



Final report

Information app for temples

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this written submission represents my idea in my own words and where others' ideas have been included; it has been adequately cited and referenced with the original source. I declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not fabricated or falsified any data/idea/ facts/sources in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above entitles the institute to take disciplinary action against me to which I shall be answerable to.

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Date : 8.6.2020

Signature

APPROVAL SHEET

The project titled 'Information app for Temples' by Arun Jayaramakrishnan, on Roll 16U130024, is approved for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of 'Bachelor of Design'.

Guide:

Chairperson:

Internal examiner:

External examiner:

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The success and end result of this Design Project is a cumulative outcome of a lot of guidance and assistance from my Project guide Prof. Ravi Pooviah and many others and I am extremely privileged to have got this all along the completion of my project.

I respect and thank my Project Guide for giving me all support and guidance which made me complete the project duly. I owe my deep gratitude to him for taking keen interest in my project and in guiding me all along till the completion of the project by providing all the necessary information for developing a good system.

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01

INTRODUCTION

1. Overview
2. Premise

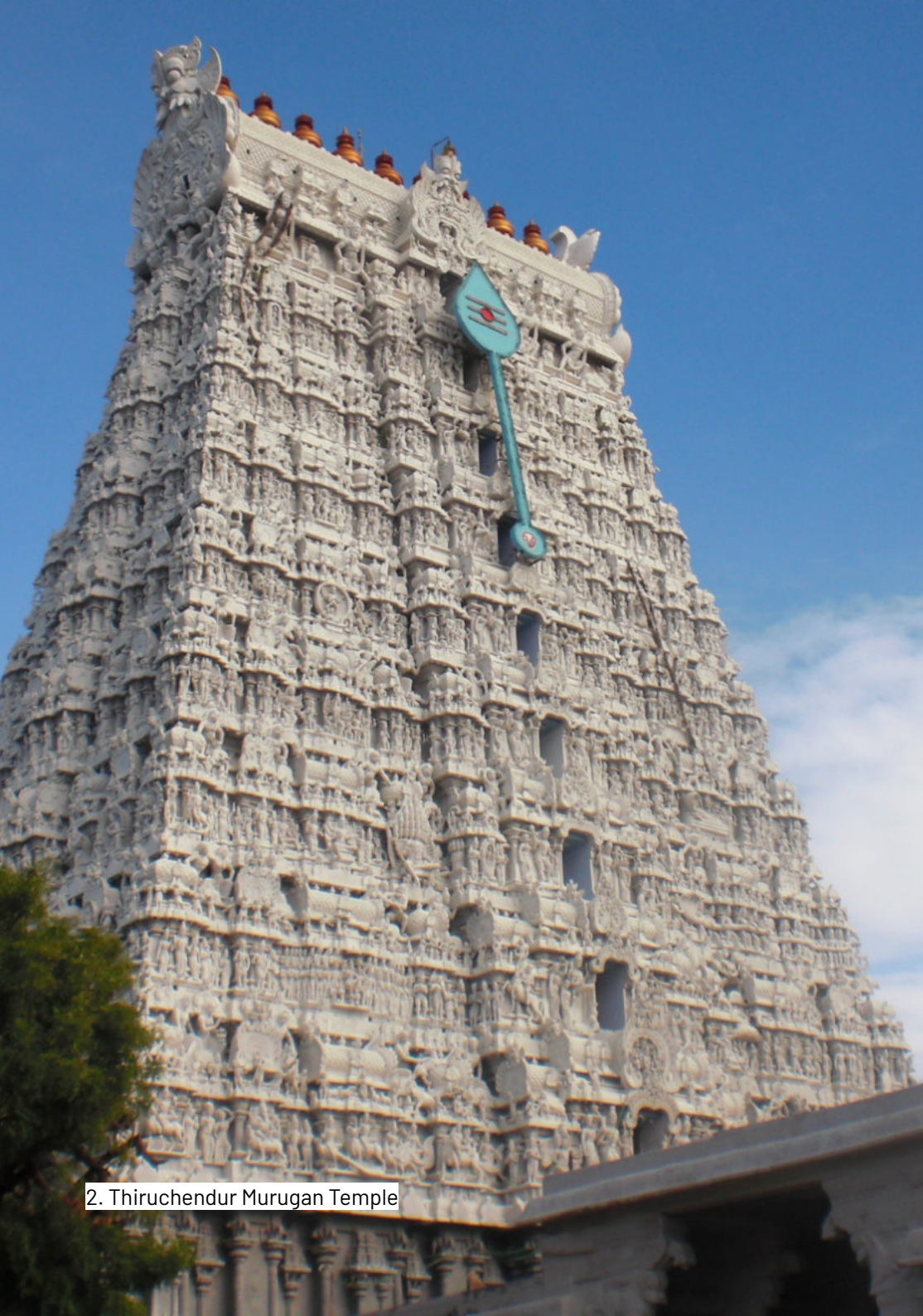


1. Abandoned temple in Rajasthan

Overview

Temples are integral part of hindu culture and forms the backbone of most of its cultural activity. Each and every temple is unique in variety of aspects from deity, landscape, festival, architecture and they change as we go from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Each with marvelous architecture gives breath taking moments every time we visit one of the oldest temples and satisfying the hearts of countless devotees from the remotest part of India. Also ever temple has some unique way to pray to the deity and is special with their own sweet histories.

Here in our country which has given birth to countless faiths is wonderful treasure of knowledge of sculpture, art and spirituality but today we face a unique challenge to overcome. As we seek to improve our lives we move out of homes, villages and town and flock towards cities for higher education, employment. As the whole society tends to move in that direction we observe that we slowly forget our roots. And in the new place we reside we don't know enough fully about the temples there. Even as temples themselves use digital technologies to solve the information problem there still exists a gap. As a frequent visitor myself I have experienced that some beautiful history and events which happened in famous from their web platforms. And many such small aspects are living in the hearts and minds of the

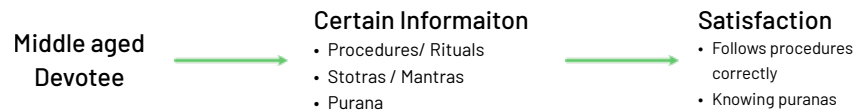


2. Thiruchendur Murugan Temple

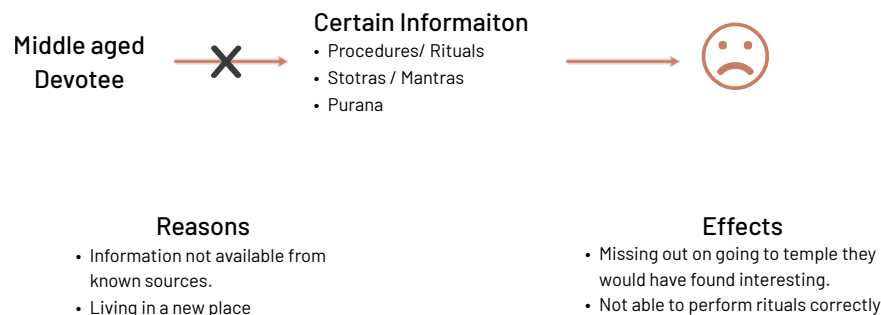
devotees. As people move out from their place the next tend to Forget the stories and specialties of their own temples. In an attempt to solve this issue have explored my ways to document this data in digital form.

Premise

The image on the left is the famous temple of lord Karthikeya in Thiruchendur, Thirunelveli. The temple compound is very huge with lots of parivar deities. The temple attracts lakhs of devotees every year. I myself have visited more than ten times but this temple is four hundred kilometers away from my home. Once I got an opportunity to get guided tour around a temple, along with a priest. He explained every small detail at the time I found that the temple has a small Brihaspati mandir inside the main complex. The Brihaspati there is very special parikaara sthala for Guru. Also the murti is also special as it depicts Brihaspati under a tree along with shishyas. A murti of that kind is not found in many places. The temple also has a swayambu Narayana murti. Surprisingly these details were not known until a local priest told us. Even in their Wikipedia page and on the official website it doesn't capture all of these details. Such a very important temple like this faces shortage of documentation, there are lakhs of temples in villages and towns which so many untold stories and



3. Thiruchendur Karthikeya Temple



Thiruchendur Karthikeya Temple

events which will bring delight to devotees. Let us take a sample case of a middle aged devotees who potentially has resources to do all round activities in temple such as doing special poojas, offerings, and mostly they are the ones taking decisions to plan and visit temples. Given in a case where they have access to all the information(diagram 1) the person is able to do poojas, rituals and offerings in a very best way possible. But given the case where such information is not available either from known sources such as friends and family or on the internet, the devotee is not able to perform activities in the temple in the best way. Another reason the information is not reachable can that a person is living in a new place and he/she does not have access to people with relevant information. Adding to the lesser experience the devotee misses out on visiting interesting temples which they would have found interesting. In an effort to bridge this gap this project is an attempt to solve the issue using digital means.

02

FIELD RESEARCH

1. Aspects of temples
2. Case study of temples
3. IA of a temple

Aspects of Temple

Apart from being a place for worship temple functions in multiple aspects in a society.

Social center

Temples form as social center for a community. In villages elders meet in temple weekly. They perform poojas together and share homemade prasadas in temple with other devotees. Every year a festival is organized in the local temple apart from the calendar festivals which makes each temple unique. Ear boring, marriages are arranged in temple which is alternate for expensive halls. In north India in many temples near river it is also used for *antima sanskar* of deceased.

Economic center

For many small India towns and villages the center of attraction in entire place are temples. For example in Palani lord karthikeya stays on top of the Palani mountain. The temple is visible from almost thirty kilometers away. There are no big industries other than related to temple in Palani. Apart from the general hotels and transport services, there are special panchamirta prasada industry, *vibhooti* industry, pooja material makers, petty shops and other allied commodity makers. These are things visible directly to a devotee visiting a temple. Other than this sculpting, temple building, event management, agricultural produce such

as bananas, coconuts, flowers are running in the background. Like in Palani in numerous cities economic power house are purely temples.

Art center

Temples have always displayed extraordinary expertise in sculpting particularly temples like Kailasanathar temple which are entirely made of stone with very intricate designs. The art also extends to make fusion multiple animal forms.



3. Kailasanatha temple, Ellora



4. Baghavan Thirumalai Temple,
vilvathampatti

Case study of Temples

To have a deeper understanding of how different temples are run a temple visit was done for four different kinds of temples. The main difference comes in temples by means of who owns and maintains the temples in the field study four different categories of temples emerged.

Periyavudayar Temple (TNHRCE)

This temple is associated with the famous karthikeya temple in Palani. This is owned by TNHRCE (Tamilnadu Hindu Religious Center and Endowments) meaning the all the accounts and maintenance are done by the government. The temple sthalapurana leads to mahabharat times. It is said that Virata king came for hunting and he shot an arrow towards a deer running towards a bush. As he went towards to check the deer he instead found a Shivaling and his arrow had struck the murti. Due to the arrow hit the shiva linga was bleeding and later a proper temple was built around it. Interestingly the temple has a combination of Tamilnadu and Kerala architecture style. When there are yearly during the month of aani(June to July) big poojas are done in Palani temple and followed by poojas in Thiru aavinankudi, Periyamayaki amman temple and finally in this temple. A lot of locals flock to this temple during this time. And there are other festivals in the year when more devotees come.



5. Periyavudayar Temple, Gothamangala pirivu

Another big sepciality of the temple is that *sthala, theertha and ksetra* are all in one place, which is very good for devotees to do varieties of poojas and yagas. As far as documentation with TNHRCE goes they focus on creating websites for big tempels and don't maintain the other ones. Even a temple in our village which was forcefully taken over by TNHRCE is now not being maintained. Such a place definitely needs to be documented as they can help devotees coming from kerala and bring development in the area.

Baghavan Thirumalai Kovil (Village Trust Owned)

This is a village temple owned and maintained by a private trust. It is situated in vilvathampatti, palani. The priest lives inside the temple compund. Apart from the weekly pooja activities the priest cultivates the land which is owned by the temple. With these resources the regular poojas and his personal needs are met. On occasional needs to rennovate temple the dharmakartas of the village come together and decide on what improvements to make and necessary tax or donation is collected from the residents of the village. As it is local temple it is free for people to visit at anytime. Most old people in the village grew up with this temple. The speciality is that siddhars used to live in the temple and have helped people cure a lot of ailments. Even today go there to cure their ailments. The history of the siddhars and activities are known to all villagers but most knowledge and



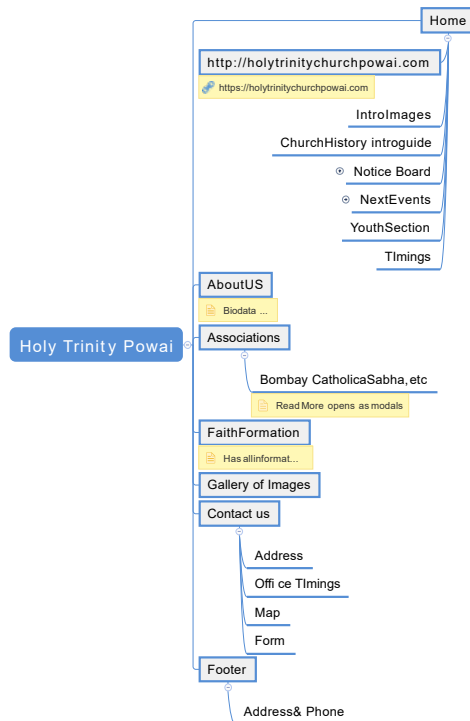
6. Aivar malai

documentation lies with the priest who is heir less and also as many people move out of village the information might get lost.

