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### **SRI RAMESHWARA MANDIR, THIRTHAHALLI (KAR)**

The Shiv Lingam here is said to have been installed by Parashurama himself. Hence, the Mandir is considered Parashurama Tirtha. The shivlinga in the mandir is known as "Mood Linga".



Parashurama beheaded Renuka's head with an axe on the orders of his father, the great Rishi Jamadagni.

He, then, tried to wash the blood stains off the axe by dipping it in various rivers

A sesame-sized stain remained, until he dipped his axe in the Tunga River near Thirthahalli



The day Parashurama cleaned his axe to remove the sesame-sized (Ellu in Kannada) blood stain; was Amavasya of Margshirsh month.

That particular day is termed as Ellu-Amavasya day. Every year on this day a fair termed Ellu Amavasya Jatre is celebrated.

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The Ellu Amavasya Jatre lasts for more than 5 days but 3 days are very important.

On the day of Ellamavasye, the Utsava Moorthi of Sri Rameshwara is taken to the river and holy Abhishekam is carried out on the murti in the Parashurama Thirtha.



On 2nd day, the Mandir chariot is decorated with flowers and pulled along the main street of Thirthahalli.

On 3rd day, the Utsava Moorthi is taken on a Teppa (raft) on river Tunga towards the river bank at Kuruvalli and brought back.

This is called Teppotsava (raft-festival).

