



Shrī Guru Mahimā

Renovation of Shrī Guru Math, Kuṭīra and the Math complex at Mallāpur

a memoir of the renovation journey ...
September 2nd, 2020 – February 14th, 2021

Narrated by:
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Recorded and written by:
Shrī Praveen Kumār Basrūr

Offered at the Lotus Feet of

**Lord Bhavānīshaṅkar,
Sannidhi of Parama Pūjya Shrīmat Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī II
and our most beloved Guru
Parama Pūjya Shrīmat Sadyojāt Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī**



**‘Tvatpada-kamale chittaṁ vilīnaṁ ched bhaved Guro
Tvayaiva dhriyate sarvaṁ hyetad me hyupadishyati’**

(Excerpt from Vichitra Pañchakaṁ composed by H.H. Shrīmat Parijñānāshram Swāmījī III)

“When I immerse myself at Your Lotus Feet, O Sadguru, realization dawns upon me that,
everything in the entire universe runs by Your Grace alone”

I, Shrī Durgesh Chandāvarkar, along with my wife, Smt Nandinī (Viju) Chandāvarkar arrived at her maternal home in Mallāpur to see her ailing mother on 21 March 2020. Two days later, the Honourable Prime Minister of our country declared a nation-wide lockdown. Meanwhile, my 105 year old mother-in-law, Smt. Shukla Rādhābāī Kṛishṇa Bhaṭ passed away peacefully on Rāma Navamī on 2 April 2020. My responsibility was to perform her utara-kriyā at Mallāpur. I had no idea that I would be compelled to stay here for a much longer duration. But my Sadguru had something else in mind! His Saṅkalpa prevails over every other purpose!!!!

At the Holy Samādhi of our revered H.H. Shrīmat Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī II, at Mallāpur, the fourth Āchārya in the Guru Paramparā, was where my father-in-law, Shukla Kṛishṇa Bhaṭ – an archaka – along with his wife, offered sevā tirelessly till his last breath!

My initial stay at Mallāpur got me involved in reviving the small coconut and areca nut plantation around my parents-in-laws’ house. This little *hittala* behind their house was neglected for many years, and almost one fourth of the trees had dried and had to be cut and replanted. Also an old and open well, full of debris and silt needed to be cleaned and revived. Today it is rejuvenated and full of water. So did my days pass. As the situation in the entire state of Mahārāshṭra was worsening day-after-day, my family, friends and well-wishers advised me to continue staying in the safety and comfort of Mallāpur, till the situation improved. Though it was a cheerful stay for my dear wife at her birth place, I was constantly thinking about how to get back to my Karma-bhūmi, Mumbaī at the earliest so that the bank and my companies with which I am so closely associated with, should not bear the brunt of my physical absence. I thank my dear friend Shrī Praveeṇ Basrūr (Assistant Conservator of Forests in Kumṭā Forest Sub division), who arranged to connect me virtually with the members of the SVC board and the members of the board of my other companies during several meetings. I will be at fault, if I fail to mention the timely help of Shrī Chetan Sheṭ (Entrepreneur - Mahālasā Kalā Kendra, Kumṭā), who helped me with all the necessary supplies and daily needs whenever I needed, with utmost love, and made me feel comfortable in a remote place like Mallāpur.

At a personal level, I adapted myself to Mallāpur – the place and climate whilst savouring my Guru’s Grace at the Guru Math. It was my daily routine to circumambulate 99 times around the sacred Samādhi. Amongst my fondest memories are those of my parikramā-s, anushtāna-s, japa and pūjana in the Math. The strengthening of the connection with the Guru Shakti that Parama Pūjya Swāmījī so often talks about, is so tangible!

Months passed and all efforts failed to acquire permission pass to cross the State border. Something much more fulfilling was to happen! It was as if I was being watched over and guided by the Lord!

During the months June to October, the coastal monsoon is in full force. Rainwater dripped and collected in the Math premises. So the Math administration decided to cover the Gopura with a blue tarpaulin. It was painful for me to stay in the comfort of my home while our Math was subjected to leakages penetrating through the roofs. This was the time when I decided to take up the renovation of the roof and the Tāmrashāsana of Shrī Guru Math, Mallāpur! Right people kept coming at the right time! But it was important for me to receive the approval, guidance and blessings from our most beloved Sadguru, Parama Pūjya Sadyojāt Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī. I wanted to see Swāmījī, hear from Him the kind words of encouragement to move forward, as Swāmījī always does!

