**What is Adhyayanam? - Meaning**

The Adhyayana Utsava means the Study, Learning, and Remembrance of Vedic Verses.

DIVYA PRABHANDHAM is the composition by the 12 Sri Vaishnava Saints (ALWARS) in praise of Lord Ranganatha, also Sriman Narayana. Divya Prabhandham has 4000 divine verses (Pasurams) and is recognized as Tamil (Tamil) Veda and is popularly known as NALAYARAM in Tamil. It is also called Dravida Tamil Veda.

The Temple of Lord Ranganatha, an incarnation of Vishnu in Srirangam, in Tamil Nadu, is the seat of Sri Vaishnava culture. Thirumangai Alwar, the last of twelve Alwars sang one of his divine Pasurams (Thiru-Nedun-Thaiyandakam) to Lord Ranganatha. The Lord (Emperuman) was pleased by the meaning of the pasuram and granted two boons to Thirumangai Alwar. The Alwar took this propitious moment and asked Lord Ranganatha the following two boons:

1. The Lord with his divine consorts should listen to the divine Pasurams, THIRUVOIMOZHI (Thiru-Voi-Moli)

2. The sacred verses of Alwars i.e. 4000 Divya Prabhandams should be given the equal status in terms of authority and supremacy to that of Vedas.

Lord Ranganatha agreed to the above request and singing of 4000 verses (Divya Prabhandham) has become the Sri Vaishnav tradition of worship. This is celebrated as the Adhyayana Utsavam in Sri Vaishnava temple such as Srirangam and Tirumala.

The Adhyayana Utsavam is celebrated Ten days before Vaikunta Ekadasi in the morning hours (called "Pagal Pathu", also known as "Thirumozi ThirunAl"); and Ten days after Vaikunta Ekadasi in the evening hours (called "iRapathu", also known as "ThirivAimozhi ThirunAl")
Dec 2010 Adhyayana Utsavam Schedule - at Livermore temple

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pagal Pathu</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 4th Sat</td>
<td>10 AM - 1 PM &amp; 2-5 PM</td>
<td>Pagal Pathu Begins - Reciting DivyaPrabhandam - Thirunenenthandagam) - Periyazhvar Thirumozhi (1st 1000) Periyazhvar Thirumozhi Sathumurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 5th Sun</td>
<td>10 AM 1 PM</td>
<td>Reciting DivyaPrabhandam, Thiruppavai, Nachchiyar Thirumozhi Perumal Thirumozhi, Thiruchchantha Viruththam, Thirumaalai, Thiruppaliyezhucchi, Amalanathipiraan, Kanninunsiruththambu, Sathumurai.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 11th Sat</td>
<td>10 AM -1 PM &amp; 2-5 PM</td>
<td>Reciting DivyaPrabhandam, Start Peria Thirumozhi (2nd 1000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12th Sun</td>
<td>10AM -1 PM</td>
<td>Reciting DivyaPrabhandam, Peria Thirumozhi (2nd 1000) Pagal Pathu Sathumurai.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 16th Thru</td>
<td>7-9 AM</td>
<td>(Morning - Vaikunda Ekadasi) Irapathu Starts - Reciting DivyaPrabhandam – ThiruvAimozh1 1st (4th 1000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Irapathu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pagal Pathu</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 18th Sat</td>
<td>2 - 4 PM</td>
<td>Reciting DivyaPrabhandam –ThiruvAimozh1 1- 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 19th Sun</td>
<td>2-5 PM</td>
<td>Reciting DivyaPrabhandam –ThiruvAimozh1 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 25th Sat</td>
<td>2- 5PM</td>
<td>Reciting DivyaPrabhandam - ThiruvAimozh1 7-10 Sathumurai, Nammalwar Moksham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 26th Sun</td>
<td>10 AM -5 PM</td>
<td>Reciting DivyaPrabhandam - iYarpA (3RD 1000) iYarpA Sathumurai.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is Adhyayanam? - Meaning

The prefix "adhee " means to study, to learn by heart, to remember what is learnt (as in "adhee: BhagavO BrahMethi" passage of Taiththirlya Upanishadh); it also means to teach, declare and understand . As is usual with Sanskrit words, there are a host of meanings depending on the context.

