

# ORISSA ASSOCIATION MYSORE

Renovation and Restoration of XI Century Lord Venkateswara & Bhoga Narasimha Temple & to build Sri Jagannatha Temple at Srinivasa Kshetra, Belagola near Mysore.

## KALAKARSANA

The temple restoration work is in progress, but continuous rain has slowed down the progress of work. Out of the activities listed in the DPR, serial No. 01 to 05 have been completed. These include the excavation work all around the foundation of the temple, identification and numbering of damaged/cracked stones on the walls, dismantling of dilapidated *Paka Shala & Matha* on southern & northern sides of the temple respectively and dismantling of weatherproof course on the roof. A layer of cement concrete has been laid on the roof of the temple.

The technical committee headed by Dr. M.S. Nagaraja Rao inspected the temple, observed the bulging of Garbha Griha walls of Sri Venkateswara temple and wide cracks in its *Sikhara*. In view of serious defects in Sri Venkateswara temple, the technical committee in its meeting had decided for dismantling and rebuilding of the *Sikhara* and removes and set right the walls. Md. Jan, who came from Hampi and inspected the damaged *Sikhara* of Sri Venkateswara temple along with the technical committee, prepared a detailed drawing of the *Sikhara* and has submitted the revised estimation for rebuilding it. The *Sikhara* will be built in the same ancient style. Mr. Narasimhaiah has also revised the original estimate keeping in mind the bulging of the side/veneer walls and some other extra work in the *Garbha Griha* of Bhoga Narasimha temple. Due to such additional work, the cost estimation has increased from Rs. 28 lakhs to Rs. 30.75 lakhs.

### **KALAKARSANA:**

As per the *Agamas*, *Kalakarsana* has to be performed with due rituals before taking up the dismantling work of Sri Venkateswara temple. Sri Shalva Pille Iyengar, the *Agama* specialist in the committee, after consultation with *Swamiji* of *Parakala Matha*, informed that *Kalakarsana* has to be performed on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2006; which is an auspicious day. He further informed that for *Kalakarsan*, the replicas of all the four deities are to be made out of wood/metal or painting on canvas.

Sri Shalva Pille Iyengar explained the significance of *Kalakarsana*. He reiterated that when the work inside the temple is taken up, there are chances of polluting the sanctity of the deities. Hence, the *Shakti*, the spiritual power from the gods to be removed by chanting of Vedic hymns and performance of religious rituals and instill the *Shakti* to the makeshift idols of wood/metal or paintings until the completion of work. After completing the work, the *Shakti* is to be invoked to the idols again through similar rituals.

Keeping in mind the advices of Sri Shalva Pille Iyengar, *Kalakarsana* was performed on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (Sunday) evening. Three Professors from the Maharaja Government Sanskrit College, Mysore having specialization in *Agama Sastra* and

Vedic Studies performed the *Kalakarsana* observing all formalities with minute details. They were assisted by two qualified Sanskrit scholars. With performance of various Homas and Havanas and chanting of Vedic Hymns & Mantras, the spiritual powers from the gods taken out and instilled in the Purna Kumbhas and in the Canvas paintings specially prepared by Ms. Vidya Bhat, an artist from CAVA. Sri Bashyam Swamiji graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Besides blessing the audience, he explained the importance of *Kalakarsana*. Many dignitaries, guests and devotees from Bangalore, Mysore, Belagola and nearby places participated in the function. After *Kalakarsana*, the *Purna Kumbhas* and the Canvas paintings were kept in a temple within Belagola village where the original *Utsav Bigraha* is getting puja. Normal daily puja is being performed to the *Purnakumbhas* and Paintings until completion of the renovation work of the temple.

After *Kalakarsana* ceremony was over all the idols have been encased in wooden planks filled with sand and tightly closed and secured to protect from damage during conservation work. Md. Jan will visit the temple site during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December 2006, when the dismantling of Sikhara and other renovation work will be taken up uninterrupted.

Orissa Association Mysore has launched a website [www.mysoreoriya.org](http://www.mysoreoriya.org) that gives details about the activities of the association and about the renovation project. OAM has also obtained sanction of 80G for Income Tax exemption for the donors. Members of Orissa Association Mysore and the Technical Committee make an appeal to Philanthropists and others who believe in *Sanatana Dharma* to donate liberally for this noble task.

Donations may please be made in the form of Cheques or Demand Drafts drawn in favour of Orissa Association Mysore Temple Renovation Fund and sent to:

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