

TEMPLES OF TAMILNADU

KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT



DIRECTORATE OF CENSUS OPERATIONS
TAMILNADU

FOREWORD

Temples have been the focus of the social and cultural heritage of the people of India for centuries. They have served as the cradles for nourishing various fine art forms like dance and music besides fostering and preserving art, architecture and sculpture. A study of the temples presents a vivid and eloquent description of the various facets of the culture and civilization of the community.

The Indian Census is internationally acclaimed not only for its credible data on population and its characteristics but also for the many unique studies on the various social and cultural themes that touch the life of the people of this country. Monographs on Fairs and Festivals of India, Village and Town Studies, Studies on the various Arts and Crafts of India are a part of the diverse repertoire of literary compositions that have served to throw light on the various aspects of the Indian people.

This study, "Temples of Tamil Nadu - Kancheepuram District" has been undertaken under the aegis of the Directorate of Census Operations, Tamil Nadu as part of the inter-censal stud-

ies after the 2001 Census. The present volume contains a wealth of data, both empirical as well as anecdotal on various aspects of the temples of Kancheepuram District in Tamil Nadu. Brilliant colour photographs, diagrams and illustrations, have been added value to the text. I am confident that this rich collection will invoke a great sense of satisfaction and admiration both from the discerning lay reader as well as those who have an interest in Indian culture.

New Delhi
September 2003

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PREFACE

“We also count people”, the blurb that greets visitors to the website of the Census of India 2001 well and truly captures the spirit of the Indian Census. The Organisation has a rich tradition and an enviable track record of documenting diverse facets of life in India-Demographic, Socio-Cultural and Economic. The canvas extends to an entire gamut of subjects ranging from “Fairs and Festivals”, “Arts and Crafts”, “Ethnography”, “Temples” and the like. In fact, anything to do with the people of India concerns this Organisation. Little surprise then that the Logo of the Census of India 2001 reflects this in its slogan “People Oriented”. Any aspect of Indian life is of interest to us and counting people is only one such facet!

The present venture, “Temples of Tamil Nadu-Kancheepuram District” is yet another addition to the impressive collection of Monographs brought out by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. Such a study was first undertaken in the Census of India 1961. The Office of the Superintendent of Census Operations, Madras brought out seven Monographs in a series called “Temples of Madras State” covering all the Districts of the Madras State (now Tamil Nadu). The Directorate of Census Operations Kerala has undertaken a similar effort in the Census of India 1991. Three Monographs entitled “Temples of Kerala”, “Temples of Kannanur District” and “Temples of Kasargod District” were published. Similar Volumes are planned for the other Districts of Kerala.

“Temples of Tamil Nadu - Kancheepuram District” as the name indicates is a survey of all Temples located within the revenue District of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu. A unique fea-

ture of this study is that while the earlier Monograph covered only the Temples that were under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, the present survey has covered all the Villages and Towns in this District. This includes 6 Municipalities, 28 Town Panchayats, 21 Census Towns, 1 Cantonment and 1091 Revenue Villages. Details have been presented for 2359 temples. In the case of 1459 temples, names alone have been furnished without any details.

A Survey Questionnaire was canvassed from two main sources- the Village Administrative Officer (VAO) of each village and from the Executive Officers of the Temples under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Information was also culled out from the database of Land holdings available with the District Information Officer. To this was added information available from secondary sources like books and publications. Particular mention has to be made here of the “Sthala Varalaru”, the history of the Temple brought out by many temples, which is a rich source of information. The information thus gathered has been presented Village wise. The Villages fall under the following categories - villages where sufficient details are available about the temples; villages where the names of temples are available but no other significant details are available and villages where no details are available. The last category also includes villages where there are no temples. The Permanent Location Codes assigned to the various geographical units in the Census of India 2001 have been adopted in the Survey.

The descriptions furnished about the temples are of two types - 1. Empirical information on the location, size, assets etc.

and 2. Historical information. The first has been culled out from the schedules filled in by the Village Officers and Executive Officers of the temples. The historical data is based on various published sources and hearsay. This is more in the nature of folklore and traditional beliefs. The tendency to exaggerate aspects such as the antiquity of the temple, the legends etc. can be expected. The Study has reproduced this information as it is without any attempt to establish the authenticity or otherwise. Additional information on general areas of interest has also been provided by way of Boxed items.

The Monograph contains nine Maps showing the location of major temples - one for each Taluk and an additional Map for Kancheepuram Municipality. Layout sketches of some major temples have also been included. A few hand drawn sketches further embellish the text. Seventy Two pages of high quality photographs in colour bring out the beauty of these temples in their full glory. Such a large collection of photographs of temples in one District is in itself a unique feature.

I would like to acknowledge with reverence, the keen interest taken by their holiness the Sankaracharyas of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, His Holiness Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal and His Holiness Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, who not only blessed the venture but guided us at each and every step. The personal advice of the two pontiffs, the interactions they arranged with Sthapatis, Shivachariars and other eminent persons knowledgeable in this field have been invaluable. It would not be wrong to say that the Survey would not have been possible but for their intervention.

My personal debt of gratitude is due to Sri M.A. Gowrishankar, I.A.S., Commissioner Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, Government of Tamil Nadu who issued a Circular to all the Executive Officers of the temples under the control of the Department to render all cooperation in the conduct of the Survey. I also place on record my gratitude to all the officers of the Department.

My sincere thanks are due in particular to the Collector of Kancheepuram, Sri K. Rajaraman, I.A.S. and to all officials of Kancheepuram District especially the Village Administrative Officers without whose assistance this Survey could not have been completed.

It has been an enormous team effort and I would be failing in my duty if the contribution of the Officials of the Directorate of Census Operations Tamil Nadu who have been working tirelessly for bringing out this Monograph were not acknowledged.

At the outset, I would like to place on record my appreciation to the following members of the Village Survey team- Smt. K.M. Maheswari, Statistical Investigator Grade II, Smt. P. Susheela, Statistical Investigator Grade III, Smt. Shema Sundari, Compiler and Smt. Jansi Rani, Compiler, who canvassed the Village Temple Survey forms from the Village Administrative Officers.

The Maps and Layout Sketches were prepared by Sri R. Joseph, Senior Geographer, Sri E.S. Jayamohan, Senior Drawing Assitant, Sri A. Lazer, Senior Draftsman and Kumari. J. Coumary, Senior Draftsman of the Cartography Section. I acknowledge their contribution.

Shri B. Raghavan, Statistical Investigator Grade III, Smt. V. Vijayarani, Compiler and Sri S. Anandakumar, Assistant Compiler assisted in the field work as well as typing of the manuscript. Thanks are due to them. Thanks are also due to Sri Raji, Driver for the assistance provided in the field work.

My appreciation to Sri P. Ramakrishnan, Statistical Investigator Grade I and Sri N. Raghu, Printing Inspector, who assisted in the printing of the Monograph.

I acknowledge the services of Sri N. Ravichandran, Sri M.R.V. Krishna Rao and Dr. D. Venkatesan, Deputy Directors of Census Operations who coordinated various aspects of the preparation of this Monograph.

A special word of appreciation is due to Sri M.A. Prabhakaran, Confidential Assistant to the Director of Census Operations, who not only assisted in the field work but also meticulously typed out and edited several versions of the Monograph, spending hours and hours of sincere work. His tireless effort is an important factor that contributed to the early publication of this Monograph.

Thanks are due to Sri Thyagarajan, Photographer, who has shot wonderful photographs for this volume. His sincere approach and dedication to his profession will definitely take him far.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not place on record my gratitude to Shri J.K. Banthia, I.A.S. , the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India for the absolute trust he reposed in me and the unstinting encouragement he gave me to take up and complete this venture. My thanks are also due to all the officers of the Office of the Registrar General India, who have readily assisted us whenever approached.

Finally, my thanks to members of my family for assisting me in various ways and painstakingly proof reading the manuscript. This work would not have been possible without their support.

The Monograph has been written for a lay reader. The narration and content is therefore kept very simple. As far as possible technical terminology has been avoided. A large number of transliterated words in Sanskrit and Tamil have been used. It would have been impossible to convey the full import of these

words if translated versions of the same were used. To the extent possible, these terms have been explained either in the Box items or in the Glossary. It is however possible that a few words may still have escaped our attention. I offer my apologies for any such omissions. As has been stated earlier, the information provided by the various respondents and publications have been taken at face value. Verification or validation of the information has not been attempted.

This is the first Volume and there are likely to be limitations. I would welcome any suggestions that would help in improving the content, coverage, style and presentation of future Monographs in this series.

As I humbly place this Monograph before you, I feel a sense of tremendous achievement. The experience has been taxing in terms of physical effort but at the same time wholly satisfying and extremely educative. A saying in Tamil eloquently describes my state of mind- “what I have learnt is a mere handful, what remains to be learnt is the whole universe”. The glorious culture of India is a vast ocean, we have but ventured to take out a few thimblefuls! If at the end of the day, this Monograph is able to ignite in the minds of the readers a tiny spark to explore more fully the wonderful legacy that we have inherited from our forefathers, then we have achieved our purpose.

Chennai,
September 2003

Dr. C. Chandramouli

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Location of Kancheepuram District in Tamil Nadu

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Map of Chengalpattu Taluk

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Map of Kancheepuram Taluk

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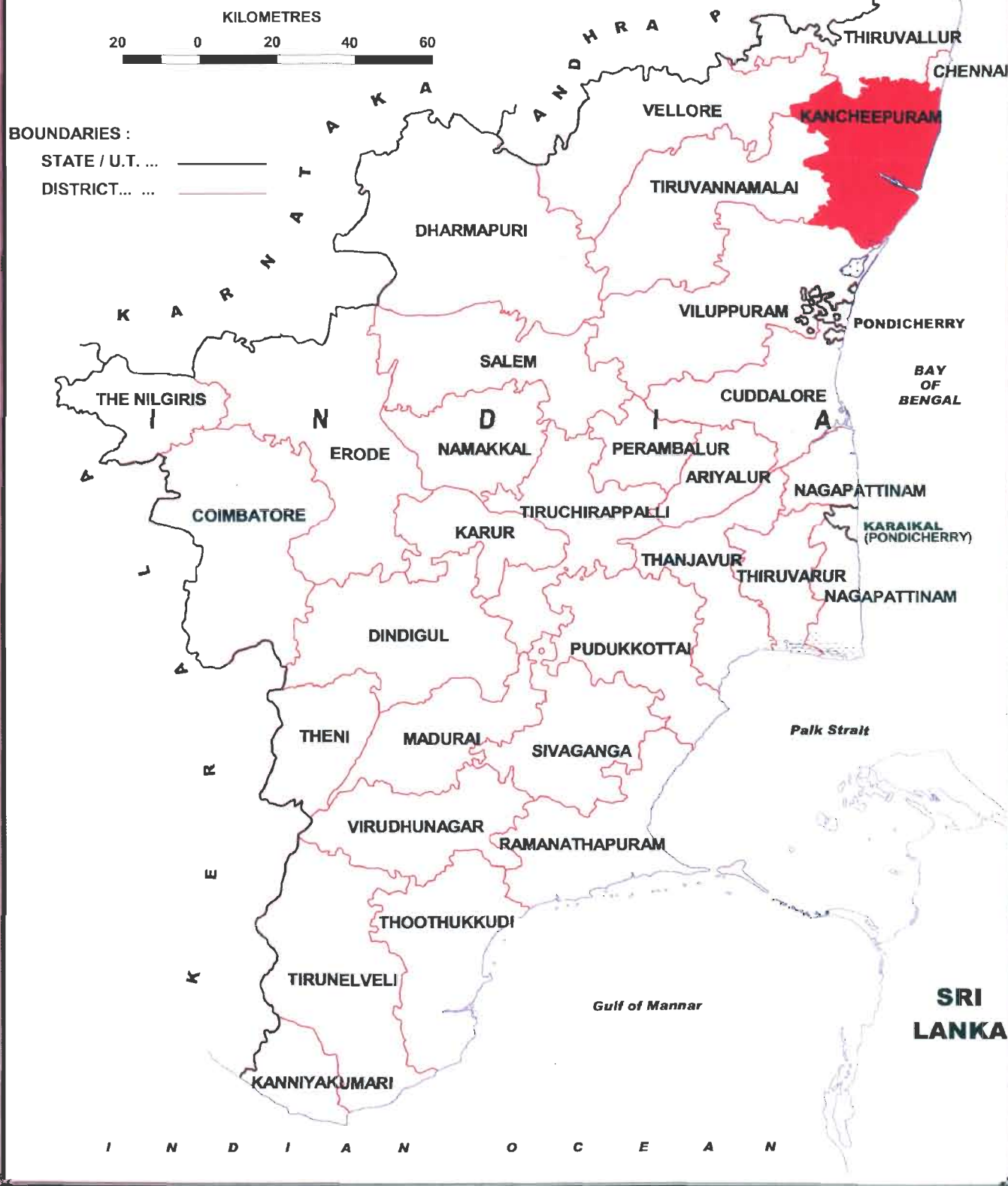
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TAMIL NADU

LOCATION OF KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT



Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of Surveyor General of India.
 The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles
 measured from the appropriate base line.
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INTRODUCTION

Temples are an integral part of the socio-cultural mosaic of India. As an institution they not only have significance in the field of religion but also contribute significantly to the furtherance of education, literature, music, dance, art and architecture. The Temple is so deeply ingrained in the psyche of Indians, more so South Indians that the ancients advocated that one should not take up residence in a place where there was no temple.

“Koil illadha ooril kudi irukeka vendam”.

“கோயில் இல்லாத ஊரில் குடியிருக்க வேண்டாம்”

‘Do not live in a place where there is no temple’ -
Ulaganatha Pundit in Ulaganidhi. *1

In fact, the first lessons that a child learns in the Tamil language is that worship in temples is highly beneficial -

“Alayam thozhuvadhu saalavum nanru”

“ஆலயம் தொழுவது சாலவும் நன்று”

‘To offer worship in a temple is highly beneficial’ - Avvaiyar
in Konraivendan. *2

“The Temple culture of India in general and South India in particular is a way of life of the people and it pervades their external as well as internal development. The temple played a significant role in the cultural life of the people. It enriched their religious life and contributed a lot for the furtherance of their

education, literary pursuit, music, dance, art and architecture. The Hindu temple is the profoundest and at the same time the most aesthetic expression of the Hindu religion.” *3

A school of thought argues that the creation of the Indian temple was the result of man’s urge to express himself or give expression to his divine self and the temple is but a reflection of the human form. According to these scholars, the material with which the temple is built- rock, sandstone, marble, stucco, wood or metal- is the skeleton. What is called ‘architecture’, which in India falls into some recognizable styles (Nagara, Vesara, Dravida) is the shape or the form of the human body. Figures, such as sculptures and images, which decorate the temples, play the role of jewellery, dress and general beauty or anatomical proportions of the human form. The paintings, fresco or tempera, wall paintings or mural, which are found on the walls, pillars and ceilings of Indian temples compare with the complexion, hue and beauty of the human system. *4

Box - 1

Ground Plan

Three basic ground plans are noticed as far as far as Indian structural temples are concerned- Square or Sthandila (and its derivative oblong); Round or Mandala and Apsidal. Experts say that these are based on the shape of Vedic sacrificial Altars.

In prehistoric India, temples took the form of barrows, cairns, dolmens, stone circles, menhirs, cists, sarcophagi, and

cromlechs. These are found all over India. There are no archaeological finds of temples from Pre Vedic and Vedic India, though copious references to rituals and rites were there in the ancient texts. There is considerable debate over the question of whether there were temples in the Vedic period. One school of thought argues that as idol-worship, which is the backbone of the temple culture had no place in the fire-sacrifice oriented Vedic culture there was no concept of temples in that age. Another school cites evidence from ancient scriptures and also archaeological finds of idols in the Indus valley excavations to argue that idol worship coexisted with fire sacrifice in ancient times. Though Archeologists have been able to excavate remains of temple like buildings dating back to the 3rd century BC only, there are ample and very often descriptive references to temples in ancient literary works, which leads us to the conclusion that the earlier temples were built of material that were not durable and hence did not withstand the ravages of time. Historians believe that it was due to the spread of Buddhism and particularly due to the efforts of the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka and his successors that the use of stone and other such durable materials became popular especially after the 3rd century B.C.

As a religious institution and place of worship, the temple in India has had a hoary past. As a structure that enshrines a god or some other object of veneration, circumambulation (pradakshina), adoration and worship (puja), it has had a varied growth in various parts of the sub continent. This was according to the local needs and creedal requirements and subject, of course, to the interplay or exchange of thoughts and ideas. Though fundamentally the basic elements of the temple and the worship in them derived mostly from Vedic and Puranic sources, in course of centuries they assumed different styles and patterns during their diffusion over wide areas from the cradle centres of the great Indian religions in North India. *5

The rise of Jainism and Buddhism and the development of their own versions of legends, creeds, forms of deities, rituals and the like resulted in a cross cultural exchange of the form and layout of temples and the methods of worship. The build-

ers (sthapatis) or the craftsmen (silpins) who belonged to the same guild of artisans had common principles and set methods of design and construction and they worked in collaboration with the priesthood, which knew the rituals and the modes of worship. They together determined the forms of the temples and the fixation of the features of the principal deities and the decorations of the structure with iconic and other sculptural embellishments. As a result, the Vastu, Silpa and Agama texts and canons as described in the sastras were evolved. All that was necessary and known in the creation of the temple and the conduct of worship therein was codified.

Therefore, towards the 6th century BC, the practice of building temples started. Jaina temples are found at Ayodhya, Sravasthi, Kausambi, Varanasi, Hasthinapura, Mathura, Rajagriha, Dvaraka, Kundapura, Asthapada, Satrunjaya, Sammeta-sikhara, Champapuri, Mt.Girnar, Pavapuri, Chandrapuri, Kakandi, Bhadrapura, Simhapuri, Kampilya, Ratnapuri and Mithila. These were mostly rock cut cave temples. Later, elaborate cave temples like Indira-Sabha at Ellora (8th century AD) and Sithanavasal in Pudukkottai (South India -7th century AD), Thirumalai in Vellore (South India- 11th century AD) came to be built. Structural temples became the order of the day in the later period. The Jain temples at Girnar, Palitana and Mt.Abu are prime examples of the temple cities and temple complexes that were put up.

Box - 2

South Indian Structural Temples: Chronology

G. Jouveau Dubreuil a renowned archaeologist has categorized South India Temples into four periods: The period from the time Mahendra Pallava built the first rock cut temple in 7th Century AD upto 850 AD is the Pallava period. The next period 850- 1100 AD he calls the Early Chola Period and the following period 1100-1350 AD he categorises as the Later Chola period. The period from 1350- 1600 AD is called the Vijayanagara period. The period after 1600 AD is termed the Modern period.

Buddhism gave an added impetus to temple building. The places associated with the Buddha like his place of birth- the Lumbini garden in Kapilavasthu, place where he attained enlightenment- Budh Gaya, place where he delivered his first sermon- Dharmachakra pravarthana in Sarnath and the place where he attained Nirvana- Kushinara, became places of worship. Relics came to be enshrined and adored. The first shrines were mounds of earth and stone placed over the bones of the Buddha. On these were planted symbols such as the wheel of law (Dharma Chakra), a tree within altar etc. These mounds were later encircled with railings. Gradually stone replaced wood and over the mound was raised a hemispherical dome (anda), which in turn supported a square pavilion (harmica) on which stood the chhatra (umbrella). This was the classic Buddhist Stupa found in places like Sanchi (3rd-1st century BC), Bharhut (2nd century BC), Amaravati (1st century AD) and Nagarjunakonda (3rd century AD). After Asoka, Buddhist temples took the form of prayer halls or Chaityas and monasteries or Viharas. Buddhist cave temples at Karli, Kanheri, Bhaja and Ajanta are examples. With the Muslim conquest, this phase ended.

Box - 3

Measurement of Icons in Shilpa Sastra

The proportional measurement of various images is stipulated in the texts and the sculptor has to follow these measurements scrupulously without deviation.

The terms used for measurement are Tala, Angula and Yava. Angula is approximately 3/4ths of an inch and 12 Angulas make 1 Tala. Yava is a sub-division of an Angula. Traditionally, the height of an image of Shiva or Vishnu is 10 Talas and that of Goddesses 9 Talas.

The images of devotees are generally of 8 Talas.

The comparative freedom from foreign invasions and disruptions in South India, the relative strengths of the kingdoms and society, royal patronage from the three great empires of the south- the Chalukyas, the Pallavas and the Pandyas along with

the lesser kingdoms wedged in between were some of the contributing factors that led to the proliferation of temples. In fact, the spirit of competition among the major dynasties spread among the nobility, the mercantile corporations, agricultural, trade and artisan guilds etc and this resulted in the construction of temples in almost every town and village. Temples from the Chola times (ninth-tenth centuries) became the very hub of urban and rural life in all its aspects- religious, cultural, social, economic and educational- and thus became the repository of all that was best in fabric, architecture, sculpture and other arts.

With the wane of Buddhism and Jainism and the revival of Hinduism under the Bhakti movement of the Saiva Saints (Nayanmars) and the Vaishnava Saints (Alwars) and also the reforms of Sankara the growth of temples and organized temple worship became truly phenomenal.

The structural expansion of the temple followed a corresponding expansion of the temple ritual. When the ceremonies and temple festivals (Uthsavas) were elaborated there was a corresponding reaction on the arrangement of the building in which they were held. The main deity (Mula-Vigraha) of the temple, which is worshipped, has a spiritual as well as a temporal capacity and the increase in the temple structures was in proportion to the increase in the powers or capacity associated with the God worshipped. In His spiritual capacity the God reigns supreme in the Sanctum Sanctorum, in the darkened mystery of a shrine called the Garbagriha where He receives passively the worship of his devotees (bhaktas). For such a God of abstract spiritual potentiality, is provided the inner part of the temple, reserved and secluded as the sacred resort of the God. The temporal capacity of the God is manifest on certain occasions called 'Uthsava' and Poojas, when the God issues from His retreat (from the Mula-Vigraha embodiment) and goes out in procession in a physical form called 'Uthsava-Vigraha', not unlike the monarch of the land. When the God goes out in procession taking part in festivals of a semi-mundane character, the temple precincts correspondingly expand. Thus, the South Indian temple resolves itself into an inner, closed and sacred part, and an outer, open, public and less sanctified part. The in-

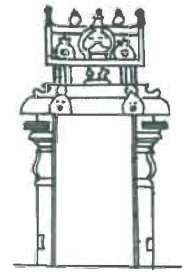
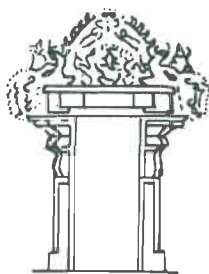
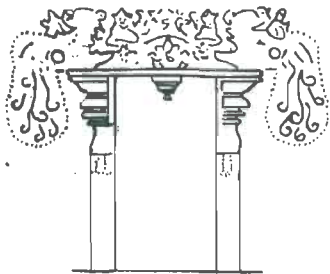
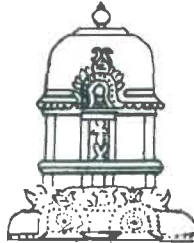
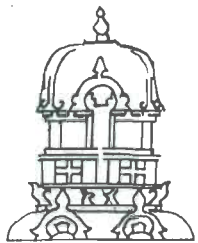
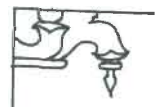
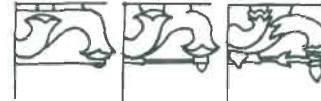
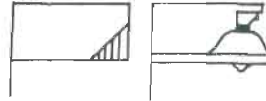
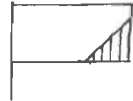
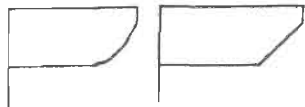
PALLAVA PERIOD
ENDING ABOUT A.D. 850

EARLY CHOLA PERIOD
A.D. 850 - 1100

LATER CHOLA PERIOD
A.D. 1100 - 1350

VIJAYANAGAR PERIOD
A.D. 1350 - 1600

MODERN PERIOD
A.D. 1600 ONWARDS



**DEVELOPMENT OF CORBEL, PAVILION & NICHE IN
TAMILIAN TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE**

ner part, generally rectangular, usually consists of two flat-roofed courts one within the other. The Sanctum Sanctorum (garbagriha) lies in the innermost court and can be made out by its vimana which (usually richly gilt) may be seen projecting over the flat roof demonstrating clearly the focal centre of the temple-scheme. The outer part of the temple consists of a concentric series of courtyards enclosed within high walls (prakaras) and in these courtyards are located halls, pavilions (Mandapas) and buildings connected with the secular aspect of the temple ceremonies.

Interestingly, the sequence of dynasties that ruled South India expanded the structural formation of the temple so as to suit the growth of temple ritual. While cave-temples (cut-in and cut-out) of the Mahabalipuram type were carved by the Pallava Kings in the Seventh and eighth centuries AD. structural temples with very high vimanas springing over the Sanctum Sanctorum as in Tanjore came up during the rule of the early Chola Kings of Tanjore (850 to 1070 A.D.). Huge Gopurams or Gateways such as Tiruvannamalai and Chidambaram came up in the later Chola period (1070 to 1350 A.D.). Kalyana-Mandapas and halls as in Vellore were erected under the Vijayanagar Kings (1350 to 1565 A.D.). Great corridor or corridor-halls (Podu Mandapas) such as in the Madurai and Rameshwaram temples, which typify the latest style of temple development, came up after 1600 A.D. If this Dynastic evolution of temple-style is remembered against the background of an expansion of the temple ritual which in its turn is dependant on the popular ascription to the God enshrined, of a spiritual unmanifested (avyakta) capacity as opposed to a temporal or manifest (vyakta) capacity, then and then only the design of any great South Indian temple can be correctly appreciated.

Rock-Cut Cave-Temples – Layanas (Buddhist)

Side by side with the predominantly brick-and timber architecture of early times, there arose a movement at the time of Ashoka which resulted in a series of temples and other religious resorts being excavated into living rock. Being made of more permanent material, these have survived to the present day.

The phase of rock architecture extended approximately over a period of more than a thousand years from the time of Asoka, and is found scattered over different parts of India, the latest of them belonging to the close of the tenth century. Such early rock architecture has not been found in Tamil Nadu.

Box - 4

Main Parts of a South Indian Temple

G. Jouveau Dubreuil a renowned archaeologist has classified the main parts of the modern South Indian Temple (temples built after 1600 AD) as - Garbha Griha (Sanctum Sanctorum) with a small super structure on it; more than one covered Praakaaras (Corridors) and Gopuras (Gateway Towers). Temples belonging to the Vijayanagara period (1350-1600 AD) while having almost all the parts mentioned above shows only certain changes in their arrangement. The Gopuras are high, the superstructure over the sanctum is small and there is also a number of Praakaaras-open as well as covered. In the open courtyards are seen a number of Mandapas (Pillared Halls) supported on high, heavy and ornate monolithic pillars. Floriated corbels over pillars also distinguish temples of this period.

The coming to power of three great empires - the Chalukyas of Vatapi in the Deccan region, the Chalukyas of Vengi in coastal Andhra, the Pallavas of Kanchi in Tamil Nadu, Pandyas of Madurai in Tamil Nadu saw the proliferation of rock cut temples in the period between AD 550-850. The credit of excavating the first cave temple belongs to Mahendra I – the Pallava King. He constructed a temple at Mandagappattu (Viluppuram District) for the Hindu trinity – Siva, Vishnu and Brahma.

The temple was excavated in very hard close-grained granite rock. An inscription at this temple states “this brickless, timberless, metalless and mortarless abode of Lakshita was caused

to be made by king Vichitrachitta for Brahma, Isvara and Vishnu.” The small inscription is important as the first example of temple built without the usual materials such as brick, timber, metal and mortar. Pandyas later took up this type of construction and we find examples of this type of architecture all over South India.

This period also coincided with the great revivalist movements of the Hindus in the early seventh century. In the Tamil land, the Shaiva and Vaishnava hymnist saints, the Nayanmars and the Alvars, traversed the whole area visiting shrines, singing hundreds of devotional hymns in Tamil and rousing the people. This also resulted in the reformation of the extremist Shaiva creeds of the Kalamukhas, Pasupatas, Mahesvaras, Saktas and the like.

Box - 5

Praakaaras

Praakaara literally means enclosure or limit. It is the corridor or passage around the sanctum that allows the devotees to circumambulate (Pradakshina). There may be several Praakaaras in a temple. These Praakaaras house many of the other deities and are used for ceremonial processions at times. In some temples of Tamil Nadu, these Praakaaras are lined with ornately carved Pillars and the roofs are adorned with elaborate murals. The outermost Praakaara usually has a high wall that encloses the temple.

In the first half of the ninth century the great Hindu reformer-philosopher, Sankaracharya, refined the existing creeds and their practices and established the six mathas (the Shanmata, - Ganapatya, Kaumara, Saura, Saiva, Vaishnava and Sakta) on a sound basis, and propounded the great and universal philosophy of Advaita. It is a curious fact that the early rock-cut or stone-built temples of the period, though created by great kings or with their patronage, were almost totally ignored by the contemporary Tamil hymnists. This was perhaps

because they were innovations that avoided the use of traditional materials of architecture and sculpture and as such militated against the sampradaya. It took time for such a style of architecture to become acceptable.

The Pallava Cave Temples

The simple cave-temples of Mahendra (AD 580-630) consisted of a pillared verandah with shrine-cell or cells cut into either the rear or the side walls of the verandah or hall, depending on which way the main facade of the verandah or mandapa faced. Thus in mandapas facing south or north, the single shrine-cell or cells were often cut into the lateral walls so as to face east or west, while in mandapas facing east or west the shrine-cell or cells were cut into the hind wall of the mandapa. Ten temples of this type were built by Mahendra: the Lakshitayatana at Mandagappattu, Panchapandava cave-temple at Pallavaram (now converted into a Muslim dargah), the Rudraivalisvaram cave temple II at Mamandur, the Kalmandapam cave-temple at Kuranganilmuttam, the Vasantes varam cave-temple at Vallam, the Vishnugriha cave-temple at Mahendravadi, the Vishnu cave-temple at Mamandur, the Satrumallesvaralaya cave-temple at Dalavanur, the Ayanibhajana Pallavesvara-griha cave-temple at Siyamangalam and the Lalitankura Pallavesvara-griha at Tiruchirapalli. Other examples of Mahendra style rock cut temples are found in the unfinished rock cut temples of Vilapakkam of Vellore district and Aranganadanallur, Villupuram district.

Mahendra's son Narasimhavarman Mamalla (AD 630-680), his successor Mahendravarman II (AD 668-720), Paramesvara I (AD 672-700), and Rajasimha (AD 700-728) continued the tradition and excavated in the Mahendra style. Examples of such temples are: Orukal mandapam at Tirukkalukkunram, the Kotikal mandapam at Mahabalipuram, the Narasimha cave temple at Singaperumal Kovil, the Ranganathan cave temple at Singavaram, the Dharmaraja mandapam cave temple at Mahabalipuram and the Atinarachanda Mandapam cave temple at Saluvankuppam near

Mahabalipuram. The last series of Pallava temples dated after AD 730 are small and less interesting.

The Pallava Mamalla Style Cave Temples

Mahendra's great son and successor, Narasimhavarman Mamalla (AD 630-668), in addition to excavating Mahendra cave temples initiated a new series of rock cut in cave temples. The unique invention were the totally cut out monolithic temple forms, or Vimanas, the so called rathas and some open air bas-relief compositions of considerable size and superb quality, all confined to the great Pallava port city of Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram. These ornate cave temples initiated by him were completed in stages by his immediate successors for two generations. There are eight such cave temples in various stages of completion - the Koneri Mandapam, the Varaha Mandapam the Mahishamardini mandapam, an unfinished cave temple next to the Koneri Mandapam, the Panchapandava Mandapam, the Adi Varaha cave temple and the Ramanuja Mandapam. The Mamalla style cave temples show a marked advance over the Mahendra style in plastic decoration also, in having a wealth of large and fine sculptures in addition to the usual Dvarapala sculptures. Rajasimha Pallava (AD 700-728) also created rock carvings like the Yali Mandapam at Saluvankuppam. Among the more well known open-air bas-relief composition in Mahabalipuram are Arjunas penance and Govardhana Krishna scenes.

Pallavas translated into the hard imperishable stone monoliths the various forms of structural Vimana temples of brick and timber that were prevalent at the commencement of the 7th century. These stand out as the earliest examples of Vimana architecture in the South. The sophisticated planning involved in the construction of the Rathas also points to the existence of well-defined codes and manuals on rituals, art and architecture - the Agama, Silpa and Vastu sastras.

Pandya Non Pallava Cave Temples

The Pandyas ruled in the area that comprises the modern districts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari, Trivandrum, Quilon and southern parts of Pudukkottai. They were the contemporaries of the Pallavas. They contributed rock architecture after the middle of the 7th century and continued the activity for over the next three centuries.

Box - 6

Styles of Architecture

Structural temples fall under three main heads or styles of architecture, the rectangular or Nagara, mostly found in North India; the circular or Vesara, mostly found in the East coast of India in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and the octagonal or Dravida, mostly found in the Deccan regions and in the Southern parts of India. Three other styles are also mentioned on the basis of geography- Sarvadesika, Kalinga and Varata.

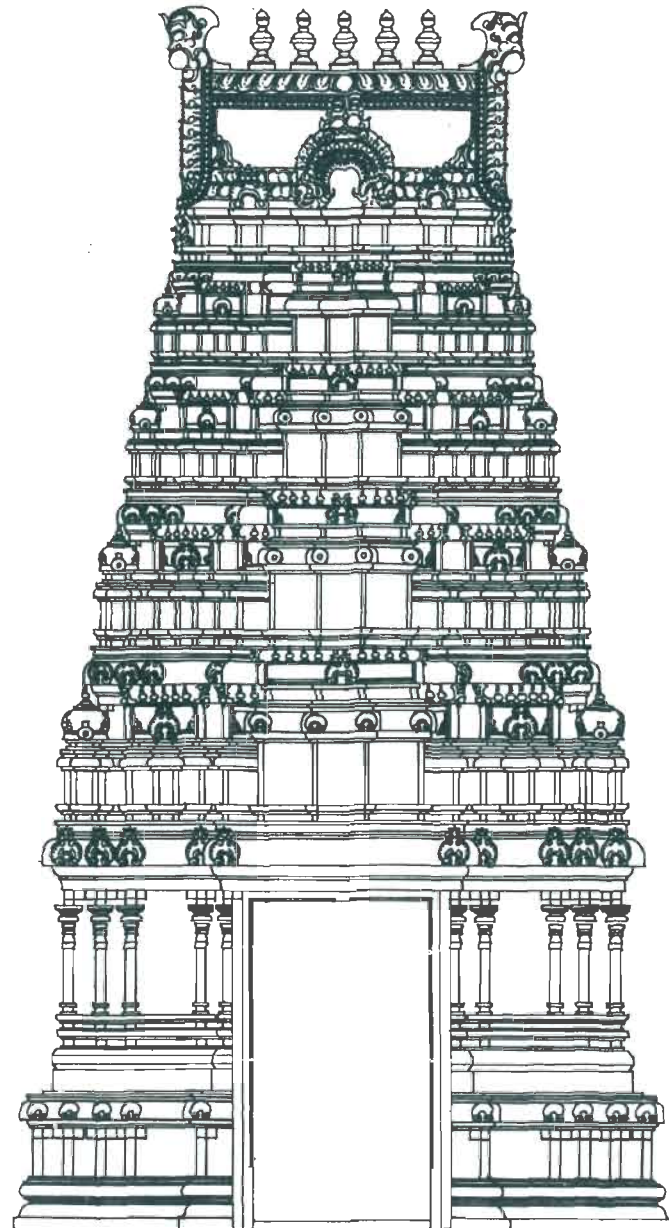
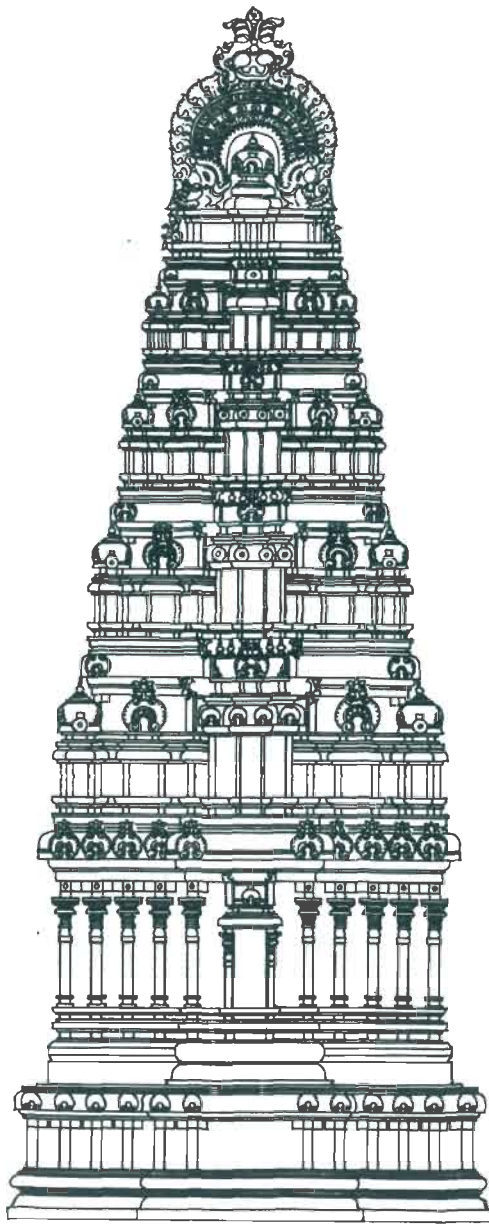
Nagara: Buildings of the Nagara style are quadrangular from the base to the top.

