



# HINDU NEWS

www.heb.gov.sg

A Publication of the Hindu Endowments Board

ISSUE 02 / 2012

## \$2.5M FACELIFT FOR TOA PAYOH TEMPLE



Illustration of the skylight roof over the open airspace adjoining the sanctums

One of our Hindu Endowments Board administered temples, the Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple has grown in patronage as a result of an influx of Hindu residents in Toa Payoh and the surrounding housing estates like Bishan and Ang Mo Kio.

It is now time for the Temple to undergo a facelift, which is done ritually once every twelve years in time for a major consecration or Mahakumbabishegam ceremony.

The Mahakumbabishegam has been fixed for 7th April 2013, Sunday.

Here is a quick snapshot of some of the redevelopment and renovation works planned for the Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple.

The Temple's sculptural works and the Rajagopuram (tower entrance) will be given a new lease of life.

There are plans to construct four new Vi-

manams (domes) to the existing subsidiary sanctums. The Sri Guruvayoorappan sanctum will be expanded to cater for the growing needs of devotees. The entire flooring for the main prayer hall and the surrounding courtyard will be retiled.

Another highlight of the redevelopment works is the introduction of the skylight roof over the open air space adjoining the sanctums of Sri Durga, Sri Mathurai Veeran, Sri Periachi and Sri Angala Parameswari to facilitate the devotee congregation during inclement weather.

New LED lights will be installed to enhance the Temple's ambience by night. The upper floors of the annex building will have a function room.

There will also be new changing rooms for the bride and the groom during the wedding ceremonies.

Devotees will find the renovated temple to be a space in which one will be able

to submerge in devotion while making it spacious and accessible to the very large crowds that throng during festivals.

### Fund raising efforts

The Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple has embarked on several fund raising efforts to meet the costs of the renovation and redevelopment programmes estimated to cost \$2.5m.

Two major programmes are currently ongoing and these are the Home Hundial Project and the Donation tickets for the Building Fund. Devotees are urged to continue to support the Building Fund by taking up a home hundial or to purchase the donation tickets at \$2 per ticket. Please contact the temple clerk at 62595238.

We thank all devotees for their generous support and urge everyone to come forward to do their part for the Mahakumbabishegam.

*Editorial...***HINDU NEWSLETTER FOR ALL AGE GROUPS**

In this issue, we bring you a special story on the redevelopment of the Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple (SVKT) in Toa Payoh, to meet the growing patronage of worshippers in the Toa Payoh vicinity. The new facelift for SVKT promises a change to the ambience of the temple. The redevelopment work is in full swing and devotees can look forward to the Mahakumbabishegam, slated for 7 April 2012.

Tertiary students who need financial support to pursue higher courses can tap on the Sivadas-HEB Education Fund. Turn to page 4 for more details or check out the HEB website: [www.heb.gov.sg](http://www.heb.gov.sg) for application process.

Singapore is a kaleidoscope of festivals and is not surprising to find different cultures celebrating different festivals throughout the year, from the joys of the 'Holi' festival celebrated by the North Indian community here to the celebration of Mahashivarathri by the South Indian community. Know more about these festivals in the pages inside.

The Hindu newsletter is for all age groups. We are therefore pleased to introduce a special page for our children. Turn to the back page for the Kidz Zone for fun and games and win prizes too!

**MR N SUBRAMANIAM  
CHAIRMAN OF THAKRAL**

Mr N Subramaniam

Mr N Subramaniam, former Vice Chairman of the Hindu Endowments Board and presently Chairman of Board's Audit Committee has been appointed as Chairman of Thakral Corporation Ltd, a company listed in the Singapore Stock Exchange with effect from 1 January 2012. He has been a Non-Executive Director of the Company since 1995 and was appointed Deputy Chairman in 2000. Mr Subramaniam is also the Chairman of the Audit Committees of Thakral Corporation as well as that of Asian Women's Welfare Association.

