CHAPTER IV

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE TEMPLE’S ADMINISTRATION AND FUNCTIONS

Location of Tirumala Hills and the Temple

The Tirumala is a group of hills lying in between the 13th and 14th degrees of north latitude and 79 degrees of east longitude. The Tirumala Hills have seven sacred principal peaks, each bearing a separate name in accordance with the fable. The names are Seshachalam, Garudachala, Venkatadri, Narayanadri, Vrishabadri, Vrishadri and Anjanadri, among which the Tirumala Temple stands on Seshachalam, the principal peak. The hill on which the Temple of Lord Venkateswara stands is low and surrounded by many hills of a higher altitude. The Tirumala is situated in the western parts of the Chittoor district, Chandragiri Taluk, Andhra Pradesh (see Map). The Temple rises to 3,426 feet. The annual temperature ranged from 18° to 42°C.

Origin and Development of the Temple

Reported to be the richest temple in the world, Tirupati nestles snugly in the Eastern Ghats, surrounded by hills. The undulating landscape all around has given rise to the legend that these hills form the serpentine body of the great snake Adisesha upon whose body Lord Vishnu reclines (Sri Venkateswara is said to be a form of Vishnu). The seven hills
LOCATION OF TIRUPATI

ANDHRA PRADESH
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

HYDERABAD

INDIA

ANDHRA PRADESH

STATE BOUNDARY
DISTRICT BOUNDARY

0 600 km

0 150 Kms.
are the seven hoods of Adisesha, which form a canopy over Lord Vishnu. The temple was built in the 9th century A.D. by the Pallavas. The main temple is a superb example of the sheer artistry of Pallava architecture.

The main temple is a master piece of Dravidian architecture with its Gopuram or main tower facing the east. The Vimana over the sanctum sanctorum is covered with gold plate and is known as "Ananda Nilayam" (Abode of Joy).

Tirupati is generally known to Tamil literature by the name Vengadam. Tolkappiyam, the classical grammar of the Tamils believed to be the oldest Tamil literature extant, defines the boundary of Tamil province as between the Vengadam hill and the southern Comerin (kumari) as forming the northern and southern boundaries. Sangam literature consists of a number of poems, which refer to Tirupati by the name Vengadam. Silappadhikaram refers Tirupati as a shrine of Vishnu.

God Venkateswara was a SWAYAMBU or self-oriented from mother earth. The Thondaman chieftains were responsible for the organization of worship and festivals. Thondaman Chakravarthy, the ruler of Vengadam found the idol and built the temple.

The 'Prabandha Four Thousand', the ancient Vaishnava piece of literature is a collection of 4,000 stanzas of Tamil poetry, celebrating the 108 sacred names of Lord Vishnu. These poems were composed by the twelve Alwars of the earlier centuries from 500 to 800 A.D.
The Temple administration could not be traced up to the eighth century A.D. Since the earlier literature of Sangam periods, Puranas, Silappadikaram and songs of Alwars did not give much information regarding the administration. The earliest inscriptions like the Devasthanam Epigraphical Series of 830 A.D. showed that the priests living down the hill worshipped the Lord.

**History of Administration**

**Tirumala during Pallava reign**

An inscription of 830 A.D. said that a Bana ruler, Vijayaditya made an endowment for the burning of one perpetual light in the Sanctum. During the reign of the Pallavas recording in the inscriptions begin for the first time. The first inscription of 833-34 A.D. showed Samavai, a Pallava Queen was the earliest benefactor and made a number of presents to the Temple. She presented the idol of Bhoga Srinivasa in the Temple. The relevant portion of the 966 A.D. inscription reads "All the services, the managers of the temple (madapatyam) on Tiruvenkatam shall have conducted and the Sabhaiyar shall protect the land from being taxed...". It is understood that there were some managers and the Sabhaiyar, who have had control over the Temple affairs.

**Tirumala under the Chola reign**

After the overthrow of the Pallavas, the Cholas came into power and Paranthaka - I was the first ruler, who was succeeded by Aditya in 880 A.D. The Temple administration during the Chola period was run by
managers as in the times of Pallava. The officers of the King supervised the Temple work. The inscription of 1001 A.D. registered that Queen Paranthaka Devi Amman gifted an ornamental plate to the forehead of Lord Venkateswara, weighing 52 Kalanju of gold and contained 4 rubies, 6 diamonds and pearls.

The inscription 1013 A.D. referred to the services rendered by Rajendra Chola - I. The other record referred to the raising of a building for the Kapileswara Swamy Temple by Rajendra Chola. According to the inscription of 1094 Kulottunga Chola was the next monarch, who granted for burning of lamps and 28 cows to the priests of the Temple. From these inscriptions, it was found that the region under the Chola Government was found good. The temples at Tirumala and the Siva Shrines at Yogimallavaram also were furnished.