Dravida: Buildings of the Dravida style are octagonal from the neck to the top. The base is however quadrangular.

Vesara: Buildings of the Vesara style are quadrangular from the base to the neck and round from the neck to the top.

The Muttaraiyar chieftains, who had their kingdom astride the Kaveri in the traditional Cholamandalam, viz. Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Viluppuram districts also put up cave temples in their area. These are found at Thiruvellarai, Narttamalai, Kunnandarkovil, Puvalaikkudi and other places, all in the Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli districts. The Athiyaman rulers in the Kongu area of Salem and Coimbatore

TYPICAL STRUCTURE OF A TEMPLE GOPURAM



R. NANDHA KUMAR ARCHITECT...
Kanchi: PURAM...

districts, bordering on the Tiruchirapalli districts have contributed two fine cave temples in Namakkal.

The cave temple at Malayadikkurichi in Tirunelveli district appears to be one of the earlier Pandya temples built by Pandyamaran Sadaiyan in the second half of the 7th century. The rock cut cave temple at Pillaiyarpatti in Ramanathapuram district is one of the Pandya cave temples, as also Siva cave temple III at Kunnakkudi. The Vishnu cave temple at Anaimalai in Madurai district is also a Pandya cave temple built in AD 770. The large cave temple of Subrahmanya at Tirupparankundram was also excavated in this period in AD 773. Rock cut cave temples at Sittannavasal at Pudukkottai (AD 815-862), the eastern cave temples at Malaiyakkovil, the upper Siva cave temple at Mangadu, the Malaikkolundisvaram near Rayvaram, the Jyeshtha, the Gajalakshmi and the Bhuvaneshvari cave temples in Tiruparankunram and the cave temple at Vilinam are examples of simple cave shrines of the Pandya, Muttaraiyar and Ayvel vintage.

Box - 7

Shilpa Sastra

The body of knowledge devoted exclusively to sculpture and temple building is known as Shilpa Sastra. It covers sculpture, iconography and temple building. The texts deal with diverse aspects ranging from the selection and preparation of various minerals and metals, the personal life style of the sculptor, the measurement and dimensions of various images, the nuances of metallurgy and the like.

It is interesting that a number of iconographic forms were produced for the first time during this period. Icons of Ganesha, the Sapta Jyeshtha idols originated from these cave temples. Some of the cave temples like Malayakovil at Kudumiyamalai, the Satyagirisvara at Tirumayam, the Gokarnesvara at Tirugokarnam are associated with inscriptions with musical notations in the Pallava Grantha script.

Structural Stone Temples: The Pallava Pandya Series

Structural Stone Temples in the Pallava period started with Narasimha Varman II Rajasimha (AD 700-728). He experimented with different kinds of stone like the blackish hard variety of leptinite (used in the shore temple), the hard reddish gneiss (used in the Mukundanayanar temple), grayish white granite (used in the Olakkaneswara temple) and pinkish gneiss (used in the Talagiriswara temple). In later temples, softer varieties of stones were used along with the hard stones mentioned above. The Kailasanatha complex at Kanchi is an example of this style of architecture. This temple was in fact a joint venture of Rajasimha with his son Mahendra III. The Vaikunthaperumal temple in Kanchi built by Nandivarman Pallavamalla (AD 731-796) is another Pallava structure built with a combination of sandstone and granite. The other temples of this period are Mukteswara, Matangeswara, Airavateswara, Valiswara, Iravateswara and Piravateswara temples in Kanchi, all built of sandstone and granite slabs. The Kailasanatha temple in Tiruppattur in Tiruchirapalli District is also a Pallava temple built in the late 8th century.

After Nandivarman II Pallava (late 8th century), temples came to be built entirely of granite blocks. In the Vaikunthaperumal and Sundaravaradaperumal temples in Uthiramerur brick temples have been supplemented with granite constructions. The same is found in Tiruvadigai temple in Villupuram. Thus the earlier tradition of brick and timber construction was also fostered and maintained. The Virattaneswara temple at Thiruttani is also a Pallava structure built in the 9th century by Pallava Aparajitavarman.

Pandya Temples

The credit of constructing fine Vimanas of hard stone belongs to the Pandyas. The Vettuvankoil at Kalugumalai (AD 800) was a single carved out monolithic Vimana. Following this a series of fine temples - Kaliyapatti, Tiruppur, Visalur and Panangudi (Pudukkottai), Kannanur, Viralur were built in

this period. The Talinatha temple at Tiruppathur (Ramanathapuram) and the Tiruvaliswaram temple (Tirunelveli) are larger sized examples. The earliest icon of Siva Nataraja in the well known 'ananda thandava' pose is found in the second temple.

Chola and Later Pandya Series (1100 A.D. to 1350 A.D.)

By about AD 1000, imperial Chola power had reached its zenith, its authority having spread over the entire Tamil region, Kerala, parts of South Mysore, coastal Andhra, Sri Lanka, the Andamans, Laccadives and the Maldives. The Chola emperor Rajaraja Chola I (AD 985-1014) built a large number of new temples. His elder sister, queens, vassal chiefs and the dowager queen Sembiyan Mahadevi also contributed a number of temples.

The Brihadisvara temples at Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram (Tiruchirapalli) mark the acme of the southern Vimana architecture- in magnitude, quality of design, technique and embellishment. "The great temple at Thanjavur appropriately called the Brihadisvara, or the Rajarajesvara after its builder Rajaraja I, conceived as a whole complex on a grand scale and completed by the founder, constitutes the most ambitious undertaking and achievement of the tamilian architect. It combines all that is best in temple-building tradition-architecture, sculpture, painting and allied arts". This temple was started in 1003.

Rajendra Chola I (AD 1012-1014) built the Brihadisvara temple at Gangaikondacholapuram (Tiruchirapalli). He also built the Tiruvorriur temple near Chennai. The Rajarajesvara/Airavateswara temple at Darasuram built by Chola Rajaraja II (AD 1146-1173), the Kampahareswara temple at Tribhuvanam built by Chola Kulottunga III (AD 1178-1223) are other examples of the all-stone Vimana temples built by the Cholas.

Box - 8

Age of the Temples

Sri P.V.Jagadisa Ayyar in his 'South Indian Shrines', observes, "The inscriptions recorded in temples generally supply us only with dates for the several charities made; and occasionally also for the construction of certain mandapams and tanks subsequently put up. They do not, therefore, give us any clue as to the origin of the main shrines or of the connected structures. This is always the case of the majority of South Indian temples. Every temple has necessarily to recognize as almost a tenet of Hinduism that the Gods worshipped within are ancient. Consequently for securing great antiquity to the God, so old as even to be worshipped by Sun, Moon or other early sages, people purposely avoid giving the date of consecration of the temples," The origin of most of the temples are conjectural and do not truly reflect the antiquity of the temple.

This series of temples brought into vogue the practice of building a separate shrine for the goddess in the temple complex. They also reverted to the system of using bricks in the upper tiers of the Vimanas and Gopurams.

The Hoysalas have also left some significant Gopurams for example, the Ballala Gopura at Tiruvannamalai. The Pallavaraya Chieftains similarly have left behind some exquisite Gopurams at Koperunjinga at Chidambaram, Vriddhachalam and other places.

Another feature that was added by the later Cholas was the construction of Mandapas. These were used for conducting various ceremonies like the marriage ceremony (Kalyana Uthsava), swing festival (Dolotsava), annual temple ceremonies (Brahmothsavam) etc. These Mandapas were places where the Uthsava Moorthi used to be decorated and kept for public viewing. Some Mandapas were constructed for conducting special sacrifices (Yaga Mandapas). Wherever Natraja idols were in-

stalled a Mandapam was also constructed where dance performances could be performed and viewed by the public (Sabha Mandapam or Nritya Mandapam). In some places there were special Mandapams where the deities were given ceremonial baths on special occasions (Snapana or Abhisheka Mandapam). Soon Mandapams were constructed for various social purposes too like education (Vyakarna Mandapam), entertainment (Ranga Mandapam or Natyasalas), medical (Aturasalas) and the like. "All these made the medieval temple of the Tamil land the hub not only of the religious but also of the social, economic and other temporal activities of the community which always centred around the temple".

The Vijayanagar Temples

The rise of Vijayanagar Empire in the middle of the 14th century gave a new spurt to temple architecture by way of repair and addition to existing structures and erection of new ones. Vellore, Gingee, Thanjavur, Madurai are examples of Vijayanagar style of architecture. The mandapas and gopuras in this style of architecture are remarkable for their great size. The kalyana mandapa of the Varadaraja temple at Kancheepuram is a fine example of such architecture. Immense Gopuras are also characteristic of this style. The eleven storey high Gopuram in the Ekambaranatha temple at Kancheepuram and Arunachalesvara temple gopuram at Tiruvannamalai are examples of this style.

The Post Vijayanagar Temples

After the fall of the Vijayanagar Empire in 1564, the Nayakas assumed independent powers in various parts. The Nayakas of Vellore, Gingee, Thanjavur and Madurai are notable among these. In this period, elaborate mandapas of the 100 pillared type and larger gopuras with a greater number of plastic stucco figures on them were constructed. The examples are temples at Vellore, Madurai and Srivilliputtur. Building of closed ambulatory passages, flanked on either side by continuous platforms, with massive pillars elaborately set on their edges on either side was characteristic of this period. The thou-

sand-pillared corridor at Rameswaram, the kalyana mandapam of the Jalakanthesvara temple at Vellore, the famous Ranganatha temple at Srirangam are examples of this style. Most constituents of the large temple complex at Madurai are of Nayaka origin mostly of the time of Thirumalai Nayaka (1623-1659). This includes Mandapas and towering Gopurams on all four sides. The Subramania temple unit with Vimana, ardha and mukha mandapams standing in the northwest court of the Brihadisvara temple is also a typical example of Nayaka temple architecture. The rock fort temples at Tiruchirapalli, the Virinchipuram temple at Vellore, temples inside the Chandragiri fort are also examples of Nayaka Architecture.

Box - 9

Gopuras

The gateways of the Praakaaras are provided with towers, which are called Gopuras (Gopurams). In temples of the Pandya period (13th Century), the Gopuras were short and stunted but broad and spacious. Examples of such Gopuras are found at Tiruvarur, Avudaiyarkovil, Chidambaram and Sri Ranganam. In the first half of the later Chola period, the superstructure over the Garbha Griha overshadowed the Gopura. Examples of such Gopuras are found at the Kampahares wara temple (Tribhuvanam) and the Airavates wara temple (Darasuram).

The second half of the Chola period is marked by the Big Temple at Thanjavur and Gangaikonda Cholapuram, where the Gopuras were insignificant with the lofty superstructure over the sanctum assuming primary importance. It was only later from the Vijayanagara Empire onwards that immense Gopuras started being built.

Kancheepuram History

Kancheepuram is one of the ancient cities of South India. It is situated 70 Kms South-West of Chennai. *6 As per Mythology, the name of this city is derived from Ka (Brahma), Anchi (worship) and Puram (place). It is believed by the devout that Lord Brahma worshipped Lord Vishnu at this place and hence the name. It is known as Sathyavratashetra- a pilgrim town known for its honesty. As per Hindu mythology there are five basic elements called panchabootas-Prithivi (earth), Apah (water), Thejas (light/fire), Vayu (air) and Akasha (space). At Kanchi three of these elements- Prithivi in the form of Lord Ekambareswara, Akasha in the form of Goddess Kamakshi and Thejas in the form of Lord Varadaraja are worshipped here and hence this place has an added spiritual significance. The place is called by several names, both in inscriptions and in early works in Tamil and Sanskrit as Kachchi, Kanchi, and Kachchipedu.

This city finds mention in several ancient literary and religious works. The Mahabhashya, written in the 2nd century B.C. by Patanjali, the Tamil epics Manimekalai and Perumpannatrupadai have detailed descriptions of Kancheepuram. As Kalidasa the renowned Sanskrit poet eloquently describes, "*pushpeshu Jaji, purusheshu Vishnuh, narreshu Rambah, nagareshu Kanchi*". *7

"The very entrance to the city is dotted with numerous temple towers and gives an overwhelmingly holy feeling. The artistic beauty of the high rising tower and huge walled enclosures of the temple filled with exquisite pieces of architecture and pillared mandapas add to the piety and devotion. The city of Kanchi is a treasure house of art, architecture and devotion and is fittingly called the city among cities."*8

Three Saivite Nayanmars-Sakkia Nayanar, Thirukurippu Thonda Nayanar and Iyadigal Kadaverku lived in this city. Four Vaishnavite Alvars- Pey Alvar, Bhoothath Alvar, Thirumazhisai Alvar and Poigai Alvar were born close to this city. Appar and Thirugnanasambandar among the Nayanmars

and Thirumangai and other Alvars have sung hymns on the Kancheepuram temples. Parimelalagar, who wrote the commentary on the Tamil epic Thirukkural, was a resident of Kancheepuram. Religious savants and scholars like Adi Sankara, Mooka Sankara, Ramanuja, Nigamantha Mahadesigar and Manavala Mamuni have stayed in this city at various points of time.

Box - 10

Vastu Sastra

The body of knowledge that consists of guidelines on the subject of selecting the location of the site, planning the structure of residential houses, palaces, temples, villages and cities in keeping with certain principles is called Vastu Shastra, the science of Architecture. It is believed that Lord Brahma the creator revealed the knowledge of this science. Later 18 Maharishis (great sages) developed the literature on the subject. Some of these sages were: Brighu, Atri, Vasistha, Maya, Shukra, Brahaspathi and Vishvakarma. Vastu has four main divisions: Griha Vastu (deals with the fitness of land for various types of constructions), Shilpa Vastu (deals with nature and fitness of various materials and dimensions of sculpture), Jala Vastu (deals with location of underground water, depth, pressure, taste quality etc.) and Garbha Vastu (deals with different minerals). It is an elaborate science that has guided the construction of magnificent temples all over India.

Hieun Tsang, the Chinese historian has visited this city in 640 A.D during his travels in India. The city was known in the past as a place of learning not only for Hindus but also for the Jains and Buddhists. He called the city "Kin-chi-pulo" and says that it was the capital of "Talo-pi-cha," i.e. Dravida (the Tamil country) and was 30 li round. According to him, "Kanchi is as old as Buddha, Buddha converted its people, Dharmapala Bodhisattva was born there, and Ashoka built several stupas in its

neighborhood.” He further states that the “Jainas were very numerous in his day, and that Buddhism and Brahmanism were on par”.

Box - 11

Selection of Temple Site

As per the Agamas land is categorized as - Utthama: best or virtuous; Madhyama: medium or ordinary and Adhama: lowest or worst. A level ground with trees, fruit groves, flowery plants, cows and people, a slope towards the east and a river flowing in clock wise direction is considered ideal. There are several tests prescribed to test the fitness of the soil- wherein the sound, smell, taste, shape, consistency, colour, water retention capacity and fertility are assessed. The availability of copious supply of water and climate are also criteria for judging the quality of land. Ground in the form of a circle, crescent like (semi circle), triangle, pentagon, hexagon, resembling a trident or winnowing basket, resembling the back of a fish, elephant or pig, or resembling the face of a cow are downright unsuitable for the purpose of building temples. Similarly, if the ground is ploughed repeatedly and if articles like ash, bones, hair worms, ant hills decayed wood, charcoal, subterranean pits, cavities, bad odour, dip at the centre or angled, then such land is considered unsuitable.

Kancheepuram, which was once the capital of the Pallavas, abounds in structural monuments dating from the remote past and contains a large number of inscriptions, which help in tracing the city's history. Sir Walter Elliot, an Englishman, collected more than 283 lithic records from the city, as early as 1882.

From early records, it is evident that the name of the country in which the city was situated and of which it was then the capital was Tundaka-vishaya, the several variants of which are

Tondra, Tundira, Tonda and Tondai." The Tamil equivalent of "Tundaka-vishaya" is "Tondai mandalam" which still remains in use. At the beginning of the reign of the great Chola king Rajaraja I (985-1013 A.D.), the name "Tondai-mandalam" was changed into "Jayamkonda-chola-mandalam" after one of the surnames of Rajaraja himself, and "it was by this latter name that the territory was known for several centuries, i.e. until the Vijayanagar times." In inscriptions earlier than the time of Rajaraja I it is the term "Tondai-mandalam" that is used. The term "Jayamkonda-chola-mandalam" appears, therefore, to come into use in the latter part of the reign of that king. Strangely however the older name alone has survived. *9

Mr. K.V. Subrahmanya Ayyar elaborately deals with the history of Kancheepuram from the earliest times to the beginning of the 17th century A.D. The city was the capital of the Pallavas from perhaps the second century A.D. to almost the end of the ninth century A.D. At the beginning of the ninth century it fell into the hands of the Western Chalukya king, Vikramaditya II, who did not hold it long. In the third quarter of the tenth century the Rashtrakutas became its lords but only for a short period (945-970 A.D.). *x

Leaving out of consideration these short occupations, we can say that the Cholas, who obtained possession of the city in the last quarter of the ninth century A.D., continued as its lords till the middle of the thirteenth century, when the Kakatiyas of Warangal and the Telugu-Chola chiefs from the north took their place "but found competent rivals in the rising Pandya kings of Madura."

The history of Kancheepuram for a few years from then is confused and the city was affected seriously by several feudatory families revolting against the later Chola kings and asserting their independence, and by the invasions of South India by the Muslims, chief among whom was Malik-Kafur. Fortunately for South India these invaders were only actuated by "plunder and lust, not dominion." When they left Kancheepuram the Vijayanagara kings took possession of it in about 1377 A.D. and retained it till the beginning of the seven-

teenth century A.D., during which period the city enjoyed prosperity and peace and witnessed the growth of some more structural monuments.

Box - 12

Marking Temple Sites: Sanku Sastra

An elaborate system of marking directions on a site using a simple wooden stake called a Sanku, is called Sanku Sastra. Eight directions- east, west, north, south, south east, south west, north east and north west are marked with a great degree of accuracy, sometimes even more accurately than a magnetic compass.

Its monuments bear testimony to the fact that the city was a stronghold of people of various religions from very early times. Buddhism, Jainism, Shaivism and Vaishnavism, each in its turn, had powerful hold over the city and have left unmistakable marks of their influence. In the early stages Jaina influence existed side by side with that of Buddhism. The Sthalapurana of nearly every temple in Kancheepuram confirms the belief of

the people that “Kancheepuram was for ages a Buddhist and afterwards a Jaina town.” *xi

i Ulaganatha Pundit in Ulaganidhi

ii Avvaiyar in Konraivendan

iii Dr.S.Sankaranarayanan- Foundations of South India Temple Culture, University of Madras, 1988

iv T.N.Ramachandran- Historic India and her Temples, Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum 1999.

v K.R.Srinivasan - Temples of South India National Book Trust, India, 1972

vi Ayodhya, Mathura, Haridwar, Kasi (Benares), Kancheepuram, Avanthi and Dwaraka are seven cities held as sacred for Hindu pilgrims. Of these Kancheepuram is sacred for Saivites (followers of Siva) as well as Vaishnavites (followers of Vishnu).

vii “Pushpesu Jaji, purusheshu Vishnuh, narreshu Rambah, nagareshu Kanchi- Kalidasa. The Jaji among flowers, Vishnu among men, Rambah among women and Kanchi among towns are the best.

viii Ramesh.M.S- 108 Vaishnavite Divya Desams, Vol.1; pp 34; T.T.D.1993.

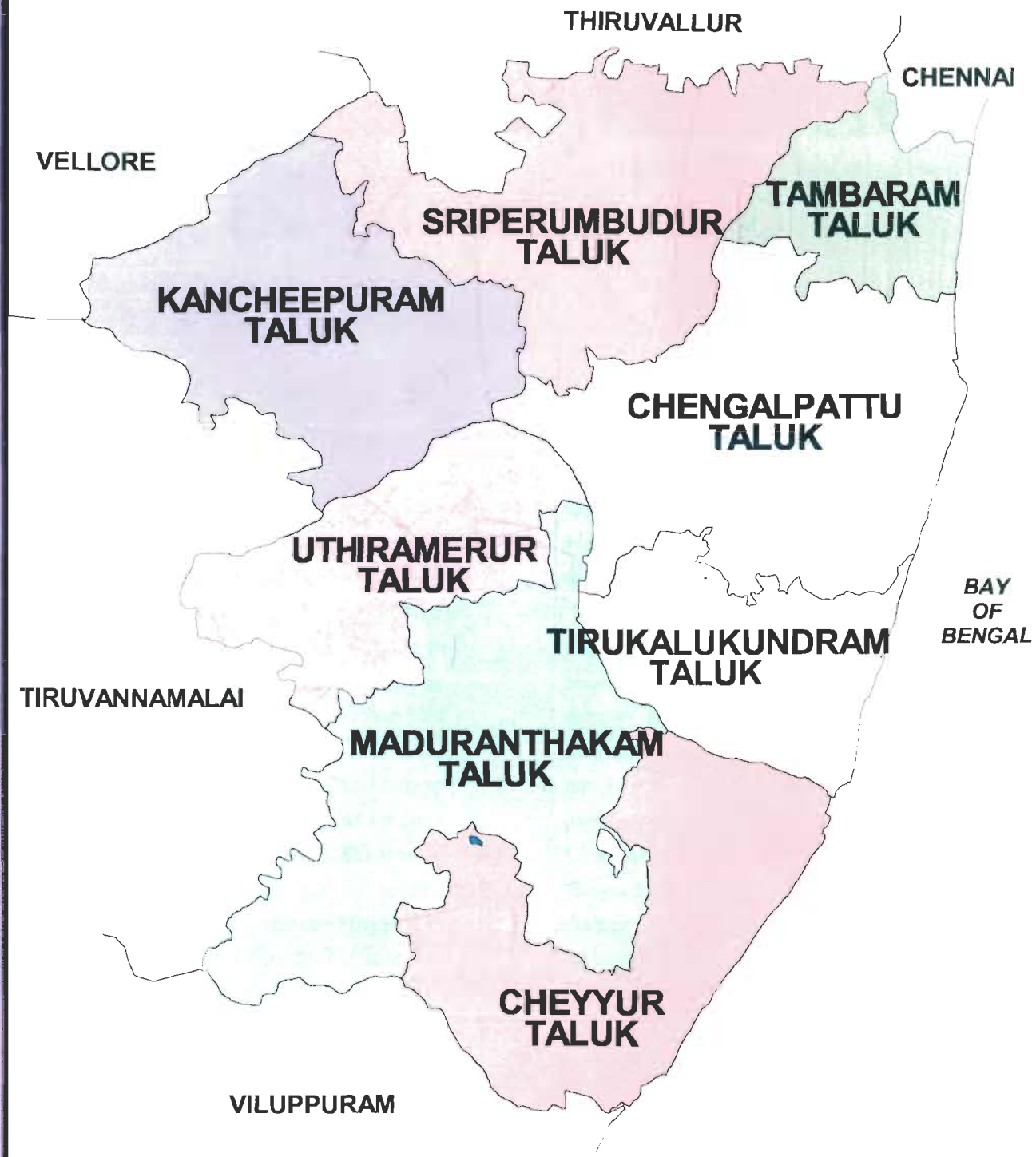
ix T.N. Ramachandran - Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum

x Mr. K.V. Subrahmanya Ayyar - “Historical Sketches of Ancient Dekkhan” Book I.

xi T.N. Ramachandran - Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum

TAMIL NADU
KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT

(NOT TO SCALE)



Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of Surveyor General of India.
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles
measured from the appropriate base line.
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TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION IN TAMIL NADU

Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department

The proper maintenance and supervision of the Religious Institutions, management and administration of their endowment has been recognized as one of the primary responsibilities of the State. A number of measures were undertaken prior to 1925 for efficient control and supervision of the administration of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments. In Act 1 of 1925, the Government constituted the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Board consisting of a President and two to four Commissioners nominated by the Government to function as a statutory body. Subsequently, Act 1 of 1925 was repealed by Act 2 of 1927, which was followed by several modifications up to 1951. In order to streamline the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Board, a Special Officer was appointed in the year 1940. The Special Officer recommended that the Government administer the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments instead of the Board. The committee appointed in the year 1942 under the Chairmanship of Thiru P. Venkataramana Rao Naidu, a Retired Judge of High Court of Judicature, Madras recommended among other things that it would be advantageous to convert Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Board into a Government Department. Accepting the above recommendation, the Hindu Religious &

Charitable Endowments Act, 1951 was enacted provincialising the administration of the Hindu Religious institutions. Comprehensive amendments were made to this Act and Tamilnadu Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 came into force with effect from 1st January 1960.

In 1991 it was decided that Religious and Spiritual leaders should be involved in the proper maintenance and administration of Hindu and Jain temples and Charitable Endowments and that their suggestions and guidance should be obtained regarding the administration of Charitable Endowments. Accordingly, many amendments were made to the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Act, 1959. As a result of this, the Amendment Act, 1991 (Amendment Act 46/91) was enacted. As per the Amendment Act, a two-tier system-Temple Administration Board at State level and District Committees at District level was established. This Amendment Act came into force on 13.12.1991. In 1996 the two-tier system was disbanded and the administration of Hindu Religious Institutions was vested with the Commissioner and the Subordinate Officers of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department (as was the position prior to 1991), (Amendment Act, 1996-Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 39/1996). This Act is in force since 9-12-1996.

Number of Religious Institutions

The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Administration Department supervises the administration of Hindu and Jain Religious Institutions and Hindu Charitable Endowments in Tamilnadu as detailed below.

1	Temples	34,315
2	Mutts	56
3	Temples attached to Mutts	57
4	Specific Endowments	1,721
5	Charitable Endowments	189
6	Jain Temples	17
	Total Institutions	36,355

Source : Policy note of the HR & CE Department, 2002-2003

Classification of Institutions

Religious Institutions have been classified into two categories viz. Non-listed and Listed Institutions on the basis of their annual income as below:

	Classification	Number
I	Non Listed	
	Institutions with an annual income less than Rs. 10,000/-	32,552
II	Listed	
1	Annual income of the institution is not less than Rs.10, 000/- but less than Rs.2 lakhs	3,266
2	Annual income of the institution is not less than Rs. 2 lakhs but less than Rs.10 lakhs	403
3	Annual income of the institution is Rs.10 lakhs and above	134
	Total	36,355

Source : Policy note of the HR & CE Department, 2002-2003

Organisational Set Up

The Head of the Department is the Commissioner. He is responsible for the General Administration and supervision of the activities of the Department. He is assisted by 1 Additional Commissioner, 1 Joint Commissioner (Head Quarters), 2 Personal Assistants to Commissioner in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner, 1 Assistant Commissioner (Legal) and 1 Assistant Commissioner (Verification) Head Quarters.

Regional and Divisional offices: 10 Joint Commissioners, 22 Territorial Assistant Commissioners, One Assistant Commissioner in the Icon Centre at Thiruvavur, 9 Assistant Commissioners (Verification) and One Deputy Commissioner (Verification) and 693 Executive Officers.

A Superintending Engineer and One Divisional Engineer with necessary subordinate technical officers and staff assist the Commissioner in the preparation of estimates and supervision of 'Thiruppani' and other construction works of the religious institutions.

A Special Officer in the cadre of District Revenue Officer at Headquarters and four Special Tahsildars in the Districts are also functioning for the purpose of identification of Temple lands and for the preparation of basic records thereof. One Special Tahsildar with complementary staff is utilized to investigate the lands of Arulmighu Sabanayagar temple, Chidambaram.

A Senior Accounts Officer and an Assistant Accounts Officer drafted from the Treasuries and Accounts Service are in-charge of the Budget and Accounts.

A Temple Security Wing consisting of three Inspectors of Police under the control of a Superintendent of Police is functioning in this Department, in order to take steps to safeguard the temple icons, jewels, and other valuable articles.

For auditing the accounts of the religious institutions there is a Chief Audit Officer drawn from the Government Finance Department on deputation who is assisted by subordinate Staff.

The entire State is divided into 10 regions, each under the jurisdiction of a Joint Commissioner and 22 divisions, each under the jurisdiction of a Assistant Commissioner as detailed below:

	Joint Commissioner	Assistant Commissioners
1	Joint Commissioner, Chennai	Assistant Commissioner, Chennai
2	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	Assistant Commissioner, Kanchipuram Assistant Commissioner, Vellore Assistant Commissioner, Thiruvannamalai
3	Joint Commissioner, Salem	Assistant Commissioner, Salem Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri
4	Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore	Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore Assistant Commissioner, Erode
5	Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur	Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam
6	Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore Assistant Commissioner, Villupuram
7	Joint Commissioner Tiruchirappalli	Assistant Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli Assistant Commissioner, Ariyalur Assistant Commissioner, Pudukottai
8	Joint Commissioner Madurai	Assistant Commissioner, Madurai
9	Joint Commissioner Sivaganga	Assistant Commissioner, Paramakudi Assistant Commissioner, Virudunagar
10	Joint Commissioner Tirunelveli	Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli Assistant Commissioner, Tuticorin Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil

Source : Policy note of the HR & CE Department, 2002-2003

The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Administration Department consists 2465 staff members in 55 categories including the Commissioner.

Administration of Mutts

Mutts are being governed by "Atheenakarthars". In Tamilnadu, at present, there are 56 Mutts and 19 Specific Endowments attached to them. A wing consisting of a Regional Audit Officer and other staff headed by Personal Assistant to the Commissioner is functioning inspects Mutts.

Appointments of Trustees

Trustees are appointed to the temples and other Religious Institutions in accordance with the provisions of the Act and are permitted to carry out the administration. Out of them hereditary trustees administer some Religious Institutions and some are administered through administrative schemes.

Non-hereditary Trustees have not been appointed for 9350 temples, which are either small or fetching meager income situated in small villages or temples managed by the Hereditary Trustees or Mutts managed by the Madathipathis. 27,005 temples have been identified for appointment of Non-hereditary Trustees. Out of this, 2564 have been appointed and 24441 are yet to be appointed.

Each Revenue District has a District Committee consisting one ex-officio convener (Assistant Commissioner) and five non-official members. The District Committee is empowered to prepare the panel of names for the appointment of Non-hereditary trustees for the Non-Listed temples and temples which are listed under 46(i) and (ii) of the Act. The appointing authority is empowered to appoint three trustees and two Non-hereditary trustees by the Government for these temples. The Government is empowered to appoint trustees for temples, which are published under Section 46(iii) of the Act.

Administration of Temple Lands

Lands, Sites and Buildings: There are 4,79,021.23 acres of lands owned by the religious institutions all over Tamil Nadu. They consist of wet, dry and rain fed lands. The details are given below:

Type of land	Owned by Temples		Owned by Mutts		Total Extent	
	acres	cent	acres	cent	acres	cent
Wet Lands	188870	51	21282	05	205152	56
Dry Lands	218570	62	34543	15	253113	77
Rain fed	20754	90	—	—	20754	90
					479021	23

Source : Policy note of the HR & CE Department, 2002-2003

The lands are cultivated by 1,06,807 tenants. The temples own 20,046 buildings and 33,627 sites, which are occupied by 24,458 and 54,251 tenants respectively.

Revenue Court: Revenue Courts headed by Special Deputy Collectors are functioning in the following places to enquire and to settle the cases relating to the recovery of arrears of land lease, fixation of fair rent and eviction: Thanjavur, Thiruchirapalli, Mayiladuthurai, Thiruvarur, Cuddalore, Madurai. Besides, these Revenue Courts also have sittings in the following places: -Mannarkudi, Kumbakonam and Salem. 17,874 cases have been filed in the Revenue Courts covering a sum of Rs.38.01 crores arrears from the leaseholders. 1598 cases have been disposed off and a sum of Rs.1.09 crores has been recovered. 16,276 cases are pending in the Revenue Courts.

Fixation of Fair rent: Fair rent for the sites and buildings belonging to the religious institutions are to be revised periodically, at least once in three years by a committee constituted by the Commissioner. The Fair rent is fixed in accordance with the

market value of the land and cost of the building worked out as per Government Order. The working formula for fair rent fixation ordered on 4.6.1999, it was kept in abeyance from 27.4.2000. Subsequently, the Government has reviewed the above order and has revived it with effect from 1.11.2001.

Temple Renovation

Renovation works and repairs are undertaken by using funds from the following sources:

Donations from the Public: Voluntary donations from philanthropists, industrialists, trusts and general public.

Diversion of surplus funds from affluent temples: With the approval of the Commissioner, funds are provided to the needy temples from the temples having surplus funds under Section 36 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Act, for renovation works.

Government Grant: Every year in the Budget allocation for the HR & CE Department, the Government is providing funds for temple renovation works. Further, an amount of Rs. 25,000/- per temple is given as Government Grant for renovation works in the temples situated in the habitation of Adi-Dravidars and Backward Classes, which are not under the control of this Department under this scheme.

Common Good Fund: Under Section of 97 of Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Act, Commissioner has been authorized to create a Common Good Fund, out of the contributions voluntarily made by the Religious Institutions or by an individual for the purpose of renovation and preservation of the temples. Accordingly, the amounts so received are deposited into the Common Good Fund and interest from the said fund is given to the needy temples for their renovation. Under this scheme during the year 2001-2002 a sum of Rs. 43.15 lakhs was released to 22 temples.

Temple Development Fund: A corpus fund of Rs. 5 crores was created by way of diversion of surplus funds from affluent temples. The interest accrued thereon is utilized with prior permission of Government for giving assistance to the temples which are historically important, ancient in nature and sanctified by songs, for undertaking their renovation works. The Commissioner administers this fund. Under this Scheme, for the year 2001-2002 a sum of Rs. 23.37 lakhs was released to seven temples.

Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund: Financial Assistance is given from this fund to the ancient temples which were sanctified by Mangalasanam and devotional songs sung by Alvars and Nayanmars respectively, with historical fame and also noted for their importance in art and architecture. Rs.366.89 lakhs has been provided to 77 temples for their renovation works during the period from January 1992 to January 2001. During the year 2001-2002 a sum of Rs. 78.00 lakhs was released to 5 temples for Thiruppani works. Further, financial assistance is provided from this fund to temples at the rate of Rs.1300/- for each temple to set up a deposit for performing “Oru Kala Pooja” (one-time Pooja). A sum of Rs. 186.55 lakhs has been given to 8210 temples till January 2001. During the year 2001-2002 a sum of Rs.26.00 lakhs was released for 2000 temples.

A corpus fund of Rs.1 crore has been set up for the upkeep and maintenance of incorporated and unincorporated temples in Kanniyakumari District. A financial assistance of Rs.14 lakhs is provided every year out of the interest accrued thereon. Further, an amount of Rs.25,000/- per temple is given out of this fund to undertake renovation works in the temples situated in the habitation of Adi-Dravidars and Backward Classes which are not under the control of this Department. Under this scheme, financial assistance at the rate of Rs.25,000/- per temple is given to 50 temples, totaling to the tune of Rs.12.50 lakhs every year for their renovation works. During the year 2001-2002 a sum of Rs.12.50 lakhs sanctioned for the renovation of 50 temples.

Performance of Kumbabishekam in Temples: Kumbabishekam has to be performed for every temple once in 12 years according to the agamas. The Department has a policy of undertaking renovation works in all the renowned and ancient temples in order to perform Kumbabishekam within a period of three years. During the year 2001-2002 Kumbabishekam has been performed in 711 temples.

Oru Kala Pooja Scheme (one-time pooja)

Oru Kala Pooja Scheme was drawn up so as to ensure performance of at least One Pooja Every Day in temples, which have no resources to perform such poojas. A sum of Rs.25,000/- is deposited permanently in the name of the Temple. The corpus is created for each temple by donation of Rs. 2,500/- from general public, Rs.20,000/- by diversion from the surplus funds of financially sound temples, Rs.1,300/- from the Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund and Rs.1,200/- from the Temple Development Fund. Arrangement is made to perform oru kala (one time) pooja daily from the interest accruing on the above corpus. 8242 temples have been benefited till February 2001.

