

Twitter Thread by Vibhu Vashisth ■■



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We all know that Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanam is the richest and one of the most revered shrines in India. But, there are so many interesting mystical facts out there beyond the commonly known trivia. Let us know about some of them:

-Idol of Prabhu is not at the centre.



Idol of the Prabhu appears to be standing in the centre of the Sanctorum but technically it is not. The Idol is placed actually at the right hand corner of the Shrine.

-Real Hair of Balaji: The hair worn by Prabhu are smooth, silky, tangle free and absolutely real.



There is a story behind those faultless locks.

During his regime on earth Prabhu Balaji lost his hair in an unexpected mishap.A Gandharva Princess named Neela Devi cut a portion of her glorious silky mane & offered them humbly to the Deity & requested him to plant them on his head.



Pleased with her devotion, the God accepted the kind offering and promised that whoever visits his shrine and sacrifices his/her hair at his feet will be blessed. Ever since, it has been a custom among devotees to shave their head-off in the temple after their wishes are fulfilled.



**Did you know: Venkateshwara Swamy has
real 'human' hair on its idol**

-Sea Waves behind Prabhu Balaji's Idol: You may not believe until you hear for yourself. The sound of enormous seawaves can be heard if one puts his/her ear on the back of the deity's idol housed in the Shrine.

-Perpetual lit lamps: The light of the earthen lamps placed before...



...the deity in Sanctum Sanctorum are never extinguished. They are no reliable records about the time when these lamps were lit and who lit them. All that is known is that they have been burning since a long time and will continue to do so.



-Misty Idol: For an unknown reason, the back of the idol always remains moist despite the priests labouring to keep it dry.

-Flowers offered to Prabhu comes out at Verpedu: The temple priests do not throw the flowers offered to Prabhu during morning worship out of the Sanctorum.

Back of Idol



It is said that no matter how many times you clean the back of the idol, you can still find it moist.

So, they are thrown into the waterfalls which flow behind the rear side of the idol. The priests refrain from looking at the back side of the holy deity. Surprisingly, the discarded flowers can be seen at the place called Verpedu which lies 20 km away from Tirupati.



- Idol survives strong chemical reaction: It's a scientific fact that when raw camphor is applied on any stone, it leads to cracks and fissures on the object. The idol of Prabhu, however is resistant to the volatile chemical reactions of camphor and bears no marks, even though...

Raw Camphor



The Idol of Balaji is adorned with 'Pachai Karpooram', (raw camphor) from Cinnamomum camphora tree, which is a highly volatile substance. If this camphor is applied to a stone, it forms cracks, but not so in Lord Balaji's case.

...it remains smeared with the substance most of the time.

-Sweaty Deity: Prabhu Balaji's Idol may be carved out of stone but it is full of life and very much alive. If reports are to be believed, the idol of the Prabhu maintains a temperature of 110 degree Fahrenheit...



Idol's Temperature

**The Idol of Lord
Balaji is always at
110 degree
Fahrenheit,
despite being
bathed in water
and in milk, daily.
In fact, soon after
bathing, the deity
sweats, and is
later wiped off.**

...even though the surroundings are cool due to the steep location of the temple about 3000ft.

Every morning after the holy bath known as 'Abhishekam', droplets of sweat appear on the idol which have to be wiped off with a silken fabric by the priests. On Thursdays, when the...

Swamy Appears



In 1800, the temple was said to be closed for 12 years. During that time, a King is said to have punished 12 people (who committed some crime) by killing them and hanging them on the walls of this temple. They say that, it was at this time that Venkateshwara Swamy appeared.

...priests remove the ornaments of the idol for a holy bath, they come off with a sensation of warmth.

-Secret of an unknown village: For the ritual worship of the Deity, the flowers, clarified butter, milk, butter-milk, holy leaves etc are sourced from a secret village.



Sanctum's Centurion

Venkateshwara Swamy's idol appears to be standing in the middle of the 'garbha griha' (sanctum's centurion), which is the most pious place. However, in reality, the idol stands at the right side corner of the temple.

This village is about 22 km away from Tirupati Balaji. The little village has never been visited or seen by an outsider except it's own people.

- Tirupati Balaji holds the record of being the richest as well as most visited shrines of India. The shrine receives offerings...

Stick and Sandalwood



You can find a stick on temple's main door. It is said that this stick was used to beat Lord Venkateshwara, when he was a child. Once, when he was being punished, his chin was hurt. Since then, the practice of applying sandalwood paste on Swamy's chin began.

...from devotees in form of cash, jewellery, gold, silver, property deeds etc and it is around 22.5 million rupees per day.

- The structure of temple was constructed around 300 CE in Dravidian Style architecture and included the use of sandstones, granites and soapstones.



- Temple holds a special significance among Hindus as there are a total of 8 Vishnu Swayambhu Kshetras and Tirupati is one of them. Temple is also mentioned by the Tamil Azhwar saints to be one amongst 106 Vishnu Temples, to be present in Earthly realms.



The Pioneer among the Hindu Temple architectural marvels, Tirupati Balaji is surely a visual treat. A must visit shrine to experience tranquillity and get spell-bound by its beauty. Visit here for inner peace and a connection with the Divine.

Source: Various Sources

Earthen Lamps



The earthen lamps (diyas) lighted in front of Swamy's idol is said to be lit since thousands of years. No one exactly knows since when these lamps are lit.