

ASHADA EKADASI

This falls on Ashada suddha ekadasi. Performing this pooja is said to give relief from all sins.

Pooja Procedure : On this day, a holy dip is taken in a river and deva pooja is performed. Vishnu sahasranama parayanam is done followed by reading of “Haripat” of Sant Gnyaneshwar. People keep awake the whole night singing bhajans and abhangs. Both Ashada Ekadasi and Karthika Ekadasi are observed with great piety in Pandarpur, with flocking of the Varkari pilgrims singing bhajans.

Story of Ashada Ekadasi



Ashada Ekadasi is also called “Sayanee Ekadasi” as Lord Mahavishnu sleeps on his serpent bed this day and wakes up on Karthika ekadasi. The importance of these Ekadasi has been greatly enhanced by a set of people called VARKARIS (devotees of Vishnu who take the pilgrimage to Pandarpur in Maharashtra, VARI – word derived from meaning trip or pilgrimage). They are pilgrims with self-imposed discipline, devout to Lord Panduranga. They wear white clothes with a white cap and wear tulusi and carry a small saffron flag. They travel by foot, fasting and singing bhajans and kirthans. Tens and thousands of such varkaris flock to Pandarpur on these ekadasi days.

Ten days after Ashadi Ekadasi, a Prakshala pooja or washing ceremony is done, when the idols of the Lord are profusely anointed and rubbed with sugar to soothe the deity who is fatigued due to constant presence of his devotees. God goes into deep slumber and wakes up only on Karthika Ekadasi. The intense faith and devotion is seen in the way the Varkaris visit the temple of Lord Panduranga at Pandarpur.