

## Introduction:

Panapakkam is a panchayat town in Nemili Taluk of Ranipet district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. This town is located in the banks of river Kotralaiyar alias Old Palar. Panapakkam is about 85 km west of Chennai, 50 km east of Vellore and 18 km west of Kanchipuram and 25 km from Arakkonam. Panapakkam is supposedly one of the hottest towns in India (next to Vellore), where the temperature can exceed 43 °C (110 °F) for several days in peak of the summer. The major business in this town is Weaving and Agriculture.



*Map: Panapakkam in Tamilnadu Map*

## Temples in Panapakkam:

1. Mayuranatha Temple
2. Kaalatheeswara Temple
3. Lakshmi Narayana Temple
4. Angalamman Temple

## 5. Ellaiyamman Temple

### **Mayuranatha Temple:**

Mayuranathar Temple is a Hindu Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva located at Panappakkam. Presiding Deity is called as Mayuranathar and his consort is called as Soundara Nayagi. Goddess Umadevi worshipped Siva in the form of peacock, hence the name was Mayuranathar. Nandi Devar worshipped Lord Siva in the form of tiger. Also, Indran, Agasthiar and Brahmma had worshipped Lord Shiva here. The place is also known as Mayurapuri, Indrapuri, Brahmapuri and Puliyoor. These names have been mentioned in the Sthala Purana called Panasaipuranam of this temple. 63 Nayanmars Idols can be seen in the temple corridor. Sthala Vriksham is Palm tree.

Mayuranatha Temple is located in the Sannidhi Street of Panapakkam. It might be built by the early chola period. Because the earliest inscription found on the northern wall of the Soundaranayagi Amman shrine. In that inscription starts with 'காந்தளூர் சாலை' exactly it was Rajaraja Chola 1 who offered some buffalos & cows for lighting the lamp in the temple. The other inscription found in the northern wall of the prahara, it was belonged to the king of Vijayanagara Empire Venkatapa Maharaya. The inscription is partially damaged but it registered the gift of land to the god 'Thirupuliyappar in panaipakkam'. Mentions more as Saka era 1510 and the gift of land was done by Shesagiri ayyan the son of giriappayar , the agent of achuthayappa nayakkaraayan.

So we know from the inscription, the present name of the town panapakkam is minimum 500 years old.



*Pic 1 : Outside view of the Mayuranatha Temple*

### **Kaalatneeswara Temple:**

Kaalatneeswara temple is a medium sized temple with the entrance gateway facing east. The presiding deity is called as Kaalatneeswara and his consort is called as Gnanambikai. Lord shiva facing east and the goddess facing south. This temple was built very later after the vijayanagara period. But some particular families maintaining this temple for generations.





*Pic 2: Front view of Kaalatheeswara Temple*

### **Lakshmi Narayana Temple :**

Lakshmi Narayana Temple is very beautiful and large with 5 tiered gopuram facing East. The temple was located near the Big street of panapakkam. The temple has no inscriptions but it was believed that the temple was built by the King Krishnadevaraya. The main deity of the temple is Lakshmi Narayana Swamy where the lakshmi was sitting in the lap of lord narayana. But generally people believes that the lord rama's shrine was a older one later they built lakshmi narayana swamy shrine in front of the Rama Shrine. They might be right, because the lord Rama's shrine also having the artha mandapa and muha mandapa etc. It also looks like a separate shrine.





Pic 3: Rajagopuram of the Lakshmi Narayana Temple



### Angalamman Temple:

Angalamman Temple was looks very modern now but actually it was very old. It is located exactly in the old palar alias Kotralaiyar river basin. The presiding deity is Angalamman. The temple is very famous for Mayanakollai Festival helds during every year no moon day of tamil month maasi. They are smaller shrines for sapthamatrikas also. The temple is facing east direction.



*Pic 4: Angalamman Temple Front View*

### Ellaiyamman Temple:

Ellaiyamman Temple is located in the Kuyavar Street of Panapakkam. The main deity Ellaiyamman is suyambu. There are lot of mysterious and stories behind this deity. Generally people saying, that one guy walked through this street he fell down due to the stone. He tried to move the stone from that place but it's not so easy for him. So he decided to call some other peoples to pull up the stone but can't. Later he realized it was some mystery. Then he decided to built the temple there and named it as Ellaiyamman. This goddess was a kula deivam for many families lived in panapakkam. This temple is also facing East.





*Pic 4: Ellaiyamman Temple Entrance*