



SRI SRINIVASA MURTHY

ARUN YOGIRAJ

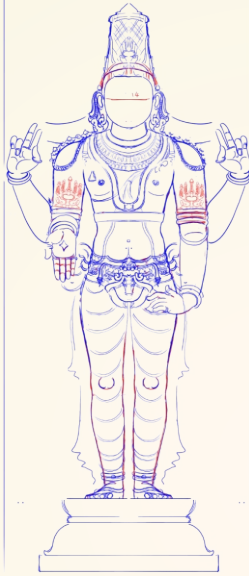
SUCLPTUR ARTIST

❀ Sri Srinivasa Murthy ❀

The Srinivasa Murthy — also known as Lord Venkateswara of Tirumala—is one of the most revered and iconic depictions in Indian temple art. This deity is a form of Lord Vishnu, and the murthy follows Vaishnavite iconography, rich in symbolism and spiritual meaning.

❀ This divine form traces its roots to the time of Sri Ramanujacharya, the 11th-century philosopher and proponent of Vishishtadvaita Siddhanta. Ancient scriptures like the Garuda Purana and Brahma Purana contain dedicated verses praising Lord Venkateswara. The murthy adheres to the classical principles of Sri Brahmi's Chitrakarma Shastra, a foundational treatise in temple murthy.

❀ The idol is carved from a rare stone known as Krishna Shile (predominantly calcite), sourced from Heggada Devana Kote in Karnataka. This unique stone is known for its durability—it is resistant to fire, water, and even the harshest of chemicals—ensuring that teertha (holy water) and prasada offered to devotees are safe for consumption.



❀ Iconography and Ornamentation

The idol is crowned in Chola style, featuring intricate Vyali (mythical creature) carvings and a Shikha Mani on top. The ears are adorned with Karna Kundalas, and the upper chest bears traditional ornaments like Upagreeva, Shrivatsa, Karana Patre, Ede Haara, Sonta Patti, and the sacred thread or Yajnopavita.

❀ In keeping with Vaishnava tradition, the forehead is marked with the signature three vertical 'Nama' lines symbolizing Vishnu and his consort Lakshmi.

The four arms of the deity are carved with deep symbolic meaning:

- The upper right hand holds the Sudarshana Chakra, representing the eternal wheel of time and cosmic order.
- The upper left hand holds the Panchajanya Shankha, signifying the divine sound of creation.
- The lower right hand is in Varada Mudra, a gesture of granting boons and blessings.
- The lower left hand is in Kati Mudra, gently resting near the thigh, contributing to the deity's majestic presence.

❀ Each arm is adorned with Tola Bandi, Bhuja Haara, Bhuja Valaya, and the forearms are embellished with Kankanas and Bale (bangles). The fingers are finely detailed with Anguleeyakas (rings).

❖ The waist is wrapped in a traditional **Kacche Vastra** (dhoti), supported by a **Kati Sutra** and finished with intricately carved **Kucchu** ends. The idol stands on an **eight-inch-high lotus pedestal** (**Kamala Dala**). The feet are decorated with **Padavalaya Nupura** (ankle bells), and **Pada Jalaka** designs grace the toes. At the base, the figure of **Garuda**, the divine mount of Vishnu, is present. Behind the idol, a **Shira Chakra** adds to the spiritual symbolism.

❖ Spiritual and Material Significance

This murthy not only represents divine grace but also spiritual resilience and purity. Lord **srinivasa** is considered the **Kali Yuga Avatar** of **Vishnu**, the deity of hope, protection, and liberation. His image inspires unwavering devotion among millions and symbolizes the fulfillment of wishes and the path to **moksha** (liberation).



Nama



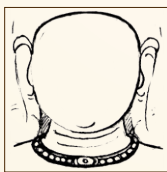
Vyali



Karna Kunadala



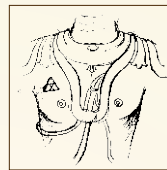
Shankha



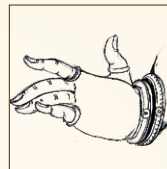
Upagreeva



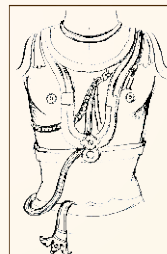
Chakra



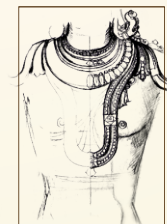
Shrivathsa



Kati Mudra



**Yagnopaveeta
Katti Sutra**



Ede Hara



Varada Hasta



**Bhuja Keerti
Bhuja Hara**



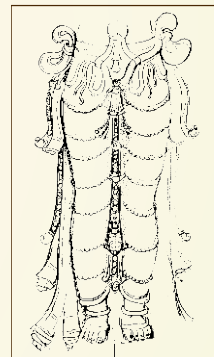
**Sonta Patti
Vanamala**



Kankana



**Bhuja Valya
Tola Bandi**



Kucchu & Kalabandi

About the Sculptor – Dr. Arun Yogiraj

❖ Dr. Arun Yogiraj, born on December 15, 1983, in Mysore, Karnataka, is a fifth-generation sculptor from a renowned lineage of traditional Indian artists. Inspired by his grandfather Basavanna Shilpi, the royal sculptor of Mysore Palace, and his father B.S. Yogiraj Shilpi, a state award-winning sculptor, Arun left a corporate career in 2008 to fully embrace his ancestral art.



- ❖ Trained in Shilpa Shastra, the ancient science of sculpture, Arun has created over several works noted for their spiritual depth, classical detailing, and cultural reverence. His major works include the grand granite statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at India Gate and the revered idol of Ram Lalla installed at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024—a moment of profound national and spiritual significance.
- ❖ Another recent milestone is his majestic Nandi statue installed at the sacred Amarnath Shrine, a symbol of devotion to Lord Shiva and a powerful addition to one of India's holiest

pilgrimage sites.

- ❖ Dr. Yogiraj's sculptures, whether of deities or national icons, blend traditional Indian aesthetics with contemporary relevance. His latest international work—a 71-inch Sri Srinivasa Murthy, Shiva Linga and Nandi Murthy to be installed in a temple in Chelmsford, England—extends his artistic legacy to the global Indian diaspora.
- ❖ Celebrated for his craftsmanship and cultural contribution, Dr. Arun Yogiraj continues to inspire a new generation of artists to uphold and evolve India's timeless sculptural heritage.