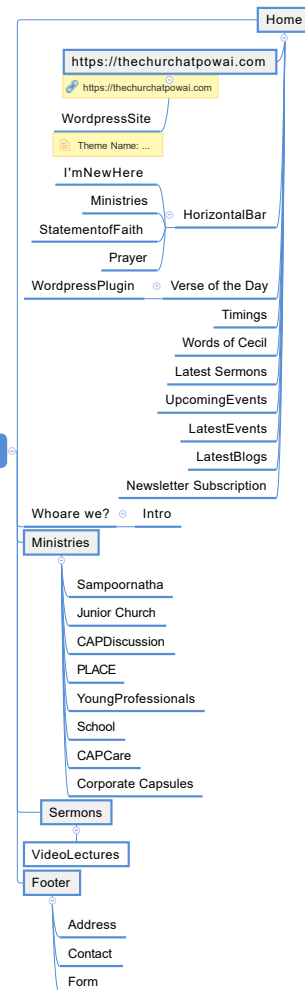
Aivar Malai (ASI maintained)

Although there are conflicting information this place is widely believed in the local villages to be one of the places where pandavas were hiding during *vanvas*. The temple's main deity is Draupadi amman near a cave entrance. In earlier times this place has been a hot spot for sadhus to come and do tapas ya. The place is now taken over by ASI (archaeological survey of India). Before the take over a sadhu had already closed all the entrances to cave to prevent vandalism by youngsters. And his jeeva samadhi is also a worship place now. Surprising even the temple being in an arid region and hill where trees cannot grow the only source of water is natural rain water harvesting in the ponds and this place is a *theertha* spot for multiple other temples. Apart from being a place of worship the place forms an integral part for devotees with belief in mahabharat. Similar to the previous temple the priests have been traditional. The present priest is seventh in the lineage. Even though the devotees around will go to the temple, if the lineage of priest gets cut. The transmission of information is cut. There are many other temples like this which have a story associated with mahabharat but are not widely documented in a safe form. Similarly there are temples in villages with their own mahabharat which need to be preserved.

Sitemap of Churches in Powai



Church at Powai



Study of church websites

To get a clear better understanding of best web documentation a secondary study of church websites. They have content which will make devotees comeback to site periodically for events and other information.

- They have minimal to no information about Jesus
- Welcome messages from bishops/patron
- Main Focus is on Upcoming events
- About us pages have lots of bio data of priests and ministry members
- History is organized in the form of table and named milestones
- Dedicated pages for faith forming events, youth and young parents
- Video lectures on Bible and other subjects
- Detailed pages for donation and executive bodies such as sports
- Other details such as location and contacts

Information architecture of a temple

After the primary research an information architecture was created. The IA contains datapoints which can be collected from a temple. This is for two purposes one to know what data matters most to devotees and to list out data which can be crowd sourced.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Anna Dhan

Anna Kshetras

Bhandaras

Medical Care

Educational

Marriages

Events

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name

Main Deity

Other Deities

Festival Days

Special Poojas

Brief Description

Offerings to Deity

Contact Information

Location

Area

Geo Coordinates

Nearby Temples

Images

Inside

Murtis

Murals

Outside

Inscriptions

Architecture

Associations with groups of temples

Timings

Daily Poojas/Aarti

Opening Closing Times

Sevas

Prasada

History

Temple Management

Age

Establisher

Saints

Kings

Locals

Story

Temple Legend

Place Legend

Speciality

Local Folklore

Who built it?

STAKEHOLDERS

Devotees

Children

Male

Female

Elderly

Archka/Poojari/Pandit/Priest

Vendors/Sellers

Temple Administration

Local Residents

Content Developer

Writer

Photographer

OTHER RELATED

Calendars

Panchang

Georgain/Julian

GI Tags

STAKEHOLDERS

Vimana

Mandapa

Shrines

Enclosure

Gopura

Lake

Pillars

Garbhagriha

Inscriptions

Records of Historical
contributors and other events

ART

Murals

Frescos

Marvels

Murtis

Gopurams

Pillars

MURTIS

Offerings

Special Days

Specialities

Material

Main Murti

Other Murtis

Kuldevata

Gram Devata

Ganesh

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Pigriimage

Rathas

Vratas

Offerings

Analysis of primary research

- Many temples in villages which potentially have temples which could bring good experiences to many are hidden due to poor information access
- Village temples face a threat of abandoning as people move out of their birth places
- As village temples are also maintained by locals it is difficult to maintain them too.
- Most information and documents are in the hands of local priest but some also reside in the hands of dharmakartas, astrologers and other important people in the village
- Even though devotees know about temples it is the priests who know specifics such as agama and parivar murtis specialties.
- In some temples there is a potential generation gap that is there is nobody next in the line to do pooja, which could also lead to potential information loss.
- Temples can be seen from other perspectives such as economy, physics, architecture, maths.
- Temples are also social centers for vanaprasthis to discuss

their perspectives on society.

- Some times archakas might ask for favors for disclosing information on temples.
- Sometimes most information is also known to people who stay in a place for long time where archakas can be new.
- Not all priests are comfortable with recording audios.
- In temples maintained by HRCE it is not allowed to take photographs in the temple.
- In temples owned by ASI it is not allowed to go into certain parts of the temple.
- In many temples there could be potential conflict in history or Purana with different versions citing different sources
- Temple trusts are interested in featuring their temples in a digital platform to promote their temples.
- In a good note even small temples have books released with details of deities and Purana.
- Students from schools of social work look for documenting historical places, so they are also interested in documenting temples as internships.

- There could be more groups of temples identified from the localities. For example near kadathur there are many villages starting with letter k with each having temples more than thousands of years old.
- There can be also a circuit of mahabharat temples, with comes near me are Mallikarjuneshwara temples, Ivar malai and Periyavudayar temple. These circuits can be discovered and made to public.
- Even small temples could have specialties such as kshetra, theertha and murti being together.
- Also unlike the city mindset where the primary instinct is to question everything logically it is better to believe things in temples in order to get the best experience either in collecting data or visiting a temple.

03

USERSTUDY & SECONDARY RESEARCH

1. User study of content preference
2. Study of existing apps
3. Study of crowdsourcing apps

User study to find content preference

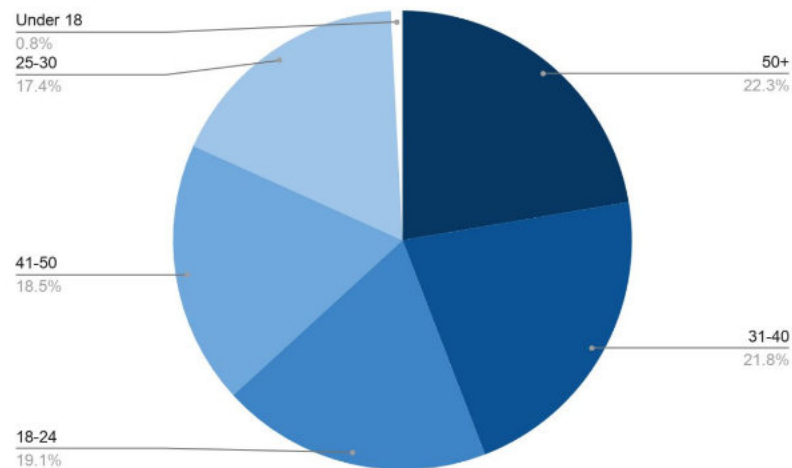
To understand what a user needs very frequently and which is important we conducted a survey to understand the preferences. Questions were regarding age, frequency of temple visit, how do they know about new temples, their motivation to go to a new temple, whether they have used an app to know about temples and finally what are the important features they wanted in a app for temples. All the questions with detailed options are included in the references section.

The questionnaire was mainly targeted at users from towns and villages with access to smartphone. And questionnaire was bilingual with Tamil as second language. All of the questions were either choose one or many options keeping in mind the probability of dropouts in the user set. About 368 responses were collected by sharing the survey link through whats app. The age groups that were decided in the survey were

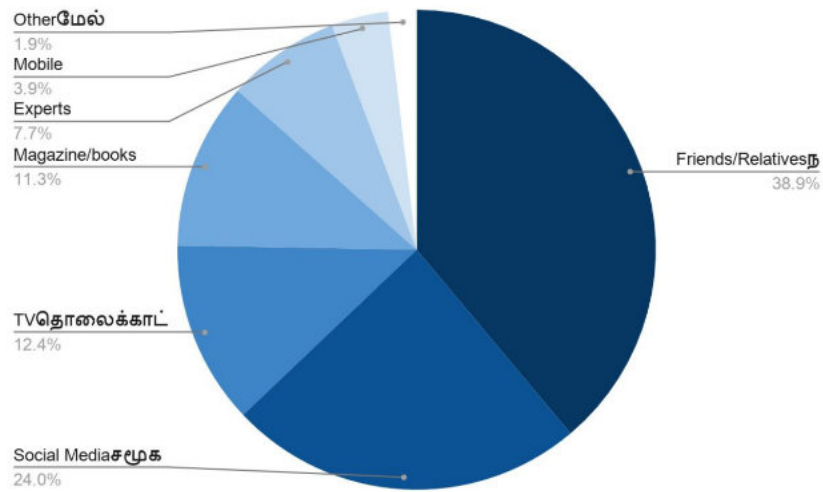
- 50+ (age at which humans want to seek spiritual life and most home responsibilities start shifting to children)
- 41-50(Age where they are at the peak of their career and take most decisions like going to temple, doing pooja in a house)
- 31-40 (early years of marriage and children are growing up)



Statistics of survey



Age group of users



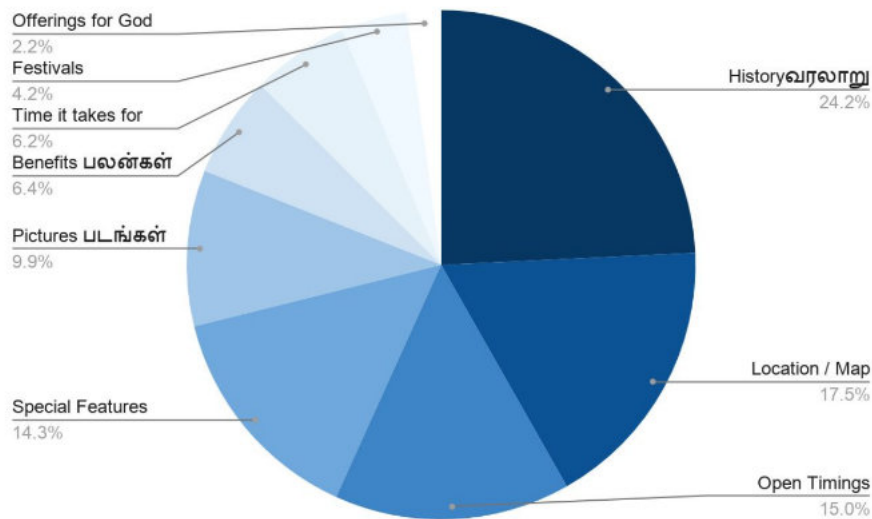
Source of knowledge about new temples

- 25-30 (mostly with a job and looking for marriage)
- 18-24 (in education and seeking for job. Also age where self reliance is beginning and they start visiting temples on own)
- Below 18 (young in home studying reliant on elders for visiting temples)

Surprisingly all the user groups has almost equal representation. The final question being the main objective of the survey other questions about frequency of temple visit, source of knowledge about new temples, their motivation to go to a new temple, usage of app to explore about new temples were aimed in supporting the final question. The question has seven options

The question has ten options and a user could choose up to three options, the options were history, location, open timings, special features, photos, benefits of visit, time it takes for darshan, festivals, offerings for god.

After analyzing all the responses the knowledge was used to build a preference of in what order to show content in the app. The order from the survey with slight modification is followed in the final solution.



User preferences for content

Study of current crowd sourcing apps

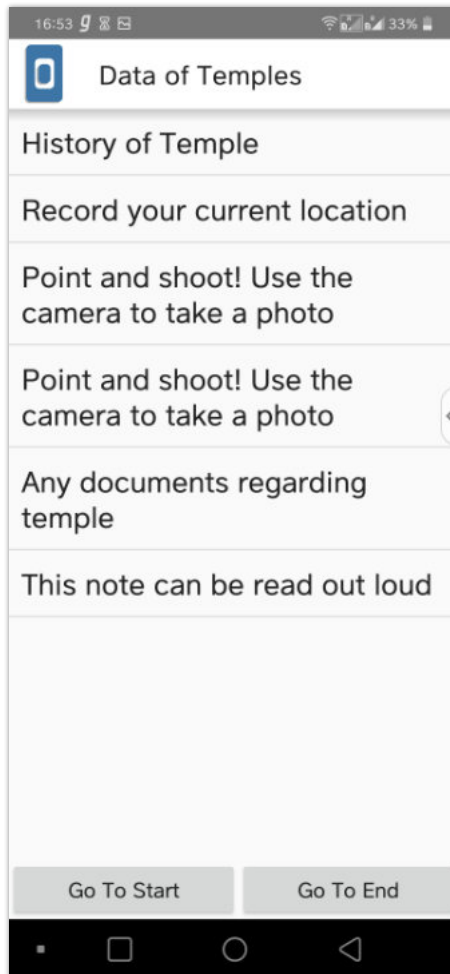
To have a platform for getting content from various states and languages it is inherently necessary to study how existing crowd sourcing platforms work. The study includes

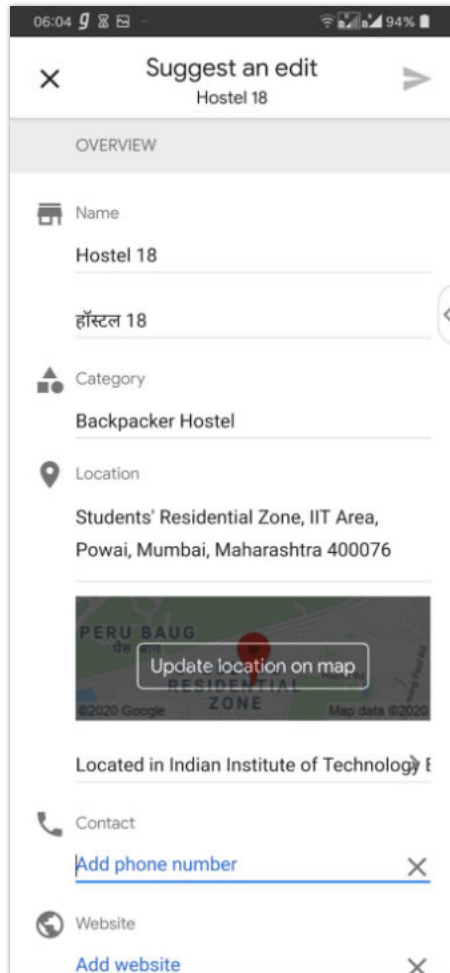
Kobo Collect

Kobo collect is a part of open data kit which are based on sets of tools for crowd sourcing data for humanitarian causes. To field surveys they have implemented offline form submissions. And also the questions can be generated from cloud and deployed for use any where. Key aspects of this app

1. Simple interface and user journey
2. Allows offline collections
3. Prompts special keyboards for number inputs
4. All question in one view gives ability to ask questions easier

Gathering data in the form format is useful as it is easier to manage them later category wise and it enables ability to show content on which are needed.

