

MAJOR FESTIVALS IN THIS MONTH

Caitra Māsam as 'Śubhākṛti'

Phālgūṇa Amāvāsya, Friday April 1, 2022 –

Caitra Amāvāsya, Saturday April 30, 2022)

This month enters the Telugu New Year 'Śubhākṛt' beginning with Caitra (Madhu) māsa bringing auspicious tidings.

PHĀLGUṆA MĀSA



01.04.2022 – Friday – Last Amāvāsya before New Year - This is the last Amāvāsya before the New Year and is typically called 'Kotta Amāvāsya' in colloquial. Worship of ancestors with Śrāddha and Tarpaṇa and gods is stipulated on this day. Doing Annadāna on this day is very sacred. Per family traditions, offerings should be made to Divine Mother and deities of the village. Worship of Śiva bestows great merits.

CAITRA MĀSA



02.04.2022 – Saturday – Śubhākṛt Nāma Samvatsaradi, Ugādi, Beginning of Vasanta Navarātri, Brahma damanapūja–

This is the first day of 'Śubhākṛti' year and the first festival for Telugu speaking people. This time is most opportune to receive the vibrations of divine powers present in the micro-world. Oil bath in the morning, wearing new clothes, worship of chosen deity, and consumption of traditional 'Ugādi Pacchadi' after offering to God should be done.

Scriptures mention that the first nine days of this month are filled with 'Yama Damshtṛa' i.e., the terrible jaws of Yama, the God of Death. Hence, worship of one's favorite deity without miss is stipulated on all these nine days. They are also prescribed for the worship of Divine Mother and Lord Rāma. Such worship with discipline bestows the grace of God paving for auspiciousness all along the year.



04.04.2022 – Monday – Āndōlikā Vratam, Saubhāgya Gaurī Vratam, Śiva Ḍōlōtsavam – For the Saubhāgya of women, 'Āndōlikā Vratam', 'Saubhāgya Vratam' are prescribed in Kalpa. Worship of Umā & Mahēśvara and playfully cajoling Gaurī Dēvi in cradle inviting other women should be done. All the invited women should be given a mango fruit along with turmeric and Kumkum.

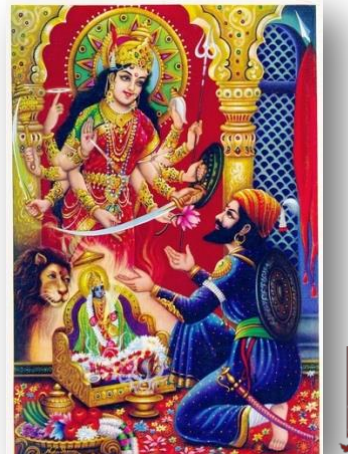


05.04.2022 – Tuesday – Bhaumacaturthi, Gaṇēśa Damana Pūja, Bhaumakṛttika - Worship of Gaṇapati on this day with 'Damana', a special kind of leaf, and offering laddus bestows grace of Gaṇapati. The combination of Tuesday and Caviti is alabhyayōgaṁ. Along with this, the addition of kṛttika nakṣatraṁ is another alabhyayōgaṁ called bhaumakṛttika. So, worship of Subrahmaṇya yields distinct results.



06.04.2022 – Wednesday – Lakṣmī Pūja (Śrīvratam), Nāga Damana Pūja - Worship of Goddess Lakshmi on this Panchami bestows Her grace. Also, worship of great serpents such as Ananta, Vāsuki, Takṣaka, Karkōṭaka, Śaṅkha, Kuḷika, Padma, Mahāpadma with Damana and offering milk and ghee to them removes many serpents related evils and grants peace.

09.04.2022 – Saturday – Bhavānī (Aśōka) Aṣṭami - On this day, Divine Mother who left Her body in Dakṣa Yajña as Satī Dēvi was born as Pārvatī to Mēna and Himavan. Worship of Śiva-Pārvatī and performing their Kaḷyāṇam on this day bestows their grace and leads to harmony between wife and husband. On this day, worship of Aśōka tree and taking eight buds as prasādam is also stipulated in scriptures.



10.04.2022 – Sunday – Śrī Rāma Navami – Sītā Rāma Kaḷyāṇam at Bhadrachalam On this auspicious Navami day, Śrīmannārāyaṇa Himself incarnated as Śrī Rāma. Those observing Śrī Rāma Navarātri as stipulated should perform mandapa worship, invoke Lord Rāma along with His entire retinue into kalaśa, and worship with all sixteen upachāras. Later, worship should be continued either to idol or picture for all the nine days.