**BOOK TO COMMEMORATE LATE V R  
NATHAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mr S R Nathan (third left) launching the book. Standing next to him (second left) is the wife of late Mr V R Nathan.

Singapore's Sixth President, Mr S R Nathan, was the Guest-of-Honour at the launch of a book that captures the life and contributions of the late Mr V R Nathan, who served as Chairman of the Hindu Endowments Board for 22 years.

Entitled "V. R. Nathan: Community Servant Extraordinary", the book was launched at the National Library on 29 January 2012, exactly three years after the death of Mr V R Nathan. Written by freelance writer Mr Bala Baskaran and veteran journalists Mr Said Abdullah and Mr Arun Senkuttuvan, it was published by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Iseas). It tells the story of how the late Mr V R Nathan came from India as a young man with little education, and went on to build a successful banking career before becoming a prominent figure in the community.

Well-known for his advocacy of inter-racial harmony, he helped to revitalise the Inter-Religious Organisation and worked closely with community organisations like Jamiyah, Buddhist Lodge and Church bodies to promote various multi-religious charitable causes and projects.



The late Mr V R Nathan

In a tribute to his contributions, former President Nathan said that by example, the late Mr V R Nathan inspired many to volunteer their services to various temple and welfare causes.

**OUR CONDOLENCES...**

Three cherished volunteers of Sri Mariamman Temple passed away recently. The Temple and the HEB places on record our appreciation of the unflinching volunteer work by the late Mr Michael Jebamani (died 27 March 2012) with the Periachi Group; the late Mr K Veerasamy (died 2 April 2012) with the Verpillai Group and the late Mr K Vijaykumar (died 24 April 2012) with the Crowd Control Group.

Our heartfelt commiserations to each of the families on the recent bereavement



Mr Michael Jebamani



Mr K Veerasamy



Mr K Vijaykumar



## IRCC@HEARTLANDS BISHAN-TOA PAYOH



SVKT Chairman, Mr K Vijayendren (extreme right), showing Mr Sam Tan (second from right) around the temple's booth

The Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) organised the IRCC@Heartlands at Atrium Toa Payoh HDB Hub recently. The Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamman Temple participated in the IRCC@Heartlands Road show to promote public awareness about the temple and its

activities. The artefacts, posters and exhibits displayed by the Temple received tremendous appreciation from the public.

Mr Sam Tan, Mayor of Central Singapore District, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports graced the event as the Guest of Honour. Overall, the 2-day event received spontaneous response and support from the public.

## HEB CONTRIBUTES TO IRO



IRO representatives offering blessings at the Charity Dinner

The Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) made its contribution towards the \$100,000 raised by the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) at a charity dinner held to celebrate IRO's 63rd anniversary. The guest of honour was Mr S R Nathan, the sixth president of the Republic of Singapore who was appointed as the first patron of the IRO.

## BURSARY AWARDS BY TEMPLES



Mr Sitoh Yih Pin, MP for Potong Pasir, presenting the awards.



Dr Chia Shi-Lu, MP for Tanjong Pagar GRC, with the award winners.



Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Advisor to Serangoon GRO, presenting the awards.

Each year, some of the Hindu temples in Singapore award financial assistance to the needy and deserving students for their education, ranging from primary level to JC/poly levels.

For this year, Sri Siva Durga Temple, Queensway Sri Muneeswaran Temple and Sri Darma Muneeswaran Temple have awarded a total of about \$94,000 to 387 students from all races and religions on separate occasions this year.

The Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) gave out bursary awards to the tune of \$65,000 (2011) and \$57,000 (2012) to students enrolled in the Saraswathy and Saraswathy Darma Muneeswaran Kindergartens. The HEB also contributed \$100,000 to SINDA's 20th Anniversary Fund Raising Dinner last year.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TERTIARY STUDENTS

The Sivadas-HEB Education Fund, a fund set up by the Trustees of the estate of the late Sivadas Sankaran, provides needy Hindu children with necessary financial assistance to pursue their education. Last year, the Fund helped 25 children from several kindergartens and childcare centres in Singapore. This year, there are 26 pre-school children who are receiving financial assistance from the Fund.

