and I submitted to Her about the Mission Bharata Darshan and abhaya. She enquired about Kerala Service Projects as well. The volunteers explained her in Malayalam. It was a pleasant and divine experience... as she hugged, kissed and blessed me. In the mean time, hearing about My "Bharata Darshan" from the District Sub Collector of Alleppy, the Founder and Director of Sai Gramam, Sri KN Anandakumar personally visited me at Siva Giri Ashram and invited to stay at Sai Gramam. Humbled by their love and care, I changed my schedule in order to visit Sai Gramam.



May 19, 2019



After seeking the blessings of Matha Amrutanandamayi, I proceeded to Ernakulam. En route visited Ochira Parabramhan Kshetram, the place has no deity or idol but is dedicated to a huge land containing very old banyan trees. It is wonderful to see hundreds of rural communities chanting the divine name of God all over. From there, I visited Ernakulatappan Temple (The Lord of Ernakulam...It's Him who gave Pasupathasra to Arjuna in Dwapara Yuga).

At Bharath Hotel, KN Ananad Kumar, Sai Gramam welcomed me and provided space for rest. I suffered with severe dry cough all through the day, as a side effect of staying at a dusty hotel. I consulted Dr. Sailatha, took the prescribed medicines and rested for the day watching the EXIT polls post general elections.

On 20th May, I accompanied Sri KN Ananda Kumar and team to Indira Gandhi Cooperative Hospital, Ernakulam, where Sri Sathya Sai Orphanage Trust (SSSOT) set up free dialysis facility for the people which is inaugurated by the Minister for Cooperatives, Tourism and Endowment - Sri K Surendran in the presence of many VIPs. The facility is one of the 10 such centres in Kerala set up and maintained by SSSOT.



Sai Gramam: Later, Sri KN Ananda Kumar personally took me to Sai Gramam, Kollam District which is five hours away from Ernakulam. Sri Sathya Sai Orphanage Trust, Kerala, India was established on June 17th, 1996 as an NGO. Since its

inception, the Trust has been driven by the auspicious slogan, 'Service to Humanity is Service to God', which is anadage obtained from Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The Trust's founders, Sri KN Ananda Kumar and Justice Chandrasekhara Menon began the organization on getting the permission duly granted by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Living to its motto, the Trust provides an array of altruistic service, reinforcing the society's cultural, moral and spiritual pillars. With the piety in practice, over 200 philanthropic projects had already rolled out of the Trust's 23 years of existence. From a humble beginning marked by an orphanage sheltering just 9 boys, today's achievements remain shining testimonials to the Trust's diligence and synergy.



Sai Gramam – History and HIS Story - an Inspiration: If one is influenced by God in Life...He can create History. But I always say...It's not History...But it will be HIS - Story in the name of God for generations to draw inspiration, such HIS-Story is seen at Sai Gramam. Two and half decades journey in service...Making every breath of life and every beat of the heart for Sri Sathya Sai Baba... Sri KN Anandakumar built a wonderful story for the country men. Since morning, I freely roamed in 30 acres of campus to see at least 50 live projects in the campus... Everything is offered for free.

Sri Sathya Sai Orphanage Trust, Kerala is one of the largest NGOs in the South Indian states. This is happening with the support of like minded people associated with the Trust, not many Corporate houses are aware of this Trust and its activities...I strongly recommend the corporate professionals of this country to please visit Sai Gramam once and influence corporate houses to lend their hands of support.

Sri Anand Kumar and his wife dedicated their life for the down trodden in Kerala. It was one of the most memorable day for me as I have seen what one man with faith in God can do in this world.

Orphanage, Old Age Home, Hospital, Temples, Rest houses, Canteens, Autism School, Arts Village, Book Stall, Crafts Center, Farming, School, College, Auditorium, School Buses, Forestation, Rainwater harvesting, solar lighting, ponds, river, land scaling, Goshala, Gobar Gas, Social Tourism, Ayush Center...What not... name it, you have it in the campus. Apart from these , ten free dialysis centres in the state and now coming up with 200 bedded free super speciality hospital at Kasargude.



Amazing Godly work; Kudos to Sri KN Ananda Kumar and his team. Prayers for their well being. Their story is truly God's own story in God's own country Kerala!!!

I spent the following day at Sai Gramman meeting Autistic students, their innocence made me fall in love with them, I played, interacted and enjoyed with them. I gathered wonderful experiences in Kerala where Malayalam is the only major spoken language. Language is no barrier when you love what you do!



Learnings / Observations:

- 1) If one is influenced by God in Life...He can create HIS- STORY for generations to draw inspiration.
- 2) Language is no barrier when you love what you do!

May 23, 2019

BJP came back with full majority at the National Level to form Government:

It is a historic day for India and Indians across the globe. for 4 decades, one National Party (BJP) is coming to power on its own strength for the 2nd consecutive term of five years! I was immensely happy to have a Government with full majority at the Centre. Sri Narendra Modiji thanked the people passionately and concluded his address at the BJP Central Party Office at Delhi.

Bigger to Beggar: As I predicted earlier, the only back pack I have made with all the travel equipment has been stolen by someone while I was occupying the back seat in the bus on the way to Alleppy from Sai Gramam.

God made me a Beggar on the road, barring the dress on my body, wallet and phone nothing left with me. For a moment, I just felt the meaning of detachment. Not bothered by the incident. But, as duty minded citizen, lodged a complaint in the Police Station. I am not really hopeful of getting the backpack back. Sri Krishna Teja IAS, Sub Collector, Alleppy (Despite being occupied at the Counting Area) had sent his office staff to receive me and we went and procured basic things like toiletries and dhotis. Started my innings again with a feeling of detachment from my belongings. I don't know what to say, but, I am feeling relieved from the burden on my back. Long way to go, it is a lesson for me.

Back with the backpack: It was nothing less than a miracle for me to receive a phone call next morning that the backpack which was stolen has been recovered by Police Inspector, Santosh, Kottayam, Kollam District. A man named Nizam handed the back-pack at the Police Station, again an indirect indication that Almighty God has been protecting me during my Bharata Darshan. I travelled 100 kms back and collected the backpack, as this is not just a mere backpack but a bundle of love, a collection of things given by dear loved ones. I was awestruck by this incident as to how lucky I am, to have found the lost backpack, but I decided to remain cautious as everyday is not a Sunday.





A BIG thanks to Sri MVR Krishna Teja IAS: It was humbling to see the Sub Collector Sri MVR Krishna Teja IAS, Alleppy receiving me when I lost my baggage in the bus on May 23rd. His staff came in the vehicle and looked after my necessities, dropped me at Government Guest House. In spite of Elections and counting since morning till late night, he managed to come to me and enquire about my well being.

He suggested me to go around Alleppy - Nehru Trophy Ward to see the houses constructed by abhaya Foundation for the flood affected people. I went around the houses - Seeing their eyes filled with gratitude - felt we have done the best possible service to those whose lives are affected by the floods in Kerala.

A Big thanks to Sri MVR Krishna Teja IAS, for all the direction, guidance and personal supervision to abhaya Team for 6 months. I strongly believe that if we have such officers in each District of this Country...many Godly things will happen very easily. Prayers for his well being and the well-being of entire staff of Alleppy District Collectorate (May 24th, 2019).

abhaya Projects at Kerala: It was yet another memorable day in "Bharata Darshan" at Alleppy on May 25th, 2019. The team from the Office of Sub Collector, accompanied me to the Government Girls High School in the city where, as part of initiatives taken up by "I am for Alleppy" abhaya provided bridge scholarships to the most deserving students is hosted.



I had a blessed opportunity to interact with 40 Head Masters of various Government Schools while handing over the scholarships (Rs.2000/- per student) to 20 deserving students. The parents and students expressed their gratitude not in words but by folding their hands with smiles on their face –the gratitude and feelings that cannot be expressed in words. The teaching community were also equally delighted by my thoughts.

Later, I was taken to the new office of Sub Collector and Sri Krishna Teja IAS received me with a group of fisher men from Alleppy. He introduced me to them. abhaya with the CSR Funds granted by Hyundai Motors Group, Hyderabad handing over 20 Fishing Canoes at Kuttunad in the presence of State Finance Minister, Fisheries Minister and newly elected MP on the following day.



Sri Krishna Teja profusely thanked abhaya and the Corporate Donors like TTK Prestige, Hyundai Motors Group, Orix Leasing and others for their kind help for Kerala Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Mission - "I am for Alleppy."

He introduced me to Shyam, the Founder of Flood relief Volunteers Family (FVF) which started as WhatsApp Group during the floods in Kerala now became a movement in rehabilitation. abhaya had a chance to work with them in constructing a few houses. We both visited those houses and saw the beneficiaries.

Shyam requested me to visit their house...When I went to their house...I have seen his sister who is otherwise able (Divyanga) received me with smiles on her face. They had another sibling who was also a special person but had departed. I understand the spirit of young Shyam... their father and forefathers are well off, but, they shared everything with those in need. Being connected to movie field and despite living in such situations, they are serving those in need with smile, he inspired me by his life. Prayers for their well being.





His sister handed over Paper made pens filled with seeds as gifts to Abhaya donors as their gratitude, she is very talented and received lots of prizes and appreciations.

"Kare&Love4Kerala" with Hyundai: As per plan, Sri Lakshmikanth Sunkara, Member, Hyundai-CSR Committee, Hyderabad arrived at Alleppy to take part in Flood Rehabilitation Projects at Alleppy. He was following Bharata Darshan on the Facebook and excited to meet me during the journey for a cause.



A series of events were carried out next day-handing over New Houses, Fishing Canoes etc., to the most deserving people at Kuttunadu areas in the presence of Kerala State Finance Minister, Fisheries Minister and the newly elected MP. The District Sub Collector personally supervised the activity.

Lakshmikanth and I had good time to visit Ambalpuzha Krishna Temple, Karumadi Kuttan and Alleppy Beach discussing about many things connected to Social Work, abhaya, Current Political situation and personal issues.



In the process he left his wireless blue tooth under a tree in the Temple compound, we proceeded to next place, after an hour, recognised that it is missing, considering the cost, he said let's go back and check our luck. I told him just like how I got my bag, If God wills, he would also get it. To our surprise the blue tooth was there, untouched at the same spot despite many visitors to the place. We happily reached the Government Guest House.

Learnings/Observations:

What do we really need for serving those in need? Is it Family Back Ground? Or Economic Power? Or Physical Health? Or Qualification? Or Good Job? or What?, none of them! After meeting Shyam and his family, I realised that what is needed for us is mere passion to serve those in need.



Detachment is important to remain stable while mindful of one's duty as a citizen. Gratitude expressed through folded hands and smile beats thousands written words.

May 26, 2019

The day is to be written with golden letters in the History of abhaya Foundation as it concluded one of the biggest Mission "Kare&Love4Kerala" initiated 9 months ago. abhaya with the support of scores of kind hearted donors and corporate houses across the Country, with resources totalling Rs.5,00,00,000/- (Cash, Kind and others) has been spent on flood relief and rehabilitation at Kerala and deliver the following at Alleppy and Ernakulam Districts:

- ◆ 6000 TTK Prestige Water Purifiers;
- ◆ 2000 Hyundai Agromech Kitchen kits
- ◆ 3000 home appliances repair by NAC students
- ◆ 6 Orix & TTK Dream Houses and 2 houses repaired
- ◆ 20 Hyundai Fishing Canoes
- ◆ 20 abhaya Scholarships
- ◆ 8 abhaya cattle
- ◆ 2 abhaya livelihood tools
- ◆ 1 abhaya Digital Class Room at RK Vidyalayam
- ◆ 10 abhaya - NAC water RO Plants at Schools
- ◆ Rs.50 Lakh Corporate Donation to CMRF

I personally felt amazed and inspired by the great work and passion of Sri MVR Krishna Teja IAS, Sub Collector of Alleppy for the past 9 months. We had wonderful time at the culmination event hosted by the District Collectorate in the presence of Dr Thomas Issac, Minister - Finance, Mrcy Kutty Amma, Minister - Fisheries, Sudhakaran, Minister - PWD, Ariff, the only MP elected from ruling party MVR Krishna Teja IAS, Sub Collector, Jahangir, Municipal Commissioner, Lakshmikanth Sunkara, Hyundai CSR and many more dignatories.

We handed over the newly built Homes and specially made fishing canoes to the most deserving families at Kuttundu Areas. We were the first people to conclude projects amongst many who started rehabilitation work.

The Finance Minister, recollected the first day of our meeting in the month of September 2019 and praised for the sincerity and consistency for the good work done by abhaya Foundation with the support of donors. Further he said, it's because the work taken up by NGOs like abhaya such speed can be seen. He and other guests appreciated the efforts of the Sub Collector...the Telugu Pride.

I also met Sajan, the Government Staff Reporter to whom we have lent camera as part of livelihood program. He made a wonderful video on abhaya Housing Projects, seeking support. After visiting all the Housing beneficiaries, I came back to the Government Guest House.

Taking available time in between two events on May 26th, 2019, I visited the famous Nagaraja temple in Alleppy District. There is a very interesting legend connected to this temple, thousands of people are seen worshipping the serpent Gods.

Each one of the places I visited in Kerala has their own historical and mythological importance. Although I wish to elaborate about the insights I cannot do it as the writing will become voluminous. But, thanks to Google everything can be found and read. I personally advise every family to visit at least one state in India every year, as we have so much to learn and experience in every state.

It's also very coincidental that my Bharata Darshan started on May 14th, 2019 from Kalady is culminating in Kerala at Alleppy on Service Mission. With Prayers, at Kerala for All, Gratitude to those who stood by me and abhaya in this Loka Kalyana proceeded to Karnataka in the night.

Learnings / Observations:

I personally advise every family to visit at least one state in India every year, as we have so much to learn and experience in every state.



May 27, 2019

Meeting the Infant at Mangalore: I decided to proceed to Karnataka, my next part of the Bharata Darshan journey and accordingly I reached Mangalore. I concluded the Kerala visit. It's exactly at that time, abhayan CS B Kiran Kumar Gupta shared that he is in Manglore along with his family to pay visit to his new born nephew. I visited them on Monday and shared my love and care to the new born. I started touring Karnataka, visiting the holy places of Mangalore and each place is filled with divine vibes. One may Google to know the legend connected to the places.



I visited Mangala Devi, Kadri Manjunatha Swamy, Kudupu Anantha Padbhanabha Swamy, Polali Raja Rajeswari Devi and Kateel Durga Maheswari Devi. It's very heartening to see these places and inadvertently my heart started praying for the well being of all as I proceeded towards Kukke Subramanya.

May 28, 2019



Kukke-Subramanya or Serpent: The day started with the divine darshan of Kukke Subramanya and Adi Subramanya, the queue was stopped in between due to presence of a serpent in the hole of a temple wall, I am amazed to have darshan of real Nagaraja, while many in the queue jumped out of the queue due to fear.

Later, proceeded to Ratnagiri Hills to see the Maha Gomateswara who renunciated everything in quest of Kevala Jnana and stood in deep penance not disturbed by outword things. It was truly inspiring to see such giant form of Bahubali - Gomateswara spreading the cause of detachment to the generations in the world.

Then, I proceeded to Dharmasthala to have divine darshan of Sri Manjunatha. Very powerful atmosphere, I had the fortune of being blessed with abhisheka darshan. It was my long time desire to meet Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala Temple Dr. Veerendra Heggade, I could not meet previously when I tried. But, to my surprise when I walked straight to his Office, he was seen meeting visitors. I could speak to him and wished him the best things. Hearing of my Bharata Darshan, Dr Heggade handed over me, the Silver Locket of Lord Manjunatha. It's of great value to me to receive the Divine Talisman. He asked me to see the Annapurna (Dining Hall) and have prasadam.

From Dharmasthala, I proceeded to Horanadu. The three hours journey in the ghat road is most memorable for life. It's very pleasant to see the huge mountains touching the sky...thick forests...coffee plantation...lush green all over...natural water falls...calm atmosphere...put together gives pure mind to anyone.

I had the blessed darshan of Adi Parashakthi, Horanadu Annapurneswari and it is in the afternoon, the temple Priests offered customary naivedyam and harathi...It is a true feast for eyes. I had the Annaprasadam again for the third time thinking that partaking prasadam at thy feet will bring in good fortune to the body, heart, soul, life and living.





I finally, reached Sringeri for the day. It was close to 6 PM, I heard Dakshinaamnaya Sringeri Shankaracharya Pitham - Jagadgurus granting darshan. I rushed to Guru Nivas, to my surprise; I was the last person to seek the blessings of Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Bharathi Theertha Maha Swamiji. He blessed me hearing about Bharata Darshan...Saying... Very happy, while leaving, HH Swamiji advised me to see Sri Sri Sri Vidhu Sekhara Bharati Maha Swamiji.

Seeing me, HH Vidhu Sekhara Bharati Swamiji recollected abhaya and its service projects and blessed me with audience for a while. I briefed about Bharata Darshan

and progress of Anantapuram Projects. HH Swamiji provided Divine Directions for the projects and lovingly glanced through abhaya news update. HH Swamiji further explained about the issues linked with temples and their maintenance. Blessing for the day, HH Swamiji instructed me to come next day at 10:30 and receive blessings.

I had the blessed opportunity to have Darshan of Sri Sarada Matha at Sringeri Temple for long time and then again I had partaken the prasadam. Again at 9PM, I witnessed Chandramouliswara Archana visited by Jagadguru. Heart filled with the very divine vibrations...took leave for yet another Day in Bharata Darshan.

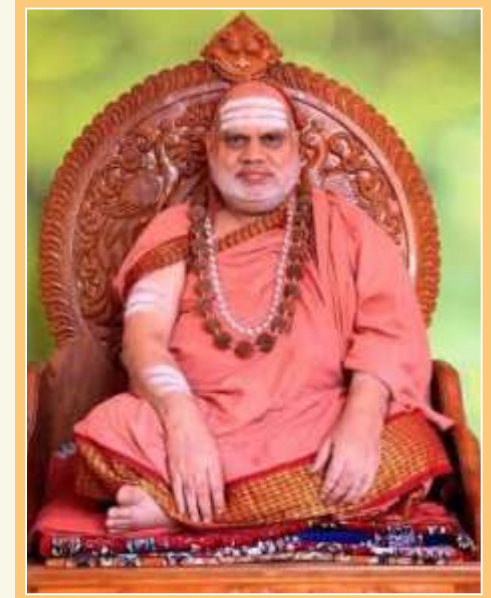
May 29, 2019

Sri Bharti Thirtha blessed Bharata Darshan: Yet again seeking the divine blessings of Jagadgurus of Dakshinaamnaaya Sringeri Sarada Peetham...Reached Guru Nivas on the other side of river Thunga. Seeing me, HH Jagadguru Bharathi Theertha Maha Swamiji smilingly blessed me saying: Come, Balachandra...come. Bless you for your journey. Come back safely. We shall provide the needed directions for Anantapuram Project and guidance...So saying...HH Swamiji granted purnaphala and sacred rice. My heart was drenched in lots of divine vibrations at Sringeri.

I met Veda Pandit and Sai Brother Sri Anil Kumar, he too felt happy about my journey and given me some money for my expenses. It is like receiving money from Baba for me.

Learnings/ Observations:

1) Serene surrounding with calm atmosphere - put together gives pure mind to anyone. 2) A different pleasure when you have Naivedyam Prasad.





Udupi...Aakarshna of Krishna: From Sringeri, I proceeded to Udupi - the abode of Lord Sri Krishna. All through the route, it's feast for eyes as well as heart... watching thick forests, mountains and valleys. In between I could see Agombe world famous valley site and reached Udupi by lunch time. Post having Anna Prasadam in the temple, I met the Manager of the temple and he is kind enough to allot a room listening to my Bharata Darshan Yatra, ran to the temple after a quick refresh.

I don't know how many times, I have seen the most beautiful form of Lord Sri Krishna. Every time I do the darshan, every time I have a deep satisfaction in the heart.

All the time I am praying for the well being of all. This idol's story is very interesting and how Jagadguru Madhvacharya received it from Dwaraka in the sea shore and installed here in Udupi.

Pakaja: I proceeded to Madhvacharya Birthplace Pajaka Kshetra which is about 16kms from the temple. There, I was mesmerised to see the age old memories of Madhvacharya - The founder of Dvaita Philosophy. I also visited, Vasudeva Tirtha, Kunjaragiri Durgadevi, Parashurama Temple etc., all of them reveal Madhvacharya leelas. I came back to Udupi and visited Anantheswara, Chandra Mowleswara, Udupi Srikrishna temples and inspiring Kankana Kindi.



I could see Sri Palimari Sri Krishna Mutt Head Pontiff Sri Vidyadheesha Thirtharu and also sought His Blessings. I witnessed Naivedya Seva, Palanquine Seva, Haarathi, Chariot Seva and Unjal Seva in the immediate presence of Sri Vidhyadheesha Swamiji at Udupi. I really don't know why God is so merciful to me every day. The experiences, God granted every day during Bharata Darshan had brought purity in Thought...Word...Deed.

Learnings / Observations:

1) I really don't know why God is so merciful to me every day. 2) The experiences, God granted every day during Bharata Darshan had brought purity in Thought...Word...Deed.

May 30, 2019

Kolluru Mukambike: I had morning darshan of Lord Sri Krishna at Udupi Temple, proceeded to Kolluru which was visited by Adi Shankaracharya. Travelling by normal mode of transport was given me a nightmare due to weather, forests, ghat roads, uneven eating times etc. But, it's astonishing to understand how Adi Shankaracharya did his yatra bare foot centuries ago.

I reached, Kolluru Mukambike Temple, the presiding deity was installed by Adi Shankara. Very powerful deity and two eyes are not enough to see Mother Adi Shakthi...As usual many times, I went for darshanam as there was no rush. I kept praying for all.

After having blissful darshanam at Kolluru...I proceeded to Muradeswar. It is a beautiful place to see the giant statue of Lord Shiva and equally huge Gopuram matching His majesty.

Quickly moved to Gokarna the place where Siva's Atmalinga was kept by Bala Ganapathi obstructing Ravana to carry it further to Sri Lanka. But, by the time I reached, the temple was closed. As I had 3 hours in hand, I went to OM beach near Gokarna, which is formed in the shape of OM. Had a blessed darshan of Lord Mahabaleswar at Gokarna and also saw Bala Ganapathi. I could not resist myself from hugging the idol with heartfelt prayers for all. Such is the beauty of Lord Ganesha over there.





Not only here, every deity in the temples seen till now are so beautiful and they made me fall in love with them as I may be treating them as real forms...many a times...I lost control over my senses and acted crazily in the temples.

I find myself going to the presiding deities to see them again and again with intense prayers for the well-

being of country and all under the leadership of Sri Narendra Modi, while he along with his Council of Ministers took oath of office at Rashtrapathi Bhavan on this day. Later, proceeded to Shimoga - Kudli, this place is believed to be visited by Adi Shankaracharya centuries ago.

May 31, 2019

Shivamogga / Shimoga: The cab driver Saddik dropped me at Udipi after a four day tour from Mangaluru. Saddik was on Ramadaan fasting, but he did not cause any inconvenience. Such a wonderful cab driver he is, amazed by his Ramadaan discipline despite doing his driving duty. I reached Shimoga at 4 AM after five hours journey in a private bus from Udipi.

It was a sleepless journey due to uncomfortable seating and ghat roads. Finally, I reached Shimoga bus stand. Had my bath at Sulabh complex and engaged an Auto. Visited Kudli, the place is believed to have been visited by Adi Shankaracharya ages ago. The morning atmosphere, confluence of Thunga and Bhadra rivers, ancient temples, and beautiful nature made me feel relaxed. I visited Rameswara, Narasimha and Sharadamba temples on the river side, returned to Shimoga.

At around 8 AM, I got in to KSRTC Bus to proceed to Bengaluru. By the time I reached home after 8 hours of tedious journey, summer heat, water change, no quality food, caused me inconvenience...my stomach was upset and started troubling me but thank God, He was kind to save me from trouble till I reached home.

June 1, 2019

At Home – Bengaluru: Reached Home at Bengaluru to spend a day with parents and family members while recovering from travel tiredness. Visited my brother's family and kids, Kousthubh and Lalith both are doing well. Kousthubh, is a class X student and blessed them for being good.



Gayathri... Murthy of Love! Gayatri and Murthy who were in London when I started Bharata Darshan visited me at Home this time. They are like SoulDeers. They know me from the past three decades, they felt very happy, listening to my experiences. Gayatri Amma gave me cash for my expenses, stating that seeing me is like having Darshan of Bharat, such is their love for me.

June 2, 2019

Mysore - Mahisha's Place: My elder Brother CA SN Rangaiah, comforting me arranged car and driver for visiting Shakthi Peetham at Mysore (Chamundi-Krouncha Pattanam) Ramakrishna, a long term associate from Bengaluru joined me on 2nd June for the visit. We visited ancient Chenna Kesava Temple at Somanathapura. Very fascinating Hoyasala sculpture and hand work which is very minute in detail. Two eyes are not really enough to imbibe the beauty of the stone structure which is believed to be built in 12th Century by Somanatha Dandanayaka on the banks of Kaveri. When seeing such monuments of archaeological importance...one will feel proud of Indian Culture and its rich Heritage.





From there, proceeded to Shakthi Peetha...Chamundeswari Temple on Chamundi Hills near Mysore (Mahishana Ooru...Mahishuru...Now Mysore) the place where demon Mahishasura was killed by Goddess Chamundeswari. It is a very divine place to be visited by all of us. I prayed intensely at thy feet for the well-being of all and also visited Maha Baleswar temple next to main temple. In spite of heavy rush due to holiday season ending, we had good darshan.



We then proceeded to Nanjangud, where Lord Nanjundeswara stood as true example of living for common good. Here is the God worshipped in the famous Srikanteshwara Swamy Temple at Nanjangud in Karnataka. The story is associated with the Samudra Manthan or the churning of the ocean. Nanjunda means one 'who has consumed poison.' Sri Kantheswara means the one who stopped poison in the throat at the request of Gods. The presiding deity is also been given the title of Doctor by Tippu Sultan, Hakim Nanjundeswara. We had Anna Prasadam at Dasoha Bhavana.



Basavanna – The Social Reformer: Whoever visits the state of Karnataka, it's very important to know the philosophy of Basaveshwara who spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas in 12th Century. Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals but introduced Ishtalinga necklace, with an image of the Shiva Linga, to every person regardless of his or her birth, to be a constant reminder of

one's bhakti (devotion) to Shiva. As the Chief Minister of his kingdom, he introduced new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa (The Hall of Spiritual Experience), which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open. His message is so profound and is practiced even today in order to live after death.



The rich will make temples for Shiva,
What shall I, a poor man do?
My legs are pillars,
The body the shrine,
The head a cupola of gold.
Listen, O Lord of the meeting rivers,
Things standing shall fall,
But the moving ever shall stay.
— Basavanna 820

His philosophy revolves around treating one's own body and soul as a temple, instead of making a temple, he suggested to the one being the temple. His trinity consisted of Guru (teacher), Linga (personal symbol of Shiva) and Jangama (moving & learning). He also said Kayakave Kailasha.

ಶರಣ ನಿರ್ದಗೈದಡೆ ಜಪ ಕಾಣಿರೊ
ಶರಣನೆದ್ದು ಕುಳಿದಡೇ ಶಿವರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾಣಿರೊ
ಶರಣ ನಡೆದುದೆ ಪಾವನ ಕಾಣಿರೊ
ಶರಣ ನುಡಿದದೆ ಶಿವತತ್ವ ಕಾಣಿರೊ
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗನ ಶರಣರ
ಕಾಯಕವೆ ಕೈಲಾಸ ಕಾಣಿರೊ

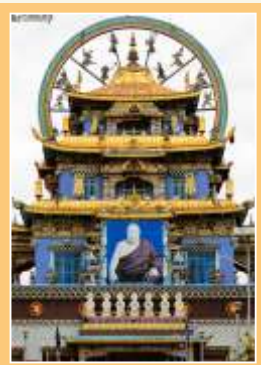
When the sharana goes to sleep,
It is chanting, you see!
When the sharana gets up and bathes, it is shivaratri, you see!
However sharana moves is purifying, you see!
Whatever sharana state is shivatattva, you see!
The very body of the sharana of the Lord Kudalasangama
Is the Kailasa, you see!!

His Life and Mission is bestowed on me with profound thoughts for living. It is Divine Influence for the Life.

Indian Tibet - Bylakuppe: We, further visited Bylakuppe which is a home to several Tibetan settlements (there are several Tibetan settlements in India), established by Lugsum Samdupling (1961) and Dickyi Larsoe (1969). Bylakuppe is the second largest Tibetan settlement in the world outside Tibet after Dharmashala. It is located to the west of Mysore district in Karnataka which is roughly 80 km from Mysore city.



I am really surprised to know that there are thousands of young men from Tibet who are learning Buddha's Philosophy. In 1960, the Government of Mysore allotted nearly 3,000 acres of land at Bylakuppe and the first ever Tibetan exile settlement, Lugsung Samdupling came into existence in 1961. Few years later, another settlement, Tibetan Dickey Larsoe, also called TDL, was established. This was followed by the establishment of three more settlements in Karnataka State making it the State with the largest Tibetan refugee population.



There is a Golden Temple dedicated to Lord Buddha. The entire place is filled with Buddhist culture and heritage, thousands of visitors to be seen in the campus. For many it's a photo shoot spot, but for those who contemplate can find life transforming values in the Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries and Study Centres of Bylakuppe.

Learnings / Observations:

Seeing the atmosphere, I felt that it's not India but Tibet. Allowing them to stay on our land and lead a peaceful life is only possible for our Sarva Dharma Sama Bhavana. (Embodying the equality of the destination of the path's followed by all religions although the path's themselves may be different) I really felt very proud of our Holy Mother Land...Bharat!

On the way back to Bengaluru, we reached Srirangapatnam at 8 PM. It was yet another divine experience for me to secure darshan of Lord Sri Ranganatha right before the curtains closed for the night.



June 3, 2019

Bhanshankari Amma: Banashankari Amma Temple in whose name very large area in Bengaluru named after in Mysore - Kanakapura Road. Though my association with this locality goes beyond 25 years, I could have darshan and seek blessings from Amma for the first time at Banashankari Temple in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru - Namma Metro: I preceded Ajagondahally which is about 30kms away. Owing to the traffic issues, I choose to commute in Namma Metro, very convenient to travel long distances in Bengaluru. I must say that Bengaluru changed its face with Metro Project. Any place which is linked with Metro offering a hassle free commutation to the people of Bengaluru.





Yuva Shakthi - The Power of Bharatiya:

Bhushan Bharatiya, the Founder of Yuva Shakthi Seva Foundation, Bengaluru received me. He is associated with abhaya Foundation since a decade. His thoughts in regard to life changed since he met me. He stood by abhaya in many activities. He, inspired by his own life experiences with Lokopakari Doddana Chetty and abhaya Foundation, established "Yuva". Many activities across the State of Karnataka had been taken by him and his team Yuva.

Now, taking Yuva as lead partner abhaya Foundation started constructing abhaya Youth Empowerment Center while they work on Orphan Children. abhaya exploring the possibilities of pooling Rs.20 lakhs for this Project. I personally, appealed all the abhayans across Karnataka to kindly lend their hands of support to Yuva and abhaya. Now the project is nearing completion. Our plan is to set up a skill development center in the building enabling it to impart free skill training to the unemployed youth of rural areas.



Meeting the Guide & Guru: Later, I visited my Guide, Guru, Mentor and Sister Smt. Naga Jyothi at Munnarkollal whose daughter Sai Pranathi Pramod is blessed with a baby girl. I shared my love with my grand child who is just 5 days old, prayed for her well being. Seeking the blessings of parents and elders at home, I later proceeded to have darshan of Hampi Virupaksha Swamy.

June 4, 2019

Eid-Mubarak: I am wishing all my ISLAM followers...Holy Ramdaan. I-Shall-Love-All-Mankind = ISLAM.

We are supposed to be nearer to God like that of Moon and Star which is the essence of the Allah's message to the mankind.

Bellary: Thanks to Brothers and abhayans Smt and Sri PVN Rao and Smt and Sri P Govinda Gupta, who gave me shelter and food at Bellary. They arranged a car and driver for my visit to Hampi. Also lend their hands of support for Bharata Darshan.

Hampi - Humongous Marvel: Hampi is the capital of Vijayanagara Kingdom and founded by Harihara and Bukka Rayalu. Vidyaranya Swamiji did the penance over here. He is the reason behind establishing the Kingdom on the banks of Tungabhadra River. This is the place where Lord Shiva is presiding as Virupaksha Swamy with Pampavathi. Hampi had also been visited by Adi Shankaracharya during Shankara Digvijayam. This is the architectural wonder in the world recognised by UNESCO.



I had wonderful opportunity to have darshan of presiding deity and Yantroddharaka Purna Devaru (Hanuma). Later, I visited my aunty Smt Lalithamma (Mother's Sister) who is 90 and sought her blessings, also visited another family Smt & Sri S Veerasekhar and shared my love and prayers with them. In the evening, I visited Durgamma Temple at Bellary.

Learnings/ Observations:

It's really amazing to see such places in the country. I could realize how Spiritual, Religious, Moral, Historical, Social, Economical, Environmental and other factors influenced the kingdoms those days.



June 5, 2019

GO to A other face of GOA: Taking leave from Bellary, I travelled in Amaravathi Vasco Express. It's a day journey of more than ten hours. Couple of things bothered me in the journey and few things comforted me.

The things bothered:

- 1) The entire train is full of people...No space in even sleeper coaches.
- 2) 90% of the people are consuming tobacco in different forms
- 3) Worst maintenance of the Train.
- 4) I dared not to touch anything else other than mineral water in the train.
- 5) Scorching heat outside made the life hell inside the coaches.
- 6) Eight hrs journey delayed by three hours.

Few things comforted me are:

- 1) Entire train journey is in the dense forests
- 2) Nature offered best comfort.
- 3) The track runs in tunnels which made me to feel great about Indian Railways.

Doodhsagar Water Falls:

Passengers travelling on this route should keep their eyes peeled for one gloriously gorgeous sight. As the train sneaks its way through Goa – Karnataka border, the sound of the gushing waterfalls can be heard. The train then glides across a narrow bridge, as the frothy, powerful waters of Dudhsagar, flowing through the deep gorge in the mountains come into full view. It might be a short-lived show, but definitely worth the ticket's price.



June 6, 2019

Many people looked at me differently when I enquired about visiting temples in Goa. It became a difficult task for me to find a way out for my desire. It's rather amusing for locals to hear about temple visits than roaming on the beaches. With lots of difficulty, I found a Taxi and requested him to take me to all the temples in the locality for a day or two.

I am amazed by the temple sites in the interiors of Goa. I explored various places of interests in ghat roads, mountains, forests, remote areas etc. For about five hours, I travelled around 100kms visiting, Balli Shantha Durga, Kital Shantha Durga, Kunkalikiran Shantha Durga, Fatorpa Shantha Durga, Shree Chandreshwar Bhuthanath, Shree Someshwar and Shree Damodar. It is surprising to know that no one in these temples know the legend connected to these deities. May be such ignorance caused spreading different religion in this region.

June 7, 2019

Very pleasant time spent for the day visiting various temples which are very ancient in the state. It is like searching for God in concrete jungle. Not many aware of existence of such beautiful temples in the country. Each temple carries with it a story of time immortal. We all must thank those elders of Hindu communities who stood by the test of Portuguese, Christianity and Islam thousands of years ago. They safe guarded Indian Culture and its rich Heritage coupled with spirituality. All the temples are situated deep in the forests and no one can imagine such huge temple complexes are hidden behind trees, mountains and suburbs of Goa. If we don't find a good taxi and driver, it's impossible to find them.



I could also visit the temples of Goddess Kamakshi, Lord Mangushe, Lord Ramnath, Goddess Shanthadurga, Lord Nageshi, Goddess Mahalakshmi Malasa Mohini and other temples. Every temple, its surroundings, architecture, management, spirit and ritual, presiding deity, premises & precincts...everything grant us the most needed peace of mind and tranquillity for life.

I am not tired, but the taxi driver is... without bothering him too much, I asked him to drop me at Panjim Bus stand and I concluded my visit to the temples in Goa state and upon study of various articles, based on discussion with locals, I found the following facts:

All the original temples in Goa were demolished by the Portuguese, and all the patrons migrated to other places with the deity idols. The original Goan temples were made of sedimentary rocks, stones, wood and limestone. Black stone built in Kadamba and Hemadpanti style were very rare. Only one ancient temple of Goa that exists is that of Tambdi Surla Mahadev (which I missed due to unavailability of transport). The present day Goan temples are of Nagara architecture with some alterations, this kind of architecture is unique in India. When one observes, the temple can have many different angles to it, it can be perceived as a Mosque, Church or simply a Palace.

A water tank called as a Tali or a Tallay is usually seen at the main entrance of the temple. A large Praveshdwar or the main entrance, with a Nagar Khana is a very distinct feature of Goan temples. A Deepa stambha is an integral part of the temple. Other related buildings with the temple: Agrashala, Bhojanshala, Yagashala, Vahanshala, Related offices, Nagarkhana. The temples are usually painted in white or other light colours, and are covered with clay tiles, with Golden Kalasha. The parts of the temple are Sabhamantapa, Antarala, Chowk, Garbhagruha (Garbhakud in Konkani) Pradakshina marga.

The temples have wooden carvings depicting epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Garbhagruha is usually studded with silver and main idol is made of black stone and sometimes Shaligrama. Goan Konkani temples represent two murtis one is a Mula Murti to which the alankar(adornment) is usually done and which is of ancient origin and the Utsava Murti which is displayed in the temple premises. The Utsava murtis are made of Silver, Gold or sometimes alloys. An alloy Prasad Murti is also seen. The Chowk pillars are usually wooden with explicit carvings. The roof is also studded with paintings and chandeliers. Huge bells are hung at the entrance of the Chowk. This place is considered very sacred.

June 8, 2019

North Karnataka - Bagalkota, Kudala Sangama & Badami:

I reached Bagalkota in public transport bus at around 12 AM midnight and witnessed heavy downpour through out the journey. I got in to a road side lodge near the bus stand, I asked for a single bed space, they were kind enough to provide me one with Rs.150 per day. I decided to spend minimum for shelter in the journey. I hardly paid any money for my shelter any day since begning of Bharata Darshan. As I enquired about taxi...one fellow was kind enough to serve me for the day with Rs.2000/-. I visited Badami caves, Kudalasangama, Aihole, Pattadakal, Mahakuta and Banashankari in Bagalkot District.

Badami, Pattadakal, Aihole are very important historical places in the country. Existing since 1600 years, these are very fascinating sites throwing light to the country men since ages with the culture, sculpture, talent, skill, civilization etc.

Badami made me proud of our country, entire mountains are carved into Caves. Each cave is dedicated to Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Buddhism and Jainism. This time, I took the service of guide at the site. Seeing the sculpture and knowing about the culture connected to them is an eye opener for the visitors. It's really a feast for eyes, to trek the mountains as it also awakens inner being. I suggest one has to visit these places with kids and youngsters in the family. I am sure, it would be great learning for all, really mesmerised by the Badami caves and also other historical sites at Aihole and Pattadakal. These sites are very well maintained by Indian Archaeological Department of the Government of India..



I visited the ancient Banashankari and Maha Kuteshwar Temples in the District. One more fascinating place, I have seen is the Kudala Sangama, the place where River Krishna and Mala Prabha converge and Swayambhu Sangameshwara is worshipped here at Kudala Sangama.

The important reason for my visit to Kudala Sangama is that, this is the place where Basavanna studied and also merged with Sangameshwara during the fag end of journey. Since young age, I am somehow influenced by this Social Reformer. The philosophy of abhaya matches his teachings exactly.

Basavanna's Teachings:

ಕಳಬೇಡ, ಕೊಲಬೇಡ, ಹುಸಿಯ ನುಡಿಯಲು ಬೇಡ
ಮುನಿಯಬೇಡ, ಅನ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಅಸಹ್ಯಪಡಬೇಡ
ತನ್ನ ಬಣ್ಣಿಸಬೇಡ, ಇದಿರ ಹಳಿಯಲು ಬೇಡ.
ಇದೇ ಅಂತರಂಗಶುದ್ಧಿ ಇದೇ ಬಹಿರಂಗಶುದ್ಧಿ
ಇದೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವರನೊಲಿಸುವ ಪರಿ

Do not steal, do not kill.
Do not utter lies;
Do not lose temper;
Do not detest others;
Do not glorify oneself;
Do not blame others.
This alone is inside purity.
This alone is outside purity;
And this alone is the way
to please our Lord Kudalasangama.



To win God, Basava suggests be pure both inside and outside the body. He also suggests ways to achieve purity. These words of Basava are very simple. They contain the very essence of all the moral codes and of all the religions of the world. The passage given above is called a 'Vachana'. Basavanna authored it. Kudalasangama was his personal deity. This name appears at the end of every vachana as a mark of identity.

I visited Aikya Mantapa which is exactly opposite to Sangameshwara on the convergence of two rivers. This is the place where Basavanna left his physical body and merged with God.

Learnings/ Observations:

It's really a feast for eyes, to trek the mountains as it also awakens inner being. I suggest one has to visit these places with kids and youngsters in the family. I am sure, it would be great learning for all, really mesmerised by the Badami caves and also other historical sites at Aihole and Pattadakal.

To win God, one should be pure both inside and outside the body.

June 9, 2019

Basava Kalyana: It's long journey from Bagalkota to Bijapura to Basava Kalyana in Bidar District. It took close to ten hours in an ordinary public transport buses, heat at its peak accompanied me all through the day. I thought of skipping the place entering into Maharashtra at Solapur but Basava Kalyana has somehow dragged me. Basava Kalyana is the place where Jagajyothi Basaveshwara lived and carried out his mission for long time. Each and every particle of this place is sanctified by his divine feet here. I reached the place by 6 PM, took bath at Yathri Nivasa and ran towards temple. My heart drenched in the philosophy of Basavanna, I spent good time at the temple after darshan.

The Basaveshwara Temple Committee hosted a special program on the eve of World Environmental Day. The newly elected BJP MP, Bidar Sri Bhagwanth Khuba graced the event, I had the chance of listening Basavanna Vachanagalu.

I happened to note the following Vachanas which are similar to my state of mind while I lead the life with a purpose.

ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಮಾಮೃತ ತುಂಬಿ
ನಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರುತಿ ತುಂಬಿ
ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ನೆನಪು ತುಂಬಿ
ಕಿವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೀರುತಿ ತುಂಬಿ. ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ
ನಿಮ್ಮ ಚರಣಕಮಲದೊಳಗಾನು ತುಂಬಿ



The words spoken are full of ambrosia of your divine Name !
 The eyes are enriched with the vision of Your divine Form !
 The mind is full of Your divine thoughts !
 The ears are filled with Your divine Glory !
 Oh Lord of kudala sangama,
 in Your Feet lotus, I am there as a bee!
 Don't make (me) think, "Whose is this man? Whose is this man? Whose is this man?"
 Make (me) think, "This is our man. This is our man. This is our man."
 Oh the Deity of Kudala Sangama, make (me) think that "I am a son of your house."

ಇವನಾರವ, ಇವನಾರವ, ಇವನಾರವನೆಂದೆನಿಸದಿರಯ್ಯಾ.
 ಇವ ನಮ್ಮವ, ಇವ ನಮ್ಮವ, ಇವ ನಮ್ಮವನೆಂದೆನಿಸಯ್ಯಾ.
 ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯ ಮಗನೆಂದೆನಿಸಯ್ಯಾ.

There are many historical evidences which tell us the stories of Jagajyothi Basaveshwara in and around Basava Kalyana. The place where He lived, the place where He used to teach, Anubhava Mantapa, Dasoha Ksethram etc., There is yet another interesting place here...That is 108 feet Basavanna Statue. The day concluded with various thoughts on Social Evils prevailing even today after 800 years of such saintly people who taught us how to live and how to love.

Learnings / Observations: The places, stories, life and work of Viswajyothi Basaveshwara surely awakened my sleeping soul.

June 10, 2019

MAHARASHTA

Aamchi Maharashtra: Reached Solapur (Maharashtra) at 11:30AM from Basava Kalyan (Karnataka). I spoke to Sagar, Shri Samartha Tours, Solapur three days ago, taking their contacts from Google search. He is very professional and very communicative. I liked this guy. Over phone messages and mails, he had provided me the tour plan with a taxi. Though it's little expensive for one person to travel, I decided to cut down my other expenses and hire taxi for a week to travel across the state of Maharashtra. Shrikanth, accompanied me as Taxi Driver.



Pandharipur: I reached the first destination in Maharashtra - Pandharipur where we can see Lord Vishnu standing in waiting posture to grace his devotee Pundalika while he was busy in serving his aged parents. The story is well known to everyone in the country. But, only a few are caring their parents. I felt, instead of visiting such places and offer money, one should take care of their parents at home, and then Panduranga will be pleased for sure.

Further, seeing the temple and Rukmini Panduranga Vittala, I could not leave the place. Time and again I tried to see the Lord. I fell down at the Divine feet of Panduranga, the priest who observed me gave madhura prasadam from Lord's feet. In spite of three hours standing in queue and pain in the legs, I was in a blissful state.

The reason behind spreading of Bhakthi Movement across the country since 7th century can be attributed to Pandaripur. The Lord here granted His Divine Darshan to many people making them holy Saints. Each one of them became epitomes of devotion.

Pundalik, Santh Sakhubai, Santh Tukaram, Santh Namdev, Santh Jnaneshwar, Santh Samartha Ramdass, Santh Ghorakambhar, Santh Kanhopatra, Santh Sawathmali, Santh Ekanath, Santh Chokhamela and many more. It's heart warming to know about these people as to how they transformed themselves while spreading the cause of devotion. I think 130 Cr of Indians must feel indebted to these Saintly people who made our Indian Culture and Heritage alive even after centuries.

Learnings / Observations: One should read the Life and Mission of these Saints and share it with the kids at home...That is more important for the future of this Country.



Kolhapur: While proceeding to Kolhapur to have darshan of Sri Maha Lakshmi (Ambadevi), I had an opportunity to see Nrusimhavadi where 2nd Incarnation of Dathathreya, Sri Narasimha Saraswathi presided at Gurusthan on the banks of Krishna River. A silent and pleasant atmosphere was seen in the location while I had quick darshan. Further, I travelled about 70kms to reach Kolhapur. I have never seen such a huge campus of Goddess...It's like a village seen within 4 walls, constructed like a Fort.

Shakti Peethas: It is said that the three eyes of the Devi had fallen here. The name of Shakti is Mahisha Mardini and that of Shiva- Bhairav is Krodhish. Kolhapur is Karvir-Kshetra created by Maa Lakshmi and is considered very sacred. The temple is made of blue stones in the form of Sri Yantra. Kolhapur was named after Kolasur demon, he was killed by Devi. Maharishi Agastya and his wife Lopamudra had settled here after return from Kashi.

Kolhapur Maha Lakshmi is one of the 18 Shakti Peethas of India. Having Her Divine darshan, my heart is filled with



loads of joy and bliss. I don't know how much time I chanted Gayatri Mantra..."Sarva Loka Hita Mantra"... I did not want to come out of the sanctum sanctorum seeing the Goddess. Such is the beauty...It's like seeing Goddess in person. Being alone at all the places while having darshan is like being in my own world. All senses united for divine darshan. Considering the time and rain in the night, I stayed back at Kolhapur Maha Lakshmi Dharma Shala in a dormitory.

Learnings/Observations:

Being alone at all the places especially while having darshan is like being in my own world. All senses united for divine darshan.

June 11, 2019

Post Prathah darshan and Haarathi at Kolhapuri Maha Lakshmi Temple, proceeded further on ghat road into the dense forest of Sahyadri. One can't describe the tedious journey for the day, I must have travelled more than 800kms. It's exploring the most powerful places of Maharashtra.



Jyothiba: Jyotiba Temple is a holy site of Hinduism near Wadi Ratnagiri in Kolhapur district. The deity of the temple is known by the same name, and is held by the locals to be an incarnation of three Gods: Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesha and Jamadagni.

Maleshwar: This temple is a pleasant surprise for me. Thanks to Shrikanth who suggested me to visit this place. I like this remote place, the temple is located amidst natural water falls. One can't imagine that the Lord appeared in the naturally formed cave on the hillock. I had very pleasant darshan. I had to trek the hill climbing around 600 steps one way.



Mahabaleshwar: Many of us may know about this hill station for picnic, leisure, entertainment, holiday, relaxation but, there is more to it than those, Lord Mahabaleshwar, Atibaleshwar and Koteswar appeared there on hillock. Seeing the Swayambhu Shivaling is like seeing Giant Rudraksha. I am overwhelmed to know Shivaji Maharaj offered gold (tulabharam) weighing his mother as a gift to the Lord ages ago. Further, there is Pancha Ganga Thirtha flowing in the hillock all through the seasons. It's believed that five rivers flow there sanctifying the place.



Narayanpur: Narayanpur is famous for their Lord Ek Mukhi Datta. Usually Lord Dattatreya has three faces but in Narayanpur there is Ek Mukhi Datta. The statue of Lord Ek Mukhi Datta is very beautiful. You can also see the Padukas i.e. footwear of Lord Datta here. These were placed in the sanctum by Lord Datta himself before he left for Samadhi. A tree of "Audumbar" here is very old and is worshiped by pilgrims.

Ashta Vinayak Darshan: Ashta Vinayak literally means "Eight Ganeshas" in Sanskrit. Ganesh is the deity of unity, prosperity and learning and removes obstacles. Ashta Vinayaka yatra refers to a pilgrimage to the eight temples in Maharashtra State of India that house eight distinct idols of Ganesh, in a pre-ascertained sequence covering the eight ancient holy temples of Ganesh which are situated around Pune. Each of these temples has its own individual legend and history, as distinct from each other as the murtis in each temple. The form of each murti of Ganesh and His trunk are distinct from one another.



I had the blessed opportunity to have darshan and seek the blessings for all at Moregao, Theur and Ranjangaon. It's like running behind time since morning 6 AM; once again, I am the last person to have darshan at Mahaganapathi Temple at Ranjangaon at 10 PM. Temple closed thereafter. Later, I took a room with in the temple premises, bringing a satisfying day to a closure.

Learnings / Observations:

One may have to trek hills or climb several hundred steps to get darshan of Lord, but the immense satisfaction that is achieved after doing the darshan defeats all the pains encountered in the journey

June 12, 2019

Had a wonderful praathah darshan at Ranjangaon Maha Ganapathy Temple, then proceeded to Siddhetek Temple.

Siddhi Vinayak: The Siddhivinayak Temple of Siddhatek is dedicated to Lord Ganesha. The temple is one of the Ashtavinayaka, the eight revered shrines of Lord Ganesha and the only Ashtavinayaka shrine in Ahmednagar district.

Solapur - Shivayogi Siddheswar Temple:

Siddheshwar temple was built by a Shivayogi, and a devotee of Shri Mallikarjuna of Srisailam, Shri Siddharameshwar. He built this temple and made 68 Shiva lingams in the temple as per the instructions of his guru. It is said that Shri Siddheshwar, who is also considered as the six prophets of Lingayat religion, believed that birth of this saint caused the prosperity of the city and the deity is capable of blessing the devotees.

As soon as I entered in to the state of Maharashtra, I could see the worst roads all over the districts. I am little surprised about such bad roads which is affecting public life at large. Looks like the new roads are being laid for the past couple of years, travelling on such roads is like running with 20kms speed. But, Srikanth a very skillful driver and is able to drive safely and effortlessly. Just in three days, I travelled more than 1500kms.





Akkalkota: Swami Samarth also known as Akkalkot Maharaj, was the Guru of the Dattatreya tradition and widely respected in Indian states. Though I keep listening about five incarnations of Dattaatreya since young age (Shripada Vallabha, Narasimha Saraswati, Akkalkota Maharaj, Manikya Prabhu and Sri Guru Dathatreya), at this age, I could see His Samadhi and heard about this Avadhutha. His existence in physical form is dated to the 19th century AD. It's very heartening to know the story of this living God. From Akkalkota, I travelled to Karnataka again to visit Ganigapur.



Ganigapur: Sri Narasimha Saraswati (1378–1459) was a Guru of Dattatreya tradition. According to Shri Guru Charitra, he is the second avatar of Dattatreya in Kaliyuga after Sripada Vallabha. His story and mission is also very interesting. Please read about His Padukas which were left by him while he was concluding his mission.



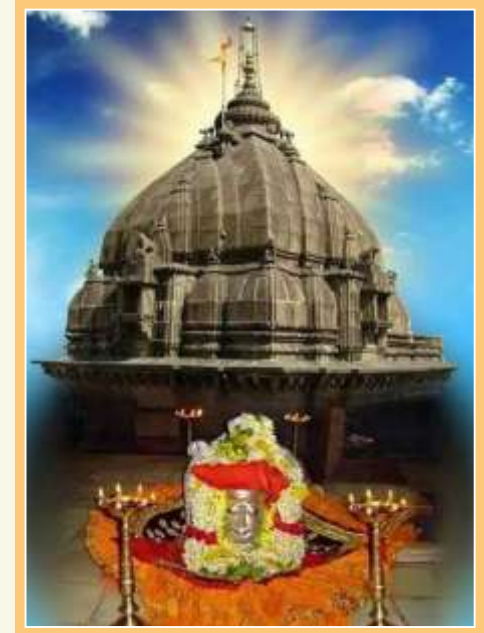
Thuljapur: Tulja Bhavani Temple is dedicated to the Goddess Bhavani. It is located in Tuljapur in Osmanabad district and one of the 51 Shakti Pithas. It is situated 45 km from Solapur. The temple was built in 12th century.

This is the place Shivaji and his mother used to come and get initiation to protect the Country. The Goddess here is family deity of Shivaji lineage, a very

powerful mother. The darshan itself infuse lots of courage, knowledge and wisdom. Marathas treat her as their own family member. The temple is like that of a fort. I felt very happy to be present in front of Her...Intensely prayed for the well-being of all. I also saw Gomukh Thirtha which is flowing continuously in to the prime temple site.

I normally consider, single darshan is enough to flush out all that is bad and prayer alone suffices for the well being of all. Hence, I never went for Archana, Haarathy, Special Seva, Tilak Prasadam. But here, while I was praying at the Holy Feet, two priests tried to apply tilakam on my forehead, which I gently not allowed. For a moment, I was surprised why I did not allow which I could have agreed for, but all of a sudden a priest appeared in front of me and applied Tilak while am exiting the garbhalaya.

Parli Vaidyanath: Parli is a taluka in Beed district and is primarily known for the Jyothirlinga Vaidyanath (Known as the Vaijanath Temple) it is built out of stone on a small hill and is surrounded by a wall that protects it from all sides. After reaching Parli temple (just besides the main road itself), I rushed towards temple and entered inside the main temple for Jyotirlinga darshan. Since it was the time to close the temple, there were no rush and I had divine darshan. I could touch Jyothirlinga with my two hands and forehead with prayers for all. Once again exactly at time of closure (10 PM), I got the fortune of not missing darshanam. I attended Shayan Arti (Sleeping time worship formalities). Temple premises is good and I stayed in Bhakt Nivas common hall for free along with a group of 100 shaiva community from Bidar. They caringly fed me for the night. Though travel is in car...but roads made me to feel that I came by walk.



June 14, 2019

Grishneshwar: The Grishneswar temple is an illustration of the architectural style and structure of South Indian Temples. The temple, built of red rocks, is composed of a five-tier shikara. The temple was re-constructed by Maloji Bhosale of Verul (grandfather of Chatrapati Shivaji) in the 16th century and later again by Queen Ahalyabai Holkar in the 18th century. She is credited with rebuilding some of major Hindu temples such as the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi, Vishnu temple in Gaya, and a much larger Shiva Jyotirlinga temple in Somnath.



Really amazed by this Queen Ahalyabai who lived to safeguard our Indian Culture and Heritage, visited Ellora Caves which is just a kilometre away from the temple.



Aura All Over Ellora: Ellora Caves is the World UNESCO Heritage Site located in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, India. It is one of the largest rock-cut monastery temple cave complexes in the world, featuring Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments with the art work dating from the 600–1000 CE period. Cave 16, in particular, features the largest single

monolithic rock excavation in the world, The Kailasha temple, a chariot shaped monument dedicated to Shiva. The Kailasha temple excavation also features sculptures depicting the Gods, Goddesses and mythologies found in Vaishnavism and Shaktism as well as relief panels summarizing the two major Hindu Epics.

Seeing this site and the magnificent art work of thousands of sculptures which have existed for centuries is really unimaginable, unfathomable and extraordinary which is beyond human perception as to how they could have been built and what scientific technology which till date is not known to us. Are these man made marvels or created by God by His will is the question that hits our minds.

These sites are equally important along with places of worship in the country. It took two hours of my time to visit and glance the place completely. Then, I proceeded to reach Shani Shingapur from Ellora. It's almost four hours drive.

Shani Shingapur: The place where Lord Shaniswara appeared as Swayambhu is in black stone. The deity is open to sky without any temple. The devotees flood can be seen on all days. Offered my prayers at thy feet and moved towards Shirdi.



Shirdi My Second home: The most sacred place for the devotees of Shirdi Ke Sai Baba. It's a second home for me. After a long gap, I could visit Baba. The place is flooded with devotees. It's slowly becoming Tirumala. Considering the travel plan ahead for the day, I proceeded in a special darshan line. It was yet another pleasant surprise for me at the Lotus Feet. I had no other thought while moving in the queue apart from praying for all. When I was exiting from Baba's Samadhi, the priest at the Baba idol kept the shawl from Baba's Divya Sannidhi on my head. I have no words to express for the blessings I received. For me, it's equal to receiving a gift from my Grand Father. Remember, I have not spent any rupee in the temples for rituals except offering heartfelt prayers.

Ojhar, Vighnahar Ganapati: After Darshan at Shirdi I proceeded towards Pune and I reached Ojhar at 9 PM. Ojhar is the place where Vighnahar Ganapati manifested, it is also one of the Ashta Vinayaka Temples in Maharashtra. I spent Rs.25/- for dinner and Rs.100/- for the dormitory to rest for the night.

Learnings / Observations: The scientific technology prevalent in the earlier period was much more advanced than what we claim to have achieved now. Its really a marvel as to how the magnificent art work of thousands of sculptures in Ellora were built. Each day in Bharata darshan enlightened me. For the past two days, I happened to know about many saintly people of Maharashtra such as Sri Pada Vallabha, Sri Nrusimha Saraswathy, Sri Akkalkota Maharaj, Sri Manikya Prabhu, Sri Swamy Samartha, Sri Gajanan Maharaj, Sri Balu Mama and others, they all lived like Avadhuthas. Knowing about their life and Mission made me happy to realise that the important aspect of their life is Love and Service. This is exactly My Life and Mission and the resolve gets further strengthened.

June 15, 2019

Its been 30 Days of Bharata Darshan. Many people asked me how many more days it will be? I said I don't know. In 30 days, I could travel in 4 states, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. I prayed God to provide strength to complete Bharata Darshan which is His Sankalpa alone, that I was fulfilling!



Ashta Vinayakam: I visited another four Deities of Ashta Vinayaka Temples. Ozhar, Lenyadri, Pali and Mahad, located in and around the remote areas of Pune carrying their own Legend. I did not take lunch for the day, as I was running from temple to temple without any time gap in order to reach Mumbai by night.

