

# Trip to the Sri Devi Kamakshi Mandir

By, Vinitha, mother of Vidit, Koel A



I had the opportunity to volunteer with the Koels during their outdoor visit to the Devi Kamakshi Temple on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2025.

The day began with the students entering their classroom, greeting their teacher, and marking attendance. The teacher collected their homework folders and distributed library books for their book-reading activity at home. While waiting for all their classmates, the students engaged in solving classroom puzzles. I really enjoyed watching them share pieces, help each other, and chat excitedly about where they might be going for their outdoor trip.

Once everyone settled, the class gathered for circle time. Vidit began by reading the 'The morning message' from the board, which the class then read together. The message mentioned the much-awaited outdoor visit to the Devi Kamakshi Temple. Nandita ma'am initiated a discussion about their previous visit to a church, encouraging students to share their experiences of visiting different places of worship like churches, gurudwaras, and temples. Several children enthusiastically narrated their experiences. Nandita ma'am also guided them on "things they should not do in a temple," and I noticed how attentively they listened.



The Koels then boarded the bus. On the way, they sang songs together, filling the bus with laughter and music. On arriving at the temple, the children first noticed the flower stalls. Teachers introduced them to various flowers like rose, lotus, marigold, grass garlands, and lemon garlands.



Inside the temple, the children quietly observed the surroundings. They admired the rows of diyas, counted twelve pillars together, and observed the colours and carvings on them. Teachers also pointed out to the statues adorning the temple.



One  
of  
my



favourite moments was in the meditation hall. The children sat quietly with eyes closed, just as Nandita ma'am instructed. It was so peaceful to see them meditating together. They also saw the picture of Adi Shankaracharya, and some kind devotees there helped explain the stories and images. The Koels showed great excitement and curiosity in learning about the stories and symbols around them.

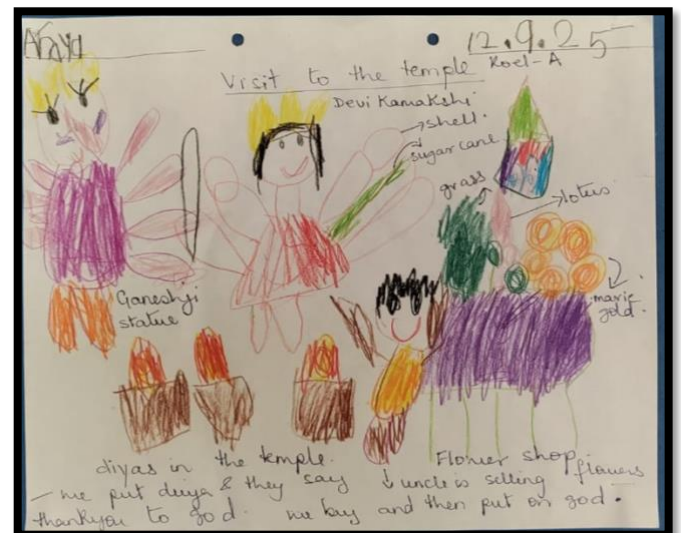
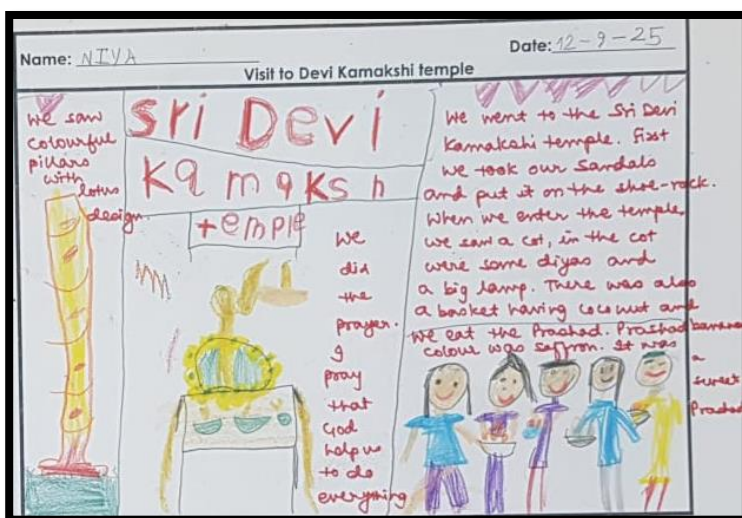


The children then explored the temple further and visited three smaller shrines—first Adi Shankaracharya's, where they sat in silence, then Devi Kamakshi's, where the priest blessed them with tilak, and finally Ganेशa's shrine, where teachers explained the significance of the 'Elephant God'. The devotees around were touched to see the little ones being so calm and respectful.

At the end of the visit, the children received prasadam—orange kesari. They were reminded not to waste food and only to accept it if they wished to eat. I was amazed to see how sincerely they followed that instruction. They enjoyed every bite and then washed their hands before heading back to the bus.



Back in the classroom, the children illustrated their temple visit. Their drawings reflected different aspects of their experience—diyas, pillars with lotus designs, the school bus, and moments with friends. It was nice to hear each child describe what they had seen and felt in the temple to Nandita ma'am, making the reflection activity both meaningful and creative.



The visit to the Devi Kamakshi Temple was a wonderful experience for the Koels. The children not only learned about the temple but also carried back beautiful memories of being together, exploring, and experiencing something new. For me, it was truly special to witness their excitement, curiosity, and innocence throughout the day.

With Regards

Vinitha, mother of Vidit, Koel A