

## Balaji Temple Construction Commences in San Jose

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SAN JOSE, Calif. - The Balaji Temple here celebrated its Building Dedication Ceremony and Sri Hanumanji Ratha Yatra at Alviso Aug. 13, as the celebrations began with Balaji Abhishekam and Yajur Upakarma performed simultaneously at the Sunnyvale location with devotees receiving blessings and prasadam.

After the abhishekam, with blessings of Lord Balaji, Swamiji Anandanatha, priest Partha Sarathi, Ram Koteswararao, Subramanya and devotees proceeded to the new temple site. Rohit Narayan carried the Yojamana

Danda, Partha Sarathi carried the Hanumanji and Lakshmi Vittala Dasi carried the Kalasha.

At the new temple site in Alviso, Swamiji started the celebration by performing puja to the deities while devotees sang bhajans and kirtans. Hundreds of devotees participated in the Rath Yatra, and garlands were prepared and vadas decorated Hanumanji.

The Hanumanji Ratha was taken to the new temple site, where puja was performed, and Swamiji and the devotees ran the construction equipment to break the ground and initiate the construction.

After the bhajans and aarti, Krishna Sheelam, vice secretary

of the temple, welcomed the devotees. Swamiji Anandanatha spoke briefly about the progress the temple has made over the years. His message was simple, in that "we need to serve the God selflessly, and He will take care of all of us."

To illustrate his teaching, Swamiji used examples from the Mahabharata and real life.

The temple board honored

Nailesh Jhaveri, Ramana Reddy and Rohit Narayan who helped with the architecture, site acquisition and construction work.

Rao Panuganti and V.R. Ranganath from the Vasavi Seva Foundation spoke briefly, saying that they were happy to support the Balaji Temple and, on behalf of the foundation, donated \$15,000 toward the new temple construction.

Rajesh Kamath, secretary of

temple board, sought help in raising additional funds required for completion of the construction. The Balaji Temple has raised approximately \$30,000 in donations for the construction.

After the puja, lunch was provided by the Ganesh Indian Cuisine restaurant of Santa Clara. Those interested in donating should visit the [www.BalajiTemple.net](http://www.BalajiTemple.net) Web site or call (408) 203-1036.



Swamiji with devotees at the Bhoomi Puja at the Balaji Temple.