According to the inscription¹ of TIRUKKALATTIDEVAN YADAVARAYA, there were Sthanattars (local temple council) at Tirumala in early 13th century. The Sthanattars was a local temple committee, whose duty was to run the temple on efficient lines. It was an august body and acted as the executive for the local rulers in temple matters. It acted as the trustee for the temple, receiving endowments and ensuring that the services for which the endowments were made were properly carried out.

¹ Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Epigraphical Series, Vol I, Inscription No.112 TT.
**Tirumala under the Telugu Pallavas and Pandyas**

The temple has a few inscriptions of the Pandya king Jathavarma Sundara Pandya - I (1251-1275) of Madurai. It was this king who acquired the merit by fixing a gold Kalasam on the temple at Tirumala during his reign. One of the inscriptions of the Telugu Pallava, Vijaya - Gandagopala of Nellore (1250-1282 A.D)² dated 1254 A.D. mentioned the "Kakkolai" or temple servants of Tirumalai receiving gold in the Sri Bhandaram and undertaking to provide certain services to the Lord.

**Tirumala under Vijayanagar Kings**

The establishment of the Vijayanagar empire was during 1369-73 A.D. The earliest ruler, Bukkaraya granted a village to the temple in his name for food offering twice a day. Temple accountants called TIRUNINRA-UR-UDAIYAR maintained accounts. This temple became very prosperous during Vijayanagar period, necessitating the assistance of accountants for the maintenance of temple accounts. The temple accountant made his first appearance in the year 1380 A.D.

**Saluva Narasimha**

Saluva Narasimha was prominent among the Vijayanagar rulers. He is the greatest benefactor of the temple. There are 14 records related to him in Tirumala. He instituted new services and charities in the form of services at Tirumala.

of festivals and processions, flower gardens, construction of gopurams and for the maintenance of all, he endowed the temple with about a dozen villages.

**Sri Krishnadevaraya**

The next royal personage of importance is Krishnadevaraya. By his great zeal and devotion to Lord Venkateswara, whom he regarded as his patron-god, displayed his devotion through gifts of villages, jewels, gold and silver vessels, besides 30,000 Pagodas of gold during his frequent visits to the holy shrine. The villages, which he endowed in conjunction with his two Queens, Tirumala Devi and Chinna Devi, comprise half the village of Kadaikuttampadi in Ulmandalam and Thallapakkam, Mudiyur, Pirat-Kulattur, Darattur, Chatrapaid and Turaiyur in Puramandalam.

**Tirumala under the East India Company**

The Mughal empire came to an end with the death of Aurangazeb in 1707 and the kingdoms Golkonda and Bijapur also disappeared. The Mahrattas were growing strong during this period and the British and the French were also poised against each other to establish supremacy in the country. The French successfully occupied Tirupati in 1758 to strengthen themselves with the revenues of the Temples, but were completely rooted out of the country. The company was thus left as the sole enjoyer of the revenues of the Temple. It was said that the English obtained about three lakhs of rupees in the years 1753-58 from the Temple. In the year 1801, during the Governor-Generalship of Lord Wellesley, the Temple directly
came under the administration of the East India Company. The entire revenues of the temple were appropriated to the company's coffers and the temple lands were resumed. The temple staff were paid out of the Company's funds.

**Tirumala under the Mahants**

During the middle of the 19th century, when the British desired to relinquish their connection with the religious institutions, they conferred the administration of the temple of Lord Venkateswara to the then Mahant Sri Sevakasuji of Sri Hathiramji Muth in 1843 A.D. through a Sanad from the collector of the North Arcot District.

The management of the temples thus passed into the hands of the Mahants of Sri Hathiramji - Matha, in Saka 1771 (1849 A.D.) The Mahant Dharmadasuji was reported in to have renovated Kapilatirtham and its surrounding mantapams in 1865 A.D. The income of the temple had steadily increased to more than a lakh of rupees during this period. Two rest houses were constructed at Tirupati and 14 sheds were put up at Tirumalai, besides 15 quarters in the thousand pillared mantapam in Tirumalai. Sanitary conveniences were also provided and the pathway made safer by the installation of electric lights throughout the route in 1929 under the Mahants.

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3 *Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Bulletin - Ananda Nilaya Vimanam, Samprokshanam, Special Supplement, 26th August, 1958*
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Act of 1932 and the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act

The administration by the Mutt came to an end in 1933 when the Committee system of management replaced the Vicharanakarta Mahants. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Act of 1932 was passed to improve the administration of the Devasthanams. A committee of seven members with a Commissioner was appointed to supervise the affairs of the temple by the Madras Government under this Act. This Act of 1932 was superseded by the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act of 1951.