The day arrived! After performing Sīmollaṅghana at Shirālī, Parama Pūjya Swāmījī visited Mallāpur on 2 September 2020. After Devadarshana and Dīpanamaskāra, Swāmījī called for a meeting. It was the right time. I proposed my ambition to take up the project as it was urgent. Parama Pūjya Swāmījī instantly agreed and expressed his extreme happiness over the project and asked me to start working on this and gave His Divine consent. This is how it began!

We drafted a plan of work as follows –

Selection of wood: The first step in this project was to select a suitable species of wood for the roof. Our Forest officer Shrī Praveeṇ Basrūr mam handled this task with sound technical finesse. He consulted all his senior officers and got references from saw mill owners who had earlier supplied timber for similar work in various temples.

For rafters : After thorough research we selected Rañjala wood (Bakula in Sanskrit ; Binomial name - *Mimusops elengi*) for the rafters and the wall plates.

Post discussion with various experts in this field, it was opined that Rañjala (*Mimusops elengi*) was best suited for rafters and beams in terms of religious significance, auspiciousness and durability. The wood is very durable, even when exposed to weather or when in contact with the ground. It is reportedly resistant to marine borer attack and to dry wood termites. The heartwood is very resistant to impregnation with preservatives. The energy value is 21340KJ/kg while the density is 780-1120kg/cum at 15% moisture content. In Asia the heavy, strong and durable wood of *Mimusops elengi* is well known as being suitable for heavy general construction, ship building, bridge building, boat building, marine construction, flooring, bearings, doors and frames, poles and piles, foundation sills, railway sleepers, paving blocks, mine timbers, furniture and cabinet works, vehicle bodies and wheels, turneries, tool handles, walking sticks, toys, sporting goods, and musical instruments. It also yields very good fuel wood. The age of the tree should be over 50 years for extremely mature heartwood.

Because of the scarce availability of Rañjala wood of size 15' it is suggested to have alternate species like Nandi and Hebbalasu of approximate 50 years age for the purpose.

For planks: Champā wood (Sampige in Kannaḍa, Binomial name-*Michelia Champāka* or *Magnolia Champāca*) for the planks over the rafters. The heartwood is strong, durable and capable of taking high polish. The grain is straight or slightly interlocked. It is fine textured, figured and used for furniture, cabinet work, carvings, turnery, and pattern making. It is also being used for cement bonded wood wool board. The gross energy value is 21070 KJ/kg. This tree is considered as sacred and planted around temples. The age of the tree should be over 50 years for extremely mature heartwood.

For Buruḍe: (*Buruḍe* is the wooden structure situated at the center top of the Gopura and holds all rafters) *Artocarpus lacucha* (Vāṭe). This yellow wood is durable, hard and suitable for polishing. It is resistant to termites, used for timber, heavy construction, furniture and boat building.

Alternate backup wood for rafters: *Artocarpus hirsutus* (Hebbalasu): The tree is prized for its durable timber which is comparable in quality with teak. Timber was used extensively in construction of ceilings, doors, frames and furniture in older buildings especially in KeraĀa. The famous snake boats of KeraĀa are often made out of Hebbalasu wood. It lasts well in water and not attacked by termites.

Seasoning and preservative treatment: All the cut sizes were treated with wood guard, cashew kernel oil and honne oil.

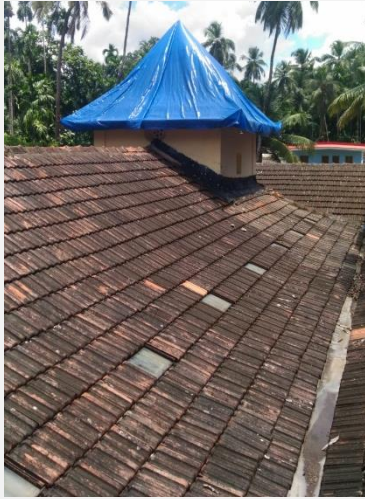
Carpentry in workshop: Shrī Chetan Sheṭ led the team of traditional, skilled artisans who had expertise in similar temple roof renovation works. Having seen their workmanship we were sure, they would meet our expectations. The entire structural work and assembling was carried out at Chetan’s workshop, Mahālasā Kalā Kendra in Kumṭā.