When seeing caves on hillocks for the past many days, I had this the following queries:

- 1) Who did the survey of these stone mountains?
- 2) In spite of the civilisation of the day, we are not able to reach these sites, but how did the people centuries ago reach?
- 3) Why were these caves made spreading the cause of Religion, Culture, Civilisation and Heritage?
- 4) How could the workmen carry out such huge task of making caves without any machines?
- 5) How are these monuments intact even after thousands of years?
- 6) How was it possible for them to create such caves on hard rock hills, just not one and two, but the caves are running for several kms and also multi level work (3 floors seen!)



All these points are beyond my comprehension. Each sculpture is in detail as per the shilpa sastra. Whatever may be the visitor's belief, they will be astonished by these monuments. Many of these sites are recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

At Lynandri, where Girijathmak Vinayak seen is one such ancient cave. I am happy to write these thoughts. I think anyone who wishes to know the Indian Culture and Heritage must see such sites so that their respect for Bharat will rise in manifold proportions -Jai Ho Bharat

While visiting Maharashtra, I wished to see all the four Jyothirlingas in the State (Parli Vaidyanath, Aundh Nageshwar, Nashik Traimbakeshwar and Bhima Shankar). With the blessings of God, I could see all of them.

Bhimashankar: It was close to three hours journey which made me experience the nature's best manifestation. Wherever I see, deep valleys, water falls, huge mountains, thick green forests. It was a different experience at Bhimashankar, because instead of trekking the mountain, one has to step down more than 500 steps here as the temple is located in a deep valley. I had pleasant Darshan and sparshan. Feeling blessed for seeing such wonderful places on earth.

Siddhi Vinayak, Mumbai: After couple of hours journey from Mahod on Bengaluru to Mumbai Express Way, I reached Mumbai and the first place I visited is Sidhi Vinayak Temple.

Profusely thanked Shrikanth, Driver who accompanied me from Solapur to Mumbai taking care of me in every respect and made me cross 3000kms in Maharashtra. Well behaved guy and no nonsense at any point of time. I felt happy to connect to his owner Sagar, Sri Samarth Tours and Travels, Solapur through Google search engine, very professional in work and happy to have settled his bill without any discussion, Prayers for them. The credit of my pleasant tour without obstacles in Maharashtra is given to these people...But for them travelling more than 3000kms and visiting about 25 most important places could have been a different task for me.



As soon as I reached the financial capital of India, I called many abhayans who live in Mumbai to meet. CS Anitha Sunil Nair hosted me for the day.

June 16, 2019

With Associates at Mumbai: CS Anitha Sunil Nair very kindly received me at their home Kandivali along with Master Naman and Rishi - their children - who are very sweet. Had good time with them over breakfast at home. Thanks to the family. Later, we all went to a nearby hotel for lunch. Sri KV Ramakrishna, Member, abhaya National Advisory Council, Sri Sunku Ramaprasad, the Founder Trustee of abhaya, Sri Kashyap Choksi, long term associate of abhaya joined us at the hotel. We all had good time there for a couple of hours over lunch as I briefed them about Bharata Darshan.



My childhood friend, class mate, bench mate, room mate and Founder Trustee of abhaya Foundation, Sunku Ramaprasad, currently working as Vice President, Axis Bank very lovingly took me to their home at Borivali (East). It was the most memorable time I spent with him and his family. Their daughter Abhinaya wishes to become a Doctor. I gifted her with the Shawl that was given to me at the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple. I did nothing for the day except spending time with them.

Greeted my Parents a very happy 55th wedding anniversary on June 16th 2019 and also offered prayers to my ailing Father on the eve of Father's Day 2019.

Ramaprasad took personal time to arrange a vehicle for touring Mumbai on 17th June. Further he advised me on the the Gujarat tour which was my next pilgrimage destination. (He worked there for few years). Mrs. Sunitha Prasad cared me like a mother... served me like a sister. Very blessed I am to have such people in life.

Fansawadi Sri Venkateshwara: The Temple is 100 years old and established by Kanchi Acharyas. Very beautiful temple. As soon as I entered in the antharalayam...The priest over there brought a garland and adored me with Thirtha Prasadam. For a moment, I was shocked, treated this as divine blessings at Mumbai.

Seema Kashyap Choksi invited me for lunch at their home. This is the best Lunch I had in the last 40 days. Profusely thanked them for their love and my prayers for their well being. I adored them with garland given by Priest at Venkateswara Temple, Fansawadi and gave them prasadam.

The busiest people of Mumbai taking time for others is a difficult thing but these people spared their valuable time with me...adding lots of value for my Bharata Darshan. I felt inspired by their love and care at Mumbai. Life is to be counted by such people who lend a hand to hold always in all ways.



June 17, 2019

Mumba Aai – Mumbai: Ramaprasad, was very kind enough to arrange a vehicle to tour the interesting places of Mumbai. Sunil Nair was further kind enough to accompany me for the local tour. Sudhakar, a Telugu man came to Mumbai from Telangana Manchiryal (Raju Bhai Guide) picked us at 6:45 AM. He really did a good job. He guided us across the city for more than ten hours. I felt very happy to see such people around. I really liked his courtesy and alertness, I feel such cab drivers will make a heavenly difference to the visitors.



We visited the presiding deity of Mumbai. She is the reason and cause of existence of Mumbai...Mumba + Aai (Mumba Devi). The deity is seven centuries old. Since then the Goddess is blessing the people of the city with life and prosperity.

Later, we had a brief tour of Old and New Mumbai. Covered the following best places...Each and every place visited carried a special story, history, significance and legend with it.



Gateway of India: The place, from where British troops finally left India in the year 1948, happy to have seen this place.

Mahalakshmi Temple: This is the place where Goddess Lakshmi appeared as Fisher woman and lived to learn perseverance and concentration from fishermen. When they realized Goddess is living with them, pleaded her to stay there...she manifested here as Maha Lakshmi... When Britishers consolidating and connecting all seven islands, the work

was hampered and stalled for many a times at a particular point. The British engineer got a dream where Goddess appeared and commanded him to relocate her statue to some other space then, the work will go on smoothly. Accordingly, the Britishers found Maha Lakshmi Temple in the workplace and moved on to the hill where the temple is located now. She is the personification of Life and Luck for Mumbai.



Hazi Ali Dargah: A very famous Darga in Mumbai built in memory of a wealthy Muslim merchant, Sayyed Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari, who gave up all his worldly possessions before making a pilgrimage to Mecca. Hailing from Bukhara, in present-day Uzbekistan, Bukhari travelled around the world in the early to mid 15th century and eventually settled in present-day Mumbai.

Until his death he kept spreading knowledge about Islam to the people and his devotees would regularly visit him. Before his death he advised his followers that they should not bury him at any place or graveyard and should drop his shroud in the ocean such that it should be buried by the people where it is found. His wish was obeyed by his followers. That is why the Dargah Sharief is built at the very site where his shroud came to rest in the middle of the sea. This is perched on a small mound of rocks rising above the sea.

Due to high tides, the path leading to darga was closed, I was disappointed... But to my surprise... On our return in the same route, we found the water level is reduced as tides are weakening... Happily visited the Hazi Ali Darga also.





The essence is very simple...whatever may be the faith ...Only selflessness is the path to salvation. Other places seen includes, Babulnath Temple, Arabian Sea, Marine Drive, Nariman Point, CSM Terminal (earlier know as Victoria Terminal), Hanuman Temple, Hanging Gardens and Boot Garden.

Other context, I was amazed by seeing the richest spaces filled with luxuries on one hand...Poorest places filled with critical life styles on the other hand. However my focus was on spaces filled with spirituality and patriotism. Each place I visited made me to realize the fact that country is sustaining only on beliefs. Mumbai is the home for country's richest people...I prayed that those who has riches in abundance should start working for those who are in need. Profusely, thanked my friend Ramaprasad for their love and care at Mumbai.

Learnings / Observations:

1) Whatever may be the faith... Only selflessness is the path to salvation. 2) I felt inspired by the love and care at Mumbai. Life is to be counted by such people who lend a hand to hold always in all ways. 3) Each place I visited made me to realize the fact that country is sustaining only on beliefs.

June 18, 2019

Shatabdi Express: I started in Shatabdi Express at 7 AM to reach Baroda in Gujarat. The train is completely air-conditioned. I must thank the Indian Railways for such a wonderful train. It's a royal journey for the passengers. Push back seats, bright lighting, see through windows, charging points, eating desk, water bottle, coffee, food, juice, news papers, clean toilets, attenders etc., all this included in ticket. It's a four hours journey to Baroda. I am speechless for the comfort created on wheels. Jai Ho Bharat. Ramaprasad arranged for a car and driver to receive me at Baroda. By 11:30 AM, Babu Bhai came to receive Balu Bhai. We started to Narmada Sarovar Project.



GUJARAT:**Statue of Unity...United me with Indianism:**

The Statue of Unity is a colossal statue of the Indian statesman and independence activist Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875–1950) who was the first Home Minister of Independent India and the Chief Adherent of Mahatma Gandhi during the non-violent Indian Independence movement; highly respected for his leadership in uniting the 562 princely states of India to form the single Union of India. It is the world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres. It is located on a river island facing the Sardar Sarovar Dam on river Narmada in Kevadiya colony, 100 kilometres southeast of the city of Baroda

My First Thoughts:

- ◆ Kudos to the concept and execution
- ◆ Salute Gujarat CM Modiji (2013)
- ◆ Such projects surely ignite minds.
- ◆ Never before I heard or seen about it.
- ◆ An engineering marvel by L&T
- ◆ Made me to Live for this Country

I wish to tell you about high lights of Sardar Sarovar Project and Statue of Unity:

- ◆ Sardarji's dream is Narmada Sarovar.
- ◆ Pride of Gujarat but delayed
- ◆ Modi marked his 10th year as CM with this Project.
- ◆ Campaigned and collected 135mtc tonnes iron from the countrymen.
- ◆ Construction completed in 3.5 years.
- ◆ 182 metres height signifying 182 Assembly constituencies in Gujarat

- ◆ Sardarji will be looking at Narmada Dam as it was his dream.
- ◆ It requires at least one day to visit
- ◆ Boating services being offered shortly.
- ◆ Cameras/ phones allowed in the complex.
- ◆ Valley of Flowers being developed.
- ◆ Narmada Dam can be seen in the hillock.
- ◆ 1000 workers and 250 engineers engaged in the construction work
- ◆ Statue: the expression, posture and pose justifying the dignity, confidence, Iron will as well as kindness that his personality exudes. The head is up, a shawl flung from shoulders and hands are on the side as if he is set to walk
- ◆ Tourism attraction...Each day thousands of people visiting
- ◆ Luxury AC Buses will take the visitor around.
- ◆ One can reach the height of 135 meters through lift inside the statue.
- ◆ Thousands of young men and women engaged in employment in the Project.
- ◆ Sardar museum can't be missed.
- ◆ The guides over there looking like Soldiers in explaining about the Project.
- ◆ Technology is used at its BEST.

Learnings/ Observations:

In total, I am filled with lots of positive energy visiting the place. I must say Indians all over the globe must see this. I think Statue of Unity can be termed as a wonder of this Century...An engineering marvel for the present and future generations of the mankind.



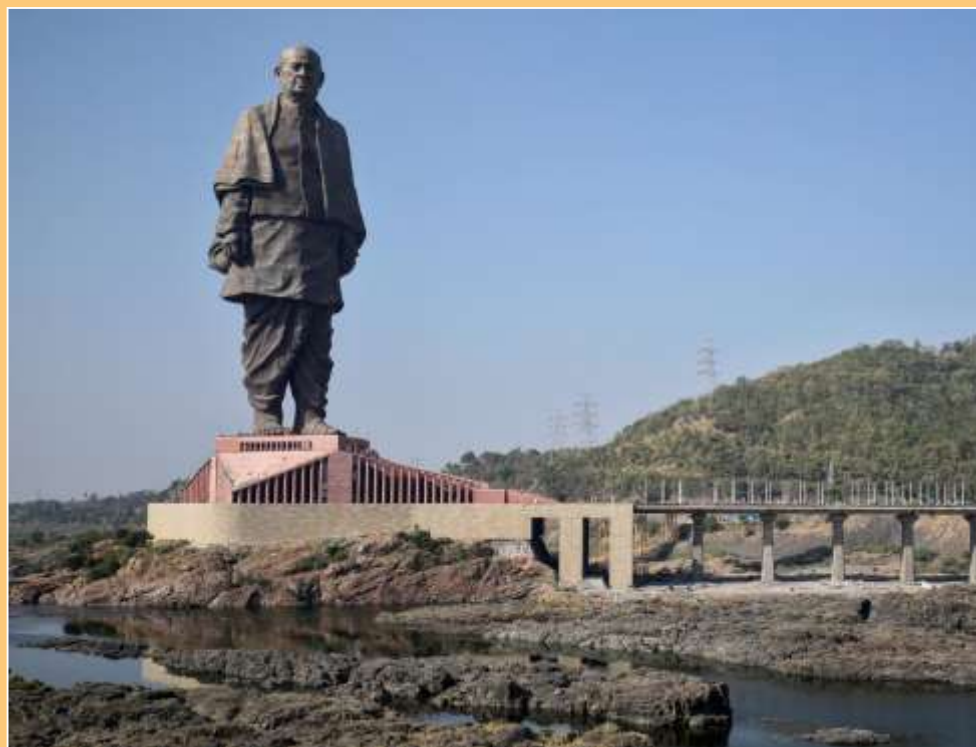
While proceeding to Narmada Project, I heard about Garudeshwar where Avadhutha of 18th Century is believed to be the incarnation of Dattatreya breathed his last at his own will. It's on the banks of Narmada. His body as commanded by him was buried in Narmada River. This saint belongs to the same time of Shirdi Baba, Gajanan Maharaj and Akkalkot Maharaj. I had lunch at the temple. Had Narmada darshan and offered prayers at Samadhi.

While returning visited Harsidhhi Mata, the temple is located in Rajpipla. She is worshiped as Kuldevi by former princely State of Rajpipla. The Goddess is believed to be hailing from from Ujjain and had come here by the prayers of the King. From there, I visited Poicha - Nilakantha Dham Swamy Narayan Mandir.

Temple is on the Bank of Narmada river, more than 30 temples in one premises, theme parks, kids park, lighting, sculpture, greenery, water, river bank, design

etc., will make the visitors speechless, very pious and pure. This temple looks beautiful during the day and looks stunning during the night as the illumination makes this place feel that you are in heaven. The exhibition area is a must see. We need a whole day to see all the exhibits, great fusion of technology and Hindu culture, heritage, mythology, tradition and spirituality. Evening attraction is the Ratha Yatra, one has to see this and am sure that will be long lasting experience.

Further, I had the most wonderful shodashopachaara puja and harathi at main temple. I just forgot myself for an hour and was totally immersed in the divine vibrations. I had Anna Prasadam at the temple and returned to Baroda. Rested at Swamy Narayana Mandir, dormitory with nominal cost for the day.



June 19, 2019

Ready by 6AM at Swamy Narayan Temple complex, Baroda, proceeded to visit Harathi at the temple. It's such a beautiful ritual by the priests. It's like waking up the Lord at the sanctum sanctorum really amazed by the 5D's of BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha). Each temple is an epitome of spirituality. BAPS established huge multi speciality hospital, lodging and boarding facilities on nominal cost for those in need.



Pawgadh Mahakali: At around 6:30am, started to Pawgadh which is about two hours drive from Baroda. Kaalika Mata Temple is situated near Halol, at 2,500 ft above sea level. The temple is set amidst a dense forest cover on a cliff. It's believed to be in existence since the 10th century. Though, initially I thought of trekking to the top, later opted to go by rope way considering onward journey and places to visit during the day.

The temple can be accessed by a pathway from the road head through the forest over a distance of 5 kilometres. The path passes the ruins of Patai Raval's palace. Alternatively, there is a ropeway access, which was commissioned in 1986, is of mono-cable and can carry 1,200 people per hour; it is said to be the country's highest order.

It's really unique experience. In spite of rope way, one has to further trek for 30 minutes to reach Kali Mata Temple. I could see all the weathers at a time. Fog, Breeze, Heat, Snow and Rain all can be felt in the mountains.

I had blissful Nethra darshan of Kali Mata with prayers. The priest gave me Mother's seshi vastra. The moment, I came out of the temple, I presented it to a just born baby girl whom I encountered first in the name mother Kali.

Dakore: Lord Srikrishna is the presiding deity at the temple. Dakore is one of the Pancha Dwarakas. Yet another time, God bestowed on me his Grace...The moment, I had darshan and came out...The temple is closed at 12 noon.

Modhera Sun Temple: Proceeded further to visit the very ancient Sun Temple (Next to Konark) at Modhera. It's very carefully preserved by the Government of India. Huge temple complex to be seen in front of huge water tank. One has to see and enjoy the beauty of this temple. Both the eyes were not enough to capture the magnificent design, sculpture, detail and size.



Ambaji: In the holy temple of Arasuri Ambaji, there is no image or statue of Goddess. The holy "Shree Visa Yantra" is worshiped as the main deity. No one can see the Yantra with naked eye. Ambaji is an important temple town with millions of devotees visiting every year. It is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas. It is believed that the Heart of Sati Devi has fallen here. The entire Temple Complex is so majestic for the one who enters in to the complex. Had divine Darshanam and also partaken prasadam for the night.

Vibrant Gujarat: Wonderful Roads even in suburbs, good ambience all over, cleanliness every where, courteous people, good driver, food and stay at a very nominal cost. Finally reached Mount Abu Road - Om Shanthi Head Quarters for night halt. Knowing about my Bharata Darshan Volunteers received me with love and care.



June 20, 2019

RAJASTHAN

Mount Abu – Mounting Memories:

Early morning @ 6:30AM, was ready for the day at Mount Abu in Rajasthan - Gujarat Border. I met Sri BK Karuna Bhai, long term associate of Om Shanthi who is associated with Babaji since initial days. He is presently serving the Mission as PRO. He very lovingly enquired about me and felt happy listening to Bharata Darshan. He called a senior associate of Ashram Arun Bhai to take me around and show me all the campuses on Abu Road as well as at Mount Abu.



Till date, I only know that Om Shanthi as Eshwariya Vidyalaya. But after visiting the International Head Quarters at Shanthi Van, Pandav Van, Baba's Kutir, Baba's Samadhi, Learning Centres, 50+ Departments, Meditation Halls, Healing Centres, Free clinics, Rural Development Initiatives, Mega Kitchens, Multi Speciality Hospital, Research Centre, Publication Centre, TV Channels, Radio Station, HAM Radio, Studio, Mega Auditoriums, Exhibitions, Theme Parks,

one MW Solar Thermal Plant, Residential Complexes for 5000 people, Selfless Volunteers, Surrendered Sanyasis and Women as leaders...I am completely overwhelmed by the work. Kudos to the vision of Bramha Baba, the Founder of Om Shanthi and his choice of Women under whose leadership the tremendous work is happening since a century in India.

I have seen Saffron SoulDears at BAPS on the other day and here at Om Shanthi, I could see White SoulDears working selflessly for the betterment of society. Each and every inch in the campus is worth seeing and making note of by any one. Being a social worker, I know how difficult it is to manage such work. It's really amazing to see their work.

Arun Bhai accompanied me throughout the day in visiting the best places around the campus. I realised the fact that in order to have sustained journey for any organisation, selfless and dedicated volunteers are very much needed. I can write a page full of synopsis of each thing I visited at Prajapita Bramha Kumary Eshwariya Vidyalayam at Mount Abu along with my insights about, but due to space constraint I am not.



Guru Sikhar: This is the place, a temple of Dattatreya located at 6000 ft above sea level. It's believed that Sri Dattatreya did penance here for a month in the cave over the top of the hill. We could see eternal dhuni in the cave, His feet can be seen in the cave. We reached the top after trekking for 30 minutes. We could see entire Aravali mountain region from the top and further can see Pakistan borders. The Indian Army and Air force Camps are set up at this place.

Even at 2PM, we could not see the Sun rays falling on the hills. Everywhere we could see the clouds touching us...It is like floating in the sky. Nothing can be seen even at 1 foot distance. Wherever we see, the nature is filled with life. Further, this is the place where Maharaja Rana Pratap crossed by his horse Chethak and took shelter in a village down the hills post losing the war.

Bhama Shah (1542–1600) was a noted General Minister and close aide of Maharana Pratap. Bhama Shah is well known for providing his wealth to Maharana Pratap, when Maharana had become financially weak and went to the point of starvation. The funds provided by Bhama Shah allowed him to restore his army and much of his territory. Rajasthan Government honouring this man, named Free Health Initiative as Bhama Shah Health Scheme. I am amazed and inspired by this story.





Delwada Jain Temple: Most beautiful Jain Mandir, I had seen on the top of Mount Abu. I don't think anyone can describe the beauty of this temple, Delwada (Dilwara) Jain Temple is one of the finest Jain temple known world over for its extraordinary architecture and marvellous marble stone carvings. It is for sure architecturally superior to the Taj Mahal. It seems fairly basic

temple from outside but every cloud has a silver lining, the temple interior showcases the extraordinary work of human craftsmanship at its best. These temples were built between 11th to 13th centuries AD.

The beautiful lush green hills surrounding the temple give a very pleasant feeling. The ornamental details of marble stone carvings is phenomenal and stands unmatched. The minutely carved ceilings and the pillars are just amazing. All this was done during the time when no transport or roads were available at a height of 1200+ Mtrs in Mount Abu, Huge blocks of marble stones were transported on elephant backs from the Arasoori Hills at Ambaji to this remote hilly region of Mount Abu. Dilwara temples are also a popular Jain pilgrimage attraction.

We reached the temple at 12 noon thinking that it will be closed. But for our surprise, we were the first visitors for the temple which opened the gate for Non-Jains. We went inside along with scores of people. The priest over there enquired about me and took my hand leading us to the sanctum sanctorum. He asked me to offer Dhup Deep and Fanning ritual to Adinath Thirthankar. It's again a thrilling experience for me in Bharata Darshan. Finally, priceless send off was given to me by the Om Shanthi Team. Left Mount Abu at 7PM to reach Ahmadabad on my onward journey in Bharata Darshan.



June 21, 2019

Mahant Swamiji Blessed Bharata Darshan: Though, I am aware of Swaminarayan Sanstha and their work for many years. It did not strike to my mind that I should visit Mahant Swamy, the present head of BAPS during my travel in Gujarat.

Thanks to the beloved friend Kashyap Choksi who reminded me about Mahant Swamiji (86) and asked me to include Shahibaug in places to visit list in Gujarat. He further tried reaching out Brahma Vihari Swamiji, the Senior Associate whom we met at Hyderabad during Mahant Swamiji's visit last year. (But could not have the audience of Mahant Swamiji at that time). Looks like he is not available in Gujarat.

Without knowing anything, with an intention of seeing Mahant Swamiji, I reached Shahibaug Ashram at 7AM and to my surprise, there was huge crowd of 20000 people at the auditorium witnessing Mahant Swamiji performing the morning worship and rituals on the stage.

The moment, I entered in to the area, a volunteer, enquired upon noticing me and I told about myself. He caringly took me inside and made me to be seated in front of the stage but at exit point in the auditorium. For such a kind gesture, I felt happy and expressing gratitude to the volunteers, I started observing keenly as to what's happening on the stage.



It is truly a blessing for me. The way Mahant Swamiji gave a darshan from the stage...looked like as if he is taking darshan of 1000s who assembled there with his folded hands. Look at the image as to know how humbly Swamiji giving Darshan (or Taking Darshan!!!)..



Swaminarayan Guru Parampara:

Aksharbrahma-Parabrahma philosophy as revealed by Bhagwan Swaminarayan explains that after He leaves His mortal body, He remains continually present on Earth through Akshar or the Satpurush. The guru parampara have continuously provided satsangis with the guidance and leadership needed to lead a spiritually fulfilling life geared towards redemption and eternal happiness. Bhagwan Swaminarayan identified Gunatitanand Swami as Aksharbrahma many times throughout His life. In a similar manner, successors that followed were identified by their guru. It is in His spiritual successors that Bhagwan Swaminarayan's legacy lives on in the truest sense.

The successors are not elected or voted in by a committee or board. The spiritual and administrative leadership of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha is held by a gunatit guru defined by his merits. Bhagwan Swaminarayan describes the qualities of such a sadhu in Vachanamrut Gadhada III-27, in which He says, "The attributes of the Sant – being free of lust, avarice, egotism, taste, attachment, etc. – are also described in the scriptures. The Sant who possesses these attributes has a direct relationship with God." He goes on to say in Vachanamrut Sarangpurthat, "When one has the darshan of such a Sant, one should realise, 'I have had the darshan of God Himself.'

Mahant Swamiji: Presently the followers of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha believe that Bhagwan Swaminarayan is present on Earth through Mahant Swami Maharaj, and that they are serving God through Mahant Swami Maharaj. (Please do visit what a saintly person he is by clicking the link: <https://www.baps.org/.../TheSpirit.../Mahant-Swami-Maharaj.aspx>)

International Yoga Day: The International Yoga Day celebrated in the divine presence of Mahant Swamiji. Swamiji briefly spoke about Yoga and Spirituality. It is declared that yet another Akshardham is being built at New Jersey in a 150 acres of land. The programme concluded. I sat in the front side at the exit point. Rushed to outside thinking that while Mahant Swamiji leaves the hall, I can have close darshan. I just sat on a bench nearer to the battery car, a senior Swamiji noticing me enquired and asked me to move further to a nearer place, post knowing about Bharata Darshan. After few minutes, the same Swamiji came and asked me to follow him. For my astonishment he led me to the lift where Mahant Swamiji alights to go to his room. He further enquired about my Mission. He introduced me to other Senior Swamijis around.

When, Mahant Swamiji arrived, I was taken to Him and introduced. I lost my self at his feet singing loudly for the well-being of all. He took my hands in to his Hands... Lovingly patted on my back... Smiled at my excitement... Blessed me with a rose flower... knowing about Bharata Darshan.



What a magical moment it is for the day in my life ! It's yet another divine incident proved my belief: "If intentions are pure...Gods will start working for the cause." I became speechless by this incident. Profusely thanked Sri Brahma Muni Vathsala Swamiji (Not sure of the name) who became the reason for the blessing. Each day in the journey being filled with divine Thoughts...Words...Deeds...Adding meaning to the Life. I was able to see God manifesting in each step in Bharata Darshan. After darshan at Swaminarayan Mandir, I had Prasadam and proceeded to Sabarmati Ashram.



Sabarmathi...Sabko Sanmathi...Deshko Swecha Gathi:

..."Being a Gujarati, I thought I should be able to render the greatest services to the country through the Gujarati language. And then as Ahmedabad was an ancient centre of hand loom weaving, it was likely to be most favourable field for the revival of the cottage industry of hand spinning. There was also a hope that, the city being capital of Gujarat, monetary help from its wealthy citizens would be more available than any other place"...



This was an explanation given by Gandhiji for choosing Ahmedabad as his hub of activities in the year 1917. This is the place where Mohan became Mahatma...This is the place from where our Bapu... became the Father of the Nation... Mahatma ignited minds of crores of Indians for Independence. I had the fortune of spending time at this place on the banks of Sabarmathi River.

I am really touched by the memories of this place knowing that Gandhiji used it as his Karya Kshethra a century ago. Dear friends... What can I tell you about such places...

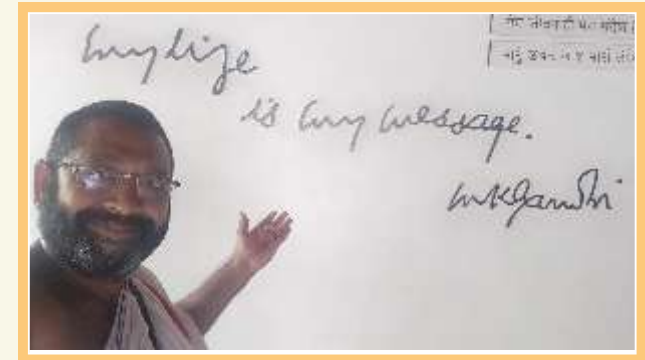
Whether we visit near / dear or not
Whether we visit temples / shrines or not
Whether we visit places in abroad or not
Whether we go on pilgrimage or not
Not an issue...

But, all of us MUST visit places connected to Indian Independence struggle, in order to awaken the sleeping souls for serving the Country. Mahathma Gandhi said: My Life is My Message...But the true tributes for him will be when each one of us say...My Life is His Message.

Gandhiji used to remark, "This is the right place for our activities to carry on the search for Truth and develop Fearlessness for on one side are the iron bolts of the foreigners and on the other, thunderbolts of mothernature." After building a few essential structures, activities of the Ashram commenced in 1917.

Gandhiji had driven all the major activities of independence as well as upliftment of the society from this Ashram which was popularly known as Sabarmati Ashram. He stayed in the ashram for many years before he finally proceeded for a march to Dandi to break the salt law on March 12 th, 1930. Before starting the march to Dandi, Gandhiji declared that he will not return to the ashram before the independence of the country.

The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya is run by a public trust established in 1951. The museum's new premises were built in 1963. The museum's main objective is to house the personal memorabilia of Mahatma Gandhi. Consequently, the exhibits on view depict the vivid and historic events of Gandhiji's life. There are books, manuscripts and photocopies of his correspondence, photographs of Gandhiji with his wife Kasturba and other ashram associates, life size oil paintings and actual relics like his writing desk and spinning wheel.



But, my suggestion to the Government : This place requires major facelift and we must take technology to create reliving moments of Gandhiji. As of date...I give only two stars for the memorial.

Akshardham - Akshaya for Aadhyathmikatha:



'Akshardham' literally means the divine abode of God. It is an eternal place for oneself to offer devotion and experience everlasting peace. Swaminarayan Akshardham at Gandhinagar is a mandir – a Hindu house of worship, a dwelling place for God and a spiritual and cultural campus dedicated to devotion, education and unification. Timeless devotional messages and vibrant Hindu traditions are echoed in its art and architecture.

The mandir is a humble tribute to Bhagawan Swaminarayan (1781- 1830) and the avatars, devas and sages of Hinduism. This traditionally-styled complex was inaugurated on October 30th, 1992 with the blessings of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj and through the devoted efforts of skilled artisans and volunteers.

- ♦ The visit to Akshardham was like drenching in the Spiritual rain, such is the beauty of the monument created by BAPS. Morning post receiving the Divine Blessings at Shahibaug, the Senior Swamiji from Temple, directed me to meet the Jitesh at Akshardham for assistance, I was received by the staff at VIP Entrance and they looked after my comfort during my five hours visit to Akshardham.
- ♦ As soon as I entered in to Akshardham at 10AM, the staff took me to Abhisheka Mandapam. Abhisheka is the ritual bathing of a deity for the fulfilment of one's prayers. The worshiper pours water over the deity amidst the chanting of prayers and mantras.

The abhishek ritual began with the tying of a sacred thread on the wrist, followed by a brief recital of Sanskrit shlokas. Thereafter I performed bathing the murti (idol) of Neelkanth Varni with a small pot of sanctified water. While reciting the shlokas we did bathing ritual, I prayed for the well-being of all the planets as usual.

Highlights of Akshardham: Dream of HH Yogiji Maharaj in 1970 Created by HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj (1992) Constructed by Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Built in 23 acres of land at Sector 20

in Gandhinagar, Gujarat 8,000,000+ volunteer hours from 4000+ volunteers spent for construction. Mandir built from intricately carved sandstone, an engineering marvel which can last for 1000s of years on this earth. What to see in Akshara Dham? Though each thing infuses lots of life into our living...I tried to provide a brief account of most fascinating things over there for the benefit of those who wish to know:

1) Swamy Narayan Foot Prints, 2) Akshardham Mandir consists of 97 intricately carved pillars, 17 ornate domes, 220 stone beams, 57 stone screens, 3 porticos, and 256 statues of spiritual personalities in Hinduism. The mandir reaches 108 feet into the sky, spans 131 feet in width, and is 240 feet long. Inside the mandir, each and every carefully carved pillar shares a story of devotion or offers darshan of a deity at Hari Mandapam, 3) Swaminarayan Darshan, 4) Prasadi Mandapam: Bhagwan Swaminarayan was widely followed and worshipped as the manifestation of God. His devotees carefully preserved articles He used, and handed them down to younger generation. In the Prasadi Mandapam sanctified objects have been reverently treated and authentically displayed in hopes of providing future generations the historical testimony of Bhagwan Swaminarayan's incarnation on earth. These holy relics are priceless because of the immense spiritual power they carry within them. Within these relics lies the presence of Lord Swaminarayan, 5) Hall of Values, 6) Mystic India, 7) Hall of Spiritual Heritage, 8) Hall of Harmony, 9) Sainly Poets, 10) Sant Param Hitkari, 11) Theme Parks, 12) Satchit Anand Water Show.

Close to 2:30PM, I finished the visit, grabbed Swaminarayan Kichidi at Premavathi Food Court and proceeded to Dwaraka, which is about eight hours away.

My humble request: Take time to visit such wonderful places in life, while we go for luxury trips in any state in India. If we miss seeing such things, we surely will miss an opportunity to Refine... Rebuild... Reprogramme... Recharge... Reminiscence of our SELF. I bow before the Team BAPS for gifting such a magnificent temple, benefiting crores of global citizens..



June 22, 2019:

Dwaraka – Dwara of Krishna's abode: The day had been hectic since 12AM to 12PM. I reached Dwaraka on the sea shore of Gujarat at 12AM. Searched for a dormitory shelter near temple and took shelter at Swamynarayan Temple at last. After a brief rest for couple of hours, got ready and walked down to Dwarakadhish Temple. It is magnificent to see the sea, the beautiful temple of the Lord Sri Krishna and his family by the shore.



The day marked as 40th Day of Bharata Darshan and I completed the 1st Phase. May 14th, I started from Kalady, birth Place of Adi Shankara and travelled across Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and completed Gujarat on June 22nd, 2019. Now, as part of IIInd Phase of Bharata Darshan, I proceeded to Madhya Pradesh + Rajasthan and upward.

I did tonsure at Paschimamnaaya Shankaracharya Peetham - Sarada Matt, Dwaraka. Sri Swarupananda Saraswathi (95 years), the present head of Aashram, was staying at Delhi due to old age, hence could not see him. I went to Gomukh Thirtha and had pavitra snan.

Dwaraka, The Gate for Heavens: The main shrine of the five stored building, supported by 72 pillars, is known as Jagat Mandir or Nija Mandir, archaeological findings suggest that it is more than 2,200 years old. Temple was enlarged in the 15th- 16th century. The Dwarkadhish Temple is a Pushtimarg Temple, hence it follows the guidelines and rituals created by Vallabha Charya and Vitheshnath.



The original temple was believed to have been built by Krishna's grandson, Vajranabha, over the hari-griha (Lord Krishna's residential place), Adi Shankaracharya, in 8th Century visited the shrine. Even today a memorial within the temple is dedicated to his visit. Dwarakadheesh

is the 98th Divya Desam of Vishnu on the subcontinent, glorified in the Divya Prabandha sacred texts.

There are many stories connected to Dwaraka, Sri Krishna, His wives, Family, Kingdom, Childhood friend Sudhama, Tulabharam, Rukmini Temple, Bet (Beyt) Dwaraka others. I took time to visit Rukmini Temple (Located at a two kms distance and there exists a story behind such distance) Even today, they perform Rukmini Kalyanam by bringing Sri Krishna to this place and the priest will read out the Letter written by Rukmini at the temple before closure and Bet Dwaraka (located in the island 5kms away from temple and its believed to be Krishna's Palace)

There were doubts, about reaching Bet Dwaraka due to cyclone alerts from many days. Thought, I would be missing visit to Bet Dwaraka, but on enquiry I came to know that it is open for the day, I spent close to 2 hours time for the visit. Travelling in top less boat, scorching sun on the top, no breakfast, waiting, walking etc., put together caused some strain. But still I completed the visit.



Somanath Jyothirlinga - An example of Indian Will:



Somnath Temple is believed to be most powerful and wealthiest temples since time immortal. This is the place God Moon performed penance to get back his beauty and strength after being cursed by Daksha.



The temple was destroyed by many foreign invaders countless times. Every time some or other Indian Kings rebuilt the temple showing the power of Jyothirlinga there by safeguarding the ancient Indian Culture and Heritage coupled with Spirituality. The last

reconstruction was initiated by Sri KM Munshi and Sri Sardar Vallabhai Patel, on Gandhiji's personal advise, the funds were pooled by the public / Devotees, and the then President of India, Sri Rajendra Prasad inaugurated it in the year 1951.

I am really moved by the strong will of Indians in safeguarding their spiritual treasures. The Indian Will is surely unparalleled. If someone is depressed by destruction in personal front...They have to see this temple and understand how this temple stood back every time it fell. Huge Siva Linga will leave the visitors mesmerised. I had a divine chance of witnessing 6PM Haarathi, prayed for everyone. One needs to spend at least an hour seeing the beautiful surroundings and sculpture in the temple's corridor.

Bana Sthamba: There is arrow mark pointing towards South Pole, the light path stretching without obstruction up to the South Pole over the end of the ocean. Sea view Point: The sea shore is just besides temple compound. One has to see the power of nature over there. Old Parvathi Temple, Kapardhi Vinayaka, Old Photo Exhibition, Jyothirlinga Darshan, Sound & Light show etc., are the other must see places.

Considering the travel schedule next day to reach Madhya Pradesh and more than 500kms journey...I started at 8PM from Somnath to cross midway by mid night en route Ahmedabad.



June 23, 2019

Swaminarayan Mandir, Gondal:

The day started at 5 AM at Swaminarayan Temple, Gondal. By the time I reached Ashram it's 12 AM. Still the volunteer in the counter received me with courtesy. He allotted a decent room without any charge knowing about my Bharata Darshan, also provided the schedule for the next day with food coupons and I rested for couple of hours. Took part in Akshara Deri Maha Pooja (Yogiji Maharaj final resting place) and then had breakfast.



Shri Swaminarayan Mandir at Gondal is a place everyone would love to visit. It is an amazing Temple work that awes the visitor with its beauty and spiritual experience. It's construction on such a huge scale on a vast premises will surely mesmerize us. Like other BAPS temples, this temple, too, is a classic creation of astonishing architecture. This is situated on the Rajkot-Junagadh Highway. I am inspired by Swaminarayan Mission and work. I then proceeded to Virpur.

Virpur - Jaalaram Bapa: I am really astonished by the stories of saintly people, I did not even hear the name of this Saint till date. He belongs to 18th Century, very devoted to serve the pilgrims and saints. He worshiped Rama, Rama believed to have had tested his devotion. He blessed Bapa with Danda and Joli (Stick & Bag) which is preserved here. Lord Hanuma manifested here and Bapa attained samadhi. We don't see any hundi box or offering here in the campus and yet everyday hundreds partake prasadam. Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswathi Rivers flow here in big vessels kept by Jalpan Bapa. Wondered as to how such people lived. Further I proceeded towards Chotila enroute Ahmadabad.

Chotila Chamundi Maa: The Mataji temple is situated at the top of the Chotila Mountain. Chotila Mountain is around 1250 feet high and is located around 40 miles away from Rajkot and around 50 miles away from Ahmedabad. Though, it's tedious to trek barefoot under the scorching sun heat...I did it with prayers. Around 1000 steps are to be crossed before reaching Dwimukhi (Chandi and Mundi). Quickly having darshan and partaking Anna Prasadam, proceeded to Aksharadham Gandhinagar.



Aksharadham - Gandhinagar: Considering the time available for Indore Bus, I decided to witness the Aksharadham Water show, which was missed during previous visit. The PRO, Jitesh welcomed me at VIP gate and comforted me. He sat by my side enquiring about me, he was totally amazed by Bharata Darshanand experiences and felt divine to know how Mahanath Swamy Maharaj blessed me. He gifted me the Kanthi, Kankan and Prasadam in the name of Swaminarayan. I am moved by their love and care for a Sadhak like me.

He arranged special entry for Water Show, where at least 1000 people with ticket come and enjoy one hour show. I waited for couple of hours at VIP Rest House...Then the volunteer dropped me at Water Show venue.





Sath-Chith Ananda Water Show:

As the sun sets, 1000s of visitors take their seat in the outdoor amphitheatre and experience the enlightenment that is the Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show. Transporting oneself to the land of death and watch fearless Nachiketa confront Yama, the God of Death, and ultimately receive from him the knowledge of immortality and eternal happiness.

The Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show is a breathtaking 60 minute presentation, which brings to life an age-old tale from the Kathopanishad. The Sat-Chit-Anand water show instantly captivates everyone with its 80ft wide x 60ft high water screen, multi colour lasers, video and light projections, fireballs and underwater flames, water jets, and surround sound symphony. The live actors as they take us through a journey aimed to inspire and enlighten. Premavathi canteens all over Swaminarayan ashrams serve delicious food at a reasonable rate. I quickly had

Swaminarayan Kichidi and Curd and travelled for an hour to reach travel agency to head out to Indore.

Thanked Babu Bhai, the cab driver who accompanied me for a week in Gujarat...He really took good care of me and I treated him alike. I recommend him for those who visit Gujarat to take his services (63513 11979). My beloved friend Ramaprasad Sunku, Mumbai took care of Gujarat Travel related expenses.



June 24, 2019:

MADHYA PRADESH

Sujith, cab driver from Indore Travels picked me from Indore Bus Stand. He looks like a hero and yet religious. He took care of me without causing any inconvenience, during 12 hours travel, as we headed to Omkareshwar. Before reaching temple, he stopped at a scenic place where River Narmada flows. I had a cool bath got ready for the day.



Omkareshwar - Jyothirlinga: The temple is dedicated to God Shiva. It is one of the 12 revered Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva. It is on an island called Mandhata and the shape of the island is said to be like the Hindu symbol OM. I had a beautiful darshan of Omkareshwar on the banks of Narmada. I was surprised to see all



these ancient temples located in the mountains, river banks, dense forests, unreachable places...may be God wanted us to at least struggle to reach him so that he can shower his grace.

Each temple is unique in its location, direction, architecture, sculpture, history, river etc., I strongly believe that the Indian places of worship are surely reason for Social, Economical, Civil,

Cultural, Physical, Emotional, Traditional, Educational, Religious, Spiritual development of this Country and its people since ages.

Maheshwaram: Previously also, I referred the name of Rani Ahalya Bai / Devi while talking about Temple's renovation. I really wished to know more about this Queen / Saint / Devotee. I am overwhelmed to visit Maheshwaram, the Kingdom where she resided and ruled centuries ago.

Following are some few inspiring facts about this Lady.

- ◆ She was married when she was hardly 8 years
- ◆ She learned war skills at In-laws home.
- ◆ She was a leader since her young age.
- ◆ She did not follow Sathi custom when her husband passed away.
- ◆ She took care of Kingdom.
- ◆ She became Queen of Malwa
- ◆ He punished own son for wrong deeds.
- ◆ She transformed the Kingdom in 30 years of her rule in 17th Century
- ◆ She stood by reviving ancient temples in India.
- ◆ She made textile industry cherish in her kingdom.
- ◆ She devoted her life to Shiva.



Following inscriptions on the walls of temple explain us what she was as a queen:

"God has entrusted the responsibility into me and I have to obey his orders. It is my duty to keep my people happy and secured. I am liable for the work done by me on the basis of my capacity and power and answerable to the God. Nothing is mine here. Everything belongs to the God and I have to return it. It is my liability and duty and I have to perform accordingly"

I am really inspired and ignited by the fort, her memories, magnificent Shiva Temple, Narmada River, Maheshwaram... The place itself is called as Maheshwaram.





There are stories of Brahma Vishnu - Shiva, Raja Vikramadithya, Avanthi, Sathi Devi, Ahalyadevi, Adi Shankaracharya, Kalidasa, Bruthruhari and others to be heard in the temple.

Mahakaleshwar became Maha Karuneshwar: The day being Monday, there was huge rush in the temple and the special darshan queue also had rush. Considering the travel schedule from Indore in the evening, I just went to an officer in the Temple Administrative Office (believing to be that). Just folded my hands and requested him for providing access to darshan after informing my name and Bharata Darshan. The gentleman, without speaking a word, he called a Temple Staff and instructed him to take me to darshan. The three hours darshan turned into 10 minutes darshan (Abhishekam and Prayers at Sanctum Sanctorum).

Felt divine by such an experience at the temple. The temple staff is very courteous and shown all the small and big temples in the complex.



Ujjain Mahakaleshwar: The presiding deity is Dakshinamurti, Linga facing the south. This is a unique feature, upheld by the tantric shivnetra tradition to be found only in Mahakaleshwar among the 12 Jyotirlingas. The idol of Omkareshwar Mahadev is consecrated in the sanctum above the Mahakal shrine. The idol of Ganesh, Parvati and the idol of Nagchandreshwar on the third storey is open for darshan only on the day of Nag Panchami.

The temple has five levels, one of which is underground. The temple itself is located in a spacious courtyard surrounded by massive walls near a lake. The shikhar or the spire is adorned with sculptural finery, brass lamps light the way to the underground sanctum. It is believed that prasada (holy offering) offered here to the deity can be re-offered unlike all other shrines.

After reaching Indore, got into Private Coach at 7:30PM for Ajmer (Rajasthan) concluding the visit to Madhya Pradesh, en route to bus stand, I went to Ranjeeth Hanuman Mandir.

My humble request to friends: Any one can Google these places and names to know more about them. Here, I am briefly noting the things for readers' perspective.



June 25, 2019

RAJASTHAN

After eight hours journey from Indore, reached Ajmer at 6 am. I tried my best to find a Dharma Shala near Railway Station...as I did not want to spend money on a lodge for just refreshing. At last, I could squeeze myself into Lodha Dharma Shala for Rs.150/-and put my foot on the road by 7AM.



Ajmer: The city was established as "Ajaya Meru" (Invincible Hills) by a Shakambhari Chahamana(Chauhan) ruler, either Ajayaraja I or Ajayaraja II, and served as the Chahamana capital until the 12th century CE. Ajmer is surrounded by the Aravalli Mountains. It is the base for visiting Pushkar (17 km), an ancient Hindu pilgrimage city, famous for the temple of Lord Brahma. Ajmer has been selected as one of the heritage cities for the Central Government Hriday Yojana and Smart City Mission.

As soon as I hit the road, I hired Jai Singh (65) Auto Driver. I thought of going to Ajmer Railway Station and enquire about the mode of travel for the day. He expressed his desire to be my companion for the day for visiting all the places in Ajmer and Pushkar and he just charged me Rs.1000/- as against Rs.2500/- for a cab. Hence, I happily hired his auto at the first instance, we had delicious Rajasthani Nashta near Akbar Fort. Then found a Dhobi to wash my dresses for Rs.100/- as against Rs. 1000/- by a laundry fellow. We first visited Ajmer Dargah Shariff.

The Khwaja Gharib Nawaz: Ajmer Dargah Shariff is a Sufi Shrine (Dargah) of a Sufi Saint, Moinuddin Chishti (13th Century). The shrine has the grave (Maqbara) of the revered saint, Moinuddin Chisti. He lived for 114 Years and finally left his physical body at Ajmer. Following are the best things that let us know about this sacred place:

1. Dargah Sharif is one of the most sanctified shrines in the country.

2. Muhammad Bin Tughluq was the first to visit the Dargah Shariff in 1332.
3. Jahalra, one of the monuments inside the dargah was once the main source of water, even today, water is used for all the rituals.
4. At the entrance, 2 huge deghas (pots) that are used for cooking Niaz - a mixture of rice, saffron, nuts, ghee, sugar and dry fruits. The food is cooked at night and distributed to the public as Tabarruk (blessing) after the morning prayers. While the small pot cooks 12.7 kg and the bigger one cooks 31.8 kg of rice. The circumference of the degh is about 10 feet. It's believed that offering in this will bring akshaya for the devotees.
5. Standing as a fine piece of Mughal architecture, Shah Jahani Mosque or Jama Masjid is where you can find 33 beautifully inscribed Quranic verses along with all the 99 sacred names of Allah.
6. Jannati Darwaza, placed to the west of the shrine and it's a beautiful gate covered with silver metal. It is opened only 4 times in a year, during the annual festival of Urs, twice on Id, and during the Urs of Khawaja Saheb's Pir.
7. Ajmer Sharif hosts the 6-day annual festival of yours commemorating the death anniversary of the Sufi saint, Moinuddin Chishti. It is believed that the saint locked himself in a room and prayed for six days before leaving his mortal body when he was around 114 years old.
8. The Akbar Mosque inside Ajmer Sharif was built by the Emperor as a token of his gratitude following the birth of his son, Jahangir. Today, it is home to a Quranic educational institution that offers religious education to children.
9. Akbar used to visit this place by walk from Agra fort. For his comfort, a fort was built in Ajmer now converted in to State Museum.
10. It is believed that, a person who prays with a pure heart at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah, gets all his or her wishes fulfilled.





Without knowing all these things...I entered into the Main Gate. There was huge rush all over roads and Dargah. Thousands of Muslims with devotional fervour was seen.

Very casually I enquired a passerby elderly Muslim man about the huge degahas in the entrance...That's it, he with loads of warmth asked me to cover the head with hand cloth, took my hands into his hands, and showed me the entire campus. His love and affection is that of an uncle. He explained me about each important point and finally asked me to bow before Samadhi and pray. I obviously chanted "Samastha Lokah Sukhinobhavanthu" listening to the prayer...He adored me with divine chaddar which is placed on the Samadhi. He comforted me at his cabin inside the dargah...Then I realised he is Syed Md Najeeb Hashmi (75) Gaddi Nasheen. Like a loving father, he treated me and patted me for the good work that is done by abhaya. He said the place is powerful and what I prayed there really moved him. I am really speechless by this experience...

He tied a sacred thread to my wrist at Dargah...A volunteer also tied a sacred thread at Swaminarayan Temple. I found no difference in these threads... Not just that... Where ever I go in the country... Whatever are the religious beliefs... I found no difference in

- 1) Pilgrimage beliefs,
- 2) Prayers for everyone,
- 3) Rituals,
- 4) Love for GOD,
- 5) Sacred Water,
- 6) Flowers,
- 7) Prasadam,
- 8) Service,
- 9) Miracles,
- 10) Morals,
- 11) Customs,
- 12) Fasting,
- 13) Celebrating Festivals,
- 14) Dedication.



I remember what Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba told us:

మతములన్ని చేరి మంచిన బోధించు.... తెలిసి మెలగవలయు తెలివి తోడ
మతులు మంచివైన మతమేది చెడ్డది..... వినుము భారతీయ వీర సుతుడ

Post visiting the Ajmer Dargah...I visited Shahid Smarak, Gandhi Bhavan, Clock Tower, Ana Sagar Lake and other important places. But the following three places left golden memories at Ajmer.

State Museum: State Museum is mainly confined to the galleries with different sections like Scriptures, Weapons, Attires, Art, etc. I really liked the sculpture section and weapons area. The fort itself is very basic, there is a central Diwan-e-Khas which is the resting place for the Emperor, surrounded by lush green gardens, followed by long galleries which could house the servants and other ministers of the emperor. Since the fort was mainly built as a resting place for Akbar during his voyages to Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti dargah in Ajmer, the fort was very low-key and does not match the grandeur of the forts in Delhi and Agra. But you can still appreciate the Mughal architecture here.

Soni Ji Ki Nasiyan: Soni Ji Ki Nasiyan, being festooned with precious stones, gold and silver work. The Temple, built in 1865 is dedicated to Lord Adinath, the first Jain 'tirthankara', the temple is a two-storied structure and it belongs to the Digamber sect. One part of the temple is the worship area comprising the idol of Lord Adinath, while the other forms a museum and includes a hall made of gold, the interior of the museum depicts the five stages (Panch Kalyanak) in the life of Lord Adinath. Within it's 3,200 sq.ft. area, the interior is adorned with Belgium stain glass, mineral colour paintings and stain glasswork.



Recognised as the Golden Temple (Swarna Mandir), the temple has a focal hall that is embellished with gold and silver decorations. The temple also showcases wooden gild representations, glass engravings and paintings.

Nareli Jain Temple: It is a beautiful place situated on the outskirts of Ajmer. One must take a cab or personal car to visit this temple. The best time to visit is in the evening but also in day light. The ambience gives a feeling of calmness. The temple is never crowded and there are no puja offerings. If one wants to visit the numerous small temples on the hills above, take enough time in hand and also start early before it is dark, But for me an Auto Rickshaw was more than enough to visit all these places. What a place. Really, I was truly moved by the beauty and cleanliness of the place. The place provides relaxation to mind and body.



Nareli Jain Temple is a sacred Tirtha of Digambar Jains. I am mesmerised by its beautiful architecture and intricate stone carvings which gives both traditional and contemporary look. The temple is made of marble stone and is known for fulfilling wishes and bringing

prosperity in life. The main temple has a huge idol of Guru Adinath Ji on the first floor with 24 miniature temples of other Tirthankar's line up on the hills above. The view from the top is spectacular and breathtaking. It is constructed in the Aravali Ranges by the marble giant, Mr. Ashok Patni of RK Marbles. In between, I tasted Rajasthani Sweets, Lassi, Butter Milk, Jaljira etc,. Then, I proceeded to Pushkar which is about 17kms from Ajmer City.

Jai Singh, auto driver, took me to Pushkar. The place is visited by Adi Shankara during his Digvijayam. Ajmer and Pushkar are the only places, believed to be visited by him as per the available information. Hence I visited them in Rajasthan apart from Abu Road, Om Shanthi, Delwada Jain Mandir, Guru Sikhar and Mount Abu.

Pushkar: Pushkar is one of the oldest cities in India, located to the northwest of Ajmer, 500 metres above the ground level, Pushkar is surrounded by hillocks on three sides. The 'Nag Pahar', literally meaning Snake Mountain forms a natural border between Ajmer and Pushkar. According to legends, Lord Brahma,

believed to be the creator of the Universe dropped a lotus to the ground leading to the immediate creation of a lake. He then decided to name the place after the flower, and thus the name, Pushkar. The city of Pushkar is home to the only temple dedicated to Lord Brahma in the whole world. Hindus consider a journey to Pushkar to be the ultimate pilgrimage that must be undertaken to attain salvation.



According to Hindu scriptures, the sacred Pushkar Lake is described as 'Tirtha Raj', the king of all pilgrimage sites. No pilgrimage is considered to be complete without a dip in the holy Pushkar Lake. Semi-circular in shape and about 8-10 metres deep, Pushkar Lake is surrounded by 52 bathing ghats and over 400 temples and is truly a magnificent sight to behold.

Savithri Matha Temple: The Temple in Pushkar overlooks the entire town of Pushkar and all the surrounding valleys. The temple can be spotted while at the Pushkar Lake. I had been to the hillock by the ropeway.

Hatpateshwar Temple: This beautiful 12th century temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and has an underground component. The intricate Hemadpanti architectural style carvings give this temple a magnificent appearance.

Bharat (Movie) at Miraj Cinemas, Ajmer: The scheduled bus time for Delhi is 9:20PM. Despite of visiting several places in Ajmer, Jai Singh left me at the cross roads and I still had four hours. The summer heat of Rajasthan was unbearable, hence I thought it is wise to spend the time in an AC Theatre. I was looking for an Auto Rickshaw, to commute to the theatre, the pricing of autos was too high, as I decided to walk instead, an otherwise able man stopped his bike besides me and asked me "Swamiji, I saw you at the Pushkar, I shall drop you wherever you wish to go, I was spellbound, by such gesture from a stranger. I humbly accepted his ride and reached Miraj Mall. I watched the movie Bharath, till 8:45PM and then reached the bus stand by a motor cycle turned Auto rickshaw. I was really surprised by the gentle man who dropped me in his bike at Mall.



June 26, 2019

DELHI

I reached Delhi after eight hours journey by Rishabh Travel Sleeper Coach. I am thankful to my dear abhayan Sivakrishna who apart from taking care of abhaya Mission during Bharata Darshan made himself available for me in travel booking 24x7. I have no words to express my gratitude for him and his family. I am blessed to have such SoulDears with abhaya Foundation.

Delhi... The Destination for Leaders: When I decided to travel to Delhi, I remembered Abhayans Keerthi Murthy being relocated to Delhi from Bengaluru. I thought of visiting them and spending good time with them while planning for my travel to Himalayan Territories (Jammu, Kashmir, Vaishno Devi, Sankara Temple, Amarnath, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Badrinath, Kedarnath and Manasa Sarovar - Mount Kailash.) But God willed differently. Keerthi did not pick up my call, unknowing what to do, I visited Southern Travels, Karol Bagh, had delicious breakfast and coffee. On enquiry, I understood that all the Himalayan Travel packages needed to be booked well in advance, on the other hand my sister-in-law, was leaving Bangalore along with her daughter Chinmayi to visit her elder daughter Vaishnavi in America. After speaking to my elder brother SN Rangaiah, I booked a flight to Banglore in the evening thinking that I can stay with parents for some time.



Raj Ghat: In the mean time, I paid a visit to the most facinating places in my life at Delhi. Raja Ghat where Mahatma Gandhi finally rested. Gandhiji's whole story mesmerised me when I was young, His philosophy of Non Violence, Truth, Peace, Devotion, Love for parents, Love for the Country etc., stood like pillars in making my Life added with Community Work.

Sadaiv Atal: I drew inspiration from many great personalities (Acharya Thrayam, Swamy Vivekananda, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Mahathma Gandhi, Mother Theresa and others), even though I could not see anyone of them in real life, listening to

their stories influenced me to give up my life for the Country, if necessary. But, the two Personalities whom I have seen in my life besides my Ista Daivam Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba were Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam) made me to Live for my Country in Full till the last breath and thereafter.



I got a blessed opportunity to pay homage to Atalji at Sadaiv Atal. He is my admiration and inspiration in life. His Patriotism, RSS ideology, Nationalism, Bachelor Life, Oratory Skills, Statesmanship, Friendly Nature, Poetry etc., left long lasting impressions in my life. When I have seen him in Bengaluru, National College Grounds during a public meeting, I lost myself in ecstasy. I touched his feet and hugged, it was two and half decades ago.

Sadaiv Atal' reflects Vajpayee's personality as a poet, humanist, statesman and a great leader. The central Samadhi platform comprises of nine square black polished granite solid stone blocks, capped with a 'diya' in the center. The number nine holds significance and represents the navarasas, navaratras and navagrahas. The placement of the nine squares in Samadhi is in a circular lotus shaped pattern. The nine-square platform is accessed in four cardinal directions by pathways made in white composite tiles so that the floor does not get heated.



The Samadhi is enclosed by nine bas-relief walls which have inscriptions of the Vajpayee's poetry which can be read by the visitor while taking a pradakshina on the outer circular path. For construction of the Samadhi, stones from various parts of the country were used. I really felt energised at the place. As its morning hours, no one around and I spent good time. Captured many photos.



India Gate: We all know about this War Memorial in the heart of Delhi. I spent good time there under the sun. The inscriptions on the memorial says:

“TO THE DEAD OF THE INDIAN ARMIES WHO FELL AND ARE HONOURED IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS MESOPOTAMIA AND PERSIA EAST AFRICA GALLIPOLI AND ELSEWHERE IN THE NEAR AND THE FAR-EAST AND IN SACRED MEMORY ALSO OF THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE HERE RECORDED AND WHO FELL IN INDIA OR THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER AND DURING THE THIRD AFGHAN WAR.”

