## <u>Tulasivanam Sri. Prasanna Krishna Swamy</u> <u>Temple , Bangalore</u>



By

Sri. Thillasthanam Swamy Kainkarya Sabha

## Bangalore

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Thulasithotam or Thulasivanam and its temples, located in the present day (Chikka Lalbagh ) Majestic area near Upparpet Police Station, have tremendous historical significance, in addition to being a place Nallans are associated with for atleast three generations.

The Prasanna Krishna temple, the oldest on the site, was built by the Wodeyar rulers of Mysore. The temples were well known as early as 1840s and were under the able stewardship of the forefathers of Rao Bahadur B K Garudachar, who was an early mayor of Bangalore.

The temple's two main deities are Lord Krishna and Lord Rama. However, the speciality of the temple is that of the Dasha Avathara of Lord Sri Mahavishnu, this temple has deities of the 4 Maha Avataras namely Sri Prasanna Krishnaswamy representing SRI KRISHNA AVATAARA of Dwapara Yuga, Sri Lakshmi Nrusimha representing SRI NRUSIMHA of Krita Yuga, Lord Sri Rama representing SRI RAMA AVATAARA of Tretha Yuga and Sri Venkateshwara i.e. SREENIVAASA of the Present Kaliyuga.

Nitya Aradhana (Daily Pooja) is carried out according to Paancharaatra Aagama. Some of the important sevas in this temple are, Rathothsavam, Ramothsavam, Pavithrothsavam, Shree Jayanthi, Narasimha Jayanthi, Purattasi Maasa Pooja, Thiru Adhyayanothsavam, Vishnu Deepothsavam, Laksha Deepothsavam.

The temple also features Poorva Aacharyaas namely a few Sri Vishwaksenar, Sri Ramanujacharya, Sri Nammalwar, Sri Kaleyan, Sri Vedantha Deshikar, Sri Aadivan Shatakopan, and Sri Thillasthanam Swamy. The thirunakshatrams (Birthday) of all Aacharyaas is celebrated regularly.

All deities in this temple have separate Prakarams. The temple also has a dedicated Paakashaala, Yaagashala, Kalyana Mantapam, exclusive space for Kannadi Arai (Mirror room), Thiru Kalyani.

The presiding diety has the form of Lord Sri Krishna as an infant, an year or so old. The child god is not even old enough to stand on his feet. In this temple, he is in a standing posture with his left leg on the floor, and the right on a lotus leaf. He has a scoop of butter in his right hand and makes an exquisite mudra with the left hand. The age of this temple is a mystery. While one source says

the temple was built in 1844 by Sri Chamaraja Wodeyar, the ruler of Mysore, another source mentions its age to be much older.



He is in a standing posture with his left leg on the floor, and the right on a lotus leaf

Saint Tulasi Ramadas, who was an ardent devotee of Lord Sri Rama used to travel extensively in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, with the Utsava Murthy of Sri Rama and his consorts. Wherever he was, the saint would celebrate Sri Rama Pattabhishekam on Punarvsu star every month. He was very impressed with the upkeep and the quality of daily rituals at the Sri Krishna temple.

In the 1900s, when the saint felt he was growing old and infirm and that he may not be able continue his tours, he approached Sri. Garudachar to ask that the Archa Murthies of Sri Rama and his consorts may permanently be kept with the temple and daily worship be continued. Shri. Garudachar not only readily agreed, but built a separate shrine on the same site and installed the Archa Murthies of Lord Sri Rama along with the Moolavars on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1908.

It is widely believed that the area came to be known as Tulasivanam or Tulasi Thotam owing to its enduring association with Saint Tulasi Ramadas.



Sri Rama worshipped by Saint Tulasi Ramadas

In the year 1943, at the desire of the devotees, the Sannidhi for Lord Sri Lakshmi Nrusimha was constructed at the right side of the presiding deity.



Lord Sri. Lakshmi Narasimha Sannidhi

Along with this, separate Sannidhies were built for Sri Vishwaksenar, Sri Nammalwar, Sri Bhagawath Ramanuja, Sri Vedantha Desika and Sri Aadivan Shatakopa Yatheendra Mahadesikan (H.H. 1st Jeer of Sri Ahobila Mutt) were constructed and the consecration was done in the presence of H.H. the 42nd Jeer of Sri Ahobila Mutt.

Later in the 20th Century, lots of improvements have been made to the temple such as Raja Gopuram, Mahadwaram on the Northern side, and reconstruction of Vimana Gopuram for Sri Rama in 1998 (after the lapse of 90 years).

The absence of Lord Sri Srinivasa was felt by many ardent devotees who throng the temple on all occasions. A separate sannidhi for Lord Sri Srinivasa was built to the left side of the presiding deity and was consecrated in the year 1996.



Lord. Sri. Venkateshwara Sannidhi

Likewise the Vimana Gopurams for all other deities including re-construction of Sannidhies for Sri Rukmini Thayar, Aandal Thayar, Aalwars and Aacharyaas along with a room for Kannadi Arai (Mirror Room) was made between 1998 – 2007.

Later in the year 2008, new Yaagashaala and Paaksahaala were constructed along with the consecration of Sri Hanuman Sannidhi and Vimana Gopuram.

HH Sri. Sadagopa Ramanuja Yathindra Mahadesikan ( Sri. Thillasthanam Swamy ) and the Sri. Prasanna Krishnaswamy Temple have a long association . HH Sri. Swamy would stay for long periods at Bangalore , and would conduct his programme of lectures at Sri. Prasanna krishnaswamy

temple. He took great interest in the working of the Sri. Prasanna krishnaswamy temple and organised the worship procedure at the temple, according to Agama and Vedic precepts. He also arranged the installation of Sri. Adivan Satagopan Mahadesikan idol at the temple. In year 1942 during his stay HH Sri Swamy renovated the 75 year old BRAHMA RATHAM and also started Ratha Yatra around the Lanes of the temple. Even now, the same Brahma Ratham is used for Brahmotsavam (only the chakram / wheels were re-conditioned).

Sri Thillasthanam Swamy attained Brindavanam on May 4th, 1956. And his Brindavanam is located near the Dasavathaara Sannidhi in Srirangam near Trichy. Sri Thillasthanam Swamy Kainkarya Sabha was formed in the year 1957 to commemorate the memory of HH Sri Satagopa Ramanuja Yathindra Mahadesikan fondly called as Sri. Thillasthanam Swamy.

The Sabha has been celebrating his Thirunakshatram and Aradanam since then without fail . Year 2016 marks the completion of 60 years since the Sabha was formed . A good number of scholars and public assemble at Sri Prasanna Krishnaswamy temple and conduct Sevai - both Divya Prabhandam and Veda and large number of people congregate on these occasions.

HH Sri. Swamy's Original Paduka is preserved at the temple even to this day and devotees are offered Paduka Teertham during Swamy Tirunakshatram and Aradhanam . Only recently in year 2016 the Paduka was provided a Valli Kavacha to preserve it for future generations .

HH Sri. Swamy's Brindavanam is located near Dasavarathara Sannidhi Srirangam near Trichy town and Sri. Swamy's Divya Mangala Moorthi is at Sri. Prasanna Krishnaswamy temple Bangalore.

For further details about the History, Chronology, Festivals and other details please visit the website of Sri. Tulasivanam Sri Prasanna Krishnaswamy Temple <a href="http://www.tulasivanam.com/index.htm">http://www.tulasivanam.com/index.htm</a>