

LOREM IPSUM



LAST PADHA YATRA OF PARAMACHARYA

HH Mettur Swamigal

CHAPTER 1

MAHAPERIYAVA'S LAST PADHA YATRA



<http://mahaperiyavaa.wordpress.com>

Preface



We have, with reverence, pleasure in placing before our readers of the notings of Sri Mettur Swamigal. They are not a mere recording of events, but a pilgrimage by us, along with Sri Mettur Swamigal, in the pursuit of purity, as shown by SRI SRI MAHA SWAMIGAL.

One needs a lot of blessings to write about great saints like HH Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal.

He was the simplest of simple in person. His requirements were the smallest of the smallest – eating, sleeping, walking etc. so to call Him ‘big’ was too small. If He were to be called so, it is for his foresight, thoughts and knowledge. He was arranging to feed those thousands who visited Him to

witness the daily poojas but He Himself used to take that saltiness morsel. The places he used to stay – cattlesheds, roadsides, even sometimes near railway gates.

During His Pada Yatra in 1970’s at His seventies, persons who used to accompany Him wondered at the speed at which He walked, slept during short

hours at nights and the pace at which He got up and went about His sojourns, unmindful of who follow and how! He never needed a place to stay and all that He wanted was to know the route! That was perhaps for our sake, since He knew the unknown.

A frail figure of an Engineer was the one to cycle ahead and locate the route, plan, roads etc. It is hard to conceive how this bachelor engineer in his forties (who left his lucrative job and other worldly comforts) was locating places to lead HH! Yes, but that was the way of HH. After all, He had to show to us that He was ignorant and no miracle can be performed by Him.

We intercept here, to solicit your attention to note that – ‘wants’ can be multiplied a million-fold. But to set an example of austerity, coupled with a naturalness in following it every moment, is a lesson to us to follow to have a meaningful life, rich in righteousness.

It was this single thought that prompted us to carry the above diary notings of Sri Mettur Swamigal, in HRD TIMES.

“Mettur – people know him only by that name, even though His parents have given him a name as “Rajagopalan” – suited HH even in food habits. Perhaps, HH thought that he was



the only person who kept a meticulous Dairy Notes of events and places. Maybe He knew that he would follow the path of HH and HH one day would grant him the favour of Sanyasa, which we cannot think of.

Today he is called “Mettur Swamigal” and people may take that view, his simplicity as from a simpleton when he says that his walking without footwear in hot sun is only “endurance” and nothing special. One definitely gets the

feeling that our culture and heritage has its imprints strongly and the footsteps are not erased.

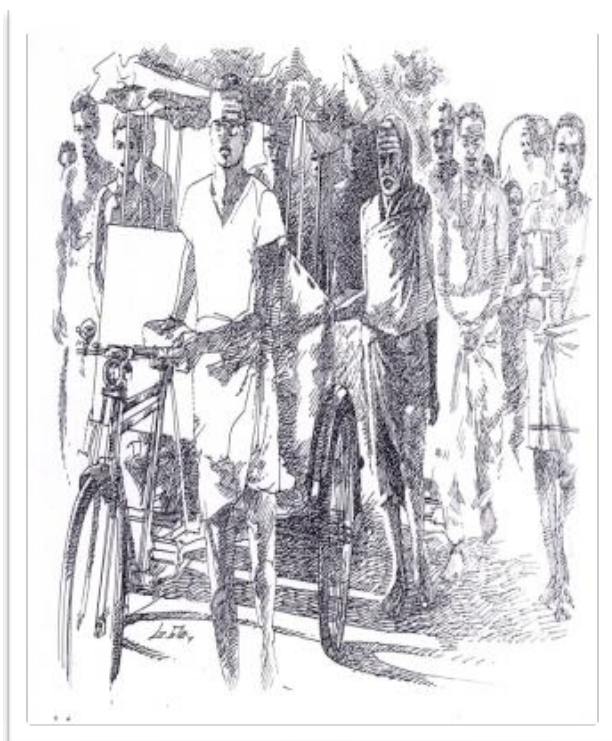
Kanchi Mutt has always had its greatness. Maybe it is invisible to us who are in the old “Paramparyam” following the treaded path but we do have our Gurus doing poojas and renovating temples to ensure that the footsteps are further deepened for prosperity.

[There are many things remarkable about Mahaswami of Kanchi. One of them was His constant movement from place to place, spreading the message of Sanatana Dharma, by expounding its principal tenets in a language that is simple and lucid, exhorting people to keep alive the study of the Vedas and follow its teachings, encouraging Vedic Scholars, interpreting the ancient scriptures, holding up the beauties of Sanskrit poetry, and not the least, setting a personal example of austere living that bordered on self-denial.

Sri Mahaswami, after His assumption to the Peetam, in 1907 at the age of 13, started on his great Vijaya Yatra in 1919 that lasted till 1939, a period of 20 years. The Yatra took him to all the districts of Tamil Nadu, Malabar and Cochin in Kerala, the Andhra area and, through Vidarbha, to Varanasi and Calcutta.

In the late fifties (1957-1958) His Holiness stayed in Madras and gave discourses that, thanks to the arduous labours of some of His devotees, have been preserved in print.

During 1966-68, His Holiness toured Andhra Pradesh and presided over the All India Vedic Convention at Vijayawada, and the Agama, Silpa, Folklore, Sadas at Kalahasti, Secunderabad and Rajahmundry.