Safety of Icons and Other Valuables

In order to prevent incidents of thefts taking place in temples, the Department has made arrangements such as the installation of burglar alarms, tell-tale clocks, special locks, fixing iron gates, appointment of night watchman, appointment of Ex-serviceman and Second Grade Constables through Temple Protection Force, formation of Icon Centres and formation of Village Vigilance Committees. Both the local police and Idol Wing police are in charge of detecting thefts in the temples. 3042 Icons are kept in Icon Protection Centres. The Department maintain Icon Centres at the following places: - Thiruvarur, Thiruchirapalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Salem. The Department also proposes to construct Icon Centres at Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Kumbakonam and Cuddalore. With a view to protecting the Icon, Jewels, Hundis and other valuables in temples throughout the State, a separate

wing called the “Temple Protection Force” has been constituted with 1000 police constables and 3000 Ex-servicemen. 889 Grade II constables and 2778 Ex-servicemen appointed by the Police department are in place at present. These personnel are attached to the local police station. So far, these Security personnel have been positioned in 2674 temples.

Educational and Other Institutions maintained by temples

Educational Institutions: 5 Colleges, 2 Polytechnics, 12 Higher Secondary Schools, 10 High Schools, 3 Middle Schools, 10 Elementary Schools, 1 Matriculation School, 4 Nadaswaram and Thavil Training Schools, 4 Veda Agama Padasalas, 2 Thevara Padasalas, 3 Dhivya Prabhandam

Padasalas and 1 Deaf and Dumb School are run by the Department.

Social Service Institutions: 9 Siddha Hospitals, 42 Karunai Illams (orphanages), and 3 Old Age Homes are also run by the Department.

Annadhanam Scheme (Free Mid-day Meal)

Under this scheme a free mid-day meal is provided to the devotees who come to the temple at noon. 63 temples in Tamil Nadu implement this scheme. Spiritual and moral classes are also being conducted on every Sunday for one hour in all the selected temples. This scheme is being extended to a large number of Temples in Tamil Nadu.

LIST OF SELECTED TEMPLES WITH DETAILS

SRIPERUMBUDUR TALUK		
Name of Town/ Village	Name of the Temple	Page No.
Mangadu	Sri Valleeśwaraswamy, Sri Balande/ Santhe Easwarar, Sri Kamakshi Amman, Sri Vaikunta Perumal	37
Manapakkam	Sri Velleeswaraswamy, Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal	39
Kundrathur [H. Thirunageswaram]	Sri Kandaswamy, Sri Mariamman, Sri Nageswara swamy, Sri Sekkizharswamigal, Sri Sadayandy Eswarar, Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal, Manajeri	39
Sriperumbudur	Sri Bhoothapureeswarar, Sri Jaya Bhoothapuri Vinayaka, Sri Adi Kesava Perumal & Sri Bhashyakaraswamy	41
Ayyappanthangal	Sri Vinayaka	43
Kozhumanivakkam	Sri Sundara Vinayaka, Sri Palleeswarar, Sri Kothandaramar	43
Malayambakkam	Sri Kothandamaswamy, Sri Krishnaswamy, Sri Kailasanathaswamy, Sri Varadanarayana Perumal, Sri Selva Vinayaka	45
Mevalurkuppam	Sri Valleeśwarar	45
Valarpuram	Sri Bheemeswarar	45
Mannur	Sri Kothandarama Swamy	46
Sivapuram	Sri Theertheeswarar	46
Pichivakkam	Sri Pattumudeeswarar,	46
Elimiyankottur	Sri Deivanayagaswamy	47
Thandalam	Sri Agastheeswarar	48
Sirukalathur	Sri Amaravatheeswarar	48
Kavanur	Sri Ramanatha Eswarar, Sri Kaliasman	49
Kovur	Sri Sundareswararaswamy, Sri Siddhi Vinayaka	49
Paraniputhur	Sri Theertheeswararaswamy	49
Periyapanicheri	Sri Valleeśwarar	50
Madanandapuram	Sri Ponniamman	50
Mugalivakkam	Sri Kailasanathar, Sri Vembadi Vinayaka	50
Kolapakkam	Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Pidari Kuzhandaiamman, Sri Dharmaraja	50
Gerugambakkam	Sri Karpaga Vinayaka, Sri Neelakandeswarar, Sri Venugopala Perumal	51

Thandalam	Sri Selva Vinayaka, Sri Kailasanathar	51
Tharapakkam	Sri Kailasanathaswamy	52
Nandambakkam	Sri Amaravatheeswarar	52
Nallur	Sri Kadumbadi Eswarar	52
Amarambedu	Sri Amareeswarar, Sri Kariamanicka Perumal	53
Pillaipakkam	Sri Eswaran	55
Somangalam	Sri Somanatheeswarar, Sri Sundararaja Perumal	55
Pazhanthandalam	Sri Iyaratheeswarar, Sri Agastheeswarar	56
Thirumudivakkam	Sri Balavinayaka	56
Puducheri	Sri Dharmaraja, Sri Vinayaka	57
Navalur	Sri Ekambranathaswamy	57
Pondur	Sri Selva Vinayaka	58
Thirumangalam	Sri Selva Vinayaka [Sunguvuvar Chatiram]	58
Kandur	Sri Kalyana Varadarajaswamy	59
Maduramangalam	Sri Embar Vaikuntaperumal	59
Melmaduramangalam	Sri Venkatesa Perumal	60
Sivankoodal	Sri Shiva Gozhundeeswarar	60
Podavur	Sri Varadaraja Perumal, Sri Narasimha Perumal	61
Sirumangadu	Sri Muthialamman	61
Malaipattu	Sri Siddhi Vinayaka	63
Manimangalam	Sri Rajagopala Perumal, Sri Dharmeswarar	63
Karasangal	Sri Malleeswarar	64
Padappai	Sri Thazhuvakkozhuntheeswarar, Sri Veerteeswarar, Sri Sundara Vinayaka	64
Perinjambakkam	Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Kommathamman	65
Vallam	Sri Subramaniaswamy (Kodai Andavar)	66
Echoor	Sri Markandeeswarar	67
Kunnam	Sri Kariamanicka Perumal, Sri Kala Kanda Easwarar, Sri Ellai Amman, Sri Poovathu Amman, Sri Moongil Amman	67
Panrutti	Sri Adi Kesava Perumal	68
Mathur	Sri Abathsahaya Easwarar, Sri Varasakthi Vinayaka at Jamunapattu	68
Serapanacheri	Sri Kailasanathar	69
Vellerithangal	Sri Shiva	69
Athanancheri	Sri Jaya Durga Mutt, Sri Thiruvaleeswarar	70

Adhanur	Sri Adi Kesava Perumal, Sri Agastheeswarar	70
Madambakkam	Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal	71
Orathur	Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal	71
Oragadam	Sri Venkatesa Perumal, Sri Thanthori Eswarar	72
Ezhichur	Sri Nallinaka Eswarar	73
Poondi	Sri Oontraleeswarar	73
Vadakkupattu	Sri Sundara Varadharaja Perumal	73
Valayakaranai	Sri Srinivasa Perumal	74
Umayalparamancheri	Sri Mavilingamman, Sri Selli Amman	74
Natarasampattu	Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal, Sri Karpaga Pillaiyar, Sri Alavettamman	74
Siruvanjur	Sri Tiruvaleeswarar	75
Kavanur	Sri Ramanathaswamy	75
Kattupakkam	Sri Murukathamman, Sri Thanthoni Amman	76

TEMBARAM TALUK		
Name of the Village/Town	Name of the Temple	Page No.
Nandambakkam	Sri Kothandaramaswamy, Sri Easwarar, Sri Vembuli Amman, Sri Srinivasa Perumal, Sri Koothal Amman, Sri Gangai Amman	79
St. Thomas Mount-CumPallavaram	Sri Kasi Viswanathar, Sri Moongaliamman, Sri Sundara Vinayaka	80
Meenambakkam	Sri Shiva, Sri Vembuliamman, Sri Sakthiamman	81
Polichalur	Sri Agastheeswarar	81
Anakaputhur	Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Subramaniaswamy	81
Pammal	Sri Rettai Pillaiyar, Sri Akeeswarar	82
Tirusulam	Sri Thirusoolanathar	82
Alandur	Sri Sundara Vinayaka, Sri Dharmaraja, Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal, Sri Shivaubramaniaswamy, Sri Siddhi Vinayaka, Sri Arthanareeswarar, Sri Raja Rajeshwari, Nanganallur, Sri Anjaneyar, Nanganallur	82
Pallavaram	Sri Balasubramania Swamy, Kumaran Kundram/ Chrompet	85
Thiruneermalai	Sri Ranganatha Perumal	85
Tambaram	Sri Selva Vinayaka, Sri Karpaga Vinayaka, Sri Kandaperumarar, Sri Ponnamman	87
Madambakkam	Sri Dhenupureeswarar	89
Perungalathur	Sri Selva Vinayaka, Sri Eentha Mukkula Jalamman, Sri Selliamman, Sri Perumal, Sri Kamakshi Amman, Sri Srinivasa Perumal, Sri Karumariamman, Sri Nagathamman	90
Nanmangalam	Sri Pillaiyar, Sri Neelavanna Perumal, Sri Ekambara Eswarar, Sri Pidari Ponnamman, Sri Palandiamman	90
Perumbakkam	Sri Easwarar	91
Mudichur	Sri Kommiyamman, Sri Alavattamman, Sri Vaigarai Amman, Sri Shiva Vishnu, Sri Muthu Maniamman, Sri Ellaiamman, Sri Thulukkanathamman	92
Agaramthen	Sri Kothandaramaswamy	92
Sittalapakkam	Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Varadharaja Perumal	93
Semmanjeri	Sri Oragandy Amman, Sri Srinivasa Perumal	94

CHENGALPATTU TALUK		
Name of the Village/Town	Name of Temple	Page No.
Nandivaram Guduvancheri	Sri Nandheeswarar	98
Maraimalainagar (Thirukacchur)	Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal, Sri Marundheeswarar, Sri Thyagarajaswamy, Sri Kalatheeswarar, Sri Srinivasa Perumal	98
Singaperumalkoil	Sri Padaladri Narasimha Swamy	100
Tiruporur	Sri Kandaswamy	101
Chengalpattu	Sri Varadharaja Perumal, Sri Pathangeeswarar, Sri Angala Parameswari, Sri Kailasanathar, Sri Kothandaramaswamy, Sri Veerabhadraswamy, Sri Draupadiamman, Sri Ekambareswarar, Sri Sakthi Vinayaka, Sri Muthumariamman	102
Melamaiyur	Sri Chinnamuthu Mariamman	104
Mannivakkam	Sri Manneeswarar	104
Nedungundram	Sri Agastheeswarar	105
Unamancheri	Sri Perumal, Sri Easwarar	105
Ponmar	Sri Pillaiyar, Sri Sathipureeswaran	105
Navalur	Sri Thirunavaleeswarar, Sri Palandiamman	106
Kannathur Reddykuppam	Sri Thulukkanathamman, Sri Ellaiamman, Sri Puri Jagannath	106
Muthukadu	Sri Vembuliamman, Sri Nagalamman	106
Siruseri	Sri Neela Manicka Perumal	107
Mambakkam	Sri Muruganadheeswarar, Sri Kariyamanicka Perumal	107
Gudalore R.F.	Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal, Sri Kangaiaimman, Sri Narasimha Perumal	108
Kayarambedu	Sri Kariyamanicka Perumal, Sri Thiruvaakeeswarar	108
Perumathunallur	Sri Adikesava Perumal, Sri Kailasanathar	108
Pudupakkam	Sri Veera Anjaneya	109
Kovalam	Sri Kailasanathar Swamy, Sri Anjaneya Swamy, Sri Draupadiamman, Sri Ekavalliamman, Sri Moola Shakti Amman	109
Kelambakkam	Sri Vinayaka, Sri Paduveltu Renukambigai, Sri Kali Amman, Sri Thulukkanathu Amman	110
Velichi	Sri Pasupatheeswarar, Sri Sundara Varadharaja Perumal	110
Kolathur	Sri Thiru Narayana Perumal, Sri Kalyana Ranga Nayaka Perumal	110
Appur	Sri Agastheeswarar	112
Kayar	Sri Adi Easwarar, Sri Varadharaja Perumal	112
Thaiyur	Sri Senganmadaleeswarar, Sri Murugeswaraswamy	112
Thiruidanthai	Sri Nithyakalyana Perumal	113
Nemmeli	Sri Amman	114
Illalur	Sri Swayambu Easwarar, Sri Kali Ammal	114
Vembedu	Sri Agastheeswarar	114
Nellikuppam	Sri Vendavari Amman, Sri Adi Kesava Perumal	114
Kondangi	Sri Easwarar	115
Karunilam	Sri Kariyamanicka Perumal, Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal	115
Kolathur	Sri Narayana Perumal	115
Guruvanmedu	Sri Ulla Ooran Amman	116
Villiambakkam	Sri Srinivasa Perumal, Sri Thokkeaswarar	116
Vembakkam	Sri Srinivasa Perumal	116

Chettipunyam	Sri Devanatha Perumal	117
Thirutheri	Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka, Sri Chamundeeswari Amman, Sri Atheeswaran	117
Kachadimangalam	Sri Karukatha Amman, Sri Muthial Amman	117
Hanumanthapuram	Sri Veerabhadraswamy	118
Kattur	Sri Vaithiyalingeswarar	118
Thandalam	Sri Palandiamman	119
Kottamedu	Sri Jalakanteeswarar	119
Sirunkundram	Sri Putridankondeeswarar	119
Anjur	Sri Pidari Vilakkathamman, Sri Kariyamanicka Perumal, Sri Somanatha Easwarar	120
Thenmelpakkam	Sri Draupadi Amman, Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri KamalaVinayaka, Sri Sundareswarar, Sri Pidariamman, Sri Mariamman	120
Athur	Sri Kalyana Varadharajar, Sri Mutheswarar, Sri Ellamman, Sri Padavattamman, Sri Pidari Thulliamman	121
Pulipakkam	Sri Vyagrapureeswarar, Sri Pundareega Varadaraja Perumal	121
Kunnayakkam	Sri Venugopalswamy	122
Perunthandalam	Sri Agastheeswaraswamy, Sri Uthukkattamman, Sri Vembuliamman, Sri Sambandha Vinayaka	122
Karumbakkam	Sri Thiruvathaiamman, Sri Narasimha swamy, Sri Gangaiaimman	123
Sembakkam	Sri Sivaprakasaswamy, Sri Jambugeswarar, Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal, Sri Vendavarasi Amman, Sri Chengazhuneer Vinayaka, Sri Ramaswamy	123
Alathur	Sri Agastheeswarar	124
Acharavakkam	Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Kariamanicka Perumal	125
Poondi	Sri Pilliyarswamy, Sri Pidariamman	126
Mullipakkam	Sri Parasurama Easwarar, Sri Chelliamman, Sri Elliamman, Bajanai Madam, Sri Chinnamman,	126
Thiruvadisoolum	Sri Gnanapureeswaraswamy	127
Ozhalur	Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Varadharaja Perumal	128
Manamathy	Sri Thirukkarai Easwarar	129
Agaram	Sri Kailasanathaswamy	129
Amoor	Sri Perumal, Sri Iraiyeram Odayar Easwarar	129
Oragadam	Sri Kothandaramaswami, Sri Vadamalleeswarar	132

KANCHEEPURAM TALUK		
Name of Village/Town	Name of Temple	Page No.
Kancheepuram	Sri Ekambareswarar, Sri Thirukacchi Mayanam, Sri Kamakshiamman, Sri Subramaniaswamy (Kumarakottam), Sri Ishta Siddhi Vinayaka, Sri Nagareswarar, Sri Trikala Gnaneswarar, Sri Sangupani Vinayaka, Sri Airavadeswarar, Sri Karpagavinayaka, Sri Chokeeswarar, Sri Jurakareswarar, Onankanthan Thali, Kacchi Anegathangavatham, Muppurankottam, Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy, Sri Gajendra Varadar, Sri Agastheeswarar, Sri Chintamani Vinayaka, Sri Mukteeswarar, Sri Metraleswarar, Sri Maha Ananda Rudreswarar, Sri Pana Mudeeswara, Sri Santha Valliamman, Sri Devaraja Swami, Shri Ulagalanda Perumal, Sri Kailasanathar, Sri Soleeswarar, Sri Pillaiyar, Sri Anjaneyar, Sri Ashtabhujar Perumal, Sri Santhaleswarar, Sri Punya Koteeswarar, Sri Renuka Parameshwari Amman, Sri Valadheeswarar, Sri Seetheswarar, Sri Sidhiswarar, Sri Chitragupthaswamy, Sri Bhargeeswarar, Sri Yathothakari Perumal, Sri Kacchapeswarar, Sri Pazhaya Karukkinil Amamda Amman, Sri Valakarutheeswarar, Sri Mandala Eswarar, Sri Muktheeswarar, Sri Garudesam, Sri Nageswarar, Sri Pavavalavannar, Sri Pachavannar, Sri Deepaparakasa, Sri Azhagiyasingar, Sri Vaikunta Perumal, Sri Veera Mahakaliamman, Sri Kadukkaliyamman, Sri Kaya Aroganeeswarar, Sri Veerabhadra swamy, Sri Dharmarajar, Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka & Sri Dheepanji Amman, Sri Adipeeta Parameswari Kalikambal, Sri Pandavadootha Perumal, Sri Mahalingeswarar	137 to 169
Nattapettai Thirukalimedu	Sri Sathyanatha Easwarar, Sri Nithyakalyana Agastheeswarar	169
Sevilimedu	Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy, Sri Selva Vinayaka	170
Ayyampettai	Sri Shakti Amman, Sri Kailasanathar	171
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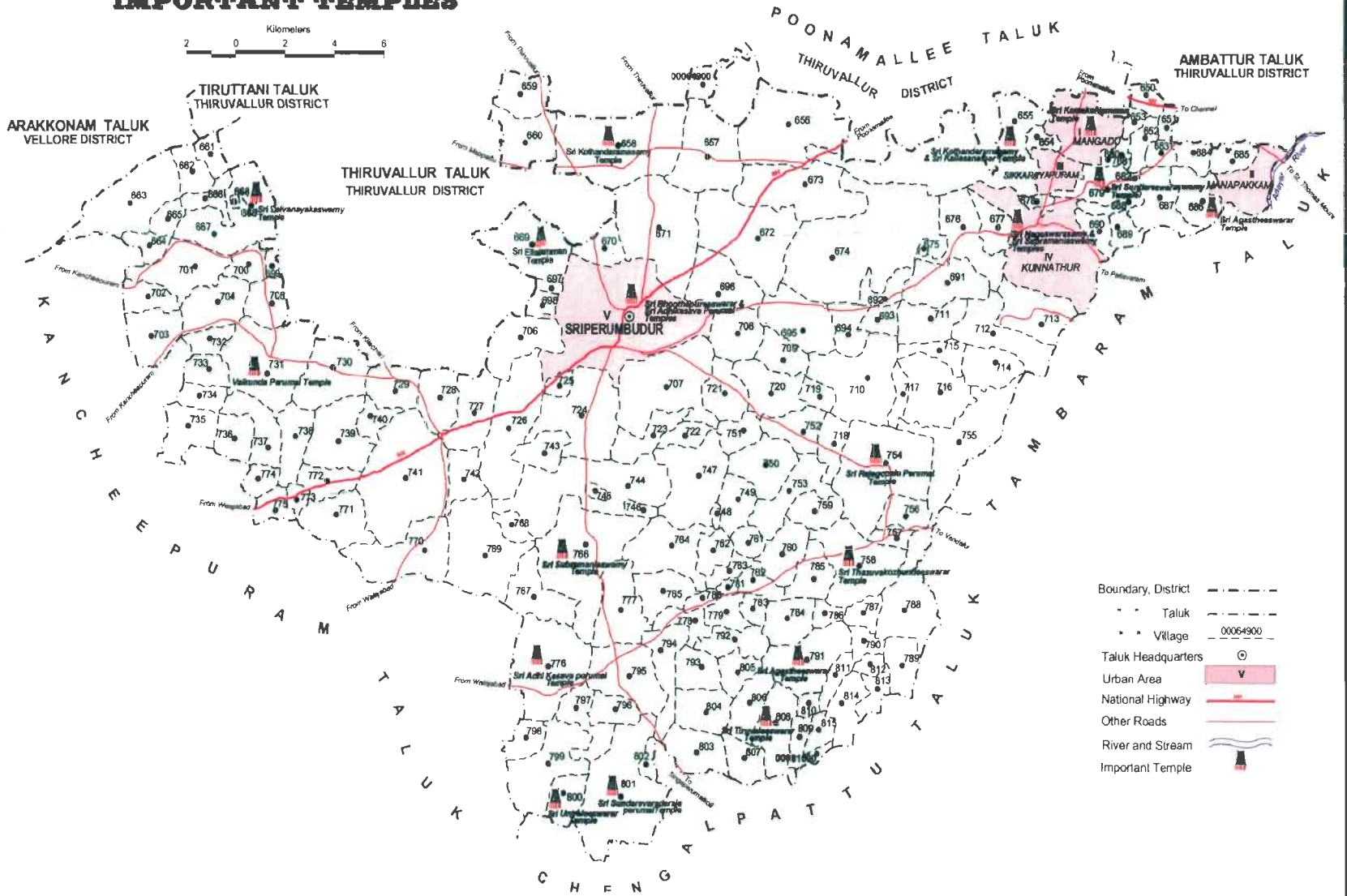
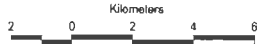
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SRI PERUMBUDUR TALUK

TAMIL NADU
SRIPERUMBUDUR TALUK
 KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT
IMPORTANT TEMPLES



SRIPERUMBUDUR TALUK

Sriperumbudur Taluk covers an area of 587.54 Sq.kms. The Taluk Headquarter is at Sriperumbudur, a Town Panchayat located 35 kms. from the District Headquarters at Kancheepuram. It is located on the National Highway (NH-4) from Chennai to Bangalore. It is well connected by rail as well as road.

Sriperumbudur Taluk has 3 Town Panchayats, 2 Census Towns and 168 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Population Totals of the Census of India 2001, the Taluk has a population of 316,085.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 318 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 199 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 33 villages details are not available on temples. This includes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

This Taluk was the birthplace of saints, Sri Ramanuja, who was born in Sriperumbudur Town and Sri Embar Swamigal, who was born at Maduramangalam village. They are greatly revered by vaishnavites.

The famous vaishnavite shrines located in this Taluk are Sri Adi Kesava Perumal & Sri Bhashyakaraswamy Temples at Sriperumbudur Town and Sri Vaikunta Perumal Temple at Maduramangalam village.

The famous shaivaite shrines of the Taluk are Sri Bhoothapureswarar Temple at Sriperumbudur and Sri Deivanayaga Swamy Temple at Nilumayankottur.

Other famous temples in this Taluk are Sri Kamakshi Temple at Mangadu and Sri Subrahmania Swamy Temple at Kundrathur.

MANGADU (TP-1)

The village Mangadu is located 3 km. from Poonamallee and 23 km. from Chennai. It is connected by bus.



Sri Valleswaraswamy Temple

It is an ancient temple. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Valleswaraswamy in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. Presently, the temple is under renovation and hence the moolavar is shifted to a new place in the temple.

As per legend, Saint Bargava (alias Sukrachariyar) got darshan of Lord Shiva in this place and hence it is also called Bargaveeswarar temple. It is believed that Sukran (Brahaspathi) performed pooja here.

The temple occupies an area of 1 acre. The temple has some lands. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is Rs.1, 71,506/-.

Poojas are performed thrice daily. Arudhra and Manikavasagar Uthsavam are the main festivals. A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Balandeeswarar/Santheeswarar Temple

It is an ancient temple. The presiding deity is Sri Balandeeswarar also known as Santheeswarar in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. The temple occupies an area of 29 X13 Sq.ft. The temple has lands, shops and houses. Poojas are performed once daily.

A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple

It is an ancient temple said to have come up at the time of Adi Sankara. It is dedicated to Goddess Kamakshi Amman. The Uthsavar is called Sri Raja Rajeshwari. Thapas Kamakshi, Sri Lakshmi and Sri Saraswathi are the other deities. The Sri Chakra established by “Adi Sankara” is made up of Ashtakantham (8 herbs) and is an important one. Kumbhabhishekam was performed by H.H. Sri Jayendra Saraswati of Kanchi Mutt on 3.6.2002. A Raja Gopuram with seven tiers was completed on 8.7.1987 at a cost of Rs.7 lakhs. The Praakaara Mandapam was completed on 21.4.1994 at a cost of Rs.90 lakhs.

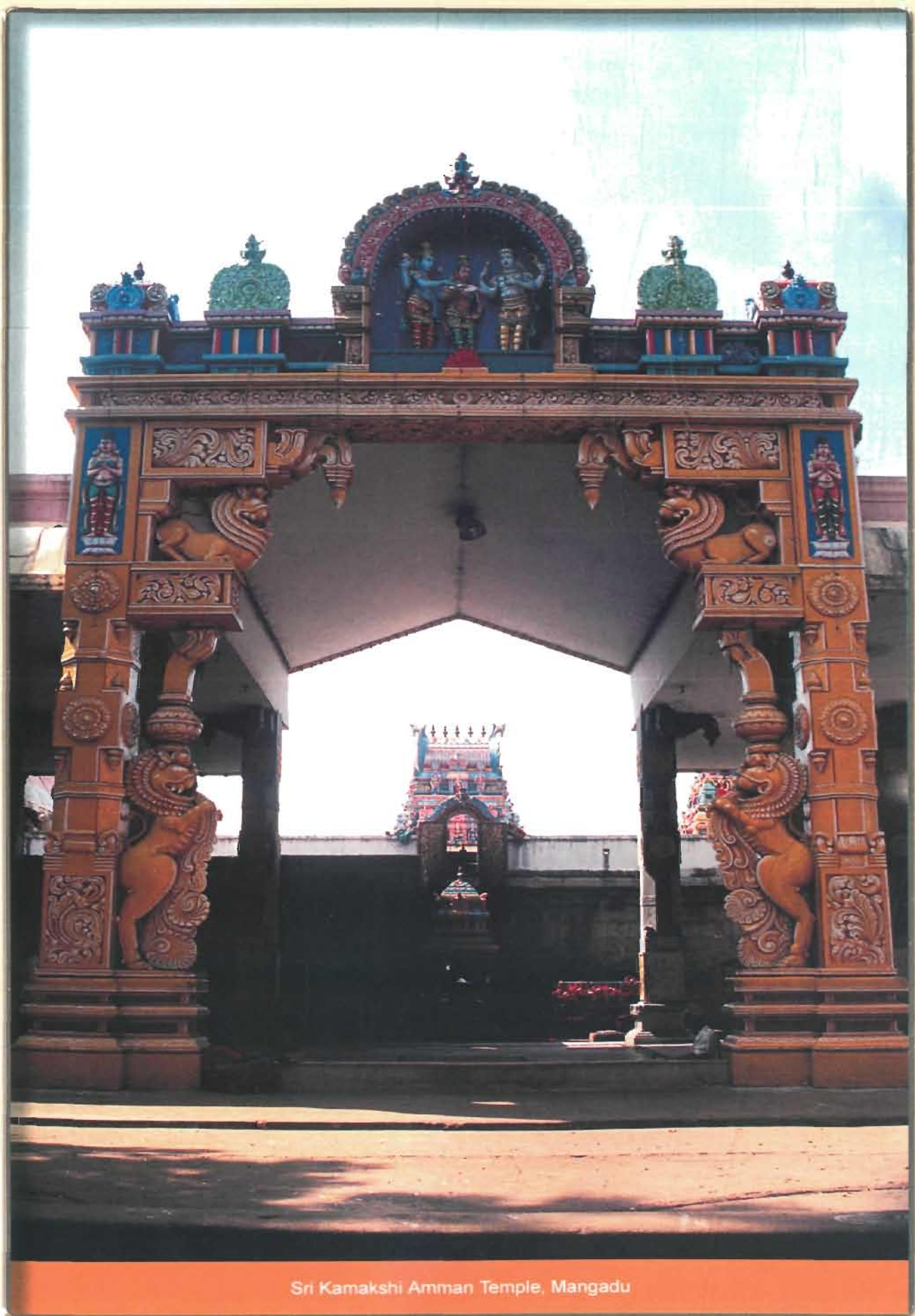
As per legend, Sri Kamakshi who was cursed by Shiva, came down to earth to do penance and joined with Shiva at Kancheepuram.

Temple owns Gold Jewellery worth Rs. 43 lakhs, Silver Jewellery worth Rs.13 lakhs and Precious Stones worth Rs.32,000/-. Most of the jewels are donated by the devotees. The temple has landed property to the extent of 35.02 acres of wetland and 5.23 acres of dry land. The temple has one Kalyana Mandapam (Marriage Hall).

There is a Golden Car in the temple for which a fee of Rs.1,500/- is charged from the devotees who want to perform this seva. The Car is 10” L x 10” B x 18” H. It is made up of wood plated with copper, silver and gold.

The annual income from properties are: Wetlands - Rs.20,000/-; Marriage Hall - Rs.3, 00, 000/- and House sites - Rs.9, 318/-. This temple draws a huge crowd on important days and the income through Hundi collections is Rs. 40.00 lakhs per annum. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 - Rs.55, 49,455/-; for Fasli 1404 - Rs.51, 49,264/- and for Fasli 1405 - Rs.65, 75,468/-.

Poojas are performed five times a day - Ushakkalam (5.00 A.M.), Kalasandhi (9.00 A.M.), Uchhikalam (1.00 P.M.), Sayarakshai (6.00 P.M.) and Ardhajamam (10.00 P.M.).



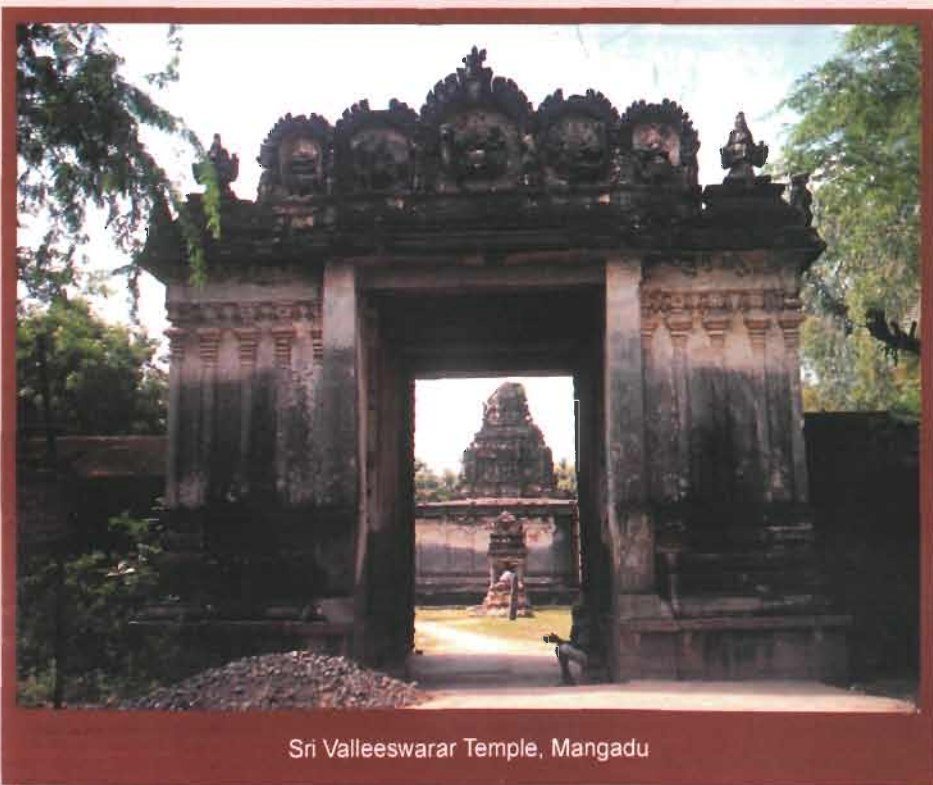
Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple, Mangadu



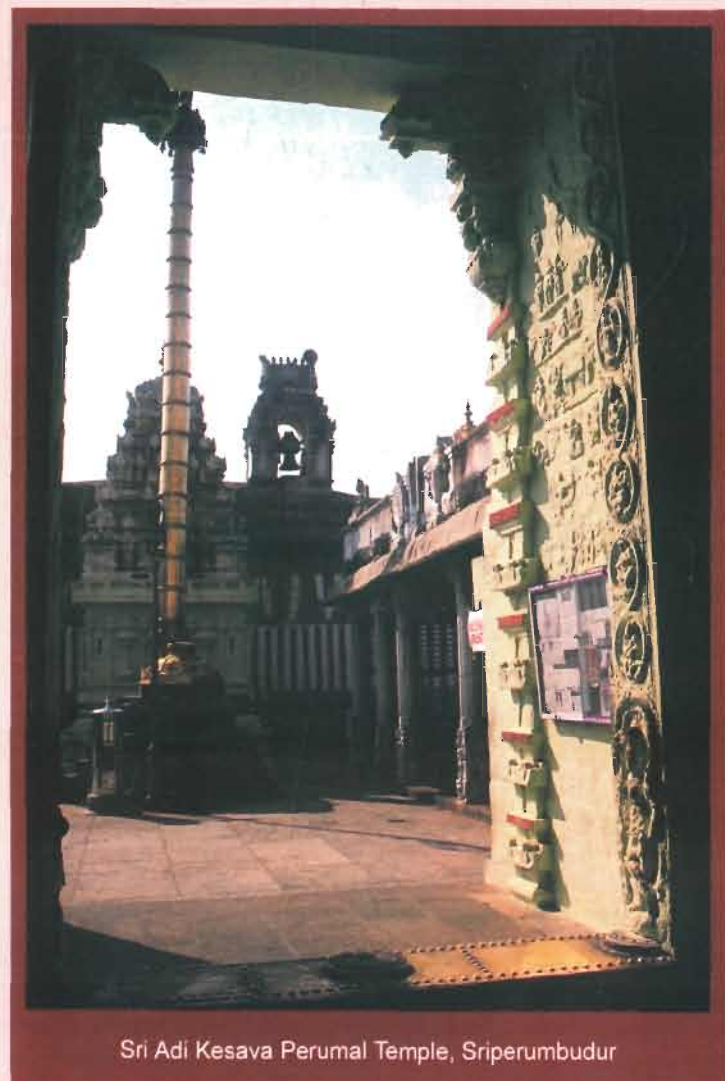
Sri Kandaswamy Temple, Kundrathur



Sri Vaikunta Perumal Temple, Mangadu



Sri Valleswarar Temple, Mangadu



Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple, Sriperumbudur

Navarathri is the main festival. Devotees believe that those who come to this temple for six weeks get their problems solved. A Board of Trustees including a hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Vaikunta Perumal Temple

This temple is located near Sri Kamakshi Temple. Mahasamprokshanam was performed on 19-1-2000. The principal deity with His consort Sridevi and Bhudevi, is in the sitting posture. Vaikunda Ekadasi is an important festival. The trustees of Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple manage affairs of this temple too.

MANAPAKKAM (CT-2)

Sri Velleeswaraswamy Temple

The temple is located 5 Kms from St. Thomas Mount Railway Station and 25 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is said to be 150 years old. It covers an area of 4 cents of land.

It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Velleeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. There are 18 Uthsavar idols in the temple.

An Archakar performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 1.50 acres of land, which are under lease cultivation. Maha Shivarathri is the annual festival celebrated. It is under the control of Hindu Religious and Endowments Department.

Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple

This temple is about 40 years old. It was built by villagers. It covers an area of ½ cent. It has no property. A Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day. All Saturdays of Purattasi month are celebrated with special pujas. The affairs of the temple are managed by villagers themselves but the temple is under the control of HR&CE Department.

Sri Kuzhaliyamman Temple

No significant details are available.

SIKKARAYAPURAM (CT-3)

Sri Muthumariamman, Venugopalaswamy, Karumariamman Temples and Bajanaï Madam

No significant details are available.

KUNDRATHUR (TP-4)

Sri Kandaswamy / Subramaniaswamy Temple

The village is located 9 Kms from Pallavaram Railway Station. It is an ancient temple built on a rock during the reign of Kulothunga Chola – II. It was renovated between 1706 and 1732 A.D. during the period of Madurai Naickers. It covers an area of 40,000 Sq.ft.