The Fund management committee

had recently planned to disburse financial assistance to needy Hindu students who are pursuing a course leading to a diploma or a first degree. Two kinds of assistance have been finalised. The first is a tuition subsidy for students enrolled in certain private institutions that are registered with the Council of Private Education. The second is a one-time educational grant for students enrolled in Singapore's publicly-funded universities, namely National University of

Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Technology and Design.

Arising from the advertisements in the local newspapers in May 2012, a total of 26 students have been granted the financial assistance amounting to \$55,000. Tuition subsidies totalling about \$22,000 were awarded to 4 students. The education grant of \$1,500 per student was awarded to 22 students.

## HEB-MCS VOLUNTEERS GATHERING

The first volunteers gathering of the HEB Medical Counselling Service, which is now known as Medical Support Service (MSS), was held recently at the Ceylon Sports Club in appreciation of the volunteers' contributions. Dr L Jayaram (Chairman, MSS) presented appreciation certificates to volunteers and tokens of appreciation to participating artistes during the event. Some 100 guests attended the event that also gave an overview of the MSS workplan for the year 2012.





## PROJECT BHAKTI CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

This year, Project Bhakti (PB) is celebrating ten years in enriching young minds with our vibrant Hindu culture. The PB sapling planted in 2001 has now started bearing fruit. This 'fruit' comes in the form of current PB teachers who were former students and this marks the beginning of a new era for PB. Vidhiya Devi Ramasamy, the volunteer coordinator for PB said, "Project Bhakti has churned young minds to think, question and then act. I am so glad that our hard work has paid off."

The PB programme has been developed and revised from time to time to cater to the needs of its students. Today, the syllabus can be found in a textbook-style format published exclusively by the Hindu Endowments Board. Along with the textbook, students also receive a complimentary professionally recorded audio CD containing the mantras, shlokas and bhajans which can be found in the books.

In addition to the PB curriculum, a new teen's class was started in 2011 to cater to the growing challenges faced by our Hindu teens. The teen's class also incorporates fun outdoor elements such as visits to temples, sports and camping. Mrs Saraswathy, a parent of a teenage student enrolled in the teen's class complimented PB saying, "My daughter loves the classes as they give her a platform to learn about Hinduism in a fun way along with peers of the same age group. She has also picked up some salient skills which will help to mould her into a better person."

The highlight of the PB programme is the annual carnival for students, which is usually held in September. Students from all PB centres come together for a day of fun-filled games, quizzes and competitions. A grand carnival has also been planned this year to mark the 10th Anniversary of PB. Not only has the PB programme gained popularity with Hindus, lately, it also welcomed a pair of Polish sisters who can chant mantras and sing bhajans as eloquently as their Hindu counterparts!



Volunteer teachers undergoing training



Some of the dedicated and enthusiastic teachers



Teens class at the beach with students debating on how cool Hinduism is



## INDIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS @ LITTLE INDIA

Little India came abuzz with festivities this April when the Little India Shopkeepers Association (LISHA) organised the Indian New Year Celebrations. The event was supported by Hindu Endowments Board, Moulmein CC, Tamil Language Council, Indian Restaurant Association (Singapore), Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry and People's Association Narpani Pearavai. The event took place at the open field opposite Serangoon Plaza.

The opening ceremony held on 13 April was graced by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who is also Minister for Finance and Minister for Manpower, and special guest HE Dr TCA Raghavan, High Commissioner of India to Singapore.

In conjunction with the celebrations, the Indian Heritage Centre also set up an interactive and educational exhibition featuring ethnic Indian customs and traditions and showcased the Indian trades and professions in Singapore.

The month-long National Tamil Language Festival also falls in April and in line with this, celebrity speakers from South India were specially brought in to entertain audiences. Mr. Vikram



Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam at the opening ceremony of the Indian New Year celebrations.