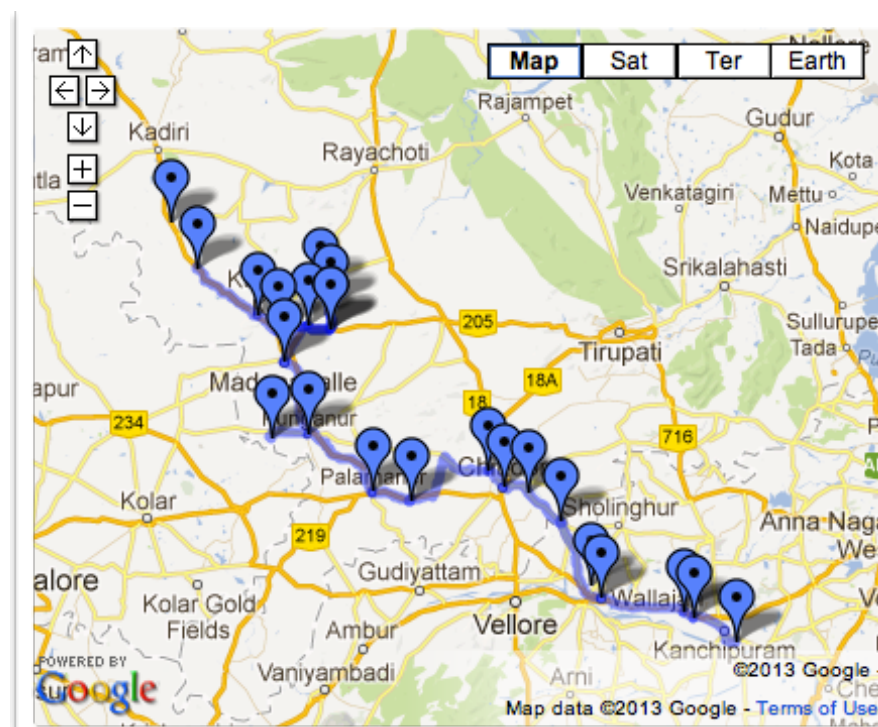


In April 1978, His Holiness started on a long Pada Yatra through Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, and returned to Kanchipuram only in April 1984. During the last of his six-year Pada Yatra, one of the devotees of the Mutt, Sri Mettur Swamigal maintained a day-to-day dairy of the Mahaswami's activities. The dairy, spread over 82 pages, had been written in light blue ink. As it started fading out, Sri A. Kuppuswami, a great devotee of the Mahaswami, took the work of engaging a person to write over the faded lines once again so that the pages could be xeroxed. But, the person whom he had engaged had hardly completed 29 pages, when he had to

leave Kanchipuram for Madras. Sri Kuppuswami himself copied out the rest of the pages and made the whole dairy available to us.]

5.4.78. – Sat.: H.H. suddenly left Sivasthanam at 3.00 a.m. After darshan at Kamakshi Temple and at the Math of Sureswaracharyal, H.H. proceeded to Kezhambi. Biksha and night stay (13 km).

16.4.78. – Sun.: R

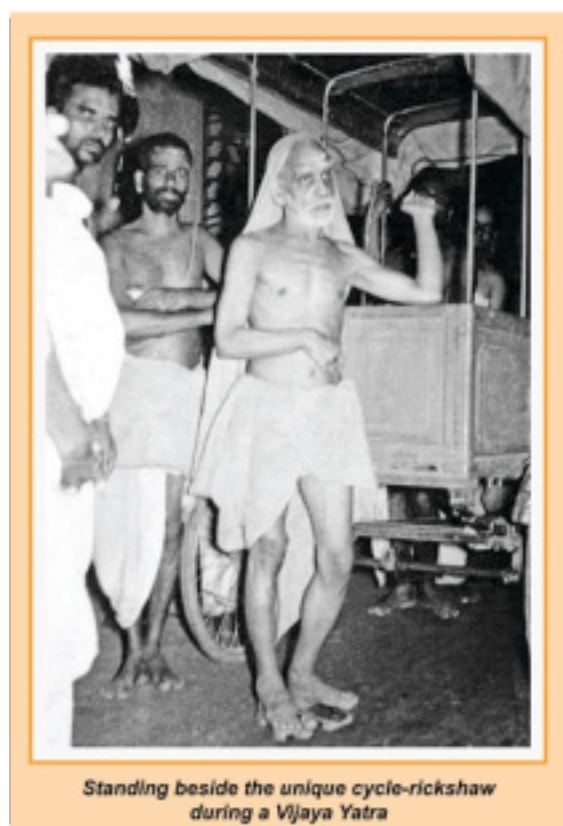


amanavami – Reached Tirupputkuzhi. Night stay at Damal (8km).

17.4.78. – Mon.: Siru Karuppur. Night halt at Walajpet (16 km).

18.4.78. – Tue.: Lalapet – Kaththarikkuppam (17 km).

19.4.78. – Wed.: Noon – Annaikkattur and night halt at Ponnai (16 km).



Standing beside the unique cycle-rickshaw during a Vijaya Yatra

20.4.78. – Thu.: No on river snanam, and Pradosha Puja. Night stay at the road-side village of Krishnapuram (11 km).

21.4.78. – Fri.: Theosophical Society, Chittoor (11 km). Night halt at Darmarajagudi, Maitappalli, on Palamner road (11 km).

22.4.78. – Sat.: Moogali Venkatagiri (11 km). Night stay at Mugali (7 km) Mugaleeswarar – Kamakshi temple – continuous water flow from Nandi's mouth.

23.4.78. – Sun.: Palamner (23 km) Kalluppatti, 8 km from Palamner.

25.4.78. – Tue.: Basavarajakandiga (10 km).

26.4.78. – Wed.: Punganur (19 km). Stay at Somanathaswamy and Veerabbadraswamy temples. Sri



Siddaiya Chettiar and his son Krishnamurthy, great devotees, and were allowed to apply ointment to the footsores in H.H's feet. Foot sores caused by walking.

27.4.78. – Thur.: Moolam.

28.4.78. – Fri.: Day time at Bhaganapalli flour mill (5 km). Evening anushtanam at Sugalmel Elementary School for aborigines. Night stay at Idirpalli (8 km).

29.4.78. – Sat.: Day time 'Gopana Bani' of Major Narasimha Naidu (5.5 km). Night stay at Srinivasa Perumal Temple at Madanapalli.

1.5.78. – Mon.: Siva temple on the Bangalore road (15 km). Elevation 2231 ft. M.S.L. Horsley Hills (2.9 km). Night halt at flour mill (7.5 km) on the way to C.T.M. (8 km).

2.5.78. – Tue.: C.T.M. Siva temple where H.H. had stayed for 45 days, 40 yrs back, during His Varanasi Yatra (6.5 + 2



km).