It is dedicated to Lord Muruga. The presiding deity is Sri Kandaswamy with his consorts Valli and Deivayanai. Saint Arunagirinathar has visited this temple and has composed 3 stanzas in the ‘Thirupugazh’ on this shrine. As per legend, Lord Muruga stayed here on his way to Thiruttani after killing Tharakasura. There is a 3 –tier Raja Gopuram and a 16-pillared Mandapam.

The temple has lands and jewels. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1404 – Rs.1,83,361/-; for Fasli 1405 – Rs.2, 14,148/- and for Fasli 1406 – Rs.2, 06,568/-.

Poojas are performed twice daily by a hereditary Gurukkal. Padi Uthsavam in Vaikasi and Shashti in Ayyappasi are the main festivals.

The Temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Mariamman Temple

This temple was built about 50 years ago by the villagers. It occupies ½ cent of land. The temple has neither property nor jewels. A Poosari performs pooja once a day. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. A temporary trustee appointed by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Nageswaraswamy Temple

The temple is located at Thirunageswaram close to Kundrathur, which is 12 Km. from Pallavaram Railway Station and 30 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built by Saint Sekkizhar during the reign of Kulothuga Chola-II. Saint Sekkizhar is famous for his work “Periyapuranam” which contains the history of Saivaite Saints. He was the Chief Minister to Kulothuga Chola-II. He had a close friendship with Ottakoothar his contemporary. As Sekkizhar believed that the Sengunthar community to which Ottakoothar belongs, would take care of the temple very well, he handed over the temple to that community. Since then, the temple is under the control of Sengunthar Community. The Saint named this deity, tank and sthala viruksham etc. in memory of his visit to “Thirunageswaram” near Kumbakonam where the God is called Thirunageswarar. This shrine was originally named as “Vada (North) Nageswaram”.

The total area of the temple is 3 acres on which the shrine was built on 90,000 Sq.ft. of land (300x300). The temple has a tank called “Surya Pushkarani” and a garden which supplies flowers for daily pooja. Sthala Viruksham is Sembagam. Poojas are performed as per Karana Agama. Raja Gopuram (with 3-stages) was built by the Sengunthar Community in 1944. Renovations were carried out in 1972. There are 45 stone inscriptions in the Temple. They belong to the period of Kulothuga Chola-III (1178 – 1218 AD), Rajendra Chola (1246-1271 AD),

Jadavarman Sundara Pondiyan-I (1251-1271 AD), Maravarman Kulasekara Pandiyan-I (1268-1311), Harihara Rayar-I, Devamaha Rayar-II (1422-1432 AD), Mallikarjuna Maha Rayar (1509-1529 AD) and Sriranga Deva Rayar (1582 AD).

The presiding deity is Sri Nageswaraswamy in the form of a Prathishta Lingam under a Naga (Snake). The Goddess is called “Bogasakthi Amman” . There is a separate shrine for Sri Kamakshi Amman. The other deities are Vinayaka, Subramaniar with Valli & Deivayani, Chandikeswarar, Veerabahu (Guard of Muruga) and Sekkizhar. The Uthsava murthies are Somaskanthar, Chandrasekarar, Natarajar and Bishadanar.

The temple has 49.95 acres of land and jewellery worth Rs.33, 300/-. The income from land is about Rs.44, 000/- per annum. The immovable property of the temple includes a Kalyana Mandapam near the temple for performing marriages. There are inam lands given to Nagaswaram, Melam, Archakar etc. The temple has a Car, 10 Vahanams and a Palanquin.

Poojas are performed thrice daily. Brahmotsavam in Chithirai is the main festival. Sekkizhar Uthsavam in the month of Vaikasi is also celebrated.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.1,41,832/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.1,56,776/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.1,73,174/-. for Fasli 1408 – Rs.2,76, 358/-; for Fasli 1409 – Rs.2, 89, 776/- and for Fasli 1410 – Rs.3,89, 378/-.

Stories: Once the Moolavar was damaged slightly and the then Trustees decided to replace it with another Lingam in the same temple at Arunachaleswar shrine. One day they replaced it and threw the damaged Lingam in the tank. On the same day, the water in the tank turned red like blood. On that night, a saint who was staying in the temple, had a dream in which Lord Shiva appeared and ordered to put him back in his original place. Then the damaged lingam was taken out of the tank and

placed in its original position. It is also believed here that Nagas (snakes) visit the temple during nighttime to get darshan.

A Board of Trustees with one hereditary trustee from the Sengunthar community manages the affairs of the Temple. It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Sekkizharswamigal Temple

The temple is an ancient one. It is dedicated to Saint Sekkizhar, the author of the epic 'Peria Puranam'. This is the Saint's birthplace.

The temple has some lands. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.10, 759/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.10, 845/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.13, 770/-. Poojas are performed twice daily. Brahmotsavam in Vaikasi is the main festival.

A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Sadayandy Easwarar Temple

This temple is located at Thirunageswaram in Kunnathur. The temple was built about 50 years ago. It covers an area of ½ cent. The presiding deity is Sadayandy Easwarar, an idol. No Uthsavar is available. Daily poojas are performed by Archakar. The temple has 1 acre of land which fetches an annual income of Rs.6, 000/-. Shivarathri is celebrated as an important festival. A single hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples in the village are: Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple, Kandeewarar Temple, Kariamanicka Perumal temple, and Agastheeswarar Temple. Of which Sri Agastheeswarar Temple and Kariamanicka Perumal temples have landed property to the extent of 77.12 acres. Daily poojas

are performed in all these temples. They are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple, Manajeri

The temple is located at Manajeri (h/o Kundrathur). The temple is said to be 150 years old. It covers an area of 1800 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal with His consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi. There are 4 Uthsavar idols in the temple. A Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 3.13 acres of land. The 4th Saturday in the month of Purattasi is celebrated annually. It is under the control of HR&CE Department.

Sri Vinayaka Temple, Venkatapuram

No significant details are available.

SRIPERUMBUDUR (TP-5)

Sri Bhoothapureswarar Temple

Sriperumbudur is located 20 Kms from Thiruvallur Railway Station and 35 Kms from Kancheepuram. The Bhoothapureswarar temple is an ancient temple, believed to be 2000 years old. The temple occupies an area of 0.60 acres.

The story associated with this temple is that once Lord Shiva was dancing in Kailash and his Bhootha Ganas laughed at him. They were cursed to take birth on the Earth. They did penance here and prayed to Lord Vishnu to get rid of the curse. They also started building a temple to Lord Vishnu but could not do so as the temple crashed down every time. The Ganas were directed by a voice to build a temple for Shiva first. Hence this temple was built by them.

The presiding deity is Sri Bhoothapureswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is Sri Soundaravalli. The other deities in the temple are: Vinayaka, Murugar with Valli &

Deivayanai and Asthirayar. A Gurukkal performs Poojas once a day. The temple owns 4.80 acres of wet and 7.72 acres of dry lands which are under lease cultivation. Vaikasi Vishakam, Navarathri and Shivarathri are the important festivals.

The affairs of the Temple are looked after by the Executive Officer, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Jaya Bhoothapuri Vinayaka Temple

The temple is dedicated to Lord Vinayaka who is in a sitting posture. It was built about 40 years ago. The temple occupies an area of ½ cent. There is only a Vimanam above the sanctum in the temple. No Gopuram or Prakaras are there. Poojas are performed once a day by an Archakar. The temple owns a building for which a rent of Rs.6,920/- per annum is collected. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the annual festival celebrated. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.55, 586/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.15, 145/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.18, 886/-.

A Trustee manages the affairs of the Temple. This temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.



Sri Adi Kesava Perumal and Bhashyakaraswamy Temples

The temple was built during the reign of the Vijayanagar King, Krishna Deva Raya. Renovations were carried out in 1950. The temple occupies an area of 4 acres.

The temple is facing east. There are Dwajasthambam, Horse Mandapam, Gold Mandapam and a Gayatri Mandapam (built by Saint Desikar), Oyyali Seva Mandapam, Ramanayakan

Mandapam, Yaga Sala and Mirror Mandapam. There is also a 100-pillared Mandapam opposite to the temple. In front of the temple there is a 16-pillared Mandapam and a 4-pillared mandapam.

The presiding deities of the temple are Sri Adi Kesava Perumal and Sri Bhashyakaraswamy. The former is in a standing posture with four hands facing east. The second deity is that of Saint Ramanuja in a sitting posture. There is a temple for Saint Sri Manavala Mamuni by the side of the main temple. The main temple include shrines (sannidhi) of Udayavar (facing south), Sri Adi Kesavar, Alwars, Periya Thiruvadi, Nammalwar, Sri Andal, Thirukachi Nambi & Nambillai Logachari, Sri Ethirajanadha Valli Thayar (facing east), Sri Ramar.

As per legend Lord Shiva was once dancing in Mount Kailash. Some of his Bhootha ganas laughed at him. The Lord infuriated by their actions cursed them to become wandering spirits (Bhooth Atmas). They repented for their mistake and beseeched the Lord to redeem them. Relenting, the Lord asked them to pray to Lord Vishnu, who would redeem them from this curse. Accordingly they propitiated Lord Vishnu, who asked them to form a township and put up a temple. On doing so they were redeemed from the curse. The township was called Bhoothapuri, which in course of time came to be called Sriperumbudur. Another story is that a king inadvertently killed a cow while hunting. He prayed at this spot to redeem himself of the sin of cow slaughter. Lord Vishnu appeared before him and absolved him of the sin. The king then built this shrine.

This is also the birthplace of the Vaishnavite Saint Ramanuja also called Sri Bhasyakar. The deity of Sri Bhashyakaraswamy Temple is that of Sri Ramanuja. It is believed that Sri Ramanuja was an avatar of Sri Adisheshan the divine serpent.

Poojas are conducted six times a day as per Vaikhanasa Agamam. The temple owns exquisite jewellery which include Ratna Crown, Diamond Crown, Mango garland, Tridhandam and Nagam. The jewels are worth about Rs.9, 69,040/-. The im-

movable properties of this temple include 294.34 acres of land, 30 buildings and 60 house sites. Annual income from these properties are about Rs.6,65,745/-. There are also a number of Vahanams, several of which are gold and silver-plated. There is also an Ivory Palanquin, wooden Car and gold-plated Palanquin gifted by Sri Adi Sankara.

The annual Brahmotsavam of Sri Adi Kesava Perumal in Chithirai and the Chaithrothsavam of Sri Bhashyakaraswamy in the same month are the main festivals. On the sixth day of this festival, the deity of Sri Ramanuja is dressed in pure white clothes and his disciple Sri Koorathalwar is dressed as an ascetic. The festival commemorates the visit of Saint Ramanuja to Delhi. The timings for Darshan in this temple are: 6.30 A.M. to 12.00 Noon and 4.00 P.M. to 8.30 P.M.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.3,28,340/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.4,36,785/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.5,57,265/-. A Board of trustees and an Executive Officer of the HR & CE manages the affairs of the temple.

KONDAVAKKAM (LC.649)

No temple.

AYYAPPANTHANGAL (LC.650)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

This village is located 8 Kms from Guindy Railway Station. Bus facilities are available from Chennai. The temple was built about 50 years ago by villagers. It covers an area of 2 cents. An archakar performs pooja once a day. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Perumal and Thantoni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

THELLIARAGARAM (LC.651)

No temple.

KOLATHUVANCHERI (LC.652)

No temple.

SRINIVASAPURAM (LC.653)

No temple.

KOZHUMANIVAKKAM (LC.654)

Sundara Vinayaka Temple

The village is 9 kms. from Guindy Railway Station and 69 kms. from District Headquarters. It can be reached by bus from Poonamallee to Tambaram. This temple was built about 80 years ago by the people of the village. The other deities are Siddhi Buddhi Vinayaka and Balamurugan. The temple owns 0.93 acres of land. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival when deity is taken in procession.

Palleeswarar Temple

This temple was built about 150 years ago in an area of ½ cent. The deities of the temple are Lord Murugan with His Consorts Valli and Deivayanai, Shiva and Pillaiyar. It owns 1.91 acres of land. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. Maha Shivarathri, Kanthar Sashti and Surasamharam are celebrated.

Kothandaramar Temple

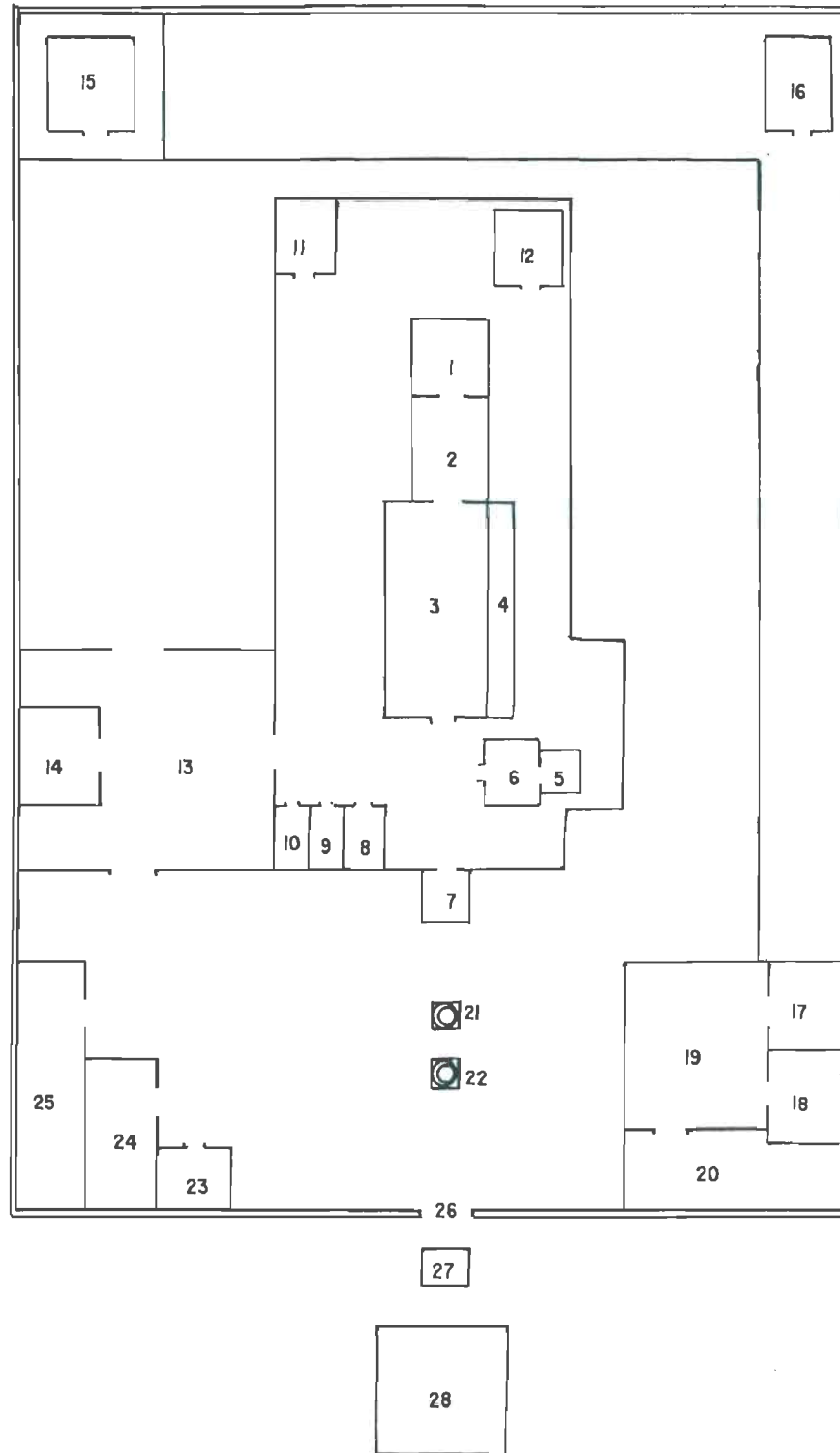
The principal deity is Kothandaraman. The other deity is Anjaneyar. The temple was built about 60 years ago by the villagers on an area of 1 cent. It owns 0.32 acres of land. A Poojari performs pooja once a day from the grant given by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

SRI ADIKESAVA PERUMAL & SRI BASHYAKARASWAMY TEMPLE

SRIPERUMPUDUR
(NOT TO SCALE)

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12. Andal Sannithi
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14. Gold Mandapam
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23. Kannan Sannithi
24. Shop
25. Madapalli
26. Main Entrance
27. Four Pillar Mandapam
28. 100 Pillar Mandapam



Sri Mariamman Temple

No significant details are available.

MALAYAMBAKKAM (LC.655)

Sri Kothandaramaswamy and Sri Krishnaswamy Temple

The temple is located 8 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. One Sri Ramu Mudaliar built the temple 113 years ago (1898). It covers an area of 0.50 cents. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Deities of the temple are Kothandaramar with Sita and Krishna. There is a stone inscription in the temple.

The temple has 1.28 acres of wet and dry lands, Buildings and house sites, which fetch an annual income of Rs.2.00 lakhs. It owns jewellery worth Rs.1.00 lakh. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.31, 263/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.38, 539/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.1, 42,023/-. Poojas are performed twice daily by a Bhattacharya. Vaikunta Ekadasi and Rama Navami are the main festivals.

A hereditary Trustee manages the affairs of the Temple. It is under Hindu Religious and Endowments Department.

Sri Kailasanathaswamy Temple

The temple is 120 years old and built on ½ cent of land. Renovations were carried out by Raja Dharmalinga Mudaliar in 1925. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathaswamy in the form of a Swayambu Lingam.

The temple has 15 acres of wet and dry lands which are under lease cultivation. An amount of Rs.30, 000/- per annum is collected from lessee. Poojas are performed once daily. Arudhra, Thai Poosam and Panguni Uthiram are the main festivals. A Board of 5 Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Varadanarayana Perumal & Selva Vinayaka Temples

The age of the temple is about 100 years and renovations were done in late 60s. It covers an area of 50 cents. The deities are Sri Varadanarayana Perumal with His consorts Sri devi and Bhudevi and Sri Selva Vinayaka. Uthsavars are also available. It owns about 5 acres of wet lands. Pooja is performed by a Bhattacharya once daily. There is one Garuda Vahanam presented by a devotee. Vinayaka Chathurthi and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the annual festivals. A Board of 5 Trustees appointed by HR&CE Department manage the affairs of the temple.

MEVALURKUPPAM (LC.656)

Sri Valleeswarar Temple

The village is located 12 kms. from Taluk headquarters. Bus facilities are available. The temple is said to be 300 years old. It covers an area of 1 acre. The Presiding deity is a Lingam. The other deities in the temple are Kasi Viswanathar, Agastheeswarar, Perumal with Sri Devi & Bhu Devi and Chandikeswarar. Damaged stone inscriptions are found. The temple owns 1.80 acres of wet and 23.97 acres of dry lands. A Gurukkal performs pooja once daily. Panguni Uthsavam, Navarathiri and Shivarathri are the important festivals. The affairs of the temple are managed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

VALARPURAM (LC.657)

Sri Bheemeswarar Temple

The village is located 10 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. It was built about 100 years ago on an area of ½ acre. The presiding deity Sri Bheemeswarar is a stone idol. There are Uthsavar idols available. A Poosari performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 3 acres of land. A hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

MANNUR (LC.658)

Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple

The village is located 6 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built about 40 years ago by the villagers. It covers an area of 1-½ cents. The presiding deity is Sri Kothandaramar with His consort Seetha Devi. A Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day. Sri Rama Navami is the annual festival. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Polakshiamman, Perumal, Kalviamman and Vinayaka temples.

KANDAMANGALAM (LC.659)

Sri Perumal (Bajanai) Temple

No significant details are available.

SENGADU (LC.660)

Sri Andalamman, Madurai Veeran, Vinayaka and Ramar Tempels

No significant details are available.

SHIVAPURAM (LC.661)

Sri Theertheeswarar Temple

The village is located 12 Kms from Kadambatthur Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. The temple is 200 years old and covers an area of 0.70 cents. It owns 0.56.0 hectares of land. Shivarathri and Navarathri are the important days. No daily poojas are performed. The temple is managed by the villagers.

O.M.MANGALAM (LC.662)

Sri Ekambaranathar and Draupadi Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PICHIVAKKAM (LC.663)

Sri Pattumudeeswarar Temple

The village is 26 kms. away from Taluk Headquarters and reachable by bus. It was built about 200 years ago (1801). The principal deity is Sri Pattumudeeswarar with His consort Paramanandavalli. Stone inscriptions are available. There is a Gopuram in the temple. The temple covers an area of 0.80 cents. It owns 0.93.5 acres of land. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. Navarathri is the main festival. The temple is managed by the villagers.

Sri Pidari Selliamman and Kariamanicka Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

THULASAPURAM (LC.664)

Sri Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

KANDIVAKKAM (LC.665)

Sri Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.



Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple, Sriperumbudur



Alvars at Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple, Sriperumbudur



Birth Place of Saint Ramanuja at Sriperumbudur



Sri Deivanayagaswamy Temple, Elimiyanakottur



Sri Yoga Dakshinamurthy at Elimiyanakottur



Sri Deivanayagaswamy Temple, Elimiyanakottur

KAPPANKOTTUR (LC.666)

Sri Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

KOTTUR (LC.667)

Sri Amman and Pillayar Temples

No significant details are available.

ELIMIYANKOTTUR (LC.668)



Sri Deivanayagaswamy (Arambeswarar) Temple

The temple is located 8 miles from Kadambathur Railway Station. Devotees should alight at Perambakkam-Narasingapuram enroute Chennai-Poonamallee by bus and walk 2 km. to reach this temple. It is an ancient temple. It is believed to exist through 4 yugas. The temple occupies an area of 4 acres.

It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Deivanayagaswamy in the form of a Swayambu Lingam which is believed to have formed from a flower that came down from Lord Shiva's head. His consort is Sri Kanakakuchambigai. Both are 6 ft. in height. The other deities are Arambeswarar and Chandrasekarar. Renovations were carried out from 1940-1948 by Nattukottai Chettiars. It is said that the Gopuram and manadapams were damaged by lightning in 1984. As per legends, Ramba, Urvasi and Menaka performed pooja here. Lord Chandra also got relief for his curse by performing prayer.

Saint Dhanvantri sannidhi is also here. Appar and Sundarar have sung hymns about this deity.

The temple owns land to the extent of 15.50 acres. Poojas are performed twice daily by hereditary Gurukkal. Shivarathri, Arudhra, Parivettai are the main festivals.

A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple.

KILOY (LC.669)

Sri Ellaiamman Temple

No significant details are available.

Box - 13

Metallurgy

Generally, household images as well as images of the temple deities used in festivals are made of metal. Three metals are prescribed for such idols: gold, silver and copper. Often bronze is also used. A mixture of five metals called Panchaloha consisting of copper, gold, silver, brass and white lead is commonly used to make idols. The ancient text Silparathna describes the process of casting in detail. An image is first made with bees wax mixed with charcoal powder. A coat of soft clay is applied over the wax, leaving an opening at the bottom. The clay is allowed to dry for a few days. The clay cast is then heated to melt the wax inside. The wax flows out of the bottom and leaves behind the wax mould. Molten metal is then poured into the cast. When the metal cools down, the cast is broken open. The metal image is then finished and polished. Each image is unique and original as separate moulds have to be made for each.

AYAKOLATHUR (LC.670)

Sri Ponniamman and Shivan Temples

No significant details are available.

NEMILI (LC.671)

Sri Rudra Kapaleeswarar and Vazhithunai Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

IRUNGATTUKOTTAI (LC.672)

Sri Polakshiamman Temple

No significant details are available

THANDALAM (LC.673)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 5 Kms from Sriperumbudur. The temple is more than 500 years old and built by the villagers. It covers an area of ½ acre.

It is dedicated to Lord Shiva who is in the form of Prathishta Lingam. The temple has 2.43 acres of wet and dry lands and the income from the property is used for maintenance of the temple, salary, pooja etc. Poojas are performed twice daily. Shivarathri and Karthigai Deepam are the important festivals celebrated.

A Board of 3 Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Ettiamman, Sri Thantoniamman, Sri Agastheeswarar (Keevalur) and Maduvathamman (Keevalur) temples.

KATRAMBAKKAM (LC.674)

Sri Selliamman and Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

THARAVUR (LC.675)

No Temple.

SIRUKALATHUR (LC.676)

Sri Amaravatheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 12 Km. from Pallavaram Railway Station. Reachable by bus from Chennai to Sriperumbudur. It is more than 600 years old. There is a stone inscription in the temple. The temple covers an area of 2 acres.

The presiding deity is Sri Amarapatheeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The Uthsavar deities are Somaskandar, Amman, Vinayaka, Kaliamman, and Chandikeswar .

The temple own 47.04 acres of wetlands and 21.99 acres of dry lands. A Gurukkal performs Poojas once daily. The annual income of the temple as per HR&CE records is Rs.12,123/-. Panguni Uthiram, Vaikasi Visakam, Karthigai Deepam and Shivarathri are important days.

The Executive Officer, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the Temple.

KAVANUR (LC.677)

Sri Ramanatha Easwarar Temple and Kaliamman Temples

The village is located 19 kms. from Taluk Headquarter on the Chennai - Sriperumpudur route. The age of the temple is about 100 years. It occupies 50 cents of land. Kaliamman temple is built on 2.5 cents of land. The deity in Shiva temple is a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal performs daily pooja. Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the Shiva Temple while Kaliamman temple is managed by the villagers.

KOLLACHERI (LC.678)

No temple.

KOVUR (LC.679)

Sri Sundareswararaswamy Temple

The temple is located close to Pallavaram. It is an ancient temple built in the later Chola period. One Sri Kovur Sankara Mudaliar carried out renovations 250 years ago. The temple has a Raja Gopuram.

It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Sundareswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The deity is also called Thirumeni Easwarar. As per legend, Saint Thyagarajaswamy composed five songs in praise of this shrine. He was awarded a purse of Rs.1000/- for this. While he was proceeding to Kancheepuram some highwaymen followed him with an intention to relieve him of his belongings. When they approached, they found Rama and Lakshmana in the form of two armed young men guarding the palanquin. The Highwaymen realizing that the Saint was a great soul gave up their intention of robbing and became devotees of the Saint.

The temple occupies an area of 2 acres. The temple has 122 acres of lands and 10 sovereigns of gold worth Rs.30,000/- which includes Crown, Kavacham, Vel, and Trisul. The income from landed property is Rs.3,00,000/- collected through Trust. The temple runs a school, a maternity home and a Dispensary. The temple also has a number of Vahanams and a Car, which are 75 years old. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.7,47,213/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.7,72,133/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.8,08,070/-.

Poojas are performed twice a day by a Gurukkal. Brahmotsavam in Vaikasi is the main festival. The 5th, 7th, 10th and 12th days of the festival are important. A Board of Trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Siddhi Vinayaka Temple

The temple is about 50 years old. It covers an area of 1 cent and has one Praakaaram. It has no property. A poosari performs pooja once a day. Villagers celebrate the Vinayaka Chaturthi as annual festival. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

CHINNAPANICHERI (LC.680)

No temple.

PARANIPUTHUR (LC.681)

Sri Theertheeswararaswamy Temple

The temple is located 8 Km. from Guindy Railway Station. The temple is an ancient one. The temple occupies an area of 1 cent and it is facing east.

The presiding deity is Sri Theertheeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam.

The temple has 1.44.0 hectares of wetlands and 1.20.5 hectares of dry lands. Poojas are performed once daily. Shivarathri is the only annual festival celebrated.

A Board of 3 Trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the Temple.

PERIYAPANICHERI (LC.682)

Sri Valleeswarar Temple

The village is located at 8 Kms from Guindy Railway Station. It is on Porur-Kunnathur Road 2 ½ Kms from Porur. It is an ancient temple. It occupies an area of 3 cents.

The presiding deity is Sri Valleeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam.

The temple owns 1.63.5 hectares of wet and 1.36.0 hectares of dry lands, the income from which is utilized for pooja expenses, priest's salary etc. Poojas are performed once daily.

A Board of Trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the Temple.

MOWLIVAKKAM (LC.683)

No Temple.

MADANANDAPURAM (LC.684)

Sri Ponniamman Temple

The village is located at 9 Kms from Guindy Railway Station. The temple was built by the villagers about 100 years ago. It covers an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity Sri Ponniamman is a stone idol. The temple has 2 acres of land. A poojari performs pooja once a day. The expenses are met from Govern-

ment grant. Festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

MUGALIVAKKAM (LC.685)

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The village is located 4 Kms from Guindy Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. The temple is 35 years old and built by the villagers. It covers an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple owns no property. Shivarathri is the annual festival. The affairs of the temple are managed by villagers.

Sri Vembadi Vinayaka Temple

The temple was built by the villagers 30 years ago. It covers an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is Sri Vinayaka. A poosari performs pooja once daily. The temple has 0.40 acres of land. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the important festival celebrated annually. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

The other temples in the village are; Sri Mariamman, Agastheeswarar, Subrahmaniar, Perumal and Angala Parameswari Temples.

KOLAPAKKAM (LC.686)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The village is located 6 km. from Pallavaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach the village. The temple was built during the Vijayanagara reign. Renovations and Kumbhabhishekam were carried out in 1958. There are some stone inscriptions available on the temple walls. It is believed that Saint Agathiyar visited this temple and Bairavar got Motcham after performing prayers here.

The temple covers an area of 40.5 cents. There is a Gopuram which is 20 mtrs. in width. The temple owns 4.59 acres of wetland and the income from lands is used for salary for Gurukkal, pooja expenses etc. A paid Gurukkal whose office is hereditary performs Poojas twice a day. Annabhishekam in Ani, Arudhra in Margazhi are the important festivals. The temple is under the control of Executive officer, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. A hereditary Trustee looks after the affairs of the temple.

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

Sri Pidari Kuzhandhai Amman Temple

The temple was built about 50 years ago on an area of 1 cent. The villagers built this temple. A poosari performs pooja once a day. The temple has 0.53.5 hectares of wet and 0.26.5 hectares of dry lands. But it has no jewels. No festivals are celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Dharmaraja Temple

The temple was built about 40 years ago. It was built by the villagers. It covers an area of ½ cent. A poosari performs pooja once a day. The temple has 0.45.0 hectares of lands. No festivals are celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

GERUGAMBAKKAM (LC.687)

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka Temple

The village is located at 25 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vinayaka. It was built by the villagers about 50 years ago on an area of 1 cent. There are no idols except the Moolavar. A Poosari performs pooja once a day. The temple has no property. Vinayaka Chaturthi is cele-

brated annually by the villagers. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Neelakandeswarar Temple

It is an ancient temple. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Neelakandeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The temple occupies an area of 0.20 cents. The temple has lands. Poojas are performed once daily.

A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Venugopala Perumal Temple

The temple is 250 years old. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The presiding deity is Sri Venugopala Perumal. The temple occupies an area of 10 cents. The temple has some lands. Poojas are performed once daily.

A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple.

The other temples in the village are: Sri Pidari Kalamman, Shiva Subramania Swamy and Kadumbadi Amman Temples. These three temples are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

THANDALAM (LC.688)

Sri Selva Vinayaka Temple

The village is located at 10 Kms from Guindy Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. The Temple was built about 50 years ago by the villagers. It occupies an area of 0.05 cents. There is a Praakaaram, Sanctum and a Vimanam above the Sanctum. The presiding deity is Sri Selva Vinayaka. There is no uthsavar idol. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple has 5 acres of wetlands which are under lease cultivation. A sum of Rs. 5000/- per annum is being received from the lessee. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the annual festival celebrated.

The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

This shrine was built about 80 years ago. It covers an area of ½ cent. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathar. There is no uthsavar idol. The temple owns 2 acres of land, which are under lease cultivation. An amount of Rs.6000/- per annum is derived from the lessee. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. Shivarathri and Karthigai Deepam are the important festivals. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. A Board of 3 trustees appointed by HR&CE manages the affairs of the temple.

THARAPAKKAM (LC.689)

Sri Kailasanathaswamy Temple

The temple is located 7 Kms from Pallavaram Railway Station. The temple is said to be 200 years old. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam.

The temple occupies an area of 75 cents. The temple has lands. Poojas are performed once daily. Shivarathri is the main festival.

A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple.

IRANDANKATTALAI (LC.690)

Sri Konaiathiamman, Mariamman and Adi Kesava Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

NANDAMBAKKAM (LC.691)

Sri Amaravatheeswarar Temple

The village is located at 20 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is said to be 100 years old and renovated recently. It covers an area of 0.02 cents. No Gopuram is there. The temple has a Praakaaram and Sanctum. The presiding deity Sri Amaravatheeswarar is in the form of a Lingam. No uthsavar idols available. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple has neither jewels nor any landed property. Maha Shivarathri is the only annual festival celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Venugopala Swamy Temple, Dharmaraja Temple, Karpaga Vinayaka Temple and Sri Krishnaswamy Temple. These temples were built about 35 years ago and occupy an area of about 0.01 cent. They are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

PUDUPPAIR (LC.692)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

NALLUR R.F. (LC.693)

No Temple.

NALLUR (LC.694)

Sri Kadumbadi Easwarar Temple

The village is located at a distance of 12 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. The shrine for Sri Kadumbadeeswarar is said to be 400 years old and

belong to Chola period. It covers an area of 1 cent. The temple has 18.38.5 hectares of land. At present, the temple is in a dilapidated condition and no poojas are performed. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

AMARAMBEDU (LC.695)

Amareeswarar Temple

The temple is located at 13 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station and 12 Kms from Sriperumbudur. The temple was built during Chola Period. Later, renovations were carried out by one Mr. Ayyavu Mudhaliar. The temple covers 1 cent of land.

The presiding deity is Sri Amareeswarar in the form of Lingam. There is no utsavar idol. The temple owns ½ acre of land. During 7 days in Masi month, Sunrays reflects on the Lingam through the tank water. Pooja is performed once a day by a Gurukkal whose office is hereditary. Annual festival is celebrated in Purattasi month.

The affairs of the temple are managed by the Executive officer, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal Temple

The temple is said to be 400 years old. The presiding deity is Sri Kariamanicka Perumal. The temple occupies an area of 16000 Sq.ft. It has 6.75.0 hectares of land. A Bhattacharya whose office is hereditary performs Poojas once daily. Sri Krishna Jayanthi, Perumal Karthigai and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the main festivals. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kommathamman and Selva Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

PENNALUR (LC.696)

Sri Vinayaka, Selliamman, Easwarar and Thiruveethiamman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box -14

Mandapas

Mandapa literally means a pillared Hall. The tradition of building Mandapas goes back to very early times with mention of Mandapas of 100 and 1000 pillars being made in the Vedas. However the earliest remains of a structure date back to the 5th Century AD. The Mandapa is considered a special contribution of South Indian Sthapatis to Indian Temple architecture. While the earlier periods did not give much emphasis on the construction of Mandapas, it was in the Vijayanagara kingdom that the construction of Mandapas of various sizes and with greater and greater degree of ornamentation came into vogue. In the modern period (post 1600AD) Mandapas became more spacious and were designed to accommodate large number of people who could get unobstructed view of the religious or cultural functions being performed.

SIRUKILOY (LC.697)

No Temple.

PADICHERI (LC.698)

No Temple.

ETTIKUTHIMEDU (LC.699)

Sri Vinayaka and Ellamman Temples and Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

GUNAGARAMBAKKAM (LC.700)

Sri Bajanai Madam, Vinayaka, Embar, Kommatha Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

EDAYARPAKKAM (LC.701)

Sri Perumal and Paranthaman Temples

No significant details are available.

AKKAMAPURAM (LC.702)

Sri Perumal, Ellamman, Gangaiamman, Ponniamman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

EKANAPURAM (LC.703)

Sri Perumal, Ellaiamman and Durgaiamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MAHADEVIMANGALA (LC.704)

Sri Devaraja Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

Box - 15

Pancha Mahabhutas: The five great elements. The Vedas reduce all forms of creation into five constituent elements: Akasha - Space; Vayu - Air; Agni-Fire; Apah - Water and Prithivi - Earth. Creation is nothing but a combination of these basic elements. These elements are worshipped in several temples in Tamil Nadu.

Akasha: In the Chidambaram Temple, Lord Shiva is worshipped as the element space. The temple contains an altar that has no idol; instead it has a mirror draped with a golden garland of Vilva leaves to which prayers are offered. The Lord is worshipped as the element Space.

Vayu: In the Shiva temple at Kalahasti in Andhra Pradesh, there is a Lingam besides which is a Lamp that has a constant flame. The sanctum has been so designed that there is a constant breeze that keeps the flame flickering but does not blow it out. This is to signify Air- an element that cannot be seen but can only be perceived when one looks at the flickering of the flame. In this temple the Lord is worshipped as a form of the element Vayu or Air.

