

## **Birth of Sree Swaminatha Seva Samaj and the Early Efforts**

Dr. B. Gopala Reddy was the then Union Minister of Works, Housing and Supply in the Council of Ministers. With the background course of events and the archaeological evidence, with its historicity, placed before him, the Honourable Minister was good enough to allot the mound and the surrounding area to the initial devotee promoters, for a consideration of Rs.25,000/- on the condition that they formed themselves into a Registered Society.

Thus, was born the Sree Swaminatha Seva Samaj on the Vijaya Dasami Day in October,1961, and the commencement of worship in a humble "Balalayam". Many public spirited citizens, all devoted to the Lord, joined the promoter Bhaktas to build the temple. It was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, Act XXI of 1860, (Punjab Amendment Act 1957, as extended to the Union Territory of Delhi) by the Registrar of Societies, Delhi. Its Registration No. was S.1991 of 1962-63, dated the 5th of April 1962. The newly Registered Society was fortunate to have Sangeeta Kalanidhi Shri T.L.Venkatarama Iyer, Honourable Judge, Supreme Court of India, a renowned scholar, a master of Carnatic music, a pious and a deeply religious man, as its first President. By the Grace of the Lord, the newly formed Society was able to mobilize the initial funds from the devotee public, for the purchase of the plot. assume the Presidentship of the Samaj.

In the year 1963, Shri O.V. Alagesan, the then Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals, in the Union Cabinet, became the President, succeeding Justice Shri T.L.Venkatarama Iyer. Under the aegis of the new President, the office bearers were able to launch a scheme of fund collections for the laudable project. Shri Alagesan was also able to prevail upon Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam, the Honourable Chief Minister of Madras (as Tamil Nadu was then called), for help in mobilizing funds from the temples in South India. An official letter was issued by the Chief Minister to all the temples in the South, to help the Samaj in its sacred venture. It was a very graceful gesture on the part of the Chief Minister. The response was very encouraging.

A team of office bearers of the Samaj proceeded to South India to solicit and receive the blessings of His Holiness Jagatguru Chandra sekharendra Saraswati Swamigal (Venerable Paramacharya) of the Holy Kanchi Kama Kati Peetam and of His Holiness Sri La Sri Kasivasi Arul Nandi Thambiran Swamigal of the Sri Kasi Mutt, Tiruppanandal, for the project. His Holiness of the Sri Kasi Mutt was extremely generous by making a land endowment of the value of Rs.1.50 lakhs.



The original picture of Lord Balasubrahmaniam placed for worship "Balalayam" presently seen under a canopy in the Aadi Sankara Hall.



Bhaktas climbing an improvised pathway to Celebrate The first Sree Skanda Shashti after the decision to build the temple at the Sthal.