3.5.78. – Wed.: Ekadasi – Poolanandalapalli (3 km). Noon stay Vayalpad Vyeya Choultry (Padmanabha Gupta) (5 km).

4.5.78. – Thur.: Night stay Poolanandalapalli 5 km.

5.5.78. – Fri.: Gamigundi at the foot of the hill in C.T.M. A beautiful spot (2 km from C.T.M.) Night stay at Siva temple

(1 km). Sri Venkatramana and his wife had darshan in the evening at the time of H.H's visit.

6.5.78. – Sat.: Amavasya.

7.5.78. – Sun.: Midday in the coconut grove at Reddivarpalli. Night stay at Ankul (8 km) in the Rama temple (10 km from Madanapalle).

8.5.78. – Mon.: Kumbarakota on the link road of Madanapalli – Ananthapur – Madanapalli – Cudappa main road (2.5 km). Night stay at Rama Temple.

9.5.78. – Tue.: C.T.M. bypassing Ankul very a difficult thorny track (5 km). Night stay in a grove near Reddivaripalayam.

10.5.78. – Wed.: Gavigundi and then C.T.M. (6 + 1 km).

11.5.78. – Thur & 12.5.78. – Fri.: SANKARA JAYANTI

13.5.78. – Sat.: Morning stay at Hanuman Temple and night stay at Vayalpad (8 km).

14.5.78. – Sun.: Tharikonda Lakshmi Narasimhaswami Temple (6 km).

15.5.78. – Mon.: Returned on the Vayalpad road – Night stay at Sivkripa Plastic Industries (5 km).

16.5.78. – Tue.: Gale at high speed like cyclone.

17.5.78. – Wed.: Huge neem trees sway violently. Blisters on the feet give unbearable pain to H.H.

18.5.78. – Thur.: Went to Vayalpad for Ekadasi Avagaha Snanam and returned (2 km).

19.5.78. – Fri.: To C.T.M. (9 km).

21.5.78. – Sun.: Narasimha Jayanti – Avathaara Kattam by Kakavakkam Subramanya Sastrigal.

25.5.78. – Thur.: Ankallu (8 km).

26.5.78. – Fri.: Gantlamadunu (8 km) Amarnarayanawamy temple – Night stay at Narasimha temple (7 km).

27.5.78. – Sat.: Gattu Venkateswara temple (4 km).

28.5.78. – Sun.: Beerangi Kothakota (7 km). Night stay at Kannika Parameswari temple (7 km).

29.5.78. – Mon.: Night stay at Pulikkal Adishesan temple (6.5 km).

30.5.78. – Tue.: Midday reached Mulakala Cherugu – Groundnut Mill (6.5 km). Proceeded on Kathri road and entered Ananthapur District.

1.6.78. – Thur.: Reached Tanakkal after Ekadasi snanam in Papagni river.

2.6.78. – Fri.: Started very early. After stay at Nallacherugu, proceeded to Chimayelampalli (18 km).

3.6.78. – Sat.: Kadiri Narasimha Swami Temple. – (9 km) a very big temple – Lot of monkeys – after Pradosha puja, went to Hanuman temple at Kuttakola. (4 km).

4.6.78. – Sun.: Kalasamudram forest bungalow (9 km).

5.6.78. – Mon.: Amavasya snanam at Madyaleru. Midday Enamalavaripalli cow-shed Malakavemula (7 km). Night stay in an unfinished house at Nallasethipalle.

6.6.78. – Tue.: Cattle-shed (3.5 km – km short of Mudugabba). Night stay in a road side tent at Sankapalle (7.5 km).

7.6.78. – Wed.: Ralla Ananthapuram (5 km). Evening snanam at Chitravathi river (7.8 km). H.H. did not stay at the camp arranged but proceeded to Dammapuram (6.2 km) Mounam.

8.6.78. – Thur.: Bathlapalle High School (6 km). Night stay just after Sanjeevapuram (6.5 km) in the mango grove.

9.6.78. – Fri.: Elikapalli groundnut field (8 km). Night stay – Mounam broken.

10.6.78. – Sat.: Akuthota Palle groundnut field (5 km).

11.6.78. – Sun.: Sankara Matam Siva Temple, Ananthapur (9 km).

12.6.78. – Mon.: Tungabadhra canal.

14.6.78. – Wed.: Night stay at Maruru T. (8.6 km).

15.6.78. – Thur.: Roadside Siva temple at Mukthapura.

16.6.78. – Fri.: Dharmavaram Chennakesavan Temple (8 km). Night stay at Sayappa's farm at Mallenapalle (6.5 km).

Sri Sayappa is the Karnam who received H.H. 45 years ago with his wife during His Kasi Yatra.

17.6.78. – Sat.: Sankameswara Temple at the confluence of Chatravathi and two other small streams (7 km). Rama temple withnavagrahas newly constructed. H.H.'s visit in Sri Muka year is engraved in a rock. At that time, He had camped at Santaleswaram 3.2 km away and visited this place.

18.6.78. – Sun.: Dwadasi – Pradosham.

20.6.78. – Tue.: Pournima.

22.6.78. – Thur.: Dammapuram.

23.6.78. – Fri.: H.H. approved F.R.P samples for rickshaw fabrication.

24 & 25. – Sat & Sun.: Brilliant exposition by H.H.

29.6.78. – Thur.: H.H. to Rathrapalli – Another day of exhilarating Bashya Patam for two hours. Proceeded to Malyavantham Hanuman temple on Tadpatri Road (5 km).

30.6.78. – Fri.: Chinnasubba Naidu's thottam at Pappura.

1.7.78. – Sat.: Ekadasi snanam in canal and stay at Alam Venkatiah's house at Bondalawadi (1 km).

2.7.78. – Sun.: Dwadasi – Pradosham – Went to Narpla (5 km) stay at Siva temple.

3.7.78. – Mon.: Nadimitholu Karnam's thottam (5 km). Bondlawada Karnam Subha Rama Rao is still accompanying us. All orange growing areas. (invited to Hagari for Vyasa Puja).