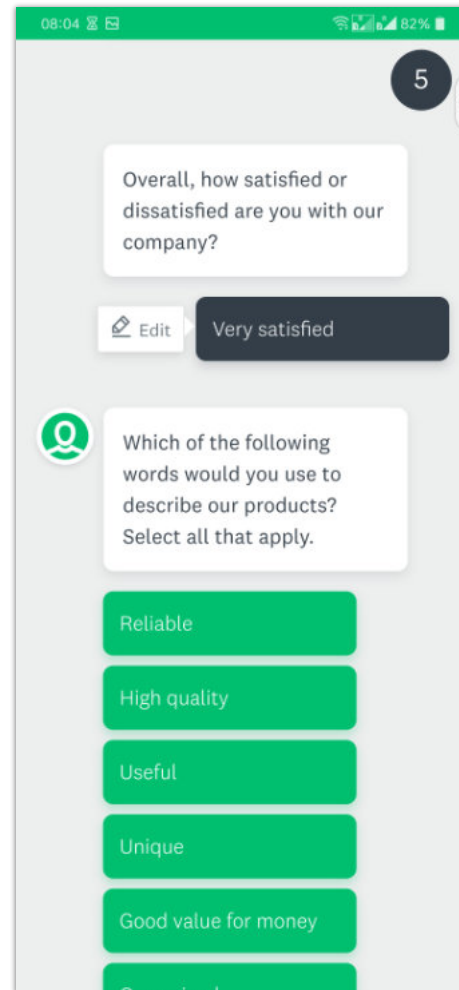
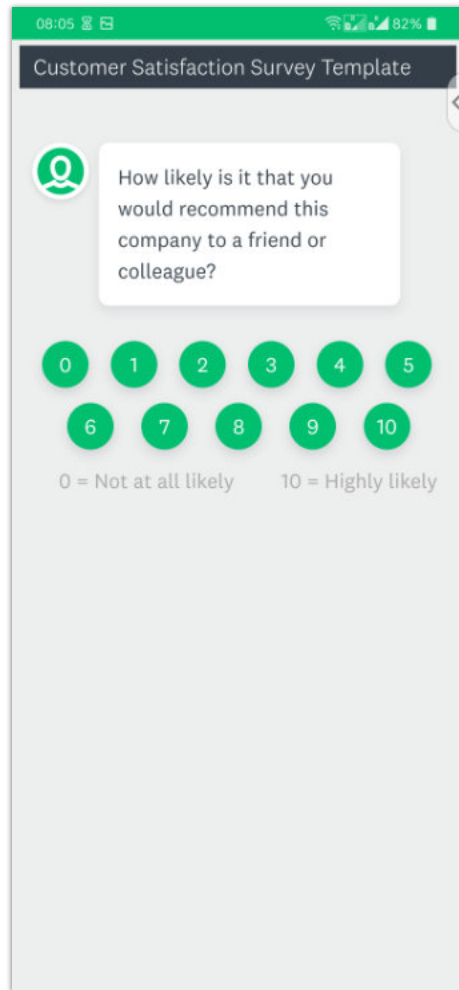




Google maps

Crowd sourcing is the heart of google maps. It relies on the users to CRUD (create, read, update, delete) of not just location but variety other meta data. Key aspects of google maps include

1. Uses form structure to get input of data.
2. Tracks users location and asks them to add, edit review
3. Questions are made in the form of simple cards with yes no or don not know options.
4. Gamifies the process by rewarding people for contribution using point system
5. Assigns badges to credible contributors which help other users find them.
6. Has a fixed set of information schema which helps them ask specific questions which are missing.
7. Has a dedicated page in the app to view our contributions.
8. Motivates contributors with visitor statistics.
9. The image part of the contribution is separate from text.



Survey monkey

Survey monkey is a very well known product. Now it has a unique new feature of conversational surveys

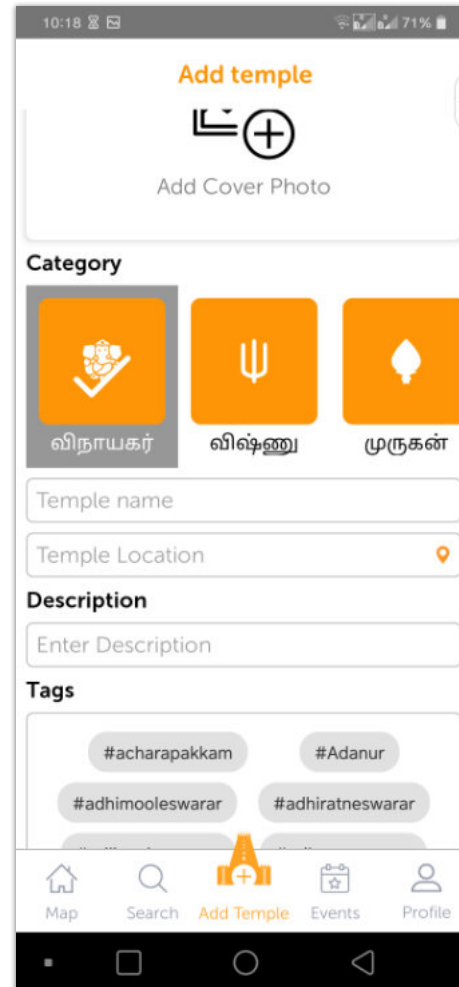
1. Makes survey filling interactive.
2. Familiar chat interface makes it easy for emergent users to fill data.
3. UX is simpler as there is no need to press any next button and there is no need to scroll to find next question.
4. Editing a response is just a simple edit tap.
5. Adding textual and image data is also easy.
6. Overall a very good alternative for collecting information ground up.

Study of Hindu Kovil app

This is the only app which tries to crowd source information for temples, other than Wikipedia. It collects cover photo, deity category, temple name, location, description and tags from users. This is a unstructured form of information collection. As we have seen in our information schema of the different dimensions a temple can be described from. Here on the other end a person has to input all the data he want into the description section. Moreover the apps main homepage is a map in which a user has to put considerable effort to find some temple nearby. Also the database is pretty small compared to other apps such as OM Tamil calendar. Which has a closed database but the content is available in Tamil also and the users who use the calendar also use this section of the application also use the temple section which is not even a priority in the app. So there are lots of scope to do in the crowd sourcing arena of temple data.

Other apps

In the secondary study lot of apps such as temples of Tamilnadu, Indian Temples, Tamilnadu temples, temple history, temples list (lists temples based on *phalas*), VR devotee, do pooja to a deity. All of these all having a closed database misses out opportunities to get information from locals and other devotees.



App	Om Tamil Calendar	VR Devotee	Virtual Temple	Temple Browser	Temple Cloud	Temple Remedies
Logo						
Crowd Database	No	No	No	No	No	No
Description	Calendar with temple details	Hosts spiritual videos	Virtual temple to do pooja	Provides information Regarding temple	Provides information Regarding temple	Shows temples Grouped by remedies
Features	All necessary basic details of temples	Live darshans, VR videos	Users can do pooja With virtual items	Covers old temples with approx dates	Covers most of information in schema	Need focused
	Browse by deities	Hosts spiritual songs	Audio visual	Can search temples by district and deity	Connects to google maps to navigate	Covers many life issues
	Sharing feature selective sends info	Good database of content	Has multiple deities	Covers most info in schema	Rating system	Content ordered in question form
	All necessary basic details	Has English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada		Details info regarding special offerings	Clean UI	
Negatives	Content only in Tamil	Has no favorites feature	Could have stotras mantras for liveliness	No search bar have to scroll a lot	Very small descriptions and data	Has temples mostly from Tamilnadu
	Has no search bar functionality	Does not cohesive storytelling	Visuals design can be Improved a lot	Content only in Tamil. Has unrelated ads	Content only in English Also no favorites	Only one temple per category

04

IDEATION

1. Elaborate product description

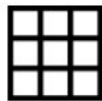
Product description

To preserve and transmit the information of temples it is best to use digital media. There are many advantages to use digital media here are they

- The media is easy to create content from anywhere and consume anywhere.
- The data once created can be backed up and replicated in multiple forms.
- It is easy to re design and display it in new forms.
- It is scale able.
- Easy to share data to others who want build services on the collected information.



Content directly from
devotees



Structured Input



Scalable



Multilingual

Unique features of the platform

Need for app

The idea is to have a digital platform where users can create, find, read and contribute about temples. But particularly app is chosen because mobile as medium is easy to use even for emergent users, whereas even educated people struggle to operate and type in computers it has other advantages such as

- Better keyboards and suggestion for Indian languages.
- Easy to use voice keyboard.
- Indians use mobile phones more than computers.
- Accessible from anywhere unlike computers.
- Easy to give suggestion based on locations to users
- Instant upload of images directly from device
- Better notification system compared to internet browsers
- Faster loading times give better user experience

Need for website

Even tough app has certain advantages it still needs an user to go to respective store and download to give it a try but not all users will want to download an app. Also web is a platform where users organically find content as they search through search engines. Other advantages include

- Has rich text editor
- A spacious temple data editor for those who prefer desktop
- Also bare minimum need for any digital platform

Why not other solutions

Definitely there are other media and platforms available out there, here I list a few of the most accessible ones and describe why they were not preferred for this



YouTube and other video platforms

There could be an idea of having a team which creates videos and publishes on the such platforms as videos are the most accessible for of media. It is always easy to consume audio visual media compared to just auditory and textual information. Many people from homemakers to professionals are using the platform to share their knowledge. Vloggers especially create a lot of content with live view and review which helps people relate instantly when they visit the particular place. It also hosts a lot of live darshans. In short a very reliable service. But YouTube is not scalable and the main aim is to integrate the different data available among devotees across all regions and restrictions in some temples to shoot photographs are video will result in missing out the temple. It also takes more time to shoot a quality video, edit and release it. What we essentially need is prompt many users to fill data one by one easily in structured format.



Wiki platform

As we seek to have a text form of data collection there could be idea why not to use Wikipedia. It is the biggest platform to share detailed knowledge in the form of text. It has great flexibility for contributors who want to order content according to their needs. Moreover it supports reference and citations to add credibility to information. Also the user experience is familiar easy and fast.

But here are few reasons why wiki is not preferred. Mainly the text editor in wiki is not like go to Microsoft word kind of editor. It follows its own markup syntax which could be annoying for casual users who can potentially contribute simple information such as opening timings. Another big reason is it is too flexible for templates. As for a template the schema of information we collect is fixed there is no need to have open data structure like Wikipedia. Having information in structured format can help user invoke memories about a particular aspect like architecture specialty. Also it doesn't allow a visual overhaul as it is restricted by the platform's structure.

Ideas for special functions

There are certain functions which are to be implemented in the background of the application to enhance the user experience.

Live darshans

There are many temples which are providing live darshans online by streaming them on platforms such as YouTube and also their own websites. Live darshans for temples which have open streaming rights will be embedded in the app.

Location history based questions

Like how efficiently Google Maps prompts users when they have visited a place to review them, add a few missing details, verify a few information and suggest photographs to upload. Similar service can be used to collect information bit by bit from users.

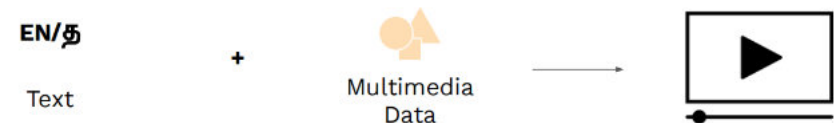
Text to audio



As generative audio is becoming more and more realistic as machine learning technologies improve. One day in the future it would be possible that they sound very realistic with proper tones and expressions. As the database of the app expands

steadily, generative audio can be implemented in the app and web. Listening to audio of histories of temples could be a wonderful experience for many.

Generative video



As the database populates with photographs, they can be associated with tags for each section and with existing content they can be generated into a composed video. This is where the structured input will help. As necessary information can be used in the necessary order.

Notifications for festivals

There are countless Indian festivals out there. If not for festivals every tithi can potentially be a festival for somebody in some part of India. With the use of an integrated Indian calendar, festival dates can be documented correctly as it will differ with the English calendar with subsequent years and months. And notifications for nearby temples where the festival is celebrated can be made.

Most of these features are not included in the version one due to technical difficulties, and these are hoped to be there in the future.

CONTENT ORDER

Temple name	Ear boring
Deity name	Head shave
Location	Daanas
Open timings	Educational facilities
Pooja Timings	Social drives
Special features	Arjita seva
Other Deities	Amenities
Sthalapuran	Drinking water
Alankar of Deity	Pooja items shop
Prayers & Benefits	Restaurants around
Special vratas and Prayers	How to reach
Offerings to deity	Nearest railway station
Stotras and mantras	Nearest bus station
Architecture	Nearest airport
Festivals	Contact details
Sodasha upachars	Name
Prasadhas	Mobile number
Social activities	Website
Annadhan	Contributors
Marriage	

Order of content view page

The order of content of which is to be displayed is derived from the user study. Taking in consideration of two questions one being their motivation to go to a new temple another one is the most important things they want to know. The final order is a mix of both preferences. Sthalapuran being the most needed information has been pushed to later in the order by giving preference to open timings, pooja timings, location and special feature under consideration that these are information which are equally important and preferred also they the information which users will need frequently compared to history which devotees will remember if they read once. A amenities section is added to know about what facilities are available in and around temple. Here is the order of content followed in the app. As sometimes navigation systems are not reliable with some places, a section called how to reach is added where nearest railway, bus and airport is shown. There is a section dedicated to contributors where once a user edits a temple page they will added to the contributors section.