13,218 war dead are commemorated by name on the India Gate. Amar Jawan Jyoti, or the flame of the immortal soldier, is a structure consisting of black marble plinth, with reversed L1A1 Self-loading

rifle, capped by war helmet, bound by four urns, each with the permanent light (jyoti) from (CNG) flames, erected under the India Gate in the wake Liberation of Bangladesh in December 1971 to commemorate Indian soldiers killed in the defence of their country. Hundreds of young men were engaged in capturing the visitors in cameras, I too posed for couple of photos and paid him for the shots.

National War Memorial: The National War Memorial is a monument constructed by the Government of India in the vicinity of the India Gate, to honour its Armed Forces. The memorial is spread over 40 acres and is made around the existing chhatra (canopy) near India Gate. The memorial wall is flush with the ground and in harmony with existing aesthetics.

Names of martyrs during 1947–48, 1961 (Goa), 1962 (China), 1965, 1971, 1987

(Siachen), 1987-88 (Sri Lanka), 1999 (Kargil), and other operations such as Operation Rakshak, are inscribed on the memorial walls.

Inspired and ignited by this memorial, I saluted all those who laid their lives for our country. How else can we repay these men apart from living in this country by loving and serving until last breathe. Such thoughts have been imbibed in me since young age by Parents, Teachers and of course my Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

What ever I am seeing,
Wherever I am going,
Whomever I am meeting,
Whatsoever I am reading...
Bharata Darshan, made me feel indebted!
Bharata Darshan is an ultimate experience
as each encounter in the journey
proving an opportunity to learn a lesson..



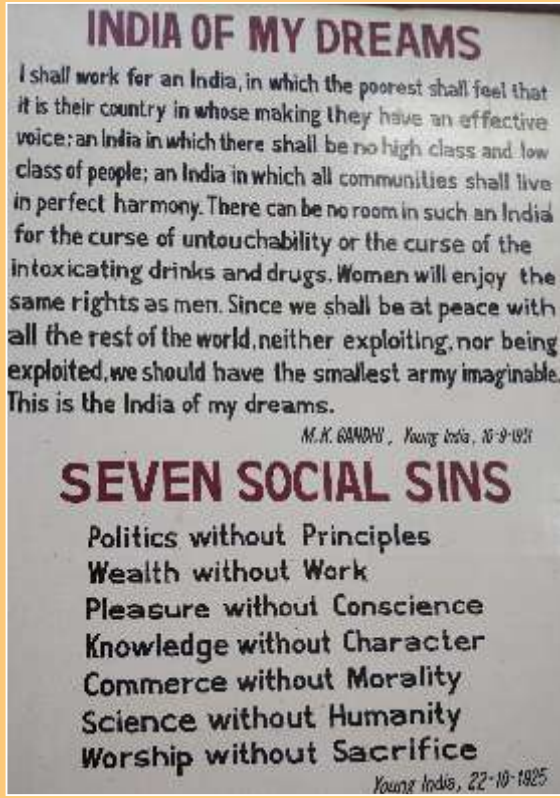


Gandhi Museum: I decided to visit the places I've never visited before, hence, Gandhi Museum. It's really amazing to see all the memories linked with Gandhiji since his arrival and departure. Each Indian has to see this place. It's like Temple for all the Indians. We can see relics of Mahatma here. I felt like crying while keenly observing things over there. The National Gandhi Museum has a very rich collection of original things closely connected with Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba and Indian freedom struggle.

Facts about Akshardham:
 Opened 6th November 2005
 Constructed by BAPS
 Inspired by HH Yogiji Maharaj
 Created by HH Pramukh Swamiji
 300,000,000 volunteer hours spent
 8,000 volunteers participated in building it
 It is built from intricately carved sandstone & marble

Exhibitions on Hinduism, including Bhagwan Swaminarayan's life and teachings such as prayer, compassion, and non-violence. Open gardens, water bodies and step-well styled courtyard. The BEST place anyone of us can visit with family and children... No matter how many times we visit it continues to ignite our soul. Bid farewell to Delhi as I proceeded to Bangalore to accompany my parents at home with a plan to travel Himalayas after July 20th.

Akshardham: As I had time left in hand, I decided to visit Akshardham once again, The Mandir is a humble tribute to Bhagawan Swaminarayan (1781- 1830), the avatars, devas and great sages of Hinduism. The traditionally-styled complex was inaugurated on November 6th, 2005 with the blessings of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj and through the devoted efforts of skilled artisans and volunteers.



June 27, 2019

BENGALURU

Home again for being there with parents: After a hectic day, I reached Delhi Airport and waited there for more than 5 hours before boarding the Flight to Bengaluru. I made use of the time on hand to update the daily notes on Bharata Darshan, reached home at around 1:30AM. The auto driver, a Muslim enquired as to from where I was coming from. He was happy to hear that I am on Bharata Darshan. I told him about my visit to Ajmer Durgah, he became even more happier. I handed him the Chaddar from Ajmer Durgah, after getting down, it made him immensely happy.

Offering my prayers to Parents, Brother, Sister and Brother in Law at home, I shared all the best things in Bharata Darshan to all of them.

abhaya Youth Empewerment Center: Bhushan Bharateeya, Founder, Yuva Shakthi Seva Foundation knowing that I reached Bengaluru, called and invited me to the Abhaya - Yuva Project site at Ajagondahally near Whitefield. The Civil work was progressing fast, concrete roof for first floor was laid while I was in the site. I felt more than happy to establish abhaya campus at Karnataka. I visited Bhushan family and spent good time talking about the Project on hand. They hosted lunch and I shared all my love with them. For those who wish to know about abhaya Foundation's new initiative at Karnataka, here is a brief:



abhaya Foundation (www.abhayafoundation.org) with a Mission to serve with H.E.A.R.T, joined hands with Yuva Shakthi Seva Foundation, Bengaluru to provide Empowerment to the unemployed rural youth of Karnataka at Ajagindanahalli near Whitefield, Bengaluru.

The project needs Rs. 50 lakhs. abhayans and corporate houses can stand by this initiative. The team lead by Bhushan Bharateeya, Founder, Yuva Shakthi the lead partner for abhaya Yuva Center. Request the philanthropic people and corporate houses to support the project giving their hands of help.

June 29, 2019

Father's departure to Vaikuntha: All through Bharata Darshan, whenever I remembered my father...I prayed for his easy and early departure from this world. He is 82 years and on bed for the past few years. When, I did not get my tickets for the onward journey to Himalayan Territories...I decided to return to parents to stay with them for some time as part of my Bharata Darshan.

God is very kind in bringing me back to Bengaluru to stay by father's side. I was informed that my father was blabbering and calling out my name just about 48 hours before my arrival in Bengaluru. It is a surprise to hear my name from him. Noticing, trouble in his breath, I rushed to his bed side and started chanting Mruthunjaya Mantra, Gayathri Mantra, Sri Ranga Nama and Shanthi Mantra as I offered him Tulasi Thirtha, gently touching him and rubbing his chest with all my love and devotion, telling him to remember God... he peacefully left us at around 7:30PM on Saturday, the 29th June 2019 while I held his hands in my hands.



We are blessed to have him as our Father in this Birth. Whatever we are today...It's all because of the values and direction he gave us. I took the opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to my elder brother Sri CA SN Rangaiah (Now my father for the rest of life) for the kindest care he has taken to father since two decades at his Home, Bengaluru. My father blessed my elder brother for his living. I am indebted to God who took father away from us to Him...The abode of Vaikuntha.

June 30, 2019

Octa Verbs at Father's feet: Life is a Journey from I to WE: Prayers for the departed soul, while the final journey was on Monday, the 1st July 2019. I dedicated these thoughts to Sri S S Rangaiah.

అయ్య (Father)

1. అ' కారమునకు... ఆకారము దాల్చిన వాడు
అందరికంటే తానెప్పుడు ముందుండు వాడు
అమ్మను చేపట్టి నాకు ప్రాణము పోసినాడు
చదువు సంధ్యలు నాకు నేర్పించినాడు
2. అన్నయ్యను నాకు వెన్ను దన్నుగా నిల్పినాడు
అక్కయ్యను నాకు ప్రేమను పంచ పెంచినాడు
తమ్ముడిని కూడా నాకు తోడుగా నిల్పినాడు
మాకు అయ్య! లోకమును సృష్టించినాడు
3. పద్యాలు...పాటలు అలవోకగా నేర్పినాడు
అనర్గళంగా మాట్లాడటం నేర్పినాడు
సరళంగా వ్రాయడం నేర్పినాడు
సంస్కరవంతముగా జీవించడం నేర్పినాడు
4. కష్టమెంతోచ్చిననేమి...విలువలు వదులకోలేదు
నష్టమెంతోచ్చిన నేమి... మోసమే చేయలేదు
అందరి తలలో నాలుకల మెదలినాడు
అయ్య నాకెంతో ఆదర్శమయ్యాడు ఇలలో
5. తప్పు చేసిన నాడు అయ్య కళ్ళ పడక తప్పలేదు
మందలింపులే నా జీవితానికి మేలుకొలుపులు
బంధు మిత్రులవరైన నేమి సాయమే అందించానాడు
భక్తి శ్రద్ధల భావన మాకెంతో సదా నేర్పినాడు

6. స్వర్ణోత్సవ గృహస్థుడు మా అయ్య వారు
సహస్ర పూర్ణ చంద్రులను దర్శించినాడు
ఆరు తరాలను చూసిన ధన్యుడితడు
అమృతమద్దినాడు మా అందరి జీవితాన
7. తన కష్టమును..మాకెప్పుడు చెప్పనే లేదు
తరములకు తరగని విద్య ను ఆస్తిగా ఇచ్చినాడు
తార తమ్యం లేని... తేట తెల్లమైన వారి యాత్ర
పరి సమాప్త మాయెను నేడు మా కళ్ళ ముందే

8. నేను జీవించే ప్రతి క్షణం...వారిచ్చిన శ్వాస తోనే
కడ దాకా వదలకుండా అయ్య లాగనే నే మసలుకొందు
కీర్తిని శేషముగా మిగిల్చి నేను కూడా నిన్ను చేరుకొందు
అర్పించు కొందునయ్యా నిన్ను అష్టపుష్పాలతోటి

ఎల్లప్పుడూ నిన్ను తలచుకొంటూ...

నీ వైకుంఠ ప్రయాణం సుగమం అవ్వాలని ప్రార్థిస్తూ

నీ కుమారుడు

బాలచంద్ర సుంకు



Father's final journey related rituals undertaken at Bengaluru. Each Vedic ritual aimed at sending the soul from physical plane to heavenly planes.

If we observe...A mother builds the body of the child in 9 months since conceiving and delivers a baby in the 10th month. Each day the baby transforms from a seed to a full form taking mother's feed inside the womb.

One will grow till the middle age and there after the body starts shrinking each day. Finally the body becomes aged and the soul leaves the body as if we leave the old dress. The soul too choose to leave the body which is digested.

I saw such downfall with father since last 25 years...He is 82 years on final day, I could clearly see his body is aging and so are the complications related to physical health. (It's awakening call for me, as I too touched 50 years! The tag with father disconnected, connecting me to the Divine Father...May be such thought lead me to Bharata Darshan.)

The body was cremated at Chamarajpet funeral ground. It's a final destination site for many. We decided to lit the pyre instead of electric cremation, with the pure thought that the three of us ...sons will have the blessed opportunity to sending him off respectfully. The body was on the pyre for more than 12 hours and we visited the site to collect the remains - ashes. We decided to mix them in the sacred Rivers across the country and Manasa Sarovar with prayers which we felt is the final respect to father.

We started observing austerities during these 16 days as prescribed in Sastra. Anthyeshti (The Final Samskara - Death) is one thing, we as children of the departed soul need to perform for his peaceful journey.

The rituals, we are performing every day are connecting us to five elements (Earth, Water, Fire, Sky and Air) to release father's physical form from here into the five elements in the universe. If you look at ourselves...These five elements exist in us too. Earth element (Body), Water element (Fluids / Blood), Fire Element (Eyes, digestion etc.), Sky Element (Skin, Ears and Sound) and the Air Element (Breathing). We kept one thing for each of these elements signifying the physical body in the form of Cloth, Stone, Mud, Diya, Oil, Water etc., in rituals.

The rituals include, treating the objects as the one who left us and performing all

things we perform in our daily routine, offering Water, Flowers, Fruits, Food etc., with prayers to the Almighty to take the soul into his fold.

Factually speaking, these things are making me to experience the final journey of a human being. While the three siblings were performing these rituals, the women in the family were taking care of all the domestic issues in support of our rituals. As no outsider comes home and we are not going to any one's home for 16 days! It's like we the family members: Coming Together... Living Together... Adjusting Together... Learning Together... Knowing Together... Improving Together... Managing Together... Doing Together... Working Together... Loving Together... in the name of Father, Sri SS Rangaiah who departed for Vaikuntha.



The final ritual concludes on 16th Day and all relatives gather for a common dining with prayers on 17th Day.

I treat this period as most beneficial time for all of us in the family. Very rarely we met each other and lived together in the past 2 decades for such long period due to schedules / priorities in life. Every day, we had collective prayers, collective dining, collective rituals, collective living... The day was concluded with Satsang which includes Prayer, Bhajan, Bhagavad Gita, discussion and Shanthi Manthram.

I am trying to give a very brief account of all these things in Bharata Darshan, for the sake of those who seek insights in such things in life at any time.

While, these things are happening there were communication from the office of Vice President of India, Finance Minister to meet them during these days in response to the appointment requested previously for meeting them at Delhi during my stay... I could not make it due to the situation at home. Further, I communicated to all the Central Leaders about my situation seeking their time later.

July 1, 2019

Death, A Celebrating Ritual: In India, everything is a celebration, including death since ages. We find a reason to celebrate the moments. There are 16 Samskaraas (that which is transformed) tagged to the one who lives here...Few of them pertaining to the time before birth...Many of them are after birth...one is on death. Thereby, death is also termed as one Samskara (Transformation).



I went to Bengaluru to care for my aged parents and the very second day my father, SS Rangiah left his physical body in my hands listening to divine chanting on 29th June 2019. Since his departure, I have been engaged in various rituals relating to father's final journey. I don't know what others may think about this update, I felt it to be my love for the countrymen to record these incidents also as part of Bharata Darshan.

The moment, we shared about departure of father from this world...many family members, relatives, friends, known / unknown people started pouring into our home.

Some travelled from USA and Africa also. Others are from various cities in South Indian States. Each one was recollecting their memories with father. Each one of these people made me to realise how one must live in this world.

Finally, we performed many rituals while sending off father from home permanently. I feel...These days the rituals are lacking the spirit in them, thereby losing their charm. I believe that, we must add spirit to ritual... making it as Spiritual. I tried engaging people in bhajan, chanting, listening to the significance of what is being done at Home. We tried our best to perform the death ceremony as a celebration considering God is merciful while taking Father to his Divine Abode.

I was really moved by the presence of 3 most beloved people of life by my side during father's final Journey. Uday, Gopi and Sagar who travelled all the way from Hyderabad to see father...I felt as if Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba visited home in their form. I am fortunate to have their love in my life.

With prayers, we gave father a warm send off. It is like performing Yagnam to send the soul to heavens. All the four siblings of Father (Narayana, Revati, Balachandra and Srinivasa) with unity performed their duties for ceremonial event. I personally thanked each one who had come for final journey...Touched the feet of elders seeking their love and blessings.

The next 14 days schedule was to stay in Bengaluru to perform various Vedic rites for father. I decided to travel to the Himalayan territories on July 18th, 2019. I may not be Adi Shankara to obtain Moksha to his parents... Though my coming back (Listening to the intuition) to Father, before departure at Bengaluru... resembles the incident of Adi Shankara...coming back to see His Mother... I am a normal human being and like any other...I tried my best to pray for him while he was leaving us.

I decided to take his ashes to mix in all the sacred rivers flowing in Himalayas and other parts of the country as I felt that would be one of the best tributes that could be done to father in Bharata Darshan.

Further, in memory of father Sri SS Rangaiah and his five brothers whose names are connected to Sri Ranganatha Swamy of Aluru Kona... I decided to bring in Rs.5 lakhs to abhaya Foundation Hyderabad - Anantapuram Project – Sunku Ranga Nivasam.

Dear friends, I am neither attached nor detached to the family members, it's like coming to one more sacred place in the journey during Bharata Darshan.



July 4, 2019



The first thing, I did was donating Rs. 10116/- for abhayaFoundation-Home of Happiness, Hyderabad for Life Time food service to the inmates on every 29th June on Father's Day.

While, we were discussing childhood incidents at Home, Mother shared an interesting incident from my childhood. Whenever, they buy new dress for me, I used to keep one or two old dresses aside stating that these dresses to be given to the poor. It was when I am just 12 years old, she said. I am little amused by this memory.

Seriously, I kept this good practice all through my life, even now. I remember when I started wearing dhoti and jubba in the year 2013, I distributed all the dresses (100 pairs) which I

used wear as an office going professional. I remember my two wardrobes filled with 100s of dresses. I am passionate about wearing safaris and colourful dresses.

So was my father, his favourite dress code is safari suits, being an Advocate, he used to wear good looking trousers, shirts, blazers etc.,



We discussed amongst the family members and decided to collect all the dresses, safari suits, medicines, diapers, sanitation items, equipments and health tools etc., used by father till his last day. We know how much father suffered on the bed for the last six months and how the items were of great support to his service. We thought, now these things can be best utilized by any old age home. I am aware of New Ark Mission Destitute Home. Without postponing

it further. I took up the mission of handing over them to the inmates.

After returning from rituals...I loaded the entire bundles into the car and proceeded to New Ark Mission located in the outskirts of Bengaluru city (30 kms from Kumaraswamy Layout) Dear friends...If at any point of time your schedules permit...Please visit this place. You can just Google Auto Raju, you will find what and how the GOD performs miracles.

There are about 800 destitute people belong to all age groups being taken care by Auto Raju. We know how difficult it is to take care of one elderly person on bed at our homes... Here we can see 100s taken care with love and affection.

I visited the place, spent quality time with people over there. In fact I know Auto Raju since 8 years...He is the motivation behind building abhaya Home of Happiness. We keep lending our hands of support to this Mission whenever possible.

I am moved by a board kept outside the Ashram, which is an appeal for 25 liters of Milk every day. There are hundreds of destitute who are in need of milk. Dear friends and corporate professionals who ever can do it, please contribute generously.

Further, there is a need of a lift at their newly built campus. There is need for donors. See if anyone of us can connect some corporate CSR funds to this angel of compassion and love.

These things made me to think further in my self...

What is really eternal in this world?

Is it what we earn?

Is it what we enjoy?

Is it how we live?

Is it what we built?

Is it what we eat?

Is it what we have?



When, I said this...I wish to remember two SoulDears of this Country whose life became eternal since a century from the date of their departure.

Swamy Vivekananda (1863 - 1902) who lived for just 39 years and departed on this day on July 4th,1902 (Samadhi Day).



He faced many difficulties
 He was unemployed
 He was not able to run family
 He, many time starved
 He too have likes and dis likes
 He to cried like us at times...
 All these ordinary traits did not make him eternal!!

But, His extra ordinary Will of making a difference to the world around made him and his mission eternal.

Alluri Sitarama Raju (1897 - 1924) who just lived for a short span of 27 years... on July 4th,1897 (Birthday).

Alluri Sitarama Raju was an Indian revolutionary involved in the Indian independence movement. After the passing of the 1882 Madras Forest Act, its restrictions on the free movement of tribal people in the forest prevented them from engaging in their traditional podu agricultural system, which involved shifting cultivation. Raju led the Rampa Rebellion of 1922–24, during which a

band of tribal people and other sympathisers fought in the border areas of the East Godavari and Visakhapatnam regions of Madras Presidency, in present-day Andhra Pradesh, against the British Raj, which had passed the law. He was assassinated when he was taking bath at the age of 27 years. He was referred to as "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungles) by the local people.



He too was very ordinary person...
 He belong to a middle class family...
 Very young and aspiring fellow...
 He too had a lover by name Sita...
 He could not marry her...
 She committed suicide...
 He lead a life of Sanyasi.
 These things did not make him eternal. But, the way he stood by innocent tribal needs leaving everything else in life made him eternal.

Dear friends...Just think once, we really need to refine our Thinking... Talking... Doing the things in our life. If not like those who laid their life for the country... Let's at least begin to start living for the Country Men and Loving the Country Men...We too shall become eternal...No death can bring the curtains down for the life. We continue to live like them in the hearts of people in the world.

July 5, 2019

UTTAR PRADESH - Pindapradan at Varanasi:



We the children of SSR felt it apt to mix the remains of father's physical body in most holiest Ganga River in Kashi / Prayagraj. We all unanimously agreed to a fact that such ritual can be a most sacred tribute to the father who departed from us. Kashi is a city in North India is a mystical place of funeral pyres and bare-chested holy men, a city balancing ancient traditions and bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Hindu rituals are full of pleasures ranging from the rangoli-drawings on the floor to the flavourful food that is offered to the Gods. We have the lights, music, action, incense, flowers, bells, chanting, charity, service and pilgrimage. After the action comes the withdrawal: fasting on Ekadasi; staying awake all night on Shivaratri; sitting in meditation; not speaking; withdrawing the senses, penance, fasting unto death etc.,

Kashi epitomizes both ends of the Hindu spectrum. We come here to enjoy the pleasures of this world, ranging from music, art, food and love. You also come here to renounce the world and be an ascetic subsisting on alms collected in a begging bowl—like Shiva did.

Further, it's believed that human remains / Ashes (Asthi Visarjan) in sacred rivers in India is yet another ritual we do. We collected ashes in a pot and carried to Kashi. Mother also accompanied us for the ritual. We performed puja for the ashes and travelled in a boat to mix them in the holy Ganga River. We prayed to Lord Kashi Viswanath to bestow Punya Gathi to father.

Our holy scriptures say that to immerse the ashes of a loved one in the holy waters of Mother Ganga is to release their soul from bondage and to help their spirit progress toward liberation. It is, therefore, every family's deepest wish to perform this sacred final rite for their loved ones.

Our entire focus on this ritual connected to Mother Ganga, hence not even visited temples. The heat is unbearable at Kashi. We were all sweating similar to a flood hitting our bodies. We took a boat and visited all the Ghats on river banks of Ganga. By the time, the stage is set for beautiful Ganga Harathi...We reached Dasashwamedha Ghat. The Ganga Harathi is a true feast for eyes.

We returned to the room and rested for the day with prayers to the departed soul. I must thank hundreds of chowtries and ashrams all over Varanasi giving shelter and food for the visitors. I express my heartfelt gratitude to thousands of people like Meda Narasimhulu, Chairman, Meda Charities and abhaya Foundation who stood by building such shelter homes at various pilgrimage centres in the country. We took a letter from him to stay at Kashi Anna Purna Sathram.

All through Bharata Darshan...one common thing which impacted me is selfless service done by many SoulDears of the Country since ages at each and every place. I am really proud to be an Indian. There was huge security arrangement all over the city, as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to visit Kashi the next day.

In my view, nothing in the above will make us eternal. Only one thing make us eternal in this world is the good deeds we do while we live.



July 6, 2019

Three Brothers @ Triveni Sangam: We travelled about 120kms from Varanasi to reach Prayaga Raj by 9AM, the most sacred place for Hindus in the world (Previously known as Allahabad) the Capital of UP.



Prayagraj is a beautiful city situated at the confluence of the Rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. The city draws the attention of pilgrims and heritage lovers from all over the world as it opens the traveller to a world of mythological and spiritual wonders. Prayagraj is a fusion of sanctity, religion, traditions, history, and architecture which offers varied experiences from history to religion, it is also one of the destinations which holds the Kumbh Mela, world's largest congregation of devotees.

For the Mughals, the city had a great strategic importance to control their empire, and it also became a prominent administrative hub for the British era. The city was the nerve centre of activities during India's Freedom Movement. Several eminent national leaders were born on this land, had also played a leading role in the development of Hindi and Urdu literature.

The city has been described in ancient scriptures as 'Teerthraj', the holiest pilgrimage centre and is indeed a perfect place to have a soulful escape. This is the exact reason why we the children of Sri SS Rangaiah along with Mother decided to merge father's remains/ashes at Prayagraj.

We took bath at Yamuna River and performed rituals sanctifying the remains/ashes. Remembering father and offered final tributes to the ashes. It's an hour long procedure by local priests. Then we carried the ashes in a boat to Prayga Sangam. With prayers for the departed soul and seeking Moksha to father...We offered the ashes at the sacred river sangam.



The rituals may be different for different communities in the Country...But spirit is one! That is sending off the deceased soul to the divine abode. When we offered ashes and took bath again...started returning to river banks...I received a message from HH Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji:

"Jai Srimannarayana Balachandraji!, Mangalasanams to your father for his parama padotsavam =chinnajeeyar="

This message really made me feel divine for the time, place and ritual where I received it.

Dear friends! For me, even sending off father is a great learning experience for life. While, offering ashes...I remembered the following Vedic prayer.

Vayur Anilam Amritam
Athedam Bhasmantam Shariram
Om Krato Smara Kritam Smara
Krato Smara Kritam Smara

Which means, let this temporary body be burnt to ashes, and let the air of life be merged with the totality of air. Now, O my Lord, please remember all my sacrifices, and because You are the ultimate beneficiary, please remember all that I have done for You.

During the two days journey...All of us were engaged in recapitulating wonderful memories we had with parents... especially the personal traits of father, has impacted our lives since birth.

We reached Lal Bahadur Sastry International Airport at Varanasi. The moment, we entered the airport, I noticed the beautiful statue of Sastryji which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi that morning during his visit to Varanasi.

Spent some waiting time at Airport preparing notes for the day and started return journey to Bengaluru.

July 12, 2019

Kaveri with Family

What is to be seen is not real...
 What is not seen is real in the creation...
 The People are not permanent!
 The Principle never changes its form!!



There is nothing constant in this world, except the change! So is the human life. From the time of birth, one keeps changing his form every second. The end any way will be the death. This is the belief in Indian Philosophy.

Since father departed from this world...Whatever is being done by us has been opening new doors of learning. The rituals carried with spirit bringing many untold truths and making us to feel spiritual.

We visited, the sacred river Kaveri the life line of South India. On the banks of the river, we performed rituals related to Asthi Samarpan. It's like treating the final remains of father with love, care, concern, respect and devotion, performing sacred bath using Milk, Curd, Ghee, Honey, Sugar, Ganga, Flowers, Coconut Water, Mud etc., in order to relieve the remains from the heat caused by the fire.

We did the rituals with utmost devotion to father. Offered all the food items which were father's favourite, as a conclusion, we merged the Asthi in Kaveri (Paschima Vahini) at Sri Rangapatnam. While, going to Kaveri, many family members joined us with devotion and prayers. We returned to Bengaluru in the evening. The essence of human life is a Journey emanated from five elements and finally eliminated from the world to merge in five elements, elevated to higher levels depending on good deeds we do.



Since the time, I reached Bengaluru on June 27th, 2019...I am engaged by various activities related to father and his final journey. I treated this as part of Bharata Darshan and experimenting with Life all these days. In the process I forgot to mention about few lovely things happened in Bharta Darshan.

If I miss them from recording...I will be missing my duty in expressing my gratitude.

As, I considered Bharata Darshan is rarest of the rare opportunities God bestowed on me in life...I decided to record bad and good things in the journey. There are things which made me to correct self and few things made me to further intensify my focus. Further...The entire journey is in a way sponsored by more than 300 kind hearted people...I felt it as my responsibility to keep them posted about my where about and experiences.

Thousands of people are reading / knowing about Bharata Darshan through Facebook Page, abhaya What's App Groups, abhaya News Update, Family members etc., and expressing their love and care for me.

CS Vasudeva Rao Devaki, considering the importance of having a good phone during Bharata Darshan, very lovingly gifted 1+7 PRO Smart Phone to me. I really felt blessed to have him as my friend and well wisher in Life. He along with his family members stood by me since two and half decades at Hyderabad. I express my heartfelt gratitude to him.



Sri SV Hari Prasad, Founder Trustee of abhaya Foundation...Knowing about my journey...Not only felt happy but also amazed by the tedious task undertaken. He said, he is unaware of my appeal for support... Transferred Rs.25,000/- to my account. It's really a blessing for me as he is one man who knows about me since my birth, he makes his impressions based on his own findings.

Smt Leela and Sri Lakshma Reddy, Founding Members of Council for Green Revolution, Hyderabad knowing about Bharata Darshan felt happy and enquired as to what can they do for me! I said anything is highly useful for my journey. They have transferred Rs.25,000/- with their blessings. I may have seen them just three times in the past six years of knowing about them. They are selflessly working on environment and green revolution in the country. I pray for them.



R Srihari, a long term associate of me and a younger brother like business man from Bengaluru, very lovingly enquired about my journey and transferred Rs.10,000/-. Whenever I visit Bengaluru, he is the one person who always gives time for a rock support in life.

My good friend, Karuna, a highly qualified professional...Knowing about my Bharata Darshan very caringly said that he will be transferring Rs.5000/- per month until I come back to Hyderabad. I have no words to express my gratitude to him. How much of love for me !! am totally spellbound by his love and kind

gesture. There are innumerable well wishers who are standing by me in every state I visit.

Considering my travel to Himalayan Territories, I enquired about Amarnath, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Kailash, Mukthinath, Haridwar, Rishikesh and other places. I understood that cost involved is higher than expected. Considering the value of each paisa given by hundreds of people in life, I was conservative in spending every penny. Visit Kailash team, knowing about the cause, offered best discount for Kailash Yatra.

I believe one thing in Life...that If Intentions are Pure...Each one in life turned to be Gods.They not only love and care but also know the way and show the way.

July 14, 2019

Ayya!, May you attain Sadgati: For 16 dyas, we were engaged in performing various rituals relating to Anthyeshti. We performed final rituals moving father's soul to the abode of his father and grandfather in the heavens. As I am engaged personally in performing rituals...I am able to understand how wonderfully these rituals were mentioned in Sastras. Each ritual is aimed at sending off the Soul of those who departed from this world...A safe journey.

Ranjith, who belongs to Vysya community, studied Vedas at Veda Pathashala founded by Sri Gundaiah Shetty at Bengaluru about three decades back. There were about 300 young men like Ranjith who had learnt Vedas for free and able to empower themselves with that Veda Vidya. Felt very happy to know about such people who are leading respectful life and also uplifting Indian Culture, Heritage and Tradition with their Vidwath and Veda Knowledge.

He led us in performing all the rituals, explaining the significance and back ground of each of the ritual. I personally felt very happy about his contribution to Indian Vedic Culture. We honoured him with a shawl and money purse.

On the other hand, I was totally surprised to receive my most beloved Sai Brothers Gangadhar Sarma (Ring Raju), Ravi Kiran, Phani Sekhar and Sai Vinod from Hyderabad...They travelled all the way from Hyderabad, just see me and mother at Bengaluru. I am moved by their loving and caring gesture.

Scores of family members and relatives gathered to take part in final rituals relating to sending off father to punya loka.

Dr PV Pradeep Kumar, IRS who is my childhood friend visited me. He is the one who re-connected to me and abhaya Foundation after a gap of three and half decades in the year 2010. Since then he stood like a God sent messenger in life.



All the five brothers of my mother came to bless us on the last day. They offered new clothes... Sister, Aunts, Brother in laws considering my Bharata Darshan gave saffron clothes and also cash, thankful to them.



Smt. Bysani Rukmini Guptha (Mother of my Sister in Law, Sailaja Narayana) very lovingly blessed me with Rs.20,000/- for Bharata Darshan. This gesture is very divine for me.

My Uncle (Mother's youngest brother Putta Veda Prakash, Coimbatore) blessed me with a cash contribution Rs.10,000/- for Bharata Darshan.

It's like collecting their love and care for the Gods in various temples across the Country. I touched the feet of all the elders who gathered at home seeking their blessings.

July 15, 2019

A dedication in father's memory: Family members and relatives from various places in South India reached us while we bid farewell to Father on his onward journey to Vaikuntha Dhaama. We the family members of SSR made it a point that the Vaikuntha Samaradhana must be organised in such a way that the gathering must be going back to home with some values.

Accordingly, while drawing the attention of each one who gathered, we presented a beautiful video titled *SSR Lives on...* (uploaded in Youtube) which is the collection of memories pertaining to father since his birth, we made it with

lots of love for the departed father making use of Old / New Photos, Videos, Interviews, anecdotes shared by Family Members etc.,

Sri K Rangarao, President along with CA BV Prasad, Member of abhaya Foundation travelled all the way from Hyderabad to offer their homage to Father. Their visit humbled me. Their love made me to realise the value of human relations in the life.



Dear friends, hundreds of people across the globe conveyed their kindest sentiments to our family, request all those who wish to know about my father to please spare some time to watch the video please.

We sincerely appreciated the effort put in by Team Arena Multimedia Centre, Jayanagar, Bengaluru in creating the video. Felt amazed by their talent in creating this short film in the shortest time. We handed over a memento for them. Further, distributed commemorative silver coins for everyone. We gifted gold/silver souvenirs to the first generation of family in fond memory of father.

On the other hand, learning about my Bharata Darshan Yatra and my appeal, many relatives brought clothes and blessed me for the journey to Himalayan Territories. Further each one wished me best times for life in my onward journey to Himalayas. Many of the family members and relatives wished happy journey and the following family members and friends supported me in my Bharata Darshan.

Smt & Sri SV Hariprasad
Smt & Sri Lakshma Reddy
Smt & Sri A Mohan Gupta
Smt Bysani Rukmini Devi
Smt & Sri CA AV Sathish Kumar
Smt & Sri Putta Veda Prakash
Smt & Sri K Rangarao
Smt & Sri R Srihari
Smt & Sri K Uday Rakesh
Smt & Sri Karunakar
Smt Ch Visalakshmi

Smt N Gayati Murthy
Smt Meda Sudarshanamma
Smt & Sri G Subbarao
Smt & Sri Jagadish
Smt Padma Venkstesh
Smt K Vani Ravi
Dr Chandan
Smt & Dr K Narasimharao
Sunku Chinmayi
Smt G Bharata Lakshmi.

I am feeling blessed to be loved and cared by hundreds of SoulDears across the globe who stood by my side in accomplishing the Divine Mission of Bharata Darshan. Though, my prayer during Bharata Darshan for the welfare of known and unknown, I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the ones who apart from wishes and blessings, also sponsored my Bharata Darshan.

Giving send off to all the 100+ relatives and friends, I personally touched the feet of each elder who visited us for prayer session. Many relatives felt emotional and sentimental watching the video and seeing the way we conducted ourself for the past 16 days. Many of them told, they have never seen such a way of hosting Vaikuntha Samaradhana. It was about three hours filled with lots of positive vibrations and pure love. It's more of a celebration on the eve of us bidding the farewell to father to Vaikuntha.

In the evening, we three siblings performed Navagraha and Nakshatra Shanthi Homa at Home invoking the blessings of God post departure of Father. The priests blessed the family. Finally, we brought down the curtains for the 16 Days long rituals relating to Father's final journey.

July 17, 2019

ANDHRA PRADESH

Prasanthi Nilayam - The place where I became selfless: The day is called as Ashadha Suddha Pournima / Vyasa Pournima. Sage Veda Vyasa is treated as Adi Guru for his finest and infinite contribution to Vedas and Epics. The day is also marked as Buddha Purnima as this is the day Lord Buddha granted the first sermon. The day being marked as Guru Purnima for crores of Hindus, Bhuddhists, Jains and other communities, to offer their gratitude to Guru Parampara. So thinking, I too visited the Divine Abode of Supreme Peace on the earth...Prasanthi Nilayam in Andhra Pradesh. Brother his car and driver.



Further, it's my fortune that I am able to be there in the presence of my Guard, God and Guru on the auspicious day. After completing all the rituals relating to father's final journey, every one returned to their homes. Whereas I returned to my Home that is Prasanthi Nilayam... to tell Swami that I am His child till the last breath trying hard and heart to Love All - Serve All.

By the time I reached (8AM) I came to know that Mother of my most beloved Sai Brother T Madhusudhana Rao is admitted at Sathya Sai General Hospital. Before even entering to Baba's abode, I visited his mother and requested the elderly lady to stay with his son at Hindupur. She at 80 years, still says Swami will take care of them. Madhu is one of the finest individuals I have come across in life. I am fortunate to have his love and care since three and half decades. He is very prominent member of Sai Organisation in the Country. He sacrificed promotions and serving the LIC at Hindupuram considering a dream where Baba instructed him to stay in that place and serve him. What an individual he is. In fact these are all the people who are real SoulDers of Sai.



Later, I visited Sai Kulwanth Hall and took part in Guru Pournami Celebrations. Very much charged up by the most sacred environment over there. Could finally go and touch Divya Sai Sannidhi. I met many Sai Brothers. I sought the blessings of many elders in darshan lines.



During Divine Discourse played at the event I heard, Swami was referring about Matha Nasthi Pitha Nasthi.

This is what I explained to family members during satsangh on July 11th, 2019 and noted in the diary as well. But today the same message I heard from Baba through audio message on Guru Pournami. Very profound truth without knowing the reference of Adi Shankara...flown straight from my heart.





Such a powerful message, I heard today at Prasanthi Nilayam. For the first time in life, I entered with saffron clothes and the visit is aimed at culminating the rituals relating to father's final journey. I am speechless. I remember all those wonderful Gurus in life who created life lasting impact with their loving and caring presence.

Later, I reached Anantapuram to meet my child Lalitha Lahari. This little one made my heart melted by her love and care for the past 10 years. When she is studying at Hyderabad, she used to meet me often. Now that she is at her native place Proddatur, it's becoming rare to meet. She is like Little Guru for me. We both had lunch at Anantapuram.

We visited Anantapuram Project Site and prayed Baba for completion of this project which is stalled for the past six months due to various reasons including lack of funds. I am sure... Baba will make us as his instruments in doing His work here on this earth.

July 17, 2019

Isha Foundation: Reached Coimbatore at around 4:30AM, after six hours journey from Bengaluru, aimed to visit my maternal uncle's home, post father's final rituals to have their blessings, food and receiving clothes.

Considering that Lunar Eclipse concluding at 5:30AM, I decided to visit Isha Foundation which is about 30kms from Coimbatore city. My Uncle Putta Veda Prakash received me at bus stand and arranged a taxi for me.

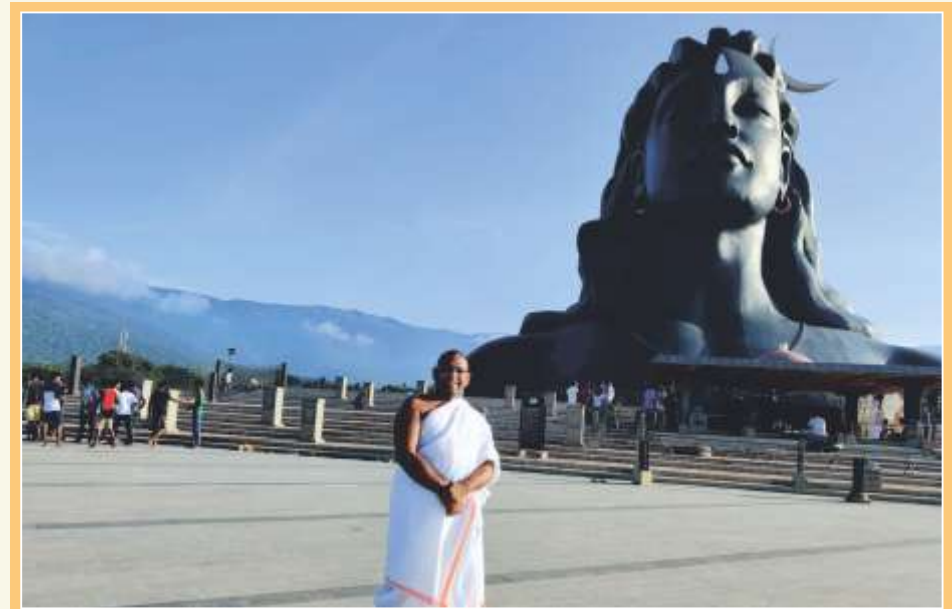
I reached the Isha Ashram and wandered in the campus for quite some time and took bath over there. I then visited Dhyana Linga, Linga Bhairavi, Nandi, Surya Kund and finally Adi Yogi. Very huge campus established by Padma Vibhushan Jaggi Vasudev (Sadguru) at the foothills of Velliagiri. I could see that campus is filled with many beliefs connected to Yoga, Meditation, Devotion and Service. This is what exactly I have seen in innumerable Ashrams in the country. Without

them I don't think any Organization survives. Size is the matter making it big. www.ishafoundation.org can be visited for more information.

Inner Engineering Course is very famous in Isha Foundation apart from Sadguru conversations with celebrities across the globe in public forums. Sadguru is actively associated with Rally for Rivers in recent past. It's like seeing a corporate campus rather an age old Ashram. The campus is built with modern technologies.

More than anything else, I found lots of followers and volunteers engaged in their daily routine. I could not see Sadguru as my visit is in the early hours even before Sun rise and further my return journey scheduled at 12:30PM.

Indians are greatly influenced by Gods and beliefs, these are the only factors impacting the altitudes and attitudes of the lives. The more positive and consistent the influence, the more is the transformation. Every great man in the country is teaching the same thing. Only difference is Practise!!! I spent considerable time with uncle, took his blessings and finished lunch at Annapurna Hotel.



Happy Birthday to CS PS Rao: I conveyed my heartiest wishes to beloved CS PS Rao, Trustee of www.abhayafoundation.org on his Birthday. He is a professional personified... Torch bearer to lakhs of people including me in the CS Profession... His love and care towards fellow beings unmatched. I always feel blessed to have him in life. He is My Friend... Guide... Philosopher... Mentor... Resource... Supporter. Prayed for his well being while he is turning one year (G)older by the year 2019.

July 18th, 2019

Journey to Himalayan Terrains:

With the Will of God prevailing on my life I started my 3rd phase of Bharata Darshan from Bengaluru at 6AM. I took the blessings from Mother, Brother and Sister-in- Law, packed father's ashes in container to mix in sacred rivers of the Country and Himalayan territories.

I messaged all those people who stood by Bharata Darshan seeking their blessings for me and prayers for the God. Reached Delhi and arrived at Southern Travels office at Karol Bagh. With 30 people from various places in South Indian States in a bus, we started our journey to Katra enroute Vaishnodevi crossing Delhi and Haryana.

I made it a point to speak to each one of the pilgrims in the bus and made note of their names, occupations and places. The journey started with a brief about 11 days journey by the Guide (Ashish). We had darshan of Tirupati Balaji at Delhi and collectively performed pooja to the bus in which we were traveling.



I am pleased to get seat no.2 which is just behind driver's seat. Further was happy to have the microphone and the public address system handy. Taking this as a divine opportunity I made use of the same, quickly connecting everyone in the bus for Spiritual focus, provided them brief about Yatra and significance, Gave them

tips for journey. Each one introduced to other pilgrims in the bus. We had prayer, bhajan and Satsang and everyone very actively joined with devotion.

I also explained the people about Vaishnodevi and the related legend for the proposed visit, drawing their attention for focus. Further, briefed them about my Bharata Darshan and it made every one surprised. Everyone seemed bubbled hearing about such wonderful things and thanked God for making me as a part of their journey. Post dinner at Ambala in Haryana proceeded to reach Katra for the overnight drive.

July 19, 2019

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Vaishnodevi, A Sanctuary of Serene Nature: After trekking about 12-14kms bare foot, in the Trikuta Mountains of Matha Vaishno Devi my body was left with severe body and ankle ache. While many opted for chartered helicopters, battery car, horse ride and palki, I opted bare foot trekking and Yashaswi a co-passenger accompanied me. Throughout the way, we discussed about various things of nature and Vaishnodevi. We experienced, heat, cold, dry and down pour of nature, it's indeed is an amazing experience to trek to the holy shrine.

After an hour in the darshan lines, finally I could see Sri Matha Vaishnodevi, prayed for her mercy on each living being. The Goddess appears in three Pindi Forms (Vaishno Devi, Maha Saraswathi and Maha Kali) in a cave which is believed to be created by her in order to escape from Bhaironath ages ago. The mountain peak itself is her Temple created by natural rocks and this is why one cannot find any Gopuram or Temple here and entering the Temple cave feels like entering a Lion's cave.



I returned barefoot, after 7kms I could not move any further because of severe pain in legs and feet and the friction between thighs caused by prolonged walking had given me skin infection, with no other solution. I finally hired a horse to retrun to Katra.



As I came out of Temple Complex, I received a message from Bengaluru that Smt Kamala Padmanabhan, the pioneer of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas in Karnataka left for her heavenly abode that day. She is the person along with her husband Sri RS Padmanabhan empowered me as a leader in Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation during my stay at Bengaluru (1990 – 1996). I used to go to their home regularly to translate Baba's life and message

from Telugu pictorial exhibition which I prepared, into Kannada. There are innumerable people who added essence to my life since young age.

I can't match with their love and care, but I am sure, I can live up to their expectations till the last breath...Loving All and Serving All. The couple helped me to learn English by provided scholarship and also stood by me in learning Kannada. They made me to think beyond. Because of them alone, I moved 10 steps nearer to Baba in life. I pray for the Sai SoulDear Smt Kamala Padmanabhan. They both have innumerable experiences with Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Their devotion to Baba is unmatched.

Look at the link to know more:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1665266560229142&id=181243118631501

I reached hotel, thinking about how temples and places of worship in India became the centres of Economic Development and all round prosperity of every community. I understand crores of people visit Vaishno Devi every year. With the resources collected from devotees, the Government cannot only develop the temple complexes and improve the facilities but also work on overall development of communities connected to the area. I strongly believe that this country can and will see all round development only when the managements of places of worship start working in such direction with dedication.

July 21, 2019

Journey With The Jawans: Up from the Bed at 2:45 AM and ready by 3 AM. All of us had coffee and started to Srinagar which is about 275KMs from Katra. We started the journey with morning prayers and Bhajana followed by brief satsangh. The active participation of all the pilgrims in the bus made the session very devotional. People slowly dropped into sleep due to early wakeup.

All across the route, I found heavy security on both sides. The vehicle moved slowly through mountain curves. I had chance to visit the valley for couple of times previously the road condition have improved. Further the Modi Government is laying double roads which is estimated to be finished by 2021. These roads will reduce the costs of commutation for everyone and bring in ease of travelling to the destinations.

En route we crossed Chenani Nashri Tunnel which is Asia's longest road tunnel with a length of 9.28 km. It is the first tunnel in the India with a fully integrated tunnel control system. The tunnel reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 30 km and travel time by two hours. The all-weather tunnel bypasses snowfall and avalanche prone areas in winter at places like Patnitop, Kud, and Batote that obstruct NH 44 every winter and cause long queues of vehicles - sometimes for days at length.



The tunnel was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2 April 2017. The construction involved nearly 1,500 engineers, geologists and labourers, besides skilled workers. The National Highways Authority of India has spent Rs.3,720 crore on the project. The work was started in 2011 and was inaugurated on 2nd April 2017 by Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi. Construction of two more such tunnels is in progress in the region.

When we visit temples our hearts fill with Daiva Bhakthi where as when we visit such engineering marvels aimed at development of the nation, our hearts fill with Desha Bhakthi. The Army, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police have been tasked with providing security to the pilgrims and a multi-tier security arrangement is in place for the yatra.

Thousands of Security Personnel are seen on duty under all weather conditions 24x7 looking after free and safe passage to yatris. Not just me...But all those travelling in the route were seen greeting and saluting security personnel. It is an inspiring sight to see such unprecedented arrangement for the safety.

The security forces sanitized all the yatra routes, with optimum usage of latest technologies and gadgets for securing the yatra. The forces are not taking any chances especially in the wake of February 14, Pulwama attack which left 40 CRPF personnel dead. For such security reasons, Yatra vehicles moved slowly. We have no words to see their dedication. But felt little unhappy to know that such security is needed in our own country for Yatra. I am praying for Helping ever and Hurting never environment in the country. Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man has to prevail everywhere.



Baglihar Dam: Yet another engineering marvel, also known as Baglihar Hydro Electric Power Project, is a run-of-the-river power project on the Chenab River in the Ramban district of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. This project was conceived in 1992, approved in 1996 and construction began in 1999. The project is estimated to

cost USD \$1 billion. The first phase of the Baglihar Dam was completed in 2004. With the completion of the second phase on October 10th, 2008. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India dedicated the 900-MW Baglihar hydro electric power project to the nation.

The voice of water that can be heard from the top of dam was amazing. We felt the power of nature here. The under current can be understood by seeing the river flow. We reached Srinagar, J&K which is under Governor's rule since couple of years. At 2:30PM, had our lunch, checked into the hotel - Jamal Resorts for rest, as the previous day's tedious trekking drained our energy. Body pains forced me to rest and not to do anything else.

In between, I realised that, I don't have Medical Fitness Certificate. It skipped from my attention at Bengaluru. Further, I also failed registering for Yatra, briefed the matter to Tour Guide, hoping to get a solution.

July 21, 2019

Khir Bhavani: Mythological tales in Purana say that the Himalayas are abode of Shiva-"King of Yogis", so did Kalidas describe the Himalayas as "The masked laughter of Shiva". 'The Hindu Tradition' mentions that Kashmir was a centre of Shiva Worship and according to some traditions, it was from here that the devotional Shaivism passed on to the rest of India. I was really excited to explore Kashmir.



We were all ready by 6:30AM at Jamal Resorts. The group was divided into four teams of eight pilgrims each with one local vehicle for seeing places of interest in Srinagar. The first visit is to Kheer Bhavani, which is believed to be relocated from Sri Lanka. "Lankayaam Saankari Devi"...The Devi due to mis deeds of Ravana commanded Hanuma to move her to a sacred place in Himalayas away from everyone. Hanuma brought Devi to Tul Mul (Atula Mulya - Place of sacred value) in Himalayan territories along with huge army of Nagas (Serpents). Since then she is worshipped.

In the course of time, the temple submerged in floods. Krishna Pandit got a dream where in Devi commanded him to look for a serpent moving in the area where temple submerged. There she ordered him to fix poles marking her presence underneath of waters. The same place is now seen as Bhavani. People offering Milky pudding...there by her name became Kheer Bhavani.

We later visited **Sharika Devi Temple** on the top of Hari Prabhat Hills. Another name for the hill is Pradyumna Peeth. It is considered sacred by the Kashmiri Pandits and hosts a temple of Shakti, who is worshipped there under the name Jagadamba Sharika Bhagawati (or simply Sharika) and depicted as having 18 arms and sitting in Shri Chakra. It's believed that the Goddess is presiding deity of Srinagar. The name Srinagar was derived from Srichakra.

Thereafter, we visited **Shankaracharya Temple** on Gopadri (King Gopaditya sanctioned land to Kashmiri Brahmins). The place is of great interest to Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Parsians during their rulers. But, it became Shankaracharya Temple from the times when Adi Shankara visited the place while he was on Digvijayam. He did penance here and wrote Soundarya Lahari sththram.

Swami Vivekananda visited this place with his disciples on July 29, 1898. Shiva temple, that stands atop the Shankaracharya Hill and rises a thousand feet above the surrounding terrain. The famous floating gardens can be seen below, for miles around. Though, I am surrounded by hundreds of people around...My inner being is filled with divine vibes.

We also visited **Chashmeshahi (Moghal Gardens)** and Nishad Gardens, spent good time, my attire and me in public places drew lots of attention. Many children



laughed at me, I am equally amused by their innocence, elders staring at me as if they are seeing an alien. Many people bowing before me, few shaking hands, others took photos with me, some asked questions about me and my visit. Kashmir tour concluded on a good note, I roamed around despite of leg pain. Praying God to show some mercy on me to offer my prayers for every one every where during Bharata Darshan.

July 22, 2019

60th Birthday of Srinivasa Rao, Co-Pilgrim: As planned, all of us gathered at the open space at Jamal resorts to celebrate 60th Birthday of Sri B Srinivasa Rao, Kakinada. A cake was arranged. I gathered some information and introduced him and his wife to the gathering. He cut the cake as all the pilgrims gathered around with Birthday prayers. His happiness knew no boundaries. He felt amazed by the way we celebrated his birthday and the people around started treating me as their own. Whatever good I told, they were listening with utmost care, I understood that their focus was on God too.



Kudos to Security Personnel: We started at 8AM towards Pahalgam, the location of helipad, to travel to Amarnath cave. Throughout the route, thousands of security personnel guarded and guided pilgrims while they moved on their way to God. It's never seen before – the arrangements by the CRPF.

Kudos! to each of them. No words are enough to express gratitude to the security personnel who are standing like rocks under all weather conditions safeguarding the yatri. I was crying aloud seeing their determined effort in making safe passage to lakhs of pilgrims. I kept my hands folded all through the way...waving my hands with love...Saluting them with respect.



Stay at Langar: We reached Pahalgam at around 1PM through security scanning entry points. Everyone alighted at Hotel Taj Mahal. Considering cost involved I decided to stay in a Langar. We had delicious food at Langar for free. While many people left for sight seeing on horses...I remained at Langar and later slept in the bus.



Chandrayaan 2: While we were having our lunch, we witnessed the successful launch of Mission Chandrayaan 2. It is a moment of pride for every India. Congratulations to The Team ISRO for successfully launching Chandrayaan 2. It is an Indian Lunar Mission that will boldly go where no country has ever gone before the Moon's south region. Through this effort, the aim is to improve our understanding of the Moon discovery is that will benefit India and humanity as a whole. These insights and experiences aim at a paradigm shift in how lunar expeditions are approached for years to come propelling further voyages into the farthest frontiers.

Highlights - Chandrayaan 2:

- ◆ 1st space mission to conduct a soft landing on the Moon's south region
- ◆ 1st expedition to attempt a soft landing on the lunar surface with indigenous technology
- ◆ 1st Indian mission to explore the lunar terrain within-house technology.
- ◆ 4th country ever to soft land on the lunar surface.

The Prime Minister said on this momentous occasion, "Special moments that will be etched in the annals of our glorious history! The launch of #Chandrayaan2 illustrates the prowess of our scientists and the determination of 130 crore Indians to scale new frontiers of science. Every Indian is immensely proud today!" I freely moved in the mountains seeing the God's beautiful creation Nature.

July 23, 2019

Amarnath - The Holy Abode of Lord

Shiva: As I stayed back in the bus instead of hotel. I had my lunch and dinner at Langar where free food is served to all the Amarnath Pilgrims for free. Such selfless work is happening since ages. Many philanthropic people serve the pilgrims throughout the route till they reach the holy cave.



My ankle was sprained while trekking on Trikuta Hills en route Vaishnodevi. I applied ointment and also visited the Government hospital, but could not get relief. In the evening, a Kashmiri massager offered his best service and I could gain temporary relief.

Woke up by 5:30AM and finished bathing at Latha's room who is co pilgrim. We all reported at Helipad by 7AM. Our turn came at 8:15AM, it dropped us at Panchtarani in 10 minutes which is about 5kms to Holy Cave. I thought I can walk down, but pain in the leg did not allow. Thinking about onward journey in Himalayan Territories...Though it's costly for me, I opted for Horse Ride to the Holy cave.

Flying in Helicopter is like travelling in Pushpaka Vimana to the Kailasha. Riding Horse is like riding the Devaaswam to the Divine Abode. Moving on Palki lifted by four people is like travelling to heavens while we are still alive. Trekking on the mountain peaks is like marching ahead in finding God like a sadhu. Whatever may be option...difficulties are bound to be faced by yatri. Without facing difficulties...The yatra can't be termed as a divine memory.



I reached Amarnath Valley at around 11AM. I then walked around 2kms to reach the holy cave. Entire route is so slippery due to ice glaciers and snow fall. It took close to 2 hours to climb steps to reach the cave. It's like walking on Silver Mountains (Kailasha). I am speechless seeing the security personnel and their great work for Amaranth Yatra. The entire credit of Amarnath Yathra goes to CRPF and other security personnel.

The Ganga which was left by Lord Siva while entering into Cave ages ago, flowing like a eternal water with nectarine taste...The river is named as Panchtarani. I entered into the river in an advantageous position and immersed father's ashes in the river with prayers for him. This left a great feeling in the heart that I was able to immerse father's ashes in Himalayas - Ganga.

I entered the Holy cave Amarnath at 1PM, I forgot myself in ecstasy seeing the Amarnath Jyothirlinga. As there was no rush, I went and had darshan of the Lord again and again praying for all. I had the fortune of seeing Ganapathi Image on the Amarnath Cave, Lion on the top of the hills and serpent on the opposite hills. It's like Kailasha only. Seeing Snowfall all over, falling waters from on the mountain peaks, walking on frozen ice, tasting Amrutha Jal, witnessing the flow of Panchatarani in milk like purity, Army Personnel, Horses, Palkies etc., is like



seeing the heavens with physical eyes. Visiting Amarnath charged up my Soul and Heart. While returning a patriot Yatri holding the Tricolour handed over me the flag to hold and take photograph. I felt so happy to hold it and raise the voice, saying Bharat Mathaki Jai.

An Experience with a Muslim Young Man:

I reached Panchtarani Helipad at 3PM by horse. In spite of heavy rush at the helipad, fortunately I got the boarding and reached Pehalgam at 6PM. Most of the team stuck at Amarnath itself. Only six people reached hotel. It seemed like it would take yet another day for them to reach.

I visited the river and washed my clothes, dried them in the bus. My leg is still painful despite of medication and massage. When I reached hotel another massaging friend saw me and asked if he can do massage. I allowed him, and the pain subsided. I thanked him. He advised me to take hot water treatment to the legs. Vikcy the bus conductor is very kind in providing me the hot water and I could just walk on the road.

I stopped at a Muslim Community Awareness Desk. The team leader is little surprised by me wishing him and sitting in front of him enquiring as to what they are doing. Looking at my attire he referred Vedas and Quran. Offered dry fruits and hot khawa Tea, for about 30 minutes, he provided information about Islam, Mohammed and Allah connecting teachings. Felt very happy...There is nothing objectionable. I welcomed his conversation. They were very happy seeing me. They asked me to utter Arabic sermons accepting the teachings of Allah. I did it with what I learnt it from Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. There is only one religion... that is the religion of love.





Many people surrounded us looking at me like an alien. I have nothing against anyone. For me Religion is for Realisation.

From there, I walked till the Langar. I requested the Head Sardar to provide me Hot Water with Salt. He is very kind in calling a volunteer to attend. Om Prakash very caringly took me to inner

tent and personally treated my legs in hot water and again massaged with love.

I had my dinner at the langar, spent some time with Om Prakash. Very happy to see so many people around in this countryside who are kind and loving. It's only because of such people still good is prevailing all over. Returned to the night shelter, where the Bus was parked for resting in the night. When I called Ashish, the tour guide he welcomed me to stay at his room in the hotel. I happily reached his room and slept there for the night.

July 24, 2019

Srinagar, Dal Lake – The Beauty At Its Peak: We returned to Srinagar from Pehalgam with unprecedented security guarding the convoy from all directions en route. Felt like Prime Minister moving on the roads of Kashmir. Though, I visited Kashmir couple of times previously...Never saw such an arrangement, Kudos to the Indian Army for such love and care for Amaranth Pilgrims.



Everyone in Yathra felt very proud of Security Personnel. It's like royal travel for thousands of pilgrims. Only pain is to watch the security personnel guarding us against terror in our own country. I profusely prayed for the peace to prevail in the Kashmir valley. Dear friends...Keep Kashmir in our prayers. Collectively if we pray God will work for the well-being of our people.

We safely reached Srinagar at around 11:30AM and got in to Swan House Boat in Dal Lake. It is a lake in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. The urban lake, which is the second largest in the state, is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the "Lake of Flowers" or "Jewel in the crown of Kashmir" or "Srinagar's Jewel". The lake is also an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting.



