

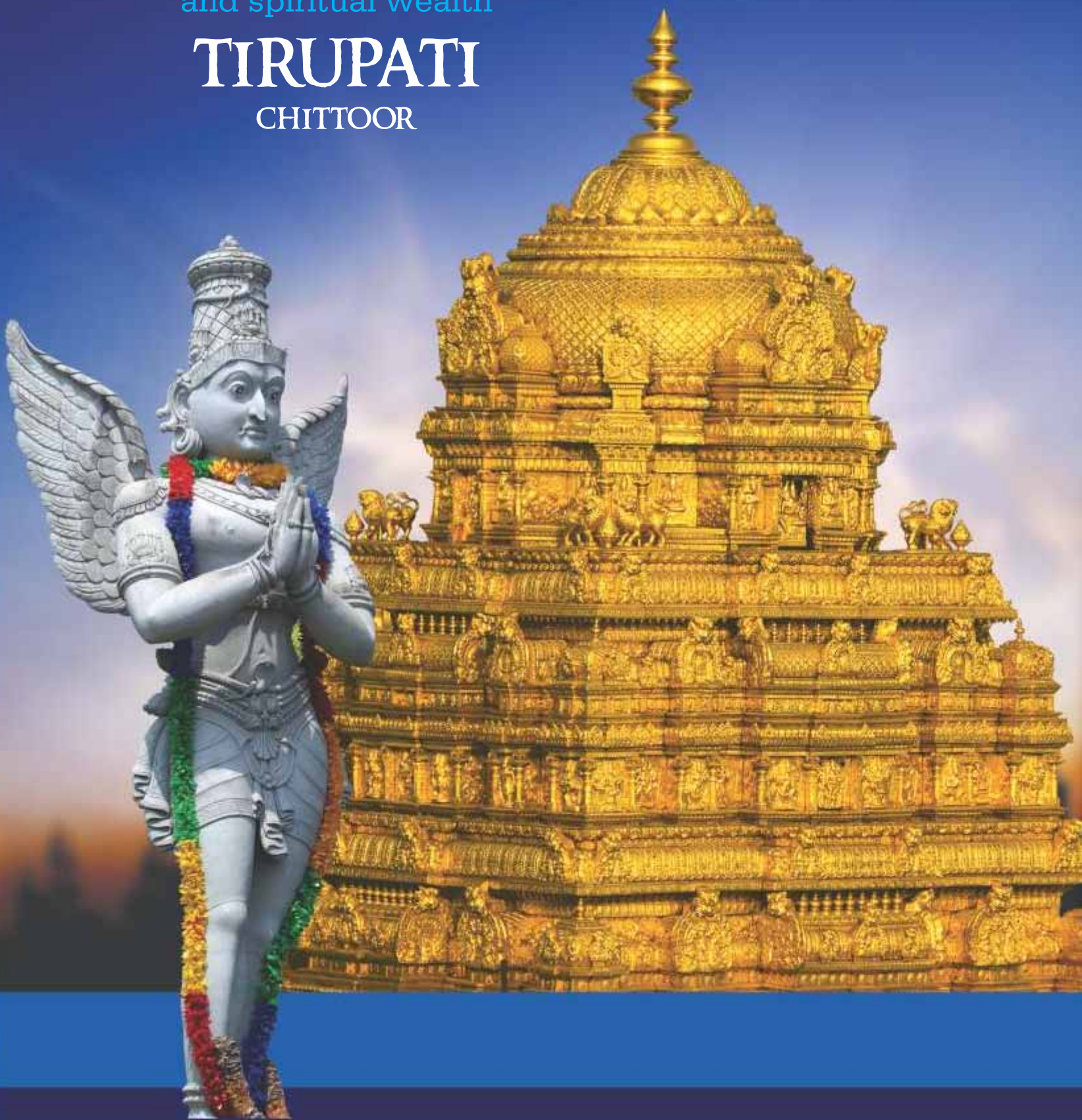
Incredible!ndia

Andhra Pradesh
TOURISM
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Wellspring of material
and spiritual wealth













TIRUPATI

CHITTOOR



CHITTOOR MAP



- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | Lakes |  | Nature Spots/Eco-tourism |
|  | Pilgrim Centres |  | Fort |
|  | National Parks |  | Railway Line |
|  | Hill resorts |  | National Highway with No. |
|  | Handicrafts/Arts |  | Major Roads |
|  | APTDC Hotel / Resorts |  | Other Roads |

The Eastern Ghats form a major hill range in Andhra Pradesh. The world famous temple town of Tirumala, with Tirupati at the foothills, lies amidst the thickly-wooded hills in Chittoor District.

Chittoor District, lying on the banks of Ponnai river at the southernmost part of Andhra Pradesh, is bounded by Anantapur District on the northwest, Kadapa District on the north, Nellore District on the northeast, Vellore & Tiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu state on the south, and Karnataka state on the southwest. It is home to more than a dozen ancient temples, a pleasant hill resort in Horsely Hills, sacred waterfalls, grand forts, geological wonders, exciting wild life sanctuaries and salubrious parks.

Chittoor District has a tropical climate, with temperatures ranging between 30°C and 43°C in summer and between 21°C and 29°C in winter. The major places of interest are Madanapalle, Srikalahasthi and Tirupati.

The hills in Chittoor District resemble a snake, with Tirumala forming the hood. Lord Venkateswara, also known as the 'Lord of the Seven Hills' or 'Balaji', is considered the 'Kaliyuga' incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Millions of pilgrims visit the Balaji temple every day. The main temple is the quintessence of ancient Indian temple architecture. The '*Vimana*' over the *sanctum sanctorum* as also the '*Dhwajasthambam*' (flagpost) are gold plated and have been crafted meticulously. Beholding Lord Venkateswara is proven to be a transformative experience. Apart from the bliss of a *darshan* of Lord Venkateswara, one can enjoy the sight of several natural and manmade attractions nearby.