05

WIRE FRAME & PROTOTYPE

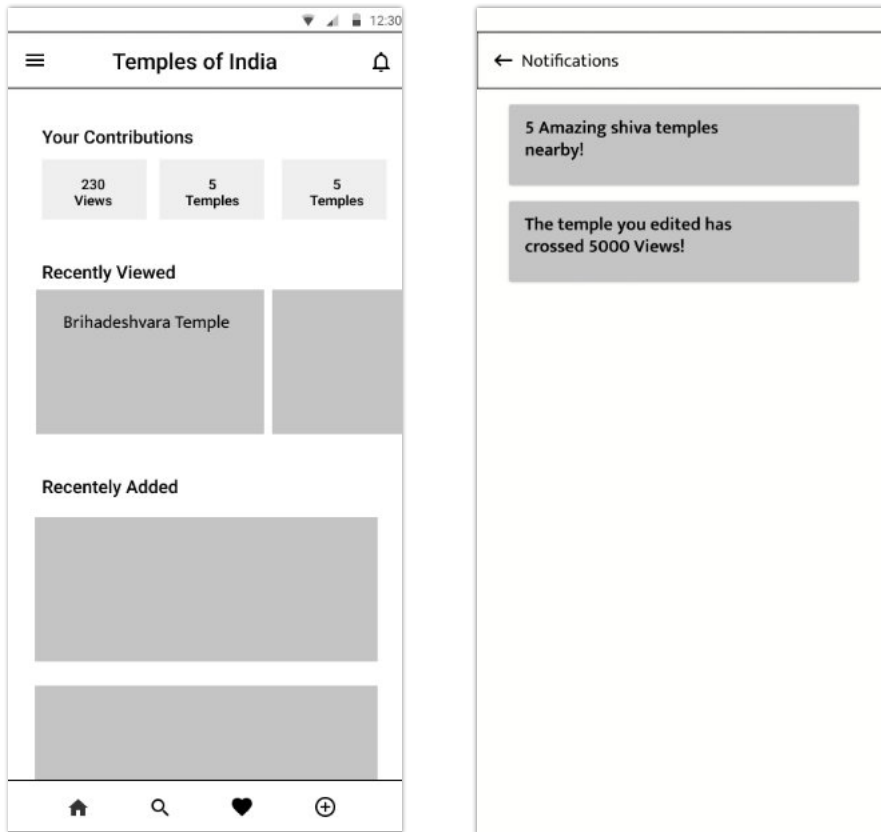
1. Wire frames
2. App with complete visuals

Wire frames

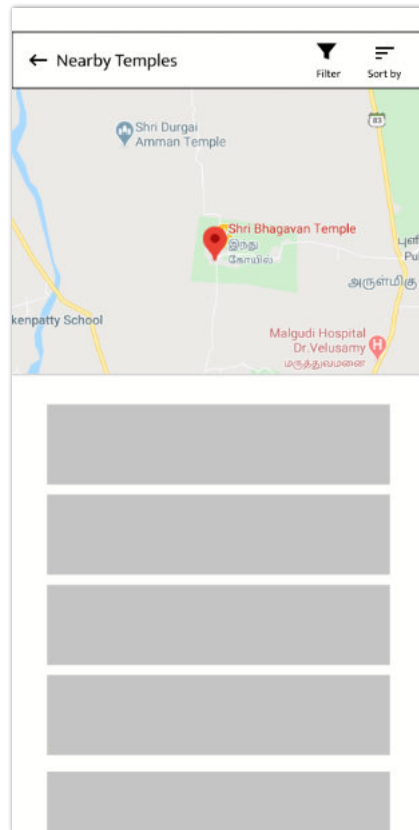
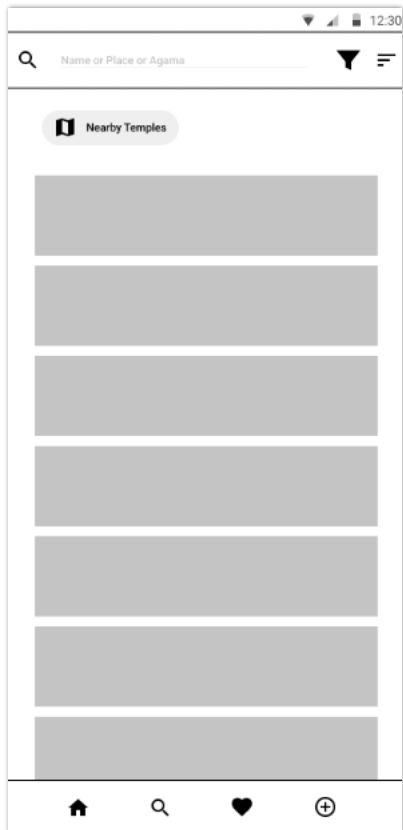
The app has four main pages home, search, favorites and add or edit temple. The app follows a bottom bar to change pages. This is to give a quick switch between pages as in new mobile phones it is increasingly harder to reach the top of the screen.

Home

Homepage contains feed of temples based on user activity. In the top of the page a bar shows statistics of their contribution for individual users. Followed by categories of temples in the feed. Each temple will be displayed as a card with title, an image and a deity name. They are designed to be scrolled in horizontal this temples in the category is exhausted. If the list is in exhaustive or going too long it is opened in a new page with all the temples in the category. Clicking on each temple opens their respective pages as an overlay. As corona has restricted the movement of users many who want to visit their favorite temples are unable to do so and even though the devotees are not visiting temples the poojas are happening as usual in many temples. Already a lot of temples are live streaming their poojas. So a section dedicated to live darshan which sources data from many sources will be available in the home page. And clicking on that will open a new video player to give a non disturbing experience. And in the are buttons to open the side menu and access in app notifications.



Home page on left and
notifications on the right

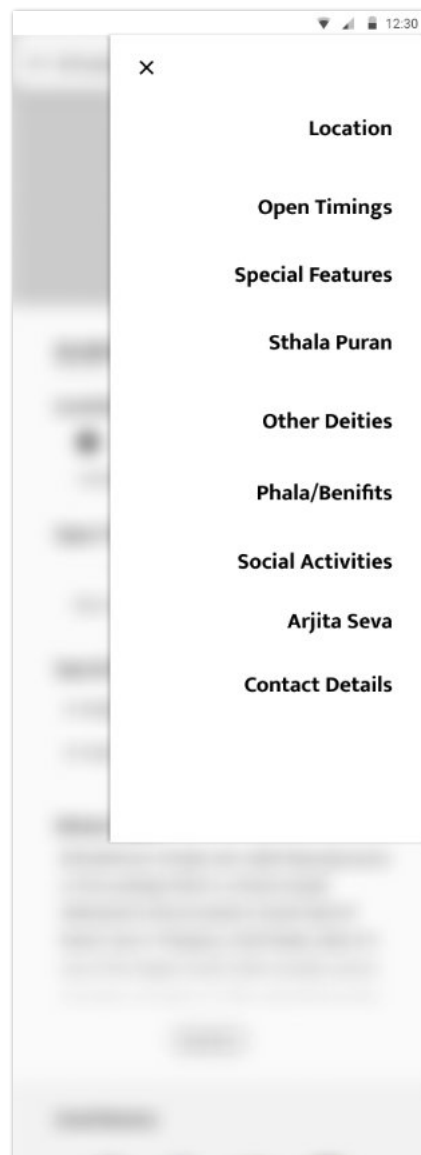
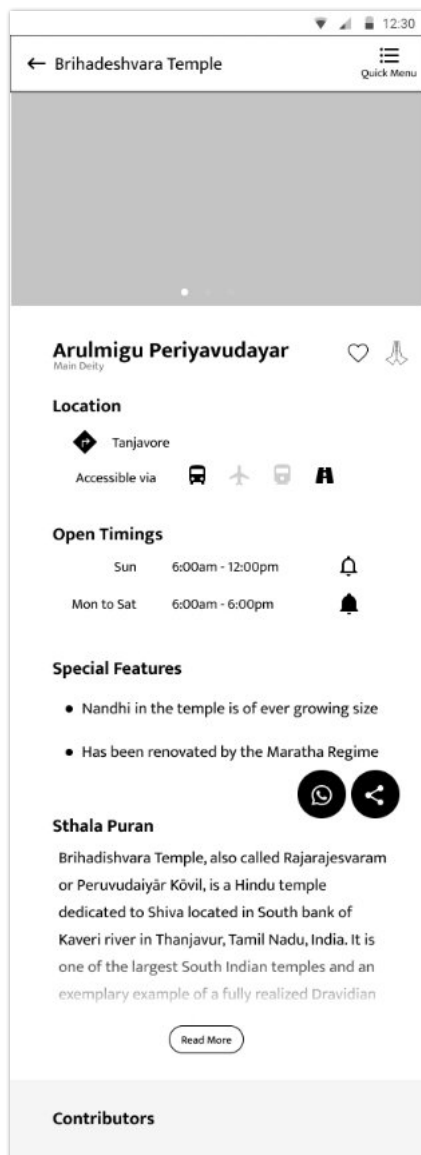


Search

The search has a separate dedicated page as it comes with lots of other features to easily find a temple. The search displays recently searched keywords. There are sort and filter functions to refine the search results. The sort function has sort by distance, name and rating and opens as a bottom popup. The filter function has filter by deva and distance. As the list of devas is very large and as the list of filters will grow more a page will open as a new overlay with filter options. And below the search bar contains a button which will lead to an interactive map which will list nearby temples within 10 km (by default or the zoom level of the map) and these can also be filtered and sorted.

Favorites

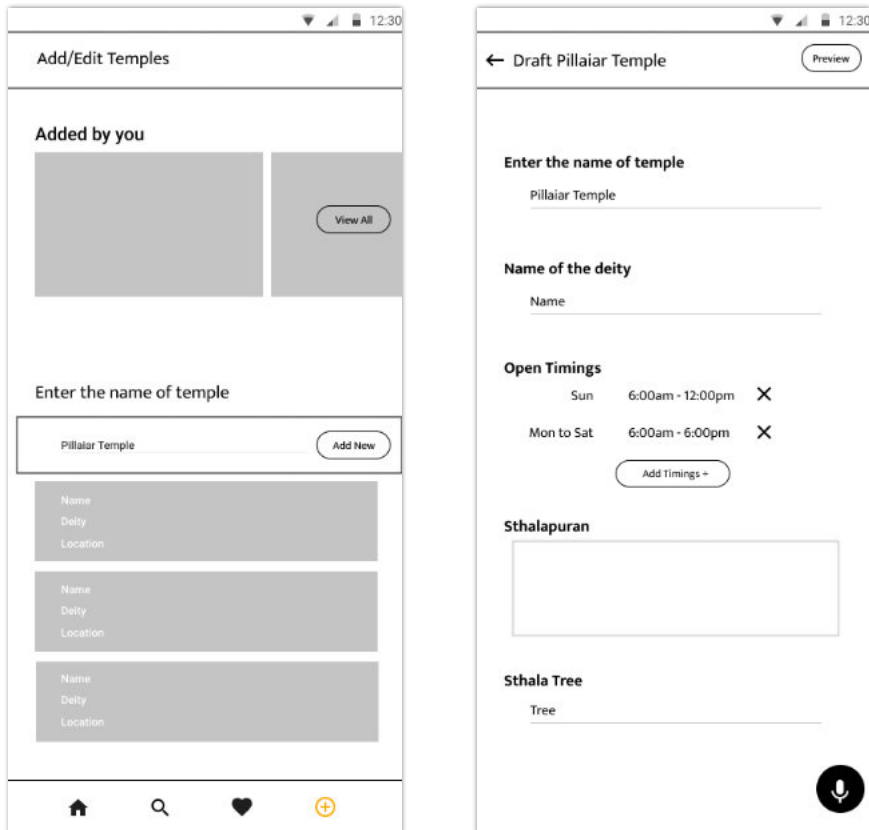
The favorites section will store temples which are favorites by the user and uses the heart icon for favoriting a temple. Favorite temples could be ones which the devotees visited or not. So to keep track of all the temples one has visited there is a visited section like favorites and uses a namaskar sign to bookmark a visit. This page also comes with filter and sort.



View page

Apart from the content order mentioned in the previous chapter. There are other features which are added to this page. In the app a quick menu is added in the title bar clicking on it opens an overlay which titles the content in the page and when a user clicks on the title they are taken to that particular section in the page. Other features include scroll to top and share button. In the location section there is a forward link integrated into the title on click it will take it to the default navigation app installed in the phone. Also edit icons are also integrated near each section to go to edit the page easily. A small microphone to open voice typing is added. Voice typing is very helpful for typing in Indian languages.