It was decided to assign the task of monitoring the execution work to Shrī Praveeṇ Basrūr, who agreed to visit Mallāpur from Sāgar every Sunday and convene a progress meeting with Shrī Chetan Sheṭ and Shrī Amith Shānbhāg (a PWD contractor in Kumṭā), and report the same to Parama Pūjya Swāmījī and myself to keep a finger on the pulse of the project. Entire work from start to finish was to be supervised by Shrī Chetan Sheṭ and Shrī Amith Shānbhāg. They agreed to the work conditions and commenced work. An action plan was submitted to Parama Pūjya Swāmījī at Shrī Chitrāpur Math, Shirālī on 10 September 2020.

Though we had selected the wood for the roof, the biggest obstacle was to get the right tree and the appropriate size. Since Rañjala was a rare timber species, we looked for this timber in all the saw mills around places nearby and everywhere. A miracle took place the day we visited Shrī Chitrāpur Math, Shirālī, to submit the action plan to Parama Pūjya Swāmījī.

As we entered the precincts of our Math at Shirālī, we got a call from a timber contractor from Sāgar, Mr. Fāyāz. He said he had in his possession a tree of around 100 years of age, which had been cut since the roots had decayed, and he was ready to supply it if we agreed. We had no words to express our joy! The big burden of procuring the wood was solved as gently as plucking a flower. Thus, we experienced the grace, guidance and blessings of Parama Pūjya Swāmījī at the outset itself.





Roof being covered with tarpaulin to prevent leakage of rain water



Existing roof which was damaged by termites and dampness.



Model and wood samples being shown to Parama Pūjya Swāmījī

Very soon, losing no time, Chetan and I rushed to Sāgar. Shrī Praveen Basrūr mam arranged for our visit to the site where the tree was laying. In-spite of heavy rains we reached the spot, and the selection was done and order was placed to supply the same. It was a huge tree. We got almost 400 cft of wood as against our requirement of around 250 cft.



Rañjala wood selection at Liṅgadahaḷli Village of Sāgar



Transportation and storage of the logs in Manāki sawmill



Wooden logs stored at Manāki sawmill

Kalāsaṅkocha : The next step was getting the Kalāsaṅkocha performed at the Shrine in Mallāpur so that the Garbhagṛha could be entered to remove the damaged rafters and get the actual measurements. Parama Pūjya Swāmījī visited Mallāpur on 28 September 2020 for the Kalāsaṅkocha. Vaidik-s from Shrī Chitrāpur Math, Shirālī performed all the rituals and the divine kalasha was placed in the Bālālaya (the room next to the main Samādhi) under the watchful eye of

Parama Pūjya Swāmījī. A functional and beautiful wooden enclosure from jackfruit wood was built to enclose the sacred Liṅgam.



Kalāsaṅkocha Homa being performed at the Yajñashālā at Mallāpur



Sacred Samādhī Liṅgam covered by wooden box

A few days later, the roof was dismantled. Shrī Raghu Āchārī, the seasoned artisan and his team skillfully removed each rafter and got the measurements accordingly.

I must narrate a miracle that happened during the progress of work. Once while dismantling the roof, there were heavy thunder showers in Kumṭā and surrounding areas. But there was no drop of rain in Mallāpur which would have otherwise hampered work. No sooner

was the dismantling done and iron sheets put up on the walls, did it start pouring! Showers of Anugraha!

I must also mention the dedication of Shrī Amith Shānbhāg, who worked day and night on this project and who took complete charge of the civil work. He took directions from me over phone calls and attended the work with full devotion and discipline. I understand, without him, work may not have been completed in time, to this level of perfection. During the course of work, I got a call from him saying, his son was constantly contracting high fever. Even after consulting several medical practitioners his fever would not subside. I suggested to him to offer prayers and Kshīrānna sevā at Guru Samādhī Sannidhi. Accordingly, he offered sevā and gave the prasāda to his ailing son. To his surprise, the fever gradually subsided and the very next morning his son was fine! This incident strengthened his commitment, and his dedication towards Math sevā increased multifold. Such is the vātsalya of the Guru – whoever seeks refuge, is never turned away!



