

Hindu Temple and Cultural Society of USA Inc.
Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) and Community Center
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Brahmotsavam:

Utsavam means celebration/festival. Brahmotsavam is a grand annual Temple celebration for nine days. This utsavam is conducted at different times in different Temples. There can also be more than one Brahmotsavam celebration during a year. In our Temple (Sri Venkateswara Temple in Bridgewater, New Jersey, USA), Brahmotsavam is celebrated during June/July beginning from Jyeshtha bahula truteeya (third day from fullmoon day in Jyeshtha masam). (It is important to note that most Hindu Temple celebrations vary every year in the English calendar date).

Brahmotsavam is said to have been celebrated, for the first time, by Lord Brahma Himself; hence the name. Indra once killed a brahma rakshasa and thus had the burden of brahma hatya dosham. Lord Brahma wanted to relieve Indra of this burden/dosham. So, Brahma conducted a ceremony called Brahmotsavam.

This festival starts with a flag hoisting in the Dwajasthamba, of the Temple, on the first day. This flag is also brought down on the last day of this festival. Homas and elaborate pujas are performed in the morning and evening during this nine day celebration. All the prayers are offered in front of the utsava moorthys. Deepotsavam with 1116 lamps and sahasra kalasa (1000) abhishekam to Lord Sri Venkateswara also form part of this nine day festival. A brahma sabha is also organized during this mega festival. This event is a very special program in which devotees exhibit their artistic talents (vocal music, instrumental music, and dance) in the main Temple area as an offering to Lord Sri Venkateswara.

Sahasra Kalasa Abhishkam is part of Brahmotsavam festival. Water "mixed" with Special ingredients is poured in 1000 copper pots/kalasa. A coconut or orange is placed on top of these kalasas. These theertha kalasas are arranged, in a pattern prescribed by Religious Agamas, in an orderly way and devotees pass on all the kalasas, one by one, to the priests performing the abhishekam.

May the Blessings of Lord Sri Venkateswara and Sri Mahalakshmi be with you and your family.

HTCS