



Kanipakam Varasidhi Vinayaka Swamy Temple ~ A place where even the most demanding prayers of man is dealt with benign fulfillment.

Kanipakam is 12 kms from chittoor and 75 kms from Tirupathi. The famous temple of Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka of Kanipakaam is situated on chittoor - Aragonda Road. Kanipakam is closer to Karnataka and Tamilnadu borders.



Kanipakam is a small village on the bank of Bahuda River.

"Kani" means wetland and "Pakam" means flow of water into wetland. According to the legend of the temple there were three brothers and each one had a handicap. Viz., Dumb, Deaf and Blind. They were earning out their livelihood by cultivating a small piece of land.

In olden days water was drawn from the well by way of 'Piccota System'. As one of them used to irrigate the field through the channels, the other two used to ply on the Piccota. On one such operation they found that the water in the well got dried up and they could no longer continue their job. One of them got into the well and started digging it up. He was taken aback to see the iron implement hitting a stone like formation.

Later, he was shocked to see blood oozing out from it. Within in a few seconds the entire water in the well, turned blood red in colour. Thus, startled by this divine sight, all the three became normal getting rid of their deformities. As soon as the villagers came to know about this miracle, they thronged to the well and tried to deepen the well further. But their attempt proved futile because the 'swayambhu' idol (the self-manifested) of Lord Vinayaka emerged from the swirling waters.

Ultimately they offered many number of coconuts with all prayers- modesty kneeling before the new idol afford “MAGALHARATHI” etc. They declared the ideal of “SWAYAMBHU” and tendered number of coconuts. The coconuts water flowed into the channel to a distance of more than one and a quarter acres. The indication of this led to the modification in the usage of the Tamil word “KANIPARAKAM” and later pronounced as KANIPAKAM. Even today the idol is in the original well and the springs of the well are perennial and the eternal. During the rainy season, the holy water from the well overflows even today.

Another striking and strange feature of the idol is that it is still growing in size. At present, we can see the knees and the abdomen of the idol. Smt. Lakshmamma, an ardent devotee had offered a 'Kavacham' (Armour) to the Lord, fifty years ago but today it is out of size and doesn't fit the idol. The holy water from the well is offered to the devotees as theertham.

The legend behind Bahuda River

Long ago there lived two brothers Sankha and Likhita. They were on a pilgrimage to Kanipakam. As the journey was tiring, the younger brother Likhita felt hungry. Disregarding the advice of the elder brother he plucked a mango from the mango grove. Sankha felt bad and reported this to the ruler of that area and pleaded for punishment for the sin committed during the pilgrimage. Thus Likhita was punished severely being deprived of both arms.

Bahuda River

Later they took bath in the river near Kanipakam temple. Lo Behold! The chopped arms were restored to Likhita as soon as he had a dip in the sacred waters of the river. These incidents lead the ruler to rename the river as 'Bahuda' (Bahu means human arm). Thus the river beside Kanipakam temple is now known as 'Bahuda River'.

Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka as up-holder of Truth

The swayambhu idol of Kanipakam is the up-holder of truth. Day to day disputes between people is resolved by taking a 'special oath'. The people in the dispute take a holy dip in the temple tank and swear before the lord. It is taken as gospel truth.

There are instances when the person who committed that sin voluntarily agrees as soon as he had the dip and much before entering the temple itself. It seems the Lord

lawns invisibly on the sinner and makes him repent & feel guilty for his sinful deeds.

Importance of Lord Vinayaka

First letter of all the mantras is 'Om'. Om symbolizes 'Ganapathi' the God of the Ganas, who fought against the demons and the rakshas (the evil doers). When the yagnas could not be continued and Rishis were not let to live in peace and to continue to perform the rituals they approached Lord Siva. Lord Siva was pleased with the penance of the Rishis and assured them that they would be relieved of their suffering. That was the advent of Lord Vinayaka as the lord of the Ganas assuming the position of Ganadhipathi. Lord Vinayaka is also called Parvathi Thanaya, Ganesha, Lambodara, Gajanana, etc., related to his birth. There are various versions in the Puranas like Padma Purana, Linga Purana, and Siva Purana about his divine birth and existence who is worshipped by Gods too, to overcome obstacles before their start anything. Even Pooja to other Gods and Goddesses begins with invocation to Lord Ganesha. Lord Vishnu proclaimed that worship revolved to any God is futile, if it is not invoked by the blessings of Lord Vinayaka.