Nair, MP for Sembawang GRC was the guest of honour at the event held from 14-15 April.

Boishaki Utsob or Bengali New Year celebrations on 22 April drew massive crowds with cultural performances by various Bangladeshi and North Indian organisations. Medical screening for new citizens, a blood donation drive and an anti-addiction awareness campaign against alcoholism and smoking were also featured.



A cultural performance by young artistes.

## HOLI CELEBRATIONS AT THE SST

A 'tray with coloured powders' and 'gulaal' greeted the many guests who came to attend the Holi celebrations at the SST on the 10th of March.

A popular festival of North India, Holi is now widely celebrated across Singapore in North Indian enclaves and by regional associations. SST threw open its doors to celebrate Holi with

North Indian devotees by inviting two well known singers – Smt. Sucheta Bhattacharya of Singapore and Smt. Suman Devgan of India to present traditional compositions based on Hindustani Classical music.

'Hori' is a genre of Hindustani music that depicts this festival through verse that depicts the play of colour between Lord Krishna and the gopis

on the banks of the river Yamuna. Vibrant Kathak dance that also drew heavily on the festival added colour to the event.

'The abode of Lord Siva in Singapore was transformed into Vrindavan as we watched the antics of Lord Krishna playing Holi' remarked an appreciative guest.



'Hori' music performance



Vibrant Kathak dance performance

## 14TH GITA JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

The climax of the year long Gita Jayanti festivities, an event celebrating the birth of the great Hindu scripture, the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, was held on 19 February 2012 at the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple premises with a Gita Havan and had about 1,000 devotees in attendance. The Gita Havan event is mainly the ahuti (offering to Fire God) of all 700 shlokas (verses/stanzas) of the Gita with various dravyas (material offerings). Member of Parliament for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC, Mr Hri Kumar Nair, joined the devotees in the prayers and celebrations.

Conducted under the auspices of the Hindu Endowments Board in asso-



Prayers being offered at the Gita Jayanti festivities.

ciation with other temples and Hindu organisations, this was the 14th successive year that the Gita Jayanti celebrations are being held in Singapore as a major community event. The leadership of Gita Jayanti is held on a rotational basis. GJ2011-12 was led by the Maharashtra Mandal (Singapore) and for GJ2012-13, Arya Samaj Temple (Singapore) will be playing the lead role.

The event began in Singapore in 1997 as a one-day affair with about 100

devotees chanting the full Gita. It has now evolved into a multi-dimensional, year long programme of events. In addition to the main havan, competitions (oratorical, chanting, quiz, essay writing and drawing), monthly Gita chanting sessions, an International Gita Forum and the 'Krishna Manjari' cultural show are held throughout the year, catering to children, youth and the elderly. Gita Vani, the souvenir magazine of Gita Jayanti celebrations, is distributed free of cost to all participants.

## SMT GIVES LUNAR NEW YEAR TREAT



Celebrating the Lunar New Year with the needy in Singapore is now an annual tradition at Sri Mariamman Temple (SMT). This year, residents were treated to a sumptuous meal on the eve of the Lunar New Year.

SMT held a "Loh Haey" celebration for the Lunar New Year with a sumptuous Chinese Meal cooked in the Temple. The GOH was MP for Kallang-Moulmein Mr. Edwin Tong. Present also were representatives from the Chulia Mosque, the Chinatown Business Association with HAB's Mr. R Bawajee and SMT's Chairman Dr K Vellayappan and volunteers. The event was graced by an awe-inspiring Lion Dance performance both outside and inside the temple.

## PANCHANGAM MEETING WITH OTHER TEMPLES



Representatives from the various Temple committees assemble to coordinate dates for major Hindu festive events.





## MAHASHIVARATHRI 2012

The annual Mahashivarathri Festival, the signature event of Sri Sivan Temple at Geylang East Avenue 2, was well attended by thousands of devotees to take part in the various religious events and also to enjoy and appreciate the cultural extravaganza which had been lined up by the organizers.