Lord Venkateswara temple

The Lord Venkateswara temple in the hill town of Tirumala, near Tirupati in Chittoor District, is the world's richest and most-visited place of worship. The presiding deity here is also known as 'Srinivasa', 'Balaji', 'Govinda' and the "Lord of the Seven Hills".

Scriptural mention, literary evidence, scripts on the temple walls and historical records suggest that Thondaiman, a Tamil ruler of the ancient Thondaimandalam (present-day Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu), first built the temple after visualizing Lord Vishnu in a



Lord Sri Venkateswara temple



dream. He built the *Gopuram* and the *Prakhara*, and arranged for regular prayers in the temple. Later, the Chola dynasty kings vastly improved the temple and endowed it richly.

Inside the Sri Venkateswara temple complex, one comes across several exquisitely-carved doorways, *mandapams* and shrines. The main idol of Lord Sri Venkateswara in the *garbha griha* (*sanctum sanctorum*) is believed to have self-manifested. The tastefully decorated Lord bears Sri Lakshmi Devi on His right chest and Sri Padmavathi Devi on His left chest. During *abhishekam*, one can have *darshan* of Goddess Lakshmi.

This *piece de resistance* of Indian temple architecture has no parallel on earth in terms of structural grandeur, daily throng, sublime bliss and devotional offerings. It is the fountainhead of material as well as spiritual wealth.





Goddess Alamelumanga temple

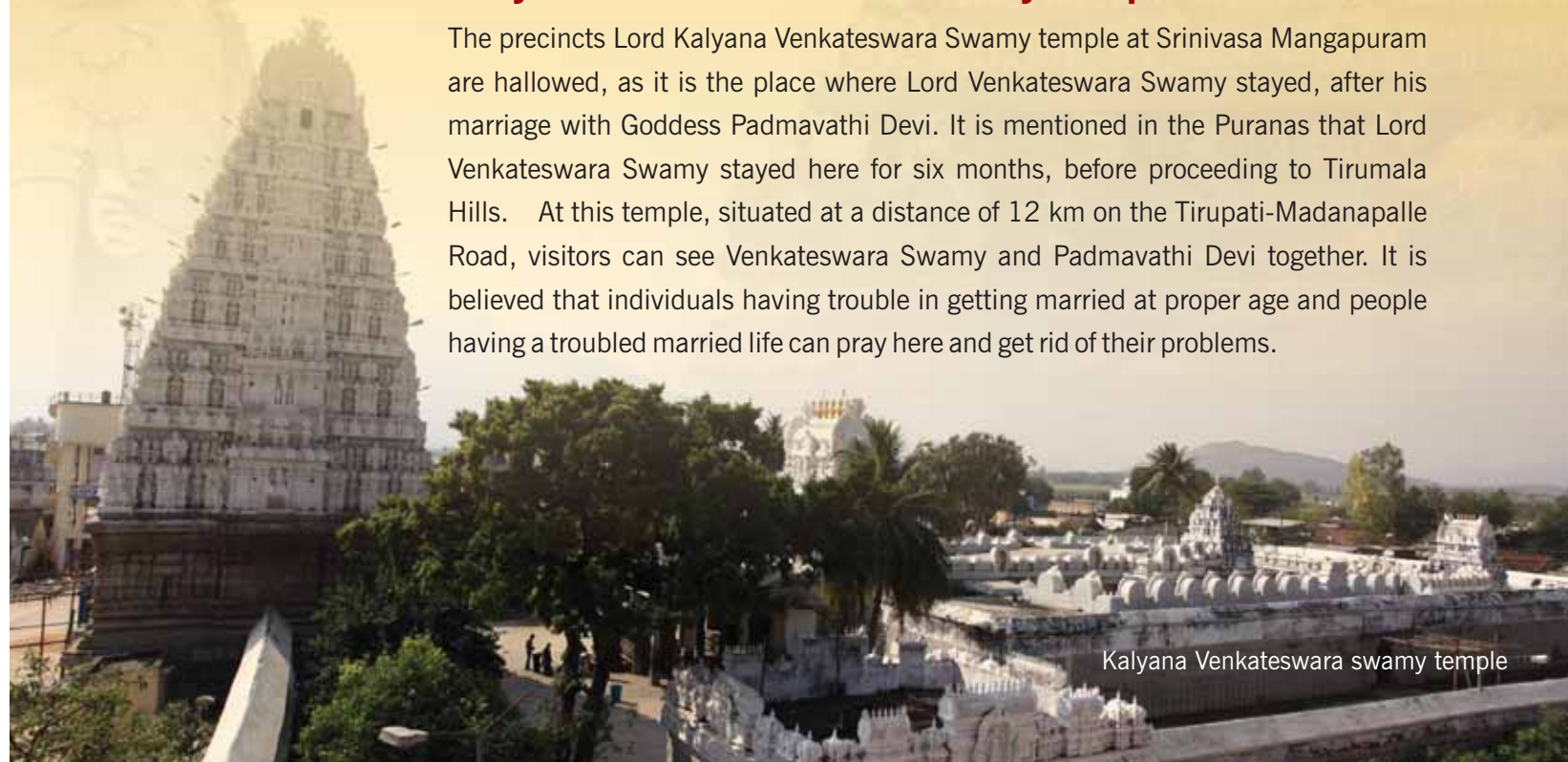
The Goddess Alamelumanga temple is located in Tiruchanur, about five kilometers from Tirupati. Goddess Alamelumanga is the consort of Lord Venkateswara residing on the top of the hill. It is widely believed that a visit to Tirupati will not be complete unless it is complemented by a *darshan* of Goddess Alamelumanga. The town lies on the bank of the Swarnamukhi river.