Worship should be done to Kausalya and Daśaratha also chanting

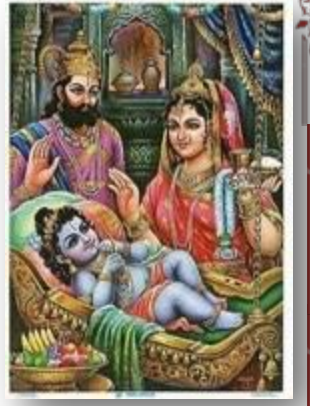
**rāmasya janani cāsi rāmātmakamidaṁ jagat,
atastvāṁ pūjayiṣyāmi lōkamātarnamōstu tē||**

Later, arghya should be offered with water mixed with akshata and sandalwood paste chanting –

**"daśānana vadhārthāya dharmasansthāpakāya ca, dānavānāṁ vināśāya
daityānāṁ nidhanāya ca, paritrāṇāya sādḥūnāṁ jātō rāmāssvayaṁ hariḥ,
grḥāṇārghyaṁ mayā dattaṁ bhrātrḥbhisahitōnagha."**

Any small deed done for Rāma on this day will give infinite result. Therefore, it is auspicious to observe upavāsa, jāgaraṇa and pitṛtarpaṇa today.

11.04.2022 – Monday – Dharmarāja Daśami - As mentioned, **"Dharmō vivardhati yudhiṣṭhira kīrtanēna"**, worship of Dharmarāja along with his brothers' grants wisdom to act according to Dharma.



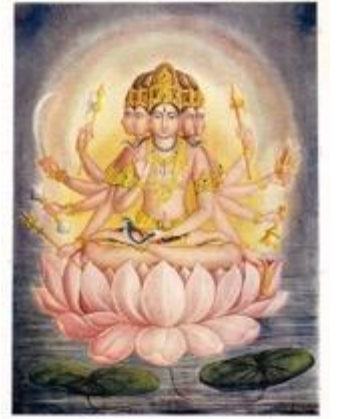
12.04.2022 – Tuesday - Kṛṣṇa Ḍolōtsavaṁ, Rukmiṇī Pūja, Kāmadā Ēkādaśi –

Observance of this Ēkādaśi grants all wishes. Worship of Krishna in cradle, performing Rukmini Kalyāṇaṁ and reading of Rukmiṇī Kalyāṇaṁ fulfills desires.

13.04.2022 – Wednesday - Vāmana Dvādaśi – Worship of Vāmana, one of the principal incarnations of Narayana, bestows the merits of performing many kinds of charities and "The Knowledge of the Supreme" with Vāmana's grace.



14.04.2022 – Thursday – Anaṅga Trayōdaśi, Damanōtsavaṁ, Śaivadamana Caturdaśi (Pradōṣaṁ) - The cause of all Saṅkalpas and the son of Lord Nārāyaṇuni, Manmatha should be worshipped for fulfilment of all desires. First, Manmatha should be invoked into Damana leaves chanting **"kāmaḥasma samudbhūta ratibāṣpa pariḥluta, ṛṣi gandharva dēvādi vimōhaka namōstutē"** and then worshipped accordingly with all sixteen upacharas chanting **"namōstu puṣṭabāṇāya jagadāhlādakāriṇē manmathāya jagannētrē ratiprīti priyāya tē."** Worship of Śiva in pradōṣa also is prescribed on this day to obtain the grace of Śiva.



16.04.2022 – Saturday – Chaitra (Madana) pūrṇima, Hanumadvijayōtsavaṁ, citravastradāna vratam, Damana indrādi pūja, mahācaitrināma alabhyayōgaṁ

Worship, Japa, and austerity on this efficacious day in which the merits of entire month are accumulated grants amplified benefits. Worship of the lord of gods Indra along with Sachi Dēvi bestows the grace of all gods. Offering clothes of different colors in charity is the distinction of this pūrṇima and bestows great results.



19.04.2022 – Tuesday – Vikaṭa Saṅkaṣṭahara Caturthi - Worship of Gaṇapati as stipulated on this first Saṅkaṣṭahara caturthi in the month of Caitra removes all difficulties in this year.



21.04.2022 – Thursday– Matsya Jayanti - Lord Narayana incarnated as 'Matsya' i.e. the Fish on this sacred day. Lord graced Satyavrata, son of Vivasvanta, as Manu for this manvantara. He also killed the demon Somakasura and restored the Vedas to Brahmadeva. Worship of Lord Narayana as 'Matsya' incarnation increases intellect and also removes any evils related to vastu in homes thereby giving happiness and comfort.

26.04.2022 – Tuesday - Varudhini Ekadashi - In Bhavishya Purana, it is mentioned that Lord Krishna narrated the efficacy of this Ekadashi to Dharmaraja. King Dundhumara of Ikshavaku dynasty performed this vrata and got released from the curse of Siva. Along with performing Ekadashi vrata, offering charity on this day bestows the grace of God.

28.04.2022 – Thursday – Varaha Jayanti - Worship of Varaha Swami, who not only incarnated for punishing the wicked and protecting the virtuous, but also as an embodiment of Yajna, along with Bhudevi should be performed on this day.

29.04.2022 – Friday – Masa Sivaratri Worship of Siva with abhishekam and archana on this Masa Sivaratri that occurred in New Year yields more benefits.