Agni: At the Tiruvannamalai temple in Tamil Nadu, Lord Shiva is worshipped as Lord Arunachaleswara, who is believed to have revealed himself here in the form of Fire. A huge fire is lit on the top of the hill at the foothills of which the temple is located on the day of Karthigai Deepam. Thus Lord Shiva here is worshipped as the element Agni or fire in the form of a 'Tejolingam'.

Apah: In the Jambukeswara temple at Tiruchirapalli, Lord Shiva is worshipped as the element Water-Jambuka being the name of Varuna the lord of water.

Prithivi: In the Ekambareswara Temple at Kancheepuram, Lord Shiva is worshipped as the element Earth or Prithivi. Lord Shiva is worshipped here as a Prithivi Lingam.

KANNANTHANGAL (LC.705)

Sri Vinayaka, Perumal and Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VADAMANGALAM (LC.706)

No Temple.

PILLAIPAKKAM (LC.707)

Sri Easwaran Temple

The village is located at 22 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station and 4 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built about 50 years ago. It covers 2000 Sq.ft. It has a Gopuram, which is 40 ft. high. The presiding deity is not a Swayambu Lingam. A Gurukkal performs pooja daily. His office is hereditary. The temple owns 1 acre of wetland, which is cultivated by the priest himself.

The other temples in the village are: Polakshiamman and Selliamman Temples.

VENGADU (LC.708)

No Temple.

IRUMBEDU (LC.709)

No Temple.

SOMANGALAM (LC.710)

Sri Somanatheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 12 kms. from Tambaram Railway Station. It is an ancient temple built during the reign of Kulothunga Chola.

The presiding deity is Sri Somanatheeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam.

According to locals, one Sri Muthu Nayakar had a dream in which he saw a secret passage under the Shiva Temple, which had some idols. The villagers excavated the area and found the idols and installed them. One of the idols is of 5 ft. high.

The temple occupies an area of 0.81.0 hectares. It owns 2.12 acres of land. Poojas are performed once daily by a hereditary Gurukkal. The priest got an inam land of 1 acre. Karthikai Deepam is celebrated as annual festival.

The Executive Officer, HR&CE, Kovur manages the affairs of the Temple as the temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Sundararaja Perumal Temples

The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, who is known as Sri Sundararaja Perumal. The temple occupies an area of 9576 Sq.ft. A Bhattacharya performs pooja daily. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

POONTHANDALAM (LC.711)

Sri Vinayaka, Pidari Selliamman and Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

PAZHANTHANDALAM (LC.712)

Sri Iyaratheeswarar Temple

The village is located 10 Kms away from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. It is believed that the original deity was on a square shaped Peedam which is the Pallava style and later on it was restructured on a round shaped Peedam as in the Chola style. The structure of the temple belongs to Chola style of architecture. The temple occupies an area of 1.60 cents on a total area of 40 cents. The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam. The Goddess is known as Sri Anandavalli. Besides this, there are uthsava idols for Murugar, Valli, Devasena and Shiva. It is said that Saint Arunagiri sung hymns on this deity. An hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 1.33.0 hectares of wetland which are lease cultivation and yield an annual income of Rs.5000/-. The temple also owns a Car and Palanquin which are 50 years old. Adi Krithigai is celebrated annually. The temple affairs are managed by the villagers themselves.

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

This shrine is ancient one. It was built on an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is Sri Agastheeswarar. The temple has 2 acres of land. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. Shivarathri is the main festival celebrated in this temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

THIRUMUDIVAKKAM (LC.713)

Sri Bala Vinayaka Temple

The temple is located 8 Kms from Pallavaram Railway Station and 20 Kms from Sriperumbudur. It is 50 years old. The presiding deity is Sri Bala Vinayaka.

The temple occupies an area of 2800 Sq.ft. Poojas are performed daily. The temple has landed property to the extent of 1.01.5 hectares.

A Trustee manages the affairs of the Temple.

The other temples in the village are Venugopalswamy temple, Sri Chelliamman temple and Sri Thirumeni Easwarar temple. All these three temples are about 100 years old. Poojas are performed once daily in these temples. These temples are managed by villagers.

ERUMAIYUR R.F. (LC.714)

No Temple.

BOX - 16

Saint Sekkizhar

Saint Sekkizhar is believed to have lived in the 12th Century AD. He was born in Kundrathur village in "Puliyur Kottam in Thondai Nadu" (now in Sriperumbudur Taluk). He was the Minister of King Kulothunga II. He was known by several names: Arulmozhi Thevar, Thondar Seer Paravuvuar, Ramadevar and Madevadigal. He wrote the great epic Periya Puranam, which contains the biography of the 63 Nayanmars. The composition is in prose as well as verse and contains 4000 verses. This book is based on the work of Sundaramurthy Nayanar.

ERUMAIYUR (LC.715)

Sri Vinayaka, Varadapuri Amman and Bala Naiker Temples

No significant details are available.

NADUVEERAPATTU (LC.716)

Sri Palayathamman, Nagathamman and Ettiamman Temples

No significant details are available.

PUDUCHERI (LC.717)

Sri Dharmaraja Temple

The village is located at 15 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is said to be 30 years old. It was built by villagers. It occupies an area of 1 cent. An archakar performs pooja daily in the morning. The temple has no property. Maha Shivarathri is the annual festival celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Vinayaka Temple

The shrine was built about 25 years ago by the villagers. It covers an area of ½ cent. It has no property. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Chelliamman Temple

No significant details are available.

SETHUPATTU (LC.718)

Sri Vembuliamman and Karumari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KARUNAKARACHERI (LC.719)

Sri Ellaiamman Temple and Bajana Madam

No significant details are available.

BOX - 17

Navagrahas

Literally means the Nine Planets. Surya (Sun)- Leo; Chandra (Moon)-Cancer; Mangala/Angaraka (Mars)-Aries and Scorpio; Budha (Mercury)-Gemini and Virgo; Guru (Jupiter)-Sagittarius and Pisces; Sukra (Venus)-Taurus and Libra; Sani (Saturn)-Capricorn and Aquarius; Rahu and Ketu-these are not planets but the northern and Southern nodal points of the moon. In many Temples of Tamil Nadu there is a separate shrine for the Navagrahas.

KOLATHUR (LC.720)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal, Payandiamman and Pidariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

NAVALUR (LC.721)

Sri Ekambranathaswamy Temple

The temple is located 13 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station. It is an ancient temple. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Ekambranathaswamy in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The goddess is called Sri Kamakshi Amman.

The temple occupies an area of 1 cent. Poojas are performed once daily. The temple owns 2 acres of land. Shivarathri is the major festival. Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temple in this village is Sri Murugathamman Temple for which No significant details are available.

ODDANKARANAI (LC.722)

No temple.

KADUVANCHERI (LC.723)

Sri Nellura Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

PONDUR (LC.724)

Sri Selva Vinayaka Temple

The village is located at a distance of 5 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built about 100 years ago by the villagers. It covers an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is Sri Vinayaka. There is also a uthsavar idol. An archakar performs pooja once a day. He is paid a salary from the income of the temple. The temple owns 1 acre of land, which is under lease cultivation, and an amount of Rs. 1000/- is being collected from the lessee. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the annual festival. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

There is also a Murugan Temple in the village which is 75 years old and covering an area of 80 Sq.Mtrs. No other significant details available.

IRUNGULAM (LC.725)

No temple.

MAMBAKKAM (LC.726)

Sri Padavettamman and Umariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

THIRUMANGALAM (LC.727)

Sri Selva Vinayaka Temple, Sunguvar Chatiram

This temple is located at a place called Sunguvar Chatiram, on the Chennai – Sriperumbudur Road. The village is 10 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Almost all buses plying between Sriperumbudur and Chennai stop at this junction. The temple is said to be 50 years old and covers an area of 0.13 acres. Its dimensions are 78” L x 60” B. The Gopuram is 30 ft. high. Apart from the moolavar idol, there is a Panchologa Uthsavar idol of Sri Selva Vinayaka. An archakar performs pooja twice a day for which he has been paid a monthly salary. There are no jewels in the temple. The immovable property of this temple is the 4 shops, which fetch an annual income of Rs. 9, 000/- that help the authorities to meet the daily expenses, salary and administrative expenses. The other source of income for this temple is its Hundi collections which is about Rs.18,000/- per annum. Vinayaka Chaturthi and Brahmotsavam in the month of Avani are the annual festivals celebrated. The Executive Officer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department administers the temple affairs.

Sri Vinayaka, Amman, Shiva and Nagathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MOLACHUR (LC.728)

Sri Murugan, Vinayaka and Shivan Temples

No significant details are available.

SOGANDI (LC.729)

Sri Ponniamman Temple

No significant details are available.

KANDUR (LC.730)

Sri Kalyana Varadarajaswamy Temple

The temple is located 15 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and 10 Kms from Sriperumbudur. It is an ancient temple built in 1725 by one Sri Achariar, son of Kuravai Ananthalar. Renovations were done in 1908 by one Sri Nattu Thiruvengada-Ramanujachariar.

It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The presiding deity is Sri Kalyana Varadarajaswamy with His consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi.

The temple occupies an area of 60 cents. It has jewels and lands. Poojas are performed daily. The main festivals are Chithirai Hastham and Margazhi Hastham.

A Trustee manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal, Embarswamy and Ponniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MADURAMANGALAM (LC.731)



Sri Embar Vaikunta Perumal Temple

The village is located 20 Kms from Kadambathur Railway Station and 18 Kms from Sriperumbudur. This village is an Avatar Sthalam (Birth Place) of Saint Embar Swamy of Vaishnavism. He was born about 990 years ago in this place. He was originally a shaivite and his real name was Govindapattar. Saint Sri Ramanujar drew him to Vaishnavism.

It is an ancient temple. There is a separate shrine for the saint Embar in this temple. Hence the name of the temple is Embar Vaikunta Perumal temple.

The temple occupies an area of 2 acres. The temple has a Gopuram 60 feet high. There are also two Vimanams, a Praakaaram and 3 Sanctums – one each for the presiding deity, Thayar and Saint Embar.

The presiding deity is Sri Vaikunta Perumal in a standing posture. The idol is 4.5 ft tall. The Goddess in this temple is Sri Kamalavalli Thayar, who is in sitting pose. The temple has valuable antique jewels, which include Gold & Silver ornaments and precious stones. It also has a few Vahanas and a gold plated Palanquin. Poojas are performed six times daily. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.61, 302/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.63, 006/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.66, 148/-.

The important festivals include Pavithra Uthsavam, Navarathri, Karthigai, Masi Magam and Brahmothsavam for 10 days. Besides these, a 10-day festival is celebrated every year in

the month of Thai commencing from the Punarvasu (Birth Star of Saint Embar) day.

A Board of 3 Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

SINGILIPADI (LC.732)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

KODAMANALLUR (LC.733)

Sri Velliamman and Mandavelliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MELMADURAMANGALAM (LC.734)

Sri Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The village is located at 20 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and 20 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It is 100 years old. A Kumbhabhishekam was performed in 1999. It covers an area of 2 cents. The temple has 50 cents of wetlands. Daily poojas are performed by a poosari from Yadava community. The 3rd Saturday in the month of Purattasi is celebrated as festival annually. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple. The temple expenses are incurred by the villagers collectively.

KOOTHAVAKKAM (LC.735)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

SHIVANKOODAL (LC.736)

Sri Shiva Gozhundeewarar Temple

The village is located at a distance of 15 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and 6 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Mini buses are plying to the village. The temple is an ancient one and is being protected as a Monument by the Archaeology Department. The temple occupies an area of 25 cents. There is an underground passage in this temple, which is in a dilapidated condition.

The presiding deity Sri Shivagozhundeewarar is a Swayambu Lingam. As per legend, the Goddess of this temple, Sri Maragadavalli Ambal, did penance to marry Lord Shiva, and as a result, Lord Shiva appeared and united (Kudal in Tamil) with the Goddess. Hence the village is called Shivan Kudal.

The temple has a landed property to the extent of 2.91.0 hectares of wetlands and 3.76.0 hectares of dry lands. A non-hereditary Archakar performs pooja once a day whose services are honorary. Special poojas are performed on Shivarathri day every month.

As the temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, presently the Executive Officer of the Vallakkotai Murugan Temple is managing its affairs.



Sri Embar Vaikunta Perumal Temple, Maduramangalam



Sri Vaikunta Perumal at Maduramangalam



RAMANUJAPURAM (LC.737)



Sri Manikanta Easwarar Temple

The village is located 6 kms away from Sriperumbudur. The temple was built and managed by villagers. It covers an area of 2 cents. It has no property. No other significant details are available.

Sri Pidari Amman, Vellaiamman Temples and Bajanaai Madam

No significant details are available.

KEERANALLUR (LC.738)

Pazhandi Amman and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

PODAVUR (LC.739)

Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple

The village is located at 23 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are available. The temple is about 23 years old. It was built by the villagers on an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is Sri Varadaraja Perumal. The temple has no movable or immovable property. The expenses are met by the villagers. A Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day. All Saturdays in the month of Purattasi are celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

Sri Narasimha Perumal Temple

The temple is about 25 years old. It was built by the villagers on an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is Sri Narasimha Perumal. A Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day. The temple has no property. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

NANDIMEDU (LC.740)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

SANTHAVELUR(LC.741)

Sri Thanthoni Amman, Moogili Amman, Srinivasa Perumal, Shiva Temples

No significant details are available.

SIRUMANGADU(LC.742)

Sri Muthialamman Temple

The village is located at 10 kms. from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built about 55 years ago by the villagers. It covers an area of 0.5 cents. The presiding deity Sri Muthialamman is a stone idol. There is no uthsavar idol. The temple owns some land through which a lease amount of Rs.6000/- is derived and used for daily pooja expenses and salary. Festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. A Board of 3 trustees appointed by HR&CE Department administers the temple affairs.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Perumal Temple and Sri Selliamman Temples.

ARANERI (LC.743)

Sri Mariamman Temple

No significant details are available.

Sri Venugopalswamy, Gangai Amman, Thiruveethiamman, Vinayaka and Anjaneyar Temples

No significant details are available.

SIRUKALATHUR (LC.745)

No Temple.

Box - 18

Tamil Literature

The earliest Tamil Literature has been traced to the period of the Sangam - special assemblies of learned men that were convened from time to time. The most celebrated work of this period was "Tolkappiam"- an authoritarian work on Tamil Grammar. Other examples of Sangam literature are: Pattupattu (the ten idylls; Ettuthogai (the eight collections) and Padinenkilkanakku (the eighteen minor ethical poems). The Thirukural is one of the eighteen ethical poems. Written by the great poet-saint Thiruvalluvar, the work consists 113 sections each having 10 couplets discussing the pursuits of Dharma (ethics), Artha (economics) and Kama (pleasures).

VALATHANCHERI (LC.746)

Sri Venugopalswamy, Pillayar and Ellaianman Temples

No significant details are available.

GUNDUPERUMBEDU (LC.747)

Sri Pillayar, Chelliamman, Pandalamman, Muthumariamman Temples and Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

NALLAMPERUMBEDU (LC.748)

Sri Chelliamman Temple & Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

ALAGOOR (LC.749)

Sri Azhagar Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

MAHANYAM (LC.750)

Sri Kothandaramar, Perumal, Mariamman, Maruthiamman and Dharmaraja Temples

No significant details are available.

VELLARAI (LC.751)

Sri Nellur Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

MALAI Pattu (LC.752)

Sri Siddhi Vinayaka Temple

The village is located 5 Kms away from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built about 50 years ago by the villagers on an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is Sri Siddhi Vinayaka. The temple has landed property to the extent of 1 acre. An archakar performs pooja once a day. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival celebrated in the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Palayathamman and Mosuramman Temples

No significant details are available.

MAHANYAM R.F. (LC.753)

No Temple.

MANIMANGALAM (LC.754)

Sri Rajagopala Perumal Devasthanam

The village is located 8 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station and 13 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. This village is on the Tambaram – Thiruporur bus route. The temple is an ancient one. One Sri Duraiswamy Iyer did renovations in 1958. The temple occupies an area of 1.25 acres. There is a Gopuram and Dwajasthambam in the temple. There are Stone inscriptions belonging to the period of Cholas. The details of these are available in Archaeological Survey of India's "South Indian Inscriptions". It is said that Raja Raja Chola-I and Kulothuga Chola-III had granted lands to this temple. It is also believed that this temple was built in memory of the War fought here in between Narasimha Pallava and Pulikesin-II in which Narasimha Pallava won. The stone inscriptions reveals that

there exists a Ramar temple on this site. This theory is also substantiated by the existence of a Hanuman Temple at about 100 yards from the site.

The presiding deity is Sri Rajagopala Perumal in a standing posture with His consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi. He has four hands (Chaturbhujam) with Sangu and Chakra and 5 ½ ft. tall. There are small shrines (sannadhis) for Perumal, Thayar and Andal. A non-hereditary Bhattacharya who belongs to Thenkalai subsect performs Poojas twice daily. He is paid from the income of the temple. Poojas are performed as per Vaikhanasa Agama.

The temple has landed property to the extent of 12 acres of wetlands and 13 acres of dry lands, which are under lease cultivation. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.27, 046/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.38, 399/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.25, 546/-.

The temple has a Gold Thirumangalyam worth Rs.1500/-. It has also a Palanquin, a Garuda Vahanam and two Kedayam all are made of wood about 90 years back.

Pavithra Uthsavam in Avani/Purattasi, Sri Jayanthi, Karthigai and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the important festivals. A hereditary Trustee manages the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Dharmeswarar Temple

This Shiva temple is about 100 years old. It was built by the villagers on an area of 3 cents. The presiding deity Sri Dharmeswarar is a Swayambu Lingam. The temple own 2 acres of land but no jewels or any other movable property. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. Maha Shivarathri and Karthigai Deepam are the important festivals. A hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

VARADHARAJAPURAM (LC.755)

No temple.

KARASANGAL (LC.756)

Sri Malleeswarar Temple

The village is located at 5 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station and 20 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are available. The temple is about 70 years old. It covers an area of 2 cents. The presiding deity Sri Malleeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 3 acres of land from which an amount of Rs. 4100/- is collected and used for temple expenses. Maha Shivarathri is the only festival celebrated. Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage affairs of the temple.

THUNDALKALANI (LC.757)

Sri Salai Murugathamman Temple

No significant details are available.

PADAPPAI (LC.758)

Sri Thazhuvakkozhuntheeswarar Temple

The village is located 8 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station. The temple is in an area called Mel Padappai. It is an ancient temple built 250 years ago by one Sri Pichandi Mudaliar. It covers an area of ½ cent. The structure and prakaras of this temple are of latest type. There is a Gopuram of 32 ft. tall and there are 3 prakaras. The presiding deity, Sri Thazhuva Kozhunthu Easwarar is a Pradhishta Lingam. The Goddess is called “Sri Kamakshi”. The utsavar idols are Sri Chandrasekarar and Pradhosha Nayagi.

Poojas are performed twice daily by a hereditary Gurukkal. There are some jewels worth Rs. 15,000/- of which Silver Vel, Hastham and Oddiyanam are worth mentioning. The temple owns 32.37 acres of land from which an amount of Rs.24,800/- is collected and used to meet the expenses like salary of the priest, poojas and other administrative charges. There is a Car in this temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.28, 505/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.21, 008/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.35, 118/-.

Thirugnanasambandar Vizha is the major festival besides Panguni Uthiram, Kandarshashti and Karthigai deepam.

A Board of 5 Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Veerteeswarar Temple

The temple is located in Kil Padapai a part of the village. It is an ancient temple built 850 years ago. It covers an area of 3 cents. The Gopuram is 32 ft. tall. There are 4 Praakaarams in the temple.

The presiding deity is Sri Veerateeswarar in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. The goddess is called Sri Santhanayaki. Poojas are performed twice daily. Thirunavukkarasar Vizha and Sundaramurthy Nainar Vizha are the major festivals.

The temple has some lands. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.20,224/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.19, 255/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.6, 202/-.

A Board of 5 Trustees manages the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Sundara Vinayaka Temple

This small shrine for Lord Vinayaka was built about 40 years ago by the villagers on an area of ½ cent. Pooja is performed once a day. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Murugathamman Temple

No significant details are available.

SIRUMATHUR (LC.759)

Sri Osuramman Temple

No significant details are available.

SALAMANGALAM (LC.760)

Sri Osuramman and Chelliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

NARIYAMBAKKAM (LC.761)

Sri Thanthoniamman Temple

No significant details are available.

KODANGACHERI (LC.762)

No temple.

KAVALKAZHANI (LC.763)

No temple.

BOX -19

Saint Sundaramurthy Nayanar (600-750AD)

Saint Sundaramurthy Nayanar also known as Sundarar was one among the four celebrated Shaivite Saints of the Bhakti movement. He was also called by the name Allala Sundarar. He was born in Thirunavaloar. A collection of 12 books containing devotional songs devoted to Lord Shiva is referred to as Tirumurai. The first seven of the twelve Tirumurais consist of the celebrated songs of this saint collectively known as Thevaram and individually referred to as Padigams. He has composed 100 "Padigams" each running into 10-12 songs. All these verses steeped in reverence to the Lord and composed in Tamil are in praise of Lord Shiva at various shrines (called Tirumurai Sthalams). He composed the Thiruthondar Thogai, a "Padigam" in praise of the 63 Nayanmars, which later formed the basis of the epic Periya Puranam.

PERINJIAMBAKKAM (LC.764)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located at a distance of 20 Kms from Taluk Headquarters and can be reached by bus plying from Tambaram to Kancheepuram. It is an ancient temple built 250 years ago. Presently the temple is in a dilapidated condition.

The presiding deity is Sri Agastheeswarar in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. The goddess is called Sri Agilandavalli. The temple occupies an area of 1660 Sq.ft. It has no property. Poojas are performed once daily by a non-hereditary Gurukkal. Maha Shivarathri and Arudhra are the major festivals. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kommathamman Temples

The shrine of Sri Kommathamman is located close to Sri Agastheeswarar Temple. It is about 50 years old and built by the villagers. It covers an area of ½ cent. The temple has neither movable nor immovable property. Pooja is performed once a day by a poosari. Annual Festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples in this village are : Sri Venugopalaswamy Temple and Sri Vinayaka Temples. No significant details are available about these temples except that they are under the control of HR&CE Department.

VAIPOOR (LC.765)

Sri Chelliamman, Perumal, Thanthoni amman, Nagalamman, Easwar and Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

VALLAM (LC.766)



*Sri Subramaniaswamy
(Kodai Andavar) Temple*

The village is located 16 Kms from Singaperumalkoil and 9 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. This is an ancient temple. The temple occupies an area of 2.5 acres.

The presiding deity is Sri Kodai Andavar with His consorts Sri Valli and Sri Deivayanai. The Moolavar Subramaniam is 7 ft. height in standing pose with His consorts in a “Kalyana Kolam”. Lord Muruga is generally not seen in Wedding Pos-

ture in Tamil Nadu hence it is a rare pose. There is a tank called “Vajra theertham” because it is believed that this tank was created by Indra through his weapon “Vajrayutham” for taking bath before performing pooja to this deity. The Sthala Viruksham is “Padiri”.

As per legend, the king of Salankondapuram in Ilangi, Bagirath showed disrespect to Saint Narada. Saint Narada motivated King Goran, an Asura (demon) to attack King Bagirath. In the war King Bagirath was defeated and went to Saint Dhurvasa who advised him to observe fast on Friday and pray to Lord Muruga sitting beneath a Padiri tree. King Bagirath did so and got Moksha.

It is believed that Lord Muruga gave darshan to Saint Arunagirinathar on his visit to Tiruttani from Tiruporur. Saint Arunagiri, who lived in 7th Century, sung 8 hymns on this deity.

The temple owns jewels worth Rs.7,30,709/- and 13.74 acres of wet and 3.58 acres of dry lands. The annual income of the temple from the lands is Rs.11, 000/-. The Hundi collections works out to Rs.8, 00, 000/- per annum Apart from these, the temple collects an amount of RS.4,00,000/- through various fees.

Poojas are performed six times a day- Ushakkala, Kalasandhi, Sirukala, Uchhi Kala, Saya Rakshai and Ardhajama. The priest who performs pooja as per Kamika Agama is paid a monthly salary besides offering by devotees. There is a strong belief among the devotees that one who observes fast for 7 Fridays, takes bath in the tank and offers pooja to this deity will be successful in all his good deeds. Tamil New Year's Day, Thai Pooam, Adi Krithigai, Skandha Shashti and Karthigai Deepam are the major festivals.

Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Sadayeeswarar Temple, Abathsagaya Vinayaka, Agastheeswarar and Sri Natesa Swamigal temples.

METTUPALAYAM (LC.767)

Sri Kothandaramar, Rakkalamman and Pidari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

BOODHANUR (LC.768)

No temple.

ECHOOOR (LC.769)

Sri Markandeeswarar Temple

The village is located 15 Kms from Wallajabad Railway Station and 15 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is an ancient temple.

It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is Sri Markandeeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The goddess is called Sri Maragathavalli. The temple occupies an area of 15000 Sq.ft. Poojas are performed twice daily. Chithra Pournami is the major festival. Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal and Ramar Temples

No significant details are available.

KUNNAM (LC.770)

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal, Kala Kanda Easwarar, Ellai Amman, Poovathu Amman and Moongil Amman Temples

The village is located 17 Kms from Wallajabad Railway Station and 12 Kms from Sriperumbudur. These temples were built in 1903 by one Sri Kalathi Mudaliar. These temples occupy an area of 41 cents. Poojas are not performed daily. Trustees manage the affairs of these Temples.

PAPPANKULI (LC.771)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal, Mariamman, Easwarar Temples and Bajana Madam

No significant details are available.

SENDAMANGALAM (LC.772)

Sri Ramar Temple

No significant details are available.

VITTAVIDAGAI (LC.773)

Sri Chelliamman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

JAMBODAI (LC.774)

Sri Venkatesa Perumal and Kanniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

SELVAZHIMANGALAM (LC.775)

Sri Venkatesa Perumal, Sakthi Vinayaka, Chelliamman Temples and Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

BOX -20

Saint Manickavasagar (7th Century AD)

Saint Manickavasagar was one among the four celebrated Shaivite Saints of the Bhakti movement. He was also called by the name Vadavoor Adigal. He was born in Thiruvadavoor, near Madurai. A collection of 12 books containing devotional songs devoted to Lord Shiva is referred to as Tirumurai. The eighth Tirumurai consists of the celebrated songs of this saint collectively known as Thiruvachagam and individually referred to as Padigams. He has composed 51 "Padigams" containing 658 songs. The Thiruvachagam is considered analogous to the Upanishads. Another epic composed by this saint is Thirukovaiyar. All these verses steeped in reverence to the Lord and composed in Tamil are in praise of Lord Shiva at various shrines (called Tirumurai Sthalam).

PANRUTTI (LC.776)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple

The village is located at 12 Kms from Wallajabad Railway Station and 15 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. It can be reached by bus on Tambaram – Kancheepuram route. The Vishnu temple is an ancient one. Renovations were carried out and a Kumbhabhishekam was performed 23 years ago. It covers an area of 50 cents. There is a small Gopuram in this temple. The presiding deity Sri Adi Kesava Perumal is in a standing pose. There is no uthsav. A Bhattacharya performs one pooja

a day as per Pancharathra Agama. He is paid a monthly salary. The temple owns 3.57 acres of wet and 10.66 acres of dry lands. The wet lands are auctioned for lease cultivation and an amount of Rs.7,000/- is derived from them. Vaikunta Ekadasi, Karthigam Deepam and Tamil New Year's day are celebrated.

The Executive Officer of the HR &CE Department manages the affairs of the temple.

The other temples in this village are: Bajanai Madam and Sri Nithya Kalyana Perumal Temple.

MATHUR (LC.777)

Sri Abathsahaya Easwarar Temple

The temple is located 15 Kms from Singa Perumal Koil Railway Station and 10 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. It is an ancient temple covering an area of ½ cent. Saint Sambandar is believed to have visited his temple.

The presiding deity is Sri Abath Sahaya Easwarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The name Abathsahaya means "one who helps in need". The goddess is called Sri Amirthavalli. The speciality is that the Nandhi is not facing the lord but is facing east.

The temple owns 2.36.0 hectares of wetlands and 1.59.5 hectares of dry lands. Poojas are performed once daily.

A single Trustee manages the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Varasakthi Vinayaka Temple at Jamunapattu

The place Jamunapattu is in Mathur village and bus facilities are available to reach this place. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vinayaka who is called Varasakthi Vinayaka. The temple

is said to be 50 years old. The renovations work is being carried out in this temple. The temple covers an area of 2 cents. The temple include a Sanctum, a Praakaaram and a proposed small Gopuram. There is a Uthsavar idol of Sri Vinayaka. An archakar performs pooja once a day. He is paid a monthly salary. The temple owns 1.50 acres of land which are under lease cultivation. An annual income of Rs.2000/- is derived and utilized for pooja and administrative expenses. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. Trustees appointed by the HR&CE Department manage the affairs of the temple.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Ramar, Raghav Amman, Angala Amman, Moongilamman and Nagathamman temples about which No significant details are available.

PANAPAKKAM (LC.778)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

SERAPANACHERI (LC.779)

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The village is located 13 Kms away from Vandalur Railway Station and 8 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is an ancient one built by Kulothuga Chola –II. There is a stone inscription in the temple. The Vimanam of this temple is of Gajabrishta Vimanam type. The temple covers an area of 10 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Kailasanathar is in the form of a Lingam. The temple is in a dilapidated condition and managed by a private person. He performs daily pooja. Karthigai deepam is celebrated annually.

Sri Shiva Sakthi Ganapathy Temple

This temple is of very recent origin i.e. built two years ago by the villagers. No significant details are available about this temple.

KARANAITHANGAL (LC.780)

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Nagalamman, Selliamman or Pidariamman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

THIRUVEMBUTHERI (LC.781)

No temple.

VENJUVANCHERI (LC.782)

Sri Sundara Vinayaka, Neeradum Kanniamman, Adi Kesava Perumal, Kannan Bajana Temple

No significant details are available.

VELLERITHANGAL (LC.783)

Sri Shiva Temple

The village is located 12 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station and 19 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. There was a temple for Lord Shiva in this village. At present, only its remains are available. There is no other temple in this village.

ARAMBAKKAM (LC.784)

Sri Pidari Ponniamman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

BOX - 21

Saint Thirugnanasambandar Nayanar (600-750AD)

Saint Thirugnanasambandar also called Sambandar was one among the four celebrated Shaivite Saints of the Bhakti movement. He was born in Sirkazhi in Trichy District. Various miracles are associated with this saint. A collection of 12 books containing devotional songs devoted to Lord Shiva is referred to as Tirumurai. The first seven of the twelve Tirumurais consist of the celebrated songs of this saint collectively known as Thevaram and individually referred to as Padigams. All these verses steeped in reverence to the Lord and composed in Tamil are in praise of Lord Shiva at various shrines (called Tirumurai Sthalams). He converted a large number of Buddhists and Jains to Shaivism.

ATHANANCHERI (LC.785)

Sri Jaya Durga Mutt and Temple

The village is located at 10 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station and 20 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. A Saint called Durgai Chithar established both the Mutt and the temple 5 years ago. The presiding deity in the temple is Sri Jayadurga, a 5' 3" high idol. No Uthsava idols available. The other deities are Sri Uchishta Ganapathy, Senthil Andavar, Swarna Akarshna Bairavar, Mahamayee Bhuvanewari, Varahi, Dhanvantri, Anjaneyar and Karupasamy. The temple owns jewels worth Rs. 2.00 lakhs which are donated by the disciples of the Saint.

There is no property belonging to the temple. Poojas are performed twice a day by the descendants of Saint Durgai Chithar. The pooja procedures (acharas) are as established by the Saint. No festivals are celebrated except Navarathri and Bharani Homam (Yagna). The affairs of this private temple are managed by the Sri Durgai Chithar Trust through the Mutt.

Sri Thiruvaleeswarar Temple

This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It was built about 100 years ago by the villagers. It covers an area of ½ cent. A Gurukkal performs pooja one a day. The temple owns 2 acres of land, the income from which is used for pooja and daily expenses. Shivarathri is the annual festival celebrated. A Board of 3 trustees manages the affairs of the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

AMMANUMBAKKAM (LC.786)

No temple.

KORUKKANTHANGAL (LC.787)

Sri Pillaiyar, Muthalamman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ADHANUR (LC.788)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple

The village is located 10 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station and 30 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple for Lord Vishnu was built about 500 years ago during the reign of the Cholas. The structure of the temple belong to Chola style. The temple occupies an area of 10 cents. It owns 2 acres of landed property. A Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day. 4th Saturday of Purattasi month is celebrated annually. The tem-

ple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The Shiva temple is an ancient one built during Chola reign. It covers an area of 6 cents. The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. He is paid paddy for the whole year from the temple lands. The temple owns 1.70 acres of wetlands which are under auctioned lease cultivation. Karthigai Deepam is the important festival celebrated annually. A Board of 3 trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

Another temple in this village is Sri Veerathamman temple about which No significant details are available.

MADAMBAKKAM (LC.789)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

The village is located 2 KMS. from Guduvancheri Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is an ancient one the age of which is not known. The present hereditary trustee made renovations. The temple is facing east. It covers an area of 1 acre. A small Gopuram is at the entrance. The temple has some jewels worth Rs.25, 000/- and some land that are under lease cultivation. The temple also owns a Marriage Hall (Thirumana Mandapam). There is a Garuda Vahanam made of wood. Poojas are performed both in the morning and evening by a group of Bhattacharyas on a turn basis. An hereditary trustees manages the temple affairs.

NEELAMANGALAM (LC.790)

Sri Ponni Amman, Dhanakoti Amman, Pillaiyar, Gangai Amman and Karumari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ORATHUR (LC.791)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 5 Kms from Guduvancheri Railway Station. It is an ancient temple built 300 years ago. The temple occupies an area of 32 cents. The structure is of the latest type. The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. The goddess is called Sri Kamakshi Amman.

The other deities are Sri Vinayaka, Chandikeswarar, Somaskandar, Kamakshi Amman, Chandrasekarar, Pradhosha Nayakar, Pradhosha Amman and Saint Agasthiar.

The temple has neither jewels nor Car, Vahanams etc. but it owns landed property jointly with the Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal temple to the extent of 49.27 acres which are under lease cultivation and fetch an annual income of Rs.34, 600/- to meet salary to the priest, daily poojas, festivals and other administrative expenses. Poojas are performed twice daily. Shivarathri is the important festival.

A Board of 3 Trustees appointed by the HR&CE Department manages the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The Vishnu temple is an ancient temple built 200 years ago by one Sri Venkata Subramania Iyer. The temple occupies an area of 50 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal in standing posture. The goddesses Sri Devi and Bhu Devi are by his side.

The temple owns land. Poojas are performed once daily. Karthigai Deepam is the major festival. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs.19, 725/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.19, 725/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.19, 725/-. Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple.

NAVALUR (LC.792)

Sri Mandaveli Amman and Thanthoniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

BOX - 22

Saint Thirumazhisai Alwar (500-850 AD)

Saint Thirumazhisai Alwar was one of the revered saints of the Vaishnavite tradition. He was the last of the 12 Alwars. He was born in Thirumazhisai near Kancheepuram. He is considered the reincarnation of the "Chakram" the divine discus of Lord Vishnu. He composed the "Nanmugam Thitruvanthathi", a collection of 100 verses wherein he eulogizes Lord Vishnu as the creator and describes Lord Shiva and Lord Brahma as his creations. The devotional literature of the Alwars is known as the "Nalayira-Divya-Prabhandam" (four thousand devotional songs).

VATTAMBAKKAM (LC.793)

Sri Pillaiyar, Azhakathamman and Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

VATTAMBAKKAM R.F. (LC.794)

No Temple.

ORAGADAM (LC.795)

Sri Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The village is located at 12 Kms from Singaperumal Koil Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is said to be 100 years old. It covers an area of 10 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Venkatesa Perumal. Poojas are performed once daily. The temple owns 0.28.0 hectares of land which are under lease cultivation. The income from land is utilized for daily pooja expenses. The last Saturday of Purattasi is celebrated annually.

Sri Thanthoni Easwarar Temple

The Shiva temple was built about 75 years ago by the villagers. It covers an area of ½ cent. The presiding deity is in the form of a Lingam. No utsavar idols are available. Poojas are performed once a day by a Gurukkal. The expenses including salary of the priest are met from the income derived from 1 acre of land that the temple owns. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

SENNAKUPPAM (LC.796)

Sri Vembuli Amman, Perumal and Kannapiran temples

No significant details are available.