Dismantling of roof in progress

At the saw mill: Rañjala (Bakul) is a hard species of wood and not easily workable. In spite of specifically designed saw blades, it takes around a week for a large log to cut with a breakage of seven to eight blades, as a result of which, rarely do any saw mills take up this challenge! As expected, no saw mill was willing to cut it to sizes to suit our requirement. Shrī R. R. Pai mām, also known fondly as Ajith Pai mām amongst the locals, who has tremendous respect for our Swāmījī and our Math, agreed to get the work done at a very reasonable rate. On 30 September 2020, the timber from Sāgar reached Pai mām's saw mill at Manāki, Kumṭā.

Simultaneously, Champā wood was procured from Vināyaka saw mill, Sāgar. All the planks were cut from 100-year-old Champā wood logs. They were brought to Shrī Raghu Āchārī's workshop at Kumṭā.

Parama Pūjya Swāmījī wished to visit the saw mill before the cutting process was initiated. Accordingly, Pūjya Swāmījī visited the saw mill on 5 October 2020 and performed pūjana to the logs. Pūjya Swāmījī stood for an hour during the sawing process. What would otherwise take more than a week, was now easily achieved in three to four days before they were cut to required sizes!!





Parama Pūjya Swāmījī keenly observing the wood sawing work at Manāki sawmill.

Remodeling: Once while inspecting the roofing work, I noticed a mango tree between Shrī Guru Math and the kuṭīra which made work difficult hence after obtaining necessary permissions, it was decided to trim the tree and continue the roofing. It was also essential to make provisions to access the Gopura from the Bhikshā room so that all the materials could be carried to the Gopura easily without hindrance and also to make the provisions for the forthcoming glorious occasion of Kalasha sthāpanā at the Divine Hands of Parama Pūjya Swāmījī. The window of the upper storey of the Bhikshā room was remodeled into a door with all security provisions and a ramp from this door to the Gopura using C Channel Stainless steel frames was constructed.



Window above the Bhikshā room converted into a door



Stainless steel bridge connecting Bhikshā room and Gopura



Mortar: The height of the wall reaching the roof was to be raised by 18 inches. To construct the wall we needed mortar. Instead of cement mortar we decided to go for the traditional *Gāre* mortar. It is made out of lime, jaggery, mud and herbal paste.

The mortar, *Gāre* is very long lasting, durable and can withstand severe, climatic changes hence was used in the construction of the Gopura. Shrī Mañjunāth Bhaṭ of Suvarṇagaḍḍe accepted the responsibility of preparing and supplying the *Gāre*. I am extremely grateful to him for this immense help. Shrī Sunil, the mason, commenced the preparation of *Gāre* at Gokaṛṇa as it requires 40 days to ferment after preparation.



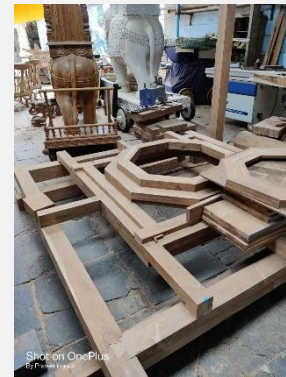
Gāre mortar prepared at Gokaṛṇa and left for fermentation

Simultaneously rafters were readied and assembled in Shrī Raghu Āchārī's workshop at Kumṭā. A miniature scale model of the Gopura was also built enabling it to demonstrate the properties of the original Gopura.





Roof structure assembled at Mahālasā Kalā Kendra, Kumṭā



Making of Navaraṅga at Mahālasā Kalā Kendra



Miniature model of the roof

Roof tiles: During my routine circumambulations in the Math, I also noticed that all the existing Maṅalore tiles were in poor condition and were faded. I decided to repair them. We got all the

tiles removed, washed and painted them with tile guard antifungal paint so that for the next couple of years the tiles would be damp proof and fungus proof. They were given terracotta colour to match the natural tile colour. Cleaning and painting of all roof tiles starting from Yajñashālā was carried out systematically. All the old roof tiles were taken off and dipped in huge baskets filled with water before painting. The following day the tiles were cleaned with thick plastic and metal brushes, both sides of the tiles were then painted after placing them on wooden reapers. They were then put to dry on both sides for 2 hours in bright sunlight, thus the old tiles now new were ready for reuse on the roof. Each paint tin consisted of 18 kg paint, with 5 litres of water added to it, the quantity rose to 23 kgs – each kilogram of paint was sufficient to paint 30 to 35 tiles. It contains oil and does not form fungus during monsoon.