The lake covers an area of 18 kms and is part of a natural wetland, which covers 21.1sq.kms, including its floating gardens, the floating gardens, known as "Rad" in Kashmiri, blossoms with lotus flowers during July and August. Dal is mentioned as Mahasarit in ancient Sanskrit texts. Ancient history records mention that a village named Isabar to the East of Dal was the residence of Goddess Durga. This place was known as Sureshwari on the bank of the lake, which was sourced by a spring called the Satadhara.

The house boat is very luxurious, sincerely speaking I may not have personally capable of staying in such a luxury house boat, did nothing for the day. Had delicious food at the house boat and took rest for the day. We personally found Kashmiris are good. Only thing is that their conduct is influenced by so many experiences due to unrest in the valley. Just staring at the beautiful nature, one will have most positive vibrations for the mind, heart and soul. Though I did nothing for the day yet felt freshness inside and outside the body. I am wondering as to how such a beauty is missed by Indians due to unrest prevailing in the valley since Independence. I am sure Kashmir will witness peace sooner than expected where everyone live in harmony with love and care for each other.

Karnataka – A Naataka: On the other hand, observing the series of events and incidents that lead to the resignation of HD Kumaraswamy, as CM of Karnataka. I felt very nonchalant about present politics. What ever...Who ever...Where ever the reason may be, it's making me lose faith in Politics. My only prayer now for Karnataka is who ever may be the next Chief Minister of Karnataka, they must infuse life in to democracy and gain people's confidence with their good governance. Let their "Actions Speak Louder Than Words". Let there be no more Nataka in Karnataka.

July 25, 2019



Sailing Still In The Swan House:

I am ready by 7:30AM at the Swan House Boat which is floating in Dal Lake. We all thought we can go to Gulmarg which is located at around 70kms from Srinagar, a hill station, a popular skying destination. Originally called Gauri Marg meaning the path of Devi Gauri, which was later on changed to Gulmarg (meadow of flowers) by Yusuf Shah of Chak Dynasty.

Due to its high elevation, Gulmarg has a humid continental climate where the wet winter season sees heavy snowfall, especially for its latitude. Summers are moderate in temperature and length, whereas other seasons are relatively cool. But, the climate in Srinagar just turned worst with heavy down pour for couple of hours. We could not dare to step out of the House Boat. Finally, after waiting for rain to subside, after two hours, we decided to cancel the trip. All of us sat down and started for chit chatting what could otherwise had become mundane discussions turned out to be a wonderful and insightful discussion for more than three hours about various points like Learning, Observations, Experiences, Service, Pilgrimage etc., We all sat in the common hall and discussed about various points like Learning, Observations, Experiences, Service, Pilgrimage etc., I tried my best to connect everyone to good things and also briefed them about abhaya Foundation.

We disbursed for lunch and couple of pilgrims proposed to go to Gulmarg post lunch. All of us engaged a tempo traveler vehicle and proceeded. Though everyone are doubtful about climate over there at 9000 ft from sea level...courageously the team went ahead.

We reached the most beautiful place in India Gulmarg after 2 hours journey in ghat roads through mountain curves. The ageless beauty of Gulmarg reflects the purity of nature. This small yet magnificent town is haven for the adventure seekers and a paradise for nature lovers. Toddle along the vast stretches of

flower-clad meadows and sway through the alpine mountains replete with snow. Gulmarg invokes adventure instincts and at the same time offers a refreshing ambiance to retain peace of mind- it is a perfect mélange to savor the taste of real Kashmir.

The picturesque landscape offers myriad of options for sightseeing in Gulmarg. Every inch over there is scenic, as it can best be described, these fascinating places offer a panoramic view of the valley. The virgin terrains of Nagin Valley and the sacred shrine of Baba Reshi sanctify this serene valley. The undying spectacle called Gulmarg gives millions of reasons to travelers across the globe to throng here.

Very happy spending good time with the team. While others went for a walk...I crossed the road and started enjoying the most beautiful nature. Two young Muslim students studying political science spotted and started talking with me. They were enquiring about how I felt in Kashmir? How are the people here? etc., I happily and lovingly told them my observations...They felt very happy and appreciating me they asked for photographs and a video. I too felt happy. We returned to Srinagar at around 8:30PM...Thinking about the beauty of Kashmir Valley.



July 26, 2019

Jammu: We all started from Srinagar at around 6:30AM to reach Jammu which is about 300kms. Each day is started with Love and Prayers. During the journey we had Bhajans and Satsang.

Raghunathji Temple: En route we had breakfast and lunch, reached Raghunathji Temple. Raghunath Temple is a Hindu temple, consists of a complex of seven Hindu shrines. Raghunath Temple was constructed by the first Dogra ruler, Maharaja Gulab Singh in the year 1835 and later his son Maharaja Ranbir Singh got it completed in the year 1860 during Dogra rule. The temple has many Gods in its complex of shrines, but the presiding deity is Rama, also known as Raghunath, an Avatar of Vishnu (Vaishnava Divya Desam).

All the spiral-shaped towers have gold plated spires. The niches in the walls of the shrines are decorated with 300 well-crafted icons of Gods and Goddesses including those of Surya and Shiva but most of them are particularly related to the life stories of Rama and Krishna. The paintings in the 15 panels of the main shrine are based on themes from Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavad Gita. The temple premises include a school and a library that preserves over 6,000 manuscripts in many Indian languages, with a notable collection of Sarada script Sanskrit manuscripts. We found many Saligramas signifying 33 Cr Gods in Hindu Philosophy which are arranged on a platform around the main temple. I don't think such thing can be seen anywhere in India.

The temple witnessed two terrorist attacks in the year 2002, when Islamic militants attacked it in March and November, with grenades and indulged in indiscriminate firing which resulted in the death of 20 devotees and also injured over 40 people. Hence, very severe security cover provided to the temple. Not even a piece was allowed except body with clothes. Post visiting the temple, we reached Mango Hotel in the out skirts of Jammu City for the night stay.

July 27, 2019

PUNJAB

Amritsar - The land of Sacrifice: We started to reach Amritsar from Jammu in the early hours to cross about 400kms distance for the day. En route we had breakfast. It's close to 12 days since the pilgrimage started from Delhi. Everybody became known to each other during the course of time.

The day started with prayers and bhajan. Each of the pilgrims shared their best and must visit place in their life. Few of the members shared sweets and snacks. Couple of lady pilgrims chanted the names of Govinda collectively. While again crossing the famous 9.2kms tunnel, we stopped at famous sweet shop and

bought Patisha sweet for distribution to their near and dear. Smt and Sri Jagannatha Rao, Srikakulam while sharing the good news of they becoming grandparents distributed sweets to all the pilgrims.

Jayashree Devaraj conducted funny quiz and also gave tiny silver souvenirs to all the pilgrims. It's all together a journey filled with love, care, understanding, adjustments, consideration, kindness, devotion, patriotism and many more. Someone created a WhatsApp Group and I collected the mail ids, shared the best impressions and expressions of the journey to everyone.

Jallianwala Bagh: A Red Story from the Pages of Indian Independence Struggle... That will leave us in tears!

We reached Amritsar at around 11:30AM and visited Jallianwala Bagh, which is dedicated to the hundreds who laid their lives for the country about 100 years ago. The Jallianwala Bagh is a public garden of 6 acres walled on all sides, with five entrances. This is where General Dyer ordered the British troops to kill 100s of innocent civilians who gathered for Baisakhi leaving thousands injured by indiscriminate firing.





A Trust was founded in 1920 to build a memorial site at Jallianwala Bagh and was inaugurated by the then President of India, Rajendra Prasad on April 13th, 1961.

The monument and the adjoining buildings exhibit the bullet marks on their walls and depict the excruciating pain that the people suffered that day. The well that rescued numerous people from the bullets fired by the troops is also preserved in the compound of the park. I have no words to say, each time I visit this place, I feel like I am entering Amara Loka. I stood by Amar Sthupa and Amar Jyothi remembering the sacrifices of our elders a century ago.

Dear friends, each sacrifice made by those Indians during Independence struggle shall not go waste. Let's resolve to live for the country with Love and sacrifice our lives too for the Nation like Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, Sukhdev, Chandra Sekhar Azad, Uddham Singh and many others known and

unknown. Their inspiring lives remembered at Punjab, the place of courage and confidence.

Blood for my Country Men: While returning from the monument, I encountered the volunteers holding blood donation drive. Felt happy and readily donated my blood for those in need in honour of those who laid their lives at Jallianwala Bagh 100 years back. I strongly believe that India can bring back it's lost glory and glitter, if each one can have Daiva Bhakthi and Desha Bhakthi.



Incidentally, the day is 4th Death Anniversary of Bharata Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. There are three; one divine and the two inspiring personalities in my 50 years life from whom, I have drawn inspiration : The first my Ista Daivam, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba; Bharata Ratna Atal Bihari Vajapayee ji and Bharata Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam ji. All of them infused lots of values in my life through their lives and living for this country.

Dear friends! Let's take one value from Dr APJ...I am sure our life too become worth living for this country.

THE BETTER INDIA

MISSILE MAN OF INDIA

- 1931** Born on October 15 in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu. As a kid, distributed newspapers after school to help father.
- 1954** Graduates in Physics from Madras University
- 1957** Earns degree in Aeronautical Engineering from MIT.
- 1958** Joins DRDO as a scientist in Aeronautical Development
- 1969** Transferred to ISRO, Made Project Director of SLV-III
- 1980** Successfully launches India's 1st experimental flight carrying 'Rohini' satellite, rocketing India into exclusive space club
- 1982** Returns to DRDO, Appointed Director of Defence Research & Development Laboratory
- 1983** Spearheads development of AGNI & PRITHVI missiles, Earns moniker of 'Missile Man'
- 1998** Supervises Pokhran-II explosions as the chief of the DRDO, Develops low-cost Kalam-Raju coronary stent
- 2002** Succeeds KR Narayanan to become the 11th President of India
- 2007** Finishes tenure as 'People's President', returns to civilian life of education, writing & public service
- 2015** Dies doing what he did best & truly loved—motivating youngsters to build a better world

Hotel Ramada, a 5 star experience for Sanyasi: After checking into Hotel Ramada... A five Star hotel at Amritsar... we all proceeded to Attari - Wagah Border, which is about 30kms from the city



Attari Border: Popularly known as Wagah Border (Pakistan) the purpose of visiting the Attari Border is to witness the flag Ceremony. It is to formally close the border for the night and lowering the National Flag. The Flag Lowering Ceremony is done daily before Sunset.

However, the entertainment ceremony displayed as patriotic performance every day. During Wagah Border Ceremony; National Anthem is played, slogans of patriotism and dance is also performed on Bollywood songs. Apart from this, sometimes cultural programs are also organized. I have seen hundreds of foreign tourists also at the border ceremony and participating actively along with Indian citizens.

At the time of the retreat, the border looks like a battleground, as the procession is conducted with loud shouts and heavy foot stamping by the soldiers. A form of marching where soldiers lift up their legs very high is known as "Goose Marching". This procession continued for more than 60 minutes.



It's real feast for the eyes. If someone wants to lift their spirits instantly, I advise them to be there at this event. I am sure it will lift

our spirit for one life time for the country. The emotions and memories will leave long lasting impressions in our heart disk.

The main objective of Attari Border Ceremony is to maintain an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and harmony between the two countries. Attari Border Ceremony is also a good place for us to understand the sacrifices done by the soldiers to protect the boundary of our country.

The BSF means: Border - Security - Force / Being - Serving - Fighting / Bharat - Service - First.

Golden Temple - Truly Gold in Nature: From Attari Wagah Border...we proceeded to the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Golden Temple is not only a central religious place of the Sikhs, but also a symbol of human brotherhood and equality. Everybody, irrespective of caste, creed or race can seek spiritual solace and religious fulfilment without any hindrance here. It also represents the distinct identity, glory and heritage of the Sikhs.

To pen-down the philosophy, ideology, the inner and outer beauty, as well as the historical legacy of Sri Harmandir Sahib is a momentous task. It is a matter of experience rather than that of a description. However for the matter of awareness, I am providing brief facts about Golden Temple at Amritsar hereunder:

Interesting facts about the Golden Temple

- ◆ The Golden Temple is known as Sri Harmandir Sahib or Sri Darbar Sahib.
- ◆ It is a place of great beauty and sublime peacefulness.
- ◆ Sri Harmandir Sahib literally means the "Temple of God".
- ◆ It is the most important shrine of the Sikh religion.
- ◆ Originally a small lake in the midst of a quiet forest, the site has been a meditation retreat for wandering vagabond and sages since deep antiquity.
- ◆ The Buddha is known to have spent time at this place in contemplation.
- ◆ 2000 years after Buddha's time, another philosopher...Saint Guru Nanak came to live and meditate in this area (1469-1539)
- ◆ Golden Temple was founded in 1574 by the fourth Sikh guru, Guru Ram Das.
- ◆ The fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan initiated the construction of the Gurdwara and the foundation stone was laid by Muslim Saint Mian Mir on Dec 28, 1588.
- ◆ Guru Arjan, designed Sri Harmandir Sahib to be built in the center of this holy tank, and upon its construction, installed the Adi Granth, the holy scripture of Sikhism.





The Gurdwara was completed in 1604. On numerous occasions, the temple was destroyed by the Muslims, and each time was rebuilt more beautifully by the Sikhs. The present-day Gurdwara was rebuilt in 1764 by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia with the help of other Sikhs. During the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839), the Golden Temple was richly ornamented with marble sculptures, golden gilding, and large quantities of precious stones.

Floating at the end of a long causeway, the Golden Temple itself is a mesmerising blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles, with an elegant marble lower level adorned

with flower and animal motifs in pietra dura work (as seen on the Taj Mahal). Above this rises a shimmering second level, encased in intricately engraved gold panels, and topped by a dome gilded with 750 kilograms (1653 pounds) of gold. Also inner walls and the door panels exhibit gold work. Special designs have been given to the copper sheets and then they have been covered with gold leaves.

The ceiling of Harmandir Sahib is made with gold and precious stones. The main hall of the Golden Temple houses the Guru Granth Sahib, the sacred scripture of the Sikh religion. It is placed on a raised platform under a canopy studded with precious jewels. This scripture is a collection of devotional poems, prayers, and hymns composed by the ten Sikh gurus and various Muslim and Hindu saints. Structurally, the temple is located on a level below the ground level as it signifies that one must be humble and go down to reach the temple of God. This design is quite opposite to that of the Hindu temples, most of which are built at an elevated level.

The Darshani Deorhi Arch stands at the beginning of the causeway to the Harmandir Sahib; it is 6.2 meters (20.3 feet) high and 6 meters (20 feet) in width. The Golden Temple has entrances from all the four directions, signifying the importance of acceptance and openness.

Inside the Golden Temple there are many memorial plaques that commemorate past Sikh historical events, saints and martyrs, including commemorative inscriptions of all the Sikh soldiers who died fighting in World War I and World War II. The Golden Temple is surrounded by the Sarovar, a large lake or holy tank, which consists of Amrit (holy water or immortal nectar) and is fed by the Ravi River. There are three holy trees, each signifying a historical event or Sikh saint. The largest langar is found at the Golden Temple. It typically feeds roughly 75,000 people a day for free. On religious holidays and weekends, the langar can feed more than 100,000 people a day. This incredible feat is made possible through donations and volunteers. All the diners have to sit on the floor, irrespective of caste, status, wealth or creed, symbolizing the central Sikh doctrine of the equality of all people.

It's matter of great inspiration to know...It's not God...Guru, but it's Guri (Belief) the Holy Book is able to bring in the sea change in the Sikh communities all over the globe.

Vahe Guru...Vahe Guru...Vahe Guru ji Bolo...
Sath naam...Sath naam...Sath naam ji bolo
Nityam...Nityam...Nityam Japiye Hari naam ji bo.
Sathyam...Sathyam...japiye raam naam ji bolo





July 28th, 2019

Lost and Found (Once Again): I got ready and checked out of Hotel by 6:30AM. Hotel Ramada is one of most beautiful hotels in Amritsar. I could not resist myself from capturing images aound every corner, and this also is the most expensive accommodation, I have had in the "Bharata Darshan". Thanks to Southern Travels and my donors for giving me this luxurious experience. I also had continental breakfast at the hotel.

At 9AM, we proceeded to Kuruskshethra in Haryana State which is about 320 kms from Amritsar. As usual we started the day with Prayer and Satsang. While encouraging the people in the bus, I challenged them to learn a Sanskrit Sloka after me chanting for three times with me and whoever does that first, I would gift them Rs.500/-. Mrs SuryaKumari Rao instantly came forward to recite the Sloka and did it successfully. Then I looked for my chest pack in the seat, to my shock the bag containing Wallet, ID Cards, Pass Port, Tickets etc., was missing, I am speechless for a moment, realised that I may have left it in the hotel lobby while giving pose with the people for photos. I told the same to everyone but by that time bus crossed 15kms. Tour guide Anshul stopped the bus and called the hotel.

We decided to go back to hotel and enquire. We picked an Auto and went to hotel. The Manager at the front office informed us that my bag was found by cleaning team at the restaurant and handed over to me. It was yet another pleasant experience! We called Jagbeer Singh, a sweeper who found the bag, over whelmed by his honesty I gave him Rs.1000/- cash prize. Further, I gifted the silver souvenir given by Devaraj in the bus to the Manager and returned to bus. In total we spent 60 minutes time. But learned the following

1. God is with me in every second.
2. Pilgrims felt amazed about it.
3. Common Men will have kind heart.
4. If intentions are pure...God helps.
5. Climax for Amarnath came this way.

When I reached the team in the bus, everyone felt jubilant about getting the bag. Raghava Rao distributed sweets to everyone. I briefed everyone as to what happened. We sung a bhajan in praise of God. We pooled money to give to Tour Guide, Driver and Conductor for their good work during the 12 days Pilgrimage. As everyone in the team heard about Bharata Darshan since beginning of Amarnath Yathra...Many of them wished me for the onward journey and collectively given Rs.10,000/- for my expenses. I have no words to express my gratitude to them. People started touching my feet in respect and devotion...Seeing Guru in me.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to each of the following pilgrims who lent their hands of support.

Talanki Anuradha V Ratnamaiah, AP
 Bachalli Sudha Srinivas, AP
 Ivuturi Surya Kumari Jagannadharao, AP
 Smt and Sri Lakshmana Rao, AP
 Kanakaiah Rajeswari Krishna Prasad, KK
 Ambolu Baby Raghava Rao, AP
 Kuncha Latha Loganathan, KK
 Sarva Thilagavathy, TN
 Manvy R Geetha Satyanarayana, KK
 K Jayashree Devaraj, KK

Amarnath Yathra showered few more Divine Experiences on me.



HARYANA... Haritham all over:

Kurukshetra: We reached Kurukshetra at around 4PM. The place is associated with Mahabharata War during Dwapara Yug. This is the place where, Lord Krishna blessed Humanity through Warrior Arjuna with the celestial song of Bhagavad Gita. I saw the most ancient banyan tree which stood as witness to Geetha Sandesh since that time and also saw beautiful marble statues of Maha Bharata Puranam.



From there, we visited Bramha Sarovar where, Brahma performed havan and the place where Bheema and Duryodhana fought during the end of Bharata Yudha. Remembering father, offered ashes in Bramha Sarovar and prayed for moksha.

Considering the 12 days pilgrimage coming to an end, everyone shared their thoughts, observations, appreciations, experiences etc. with everyone. Everyone felt happy about me and my companionship with them saying that it's because of me the journey has become most memorable, spiritual and insightful making it a true pilgrimage. All of them said they never had such a pleasant journey filled with values, spirit, devotion, patriotism etc., Saying so, everyone personally came and wished me for life ahead.



Finally, we reached New Delhi at around 10PM, bringing culmination to the Amarnath Pilgrimage in Bharata Darshan setting the stage for onward journey to Kedarnath - Badrinath Yatra next day. Smt and Sri Jagannadharao garu kindly offered me to stay with them for night in the hotel.

July 29th, 2019

DELHI

The room where I stayed for the night was vacated by the family who gave me shelter. I decided to wait in the front office from 12PM as the onward journey to Kedarnath was at 9PM.

Super 30: I did not know what to do for 9 hours, Keerthi (My Sister's daughter) sent me the "screen guard" for the new phone. She was kind enough to send the car enabling me to go around for shopping for my travel needs. I gave my dresses for laundry, bought medicines, socks, thermal wear and fixed the Phone's screen guard and sent the car back. I still had four hours, so I watched Super 30 movie. It is a movie about Anandkumar, founder of Super 30 Coaching Institute which provide free coaching to 30 underprivileged students for IIT every year.

Times Magazine included Super 30 in its list of The Best of Asia 2010. The organization also received praise from the then US President Barack Obama's special envoy Rashad Hussain, who termed it the "best" institute in the country. Newsweek Magazine included Super 30 in its list of Four Most Innovative Schools in the World. Anand Kumar was awarded the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Shiksha Puraskar in November 2010, the highest award given by the Bihar State government in the field of education.

It is truly an inspiration for the every Indian who wish to do something good for the countrymen. Keeping apart the controversies associated with Super 30, I fully enjoyed watching the movie. Theatre hardly had any audience, Good is always Bad. But I remember, Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi advising the movie artists to work on patriotism and values of the Country in recent interaction at Delhi. Hope movie artists take the advice seriously and work for the betterment of the country.





July 29, 2019

UTTARAKHAND

Rishikesh: A team of nine people (two families from Bangalore, a mother with her son from Guntur and me). The vehicle started from Delhi at early hours. Due to Kanvar Yathra 2019, the vehicle had to take too many diversions en route Rishikesh. The members of the group are very kind and considerate to each other. The day started with a prayer.

Kanvar Yathra is annual pilgrimage undertaken by the Hindus in North Indian States during Shravana Month where in the devotees of Siva go and collect Ganga from Himalayan Terrains at Haridwar, Gomukh and other places. They take the pots containing Ganga to their villages by walk and pour on Siva Linga. The Kanvar Yathra this year may be done by millions of Devotees. For me walking or trekking is a nightmare where as for millions, its a day and night offering with devotion. Due to huge crowd gathered at Haridwar, we could not visit Haridwar.

We reached Rishikesh at around 11:30 AM. This is the place where most sacred River Ganga can be seen descending from the mighty Himalayas. This the

place Lord Rama did penance and Lakshmana built a rope way (Lakshman Jhoola) to serve Rama. This place is a chosen spot by the saints, monks and sages since ages. If we look at the life and Mission of Swamy Sivananda, one will understand the importance of even living space. Rishikesh is certainly a place for Sadhakas, Yogis, Monks, Sages, Saints etc.,



Offered my salutations to Ganga at Rishikesh, The Mother Ganga is flowing with so much force as if she wishes to touch the lives of crores. Due to increase in water levels all adventure sports in the valley were banned. I also visited Swargashram, Geethashram, Paramartha Niketan, Sivananda Ashram and other important places. Thousands of devotees were seen all over Rishikesh doing their Kanvar Yathra.



We had our lunch at Chotiwalla Hotel on the banks of Ganga. Proceeded to Srinagar at 8:30 PM en route Kedarnath we visited Deva Prayag.



Dhari Devi: The most powerful image of Goddess Durga reached the village 3000 years back in the Ganga flow and villagers started worshipping her. Dhari Devi is believed to be the protector of



Uttarakhand. Goddess will be seen as a child in the morning, Young girl in the afternoon and Elderly lady in the evening for the devotees.

As the vision, so is the creation. I strongly believe in t statement. Throughout Bharata Darshan, I never found anything which is not spiritual and insightful. There is learning in everything. For example, the name, Rishikesh is originated from Hrishikesh which means the Lord who control senses. Many people out of India don't believe Hindu Philosophy

The temple is just on the side of **Alaknanda** river in a low laying area. Alaknanda Hydro Electric Power Co considering the Power Project if completed will cover the Temple with the water..Planned to shift the goddess image to a higher platform and removed her from where she was...That was the day in the year 2013, Kedarnath floods devastated entire region of Uttarakhand. Presently the new temple at a higher platform is being ready for years..No one had the courage to shift the Goddess to the new temple.



considering everything God. But, when we see Ganga flowing eternally infusing life to crores of people...Anyone will understand why Indians worship rivers as Goddess Mother.

July 30, 2019



I could not see the Sun for the day since the time started from Srinagar in Uttarakhand. Crossing 100s of kms to reach Rampur en route Kedarnath. Though the journey is tedious through ghat roads, deadly curves, rainy weather etc., nothing could make me tired as my focus on Nature and nothing else. I thoroughly enjoyed the travel.

I remembering father... with prayers merged his ashes in Alaknanda River. It's a matter of my fortune to mix his remains in all sacred rivers and Himalayas with utmost respect for him.

In between the journey the vehicle stopped due to Landslides, Traffic, Tea and snaks. Visited Dhari Devi, Gupta Kashi and Triyugi Narayan Temples on our day long journey.



Gupta Kashi: This is the place where Lord Siva hidden him self from Pandava's search for him during their last leg of the life in Dwapara Yuga. Both Ganga Yamuna started flowing from the very place where Lord hidden. Even today we can see uninterrupted sacred waters flowing from Bull Mouth & Elephants Mouth in front of the temple.



Later the temple is constructed by them knowing that Lord Siva is hidden here and named it as Vishweswar Temple. The weather is so pleasant that any one can feel heavens in these mountains of Himalayan Terrains.



Reached **Rampura** which is about 15kms from Gowrikund which is the starting point to trek Himalayas to reach Lord Kedarnath. Had fresh and hot South Indian Meal at Panchavati Hotel. We keep hearing about lake view hotels, picture view resorts, hill cottages etc., in our local areas. But dear friends...Here in Uttarakhand...What ever hotel you stay irrespective name and place you will find only heavens when we open the doors or windows.

It's like staying in the middle of valleys.

Triyugi Narayan: The place where Lord Vishnu performed the wedding of Lord Siva with Lady Parvathi ages ago in the presence of all Devas and Rishis. King of Himalayas and father of Parvathi Himavanth made



arrangements for the celestial wedding. The bathing Ghats Brahma Kund, Vishnu Kund and Rudra Kund made available for Divine Guests to for their bathing. Even today they can be seen with purest water springs in the temple. The Agni lit during the wedding 3 Yugas ago is now also to be seen with live fire. In total one will have the feel of how the Divine Wedding could have taken place.



I am mesmerised by the Nature all 10 directions of me...You can't find anything around except Nature...Pure Breeze, Lush Green, Falling Waters, Snowfall, Live rivers, Flowers, Mud, Forests, Sky, Clouds, Mountains, Birds, Animals...what not, one can find the nature at its BEST. Nature is certainly Divine here en route Kedarnath. For Nature Lovers this is a heaven.

Enjoying the day...Reached Panchavati at Rampura again at 7PM. Getting ready for the



onward journey to Kedarnath following day at 4AM...The most tedious journey for the trip. Though I wished to go by walk...due to sprain in the leg occurred at Vaishnodevi Doctor advised me to go by horse. Further keeping the Mt Kailash parikrama on foot in view I too decided to engage horse to trek 17kms to Kadarnath.

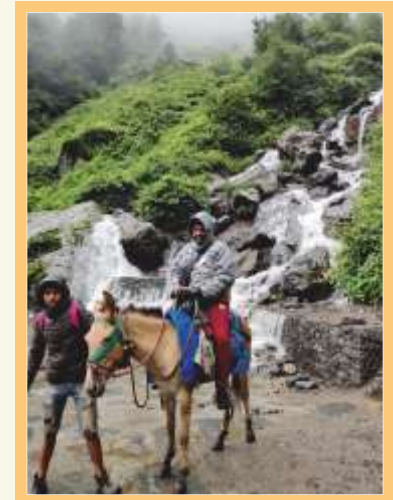
Every pilgrim in the team started thinking as to what is the best way to go...while discussing on all options available before the table. Where as My heart is filled with divine bliss as there is nothing in the mind except good.

August 1, 2019

Kedarnath: I could not sleep previous night, woke up thrice as the thoughts of Kedarnath surrounded me, yet, I got ready by 4AM for Gouri Kund. Mahesh's mother was not feeling well and she got stomach ache and vomitted in the night. Advised Mahesh to consult Dr Sailatha and handed over my medical kit.

Rest of the team consisting seven members reached Gourikund the base camp of Kedarnath. Except me, everyone opted to trek by walk. Whereas fearing about ankle pain and considering the doctor's advice, I decided to ascend the 17kms by horse. Seeing the plight of horses, Apurva D/o Sudha Nagaraj in the team started crying with the pain, it is the highest order of spirituality. I remember Baba's words when I saw this girl in the team. Swamy said, we must have pain when we see someone suffering. I just prayed for that girl. She would be a finest individual.

My plan was to reach Kedarnath temple by horse and return after darshanam. The four horses engaged by the team as a standby were not ready to leave each other in the team. It is great lesson for me as to how, a team should work. I remember the great team work of Hyderabad Sai Youth in which I had the fortune of being a member. We always worked as a team...That's why we were the recipients of Baba's love. Baba fondly called us as Hyderabad Boys.





Walking is difficult task...But trekking the mountains by horse is another tedious task. It started hurting me in the seat within 10 minutes time, yet I had to continue as there was no other way. The pain continued for another six hours, the only relief was having a feast in seeing the beauty of Himalayas with naked eyes. Wherever I see, the mountains look like Lord Siva Jathajute on head and the g u s h i n g

waterfalls everywhere look like Ganga flowing from Siva's head. I could not see the top of any mountain as they were covered with thick fog. Cloudy rain made the journey much more delightful. From horse stand to the temple...It's about 2kms. I walked with great difficulty. But looking at the nature, I swallowed the pain.



ecstasy, a priest patted on back and took me outside, offered hot tea. Wished me all the best on knowing about Bharata Darshan...

When returning from the temple complex...Tears of Joy rolled out of my eyes for the divine opportunity of being there once again. I do not know when again, I may come. By the time I finished darshan, it was 3PM and the temple was also closed. Started returning from Kedarnath, I found free Wi-Fi, and made note of all my experiences afresh. I reached Panchavati, Rampur at around 8:30PM with body pains, fever and loose motions, took little food and medication.



The Purpose of Bharata Darshan is: Prosperity of Bharat, Cooperation in Bharat and Character of Bharat.

August 4, 2019



The moment I have seen the water streams of Mandakini in great speed coming from three directions of Kedarnath Temple and merging at the place...My heart was filled with divine vibrations. Remembering father...I slowly reached the Divine River Sangam and immersed his ashes in the sacred streams. Then, reached Kedarnath Jyothirlinga Temple. Thanks to Modiji... One can see heavenly difference in and around temple complex. This was my third visit, I could not resist myself appreciating the development done by the Government here.



Badrinath: The Badri Kedar Yathra, this time is very critical and difficult due to rains, snow fall, land slides, traffic jams etc., Majority of the time is spent in commutation. Irrespective of the place and region...same is the situation in entire Himalayan terrians. Last 3 days (2nd - 4th Aug 2019) we could just cover the distance between Kedarnath and Badrinath.

As it was raining continuously, helicopter services stopped, there is no rush at the temple, no long queues and no waiting. I ran into the sanctum sanctorum. I don't know how much time I spent inside the temple near Kedarnath, it was like calf running to its mother and I was just there touching the lingam, Praying aloud... Chanting Mruthyunjaya Manthra... Keeping my head on the lingam...All I did with utmost devotion and love. Seeing my



En route Badrinath... we visited Jyothirmath (Joshi Mutt), Narsingh Mandir, Vishnu Prayag, Pandukeshwar and other important places of interest. Tour Guide, took us through, Chopta Road from Pippilkota. I am spell bound by the most beautiful nature... PURITY at its peak. The route is different from the regular route. There is no pollution of whatsoever. Every inch of the route is filled water falls, gushing greens, thick fog, snowfall, dense forests... We stopped for a while at mountain peak point and captured some beautiful moments in our cameras. This route has most beautiful spots for leisure and relaxing with friends and families. We must visit these places at least once in life time...Then we will surely appreciate the creation of GOD.



As the travelling schedule disturbed due to many obstructions on the way...I could not take food during the day...No bathing...But I thoroughly enjoyed the travel. The team travelling with me is equally enjoyed the trip. We had divine time in the vehicle singing songs, bhajans and sathsangh.

I am really fortunate to have yet another family connect in my life line during Bharata Darshan in the form of Sri Nagaraju (Sudha Nagaraju, Anantha, Suma Ananth, Anagha, Apurva, Mahesh & Mahesh mom). Everyone in the team were focused on GOD and Godly things. While singing Bhajans, I found the family is connected to Baba.



Jagathguru Adi Shankaracharya stayed here in the region and did penance. He later established Jyothir Mutt...One of the 4 Pithams of India...later it's called as Joshi Mutt. The Lord Badrinarayan will be moved to the Narsing Mandir, Joshi Mutt.

Sri Nagaraju is Alumini of Sri Sathya Sai University (1976) Swamy fondly calling Nagaraju and his 3 friends as Small Boys at Brindavan. Nagaraju was the first one to chant Bramharpanam Bhojan Manthram during food time at the hostel and hence, Swamy used to call him as Bramharpanam. Many experiences he and his family had with Swamy in the last 5 decades.



With prayers to the father, I merged Father's ashes in sacred rivers at Vishnu Prayaga, Alaknanda and Saraswathi rivers en route Badrinath.

Though the distance between Rampur near Kedaranath and Badrinath is hardly 300kms...It took more than 30 hours to reach Badrinath. We must appreciate the Uttarakband Police, Army and Rescue Teams who are on the job 24x7 all across the route...in clearing the traffic, debris, landslides, water falls and making the travel smooth for the pilgrims.



I found, Ms Apurva D/o Sudha Nagaraju, a wonderful human being and also a melodious singer. When I heard, she singing Kanaka Dasa Kruthi in bus...I became emotional understanding the essence of Kannada Kruthi. The stangas are matching My

present state of mind...I requested her to sing it for me...so that I can refine further by listening it to again and again.

The moment, I reached Badrinath...inspite of fall in temperatures, we all proceeded to Mana Village, where we can see the last village of India, Vyasa Cave, Ganesh Cave, Saraswathi River etc., Each of them carrying a mythological story with it and conveying a wonderful message for all. There is nothing I can



say...that I can miss in the journey. Wherever I go, I keep capturing the impressions and expressions, recording observations, interacting with the people etc., so that my experiences can become source to know about these places in generations to come.

Later, we returned to Badrinath, I ran to temple side as if tomorrow I may not live. Offered my head at thy feet symbolising cutting my ego and attachment in life seeking Lord's grace. Reached Taptakund (Hot springs) had my bath. The hot water springs just besides Alaknanda cold water flow is yet another wonder for the pilgrims. The water is so hot, one can't touch. Some how, I took bath. While taking bath...heard Temple Bells ringing signifying closure of doors...

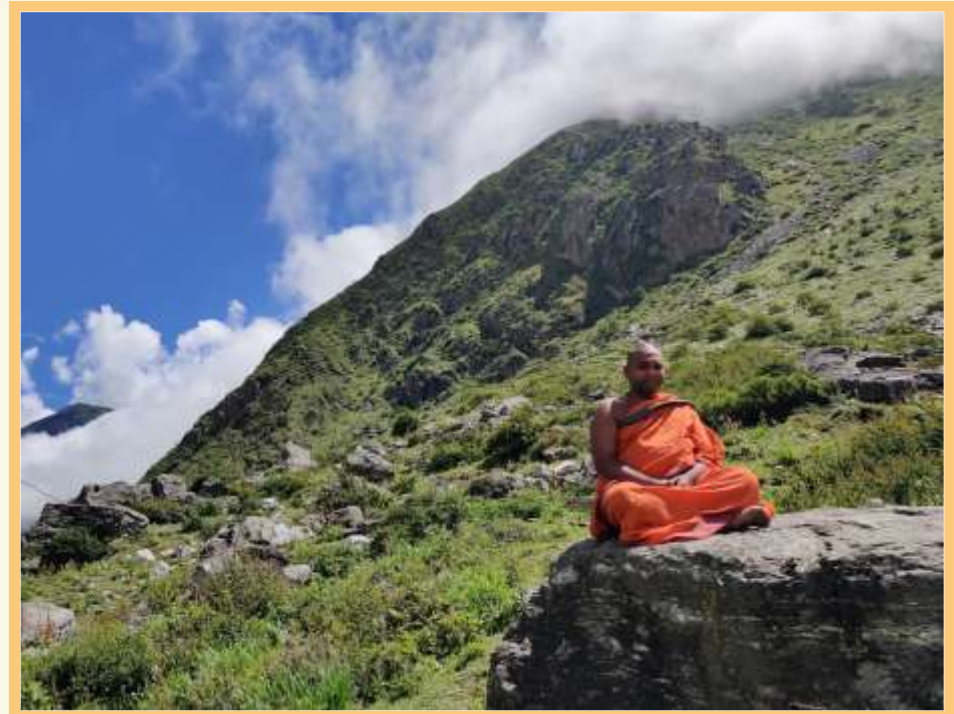
I changed my clothes and rushed to temple. For my utter surprise, I could see the Nija Rupa Darshan of Badri Narayana and HIS Divine companions. It is a like seeing unseen images of presiding deities. I have no words to explain the bliss I experienced.



Coming out of Temple...I found other members of the team. Happily took photos keeping Badrinath Temple as background. Reached hotel and slept for the day with a hope of having Divine Darshan again.

Again in the morning, 6AM...I am ready and proceeded to Temple Complex while others in the team went to perform rituals at Brahma Kapalam. Initially I thought...I will have Darshan and come back. But when I reached temple, the 3 hours long Abhisheka Darshan

is underway. Last night, when speaking to Madhu, Hindupur...He mentioned about this costly seva at the temple (Rs.4,500/-) and asked me not to miss. I just brushed this thought away from my mind considering the value of each paisa in Bharata Darshan. But, seeing my attire...The temple staff allowed me to go inside for on going divine bath. Expressing my Saranagathi at the feet of Badri Narayana, with attitude of Gratitude entered the sanctum sanctorum. Spent time seeing all the rituals and receiving abhisheka Prasadam, I returned to hotel carrying most beautiful and divine moments in the heart. I profusely prayed for all the beings in all the worlds. Then proceeded to reach Haridwar in the night.



Aug 5, 2019



Haridwar, Manasa Devi: Due to many landslides across the region, the travel was delayed by another day and hence instead of returning to Delhi in the night, we decided to break the journey at Haridwar, reached Siva Ganga Hotel at 12AM.

Started the next day at 8AM post breakfast, reached Ganga at Har(i) Ki Pouri. It is believed that it is precise spot where the Ganges leaves the mountains and enters the plains at its most magnificent form and flow. Har Ki Pauri is also the area where thousands of pilgrims take sacred bath daily.



Immersed father's ashes with Mother Ganga with prayers that the soul of father shall reach Vishnu Loka. Took sacred bath at Ganga and offered prayers.

Considering the little time in hand for reaching Delhi, we all quickly moved to visit Manasa Devi and Chandi Devi on the Bilva Hills and Neela Hills. Took the round trip in rope way for the two temples.

Manasa Devi is believed to be born from the mind of Lord Shiva and considered as his daughter. She is the protector of Uttarakhand, Mansa Devi Temple is a Siddh Peeth (These are known to fulfill the desires of the devotees). It is one of three such Peeths located in Haridwar, the other two being Chandi Devi Temple and Maya Devi Temple. The inner shrine has two deities. In The crowd around,

Sudha Nagaraju lost her money purse and also Lakshmi's souvenir. She looks to be little upset at this loss.

Later, visited Chandi Devi, the Goddess Durga after killing, Shumbh and Nishumbh and Chanda and Munda rested here for a while. This place became holy due to her Swayambhu in a Pillar on the hillock, the image is in rudra rupa. Later, Adi Shankaracharya visiting the place sought her grace to be in blissful form. Seeing the Goddess...for a while, I thought of Adi Shankara and His most powerful life and mission.



While waiting for the team to come, I sat in the corner of the temple and started chanting Gayatri Manthra. When I opened my eyes, I saw the priest calling me. Surprised by his gesture, I thought he is calling me to take darshan once again, but for my amazement, the priest took me in to the sanctum sanctorum. I have no words to express. I just fell at the feet of Chandi Devi praying aloud for everyone, crying in my heart seeking the divine blessings for the country. The priest asked me to offer flowers and gave the prasadam kept in front of Goddess. I was spell bound by this gesture from the priest. On returning to the vehicle, explaining all this to the team, as per the intuition, handed over the Prasadam to Sudha Nagaraju along with Amarnath Silver Souvenir which was given at Amaranath.



For eight days, travelling to the most sacred places on the earth, the team that were together in the pilgrimage became good friends. Thanks to Indian Culture and Heritage which is bonding one with another in every possible way.

Nagaraju and their family members treated me as their own...Also took care of my expenses during yatra. I pray for each one in the team while moving forward in Bharata Darshan.

Abolition of Article 370/35A – Historic Day for India: When, I came out from the temple complex, we all were welcomed with the wonderful news of scrapping article 370 / 35A of Indian Constitution making J&K as an integral part of India. By historic decision of Upper House scrapping Article 370 / 35 is surely a huge step in accomplishing the Developed India...the most vibrant day for 130 crores of Indians. Kashmir can stand its head high with all power now at par with rest of India. I profusely thank God for creating leaders for uplifting India. Hoping more powers will empower Kashmiris henceforth. The lost glory and glitter would be back there sooner than expected.

Article 370 and Art 35A have remained as an incurable political Cancer plagued with the body of this Nation for more than seven decades now. Now the cure thereto has been discovered in the Indian Parliament today by our patriotic, dedicated, eminent efficient and renowned Surgeons. They operated and removed the cancer tumor with their sheer diligence, tenacity, acumen, expertise and with will-power. Hats off to Modi Ji, Amit Shah Ji, their team and every organ of the Government. It is a historic Day after the Country in the post Independence era. Let's hope Kashmir will now be healthy and wealthy giving away its hands, heads and hearts to rest of India. Such be its power and empowerment...Such be its courage and encouragement.

We traveled more than 300kms today to reach New Delhi while entire nation celebrated the decision of Parliament.

DELHI

I reached Delhi at around 8PM. While coming back from Badri Kedar Yatra, all the pilgrims expressed their happiness about my company and requested me to visit their houses in TN/Karnataka next time. I too felt very happy about their love and care towards me during the Yatra. I sought their excuses for the lapses any in my part.

While, I got down at Delhi...I have sent them message saying: "Greetings & Gratitude. Hope you all safely reached Airport and boarded the flight. Have a safe journey. It's like my people leaving me from home. Such was the care you have shown me. I am sharing my love and shall pray for you...sairam"



I received 2 wonderful messages in response to them. Thank you for your good words. This is what Sai family does to us. May Sai bless you in abundance always. Sairam brother. Reached home safely. By swami's grace the coin and the shivalinga were found in a different bag. Only money was lost. Wishing you a very happy and fruitful journey and abundant grace. Sairam - Nagaraj, Bengaluru.



Namaskaram Swamiji. We reached Bangalore safely. We enjoyed entire tour with your divine speeches and explanation in detail for each and every place and it's importance it is very useful for us. I never forget your love and affection. Thanks a lot. All the best for your entire pilgrimage... BHARATH DHARSAN. JAYA JAYA SANKARA HARA HARA SANKARA... Ananatha Narayana, Hosuru.

What a family this is! Encountering such people during Bharata Darshan is seeing Gods in human form. When I handed over the money they have spent for me during Yatra, very politely they denied it stating that they too wish to be part of my Bharata Darshan. I have no words, except expressing my love to them in the name of Baba. Every inch in Bharata Darshan is filled with such divine incidents.

August 6, 2019

As a Guest at MP's Home: Considering my onward journey to Kathmandu (Manasa Sarovar Yathra) on August 8, 2019 and the expenditure involved in staying for 3 days at Delhi...I decided to go and stay at Swaminarayan Ashram in a common hall and accordingly reserved a bed there.



But, God's will is different, by the time, I started returning from Haridwar, the God sent messenger called me in the form of my most beloved friend CS Vasudevarao Devaki saying that he is in Delhi and he wish to spend time with me during Bharata Darshan. I too felt happy about it and asked him where I need to come, he gave me an address to reach him. The Bus Driver was kind enough to drop me near the address.

On seeing the house and name plate, I realised the house belonged to Sri Garikapati Mohana Rao (GMR), Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). I thought I will be meeting my friend CS Vasudevarao Devaki. But to my surprise, I became the Guest at MP's Home at Delhi.

Sri GMR, very kind in receiving and comforting me on knowing about my profile and Bharata Darshan, through these good friends. He asked me to stay at home as long as I want and whenever I come to Delhi. During the interaction with this Politician, I found he is a finest individual and rose from scratch. The way he treated us revealed that love and care for the people is very appreciable. I just prayed for his well being post listening to life story. We all spent good time discussing current political situation, ongoing parliament session, BJP and it's leadership.

At Indian Parliament: While the J&K Reorganisation Bill is tabled in Loka Sabha, all of us had the fortune of being there in the Parliament. I was in adoration of the



Great Nation and it's Highest Law Making Home...The Parliament...I bowed before it while stepping inside.



Seeing the huge infrastructure of Parliament is like entering into the heavens where...The National Leaders standing in every corner of the campus overseeing the business in the Temple of Democracy. The aspirations of 130 crores of Indians are met here in the Parliament. The highest decision body of the country is made to work from here, really thrilled to be there at Parliament, as the J&K Reorganisation Bill is passed at Loka Sabha with thumping majority. I am profusely happy about the incident today. I offered my prayers for all those Indian Citizens living in different parts of J&K from the Parliament.

We all returned to MP's home for lunch. I had the fortune of spending good time with CS Vasudevarao Devaki, BJP Loka Sabha Contestant from Khammam (2019) who is my long term friend (since two and half decades)...Both of us felt happy meeting each other and spending good time at Delhi for two days. He is very kind in taking care of me.





I don't know what fortune I had to have such people in my life. He did not allow me to spend even a rupee in Delhi. He took me to the Doctor for my leg pain and got the medicines. He booked a vehicle and we went around Delhi, visiting India Gate, National War Memorial, Birla Mandir and having Delhi Chaat, Lassi and Hot Jalebi. I wish CS Vasudevarao Devaki be a law maker soon.

He messaged me: "Thank You Bala for the concern, I too sincerely praying the TRIO to give me enough strength and courage to manage the things. Please do not neglect leg pain and in general your health. Today I am very happy for meeting you. Shubhamastu" - Vasu



Sri Motukuri Narayana Rao, Khammam, the man behind me visiting Bhadrachalam on April 6th, 2019 (My Birthday & Ugadi) and stood as a reason for Bharata Darshan. I profusely thanked him for paving way to my life turning decision of Bharata Darshan.

Sri Sashi Raj Dhara, Joint Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi who is known to me when he was Deputy ROC at Hyderabad. He moved to MCA in 2015. He felt happy seeing me and welcomed me to home whenever needed at Delhi. Each one can teach one in life.

August 7, 2019

Homage to Smt Sushma Swaraj ji:

Sushma Swaraj, in my opinion... stands as the best External Affairs Minister till date and also as one of the best cabinet Minister in Modi-led NDA government. Famous for being one of the most helpful, tech-savvy ministers of India, she has restored our faith in bureaucracy and has received applause from all around the world.



Sushma Swaraj suffered a heart attack on 6th of August 2019 and was rushed to AIIMS but was not able to survive. She had a kidney transplant in 2016 and had opted out of contesting Lok Sabha polls earlier in the year for health reasons. Such a wonderful profile, I am admirer of her. I felt fortunate to pay my final tributes to her at Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi during Bharata Darshan.



The way she speaks,
the way she dresses,
the way she reacts,
the way she treats elders,
the way she loves youngsters,
the way she present concepts,
the way she argues on matters,
the way she wins the hearts,
the way she admires leaders,
the way she challenged kidney issues,
the way she moved away from politics,
the way she lived life till the last breath
All this is an INSPIRATION for Indians.

What can we do in honour of such Indian SoulDeards who laid their life for the Country? Live in full till the last breath like that of these people for the Country. Sushma Swaraj Amar Rahe. Let she be the leader in heavens with her mesmerising personality.

August 8, 2019

NEPAL

Started from Delhi at 6:40AM and reached Terminal 3 at Airport. After about three hours formalities, finally boarded the Nepal Airlines. The crew was courteous and I had a good flight experience. Around 12:40PM, I reached Tribhuvan International Airport at Kathmandu. Again finishing formalities reached Moonlight Hotel. "Visits Kailash" is the tour operator this time. There were about 30 pilgrims in the team for Manasa Sarovar Yatra, 2 from Telugu States, 16 from North India, 7 from West Bengal, 4 from Kerala and others.

The name "Nepal" is first recorded in texts from the Vedic period of the Indian subcontinent, the era in ancient India when Hinduism was founded, the predominant religion of the country. In the middle of the first millennium BCE, Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, was born in Lumbini in Southern Nepal.

I met Mahendra from Hyderabad as soon as I reached hotel. He is a travel enthusiast and keeps going to the places as a hobby. More than God, he enjoys nature. We quickly became friends and decided to visit Kailash Mahadev Temple in the outskirts of City. We travelled in local rickshaw and tempo. We trekked for a kilometer in Sanga to reach the hillock where the statue is present.

Kailashnath Mahadev Statue is the world's tallest Shiva Statue. We both spend good time over the site and captured photos and videos. Returned to hotel at around 7:30PM. By that time, all the team members from their respective places reached hotel. The Manasa Sarovar Yatra starts from 9th Aug 2019.



August 9, 2019

Pasupathinath: While the rest of the pilgrims slowly reached the Moonlight Hotel, Kathmandu, others went to local sightseeing. About 20 of us proceeded to Pashupathi Nath Temple near Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu. Everyone felt excited for being there in a country outside India.

The Pashupatinath Temple is a famous and sacred Hindu temple complex that is located on the banks of the Bagmati River. The "extensive Hindu temple precinct" is a sprawling collection of temples, ashrams, images and inscriptions rose over the centuries along the banks of the sacred Bagmati River and it is included in UNESCO's designation of Kathmandu Valley as a cultural heritage site. One of the major festivals of the temple is Maha Shivaratri and on this holy day over one million devotees visit here.

Anyone who adores and given into Lord Siva, will not be bound by any kind of suffering or grief, even in dreams, it's like attaining true salvation. When Pandavas saw him, Lord Siva took the form of a buffalo using powers and tried to run away. While he was doing so, Bhima caught the tail and the transformed buffalo stood there with the head to the ground which started merging into the Earth. Bhima could finally catch hold of its hump and that became Kedarnath Jyothirlinga. The Pandavas prayed to him over and over again, and in answer to these prayers Lord Shiva established himself in four other places. The arms in Tunganath, the navel and stomach in Madhyamaheshwar, the face in Rudranath in India and the head portion appeared in Nepal. That's presently believed to be Pashupathinath at Kathmandu.

One of the most special features of the Shivalinga in Pashupatinath, Nepal, is that the linga has five heads: the East facing Tatpurusha, the North facing Ardhanarishwara (Vamadeva), the West facing Sadyojata, South facing Aghora, and the upward facing Nirakara.





It is yet another divine experience here. Seeing me, the tour guide paved the way to reach the shrine in a special line and I had a wonderful darshan of Lord while the Bhattas, the designated priests from Sringeri performing abhishekam continuously. I started chanting Mruthunjaya / Gayatri Mantra keeping my inner and outer eyes wide open...Praying for every being in all the worlds. The head priest enquiring about me, adorned a Rudraksha Maala around my neck...

We later had our lunch at Moonlight Hotel. Thereafter visited Swayambhunath Stupam, it is one of the holiest Buddhist stupas in Nepal. It is said to have evolved spontaneously when the valley was created out of a primordial lake more than 2,000 years ago. The stupa is the oldest of its kind in Nepal and has numerous shrines and monasteries in its premises.



Swayambhu literally means "self-manifested one". This dates back to 460 A.D., and was built by King Manadeva. By the 13th Century, it had become an important centre of Buddhism.

The Legend speaks that the Swayambhu was born out of a lotus flower that bloomed in the middle of a lake that once spread across the Kathmandu Valley. The largest image of the Sakyamuni Buddha in Nepal sits on a high pedestal on the the Western boundary of Swayambhu. Behind the hilltop is a temple dedicated to Manjusri or Saraswathi, the Goddess of Learning. Chaityas, statues and shrines of Buddhist and Hindu deities fill the stupa complex. The base of the hill is almost entirely surrounded by prayer wheels and deities. Devotees can be seen circumambulating the stupa at all times.

It was a treat to see the huge gold plated Vajra 'thunderbolt', the Dipankar Buddha statue, the Sleeping Buddha. The Dewa Dharma Monastery, noted for a bronze icon of Buddha and traditional Tibetan paintings.

The temple dedicated to Harati, the Goddess of all children. It is said that she was an ogress before Lord Buddha converted her to be the caretaker of all children.



By the time we returned to hotel, the Team Visits Kailash lead by Pramod Goutham and Sunil Lama arranged for an important briefing session. It went on for couple of hours. Each one had a question to ask...Things to get clarifications...concerns to get attention... Everyone was given travel kit, back-pack, rain coat, dry fruits, chest pack etc., as compliments.

With prayers to God, I decided to do Parikrama by foot and accordingly bought 1500 Chinese Yuans for the travel ahead in Tibet and China. I am praying for the mercy of God to grant me strength and opportunity to do what's needed in Bharata Darshan.

August 10, 2019

CHINA

Started at 8AM from Kathmandu, Nepal to reach China Border which is about 170 kms. The Tour operator arranged a mini bus and the packed luggage was being kept in the bus. Though, the distance is short but due to the mountain region, it took us almost 10 hours to reach the border. In between we had lunch at Bagmati, Pasang Lahmu high way.



Sagar, the bus driver did a commendable job for 10 hours. One can't imagine travelling on such roads which can take us straight to heavens if something goes wrong. The nature at its best can be seen all through the journey... The journey is more dangerous, tedious and risky for people sitting in the bus. The bus reached close to 6000 ft from sea level. We crossed Nepal border at around 7PM in the evening. We all appreciated the driver for his excellent and safe driving skills.





En route, China border... all through the journey we could see Trishuli River flowing in the mountains. The river is believed to be born from Trishul of Lord Siva in three streams. The power with which the river is flowing can't be explained in words...I have seen the flow cutting down the rocks as well. The sound with which the river flowing is unbearable. The river will be meeting Narayani River in Nepal and finally merges with Ganga.

On finishing the Visa formalities at China Border, we proceeded to reach Darchen. This is the place from where one will have the first vision of Mount Kailash. Factually, the place is called Darshan in Sanskrit and in China they called it as Darchen. For the day, we stayed at the border in Potala House in Nepal.



August 11, 2019

TIBET

Darchan / Darshan: Though, we were ready by 7AM at Potala House, the Nepal China Border, due to delay in coordination, we were asked to wait for more than 4 hours. The place is a narrow plain between the two mountain ranges and Trishuli River is to be seen flowing in its powerful form. I just walked in the valley capturing some enchanting sceneries.

Post lunch, we all walked down to China Immigration Centre, very well maintained Border area by China. One can feel huge difference in the infrastructure when compared to India and Nepal. We completed formalities quickly and waited for everyone and everything connected to us relating to border clearances. After spending couple of hours, we got into mini buses and proceeded to Kerung, Tibet for one day stay for acclimatisation.

There are more than 30 people in the team...Everyone looks to have their own way of seeing things around. I had lot of value time on hands for my own observation due to limitation of language and culture. The quality of everything in China seems to be very high.

August 12, 2019

Kerungo is a very quite place en route Saga - Manasa Sarovar. It's a couple of hours drive from Nepal - China Border. The Chinese Government developed the hill station very strategically to attract tourists. The small township is very cleanly maintained. Though Chinese are non vegetarians, alcoholic, smokers at large...the environment in which the township is created is to be appreciated. The day being meant for acclimatization for the pilgrims...Everyone chose their own ways to spend it.

Many went around the small township, few engaged in shopping, couple of people were on trekking in the nearby hillocks, many of them did Yoga with the help of a Retired Navy Officer in the group.

I roamed around the township. Felt very happy about the environment they created here in a span of two years. Now the entire tour operators are choosing the route considering the facilities they can offer to their customers. Previously, I remember staying in mud houses en route Manasa Sarovar (2012) but now the situation has drastically improved. In earlier days, people traveled with lots of difficulties. Things have changed in seven year with, comforts for tourists been brought in .





The magic of Trekking stick: When we reached the borders, I realized that I did not get the flask, trekking stick and torch etc., for the onward travel. Hence I started enquiring about them in all shops in and around the lodge. I found no shops selling sticks. Due to language barrier, probably they did not understand what I need. Then I Googled the images and started showing them to the people enquiring as to where can I get them.

All of the sudden, I found a man holding a stick on the road side...went to him and enquired as to where could I find one for my travel. While this was happening more than 10 people gathered around me and tried to understand what I am saying. I do not know what happened with them...the young man in the group came forward and asked an elderly man to give away his trekking stick, the other brought a flask and the head lady with reverence offered me 50 yuans... bowing before me. All the team posed for a photo with me, spell bound by the gesture of Chinese locals. It's not about the value of gifts...but the value of their love and care expressed impressed me. I felt it's purely the divine blessings for the onward journey. When I narrated the experience...people laughed at me,

but I stood unaffected because I strongly believe that whatever is happening in this Yatra is purely the will of God.



I visited the local Buddhist temple and spent some time around. I restricted myself to the room...as there is nothing outside and further the fear of getting leg pain again made me take such decision.

The tour operators took enough care about the team. They know what, when, how, where of the entire pilgrimage as they are experienced with such Yatra for more than a decade. Taste of food and beverages are excellent, service is also excellent with absolute care and empathy which gets a five star rating. Bringing the curtains down for the day...Gearing up for the tomorrow's travel...I slept.



August 13, 2019

Roving with reverence: We started from Kerungo after our breakfast at 10:30AM. It's a six hours journey by a slow pace in the mini bus to reach Saga. The entire route is through mountains, plain terrains between hills, rivers, waterfalls, curved roads etc., the bus could not cross a speed of 20kmph. Though body was getting tired due to high altitudes, with lots of difficulty, I kept my eyes wide open to see nature at its Best...



The bus stopped at more than three locations which are supposed to be most beautiful locations for tourists. Everyone enjoyed the travel, while moving ahead in bus, I joined a Kerala Couple in chanting Lalitha Sahasra Nama.

We reached Saga at around 3:30PM crossing the most powerful Bramhaputra River. Saga (Tibetan: Kyakyaru) is a small township. It lies

at an altitude of 4,640 metres (15,223 ft. from sea level). Saga ("happy land") is an army town with a Chinese garrison which patrols the whole length of the Tibetan-Nepalese border.

Saga straddles the Dargye Tsangpo River above its junction with the Bramhaputra River. Saga is also an important stop-off point for pilgrims and tourists enroute visiting Mount Kailash. This is the last town on the southern route with supplies for travellers, having both a store and a restaurant and several guest houses and hotels. We stayed at MunLinSen Hotel. It's a palace in the mountains full of pilgrims going to Mount Kailash.





Knowing about the River Bramhaputra...I took father's ashes and walked down to the river side for about 2kms...with prayers I immersed the ashes in the river.

While walking back to hotel, I could feel the fall in temperature and the cold weather hitting me for the first time. For a while, I was scared of the winds, as I went out with just a kurta and pyjama with a shawl. Though I was walking slowly, I was scared

about leg pain and intensely prayed God to give me strength to do parikrama. My head also started aching due to high altitude. Though the tour operator provided best possible food all the time, I avoided taking food with the fear of digestion problems..

