

“A journey through the lap of Lord Vishnu reclining on Lord Anantha”

As part of EBSB club of NSS Training College, Changanacherry, Ms. Remya Rajan, first year B.Ed student studied and made a video about Padmanabhaswami temple, located at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala.

The **Padmanabhaswami** Hindu temple located in Thiruvananthapuram, the state capital of Kerala, India. The name of the city of Thiruvananthapuram in Malayalam translates to "The City of Lord Ananta", (City of the Divine Serpent) referring to the deity of the Padmanabhaswamy temple. The temple is built in an intricate fusion of the Chera style and the Dravidian style of architecture, featuring high walls.

The shrine is currently run by a trust headed by the royal family of Travancore. The temple and its assets belong to Lord Padmanabhaswamy and were for a long time controlled by a trust headed by the Travancore Royal family. However, now the Supreme Court of India has removed the Travancore Royal Family from leading the management of the temple.

The temple is one of 108 centers of worship in Vaishnavism. The temple is renown from the early medieval Tamil literature (6th–9th centuries), with structural additions to it made throughout the 16th century, when its ornate Gopuram was constructed.

In the temple, Sri Padmanabha reclines on the serpent Anantha or Adi Sesha. The serpent has five hoods facing inwards, signifying contemplation. The Lord's right hand is placed over a Shiva lingam. Sridevi, the Goddess of Prosperity and Bhudevi the Goddess of Earth, two consorts of Vishnu are by his side. Brahma emerges on a lotus, which emanates from the navel of the Lord.

Among the six chambers in the Temple, Chamber B is very closely associated with Sri Padmanabhaswamy. Chamber B has long been considered by Astrologers of India, as highly mysterious, sacred and too dangerous to unveil it. The enormous steel door of Chamber B has two massive cobras painted on it and has no bolts, latches or any other means of entry. The vault contained loose diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones.

Visitors are allowed in the temple under strict surveillance and has to follow a strict dress code. It is a bliss to visit that holy temple where history resides.