View page on left, quick menu on left

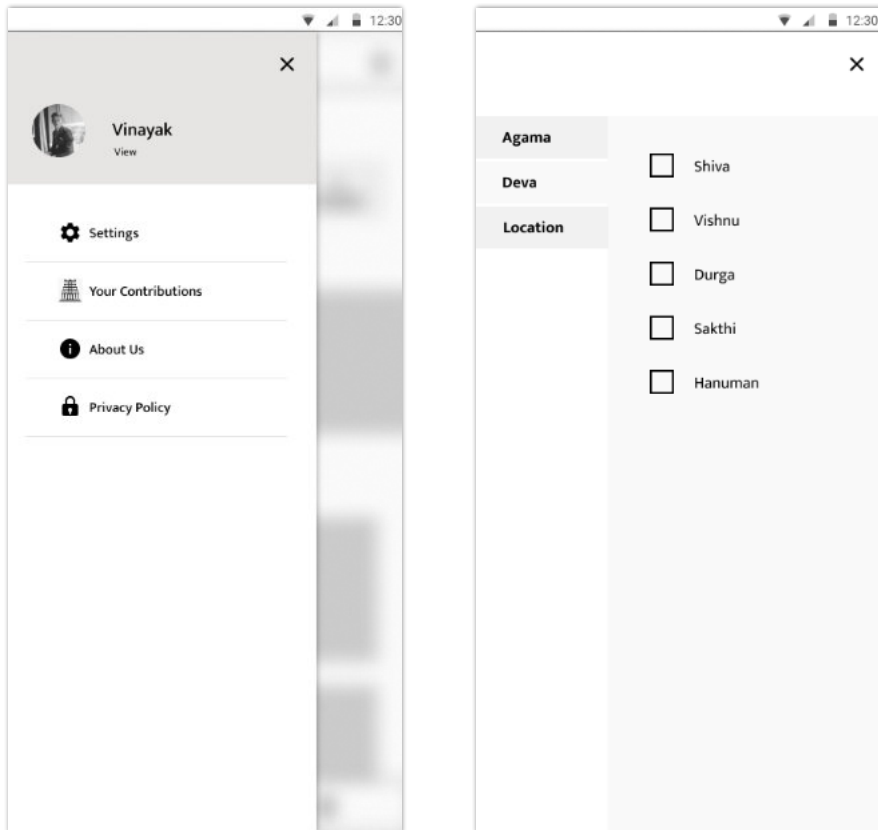


Add or edit temples

This page has a search bar to search for a temple to check whether it exists already. If it exists the temple card will populate in the search results and the cards will lead to edit page. If the temple does not populate in the top of search result then a small frame with entered name and add new button is available, which will lead to new page to add new temple.

Edit page

This page is to be designed in the form of forms sections. Text boxes and text areas for necessary sections, a map selector for location, a special day selector to choose days for timings section. And there are radio button for section either show or hide them.



Burger menu on left, filter on the right

Burger menu

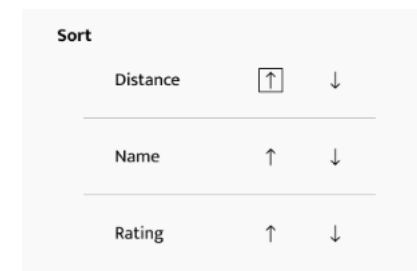
The menu contains links to profile, favorites, visits, contributions, rate us on play store, settings, feedback or feature request, about us and privacy policy. In profile user can edit details, upload photo, reset password. In settings section users can change the language of the app. And feedback section is to gather feedback and do improvements, it will also feature to cater to other grievances also.

Filter

The menu contains categories and selection boxes each category with respective options. In the original design there was a feature to filter by distance but the idea was dropped in development as it takes a lot of computing power in the database to get distance and then sort it.

Sort

An overlay to sort content by distance, name and rating.

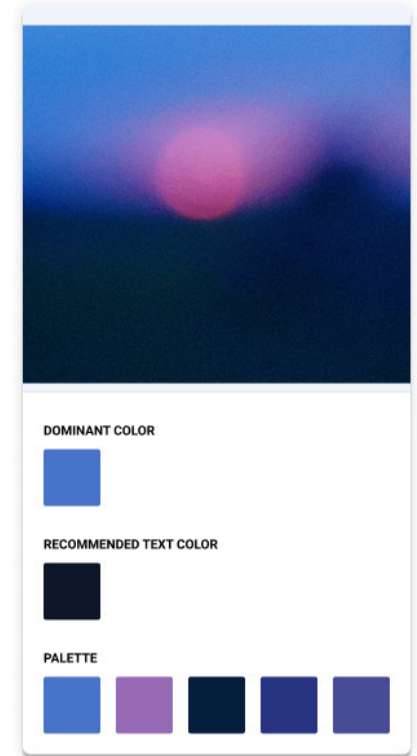
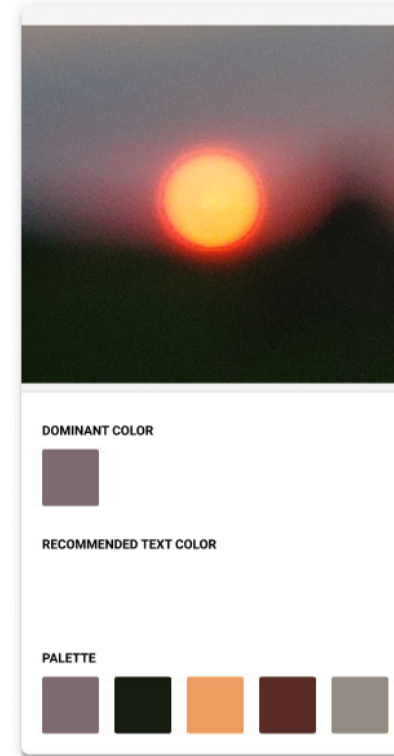
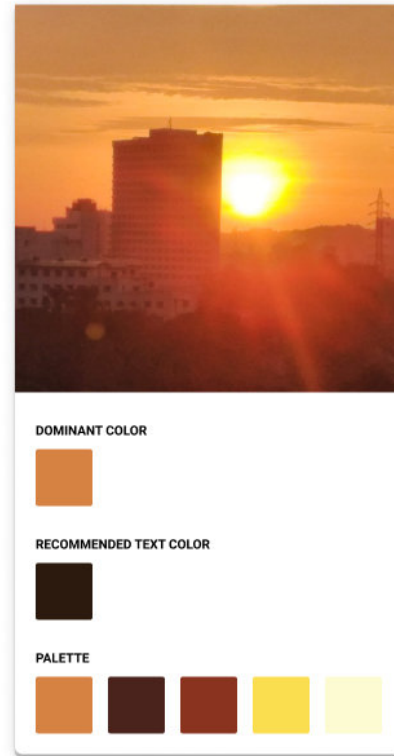
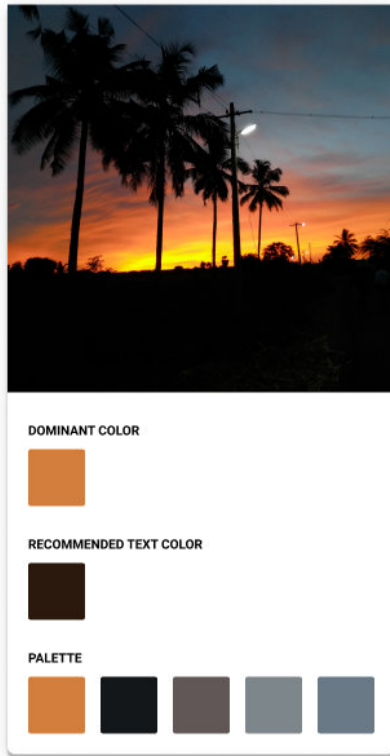


06

VISUALS

1. Visual Guide
2. App
3. Website

Visual Guide: Color Scheme



To create a color palette for the app I had shot a lot of photographs of sun whom I believe has the most beautiful gradients.

Visual Guide: Color Scheme



Main Page Gradient



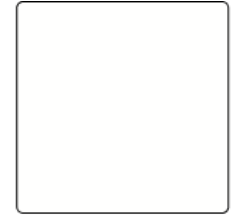
Button Gradient



Primary Color



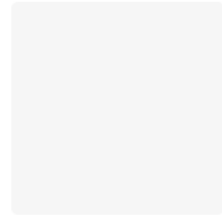
Card Heading Color



Background Tint
Note: It is not White



Popup Dark Background



Filter Page Grey Background



Text Black



Top Bar Color: White



Wrong Field
entry Alert

Visual Guide: Typography

Temples of India

Playfair display

Shtalapuran

Brihadishvara Temple, which is also called Rajarajesvaram or Peruvudaiyār Kōvil, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva located in South bank of Kaveri river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the largest South Indian temples and an exemplary.....

Mukta

Typographic scale

Lorem ipsum dolor (1em)

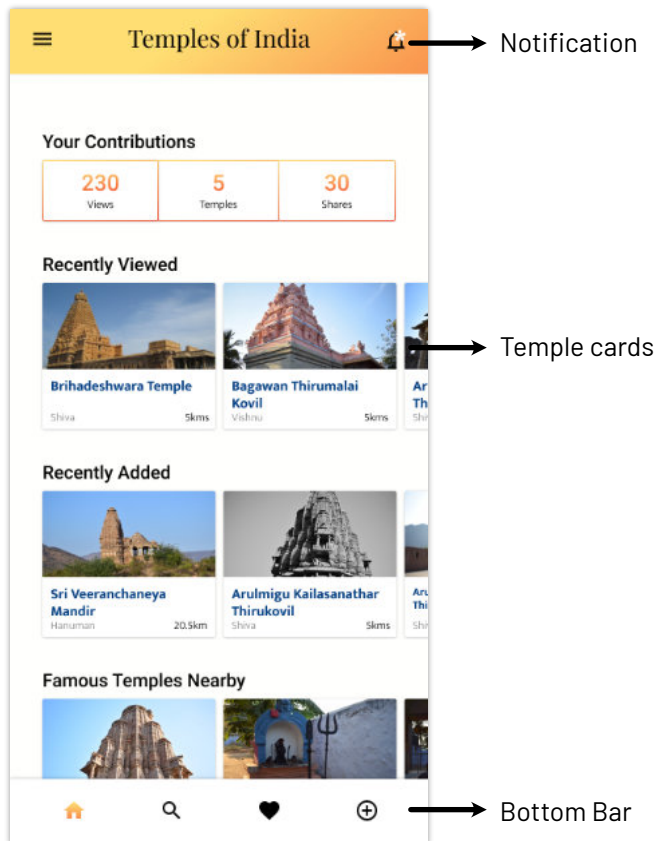
Lorem ipsum dolor (1.25em)

Lorem ipsum dolor (1.563em)

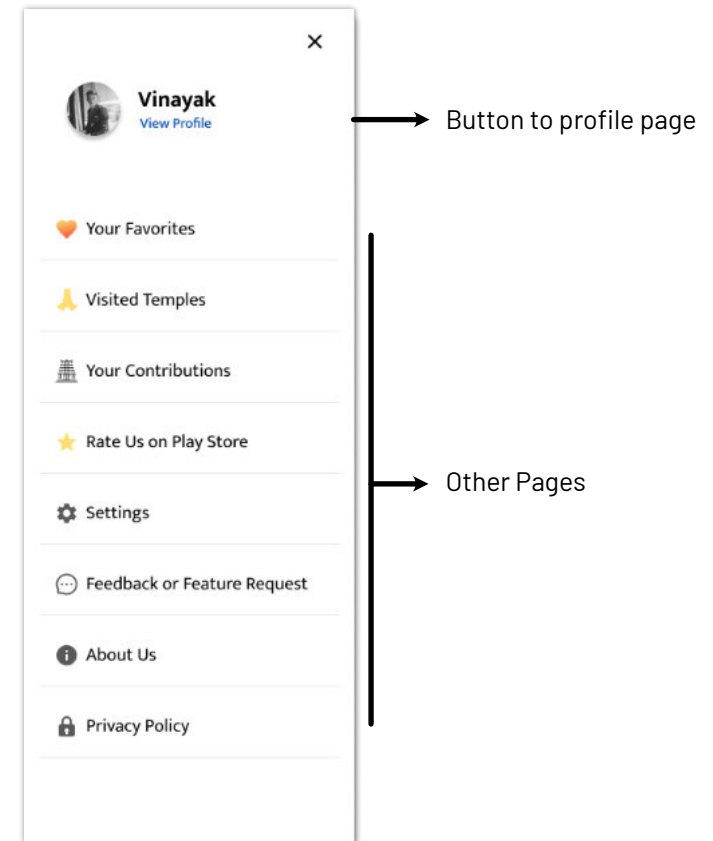
Lorem ipsum dolor (1.953em)

Lorem ipsum dolor (2.441em)