Everyone in the team seemed to having one or the other health issue about the proposed Yatra around Manasa Sarovar and Mt. Kailash. They were all engaged in discussions and enquiries about reaching 19000 ft from sea level.

I came back to hotel and then equipped with woollen sweater, jerkin, monkey cap, shawl, socks and shoes, went for a 2kms walk around the township once again and felt warm. This time the feeling was much better and secure.

Having come this far, in Adi Shankara's Route for Bharata Darshan, I surrendered to God seeking Him to be in me ...blessing me all the way while marching ahead towards the Manasa Sarovar (Most tedious and difficult Yatra in one's life). I offered myself at the Lotus Feet of that Supreme God to be with me and within me while I proceed for Manasa Sarovar.



Though, similar was the situation in the year 2012...I could make it that time. But now the thought of leg pain is intimidating me. Praying to His Holy Feet to be mine , I moved forward to get ready for the parikrama.

August 14, 2019

Sick Yet Stern: Altitude sickness did not allow me to sleep throughout the night. Headache, breathing trouble, tiredness etc., scared me a lot. I was continuously praying for mercy of God. It was at around 3AM (IST 130AM), Dr Sailatha messaged me enquiring about my well-being. I had a video call with her, nothing could be done at that time. She suggested some medicine. But, I did not have those medicines, so I left myself to the mercy of God and slept for an hour or so.

I woke up at 6AM, took bath and packed the things, finished breakfast with the team. With prayers, we started the most tedious yet divine journey to reach Manasa Sarovar which is about 12 hours journey from Saga. I was perfectly set by the time we started, thanks to God, who heard my prayers. The entire route mesmerized the Soul and Heart. Nothing could be seen except nature. We may have crossed 14000ft from sea level. The ever falling temperatures made everyone wear warm clothing. Everyone packed themselves beyond recognition. Most of the pilgrims are suffering with some or other sickness, still everyone drawing all their powers from within and with a devotion of not missing anything in the journey.

More than half a dozen times, the bus was stopped en route Manasa Sarovar. Every place stopped looks like beautiful than the other one, the places where bus just passed looks more beautiful than the ones we stopped. Such is the beauty!



Kudos to Chinese Administration for the hassle free infrastructure they created for the Yatra-roads, network, security, cleanliness, townships etc., were all beyond imagination for Indians. I think in our Country Temple Tourism is yet to be transformed to its Best.



Manasa Sarovar: Finally, we reached Manasa Sarovar lake, which is most sacred of all the rivers existing in the world for Hindus. Very pure in its looks...spread across 88kms in a round shape.

The lake is believed to be created in the mind of the Lord Brahma after which it manifested on Earth. In Hinduism, Lake Manasa Sarovar is a personification of purity and one who drinks water from the lake will go to the abode of Shiva after death. One is believed to be cleansed of all their sins committed over even a hundred lifetimes. Like Mount Kailash, Manasarovar is a place of pilgrimage, attracting religious people from India, Nepal, Tibet and neighbouring countries. Bathing in Manasarovar and drinking its water is believed by Hindus to cleanse all sins. The fall in temperatures did not allow anyone who stopped by the lake to even enter in to waters...such is the cold current in waters. Considering the fact, we will be staying near lake till the morning...I too did not dare to enter into lake. I bowed before the lake and prayed for every living being. Took sacred water with devotion, drank and sprinkled some on my head. Then, immersed father's ashes in to divine Lake with prayers for salvation. I could also have Divine Darshan (Glimpses) of Mount Kailash on the other side of the lake.

We were encountered with a problem while moving ahead, an accident seems to have occurred and there was a long line of vehicles ahead of the route the bus was to take. After waiting for couple of hours, the guide decided to take another route to reach the destination for the day.

August 15, 2019

Felt Blessed being Blissful: As I was reaching higher altitudes, the oxygen levels were falling with temperature. So was the scenario at the banks of Manasa Sarovar. It was around 11PM, I settled down in a six member sharing room. The temperature was about 5°. It was chilling cold, in spite of heavy warm clothing on the body.

I remember during my last visit to Manasa Sarovar in the year 2012, there were no proper arrangements anywhere, now the time has changed. Just by the side of Manasa Sarovar, sharing rooms were made available with cot, bed, woollen blanket etc., but the toilets, gave nightmare to everyone, they are of ancient times pit based open toilets.

I kept telling the pilgrims that every Yatra, especially in the Himalayan terrain, more so in Kailash Manasa Sarovar Yatra...It's more Yathana (Tedious) for one self. It's because, God wanted us to get rid of Self before reaching the Abode. The so called Ego cut into many pieces and body consciousness come to Zero level. That's where we start realising the power of God, start forgetting who we are and what we are in God's creation. This is where...one will turn spiritual to derive the grace of God. Same is the situation with me as well.



I could not sleep till 2AM...I had to attend nature calls couple of times....I choose to go for nature calls in the open air. But, removing all warm clothing is huge task for me to attend nature calls. Touching water is yet another herculean task. It's like fingers becoming frozen. Whatever I am doing it's like sadhana for me with a prayer.

Couple of hours, I may have slept and by the time I woke up as it was raining outside. It requires lot of determination for taking bath in Manasa Sarovar. With strong will I took sacred bath...there after all the cold and breathing trouble vanished. I changed my dress and remember this time only two dhotis on my body. Freely roamed by the side of Manasa Sarovar with prayers and with a feeling of being blessed for the opportunity.

All through Bharata Darshan, I did not collect any souvenirs considering everything will add up to the weight for me by the time I reach home. But here, I thought I should take just one pebble... started chanting Gayathri Manthra...took one from the river. Behold, it's a tiny replica of Mount Kailash. With reverence I took it.

I sat in a remote area facing the Manasa Sarovar and started staring at it in all the directions with prayers. Each inch over there was filled with Divine Purity. There are hundreds around the lake offering prayers, performing fire rituals, changing their sacred threads, remembering their near and dear... for me there is nothing to do except praying for the well being of every being with a heart filled love. Thanks to young friends Mahendra (Hyderabad) and Sushma (Mumbai) who caringly captured the divine moments during Yathra.



For me going this far is in itself a great blessing in life. I never thought...I will come to Manasa Sarovar for the second time in life. The Will of God which made Bharata Darshan, a reality in life humbled me and I am determined to serve my fellow beings till the last breath. Furi, the tour operator and his team really put in their best efforts in providing the best possible comforts to the pilgrims. I appreciated them.





We had a group photo, with the magnificent Manasa Sarovar in the background. Many pilgrims took photos with me. I could see almost every face in the team glittering with a joy of seeing and taking bath in Manasa Sarovar. Their devotion is a matter of learning for me. I got a feeling that the devotion of people might be the answer for making India safe.

Post lunch we proceeded to reach Darchan (Darshan) which is about 30kms from Lake (16000ft from sea level). I was awestruck seeing the sea changes in the village. It's transformed beyond imagination in the past seven years. We stayed at Himalaya Guest House. Excellent arrangements and accommodation were made for the tourists.

The real task to start from next day... three days Parikrama around Mount Kailash which is supposed to be a life time blessing for Hindus. I am praying God to be in Me while I trek with the thought of Loka Kalyana.

August 16, 2019

Mystical Mount Kailash: With the fall in temperatures and the time difference between India and China (Two and Half hours) sleeping became a very difficult task. If one can sleep for couple of hours, it shall be a boon. Having closed rooms, wooden cots, beds, two layers of thick winter blankets etc., are of no use in protecting the body from cold at Darchan (15000 ft from sea level)

I got fresh (It means just brushing the teeth, No bathing for the past 3 days) by 7 am and packed the things. We all started in a bus to reach Yama Dwar. Everyone had their own personal beliefs, philosophies, understanding about Kailash Yathra. So is the case with me. I have one thought behind Bharata Darshan which is Loka Kalyanam.

We reached Yama Dwar, which is believed to be the permit house of Lord of Death. The pilgrims passing through the dwar, offer their prayers for successful pilgrimage to Kailash. I too offered my prayers saying it's God who permitted me to have darshan in Shankaracharya route and sought the permission of Lord Yama.

I engaged a porter lady, Dolma Pal. She took care of my baggage and walked along with me the 12kms path. She is a middle aged woman, extremely caring. I found she is an environmentalist though not educated and seen collecting the garbage all along the way and putting it them the nearby bins. She kept rolling japamala while taking care of me.





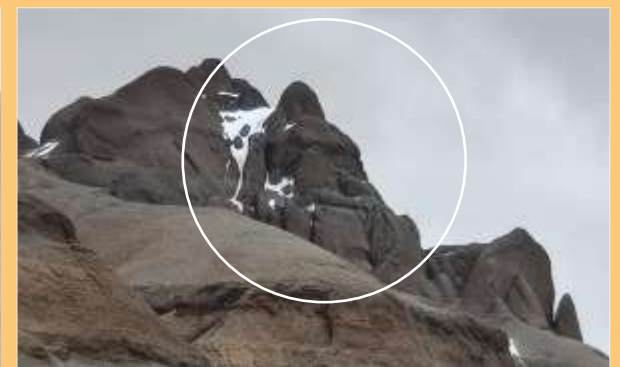
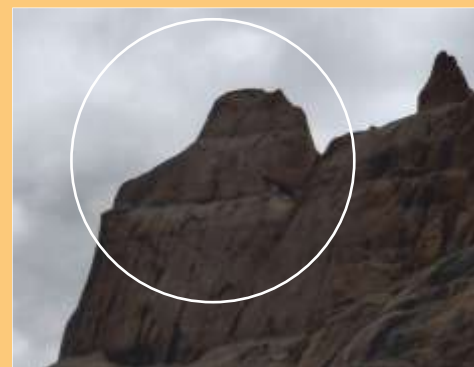
Though the 12km by walk will take around 5 hours, it took more than 7 hours for me due to many reasons. The following reasons can be listed for such tedious journey by the people:

- 1) Age, 2) Physical fitness, 3) Health issues, 4) Extreme weather conditions, 5) Too much, clothing, 6) Lack of proper food, 7) No Devotion in the heart, 8) Focus on physical beauty of nature and 9) Will of God, which is more important.

It is like fighting with myself while trekking in extreme weather conditions. But with HIM in my heart and lips, I continued the journey step by step. I started at 11AM and reached Derapuk Buddhist

Monastery at 6PM. While many couldn't make the journey ahead 'cause of some ailments very few (in scores) could travel forward in every team.

I found many GODly images all across my journey, every inch is filled with divinity. Nature (Prakruthi) is the true companion of Lord (Purusha) here. I saw huge Bull Mountain...Very huge Ganesh Mountain just after crossing Yama dwar. Anyone whose focus is on GOD can see these. As is your sight., so is the creation. After 4kms trek, I had the first glimpse of Mt. Kailash. Offered prayers with a heart full of beatitude and devotion. Once we get the first glimpses of Kailash...we can't see the Nandi and Ganesh formation. In the journey ahead, many such rock formations can be seen.





All through the journey I kept on chanting Gayathri / Mruthyunjaya / Loka Raksha Manthra. For Every 5 minutes, I forced myself to sit for a while. But, when I reached the destination...having full form of Kailash manifested in front, I could not stop myself from prostrating to Kailash on the road. Weeping aloud and rolling on the road in ecstasy...Loudly calling the Lord to bestow me with what's good in serving creation till the last breath. For a fraction of second...To my eyes in tears...There appeared an EYE seeing me with Karuna on Kailash Parwath. I just wiped tears to see what I have seen a second before... there was nothing! But, My heart filled with lots of Bliss. I slowly reached the dormitory.

Without wasting time, I requested Mahendra to accompany me to capture a video. He is kind enough to do it. The wind so powerful mixed with the sound of gushing waters around at 16000 ft. video recording became difficult. Somehow, I could do it for the sake of hundreds of people who lent their hands of support and for the love of my fellow countrymen.

Someone approached me with reverence, enquiring as to which Sampradaya, I belong to. I instantly told him that I belong to Manava Seva Sampradaya... without thinking for a second. He just bowed before me and left.

I am geared up for the tomorrow's onward trekking. But GOD's will is different for me. When reached night shelter, I came to know that two women fell ill due to altitude sickness. Their condition was weak and their near and dear are fearing

about them. I suggested them not to move forward, instead send them to Darchan base camp by Ambulance. After discussions, the question came as to who will accompany them? for every near and dear doing parikrama is once in life time opportunity. I remembered what I said to the stranger who enquired about me, a short while ago. I volunteered to accompany them cutting short my parikrama. I strongly believe that standing by those in need is my religion and making others to move along in divine path is my Mission. With that in mind, I conveyed my intention of going down. Many were surprised. But for me, it's yet another incident of GOD's will to learn in life. I brought them to a hotel and comforted them. It's about 12AM on 17th Aug, everything settled down. Both the ladies felt fine, my face too is in shine.

Let me define, a person will refine only in serving others. I captured some divine images of Nandishwara, Ganapathi, Munivar, Parvathi Matha, Lord Shiva and Holy Kailash Parvath.

August 18, 2019

A historic day in LIFE: While, the two ladies in the room recovering...I am surrounded by deep thoughts as to what is the way forward for me! I could not sleep total night due to series of thoughts occurring to me...chain of initiations coming to me. I sat on the bed and started jotting down the thoughts. Following are the brief out come in telugu.



ఆత్మదర్శనము - భవిష్య ప్రణాళిక

భారత దర్శనమందు దర్శన్ చేరితి

కైలాస నాథుని నేత్ర కరుణా కటాక్షము గంటి

దర్శన్ గ్రామం ఆత్మ దర్శనమునకు వేదికగా

భవిష్య ప్రణాళిక హృదయాన జన్మించె

అమావాస్య నాడు ఈ దేహమునకు జన్మ నిచ్చిన తల్లిని తలచాను

బ్రహ్మచర్యమునకు అనుమతించిన తండ్రిని జ్ఞాపకం చేసుకున్నాను

జీవిత పరమావధిని చూపి వెలుగు నింపిన గురువు, జ్యోతిని గుర్తు చేసాను

సన్యాసమునకు ఇంకా సమయముండున్న పరమాచార్యుని స్మరించాను

నాలుక మీద బీజాక్షరాలు వ్రాసి సరస్వతీ పుత్రుడన్న విజయేశ్వరి దేవిని...

సన్యాసి! అని పిలిచి.. కాషాయమిచ్చిన శ్రీ సత్య సాయి బాబా ను మరియు

కషాయము కట్టకున్న నేమి సన్యాస జీవితమే కదా నీదన్న జీయర్ ను తలచాను

నలుబది ఐదేళ్లు జీవించాలన్న ఆశయం నెరవేరిపోతోంది

ఇక ముందు బ్రతుకునందు దేహ భావన వీడి, ఆత్మ భావన తోడి,

దేశ సౌజన్య సౌభాగ్య సౌశీల్యముల కోసమై కొన ఊపిరి దాకా

నాదంటూ ఏమి లేని...నాకంటూ ఎవ్వరు లేని...జీవన పథములో

నేనందరి వాడిగా...విశ్వమునకు మిత్రుడినై...అభయానందుడినై

పులి క్షణం సర్వ జీవ శ్రీయస్సుకై...దీక్ష చేయంగ పూనినాను

భారత దర్శనం విజయవంతముగా ముగించి

ప్రీతి నొసగిన భద్రాద్రి రాముని స్మరించి

దారి చూపిన సీతలాంబా మాతను శరణు వేడి

ముహూర్తము పెట్టిన జీయర్ ముందు తల వాల్చి

భవిష్య ప్రణాళికను చర్చించ భావన కల్గెనిచట

బాలచంద్ర మనోగతమునకు ఆవిష్కరణ త్వరలో...



August 20, 2019

NEPAL

Though on August 18th, 2019, the Parikrama concluded at Kailash...our return to Kathmandu took 3 days due to travel of long distances crossing China, Tibet and Nepal. Only on 3rd day night, we could reach Kathmandu. Though we were just 28 pilgrims in the team with two other Telugu speaking people being part of the team, for the first time I faced language as barrier while communicating with others as most of the people are Hindi speaking ones.

Everyone in the team became familiar with me as Swamiji rather than by name, as I used to start the day with a prayer, I got the team to chant food time prayer wherever there is a chance. I was telling a few good things to the team. I could adjust with everyone in the pilgrimage.

Few things caused lots of inconvenience to me, Most of the pilgrims are social rather than spiritual. Few of them smoking, couple of them drinking, eating non veg/ tobacco etc., made me to feel very sad. I am really concerned by consumption of Tobacco, Alcohol and Non Veg stuff by a majority of the people in the globe especially while on spiritual sojourn. Forget about them being spiritual or leading the life with values. Even if they are out of these habits which are injurious to their health, that itself is great boon for their countries. I profusely pray for those people whose habits are killing them. I appeal all my near and dear to quit these habits which are injurious to health.

August 21, 2019

While returning from Mt Kailash, I contemplated on what next on Bharata Darshan. As per the initial plan, visiting 106 of 108 Divya Desams is on my agenda.

Mukthinath - Unfamiliar yet familiar: Mukthinath, Saligramam is the only Divya Desam out of the 108 temples located in Nepal. So, I decided to visit such most sacred place in Nepal and started my enquiries with a couple of agencies. Considering my resources, I opted for an agency which was most cost effective.

I planned to visit Manokamna Devi en route as well.

Mukthinath Temple is located 24km northeast from Jomsom, 200km from Pokhara and 406km from Kathmandu in Mustang District, Annapurna Conservation Area of Nepal. As soon as I reached Moon Light Hotel in Kathmandu, I got ready at lightning speed. I packed something into a small back pack and left all other luggage in the clock room at the hotel. I then took a bus to Pokhara. The journey was a real nightmare due to bad bus condition, bumpy roads, winding mountains and frequent traffic jams. It took 12 hours to cross 200kms. .

I reached Pokhara Airport at 7AM the next morning. I was just in time for a flight to Jomsom. I quickly attended to my early morning routine at the Airport wash room, changed dress and had breakfast. Then I heard that due to bad weather, the flight to Jomsom has been rescheduled. It would take another 10 hours if travelled by road. I sat in the corner of the waiting lounge and was wondering what to do. Thankfully, due to God's grace, the weather conditions cleared and at 11AM on my scheduled flight I reached Jomsom Airport at 12PM. The tour agent took me to a hotel and arranged a jeep with another family of five from Orissa.

From there it was an hour journey through the hillocks of Himalayan Terrains. We reached 13000 ft from sea level. All through the journey, I could see nature is at its best. We then trekked for about 2km from a village called Ranipauwa to reach Mukthinath Temple.

Hindus consider that the central shrine of Sri Mukthinath is one of the eight most-sacred shrines, known as Svayam Vyakta Kshetras. The other seven being Srirangam (in Tamil Nadu), Srimushnam (Tamilnadu), Tirupati (Andhrapradesh), Naimisharanya (Uttar Pradesh) Thotadri (Tamilnadu), Pushkar(Rajasthan) and Badrinath (Uttarakhand).





I tried to get money from an ATM in Nepal, but as I had a debit card, I could not get money for three days. My wallet was dried up. I asked Govind if he can provide me 20K Indian currency so that I can arrange to transfer to their bank. Without asking a second question, he arranged the cash. Later my associate Sivakrishna from Hyderabad transferred money to their Account.

All these happenings helped me to strengthen my positive outlook of mankind during Bharata Darshan. It's not just one day affair, but such things happening since beginning to the end. As I joined Mr. Rao and their family, I had the fortune of visiting the best places of Pokhra.

Seti Gandagi (White Waters): The Seti Gandaki River is in western Nepal, a left tributary of the Trishuli River. It is one of the holiest rivers of Nepal, worshipped in Hinduism as a form of Vishnu. The river is also famous, as it flows through some holy places and is the central point of many stories of the Hindu mythology, such as the Mahabharata, written by Vyasa, who was born near the confluence of the Gandaki.

The flow and force of the river scared me. While crossing Pokhara Town, I crossed the bridge laid across the river to go out of town. The depth of the river was such that I could not even see the water flowing in the down streams...this fascinated me and reminded of how marvelous is God's creation.



The river merges with the Narayani River near Kathmandu before finally joining Maa Ganga in India. The basin also contains three of the world's 14 mountains above 8,000mts (26,000 ft), Dhaulagiri, Manaslu and Annapurna. Dhaulagiri is the highest point of the Gandaki basin. It lies between the similar Kosi system to the east and the Karnali (Ghaghara) system to the west. I was wonderstruck by this mightiest creation of GOD.

Davi's Fall: The water forms an underground tunnel after reaching the ground. The tunnel is approximately 500 feet (150 m) long and runs 100 feet (30 m) below ground level. After exiting the tunnel, the water passes through a cave called Gupteshwar Mahadev or "cave beneath the ground". The cave is also a tourism site because of its complex design. One could easily lose their way inside.

Gupteshwar Mahadev: A spiral staircase takes us to the entrance of the Gupteshwar Mahadev Cave. As we enter the cave, one can see the walls dripping water and the way around is lit with a string of lights which often flicker, so carrying torches is recommended. About 50m inside, we see a statue of Lord Shiva which was discovered when two locals accidentally came across the cave. The statue is considered important and holy according to Hindus and quite a number of devotees do visit it on festival days. To reach the second part of the cave, we walked through a path cut off from the underground rocks, some sections of which are difficult. The rock formations and the fact that water drips from every point of the cave was quite interesting. As we reach the platform, at the base below the 50 ft from ground, the roaring of the waterfall mutes all else, the force of the water is strong enough to splash droplets even if you stand quite far from it. Its a natural wonder in its truest sense





Mukthinath temple is a very small but one of the most ancient Hindu temples of the God Vishnu. The presiding deity is tall compared to an average man's height. The praakaram (outer courtyard) has number of bull faces through which streams of water flows- they denote the sacred Pushkarini waters (Temple Tanks) from all the 108 Sri Vaishnava Divya Desams-, where devotees take their a sacred

bath even in freezing temperatures. The worship is conducted by Buddhists, with a Buddhist monk present.

I felt really blessed to have visited this place. Seeing the Gandaki River flowing, the Salagramas, the 108 water streams, Punya / Papa Kund and serene atmosphere were breathtaking. I took a sacred shower under the 108 streams, did pradakshina in the temple and offered prayers for in the Gandaki River seeking Moksha everyone. I then immersed my father's ashes seeking Punya Gathi to his soul.

Sister Sujatha Sarathy shared with me about a popular belief associated with Mukthinath is that one will attain Moksha while living by seeing the Navel of deity Mukthinath Murthy. I requested the priestess to show me the Navel of Lord Mukthinath. Initially the priestess did not respond, she looked a little angry even. I stood by the doors with utmost devotion and humbleness. I sang a bhajan seeking Lord to bless me with the Darshan of Navel. At that moment , I really don't know what happened to the lady...ensuring no one around, she quickly adjusted the clothes of the diety Mukthinath and allowed me to have darshan of the Navel. I became spell bound by the kind gesture of the lady priest. I folded my hands before her in gratitude. I later visited the Muktheswar Temple and Buddha Temple while returning. I reached the hotel at Jomsom by 5PM enjoying every inch of the beautiful Nature.



August 22, 2019



I was ready by 5:30AM at Trekkers Inn, Jomsom, I walked down to Airport. With God's grace the climate was clear and I was able to get in to the first flight at 6:30AM to reach Pokhara Airport. A South Indian, who was unknown to me, knowing about my Bharatha Darshana journey gifted me with reverence Rs.1000/- for my travel necessities .



By 7AM I was received by the local tour operator Govind. Knowing about me before hand, he treated me with warmth. I told him I wish to go to Manokamana Temple en route Kathmandu, but I don't have idea as to how to proceed. I asked him if I could be included in a tour with someone else going to the same place. He took me to a nearby hut hotel and provided me with hot parata and tea and went out on enquiry as to how he can send me to Kathmandu. BSRao, a Retd Navy Officer with his family, arrived at airport and was received by their guide with their special vehicle. They were asked whether I could travel with them. Apparently, they had seen me at Mukthinath and back in the hotel last night, aware of my Bharata Darshan, they welcomed to join their vehicle. While thanking and praying for them, I got into their mini bus. It was a free ride by divine grace till reahing Kathmandu!



Manakamana Temple: We then proceeded to Manakamana Devi temple which is about four hours journey from Pokhara enroute Kathmandu. The shrine is situated atop a hill which is 5000ft from sea level. The name Manakamana is derived from two words, Mana meaning Mind and Kamana meaning Wish. It is believed that the Goddess Bhagwati rewards those who make the pilgrimage to her shrine by granting their wishes.



The Manakamana temple overlooks the Trisuli and Marshyang-di river valleys, and offers breathtaking views of the Manaslu, Himalchuli and Annapurna mountains to the north. The temple is set in a square, which is overlooked by an enormous sacred magnolia tree.

A cable car ride of 10-15 minutes duration brings visitors from the base-station to the temple site. The longest rope-way I had seen till date., It crosses four mountains at one go before reaching the steps that lead the temple. I prayed intensely for the well-being of all.



It took us 6hours to reach Kathmandu. Seeing off the family of Rao, I expressed my gratitude to them for allowing me to travel with them. They too felt happy

about my company. The guide helped me with suggestions where to stay in the night. I thought of staying in a low budget hotel instead of Moonlight. I paid a couple of hundred rupees and occupied a single room for a night in a nearby budget hotel. The next day, I was to embark on my return journey to Delhi - Himachal Pradesh from Nepal to pray at the feet of Jwalamukhi.

August 23, 2019

HIMACHAL PRADESH

The day was very hectic. I got up from bed around 5AM at Kathmandu Hotel, packed the luggage with the things I bought. kept aside all the complimentary tokens received for the past 20 days and handed all the things to a rickshaw puller on the road while proceeding to Thribhuvan International Airport. I boarded the Indigo flight to proceed to India.

I reached New Delhi at 12PM. It was a great feeling to come back to my Divine Land Bharat after 15 Days travelling in Nepal, Tibet and China. After completing the formalities in the Airport, I proceeded to Domestic Terminal to catch the Spicejet Flight to Dharmashala in Himachalpradesh. at 2:30PM I landed at Kangra Airport. Took a taxi and proceeded to have darshan of Jwalamukhi, one of the most powerful Sakthipithas in India as described by Adi Shankaracharya.

Jwalamukhi: The Jwalamukhi town has a famous temple dedicated to goddess Jwalamukhi- the deity of flaming face. Raja Bhumi Chand Katoch of Kangra, a great devotee of goddess Durga, got a dream about the sacred place and there after Raja set people to find out the whereabouts of the site. The site was traced and the Raja built a temple at the location. The building is modern with a gilt dome and pinnacles, and possesses a beautiful folding door of silver plates. Under the gaze of the Dhauladhar mountain range and set amidst the undulating hills that character sub-Himalayan Himachal. Goddess Sati's tongue is believed to have fallen at Jwalamukhi and the goddess manifested as tiny flames that burn a flawless blue through fissures in the age old rock.



The temple is located on a small spur on the Dharamsala-Shimla road at a distance of about 55km from Kangra Airport. No idol is seen in the temple and the deity is worshipped in the form of flames which come out from the crevices of the rock. There is a small platform in front of the temple and a big mandap where a huge brass bell presented by the King of Nepal was hung.



Usually milk and water is offered and the ahutis or oblations are offered to the sacred flames in the pit, situated in the centre of the temple in between the floor pillars supporting the roof. There are 11 flames that can be seen in the complex denoting various forms of Goddess Durga.

The Mughal Emperor Akbar once tried to extinguish the flames by covering them with an iron disk and even channelizing water to them. But the flames blasted all these efforts. Akbar then presented a golden parasol (chattar) at the shrine. However, cynicism at the power of Devi caused the gold to debase into another metal which is still unknown to the world. The belief in the deity strengthened more after this incident. Thousands of pilgrims visit the shrine round the year to satisfy their spiritual urge.

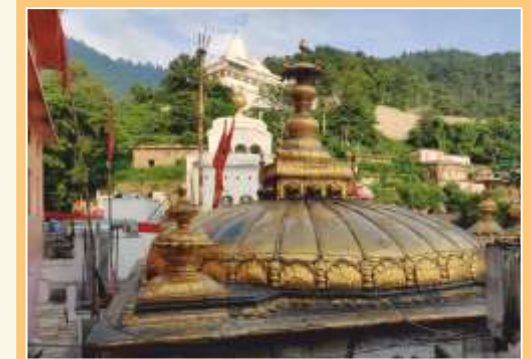
Maharaja Ranjith Singh made the dome of the temple gold-plated in 1815. Just a few feet above the Jwalamukhi temple there is a six-foot deep pit with a circumference of about three-feet. At the bottom of the pit there is another small

pit about one and a half feet deep with hot water bubbling all the time, while flames keep lighting in the water.

I have seen with my own eyes, that even after pouring the water on the flames, they were burning. The priest practically showed it to me and offered the water as thirtha. I was awestruck having this Darshan of Jwalamukhi.

Bajreswari Devi Temple: While returning, I also visited Bajreswari Devi Temple. A legend says that the left breast of goddess Sati fell at this spot, thus making it a Shakti Peetha. Inside the main area Goddess Bajreshwari is present in the form of Pindi. The temple also has a small temple of Bhairav. In front of the main temple an idol of Dhyanu Bhagat (Dhyanu Bhagat, an ardent devotee of Goddess Durga, grows up performing miracles. His life is thrown into disarray when he comes face-to-face with Shahenshah Akbar who asks him to convert to Islam) is also present. He had offered head to the Goddess during the regime of bar. The present structure has three tombs in it, which is unique by itself.

The taxi driver dropped me off at Gagal to get into a bus to New Delhi, thus bringing a close to the most sacred yatra in Himalayan Terrains spread across north covering Jammu, Kashmir, Himachalpradesh, Uttarakhand, Nepal, Tibet and China.



August 24, 2019

UTTAR PRADESH - Uttamam for Hindus

Mathura: The tourist bus from Dharmashala dropped me in Delhi at around 6AM. Several devotees greeted me on the eve of Krishnaashtami on 23rd Aug 2019. I thought I will miss being there at the Birth place of Lord Krishna in Mathura on his birth day. I decided to visit Mathura & Vrindavan before going to other side of UP. I engaged an Auto to drop me near the bus stand. Seeing my attire the auto driver advised me to take up private bus and accordingly he made me buy a ticket to Mathura. He had spent an hour of his time for me to get into a bus. All this for just Rs.50/-, stating that if he serves people like me. He will feel happy.

As I was seated in the bus, I realised that it was very old bus and moving quite slowly. All of the sudden, the driver pulled me over and asked me to shift to another bus. The second one was no better than the first. I got the last seat. The bus was a tourist bus taking many people to Mathura, Vrindavan and Agra on a day tour. I felt happy that I was going to see everything by night. On the way, the bus stopped at a hotel. I quickly got ready with the minimal facilities in the bath room, had my breakfast, thinking that I am going to Mathura.



But, GOD's will was different, the driver had decided not to take the Mathura Route on account of Krishnashtami celebrations on 24th August, and left me stranded on Yamuna Express High Way, which is about 18kms from Mathura. With two bags on my shoulder and monk like attire, I stood on the high way for about 45minutes waving my hand to the vehicles passing by. Not a single

vehicle stopped. I was scared by the hot sun in the sky. I started praying to GOD, and finally a local transport bus stopped and they dropped me at about 10kms from Mathura. I got into shared auto and reached Mathura.

All the roads were blocked in and around 3kms of Krishna Janma Bhoomi in Mathura. I did not know what the will of Lord Krishna was, but since that morning I had no other option except to walk on the roads like a real monk. Somehow, I walked down and got into a rickshaw, and was dropped near temple.

In Hinduism, Mathura is believed to be the birthplace of Krishna, which is located at the Krishna Janmasthan Temple Complex. It is one of the Sapta Puri, the seven cities considered holy by Hindus. The Kesava Deo Temple was built in ancient times on the site of Krishna's birthplace (an underground prison). Mathura was also been the capital of the kingdom of Surasena, ruled by Kansa, the maternal uncle of Krishna.

With lots of devotion, I walked in the queue. Thousands of devotees all over the streets, free prasad distribution everywhere, cultural programs on the streets, water distribution, decoration at every cross roads. It was like seeing a real birthday celebration of Lord of Mathura. So much devotion, I was overwhelmed by the faith of people walking around the temple complex.

I had spent more than 3hours in the temple complex, before I could enter the complex where the Presiding deity Lord Sri Krishna's birth place which was once Prison. I offered myself at the feet of Lord Krishna. The priest adorned me with Krishna's garland.



Later, on reaching main road, I got into another sharing auto to proceed towards Vrindavan. The place where Lord spent his childhood. This place is just 14kms away, on the banks of mighty Yamuna River. I was asked by the driver to sit in the rear space of the auto, throwing my 2 bags on the top. The hot sun started playing hide and seek game. All of a sudden there was a heavy down pour. I was drenched fully and so were my bags, but somehow I reached Vrindavan.



After a great search for free accommodation in Vrindavan, I finally found Bharat Sevashram, where the staff allotted me a small room for sleeping in a clinic inside the compound. I quickly left my luggage and ran out to visit temples. It was again walking, rickshaw ride, bike ride etc.,

I visited Nidhi Ban, the place where Lord Krishna did Raasa Leela. Michevious Monkeys all over scared the devotees. In spite of taking precautions a big monkey jumped onto my head and very skillfully took away my eye glasses. The local boys asked me to pay Rs.500/- to retrieve my glasses from the monkey. I said I have no money and started to move ahead. They gave fruity to the monkey in exchange for my spectacles. I gave them Rs.100/- for their efforts



I tasted lassi more than twice, while passing on the road. I visited Yamuna River, the Kalindi Snake Temple, the tree from which Krishna stole the sarees of gopikas, Krishna's home, Ranganathji Temple, Banke Bihari Mandir etc., where ever I went, I was very happy to see thousands of devotees.

The Banke Bihari, is a statue found by Vallabhacharya at Nidhiban centuries ago was installed at the temple in Vrindavan and today it is the main temple of Vrindavan. There are at least 100 other temples and aashrams in and around Vrindavan. Each one is connected to Mathura Bhakthi. I finally reached Bharata Sevashram after roaming in the town for five hours. Milk, Curd, Sweets and others are seen plenty on the roads of Vrindavan. It truly was the call of Lord Krishna for me that day, being there at Birth places on Lord's Birthday. I surrendered myself at this feet seeking blessings for everyone.

August 25, 2019

Agra: I reached Agra at about 930AM from Mathura in a public transport. I engaged an Auto rickshaw and asked him to show me all the important sites of Agra. I had to make it quick as I planned to travel to Prayaga Raj at night. Agra is a major tourist destination with many Mughal-era buildings, most notably the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, all of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Agra is included on the Golden Triangle tourist circuit, along with Delhi and Jaipur.

Agra Fort: It was built under the reign of Akbar, one of the greatest Mughal Emperors. It took more than 4000 workers and eight years of hardship to complete the fort. Knowing the significance of its location, Akbar built the fort to make it the main residence of the Mughals. The fort remained as the main residence of the emperors of Mughal dynasty until the year 1638. Very interesting to note the lifestyles of Mughal Emperors while seeing the fort, every inch is filled with loads of memories of past culture, heritage, tradition and kingdoms. The tourists are in huge numbers wherever we see in Agra. Later visited Thakurji Mandir, which also has Lord Sri Krishna Image.



Taj Mahal: One knows that 'The Taj' is one amongst the World's 7 Wonders! One knows that it is one amongst the UNESCO World Heritage Sites!! One knows The Taj as a legend of eternal love of an Emperor for loving Queen!!! But, 'The Taj' has distinctions much beyond just these!



Walking along the pathway beside the reflecting pool with fountains upto the tomb, crafted in soft & pure marble and jeweled with semi precious stones, where in the serenity of paradise rests the Queen in peace with her King. It's like unfolding the pages from the past to churn the charm out of its mystique and enrich our imagination about the marvel of an epic in stone, The Taj!

The grace of perfection of proportions and grandeur of geometrical patterns of well appointed gardens enhancing the poise of the whole complex together add magnificence to the delicacy of the marvel of love, dedication and purity, 'The Taj'!

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder! Probably for Taj Mahal, the axiom is just the other way round. The Taj is the beauty personified! The Taj displays its different moods through its varied shades. The Taj has as many shades as any kind of beauty can ever have! The Taj is pinkish in the morning, milky white in the evening, golden when the moon shines and the intermediary variants during different hours of the day and during different seasons in a year.

Radhasoami Samadh: I visited the place, I know about the name since my childhood as there is one follower at my place Tadipatri. Not much aware of the Organisation, but I had the privilege of visiting such sacred place at Agra.



Soami Ji Maharaj's Samadh is now nearly finished, after over 100 years of construction that originally began during the tenure of the 3rd Sat Guru, Maharaj Saheb, in 1905. Its believed that every marble block of the Samadh's construction has been funded and put into place by only loving Satsangis and adherents of the RS Faith. For this reason, it radiates the highest and most noble karma, and will forever be graced by the Supreme Being RADHASOAMI.

The Holy Samadh is located at Soami Bagh in Agra, India. Huzur Maharaj (2nd Sat Guru) had said, "It is very essential and proper that a suitable building be constructed in memory of the august Founder of the Radhasoami Faith, and Revealer of Surat Shabd Yoga. It will enable the Satsangis of all the countries to assemble at the headquarters of the Faith, where Radhasoami Dayal manifested Himself in human form. It is desirable and a must for all those who have joined Radhasoami Faith to visit, Radhasoami Bagh in Agra at least once. Soami Ji Maharaj and Huzur Maharaj were both heard to say that "even a bird which flies over Soami Bagh, will be so fortunate to get the life of a human in its next life."



I came out of RS Samadh around 4PM, the Auto driver left me at the Bus stand, I had 8 hours of time to board the bus. I noticed a poster of the movie Mission Mangal, deposited the luggage in the mall's clock room and watched the movie. The movie gave a striking sting to the heart 'to serve the country'. I could draw many lessons from Vidya Balan and Akshay Kumar in the movie.

August 26, 2019



Prayag Raj: I got down at Sangam area, Prayagraj around 8 AM. I decided to not to hire a room just to freshen up. I noticed an old house with a board 'Aashram', I knocked the door and two young boys in unclean clothes opened the door. Although the aashram was not suitable for living conditions, I requested them to allow me to keep my luggage, looking at my attire they accepted my request.



I took my dress leaving the luggage there and rushed to the Sangam. The Ganga was flowing in its full strength, I quickly had a punya snan and like a monk knotted all my belongings in a towel, walked down the road. I visited the Kanchi Kamkoti Sankaracharya Temple on the banks of Prayag Raj. Then visited the Bade Hanuman Mandir.



Madhaveswari: I proceeded to Madhaveswari Temple (Alopi Devi) one of the 18 Sakthi Pithas as described by Adi Shankara ages ago. In every temple, at least one idol or one symbol will be there for worshipping the goddess. But here, there is no idol or symbol. We would have to imagine the goddess present on a wooden jhula. Hence the name Alopi.

I collected my luggage from Aashram and came on to the road. Got into a local mini bus heading to Varanasi at 10AM and reached Kashi at 1:30PM. I searched for a lowest budget hotel in Varanasi. I could get a decent bed at HOG Varanasi Hostel just beside the Vasavi Sadan, Surajkund. For two nights I paid Rs.400/-. Luckily, in India, at the pilgrimage centres, we have such diverse accommodation options as well as understanding people, that you can stay at a very high expensive rates as well as a meagre rate of Rs.100-200 per night and at few aashrams, even rent free.

Varanasi...versatility in oneness: Nothing can prepare us for what to expect or how we might feel in Varanasi. Some places just need to be experienced. Located along the banks of the Ganges River, Varanasi is one of the holiest places in Hinduism, and one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world.

Life in Varanasi revolves around the Ganges. Though the Ganges is holy, it has been abused for decades, becoming one of the most polluted rivers in the world. Raw sewage from hundreds of cities is pumped into the river every day, and millions use it as a place to bathe, do laundry, and dispose of goods and industrial waste. A place where life and death meet; A river that purifies and pollutes at the same time. Offering myself to Mother Ganga, with prayers for all, I took punya snan in the river.



The boat ride during sunrise or sunset on the Ganges is not to be missed. You'll hear "Boat? Boat?" from optimistic touts as you walk along the ghats looking out upon the river. Once on the river, relax as if we are with own mother. Watch as the ghats come alive, as the sun shines on the steps and the ancient buildings tower over the river. It can be a romantic, relaxing, stimulating, poignant, and humbling experience all at once





From early morning to late evening, a walk along any of Varanasi's ghats doesn't disappoint. Many of the city's 88 ghats have individual purposes. Many are used for bathing and religious ceremonies, and two are used as cremation sites. Assi Ghat is where locals come to bathe before praying to Lord Shiva. Dashashwamedh Ghat, the main ghat, is one of the oldest in the city and is always filled with tourists, hawkers, touts, pilgrims and a steady flow of other people. Many of the ghats are beautifully photogenic, so don't skip jumping on a boat for a different vantage point.

Manikarnika Ghat, known as burning ghat, is one of the holiest sites, but often a confronting site. It is the last stop for many Hindus, as they believe the cycle of death and reincarnation will end by dying in Varanasi. All day long, bodies are cremated on top of pyres on the river front steps. Bodies are endlessly carried through the streets to the ghats where they wait to be cremated, their remains sent into the river.

It's a challenging custom to watch, and you'll see and smell the smoke before arriving at the ghat, but it is a truly compelling spectacle.

A form of Hindu worship conducted by Brahmins, Puja rituals are held to honour Hindu Gods. Every evening, elaborate, colorful ceremonies are held on the steps of Dasaswamedh Ghat, which attract hundreds of visitors who fill the stairs, rooftops and any other space they can occupy. Arrive early to find a good seat.

Those performing the Puja, dressed in saffron-coloured robes, stand on small platforms near the river. They perform slow dances, in which large, flaming lamps are moved around in synchronized patterns. At other times, the pandits hold sticks of incense and waft smoke through the air, while prayers are sung. The pounding of the drum beats vibrates around you, and the ringing of bells is continuous behind the spiritual chanting. Starting around 6.30PM and lasting about 45 minutes, the ceremony should not be missed.



On a different religious and spiritual note, consider hiring a rickshaw driver to take you to some of Varanasi's 23,000 temples. Exploring the narrow maze-like lanes in Varanasi's old city is a must on any itinerary. Although you'll almost certainly forget where you are or how to get where you're going, you will never be truly lost, as most lanes lead to the river. If you're lucky, you may find a hidden gem, such as the tiny, family-owned Dosa Cafe, where you can dig into delicious food in a welcoming environment.

Around every other corner, you'll find yourself drinking lassis from ancient shops, watching as funeral processions pass you by, sharing smiles with the families who call these quarters home, and playing chicken with cows who roam these crammed lanes, trying to figure out who's going to budge first (probably you). Bring your camera to try and capture the magic that unfolds daily within these old city alleys.

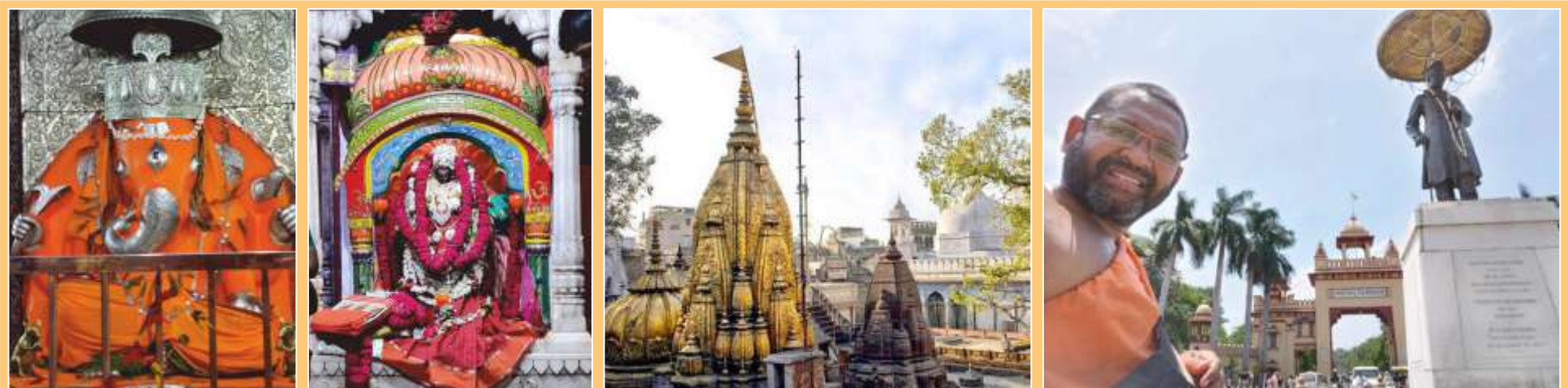
I visited the temple of the most powerful god on the earth-Lord Vishweswar of Kashi, the Jyothirlinga worshipped by crores of Hindus since ages. I silently prayed for the well-being of all. Later, I visited Kashi Annapurna, Kashi Visalakshmi temples and also visited Kala Bhairav Temple. I walked for about 6 hours on the streets of Kashi visiting these temples.

August 27, 2019

Two days at Varanasi. Don't really know what good fortune I had in life. Such a pilgrimage in life GOD bestowed on me by Will. Every place visited by Adi Sankara is spiritually uplifting the soul. He undoubtedly infused life in to each of these pilgrimage centres, he visited during Digvijaya. The Saintly Power added to the Divine Power multiplied the power of attraction in manifold proportions. It's to be seen even today after ages.

Walking on the roads of Kashi is like roaming in GODs own home. Every corner of the holy city we can find an ancient or a modern temple or an Ashram. The origin behind the name "Varanasi" is linked to 2 Ganges tributaries forming the city's borders: Varuna, still flowing in northern Varanasi, and Assi, today a small stream in the southern part of the city, near Assi Ghat. The old city is located on the north shores of the Ganges, bounded by Varuna and Assi.

In the Rigveda, it's said, the city is referred to as Kashi which means "to shine", making Varanasi known as "City of Light", the "luminous city as an eminent seat of learning". The name was also used by pilgrims dating from Buddha's days. Hindu religious texts use many epithets to refer to Varanasi, such as Kasika (Sanskrit: "the shining one"), Avimukta (Sanskrit: "never forsaken" by Shiva), Anandavana (Sanskrit: "the forest of bliss"), and Rudravasa (Sanskrit: "the place where Rudra/Siva resides").





Thousands of saintly people connected their life and living with Kashi. Buddha, Adi Sankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, Madhyacharya, Vallabhacharya, Santh Kabir, Santh Tulasidas, Santh Ravidaas, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Anandamayi and many others brought heavenly changes to their life and mission here.

I could visit the most powerful places in Kashi. Kashi Viswanath Mandir, Kashi Annapurna Mandir. Kashi Visalakshi Mandir, Sakshi Ganapathi Mandir, Kala Bhairav Mandir, Ganga River (Punya Snanam), Ganga Ghats, Ganga Boat Ride, Ganga Harathi, Sankat Mochan Mandir, Durga Mandir, Banaras Hindu University and Bharat Kala Bhavan. Wandering in Kaashi streets, visiting the temples in barefoot, scorching heat, humidity, sweating and dust etc., made me to lose lots of energy in physical body.



The will of GOD is so wonderful. When I booked for a bed at HOG Hostel, I did not know its location. But when I reached the hostel, I realised the fact that it's just besides Vasavi

Sadan (Srisaila Anna Sathram). I thankfully acknowledged God ...for providing south indian food for free at Vasavi Sadan. Wonderful facilities provided for the pilgrims here. Considering my financials I stayed at hostel and they happily welcomed me to have my food at Vasavi Sadan.

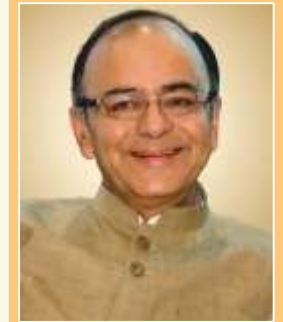
Brother, Srinivas from Africa knowing about my travel schedules, transferred some money to my account. I felt amazed by this hearty gesture. It's not about how much but it's all about with what heart one gives. Prayers for the well-being of his family.

I heard a piece of news, Sai Brother with whom I know in Sri Sathya Sai Seva Org / Hyderabad Sai Youth since 25 years, Talluri Sankar from Hyderabad is being admitted at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Bengaluru for a brain surgery. I called his family and conveyed my support and prayers.

Losing the leaders who are stalwarts in the country pained me. Arun Jaitely departing at 66 is really shocking. I prayed for his soul.

On the other hand, I congratulated our Dear Prime Minister who received Highest Civilian Award / honour of UAE and also attending G7 Summit as a special invitee at France.

Words of appreciation to PV Sindhu who became Sindhuram on the forehead of Bharata Mata with her victorious game and gold medal. Prayers for the country men, that each one must bring in a ray of light with their conduct so that the glory and glitter of Mother Bharat become eternal for generations.



August 28, 2019

Ayodhya Rama: I was ready by 4AM, the cab engaged for visiting Ayodhya, Naimisharanyam & Lucknow picked me from HOG Varanasi Hostel, Surajkund. It was almost a 5 hours journey to Ayodhya.



Though, I had visited the kshetram previously, the moment I reached Ayodhya, my heart started beating with Divine Rama Name & Form. This is the place Ramalalla is believed to be born in Threthayuga to King Dasaratha & Koushalya Matha.

As soon as I reached Ayodhya, first thing I did was to offer my Father's ashes at Sarayu River. The most sacred waters Lord Rama choose to conclude Life. I took punya snan and rushed to Temple Complex as people warned that the temple may be closed by 12PM.



Since decades, the site where Rama is believed to be born is under dispute between two religious groups. The matter is pending before Supreme Court. But seeing Lord Rama on the dilapidated land surrounded by 20,000 army personnel and equal number of Monkey Army is painful for the heart. It is like seeing Rama Lalla in the jail. I profusely prayed for early and easy resolution of the dispute. Let the beliefs of 130 crores Indians be answered by the Lord Himself.

I, later visited many places of Interest at Ayodhya (the birth place of lord Rama and one of the important city for hindus) Ram Janmbhumi, Kanak Bhawan, Hanuman Garhi, Sita Rasoi Saryu

river, Sri maniram das chowani, Nageswarnath Mandir and Tulasi Samarak Bhavan museum.

Each place seen is linked with Rama's Life and Mission since Thretha Yuga. I became an Ayodhyan on the roads...Roaming like a begger, sat with them for partaking prasadam. The sadhus seeing me, took to a separate place and respectfully fed me with love.

For the first time, I have seen entire Vanara Sainyam at Hanuman Ghari along side of Lord Rama. Every place at the complex is at a walk able distance but the scorching heat and barefoot walking made my body sweat heavily. I really felt divine, seeing thousands of devotees visiting Ramalalla, which is kept under a make shift shed. One has to see very carefully from 15ft distance through iron grill. It is the devotion for Lord Rama that I believe rather the form here.





Naimisharanya: We drove to Naimisharanya which is again a 5hour journey. Throughout the journey, the driver tried to discourage me, but my focus was one that I must visit the places as per plan. I didn't know whether I will be able to make it to such long distances and tedious journeys next time. I was praying continuously to GOD to show mercy. Reached Naimisharanyam at 6:30PM. On arrival I searched for an Aashram. Someone told about Balaji Mandir, which was established by Sri Govinda Charyulu in the year 1976. Since then the place is serving lakhs of pilgrims. The staff, after knowing about Bharata Darshan provided me a room and food.

Without wasting any time, I rushed to Gomathi River which was flowing around Naimisharanya like a chakra. It's believed to be created by Bramha for the sake of thousands of Saints and Sadhus.

By the time, I reached Gomathi, the evening Haarathi ritual had just started by the priests as if they were waiting for my arrival. Post harathi, I pray fully offered Father's ashes to Gomathi River and took punya snan. I ran to Chakra Thirtha and for my surprise the Harathi just started there as well. After sprinkling the sacred waters on my head, I headed towards Srimad Lalitha Devi Temple. The priests over there were seen arranging for Maha Mangala Haarathi and Ekantha Seva. Its my fortune that I stood just in front of Goddess. I started chanting all the prayers for the sake of every being in every planet. Partaking prasadam, returned to Balaji Mandir. Post having Darshan, partaken swalpaharam at Temple dining hall. All these things were discouraged by Driver, but following my conscience...I proceeded and was blessed by divine spirit all the places.



Following are the legends connected to Naimisharanya

1. Sri Chakra Narayana (Nemsar) is one of the 108 Vaishnava Desams
2. Dasaratha did Puthra Kameshti here
3. Vyasa worked on Vedas and wrote 18 puraana.
4. Sutha mahayasaya tought Vedas here for thousands of saints
5. Brahma created Gomathi River with Darba making it as a ring
6. Hanuma brought back life to Rama & Lakshman here.
7. Rama & Sita performed punya vratham here.
8. Saint Dhadhichi sacrificed himself in Yogagni to give spine to Indra.
9. It is believed that the heart of Devi Sati is present in Naimisharanya (Lalitha Devi)

It's highly impacting the body, mind, heart and soul to note such things connected to the place. There are couple of places yet to be covered next day.





Prime Minister of India launched FIT India movement in the country. Concept...Content...Intent is tremendous when practised. But I would get no more than zero. Which is why, I shall practise to be fit before I preach it around.

I got ready by 6AM and visited Hanuman Ghari. I was surprised to see huge statue of Lord Hanuma with Rama & Lakshman on his shoulders, the place where Hanuma brought back their lives when they were kidnapped by Ahiravana & Mahiravana in Ramayana Times. I later visited, Vysa Gaddi. The place where Sage Vyasa worked on Vedas and Epics. I also saw Sutha Gaddi, the place where Sage Sutha taught Veda Suthras to thousands of Saints and sages. From there, visited Deva Raja Perumal in the Naimisharanyam. Later proceeded to Rudravrath, Deva Deveswar, Gomathi River, Dhadhichi Kund etc., Each place is linked with an epical story.



Then, I visited Lucknow, the capital of UP. It is situated on the bank of river Gomthi in the Lucknow-Sitapur Road in Kathvara village, near Lucknow City. The temple is 300 years old and is well known for the deity Chandrika Devi - a form of Goddess Durga, located in a natural environment encircled by river Gomthi. This place has religious significance since the time of the Ramayana. It is also called Mahi Sagar Teerth.



From there started to reach Varanasi for the onward journey to Bihar. The bad roads, driver behaviour, unbearable heat, distance etc., made the travel 8 hour long tedious journey.

With the Will of GOD I could complete visiting 14 states in India and 3 other countries such as Nepal, Tibet and China. I am yet to visit Bihar, Assam, West Begnal, Chattisgarh, Jarkhand, Orissa, Andhrapradesh, Telangana and Tamilnadu before bringing closure to Bharata Darshan.



August 30, 2019

BIHAR

Blissful Vihaar: At around 7AM, I reached Varanasi Railway Station and got into Train to travel 4hours to Gaya in the state of Bihar. It was 12PM, when I reached Gaya. The first thing I did was visiting Bihar Tourism Information Centre in the railway station. Ajaykumar, guided me as to what and how I can visit the best of Bihar as per my plan. He connected me to a cab driver Arun for a reasonable pricing.

Had my lunch at Rajasthani hotel and proceeded to visit Gaya. Gaya is sanctified in the Jain, Hindu and Buddh religions. It is mentioned in the epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata. It is the place where Rama, with Sita and Lakshmana, came to offer pind-daan for their father, Dasharath and continues to be a major Hindu pilgrimage site for the panda pradaan ritual.

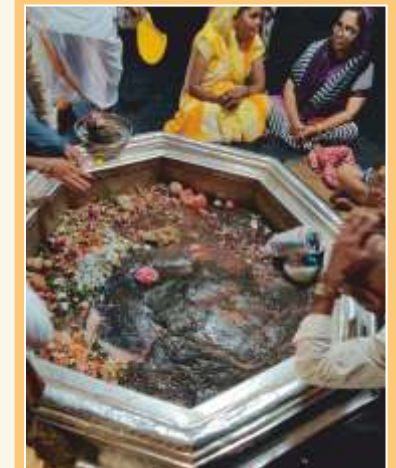


Gaya Mangala Gowri: The first thing I did is visiting Phalguni River and offered prayers and mixed Father's ashes seeking punya gathi to him. There after I visited one of the 18 Sakthi Peethams, Mangala Gowri. The shrine is dedicated to the mother Goddess in the predominantly Vaishnavite pilgrimage centre of Gaya. Mangalagauri is worshiped as the Goddess of benevolence. Here Sati is worshipped in the form of a breast, a symbol of nourishment. Adi Sankara is believed to have offered prayers and installed the Sri Chakra. I spent quite time observing the things in the sanctum sanctorum, offered my prayers for the well being of all.

Vishnu Gaya: Once a demon known as Gayasura, did a heavy penance and sought a boon that whoever see him should attain salvation. Since salvation is achieved through being righteous in one's lifetime, people started obtaining it easily. To prevent immoral people from attaining salvation Lord Vishnu asked Gayasura to go beneath the earth and did so by placing right foot on asura's head. After pushing Gayasura below the surface of earth, Lord Vishnu's foot print remained on the surface that we see even today. The footprint consists of nine different symbols including Shankam, Chakram and Gadham. These are believed to be weapons of the lord. Gayasura who was pushed into earth pleaded for food. Lord Vishnu gave him a boon that every day, someone will offer him food. Whoever does so, their souls will reach heaven. The day Gayasura doesn't get food, it is believed that he will come out. Every day, one or the other from different parts of India will pray for welfare of departed and offer food, feeding Gayasura offered myself by placing my head at the Vishnu Padam praying for everyone.

Thousands of people were offering Pinda Pradana and food, at the temple. It is said that Lord Rama himself performed this ritual here. I also visited Sita Kund on the other side of Phalguni River. There is another story connected to Sita Matha cursing Falguni, Cow, Tulasi, Fire and Brahmin.

Bihar is surely a blessed land as there are places connecting Ramayana, Bharata, Buddha, Jain, Sufi, Sikh, Gandhi etc., for that matter our Bharat...Our mother land is Punya Bhumi, Divya Bhumi, Janma Bhumi, Karma Bhumi, Veda Bhumi...it is the reason why even GODs wish to take birth here in this land..





Bodh Gaya: I proceeded to Bodh Gaya, where Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment, and is one of the four holy sites of Buddhism. The Mahabodhi Temple complex at Bodh Gaya is a World Heritage site.

I spent considerable time in the complex thinking about the Life and Mission of Buddha.

I visited Mahabodhi Temple, Chankaraman Sthal, Bhodhi Tree, Vajrasana, Animesh Lochan Stupa, Ratnagar, Azapal Tree and Muchalind Tank. Each one of these have great significance in the story of Buddha's enlightenment.

I visited many Buddha monasteries around Bodhgaya. There are centres constructed by each of the Buddh Countries in the world. It's like the most powerful place on the earth for Buddhism.