Fast Facts: Timings: 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon every day. Five members are allowed Kalyanostavam (Rs. 500/-). Special darshan (Rs. 5/-) is advisable. Darshan starts from 6.30 a.m. on Weekdays and from 8.00 a.m. on Fridays. Phone: 0877-2264585



Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy temple

The precincts Lord Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy temple at Srinivasa Mangapuram are hallowed, as it is the place where Lord Venkateswara Swamy stayed, after his marriage with Goddess Padmavathi Devi. It is mentioned in the Puranas that Lord Venkateswara Swamy stayed here for six months, before proceeding to Tirumala Hills. At this temple, situated at a distance of 12 km on the Tirupati-Madanapalle Road, visitors can see Venkateswara Swamy and Padmavathi Devi together. It is believed that individuals having trouble in getting married at proper age and people having a troubled married life can pray here and get rid of their problems.



Kalyana Venkateswara swamy temple



Govindaraja Swamy Temple

Govindaraja Swamy temple

The Govindaraja Swamy temple is dedicated to Govindaraja Perumal in contradistinction to the Venkatachalapathi shrine at the top of the hill. The temple was consecrated by saint Ramanujacharya in AD 1130. There is also a famous tower called “*Galigopuram*.” The temple complex has shrines dedicated to Sri Andal, Sri Parthasarathy and Sri Venkateswara.

Fast Facts: Timings: *Sarva Darshan* timings 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. Buy special darshan tickets (Rs. 5/-) to avoid the long queue.

Akasa Ganga (Tirumala)

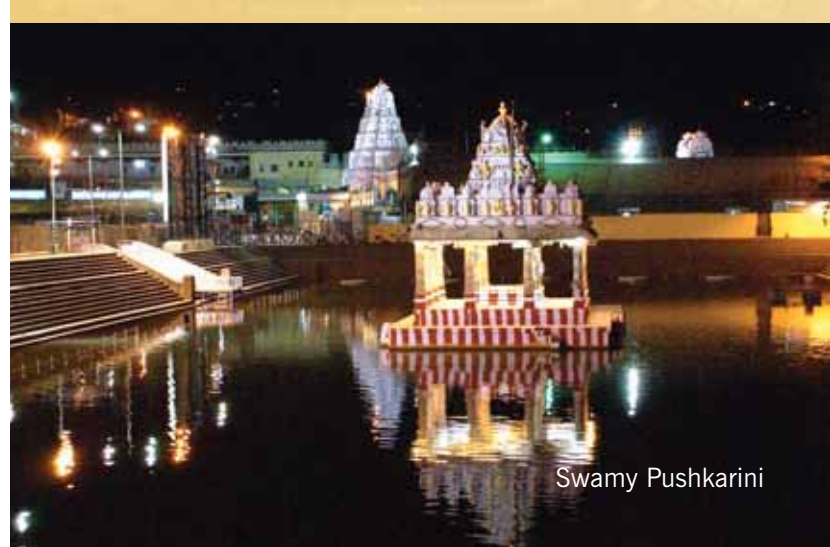
About 3 km north of the main temple is a perennial stream that is said to flow from the feet of the presiding deity at Tirumala. The stream, called Akasa Ganga, is considered divine, with the Vedas describing it as flowing from the feet of Lord Vishnu. Water from the stream is used for the daily rituals in the Tirumala temple.



Akasa Ganga

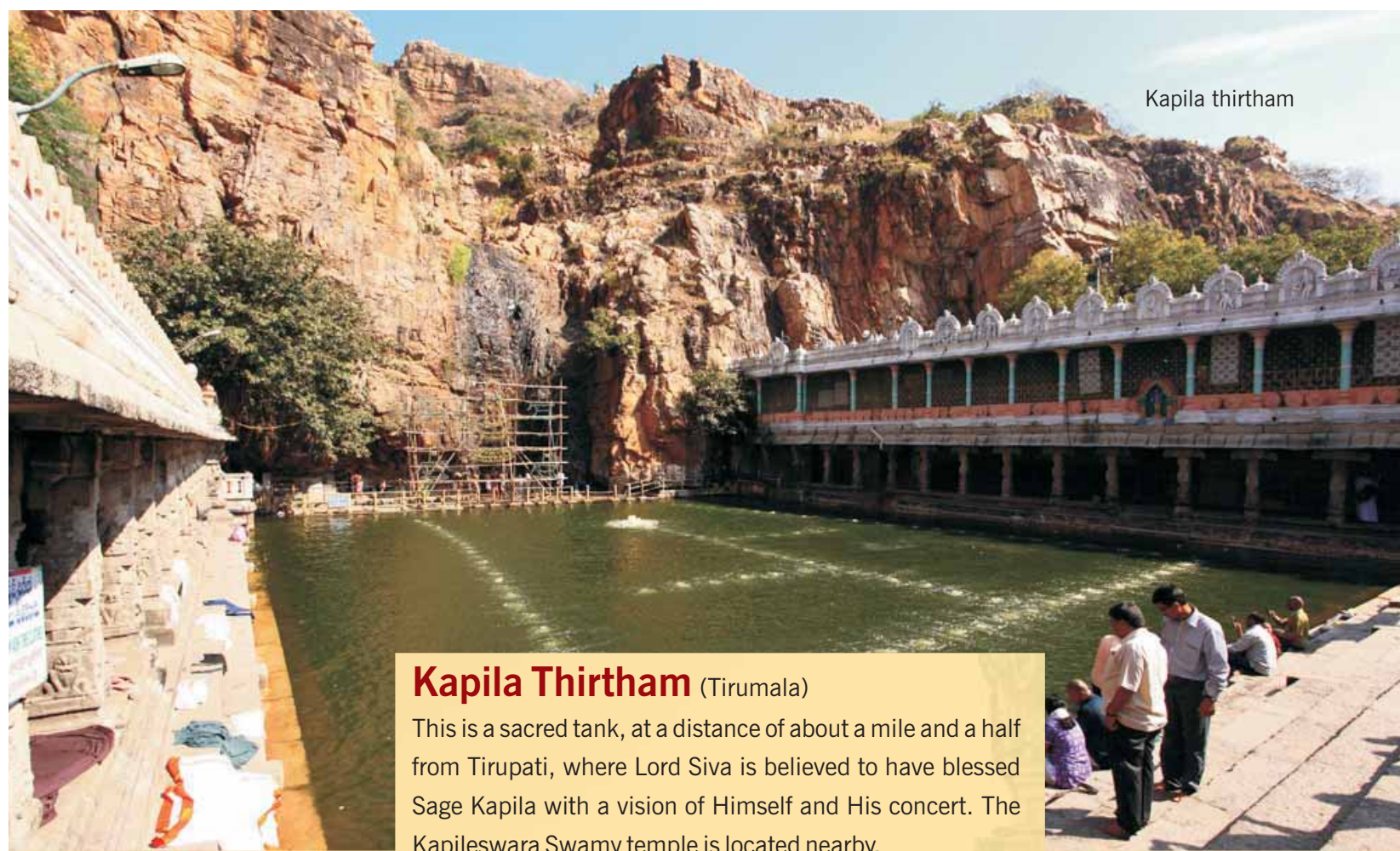
Swamy Pushkarini (Tirumala)