4.7.78. – Tue.: After Amavasya snanam in the same canal (1 km) before Nadimithottam and Biksha, proceeded to Malapalli (6 km) for night stay.

Highlights

- Entering Karnataka
- Stayed at Hagari for 68 days - longest stay since He started
- Navarathiri @Sandhanur
- Sivarathiri @Hampi

5.7.78. Wed.: Kondapuram (4 km). After snanam in the canal and biksha, stay at a road-side mantapam. Went to Ravi Venkatapalle, making a detour of 2 km and Yerrangundapalle.

6.7.78. Thur.: Reached Venkatesaperumal temple at Tadpatri (7 km). A place of architectural beauty. Bucca Ranialingeswara Siva Temple, on the banks of Pennar river, is in a dilapidated condition. All the idols are mutilated. Both

the temples belong to the 13th century. Guava trees in plenty. Monkeys here are friendly and playful.

9.7.78. Sun.: Went to Chuvulurchanna Kesava Perumal and Anjaneya temples (6 km) and then to Iduguru (4.5 to 0.5) for night stay.



10.7.78. Mon.: Mi dday at a roadside mandapam (chatram as it is called by local police at Seemaldavankpalle (5.5 km) and night stay at Anjaneya temple at Vemalpade (5 km).

11.7.78. Tue.: Rayalacheruvu (6 km). Night stay at Kishtappadu.

12.7.78. Wed.: Kondapad Ranganathaswamy temple (10 km). Kannikaparameshwari temple (10 km) at Gooty for night stay (8 km).

13.7.78. Thur.: Stay in a tent at Rajapuram (8 km) proceeded to Anjaneya temple at Thimmam Cherla, in spite

of the pleading of all not to proceed further. There was a heavy downpour. Though the sky was clear at the time of starting, it was very difficult to lead the rickshaw or the cycle. If we had remained in the originally intended camping site, it would have been completely inundated. People say that they never had such a heavy rain in the past so many years. Every one including H.H. and all the things were completely drenched.

Highlights

- 68 days stay @Hagari
- 1 month stay @Hampi
- Finally reached Satara on 25-6-1980

14.7.78. Fri.: Kannikaparameswari temple at Guntakkal (6.5 km). Night stay at P.W.D. quarters at Panchvadi (11.5 km). (Hanchanahalu in Kannada) (5 km).

15.7.78. Sat.: Gadekkal Eswaran temple (5 km). Night stay at Joladarsi (14.5 km) after snanam in the stream on the way. Entered Karnataka state.

16.7.78. Sun.: Reached Hagari (5 km). Ekadasi snanam in the Hagari river. Stay at Hagari for 68 days.

20.7.78. Thu.: Vyasapuja Mantrakshada given to all by H.H.

15.9.78. Fri.: F.R.P. Rickshaw delivered. Lot of incomplete works – rectified.

16.9.78. Sat.: Viswarupayatra went on Kurnol road (1.5 km). Exposition of Bhagavatgeetha Viswarupa Adhyayam at water works.

23.9.78. Sat.: Stay at Hagari for 68 days. During the stay at Hagari, all persons of Panyam Cements, right from Sri Ramana, Mg. Director and Sri Chenna Veerappa, General Manager, down to the workers were hospitable and cooperative. People from Bellary and Hospet came for darshan in good numbers, during weekends. Left Hagari for Bellary Kannika Parameshwari temple (18 km).

Very large crowd. Morning 8 am to night 10 pm. H.H. gave darshan without rest.

24.9.78. Sun.: Sankara Mutt and then to Alhipuram. (8 km)

25.9.78. Mon.: Veni Veerapenam and then to Kudithani Nityanandaswami Mutt. Stay among Harijans (11 km).

26.9.78. Tue.: Thoranagal T.B. bungalow (11 km). Morarji Desai who came for darshan at 10.30 a.m. meditated for 45 minutes. Night stay Tharanagaram (12 km). P.W.D. quarters. Very bad road. Heavy rain during night.

27.9.78. Wed.: Started in the evening and reached Sandhur Siva temple (12 km).

1.10.78. Sun.: Mahalaya Amavasya – Madyanika Snanam at Harisankar – Continuous flow of spring water – small Siva temple. Proceeded to Kumaraswamy (12 km). Main deity Subramanya. Women not allowed. Beautiful



idol. Very famous temple for districts all around. Siva Parvathi Sannidhis also in the same compound.

2.10.78. Mon.: Came back to Sandhur for Navarathri.

11.10.78. Wed.: Vijayadasami day. Went to Sankara Mutt (1.5 km). On way back visited palace temples, Dattatreya etc.

14.10.78. Sat.: To Donimalai (11 km).

16.10.78. Mon.: Back to Sandhur (11 km).

21.10.78. Sat.: Left Sandhur (23 days stay). Very good dairy farm with cows yielding as much as 35 litres milk. Mid-day at Siddhapur Anjaneya temple. Night stay at Chintamani mutt at Amaravathi in Hospet. (34 km).

22.10.78. Sun.: To Venugopalaswamy temple and back to Chintamani Mutt.

23.10.78. Mon.: Night stay at Kaddirampur Subramanyaswamy temple built by Palaniappa Pillai (9 km).

24.10.78. Tue.: Reached Hampi and stayed at Vidyaranya Mutt (3 km). Went to Lakshmi Narasimha and Badru Lingam surrounded by water.

27.10.78. Fri.: Went to Kamalapurani via Hazara Ramaswamy temple where there were carvings of Ramayana on the walls – stay at Anjaneya temple (5 km).

28.10.78. Sat.: Dwadasi – went to Anegundi (5 km) after crossing the Tungabadra at Talarikadu. In the evening went to Pampasarover – Sabari Ashram; Risyamukha, Hemakutam, Malyavantam, Anganadi are all within a radius of about 6.4 km on both the sides of the river. Night stay at Pampasarover after darshan at Lakshmi temple. Sabari Guha – a calm place.

