



Sri Durgai Amman
Sri Bala Murugan
Sri Mahalakshmi



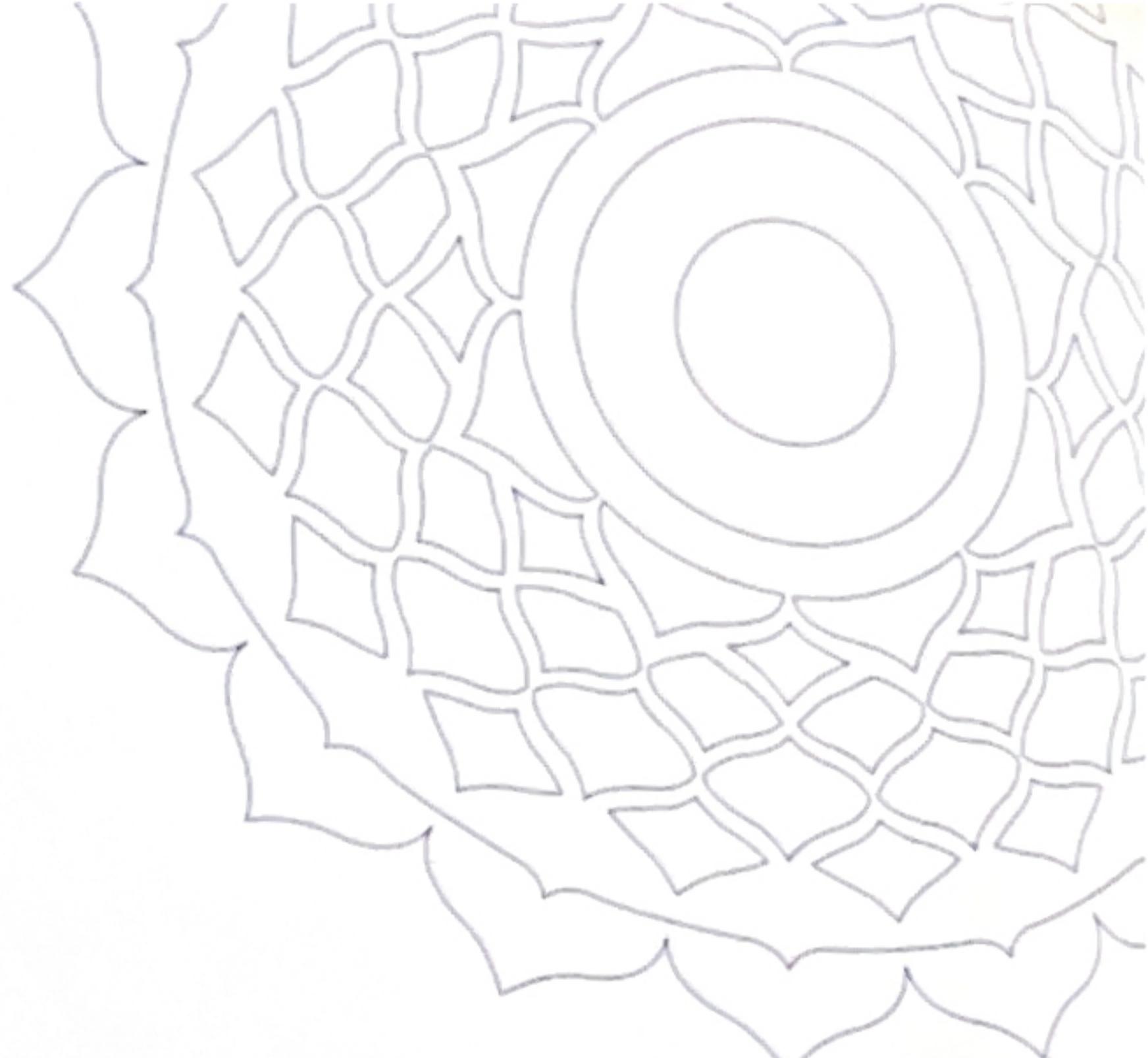
MAJOR FESTIVALS

Vinayagar Sathurthi

Opening Hours:

7.00am to 12.00pm

6.30pm to 9.00pm

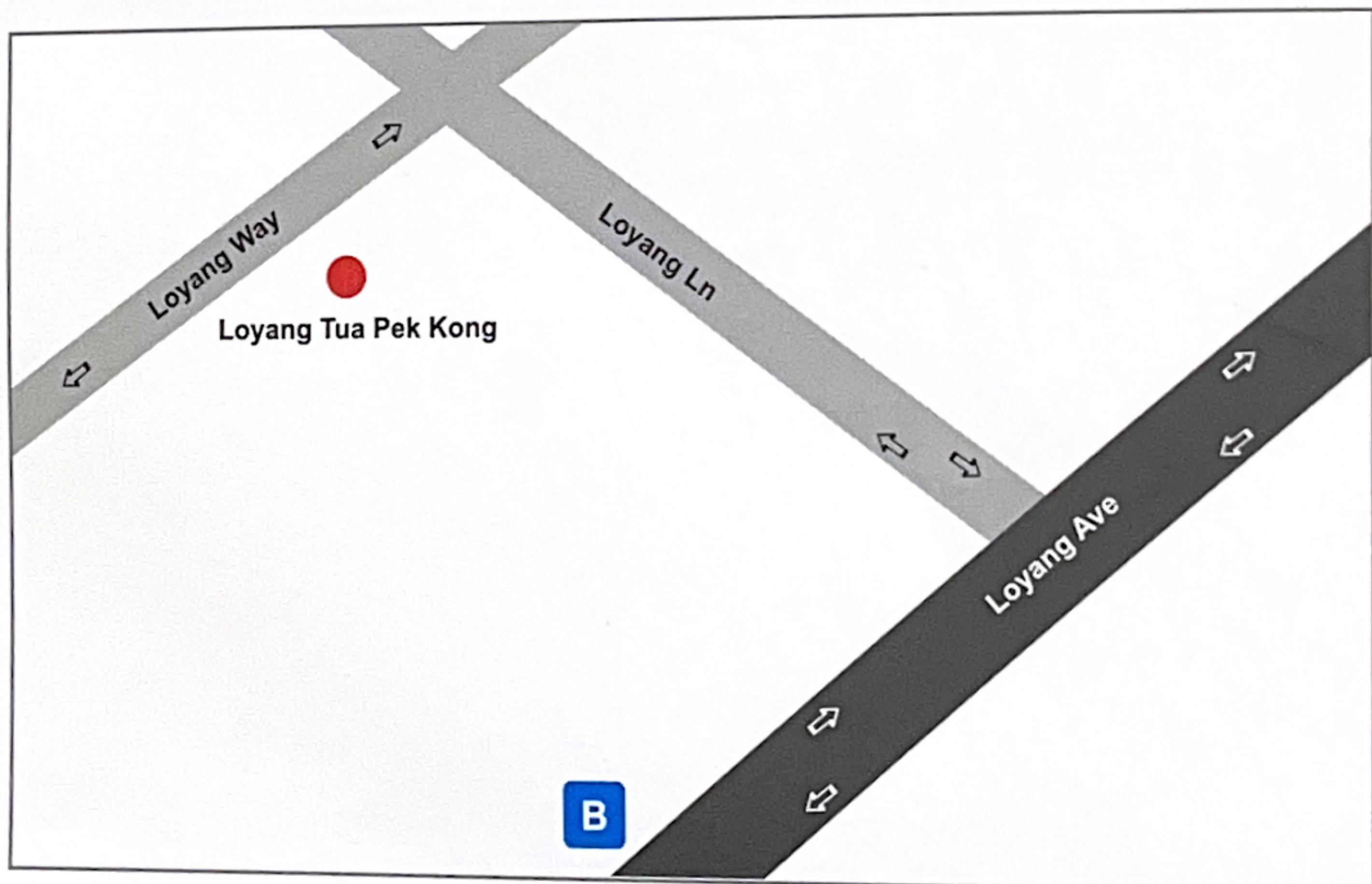


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Transport Information:

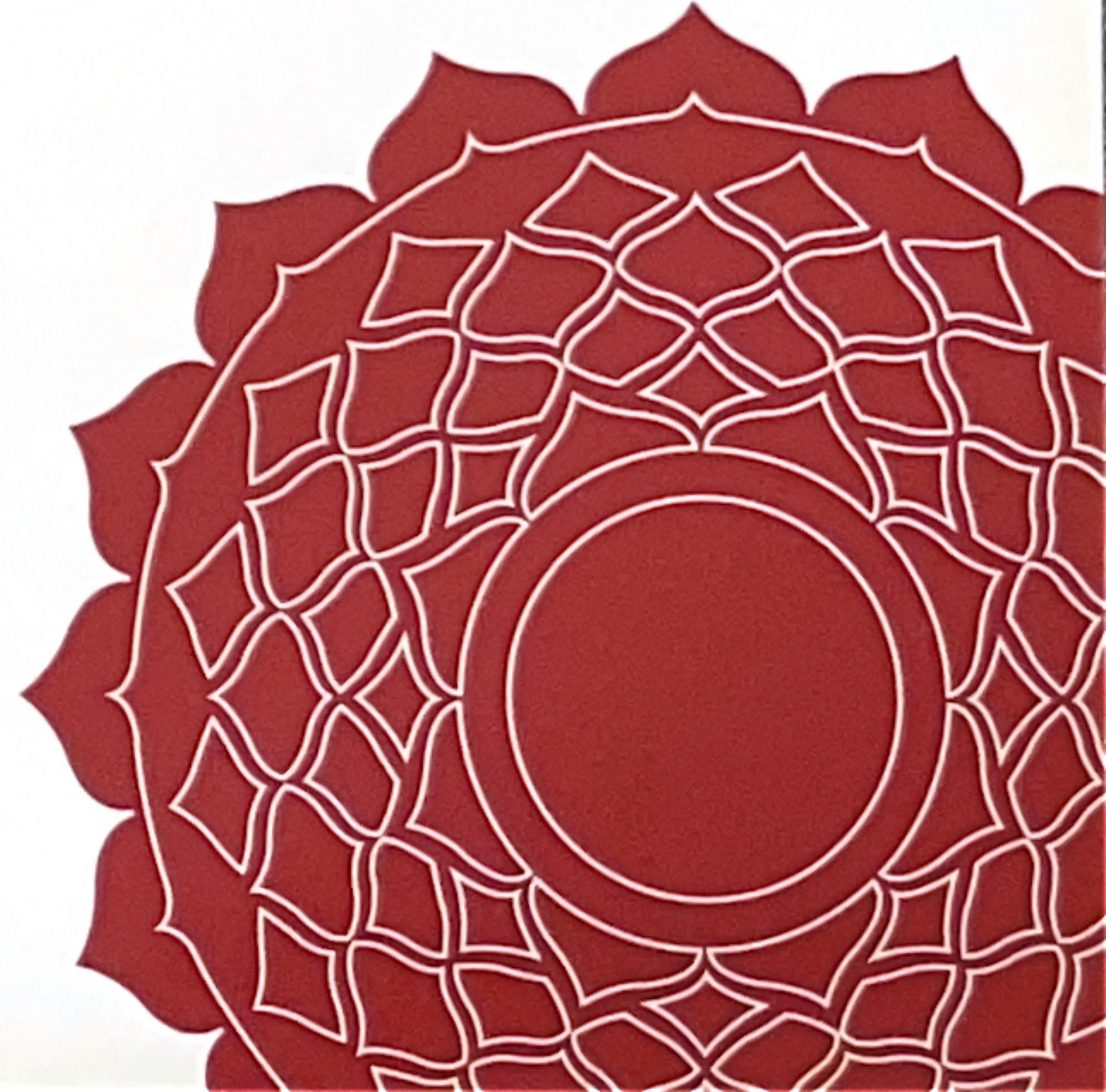
Bus No: 6, 9, 19, 59, 89, 109

Significance of Navagrahas:

According to Hindu beliefs, "Navagrahas", the nine seizers is considered as a cosmic influencer that affects the destiny of human beings. Hindu astrology considers the relative position of the nine planetary elements namely Surya (Sun), Chandra (Moon), Mangal (Mars), Budha (Mercury), Brihaspathi (Jupiter), Shukra (Venus), Shani (Saturn), Ragu (North Lunar Node), and Ketu (South Lunar Node) with respect to the background fixed stars in the zodiac to explain the sequence of events, behaviour and actions that result in mortal living beings. It is also believed that Karmic influence plays a favourable or unfavourable role in the positioning of the navaragrahas. Since the grahas play such an important role in determining the good or bad times that one faces, Hindus worship each one of the grahas as deities with a hope of minimizing the negative effects that it might have in their lives.