Most of the pilgrims visiting Tirupati make it a point to have a dip at Swamy Pushkarini, the tank adjacent to the temple at Tirumala, before a *darshan* of the Lord. The tank is considered very sacred. Legend has it that it was originally a tank that Lord Vishnu used for his sport and that it was brought down to earth by Garuda for Lord Venkateswara.



Swamy Pushkarini

Kapila thirtham



Kapila Thirtham (Tirumala)

This is a sacred tank, at a distance of about a mile and a half from Tirupati, where Lord Siva is believed to have blessed Sage Kapila with a vision of Himself and His concert. The Kapileswara Swamy temple is located nearby.

Kapileswara Swamy Temple




Hare Rama Hare Krishna Temple



Hare Rama Hare Krishna Mandir

The Hare Rama Hare Krishna Mandir is located about 9 km from Tirupati railway station. The presiding deity here is Lord Krishna.

A wide-angle photograph of the Sri Kanipakam Vinayaka Swamy Temple. The temple features a prominent, multi-tiered gopuram (tower) with intricate carvings. In the foreground, there is a large, ornate white stone structure, possibly a part of the temple's architecture or a decorative element. To the left, a small, colorful shrine with a thatched roof is situated near a body of water. The temple is surrounded by a low wall, and several people are visible walking around the premises. The sky is clear and blue.

Sri Kanipakam Vinayaka Swamy Temple

Kanipakam temple

The Kanipakam temple is located on the northern bank of the Bahuda river at a distance of 13 km from Chittoor. The presiding deity here is *swayambhu* (self-generated) Varasiddhi Vinayaka. The main annual celebrations of the temple “Vinayaka Swamy Brahmostavams” are held on the eve of Vinayaka Chaturthi. It is 56 km from Tirupati.

Fast Facts: Timings: 04.00 AM to 09.30 PM

Nagalapuram temple

It is believed that the Nagalapuram temple was built by Sri Krishnadeveraya in memory of his mother Nagamba. It has rare stone images of Vinachara, Dakshinamurthy, Hayagriva, Bhuvarbha and Trivikrama. The sun festival, celebrated in March every year, is important. Curiously, during the festival, the first rays of the sun fall at the feet of the images on the first day, on the abdomen on the second day and on the face on the third day.

Kodandarama Swamy temple

This temple, dedicated to Lord Sri Rama, is situated within a distance of about a kilometer from the Tirupati railway station. The temple was built to commemorate the visit of Sri Rama, Lakshmana and Sita to Tirupati, while returning from Lanka.





Vedanarayana Swamy Temple

Sri Vedanarayana Swamy temple

This temple is believed to have been constructed by Vijayanagar Emperor Sri Krishnadevaraya at the behest of his mother. A fine specimen of the Vijayanagar style of architecture, its *sanctum sanctorum* has an image of Lord Vishnu in his *Matsya* (fish) incarnation, with Sri Devi and Bhu Devi on either side. An important feature of the temple is worship of the Sun. It is 70 km from Tirupati.

