

**SRI SAMMAKKA SARALAMMA JATHARA
MEDARAM (V), S.S.TADWAI (M)
BHOOPALPALLY DISTRICT.**



**MEDARAM JATHARA FESTIVAL
(17-02-2016 TO 20-02-2016)**

The Tribal Pujaries (Vaddelu) of Sri Sammakka Saralamma Jathara, Medaram announced the dates of the ensuing biennial Jathara 2016. The Jathara will be celebrated once in two years before Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday of Magasuddha Pournami". The ritual schedule of the Jathara is given under in detail.

2016 - JATHARA SCHEDULE

17-02-2016	Wednesday	At 4-00 p.m., Goddess Saralamma Ammavaru will arrive on Gadde from Kannepalli Village, which is 3 Kms distance away from Medaram.
18-02-2016	Thursday	At.5-00 p.m., Goddess Sammakka Devatha will arrive on Gadde from Chilakala Gutta, 2 Kms away from Medaram.
19-02-2016	Friday	Jathara will be in its full swing. Lakhs of pilgrims will take darshan of these "Devathas" and will offer their " Mokkaabadulu"
20-02-2016	Saturday	Afternoon Ammavarlu Vana Pravesham

SRI SAMMAKKA SARALAMMA JATHARA, MEDARAM
S.S.Tadwai Mandal, Bhoopalpally District, Telangana State

STHALA PURANAM

The sacred place, Sammakka Saralamma Jathara, Medaram Village, Tadwai Mandal located 110 Kms away from the District Head Quarters Warangal on North Eastern side.

On the banks of Godavari River, amidst of dense forest, where even the Sun rays could not pierce, Medaram had been a habitation to the indigenous Koya Dora Tribal Folk, in the 10th Century. As a part of their livelihood, one day when they got into the densy forest, while hunting, they found a new born infant, illuminating around, guarded by Tigers. They could not believe their eyes witnessing this sight.

In an astounding shock of surprise, they rushed to their village, alerted the elders, arranged a palanquine, brought the child boisterously to their village beating the drums. They made a mud mound, erected a shelter with twigs and leaves, and began to worship their goddess of hill. Ever since the day the child trod on, every event is auspicious, every moment is happy to the villagers. Soon there, the poisonous creatures crawled in, cruel beasts poured in and began to revolve around the mound in utmost veneration. The witnessed Koya Doras bewildered at this event, and believed that the child is none other than their goddess of hill. On the auspicious day of “Maagha Suddha Porunami” they named the child as Sammakka. Soon the blessed child became popular with her mystic powers like caressing, tigers, embellishing the serpants on her bosom like ornaments,

healing the incurable diseases, helping the old, blessing a child to the childless couples and such and such miracles. At her prime age, the blessed lass married to Pagididda Raju nephew of Meda Raju the Koya Raju of Karimnagar territorial. The couple soon blessed with two children, one Saralamma and the another one Jampanna.

The territorial of Medaram indeed comes under the dynasty of Kakatiya Sovereign. The Koya Tribal Chief “Meda Raju” rules over his territorial making the old ‘Karinagaramu’ into ‘Karimnagar’ as his capital city. As the successor of Meda Raju, the tribal territorial of Medaram came into the hands of Pagididda Raju. Irony of fate, during his rule, a devastating draught hit the area, four consecutive years, one after another and ruined everything. People not able to pay the taxes. Pagididda Raju became crest fallen. In a distressed spirit, he refused to pay the taxes. The emperor Pratapa Rudra at once waged a war and send troupes to crush down the offenders mercilessly. Prime Minister Yugandhara led the army and with his full fledged warfare tactics, he swept out the enemy. The battle was so forceful that even the great warriors Pagididda Raju, daughter Saralamma, brother Govinda Raju died in the battle field. Jampanna, the great warrior jumped into the ‘Sampenga Vagu’ and committed suicide as he failed to stop the trespassers into Medaram. Henceforth the ‘Sampenga Vagu’ become known as ‘Jampanna Vagu’. The defeated Koya army approached Rani Sammakka and pleaded for a compensation for the dead ones. Rani Sammakka, rejected their sprang proposal and she herself plunged into battle field at once. Rani Sammakka fought like ‘Kali’ and massacred the soldiers mercilessly. She drew her sword and chopped down the heads of the

enemies like 'Para Shakti'. Believing lest they should lost the battle, a soldier assaulted her with a spear from backside. Rani became helpless with the fatal wound and left the battle field heading towards Chilkalagutta. Few of her soldiers tracked her but they missed at the turning of a hill top. Although they searched for a long while they couldn't trace her. Near a tree usually called by 'Nemilie Nara Vruksha' by local people; at the footage of an anthill, they found an yellow coloured vermilion container (Kumkuma Bharina). Thinking that, that is only the 'tracking symbol' of their beloved queen, they began to anticipate for her arrival days together without food and sleep. As their hopes withered away, the tribal folk decided to commemorate her sacrifice, celebrating the occasion on the auspicious day of 'Maagha Suddha Pournami' biennially thence forth. The women folk take part in this festival, where the yellow coloured vermilion container found keeping it up as a tradition since then.

Soon after, the routine ritual in the Medaram village, they celebrate the festival on a grand scale. During the festivity, the devotees of shiva's "Shiva Sattulu" perform amazing feats. The childless women gather around the mound offering various gifts. The devotees who fulfilled their deeds offer gold (Jaggery) on par with their weight some times in the form of money, Silver, even Gold to the goddess.