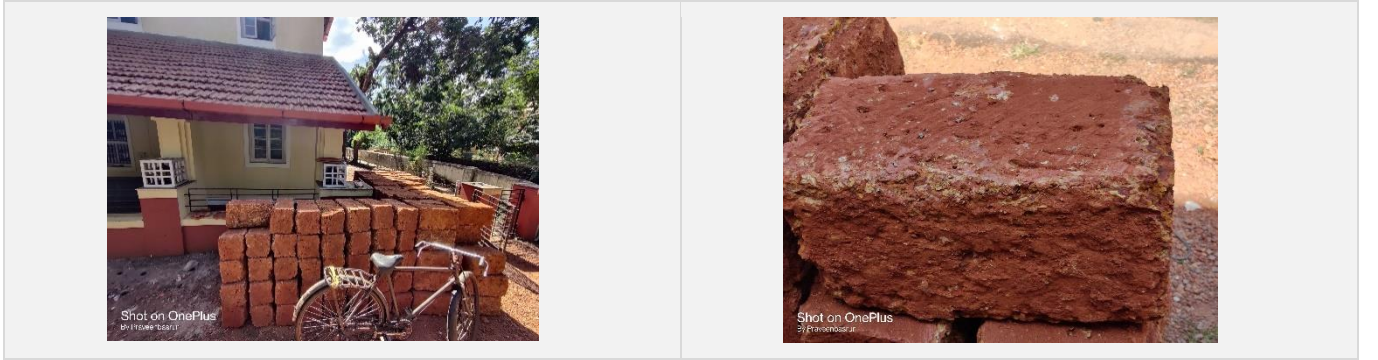
During the course of progress review a plan of action was chalked out and it was decided to go by the time frame.

Sl no.	Cut off date	Particulars of work	Person responsible
1	2020-10-24	Electrical work of entire Math completed (also provided sockets inside walls of Gopura)	Manju
2	2020-10-24	Cleaning and painting of tiles and refixing (40% work completed)	Amith Shānbhāg
3	2020-10-25	Fixing of entry door from Bhikshā room to Gopura completed	Chetan Sheṭ
4	2020-10-25	Monitoring of progress of work by Shrī Praveṇ Basrūr every Sunday	Praveṇ Basrūr
5	2020-10-29	Fixing of S/S connecting bridge which is already in our procession	Nagesh Bhaṭ
6	2020-10-30	Procurement of laterite stone of size 9x17.5x8.5 inch	Sudarshan
7	2020-10-30	Expansion of window on western side of Gopura by 6 inch width and 8 inch height	Chetan
8	2020-10-31	Repair of damaged Pānpaṭṭi and reapers (by painting)	Amith
9	2020-11-05	Visit of our team to inspect Shrī Chitrāpur Math Gopura-s, Shirālī	Praveṇ, Chetan, Raghu Āchārī
10	2020-11-15	Procurement of Gāre in Mallāpur	Sunil
11	2020-11-15	Procurement of copper sheets with all accessories from Chandāvar	Gani, Chandavar
12	2020-11-15	Fixing of roof wooden structures on Gopura wall	Raghu Āchārī
13	2020-11-15	Fixing teak wood Navaraṅga ceiling in Garbhagrha with necessary fixtures	Chetan
14	2020-11-15	Album of wood samples in two volumes (60 sps), Gopura model, wooden Planks	Chetan
15	2020-11-15	Providing s/s net inside the walls of Gopura to prevent birds and bats entering the Gopura	Chetan
16	2020-11-18	Fixing of laterite stone on Gopura wall to the height of 18 inches using Gāre	Sunil
17	2020-12-15	Cleaning and painting of remaining tiles, exterior and interior painting with necessary repairs	Amith
18	2020-12-30	Exterior painting and tile painting of Kuṭīra	Amith
19	2021-01-05	Finishing work of roof, Tāmrashāsana fixing	Raghu Āchārī
20	2021-01-08	Plastering of newly built stone wall with Gāre	Sunil
21	2021-01-10	Fixing copper Pānpaṭṭi on all sides of roof and yālī, nāga, and bells on four corners	Chetan
22	2021-02-01	Final painting of Gopura wall	Amith

