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**Sree Swaminatha Swami Seva Samaj (Regd),**  
Uttara Swami Malai, Malai Mandir, Sector 7, R.K.Puram, New Delhi-22.

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**About ourselves.**

On the occasion of the Sree Skanda Shashti 2010  
(Swarna Jayanthi year)

**Bhakti--Man's Silken Bond with Divinity.**

An inspiration in Devotees' minds to build a temple for  
*Lord Swaminatha Swami.*

**Quote** *"The Samaj has an interesting early history. A few young men, in their early twenties, who had come to Delhi for their official career in 1944, more than sixty years ago, commenced celebrating Sree Skanda Shashti, in their households, by turn. The tiny seed of devotion to the Glorious Lord Swaminatha Swami, sown by them at that time, has since sprouted and grown giving shape to the sacred Uttara Swami Malai complex, in the national capital of India, complementary to Dakshina Swamimalai in the South "* **Un quote**—  
(Late) Shri R.Venkataraman ex Patron-in-Chief-extract from Sthalapuramam.

2. The period of sixty six years of celebrations of Sree Skanda Shashti by the Muruga Bhaktas since 1944 can be conveniently grouped into (i) the Pre-Samaj Period and (ii) the Post Samaj period, respectively;

1. From 1944 to 1961—**the Pre-Samaj** period- the edifice dedicated to Lord Swaminatha Swami was in the **vision** of the early founder Bhaktas;

2. From 1961 to 1962--- the institutionalization of the vision into Sree Swaminatha Swami Seva Samaj and registering it as a Society.and commence celebrating the Sree Skanda Shashti **under its auspices** on the Sree Vijaya Dasami Day of 1961.- thus completing 49 years in 2010, **in the Post Samaj** period, making this year 2010 as the Swarna Jayanti-50<sup>th</sup> year of celebrations.

3.The paternal benevolence shown by His Holiness the Paramacharya of the Sree Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, in the earlier years and the close participation by their Holinesses the present Sankaracharyas of the holy Peetam, with the dedication of the ever increasing number of ardent young devotees of the Lord have been

instrumental in establishing the Uttara Swami Malai complex in its pristine glory with all its sanctity and dignity. After the formation of the Samaj, with its illustrious devotee founders, efforts were mounted to mobilize funds and harness resources for building the temple. By 1973, the construction of the temple for Sree Swaminatha Swami was completed and the Kumbhabhishekam was performed with the blessings of their Holinesses the Sankaracharyas of the sacred Sree Kanchi Kama Koti Prretam on the **7<sup>th</sup> of June 1973**. This great event was of course a mile stone.—a tryst with destiny. The common devotees of Delhi affectionately and reverentially named it as “Malai Mandir” a diglot of a Tamil word “Malai”—meaning a mountain and a Hindi word “Mandir” meaning a temple.

4. Learned Pandits and some of the important visiting holy persons decided even before the very first Kumbhabhishekam that the Uttara Swami malai be referred to as “**Sahasrara Kshetra**” —the Seventh Pada Veedu- besides the six shrines, all in Tamil Nadu- very sacred to the worshippers of Lord Murugan to symbolize the seven Nadis (nerves) existing in the human constitution.

5. Over the subsequent years construction of other temples for Lord Sundareswarar, Goddess Devi Meenakshi, Lord Karpaga Vinayakar were planned and completed. As (Late) Shri R.V.Subramanian, Patron. aptly put it “The Silpa Kala Mandapam, the Navagraha Pavilion and the Aadhi Sankara Mandapam with the precious icon of Aadi Sankara in pure spatikam complete the picture as one sees to day. The Alankara Mandapam for Abhishekam and poojas on festival days is complete”.