Sections 80 to 85 of the Act of 1951 deal exclusively with the administration of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. By the enactment, Act XIX of 1951, the administration was entrusted to a Board of Trustees and an Executive Officer was appointed by the State Government to implement the Policies laid down by the Board subject to the control of the Commissioner of Endowments and the State Government.

The Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act of 1966

A new Act called the Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act was passed and came into force with Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Ayer as Chairman on 26 January 1967. Chapter XIV of the Act makes express provision for the administration of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam. The general scheme of the
administration is more or less the same as in the previous enactment of 1951 and has been under the control of the Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh.

The Legislature had enacted the T.T.D Act No 20 of 1979, according to which, the administration of T.T.D. was run and the rules were made hereunder. Subsequently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed a Commission under the Chairmanship of retired Justice Sri Challa Kondaiah with an object to study the entire system of the administration of the Hindu Religious, Charitable Endowments and Institutions in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued an enactment which is published as the "Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987" (Act 30/1987) The Act came into force with effect from 23rd May, 1987 Under this Act, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam forms an integral part of the entire lot of the Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments in the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, a separate chapter (Chapter - XIV) is prescribed for T.T.D. See Appendix - III for law governing Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple from time to time.

Administrative Set-up

The administration of the T T D was vested with the Board of Trustees. The Chief Administrative Officer of the T T D was the Executive Officer. He was also given the general powers to carry out the provisions
of the Act, subject to the control of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees under Section 97(vii) and the Executive Officer under Section 109(2) may delegate their powers to the Executive Officer and to the subordinate Officers respectively. (i) The T.T.D. employees are governed by the T.T.D. Service Rules issued in G.O Ms No 1060, Revenue (Endowments-I) Fin, dated 24.10.89 and (ii) The general rules are framed in G.O Ms.No.311, Revenue (Endowments-I) Department, dated 9.4.1990.

Chart - I describes the T.T.D. Board, the Executive Officer and Other officers under his control.

Chart - II presents the Administrative set-up under the control of Joint Executive Officer with Head Quarters at Tirupati.

Chart - III depicts the Administrative structure of the office of the Joint Executive Officer, Head Quartered at Tirumala.

**Hindu Mythology and Revenue Accumulations**

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams received revenue through the votive offerings by the pilgrims in veneration of the presiding deity. The source of revenue could be effectively supported by the data, which is appreciable. The earnings of the Lord be used by Him towards the discharge of interest accruing on the debt incurred by Him from Kubera as the Mythological explanation goes mentioned hereunder.
Administrative Structure of the T.T.D

Government
|
Board
|
Executive Officer

Chief Engineer
|
Devasthanam Officer
|
Conserver of Forests
|
Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer
|
General Manager (Transport)

J E O (Tirumala) ▼
|
Chief Security & Vigilance Officer

J E O (Tirupathi) ▼

J E O (Tirumala) ▼

V & S O (Parakamani)

V & S O (Tirumala)

V & S O (Tirupati)

S E I

S E II

S E III

Assistant Law Officer

Divisional Forest Officer

Forest Range Officer

CAO

Audit including checking Staff

Dy E O (Treasury)

A E O (Inventory)

A E O (Jewellery)

A E O (Gold Malam)

Accounts Officer I

Accounts Officer II

Note: Charts given separately

Source: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Administration Reports
CHART II

Administrative Structure Under Joint Executive Officer, Tirumala.

Joint Executive Officer, Tirumala

- Spl Gr Dy Exe Officer (Annadanam Trust)
- Annadanam Trust & Canteens
  - Dy EO (KKC)
  - AE O (KKC)
  - Spl Gr Dy EO (Temple)
    - Peshkar Sn T T
      - Dy EO (Parakamani)
      - AE O (I & II) Parkamani
      - AE O (I & II) Cons
      - AE O (I & II) Task Force

- Dy EO (KKC)
  - AE O (Health)
    - AE O (P) Tml
    - AE O (Rev) Tml
    - AE O (R I)
    - AE O (R II)
    - AE O (R III)
    - AE O (R IV)
    - AE O (Health) Garden
    - AE O (Garden)
    - Farm Manager - I Tpt

- Medical Department Te Supenntendent Aswni Hospital
  - Dy EO (R I)
  - Dy EO (R II)
  - Vedapasala Dharma

Estate Officer

Dy E O (R I)

Dy E O (R II)

AE O (P) Tml

AE O (Rev) Tml

AE O (R I)

AE O (R II)

AE O (R III)

AE O (R IV)

AE O (P) Tml

AE O (Rev) Tml

AE O (R I)

AE O (R II)

AE O (R III)

AE O (R IV)

AE O (P) Tml

AE O (Rev) Tml

AE O (R I)

AE O (R II)

AE O (R III)

AE O (R IV)
CHART III

Administrative Structure Under Joint Executive Officer,
Tirupati.