Sri Agastheswara Swamy temple

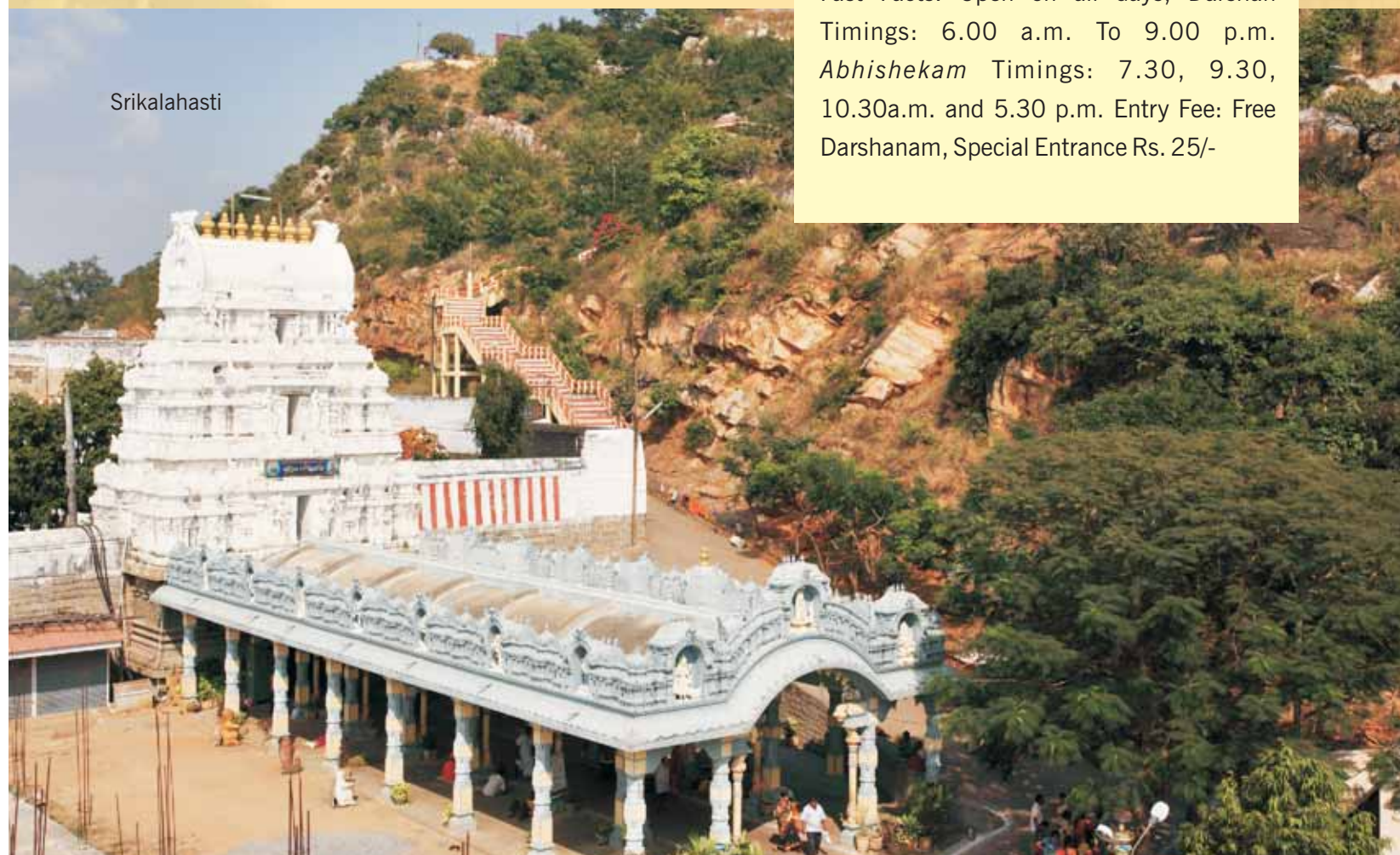
This temple lies at the confluence of three rivers viz. Swarnamukhi, Bhima and Kalyan. The temple has three grand entrances with exquisite sculptures. There is a separate shrine for Goddess Parvati within the temple complex.

Sri Kalahasti

This picturesque location has a temple dedicated to Vayu, the wind god. Legend has it that three beings worshipped at this temple and attained mukti (redemption): a spider, by spinning a web over the linga; a snake, by placing gem upon the linga; and an elephant by washing the *linga* with water from its trunk. Hence, the name Srikalahasthi for the temple. It is 40km from Tirupati.

Fast Facts: Open on all days; Darshan Timings: 6.00 a.m. To 9.00 p.m. *Abhishekam* Timings: 7.30, 9.30, 10.30a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Entry Fee: Free Darshanam, Special Entrance Rs. 25/-

Srikalahasti



Mogileeswara temple

Mogili, about 30 km from Chittoor and 10 km from Palamaner on the Chennai-Bangalore highway, is well-known for the Mogileeswara temple, where Lord Siva is worshipped as 'Abbreswara' or 'Iswara of the Skies'. The Pushkarini on the premises of the temple has perennial water supply from the mouth of a Nandi (sacred bull). It is a source of drinking water and irrigation for the local people.

Sila Thoranam

Situated on the Tirumala Hills, this natural arch-like rock formation is the only one of its kind in Asia. Believed to be 1500 million years old and formed by weathering and wind erosion, the Sila Thoranam measures 25 feet in length and 10 feet in height. Across the world, only two such rock formations are



Sila Thoranam

found: Rainbow Arch at Utah in the US and the Cut Through in the UK.

Madanapalle

This is a world famous educational and cultural center from the days of Dr. Annie Besant, the great theosophist. The house of Jiddu Krishnamurthy, great philosopher and founder of the Rishi Valley Public School, is a draw here. It was in the hills of Madanapalle that Rabindranath Tagore translated the National Anthem into English along with Margaret Cousins (wife of the Irish poet James Cousins) and set the notation, which is followed till this day. It is 120 km from Tirupati.

Chandragiri Fort

Chandragiri was prominent during the last days of the Vijayanagar Empire. The Chandragiri Fort, originally built in 1000 AD, was strengthened by successive Vijayanagar Kings. The fort has been built on a huge rock that is 183 meters high. The ruins of several palaces and temples lie within the wall of this fort. Near the fort there are two big buildings used by royal families. They are fine specimens of the