App final design: Main pages

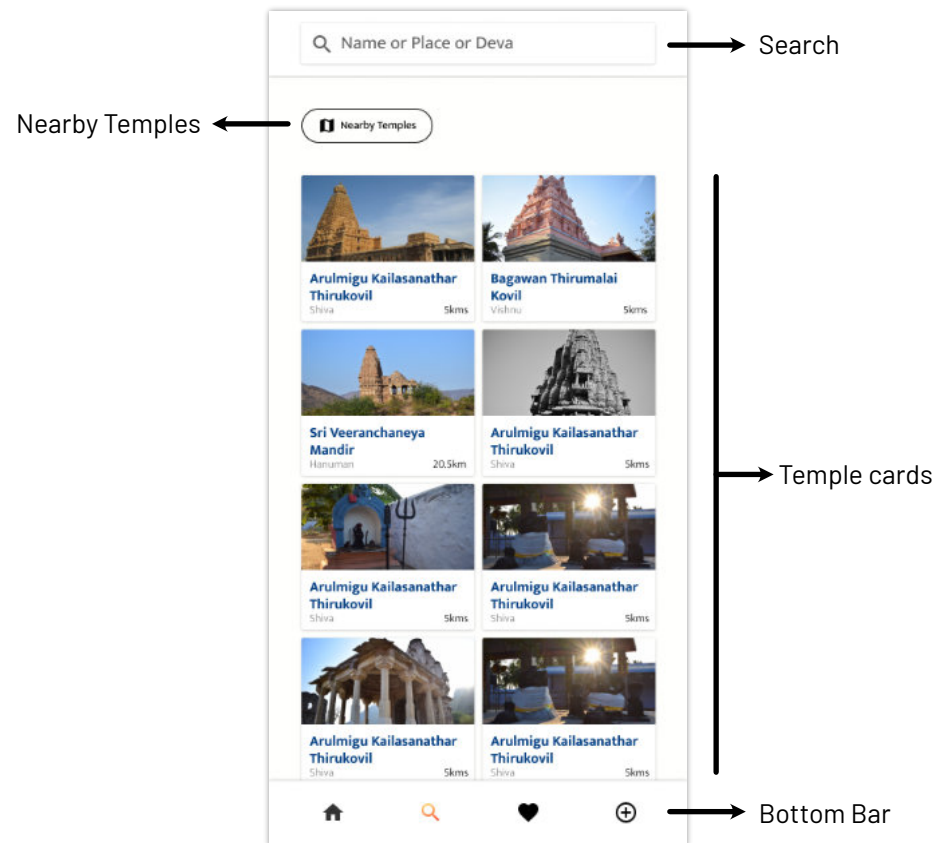


Home

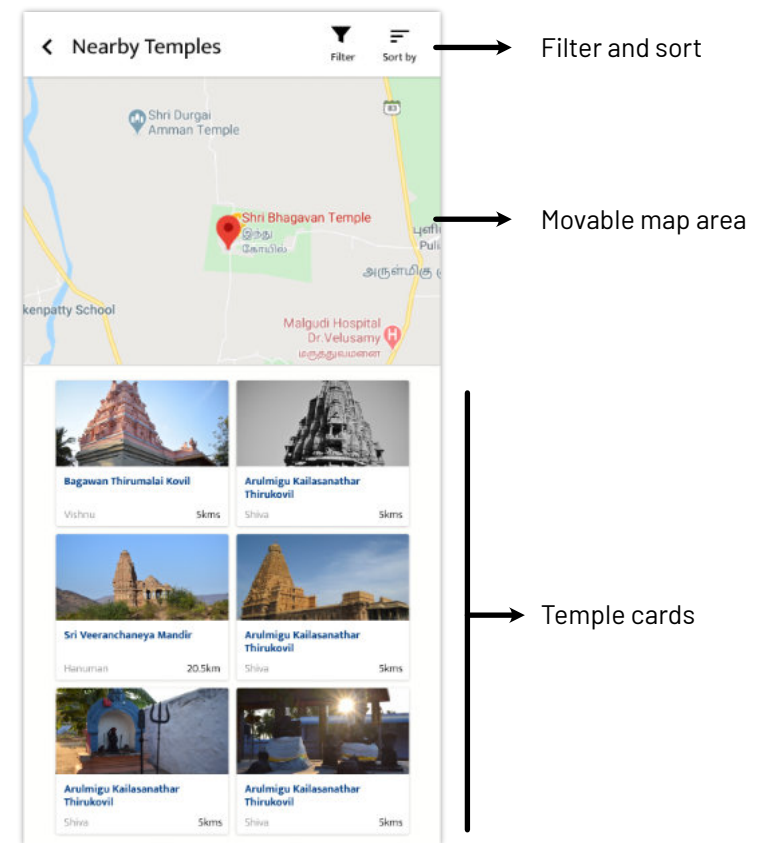


Burger Menu

App final design: Main pages

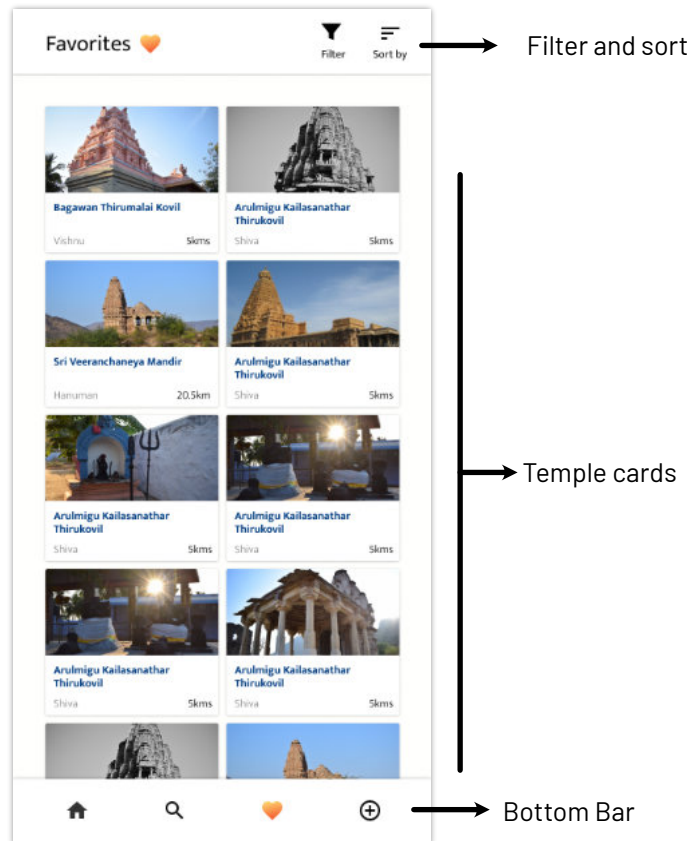


Search

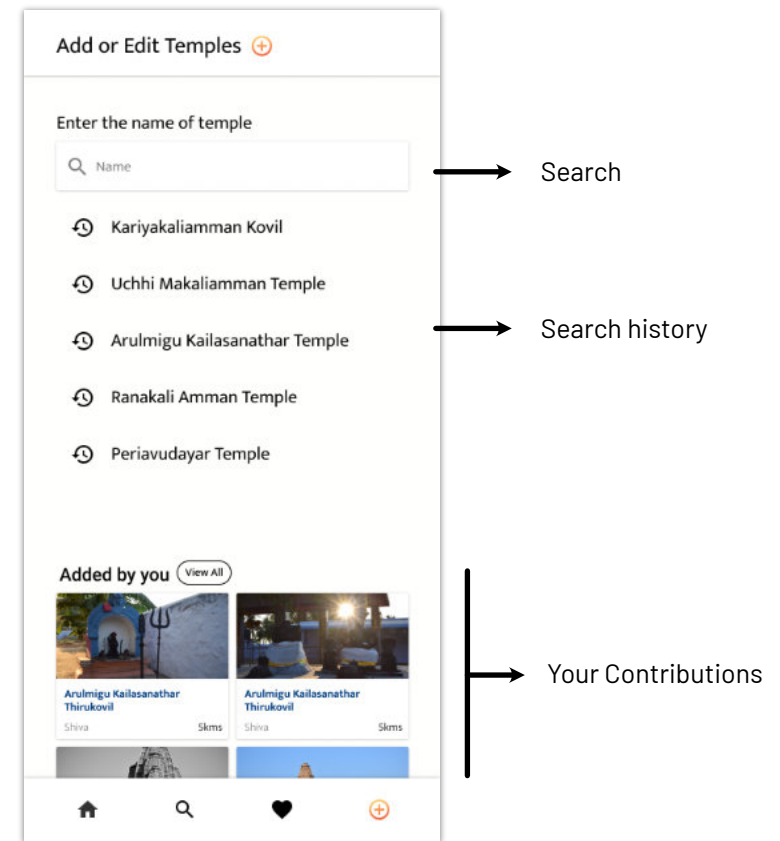


Nearby Temples

App final design: Main pages

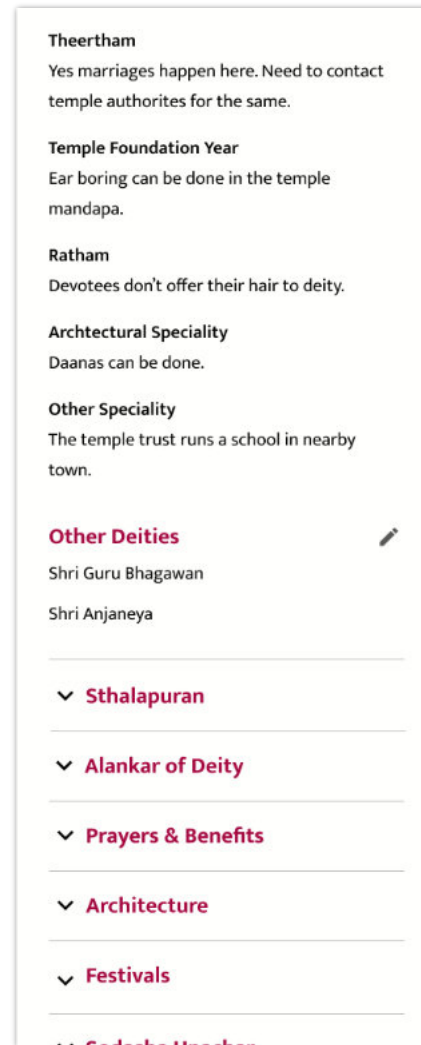
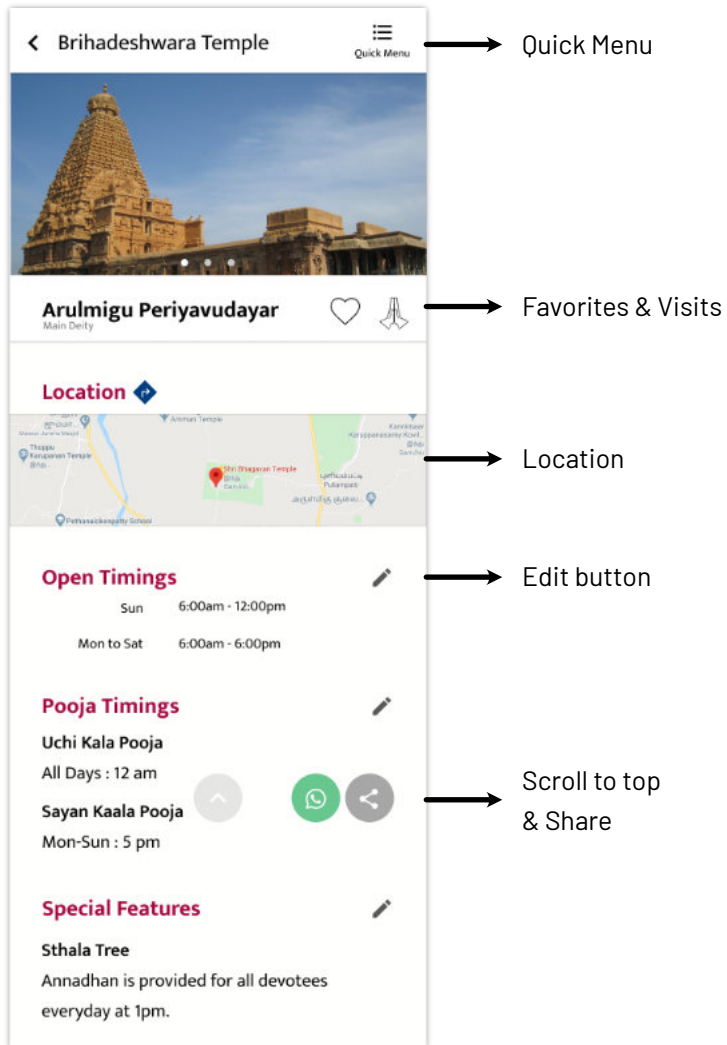


Favorites

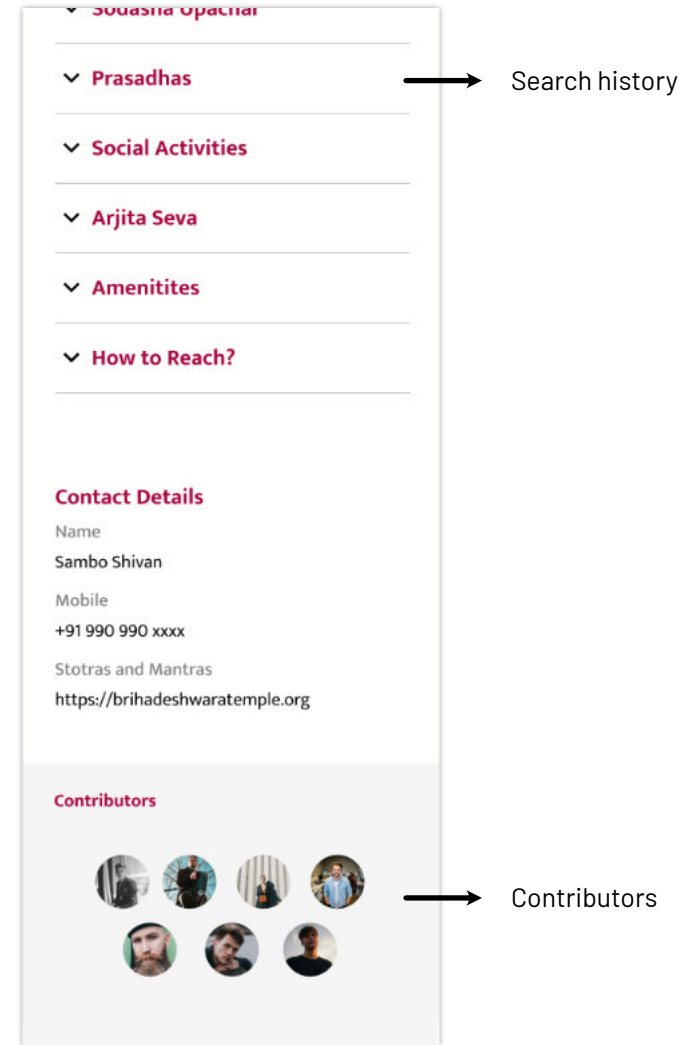


Add/Edit Temples

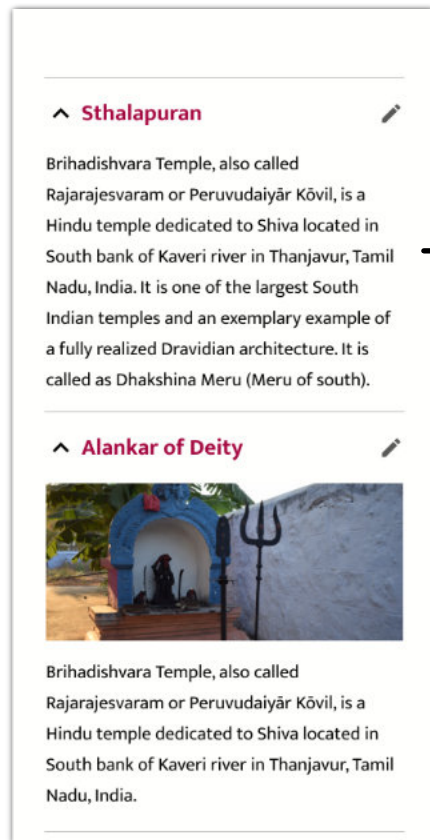
App final design: Main pages



View page compact



App final design: Main pages



Favorites

Expanded content



Add/Edit Templates

Button scrolls to content

App final design: Main pages

Edit Preview

Photos & Videos View All Photos

Enter the name of temple
Name

Name of the deity
Name

Location
Location

Open Timings

Sun	6:00am - 12:00pm	X
Mon to Sat	6:00am - 6:00pm	X

Add Timings

Pooja Timings

Annotations:

- Preview
- View photos
- Opens Map overlay
- Opens Voice Keyboard

Edit page

6.30 pm ⌚ Rama Navami X

All days

Time ⌚ Mon X

All days

Add Pooja

Special Features

Sthala Tree? Yes ☒ No ☐
Sthala Tree

Theertham? Yes ☒ No ☐
Sthala Tree

Age of Temple? Yes ☒ No ☐
Sthala Tree

Ratham? Yes ☒ No ☐
Sthala Tree

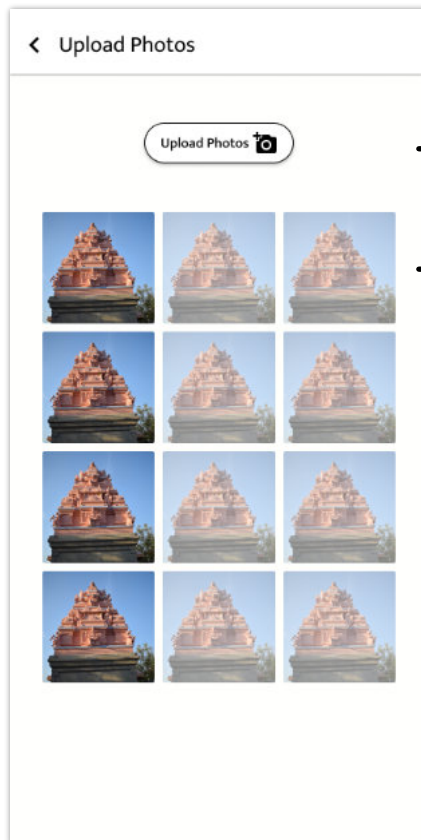
Architecture Speciality? Yes ☒ No ☐
Sthala Tree

Annotations:

- Add Multiple entries
- Turn off to hide field

Edit page

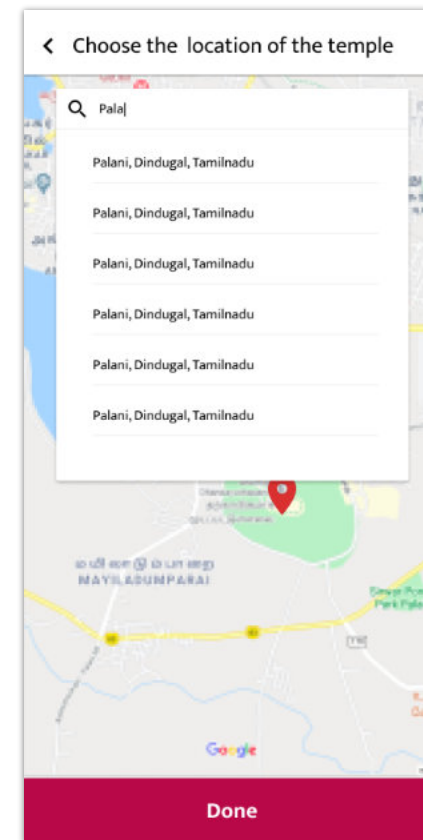
App final design: Main pages



Upload Photos

→ Upload photos

→ Opacity for progress



Location Picker

→ Search

→ Tap to Pick

→ Submit

App final design: Main pages

The screenshot shows the 'Draft Pillaiar Temple' app interface. At the top, there's a back arrow and a 'Preview' button. Below is a form with 'Enter the name of temple' and 'Name of the deity'. A 'Pick Days' modal is open, displaying buttons for 'All Days', 'Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Wednesday', 'Thursday', 'Friday', 'Saturday', and 'Sunday'. The 'Wednesday' button is highlighted in red. A 'Done' button is at the bottom of the modal. Below the modal, there's an 'Add Timings +' button. At the bottom, there's a 'Pooja Timings' section with a time picker (6:30 pm) and a day selector (Rama Navami).

Day Picker

→ Day Buttons

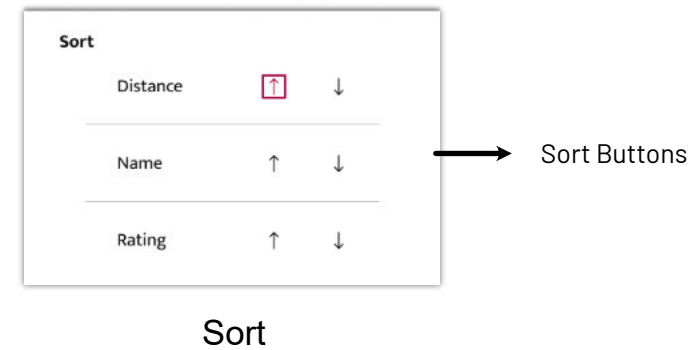
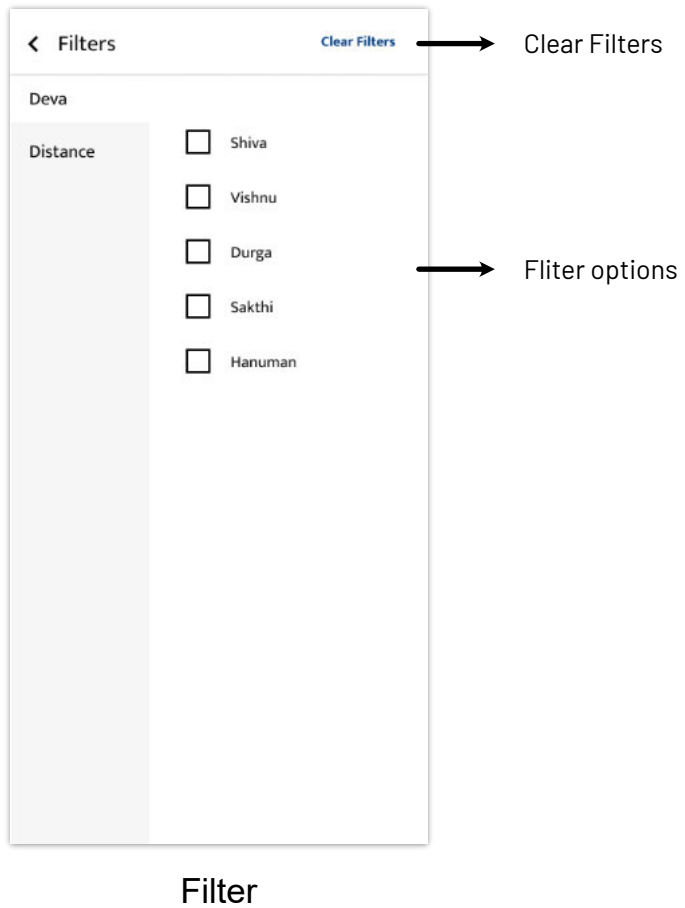
The screenshot shows the 'Open Timings' app interface. At the top, there's a back arrow and the title 'Open Timings'. Below is a question 'All days have same opening time?' with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons. The 'No' button is selected. Below this is a list of days with 'Open' and 'Close' time pickers. The 'Sunday' row has 'Open' and 'Close' buttons. The 'Monday' row has '6:30 am' and 'Close' buttons. The 'Tuesday' row has 'Open' and 'Close' buttons. The 'Wednesday' row has 'Open' and 'Close' buttons. Each row has an 'Add More Timings' button and a close button (X). At the bottom, there's a 'Submit' button.

