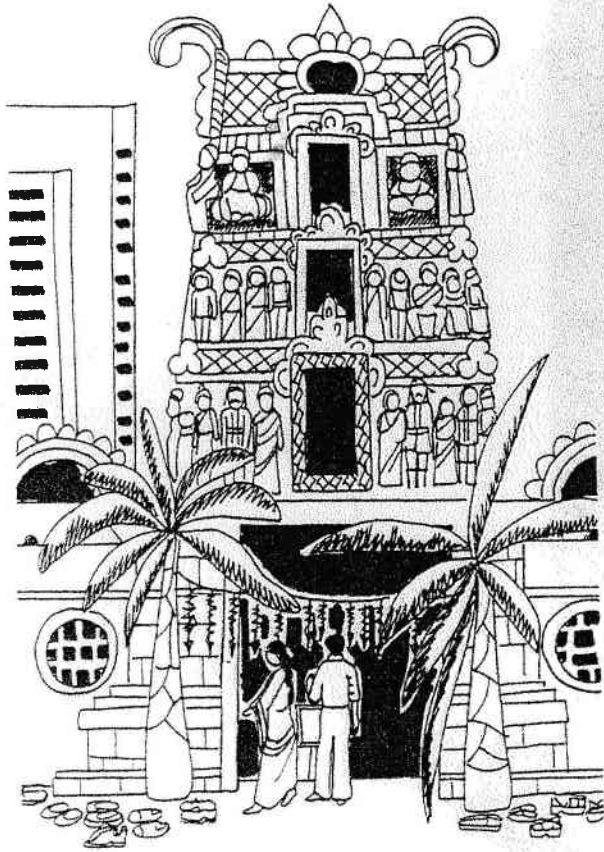


Namaste (Hello). It is Ravi again to tell you about the temples where Hindus worship. These temples are called mandirs.



There are many mandirs in India - some are huge and famous buildings which attract thousands of worshippers every week. Other mandirs are small buildings which are used by small groups of worshippers.

Some mandirs are decorated with statues of the gods and goddesses. This reminds Hindus that Brahman, the Great Power, is everywhere and is represented by many different gods.

Before entering the mandir people take off their shoes and leave them at the entrance. Women cover their heads. These are signs of respect. There is usually a bell at the entrance of the mandir which is rung as people enter and leave the temple.

Hindus usually worship individually or in small groups. The priest may offer prayers in front of a small group of worshippers. The name for worship is 'puja'.

by Ravi