This belief forms the basis of Navagraha worship, and the presence of an exclusive shrine for Navagrahams in the temples. Further, traditional Hindu Astrologers, experts in reading the planetary influences on mortals propose certain rituals involving worship of navagraha deities to overcome the ill-effects. This also gave rise to exclusive navagraha temples. Some famous temples dedicated to the navagraha deities include:

1. Konark Sun Temple in Orissa and Suryanar Temple in Tamil Nadu: Surya Sthalam, dedicated to Lord Surya or the Sun God.
2. Thingaloor Kailasanathar Temple in Tamil Nadu: Chandra Sthalam, associated with Lord Chandra or the Moon God.
3. Vaitheeswaran Temple and Brahmapureeshwaran Temple in TamilNadu: Angaraka Sthalam, associated with Lord Angaraka or sevvai or Kuja.
4. Swetharanyeswarar Temple in Tamil Nadu, Budha Sthalam: Associated with the God of Mars.
5. Abathsahayeshwarar Temple in Tamil Nadu, regarded as Guru Sthalam.
6. Agneeswarar Temple in Tamil Nadu, identified as the 6th navagraha temple dedicated to Lord Sukran.
7. Shanishingnapur Temple in Maharashtra and Darbaranyeswarar Temple in Tirunallar, Tamil Nadu, identified as the Shani Sthalam
8. Tirunageswaram Naganathaswamy Temple in Tamil Nadu, considered as Ragu Sthalam
9. Ketu Navagraha Temple, Tamil Nadu, considered as the Ketu Sthalam.



Kodimaram in Temples:

Kodimaram, also called Dwajasthambam or Flag Pole is an important part of the temple architecture. It is made of wood, cladded with brass/ copper sheet without or with gold coating, and is placed between the Rajagopuram and the Sanctum Sanctorum.

According to Hindu Agama Shastras, temples are a reflection of the physical form of the human body. The temple is visualized as a body enveloped by the five prakaras. The Sanctum or the Garbhagriham, is said to represent the head, the Vimana over the Sanctum represents the tip of the nose, Ardhamandap in front of the Sanctum represents the neck, the Maha Mandapam the chest, Prakaras around the Sanctum represents the five senses, the Palibida where the nivedana is offered to the deity represents the navel, Gopuram, the main gateway of the temple represents the feet, and Kodimaram represents the jeevadhara.



Lighting Lamps:

It's an inherent part of Hindu tradition to light lamps at homes, temples or to mark an auspicious beginning. This practice is based on the belief that the Light symbolizes wisdom, knowledge, enlightenment and illumination, thereby indicating the absence of darkness, sorrow and grief. It is also viewed as symbolic attempt to seek soul enlightenment.

Various connotations are derived from this practice. For example, the oil or ghee used in the lamp symbolizes our vices, while the wick represents our ego. Therefore, lighting lamp is a symbolic representation of burning our vices that gradually reduces our ego thereby attaining spiritual enlightenment. The flame emanating from the lamp moving upwards is an indication of the knowledge attainment that takes us to higher values. It is also believed that Goddess Raja Rajeshwari, a representation of Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, resides in the lamp, and therefore lighting a lamp spreads the divine energies all around thereby bringing prosperity.

It is the same philosophy that forms the basis for the other Hindu festivals or rituals that involve lighting lamps. For example, Karthikai Deepam, marked as the birthday of Lord Muruga is celebrated by lighting lamps. It is also based on the belief that Lord Muruga taught the meaning of "OM", the ultimate knowledge to his father, Lord Shiva. Lamps are symbolically lit on the day of Karthikai Deepam representing knowledge, wisdom and peace.



Coconut Offering and Breaking:

Coconut breaking is an important ritual in Hinduism. It's a common practice that is performed before commencing any important activity be it laying foundation to a building project, appearing for an exam or interview or just about any important event. This ritual involves the removal of the husk in the coconut to avoid any impact in shielding while smashing it on the ground or on a slab of stone.

The significance of the ritual can be explained as a symbolic annihilation of ego thereby humbling oneself before God. The ritual is also said to be an indication of complete submission to God.