VADAKKUPATTU R.F. (LC.797)

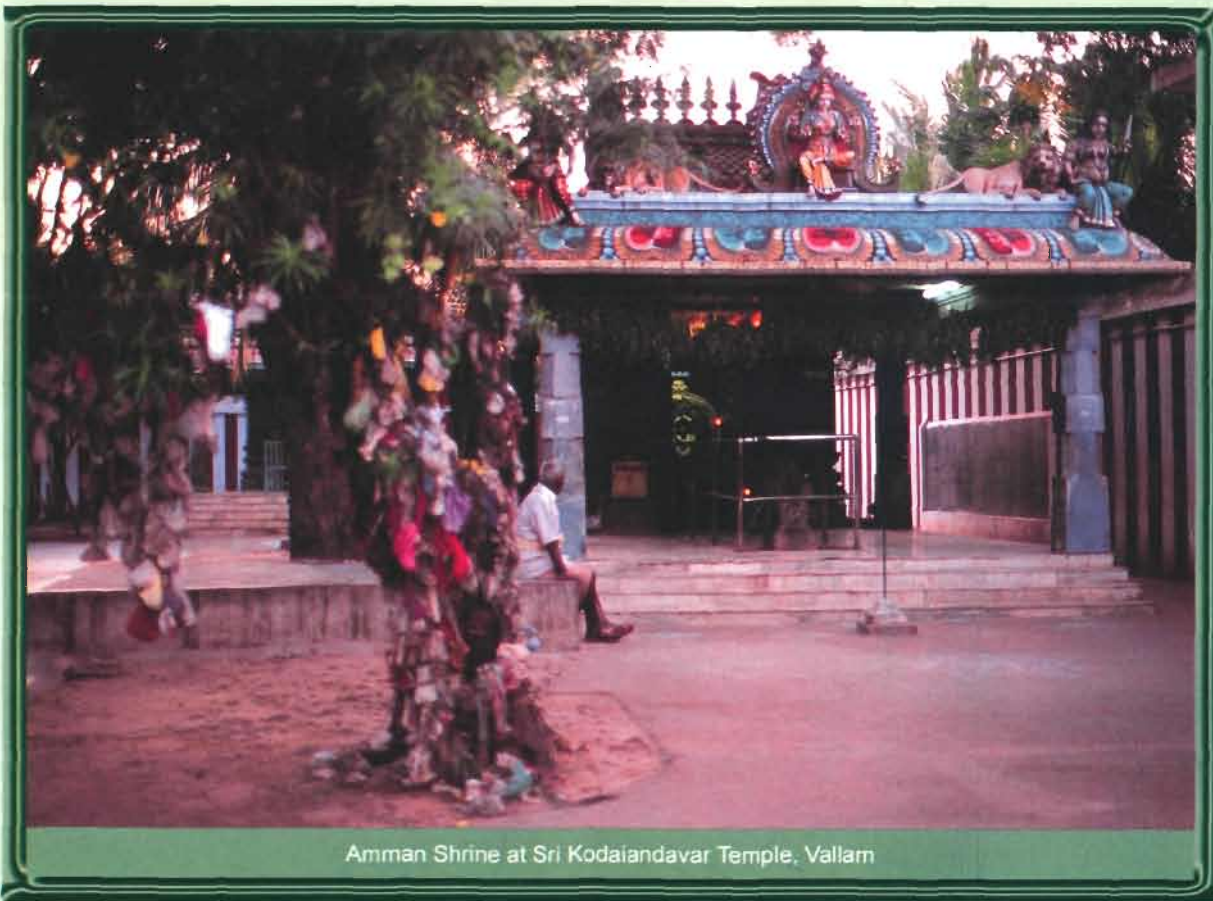
No temple.

PANAIYYUR (LC.798)

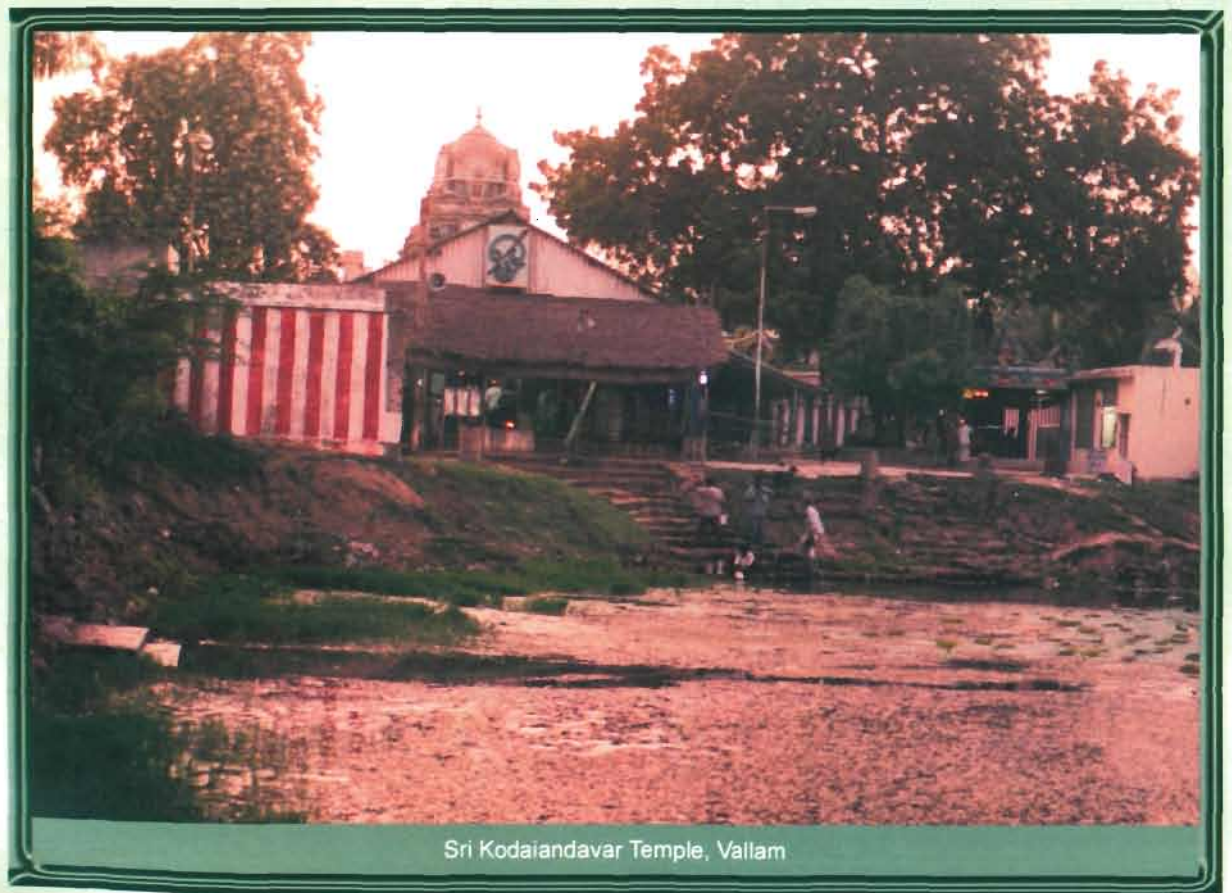
No temple.



Sri Subramaniaswamy with His consorts at Vallam



Amman Shrine at Sri Kodaiandavar Temple, Vallam



Sri Kodaiandavar Temple, Vallam

EZHICHUR (LC.799)

Sri Nallinaka Easwarar Temple

The village is located 5 Kms from Palur Railway Station and 20 Kms from Sriperumbudur. The temple is said to be 1200 years old. The total area covered by the temple is 98 cents. Two small Vimanams are in the temple. The presiding deity is Sri Chandrasekar also known as Nallinakka Easwarar. The Goddess is known as "Deiva Nayaki". There are 13 idols in this temple. The temple owns 3.07 acres of wetlands which are under cultivation on auction system. Poojas are performed once a day. Karthigai Deepam, Dhanur (Margazhi) month and Shivarathri are important days. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

POONDI (LC.800)

Sri Oontraleeswarar Temple

The temple in Poondi village is located 80 kms. from Chennai. The principal deity is Oontraleeswarar. His consort is Sri Minnoliamman. As per legend, Sundarar, who was blind, was given a "staff"(Ontrukole in Tamil) by Lord Shiva and hence the deity is called Oontraleeswarar. Likewise, Sri Minnoliamman guided Sri Sundarar to Kancheepuram in the form of Lightning (Minnal in Tamil) and hence the name Minnoliamman. It is originally called Venbakkam. There is a statue of Saint Sundarar in standing post with a Staff in hand.

The other temples are Sri Ponniamman and Palani Amman Temples.

VADAKKUPATTU (LC.801)

Sri Sundara Varadharaja Perumal Temple

The temple is located 13 Kms from Singa Perumal Koil Railway Station. Bus facilities are available from Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur and Tambaram. It is an ancient temple built 250 years ago. Renovations and Kumbhabhishekam were performed 25 years ago. The temple occupies an area of 50 cents. The temple has a small Vimanam.

The presiding deity is Sri Sundara Varadharaja Perumal in standing posture. The Goddess is called "Sundaravalli" is also in a standing pose. The Uthsavar idols are Sundara Varadharaja Perumal, Ubhaya Nachiars (2) and Sundara Valli Thayar.

Poojas are performed twice daily by a Bhattacharya as per Pancharatra Agamam. The temple has 26.0 acres of wetlands and 21.07 acres of dry lands. An amount of Rs. 52,000/- per annum is derived from the wet lands and used for administrative and other pooja, festival, etc. expenses. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.62,700/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.17,218/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.24,182/-. Kalyana Uthsavam in Panguni is the major festival. Besides, Rama navami, Vaikunta Ekadasi, Karthigai Deepam, Panguni Uthiram, and Tamil New Year's Day are celebrated.

The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The Executive Officer of Sri Kodai Andavar Temple, Vallakkottai (Vallam) manages the affairs of the Temple.

PADERVADI (LC.802)

Sri Chelliamman Temple

No significant details are available.

VALAYAKARANAI (LC.803)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

The temple is located 5 Kms from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station. It is an ancient temple covering an area of 500 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is Sri Srinivasa Perumal.

Poojas are performed once daily. The temple owns 2.50.0 hectares of land the income from which is utilized for day-to-day expenses. Purattasi Saturday is celebrated.

Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

UMAYAL PARANAICHERI (LC.804)

Sri Mavilingamman and Sellu Amman Temples

The temple is located 14 Kms from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station. These temples were built about 80 years ago.

The first temple occupies an area of 0.04.0 hectares. The second one occupies an area of 264 Sq.ft. Poojas are performed once a day. These temples own 2.40.0 hectares of lands from which an annual income of Rs.32, 000/- is derived. Adi month is celebrated in both the temples.

Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple. These temples are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

KANCHIVAKKAM (LC.805)

Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

NATARASAMPATTU (LC.806)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

The temple is located 20 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The age of the temple is said to be 100. It covers an area of 1.87.0 hectares. The presiding deity is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal. A Bhattacharya performs daily poojas. Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Karpaga Pillaiyar Temple

It is dedicated to Lord Vinayaka. The presiding deity is Sri Karpaga Pillaiyar. The temple occupies an area of 5 cents. Poojas are not performed daily. Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple.

Sri Alavettamman Temple

The presiding deity is Sri Alavettamman, a village goddess, who is in standing posture. The temple occupies an area of 15 cents. Poojas are performed once daily. Adi month is important month. The affairs of the Temple are looked after by the villagers themselves

SIRUVANJUR R.F. (LC.807)

No temple.

SIRUVANJUR (LC.808)

Sri Tiruvaleeswarar Temple

The village is 10 Kms away from Vandalur Railway Station and 27 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are also available. The temple was built in 1898 i.e. 204 years ago. There is a stone inscription substantiating this. The temple covers 1.54.0 hectares of land including a tank. The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. There is a Nandi (Bull), Goddess Parvathi and 5 other small idols in the temple. The temple owns 0.82.5 hectares of wet and 7.12.5 hectares of dry lands. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs.21, 962/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.21, 962/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.21, 962/-. Karthigai Deepam and Annabhishegam are the important festivals celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples are Sri Mandaveli Amman, Gangai Amman, Pillaiyar and Selli amman temples.

VADAMELPAKKAM (LC.809)

Sri Gangai Amman, Angala Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

ERIVAKKAM (LC.810)

No temple.

KEELAKALANI (LC.811)

Sri Perumal and Muthalamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KUTHANUR (LC.812)

No temple.

KAVANUR R.F. (LC.813)

No temple.

BOX - 23

Saint Bhootath Alwar (500-850 AD)

Saint Bhootath Alwar was one of the revered saints of the Vaishnavite tradition. He was second in the line of the 12 Alwars. He was born in Thirukadalmallai (now Mahabalipuram) near Kancheepuram. He is considered the reincarnation of the "Gadhai", the divine mace of Lord Vishnu. He composed the "Irandam Thitruvanthathi", a collection of verses in praise of Lord Vishnu. The devotional literature of the Alwars is known as the "Nalayira-Divya-Prabhandam" (four thousand devotional songs).

KAVANUR (LC. 814)

Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple

The temple is located 5 Kms from Kattankulathur Railway Station. It is an ancient temple built 450 years ago by locals of the Kondaikatti Vellalar community.

The presiding deity is Sri Ramanathaswamy in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The temple has no property. Poojas are performed once daily.

Trustees manage the affairs of the Temple.

KATTUPAKKAM(LC.815)

Sri Murukathamman and Thanthoni Amman Temples

The village is located 6 Kms from Kattankulathur Railway Station and bus facilities are also available to reach the village. These temples were built about 50 years ago by the villagers.

They cover a total area of 10 cents. There is no idol in the temple. Poojas are performed twice a day. These temples own 2.00 acres of land. Chitra Pournami and Adi month are the important festival days. Trustees manage the affairs of these temples.

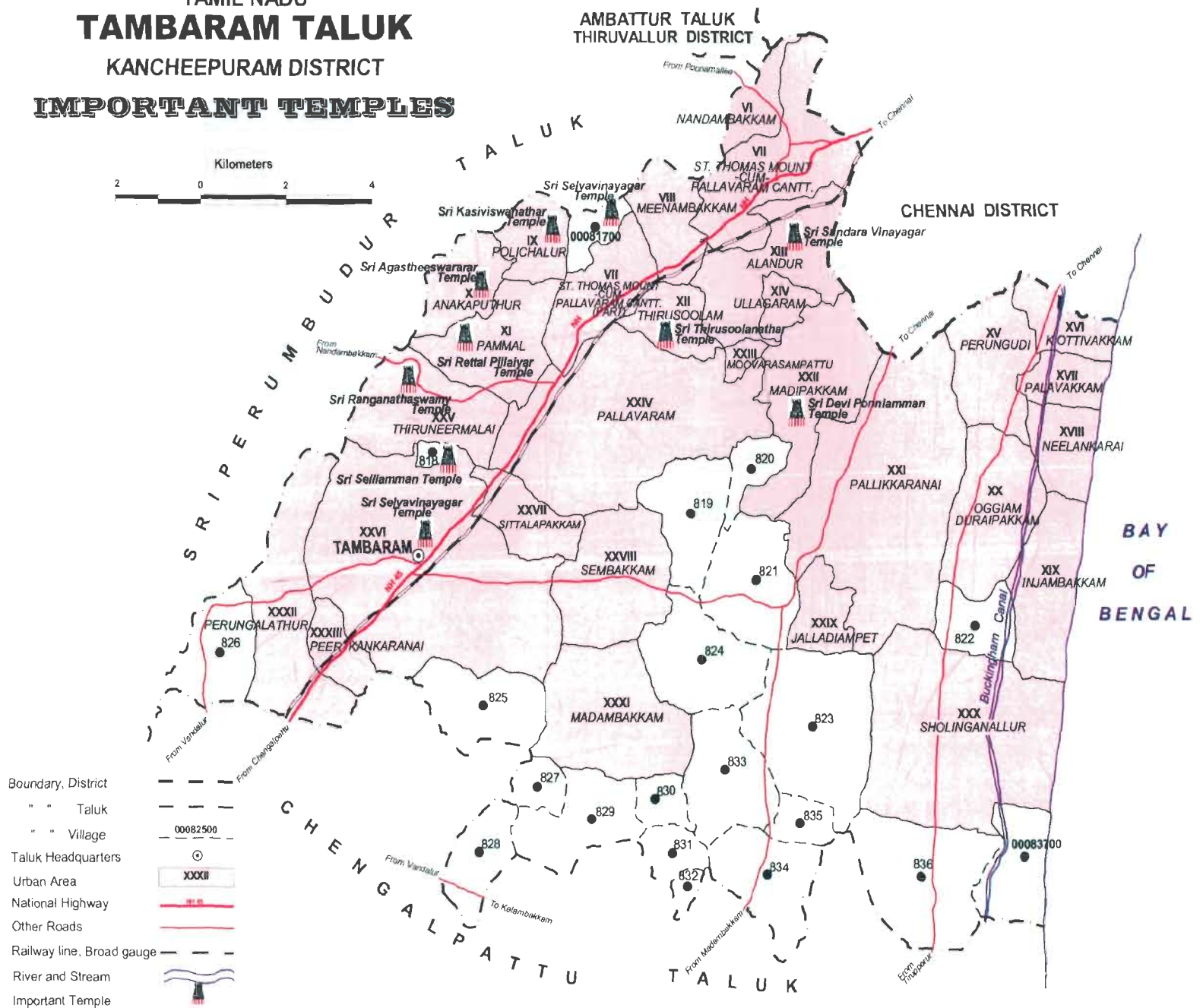
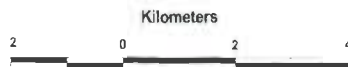
KATTANKOLATHUR R.F. (LC.816)

No temple.



TAMBARAM TALUK

TAMIL NADU
TAMBARAM TALUK
 KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT
IMPORTANT TEMPLES



Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of Surveyor General of India.
 The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.
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TAMBARAM TALUK

Tambaram is a small Taluk covering an area of 127.81 Sq.kms. The Taluk Headquarter is at Tambaram, a Municipality 61 kms. away from the District Headquarters at Kancheepuram. It is located on the National Highway (NH-45) also known as Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road which connects the southern parts with the State Capital, Chennai. It is well connected by rail as well as road.

The Taluk has 3 Municipalities, 1 Cantonment Board, 14 Town Panchayats, 10 Census Towns and only 21 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Population Totals of the Census of India 2001, the Taluk has a population of 978,549.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 135 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 72 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 7 villages details are not available on temples. This in-

cludes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

Sri Ranganatha Swamy and Neervannar Temples, Thiruneermalai are the famous vaishnavite temples located in this Taluk. Hymns in praise of this temple were sung by the Vaishnavite saints Bhoothathalwar, Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

The other famous temples in the Taluk are: Sri Thirusoolanathar Temple, Tirusulam. Nanganallur in the suburbs of State Capital, Chennai is notable for several modern temples like Sri Rajarajeswari and Sri Anjaneyar Temples.

NANDAMBAKKAM (TP-6)

Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple

Sri Kothandaramaswamy temple of Nandambakkam village is about 3 Kms from Guindy Railway Station. This temple is known locally as the “Thondai Mandala Then Tirupathi” (the Tirupathi of the South). It is connected by both bus and train. Sri Kothandaramaswamy, the presiding deity, is in a standing

pose facing South, which is unique. Sri Srinivasa and Sri Andal are the other deities. An unusual feature of this temple is that there is an idol of a Shaivite deity of Dakshinamoorthy on the Vimanam of this temple. The temple tank is called Bringhi, named after the sage who is believed to have been a resident of this place. As per legend, Rama came to this spot before embarking on his journey to Lanka and offered prayers to Sage Bringhi.

This temple is believed to be 750 years old. From the stone inscriptions it is seen that the shrine of Thirukkachi Nambigal was built in 1871 and that one Sri Muniappa Mudaliar constructed the Nammalwar Sannidhi 100 years ago. The temple occupies an area of about 1.5 acres. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs Poojas twice daily. The temple owns both wet and dry lands to the extent of about 30 acres, which were offered as a gift by a devotee. The temple also owns two wooden Kedayams donated by a devotee 100 years ago. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is Rs.85,259. The main festival is Sri Rama Navami, which is celebrated for 10 days. A Board of three trustees administers the temple. A Raja Gopuram is being constructed with contributions from the local public.

The Easwaran temple is said to be 7 centuries old. It occupies an area of 5 cents. Gurukkals perform pooja daily. Navarathri, Panguni Uthiram and Shivarathri are the main festivals. The local people renovated the temple in 1993.

Sri Easwaran, Vembuli Amman, Srinivasa Perumal, Koothal Amman and Gangai Amman Temples

The Vembuli Amman Temple is believed to be 2 centuries old. It occupies an area of 4000 Sq Ft. It owns 30 cents of land. Daily Poojas are conducted.

The Koothal Amman Temple is believed to be 3 centuries old. It occupies an area of 1 acre. It owns 30 cents of land. Daily Poojas are conducted.

The Vembuli Amman Temple is also believed to be 2 centuries old. It occupies an area of 4000 Sq Ft. Daily Poojas are conducted. The main festival is celebrated in the month of Adi.

ST. THOMAS MOUNT-CUM-PALLAVARAM (CANTT-7)

Sri Kasiviswanathar Temple

The above temple is 1 ½ miles from Saidapet and one mile from the St. Thomas Mount railway station. The temple was constructed some 240 years old by the Chettiars of the village. The presiding deity of the temple is Sri Kasi Viswanathaswamy. Mention has been made regarding the property of the temple in the stone inscriptions in its Rest House. The temple extends over an area of about 30 cents. The Lingam is a Swayambu. Poojas are done twice daily by a Gurukkal whose office is hereditary. The temple owns immovable property of a few houses and a Rest House. Navarathri and Arudhra festivals are celebrated in the months of Purattasi and Margazhi respectively. Of these, the Navarathri is the main festival. The affairs of the temple are managed by a trustee.

Sri Moongaliamman Temple

This temple was built by the local residents some 340 years old; renovations were also done by them later. The temple extends over an area of about 2.5 cents and the presiding deity Sri Moongaliamman is in a sitting posture. Pooja is performed once daily by a priest whose office is not hereditary. The temple affairs are managed by the villagers themselves. One special feature of the temple is that in the 60s, a Christian, who had faith in Hindu religion, served as a priest and offered daily poojas.

Sri Sundara Vinayaka Temple

One Sri Varadappa Chettiar built Sri Sundara Vinayaka temple of St. Thomas Mount about 190 years old. Later on, the trustee renovated it in 60s. Stone inscriptions in Tamil are found inside the temple. The area covered by the temple is 16

½ cents. Sri Sundara Vinayaka, the presiding deity is represented by an idol in sitting pose. A Gurukkal, whose office is hereditary, performs Pooja once daily in the morning. The temple owns immovable properties in the shape of two houses and two shops. A Board of two trustees manages it.

MEENAMBAKKAM (TP-8)

Sri Shiva, Vembuliamman and Sakthiamman Temples

These temples are located close to Meenambakkam Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach these temples. These temples were built about 150 years, 250 years, and 300 years ago respectively. They cover an area of 3 cents, 6 cents, and 8 cents respectively. A Gurukkal performs Poojas twice a day. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The income of these temples is Rs.1000/-, Rs.1000/-, and Rs.5000/- respectively. The main festivals are celebrated during the month of Adi.

POLICALUR (CT-9)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

Sri Agastheeswarar temple of Polichalur is 5 Kms from Pallavaram Railway Station. The temple can be reached by bus or train. It believed to be about 1000 years old and built by the Shaivite Saint Agasthiyar. This temple exists from the time of the Chola rulers and renovations were effected 80 years back. Sri Agastheeswarar and His consort Sri Anandavalli are the presiding deities of the temple. The temple covers an area of one acre. The Moolavar of the temple is a Swayambu Lingam. The temple owns 36 acres of wet and dry lands. Pooja is performed by a hereditary Gurukkal daily once in the morning. The temple owns two Kedayams, which are made of wood. The temple observes Arudhra and Karthigai Deepam festivals during which special poojas and Abhisheka are performed to the deities. A Board of three trustees of whom one is hereditary manages it.

The important festival of this temple is Sanipeyarchi. The annual income of this temple is Rs.60, 000/-.

Box - 24

Bhakti Movement: Vaishnavite Literature

The Nalayira Divya Prabhandam forms the devotional literature of the 12 Alvars, the Vaishnavite saints (500-850 AD). These songs are striking for their simplicity and depth of devotion. They are composed in praise of Lord Vishnu in his various incarnations. The great work is divided into four parts: Tirumozhi - this include songs of Saint Perialwar, Saint Kulasekharalwar and a woman Saint Andal. Andal's composition is called the Tiruppavai- a celebrated work of just 30 verses; Periya Tirumozhi - This is the exclusive work of Saint Tirumangai Alwar; the third part is a collection of different Alvars, while Saint Nammalwar exclusively wrote the fourth. These saints are believed to have visited many Vaishnavite temples in Tamil Nadu and composed hymns in praise of the Lord. These temples came to be known as Divya Desams and are highly revered.

ANAKAPUTHUR (TP-10)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

Sri Agastheeswarar temple of Anakaputhur is said to have been constructed about 1000 years back. It is about 4 Kms from Pallavaram Railway Station. Sri Agastheeswarar and His consort Sri Anandavalli are the presiding deities of the temple. The temple spreads over an area of 15 cents. It has a Praakaram. The Moolavar is a prathishta Lingam. Pooja is performed regularly by a hereditary Gurukkal daily once in the morning. There is a Silver Kavacham for the Amman. The temple owns landed property to the extent of 36 acres of dry lands. There is a wooden Car, which is 115 years old. A Board of five trustees administers it. The annual income of the temple is Rs.60,000/-.

Sri Subramaniaswamy

The above temple was built by local people belonging to the Sengundhar community some 100 years back. Lord Subramania and His consorts Sri Valli and Deivayanai are the presiding deities of the temple. Sri Vinayaka, Chandikeswarar and Manickavasagar are the other deities.

The temple occupies an area of about half an acre. The Moolavar and Uthsavar of the temple are in a standing pose. A shrine for Navagrahas is also there. A Gurukkal whose office is not hereditary performs Poojas twice daily in the morning and evening. The temple owns a gold necklace. The immovable properties of the temple consist of 4 houses and 4 shops, which have been let out for rent. The temple has a Peacock, a Horse Vahanam and two Kedayams. These are 80 years old and made of wood. Krithigai in each month and Ani Maham are the important festivals observed here when the deity is taken round in procession through the streets of the village. The people of Sengundhar community in the village formerly managed the affairs of the temple, but now a Board of five trustees administers it.

PAMMAL (TP-11)

Sri Rettai Pillaiyar Temple and Akeeswarar Temples

These temples are located at a distance of 3 Kms from Pallavaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach these temples. These temples were built about 40 years and 500 years respectively. They cover an area of 200 Sq.ft. and 1 acre respectively. The main deities are Vinayaka, Shiva, and Muruga. Shivachariars performs Poojas twice a day. The Akeeswarar temple owns land to an extent of 40 acres. It also owns Rs.1,50,000/- worth of jewels. Trustees maintain the affairs of the temples. The annual income of these temples are Rs.1,00000, and 2,00000 respectively. The main festivals are Vinayaka Chaturthi, and Shivarathri.

The other temples in the town are: Sri Sankara Vinayaka, Periya Palayathu Amman, Nagavalli Amman and Bhavani Amman, Sidhi Vinayaka, Selva Vinayaka and Vijaya Ganapathi Temples. No significant details are available about these temples.

TIRUSULAM (CT-12)

Sri Thirusoolanathar Temple

The village Tirusulam is 1 Km from Tirusulam Railway Station. Sri Thirusoolanathar otherwise known, as Brahma Pureeswarar and His consort Sri Thirupurasundari are the presiding deities of the temple.

It is said that this temple was constructed by the Chola rulers and was renovated by the temple priest about 70 years back. Stone inscriptions in the Grantham script are found inside the temple. This temple spreads over an area of 1-½ acres. It is believed that the Lingam in this temple was installed by Sri Brahma. This temple is located in the midst of four hills. A hereditary Gurukkal whose services are honorary regularly performs Poojas daily twice in the morning and evening. Except a snake-hooded Kavacham, there are no other jewels. It owns 78 acres of dry land. The temple owns the following Vahanams: Rishabha, Simha, Horse, Peacock, Surya Prabhai, Chandra Prabhai and three small Vimanams. All these Vahanams are made of wood. Festivals are celebrated during the days of Maha Shivarathri. A Board of five trustees of whom one is the hereditary trustee manages the temple affairs. The annual income of the temple is Rs.1,14500/-.

ALANDUR (M -13)

Sri Sundara Vinayaka Temple

Sri Sundara Vinayaka temple of Alandur believed to be 60 years old. It was renovated recently. It extends over an area of about 50 cents. The Moolavar is in sitting pose. A Gurukkal performs Pooja every morning; his office is hereditary. The temple

owns lands to the extent of 33 cents, which are managed by the trustees. Arudhra, Karthigai Deepam and Vinayaka Chaturthi are the annual festivals observed by this temple. Of these, the Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main one during which Lord Ganesh is taken round in procession through the streets. A single trustee manages it.

Sri Dharmaraja Temple

Sri Dharmaraja temple of Alandur village is 1 Km from Palavanthangal Railway Station and can be reached by buses also. The principal deity is Draupadi Amman, wife of the Pandavas. It believed to be about 150 years old. The temple covers an area of about 2 acres. Pooja is performed by a priest once daily. His office is hereditary. The temple owns some immovable property. The temple also owns a Car and 7 Vahanams. All these are made of wood. The Mahabharatha festival begins on the sixth day after New Moon in the month of Ani and lasts for ten days, when discourses on the events in the Mahabharatha and their significance are conducted by renowned speakers. Fire walking by devotees, males and females, is a special feature of the festival. Three trustees are managing its affairs. The annual income of the temple was Rs. 10,000/-.

Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The above temple believed to be over 7 centuries old. Subsequently, additions and renovations were made. Apart from this, a Mandapam has been erected from funds raised by the devotees. Poojas are performed daily twice by a Bhattacharya whose office is hereditary. The temple owns landed property to the extent of about 0.66 acres and 2 houses. It owns an Elephant Vahanam, a Garuda Vahanam and a few Chapprams. All these have been made of wood. Brahmotsavam is the main festival celebrated by the temple during the month of Purattasi. A hereditary trustee manages the temple affairs.

Sri Shivasubrahmaniaswamy Temple

The above temple is believed to be 140 years old and is dedicated to Lord Subrahmania and His consorts Valli and Deivayanai. It covers an area of about 0.26 acres. A Gurukkal whose office is hereditary performs Pooja twice daily. It owns a silver crown and a 'Vel' made of copper and silver purchased out of the temple funds. It has some immovable property. It also owns a Peacock Vahanam and a Mouse Vahanam made of wood. Skandasashti Uthsavam in the month of Aypasi, which spread over a period of 10 days is the only annual festival celebrated here. A Board of 5 trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Siddhi Vinayaka Temple

Sri Siddhi Vinayaka Temple in Paruthivakkam, hamlet of Alandur, is 1 ½ miles from Saidapet. There is no pooja in the temple for the past 45 years.

Sri Ardhanareeswarar Temple

This temple is located at Nanganallur and it is 1 Km from Palavanthangal Railway Station. This believed to be about 40 years old by committee members. It covers an area of 3,600sqft. It has no landed property. It owns Silver Kavasam, its worth is Rs.20,000/-. Ardhanareeswarar Baktha Samaj maintains the affairs of the temples. The annual income of the temple is Rs.7,200/-. Shivarathri is the important festival celebrated every year.

Sri Raja Rajeshwari Temple, Nanganallur

The temple is 40 years old and was built by Sri Raja Rajeshwari Swamiji. It is a private temple. The temple is very famous in this area and attracts huge crowds. The main festival in this temple is Navarathri.

Sri Anjaneyar Temple, Nanganallur

A 60 feet idol of Sri Anjaneyar is the cynosure of all eyes. The temple is quite famous in and around Chennai.

The other temples in this town are: Sri Vembuli Amman, Vedapuri Easwarar, Vembuli Vinayaka, Venugopala Swamy, Ayyappan, Ella Muthu Amman, Sastha, Padavattamman, Vinayaka, Palandi Amman, Subramaniam, Guruvayoorappan, Nandeeswarar and Lakshmi Narasimhar.,

PUZHITHIVAKKAM (ULLAGARAM) (TP-14)

No details are available.

PERUNGUDI (TP-15)

Sri Ishtha Siddhi Vinayaka and Karpaga Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available

KOTTIVAKKAM (CT-16)

No details are available.

PALAVAKKAM (CT-17)

No details are available.

NEELANKARAI (CT-18)

No details are available

INJAMBAKKAM (CT-19)

Sri Shirdi Sai Baba, Gowri Amman and Ponni Amman Temples

The first temple is quite famous in Chennai and its surroundings and attracts a lot of devotees as well as tourists. It is of recent origin. No further details are available.

BOX - 25

Saint Thirunavakkarasu Nayanar (600-750 AD)

Saint Thirunavakkarasu Nayanar also known as Appar was one among the four celebrated Shaivite Saints of the Bhakti movement. He was also called by the name 'Marulneekiar'. He was born in Thiruvamoor. As per legend, though born a Hindu, he converted to Jainism, assumed the name Dharmasena and settled down at Patliputra. He contracted severe pain in the stomach which made him return. He was cured after he composed a hymn in praise of Lord Shiva at the Thiruveeratanam temple. After this he became an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva. Various miracles are associated with this saint. A collection of 12 books containing devotional songs devoted to Lord Shiva is referred to as Tirumurai. The first seven of the twelve Tirumurais consist of the celebrated songs of this saint collectively known as Thevaram and individually referred to as Padigams. All these verses steeped in reverence to the Lord and composed in Tamil are in praise of Lord Shiva at various shrines (called Tirumurai Sthalams).

OGGIYAMDURAIPAKKAM (CT-20)

Sri Ariyathamman Temple

No significant details are available



Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Thiruneermalai



Sri Neervannar Perumal Temple, Thiruneermalai



Sri Neervannar Perumal Temple, Thiruneermalai



Sri Neervannar Perumal at Thiruneermalai

PALLIKARANAI (TP-21)

Sri Veerathamman, Thulukanathu Amman, Kannapiran, Perumal, Adipureeswarar, Palandi Amman, Chenkzhani Amman, Lakshmi Narayana Perumal, Om Shakti, Muthu Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples.

No significant details are available

MADIPPAKKAM (CT-22)

No details are available.

MOOVARASAMPETTAI (CT-23)

Sri Palandi Amman, Gangai Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available..

PALLAVARAM (M-24)

Sri Balasubrahmania Swamy Temple - Kumaran Kundram (Chrompet)

This temple is located at the distances of 2 Kms from Chrompet Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach this temple. It is 25 years old and was built by Sri. Balasubrahmania Swamy Seva Sangam. It has no landed property. This temple has Ornaments, which valued Rs.1 lakh. The affairs of the temple are maintained by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple is Rs.2 lakhs. Adi Kirithigai, Vaikasi Visagam and Thirukkarthigai Deepam are the main festivals of this temple.

THIRUNEERMALAI (TP-25)



Sri Ranganatha Perumal & Neervannar Perumal Temples

The place is 4 Kms from Chrompet Railway Station. Bus facilities are available from Chennai to reach this temple. It believed to be about 1,800 years old and built during the Chola period. There are two temples one at the top of the hill and the other at its foot.

Thiruneermalai is one among the 108 temples held as especially sacred for Vaishnavites (Divya Desam). The Brahmanda Puranam refers to this place as 'Totadri', which literally means 'Mountains surrounded by water'. The present name in Tamil, Thiruneermalai also refers to the same (Neer = Water; Malai = Mountain). This place is considered one among the eight places where Lord Vishnu manifested himself ("Swayam Vyakta Kshetra"). It is therefore held in great reverence by the devout.