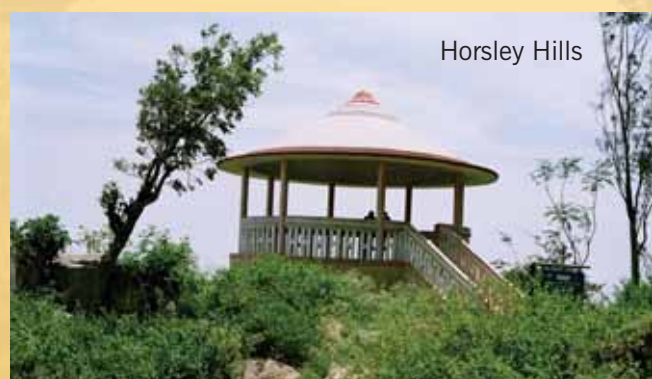


Chandragiri Fort

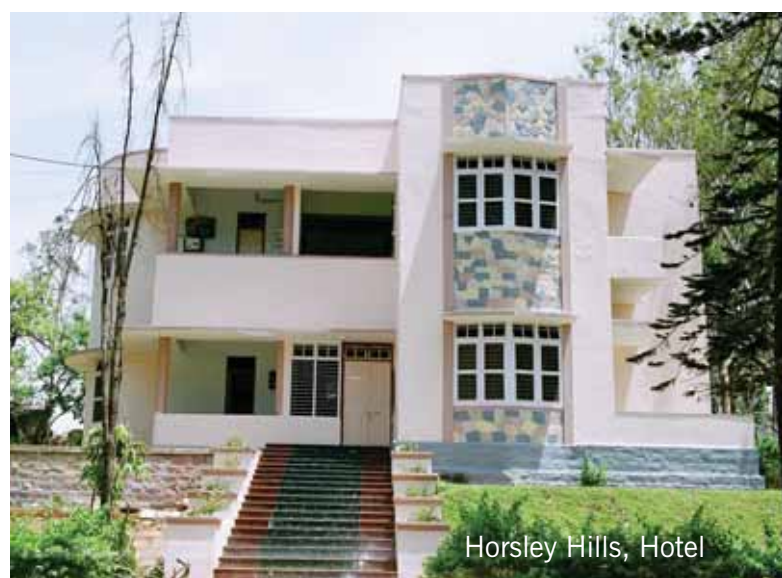
Vijayanagar style of architecture. Six kilometer from Tirupati 6kms. Sound & Light show: 1st show Telugu, 2nd show English, Entry: Adult Rs.35/-, Child Rs.25/- Contact: 0877-2289122.

Horsley Hills

This picturesque summer resort is situated near Madanapalle in Chittoor District at an altitude of 4,200 feet above sea level. W.D.Horsley, a former British District Collector, chose this spot as his summer retreat. The Governor's Bungalow, the Forest Bungalow, the Microwave station, the Viewpoint and the Enugumallamma temple are major attractions here. It is 140 from Tirupati.



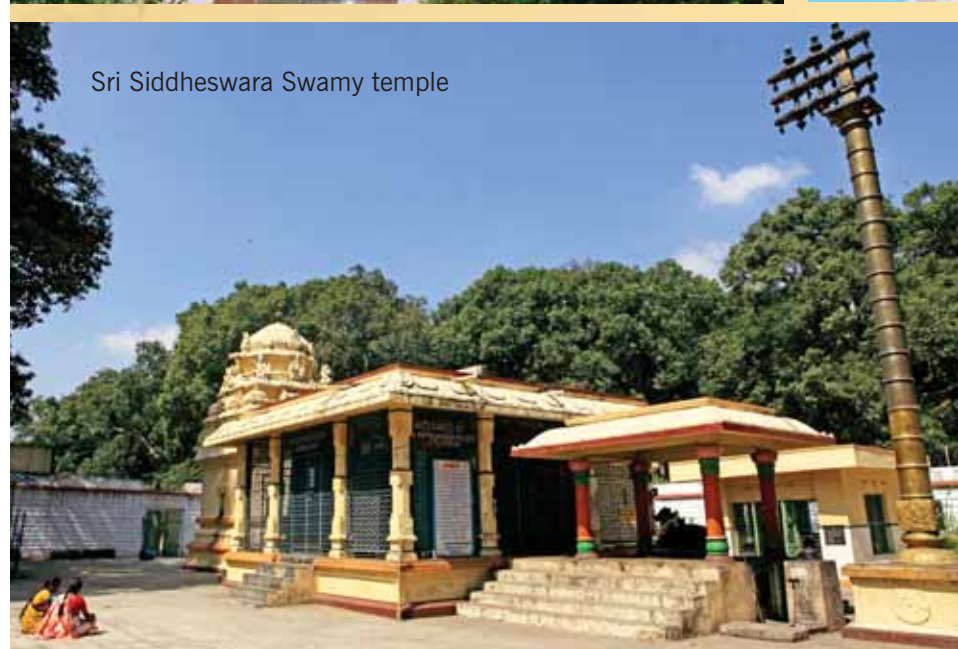
Horsley Hills



Horsley Hills, Hotel



Horsley Hills, swimming pool



Sri Siddheswara Swamy temple



Talakona

Talakona is famous for the Sri Siddheswara Swamy temple and the majestic Talakona waterfalls in picturesque surroundings. The throng is substantial on weekends, January 1st