Joining the devotees in the various events were several prominent Singaporeans among them, Singapore's Sixth President, Mr SR Nathan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Manpower, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr S Iswaran and the Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC, Ms Tin Pei Ling, who takes care of the MacPherson Division under which the Temple falls.

A community focused cultural night saw members of all major religious bodies and multi cultural performanc-

es, further enhancing the spirit of multi racialism in our community.

On Mahashaivarathri night, devotees witnessed special performances by veteran Dr. Balmurali Krishna, a vi-

brant dance by 'Tandava' male quartet, and many other programmes to keep the devotees wide awake in praise of Lord Viswanathar.



Ms Tin Pei Ling joined the devotees at the Silver Chariot procession.



A devotee offering prayers



Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam (second left) and Mr S Iswaran (left) receiving blessings from the temple priest.



Devotees at the Mahashivarathri Festival.

## PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS HARMONY

Singapore's President Tony Tan Keng Yam hosted members of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony to lunch at the Istana on the 19th of April 2012.

The council is made up of leaders representing the major religious groups in Singapore. Representing the Hindu faith is the Chairman of the Hindu Endowments Board, Mr S Rajendran (second row, third from left). The 10-member Council advises the Minister for Home Affairs on matters affecting religious harmony in Singapore, and is set up under the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act. The Chairman and the Members are appointed by the President.



President Tony Tan Keng Yam (third left) and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Mr Teo Chee Hean (third right) with members of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony. (picture courtesy of Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts)



## SREE BHAGAVATHY AMMAN VISIT



Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K. Shanmugam (in white shirt) at the Sree Bhagavathy Amman prayers.

Singapore was once again blessed with the Ceremonial Visit by the Divine Deity of Goddess Sree Bhagavathy Amman from the famous Chakkulathukavu Sree Bhagavathy Amman Temple from Kerala – India from Thursday, 08 March 2012 to Sunday, 11 March 2012. The four-day event was organised by Sri Vairavimada Kaliyamma Temple and the Singapore Malayalee Hindu Samajam with the support from the Hindu Endowments Board, Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple and the Chakkulathukavu Sree Bhagavathy Amman Temple in Kerala – India.

This mega event would not have been possible without the spontaneous support from volunteers who demonstrated excellent team spirit and co-ordinated amongst them.

The key event was the preparation of 'Pongala' by hundreds of devotees at the Perumal Temple grounds. The 'Pongala' is the signature event of the Bhagavathy Amman Temple @ Chakkulathukavu Temple.



Devotees offering prayers to Goddess Sree Bhagavathy Amman.



Devotees preparing for the 'Pongala' celebration at Perumal Temple.

## THAIPUSAM 2012



Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Mr Chan Chun Sing at the Thaipusam 2012 festival in Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple.



## VASANTHA UTSAVAM FESTIVAL

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple's annual Vasantha Utsavam festival took place from 5th to 15th June 2012.

The 2012 Vasantha Utsavam concluded on a special note with the performance of the all-important Vaikanasa Poojai, the Sahasra kalasabishegam or ablu-tion ceremony of 1080 holy ves-sels with blessed theertham (holy water) for Sri Devi-Bhoo Devi and Sri Srinivasa Perumal.

The Sahasra kalasabishegam was held on 17th June 2012 and the participating devotees re-ceived the blessed kalsam which was used during the ceremony. On the same evening, a celestial wedding or thirukalyana mahot-savam was held for the Lord and his consorts.



Mass devotee participation at the Sahasra kalasabishegam.