Dasarath Manjhi...the Mountain Man: From Bodhgaya I proceeded to Rajgiri (Rajagarah) on the way visited Dasarath Manjhi's village,

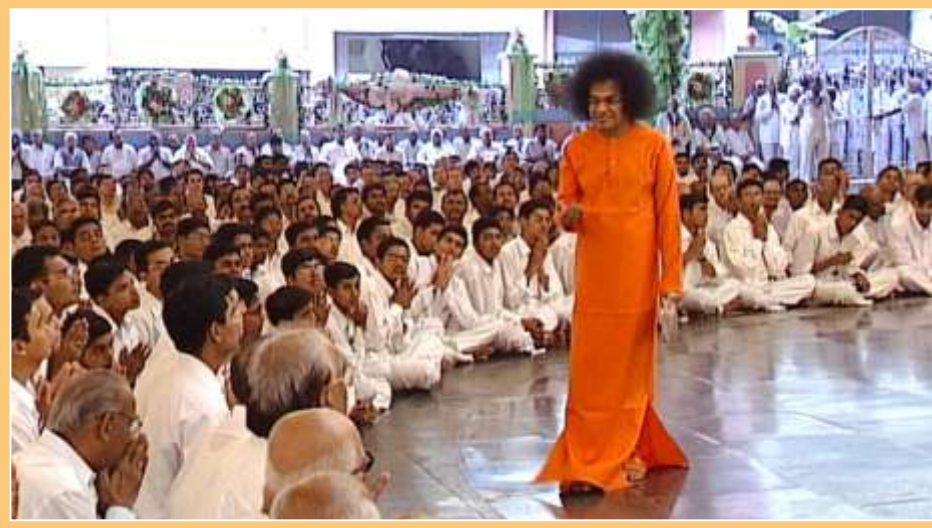


Gehloure. He is an inspiration for me in life. It was about 15 years back I think I read his story in Enadu Sunday Magazine. We tried enacting a drama based on his story with the Hyderabad Sai Youth group and presenting before Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Not only that we invited him to Puttaparthi seeking Swamy's blessings for him. I had the fortune of meeting him. The story goes as follows:

The Gehlaur hills are a low-but-treacherous spine of mountainous terrain that once divided the settlements and services on either side. In fact many villagers from Manjhi's hamlet had to trek for miles around the hills just to reach their fields and schools. However, all that changed with the tragic death of Manjhi's wife, Faguni Devi. Devi was traversing the narrow path across the tall hills to bring her husband some water when she was seriously injured. The nearest medical facility was over 40 miles away and Devi perished shortly after her accident.

Struck by loss, Manjhi resolved to ensure that such tragedy never happened again. Taking up simple tools, he began chipping away at one of the hills, hell bent on creating a road that would serve village and others like it. Ridiculed by fellow villagers and ignored by the government, Manjhi worked dauntlessly on the road day after day, slowly but surely eroding a passage into the earth. In time the locals came to respect the work as they saw its promise and many of them began providing food and tools for the newly dubbed, "Mountain Man".





After 22 years of back-breaking labour, Manjhi finished the 360 foot road in 1982. Tearing straight through the mountain, the road not only cut off miles of travel for countless villagers, but it made travelling the area safer as well. It also allowed for small automobile traffic.

The Mountain Man passed away in 2007, but the road that was the fruit of his labour still bears name in an amazing testament to the power of an individual. The village got name and fame due to his hard work. The Govt has taken special care to provide road, Hospital and other facilities to the village thereby giving relief to thousands of downtrodden communities in the region. A single man transformed entire region by good work.



Later I proceeded to reach Rajgiri, stayed at Veerayatan, Jain Aashram established by Sadhvi Chandana 45 years ago, introducing Seva in Jain Communities along with Siksha and Sadhana. Presently she is more than 80years old and heading 2000 branches in 10 countries.

August 31, 2019

I was not aware of Bihar and it's tourist places till I visited the state. The more I explored, the more fascinated I was with the glory and glitter of Bihar. It's really Blissful Bihar.

I got up by 6AM and left Veerayatan Aashram. For couple of hours I visited the best places of Interest in Rajgiri. All the places in a way or other connected to Hindu Mythology, Buddhism or Jainism. I visited Viswa Santhi Stupa, Japanese Buddha Temple, Son Bandar Caves, Gridhkut Hills and others.

I trekked for an hour to see the place where Buddha and Ananda did penance for long time in caves on hillocks. There is a chair lift available to reach the peak. Each mountain around Rajgiri is sanctified by Buddh / Jain monks since ages.



Nalanda - Way before modern civilization:

I travelled to Nalanda, centuries ago this place was an adobe for learning. The Nalanda University could educate and accommodate a million students at once, with 2000 Professors. Acharya Nagarjuna was one of those Professors. About, 50sq kms campus was burnt by Turkish leader Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1193. Despite such cruelty against our Culture and Heritage, ruins of Nalanda has its legacy in existence. ASI Dept could excavate only for 10% of Nalanda and I could only see 2% of the campus.





I also visited the Nalanda Museum. Each and everything ignited the mind and soul. The way University was built, class rooms, libraries, staff quarters, open air theatres, temples, samad etc., turned visitors spell bound.

Pawpuri: From there, I visited Pawpuri, the ultimate place of pilgrimage for Jains across the globe. I am so fortunate to see Jala Mandir, Mahal. It is a marble temple located in the middle of a lake along with lotuses. Jal Mandir is made in shape of Vimana. The sanctum of temple enshrines old "Charan Paduka" of Lord Mahavira. The temple marks the space where Lord Mahavira attained Samadhi and was cremated later. The temple is believed to be constructed by King Nandivardhan, the elder brother of Lord Mahavira.



There is a 600 ft long stone bridge, which connects the temple and bank of pond. According to myth, when Lord Mahavira was cremated, there was a great rush. People tried to get his ashes, due to which a huge amount soil was removed from the place of cremation thus a pond was created. I also visited the Murthy Aaradhana Mandirs and Samosharan Mandir, where Mahavir Jain granted the first and the last sermon. This is presently converted in to a beautiful mandir.

It is fascinating to see such places in life. I never imagined that I will be able to see such divine places in my life. Thanking GOD every day for the opportunity and expressing gratitude and prayers for those who stood by Bharata Darshan. India is just not 5 letter word...It's a WORLD in itself with its rarest cultures, heritage, philosophy, tradition, history, civilization, spirituality, religions, languages and realisations.

JHARKHAND

Parli Vaidyanath: From Bihar, I travelled about 180kms to reach Vaidyanath Mandir at Devghar in Jarkhand. Extreme heat drained all my energy...my body was moving mechanically. I could only drink liquids and could not eat properly. Parli Vaidyanath was the only one place that I need to visit in the state of Jarkhand as per Sankara Digvijayam. He visited these places during Digvijaya Yathra centuries ago infusing further Power in to the places. I could see thousands of people at Temple complex. Apart from beautiful main shrine of Vaidyanatheswar, there are 21 smaller shrines in the temple complex. I slowly visited all the temples and finally had darshan of Lord Vaidyanath.

People chanting Siva Naam, lighting lamps, offering salutations, doing abhekam, offering haarathi, flowers all over, hundreds of priests around the temple made one feel that they were in Bhuloka Kailash. I prayed for the well being of all, settled into a budget hotel near the temple for the night.

September 1, 2019

Up from the bed by 5:15 AM and ready by 5:45AM... proceeded to Baba Vaidyanath Mandir seeking darshan for the 2nd time, but there is huge rush at the temple complex. Considering onward journey I came out. While returning, merged Ashes of Father at Sivakund with prayers.



Collected laundry while moving out of Devgarh. It is close to 10 hours continuous journey to reach Mahishi in Saharsa Dist. Though distance is about 250kms, the bad roads, unknown roads, extreme heat, searching for food etc., caused delay.

Mahishmati: Adi Sankara Digvijayam mentioned Mahishmati in Bihar. Where as there are more than one such names in India. Am confused as to how to find right place to visit. (For that matter, visiting even Parli Vaidyanath also is a confusion as there are more than one Jyotirlinga in that name in 3 different states. But, I could feel the one in Devgarh is the right one.) I must thank Ajay Kumar, Officer, Bihar Tourism Dept at Gaya Railway Station...He guided me that it's Mahishi which is the place Mandana Mishra & Ubhaya Bharati lived and Adi Sankara defeated them in his debate. I felt happy to find the place.



Through out the journey, it's very tedious beyond explanation. No proper food available any where. Am happy for one reason that the curds available in abundance in the region. I could survive having the most tasteful curds till reaching the temple. As such nothing for breakfast and lunch except row flattened rice with curds.



The people everywhere to be seen very backward and downtrodden so is the conditions of other infrastructure in the areas. No buses could be seen. Sharing autos, zeeps and other similar mini vehicles filled with men and women seen all over. Am wondered by such remote areas where Adi Sankara visited infusing life to Hinduism. I heard that many a places he was flying to reach the places with his yogic powers. For the past 4months...though I am travelling by all available modes of transport, the journey is making my body strained. I don't know as to how much could have been the power of such saints who walked all around the country.

On reaching Mahishi, visited Ugratara Mandir which is believed to worshipped by Vasishta ages ago. In this ancient temple, the idol of Bhagwati Tara is said to

be very old and draws devotees from far and wide. On either side of the main deity, there are two smaller female deities which are worshipped by the people as Ekjata and Nil Saraswati. Its believed that the place is one of the 108 Sakthi Peethams in the country where Sati's eye fell.

As there is no one in the temple complex, i spent my time quietly in the sanctumsanctorum. It's a thrilling experience seeing such places.



I also visited the place of Mandana Misra where Adi Sankara first met them over the debate on Karma & Jnana. Very serene atmosphere all over. Many stories heard about the Couple. They were incarnations of Brahma & Saraswathi. Mandan having lost in debate over Adi Sankara, became renunciate and desciple of Sankara. He was named as Sureswaracharya and made as first Head of Sringeri Shankaracharya Mutt with maha vakya "Tath Twam Asi"

Further proceeded to Sonapur which is about 200kms from Mahishi. This place is also sanctified by Adi Sankara. I found one very old temple dedicated to Baba Harihareswar.



Patna: By the time I reached Patna it was close to 12AM. Tired beyond words, I roamed on the roads trying to get into a budget hotel or dormitory for 30 minutes. Not a single room was clean. I felt a little surprised by such uncleanly atmosphere in Hazipur railway station area which is like twin city for Patna on the banks of mighty Gandaki River.

I decided to go in to Railway Station, which was cleaner than the hotels nearby. I requested the CTO, whether I can take rest in the AC Waiting Room till early hours. Seeing me he said with respect that Maharaj people like you are the reason for good in the country. Please go and rest in the waiting room! I had no baggage in my hands as everything was left in the car. I slept happily without any burden. Got up at 5AM and requested a traveller nearby to give me a little paste and cleaned my teeth, took bath without soap. I got into sharing Auto and went to visit Baba Hariharanath Mandir on the banks of Gandaki.



Baba Hariharanath is the site of the battle of Gaj-Grah and rescue of the former by Hari during Kartik Purnima. Ganga Snan or ceremonial bathing in the Ganges is held by Hindus to be unusually efficacious. On Kartik Purnima immense crowd assembles to take bath. The Mela commences on that day and lasts for more than a fortnight. The story of Hariharanath temple in Sonapur, Bihar is that Harihar, Lord Rama built it, while going to the swayamvar of Sita Mata.

From there, I crossed the Gandhi Setu to enter the city Patna. Built over the pious waters of river Ganges, Mahatma Gandhi Setu is a bridge that connects Patna & Hajipur. Constructed over a period of 10 years, the bridge holds the distinction of being one of the longest bridges in the country. To be precise, at 5,750 metres in length, it is in fact the second largest bridge in India. A prominent city landmark, the bridge is also a part of NH 19. Thanks to the bridge, it was just a matter of few minutes that one can reach north Bihar from Patna.

Patna Devi: I visited the temple of Goddess Patna Devi by whose grace and kindness Pataliputram rose ages ago now termed as Patna. It is the oldest and one of the most sacred temples of Patna. It is regarded as one of the 51 Siddha Shakti Pithas in India. According to Puranic legends, the 'right thigh' of the corpse of Devi Sati had fallen here.



Later, I visited Mahaveer Mandir near Patna Railway Station. This is the place Lord Hanuman appeared in two forms. Sankat Mochan and Dukha Saman. It's a very vibrant place. Seeing me, the priest without any intro adorned me with Hanuman's garland, gave me prasadam. I prayed there for a while.



Then I proceeded to visit the famous Gurudwara Takht Sri Patna Sahib / Harmandir Sahib. Before entering the Gurudwara, I found a public tap on the road side and decided to take a proper bath once again. I changed my clothes and had darshan. The Gurudwara was built to commemorate the birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs who was born in December 1666 at Patna. It was built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839), the first Maharaja of the Sikh Empire.



I was delighted to visit such wonderful places of Bihar. I scheduled my visit to Assam state to see Kama Roopa Devi, which is one of the Shakti Peetha visited by Adi Sankara during Digvijaya Yatra. Considering distance and situation over there (NRC) I decided to travel by flight from Patna.

On the way to Airport, I paid the cab driver, sorted my luggage and gave the driver every item from the bag which was not used by me during Bharata Darshan irrespective of the cost, quality and quantum, but I asked him to make proper use of those things else to donate them to those in need. He nodded his head in affirmation with a smile.

September 2, 2019

WEST BENGAL**Shrinkala Devi - Sabotaged by foreign**

invaders: The only one place Adi Sankara visited in West Bengal is Shrinkala Devi at Pradyumna. Shrinkala Devi is believed to be at Hoogly District. As soon as I thought of visiting the place, I enquired about the peetham. The word Shrinkhala has 2 meanings. The first one being, a Binding thread or chain, second one is a cloth which is used by the postnatal women to tie their abdomen tightly. According to the first meaning, the goddess is in bounded form. Of-course, Jaganmata is bound only to the Lord Shiva (Satya). She removes all bonds attached to her devotees. In the second meaning the goddess is in postnatal stage (Mother of a newborn baby), in this form, she sees the entire universe as her offspring. The devotees imagine themselves as new born babies of Shrinkhala mata. A complete surrender (Saranagati) and Sishu bhava is required to worship her.



But as such there is no temple as such at this place. A story says that Sage Rishya Shringala has brought her to Shringeri, Karnataka. Now we see a minar was built there by muslim invaders and at present the place is under the protection of Archaeological Society of India. The door is locked and entry is banned into the temple (the so called minar) because of security reasons, but I found in my Google search that, there were clear cut and significantly distinguishable features at the main door of the construction showing that it was once the main entrance of a Hindu temple, probably of Shrinkhala Devi. There were ruins of a temple in front of minar.

Considering these facts and also counting my previous tour in West Bengal, skipping the visit to the Pandua Minar, I moved on to Guwhati, Assam to have darshan and blessings of Kamakhya Devi.

September 3, 2019

ASSAM

Kamakhya Devi: By the time, I reached Guwhati Airport, its 5:30PM. I found out that the temple was closed for the day. I got in to a Govt Bus to reach Kamakhya Gate on the high way en route Guwhati City. From there, I reached Kamakhya Dham complex by a sharing-auto. I searched for more than an hour or so for suitable stay with a back pack on my shoulders. At last someone offered me a bed to sleep for Rs.200/-. I happily took rest for the day. I woke up at 3:30AM and was ready for Divya Darshan by 4AM, joined general queue.



Maa Kamakhya Temple dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya. It is considered most sacred and oldest of the 18 Shakti Peethas on earth. It is located on Nilachal Hills in western part of Guwahati on adjoining banks of Brahmaputra River. There is a complex consisting of several temples around Maa Kamakhya Temple.

There are also the temples of 10 Mahavidyas in and around temple. These include Bhuvaneshvari, Bagalamukhi, Chinnamasta, Tripura Sundari, Tara, Kali, Bhairavi, Dhumavati, Matangi and Kamala Temples. Among these, Tripurasundari, Matangi and Kamala reside inside the main temple whereas the other seven are individual temples located on Nilachal Hills.

According to the legend, Kamakhya Temple denotes the spot where Sati used to retire in secret to satisfy her amour with Shiva, and it was also the place where her yoni fell after Shiva danced with the corpse of Sati. It's believed that the inner temple or the Garbhagriha represents the womb of Goddess. There's actually not an idol representing Kamakhya here, only a Yoni or the vagina of the Goddess that is worshipped.

Once in a year the temple holds an annual fertility festival or Ambubasi Puja, supposedly, during the time the Brahmaputra River turns red. It's a myth that this is the day that Kamakhya menstruated..



It was close to 4 hours by the time I came out of Mandir. One has to queue up at the entrance porch from where it moves slowly into the semi dark Mukha Mandapam. Images of gods and goddesses of Hindu pantheon are carved on the walls. The image of the Goddess along with other deities is kept on a throne (Uthsava Murthy). Pilgrims follow the narrow alley behind the throne to enter the sanctum sanctorum. Inside, a short flight of stairs will take us to a small subterranean pool. Pilgrims squat by the water's edge and offer their 'puja' (worship). From here they can see the symbolic organ that remains covered with a red cloth. I felt like, I came to true mother's place. Not just for me. This place is mother of Universe. I had to struggle to see inside the grabhagraha

Later, I trekked hills to visit other Maha Vidyas situated in different places on Nilachal Hills. It took another 3 hours for me to complete. Every where, the Goddess who is formless or covered in flowers and clothes, but there was water coming from the rocks in the caves keeping the divine place in moisture all the time. Very different experience it is for me seeing mother appearing in such forms in Kamakhya Temple Complex.

Extreme heat drained away all my energy. I just waited for Anna Prasadam coupons and had the neatly served lunch by Temple Staff. After that I got into a Govt Bus to the main road, then took another public transport to reach Airport. I could have spent just Rs.500/- in the past 2 days. I proceeded to Chattisgarh and Madhyapradesh from Assam (Guwhati Airport)

September 4, 2019

CHATTISGARH

I reached Bilaspur Junction in Chattisgarh from Raipur at around 12AM. Though my plan was to travel to Odisha, the train, I planned to travel looks to be cancelled. I could not get any other mode of transportation to reach Odisha. Upon enquiry I came to know that Amarkantak, is a place in Madhya Pradesh which was visited by Adi Sankara, and can be conveniently visited. Hence, as directed by the local people I reached Bilaspur. I got in to the General Compartment after a very long time. I could not get a seat due to the crowd. Seeing me and my attire someone offered a little space to sit and I thankfully made use of the space. Everyone found some way to sleep in the moving train.

The moment I got down at the Bilaspur station, I noticed a different atmosphere. Lighting, floor, dustbins, Wifi, cleanliness etc., I understood why the station was adjudged as the cleanest in the country. I felt very happy. I enquired about Train to Pendra Road Station and found out that the first train was at 6AM. I looked around for suitable place to rest.

Noticing the Guest Rooms of IRCTC maintained by Private Party, I went inside. To my astonishment the Guest Rooms looked like a Royal Palace, at just Rs.200/- for 6 hours. The station is also an ISO Certified Rail Station. I was very comfortable and happy about it. Thinking on these things connected to Indian Railways...I slept for few hours..



MADHYA PRADESH



Amarkantak: Amarakantak is the birthplace of Narmada River. Had I missed visit to Amarakantak in Madhyapradesh, I could have missed a beautiful place on the earth for the life. After visiting the place, I realised how and why Adi Shankara too visited this place ages ago. I also realised the fact as to why Rivers, Mountains and Forests in India are treated as GODs.



I travelled for couple of hours in local train to reach the Pendra Road. It is 8:30AM, I tried to reserve tickets for Odisha. Nothing was available and by the time I came out, all the sharing taxis had moved onto Amarkantak. Noticing me a Driver offered to take me in sharing. I was intimidated a bit noticing the condition of the Vehicle, I accepted the ride as there was no other way. I had a very good Idli for breakfast after many weeks in Yathra. After waiting for an hour,

we proceeded, through to cover the distance of 30kms. It took a lot of time to travel due the bad condition of the vehicle. The vehicle stopped after 20kms as I expected. But the driver boldly, took the vehicle forward throwing all the passengers into fear, and finally we all reached Amarkantak by the will of GOD. The entire route to Amarkantak is through hills, forests, water falls, ghat roads. This place would be a photographers delight ...such is the beauty. Amarkantak means Amar Kanta (The Eternal Throat) of Lord Shiva. Narmada is termed as Daughter of Lord Shiva as it's emerging from underneath of two and half feet Shiva Linga at the place.

1. Amarkantak is known as Teertha Raj
2. Its located in the meeting point of Vindhyanchal, Maikal and Sathpura.
3. The place where Narmada, Sone & Bhadra Rivers emerges from the ground.
4. Saints like Markandeya, Kapila, Durvasa & others performed their penance
5. Adi Shankara met Guru Gowdapada on the banks of Narmada.
6. Sage Kabirdas did meditation here.

7. The forest spread across hundreds of kms and rich with medicinal plants.
8. Markandeya did Parikrama for Narmada River (3300kms) for the first time.

Seeing the river flowing underneath of Shiva Linga was an amazing experience for me. This small stream has been flowing eternally for ages transforming the lives of crores of Indians, especially Madhyapradesh, Gujarat and surrounding states. Narmada Sarovar Project is constructed on this River in Gujarat.

Before entering in to the Temple, I immersed my father's ashes in Narmada with prayers. Then took bath and had a darshan of Amarakantak & Maa Narmada. There are about 20 other shrines inside the temple complex. I got a chance to be there in the temple while priests offered Prasadam (Bhog).

I came out of temple, had some food and engaged an Auto and roamed for 4hours in and around Amarkantak enjoying every bit of the nature and divine darshan at many shrines. I had the fortune of visiting the following places and please note that each place is linked with lots and lots of mythological and historical value.

Narmada Mandir, Son Bhadra, Mai Ka Bagicha, Sri Yantra Mandir, The ancient temples of Kalachuri linking Adi Shankara, Jain Mandir, Kalyanaashram, Kapildhara (Kapila), Dhoodhdhara (Durvasa), Jaleswar Mahadev, Amareshwar Mahadev, Markandeya Ashram, Kabir Sarovar & Madhav Sarovar.

I reached Pendra Road Railway Station at 6PM, in a share taxi, carrying very satisfying and special memories of Amarkantak. I felt like staying here for a good time. Dear friends please don't miss this place. It's a must visit place in life. I took a rail ticket to reach Bilaspur Junction in a local train, not knowing the path forward to reach Odisha from there, praying to GOD, to lead me as usual.



September 5, 2019

Teacher's Day 2019: On this auspicious day, while everyone celebrates the Birthday of Bharata Ratna Dr Sarvepally Radhakrishnan by respecting their TEACHERS...I too take the opportunity in Bharata Darshan to express my gratitude to everyone who taught me a value / lesson in life since birth to till date in bettering my self.

Having initiated the Bharata Darshan, in the footsteps of Adi Shankara, 5 months ago, I wished to remember Adi Shankara and his eternal teachings. I expressed heartfelt gratitude to HIM for the work HE did for the world. In fact HE was called as Jagatguru (Master of Universe) and the name Sankara has been reverentially prefixed with Acharya (an influential mentor)

The brief write up of words has been offered at Thy Feet on the Teacher's Day 2019, remembering their contribution to the world. I took "Jagatguru Sankara" and tried to provide acronym to explain the lessons HE taught to the world. If we practice such values in life, we too become a VALUE to the world.



JAGATGURU SANKARA

- ◆ JUST born with a purpose of enlightening the world
- ◆ AGE is not a bar for learning. He learned all sastras by the age of 8.
- ◆ GUIDED everyone in life enabling them to come out of ignorance.
- ◆ AUTHOR of many books, shlokas, stothras...
- ◆ TIME is never a constraint for him.
- ◆ GIVING Jnana is the only thing HE did in life.
- ◆ United Hindus by propagating Adwaitha (Oneness of GOD).
- ◆ RIGHTEOUS living HE propagated in the world throughout life.
- ◆ UNIQUE by establishing Jnana Peethams in 4 directions of the Country.
- ◆ Simple living - High thinking.
- ◆ Awareness of Past, Present & Future.
- ◆ Never scared of death.
- ◆ Karma Kanda can't be termed as full without Jnana Kanda.
- ◆ Attributed everything to GOD in life and never he displayed EGO.
- ◆ Revered as Universal Teacher by his Teachings.
- ◆ Attained salvation while alive at the age of 32.

In fact Acharya Thrayam (Sankaracharya, Ramanujacharya & Madhvacharya) built Spiritual India with their Life and Mission. We all can notice their life is all about Living...Giving...Guiding...Guarding...Serving...Granting...for the mankind.

Acharya Devo Bhava.
Happy Teacher's Day 2019.

September 5, 2019

ODISHA

I reached Bilaspur Junction, at around 12AM on 5th Sept 2019. I happily took the bed in the A/C Dormitory maintained by IRCTC, for 4 hours at Rs.200/- charge. By 6AM, I got ready and had breakfast, charged my mobile, bought a General Ticket to travel to Odisha. On enquiry I came to know that the Howra - Puri Kalinga Utkal Express was scheduled to arrive at 10:40AM (which is supposed to be overcrowded always). Not knowing, how to travel in the train without reservation, I crossed the entry point. A lady TC stopped me to my surprise and asked where I was going? I told her that "I am travelling to Cuttack" and asked her whether I can get a seat in a reserved compartment. She raised a receipt and permitted me travel in reserve coach and occupy a seat if available.



The train arrived at right time. The train was full of people but I got into Reserve Coach. Within minutes, 90% of the crowd moved out of compartment as if someone played a magic. After sometime a 10 member railway squad came into coach...seeing my receipt & ticket, they moved ahead. Then I realised the reason behind why the crowded coach became empty. I settled in the coach.

Need for eradication of bad habits: A co-passenger advised me that, instead of going to Cuttack, I better get down to Jajipur Station at 3AM to reach Girija Matha Mandir. All these things happened within no time and for good with the blessings of God.



A young man (of 22years) who sat in front of me, very caringly procured mineral water for consumption along with tobacco and gutka. I was amused by the contradictory behaviour. He offered me Gutka, I laughed aloud and said "young man I don't need them and also I don't want you to consume them". One hand you are showing utmost care of health by procuring mineral water. On the other hand, you

bought poison to consume in the form of tobacco and gutka packets. Both these things made me to laugh at you. He was shocked at this. He said he will try to quit the bad habit.

Not just the boy, all over the country men and women are equally poisoning their life consuming tobacco, gutka, pan, chewing masala, liquor, alcohol, non vegetarian etc. Further plastic usage is also creating hell in the country. Adding to this, each fellow is addicted to smart phone and internet usage beyond imagination.

I am pained by seeing crores of people who are addicted to these dangerous things in the country. Praying to GOD to show mercy on mankind and give strength to people to get rid from these addictions. The train journey continued for the day and I may have the fortune of having divine darshan of Birija (Girija) Devi in Jajipur Dist next day. While thanking God for the mercy in the train, I took rest for the day.

People around me in the coach, respectfully offered pranams on learning about Bharata Darshan Yathra. I wondered as to what made people do such things. Without even knowing what I did ! I think this is what our Indian Culture teaches us. People respect the Saints, Yathris, Sadhus, Social Workers, in this country not because they have seen their good work or God working through them. It's only due to their samskara to respect such people.



September 6, 2019

Birija Matha: It was comfortable journey in the train as not many traveled in the coach. In spite of trying hard to sleep, I could not because the train reaches Jajpur in the early hours at 2:30AM. The train reached the station and I searched for the waiting room to attend for nature calls and bathing, I could not find any facility so I finished the same in the public toilet. I came out of Railway



Station by 4AM. Engaged a local auto for Rs.500/- and proceeded to Birija (Girija) Matha Mandir located at 30kms.

Enroute to the Mandir, I visited Vaitarani River (Baitarani) the boon of Odisha. As it was

5AM ...there was no one, I prayfully immersed Father's ashes in Baitarani River. Later, I visited Saptamatrika Temple on the river bank. Legend says that these goddesses emanated from the body of Devi Durga while killing Nishumbha and Shumbha. The matrikas represent the inner will power of their respective male God. Saptamatrikas are namely: Brahmani, Vaishnavi, Shivaduti or Indrani, Narasimhi, Chamunda, Kaumari and Varahi.



The temple was in a state of danger and later renovated by ASI. The deities were installed during Ashwamedha sacrifice of Yajati Keshari for protection. The design of the idols dates back to 11th

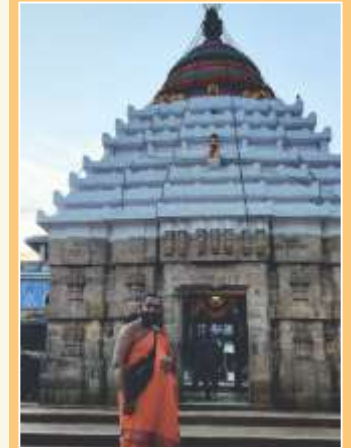
Century A.D. During the rule of Kala Chand in Murshidabad their armies came to destroy the Hindu temples in around Jajpur, then the Brahmins have hidden the images of Saptamatrikas in a tunnel near Baitarani River. Later, the images were recovered and worshipped by Utkala Brahmins of Jajpur. The images look as if they are really sitting alive. Its very pleasant time in the morning to see them along with Baitarani Matha.

Later, I proceeded to one of the Ashtadasha Shakti Peethas. The Navel region of Devi is said to have fallen here, hence the name 'ODYANA'. Uniqueness of this goddess is that the idol is depicted as Mahasuramardini but with only two hands. The shrine for Lord Shiva is said to have been installed by Shankaracharya during his visit to the place.

According to Brahmanda Purana, once Brahma performed a Yajna on the banks of Baitarani. Parvati emerged from the fire as a result of invocation and advised him to name her as Biraja. Parvati agreed and created Nine Durgas, Sixty Four Yoginis, Eight Chandikas and asked them to remain in the Kshetra permanently. Due to the presence of these deities, this land was well known as Shakti Peetha. At Biraja Temple, Lord Vishnu is in Varaha incarnation.

A great Yagna was performed over the body of Gayasur by the Lords Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu to kill the demon. Gayasur's feet were in Pada Gaya (a place in Pithapuram, Andhra Pradesh), nabhi (Navel) in Biraja Kshetra or today's Jajpur, known as Nabhi Gaya and head at Shiro Gaya. The exact spot is in a well that lies inside the Biraja temple just close to Maa Biraja where people offer pinda after doing rituals.

By the time, I reached temple it's just 5:30AM and the temple opened. I am the first visitor entering the temple on Friday at that time and very happily spent time in the temple. I had the divine darshan of Birija Matha, offered my heartfelt prayers at her feet. The auto driver dropped me on the high way leading to Puri. I got into a public transport to reach Puri.

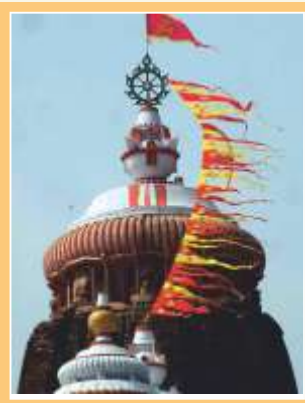




Puri Jagannath Temple...A Place of Mystery: Somehow reached Puri at around 11AM from Birja Mandir. It is my long cherished dream, visiting Puri and Jagannath. Since childhood, I am hearing about stories about Lord Jagannath. He made many devotees who lived to spread the cause of name and form of Lord since ages. I found one Dharmashala near Jagannath Mandir I requested the staff to keep my bag with them as no rooms available. Since entering the temple town...I could see heavy rain...

I moved out and shaved my head for 4th time during the Bharata Darshan signifying my visit to 4 Shankaracharya Peethams in all 4 directions of this holy land (Sringeri, Dwaraka, Badrinath and Puri) and went ahead for darshanam after taking bath at the community toilet.

Puri is famous for the Jagannath temple. This is a very important religious destination for Hindu especially the Vaishnava traditions. It was built in the 12th century and Jagannatha Ratha Yatra is very famous event which draws millions of people across the globe. This is called one of the Lord's four Houses on the Earth (Badrinath, Jagannath, Dwarakanath and Ramanath) located in four directions of India.



Saints Adi Shankaracharya, Ramananda and Ramanujacharya were associated with the temple. The famous temple has some mysteries which do not have any scientific explanation. The devotees believe the unexplained mysteries are blessings of Lord Jagannath, few of the things I noted in the temple I am sharing hereunder:

The Flag: The flag on top of the Sikhara of the temple always floats in opposite direction of the wind.

An 1800 years old ritual: Everyday a priest climbs the dome of the temple which is as tall as a 45 story building and changes the flag. This ritual has been continuing since 1800 years. The ritual says if it is not changed any day, the temple must be shut for the next 18 years.

The Sudarshan Chakra: The Chakra, at the top of the temple, is 20 feet in height and weights a ton, installed 2000 years ago. The interesting thing is one can see the Chakra at any corner of the city of Puri. The installation of the Chakra is also interesting. It is done such a way that you can feel the Chakra is facing towards you irrespective of our position.



The structure of the temple: The engineering structure of the temple was so unique that the shadow of the main dome cannot be observed at any time. Further, the entire temple complex is so beautifully done which is a feast for the eyes that infuses devotion in hearts. Most beautiful shrines around main temple is another attraction for devotees. The way the deities in each shrine are sculptured...They look like so real for our eyes.

No birds, no planes above the temple: Nothing flies above the temple. At any temple in India, birds fly and sit atop the temple except Puri's Jagannath temple. This is really surprising.



Prasadam: 2,000 to 20,000 devotees visiting the temple depending on the day but the quantity of the Prasadam cooked in the temple remains same throughout the year.



Prasadam cooking technique: The Prasadam is cooked in earthen pots on the fire woods. Exactly 7 pots are put on top of another. The mystery is the top most pot gets cooked first followed by the bottom pot in order.

Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra are a trio of deities worshipped at the temple. The inner sanctum of the temple contains statues of these three Gods carved from sacred neem wood logs known as daru sitting on the bejewelled platform or Ratnabedi.

I lost my self in the temple seeing the divine beauty of every inch. As soon as I had the first darshan, doors were closed due to offering of bhogh to Lord Jagannatha. I made use of that time to visit each and every corner of the complex. I profusely prayed at thy feet to show mercy on every being. After coming out, partaken little prasadam. Then engaged an auto and visited the Hanuman Mandir, Shankaracharya Mutt, Bay of Bengal, Gundicha Bhavan & Chandan Mandap etc., bringing a closure for the day.

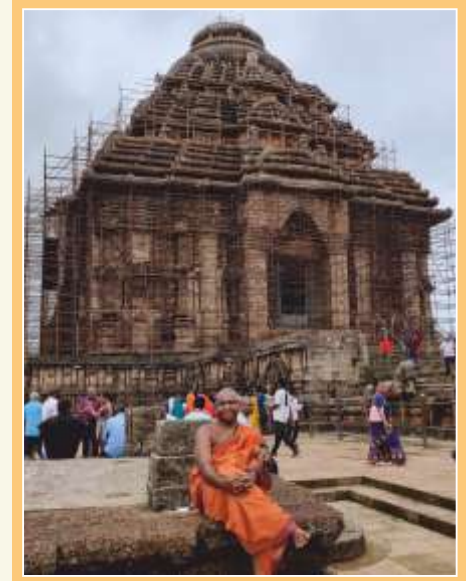


September 7, 2019

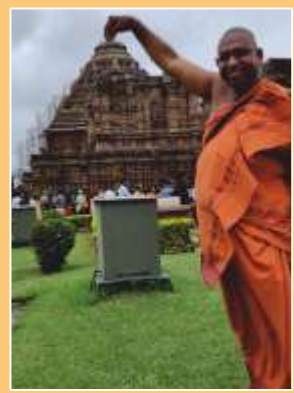
Konark: I decided to stay back at Puri for a day and see the places of interest in and around. Noticing local sight seeing bus nearby, I got into it by 7AM in the morning and reached Puri by night 9PM. I visited the Chandrabhaga River and it was a feast to the eyes, to see it merge into the Bay of Bengal.

This was followed by a visit to the world famous Konark Sun Temple, a dream destination from my childhood. Though I have seen hundreds of temples in this country, I can proudly state that this temple ranks amongst the top and is one of the best temples I have seen, be it the temple architecture, the sculptures, the wonder and disbelief that it creates. Its magical as to what one sees here...such is the beauty of the temple in every inch.

There goes the legend that...Samba, the son of Sri Krishna was affected with skin disease due to Maharshi Narada's Curse. He was advised to practice penance in the Maitreyi forest for 12 years to please Surya (Sun God) to cure himself from the disease. The Sun God appeared before him and asked him to recite the twenty-one different names of the deity and he did. Next morning when Samba was taking a bath in the river Chandrabhaga, his hands came in contact with something in the water and he immediately lifted it up and saw an image of Surya (Sun God) standing on a lotus pedestal, holding two lotuses in both hands. He carried the image to the Ashram and installed it in a temple built by him. He used to regularly worship the idol and partake the water as Prasad and he was completely cured.



Interesting facts about Konark: It is the third link of Odisha's Golden Triangle (Puri, Bhubaneswar & Konark).



It is constructed as a gigantic chariot with 24 wheels about three meters high and pulled by 7 horses, housing the Sun God within.

The entrance is guarded by 2 huge lions, each killing a war elephant and beneath the elephant is a man. The lions represent pride, elephants represent wealth and both of them consume man.

It was initially built on the sea bank but now the sea has receded and the temple is a little away from the beach. The temple was also known as 'BLACK PAGODA' due to its dark colour and its magnetic power that drew ships ...

Every day, the Sun's rays would reach the Nata Mandir from the coast and reflects from the diamond placed at the centre of the idol.

A heavy magnet was placed at the temple top and every two stones of the temple is sandwiched by iron plates. The idol was said to have been floating in air due to the arrangement of magnets. The magnet at the top is said to have disturbed compasses of Ships and Voyagers and later on removed.

Significance of Konark Sun Temple: With the 24 wheels, the mammoth chariot is pulled by a set of seven galloping horses: The seven horses represent the seven days of the week. They signify seven colours of a rainbow. There are N number of stories associated with the Konark Temple... Suggest people to visit www.thekonark.in to know more.

Knowing these stories and facts, I am speechless. If we closely observe the things in our country, it is beyond reasonable doubt that our Country Men were far more advanced than any other country in the world in terms of Knowledge, Skills, Story and Wisdom. As I traversed through this country of mine, Bharat, I feel very proud to be a citizen and to be born in this motherland.. I feel this more so now as my personal journey of Bharata Darshan is slowing coming to a closure now...I realised that in this country, each and every particle is holy and reverential...This journey of mine, I started off barefoot so as to realise the sacredness of this holy soil, thus purifying myself alongside.

I visited the IOCL Museum at Konark, a CSR Initiative of Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL). They have set up a state of the art museum detailing each and every aspect connected to the Konark Temple viz., Story, Culture, Architecture, Sculpture and all other minute things! It's a must visit place for everyone who wants to understand the Grandeur & Sacredness of the Konark Temple.

Bhubaneswar: From Konark, I travelled towards Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Orissa, and then visited the famous Linga Raja Temple which very closely resembles Puri Jagannath Temple and Konark Temple. All these Temples may have been constructed during the same time and may be under the management of same kings.

Bhubaneswar is called the Ekamra Kshetra as the deity of Lingaraja was originally under a mango tree (Ekamra). The Lord is called "Bhubaneswar" and the city which emerged around the temple came to be known as Bhubaneswar. There are 108 shrines in this temple complex and it's said to be the largest temple complex in Odisha. The temple was so beautiful that being so engrossed in seeing each of the temples housed therein, I missed the tourist bus in which I came.



After realising what had happened, I somehow managed to reach Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves by another bus and caught up with my Tourist Bus in which I started off...I paid a visit to Nandan Kanan Zoo and finally reached back Puri by night. Being occupied all through the day, I managed without food and sustained only on liquids due to extreme heat.

The Courteous staff at Dharmashala staff were kind enough to provide me the room for stay free of cost for the night. After an 18-hour Travel day, I fell on bed and slept off in no time.

September 8, 2019

Once again with Lord Jagannath: I got up at 4AM and rushed to take bath at the community toilet at the rear end of Dharmashala. I packed everything and was on the road with my back pack by 5:30AM. I visited Lord Jagannath temple for the 2nd time and kept all my luggage in the temple clock room. Each of the images / paintings / sculptures on the inside of the temple & on the external walls of the temple carry a divine message of Lord Krishna and are so heart touching that it reminds us of the mythological stories of Lord Sri Krishna. There were development works underway on a mammoth scale in and around the temple. The Temple City is maintained well by the Govt. of Odisha.

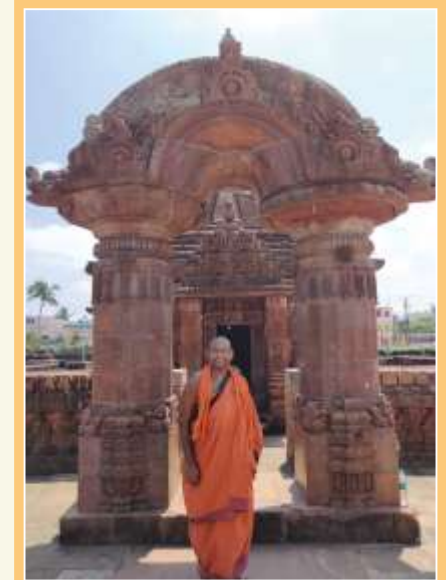
Post darshan of the Lord and Post collecting my laundry from one of the local washer man who stays inside the village in one of the lanes, I got into a local bus to reach Bhubaneswar. The travel is around an hour or so journey and I reached Odisha capital by 9:30AM. My onward journey to Andhrapradesh was scheduled at 3:30PM And considering the time available with me, I engaged an Auto and went all around the city visiting couple of historical sites.

I visited Rajarani Mandir (also called as "The Love Temple"), It doesn't have any image of the God, but seeing the exteriors one can conclude that it is a Shiva Temple. Centuries ago the temple was built and its mesmerising to the mind to see such a beauty is still intact even after such a long time. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Archaeological Survey of India, The India's Nodal agency for maintaining thousands of such monuments across the country and preserving them, connecting generations so that earlier Glory and Grandeur are preserved for the present and for future generations of the world.

Then I visited Muktheshwar Mandir, located in the capital city Bhubaneswar. It's a brilliant structure dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is popularly known as the "Gem of Odisha Architecture". The Mukteshwar Temple is a regal monument that dates back to the 10th century BC and is a prime tourist attraction that comes under the Protected Monuments of India.

Post Muktheshwar, I visited Kedareshwar and Mangala Gowri Mandirs which are also historical in nature and which dates back to almost the same time period and built under the Kalinga rule carrying their Style of Architecture. Its at the Portals of these temples that I feel humbled and I realise, praise the talent and skill set of those expert architects, stone carvers who carved out such mammoth stone temples for decades. I experience a great warmth and a feeling of pride in my heart seeing the past glory of our Country.

I finished all above visits by 11:00AM and had 4 hours of time left to board the bus, So I searched around for a good movie theatre en route to the bus stand and ended up watching Saho movie (Hindi). Around 3:15PM, I reached bus stand and boarded my bus to Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh in Diwakar Travels bus, thus bringing to closure my three days Orissa tour.



September 9, 2019

ANDHRA PRADESH

Visakhapatnam: En route to Visakhapatnam from Bhubaneswar, the Bus suddenly stopped with a thundering sound in the middle of the road at around 8:30PM in the night. Praying to Swami, I got down along with everybody else and to our shock the bus tyre is burst very badly. The passengers must have done either some Punya (Good Karma) or they might have been some unfulfilled deeds because of which we were all left unharmed. It took a couple of hours to replace the tire and we all reached Vizag Bus stand around 12 AM.



It was like home-coming to reach Andhra Pradesh in Bharata Darshan after touring 20 Indian States and 3 other countries. Though I have seen almost all of the important places in the Telugu speaking States of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, I am right now covering only those places which were traversed by Shri Adi Shankara. I slept in a waiting room for couple of hours and then finished my daily ablutions with the help of a hand flush in the common toilet.

Simhachala Varaha Narasimha Swamy: Post morning routine, I went to the Bus station platform, enquired about the Bus towards Simhachalam, boarded the first bus after finishing the breakfast and reached Simhadri hills at 6:15AM and joined Sarvadarshanam queue.

This form of Varaha Narasimha (Dwayavathara) was assumed by the Lord Srimannarayana on the prayer of devotee, Prahalada, who wanted to see both the incarnations of the Lord, the one by which he had already killed Hiranyakasha and the other by which he killed Hiranyakasipu.

According to Stalapurana, Prahalada was the first person who constructed a temple around the deity. He accomplished this after his father met his fate at the hands of Lord Narasimha. At the end of that life-cycle (Krita yuga), its said that

the temple was neglected and then began to decay. Even the Deity was not taken care of and crests of earth slowly started gathering around the image. It was only in the 10th Century, that the then King Pururava found the Lord in the hills and built a temple and as per the divine instructions. The image is always covered by sandal paste throughout the year excepting one day on which the Nijarupa darshanam (Original form) is revealed to all public. On all other days it looks like big Siva Linga.



It's said that Adi Shankara, Srimad Ramanujacharya, Sri Krishnakantha Dasa and many others visited the temple and worshipped the Lord. This holy place has many such stories interweaved & connected between these Acharyas (Gurus) and the Lord that are documented.

This holy temple has a huge Stone Pillar (Sthambam) called the "Kappa Sthambham" and people who embrace it with devotion and pay Tax ("Kappam") get their desires fulfilled. I paid my share of Tax and prayed for the welfare of every living being in the universe.

Pithapuram: I returned to Bus Stand at 9AM and proceeded towards Pithapuram, a place in Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. Along the journey I realised that I left my phone charger in the previous bus (Diwakar Travels). I thought I would let it go, but when it dawned upon me the cost of a new charger, I tried and reached out to the Bus attender and upon enquiry, he indicated that the charger was indeed available and was still connected to the plug point... surprised, I requested him to leave it with their office in Hyderabad and later during the day upon my instruction Mr. Rangarao from abhaya collected it.

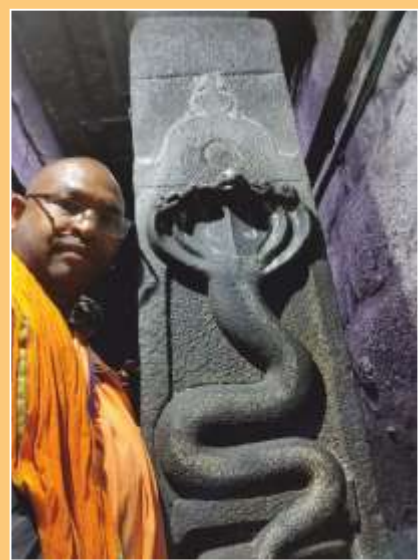


I reached Pithapuram at 12:30PM and the bus stopped at the Temple gate. Praying deep, I immediately rushed inside with the luggage as I knew that it was temple closing time....as expected the temple priest was about to close the doors and seeing my rush he graciously slowed down and said that I am lucky to have Darshan and opened the doors for me! I have no words except gratitude to Mother for her mercy... Had I missed the Darshan, I would have to wait for another five hours and would be stranded at Pithapuram.

Puruhitha Devi is one of the 18 Shakthi Pethams in the Country. The place is also called "Pada Gaya" where people offer pinda pradhana (A ritual that one performs to pay homage to one's 'ancestors' & departed souls in the family).

This holy place is also the same place where Sri Pada Vallabha, the first incarnation of Sri Dattatreya happened in 1320 AD and where he grew up. An Office of Sripada Srivallabha Mahasamsthan, a private trust is located in the temple complex which is currently administering all the Temple affairs and shrines in the complex.

I walked onto the banks of the sacred lake and merged my Father's ashes. As per the ritualistic code, I had darshan of all the gods post taking bath in the lake and had partaken free Anna Prasadam in the temple.



Draksharamam: From Pithapuram, my next halt was Draksharamam, a place in the Godavari district known for its exquisite beauty, cool zephyrs caressing your face, canals filled with waters, lush green crops, coconut trees and lovely people... No wonder it's called Kona Seema, a Divine place on earth... This place invigorates you and nurtures the eyes, body, heart and soul. This place is very rich in fertile soil because of the flow of the Godavari river and this entire district is called Dhanyagaar (Stockyard of the Country) of India.

The sacredness of this place comes from the temple of Lord Bhimeswara, one of the five temples of Lord Shiva known as

Pancharama Kshetras. It is also called as "Dakshna Kashi (Southern Kashi). The temple of Goddess Manikyamba is one of the 18 temples of Maha Shakti Pithas in India. It's a rare combination of a Pancharama Kshetra & a Shakti Peetha both of them being in one single holy place thus energising the place even further.



This place of Draksharamam is associated with the legend like Prajapathi Daksha (Called Lord of Creatures. He was also Son of Lord Brahma), Wedding of Chandra (Moon) with the 27 stars, Sati Swayamvaram, Lord Siva's marriage with Sati (Daughter of Prajapathi Daksh), Daksha Yagna (Nireswara Yagna), Sati immolation, Veerabhadra devastating Daksha Yagna, Killing of Daksha etc...The original name of this place is Daksha Aarama, meaning Abode of Daksha.

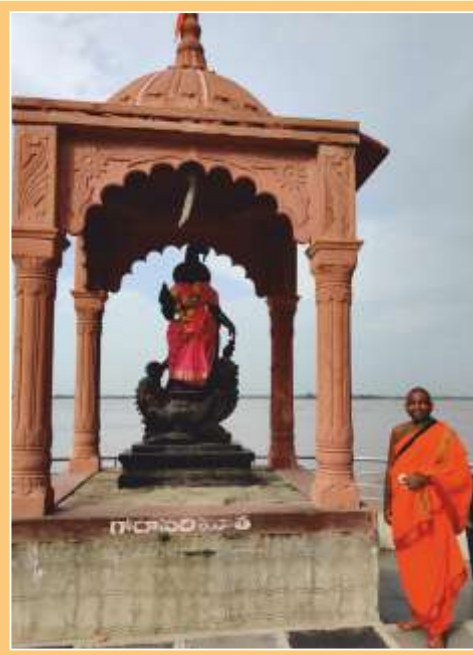
After the Self-immolation of Goddess Sati, its said that the left cheek had fallen here in Draksharamam. The name of the Consort of Siva (Bheemeswara) here is called "Maanikyaamba".

I visited Saptha Godavari Punya Thirtha and merged Father's ashes. I also saw the very ancient Aswartha Vriksha in the campus. Along with Navagraha Murthys, one can see all Ashta Dikpalaka Murthys in the temple. Saw other shrines along with Kshetra Palaka Murthy Sri Lakshmi Narayana. Seen the Moola Sthambha in the sanctum sanctorum where the foundation is laid for the temple. While having darshanam of the 14 feet Bhimeswara Lingam, I felt like I have seen Lords Virat Swarupam, offered my prayers at thy feet. The temple is a 2 storied complex and looks like a fort with 2 Prakarams (paths).



The outer Prakaram has 4 entrances in 4 different directions with beautifully carved Gopurams and each of the entrance is known in the form of 4 different forms of Goddesses i.e. Gogulamma, Nookambika, Moodhambike, Ghattambike. In the temple we can see Lord Bheemeswar Swamy, who is the main deity in the form of a tall Shiva Lingam. The Shiva Lingam is nearly 14 ft. A flight of steps leads one to the upper level of the Sanctum where one can see the upper part of Lord Bheemeswar Swamy. The speciality of the Shiva Lingam is that, the early morning tender Sun light falls on the Shiva Lingam. The Shiva Lingam is of crystal texture. There are black stripes on the upper part. These are said to be the markings of the tiger skin worn by Lord Shiva, I did 5 pradakshina to Bhimeswara Lingam signifying visiting all the other 4 Lingams making it as Pancharama Darshan. I also saw Dakshayani Amma. Left to Rajahmundry at 5PM by public transport and enroute visited Ramachandrapuram which was visited by Adi Shankaracharya centuries ago.

September 10, 2019



Rajahmundry: Kasu Raju & Family (Brother In Law of Kothamasu Rangarao) received me at Rajahmundry and provided me a room at Vasavi Lodge in the city centre. I have been treated with utmost care and love. They arranged everything for my visit including the vehicle to move around. In spite of repeated requests of allowing me to spend money...They did not! Such is their love. While I pray for their well being, I thank Smt. Veni Rangarao & Sri K Rangarao for connecting such kind people in Bharata Darshan.

I was ready by 6:30AM and received a caring friend CA BV Prasad at the hotel who joined me for couple of days in Bharata Darshan, visited Godavari River, the life stream of both the Godavari Districts of AP

since time immemorial. The river is flowing above danger mark and no one is allowed to go into the river by any means. With prayers, I merged Father's ashes in the Godavari River.

We both started our whirlpool journey in and around Rajahmundry at 8AM, visited the following places of interest till evening without a break.

Valli Devasena Subramanya Temple: 150 year old temple. Lord Subramanya blessed a family with children and the family built the temple.

Jaganmohini Kesava Swamy (Ryali): The temple is associated with Churning of milky ocean and Mohini distributing the nectar. While she is returning the pivot of the chariot fell down. She then realised, Lord Siva is following her. Shiva is able to see Mohini from behind and in front it was Kesava. The Lord in the same form became a statue.

Uma Kamandaleswar Temple (Ryali): Siva realising mistake, settled here in front of Jagan Mohini Temple with Uma, his consort who was not happy about these incidents. Her face is to be seen annoyed in the temple.

Penugonda: The place where Srimad Vasavi matha born ages ago and sacrificed her life along with 101 families in fire in a protest against King Vishnu Vardhana's proposal to marry her.

Srimad Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Temple (Penugonda): Temple Trust built 90 ft mammoth Vasavi Loha Vighram with all the details of Vysya Communities who sacrificed their lives in protecting Dharma.



Ksheeralingeeswara Swamy (Palakollu): Ksheera Rama Lingeswara swamy gave Sudarshana chakra to Lord Vishnu here. Upamanya Maharshi got boons and milk from Lord Shiva, hence the name Ksheera (milk) Ramalingeswara swami. The temple Gopuram is very high and can be seen from the bus stand. Parvati is the goddess.

Someswara Swamy (Bhimavaram): The temple looks new, and has a holy pond called Chandra kundam in front of the temple. Lord Chandra got rid of his sins here by worshipping Lord Shiva here, hence the name Someswara swami. Shivalingam changes its colour according to the lunar month (black at the time of Amavasya, white at the time of Pournami). Annapurna mata temple is on the second floor.

Mavillamma (Bhimavaram): The president deity of Bhimavaram. She appeared in the Mango tree 400 years back in ugra roopa. Later the murthy covered with a locally available material making goddess in a bigger form but in smiling form.

Goshpada Kshetram (Kovuru), Markandeya Swamy Temple (RJY), Kotilingeswara Swamy Temple (RJY), Samalamma Temple (RJY)

It is matter of great satisfaction to the mind and heart to roam in and around Rajahmundry. Where ever we go...there would be a stream of Godavari infusing life into whatever it touches. These places are blessed to have Godavari in their life as nectar.



The people of Godavari are very loving and caring like that of Godavari and may be so because of Godavari. In between, we had an opportunity to see how the world famous sweet Putha Rekulu is done at Athreyapuram, it tastes delicious. Such sweets and food items are available in almost all the places of the country. Each one makes different items.

During lunch time, we happened to be there at Bhimavaram. We observed that there is free food service at the temple. We felt that, instead of searching out...Let's partake prasadam there. For our surprise the lunch was like wedding

feast. May be for the first time in Bharata Darshan I had such delicious food for free. I saluted the temple staff for such a good work.

We returned to Vasavi Lodge to proceed to Vijayawada, the next destination in Bharata Darshan. Whereas the washer man did not get the dresses which made the departure delayed. Lodge staff went in search of washer man.

But, then I felt like why should I be attached to these dresses...I told them not to worry about the fellow, instead asked them to give away all the dresses to those in need on the streets. For me less luggage more comfort for body and life now. Many friends expressed desire to join me in Bharata Darshan...I was trying to tell them about my movement.

September 11, 2019

Hamsaladivi: Remembered Swamy Vivekananda today, as this was the day in the year 1893 he addressed the Parliament of Religions. In fact Message is very relevant for the today's world communities who are resolved to live up to his Message in Life.

CA BV Prasad, took care of me very lovingly and he did not allow me to spend even a rupee from my pocket. He took me to his home at Vijayawada. We both were ready by 6AM and reached bus stand.

We proceeded to reach Avanigadda, Koduru, Hamsaladivi, Krishna - Sagara Sangama Kshetram. We used Auto, Public Transport, Service Auto and a local auto to cross 90kms distance. The entire route is immersed in green colour with white borders i.e. Nurturing crops...Krishna streams flowing besides them. It's real feast for eyes.

The Krishna River is the 4th biggest river in terms of water inflows and river basin area in India, after the Ganga, Godavari and Brahmaputra. The river is almost 1,400 kilometres long. It is also called Krishnaveni and Telugu people call her as Krishnamma with love and reverence. It is one of the major sources of irrigation for Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It merges into the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi, Avanigadda.



This is the place Adi Shankara visited during Shankara Digvijayam. I am wonderstruck by the place. I have seen River merging with Sea. We could see the clear streams of river and sea with different colours.

With reverence I prostrated before the sangam, offered my prayers on behalf of all living beings. Remembering father, I merged ashes into sangam waters and took sacred dip. As there was no one around...spent quite time there, seeing the mighty sea...Bay of Bengal as to how it receives Krishnaveni into his fold.



On the sea shore...I collected 6 pebbles which are looking like black gems signifying the 6 qualities I must never loose in my life...Satya, Dharma, Shanthi, Sahana, Prema and Ahimsa by distancing myself from 6 bad qualities such as Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada & Mathsarya in life.

This place is yet another beautiful place on earth in India, where one can't miss it seeing in his/her life. While returning, we visited Sri Venugopala Swamy Temple on the sea shore. We returned to Vijayawada, proceeded to have Darshan of Mother Kanaka Durgamma at Indrakeeladri. There is huge development work happening in and around the temple. It's very appreciable regarding the improvement of facilities in the temple complex. Just not the temple but entire city is well maintained. Seeing Mother Kanaka Durga, I felt like I am seeing my own Peddamma (Aunty) in the sanctum sanctorum, offered prayers for Loka Kalyana.

I bought couple of dhoti and inner wear for the onward journey in Ramraj show room. Prasad with love took enough care about me. I am fortunate to have the presence of such people in my life. I am praying for the well being of him and his family. We had lunch at Minerva Coffee Shop and dining at Babayi Idli Center. Taking leave from his mother at home...we both proceeding to Kurnool in night journey.

The people of today and their behaviour is directly related to their birth, parents, family, culture, upcoming, values, surroundings, education, environment etc, hence...I am able to observe the patterns everywhere.

I thank those who are sending money to my bank account for Bharata Darshan. I received a message from CA G Apparao, Hyderabad stating that:

"Hello Balachandra garu, happy to inform you that today I have transferred Rs.2000/- to your bank account. This is only a token support to my good friend Sri Balachandra garu... I would request you to block your date on 20/10/19 (Sunday evening hours 7-pm in Secunderabad) The talk of the day will be discussed & decided later". I profusely thanked him and prayed for him.

September 12, 2019

TELANGANA

Alampur - Jogulamba: Reached Kurnool at 5AM and as informed to abhayan T Srinivasa Rao...we went to their home, sister Smt. Rama Srinivas welcomed us. We quickly got ready. Then enquired about Srinivasa Rao, she told us that, he is in Bengaluru. He deliberately did not inform us about travel, thinking that I may not come to their home in his absence...she said, my coming to their home during Bharata Darshan is very auspicious and hence did not reveal about his absence. I have no words except silently praying for their well being.