The self manifested idol of Kanipakam (Swayambhu)

The idols are of three types. In some holy places the presiding deities are not man made. They are self manifested. In some places Gods themselves install the idols of other deities. There are some holy places where idols are installed by humans and worshipped. Kanipakam Varasiddhi Vinayaka is a self manifested one.

Soulful prayers of ardent devotees are well received and performing Abhishekam to the self - manifested idol fulfils are wishes. People affected by chronic diseases and Grahapedas (planetary disorders) offer special sevas to the Swayambhu Vighraha and are sure to get relieved from the problems by His Grace.

Festivals: Bramhostavams

The annual Brahmotsavam commences from Ganesh Chaturthi. It goes on for 20 days with all traditional pomp and gaiety. The utsavamurthi (Festive idol) is taken out in procession on all the days colourfully decked on different vahanams (Carriages). The soulful participation of the devotees is praise worthy. The float festival attracts pilgrims from all over the country.

- **motsavam**
- **Hamsa Vahanam**

- Peacock Vahanam
- Mooshika Vahanam
- Shasha Vahanam
- Vrishabha Vahanam
- Gaja Vahanam
- Rathotsavam(Chairot)
- Thiru KalyanamVadayathu Utsavam

Morning Abishekam is performed on all the days of Bramhostavam.

Hamsa Vahanam, around 6-7 P.M when Star Chitta enters Kanya lagnam.

History

The temple was constructed in the early 11th century CE by the Chola king Kulothunga Chola I and was expanded further in 1336 by the Emperors of Vijayanagara dynasty.

There is an interesting legend about the sthalapurana of this ancient temple which has 1000 years history. About 1000 years back, three physically handicapped blind, dumb and deaf persons were eaking their livelihood by cultivating a piece of land near Viharapuri village. On one day two persons were taking out water with the help of a picot and the thisd person was irrigating the land. After some time water was exhausted in the well. One person took a spade and hit a stone inside the well and blood started flowing continuously, when the three handicapped pesons touched the water mixed with blood, surprisingly they became normal persons. After digging for some time they found an idol of Lord Sri Vinayaka in the well with an injury on the head oozing with blood. They could not take out the idol as it was growing in size,as they were digging. They informed the villagers about this surprising phenomena. People came running with cocunuts and other pooja materials to worship the Lord Sri Vinayaka. They broke thousands of Coconuts, the coconutwater was spread to an area of one and quarter acre. In the local language it is called as "Kani". That is how the palce was called as "Kanipakam" since then.

Even now we can see the well around Sri Vinayaka idol. Always water is seen around the idol. We can also see the wound on the head of the idol.

Another astonishing feature is that the idol is growing in size. In 1947 a devotee Sri

Bezawada Siddaiah of Aragonda Gollapalli village presented a Silver Kavacha to the Lord which correctly fitted the idol. Now, it is not fitting the idol. As the idol is growing in size. Always there will be water at the same level around the base of the idol in all seasons. This sacred water is given as theertham to all other devotees.

It is believed that the idol will be growing in size regularly until the end of Kaliyuga and in the end Lord Sri Vinayaka will appear in person.

In the ancient Vedas Lord Sri Vinayaka hailed as possessor of gunas of all gods, gandharvas, demons and human beings. In 'Adarvaseershopanishath' Lord Sri Vinayaka is extolled as the parabhramha embodiment of paramathma that have (The absolute). hence by taking 'Ganapathi deeksha' the devotees can fulfill all their wishes with the blessings of Lord Ganesh. The deeksha will be for a of 41 days (Mandalam), 21 days (half mandalam), 11 days(Ekadasa). It is like Swamy Iyyappa (or) Lord Sivadeeksha. And the rules and regulations are almost the same. Sri Ganesh Deeksha can be started in any Ganesh temple but should end at Sri Varasidhi Vinayaka Temple at Kanipakam only.