29.10.78. Sun.: Back to Anegundi (3 km) after seeing Gani Ranganatha Swami and Durga temples, on the way, lot of caves.

30.10.78. Mon.: Deepavali Annapurani and Rudrakshamandapam.

1.11.78. Wed.: Gangavathi Ram temple (12 km) built by Manohara Chetty.

3.11.78. Fri.: Rama temple belonging to Sugar Mills. Night stay at Malyavantham (11 km).

4.11.78. Sat.: Moolam – Ramathirtham and Lakshmanathirtham.

5.11.78. Sun.: Back to Hampi via Vittalaraya and Kondandarama temples (6 km).

6.11.78. Mon.: Skanda Sashti at Kaddirampur.

7.11.78. Tue.: Heavy rain.

9.11.78. Thur.: To Hampi and back (6 km)

10.11.78. Fri.: Ekadasi – to Hampi and back.

11.11.78. Sat.: Brindavana Dwadasi. To Kodanda Ramaswami temple and back, (7 km)

12.11.78. Sun.: Pradosha darsanam at Hampi and back (6 km).

13.11.78. Mon.: Went upto Chandrasekara temple at Kamalapuram. On return, stayed at Vidyaranyar Samadhi (13 km).

14.11.78. Tue.: Pournami snanam at Tungabadra and as usual after japam at Sarada Sannidhi returned to Kaddirampur –Upavasam – Annabisheka (3 km).

15.11.78. Wed.: Kadamuzhukku at Tungabadra and as usual after japam at Sarada Sannidhi returned to Kaddirampur (6 km).

16.11.78. Thur.: To Hampi (6 km).

23.11.78. Thur.: Breaks mounam.

10.12.78. Sun.: To Malyavantham via Kamalapuram to attend the concluding discourse of Ramayana by 30-year old Purani Das in Gujarati, organized by Gujarati Mandal. About 1,500 persons attended. (6 km).

12.12.78. Tue.: Dwadasi and Pradosha Madyanhika biksha at Madhuvanam. Went to Kaddirampur for Karthigai darsanam (8 km).

13.12.78. Wed.: Pournima puja at Hampi (3 km).

14.1.79. Sun.: To Kaddirampur.

17.1.79. Wed.: Hospet Nageswara temple (8 km).

18.1.79. Thur.: Reached Kali temple at Tungabhadra dam site (6 km).

20.1.79. Sat.: Anjaneya temple.

21.1.79. Sun.: Reached Munirabad (5 km). Kamakshi Vimanam Vighram was brought.

22.1.79. Mon.: To Rangan Gowd's H.R.G. oil factory at Hosa Halli near Munirabad (3 km).

23.1.79. Tue.: Sivapuram (9 km). Then to Gangammagudi near I.B. at Sonapuram (15 km).

24.1.79. Wed.: Reached Hampi via Virupakanda after halt at Reddy's house and crossing Tungabhadra.

25.2.79. Sun.: Sivaratri.

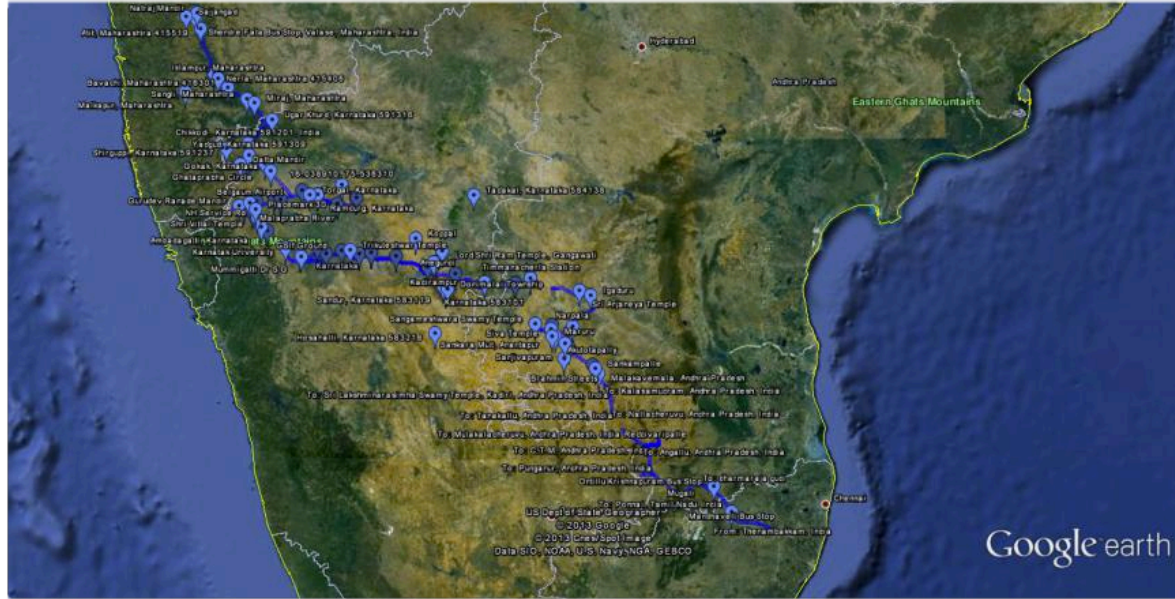
27.2.79. Tue.: Guru Aradhana.

24.3.79. Sat.: Night stay at Anantharayanagudi.

25.3.79. Mon.: Venugopalaswami temple (3 km).

26.3.79. Tue.: Renukamba temple at Hosur (6 km). Nice place, famous temple. Body of the Devi fell here and head on the other side of the river at Huligi.

7.4.79. Sat.: Left Hosur after remaining for Vasantha Navarathri. Sandhur Yuvaraja came daily and presented silk garments to Ranganatha Sastrigal and other pundits and vastrams to others – reached Sonapuram (30 km) via



Huligi. Noon stay at Huligi - Nice bathing ghat among rocks.