### நந்தன ஆண்டின் முக்கியப் பண்டிகைகள்

### KEY FESTIVALS FOR NANDHANA TAMIL YEAR (JULY 2012 TO APRIL 2013)

தேதி	பண்டிகை	தேதி	பண்டிகை
புதன் / 18 07 12	ஆடி அமாவாசை	ஞாயிறு / 04 11 12	தீமிதி திருவிழா
வெள்ளி / 20 07 12	ஆடி முதல் வெள்ளி	செவ்வாய் / 13 11 12	தீபாவளி / கேதார கௌரி / கந்த சஷ்டி தொடக்கம்
திங்கள் / 23 07 12	ஆடி பூரம்	ஞாயிறு / 18 11 12	தூரசம்காரம்
வெள்ளி / 27 07 12	வரலட்சுமி விரதம்	செவ்வாய் / 27 11 12	திருகார்த்திகை / அண்ணாமலை தீபம்
புதன் / 01 08 12	ஆவணி அவிட்டம்	புதன் / 28 11 12	திருகார்த்திகை / வைகாணச தீபம்
வியாழன் / 02 08 12	ஆடிப்பெருக்கு	திங்கள் / 24 12 12	ஸ்ரீ வைகுண்ட ஏகாதசி
வெள்ளி / 10 08 12	ஆடி கார்த்திகை / ஆடி கடைசி வெள்ளி	வெள்ளி / 28 12 12	ஆருத்ரா தரிசனம்
திங்கள் / 27 08 12	ஆவணி மூலம்	செவ்வாய் / 01 01 13	புத்தாண்டு தினம்
சனி / 08 09 12	கிருஷ்ண ஜெயந்தி	வெள்ளி / 11 01 13	ஸ்ரீ ஹனுமந்த ஜெயந்தி
புதன் / 19 09 12	ஸ்ரீ விநாயக சதுர்த்தி	திங்கள் / 14 01 13	தை பொங்கல்
சனி / 22 09 12	முதல் புரட்டாசி சனி	திங்கள் / 21 01 13	தை கார்த்திகை
சனி / 13 10 12	கடைசி புரட்டாசி சனி	ஞாயிறு / 27 01 13	தை பூசம்
திங்கள் / 15 10 12	சர்வ மகாலாய அமாவாசை நவராத்திரி விழா ஆரம்பம்	சனி / 09 02 13	தை அமாவாசை
செவ்வாய் / 23 10 12	சரஸ்வதி பூஜை	திங்கள் / 25 02 13	மாசி மகம்
புதன் / 24 10 12	விஜய தசமி	ஞாயிறு / 10 03 13	மகா சிவராத்திரி
		செவ்வாய் / 26 03 13	பங்குனி உத்திரம்



# KidZ Zone

Join the dots and complete the picture of **Lord Vishnu**. When you're done, don't forget to colour it and you might just stand a chance to win a prize!



## AGE GROUP: 5-8 YEARS

Name:

Age:

Contact number:

Address:

