

Report on the Activities and Achievements of the UBRANGALA SRI MAHADEVA PARVATHI TEMPLE

RENOVATION COMMITTEE

Ubrangala Sri Mahadeva Parvathi Temple is a famous and ancient temple in Kasaragod Taluk. The presiding deities of the temple are Lord Mahadeva and Goddess Parvathi. Besides these deities, there are four other deities, viz Lord Shastara (Ayyappan), Lord Subrahmanya, Lord Sri Ganapathi and Lord Parashurama. The legend says that Lord Parashurama did penance here and Gods gave him Darshan. At that place a temple was constructed. But about 300 years ago the said temple was destroyed by the enemies. Though temporary repairs were effected and Poojas and Festivals were being conducted, the temple buildings were subjected to further deterioration.

Early in 1970 'Astamangala Prashnam' was held by the famous Astrologer Sri Pudusseri Vishnu Namboodiri, and after knowing the past, present and future of the place, according to the astrological predictions, a Renovation committee was formed under my presidentship.

After the formation of the Renovation committee, 'Anujna Kalasham' was performed on 8-2-1971 by Late Sri Delampady Subraya Thantri in the presence of His Holiness Sri Keshavananda Bharathi Swamiji of Edneer Mutt. On 3-3-1971 His Holiness Swamiji of Edneer Mutt laid the foundation stone for Shrikoil

(Garbha Griham) of the temple. On 11-5-1971 His Holiness Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Sringeri Mutt Sri Sri Madabhinava Vidyathirtha Shankaracharya Swamiji visited the temple and blessed the venture. In December, 1980 His Holiness the Swamiji of Sri Ramachandrapura Mutt was pleased to visit the temple and appreciated the work done so far. In February 1981 His Holiness the Swamiji of Sri Pejawara Mutt and His Holiness the Swamiji of Sri Subrahmanya Mutt also visited the temple and blessed our venture.

In August 1972 during the Onam vacation, the President of the committee visited Bombay and formed an Unit of the Renovation Committee there, under the Presidentship of Smt. Dr. U. Lalitha Rao (at present an M.L.A. of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly) with Sri S. M. Tholpady as the secretary. The committee consisted of eminent men of South Kanara in Bombay. In February 1973, the committee at Bombay arranged a benefit show and collected a net profit of Rs. 6000/- for the temple. Our Renovation committee places on record its appreciation for the efforts made by the Bombay committee.

The President of the committee and the Trustee of the temple with Sri U. Mahalinga Bhat thereafter visited Coorg

and Bangalore and collected donations from various religious minded and philanthropic persons. In 1977 the President and Sri K. Mohan Rao went to Madras and approached very many leading personalities in Madras city, who were generous enough to liberally donate their mite to the noble cause. The President also visited Shimoga town in the company of Sri K. Mohan Rao and Sri B. D. K. Rao, chartered accountant in Shimoga (who rendered great assistance to the collection drive) and the Renovation committee received good response from the citizens of Shimoga and places on Record the help rendered by Sri K. Mohan Rao and Sri B. D. K. Rao.

In 1980, a comprehensive committee was formed with a view to celebrate 'Neveekarana Prathishta Brahma Kalasha'.

It is gratifying to note that the villagers, especially the Yadava Sangha, (Ayar Sangha) and Yadava Seva Sangha, came forward to do 'Shramadan' work, viz, digging a tank and also levelling the premises of the temple. By the untiring efforts of the Ubrangala Yadava Sangha the digging of the tank was completed which has got perennial water supply. The difficulties experienced for want of water which was a problem, was solved by the noble service rendered by the Yadava Sangha

The generous people of Karnataka state, Kasaragod and Kanhangad Taluks, of Ernakulam and Calicut etc. have offered their valuable contributions, which help is also appreciated by the Renovation Committee.

In the beginning stages of Renovation, the residents of Uppangala under

the leadership of Sri U. Vasudeva Bhat, Uppangala have done memorable service and thanks are due to them. Of late, the members of Theeya Samaj have levelled and improved the northern Anganam, and the Southern Anganam has been improved by the volunteers of local RSS Unit. Our sincere thanks are offered to them also.

We place on Record our gratitude for the help rendered by Sri D. Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Sri Manjunatheshwara Temple, Dharmasthala, who was pleased to visit the temple and laid foundation for the Eastern Gopuram and donated liberally to the noble cause. Similarly the committee expresses its gratitude to T. V. S. charities for donating Rs. 10,000/-. We will be failing in our duty if we do not mention the great help rendered by Sri T. Gopala Bhandary, Sudarshan Tile works, Mangalore, who was kind enough to donate entire quantity of Tiles required for the temple structures, besides cash donations. We remember with gratitude, late Sri H. Srinivas Pai, Jeweller, Mangalore who was pleased to meet the entire cost of the 18 granite steps for the temple and the late Sri K. K. Irniraya who gave the timber required for the Upper roof of the Shreekoil.