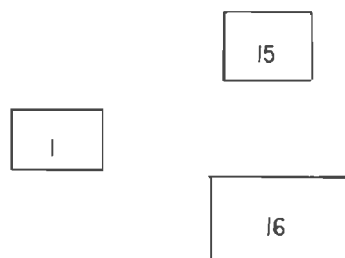
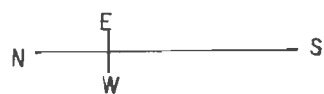
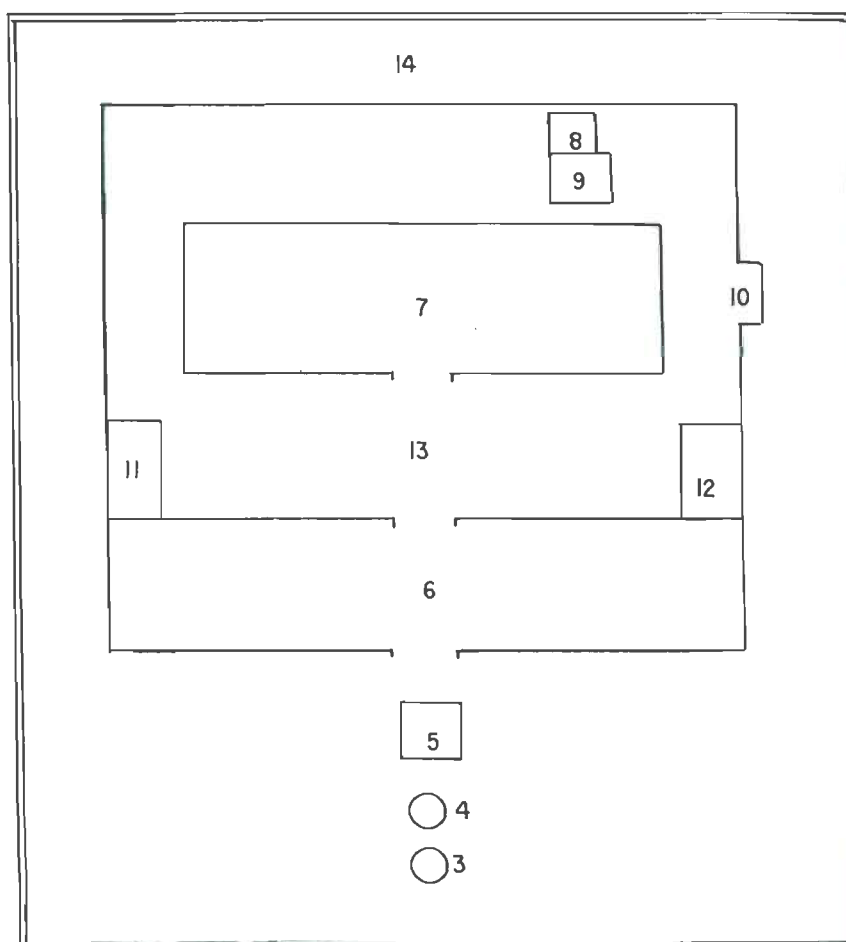
The presiding deity of the temple at the foot of the hill is Sri Neervanna Perumal in standing posture. There are shrines for Sri Andal, Rama and all the 12 Alwars. The Uthsavar of the Ranganatha temple (on top of the hill) is also kept in this temple. As per legend, Sage Valmiki, after writing the epic Ramayana, visited the temple of Lord Ranganatha atop the hill. He then came down to the foothills and having washed his feet at the tank, prayed to lord Rama. Hearing his prayers, Lord Ranganatha came down from the hill and gave darshan as Lord Rama. Lakshmi Devi appeared as Sita, Adi Seshan took the form of Lakshmana, the divine conch took the form of Shatrugna, the Disc took the form of Bharatha and Garuda took the form of Hanuman. Sage Valmiki requested the Lord to continue to give darshan in the same form to all devotees and

SRI RANGANATHAR HILL TEMPLE

THIRUNEERMALAI
(NOT TO SCALE)

INDEX TO NUMBERS

1. 4 Pillar Mandapam
2. Kalki Mandapam
Ist Entrance on the hill
3. Kodimaram
4. **Balipeedam**
5. Garudan
6. Front Mandapam
7. Ranganathar
8. **Ulagalanda Perumal**
9. Narasimha
10. Yagasalai
11. Ranganayaki
12. Room
13. Inner Prakaram
14. Outer Prakaram
15. Anjaneyar
16. Vahana Mandapam



thus the Lord took on the form of Neervanna Perumal and continues to bless his devotees.

The presiding deity in the temple on top of the hill is Sri Ranganatha Perumal. The deity is facing south and is seen lying on the divine serpent Adi Seshan. This posture is known as “Manicka Sayanam”. The Vimanam on top of the Sanctum is called the Ranga Vimanam. On the side of the main Sanctum in the Praakaaram is shrine of Trivikrama or Ulagalanda Perumal. The Vimanam on top of this shrine is called Thoyagiri Vimanam. Here the deity is in a walking posture. Besides this is the shrine of Sri Shanta Narasimha in a sitting posture. The Vimanam above this sanctum is called Shanta Vimanam. There is a separate shrine for Goddess Ranganayaki Thayar.

The tank in this temple is referred to as the “Ksheera Pushkarini”. The devout believe that its waters contain in itself water from four sacred sources. The first source is the divine river “Ksheerabdhhi”, which is believed to flow in Vaikuntam – the celestial abode of Lord Vishnu. The second source is said to be the sacred tear drops of Lord Narasimha who had been moved to tears on seeing the unbounded devotion of his devotee Prahalada. This source is called “Karunya Pushkarini”. The third source is the holy river Ganga, which is believed to be flowing out of the sacred matted locks of Lord Shiva. This is called “Siddha Pushkarini”. The last source is referred to as “Swarna Pushkarini”. It is believed that divine beings collected water in golden vessels from the sacred river Virajai for the bath of Lord Neervanna Perumal. In all the tank is considered extremely holy.

The uniqueness of these two temples is that Lord Vishnu is seen in four postures- Standing (Ninran-Sri Neervanna Perumal); Sitting (Irundan- Sri Narasimha); Lying (Kidanthan-Sri Ranganatha Perumal); Walking (Nadanthan Sri Trivikrama). This is alluded to in the hymns composed by Thirumangai Alwar. It is believed that the Alwar once visited this place but could not reach the shrine because it was surrounded by water on all sides. He then had to stay on a nearby hillock for 6 months till the water drained. Bhootat Alwar has also com-

posed hymns in praise of these shrines. 20 songs (Pasurams) have been dedicated to these temples by both these saints.

Epigraphical stone inscriptions are found in both the temples. They refer to the many gifts made to these temples by the Chola and Pandya Kings and various other devotees.

The area occupied by the hill temple is 15 acres including the hill, while the temple at the foot of the hill, covers an area of 3 acres. There are pagodas at the entrance of both the temples.

Bhattacharyas belonging to the Thengalai sect perform two poojas daily. There are 4 priests in this temple and they perform poojas by turns. The service inam lands are including in the Devasthanam property. The offerings of devotees and a portion of the fee levied for performing marriages in the temple premises go to the priests. The temple has some ornaments, which have been offered by devotees from time to time. The property of this temple consists of lands to the extent of 103 acres in various places in Tamil Nadu, 12 houses and 12 shops. The temple owns many Vahanams. Of the 11 festivals conducted here, the main ones are Panguni and Chithirai Uthsavam and Vaikunta Ekadasi. A single trustee manages the temple, with the assistance of an Executive Officer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple is Rs.2 Crores. Brahmotsavam is the main festival celebrated for 10 days in the month of Chithirai every year. Other festivals are Vasantha Uthsavam in Vaikasi and Kodai Uthsavam in Ani.

TAMBARAM (M-26)

Sri Selva Vinayaka Temple

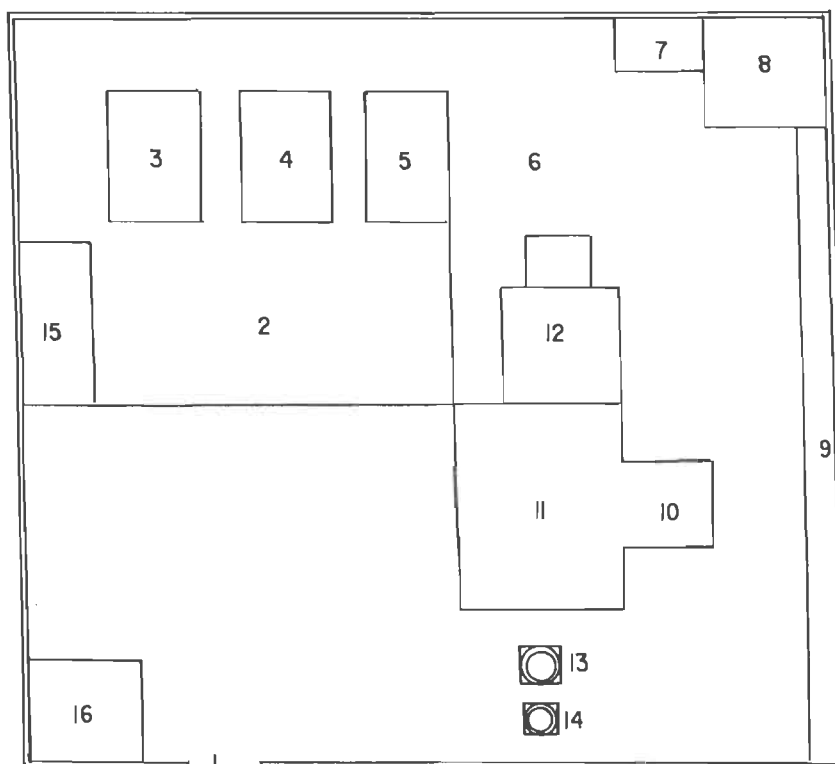
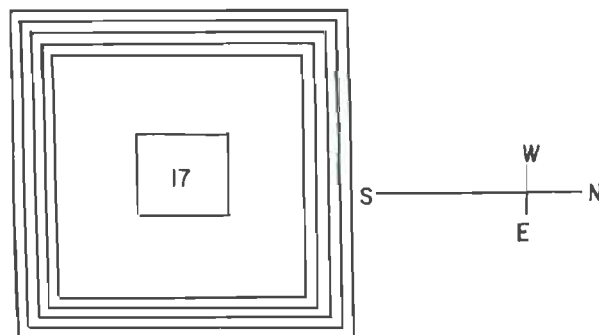
The above temple is close to the Tambaram railway station. It was constructed in 1954 by the then trustees and renovations were done after 4 years. Sri Selva Vinayaka is the presiding deity of the temple. The other deities are Sri Kothandaramar, Anjaneyar and Sri Subramaniam. The temple covers an area of about 16 cents. The Moolavar is in a sitting pose.

SRI NEERVANNA PERUMAL TEMPLE

THIRUNEERMALAI
(NOT TO SCALE)

INDEX TO NUMBERS

1. Rajagopuram
2. Mandapam
3. Animamalar Mangai
4. Palli Arai
5. Ramar
6. Prakaram
7. Vahana Shed
8. Paramapada Vasal
9. Store Room
10. Uthsavar
11. Mandapam
12. Moolavar Neervanna Perumal
13. Balipeedam
14. Kodimaram
15. Office Room
16. Madapalli
17. Tank



A Gurukkal, whose office is not hereditary, performs Poojas twice daily. The main income of the temple is from Hundi collections, which are opened and counted once a month regularly. The temple has some jewels. The temple owns a Kedayam and a Mouse Vahanam made of wood. Vinayaka Chaturthi, Arudhra, Thai Poosam, Sri Rama Navami (for 4 days), Vaikunta Ekadasi and Vijay Dasami are the festivals observed by the temple. Of these Vinayaka Chaturthi and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the main festivals. A Board of 5 trustees of whom one is the managing trustee manages the temple affairs.

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka and Kandaperumanar Temples

The villagers themselves constructed Sri Karpaga Vinayaka temple in Tambaram in 1946. Sri Karpaga Vinayaka is the presiding deity. The other deities are Sri Kandar (Murugan) with Valli and Deivayanai, Sri Meenakshi and Sri Sundaresar and Sri Pattabiraman with Sita and Lakshmanan. The Moolavar of the temple is in a sitting posture, while the Uthsavar is in a standing pose. All the other festival idols also are in standing pose.

A Gurukkal performs Poojas twice daily. In the Rama temple, a Vaishnava Bhattacharya performs poojas. Their offices are not hereditary. They are paid a monthly salary out of the temple revenues and they are also entitled to enjoy the offerings of the devotees.

The temple owns modern type of jewellery of which the silver Kavacham deserve special mention. The temple owns 0.87 cents of wetlands in Selayur village and a house gifted by a devotee. The temple owns a Mouse Vahanam and two second-hand wooden Vimanams. Skandasashti during the month of Ayyasi and Vinayaka Chaturthi in Avani are the main annual festivals observed by the temple. Apart from these, Krithigai and Rama Uthsavam on Punarvasu day are also observed every month. A Board of three trustees manages the temple.

Sri Ponniamman Temple

This temple is located at Selaiyur, which is 1 Km from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach this temple. It believed to be about 100 years old. It covers an area of 1 acre and it owns 1.75 acres of land. The main deity is the Amman Idol, which is made of stone. Car festival is the main festival of this temple. Locals manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is Rs.10, 000/-.

CHITLAPAKKAM (TP-27)

No details are available

SEMBAKKAM (TP-28)

Sri Tapovanam, Jambulingeswarar, Kandashramam, Sangothi Amman and Vembuli Amman Temples

No significant details are available

JALLADIAMPET (CT-29)

No details are available

SHOLINGANALLUR (TP- 30)

Sri Thulukathan Amman Temple

No significant details are available

MADAMBAKKAM (TP-31)

Sri Dhenupureeswarar Temple

Sri Dhenupureeswarar temple of Madambakkam village is 6 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach this temple. It believed to be about 800 years old and built in the reign of the Cholas (Kulottunga Chola III).

Kumbhabhishekam performed in 2002. The temple extends over an area of about 2 acres of which the main building occupies 1 acre. There are two Praakaarams with 55 stone pillars in the temple. There are also about 25 idols. The Lingam is a Swayambu. The Vimanam over the Sanctum is of the Gajaprishta type. It is believed that Saint Arunagirinathar visited the shrine.

As per legend, Sage Kapila was once under a curse. He was relieved of the curse after praying at this shrine.

A hereditary Gurukkal performs Poojas twice daily. The temple owns some jewellery offered by the devotees and its worth is Rs.30,000/-. It also owns 18.50.5 hectares of dry and 10.68.5 hectares of wetlands. The temple is in possession of 6 Vahanams, which were donated in 1930 by one Sri Ramaswamy Chettiar who was the trustee then. Panguni Uthiram is the main festival. A Board of three trustees appointed by the HR & CE Department administers the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is 7 lakhs.

The other temples in this town are: Sri Kothanda Ramar, Mumoorthi Amman, Karumari Amman, Vengali Amman, Thandu Mari Amman, Konakshi Amman, Muthu Mari Amman, Kasi Viswanathar and Vinayaka temples.

PERUNGALATHUR (TP-32)

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Eentha Mukkula Jalamman, Selliamman, Perumal, Kamakshi Amman, Srinivasa Perumal, Karumari Amman and Nagathamman Temples

These temples are located near the Perunkulathur Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach this temple. The Villagers built these temples about 100 years ago. They own 2 acres of lands. Sri Selva Vinayaka is the presiding deity of the temple. The then trustees renovated it in 1960. These temples cover an area of 20 cents. Sri Selva Vinayaka is represented by an idol in sitting pose. A paid Gurukkal performs pooja once in

the evening. The main income of the temple is from Hundi collections. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the only festival observed here. Three trustees are in charge of the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is Rs.4,000/-

PEERKANKARANAI (TP- 33)

Sri Vadivudai Amman, Pillaiyar, Kakkali Amman and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

No significant details are available

COWL BAZAAR (LC. 817)

Sri Mangali Amman, Selva Vinayaka and Rama Temples

No significant details are available.

KADAPERI (LC. 818)

Sri Selli Amman, Karumari Amman, Etti Amman, Selva Vinayaka and Rama Temples

No significant details are available.

NANMANGALAM (LC.819)

Sri Pillaiyar Neelavanna Perumal Ekambara Easwarar Pidari Ponniamman Palandiamman Temple

These temples are located at a distance of 6 Kms from Chrompet Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach these temples. It is said that these temples were built about 200 years ago. Shiva temple owns 1.06 acres of wetland. Pillaiyar temple owns 0.05 acres of wetland. Palandiamman temple owns 0.13 acres of wetland and Neelavanna Perumal temple owns 1.69 acres of wetland. Uriadi Thiruvizha is the special fes-

tival of Perumal temple, Poojas are performed twice a day by a Gurukkal. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of these temples are Rs.10,000/-.

KOILAMBAKKAM (LC.820)

Sri Mangaliamman, Murugan and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available

MEDAVAKKAM (LC. 821)

Sri Perumal, Vinayaka and Kali Amman Temples

No significant details are available

KARAPAKKAM (LC.822)

Sri Vendarasi Amman Temple

No significant details are available

PERUMBAKKAM (LC.823)

Sri Easwaran Temple

This temple is located at the distance of 10 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach this temple. It believed to be about 150 years old. This temple is in a dilapidated condition. The presiding diety is in the form of a Lingam, which is 3 ft. tall. A Gurukkal performs Poojas. Villagers maintain the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is Rs.500/-.

VENGAVASAL (LC. 824)

Sri Ponni Amman, Vinayaka, Hanumar and Palandi Amman Temples

No significant details are available

Box - 26

Bhakti Movement: Shaivite Literature

A collection of 12 books containing devotional songs devoted to Lord Shiva is referred to as Tirumurai. The first seven of the twelve Tirumurais consist of the celebrated songs collectively known as Thevaram and individually referred to as Padigams. These songs are compositions by three famous saints Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar (600-750 AD). The eighth book known as Tituvachagam was composed by saint Manickavasagar (7th Century AD). This is held analogous to that of the Upanishads. The ninth book is a collection of musical songs called Isaippa. The tenth book was composed by saint Tirumular (6th Century AD) and is known as Tirumandiram. This work consists of 4000 verses. The philosophical stream of Saiva Siddhanta is based on this book. The eleventh book is a compilation of poems of various writers including Nakeerar. The twelfth book is the Periya Puranam, comprising 4000 verses that describe the lives of the 63 Shaivite saints. These saints are believed to have visited many Shiva temples in Tamil Nadu and composed hymns in praise of the Lord. These temples came to be known as Tirumurai Sthalams and are highly revered.

TIRUVANCHERI (LC.825)

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Ramar and Muthu Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available

MUDICHUR (LC.826)

Kommiamman, Alavattamman, Vaigarai Amman, Shiva Vishnu, Muthu Mariamman, Ellaiamman and Thulukkanathamman Temples

These temples are located at a distance of 6 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach these temples. Villagers built these temples about 150 years old. Shiva Vishnu temple covers an area of 1 acre and remaining temples are built in an area of 5 cents. These temples owned 2 acres of wetland. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas twice a day. Karthigai Deepam is the main festival, celebrated every year. The affairs of the temples were maintained by Village Committees. The annual income of these temples is Rs.4000/-.

KASBAPURAM (LC. 827)

Sri Padavattamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available

VENGAPAKKAM (LC. 828)

Sri Poonkothai Amman, Vinayaka, Kurathi Amman and Thulukanathamman Temples

No significant details are available

AGARAMTHEN (LC.829)

Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple

The temple of Agaram village is 4 miles from Saidapet and close to the Perambur railway station. It can be reached by buses also. One Sri Akkaya Maharaja constructed the temple about 165 years ago. The principal deity of the temple is Sri Rama with Lakshmana, Sita and Anjaneya. The main building of the temple covers an area of 45' X 20' in length and breadth respectively. The Moolavar of the temple is made of stone. The festival idols are made out of an alloy of 5 metals.

A non-hereditary priest performs Poojas daily. The temple owns 5 shops. There is an old Chapparam belonging to the temple which is roughly 4'X3' made about 90 years ago. Every Saturday is considered a sacred day for the temple. The main festival celebrated by the temple is Sri Rama Navami for a period of 10 days. On the last and the tenth day of the festival the idols are taken round in procession. A Board of three trustees manages the temple.

The other temples are: Sri Raghava Amman, Easwarar, Pillaiyar, Perumal, Gangai Amman, Kanni Amman and Nagamuthu Mari Amman temples.

KOVILANCHERI (LC. 830)

Sri Dilli Balakshi Amman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

MADURAPAKKAM (LC. 831)

Sri Vinayaka, Mandaveli Vinayaka and Vembuli Amman Temples

No significant details are available

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

This temple is located at the distance of 13 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are available to reach this temple. It believed to be about 700 years old and built by Parameswara Pallavan. Renovations were carried out in 1993. It covers an area of 360 Sq.ft. It owns 0.84 hectares of wetland and 0.24.5 hectares of dry land. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas once a day. Vinayaka Chaturthi and Arudhra are the main festivals are celebrated in this temple. Trustees maintain the affairs of the temple.

Sri Varadharaja Perumal Temple

It believed to be about 800 years old. This temple was demolished during the period of Hyder Ali. It was renovated again in 1995. The presiding deities of this temple are Sri Varadharaja Perumal, Sri Devi, Bhu Devi, Anjaneya and Garuda. Ani Thiru Manjanam and Sri Rama Navami are the main festivals of this temple celebrated by Sri Ramanuja Bhakta Jana Sabha.

The other temples in the village are: Kali Amman, Parasamman, Sinthalamman, Thulukanathu Amman and Karumari Amman.

Box - 27 Iconography: Vaishnavite Images

Vishnu is usually depicted with a royal headdress. There are four hands, of which the upper right hand holds a discus (Chakaram) and the upper left hand a conch shell (Sangu). The two lower hands are seen in various postures. In the Varadharaja temple of Kancheepuram, the lower right hand is in a posture signifying the giver of boons. The lower left hand rests on a mace or is on the thigh. In the Srinivasa temple of Tirupathi, the lower hand is raised with palm forwards, signifying protection to the devotees. The lower hand is placed against the thigh. In the Srirangam temple, he is shown as reclining on a bed of serpents. In the Panduranga temple in Pandharpur he is depicted with only one pair of hands- the left holding a conch and the other resting beside the thigh.

The other forms of Vishnu are: Vaikunthanatha (seated on a serpent throne); Lakshminarayana (with goddess Lakshmi on the left knee); Santhanagopala (a baby putting its toe in its mouth); Venugopala (a youth playing a flute); Krishna; Parthasarathi (charioteer); Jagannatha etc. Vishnu is also depicted in minor Avathars as Dattatreya (with three heads and attended by four dogs) or Hayagriva (with a horses head and having the discus and conch).

Vishnu's consorts are Sri Devi (Goddess of prosperity) and Bhu Devi (Earth Goddess). The former is usually on the right of Vishnu and the latter on the left.

Vishnu's attendants are:

- a) Ananta- a serpent with one or five heads. The coils of the serpent act as the couch or seat and the hood as the umbrella or canopy.
- b) Garuda- half kite half man serving as his Vahana or vehicle.
- c) Vishvakesana- his chamberlain, seated with discus and conch in upper hands, lower right hand raised in a warning pose or holding a cane and lower left hand resting on knee or holding a mace.
- d) Jaya and Vijaya- the door keepers and
- e) Hanuman- the monkey god.. He is also independently worshipped as a god.

- "Catalogue of South Indian Hindu Metal Images in the Madras Government Museum" 1932

MOOLACHERI (LC. 833)

Sri Vembuli Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

OTTIAMBAKKAM (LC. 834)

Sri Oteeswarar, Vinayaka, Ponni Amman and Kolakki Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ARASANKALANI (LC. 835)

Sri Palandi Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

SEMMANJERI (LC.836)

Sri Oragandy Amman Temple

The temple is located at a distance of about 20 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are available to reach this temple. This shrine is believed to be over 150 years old and was built by the villagers. Sri Oragandy Amman is the presiding

deity of the temple. It covers an area of about 10 cents. The temple has no priest. Pooja is performed weekly once by one of the villagers. It owns immovable properties in the shape of lands and gardens. The annual festival during the month of Adi attracts a large crowd from neighboring villages. Trustees are in charge of its affairs.

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

Local villagers belonging to the Komti Chettiar community constructed the above temple more than 200 years ago. Sri Srinivasa Perumal is the presiding deity. The trustees renovated the temple in 1958. The temple occupies an area of about 20 cents. The Moolavar and Uthsavar are in a standing posture. A hereditary Brahmin Bhattacharya performs pooja once daily in the morning. The temple owns 0.37.0 hectares of land. Sri Jayanthi is the only festival celebrated here. The villagers manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is Rs.7500/-.

UTHANDI (LC. 837)

Sri Pidari Amman, Sevagothi Amman, Kannapiran Perumal, Thanthoni Amman and Madurai Veeran Temples

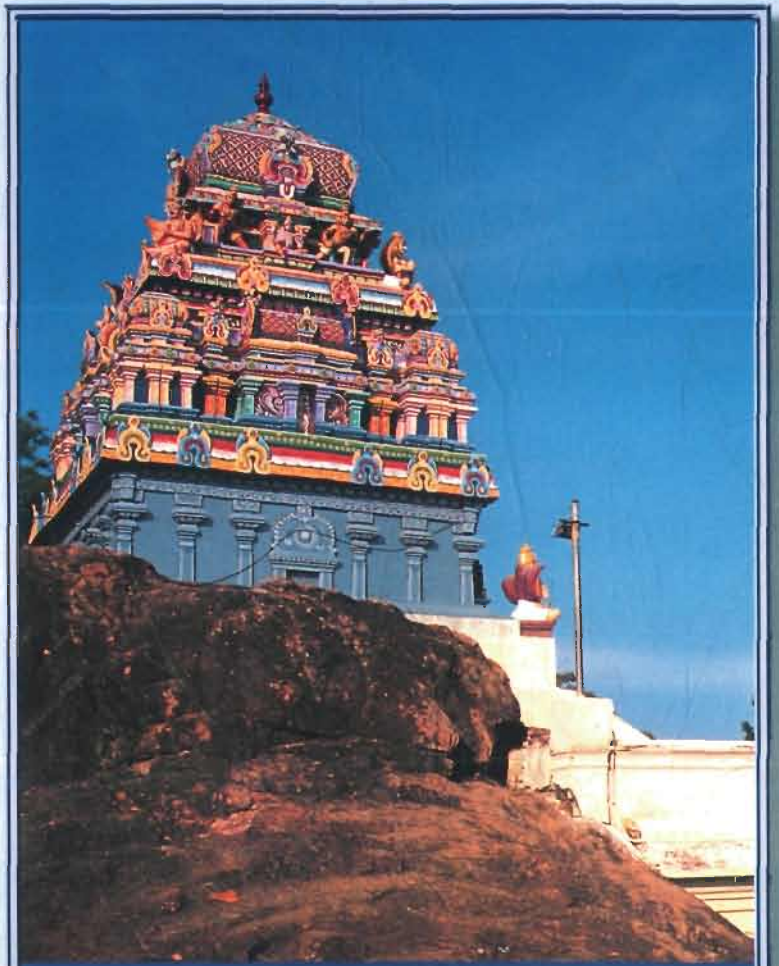
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C H E N G A L P A T T U T A L U K



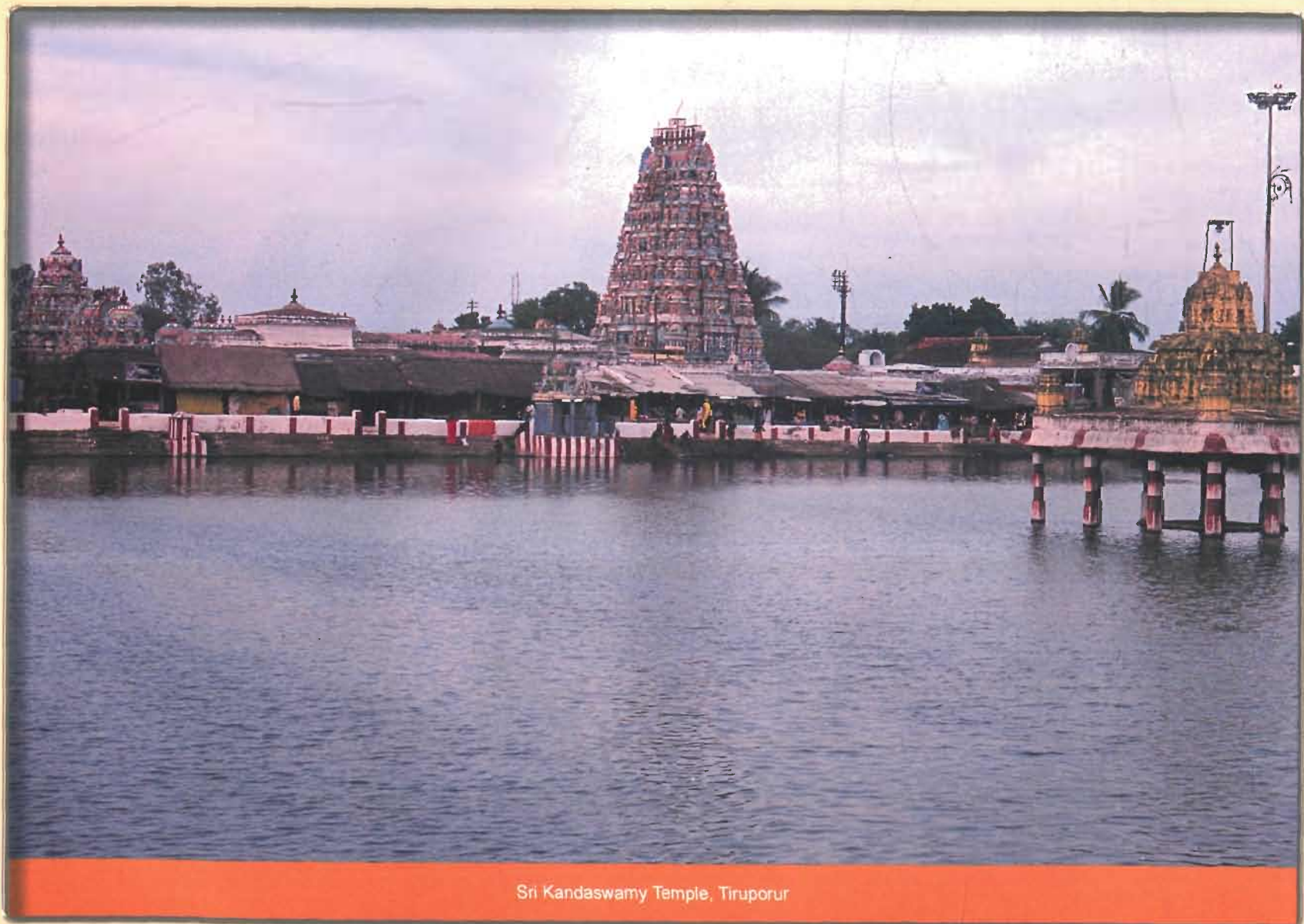
Sri Marundheeswarar Temple, Thirukachur.



Sri Padaladri Narasimhaswamy Temple, Singaperumalkoil



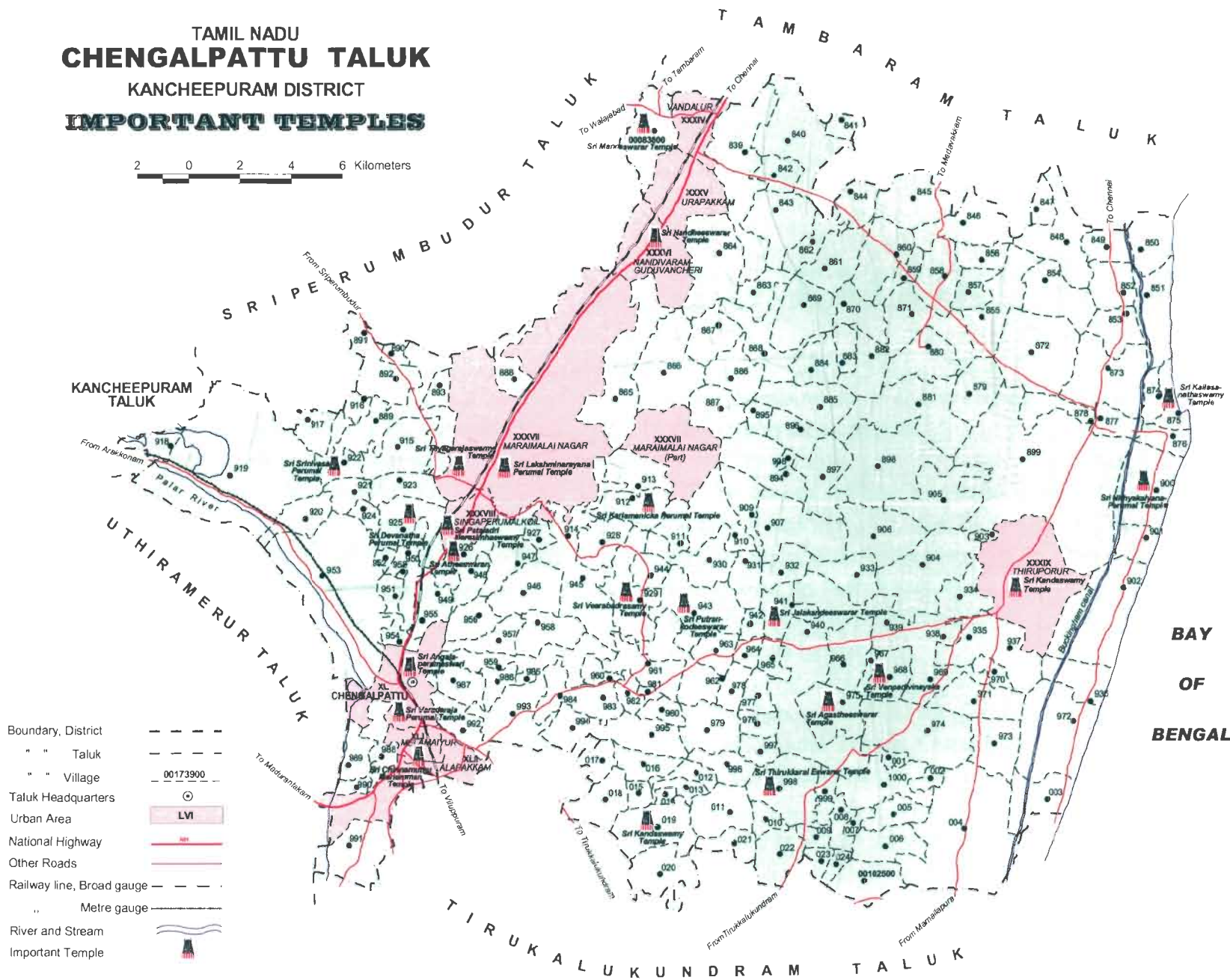
Sri Padaladri Narasimhaswamy Temple, Singaperumalkoil



Sri Kandaswamy Temple, Tiruporur

TAMIL NADU
CHENGALPATTU TALUK
 KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT
IMPORTANT TEMPLES

2 0 2 4 6 Kilometers



Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of Surveyor General of India.
 The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles
 measured from the appropriate base line.
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CHENGALPATTU TALUK

Chengalpattu Taluk covers an area of 766.70 Sq.kms. The Taluk Headquarter is at Chengalpattu, a Municipality 44 kms. away from the District Headquarters at Kancheepuram. It is located on the Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road which connects the State Capital, Chennai with the southern parts of the State. It is well connected by rail as well as road. The renowned tourist places – Kovalam and Muthukadu are located in this Taluk.

Chengalpattu Taluk has 1 Municipality, 3 Town Panchayats, 5 Census Towns and 188 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Population Totals of the Census of India 2001, the Taluk has a population of 409,611.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 360 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 220 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 57 villages details are not available on temples. This in-

cludes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

The famous vaishnavite temples in this Taluk are Sri Nithyakalyana Perumal Temple, Thiruvidadanthai (DivyaDesam) and Sri Agora Narasimhaswamy temple, Singaperumalkoil. Hymns about Sri Nithya Kalyana Perumal Temple were composed by vaishnavite saints Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

The famous shaivite temples of the Taluk are: Sri Marundheeswarar Temple, Chengalpattu (Thirukachur), Sri Gnanapureeswarar Temple, Chengalpattu (Thiruvadisoolum).

The other famous temple of the Taluk is Sri Kandaswamy Temple at Tiruporur. Saint Arunagirinathar composed songs on Lord Kandaswamy at this temple.

VANDALUR (CT-34)

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Karumariamman, Venkatesa Perumal and Vembuliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

Sri Periya Palayathamman, Gangaiaimman, Irania Amman Temples and Bajana Madam

No significant details are available.

URAPAKKAM (CT-35)

Sri Ooraneeswarar Temple

No details are available.

NANDIVARAM GUDUVANCHERI (U) (TP-36)

Sri Nandheeswarar Temple

Nandhivaram is about ½ km away from Guduvancheri Railway Station. Train and bus facilities are available to reach this temple. It is believed that Nandhi Varma Pallava built this temple. Renovations were done 1998. The temple is built on an area of one acre of land. The presiding deity, Nandheeswarar is a Swayambu Lingam. The main Goddess is Soundaryanayagi. The temple owns 17.86.0 hectares of wet and dry lands, which are cultivated under auction. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja twice a day as per Kamika Agama.