Smt & Sri Srinivasa Rao kindly arranged a car for me to travel. We left Kurnool to reach Alampur, Gadwal Dist, Telangana at 6:30AM. Alampur is the only place visited by Adi Shankara during Digvijaya Yathra in the state. Srimad Jogulamba is one of the 18 Shakthi Peethams. Here the Jaw of Sathi Devi fell and worshipped as Jogulamba.



We first went to Thungabhadra & Krishna river sangam near the temple. Offered prayers and merged father's ashes in the sangama theertha. We engaged local boat, to ride in the river. We had divine darshan of Mother Jogulamba & Bala Bramheswara Swamy. There are other small shrines in the complex. After devastation of ancient temple by Muslim invaders, the temple was rebuilt by Hindu Kings. Presently the Govt., of Telangana is developing the premises.

We then returned to Kurnool and had our breakfast served by Sister Smt. Rama Srinivasa Rao. Her aged parents gave Rs.2001/- and lovingly blessed me for the onward journey. Their love and care was very pleasant and brought lots of satisfaction for my inner being. I chanted Lakshmi Ashtotharam and Kanakadhara Sthothram at their home invoking the blessings of Maa Lakshmi. Taking leave from them, I left Kurnool to visit Ahobilam & Srisailem.

Ahobilam: We proceeded to Ahobilam, very famous Vaishnava shrine visited by Adi Shankara & Srimad Ramanujacharya.

Enroute Ahobilam, I visited Orvakallu Village and Rock Garden. It is a 1000 acre Sculpture Garden Park with ancient cave and igneous rock formations between pools of water. It is located about 20kms from Kurnool. There are a lot of facilities including Boating, Hotel, Holiday Resorts, Film Shooting etc., the place is mesmerising for the nature lovers. The visitors can happily stay here for a day or two without any disturbance and enjoy the best of the Nature.



Later reached Ahobilam at 12PM, the presiding deity is Lord Narasimha Swamy. It's believed that the Lord descended to earth at this very place from Ugra Sthambham in Narasimha-avatar to kill the demon Hiranyakashipu to save his ardent child devotee, Prahlada in Treta yuga.

The place is picturesque in nature and has 2 Ahobilams; the Lower Ahobilam which has Prahladarada Narasimha (blessing the

child, Prahlada) as base temple and a Higher Ahobilam where the god is in a cave. Altogether, there are nine temples in the vicinity of 5 kms depicting 9 forms of the Lord such as Jwala Narasimha, Ahobila Narasimha, Malola Narasimha, Kroda Narasimha, Kaaranja Narasimha, Bhargava Narasimha, Yogananda Narasimha, Chathravata Narasimha and Paavana Narasimha. It is believed that most of the temples were built in 8th century by Chalukyas and current structures were rebuilt by Vijayanagara Kings in 15th century. Only a few of these temples have easy access while most of them have to be reached by trekking through thick forest (known as Nallamalla forest) and rocky paths.

Though there are concrete steps made at many stretches, we will have to pass through water streams over stones amidst green forest. Quite tricky & slippery at many places as well and thus it makes the journey – both climbing up & down, difficult. However, it's very beautiful to walk through the serene stretch. I find climbing the hill is more difficult than climbing Tirumala hill. Therefore, one has to be physically strong enough to venture in to climbing from the base temple to Higher Ahobilam.

Ahobila Arya Vysya Annadaana Satram, established by Sri Meda Narasimhulu is in the vicinity of the temple. Food (annadanam) is served free for all visiting pilgrims through 'Annadana Satrams'. They arranged for archana and darshan of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha and other Murty. We had stupendous lunch at Sathram.



Mahanandi: We further proceeded to Mahanandi in Kurnool Dist. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and the shrine houses a huge statue of his loyal devotee, the Nandi (Bull). The uniqueness of the temple is the perennial gushing of holy water underneath the Lingam. The temple is believed to be around 1500 years old and the Vishwakarma Brahmins were the artisans of the shrine. The inscriptions found in the temple show that the shrine was repaired and renovated over the years of Cholas, Chalukyas and Vijayanagara rule.



I had sacred bath in water pool inside the temple and source of pool is from Maha Nandiswara himself. The inlets and outlets of the tank are arranged so that the depth of the water is constantly kept at five feet, thus enabling pilgrims to bathe in the holy waters. The water is famous for its crystalline and healing qualities and is ever tepid. The outgoing water irrigates 2,000 acres of fertile land surrounding the village. The surrounding areas are under production with rice fields, fruit, vegetable and flower gardens. The temple is well known for the koneru. The water during the winter season will be very hot and vice versa during the summer. During the early

mornings, the water is lukewarm and water gets cooled gradually with the rise in temperature. No one could understand the reasons for all the above facts at the temple even today. We had pleasant time at the temple with prayers.

We then proceeded to Nandyala. The car left us at Veda Infra Projects established by abhayans Vaishnava Sreenath & Sreedhar. They both resigned from good jobs at Hyderabad and started their 2nd innings in the life as entrepreneurs. Sreedhar received me at his office with lots of love and care, comforted us. The way he treated me was akin to treating a father at home. He made me occupy his chair in the office and his staff respected me with gifts and eatables. He explained the details of his business and we also spoke to his wife Swetha, who works at HDFC Bank. Knowing my onward journey to Srisailem, they arranged a car for the travel quietly. I have no words to see their love and care. I profusely pray for their well-being and proceeded to Srisailem at 5:45PM and reached the destination by 9PM. Thanks to the skill full driver who covered 160kms in that roads in such a short time and helped us have a darshan of Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna.



Srisailem: The shrine of GOD Mallikarjuna is picturesquely situated on a flat top of Nallamala Hills. Srisailem is reputed to be one of the most ancient kshetras in India. It is on the right side of the River Krishna in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh. This celebrated mountain is also named as Siridhan, Srigiri, Sirigiri, Sriparvatha and Srinagam. It has been a popular centre of Shaivite pilgrimage for centuries.

The prominence of this Divya Kshetram is highlighted by the fact that while performing our daily household rituals we specify place of location of our existence with reference to Srisailem. This is one of those rare places where both Jyothirlinga and Shakthi Peetham are together granting the divine vision and boon to the devotees. For more details, we can visit : <http://www.srisailemonline.com/legends.html>



The moment we got down from car, I rushed towards Temple complex thinking that I can have the fortune of having darshan of Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy before closure of Temple for the day. There was no crowd and I had divine darshanam of presiding deities for more than once. The entire temple complex is so cleanly maintained and one can surely experience very positive and divine vibrations at this place. I spent more than an hour in the temple complex seeing all the shrines. Offering prayers for the well being of every living being, I came out of the temple with CA BV Prasad.

We stayed at Annapurna Satram which is just situated at walkable distance from the temple. Since morning 5AM to early hours of 12AM, we had seen many wonderful and beautiful things that were granted by GOD. Expressing my gratitude, I slept for couple of hours bringing the curtains down for the day.

September 13, 2019

I got up by 4AM and was ready by 5AM. We proceeded towards Srisailem Temple Complex. Prasad got seeghradarshan tickets. We had an opportunity to go into the sanctum sanctorum and touch the Jyothirlinga. I am in total bliss for a moment, praying for all. Later visited Srimad Bhramaramba Devi and other shrines in the complex, we were out by 6:30 AM.

We visited the Pthalaganga which is further down from temple complex. The Govt. is running a rope way to reach the Krishna River. I offered Father's ashes in to the river with prayers. Then proceeded to visit Sakshi Ganapathi, Hatakeswar, Srisailem Dam, Sikhara Darshan and Paladhara - Panchadhara.

The last places referred above is associated with Sri Adi Shankaracharya and his mission. He did penance here and authored Sivananda Lahari & Soundarya Lahari centuries ago. He installed Srichakra Yanthram at Thy Feet of Mother Bhramaramba. Centuries later, when Kanchi Paramacharya stayed here in meditation, he had the vision of Lotus Feet of Adi Shankara and he located the same and constructed a small shrine. Visit to the place made me to visualise the Life & Mission of Adi Shankara.

Srisailem Dam was full with Krishna water. The Dam was constructed across the Krishna River in Kurnool district and is the 2nd largest capacity working hydroelectric station in the country. The 10 flood gates were lifted today and released excess water down from the dam. Seeing these gushing waters is like seeing Ganga flowing from the head of Lord Siva. The entire atmosphere near dam was fully charged up with most positive



vibrations. Hundreds of visitors were seen all over. We returned to Nandyala at 2PM and profusely thanked Arifwali, the cab driver for the safe drive. We had very good lunch at Hotel Pallas in Nandyala with Vaishnava Sreedhar. I really felt amazed by his love and care for the past 2 days.

Pushpagiri / Proddatur: Prasad & myself boarded Public Transport bus to reach Kadapa & Proddaturu respectively. I reached Mydukuru and Sri S Janardhana Guptha very kindly received me in car, whereas Prasad proceeded to Kadapa. Guptha and myself proceeded to visit Pushpagiri Temples on the banks of Penna River. Merged Father's ashes in the sacred river which was flowing from Tadpatri, which is my father's birth place. This is the last point and final destination in which I merged my father's ashes and I prayed for his Vaikuntha vasa.

Pushpagiri is yet another place which Sri Adi Shankara visited and spent good time in penance. He installed Srichakra Meru which is believed to be the rarest Yanthra in stone created by Adi Shankara. We had darshanam & sparshanam of Sri Kamakshi Vaidyanatheswar. Later visited Santhana Mallikarjuna Swami & Chenna Kesava Swamy on the other side of Penna River which are believed to be swayambhu murthies. Lord Srirama worshipped the deities here. From the flowers he had thrown in to the river emerged a mountain thereby the same was called as Pushpagiri.

We reached Proddaturu and stayed at Lakshmi Gupta's home. Lalitha Lahari their daughter and my child was happy to see me. She will be joining for the onward journey in Bharata Darshan from tomorrow. They arranged their own car and driver for the journey. We need to proceed to Tirupathi and other places from there. Smt & Sri Rangarao will also be joining me in Bharata Darshan for next 3 days from Tirupathi.



September 13, 2019



Devuni Gadapa/ Vontimitta / Tirupati: Lalitha Lahari is a Commerce & Law Graduate who joined me for couple of days during Bharata Darshan. Lahari heartily associated with me and my life since a decade now and she is also my grandchild. We started at around 5AM in their car.

We first visited Devuni Kadapa - Sri Venkateswara Swamy. Kadapa is named after the word Gadapa which is originated from the words "Devuni Gadapa" means "Threshold of the entrance for The Lord Venkateswara Swamy". It stands as an example of Vijayanagara architecture. It is said that Tallapaka Annamacharya and all the Sankaracharyas of the Advaita Mutt along with the great poet Kshetrappa visited this place.



Then we visited, Ameenpeer Darga. It is one of best known Sufi pilgrimage sites in India. The Masjid is believed to be constructed in 1683. It was originally a grave place for the two Sufi saints Perullah Hussaini and Arufulla Hussaini II. The then Nawab of Sidhout Taluk, Nawab Nek nam Khan changed the name of the place to Neknamabaad on the advice of Perullah Hussaini.

Later, we visited Vontimitta Ramalayam. According to the local legend, this place was once blessed by Lord Sri Rama, Sita Matha and Lakshman to serve Sages Mrukunda & Srungi. They have installed murthy in single stone and its said that later Jambavantha also had worshipped Lord Rama over here. When Rama visited the forest here, he was yet to be connected to Hanuma and hence Hanuma was not to be seen near Rama. Later in Kaliyuga the temple was built by Vontudu and Mittudu, who were robbers-turned-devotees of Rama. After building the temple, they are said to have turned into stone. Later after centuries, many kings developed it. The temple is an example of Vijayanagara architectural style, is dated to the 16th century. It is stated to be the largest temple in the region. Bammera Pothana believed to be lived here and dedicated Bhagavatam to Lord

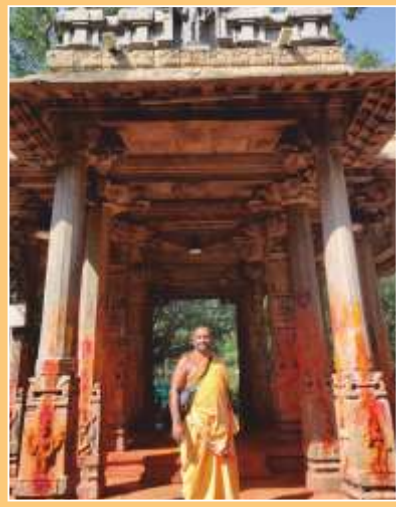


Sri Rama. As per the word given to the Moon, Lord Sri Rama wedding is performed at nights in the open area allowing Moon to witness the event. This is one of the best temples that I have seen in my Bharata Darshan journey.

We then proceeded to Tirupathi and enroute visited Soumyanatha Swamy at Nandaluru. The main attraction of the temple is, its beautiful 108 pillars and 4 Raja Gopurams. The deity is similar to Lord Sri Venkateswara. The idol can be seen during both sun rise and sun set without any artificial light.

We had our breakfast at a road side Vendor, opposite to the Temple and then reached Tirupathi at 11:30AM.

We informed D Sridhar, who is my close associate at Tirupathi about our arrival. We then reached Srivarimettu and from there we walked to reach Tirumala. There are about 2400 steps and we climbed them in 3 hours time. Only thing that bothered us is that, there is nothing to eat and drink except tap water all across the route due to some issue of strike by small vendors. The daily darshan quota is closed and hence visited CRO at TTD as advised by Sridhar and got Darshan Token for 8PM slot.



As soon as we reached Tirumala, Sridhar received us with utmost love and care. He handed over Swamy Abheka Thirtham and Akshitas, took us for lunch and advised us to proceed to Sarvadarshanam 5 hours in advance. We did not know what was in reserve for us inside. We were directed to reach a make shift shed and instructed to wait for our turn till 8PM. Though I am accustomed to such hardship in Bharata Darshan...It caused little inconvenience to Lahari. But, with lots of patience and love for me she faced everything around boldly. As there was no phone in hands, we both were engaged in discussing about various issues.

The facilities created by TTD for the sake of pilgrims are simply superb. Sheds, toilets, water, milk, food, lockers, laddu all these things are made available for free. I could see a huge & heavenly difference in the temple city all over. Finally the waiting ended at 8PM and thereafter we started moving in the queue line to reach Temple. It's already past 12AM on 15th Sept 2019 and we were still moving slowly in the queue.

September 15, 2019

Tirumala: Despite having focus on GOD and nothing else, the walking in the queue for long hours & many kms made the body pained and this was also the case with Lahari. She was vomiting since morning and this coupled with lack of food, trekking, walking in long queue line for hours together and add to it huge crowd around made her lose all the energy. Though I proposed to go out without Darshanam, she said firmly that having come this long and spent more than 10 hours, we should only go ahead and have the Darshan of the Lord Venkateswara. Finally we had darshan and were out by 12:30AM after having Divine Darshan only for 30 seconds.



My body was filled with divine vibrations and I could feel that GOD is not a populous blind belief. His presence is the essence of penance made by the sages since ages. That is why each place where GOD resides becomes like a magnet attracting crores of people.

I really have no doubt about the GOD and The POWER behind the creation and existence of every being. But what I observed in the prevailing world was that instead of having love for GOD, people were having fear of GOD & love for sin...Hence the present situations in the world. When we have LOVE FOR GOD, then there will be harmony in life. Wherever I roamed in the Country, the same feeling is becoming much stronger and clearer to me.

Lahari is editing the content posted by me in facebook since April 2019 and is bringing out readable stuff which has publishing value. She is a good at drafting and has excellent communication skills, helping me in doing what is right in life. I profusely prayed for her well being.



When we came out and reached the car, we understood that the vehicles movement was stopped and will start only after 2AM on the ghat road. We returned to Srivari Mada Veedhi and collected the famous Tirupathi Laddu, The Divine Prasadam which every devotee wishes to partake at least once and as many times as possible. We had been to Sri Varaha Swamy Temple, Srivari Pushkarini and other places post having food in the nearby road side hotels. We captured some good impressions and expressions in and around the temple. Finally we came down to Tirupati, from Seven Hills, the abode of Lord Sri Venkateswara at 3AM.

By the time we reached Hotel Ramsun near Govinda Raja Swamy Temple, arranged by Sridhar, Veni & Rangarao also reached the hotel to spend couple of days with me during Bharata Darshan. They were coming from VIT where their daughter is studying and returned after having darshan at Arunachalam.

Sri K Rangarao is one of the finest individual associated with abhaya Foundation since a decade and he is the President. Smt K Veni Rangarao is the Director - abhaya Women Empowerment Initiatives in the country. Both of them selflessly serve thousands of deserving people in the country. They turned their own house into an Empowerment Centre providing free skills training for the unemployed youth in Hyderabad & Secunderabad since a decade.



I am really fortunate to have such people in life and this couple stood by me in all the good work and also encouraged me to take up Bharata Darshan.

It being a Sunday was very crowded wherever we went. Ranga and team taken complete care of me for the last couple of days. Their company always infuse lots of confidence in me while doing my bit for the Life, Society and the Country. I must say that they indeed deserve lion share in all appreciations that we receive at abhaya Foundation.

Though the plan was to get out of the hotel by 8AM, despite the alarm, we could not even get up due to physical strain that we had yesterday. All of us finally came out of hotel at 10AM, finished our breakfast and then proceeded to have darshan of Sri Govinda Raja Swamy and his Divine Consorts. Then we visited Alivelu Mangapuram, the abode of Goddess Padmavathi.

Sri Kalahasthi: From there, we travelled to Sri Kalahasthi, the abode of Lord Siva who gave salvation to Spider, Snake, Elephant whose devotion was far superior than humans. It's because of their devotion and innocence that this place is called as Sri (Spider) Kala (Snake) Hasthi (Elephant). This is the place where Kannappa with his firm devotion to Lord Siva offered his 2 eyes to stop the bleeding from the Lord's eyes. This is one of the 5 Lingams which represents the Vayu in the universe. Here it's Vayu Linga (Lingam representing Air element). The lights in the right side of Lord will be shaking as if someone is blowing them signifying Vayu is there in the direction...Other lamps will have no movement. We all had a pleasant darshan. The place was visited by Adi Shankara.

Sri Kalahasthi Temple is yet another marvel of ancient sculpture. The magnificent temple of Lord Siva left us in ecstasy..



TAMIL NADU

Kanchipuram:

We had lunch & proceeded to Kanchipuram
 The Moksha Nagari,
 The Hasthigiri,
 The abode of Kamakshi,
 The chosen place of Adi Shankara,
 The Moolamnaya Sankaracharya Peetham
 The Sarvagna Peetham
 The place of learning.



The place where goddess resides is called "Gayatri Mandapam". The Goddess lives in temple in 3 forms. They are Sri Kamakshi, Sri Bilahasam and Sri Chakram. The goddess is in a sitting posture of "Padmasana". The goddess contains Pasa, Angusa, Pushpabana and Sugarcane in her forehands. It's like seeing Mother in sitting posture as if she is waiting to see her own children to come home. Her beauty can't be explained in words.



Thiruttani: En route Kanchi, we had a wonderful opportunity to visit Thiruttani. This temple is one amongst the six Padaiveedu's of Lord Muruga. It represents the site where Subramanya stayed after destroying the demon Surapadman. Tiruttani is said to be the place where the Lord Subramanya married Valli - one of his two consorts.

Wherever, we went...The divine places were all connected with mythological stories of Lord, making our pilgrimage a memorable one for everyone. We finally reached the destination Kanchipuram for the day. The moment, we arrived at Kanchi, we quickly proceeded to Kamakshi Amman Koil, One of 18 Shakthi Peethams referred to by Adi Shankara.



The temple was glittering with divine sculpture and it's stunning beauty mesmerised us beyond explanation. We lost ourselves in seeing all the shrines, remembering Adi Shankara's Life, Mission and the Work associated with Hinduism and Advaita Philosophy.

The Saint Adi Shankara born at Kaladi in Kerala travelled across all the parts of the country. When he visited Kanchipuram he felt the goddess is in a ferocious mode and that the entire sanctum sanctorum was very hot. So to pacify her and plead her to return to the normal energy state, he sang songs in the praise of goddess which is now codified as "Soundarya Lahari". He also established a Sri Chakra in front of her idol to pacify her and also ensure that only Satwik energies are triggered and mother is worshipped as the calm one. This Srichakram is visible to all of us and all the poojas are done to the srichakram also alongside the idol. The Saint also established Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam and attained Sarvagyna peetam in this holy city.

We visited Shankara Mutt and found out that the 70th Head of Peetham, HH Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamiji was on a visit to Chennai. We sought the blessings of Paramacharya Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Swamigal & Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal at THEIR Brindavanams. I remembered their words and blessings to me three and half decades back during their visit to Tadipatri.

We had our Dinner at Mysore Arya Bhavan and seeing the Telugu Board, we took a common room to stay for the night at Kanchi Arya Vayya Sathram. Owing to hectic travel and roaming around in different places since morning, we all crashed on the mats and dropped into deep sleep.



September 16, 2019

Kanchipuram, a home of culture and Koils: We got ready by 630AM and engaged an auto (Driver Govinda) and he agreed to take me to all 14 Vaishnava Divya Desams in and around Kanchipuram. We had the fortune of visiting the following deities:

1. Sri Varadharajar Perumal
2. Sri Yathothakaari Perumal
3. Sri Ulagalantha Perumal
4. Sri Jagadeeshwarar Perumal
5. Sri Karunakara Perumal
6. Sri Thirukkaar vaanar Perumal
7. Sri Vaikunda Perumal
8. Sri Pavala Vannar Perumal
9. Sri Pandava Thoodhar Perumal
10. Sri Nilathingal Thundathan
11. Sri Aadhi Varaha Perumal
12. Sri Azhagiya Singar Perumal
13. Sri Deepa Prakasar Perumal
14. Sri Vijayaraghava Perumal



I never imagined that Kanchipuram is such a beautiful place housing 100s of temples all over. I keep telling the people around me about the existence of 2 ancient temples in my place at Tadipatri with little pride in my heart. But seeing Kanchipuram Temples, I became speechless. Every corner of the streets in the city has an ancient temple. Majority of the temples are constructed between of 5th to 12th Century. Each temple is an engineering marvel. We find Vaishnavaites and Shivaites with their respective Thilakams / Naamams all over the city. Seeing them is like walking along the side of people in Kailasha & Vaikuntha.



The official seal / emblem of TamilNadu (TN) Govt. contains a Gopuram in it conveying how TN is inseparable from Temples. TN may be one of the States in the Country having more number of temples. Each murthy seen here in the temples are so beautifully sculptured or manifested or created. Nature in Himalayas is treated as GOD, the Swayambhu which is formless treated as GOD in the North India...whereas

here in Tamilnadu, South India...The temple, premises, location, design, sculpture, shilpa sastra, moola murthy, concept, theme...Everything is so magnificent and glorious. If we google about any of these temples...we will find mesmerising mythological stories of Vaishnavism. In fact...There is not a single Vaishnava temple in India which doesn't have Sri Ramanujacharya image / idol. Such is his influence on Vaishnava Philosophy.

The Hindu Dharma is blessed to have Acharya Trayam, it's because of the 3 seers (Adi Shankaracharya, Ramanujacharya & Madhvacharya) that India and it's glory is still preserved since ages.

When visited Sri Varada Raja Perumal in the morning we waited for long time due to an ongoing ritual. I made use of the time and happily roamed across the temple. We had darshan of Perumal and then touched Sun, Moon, Silver and Gold Lizard.

Two disciples of Gauthama Rishi used to fill water every day for their Guru. One day, to their shock, they found a lizard jumping out when they placed the tumbler in front of their Guru. An angry Rishi cursed the two for their carelessness and they instantly turned into Lizards.

The 2 disciples stayed here at Kanchipuram as lizards until Indra came, as Elephant Gajendra, to worship Varadarajan Perumal, relieved them from their curse. In memory of this, there is a golden lizard and a silver lizard outside the Varadarajan Sannidhi. Belief is that one will be relieved of all diseases if one prays to Lord Varadarajan and touches the Lizard on the way out. Sun & Moon are seen as witness to the devotees touching.

We had some time in hands before lunch break and Veni Rao desired to see silk sarees. We visited a silk sarie shop. The selection and shopping went on for couple of hours. I gifted a saree to Lahari, my grandchild.



Ekambreswar: We visited Ekambreswar Koil. It is one of the Pancha Bootha Sthalams representing the element - Earth.

This vast temple is one of the most ancient in India having been in existence since at least 600 AD. The temple covers an area of over 40 acres. Reaching a height of 57 meters, the temple's Raja gopuram is one of the tallest in South India and was built by the Vijayanagar King, Shri Krishnadevaraya.



No separate shrine for Parvati exists here. This is the place where Mother Parvathi did her penance under a mango tree and the lord appeared before her and married her. That's why both Parvathi Siva will be seen on the same platform.

We finally bid good bye to Govinda who took us in Auto since morning and I touched his feet while giving Rs.1000/- for his services. We started our journey back to Proddaturu and en route Veni Ranga Rao got down at Tirupathi.

My "virtue" of being forgetful continues.... Govinda called me saying that I forgotten the skechers shoes in auto. I laughed at myself and on my great "virtue" told him that he can happily use them. I thought this as one other incident of detachment towards materialistic stuff.



As a son to late Sri SS Rangaiah, I wished to merge my Father's remains / ashes in all the sacred rivers and thirthams in the country during Bharata Darshan. I thought, this can be the BEST tribute that can be offered to our Father who departed from us on July 29th 2019 to the heavenly abode. It's my fortune to serve Father in this way. While I moved from North India to South India I merged Father's ashes in the following rivers and finally merging them in Penna River associated with Father's birth place Tadipatri.

Gandagi River, Baitarani River, Sarayu River, Phalguni River, Sivakund, Narmada River, Sonbhadra River, Saptha Godavari, Nabhigaya, Krishna River, Krishna - Sagar Sangam, Tungabhadra River, Godavari River and Penna River.

September17, 2019

Proddaturu: Ready by 6AM, taking leave from Lahari's Family (I dropped her at home from Tamil Nadu), I left for Bus Stand along with her father. I thought of having Darshanam of Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari, hence reached the famous Amma vaari Shaala with which I am associated since birth. But, the doors of sanctum sanctorum were closed due to abhishekam. Thinking that, I may miss the bus to Nellore I proceeded to Bus Stand.

Where as when I reached bus stand, I came to know that bus may come at around 9:30AM. I felt bad for missing Darshan of Vasavi Maatha, I engaged an auto and again went back to the temple. The doors were being opened by the priest the moment I entered in and he called me and offered prasadam. Giving everything to the Muslim driver praying for well-being, I proceeded to Bus Stand.

17th Sept is a special day for Hyderabadis and Indians. On this day, Hyderabad merged into Indian Union. The efforts put in by the then Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, The Iron Man of India was extra ordinary. This day is marked as Hyderabad Vimochana Dinam (Liberation day of State of Hyderabad).

Indians at large celebrated 69th Birthday of their beloved Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi. I wish to convey my hearty Prayers to God seeking blessings and directions for Sri Narendra Modi, The Prime Minister of India on his Birthday.

I wish to share one of the best impressions of Modiji with Mother on this day... I title the impressions as "Mathru Devo Bhava"... offering my respects to mother for giving Modi for this country in entirety! Happy Birthday Dear Modi! Let's pray for his well-being, there by our well being possible in the country...Yada Raja...Thadha Praja... Shubham Bhooyath.





Nellore: Got in to bus at 10AM at Proddaturu Bus Stand, reached Nellore the final destination in AP which is about 220kms distance. The road was very good, reached Nellore at 1:30PM.

Sri Gangireddy, a Social Worker who dedicated life for the cause of Farming Issues in the region very caringly came to bus stand to receive me. He was following Bharata Darshan Updates since beginning on facebook and was thrilled to know the best things and experiences. He desired to be

my host for 3 days in Nellore. He brought the car and driver as well. I realized the power of spreading the good in all means. I profusely thanked him.

Gangireddy garu seeing the work of abhaya Foundation in social media, approached them to serve victims of Nellore floods couple of years back. We together served the neediest people in the region then. He passionately works for the farming communities. We had our lunch at Venkataramana Vilas which is the famous food destination in the city since 3 decades. We had very good Nellore Bhojanam. Then we proceeded to visit the places in and around Nellore City.



Swarna Bharat Trust: We first visited Venkatachalam and went to Swarna Bharat Trust established by Sri M Venkaiah Naidu, now the Vice President of India in the year 2003. 10 acres campus serving the most deserving communities of rural areas. We met Sri Narasimha Rao, Administrator of the campus and he kindly

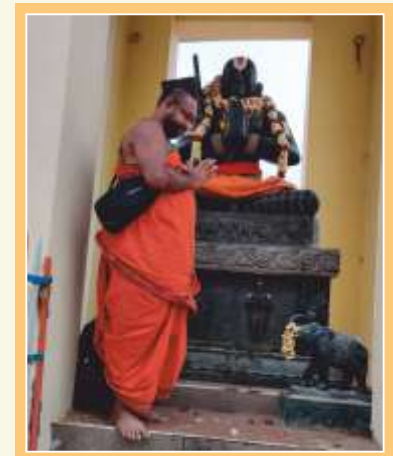
took us for a round in the campus. Education, Empowerment, Healthcare, Agriculture, Community Welfare activities can be seen there. I briefly interacted with each beneficiary community in the campus. Appreciating the efforts put in by families, friends, staff associated with Sri M Venkaiah Naidu, Swarna Bharat Trust & Mupparapu Foundation. We left the campus. we felt that they can do much more good work with the available infrastructure at their disposal.

Bara Shaheed Dargah: This is the place where 12 Muslim young men sacrificed their life. They were beheaded by the haters. Their bodies without heads travelled 20kms riding horses and reached Swarnala Cheruvu (Drinking water lake in Nellore) and finally fell here. The wife of Local Nawab got instructions in dream to construct samad in the place and hence this Durgah. She was relieved by her illness by worshipping here...Hence she exchanged rotis expressing gratitude to Bara Shaheed and since then during Muhurram people irrespective caste, creed, religion and region started celebrating Rottela Panduga here with devotion. Seeing this place I felt amazed as the populous belief is so strong...Lakhs of people from all over world congregate every year over here. We then visited Sri Raja Rajeswari Amma Temple in the city.



Sri Ranganatha Swamy: We proceeded to Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Where Lord Ranganatha appeared in the form of light to Kashyapa who was performing Yagna. The place is called Talpagiri and the temple and town is developed by Vikrama Simha there by titled as Simhapuri. Sri Ramanujacharya Statue is to be seen in front of the temple.

Nellore: When this area was part of Combined Madras State, Tamilians used to identify the place with good quality rice and in Tamil the rice paddy is called as Nelli and the place is called Nelli Ooru...then settled as Nellore.



Mulasthaneswar: Very ancient temple in the city dedicated to Lord Siva. The temple is situated at Mulapet. Title of the place and Siva signifying that they are the source for Nellore.



Jonnavaada: Yagna Vatika...Yagna Vada...settled as Jonnavada. The temple is located on the banks of Pinakini River (Penna). On the other bank, we can see Narasimha Konda. Sage Kashyapa when performed a sacred Yagna in this place

ages ago...Lord Siva appeared in the light form and settled here as Mallikarjuna. Later Mother Parvathi came in search of her Husband and seeing him in Yagna Vatika requested him to return to Kailasa. Siva advised her to stay too at the same place. Mother descended here as Kamakshi Thayi. Most beautiful temple came up in later times.

Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya visited the temple during Digvijayam and moved by the power of the deities, established Sri Chakram and performed Vedic rituals bringing back the last glory of the temple. Since then it started attracting lakhs of people. We could see Adi Shankara Temple just besides sanctum sanctorum.

I felt blessed to see the temple and connection of Shankaracharya here. I prayed for the well-being of every living being.

From there, we visited Narasimha Konda on the other side of Pinakini River. The temple is very ancient. Lord Narasimha appeared here in the form of light on the hill and granted divya darshanam to Sage Kashyapa. Very much astonished to see the hill, rock and the temple associated with such legend.

We finally proceeded to Sri Gangireddy's home. Smt Lakshmi Gangireddy garu received me with love and care. By the time we reached their home, their friends and family members were waiting to see me. I am surprised to see them with Garlands, fruits and shawls in their hands. Despite telling them not to do such things, everyone prostrated before me saying that, they are lucky to see me in Bharata Darshan. I briefly interacted with the gathering sharing about Bharata Darshan. Thanked Smt & Sri Gangireddy garu for being my host. Had dinner and took rest for the night at their home.

September 18, 2019

I was ready by 6:30AM. Mrs. Gangireddy very caringly served hot dosa with delicious chutnies. I requested them to do me a favour by giving my clothes for washing so that by night I can have them before leaving Guduru. Gangireddy showed their house, office, RRDS NGO (Rural Reconstruction & Development Society). I proposed him to join hands with abhaya Foundation in empowering the rural youth of the communities around Guduru.

Prathap, cab driver picked us at 7AM and we proceeded to visit Guduru & Venkatagiri as per Adi Shankaracharya route.

Guduru - Alaga Natha Swamy: The roots of the town began during the Chola Dynasty. It is believed that Cholas constructed Alaganatha Swamy temple. Later the town developed around this temple. It is the largest temple in Guduru. The Satavahanas, Cholas, Pallavas, Telugu Cholas, Kakatiyas, Vijayanagara kings, and Golkonda Nawabs ruled this area. The town is also linked with the story of Venkatagiri (ruled by Yachendra family), which is close by about 42 kms from Guduru. The presiding deities are beautifully carved in stone.

I remember, Sridhar at Tirupathi saying that his aged mother was staying at Guduru opp to the temple. I visited her. She is a senior citizen, but was taking care of 7 more senior citizens with her and was not dependent on anyone. Felt amazed by seeing this Mother. I prayed for her well-being.

Chengamma, Sullurpeta: Visiting the temple and Goddess made me to feel the power of Divine. During 10th Century, few cow takers while swimming in Kalangi river noticed Goddess in the whirlpool and rushed to the village informing about the incident. Village elders came to the spot and with lots of difficulty placed it in the present place. Named it as Tenkali (Dakshina Kali) it is pronounced as Chengamma in the passage of time...Presently settled as Chengamma. As she is found in Sudulu (Whirlpool) the village developed around the temple called as Sudulurupeta...Now settled as Sullurupeta.

The goddess is in a low laying area as if she is approachable to everyone and there are no doors for the temple...24x7 people can have her darshan.



Mallar Poruru: Jambavathi Sametha Alagar Sri Krishna Swamy Temple. This is the place where Lord Krishna had a fight with Jambavantha during Dwapara Yuga and this is the place where the Lord married Jambavathi. Chola Kings beautifully constructed a temple. Alaga in Tamil means beautiful. Further Garuda Alwar Statue is very mighty here in front of Lord. As Lord Hari did Malla Yudha, the place is called Malla Hari Porur... Now settled as Mallar Poruru



Mallam Subramanyam Swamy:

The temple is dedicated to Valli Devasena Subramanyam. This day Bramhothsavam was being celebrated and thousands of devotees were seen everywhere. Somehow we managed to have darshanam and also witnessed divine marriage of Lord in the 101 pillor hall which is of great significance.

Penushila Narasimha Kshetram:

It was a famed place as "THAPOVAN OF KANVAMAHARSHI" who performed penance. The river KANDALERU (Kanva Yeru) near the temple originates from the water falls of the mountains behind.

The presiding deities are in existence since ages and later temple was built during 13th Century. The image of the Lord is a self manifested one (SWAYAMBHU). Two stones inter twisted to form a Lion's Head at the Top. Hence the Lord is called "PENUSILA LAKSHMI NARASIMHA SWAMY" In Telugu "PENU" means twist and "SILA" is stone. After killing Hiranya Kasipa as Narasimha, Lord Vishnu married Chenchu Lakshmi in Bhairagikona, a place at a short distance from Penusilakonda and killed the RAKSHASAS who were torturing "RISHIS". The Lord, Vishnu used to visit the lake every Saturday and as evidence a Silver Umbrella rose from the Lake. The Deity is a very powerful one.

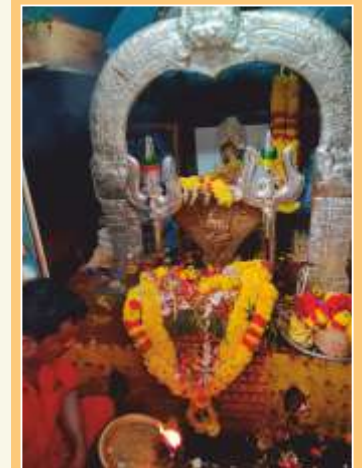
Matha Vijayeshwari Aashram: The Aashram is just walkable distance from the temple. Matha Vijayeshwari was away from her Ashram and was in Gujarat. We roamed around in the Aashram for some time and then left.

Venkatagiri Samsthanam: Later I visited the home of Venkatagiri Kings and Poleramma Temple. Incidentally the Annual Festival was being celebrated in the town for the goddess from that evening. It was expected that lakhs of people will come and pray to the Goddess.

After hectic travel for the day, we reached home. Smt Gangireddy served us hot Vada. They invited some friends home. They were eager to see me. I spent some time with them talking about our experiences. I had my dinner and left Guduru to reach Chennai, Tamilnadu by Jana Sathabdi Express.

I really felt happy about the family members of Smt & Sri Gangireddy for their love and care for the past 2 days. They treated me like a Sadhu. What can I give them in return, except expressing my heartfelt gratitude! They spent Time, Money and Resources on me.

Smt Gangireddy, handedover the dresses post wash. On enquiry, I understand that they did not give them to washer man instead she herself washed my clothes, humbled by her gesture, I touched her feet for having caused trouble to her.



September 19, 2019

TAMIL NADU



Chennai: Shivakumar, a close relative and well-wisher from Chennai received me at their home when I reached railway station at 12AM. Vomcy Shivakumar is the daughter of my maternal uncle lovingly hosted me. Am ready by 6AM after couple of hours rest. Hari, a known friend to us agreed to be with me with his own car during TN Tour. Thanked Vomcy Shivakumar

Tamil Nadu has innumerable temples, both Saivite and Vaishnavite, which have an ancient history and a rich cultural heritage. Hundreds of Temples belong to Shivaite, Vaishnavite, Shaktiyeas, Skandas and Ganapathyaas can be seen here in the state. In fact if you look at the official emblem of TN State Govt...It contains a Raja Gopuram. There are 82 Vaishnava Divya Desams in the state. Sri Ramanijacharya born in this state and Adi Shankara visited many places spreading the Advaita Philosophy during his Digvijayam.

The TN tour is being the last leg of Bharata Darshan, considering many works to be attended at abhaya Foundation in various chapters...thought of quickly completing the tour. Praying GOD to be kind in leading me to complete this by month end. Informed all those who stood by me in life about my movement.

Sri Laxmareddy, Hyderabad
Sri A Rajasekhar Reddy, Hyderabad
Smt G Keerthi Murthy, New Delhi
Sri D Sridhar, Thirupathi
Sri K Rangarao, Hyderabad
Sri S Janardhan Gupta, Proddaturu
Ms S Lalitha Lahari, Proddaturu
Sri Gangireddy, Guduru

and others are very kind to respond with their kind and monetary support along with their wishes. I profusely prayed for their well-being.

The tour in TN kick started couple of days back itself. I visited Kanchipuram & Thiruttani along with Veni Rangarao & Lahari. Now again back to TN after visiting Nellore, Guduru, Venkatagiri and other places in AP. The following places were covered for the day.

Sri Partha Sarathy Perumal: It is an 8th Century Hindu Vaishnavite temple dedicated to the Lord Vishnu, located at Thiruvallikeni. The temple is glorified in the Divya Prabandha, the early medieval Tamil literature canon of the Alvar saints from the 6th–9th centuries sang in praise of the Lord. The name 'Parthasarathy', in Tamil, means the 'charioteer of Arjuna', referring to Krishna's role as a charioteer to Arjuna in the epic Mahabharata. The tallest statue, never seen before along with his wife Rukmini and brother Sathyaki besides...He stood in sanctum sanctorum with moustaches like a king. Spent about 2 hours time in the temple.

Thiruvattiyur: Of the 275 Paadal Petra Stalams, 32 lie in the Tondi Nadu, among which the Thiagarajaswamy temple at Thiruvattiyur is unique. This temple at Thiruvattiyur, several centuries old, eulogized by poets, scholars and devotees alike, affirms the splendor of India's religious tradition and spiritual ethos.





Mangadu: The Goddess came down to this place and performed penance amidst "Panchagni" resting her left leg on the sacred fire and folding her right leg. She holds a "Japamala" or rosary in her hand as she meditated on Lord Shiva who asked her to come to Kanchipuram for marriage. After the goddess left the place, the heat of the fire that she had created caused great discomfort and became unbearable for all living beings there. Adi Shankaracharya is believed to have visited Mangadu and installed a Sri Ardhameru Chakram at this place. This was done to calm down the heat of the fire created by the Goddess and at the same time make it into a place that is soothing for all living beings. We can even today see the "Chakra" in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple and poojas are performed regularly to this Chakra.



Seeing the temple is like visiting Divine Place of Penance. Am spellbound by the beauty of Mother in the sanctum sanctorum and other shrines. Offered my hearty prayers at her feet.

Further proceeded to Arulmigu Thirukkachchi Nambigal and Varadaraja Perumal Temple, but by the time I reached there it was already 12PM and the temple had closed down. It was expected to open at 5PM when enquired, hence I proceeded to reach Sholinger.



Sholinger: The temple is one of the 108 divya desams of Sri Vaishnavas. The Yoga Narasimha temple is situated on a hill called Periya Malai. The presiding deity Lord Narasimha is seen here in yogic posture. It is located at an altitude of about 1000 feet and one has to climb about 1300 steps to reach the shrine.

There is also a temple for Sri Yoga Anjaneya on the small hill nearby the main hill...which is about 350 feet high which can be reached by about 400 steps.

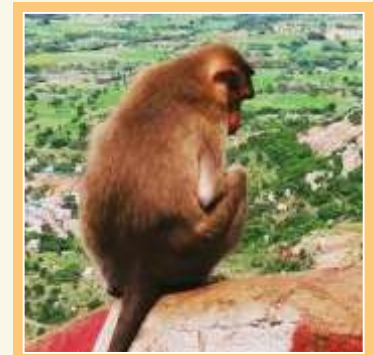
Not knowing which is Main temple... I went up to Yoga Anjaneya Temple climbing 400 steps...Hundreds of monkeys all over the place very freely roaming...Their entry is not restricted even to inner complex of the temple. By the time...I reached the temple on the hill...It was closed. Seeing me, the temple staff alerted the Priest, and they quickly came and opened the doors of Garbha Gruha. Felt amazed by the incident, I expressed my gratitude to them and lord Hanuma.



My energies were drained away for the first hill itself. I came down with difficulty. Thinking that I might have to stay another day, I immediately rushed and went up the next hill by claiming 1300 steps as that's only way to reach Lord Narasimha's temple. The steps were properly made with stone, but were steep and disproportionate sizes. I struggled for each step and was chanting Lord Narasimha's Name and Thinking about his form. It was already 5:20PM. On the way up, Couple of ladies cautioned me saying:

1. The Temple is being closed at 6PM and asked me to rush...
2. Be aware of naughty monkeys on hills and careful and
3. Keep the mobile in the bag and cover it with a dhothi...

I said Yes to them...kept the mobile in the chest pack and covered it with dhothi. I don't think I climbed 100 steps after that, all of the sudden a big monkey tried attacking me! I had nothing to stop this naughty monkey. I shouted at it and that too showed it's furious face to me and no one was around. I told the monkey..."Anjaneya please allow me to move forward before temple is closed", so saying I loudly chanted a slokam "Manojavam Maruthatulya Vegam" and folding my hands I crossed the monkey. Seems he was impressed with my request as he quietly observed me and sat there calmly.



With lots of difficulty and pain in the legs, I reached hill top and the temple. To my utter shock, the Priests and security personnel just closed and locked the doors of Sanctum sanctorum sharp at 6PM. I rushed in shouting ! Swamy| Swamy...Please wait...Looking at me, all of them turned back and very lovingly opened the main doors and asked me to have Darshan of Lord Yoga Narasimha.

I had no words to express my state of mind at that moment, I heartily offered prayers for everyone at Thy Feet. They also opened main doors of Amrithavalli Thayar for me to have her Darshan. I saluted the priests who were kind enough to open the doors for me. They said...Whatever happened it's because of God's Grace.

Yes! This was not the first time that such a thing happened... In Bharata Darshan, many a times such experiences kept occurring. We then proceeded to reach Sri Perambaduru.

September 20, 2019

The more temples I visit in Tamilnadu, the more astonished I am. I do not have words to explain about the beauty of each temple that I saw. Every temple is an engineering marvel. Huge in sizes and sides, every temple craved in rock and transformed them in to divine pieces of art and heart. It's humanly impossible task for the present day technology to construct such temples. They are epitome of knowledge and awareness about Indian Spirituality, Mythology, Saints, Alwars, Philosophies, Devotees, Sculpture, Culture, Heritage, history, Kings, Places etc.,

Every temple brings loads of awareness of Presiding Deities and Alwars. The beauty of each deity is divine. They look like GODs standing there with life...such is the elegance.

Sriperumbadur: I got up and was ready by 6:30AM. The doors of Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Sannidhi opened with Suprabhatha Goshti. This is the place Bhagavad Sri Ramanujacharya taken birth about 1000 years ago. Sri Ramanuja is the exponent of Vishishta Advaita Philosophy. The gold plated shrine in front of the hall of Ramanuja was built by the Maharaja of Mysore.

For the first time in my life I have seen how the Lord is being woken up in the early hours of the day. The priest coming in with silver pot filled with water lead in to sanctum sanctorum with Veda mantrams, mangala vayudiyam...while Cow and

Elephant enter the antaralayam first. Later Suprabhatam sang by priests and then harathi is given. Then the daily rituals will be followed. I had the fortune of having morning darshanam.

Since yesterday, I may have travelled around 800kms covering the following 12 Vaishnava Divya Desams and others in and around Sri Perumbadur.

1. Sri Parthasarthy Perumal (Triplicane, Chennai)
2. Sri Neervanna Perumal (Thiruneermalai)
3. Sri Nithya Kalyana Perumal Thiruvadanthai)
4. Sri Sthala Sayana Perumal (Mahabalipuram)
5. Sri Bhaktavathsala Perumal (Thirunindravur)
6. Sri Veera Raghava Perumal (Thiruvallur)
7. Sri Yoga Narasimha Perumal (Sholinger)
8. Sri Ulagananda Perumal (Poonamalle)
9. Sri Vaiteeswaran Temple (Poonamalle)
10. Sri Kamakshi Mallikarjuna (Mangadu)
11. Kamakshi Adipureeshwar (Thirupatrivur)



I have seen the Lord Srimannarayana in different forms and names and also understood the connection of Alwars to these temples. I am perplexed by the stories and legends associated with these temples. I saw the temples visited by Adi Shankara and had darshan of presiding deities along with Srichakram installed by him.

Each temple spreads across many acres of land and they are in existence since 10 centuries...Their sanctity is manifold in multi fold proportions due to the devotees and their unwavering faith in the GOD. These temples stood as royal monuments even today undisturbed by the test of time and invasions by enemies. Even if I write a brief note on each temple that I visited, it would be at least couple of pages, hence I dared not do that... So, I just left titles of each place of worship. If in case any one is interested to know more about these temples may please google about them.

Hariprasad is an experienced Driver who started his career with few hundreds of rupees a decade ago and now maintains 100 drivers at Chennai. Considering the fact of Bharata Darshan, he himself came with a car to accompany me. He made a lot of difference and brought a lot of convenience in the travel in terms of Driving, Language, Lodging and Boarding. Despite of leading a good life now, He too has started following my way of low budget travel.



Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram: I visited Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram, one of 2 major port cities in 7th century within the Pallava kingdom. Along with economic prosperity, it became a centre of a group of battle monuments carved out of rock. These are dated to the 7th and 8th centuries: rathas (temples in the form of chariots), mandapas (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air rock reliefs such as the famous Descent of the Ganges, and the Shore Temple dedicated to Shiva, Durga, Vishnu, Krishna and others.

I am really mesmerized to see the place and monuments. Each one of them conveys a wonderful message, fascinated by the beauty of these monuments. As an Indian I am really proud of my country. I suggest my friends to take time to visit these wonderful places along with their family.



Cuddaluru: Finally we reached Cuddaluru at 10PM. We searched for rooms...they were not available for my budget. Hence we moved to Thiruvandipuram...The abode of Devanatha Perumal. To my

surprise, the entire town was alive hustling and bustling at 11PM. People in hundreds were to be seen...many roadside shops open doing brisk business. No rooms. When we reached Temple, People were seen sleeping on the footpaths in long queues lines leading to temple.

On enquiry, I came to know that next day was Purattasi Shanivaram. Purattasi Masam is of great importance as it is believed that Lord Venkateswara appeared on the earth in this month. Lord Vishnu devotees consider this as the ideal month for thanking Lord Vishnu for preserving the Universe at the end of Kali Yuga. All the Saturdays of this month are treated as holy days and devotees gather in large number at Lord Vishnu temples and offer special prayers from early hours of the day. Particularly the odd Saturdays first, third, fifth are of more importance.

I was surprised and at the same time happy...seeing hundreds sleeping on the road side in the queues... shocked to see the crowds and happy to see their devotion ...I too sat on the road in the queue with them like a devotee who wishes to see the Lord during early hours of sacred Saturday.



As I am in the queue line to have darshan of Sri Devanatha Perumal by 12AM...I could not move from there even for inch due to very tightly done barricades. Flood of people every where... sleeping wherever they found space. With lots of difficulty, informing a pilgrim occupied seat besides me...I came out of queue and started searching for wash rooms. I found them after searching for 20 minutes. I don't want to go to darshan without bathing. Hence, took shower under the tap without soap...not brushed teeth also for the first time in Bharata Darshan. 3AM, the temple is opened and by 4AM I came out.

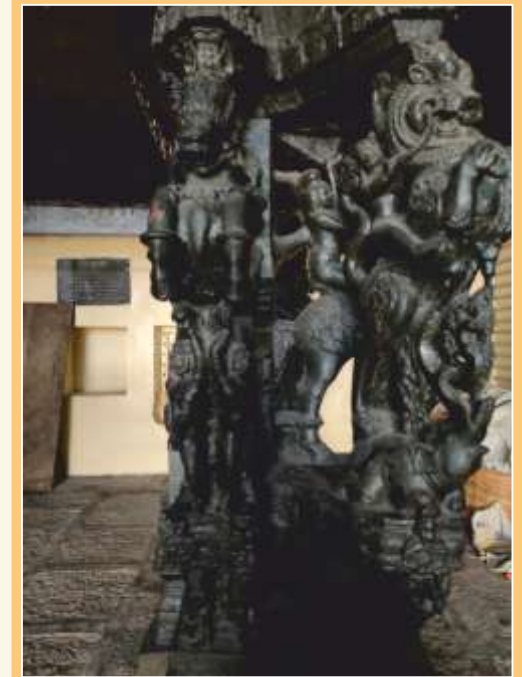
Thereafter, without delay...I proceeded to reach Sorkazhi / Chidambaram Nagapatnam / Kumbhakonam and visited the following Vaishnava Divya Desams & other temples till 10PM on the day.

1. Sri Govindaraja Perumal
2. Nataraja Temple
3. Sri Sivagami Amman / Srichakram
4. Sri Lakshmi Narashima Perumal
5. Sri Gopala Krishna Perumal
6. Sri Kuda Maadu Koothan Perumal
7. Sri Purushothama Perumal
8. Sri Per Arulaalan Perumal
9. Sri Narayana Perumal
10. Sri Vaigundha Nathan Perumal
11. Sri Deiva Naayaga Perumal
12. Sri Senkamal Ranganatha Perumal
13. Sri Varadharaja Perumal
14. Sri Srinivasa Perumal
15. Sri Thamaraiyal Perumal
16. Sri Devie Nayaga Perumal
17. Sri Thiruvikrama Perumal
18. Sri Vaiteswaran Kiol
19. Sri Devaadi Raja Perumal
20. Sri Arulmaakadal Perumal
21. Sri Naan Madhiya Perumal
22. Sri Parimala Ranganatha Perumal
23. Sri Neelamega Perumal
24. Sri Loganatha Perumal
25. Sri Neelamega Perumal
26. Sri Oppiliappa Perumal
27. Sri Thirunarayoor Nambi Perumal
28. Sri Saranathan Perumal



Following are the common facts and points I observed in Vaishnava Divya Desams:

- ◆ These temples are associated with Sri Vaishnavam
- ◆ Their existence is time immemorial
- ◆ Out of 108 Perumal Murthies, Kidantha Thirukkolam (Sleeping Posture) - 27 Divyadesams. Veetrirundha Thirukkolam (Sitting Position) - 21 Divyadesams. Nindra Thirukkolam (Standing Position) - 60 Divyadesams
- ◆ The Lord appears facing Towards East direction at 79 temples, West direction - 19, North direction - 3 and South direction in 7 temples.
- ◆ These are the places worshipped and sung by great Tamil Saints known as Alwars
- ◆ Each temple is associated with a Sage, Alwar, King, Vishnu Kutumba and Mythological incident.
- ◆ They will have Beautiful Pushkarini, Huge Raja Gopuram, Vimaanam, Sculpture, Squared premises, Fort like Compound, 4 entrances, etc.,
- ◆ Each temple will have Beautiful & Gaint Statues of Lord, Dwara Palakas, Garudalwar, Sri Chakralwar, Srimad Ramanuja, Bashyakara Sannidhi, Sri Lakshmi, Sri Andal etc.,
- ◆ They are located in forests in the ancient times...now turned in to villages and towns
- ◆ Each Temple and Mula Murthy are mentioned in the works of the Alvars (saints) in their Pasurams collectively known as Divya Prabhandhams.
- ◆ Each place is associated with Thiru behind its name.
- ◆ Each Temple offers to devotees: herbal water, sathari, tulasi leaves, chandanam, kunkum, prasadam etc.,



Thanks to Hariprasad, the cab owner cum driver for his driving skills, patience in roaming hundreds of kms with me, he may have sent a good driver to me but he opted himself to come with me as he felt its divine tour associated with TN. He said he too wish to know more about the Lord. He had the habit of going to Tirupathi on every full moon day since 2 decades. He along with his team serves food at Srinivasa Mangapuram. This is the first time in his life that he is travelling in TN with a divine cause.

Touring TN and visiting about 30 temples on same day is rare feat for me today. Wherever, I go...I am praying for every living being. The day being Purattasi Masam Saturday...most of the temples are crowded beyond imagination, but still I managed to have darshanam in the shortest possible time with the divine grace.

Considering the culmination of Bharata Darshan soon at Kanyakumari in next couple of days, requested all my friends to please add their hearty prayers for the same along with putting their monetary resources too enabling me to complete Bharata Darshan.

September 22, 2019



Kumbhakonam: It is fascinating to see the streets of Kumbhakonam. One can see at least one or two temples in each street of the town. Some of the temple gopurams -Raja gopurams are truly sky scrapers for eyes. I really wondered as to how the sculptures of those days without machinery support could have built such huge structures maintaining the beauty to the minute parts of structures !

Kumbakonam is known for its Temples and Mutts . There are around 200 Hindu temples within the municipal limits of Kumbakonam. Apart from these, there are several thousand temples around the town thereby giving the town the title: Temple Town/ City of temples.

It is believed that the name of the town Kumbakonam is derived from Kumbeswarar Temple. "Kumbakonam", means "Pots's Corner", is believed to be an

allusion to the nectarine pot of the Brahma which contained the seed of all living beings on earth. The Kumbha is believed to have been displaced by a pralaya (dissolution of the universe) effected by Hindu God Shiva's arrow and ultimately came to rest at the spot where the town of Kumbakonam now stands. The nectar is believed to have fallen in two places. One such place is now called the Mahamaham tank.



I visited both the places associated with the town. The temple complex covers an area of 30000 sq ft and houses four Gopurams. The tallest is the eastern tower, with 11 stories and a height of 128 feet. The temple has numerous shrines with those of Kumbeswarar and Mangalambigai Amman being the most prominent. The temple complex houses many halls; the most notable is the sixteen-pillared hall built during the Vijayanagar period that has all the 27 stars and 12 Zodiacs sculpted in a single stone.

It's believed that the place is visited by Adi Shankara. I visited the temple and was mesmerized by the beauty and magnanimous structures in the temple. As part of visiting Vaishnava Divya Desams, I had darshan of Lord Vishnu in various places in the following forms in and around Mayavaram / Nagapattanam / Kumbhakonam / Tanjore.

1. Sri Saarangapani / Chakrapani Perumal
2. Sri Aandu Alakkum Ayan Perumal
3. Sri Aandu Alakkum Ayan
4. Sri Devaadi Raja Perumal
5. Sri Valvil Ramar Perumal
6. Sri Gajendra Varadha Perumal
7. Sri Jaganatha Perumal
8. Sri Aaduthurai Perumal
9. Sri Saranathan Perumal
10. Sri Neelamegha Perumal



Each of the temples is located in places where, we can't imagine there are any habitants centuries ago. Basically the places may have been chosen by Sages and Saints for their Sadhana / Japam / Meditation / Penance. Even now majority of these places are away from cities. The Lord mercifully granted divine darshan to the sages. These sages could have made temples...Thereafter local kings may have turned them into sky scrapers during their administration. Now, they are national treasures for us whose value can't be determined by anyone.

Swamimalai: I visited Swamimalai, which was visited by Adi Shankara during Digvijayam. The town has one of the six abodes of Karthikeya and the temple is fourth among the Padai Veedugal. As per mythology, Lord Karthikeya explains



the meaning of pranavam to his father Shiva at Swamimalai. Hence, one can see the Karthikeya depicted as Guru (teacher) and Shiva listening as Sishya (disciple) in the Gopuram of the temple complex. The God is given by the name Swaminathan and Thagapan Swami (literally Father of God), a very huge temple on the hill top, It is like seeing Lord Murugan standing before us, offered my prayers.

September 23, 2019

As soon as I reached Tamil Nadu, I started following Vaishnava Divya Desam Navigator App for visiting the temples. It surely added value to reach the destinations with 95% accuracy. At times, the navigator did not show the right way thereby I could not locate the temples which led to a delay in the travel, however, Hari Prasad was my true navigator. Couple of temples we had to visit more than once due to closure by 12PM and 8PM. But I made it sure...that I am not missing any Vaishnava Desam.

Ready by 6AM, at Shreepathy Hotel, Kumbhakonam, I paid just Rs.500/- for the night stay. We then proceeded to visit the following temples nearby, after finishing the breakfast:

1. Sri Jagathrakshaka Perumal
2. Sri Sunder Raja Perumal
3. Sri Hara Sabhaa Vimochana Perumal
4. Sri Appakudutha Perumal
5. Sri Adhithurai Perumal
6. Sri Neelamegha Perumal

But, by the time we reached Sri Nelamegha Perumal...It is 12 noon and as expected the temple is had closed. This is the situation off temples in the last four days .Then I proceeded to reach Thanjavur which was 5kms away...All Vaishnava Temples are mesmerising and appeasing to the mind, heart and soul.

Thanjavur: Thnanjavur, formerly Tanjore, is a city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Thanjavur is an important centre of South Indian religion, art, and architecture. A number of Chola Temples built during their reign are UNESCO World Heritage Monuments now. They are located in and around Thanjavur. The foremost among these, the Brihadeeswara Temple which is located in the heart of the city. Thanjavur is also a home to painting and the style is unique to the region. Thanjavur is known as Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu.