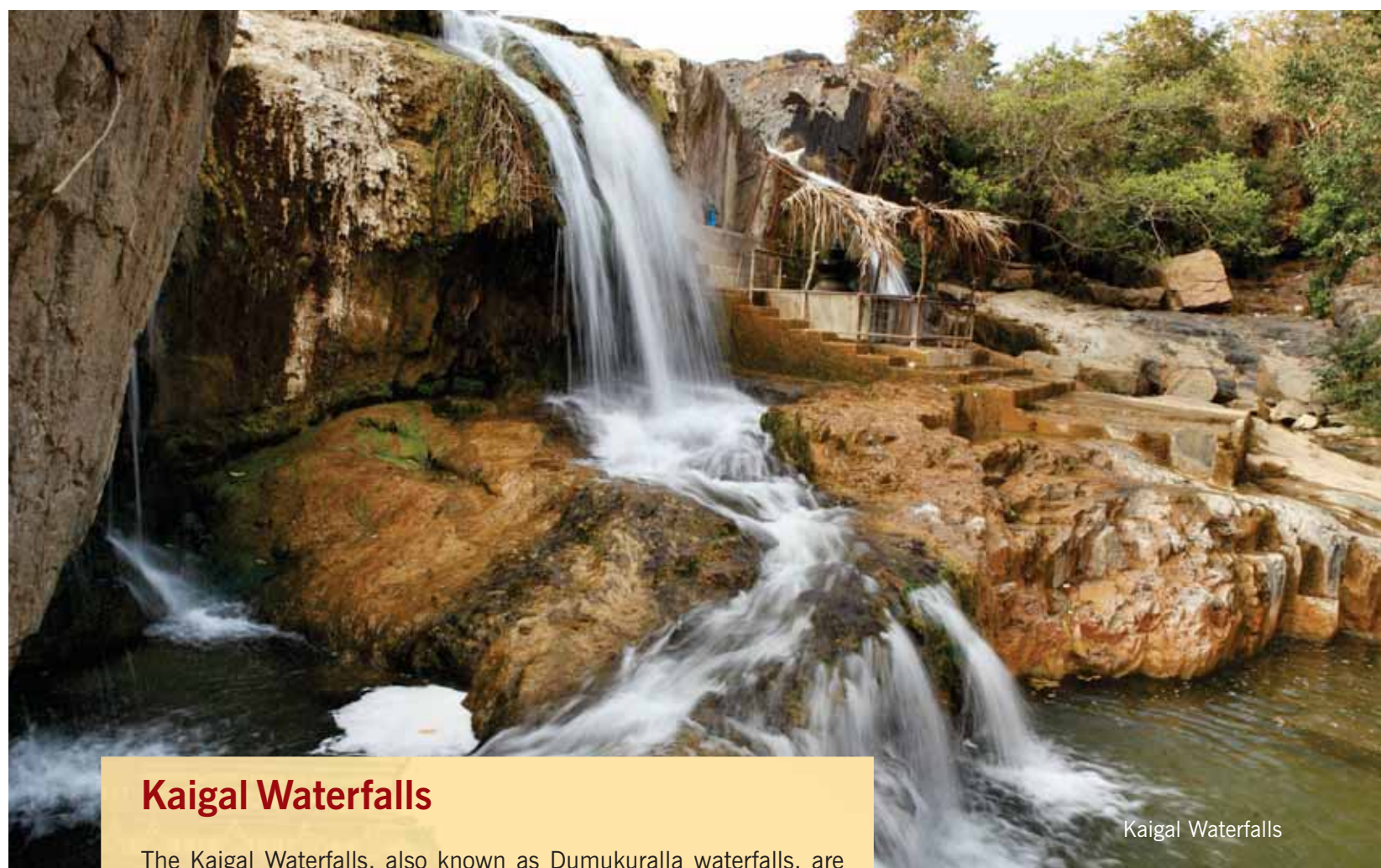
and Mahasivaratri. Those who do not have children pray here; and, if a child is born subsequently, usually name it Siddaiah or Siddamma. The waterfalls are located about four km away from the temple. Talakona is considered the threshold to the seven hills of Tirumala. It is 60kms from Tirupati.



Talakona waterfalls

Kailasanathakona

The Kailasanathakona waterfalls in the Nagiri Hills near Puttur are charming. The water here is said to be rich in minerals and is credited with curative properties. There are references in the Puranas that Lord Kailasanatheswara Swamy attended the marriage of Lord Venkateswara Swamy and Goddess Padmavati at Narayanavanam and selected an area near the waterfalls for meditation. Hence, the place got the name Kailasanathakona. It is 50km from Tirupati.



Kaigal Waterfalls

The Kaigal Waterfalls, also known as Dumukuralla waterfalls, are located at a distance of 2.5 km from Kaigal village on the Palamner-Kuppam highway. Water cascades down from a height of 40 feet here.

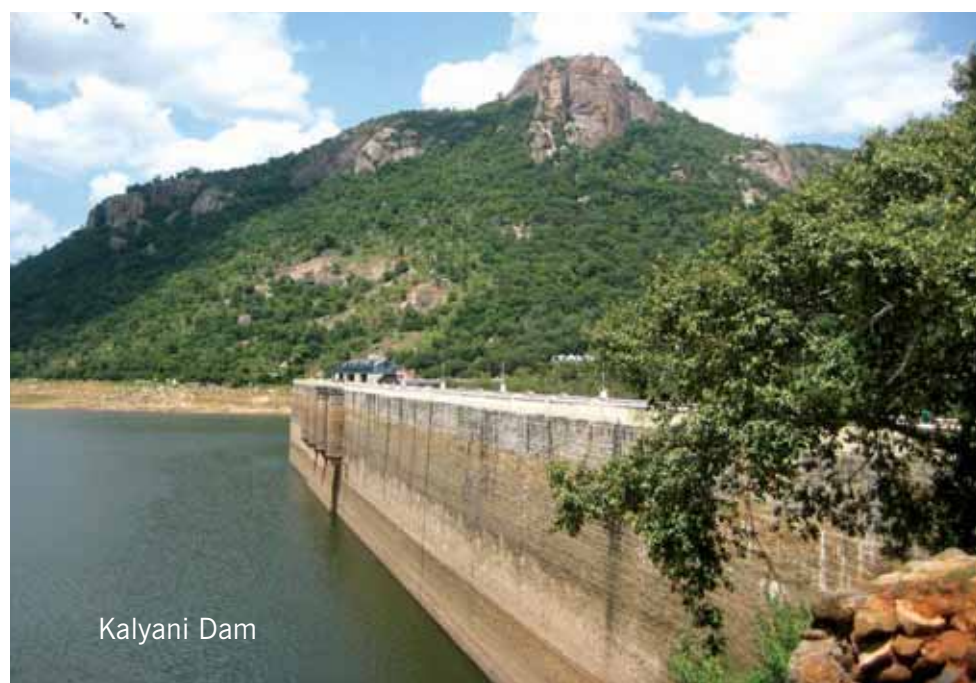
Kaigal Waterfalls

Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park

In line with the trend of exhibiting wild animals in enclosures that mimic their natural habitat, the forest authorities have established Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park at Tirupati, near the abode of Lord Venkateswara. Every day about 50,000 people from across the country and a number of academic and professional educational institutions visit the zoo, which extends over an area of 5,532 acres.



Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park



Kalyani Dam

Kalyani Dam

The scenic Kalyani Dam, constructed on the Kalyani river, is located at a distance of 25 km from Tirupati on the Tirupati-Madanapalle Road, attracting a number of tourists from Tirupati and surrounding places.

Gurramkonda Fort

Gurramkonda is located on the Madanapalle-Rayachoti-Kadapa road at a distance of 29 km from Madanapalle and 12 km from Vayalpad. This place was ruled by lieutenants of Tippu Sultan of Mysore. They built a fort on a huge hill as well as the Ragini Mahal and used to go to the fort on horses. The Ragini Mahal, Maqbara Tomb and the fort are worth seeing here.



Gurramkonda Fort



Sompalli temple

Sompalli temple

Sompalli, located between Mulakalacheruvu and Thambalpalli at a distance of 6 km from Mulkala Cheruvu, is home to the Chennakesava Swamy temple, which is considered one of the finest temples in Andhra Pradesh. The carvings in the *kalyanamandapam* of this temple are highly appreciated.

Reddemmakonda

Reddemmakonda is a pilgrim center situated on the Madanapalle-Gurramkonda-Cherlapalli-Rayachoti- Kadapa road. The presiding deity here is a village girl Reddemma. It is believed that when Reddamma was pursued by lieutenants of Tippu Sultan she prayerfully entered the crevice of a huge rock to avoid molestation. The crevice miraculously closed on its own as soon as she entered. Ever since, people pray at the spot, believing she will bless, particularly those without children.



Kangundi Fort



Kangundi Fort

Kangundi, located at a distance of 16 km from Kuppam on the Kuppam-Vijalapuram Road, is a lovely place with a great historical value. The Kangundi fort, built on a white hillock at the entrance of Kangundi village, is circular in shape. A ruined 11th century fort, beautiful temples, breathtaking valleys, forests and the Palar river are major attractions.

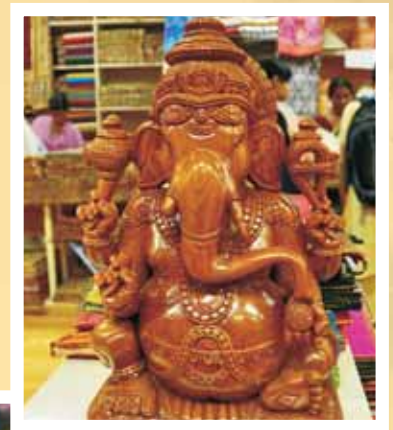


Cuisine:

Temple food: The traditional eating in the temple involves being seated on the floor, having the food served on a banana



leaf which involves 'daddojanam' (curd rice), pulihora (tamarind rice), vada and chakkara-pongal (sweet pongal), miryala-pongali, Appam, Payasam, Jaggery, Murukku, Dosa and seera (kesari). One of the most popular local food available in Tirupati is the 'sweet rice'.



Crafts

Red sanders or raktachanda wood, is used in Chittoor district to carve dolls. They are generally miniature reproductions of religious figures in traditional classical poses which are highly ornamented and beautifully chiselled have a remarkable dignity about them. Other handicrafts available here are kalamkari crafts, whitewood toys, traditional Tanjore style gold leaf paintings.



Kolatam

'Kolattam', or the stick dance, is one of the most popular dance narratives in Andhra Pradesh. A rural art usually performed during village festivals, Kolattam is a combination of rhythmic movements, songs and music. The Kolattam group comprises dancers in the range of 8 to 40. The stick provides the main rhythm. The artists led by the leader move into two circles. Kolattam offers a great variety of entertainment to the spectators and participants.



Burrakatha

Burrakatha was also known as Jangam Katha. The jangams were wandering Shiva worshippers. Burra refers to the tambura, a musical instrument played by the main storyteller. The main performer narrates a story, plays music and dances to it. The co-performers play drums and address him constantly and enrich certain events in the story with their short sentences.

Getting there:

Air:	Tirupati is well connected to Chennai and Hyderabad. Nearest Airport Renigunta 10kms
Rail:	The temple town is connected to all major cities of India.
Road:	Tirupati is well connected to Bengaluru, Chennai, Chittoor, Hyderabad and Vijayawada.
Stay:	A number of star hotels & lodges offer accommodation that suits every budget. Guest houses and choultries are available both at Tirupati and Tirumala.
Tours:	Conducted tours are available from Tirupati. AP Tourism offers attractive packages.

AP Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

APTDC Tirupati (STD Code: 0877) www.aptdc.gov.in

Tirupati (Srinivasam Complex)	- 2289123
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Tirupati to Kuppam Resort (120 kms)	- 08570-257267
Tirupati to Puttur Resort (35 kms)	- 08577-220777
Tirupati to Talakona Resort (72 kms)	- 08584-272425
Tirupati to Kailasanathkona Resort (48 kms)	- 9866369852
Tirupati to Srikalahasti (45 kms)	- 08578-231100
Fortune Kences ***	- 2255855, 9390008244
Sindur Park ***	- 2256438
Hotel PLR Grand ***	- 2257115
Bhimas Residency ***	- 2237371/72/74/73
Hotel Sindu International ***	- 2239488/588
Hotel Bliss ***	- 2237773/6563773
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