Since the Covid-19 pandemic cases was receding in all parts of the country, I thought of returning to Mumbaī on 26 October 2020. I had a very efficient team to execute the work as per schedule to my complete satisfaction.

Bridge on roof: By 8 November 2020, we completed the link, connecting the Gopura from above the Bhikshā room, which made it easy to reach the Gopura from the outside without disturbing the Samādhi Sannidhi.

Initially we had planned to raise the height of the wall below the Gopura by 18 inches. But when we bought laterite stones, each stone weighed around 45 kgs. We needed around 106 stones. If entire construction was done, it would have been 4.5 tonnes and the load on the existing wall would be too much to bear hence we thought it not to be practically feasible. Therefore it was decided to raise the wall by 4 inches only after obtaining permission from Parama Pūjya Swāmījī. It was 22 November 2020 and the stone construction and Gāre work was complete.



I must mention the efforts of Shrī Mañjunāth Bhaṭ during the course of *Gāre* work as the mason was unwell and we were lagging behind our schedule. Once the *Gāre* is fixed, it requires 21 days to cure and harden. So a delay of a single day would cause postponement of other related works. But Shrī Mañjunāth Bhaṭ assured us that the work will be done in time. It was the Grace of our Guru that the mason came in time and completed the task.

Struck by the pandemic, 30 families would have been without a source of income, but for the renovation work being carried out in the Math. This welcome opportunity provided them with a daily wage till the work was completed and the work opportunities elsewhere started cropping up again.

Kuṭīra: One plan led to another! The premises of Parama Pūjya Swāmījī's Kuṭīra needed a makeover. As the painting of the Kuṭīra walls was done long ago, the tiles above the RCC slab were in poor condition, we undertook the job of repairing and repainting. It was also noticed that there was debris outside the Kuṭīra. The outside was muddy, uneven and patchy. We decided to provide pavers inside the premises and to provide laterite stone work around all coconut trees so that not

only would the premises look neat but the manure provided to the trees would reach out to the trees as they should.

The Kuṭīra was painted from outside entirely and a few areas inside and entire tiles cleaned and painted. Due to severe damage of the tiles of the Kuṭīra, we purchased 1,200 new tiles and fixed them on roof of the Kuṭīra. New tiles were fixed on the porch which was absent earlier.



Painting and other repair works at the Kuṭīra



A Small entry to the Gopura is provided for its internal maintenance

The space on the left side of the Math outside and in front of the Kuṭīra, was filled with debris. We planned to convert it into a beautiful garden. Shrī Praveeṇ Basrūr arranged for a gardener from Sorab who brought lawn grass and other flowering plants from Sorab and landscaped a beautiful lawn which gave a lush green look to the Math and the Kuṭīra. Shrī Chetan Sheṭ and his team provided the lighting arrangements.



Around the Ashvattha: We wanted to facelift the *Ashvattha kaṭṭā* in front of the Math. We provided tiles on the *kaṭṭā*, the structure around the tree and also on the ground. Stainless steel fence was built on the *kaṭṭā* and all around. The garage beside the *kaṭṭā* was plastered and painted. It is now refurbished with interlocking pavers, paintings of Āñjaneya in Dhyānamudrā, Shrī Rāma and Devī Sītā blessing Him, Āñjaneya Swāmī performing Shivapūjana – all painted by local artisans.





Ashvattha kṛṣṇa getting renovated and painted



Reinstalling of roofing rafters was started after offering prayers at the Samādhi on 23 December 2020. Four corner *pakāshe-s* were hoisted with the centre *Buruḍe* holding all 4 *mūla pakāshe-s* after which the remaining *pakāshe-s* were fixed. Planks were fixed after an oil treatment.



