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श्रीगणेशाय नमः

ओंकार निलयम् देवम् गजवक्त्रम् चतुर्भुजम् ।  
पिच्छण्डल महम् वन्दे सर्वं विग्रोप शांतये ॥

## **Swarna Bandhana Ashtabandhana Maha Kumbabhishekam of Sree Vinayaka Mandir, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi**

An age old saying in Tamil asserts “Live in a place where there is a temple in the neighbourhood”. We all know the importance of a temple where we should go as often as we could, to offer our prayers and seek the Grace of God. Sarojini Nagar during 1950s seemed to have had very few temples and there was no temple with south Indian traditions where Vedic rituals and customs take precedence in worship because our ancient scriptures assert that “Vedas would protect the ones who preserve the Vedas”. In line of this, few philanthropists in Delhi felt the need to have a temple in South Delhi with the view to promote and develop Hinduism and also maintain the Vedic traditions in temple rituals. The outcome of this great inspiration among these member philanthropists was the formation of the famous Sree Vinayaka Mandir Committee. This institution was subsequently Registered under Societies Act in April 1953. The main object of the Committee was to construct a temple and install Lord Vinayaka (Ganesha), a pantheon of Hindu Gods. All of us know that all worships and auspicious rituals begin with Vigneswara pooja as Lord Vinayaka is the manifestation of 'Pranava' ( प्रणव स्वरूपम् ) 'The First or Prime Manifestation'.

The Committee had approached the Government with the request for allotment of land for the purpose of construction of a temple and accordingly a Land was allotted by the Land & Development Office, Government of India to the Vinayaka Mandir Committee on lease basis.

Though Vinayaka is worshipped in the form of 'Naishthika Brahmachari' in some temples, in our ancient scriptures like Bhargava Purana (Vinayaka Purana), there is a mention of Lord Vinayaka's wedding to Siddhi & Buddhi , the two maanasa putris of Brahma. Siddhi & Buddhi signify fulfillment and wisdom, respectively. His Holiness Paramacharyal Shankaracharyal of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam and His Holiness Shankaracharyal of Shringeri Sharada Peetam conferred their blessings to build the Mandir of Lord Vinayaka with His Consorts Siddhi & Buddhi. Accordingly, the existing deity of Lord Vinayaka was installed on Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> August 1961. The temple has grown steadily with ardent devotion and munificence of the Bhaktas.

## **PROGRESS AND EXPANSION IN THE TEMPLE**

Subsequently, the Temple had completed developmental activities, like construction of Rajagopuram, Installation of Deities Lord Bhakta Hanuman, Navagraha Devathas and Lord Omkareswara with His parivar, over a period of years. In addition, a lecture hall, an office in the basement, Gayathri Mandap for Goddess Rajarajeswari and a Research and Reference Library was constructed in the year 1993. The Library was inaugurated by H. H Acharyal of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam in the year 1997.

## **Activity of Mahayagnas in the temple**

During the last 5 decades, important Mahayagnas like four Athirudrams, four Satha Chandi Homams and one Sahasra Chandi Homam were performed. Krishna Yajur Veda Parayanam is regularly chanted four times in a year besides Gana Parayanam and Jata Parayanam by distinguished scholars in the field. In addition to the above special events, various other regular ritual functions are celebrated in the Mandir in the most befitting manner throughout the year for the benefit of the devotees in order they can participate to any specific category of seva. The Temple has conducted 24 Maharudra Yagyams and is planning to conduct the 25<sup>th</sup> Maharudra Yagyam as the 5<sup>th</sup> Athirudra Yagyam, perhaps during October 2012. It is a well known fact to the devotees of Delhi that daily poojas in the temple are conducted by trained Vedic pandits.

Needless to mention that all the above holy events had been possible with Grace of Lord Vinayaka Himself at first instance and the active support of the devotees.

