



Achaarya vruksham

E monthly of Srirangam Srimath andavan asramam Covai



Special Supplement on
GOLU 2025

NAVARATHRI

By Dr Venkatesh, Upanyasakar

When?

As per Chaandhramana calendar, the period between the Amavasya of Purattasi and Amavasya of Aippasi is called Ashwina month. Navarathri is celebrated for nine days from the Suklapaksha Prathamai to Navami of Ashwina month. Since this festival comprises of nine nights, it is called Navaratri. It is a festival of women, festival by women and festival for women.

Why?

Goddess Durga, who wanted to kill the demon Mahishaasura, performed penance for nine days at the tip of a needle and destroyed him on the tenth day. The nine days of Her penance are observed as Navarathri and the tenth day - the day of Her victory - is celebrated as Vijayadasami. Since the Goddess did penance on the tip of a needle, people avoid stitching clothes during the period of Navarathri.

How?

1. Goddess worship:

On the first three days, people worship Goddess Durga, the next three days Goddess Lakshmi and the final three days Goddess Saraswathi.

In Srivaishnava tradition, people worship Goddess Lakshmi in eight forms on the first eight days:

1. Aadhi Lakshmi
2. Dhana Lakshmi
3. Dhaanya Lakshmi
4. Santhaana Lakshmi
5. Aishwarya Lakshmi
6. Gaja Lakshmi
7. Veera Lakshmi
8. Vijaya Lakshmi

On the ninth day (Maha Navami), Vaishnavites worship the God of education, Lakshmi Hayagriva.

2. Golu:

It is the most important aspect of Navarathri celebrations. The setting up of beautiful dolls and idols of God in a beautiful manner in odd-numbered steps is called Golu. People set up this Golu on Ashwina Amavasya - the previous day of Navarathri.

From the next day onwards, they used to invite married women to their homes to visit the Golu and give them betel leaves, betel nut, blouse piece, kumkum box, gift items, etc. Thus this festival serves as a means to exchange goodwill among women.

They offer sundal, sarkarai pongal, ven pongal, puliyodharai, paayasam, coconut rice, etc to the God who dwells in the Golu. Everyday they prepare different varieties of sundal like green gram sundal, chick pea sundal, green pea sundal, Bengal gram sundal, moong dhal sundal, etc.

Philosophy behind Golu:

Though people can keep Golu in three, five or seven steps as per their convenience, it is considered very special to keep Golu in nine steps because it conveys a significant philosophical meaning, ie, they denote the nine steps in the spiritual advancement of a soul

1. Initially, we were all born as one sense species like plants, herbs and trees. To denote those plants and trees, we keep depictions of parks, agricultural lands, etc in the lower depictions of parks, agricultural lands, etc in the lower most step.

ii. By the grace of God, our intelligence grows a little bit, and we take subsequent births as two sense creatures like snail, conch, etc. So dolls of such creatures are kept in the second step.

iii. Further by the grace of God, we take our next births as three sense creatures like ants, termites, etc. To depict that, we keep dolls of such insects in the third step.

iv. Again by the grace of God, we improve further and take next births as bees, crabs, etc which have four senses. To denote that, we keep dolls of bees, crabs, etc in the fourth step.

v. When our intelligence enhances further, we are born as five sense creatures like birds and animals in our next births. To show this, we keep dolls of animals and birds in the fifth step.

vi. And again by the grace of God, we get the human birth, the rarest of rare, endowed with the sixth sense too. To show this, we keep dolls of humans like policemen, businessmen, farmers, marappachi dolls, etc in the sixth step.

vii. To show us that after taking human birth, we should engage in devotion to the Lord and work for our spiritual improvement, we keep idols representing Azhwars, Nayanmars, great sages, etc in the seventh step. They are noble

souls, who were born as human beings but attained higher status because of their devotion.

viii. In the eighth step, we keep dolls of Devas, Navagrahas, Ashta Dik Palakas, etc who are at a level in between man and God (above man and below God).

ix. In the topmost ninth step, we keep idols of Gods and Goddesses, to show that ultimately we have to reach the Lotus Feet of the Lord.

Purport: A soul, that was born as a one sense creature initially, gets spiritual advancement step by step and takes a human birth. In that human birth, it emulates the path shown by great sages and devotees and ultimately attains the Lotus Feet of the Lord. This is represented by the nine steps of Golu.

While setting up Golu, people start with a doll of Vinayaka / Vishwaksena as per their tradition and keep the idols of Gods and Goddesses in the topmost step first. Then they'll proceed downwards with respective dolls in each of the steps.

Those who can't set up nine steps can do well by keeping parks, animals, birds, farmers, businessmen, policemen, etc in the bottom step, saints, sages, Devas, etc in the middle step and the dolls of Gods and Goddess as the top.

For What?

The Mother Goddess will always dwell in the homes of those who set up such Golu with sincerity and devotion and worship Her during the period of Navarathri. She will also bless their family with knowledge, wealth and courage.

