



## Glory of Bharath » Bharath Darshan

Dear Sai Brothers and Sisters,

This month let us visit the holy Akkalkot the abode of Sree Swami Samarth, the incarnation of Lord Dattatreya.

A city and a municipal council in Solapur district, Akkalkot is situated 40 kilometers southeast of Solapur and very close to the border between Maharashtra and Karnataka. Akkalkot is widely known for its association with Shri Swami Samarth Maharaj, held by his devotees to be a reincarnation of Lord Dattatreya. Swami Maharaj lived for over two decades at Akkalkot, mainly at the residence of his disciple Cholappa, where his samadhi (tomb) and shrine are now located. The shrine complex, which is known the Vatavruksh Mandir since it encloses the banyan tree beneath which the swami would preach his message, is the hub of devotions for his followers.



Sree Belenath Maharaj (Swami Samarth)

At Akkalkot, Swami would usually sit under a huge Banyan tree (Vatavruksha). It is from here that Swami would give Swami Padukas discourses and guidance to the devotees. This place is now popularly known as Vatvruksha Mandir. Shri Swami Samarth has also asked Shri Rajerai from Hyderabad, to construct a Math outside Akkalkot village on the Station road. His Holiness had cured Shri Rajerai of his illness. Swami had indicated that the Math would be his resting place and had Himself installed His Padukas there.



The holy padukas

Samadhi Math of Shri Swami Samarth is in the Budhwar Peth of Akkalkot. This place is also known as Cholappa Math. Apart from this, the Gurumandir (Balappa Math), Rajerai Math (renovated by His Holiness Sadguru Belenath Baba), Sadguru Belenath Maharaj Samadhi Mandir, Belenath Baba's Samadhi Mandir are the other important places in Akkalkot. Along with these the Hanuman Mandir established by Shri Ramdas Swami (Hakyache Marutee Mandir), Shri Joshibaba Math, ancient Ganesh Temple, Shri Ram Mandir, Shri Ekmukhi Datta Mandir, Sufi Saint Khwahapeer Dargah, Shaikh Nuruddin Baba Dargah and the Khandoba Mandir where Shri Swami Samarth first arrived when he came to Akkalkot are places of interest.

Our sojourn continues next month...Till then Sai Ram

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