



Genesis and Growth of Sri Kailasanathar Temple Srivaikuntam

Mr.J.ARUN

Part time Ph.D. Research Scholar, 7/97, Veikalpatty, Mettur - Post, Tirunelveli- 627 808 Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to highlight the genesis and growth of Sri Kailasanathar temple at Srivaikuntam. Sri Kailasanathar temple Srivaikundam is one of the few existing year of pandya temple with rich and hoary past, Srivaikundam is situated at eighteen miles from Palayamkottai at the eastern direction on Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli highway road in Tutucorin district of Tamilnadu. Sri Kailasanathar Temple is situated in the north eastern corner of Srivaikundam. The place around the temple is also known as kailayapuram. This temple is dedicated to Lord Kailasanathar and Goddess Sivagami Amman. Saint kumara guruparar recited kailasa kalampagam on kailasanathar of this temple

KEYWORDS

Sri Kailasanathar, Temple structure, sanctum Sanctorium

Sri Kailasanathar temple Srivaikundam is one of the few existing year of pandya temple with rich and hoary past, Srivaikundam is situated at eighteen miles from Palayamkottai at the eastern direction on Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli highway road in Tutucorin district of Tamilnadu¹. Sri Kailasanathar Temple is situated in the north eastern corner of Srivaikundam. The place around the temple is also known as kailayapuram. This temple is dedicated to Lord Kailasanathar and Goddess Sivagami Amman. Saint kumara guruparar recited kailasa kalampagam on kailasanathar of this temple.² Sri Kailasanathar temple as it stands today is a vast and impressive complex of structures enclosed by high and massive compound walls all around occupying a rectangular plot of land. The temple measures 340 feet east to west and 323 feet South to North range by occupying an area of two and half acres and two cents.³ Like many of the big temple complexes of south India. Such as these at Chidambaram and Madurai, this temple was not built all at one time but was the result of many centuries of growth and development. There is a board at the southern entrance area of Sri Kailasanathar temple which reveals that Romesa Munivar one of the disciple of Agasthya Munivar coined nine siva temples known as Nava kailasam. On north and southern banks of river Thamiraparani. Papanasam, Cheranmahadevi, Kodaganallur, Kunnathur, Murappanadu, Srivaikundam, Tenthirupperai, Rajapathi, and Sernthapoo mangalam. Sri kailasanathar temple srivaikundam is one of the Navakailasam constructed by the Romesa Munivar.⁴ Nava kailasam are represented nine planets. During the sangam age temples were built with perishable materials.⁵ After the Pallavas Stone and other things were used to build the temples. In the kailasanathar temple the lord Siva and Goddess Sivagami amman are made up of a granite stone. Urchavar Kailasanathar in copper material idol. Casting of images in bronze by the lost wax process was increasingly practiced from later Palava period. So this temple was constructed before fifth century A.D. Srikailasanathar temple has a grand structure with lofty mandapas through which the main entrance leads into the inner precincts.⁶ This temple was constructed by various ruler of various dynasties viz, Early Pandyas, Later Pandyas and Nayaks. The entrance of the wall carries the symbol of fish. It clearly exposes that the temple certaining built up by a Pandya ruler. Also a fish symbol can be seen on the top of the walls of temple. This temple is considered as representing God Saneeswarar. Lord is far away from the entry to the temple. In the sanctum Sanctorium with vimana of twenty feet height on its top facing eastern sanctum sanctorium. The length of Garphagriha is twenty five feet and width twenty five feet and fourteen feet above this terrace vimana is situated. Karuvarai pirakara is of eight feet length and eighty feet width on all sides. Two Duwara Balakas stand on each side of entrance to

karuvarai before Lord Kailasanathar.

There is a board at the southern entrance of Kailasanathar temple which reveals that Romesa Munivar set up the Audai to Lord Kailasanathar and coined small shrine. The vimana and mandapas were constructed by the Chandrakula Pandyas of Madurai. Central shrine of this temple was reconstructed by Sadayavarma Virapandya I (1253 – 1283) in 13th century A.D. one inscription belongs to the period of Sadayavarma Virapandya I found on the walls of central shrine. Veerappa Nayak I built (1572 – 1595) Velvi salai and Sandana sapapathi mandapa. Flag mast was erected on designing between the years of Muthu Veerappa Nayak II of 1609 – 1623. Eastern Gopura was constructed by Tirumalai Nayak in between 1653 – 1659.⁷ All this details are available in the wooden notice board and on the painting on the walls are available inside the temple. These information were collected on my personal visit to the temple. The stone inscriptions are found in the walls of temple and its parts. These inscriptions were traced under the act of ancient monument preservation of 1895. The following Tamil inscriptions numbers 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177 and 178 of 1895, vividly describes the various grants of Veerapandya alias Tirunelveli Pandya to Srikailasanathar temple in Tiruvaluthi valanadu.⁸

1. Tamilnadu A land of end during Heritage- India, Pub by Director of Tourism, Chennai, 1992, P.52
2. Sivanadi.P, India Charithira Kalanchiyam Vol.I XI, (Tamil), Madras, 1999, PP.50-51
3. Field study on 05.05.2016
4. Raja Gopalan.P, Iraiyanbargal Nadum Iniya Koilgal (Tamil), Madras, 2000, p.232.
5. Srinivasan.P.R, Temples of South India, New Delhi, 1972, p.17.
6. Das.R.K, Temples of Tamil Nadu, Bombay, 1964, p.123.
7. Tirupanimalai.
8. Rangachariya.V, A Topographical list of the inscriptions of the Madras Presidency, Madras, 1919, pp.1478-1479.