Laterite stone built with Gāre mortar



Rañjala wood wall plates fixed



Fixing of Corner rafters and Buruḍe





Fixing of all rafters



Fixing of Champā wood Planks

On returning to Mallāpur from Mumbāī, on 23 December 2020, I inspected the progress and convened a meeting of all concerned team members. Once I was satisfied with the progress, we visited Shrī Chitrāpur Math, Shirālī on 9 January 2021 to brief Parama Pūjya Swāmījī about the progress of work. Parama Pūjya Swāmījī was presented an album of timber-yielding wood samples which was collected by Shrī Praveen Basrūr and compiled by Shrī Chetan Sheṭ. Parama Pūjya Swāmījī was extremely pleased and we returned filled with joy in our hearts and smiles on our faces.



Navaraṅga: An intricately chiselled ceiling of Navaraṅga maṇḍapa carved from teak wood was fixed inside the sanctum sanctorum at Mallāpur. Shrī Chetan Sheṭ spared no effort in carving this magnificent piece of work. Lighting arrangement is provided all around.



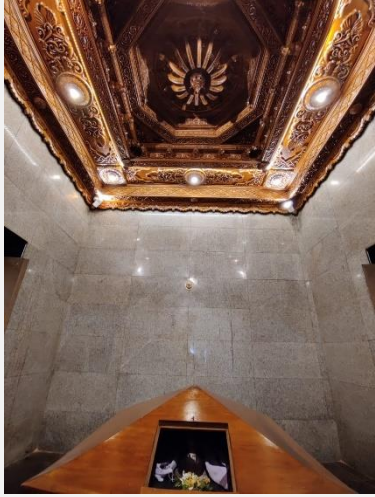
Artisans making Tāmrashāsana



Tāmrashāsana after polishing and lamination.



A view of the Navaraṅga maṇḍapa installed inside the Garbhagṛha , made of teak wood.



The rooms outside the Math which were being used as office rooms during the previous Chātur māsa at Mallāpur were in poor condition as the roof was damaged. The garden beside the room too needed attention. Existing roofs were pulled out and refurnished with new tiles, while the garden was planted with rose, jasmine, and other flowering plants. The toilet complex in the premises needed immediate attention as the earlier pipeline was out of order due to rust and leakage. Entire pipeline and tile work was renovated.



Math entrance: Drainage in front of the Math needed repairs as the area was undulated and was of little use. The ground was levelled, old block slabs of drainage were removed. New RCC slabs prepared and reinstalled on the existing drainage. This area can now be used for various purposes.



Earlier the road in front of Guru Math was only 13 ft. After widening, the road width now is 28 ft.

It all began with just a thought of renovating only the Gopura and Tāmrashāsana. But gradually as the work progressed, we thought of renovating the entire Guru Math and premises at Mallāpur. The Math looks beautiful with new tiles on roofs, vibrant colours on walls, plush lawns around, renovated Ashvattha kaṭṭā in the front, fully face lifted Kuṭīra, widened road in the front, parking space, rejuvenated garden area in the backyard, neat area for washing utensils and clothes behind the kitchen and lot more!

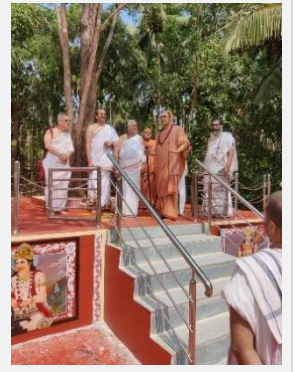


Each and every material which was used in the Gopura was measured – the weight of wood, laterite stone, Gāre, planks and copper sheets to get an idea as to the weight put on the existing walls.