8.4.79. Sun.: Crossed the river to go to Hampi.

11.4.79. Wed.: Vidyaranya Mutt Swami arrived and had discussion with H.H.

12.4.79. Thur.: Car festival of Virupaksheswara. Newly fabricated car after the old car broke six years back. In the evening Thoda to the sthpathi and shawls to all the sthpathi's assistants and pandits were presented in the presence of H.H. Sandhur Maharaja presented an Emerald Necklace with Diamond embedded Gold Pendant to Eswara and mangalsutra in pearl to Bhuvaneswari worth about (Rs. 25,000 & Rs.7,000) and Jari Vastrams to Eswara and sarees to Devis. Arakonam Parasurama Iyer also presented shawls and sarees to Eswara and Devi.

13.4.79. Fri.: Last day of the year Kalayukthi.





14.4.79. Sat.: New Year (Siddharthi) started at 4.30 a.m. Midday at Kaddirampur and night stay at Venugopalaswamy Temple, Hospet (12 + 1 km).

15.4.79. Sun.: Midday on the bank of Thungabhadra Canal near Amarawathy – Night – back to Chintamani Mutt. (2 km).

21.4.79. Sat.: Left Chintamani Mutt.

24.4.79. Tue.: Pradosham at T.B. Dam (5 km).

25.4.79. Wed.: To 'Vyasaganare Gunda' forest bungalow for Sankara Jayanti celebrations (11 km).

26.4.79. Thur.: Amavasya – The forest bungalow situated on the bank of the T.B. reservoir. A fine spot. Sandur Yuvaraja arranged for this place. Sankara Jayanti celebrations went on well. Mulukunda Sri Pada Sastrigal, Principal Ramamurthy Sastrigal, Lakshmi Narasimha Sastrigal of Andhra and other Pandits participated. All the arrangements and Sambhavana to pandits were done by the Yuvaraja.

2.5.79. Wed.: T.B. Dam – Vinayaka Anjaneya temple by short-cut (7 km). Night stay at H.R.G. Oil Mills near Hosahalli (8 km).

3.5.79. Thur.: Raghavendra Mutt, Koppal (20 km). Night stay at Anjaneya Temple at Dadekal on Gadak road (3 km).

4.5.79. Fri.: Dattatreya temple at Tadakal (12 + 1 km). Water scarcity. The well was so deep that water could not be seen even during day time. Night stay at Basaveswara Temple at Banmikkappa (9 km). A tank with good water.

5.5.79. Sat.: Hallikari Anjaneya Temple (5 km) to Harlapur (12.5 km). H.H. did not enter the village road to go to Venkateswara Devasthanam as He was very tired.

6.5.79. Sun.: Lakkundi (6 km). Temple of an architectural value of Jagannathachar's School. Night stay at Adi Somapuram (6 km).

7.5.79. Mon.: Thrikoteeswarar temple at Gadak. An old temple with fine carvings. The beautiful image of Saraswathi, mutilated by vandalism (4 km).

8.5.79. Tue.: After bath in the temple well, went to Hulkoti (8 km).

9.5.79. Wed.: Savla Halla (6 km). Went to Annigeri Desai Garden after darshan at Amrutheswar temple (4 +2 km).

10.5.79. Thur.: Narasimha Jayanti – Reached Bhadrapur (6 km). Stay at Anjaneya Temple. Night stay at Nalwadi (6 km). Upto Gadak, houses are built only with mud and jawar stalks. Hot days and cold nights. From Gadak onwards, towards Hubli houses are built of Mangalore tile roofs, bricks and cement.

11.5.79. Fri.: Pournami – Vapanam – Stay at Siva Temple, Shinguppi (6 km).

12.5.79. Sat.: Night stay at a private farm house. (11 km).

13.5.79. Sun.: H.H.'s Janma Nakshatram – went to Rly. Golf maidan, Hubli (6 km). Homam at Maruthi Temple at Ashok Nagar. Performed by over 150 pandits under Sri Balachandra Sastrigal. H.H. went to the homasala in the afternoon and returned. We stayed in D.S. Gurusankar's house. Wide and extensive news coverage in the Kannada dailies – Advocate H.B. Kulkarni took an active part.

15.5.79. Tue.: Moolam.

17.5.79. Thur.: Vijayanagar (2 km) and then to Habid Garden at Amarkol. (8 km).

18.5.79. Fri.: Dharwar, Sanskrit Patasala (13 km).

2.6.79. Sat.: Reached Mummigath (9 km). Night stay at Venkapuram Durga temple (9 km).

3.6.79. Sun.: Kittur Vittal Mandir (15 km) – Historical place, where Chennamma fought East India Company.

14.6.79. Thur.: National Highway Store House at Ambadaghatti (9 km). Night stay at Narasimha Devasthanam, on the bank of Malaprabha (2 km). Reached M.K. Hubballi (9 km).

15.6.79. Fri.: Anjaneya Temple at Hire Bagawadi (10 km).

16.6.79. Sat.: Halage Durga Temple (13 km).

17.6.79. Sun.: Gurudev Ranade Hall Belgaum (8 km).

28.6.79. Fri.: Sambra Airport Maruthi Temple (5 km). [Eswara and Ganesha also installed]

1.7.79. Sun.: Kudichi (5 km).

9.7.79. Mon.: Vyasa Puja. Belgaum is a good town. Groceries, vegetables etc. are good and devotees who came for darshan were mostly educated and well behaved.

6.9.79. Thur.: Vishvarupa Yatra – H.H. went to the nearby Maruthi Temple and Lakshmi Temple.

8.9.79. Sat.: Back to Gurudev Mandir.

16.9.79. Sun.: Suddenly started in the morning and went to Sambura (14 km).

17.9.79. Mon.: Yathi Mahalayam 'Bhagavat – Pada Aradana', suddenly ordered by H.H. and grandly performed at Krishnamurthy's house.

18.9.79. Tue.: Karadi Guddhi (9 km). Jambukeshwar Kshetram –Pradosham. Very heavy rain at night.

19.9.79. Wed.: Sutkatti P.W.D. bungalow (5 km).

20.9.79. Thur.: Midday Somanathi. Night stay at the 'Grama Devada' Temple at Chachadi (15 km).

21.9.79. Fri.: Sankameswar Temple in the same village. After Navarathri, the most moving send-off.

1.10.79. Mon.: Left for Seivachidambaram Temple at Kingeri village (13 km). Night stay at the temple.

2.10.79. Tue.: To Murgod. After staying in the Mallikarjuna Temple H.H. went to Chidambaraswamy Janmasthalam – Dwadasi and Pradosham.