We will be failing in our duty if we do not make mention of the help rendered by Sri T. R. Mahalingam, flutist who gave a benefit performance in 1975 in Town Hall, Mangalore.

We cannot afford to forget the great help rendered by Sri B. Sundara Rao, Managing Partner of Taj Mahal Group of

Hotels and Sri B. Seetharama Rao of Dwaraka Hotel, Hyderabad. They were not only generous in their donations but were very hospitable also. Thanks to them and to other donors of Hyderabad.

A large number of people have come forward with liberal donations for the Pooja Scheme initiated by the committee. The Scheme envisages a Pooja being performed every year in the name of the donor who is pleased to donate Rs. 250. or more.

To raise funds, a Lucky dip lottery was also held in 1972 for which people co-operated magnanimously.

Some of the members of Kodoth Tharavaad, who have renovation of several temples to their credit, have been of great assistance to the committee. Their encouraging words and liberal donations have gone a long way in the execution of the Renovation work and celebration of '**Brahmakalasha**' ceremonies.

Thanks are due to Shilpies viz Sri Renjala Gopalakrishna Shenoy, Sri Shamaraya Acharya of Karkala, Sri Shankaranarayanan of chundanbutta and late Sri Nanu of Nileshwar for the beautiful and attractive granite works, Idols Nandi and Dwarapalakas. Similarly thanks are due to the carpenters, late Sri Shankarama Varman and Sri Chatu Kerala Varman and their assistants for the wooden work. Committee expresses its gratitude for the good stone work done by masons lead by Sri T. V. Kunhambu Maistry and Sri Ananda Maistry.

We also remember with respect late Sri Aroor Krishnamoorthy Rao who

expressed appreciation of our work and offered assistance for the renovation work. Similarly we cannot forget the help rendered by Shankara Vittal Motor Service Co., and its sister concerns.

I regret very much to mention the sad and the sudden demise of one of the secretaries of the committee Sri U Krishna Bhat. We pray for the eternal peace to his soul. He was a guiding star of the activities of the committee and his loss could not be replaced so far. We are really sad to mention that some of the carpenters and masons have died, since the starting of the renovation work in the temple. While the committee places on Record its appreciation of the service rendered by the deceased especially, Sri Govinda Rama Varama, Shankara Rama Varma and Narayana Maistry and pray for peace to their Souls.

The other members of the committee especially the Vice-presidents, the treasurers and the Secretary Sri Ch. Krishna Bhat and the Trustee of the temple have been doing their best to see the completion of the renovation work and the successful performance of the Naveekarana Prathishta Brahmakalasha in spite of heavy odds.

Hearty thanks are due to the press especially to 'The Hindu', 'Indian Express', 'Deccan Herald', 'Udayavani', 'Navabharatha', 'Mathrubhumi', 'Malayala Manorama', 'Caraval', 'Prajavani', 'Sudha' and 'Kannada Prabha' for giving write up in their dailies. We remember with gratitude the local correspondents for their co-operation.

With respect we express our deep sense of gratitude to His Holiness Sri Keshavananda Bharathi Swamiji of Edneer Mutt for the Valuable guidance and advice rendered from the beginning of the Renovation work. Thanks are due to Dr. P. S. Shastri, who has got renovation of several temples to his credit, for the inspiration and guidance given by him to the members of the committee, and for accepting the chairmanship of the Reception committee.

The committee expresses its gratitude to the able guidance given by the shilpi Sri Shridhara Karanth and to all the carpenters, masons and others who have worked for the noble cause.

We offer our sincere thanks to Sri Y. S. V. Bhat, chartered accountant and

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his staff for auditing the account of the temple every year.

Last but not the least important is the service rendered in the noble cause by the students and the staff of Agalpady Annapoorneshwari High School. They have voluntarily responded whenever they were informed of the requirement of their help. The Renovation committee places on Record its deep appreciation of the great and memorable service rendered by them by doing 'Shramadana' and pray the presiding Dieties of the temple to shower their choicest blessings on them all.

Once again I thank one and all who have been kind enough to respond our call for the help and co-operation with us to make the venture a grand success

U. P. Kunikullaya,
President
Renovation Committee.