How to reach temple:

You can reach chittoor by air, rail or road.

There are trains that travel via Katpadi or tirupati, but do not touch Chittoor. In such cases, Katpadi (just 35km from Chittoor) or Tirupati (70 km from Chittoor), are convenient points to alight. From Katpadi/Tirupati, you can reach Chittoor by train or bus.

Kanipakam is well connected by road from Tirupathi, Tiruthani, Kuppam, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ananthapur, Cuddapah, Vellore and other places. There are regular bus services operated by the APSRTC. The nearest Railway Station is Chittoor and the next is Tirupathi.

Reaching temple from Chennai: Click the following link

<https://goo.gl/maps/7zcGSbSRs9s>

Reaching temple from Hyderabad: Click the following link

<https://goo.gl/maps/gnEKLRbBykw>

Reaching temple from Chittoor: Click the following link

<https://goo.gl/maps/fiB8zNzPQjz>

Reaching temple from Bangalore: Click the following link

<https://goo.gl/maps/SBQUmVwNNjL2>

How to reach Kanipaka Vinayaka Temple from Tirupati?

A.P.S.R.T.C runs direct buses to kanipakam Vinayaka temple which is about 70kms from Tirupati

Temples in and around Kanipakam:



Manikanteswara Temple: The temple of Manikanteshwara is very ancient. Archaeologists date this to the times of Rajakulothunga Chola. The legend is that he built 108 temples by ordain of Lord Shiva to relieve him from 'Brahma Hathyathakam' (the sin of killing Lord Brahma). The temple is famous for its architecture. The exquisite sculpture is an added attraction to the temple.



Varadaraja Swamy Temple: The temple of Sri Varadaraja Swamy makes it a Hari Hara Kshetram. The width and height of compound wall of this temple is commendable and it stands as a land mark in the surroundings. The other temples inside are that of Sri Anjaneya Swamy and the Navagrahas.

Ardhagiri Sri Veeranjanya Swamy Kshetram, Aragonda, Chittor Dist: That Faith can move the mountain is proved at this temple. 15 kms away from Kanipakam is Sri Veeranjanya Swamy temple of Ardhagiri. The famous temple that attracts devotees from far and wide has a legend. It seems in Treta Yuga, during a battle Lakshmana went unconscious. In order to save his life Lord Hanuman carried Sanjeevani Parvatha. During the Journey, a piece of Sanjeevani Parvatha fell here. Later that place was called Aragonda. It is a belief that the Sanjeevaraya Pushkarini (tank) water here never gets dried up. Devotees carry water from this pond for intake as it is said to cure all diseases and it stays fresh for a long period. It is the belief that

the water cures acute cases. This has been proved in the cases of Psoriasis, initial stage of TB, Asthma, Cancer, Joint Pains. The experiences of the patients who were cured have been recorded and they stand as testimony to it.

The striking feature of the Moola Vighraha (Main deity) is that it faces towards north, which is a rarity. The first rays of the sun, fall on the feet of the Lord. Gradually the sun rays disappear after reaching the head of the Lord. It is also believed that the ardent devotees and staunch believers can even hear the 'Omkaranaada' (chanting of the 'Om') at midnight amidst silence. It is deemed that Lord Anjaneya stays to safe guard Lord Lakshmi Narayana as he dwells there.

Festivals and Sevas at Ardhagiri: Full moon day attracts thousands of pilgrims. It is said that prayers offered overnight on a full moon day are well received by the Lord. Cultural programs are organized throughout the night. Garlands made of betel leaves, black gram and Tulasi adorn the Lord.

Accommodation:

Pilgrims visiting Kanipakam can avail of the APTDC Srinivasam Accommodation in Tirupathi and other accommodation facilities in Chittoor, located close by.