

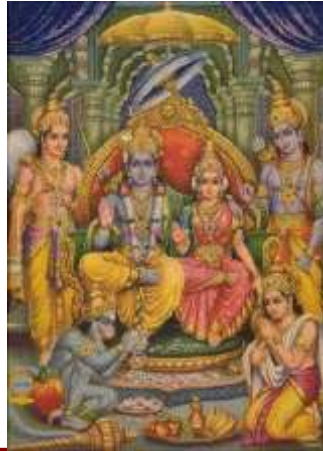


# Sri Siva Vishnu Temple

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## SRI RAMA NAVAMI



Ramanavami is celebrated on the ninth day in the bright half of Chaitra and represents the birth anniversary of Sri Rama. Rama Navami festival is usually celebrated over a nine-day period. Traditionally, Naama Ramayanam will be chanted followed by Hanuman Chaleesa. Sundara Kaanda from Valmiki Ramayanam is chanted by priests and devotees, every evening during the festival.

Reading or listening to Ramayana is believed to destroy the sins of several births. Such activities during the Rama Navami festival is considered to be even more auspicious. Ram Charita Maanas the magnum opus of Saint Tulsidas is a narration of Ramayana in an old Hindi dialect. Continuous recitation of this Siddha Grantha (the scripture that fulfills all the desires of those who read or listen) over a twenty-four hour period is a tradition in many Hindu communities. Performing Sita Kalyanam during the Raama Navami festival is considered auspicious by many devotees. Parents with young adults of marriageable age take the Vrata of performing this Kalyanam to invoke God's grace in finding a suitable spouse for their children. Bhadrachala Raamadas was a great saint devotee of Lord Raama. It is customary to sing devotional songs composed by him during the Aradhana to this saint. The name "Raama" is Taaraka Mantra (the mantra that liberates those who chant it). Akhanda Rama Naama chanting is also done.