4.10.79. Thur.: Night stay at Halki Cross P.W.D. Bungalow (5.5 km).

5.10.79. Fri.: Yergatti (11 km). Banhatti Pumping Station (9 km).

6.10.79. Sat.: Kaivalyasramam at Manali on the bank of Mahaprabha (Malapahari). A nice place. After Hospet all these areas are black soil areas. Jawar is the staple food in Gadag, Belgaum, Hubli, Dharwar areas. Bullocks are huge. Lingayat dominated village. Lot of brahmins assembled for

Dwadasi on the 2nd. Most of them still remain. People are very hospitable as in other places of this region.

8.10.79. Mon.: Night stay at Benhatti Durga Temple (8 km).

9.10.79. Tue.: Siva Temple at Yergatti near a hospital and a school (9 km).

10.10.79. Wed.: Korakuppa Mahalakshmi temple and school (8 km). Night stay at Chandarki Maruthi Temple (6 km). On the way, we saw women and men being engaged in the place of bullocks for ploughing as boys and girls were engaged in villages surrounding Belgaum.

11.10.79. Thur.: Khatkol Anjaneya Temples (2 nos) (6 km).

12.10.79. Fri.: H.H. was too tired to enter Thargal Fort (1 km inside) and so stayed under a banyan tree on the roadside. The fort is in a very dilapidated condition and there is a Pancha Linga Temple of the Jagannathachar period, on the bank of Malaprabha (10 km). Night stay at Vittoba temple, Ramdurg (11 km).

13.10.79. Sat.: H.H. with Srikantan, Balu and Arca Bahadur, with two cycles and without the richshaw, proceeding to Badami and Banasankari.

18.10.79. Thur.: H.H. directed Brahmachari Ramakrishnan and myself to proceed to Banasankari in advance. There is here a beautiful idol of Devi on lion and with Chaturbhuja. A big tank with mantapas all around just opposite to the temple.

19.10.79. Fri.: Badami Dattatreya Temple (5 km).

20.10.79. Sat.: Badami cave temples, Mallikarjuna and Bhuthanatha Temples – all surrounding the Agasthya Tirtha – beautiful sight.

21.10.79. Sun.: Muddhalageri Durga Temple (7 km). Very poor people and backward villages.

23.10.79. Tue. Rama temple at Hulgeri cross (13 km).

24.10.79. Wed.: Rameswaram temple at Konnur, after crossing Malaprabha and entering Dharmapuri dt. (6 km). More than 20 lingams – a good spot.

27.10.79. Sat.: Reached Hampehurli (14 km). Stay at Dattatreya temple on the bank of Malaprabha. Quite a few brahmin houses.

29.10.79. Mon.: Yennagar (6 km). Where Chidambara Dikshit did Somayagna. Night stay at the Maruthi temple. All the women holding Arathi and lined up on both sides. A real Deepavali.

30.10.79. Tue.: Went to the exact spot where Chidambara Dikshit did Soma yagna (1 km) and went to Kolachi dam site for night stay (7 km). Vittal temple.

31.10.79. Wed.: Ramdurg (8 km). Ekadasi.

1.1.79. Thur.: Brindavana Dwadasi and Pradosham at the doctor's house.

4.11.79. Sun.: Vapana Pournami. H.H. slightly indisposed. At Ramdurg, the old Maharashtra Brahmin Kingdom, there is a concentration of brahmins. Though only of middle class, united and devoted.

6.11.79. Tue.: Venkateswara Temple at Harlapur (10 km) and Katkol (12 km).

8.11.79. Thur.: Chandange Maruthi Gudi – Night stay.

9.11.79. Fri.: Korkuppa and Yergatii. (Total 22 km).

10.11.79. Sat.: Reached a spot before Madanageri Cross (8 km).

11.11.79. Sun.: Chik Nandi Kaliaamma Gudi. Others left at the school at Nandihalla by the side – Night stay at Siva temple at Dundamath (8 km).

12.11.79. Mon.: Venkatesa Srinivasa temple at Gokak. Ekadasi day snanam at Gathaprabha. After the previous night stay at Sankara Mutt, on Dwadasi day went to Kaivalyaswami Janmasthanam.

18.11.79. Sun.: H.H. observed mounam at Chandramouleeswar Sannidhi. Tuesday – to Sankara Mutt for night stay. There are many smartha brahmin houses as in Ramdurg. Houses built with mud walls and roofs generally but there are also houses with Mangalore tile roofs. Gathaprabha river water is polluted by the Indal effluents and the bathing gaths are always occupied by washermen as in Ramdurg. Mostly lanes embedded with rectangular or

irregular granite stone blocks. Agriculture and jaggery main business.

25.11.79. Sun.: To Gokak Falls (8 km). A fine place. Textile mill is the main centre of activities. A fine discourse by H.H. about Kanchi mutt. A scintillating account.

28.11.79. Wed.: Back to Gokak. Ugar Swamigal did not accompany. Search parties sent.

29.11.79. Thur.: Ugar Swamigal was traced at Bagewadi, to the relief of all. Reached Arbhavi (8 km). Stay in the Maruthi Mandir.

1.12.79. Sat.: H.H. after paaranai reached Gathaprabha (7 km) and stayed at the Health Institute Maruthi temple. After Pradhosha darsanam of Chandramouleeswara, reached Goodu Bassvan temple (7 km) for night stay.

3.12.79. Mon.: Karthigai.

4.12.79. Tue.: H.H. stayed at Goodu – Mounam.

5.12.79. Wed.: Hukeri Vittal Temple (12 km). There is a well just like an artesian well, only 12" depth and water level remains constant and 3 or 4 more similar



wells for the town supply. During drought, the water goes down. Mounam continues.

6.12.79. Thur.: After giving dharsan to P.B. started at 3.00 a.m. to reach Yadgud (11 km). Anjaneya, Siva temple. Night stay at Karoshi School (6 km). Mounam continues.