## **Punaruddharana Kumbabhishekam**

Kumbabhishekam in a temple has to be held periodically to repair or alter the installed deities should they have become eroded or have shown signs of deformity during the course of time. Other than this period, no renovation can be allowed to be performed by the artisans in the sanctum sanctorum. Therefore, the Holy Sacred divinity is temporarily transferred into a deity known as "Balalayam" and all pooja rituals are performed on to this "Balalayam" till the work is completed by the artisans. While performing this work, additional major civil works are also undertaken since the temple premises cannot be spared to the artisans frequently. Thus, it is called Punaruddharana Kumbabhishekam, as, in effect, a new temple is installed again. It has been laid down in our Shastras that this ritual should be conducted after every 12 years following all temple rituals as prescribed in our shastras. This exercise is not only to have better outward show but also to remove all inauspiciousness and impurity / evil, if they have ever collected in the shrine or in the near vicinity by performing elaborate rituals through chanting of Veda mantras and Hawans which

are unique for this occasion by scholars in this specific field. Accordingly, in June 1973, renovation of the main Vimanam (dome) & Jeernodharana Ashtabandana Kumbabhishekam was performed under the distinguished presence of H.H. Kanchi Kamakoti Peetathipathi Shree Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal. The third Kumbabhishekam was performed in 1985 during which the Vimanam above the Sanctum Sanctorum was constructed and the fourth Kumbabhishekam was conducted in 1997 by the distinguished H.H. Shankaracharyal of Sree Vidya Peetam, Shakatapuram. In the year 2005, Samprokshnam was performed by Anna, Shri Shri Krishna Premi Swamigal as some repair work had to be carried out in the temple. The fifth Kumbabhishekam was performed on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011 (Tamil month Aani of year KARA), with the kind co-operation & help of all the devotees. This postponement of about 2 years for the Kumbabhishekam was to make it coincide with the Swarna Jayanthi (Golden Jubilee) Celebrations of the temple. As such, the entire year 2010-11 signifies as "Golden Jubilee Year" of Sree Vinayaka Mandir, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi. This grand occasion was celebrated in full ritual form and glamour and named as "Swarna Ashtabandana Kumbabhishekam".

It was also an ardent desire of the Committee & many devotees to have the main door of the sanctum sanctorum to be covered with silver plates. However Lord Vinayaka had His own plan and finally the Golden Doors were installed.

To sum up, the Kumbabhishekam covered vedic rituals for installing the deities, repair/ renovate / replace the civil structures wherever needed, replaced electrical wiring and fitting of new electrical fittings, re-installation of the deities after elaborate vedic rituals and continue the rituals for about 40 days before completion of the great event as per shastras by eminent Vedic Pandits to be called from all over the country.

To commemorate the occasion, the Management had made elaborate arrangements for week long variety of Cultural programmes such as Carnatic Music, Hindustani Music, Bhajans instrumental music etc., by eminent artists.

It is heartening to mention that an estimated crowd of more than 5000 people were present to witness the Maha Kumbabhishekam and darshan of Lord Vinayaka.

In the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011, the Utsava Murthy of Lord Vinayaka was taken around Sarojini Nagar with a glare of crackers accompanied by Nadaswaram, Veda Ghosham etc.

To conclude, the Maha Kumbabhishekam of Sree Vinayaka Mandir, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi was performed to the entire satisfaction of all the citizens in Delhi with the Blessings of Lord Vinayaka. Sree Vinayaka Mandir Committee takes this opportunity to thank all the citizens of Delhi for their co-operation for the smooth conduct of this Holy function. However, the following individuals/ organizations deserve a special mention and to whom the Committee express its gratitude to them:

1. Managment of all Temples in and around Delhi
2. All Vaideegals in and around Delhi
3. NDMC
4. Sarojini Nagar Police Station
5. South Indian Samaj, Sarojini Nagar
6. Br Shri Nagaraja Sastrigal
7. Nagaraja stapathy of silpa kala Nilayam, Chennai
8. N.P. Raman & Co, Patpar Ganj, New delhi
9. Indian Bank, Safdurjung Enclave
10. Syndicate Bank, Sector 5, R.K.Puram
11. Br Shri Subbarama Bhagawathar
12. Staff Members
13. Shri M. Muthayya, Flower Merchant
14. Shri. Kanda swamy , Nadaswarm
15. Shri Kumbakonam Ayyappan, Caterer
16. All Volunteers