Open Timings Picker

→ Tap to Pick

→ Submit

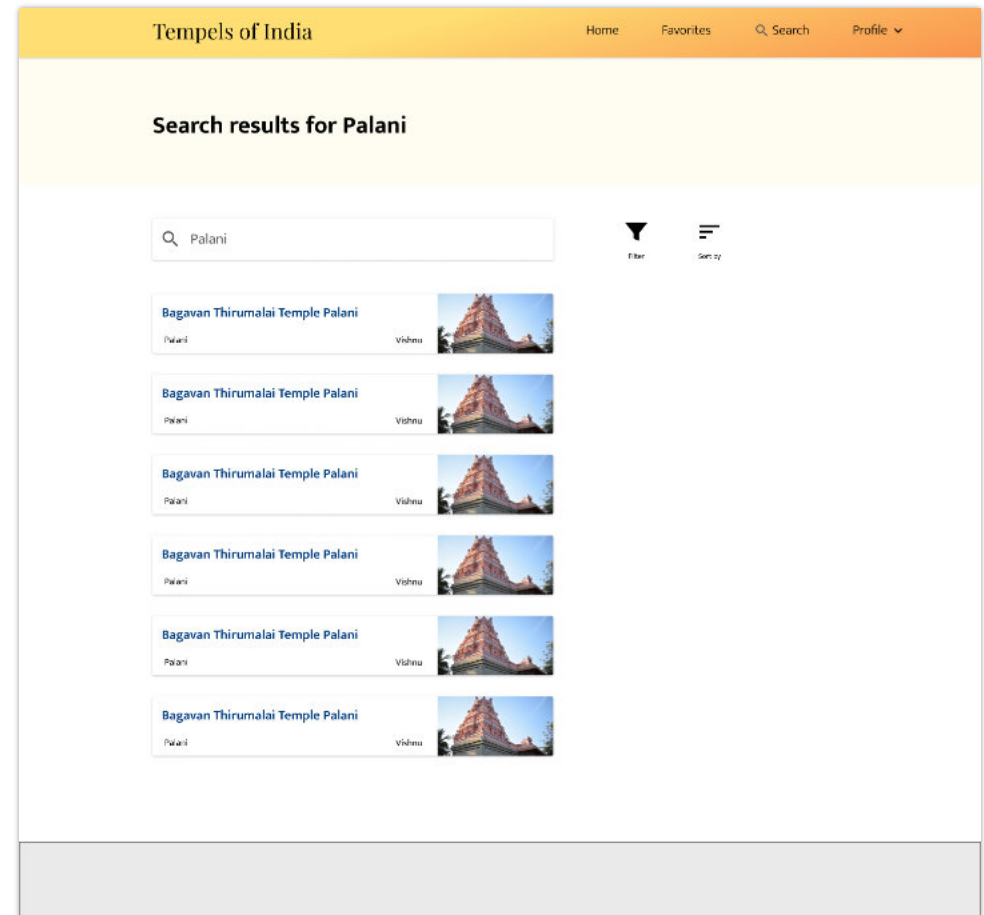
App final design: Main pages



Web final design: Main pages

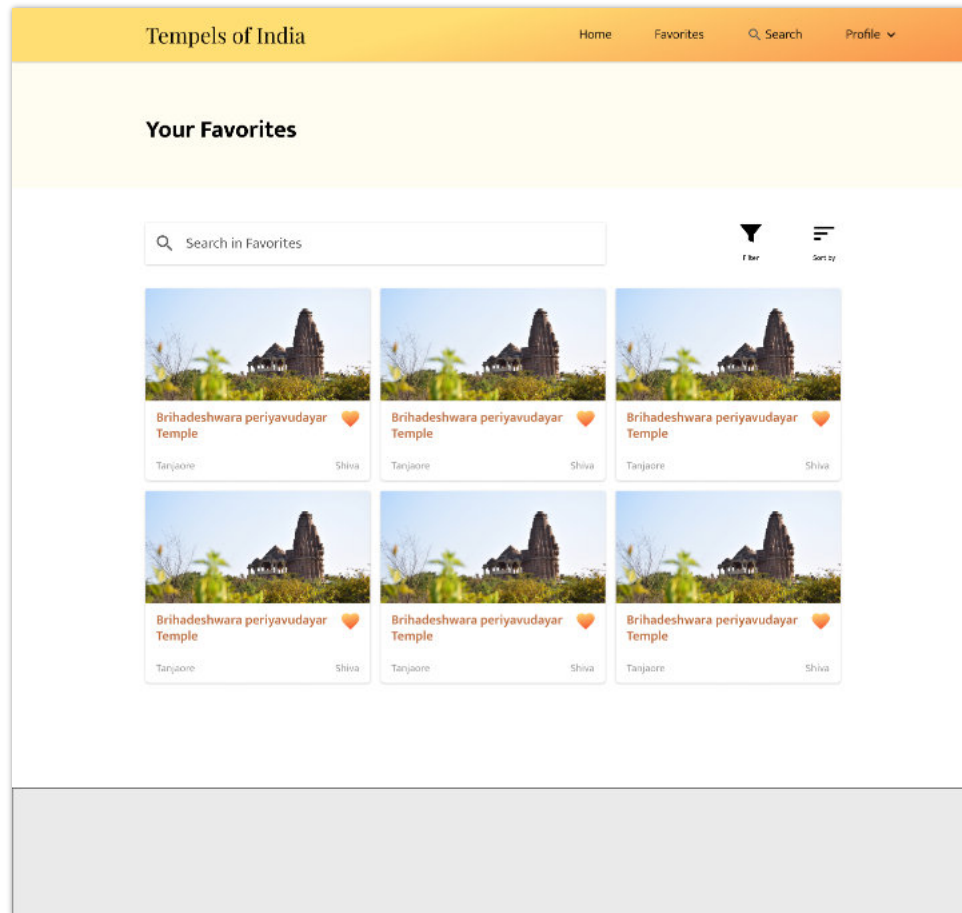


Homepage

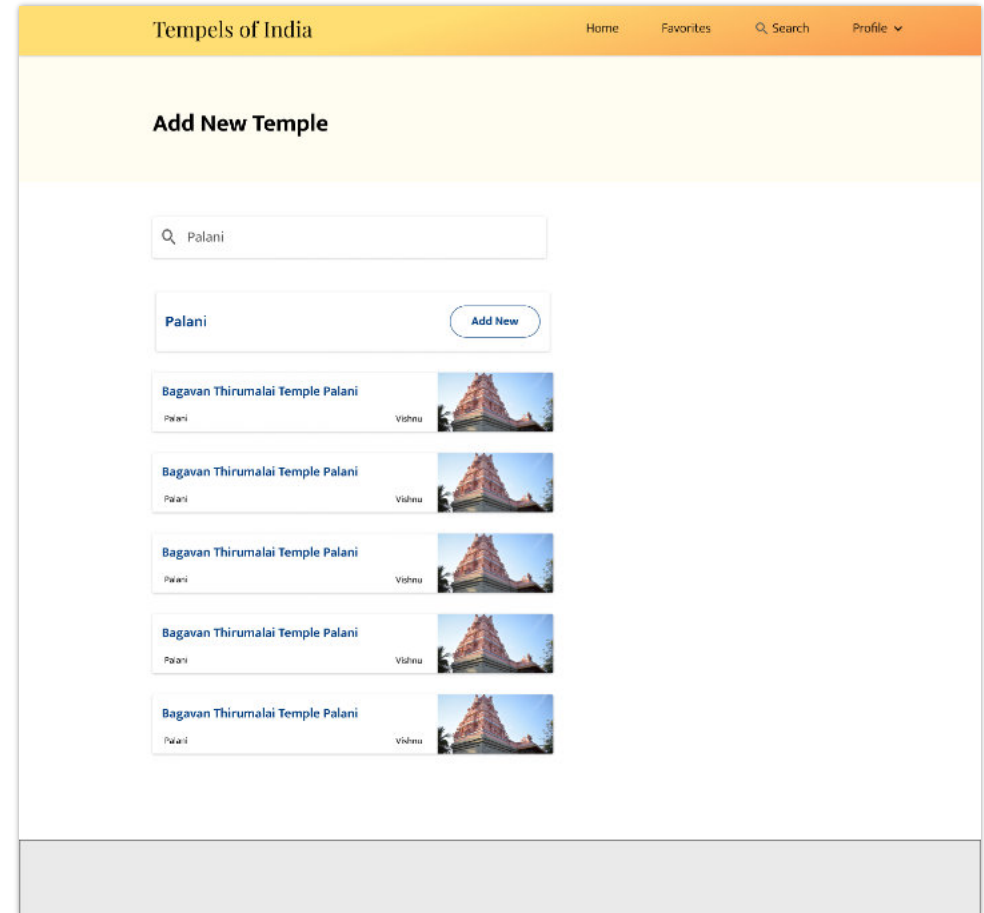


Search

Web final design: Main pages

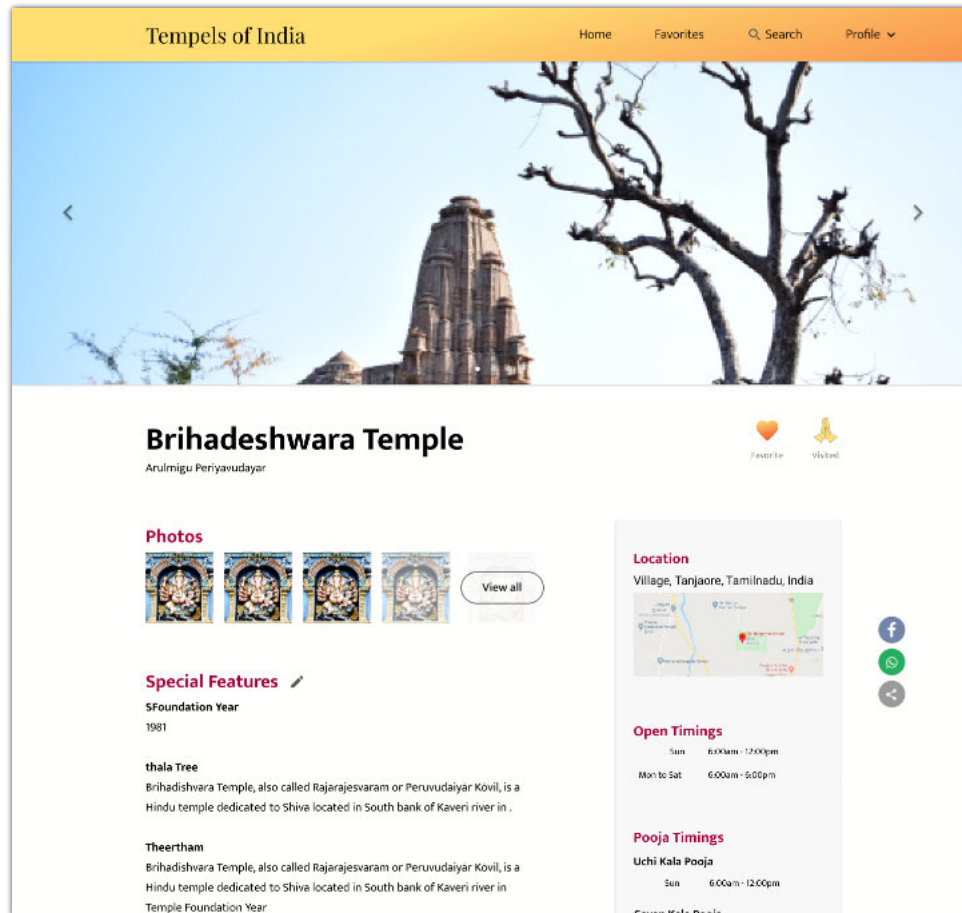


Favorites

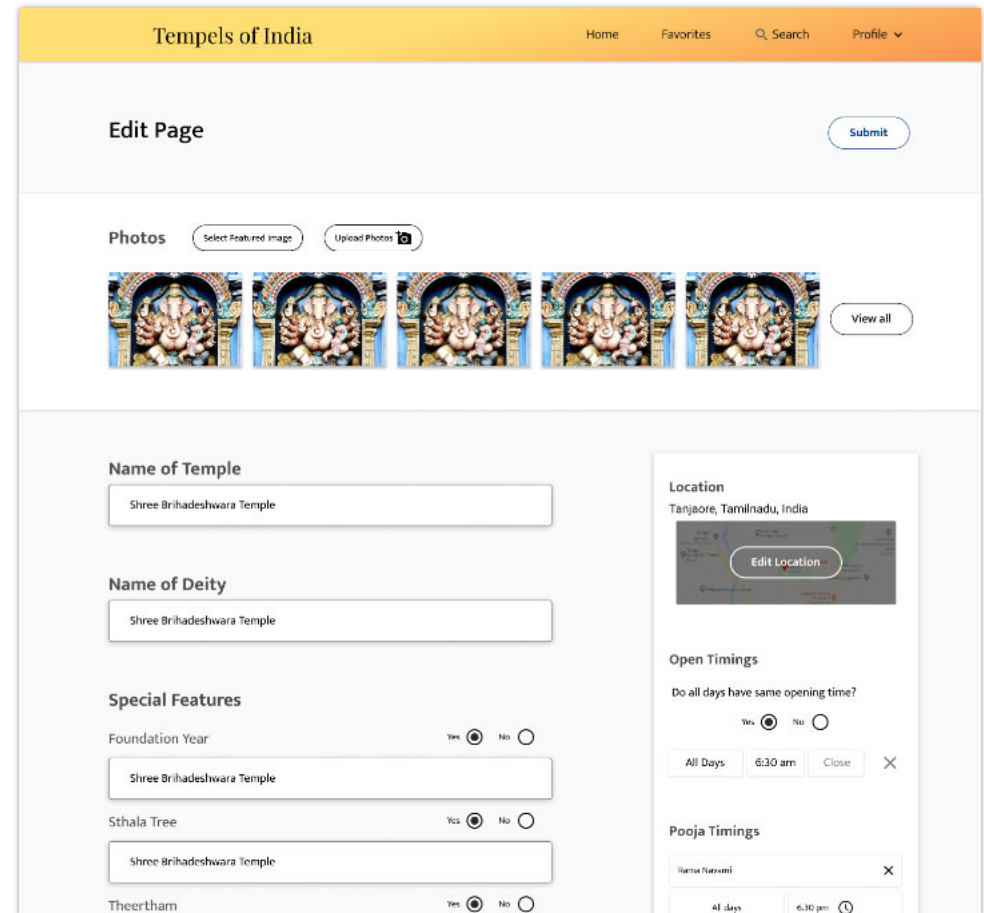


Add Temple

Web final design: Main pages



Temple View



Temple Edit

Prototypes



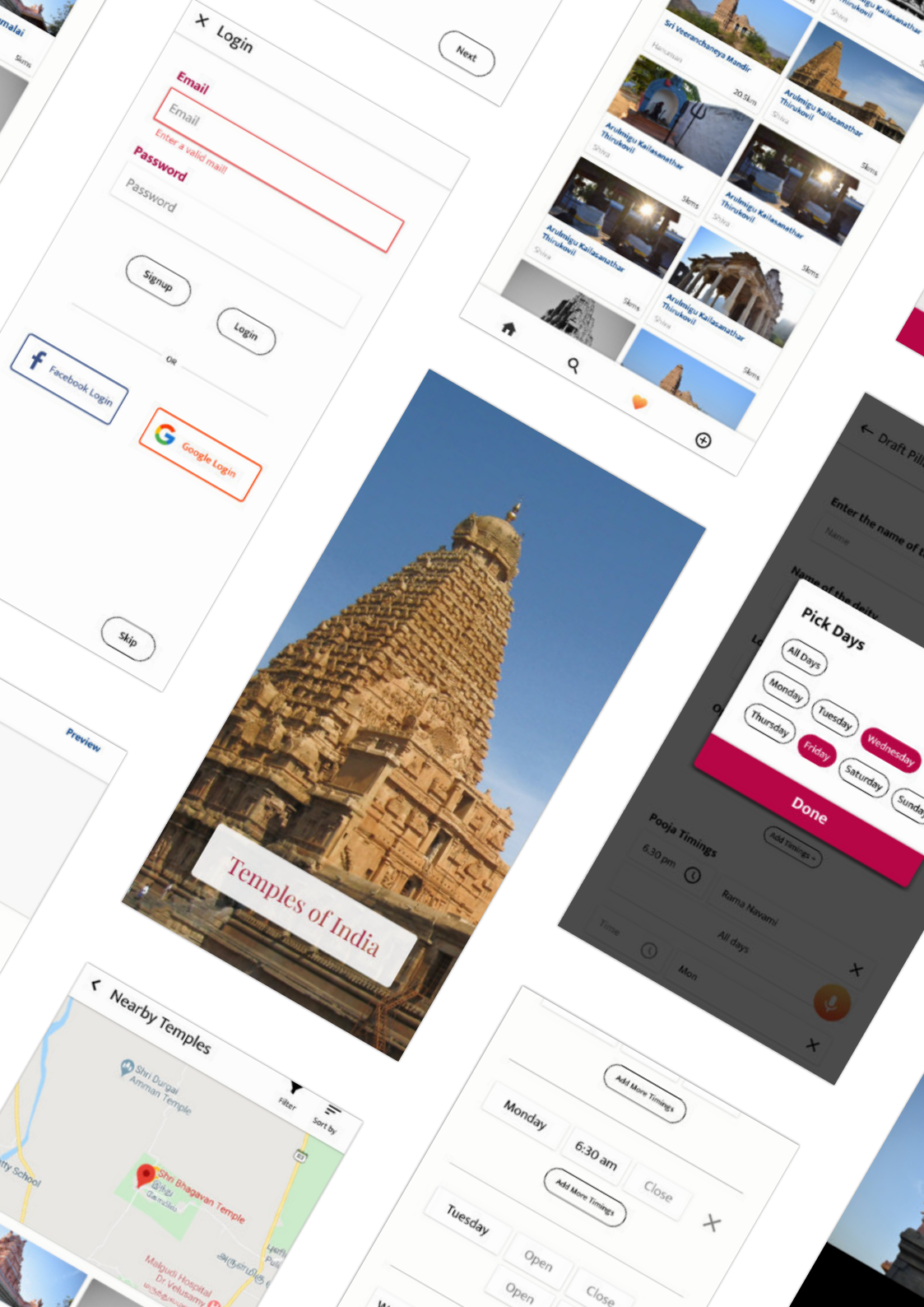
Try App



Try Web

07 **FINAL NOTES**

1. Conclusion



Conclusion

Currently the design for version 1 is ready by end of the academic project. This version focuses on basic features needed for a user to contribute and view. And simultaneously the development was also going on during course of lock down and the apps are hoped to ready soon within June and and available for testing. I personally enjoyed working with node js which could be useful for development for other designers too. Apart from the development part a lot of content strategy is needed to be done to kick start the database. There are data of hundreds of temples already there in the database. Some volunteers are ready to contribute the very first temples in the app, which they are currently doing in the offline medium. To invoke a lot of other people to contribute first idea is to ask people to populate their *kuldevas* who are very personal to them.

You can access the website via [this link](#) and hopefully app will be added to play store and currently there the plan to launch to ios will through progressive web apps thanks to Prof. Aniruddha Joshi for this idea. I hope this app does help many devotees and to successively run this in coming times. If any of you reading this is excited in temples please help in contributing to the app by adding temples. The aim is to maintain it without ads. I sincerely thank Prof.Ravi Pooviah for helping me throughout.

08

REFERENCES & APPENDIX

1. List of Links
2. Images
3. Technologies Used

List of links

The following page contains lists of links of app, websites, and survey links I used to refer during the course of project.

1. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thiruchendur_Murugan_temple
2. www.tiruchendurmurugantemple.tnhrcce.in
3. tiruchendur.org
4. <https://thechurchatpowai.com/>
5. <http://holytrinitychurchpowai.com>
6. <https://www.kobotoolbox.org/>
7. www.surveymonkey.com
8. <https://www.questionpro.com/t/AQGmbZgfFD>
9. <https://www.questionpro.com/t/PGpJgZgfFD>
10. <https://stjosephpowai.com>
11. Logo-logos.com

Images

- (Cover Image, 1, 4, 5, 6, photographed by Jayaramakrishnan, A. 2020)
- (2, photographed by vickyavw, CC from [wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Thiruchendur_Murugan_temple.jpg))
- (3 By Sanket901 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=51063647>)
- (all screenshots by Jayaramakrishnan, A. 2020)

Technologies used

Android app	Kotlin
App Back end	Tomcat
Web	Nodejs
View engine	ejs
Caching	Redis DB

Thank  You