7.12.79. Fri.: Datta temple at Chikodi (7 km). Ruppinahalli School for night stay (11 km).

8.12.79. Sat.: Ankli Cowshed – cum – Godown of Kare (5 km).

9.12.79. Sun.: Snanam in Krishna at Shriguppi (8 km).

10.12.79. Mon.: Ugar Khurd (12 km). Stay at Mahadev Temple. Mounam broken to converse with Yuvaraja of

Sandhur and again Mounam. Complete breaking of mounam only on 17th. Problem of snana ghat because of cremation ground nearby.

There are no diary entries hereafter till 9-2-1980. We shall continue this from 9-2-1980

9.2.80. Sat.: Paramaguru Aradhana with 32 brahmins.

17.2.80. Sun.: H.H. started from Ugar Khurl on Sunday, March 2 and reached Miraj on March 5, Wednesday.

2.3.80. Sun.: Stay at Sanflikarmala, Ganesh Mandir at Miraj. Total stay at Ugar 82 days.

12.4.80. Sat.: Last day of the year Siddharthi.

13.4.80. Sun.: Tamil New Year Day – Miraj.

12.6.80. Thur.: Amavasya. After an hour's stay at Maluset Mala H.H. proceeded to Sanglikarmala Dattatreya Temple on the bank of the Krishna for night stay (16 km).

13.6.80. Fri.: Digraj (10 km). Stay in a Cowshed. Night at Tunga Maruti Temple (2 km).

14.6.80. Sat. Ashta Ram Mandir (8 km). Bavachi Cowshed (5 km).

15.6.80. Sun.: Ahirwadi Cowshed (5 km). Ishampur Cowshed near bus stand (8 km).

16.6.80. Mon.: Nerla Cowshed (6 km).

17.6.80. Tue.: Malkhed Cowshed (10 km).

18.6.80. Wed.: Nambapur Cowshed (8 km). Karad Temple Complex at Krishna – Koyna Confluences (8 km).

20.6.80. Fri.: Goodshi. Night halt – Varale Bhairav Mandir.

21.6.80. Sat.: After Snanam in Krishna reached Kasuke (10 km). Night stay at Atit Milk dairy (9 km).

22.6.80. Sun.: Bharatgaon School (9 km). Urmadi river – night halt Sendre Bhairav Mandir Deviation for N.H. 4.

23.6.80. Mon.: Ganapathi Mandir on outskirts of Satara (8 km).

24.6.80. Tue.: Sajjanagad (11 km) – Ekadasi – heavy rain throughout the trek stay at Angalayee Amman Mandir. H.H. did not go up to the Ram Mandir because of the existence of the Samadhi of Samartha Ramadass.

25.6.80. Wed.: Dwadasi. Returned to Satara Sankar Math for Pradosham (12 km). Because of fever, dropped the idea of going to Nasik for Chaturmasyam. H.H. acceded to the request of Pandit Kasinatha Sastry to stay at Satara itself.

25.7.80. Fri.: H.H. feeling dizzy. Local Doctor Panderker attended – Low pressure could have been the reason.

27.7.80. Sun.: Vyasapuja. H.H. continued to feel dizzy. It was a tearful experience to see H.H. struggling hard to overcome the reeling sensation and cold while doing avagaha

snanam after vapanam – a lot of people queued up to witness the Vyasapuja in spite of drizzling.

28.7.80. Mon.: Giddiness continues particularly when moving from one posture to another whether from sitting to lying down or vice versa.

2.8.80. Sat.: H.H. feels dizzy continuously. H.H.'s health was bad since he set foot here. He was generally weak and had continuous cold almost throughout the 3 months' stay till Visvarupa Yatra, except for the last 15 days. Now, H.H. is not taking blown rice or anything that will germinate and grow. Dr. Kalyanaraman with his father attended on H.H. and found nothing wrong with H.H. and suggested light exercises and intake of enough food. (one can remember this incident narrated by Dr Kalyanaraman in his interview)

Vinayaka Chaturthi went on for 10 days, this year. 15 vidyarthi and 7 teachers are being maintained out of the interest from the capital of 4 lakhs deposited by 'Jere' Swami of Sankeshwar Mutt, who was the first sishya of his Guru, but who separated out and established this mutt at Satara. He was a great pandit. His son-in-law Kasinatha Sastry, is also a great Nyaya Pandit and also his three sons, the 2nd son excelling others. Rig Veda and Nyaya Sastra are taught in the traditional way. Patasala was very much benefitted by H.H.'s stay as happens wherever he goes. Vidyarthi and children of Sastry's family were well behaved. Vakyarthams were held whenever Pandits came for darshan. Mettur Ganapaatigal could not complete Parayanam owing to poor

health. Vidyaranya Vidya Pitha was registered on 30th with M.Y. Ghorpade as President and Annadurai Iyengar as Executive Trustee. H.H. has been planning and is still planning out various programmes and schemes for propagating Vidyaranya's works and establishing a strong institution.

H.H. is also trying to float a big scheme for an epigraphical and archaeological set up – overall and comprehensive Vidyaranya period inscriptions that may require a lot of money and time. Sankar Vishnu Patil, Velankar, Vishnu Sahoni, Shainanna of Rajatadri Hotel, Anantha Rao Kulkarni, Saradas etc. took active part. Bombay Krishnamurthy, (V.R.N.T) & 'Economic backwardness' etc.



Periyava had absolutely no reason to walk 1000 kms one way – He could have stayed in Thenambakkam – but he chose to walk only to bless thousands of people in all these places. Lord Shiva after swallowing alahala and helping devas laid down to rest on Parvathi's lap at Surutappalli. Here Periyava has no lap (!) – only hard and uneven floor with all people sitting right there. He is resting, taking all the sufferings – blisters on the feet, dizziness, drenched in rain, cold, fatigue etc to bless us. Let us silently pray His feet, Him – standing farther – without disturbing Him - we all will be blessed.

Our namaskarams to Periyava and HH Mettur Swamigal.

Jaya Jaya Shankara Hara Hara Shankara