Brihadeeswara Temple dedicated to Shiva located on the Southern bank of Kaveri river in Thanjavur. It is one of the largest South Indian temples and an exemplary example of a fully realized Dravidian architecture. It is called as Dhakshina Meru (Meru of south). Built by Tamil King Raja Raja Chola I in 10th Century, the temple is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Great Living Chola Temples"





Despite of planned travel schedules... it is like running with the time, by the time I reached the temple it was exactly 12:30PM. Just rushed to the sanctum sanctorum at supersonic speed. The moment I had darshanam of Lord Brihadeeswara (Magnificent Lingam), the curtains were down for the afternoon. I am fortunate to have the divine darshan at this temple ...it gave my soul a lot of satisfaction...so too to the eyes for seeing the splendorous beauty .



Here are a few facts not known about this Chola Temple of Thanjavur:

a) The original name of the deity was Raja Rajeshwar, b) It was the Marathas who gave it the name Brihadeeshwara or the Great Ishwara, c) The main temple is entirely built of granite, d) More than 1130,000 tons of granite is said to have been used to build it, e) The statue of Nandi at the entrance of the temple is carved out of a single stone, f) The Raj Gopuram is at 200 feet is often called Dakshin Meru or Southern Meru, g) The inspiration to build the temple came to Raja Raja Cholan during visit to Sri Lanka and is a result of a dream he had, h) The temple has a portrait of Raja Raja Cholan paying obeisance to Lord Natarajar, i) Inscriptions in the temple point towards Kunjara Mallan Raja Rajendra Perunthachan as the chief architect of the temple, j) Depictions of dancers showing eighty one of hundred and eight karanas in Bharata Natyam are carved here, k) What astounds historians is that there was not a single granite quarry in about 100 km radius of the temple. This means that transporting these stones would have been a herculean task. But Raja Raja Cholan insisted on the use of these stones.

All of these features make this Chola temple of Tanjvur, a magnum opus of the Chola reign. I spent couple of hours in the temple complex capturing the best impressions all over the premises. I felt like I am in the King's fort...such is the magnanimity. Suggest my friends...Not to miss visiting this temple...The Pride of India.

I have to record few things about Tamilnadu in Bharata Darshan: I think for any Indian, especially South Indian will surely rate Tamil Nadu food and coffee 5 stars. Same is the case with me as well. For the past 6 months I travelled across length and breadth of the country covering more than 23 States in India and I found the best food in Tamilnadu. You will find good quality vegetarian food in any corner of the street at a reasonable price and I had no issue here and thoroughly enjoyed filter coffee in many places which is not the case with any other state in the country.

I had an excellent meal at Vasavi Cafe near Brihadeeswaralayam at Thanjavur. Considering the places are closed between 12 to 4 PM, I took rest in the car for a while in the parking. Thanks to Hari Prasad for switching on the AC in the car even when it is in parking space. I guess he too finds it difficult to face the love of the hot Sun outside and I am sure he is also addicted to air conditioning. I visited the following Vaishnava Desams in and around Trichy after 4 PM:

1. Sri Ranganathar Perumal
2. Sri Azhagiya Manavala Perumal
3. Sri Purushothaman Perumal
4. Sri Pundarikashan Perumal
5. Sri Vadivazhagiya Nambi Perumal
6. Sri Appakkudathan Perumal
7. Sri Hara Saabha Vimocchana Perumal





Srirangam: Srirangam is the foremost of the eight self-manifested shrines (Swayam Vyakta Kshetras) of Lord Vishnu. It is also considered the first, foremost and the most important of the 108 main Vishnu temples (Divyadesams). This temple is also known as Thiruvaranga Tirupati, Periyakoil, Bhoologa Vaikundam, Bhogamandabam. In the Vaishnava parlance, the term "KOIL" signifies the temple only. The temple is enormous in size, with a complex of 156 acres in extent and seven prakaras or enclosures. These enclosures are formed by thick and huge rampart walls which run round the sanctum. There are 21 magnificent towers in all prakaras providing a unique sight to any visitor. This temple lies on an islet formed by the twin Rivers Cauvery and Coleroon. The temple is so magnificent in its size and beauty. Any visitor will just be awestruck seeing them.

As per the legend...Lord Sri Rama worshipped the image for long time at Ayodhya and granted it to Vibishana after his coronation. Whereas Vibishana while moving towards Sri Lanka, could not move the Lord beyond Sri Ranganam on the Cauvery due to the Divine Will and trick played by Lord Ganesha. Since Krutha Yuga Sri Ranganayakamma Perumal is being worshipped here.

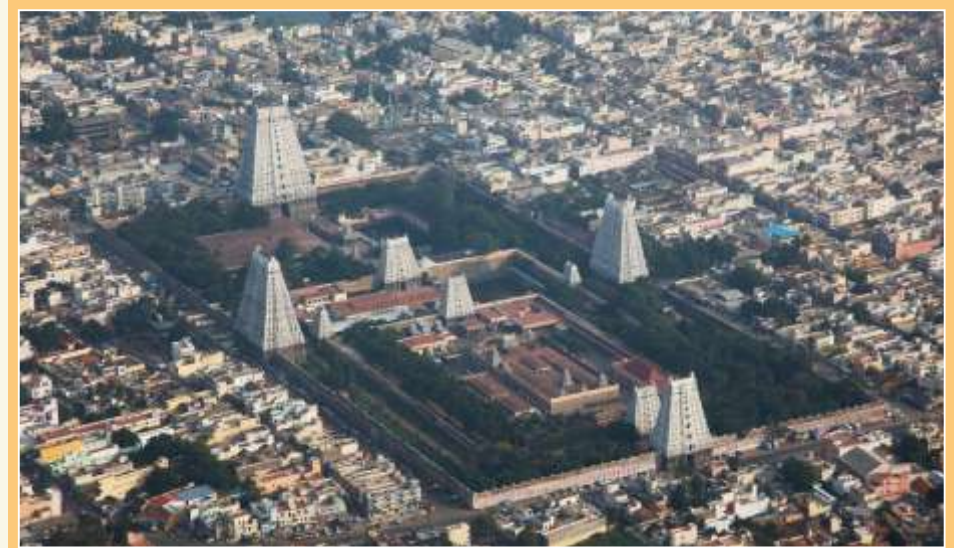
Apart from the presiding deity Lord Ranganathar, the temple complex comprises of many other shrines and about 53 sub shrines. The Srirangam temple is the largest temple compound in India and one of the largest religious complexes in the world. Some of these structures have been renovated, expanded and rebuilt

over the centuries as a living temple. The latest addition is the outer tower that is 67 metres (220 ft) tall, completed in 1987. Srirangam temple is often listed as one of the largest functioning Hindu temple in the world. The other shrines in the temple are: Thayar Sannathi, Chakkarathazwar Sannathi, Udayavar (Ramanujar Sannathi), Garudalwar Sannathi, Thanvanthiri Sannathi & Hygrevar Sannathi.

I reached Srirangam around 8:30PM, knowing the temple remain open till 9PM, I quickly rushed into the temple complex. But then I realised the fact that the temple is situated in 6 prakarams which run into few kms. Finally I reached the sanctum sanctorum, had the divine darshan of Lord Sri Ranganatha Perumal. The oil is applied to moolamurthy and the same will be cleaned on Diwali Day. Hence, I could have darshan of lord without any alankara.

Had my dinner at a road side hotel, then Hari started searching for a room, though, I was ready to settle in any place for the night... He is very particular about staying in AC Room. He could not get the same in low budget. Hence I settled down in a very small room paying few hundreds...Hari slept in the car turning on the AC inside.

Heavy rain lashed out Trichy for 30 minutes, listening to the pitter patter of rain and the song of mosquitoes, I dropped in to deep sleep bringing the day to an end.



September 24, 2019

Tamilnadu, has left in my heart disk an indelible mark of the wonderful and divine memories in my heart. I might rate this state on top of the list that has given me utmost satisfaction of experiencing divinity in travel with respect to the temples, culture, heritage, story, tradition, philosophy, legends, literature etc., Vaishnava, Shaiva, Shaktheya, Ganapathya and Skanda and other wide range of ideologies / philosophies are seen here and I enjoyed knowing about them.

As soon as I got up at 5AM...I got ready and proceeded to see Akhilandeswari and Jambukeswara at Thiruvonikoil. Jambukeswar temple is one of the Panchabhoota Sthalams (signifying the five natural elements) and representing water element. Hence this temple is also revered as 'Appu Sthalam' and the Shiva Lingam here is called as 'Appu Linga'. The sanctum has an underground water stream and one can see water coming out of that stream around Lingam. The presiding deity is Devi Akhilandeswari Amman. Akhilandeswari means 'Ruler of the Universe'.

Devi Parvathi, performed penance in the Jambu forest (Thiruvanaikoil). She made a Lingam out of water from the river Cauvery and installed it under the Venn Naaval tree (the Venn Naaval tree on top of Saint Jambu) and commenced her worship. Hence, the Lingam is known as Appu Lingam. Lord Siva at last gave darshan to Akhilandeswari and taught Her Siva Gnana. Monolithic stone pillars are found in the mandapam, situated at the entrance of Aariyavittan tower in 3rd Prakaram. Stone chains and 12 Zodiac signs are beautifully carved on these pillars. Pillars found in 1000 pillar hall and in various parts of temple have artistic sculptural works.

Ucchi Pillayar Temple: It is a 7th century temple dedicated to Lord Ganesha located a top of Rockfort, Trichy. This rock is the place where Lord Ganesha was caught by King Vibishana, after he establishing the Ranganatha Swamy deity in Srirangam. This temple is located in the heart of the city. There are more than 400

steps to climb to reach this temple. From the temple sides, we can have a glimpse view of the Trichy City. It's unbelievable to see such magnificent shrine which is carved out of the rock and the Rock hill itself looks like Lord Ganesha.

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple:

While, visiting Vaishnava Divya Desam, Azhagar Perumal, I came to know that one of the six most sacred abodes of Murugan is situated in the nearby hills. These abodes are mentioned in "Thiru Murugatrupadai" and the 6 abodes are Thiruthani, Swamimalai, Palani, Pazhamudircholai, Thirupparankunram and Thiruchendur. I covered others in Bharata Darshan except Pazhamudircholai.

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple is located atop a hill covered with dense forests. The great Tamil poet and Saint Avvaiyar was tested by Muruga here in an episode of Divine Play with Avvaiyar.



Madurai Meenakshi Sunderesan:

Later visited the Madura Meenakshi Temple. Every time I visit the abode of Mother...I lose myself in the beauty of temple and divine vibrations in the temple. During the day, I visited the following Vaishnava Divya Desams in and around Madurai:

1. Sri Koodal Azhagar Perumal
2. Sri Kallazhagar Perumal
3. Sri Kaalamegha Perumal
4. Sri Vatapatrasai Perumal.

We stopped at Madurai Perumal Temple from 2PM to 4PM after finishing lunch waiting for the temple to open for the evening. Every place I visited rendered to me divine stories of Lord Vishnu, Alwars and places. Post lunch, I proceeded to visit many places of interest for the day in and around Madurai.

Sri Ninra Narayana Perumal: The temple in its present form was believed to have been built by Devendra Vallabha, a Pandyan King in 8th century.

The temple is built on a granite hill 100 ft (30 m) tall and a granite wall surrounds the temple, enclosing all its shrines and bodies of water. Unlike other temples, this temple does not have a rajagopuram, the temple's gateway tower. Ninra Narayana is believed to have appeared to Sridevi and Bhoomidevi.

Sri Vadapatrasai Perumal, Srivilliputhur:

It is believed to be the birthplace of two of the Azhwars (Alwars), namely Periyalvar and foster daughter Andal.

The temple is associated with the life of Andal, who was found under a Tulsi plant in the garden inside the temple by Periyalvar. She is believed to have worn the garland before dedicating it

to the presiding deity of the temple. Periyalvar, who later found it, was highly upset and stopped the practice. It is believed Vishnu appeared in dream and asked him to dedicate the garland worn by Andal to him daily, which is a practice followed till date. It is also believed that Ranganatha of Srirangam married Andal who later merged with him.



Srivilliputhur Temple: The temple's gateway tower which is 192 ft tall is believed that it is the official symbol of the Government of Tamil Nadu (Sri Vatapatrasai Temple Tower) and birth place of Andal, the one who treated Lord Vishnu as her only husband.

Thirupparankundram: Subramanya Swamy Temple is a Hindu temple and one of the six abodes of Murugan, located at Thirupparankundram. The temple is built in rock-cut architecture and believed to have been built by the Pandyas during the 6th century. According to the legend, it is here Murugan slayed the demon Surapadman and married Devayanai, the divine daughter of the King of Heaven, Lord Indra. It is also believed that Lord Indra to have worshipped Shiva here as Parangirinathar.



All the temples are huge in size and rich in sculpture. I did not waste a single minute anywhere...running with time all through the day, making note of what's important and travelling about 500kms per day by car. I may have to travel at least 3000kms in Tamil Nadu by the end of tour.

As Bharata Darshan was coming to a culmination shortly...I requested couple of well-wishers to lend their helping hands for the Bharata Darshan. Following are the ones who responded by transferring funds to my account.

CS PS Rao, Hyderabad
Sri Bathula Praveen Kumar, USA
CS B Rajeswar Rao, Bengaluru
Sri KSV Sivakrishna, Hyderabad
Sri G Vidyasagar, Hyderabad
Sri S Phanisekhar, Hyderabad
Sri Rajagopal, Hindupur

I profusely thanked them... saying, "Thank you for adding your prayers, blessings and resources for Bharata Darshan".

Dear friends! The entire Bharata Darshan is funded by family members, friends, well wishers, abhaya Trustees, abhaya staff and abhaya beneficiaries. Not just that...each rupee given is coupled with heartfelt love and care. Apart from the Divine Will...It is because of such noble souls standing by me in all respects, making the journey more purposeful.

My wish is to make everyone a part of Bharata Darshan, so that the Loka Kalyana Sankalpam with which I have taken up Bharata Darshan will become much more stronger with your participation.

With Hari Prasad's skilful driving, reached Virudhanagar en route Rameswaram for night stay. He may be the only person who travelled with me in cab for more than a week in entire Bharata Darshan.

September 25, 2019

Bharata Desam is one of the ancient civilizations in the world existing since ages and witnessing the fusion of several customs and traditions, which are reflective of the rich culture and heritage of the Country.

The story of the nation gives a glimpse into the magnanimity of its evolution - from a country reeling under colonialism, to one of the leading economies in the global scenario within a span of seventy years. More than anything, the nationalistic fervour of the people is the contributing force behind the culmination of such a development. This transformation of the nation instils a

sense of national pride in the heart of every Indian within the country and abroad...



While Bharata Darshan is culminated...
My Heart echoes with divine vibrations...
No mood to return to home...
Wish to wonder like a monk till death...
Seeing every inch of Divya Bharat...

Previously, I used to say that I love My Country...But as Bharata Darshan is came to closure, I wish to say that I am blessed to born in this holy land... may be because of purva punya I am Bharatiya.





Up by 5AM.. started the day from Virudhanagar visiting, two Vaishnava Temples (Vanamamalai & Thiruchendur, nine Vaishnava Temples (Thuttukudi), Ramanathapuram and Rameswaram. May have travelled 600km for the day.

Thiruchendur: Tiruchendur means sacred and beautiful town in Tamil. The temple is dedicated to Murugan. When Muruga came here for the conquest along with His army, he found it to be very small and ordered the celestial architect Viswakarma to expand it. It is believed that the demigods of Muruga wanted to worship him in a place where there was a mountainous tract, sea and river and hence Tiruchendur was chosen!



Fascinated by the place...more so its location by the Sea shore, this 2000 year old temple left the most wonderful vibrations of divine ecstasy. The sanctum sanctorum is in a cave. With this temple, I have seen all the six abodes of Lord Muruga in Tamil Nadu.



Rameswaram: It is a Hindu temple dedicated to the Lord Shiva located on the Rameswaram island. It is also one of the 12 Jyotirlingas. Most revered Nayanars have glorified the temple with their songs. The temple is in existence since Ramayana age and it was expanded during the 12th century by Pandyan dynasty. The temple has the longest corridor among all Hindu temples in India. The temple is located in Rameswaram considered a holy pilgrimage site for Shaivites, Vaishnavites and Smarthas. The presiding deity, the Lingam of Ramanathaswamy (Shiva), is believed to have been established and worshiped by Lord

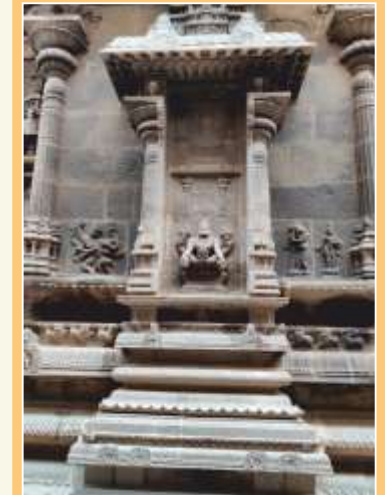
Sri Rama. With this, I completed having 12 Jyothirlinga Darshan.

Though I visited Rameswaram many times earlier, seeing the temple every time brings in lots of devotion in the heart... offered my prayers at the Lotus Feet of the Lord seeking the blessings for all Mankind.

En route, I travelled on a road where the two seas can be seen on either side. I saw many peacocks moving freely on the roads in the region. Saw the oldest iron rail bridge which paves the way for ships into the sea... saw the locals at Rameswaram starting their farming works post monsoons by offering first saplings to the Goddess...

During the day, I visited the 13 Vaishnava Divya Desams in and around Virudhanagar, Thirunelvail, Thiruchendur and Rameswaram.

1. Sri Kalyana Jagannatha Perumal
2. Sri Nindra Nambi Perumal
3. Sri Thothatrinatha Perumal
4. Sri Aadhinatha Perumal
5. Sri Vaitha Maanitha Perumal
6. Sri Magara Nedungkuzhai Kaathar
7. Sri Vaikundanatha Perumal
8. Sri Srinivasa Perumal
9. Sri Vijayaasana Perumal
10. Sri Kaaichina Vendha Perumal
11. Sri Aravindha Lochana Perumal
12. Sri Vanamamalai Perumal
13. Sri Vaishnava Nambi Perumal



Seeing the 108 Vaishnava Divya Desams at one go in entire country is the most difficult task. With the will of God, I was able to accomplish this in the Bharata Darshan. It was truly a herculean task...cross checking and confirming and touring these 108 places based on Mobile Google Map, Vaishnava Divya Desams Navigator App, Driver's knowledge, Local Guidance, Photos, Books etc., I had covered 104 divine abodes of Lord Srimannarayana available in the country... and two were left and with the blessings I moved forward to complete this divine task I had taken upon myself!

I started to reach Nagercoil which is about five hours journey from Rameswaram so that I can visit the last two Vaishnava Divya Desams before heading to Kanyakumari.

September 26, 2019

Nagercoil: Around 1:30AM, I reached Nagercoil after six hours drive from Rameswaram. Heavy rains all through the way accompanied us. Hari is very able and experienced driver, with him I reached the destination safely. We took shelter at Dhanya Lodge for six hours. Then proceeded to have darshanam of two Vaishnava Divya Desams en route Kanyakumari. Thiruvazhmarban Temple in Thiruppataram, a village in Kanyakumari district. The Lord is believed to have appeared to the Sapta Rishis, the seven sages and to Udayanangai, the mother of Nammazhwar. The place is the birthplace of Nammazhwar, one of the twelve Azhwar saints in Vaishnava philosophy.



Sri Adikeshava Perumal:

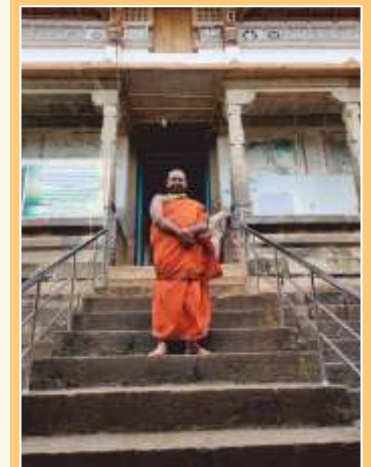
The temple is built in the Kerala Architecture style, with wooden pillars, doors and roofs. This temple is older than Sri Padmanabha Swamy Temple at Thiruvananthapuram. Thiruvattaru's temple

structure is the source for building Padmanabha Swamy Temple at Srirangam. The idol which is 22 feet in length here is seen lying on the snake bed, Adi Sesa which is said to be made of mustard, lime powder and jaggery strengthened with 16,008 salagramams. For darshan of the perumal one needs to pass through three doors.

The Lord Adi Kesava Swamy means 'Foremost Friend'. Legend says that Lord defeated the demon Kesi. The demon's wife prayed to the River Ganges and to River Thamirabarani and created destruction. But it was in vain and she surrendered to the Lord. Thus, the formation of the rivers made in a circle came to be known as Thiruvattaru.

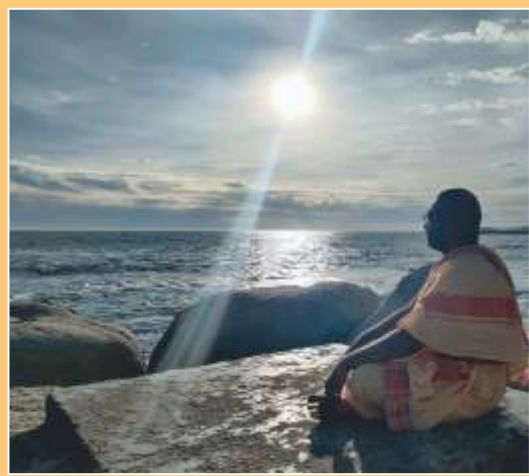
These facts associated with temples made me to wonder as to how such work was done ages ago. Without further delay, I proceeded to reach Kanyakumari by lunch time. Fortunately the temple was still open. I quickly rushed towards temple and had the divine Darshan of Goddess Bhagavathi - Kanyakumari.

Kanyakumari is the place where Goddess Parvathi did penance to marry Lord Siva. The temple dates back to 3000 years and is believed to be built by Lord Parshuram. Goddess Kanyakumari foot print in stone can be seen here at a distance from the sea shore and that's the place Swamy Vivekananda meditated. Kanyakumari is nestled wonderfully at the confluence of three oceans (the beauty of the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean in a single frame.) I took bath at Sangam place where all the 3 seas meet. One can find different colours of the three oceans here.





The Devi stands as a charming young girl in her penance with a rosary in her right hand, and a sparkling nose jewel that shines with lustrous radiance. It is believed that the nose ring of Devi Kanyakumari set with rubies are so bright and that could be seen from far at night. It is told that some ships sailing in the sea, mistaking the brilliance of the rubies for the light from the Lighthouse, went off shore got wrecked, hitting against the rocks nearby. In this point of view, the Eastern side gate of the temple is kept closed. The idol made of blue stone is believed to have installed by sage Parsurama.



Goddess Kanyakumari, who stands in eternal vigil protecting the country, is surrounded by a stone wall and stands on the edge of the ocean. I profusely prayed at her feet for the welfare and well being of country men, sought her blessings for prosperity of this holy land. Proceeded to see the Sunset view at the end of Indian soil – it was such a beautiful sight...this is a place where one can forget self and bask in the glory of the beauty of the Mother Nature.

Suchindram: Considering the time available on hands after witnessing Sunset at Kanyakumari, I decided to go to Suchindram which is about 15kms. Suchindram temple is in existence since Ramayanam times. This is the place Indra is relieved from Sage Gowthama's curse. As Indra is purified (Suchi) the place is known as Suchindram with gratitude to Trimurthys he built a beautiful temple. Later during Kaliyuga, Malayanadu kings made it as the most beautiful temple.

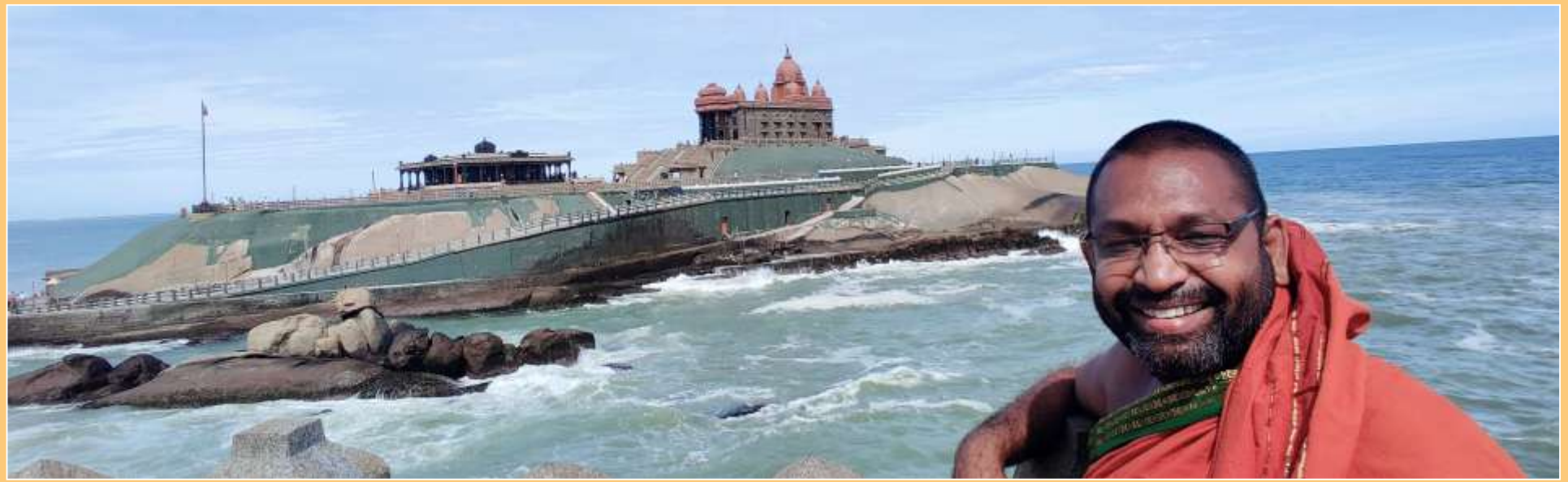


It also has a connecting story of Sathi Anasuya and Dattatreya. There is a Ponna Vruksham under which Trimurthys appeared for Indra. How, the Moolamurthy got identified ages ago is been depicted in a sculpture in a pillar.

The temple has quite a few sculptures and is rich in art. In the 'Alankara mandapam' there are four large pillars, each formed by a group of smaller pillars, all carved from a single stone. Two of these large pillars have 33 smaller pillars and the other two 25 each. These are the famous musical pillars. Each one of these smaller pillars produces a different musical note when tapped. I have seen numerous stone carvings all over temple. One of the stone idos, I have seen in the temple where in the ears are carved so fine that a wire could sent out through one ear and seen coming out from another ear!

We can come face to face with a gigantic figure of Hanuman. The statue is 22 feet high and depicts Visvaroopam and is carved out of a single granite block. It is one of the tallest statues of its type in India. There are other carvings and sculptures on every pillar and panels throughout the temple which are a feast to the eye and the imagination. There are about 30 other small shrines in the temple complex.

Adi Shankaracharya visited this place and offered prayers at the temple. The day being the day between Krishna Paksha and Sukla Paksha, there is a special ritual carried out in the temple. Hence, it took couple of hours for me to have darshanam. Reached Kanyakumari and stayed at Hindu Yathri Nivas just next to the temple for the night spending Rs.200/-



With the Divine Will of God...With the Love and Care of people in life...Bharata Darshan aimed at searching myself has culminated at Kanyakumari.

After having Darshan of Bhagavathy - Kanyakumari, I had the fortune of partaking anna prasadam in the temple...I felt that I had come to my Mother's Home while eating prasad. Then, I proceeded to Thiruvalluvar Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Rock Memorial in a boat.

Thiruvalluvar Rock Memorial: Tiruvalluvar (flourished in 6th century AD), Tamil Poet-Saint known as the author of the Tirukkural ("Sacred Couplets"), considered a masterpiece of human thought, compared in India and Abroad to the Bible, John Milton's Paradise Lost, and the works of Plato. A memorial is built in honour of Thiruvalluvar. The Statue, is a 133-foot tall stone sculpture. It is located atop a small island near the town of Kanyakumari on the Southernmost point of the Indian Peninsula on the Coromandel Coast, where the three Seas meet.

Best of the Thoughts of this great man are below for practising in life:

"It is compassion, the most gracious of virtues, which moves the world"
 "When the rare chance comes, seize it to do the rare deed"

"Although an act of help done timely, might be small in nature, it is truly larger than the world itself"

"To reprove a harm-doer, put him to shame by doing a good deed in return"

Such profound Thoughts of this Saint
 always ignited minds and hearts of Indians since ages.



Swamy Vivekananda Rock Memorial:

It was built in 1970 in honour of Swami Vivekananda who is said to have attained enlightenment on the rock. According to local legends, it was on this rock that Goddess Kanyakumari performed austerity. A meditation hall known as Dhyana Mandapam is also attached to the memorial for visitors to meditate. The design of the mandapa incorporates different styles of temple architecture from all over India. The rocks are surrounded by the Sea.



I very well remember that, I came here for the first time with parents when I was five years old or so. While parents were inside the memorial hall, naive and

childish, I came out and sat on the compound wall and started staring at the magnificent sea. I still vividly recapitulate, seeing a man floating on the sea water walking towards rock. I was perplexed to see this man, in between parents came in search of me and took me away after scolding me for sitting on the wall. It was later that I found the man whom I saw in the sea resembled Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, while seeing the pictorial story book of Swamy Vivekananda.

I spent quite some time at Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Sri Pada Mandapam and Dhayana Mandalam. I remembered the great work done by Sri Eknath Ranadeji for bringing the Rock Memorial in the year 1963 as a tribute to Swamy Vivekananda Centenary Celebrations. His life is truly an inspiration for Indians who wish to serve mother land. I further remembered the contribution Kanchi Paramacharya for the project decades ago.

At this holy place, I recorded a few thoughts for my Self and Purpose and Mission for the rest of my life. Many thoughts hit me here. I felt that God mercifully granted me the rarest boon of having Bharata Darshan in life while I am touching 50 Years.



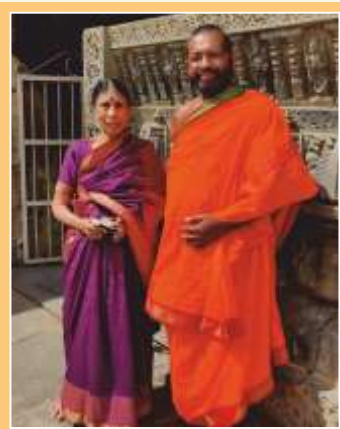
September 27, 2019

The Return: When I planned my return journey, I thought of going to Bengaluru seeing Mother and seeking her blessings, then planned to proceed to Anantapuram for the project review with Sri Meda Narasimhulu. I informed him about this. He then advised me not to come because 28th is Amavasya and Pitru Paksha. I thought of staying one more day at Bengaluru with family members.

Later while starting from Kanyakumari, sent the following message to hundreds of well wishers who stood by Bharata Darshan with their love and care. **"Greetings & Gratitude! While Praying for your well-being, I concluded Bharata Darshan at Kanyakumari and heading towards Bengaluru to see Mother"**

Among many responses I received, I am pleased to receive a message from Sri Kashyap Choksi, good friend of mine from Mumbai, saying that "Great news, One suggestion, Tomorrow is pitru amavasya, If possible, you may visit a pious location in Kanyakumari or similar religious place and pray for the well being of all departed souls"

It made me to think further as to what to do on Saturday, 28th Sept 2019. It struck to my mind that one place in Karnataka I missed visiting during Bharata Darshan...i.e., Harihar (near Dawanagare, 220kms from Bengaluru) The Sringeri Shankara Mutt records given the information that this place was visited by Sri Adi Shankara.



Bengaluru: On reaching home, I prostrated before Mother, sought her blessings and also touched the feet of Brother and Sister-in-law. Everyone felt happy about my coming back. Another Brother called me from Nairobi. I discussed the plan to visit Harihar with my elder brother, who is on leave due to fever. He very kindly arranged his own car and driver to visit the place. We spoke to Mother (77 years), she agreed to join me for 10 hours drive on the eve of Pitru Paksha Amavasya (Mahalaya Amavasya) and the last day to offer gratitude to our ancestors.

Pitru Paksha is the ideal time designated by the Hindu Shastras to offer Tarpan (oblations) to the departed ancestors in the family. It is said that the ancestors residing in the Pitru Loka (the world of the departed souls) are permitted to visit the earth (Bhulok) especially during the Pitru Paksha in a year to accept the oblations given by their descendants. I felt blessed to visit Harihareshwar on this auspicious day and think of my departed father and ancestors at the feet.



Harihareshwar Temple: This wonderful temple is the abode of Siva Kesava. The temple is also known as God's Own House. The hills of Harihareshwar, Pushpadri, Harishinachal and Bramhadri surround the place. The main deity Harihara is a union of Gods Vishnu and Shiva. The attributes of Shiva are visible in the right hand and Vishnu in the left hand. The idol of the deity is a fusion of the right vertical half of Shiva and left vertical half of Vishnu. The image holds in its right hand, the attributes of Shiva and in the left hand, those of Vishnu, The divine concerts of both Siva and Kesava to be seen on either side on same Vighrahas (Idols). Two sets of dwara palakas also can be seen on the doors located in four directions of the Temple, it is mesmerising to see the 12th Century Hosysala style sculpture in the temple.

When we entered in to the temple, I had a divine sight in the sanctum sanctorum. The sacred bathing to the Moolamurthy is going on by a group of priests chanting Rudram, Purusha Suktham and Sri Suktham. Felt very happy as the Thought of Bharata Darshan struck my heart while witnessing Sacred Bathing to Lord Bhadradi Ramachandra and it's coinciding with Sacred Bathing to Harihareshwar here. I sat for quite some time and offered my prayers for ancestors, offered Rs.1100/- to all 11 priests in the temple in the name of Father, Sri SS Rangaiah. Later reached home and met many near and dear who desired to see me.



September 29, 2019

Bharata Darshan - Divine Culmination

With the blessings of Mother at Bengaluru, I started from home at 4:30AM to Bengaluru Airport. Reached Hyderabad at 9AM and proceeded to Divya Saketham, JIVA, Muchinthal, Hyderabad. My intention is to go home only after seeing Sri Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji at Divya Saketham as it was, he who blessed the thought of Bharata Darshan, encouraged and empowered me with Kantha Maala, Kara Kankanam and Divya Prasadam.

I reached Ashram and found that Swamiji is still in Prathahkala Puja, As no one were seen around, I sat there silently waiting for conclusion of puja but Swamiji noticed me in between. By the time puja is over, hundreds of devotees reached the place and abhayans Sri Rangarao, Sri Vidya Sagar and Sri Bhaskar also joined me. We too joined the line to receive Theertham from his hands.

Swamiji very lovingly enquired about Bharata Darshan and asked us to wait. We had a golden opportunity to receive HH Swamiji's audience in brief. I prostrated before him and briefed him about Bharata Darshan offering all the prayers I did in the divine abodes.

I sought blessings for the Life and Living going forward, seeking directions on couple of things. Very caringly He asked us to see him following day. Taking leave from Swamiji, I reached abhaya Home, Masab Tank, Hyderabad to relive the life.

September 30, 2019

The Resolve

HH Swamiji, very kindly granted the personal audience to me along with other Board Members of abhaya Foundation (Sri SV Hariprasad, Sri K Rangarao & CA BV Prasad). It was like pouring HIS love and blessings to me. HH Swamiji graciously provided some guidance in support of my Action plan. Expressing gratitude at HIS feet, we left JIVA Kashtam.

Later, with the Will of GOD, I decided on the following action points for my life ahead of 50 years

1. I will develop sense of detachment
2. I will withdraw my signature power from abhaya Foundation.
3. I will finish the pending projects on hand.
4. I will set up working teams for the respective projects.
5. I will slowly distance my self from being there on the front line
6. Will expand my reach to the higher origins through personal Sadhana
7. I will write a WILL transferring house property to abhaya Foundation.
8. I will give away all my savings to all the children in the family sooner
9. I keep praying for the grace of GOD to finally be on HIS Path.

Love & Prayers.. Balachandra

Bharata Darshan – A brief fact sheet

Following facts I wish to record as per milestones in Bharata Darshan.

April 06, 2019: The Divine Intuition of Bharata Darshanam received at the feet of Lord Bhadradi Sita Ramachandra Swamy (Vikari Ugadi & My 49th Birthday)

April 14, 2019: Sought the blessings of Sri Tridandi Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar on Sriramanavami through mail.

April 20, 2019: Sri Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamy set the Muhurtham for Bharata Darshan

April 21, 2019: Divine command received at Sithalamba Devi, Pavagada saying Sankara Digvijayam be the guding route for Bharata Darshan.

April 22, 2019: Sought the permission and blessings from Parents, Family, Guru, abhaya Trustees and well wishers at Bengaluru

April 27, 2019: Abhaya Central Council and Board members were informed about Bharata Darshan seeking their kind blessings.

May 02, 2019: Offered Prayers at the feet of Lord Venkateswara, Lord Sri Kalahastwara, Lord Aluru Kona Ranganatha Swamy and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba seeking divine blessings for Bharata Darshan

May 13, 2019: Received Divine Blessings from Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji with Loka Kalyana Deeksha Sankalpam & Prasadam

I Phase:

May 14, 2019: Commenced Bharata Darshan from Kalady, birth place of Sri Adi Shankaracharya in Kerala.

June 27, 2019: Returned to Bengaluru from Delhi for want of tickets to travel to Amanath Yathra.

June 29, 2019: Father merged with Sri Ranganatha Swamy at Bengaluru in my hands while I prayed for his smooth departure.

II Phase:

July 18, 2019: Proceeded to Himalayan terrains of the country

III Phase:

August 18, 2019: Proceeded to Nepal, Tibet & China for Manasa Sarovar Yatra.

IV Phase: Proceeded to each Kanyakumari from Assam.

September 27/28, 2019: Concluded Bharata Darshan at Kanyakumari and Sought the Blessings of Mother and Family Members. Visited Hari Hara Kshethram with Mother on Pitru Paksha.

September 29/30, 2019: Reached JIVA Ashram and received the blessings of Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji at Hyderabad

With the Divine Will of God... with the kindest love and care of well wishers... Funded and supported by more than 300 people... I was on Bharata Darshan since 6th April till Sept 30th 2019...

Covering 23 States in India...visiting 4 countries (India, Nepal, Tibet & China)... observing various people, communities and cultures...travelling approx 75,000kms by all means in 180 days... spending about Rs.3500/- per day... Seeing the present times and developments...understanding the past and present glory of this holy land... Accomplished Bharata Darshan in Adi Shankara's Digvijayam Route.



Bharata Darshan at a Glance

Shankara Digvijayam - Route

- 1 Aluru Kona Ranganatha Swamy - Inti Daivam (Family Deity)
 - 1 Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba - Ishta Daivam (Favorite Deity)
 - 1 Started at JIVA Aashram - Concluded at JIVA Aashram at Hyderabad.
 - 2 Tirumala & Tirupati Sri Venkateswara Swamy - Kaliyuga Daivam
 - 3 Acharya Trayam - Places connected to them
 - 3 Murthies (Brahma, Vishnu & Maheshwara) - Places connected to them
 - 4 Sankaracharya Peethams.
 - 4 Borders of India
 - 4 Countries (India, Nepal, Tibet & China)
 - 5 Pancharama Kshethrams
 - 5 Pancha Bootha Lingams
 - 5 Pancha Dwarakas
 - 5 Krishna Kshethrams
 - 5 Places associated with Rishis, Saints, Sages, Monks & Avadhuthas
 - 6 Subramanyam Kshethrams
 - 6 Different Places (Giri, Puri, Vana, Aranya, Parvata & Sagara)
 - 6 Major religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islamism & Christianity)
 - 6 Places of Hindu ideologies (Shanmatha)
 - 7 Moksha Puris
 - 7 Sacred Rivers
 - 7 Mountains
 - 8 Vinayaka Temples
 - 9 Tirupathigal
 - 10 Directions
 - 12 Jyothirlingams
 - 18 Shakthi Peethams
 - 23 States
 - 108 Vaishnava Divya Desams
- Aashrams / NGOs established by present day masters belong to various religions.



108 Divya Desams – Lord Vishnu Temples

The Grace of Lord Vishnu is spread throughout the country, from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari. There are several temples dedicated to God Vishnu, which are also called Sthalams.

Divya desam Temples are the 108 Vishnu temples that are mentioned in the works of the Tamil Azhvars (saints). "Divya" means "premium" and "Desam" indicates "place" (temple). Of the 108 temples, 105 are in India, one is in Nepal, and last two are outside the Earthly realms. The last two are Thirupalkaddal and Paramapadam. Tirupalkaddal is the ocean of milk and Paramapadam is the Srivaikuntam where Lord Narayana resides. The Divyadesams are revered by the 12 Azhvars in the Divya Prabandha, a collection of 4,000 Tamil verses. While most Divyadesams follow Thenkalai mode of worship, some follow Vadakalai too among others.

The Divya Desams can be divided into 7 categories:

- 1) Thondai Naadu temples, 2) Chozha Naadu temples,
- 3) Nadu Naadu Temples, 4) Pandiya Naadu Temples,
- 5) Malayala Naadu temples, 6) Vadu Naadu Temples &
- 7) Vinnulaga Thiruppathigal

The idols of Lord Vishnu in these Divya Desams can be found in 3 positions:

- 1) Kidantha Thirukkolam (Sleeping Position) – 27
- 2) Veetrirundha Thirukkolam (Sitting Position) – 21
- 3) Nindra Thirukkolam (Standing Position) – 60

Following 106 Vaishnava Divya Desam Temples visited out of total 108 during Bharata Darshan.



North India and Andhra Pradesh

1. Tirumala Venkateswara Temple - AP
2. Ahobilam - AP
3. Muktinath, Saligramam, Nepal
4. Naimisaranya - UP
5. Mathura - UP
6. Gokul - UP
7. Raghunathji Temple - UTK
8. Badrinath temple - UTK
9. Jyotirmath (Joshimutt) - UTK
10. Ayodhya - UP
11. Dwarka - Gujarat

Malai Nadu

12. Trivendrum
13. Thirukatkarai
14. Moozhikkalam
15. Tiruvalla
16. Thirukadithanam
17. Sengunroor
18. Thiruppuliyoor
19. Thiruvaaranvilai
20. Thiruvanvandoor
21. Thirunaavaay
22. Viththuvakkodu

Madurai

23. Thirumeyyam
24. Thirukoshtiyur
25. Koodal Azhagar Temple
26. Azhagar Kovil
27. Tirumogoor
28. Srivilliputhur
29. Tiruththangal
30. Thiruppullani

Kanchipuram

31. Tirukkacchi
32. Ashtabujakaram
33. Tiruvekkaa

34. Tiruththanka
35. Tiruvelukkai
36. Tirukalvanoor
37. Tiruoorakam
38. Tiruneeragam
39. Tirukaaragam
40. Tirukaarvaanam
41. Tiru parameswara vinnagaram
42. Tiru pavala vannam
43. Tiru paadagam
44. Nilathingal Thundam Perumal
45. Thiruputkuzhi

Chennai

46. Thiruvallikeni
47. Thiruneermalai
48. Thiruvidadandai
49. Thirukadalmallai
50. Thiruninravur
51. Thiruvallur
52. Thirukkadigai

Mayiladuthurai and Sirkazhi

53. Thiruvazhunthoor
54. Thiruindaloor
55. Kazheesirama Vinnagaram
56. Thirukkavalampadi
57. Thiruchsemponsey
58. Thiruarimeya Vinnagaram
59. Thiru Vanpurushothamam
60. Thiruvaikunda vinnagaram
61. Thirumanimadam
62. Thiruthivanarththogai
63. Thiruthetriyambalam
64. Thirumanikkoodam
65. Thiruvellakkulam
66. Thiruppaarththanpalli
67. Thalai Sanga Nanmathiyam
68. Thiruchsirupuliyur
69. Thiruvai-Thirunagari

Thanjavur

70. Thiruccithra kootam
71. Thirukkannangudi
72. Thirunagai
73. Thiru Thanjai
74. Thirukkoodaloor
75. Thiru Kavith Thalam
76. Thiru Adhanoor
77. Thirupullabhoothangudi
78. Thirukkudandhai
79. Thiruccherai
80. Thirunandipura Vinnagaram
81. Thiru Naraiyoor
82. Thiruvinnagar
83. Thiruvelliyangudi
84. Thirukkanamangai
85. Thirukkkannapuram
86. Thiruvahithipuram
87. Tirukkoilur
88. Thirukkandiyur

Trichy

89. Sri Rangam
90. Thirukkozhi
91. Thirukkarambanoor
92. Thiruvellarai
93. Thiru Anbil
94. Thirupper Nagar

Tirunelveli

95. Thiruvaramangai
96. Thirukkurungudi
97. Srivaikundam
98. Thiruvavarangunamangai
99. Thiruppulingudi
100. Thirukkurugoor
101. Thirutthulaivillimangalam
102. Thirukkuloor
103. Thirukkulandhai
104. Thentirupperai

Kanyakumari

105. Thiruvattaru
106. Thiruvanparisaram

Vinnulagam (Outside the Earthly realm)

107. Thirupalkkadal
108. Paramapadam



The 3 Things

While, I started thinking about recording what I Learnt...Unlearnt...Re learnt in LIFE in Bharata Darshan:

I wish to leave the facts here as is ... when, I received intuition at thy feet, Bhadradi... I really do not know how it would turn. But at the culmination of Bharata Darshan at Kanyakumari, I felt I am beyond blessed for this Divine opportunity. My love for the country grew in manifold proportions post Bharata Darshan.

Through out Bharata Darshan, I observed myself and also the world around. Each one can teach one. I started noting down three thoughts under each category of refining my own personality considering 27092019 giving me a message of Number three ($2+7+9+2+0+1+9=30=3$ which is my lucky number signifying Guru Sankhya)

Following are some thoughts which struck to me at Kanyakumari... These thoughts are meant for practice in my life stricture than before in order to become a SoulDear for my country. Recoded these thoughts for my self refinement ...to Live after death.

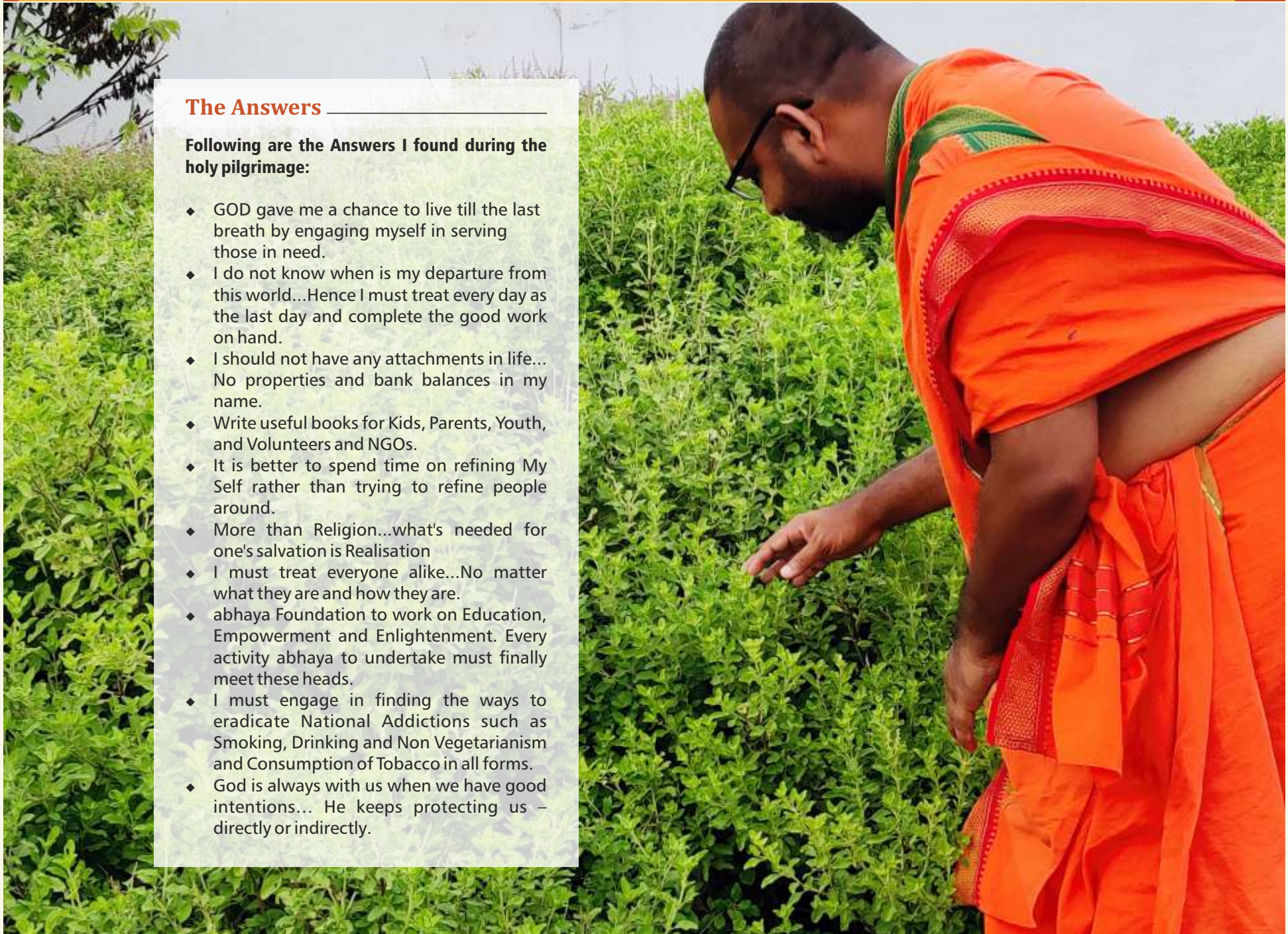
- ◆ **3 Things to control:** Anger - Anxiety - Sarcasm
- ◆ **3 Things to do:** Yoga - Meditation - Walking
- ◆ **3 Things to work:** Eradication of Drinking - Smoking - Non-Veg
- ◆ **3 Things for Life:** Service - Sadhana - Spirituality
- ◆ **3 Things to avoid:** TV/Movie - Social Events - Loose Talk
- ◆ **3 Things to follow:** Mitha Bhashana - Hitha Bhashana - Mrudu Bhashana
- ◆ **3 Things for abhaya:** Education - Empowerment - Enlightenment
- ◆ **3 Things to detach:** Money - Assets - Fame
- ◆ **3 Things to remember:** Love for God - Fear of Sin - Morale in Society
- ◆ **3 Time Slots:** 6hours Self – 6hours Sleep - 12 hours Help/abhaya.



The Answers

Following are the Answers I found during the holy pilgrimage:

- ◆ GOD gave me a chance to live till the last breath by engaging myself in serving those in need.
- ◆ I do not know when is my departure from this world...Hence I must treat every day as the last day and complete the good work on hand.
- ◆ I should not have any attachments in life... No properties and bank balances in my name.
- ◆ Write useful books for Kids, Parents, Youth, and Volunteers and NGOs.
- ◆ It is better to spend time on refining My Self rather than trying to refine people around.
- ◆ More than Religion...what's needed for one's salvation is Realisation
- ◆ I must treat everyone alike...No matter what they are and how they are.
- ◆ abhaya Foundation to work on Education, Empowerment and Enlightenment. Every activity abhaya to undertake must finally meet these heads.
- ◆ I must engage in finding the ways to eradicate National Addictions such as Smoking, Drinking and Non Vegetarianism and Consumption of Tobacco in all forms.
- ◆ God is always with us when we have good intentions... He keeps protecting us – directly or indirectly.



Observations

- ◆ Bharata Desam is Divya Bhumi beyond doubt
- ◆ Students must be taught Human Values, Life Skills, Self Service, Community Work since class I...
- ◆ Corporates of this country must take up social work as part of their business...in true word and spirit
- ◆ Every religion and belief in the country in some way or other pioneering the cause of service.
- ◆ Special days pertaining to National Leaders to be celebrated in the schools without declaring them as holidays
- ◆ All the natural resources are being misused by the country men
- ◆ People may come and go, but the Country will exist for ever.
- ◆ Govt to ensure Tourism be part of every strata of its policies.
- ◆ Much infrastructure development to be seen in the country
- ◆ Indians are at large kind hearted
- ◆ Country men are addicted to bad habits
- ◆ Patriotism is only in words...Not seen in action
- ◆ Tourism is not at its best in the country.
- ◆ Free Govt schemes spoiling the country men.
- ◆ Smart phones are used for more bad than good.
- ◆ Plastic is the greatest threat for the world.
- ◆ CSR in today's context must be understood as :
Citizen Social Responsibility
Community Social Responsibility
Corporate Social Responsibility
Country's Social Responsibility
- ◆ No one is superior to the Country's image.





Unusual Traits

During 180 days Bharata Darshan I found these unusual traits with my self

- ◆ I had No headache during Bharata Darshan which is very common for me otherwise.
- ◆ I did not use the medical kit containing 20 varieties of medicines gifted by Dr. Sailatha
- ◆ I did not feel exhausted (though physically drained) at any point of time.
- ◆ Except Himalayan Terrains, all other places I travelled on barefoot
- ◆ I treated myself as a very common man and more like a beggar.
- ◆ Never and ever purchased any special pooja tickets for seva in temples.
- ◆ I spent less than Rs. 3500/- per day which is less than the amount spent by a budget traveller in India.
- ◆ I travelled in all modes of transport (by walk, trek, horse, bike, boat, canoes, rickshaw, auto rickshaw, van, mini bus, volvo bus, train, helicopter, and airplane)
- ◆ Visited Giri, Puri, Vana, Aranya, Parvata and Sagara.
- ◆ Visited every important places of interest irrespective religion.
- ◆ Most of the places, experienced God's grace through various incidents
- ◆ Himalayan terrain toured without a break.
- ◆ Most of the places the pilgrims travelling with me cared beyond explanation
- ◆ Whichever may be the group I travelled with ...I constantly uplifted them spiritually through the journey.
- ◆ Not a single incident of losing things happened with me.
- ◆ I returned home with nothing in my hands. Just a simple bag containing a pair of clothes... everything is distributed to those in need.
- ◆ I have no pain or strain in the body and I am as fresh as what I was on the first day.
- ◆ I did not even come back with a sense of achievement as Bharata Darshan is seeing my own Mother in her full form.

Prayers

1. భారత దర్శన సంకల్పం

దేశ సౌభాగ్యం
దేశ సౌజన్యం
దేశ సౌశీల్యం

2. గాయత్రీ మంత్రము

ఓం భుర్భువస్సువః|
తత్సవితుర్వరేణ్యమ్||
భర్గో దేవస్య ధీమహి|
ధియోయోనః ప్రచో దాయాత్||
ఓం శాంతి: శాంతి : శాంతి :

3. అర్థించిన 3 కోరికలు

అనాయాసేన మరణం|
వినా దైన్యం జీవనం||
దేహంతే తవ సాయుజ్యం|
దేహిమే జగత్ పతిమ్||

4. వ్యక్తి నుండి వ్యవస్థ కోసం:

దేహితి వచనం కష్టం|
నాస్తితి వచనం||
దేహి నాస్తితి యద్వాక్యం|
మాభూ జన్మని జన్మని||

5. లోక కల్యాణ మంత్రము:

సర్వేజనా సుఖినోభవంతు|
సర్వేసంతు నిరామయాహ||
సర్వే భద్రాణి పశ్యంతు|
మాకశ్చిత్ దుఃఖ మాప్పువేత్||
ఓం శాంతి: శాంతి : శాంతి :

6. విశ్వ శాంతి మంత్రము:

సమస్త లోకా సుఖినోభవంతు||
సమస్త లోకా సుఖినోభవంతు||
సమస్త లోకా సుఖినోభవంతు||
ఓం శాంతి: శాంతి : శాంతి :



The Insights

Not a single thing is new in the world...
 Not a single man is hungry to know...
 Life is an eternal journey from I to WE...
 But, for many, it is just passage of time...

Every Sage and Saint in the Country... every Religion and Sect in the World...spread and propagated the same virtues in life. But bottled them in different designs and colours to attract people to different things and finally they all get the same essence irrespective of their choice of paths. Hence it's funny to argue one bottle is superior to the other. Ultimately essence in the bottles is one and the same.

My opinion is, every one of us must live like a family irrespective of caste, creed, region, language, sect, colour, philosophy, ideology, religion etc., following their own faith...mutually respecting others' faith. Then alone there will be harmony in this world and this as well is not my discovery. This ideology is present in every philosophy. Every religious book and the founders of religions talks about such things.

"Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man"
 is the cause and reason for Happiness.

The religion is not in
 reasons and fusions,
 symbols and colours,
 beliefs and customs,
 causes and reasons,
 dressing and addressing,
 magic and music,
 language and literature,
 sermons and traditions...
 but it is in the LIFE
 one LIVES during
 The Birth till Death
 in realizing ones own
 PURPOSE of arrival.

I truly found such truth during Bharata Darshan and thereby praying at Thy Lotus Feet O' GOD ...

"Samastha Lokah Sukhinobhavanthu"





Samastha Lokah Sukhinobhavanthu



Bharata Darshan – In search of self

The title of the book itself captures its content “In search of self”. In present day and age of consumerism, how many people would take pains to do soul searching, try and understand the purpose of their existence in human form, do something for society selflessly and devote their entire life for it. Amongst few such gems that I know, one is CS Balachandra Sunku or as we all fondly call him Bala.

My association with Bala started almost a decade back when we met for a commercial purpose, he was then a Company Secretary and we were acting as Lead Manager for his company’s IPO. During those days, abhaya was at initial stage and impressed by his keenness for societal services, with wavelength matching, got associated with Bala and abhaya and since then have been supporting directly or indirectly.

Bharata Darshan is just not a travelogue capturing the historical importance of various places with its rich religious and cultural importance. It has lot of inspirations with first-hand experience of our great country - Bharata also called as India. A glance through the book gives us insight of our rich cultural heritage across various religions / beliefs and various factors that influenced the kingdoms; efforts undertaken to create, protect, re-built and preserve these places of importance; confluence of modern technology with values to preserve heritage; inspiration to not get bogged down by temporary blips; various hidden gems across the country; principle of unity in diversity; Sarva Dharma Sambhav that is so ingrained amongst us Indians; humility with humanity is the highest devotion etc.

It also re-emphasizes the fact that if your intentions are pure, God will always care you, protect you - directly or indirectly. One will find various instances in the book - where Bala has been protected by God through human beings – whether that be

in the form of getting his bags and valuables back on more than one occasions or helping him getting darshan inside the sanctum sanctorum or unknown people lending helping hands in various forms, him not getting seriously sick inspite of travel in open, heat, varying climate and temperatures, the joy one gets in helping others selflessly, learning the importance of teamwork from horses, how his enthusiasm for getting darshan never waned inspite of seeing so many temples etc.

Bala has aptly captured his learnings / observations through the Bharata Darshan at various places in the book as well as towards the end of the book and summary of all can be stated as “To win God, one should be pure both inside and outside the body ... More than religion, what's needed for one's salvation is realisation of selflessness.”

I would sincerely urge all of you to read the book in totality, ponder over it and if possible, do plan and visit these places of cultural importance alongwith family and children as some places just needs to be experienced.

Samastha Lokah Sukhinobhavanthu.



Warm Regards

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