6. After the Kumbhabhishekam in 1973, a code for the conduct of rituals and Poojas in the temple has been compiled, in consultation with competent Sivacharyas. The code has been strictly observed by the present Sthala Sivacharyas. Shri Kattalai Ramachandra Iyer (since deceased) and Shri S.Pattabhiraman founder devotees and who have been Vice Presidents for Religious Affairs for long periods, have rendered great service, in ensuring strict adherence to the code. Shri S.Pattabhiraman has since got the Code nicely and colourfully printed and has made it available to the devotees. The precious printed code contains the Pooja Vidhis and Utsava Paddhadis for the benefit of the present and future generations of Sivacharyas and members of the Board of Management of the temple. It has become an invaluable guide and reference handbook. In the words of Late Shri R.Venkataraman, ex-Patron-in-Chief

**Quote:-***"the compilation will serve as a guide to the future generations to continue the conduct of the four kaala poojas, festivals etc. in accordance with ancient Aagama Shastras without departing from their religious significance."* **Unquote**

7. The Board of Management of the Samaj, at the behest of Late Shri **R,Venkataraman** Ex Patron-in-Chief organized the Ek-Koti Archanas—one crore recitals of the holy Namavalis of Lord Swaminatha Swami-- in the months of June –October, 2007. The broad minded vision of Late Shri R.Venkataraman envisaged the Ek Koti Archanas not only for the welfare of the devotee participants but also for the humanity as a whole, against violence, terrorism etc prevalent in the world at large. The participation of the devotees was exceedingly beyond all expectations adding further to the sanctity and dignity of the temple striving for universal happiness and peace. .

8. The narration of important events **"About ourselves"** has now to take a break. "Some times angels stop by and enlighten our paths and move on when they have achieved their purpose"—(Homage by Hersed Kumari on the passing away of Bernard Fielden of Heritage of National Art and Culture). So it was with Late **Shri R,Venkataraman**. He reached Lord Swaminatha Swami's lotus feet on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 afternoon. One glorious Sakabdam ended leaving us orphans. Appreciating the spirit of service of the devotees, his message to the devotees a year earlier was " I hope this spirit (spirit of benevolent services large and small of all the devotees present and future), helped by Lord Swaminatha Swami will continue as long as the hills stand and the rivers flow like Ramayana in this Holy land". One of his last policy directives to the Board of Management of the Samaj was to undertake a comprehensive Building Programme to improve the Infra-structural facilities of the Samaj for the benefit of the devotees thronging the temple complex in increasing numbers. True to the spirit of his message, the Samaj has completed the Administrative Building and with the approval of the General Body, named it as **"R.V.Centenary Block"** at the AGM held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, after our beloved R.V.—his birth centenary falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2010.

9. **Quote:-** "Religion is the manifestation of the natural strength that is in man. A spring of infinite power is coiled up and is inside this little body and that spring is spreading itself. And as it goes on spreading, body after body is found insufficient; it throws them off and takes higher bodies. This is the history of man of religion, civilization or progress" **Unquote—Venerable Swami Vivekananda.**

Appropriately, true to the Venerable master's saying, the Board of Management has taken on the construction of a Religious cultural block consisting of four sections (rooms) to accommodate :-

- (i) A Veda Adhyayana Patasala:
- (ii) A Vedic library:
- (iii) A Guest house to serve as a Hermitage for the stay of Saints and holy dignitaries –to be named "Sree Sankara Niwas";
- (iv) A room to conduct meetings of the religious committee of the Samaj.

10. The Board of Management has also taken on hand the making of a Swarna Ratham for Lord Swaminatha Swami to circumambulate round a second Parikrama of the Moolavar's temple at the hillock. Being a highly technical engineering project it is likely to take some time .for its completion.

11. Development is a continuous process. The Caravan is moving on its onwards journey. It has still several milestones to cross and it will. The strength of the Samaj lies in the singleness of purpose and unity of the devoted members of the Management—a unique feature seen from 1961 till to day—nurtured by the founder members—administrative systems laid down by former Patron-in-Chief and former Patron will, for ever, stand in good stead for all time.

12. **Faith is the essence of Religion.** The founders have ensured the conduct of Poojas and religious rituals strictly in accordance with Aagama Shastraic injunctions and that is the innate strength of the growing devotion of the Bhaktas thronging to the temple. May their tribe increase. Let us all pay our respectful homage to the illustrious founders of the edifice, past and present, in the Golden Jubilee year, as a mark of our gratitude to them.

***May the Glorious and benign Lord Swaminatha Swami bless us.***

M.K.Venkatachalam.  
President