Joint Executive Officer, Tirupati

Secretary DPP

- Director Museums
  - Director SVDF

Welfare Officer

- Welfare Officer
  - Marketing Officer

Dy E O (S)

A E O (Est)

DE O

Principles of Colleges

Head Masters

A E O (Edn)

All Projects

Special Officer SVCLRC

A E O (Rev)

Health U Tpt

PRO

Press Manager

Editor

Dy E O (LT)

A E O (sn PAT)

A E O (sn GT)

SMO

Supdt., Central Hospital

Supdt., SV Poor Home

Director BIRRD

ALFC

A E O (Er)

A E O (G)

SVISTA

Dy E O (Reception Tpt)

Dy E O (Inspn)

A E O (Reception)

Information Centres & Guest Houses in Metropolises Except Hyderabad

A E O (Board Cell)

Dy E O (Inspn)

A E O (Balamandir)

SVTCPCH
The story from *Brahmanda Purana* was narrated in 'Sri Venkateswara Mahtyam', wherein Sage *Naradha* tells *Bhrigu Maharishi* about the origin and fame of the seven hills. Once Bhrigu went to *Vaikunta* to test whether Lord Srinivasa is Sattvic in nature. The Lord did not notice his arrival. Bhrigu angrily kicked on the chest of Lord Vishnu, which was the abode of Goddess Lakshmi. She felt insulted for, her husband did not get angry on being kicked by an ordinary man. Goddess Lakshmi having angered against the Lord gone away from Vaikuntam. Lord Srinivasa also left Vaikuntam and came down to Tirumala, wherein certain circumstances led his desire to marry Goddess Padmavathi, who was the daughter of Akasa Raju, then ruling area of Narayanapuram. As Goddess Lakshmi gone away from Him, the Lord had no money to celebrate the marriage.

Lord Srinivasa met *Kubera*, the God of wealth and money, and requested for a loan for His marriage expenses. Lord Srinivasa agreed to pay interest alone till the end of Kaliyuga. He further undertook to pay the principle amount thereafter when He returns to "Vaikuntam".

Lord Kubera agreed. Later, evidencing the debt, Lord Venkateswara wrote a document in His own hand with the attestations of Lord Brahma and Lord Siva. And the document was delivered to Kubera. In these circumstances, the Lord Venkateswara would have to earn as much as possible and discharge the interest part of the debt incurred by Him.

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5 "Sri Venkateswara Mahatyam", Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati
Whatever may be the mythical explanations for the astronomical growth of revenue of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, it is a fact that such funds have been the linchpin of the whole of the activities of the temple especially in Tirupati region and thereby exerting great influence on the economic life of the lakhs of people as well as the economy of the State of Andhra Pradesh. Hence, understanding of its level, form and structure would be relevant for the present study.

**Functions of the Devasthanams**

The functions of the Devasthanams included the following.

1. Arrangements for orderly darsan
2. Providing free and unfurnished accommodation
3. Marking available furnished accommodation at nominal charges
4. Arranging facilities for hygienic food at reasonable prices
5. Provision of sanitary arrangements
6. Supply of protected water
7. Free medical facility through hospitals
8. Maintenance of more than 40 temples
9. Conduct of various *Utsavams, Sevas* and *Poojas*, liberal contributions for renovation, maintenance and construction of temple all over India and also other countries

10. Donation of mike sets to temples under subsidy scheme, running of *Purohit Sangham* and *Kalyanakatta*

11. Maintaining school for the deaf, dumb and blind, and orphanage for homeless children

12. Running a leprosarium and rehabilitation centers for leprosy patients

13. Running beggar home for the poor

14. Offer of liberal assistance to Indian Culture, and social Welfare

15. Maintenance of information centers

16. Carrying out dissemination of religious and spiritual knowledge through monthly magazine "Sapthagiri" and other research and religious publications and

17. Establishment and maintenance of a number of educational institutions to cater the requirement of different sections of the society.
The Budgeting Process of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams frames its budget every year according to the instructions given in the Statutes in force for the time being and it is to be approved by the Board of Trustees and the Government.

Executive Officer has to prepare the Budget showing probable receipts and payments before 15th of January for the following financial year and present it before the Board.

The Board of Trustees have to approve the same and submit to the Government. The Government sanctions the Budget with such modifications as it deems fit.

The institution receives the approved Budget before the end of March of the financial year and incurs expenditure according to the Budget during the following financial year. According to the rules framed by the Government, T.T.D cannot incur any expenditure without the Budget allotment.

The Budget contains Revenue and Expenditure details. The components, growth and pattern of revenue and expenditure details are analytically discussed in the ensuing chapters.