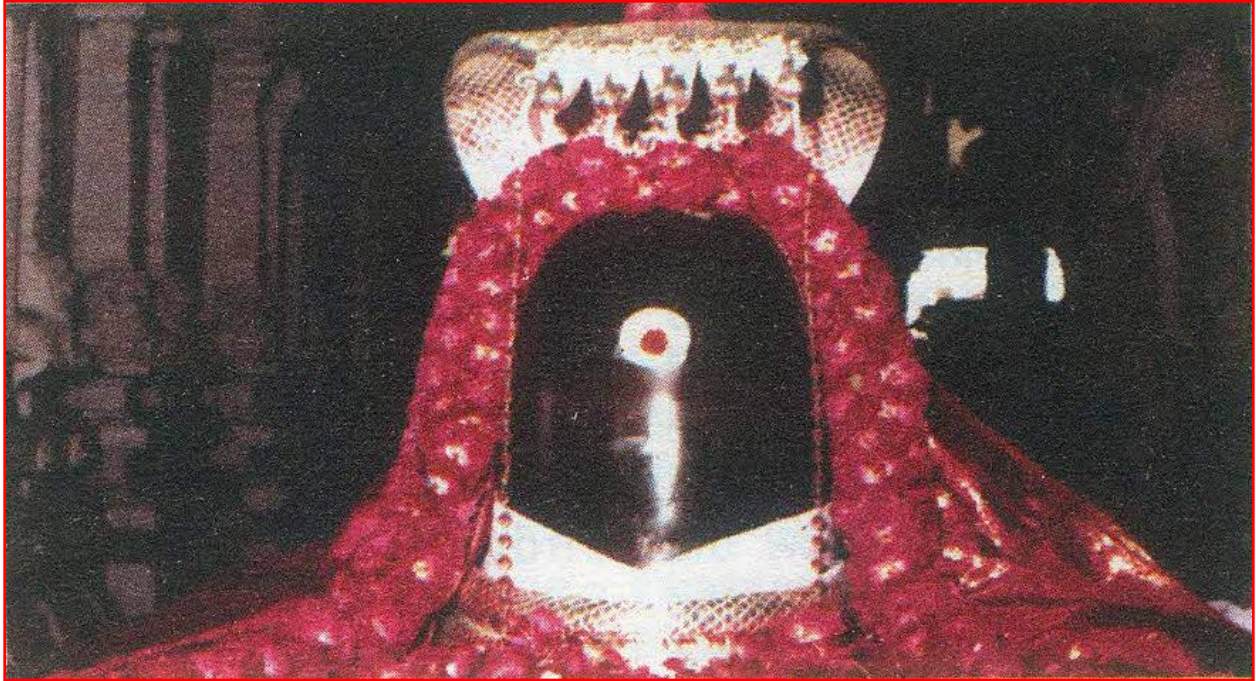
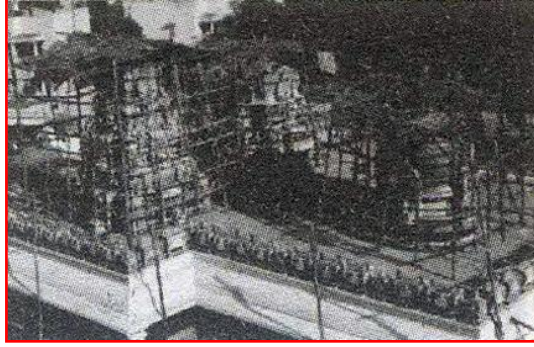


Temples for Lord Sundareswarar and Goddess Devi Meenakshi



The Sacred Lingam of Lord Sundereshwarar with his divine glow.

After the Kumbhabhishekam of Lord Swaminatha Swami, plans were made to build temples for Lord Sundar - eswarar, Goddess Devi Meenakshi, and Lord Karpaga Vinayakar, as it is the customary practice to make every temple's complex, a composite one. The idol of Lord Karpaga Vinayakar was transferred to the new configuration from the old hall, where the Lord was being worshipped all along. His Holiness Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Swamikal of the Sree Kanchi Kama Koti Peetam advised the Samaj that the proposed temples should follow the tradition of the famous Devi Meenakshi temple at Madhurai. At the Madhurai temple, the sacred idols of Lord Sundereshwarar and Goddess Devi Meenakshi face eastwards. True to the advice His Holiness, the work of construction of the temples commenced. It was decided by the Board of Management that the temples should be constructed in brick and Sundar-mortar. The work was entrusted to Shri Muthiah Sthapati, holder of the Padma award (Padmashri), from the President of India. Its culture and architecture were to be in the Pallava and Pandya styles. The sacred Pandya styles. The sacred eswarar was decided to be selected and lifted from the bed of River Narmada at Omkareshwar Jyoti Linga Kshetra. Suitable stones were selected and the desired idols of the Lord and Devi Meenakshi were sculptured and brought to Delhi.



Temples of Lord Sundareswarar, Goddess Devi Meenaksh and Lord Karpaga Vinayakar before their Kumbhabhishekam.

There remained, therefore, the task of ascertaining the pattern of the Yantram to be placed below the idol of Devi Meenakshi that had been adopted at Madurai. A member of the Samaj was deputed to Madurai for the purpose. Unfortunately, no Sivacharya of the Madurai temple had any knowledge of the exact model of the Yantram placed below the idol of Devi Meenakshi in the olden days. The representative of the Samaj was standing perplexed discussing the issue with the Sivacharya. At that time as a God send, the Head of the Branch of the Holy Dharampuram Adheenam happened to come to the Sannidhanam, for the Darshan of Goddess Devi Meenakshi. He over heard the conversation that the representative of the Samaj was having with the Sivacharya. He immediately revealed to the Samaj's representative that, according to the old archives of the Madurai temple two Yantrams Sree Chakram and Geya (Manthrini) Chakrams existed below the idol of Goddess Devi Meenakshi.

On the return of the Samaj's representatives to Delhi, Manthrini chakram was engraved and placed below the idol of Devi Meenakshi. The Silanyasam was then performed, as was done on the earlier occasion in the case of Lord Swaminatha Swami. Garbhanyasam, the next ritual to be performed was done. Both these rituals were performed by His Holiness Shri Vimarsan- andendra Saraswati Swamigal of Sree Vidya Peetam of Madras.

Since more than twelve years had passed from the time of the last Kumbhabhi-shekam of Lord Swaminatha Swami on the 7th of June, 1973, the second Kumbhabhishekam for the Lord had become due. Accordingly, the Punarud- dharanaKumbhabhishekam of Lord Swaminatha Swami, combined with the Nutana Kumbhabhi-shekams of Lord Karpaga Vinayakar, Lord Sundareswarar, and Goddess Devi Meenakshi were performed in all solemnity on the 13th of June 1990. All the Agamic and Vedic rituals were performed in the august presence of His Holiness Sree Gokulananda Swamigal of the sacred Ramakrishna Mutt, New Delhi.