



## Valasa Devarlu

- **Valasa Devarlu** is an age-old rural festival, celebrated in the number of villages of **Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is a traditional ritual, dating back to the reign of emperor **Srikrishna Devarayalu or Krishna devaraya**.
- It is celebrated in the face of drought conditions. When only a few weeks left for the sowing season to close.
- During the failure of rains, crops failure and breakout of epidemics, the entire population of a village would abandon the households at dawn and retreat into the fields or tank bunds till dusk.
- The village elders would initiate special pujas to the goddess '**Valasa Devaramma**', an idol made of clay, consecrated under a tent or a tree. After having community lunch, the population would return to their village. The time is marked by dancing, singing and chit-chatting.
- The male members of the families offered prayers at the famous Gangamma temple atop Boyakonda hillock nearby, followed by animal sacrifice.

### Krishna devaraya

- He was a prominent ruler of the **Vijayanagara Empire of South India**. As the third ruler of the Tuluva Dynasty of the Vijayanagara Empire, he extended the empire to most of South India, which included present-day **Karnataka, Northern Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh**, stretching upwards in the **northeast to Cuttack**.
- He ascended the throne during the most critical stage of the empire and went on to consolidate it as a flourishing empire. He played a major role in defeating the Bahmani Sultans and Portuguese, forcing them to retreat their plans of expanding their empire beyond their boundaries.

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