

Developments in Sosale Vyasaraaja matha

SVM devotees and other SVSS members may be anxiously scanning the Information being doled out by press reports quoting the members of the new administration appointed by the Honourable Government of Karnataka, which is taking over the Secular management of the Matha to stop the illegal plundering and misuse of Matha incomes and assets by the Pontiff's henchmen and outsiders who have acquired controlling authority in lucrative establishments like Benne Govindappa and Vidyapayonidhi Chutras in Bangalore and Mysore as well as the Matha assets in Tirupati, SriRangam etc with the active connivance of the Pontiff. To set their minds at rest, we would like to furnish some information as known to us:

1. Any one who has followed the previous history of these developments and attended the meetings of SVSS would already know that the Manohara Tirtha and his predecessors have already pledged away properties to the tune of 7/8 crores of Rupees and the Matha is under debt to outsiders to the extent of at least 2 crores of Rupees, without legal necessity or justification. This has happened despite a regular permanent income of Rs. 3 to 4 crore rupees per year from Hundis/rents on assets as well as gifts received from the devotees in cash and kind for the Pujas performed. Large sums have also been collected in the name of projects like the establishment of the Srinivasa temple in Basavanagudi, new Matha building in Tirupati, etc, some of which have been pocketed away by the family members of the pontiffs and their lackeys.
2. SVSS came across many items of evidence of these frauds and misuse of assets right from the beginning, when it was formed in 2005. Attempts made to persuade the aging pontiff Sri Vachaspathi Tirtha to establish suitable control procedures and avoid such misuse, repeatedly failed, even after so called agreements were reached after long discussions, as the family whose private, unearned and tax free income was being affected would never allow such checks to come in. We found that the whole institution was being managed as the personal property of the pontiff's family, with no accounting of even of cash receipts from sources like Hundis.
3. The misuse and reckless alienation of properties was unfortunately already in vogue even at the time of Sri Vidyapayonidhi Tirtha earlier, who had entrusted his authority to a poorvashrama son. Thus, landed properties in Kandakur, Madurai etc have been pledged away or even sold for very low declared amounts in his time. An enquiry ordered by the Government of Karnataka was in progress in this regard and the matter had also reached the Karnataka High Court a decade earlier. Based on their directions, the Government ordered a fresh enquiry on various allegations of alienations and misuse of funds in the SVM Matha. SVSS submitted the records and information available with them to the committee for their review. This enquiry took several years (2002 – 2011) and a final report was submitted by the Endowment commissioner to the Government confirming the truth of the allegations and recommending the appointment of a secular administrator to take immediate charge to avoid complete collapse of the financial strength of the institution.
4. It is understood that the report submitted has been carefully considered at various levels in the Government and a final decision taken at the highest level that a competent Administrator assisted by a high level committee should be appointed to take over the entire administration for a short period of 2 years. All the financial matters will be completely supervised by the Administrator removing all possibilities

of mischief by the corrupt persons in charge earlier. The transactions entered into by the Pontiffs earlier will also be reviewed and corrective actions taken in the overall interest of the matha.

5. The religious and traditional functions will be outside the purview of the secular administrator, who will cooperate in the normal functioning of the matha in this regard. The financial appropriations for the purpose will be decided by the Administrator based on the resources available and past commitments and tradition.
6. The committee of eminent persons headed by a retired chief justice well known for his vast judicial experience and participation in activities for the Public good contains other persons known for their probity, experience and knowledge about different aspects of management of such assets. Thus, they are expected to give a good account of themselves in setting right the various known problems and to introduce appropriate procedures where necessary to ensure that the resources of the Matha are used to the best interests of the Matha.
7. SVSS is optimistic about this development and will offer their constructive cooperation in getting the Matha affairs straightened out as soon as possible to enable its functioning as appropriate to its real; status and resources to the satisfaction of its devotees. It will also continue to act as a Watchdog to report transgressions or errors to the concerned authorities and to its members.
8. All SVM devotees and wellwishers should support this effort to make the well-meant effort by the Government of Karnataka, headed by an enlightened leader, a great success. However, normal methods of administration and control as in the hoary historic past of the Matha should be reintroduced, as soon as the unsuitable and unworthy persons who have brought our Glorious Matha to a near state of ruin are replaced by persons of ability, integrity and real devotion to the causes so well laid down by the great Vyasaraaja, whose honoured name we bear.