



## Sripada Srivallabha

**Sripada Srivallabha** (Telugu: శ్రీపాద శ్రీవల్లభ) is an Indian guru of the [Dattatreya Sampradaya](#) (Lineage) who is regarded as an incarnation of [Lord Dattatreya](#). He is considered as one of the first complete [Avatars](#) (incarnations) of the deity Dattatreya in [Kali Yuga](#). Of note, [Narasimha Saraswati](#),<sup>[1]</sup> [Manik Prabhu](#),<sup>[2]</sup> [Swami Samarth](#),<sup>[3][4]</sup> <sup>[5]</sup> [Sai Baba of Shirdi](#),<sup>[6]</sup> are believed to be other incarnations of Lord Dattatreya that followed Sripada Srivallabha.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

Sripada Srivallabha was born and lived in [Pithapuram](#), formerly known as Pitikapuram, a town in present-day [Andhra Pradesh](#) in India.<sup>[9]</sup> The grandparents of Sripada Srivallabha belonged to the Malayadri village of [Palnadu](#) District of Andhra Pradesh state in India.<sup>[10]</sup> Malladi Bapanna Avadhanulu of Harithasa gothra is the maternal grandfather of Sripada. His wife Rajamamba also belonged to a scholar's family. Her brother was Malladi Sridhara avadhanlu belonged to the same place. Once the two scholars went to 'Ainavilli' a remote area in Godavari mandal, and there they conducted a yagna where they actually made Lord Ganapati appear during the time of Poornahuti, which was witnessed by all the people who attended the 'yagna'. Lord Ganapati had received the Poornahuti with his trunk and to the astonishment of all the people, disclosed that he will take birth as Sripada Srivallabha on Ganesh Chaturdhi. Later both the scholars went to Pithapuram village and settled there.<sup>[11]</sup>

Sripada Srivallabha took sanyas at the age of 16 years, and lived in his physical form only until the age of 30. Some of the noted holy places that Sripada Srivallabha visited during his lifetime are - [Varanasi](#) (Kashi), [Badarikashram](#), [Gokarna](#), [Srisailam](#) and [Kuravapura](#).<sup>[12]</sup> Shripad Vallabha stayed in Kurupuram much of his life. The religious significance of Kurupuram is duly mentioned in the book [Shri Guru Charitra](#) and other holy books associated with Shri Dattatreya. Shripad Vallabha did many leelas here. It is believed that the Avatar Sripada Srivallabha is 'Chiranjeevi' (immortal) and

that he took 'Jalsamadhi' in Kuravapura or Kurugaddi, a river island on river Krishna near Raichur, Karnataka. He disappeared since then as a human but still exists in 'Tejorup' (in Pure energy form).<sup>[13]</sup> On the opposite bank of the River is [Vallabhapuram](#) belonging to Telangana state which is also sacred. It is also believed that Sripada Srivallabha use to come from Kuruvapuram to [Vallabhapuram](#) by walking on the river to grace the devotees at Vallabhapuram and Panchadevpahad.

### **Legend of Vallabhesh and Hedgewar family**

Sometime after Sripada Srivallabha disappeared, a Brahmin named Vallabhesh vowed to go to Kuravapur and feed 1,000 Brahmins if he earned more than his usual profit.<sup>[14]</sup> Near Kuravapur, Vallabhesh encountered [bandits](#) in disguise who robbed and beheaded him. Sripada Srivallabha suddenly appeared from nowhere and killed the bandits with his [Trishula](#); one, who appealed to the saint as [Shiva](#), was spared. Being told, the person spared reattached Vallabhesh's severed head to his body to be brought back to life by the grace of Sripada Srivallabha.

Vallabhesh Brahmin is considered the *mula-purush* (founder) of the Hedgewar family. [K. B. Hedgewar](#), founder of the [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh](#) (RSS), was a ninth-generation descendant of Vallabhesh.