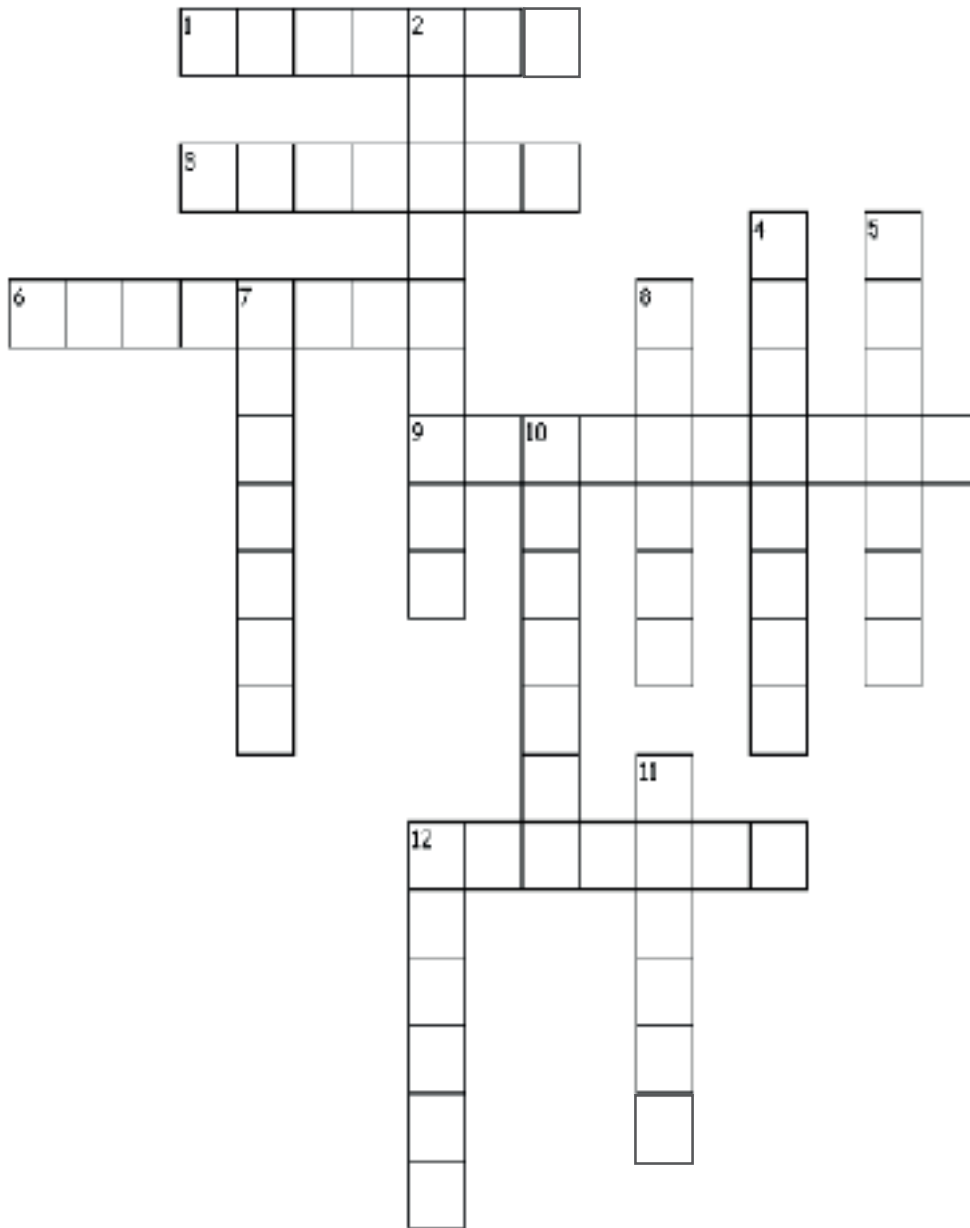
Send in your entries, with complete details by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to:

The Editor, Hindu News  
Hindu Endowments Board  
397 Serangoon Road  
Singapore 218123



# Ramayana Crossword PUZZLE

Complete the crossword puzzle below based on the Ramayana and stand to win attractive prizes.



## Clues – Across

1. He cursed Vali prohibiting him from entering Rishyamukha
3. This headless asura attacks Rama
6. Panchavati is located on the banks of this river
9. Name of the mountain where Rama met Sugriva and Hanuman
12. She was waiting for Rama at Rishi Matanga's ashram

## Clues – Down

2. Bharata lived here for 14 years while Rama was in exile
4. Ravana's minister who escaped death from Panchavati
5. Guardian deity of Lanka who stops Hanuman at Lanka's entrance
7. Sita stays in this Rishi's ashram when sent away by Rama
8. Dundubhi's son who fought Vali
10. Tells Rama that only Sanjivani can revive Lakshmana
11. King of Lanka
12. Mareecha's brother

### AGE GROUP: 9-12 YEARS

Name:

Age:

Contact number:

Address:

Send in your entries, with complete with details by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to:

**The Editor, Hindu News  
Hindu Endowments Board  
397 Serangoon Road  
Singapore 218123**