From "adhee ", we move on to " adheetha ", which means learnt, studied and remembered.

From " adhee " derives "adheeyAna:" which means a student, who is learning VedhAs (Sruthis) in the traditional way from an "adhyApAka " or teacher.

From "adhee" is also derived the word " adhIthin " to denote a well-read, devoted scholar engaged in reciting sacred texts like Sruthis.

Now with this introduction to the root of "adhee”, we come to the key word adhyayanam “, which means learning, study and remembrance of the Vedic passages. This reference can be for Sanskrit VedhAs as well as for the Tamizh VedhAs (Tamizh MaRaikaL) or NammAzhwAr's four dhiyva prabhandhams with its six angams (Thirumangai Alwar's) as well as the other 14 Dhiyva Prabhandhams. Adhyayanam is not connected to the word " ayanam " meaning solistice as in DakshiNAyanam (Winter Solstice).

Adhyayanam is a must for three of the four classes of people as indicated by Manu smruthi: " adhyayanam cha aksharamAthra PaaDa ithi VaidikhA:". Those who not only learn Vedhic texts but understand the meanings of these sacred ageless (anAdhi) text are "arthajna:" Latter type (arthaj–na:) are supposed to derive all auspiciousness (sakalam Bhadhram asnuthE) according to YaksA, who is the author Vedic etymology. They can be recognized in Vedic terms as "Salakshana GhanapAtis". Azhwars always remind us in their phala sruthi sIloKams to recite their dhiyva Prabhandhams with knowledge of the meanings of the paasurams eulogizing the anantha kalyANa GuNAs of the Lord to attain all soubhAgyams culminating in param hitham.

Who started the Adyayana Utsavam first?

It is none other than the last among twelve alwars, our beloved Thirumangai alwar.

As we all know well Thirumangai Alwar was the one who did the maximum number of mangalAsAsanams (86 out of 106) to Divya Desa Perumals. Alwar did 6 main kainkaryams such as madil, prakaaram, vimaanam etc called "shat kainkaryam". His one of the works called "THIRUNEDUNTHAANDAKAM" is nothing but a gemstone among the 4000 prabandhas.

Alwar while visiting Srirangam, sang these divine paasurams in praise of HIM in deva gaanam in front of the sleepng beauty, lord ranganatha. Bewitched by the sweetness and its divine meanings, Emperuman
became spell bound. Overjoyed on hearing Alwar's "THIRUNEDUNTHAANDAKAM" Ranganatha was ready to grant any boons to Thirumangai Alwar.

Alwar took this propitious moment and asked Emperuman that all he needed was that HE, with his divine consorts should listen to the divine nectar, THIRUVOIMOZHI of Nammalwar and also the the divine out pourings of all the other alwars.

He also asked another boon from Emperuman that 4000 sacred verses of alwars i.e. Divya Prabhandams should be given the equal status in terms of authority and supremacy to that of Vedas.

**Will Emperuman ever say no to Alwar?**

Emperuman gladly accepted the request by saying "Asthuthe" and assured that he would certainly listen to these unparalleled divine outpourings of alwars as it is the most dearest to his heart. Thirumangai Alwar, whose joy found no boundaries, happily went to Thirukkuruhooor famously known as Alwar Thirunagari, the birthplace of Nammalwar, and brought the idol of Nammalwar to Srirangam and started conducting this Adhyayana Utsavam. Later on it was continued by the senior most acharya of our Guru parampara, the "Acharya Saarva boumer", Natha Munigal and is continued even today as per the divine instructions of our poorvacharyas.

Now to the second request of Thirumangai alwar, that Prabandhams should be treated on par with Vedas, and the applicability of its restrictions also to prabhandams, Emperuman said that HE grants not only the equal status to Prabhandams but also consider it much superior to Vedhas. This is well proven, as one may notice whenever perumal comes out of temple i.e. during "purappadu", the Prabhanada Goshti goes in front of Perumal and the Vedas goes behind.