Navarathri! Shubharathri!



Pune residence of Malathy Balaji















Bangalore, Jayanagar :: Latha Badri







Aruna Srinivasan TVS Nagar, Madurai



Kothailakshmi Srinivasan, Hosur







பாதுகா
ஸஹஸ்ர
கோலங்கள்



செவ்வாய்

புதன்

திங்கள்

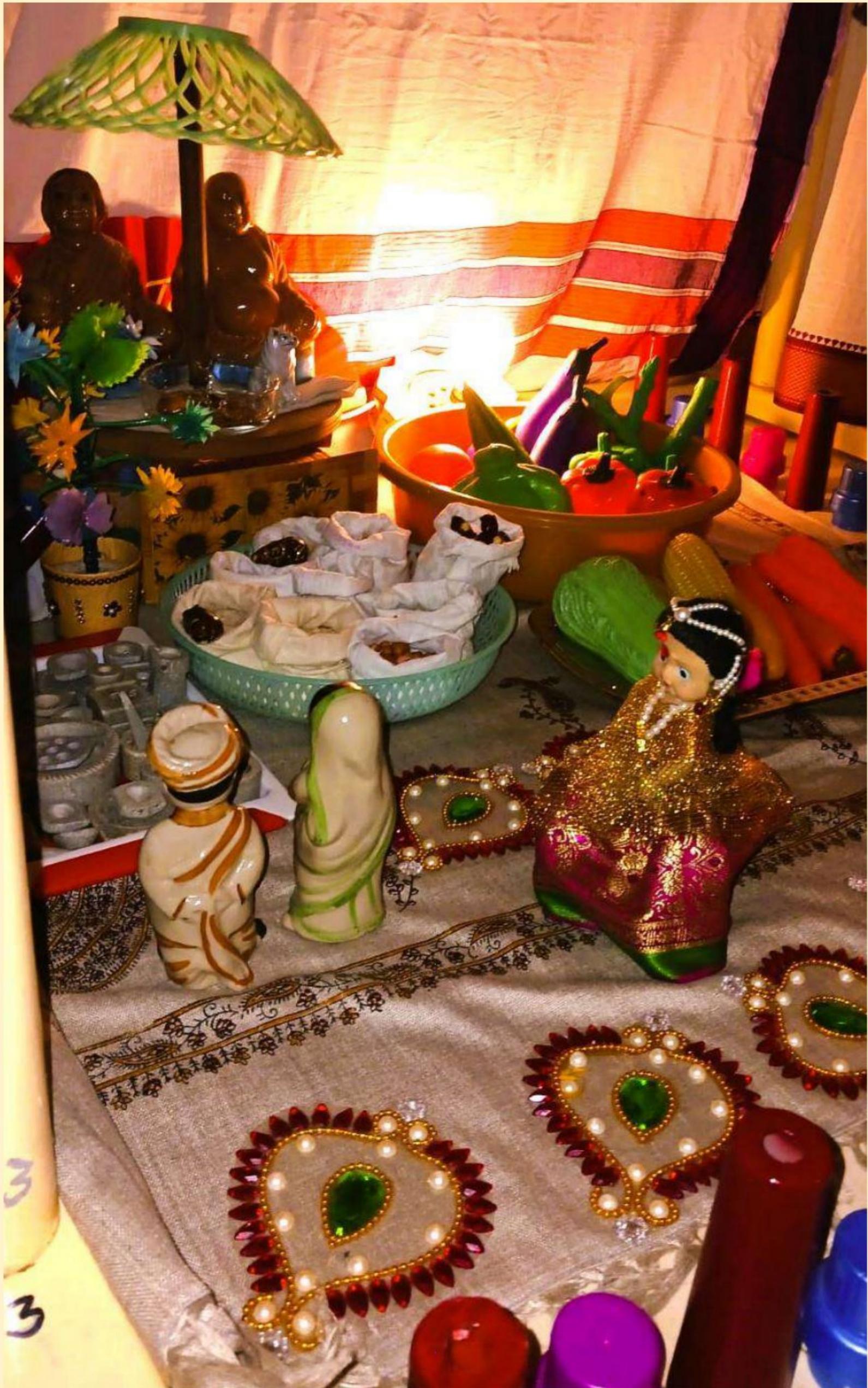
ஞாயிறு

வியாழன்

சனி

வெள்ளி









முதலாழ்வார்கள்



திருமழிசையாழ்வார்

ஆழ்வார்கள்



மதுரகவியாழ்வார்



பெரியாழ்வார்



ஆண்டாள் நாச்சியார்



குலசேகராழ்வார்

ஆழ்வார்கள்



தொண்டரடிப்பொடியாழ்வார்



திருப்பாணாழ்வார்

Vanaja Murali: Keezhayur



Old photo from file

Golu at Sreevatsa Platinum Apts, Covai



Geetha Desikan Chennai