Sl no.	Particulars	Weight
1	Laterite Stones 46 in number, each weighing 18 kg	828 kg
2	Wooden Rafters Wall plates 8 in number = 275 kg Buruḍe =45 kg Corner rafters 4 in number(13' length)= 249 kg Rafters 8 in number 13' length 8 in number 12' 8 in number 11 ' Center rafters 4 in number 10' Total 28 Rafters = 913 kg Locking battens 4 in number, 15' length 4 in number, 6 ' length Total 8 in number = 120 kg	1602 kgs
3	Planks 64 planks= 1327 kgs	1327 kg
4	Gāre	262 kgs

5	Copper sheets 308 kg Copper nails 16 kg Brass screws 1 kg Copper sheets to cover Gopura 72 kg Copper Mukhapaṭṭī 20 kg	417kgs
	Old copper sheets recovered = 300kgs Old rafters of Gopura sent to Shrī Chitrāpur Math = 1311 kgs	
	Total	4436 kgs

On 31 January 2021, Parama Pūjya Swāmījī, accompanied by H.H. Brahmānanda Saraswatī Swāmījī, visited Mallāpur Math and inspected the completed and ongoing work. Parama Pūjya Swāmījī expressed happiness over the systematic and timely accomplishment of the entire renovation project.



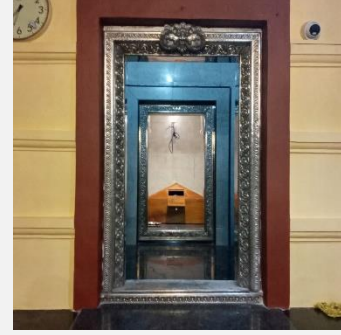
Parama Pūjya Swāmījī inspecting the work at Shrī Guru Math, Mallāpur



To enhance the beauty of the inner parikramā of the Guru Math, the outer walls of Garbhagrha were painted with yellow and terracotta colour, a new plaque depicting details of Samādhi sthāpanā was installed. For an even level, elegance and quality, new granite slabs were laid on the floor from the main entrance to the Garbhagrha. The silver door, silverware and Prabhāvalī were polished, and last but not the least, all the teak wood pillars were polished to glitter.



Newly laid granite steps at the entrance



Newly painted Garbhagṛha



Magnificent chandelier installed



Silver doors being polished

We have maintained a record of the minutest detail of the entire work for future reference should such projects be undertaken at other Math-s and Shrines. Everything was accomplished as per schedule. It is the Guru Shakti which is the incomprehensible force that inspires, guides, protects – hence it is with awe that we offer this sevā at the Divine Sannidhi at Mallāpur on the Samārāadhanā Diwasa of H.H. Shrīmat Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī II on the 14 February 2021!

Long ago, in an Āshīrvachana at Andherī, Mumbāi in 2013, Parama Pūjya Swāmījī said, “*sevā me hi vastutaha shuddhi aane lagtī hai...*”. This indeed was a renovation of Shrī Guru Math but to me it is a process of purification for myself. So patiently bearing the cleansing, and moving forward, I offer my unconditional surrender at His Lotus Feet. I am filled with deep gratitude to Swāmījī for giving me and my team an opportunity to accomplish this labour of love, as well as the opportunity to personally fund the project in its entirety. I am also indebted to Swāmījī for providing me – a sādḥaka of 79 years – with the Shakti to bring this tremendous task to completion.

I must mention the names of Shrī Praveṇ Kaḍḍe mām (President, Standing Committee), Shrī Nārāyaṇ Mallāpur mām (General Manager, Shrī Chitrāpur Math), Shrī Aneesh Hosaṅgaḍi (member of Parama Pūjya Swāmījī’s retinue) and Shrī Aruṇ Ubhaykar mām (Vaivaḍdār of Shrī Guru Math, Mallāpur) for their excellent cooperation and coordination. I must also give credit to the constant support provided by my wife Viju.

My praṇāma-s at the Lotus Feet of my Guru with a prayer to shower abundant blessings on every individual connected with this sevā and for walking with me on this memorable journey!

Shrī Durgesh Chandāvarkar

14.2.2021

Photographs of the renovated Shrī Guru Math, Kuṭīra and the Math complex at Mallāpur















॥ श्रीमद्-द्वितीय-शङ्कराश्रम-स्वामिनः ॥

॥ महासमाधिः ॥

॥ विश्वावसु-संवत्सरे, शके १७०७ माघ-शुक्ल-तृतीये, बुधवासरे ०१-०२-१७८६ ॥

॥ श्रीमद् द्वितीय शंकराश्रम स्वामिगण ॥

॥ महासमाधि ॥

॥ विश्वावसु-संवत्सरे शके १८०२, माघ-शुक्ल-तृतीये,
बुधवार ०१-०२-१८०२ ॥

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