Hence to sum up, due to the above mentioned reasons, and with the above procedures, we celebrate the Adhyayana Utsavam in our temples

The above-mentioned incident of Alwar praying to Sri Ranganathan and starting the journey to Alwar Thirunagari happened on the "Pournamasai Day - Karthigayil karthigay" and came back with the Idol of Nammalwar to SriRangam after 15 days (i.e) on an Ammavasai Day. Traditionally, this period is called as Anadhyayanam. Like Vedas cannot be chanted on some days (e.g. Prathamai, etc) Divya Prabhandam should not be chanted during this Anadhyayanam Period. So During this period only SriSruthis of Acharyas will be recited.

**When is Adhyayana Utsavam conducted?**

The Adhyayana Utsavam is celebrated from Karthigai Prathmaiday until 11 days after Vaikunta Ekadasi. The Break up is as follows:

- 10 days before Ekadasi is "Pagal Pathu", also called "Thirumozhi ThirunAl"
- 10 days from Ekadasi is "iRapathu", also called "ThirivAimozhi ThirunAl".

**How is the Pagal Pathu and iRapathu conducted in Thirumalai?**
Adhyayana Utsavam used to be held for 23 days in Tirumala. This is usually held from the night of AmAvAsya preceding Vaikunta Ekadasi in Dhanurmasa. After evening Thomala Seva and neivedyam, Malayappaswami with His Consorts will be placed in Tirumamani Mandapa, facing east in the Divya Simhasanam.

In the absence of Nammalwar’s idol in Tirumala, the vigraha of Nammalwar’s Acharya Sri VishvakSenar / Senaimudaliar /Senapathi Alwar will be placed facing south near Simhasanam. Sri Ramanuja also will be seated facing south in that Mandap. After nivedya, Jeer Swami and Adyapakas recite the first hymn and last two hymns in each Andadi. i.e., from Mudal Thiruvandadi to Tiruvinruttam.

**Pagal Pathu Recitation**

1st day  Recitation of Iyarpa in full Tiruppallandu, Vannamadangal
2nd day   Perialwar Tirumozhi first, second decad Senniyongu
3rd day   Remaining hymns in Perialwar, Vinnelamelappu Tirumozhi
4th day   Tiruppavai,Nachiari Tirumozhi, Ooneru Selvathu
5th day   From Perumal Tirumozhi to Vadinen, Taye Tandi in Kanninumchiruththambu Peria Tirumozhi
6th day   1st, 2nd centum in Peria Tirumozhi Vadamarudhidai
7th day   3rd, 4th centum in Peria Tirumozhi Pandainanmarai
8th day   5th,6th,7th centum in Peria Tirumozhi Thelliyeer
9th day   8th, 9th centum in Peria Tirumozhi Kadil Kadipittu
10th day  10th &11th centum in Peria Tirumozhi Tirukurunthamdakam Tirunedumthandakam, Sattumurai in Perialwar Tirumozhi, Peria Tirumozhi & Tirunedumdandakam

**irappathu Recitation : (Evening Session)**

1st–9th day  Beginning with Tiruppallandu, each decad from Thiruvoymozhi
10th day  Last (10th) decade of Thiruvoymozhi and sathumurai will be held.
11th day  Kanninum chiruththambu will be recited separately.
12th day  Ramanuja Nootrandadi and Upadesaratnamalai and in Sathumurai, Iyalchattu, Vazhi Tirunamam will be recited.

With this Adhyayana Utsavam comes to end.

Hence, Malayappaswami will have Adhyayana Utsavam for 23 days. The very next day, Adhyayana Utsavam for Varahaswami will be done by reciting Koil Thiruvoymozhi.

At Livermore Temple with the grace of Divaya Dambadhis Sri Padmavathi sametha Srinivasar we have been celebrating Adhyayana Utsavam for last 8 years from 2001 as per the Procedures followed in Tirumala, with the guidance of Pandit Sridharan, who has servered in Tirumala for many years and he is well versed in Adhyayana Utsavam and Nalaiera (4000) DivyaPrabandam.
Shiva Vishnu temple

We wish every one to participate and get the blessings of Divaya Dambadhis Sri Padmavathi sametha Srinivasar.

Adhyayana Utsavam is celebrated at Pittsburgh, Chicago, New Jersey temples and many more temples in North America & Canada.