It is believed that Saint Appar (Thirunavukarasar) has visited this shrine. It is said that this shrine has been extolled as being equal to the temple at Rameshwaram. The Theertham at this temple is called “Nandi Theertham”. Nandi, the sacred bull

is believed to have propitiated the Lord at this shrine and hence the name.

As per legend, there was an Anthill at the spot where the temple has now been built. A cow would regularly milk itself at the mound. The villagers dug up the mound and to their surprise, an unknown voice from the sky asked them to build a temple at that spot. It is also believed that the Lord at this temple withstood the onslaught of lightning in order to save the people of this place.

The other deities in this temple are: Valampuri Vinayaka, Narthana Vinayaka, Dakshinamurthy, Murugan with his consorts Valli and Devanai. Maha Vishnu, Bairavar, Veerabhathirar and a host of other gods.

The annual festival is celebrated on the day of Arudhra asterism in Margazhi. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.46, 639/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.39, 439/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.44, 911/-. The management vests with a Board of five Trustees.

MARAIMALAINAGAR (U) (TP-37)

Sri Lakshimanarayana Perumal Temple

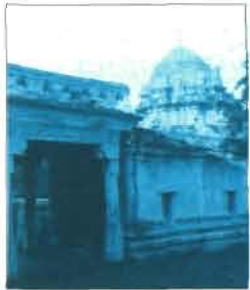
The village is 5 miles away from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station. The presiding deity is Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal. It is believed to be about one and a half centuries old. It occupies an area of 0.2 cents of land. A Bhattacharya performs daily poojas. There is no special festival. The temple owns neither jewels nor vahanams. A single trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

THIRUKACHUR

Sri Kalatheeswarar Temple

The village has a Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach this temple. The presiding deity is Sri

Kalatheeswarar, a Prathishta lingam. The temple, believed to be about 300 years old, covers an area of 0.80 acres. It owns 5 acres of land. The Gurukkal who has a hereditary right to the post performs Pooja once a day. On the Panguni Uthiram day, the deity and His consort are taken out in procession. The temple is under the management of a Board of three trustees.



Sri Marundheeswarar Temple

The village Thirukachur is situated 2 kms. away from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station. Buses plying from Chengalpattu to Tiruvallur stop at Tirukachur junction road. The temple is 1 km. from this point. The Marundheeswarar temple occupies 2.00 acres of land. The presiding deity is Sri Marundheeswarar. His consort is Sri Irulneeki Thayar also known as Andhaka Nivarani Ambal. As per legend- Aswani Devatas the divine doctors came to this world to cure Devendra of his illness and that after worshipping the deity here, they were able to get the necessary herbs from the near-by hills. Hence the deity's name is Marundheeswarar (Marundhu-Medicine; Easwarar-Lord Shiva). There are several minor Gods in the temple.

It is believed that the temple was constructed 1000 years ago. There is a depiction of Lord Shiva offering food to Saint Sundarar in the Mandapam at this temple to mark the event. Saint Sundarar has mentioned this in his song as Marundhitteeswarar, Virunthitteeswarar and Iranthitteeswarar, which signify the three-fold functions of the Hindu Trinity. As saint Sundarar lived in the Eighth Century A.D., a temple should have existed even then.

The shrine of the Goddess is facing west. The deity is in a standing posture with 4 hands: There is a Nagalinga tree facing

the shrine. A speciality in this temple is a 4 headed idol of Chandeeswarar.

Gurukkal perform poojas twice daily. The State Government has sanctioned some grants to this temple. The temple owns 12.72 acres of wetlands and 21.57 acres of dry lands, which fetch an annual income of Rs.22,000/- through auction. There is some jewellery in these temples. Brahmotsavam and Chitra Pournami are most important festivals celebrated here. A 9-day festival is held in the month of Masi when the even of the Lord begging for alms to feed Saint Sundarar is enacted.

Two hereditary trustees and an Executive Officer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Address:	Arulmighu Marundheeswarar Temple Thirukachur (Via Singaperumal Koil) Chengalpattu Taluk.
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Sri Thyagarajaswamy / Kachabeswarar Temple (Alakkoil)

This temple is believed to be 400 years old. It occupies an area of 4.00 acres. The presiding deity is a Swayabu Lingam called Sri Thyagaraja and also known as "Virunthita Easwarar", "Virunthita Varadar" and "Kachabeswarar". The Goddess is Sri Anjanakshi Ammai. Sthala Viruksham is Banian Tree. The Theertham is called "Koorma Theertham" (Koorma = Tortoise). The temple is facing east. There is a 16-pillared Mandapam in front of the temple. On the pillars of this mandapam are idols of Hanuman, Koorma Avatar, Kalinga Narthanam, Kalki Avtar, Durga, Adi Seshan, Nataraja, Kali and others. On the southern side there is another mandapam called "Amudha Thyagesar Sabha". On one of the pillars of this mandapam, Lord Vishnu in the form of a tortoise is seen praying to the Lord.

The Shrine of the Goddess is facing south. It is an independent shrine. The Goddess is in a standing posture with 4 hands. A Simham (Lion) is facing the shrine of the Goddess.

As per legend, Saint Sundarar came here after worshipping at Tirukalukundram. After worshipping at the shrine here he was hungry and tired. The Lord took the form of a Brahmin and went from house to house begging for food in order to feed Sundaramurthy Nayanar and all the devotees assembled there.

It is also believed that Sri Maha Vishnu took the form of a Tortoise and worshipped Lord Shiva and got his blessings here.

The temple has wet and dry lands to the extent of 16.55 acres. The State Government is also giving some grants. The annual income of the two temples under the control of HR & CE, i.e. Marundheeswarar temple and Thyagarajaswamy temple, is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.15, 740/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.19, 442/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.12, 870/-.

Poojas are performed four times daily. The Brahmotsavam in Chithirai and Arudhra festival in Margazhi are celebrated annually. The trustees and Executive Officer of the Marundheeswarar temple manage the affairs of this temple also.

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

The temple is believed to be of the same period as the Shiva temple and covers an area of about 70 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Srinivasa Perumal with His consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi. The temple lands are under the enjoyment of Bhattacharya who performs only one pooja daily. The annual festival is celebrated in Purattasi. The outer walls of this temple were built by Sri Rangaswamy Ayyangar (a donor). Three trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the temple affairs.

SINGAPERUMALKOIL (U) (CT.38)



Sri Padaladri Narasimha Swamy Temple

Singaperumalkoil is situated 8 Kms north of Chengalpattu on the Grand Trunk road and has a Railway Station. All buses to and from Chennai pass through this village. There is a well-laid pathway on the hillock to reach the shrine. The village derived its name from the shrine of Narasimha Swamy (Nara= Man; Simha (Sanskrit)= Lion). The stone-carved temple is believed to be about 1500 years old and built during the reign of Mahendra Varman, the Pallava king. The temple covers an area of 2.00 acres. Some inscriptions that are not decipherable are found in the sanctum sanctorum of this temple. The vimanam of this temple is called “Sri Pranava Koti Vimanam”. The Sthala Viruksham of this temple is “Parijatham”. The Theertham is called “Suththa Pushkarani”. Though the temple was initially in the form of a cave temple, later on, structures like the Ardha Mandapam, Maha Mandapam, Alankara Mandapam, 16-pillared Mandapam, etc. were added.

The presiding deity of this temple is Sri Narasimha Swamy with His consort Sri Ahobilavalli Thayar. Uthsavar is called Prahaladavaradhan. The Lord carved on a stone is in a small cave around which the temple has been constructed. There are separate shrines for the deity and His consort and for Sri Andal. There is also a temple for Hanuman facing the main Temple.

As per legend, Lord Vishnu heeding to the request of Saint Javali, gave darshan to the Saint as “Ugra Narasimha” the form he assumed when he killed Iranian the demon king. The Main deity who is in a sitting pose is 8 feet high with Abhaya Hastham (Abhaya=sanctuary / protection / fearlessness; Hastham= posture of the hand) assuring protection to devo-

tees. Moolavar has a third eye, which is rare. He has four hands with Sangu (Conch) and Chakara (disc/wheel), Abhyahastam and left hand on his lap. As per legend, Sri Mudaliyandan, a disciple of Sri Ramanujar, is said to have visited this temple.

Poojas are performed thrice daily according to Vaikanasa Agama by the hereditary Bhattacharya. The temple has some jewels worth Rs.19, 14, 891/- of which a gold crown studded with emeralds deserves special mention (as per HR & CE records). The temple owns 35.47 acres of wetlands; 85.27 acres of dry lands and 146 house sites. The annual income from the property is about 26, 000/-. There are 14 Vahanams in this temple apart from a Car, which is 100 years old. This is however in a state of repair. Of the 6 annual festivals, the Brahmothsavam in Vaikasi is the most important.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 39, 266/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.57,972/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.57, 729/-.

A Board of three trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple; one of these is hereditary; of the other two, one is generally from the Vysya Komti Chetty community.

Box - 28

Thai Poosam

This is celebrated on the day the Poosam star falls in the month of Thai (January-February). Brahmothsavam is celebrated on this day in some temples. It is also considered auspicious for Lord Murugan. Float festival (Theppam) is a highlight of this festival in some temples. The 10 day festival at Palani with the Car festival being celebrated on this day is particularly famous.

TIRUPORUR (TP-39) (U)



Sri Kandaswamy Temple

This is a well-known pilgrim centre situated 40 Kms from Chennai on the Old Mamallapuram Road. It is 25 Kms from Chengalpattu. The present temple was built by a Saint called Sri Chidambara Swamigal in the early 17th Century. The temple covers an area of 4 acres of land. There is a Gopuram in the temple facing east, which is 200 ft. wide and 70 ft. high. There are 24-pillared Mandapam in which the images of warriors with swords and shields have been carved, a 16-pillared mandapam, Sarvavathiya Mandapam and 4-pillared mandapam in the temple. There is a big tank by the right side of the temple. It is said that the tank is a perennial one and never dries up. This tank was created by the Saint by converting an existing canal called “Vallajar Odai”. The Sthala Viruksham is “Vanni”.

Saint Chidambara Swamigal was born 400 years ago at Madurai and lived up to 1659 A.D. He composed 726 hymns on this deity and named it as “Thiruporur Sannidhi Murai”. His other famous work is “Meenakshiammai Kalivenba” on Goddess Meenakshi of Madurai. The other important deities are Sri Kailasanathar and His consort Sri Balambigai and Sri Vembadi Vinayaka.

From the stone inscriptions, it is clear that there existed a shrine here for Lord Muruga even before the reign of the Pallavas; the village was then known as Samarapuri and it is believed that Lord Muruga destroyed the demon Tarakasura here. The other earlier names of the village are – Yudhapuri, Poriyur, Cheruvur, Porinagar, Pori, Samarapathi and Samadalappur.

As per legend, while doing penance at Viruddachalam, the saint had a vision of Lord Muruga and as directed by Him he came to Samarapuri and found an idol of Lord Muruga and His consort under a Palmyra tree. He then built a temple for Lord Muruga.

The main deity is bathed only in scented oil. No Abhishekams are performed. There is another small idol of Lord Muruga with Valli and Deivayanai in the Sanctum. There are also separate shrines for His two consorts. One of the stories associated with this temple is that Lord Muruga imprisoned Sri Brahma here as the latter was unable to explain the meaning of Pranava (Om) and took over the function of creation. There are two special features in this temple. Firstly, Lord Muruga is seen with a bow in military dress and, secondly, He is depicted as teaching the meaning of Pranavam to his father Lord Shiva. Both the above idols are made of copper and of exquisite beauty.

The shrine owns wet and dry lands to the extent of 680.54 acres, 35 buildings and 86 house sites. It has jewels worth Rs.24, 79, 645/- (as per HR & CE records). It has Vahanam including a Gold Peacock, Silver Swan, Silver Horse and Silver Peacock. A hereditary Gurukkal perform 4 poojas daily. The main festival is Kanda Shashti in Ayyipasi month. Pavithra Uthsavam, Arudhra Uthsavam, Navarathri Uthsavam and Brahmotsavam in the month of Masi are the other festivals.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.8, 79, 056/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.10, 28, 682/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.13, 94, 090/-. The Pontiff (Adheenam) of the Chidamba Swamigal manages the affairs of the temple.

Pranava Malai (Hill): There is a hill called “Pranava Malai” in this village, which is associated with this temple. There is a shrine called “Sri Kailasanathar temple” on the hill. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathar with His consort Sri Balambigai. On the foot of the hill there is a shrine for Vinayaka called

“Vembadi Vinayaka”. One can see the Bakingham Canal and Bay of Bengal from the top of the hill.

CHENGALPATTU (U) (M-40)

Sri Varadharaja Perumal Temple

The temple is at a distance of 1 km from the Chengalpattu Railway Station. It is an ancient shrine. It occupies an area of two acres. The presiding deity is offered one pooja daily. It has some land. A wooden Thotti is owned by this temple and is used during the Vaikunta Ekadasi festival. A trustee appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department looks after the temple affairs.

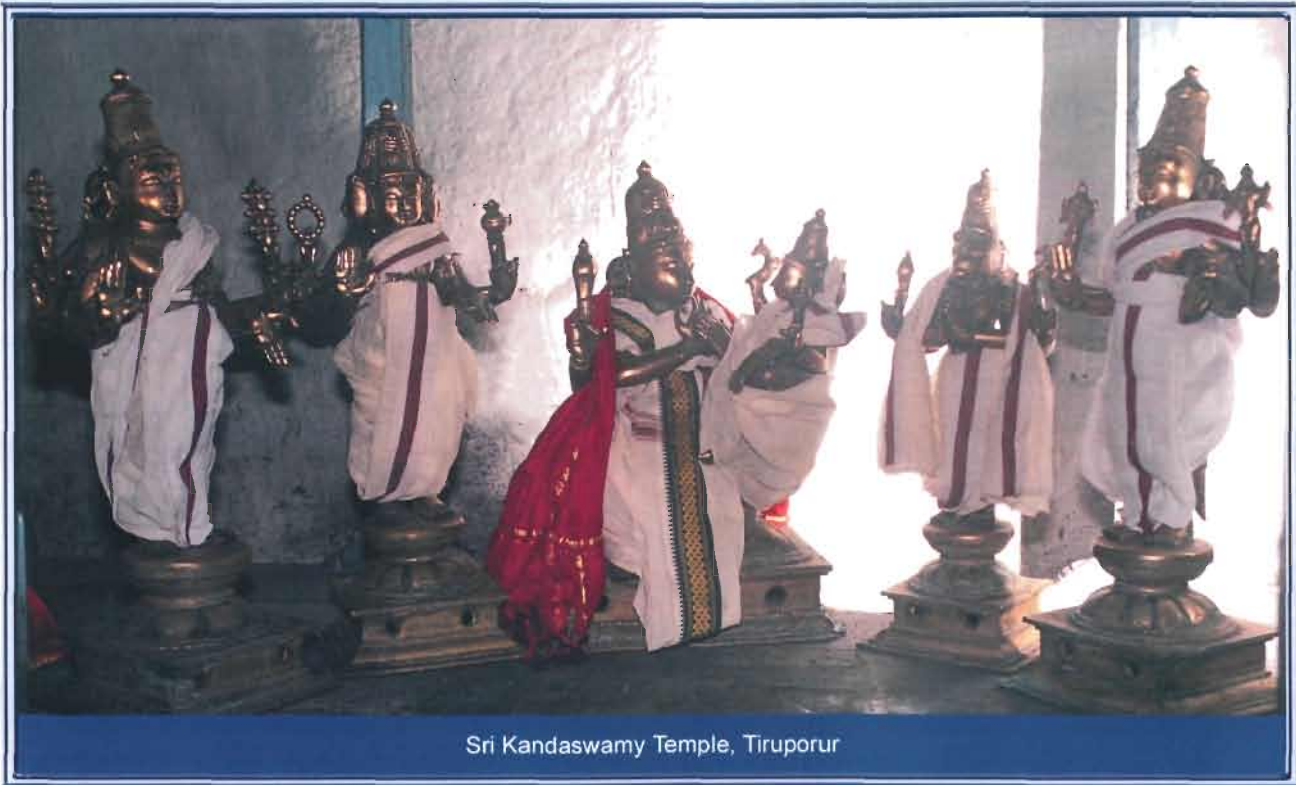
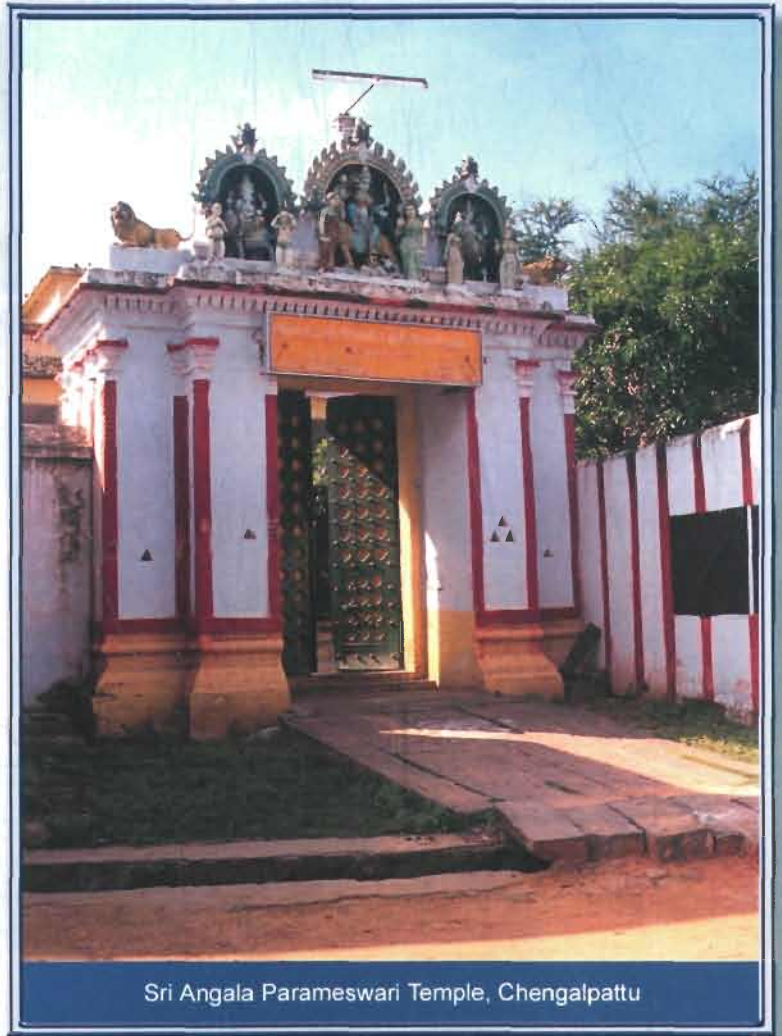
Sri Pathangeeswarar Temple

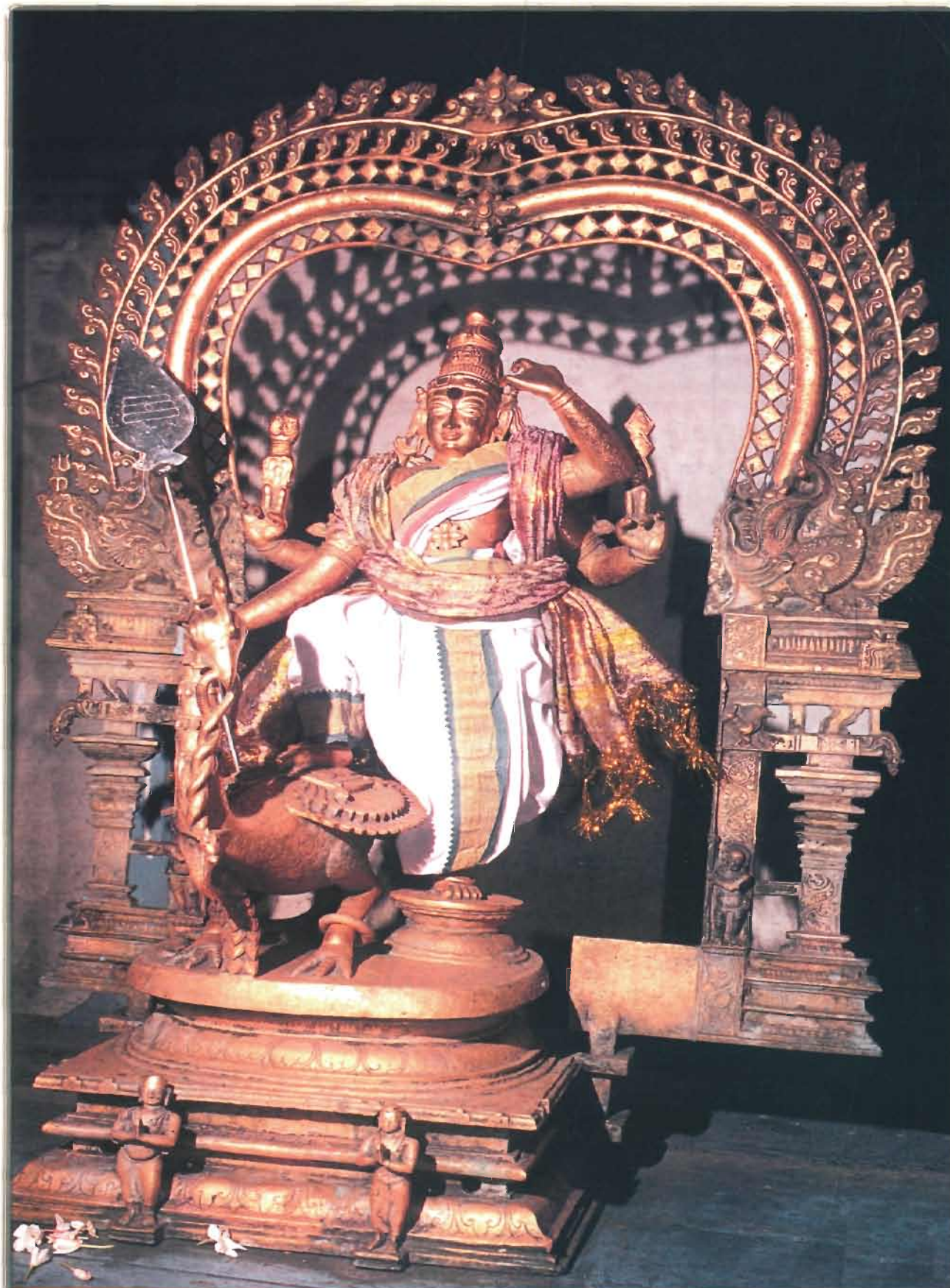
This temple is about half a mile from the Chengalpattu Railway Station. It is an ancient shrine and covers an area of 0.75 acres. The presiding deity, Sri Pathangeeswarar is a Swayambu Lingam. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 45.70 acres of wet and dry land. The annual festival is celebrated in Chithirai month. Three trustees manage the affairs of the temple.



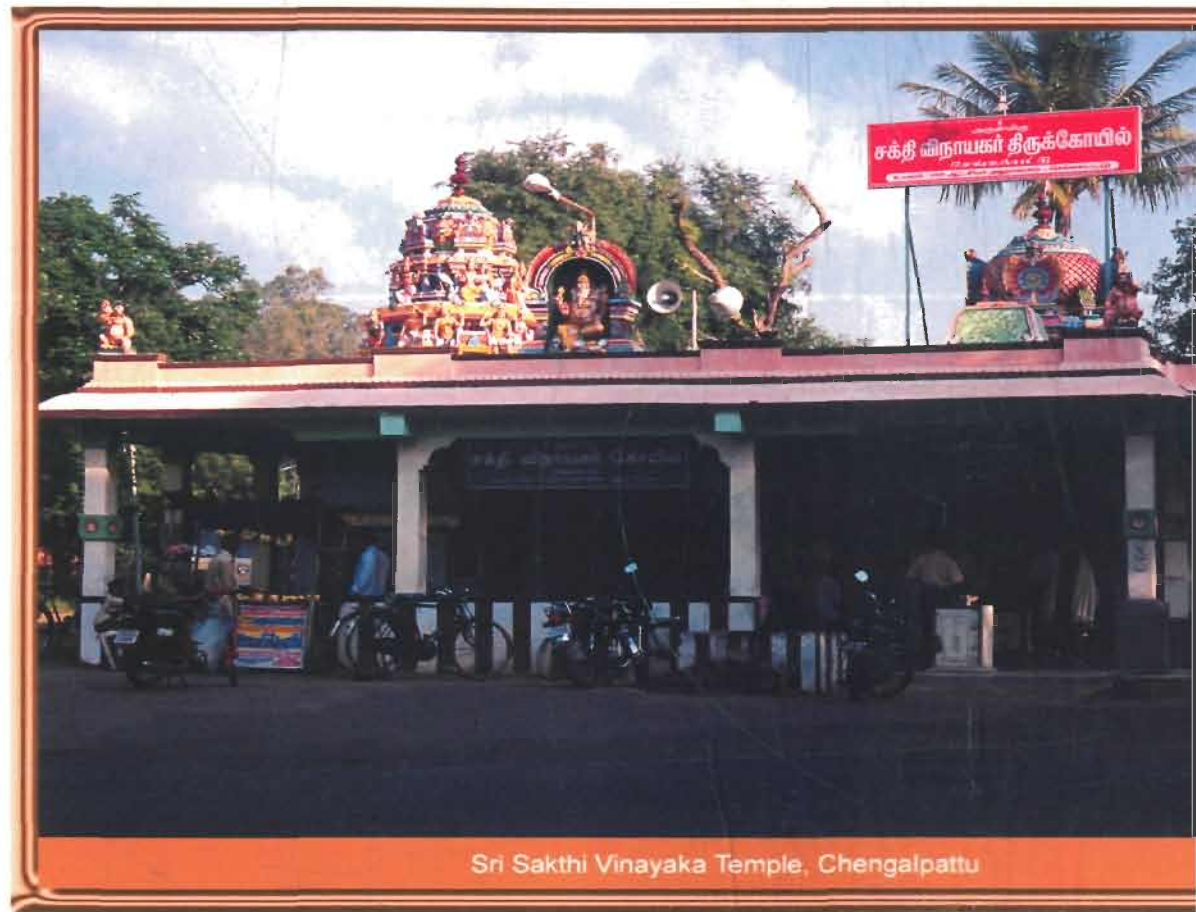
Sri Angala Parameswari Temple

The Sri Angala Parameswari temple is believed to be about 200 years old. It was built out of donations collected from the public. The presiding Goddess is in a sitting pose with four arms. The Gurukkal of the Shiva temple performs pooja twice daily. There are no festivals. A hereditary trustee manages it.





Sri Subrahmaniar at Sri Kandaswamy Temple, Tiruporur



Sri Sakthi Vinayaka Temple, Chengalpattu



Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple, Chengalpattu



Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Chengalpattu



Sri Kailasanathar Temple, Chengalpattu

Sri Kailasanathar and Kothandaramaswamy Temples

The above Shiva and Vishnu temples were built some 200 years ago. There are some inscriptions in the temple. There is a stone inscription to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Queen Victoria (1887) in the Vishnu temple. The Shiva temple is very small; but the Vishnu temple covers an area of 56 cents. Lord Vishnu is seen in a sitting pose as Pattabhirama along with Seetha Devi.

Poojas are performed twice a day. The Shiva temple has neither ornaments nor any land. The Vishnu temple owns 8.32 acres of wetlands and 7.85 acres of dry land. The wooden Vahanam in the Vishnu temple such as Garuda, Adishesha, Hanuman, Horse and Elephant are used during festivals. Brahmothsavam, Navarathri and Sri Rama Navami are the main festivals. The annual income of the Kothandaramaswamy temple as per the records of HR & CE is Rs. 11,598/-. A single trustee manages the affairs of the Shiva temple, while there are two trustees for the Vishnu Temple. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.17,619/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.16,781/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.43,203/-.

Sri Veerabhadraswamy Temple

The local residents built this small temple for the village deity Sri Veerabhadraswamy covering an area of 400 Sq.ft. about 100 years ago. Vigneswara idol has also been installed in the shrine. The main deity in this temple is in a standing posture. Only one pooja is done daily by the hereditary Gurukkal. The temple owns 1.40 acres of dry land and it fetches Rs.4000/- per annum Besides, there are some house sites. No festivals are celebrated. A trustee manages its affairs.

Sri Draupadiamman Temple

The villagers themselves built this temple in Chengalpattu town about a century ago. Kumbhabhishekam was done some

65 years back after some renovations. Sri Draupadiamman in a standing pose is the principal deity; there are idols of Lord Krishna and Arjuna also. The temple is spread over an area of about 50 cents. A hereditary poosari performs the pooja daily once in the morning. The immovable property includes two shops and a few house sites. There are two Kedaya Vahanam made of wood, which are 70 years old. Once in two years a festival is celebrated in the month of Adi for 21 days. On the last day, fire walking by the devotees is observed. The affairs of the temple are managed by a Board of three trustees, who are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Ekambareswarar Temple

The temple is in Chengalpattu town and is an ancient one. Kumbhabhishekam was done some 100 years back after some renovations. The temple has a Raja Gopuram that is 20 ft. in height with 3 tiers. Sri Ekambareswarar and His consort Sri Kamakshiamman are the presiding deities. Sri Subrahmaniar, Sri Vinayaka and the Navagrahas are the other deities. The temple covers an area of 1-½ acres. The Lingam is an installed (Prathishta) one. The hereditary priest of this temple performs poojas daily twice both in the morning and evening. The ornaments consists of a silver “Kavacha” (body cover or armour) and a gold “Padakkam” (locket) studded with precious stones, offered by devotees. All these worth about Rs.29,552/- (As per HR & CE records). The immovable properties of the temple include 6.38 acres of wetlands, 3.40 acres of dry land, buildings, house sites and a tank. An annual income of Rs. 2.00 lakhs (approx.) is derived from these properties. The Vahanam include Peacock, Rishabam (bull) - one big and one small, Horse, Surya Prabhai, Adikara Nandhi, Mooshigam (mouse), Kedayam and 4 Palanquins, which are made of wood. They are about 100 years old. Arudhra, Maha Shivarathri and Panguni Uthiram are the main festivals.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 73,209/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.31,768/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.46,555/-.

The Chettiar community of the village formerly managed the temple affairs. A Board of two trustees who are under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department now administer it.

Sri Sakthi Vinayaka Temple

This temple is located 1 km. south of Chengalpattu Government Hospital on the National Highway connecting Chennai and Trichy. The principal deity Sri Shakti Vinayaka is in a sitting posture facing south. This temple is very famous not only in Chengalpattu but also outside the city. Almost all vehicle drivers plying in this route visit this temple.

A Gurukkal performs pooja twice a day as per Kamika agama. Chithra Pournami and Vinayaka Chaturthi are the main festivals. It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.6,58,618/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.6, 93, 325/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.9, 54, 813/-and for Fasli 1411 – Rs.4, 44, 066/-.

Sri Muthumariamman Temple in Railway Colony

This small temple was built about 100 years ago. There is no Gopuram but a Vimanam. The temple covers an area of 400 sq. ft., which is owned by Southern Railway. The presiding deity is made of cement about 1 ½ ft high. A Gurukkal performs Pooja once daily. Navarathri, Deepam in Karthigai, Margazhi pooja and all Fridays of Adi are important festivals. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 11, 587/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 10, 737/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.16, 879/- . A Trustee appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments administers the affairs of the temple.

MELAMAIYUR (CT-41)

Sri Chinnamuthu Mariamman Temple

The village is located 3 kms. from Chengalpattu. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu which is 1 km. away. The deities are Chinnamuthu Mariamman and Balamurugan. The temple is about 100 years old. There is a Vimanam, Ardhmandapam and Mahamandapam in the temple. The temple covers an area of 19, 019 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is a Sila Vighram (cement work). A Poosari and a Gurukkal performs poojas once a day to Chinnamariamman and Balamurugan respectively. Rs.1200/- worth of jewels are given by devotees. Annual income from Hundi collection is about Rs.30,000/-. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.21, 431/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.16, 329/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.33, 382/-. The main festivals are Adi Uthsavam, Adi Krithigai and Danur masa puja. An Executive Officer of HR & CE Department administers the affairs of the temple.

ALAPAKKAM (CT-42)

No details are available.

MANNIVAKKAM (LC.838)

Sri Manneeswarar Temple

The village Mannivakkam is about 2 miles from Vandalur, which is the nearest Railway Station. It is midway between the district and taluk headquarters, the distance from either being about 17 miles. Bus facilities are available to reach this temple. The presiding deity is Sri Manneeswarar, a Prathishta lingam. This temple covering an area of one acre is an ancient one and renovations were made about 200 years back by one Sri Vedagiri Mudaliar. The Nandi is facing east instead of west. There is a stone inscription in this temple. The temple owns about 40 acres of wet and dry lands but no ornaments. It has three Vahanams, which are in a state of disrepair. A Non-heredi-

tary priest performs Pooja twice daily. Arudhra in Margazhi is the main festival. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs.13, 845/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.12, 586/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.12, 586/-. The management of this temple vests with a Board of three trustees.

VANDALUR R.F. (LC.839)

No Temple

NEDUNGUNDRAM (LC. 840)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

This village is located at 3 km. from Perunkalathur Railway Station. This temple is said to be 300 years old. It has a Gopuram. It believed to have been built by the Pallavas. This temple covers an area of one acre of land. The temple owns about 10 acres of wet and dry lands. There are no ornaments. The annual income of the temple is about Rs.20, 000/-. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja once a day. No special festivals are organized in this temple. A Board of 3 Trustees appointed by the HR & CE manages the affairs of the temple.

PUTHUR (LC.841)

Oothukattu Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

KOLAPPAKKAM (LC.842)

No Temples.

UNAMANCHERI (LC.843)

Sri Perumal Temple & Easwarar Temple

This village is located 5 km from Vandalur Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to this village. The temple occu-

pies an area of 25 cents. These temples are ancient ones. It has some landed property, the details of which are not known. The annual income of these temples is Rs.1, 200/-. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja once a day. There are no special festivals in this temple. A Board of 7 Trustees appointed by the HR & CE manages the affairs of the temple.

RATTINAMANGALAM (LC.844)

Sri Padavetta Amman , Muthala Amman, Ponni Amman , Perumal and Vinayaka Temples

No details are available.

VENGADAMANGALAM (LC.845)

No reputed temples

BOX - 29

Tamil Devotional Literature: Bharatham

Around the 13th Century AD, Srivilliputhurar wrote the Bharatham an adaptation of the Mahabharatha.

Storytellers all over Tamil Nadu enact this epic or hold discourses.

PONMAR (LC.846)

Sri Pillaiyar Temple & Sri Sathipureeswaran Temple

The village Ponmar is about 15 km from Vandalur Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to the village. Some stone inscriptions are available at the temple. These temples were built about 150 years ago. These temples cover an area of about 1.00 acre of land. The principle deity in the Shiva temple is in the form of a Lingam. The Shiva temple owns landed property to an extent of 0.67 acres. A non-hereditary Gurukkal per-

forms Pooja. The temple is under the control of The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

KARANAI (LC.847)

Sri Pidari Amman Temple

No details are available.

THAZHAMBUR (LC.848)

Sri Mamuthu Amman Temple and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

NAVALUR (LC. 849)

Sri Thirunavaleeswarer and Palandiamman temples

The village Navalur is near Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. There are eleven temples in this village. Out of these, Sri Thirunavaleeswarer temple and Sri Palandiamman temples are the important and ancient temples. The first temple is believed to be built 200 years ago and occupies an area of 1 acre. The temple is presently under renovation. The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam. The second temple is said to be 150 years old and occupies an area of 5 cents. Hereditary Poosari from the Andi Pandaram community performs pooja. The month of Adi is considered especially auspicious.

The other temples are Selva Vinayaka, Radha-Rukmani Samedha Gopala Krishna Temple, Ekathamman Temple, Perumal Temple and Krishna Temple.

KANNATHUR REDDYKUPPAM (LC.850)

Sri Thulukkanathamman, Ellaiamman and Puri Jagannatha Temples

This village is located 30 kms from Tambaram Railway Station. Bus facilities are available to reach the village. There are three temples in this village. The age of the first temple is about 70 years. It covers an area of 10 cents. Poojas are performed on Fridays. Main festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The temple has no property. It has a Gopuram that is 15 feet tall.

The age of the second temple is about 80 years. It covers an area of 5 cents. Poojas are performed on Fridays. Main festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The temple has no property. The age of the third temple is about 5 years. The Utkal Association Trust built it. It is built in the style of Kalinga temples. It covers an area of 1 acre. Poojas are performed every day. Main festival is celebrated in the month of June and July. The temple has no property. It has a Gopuram that is 20 feet tall. A Board of 10 Trustees manages it.

MUTHUKADU (LC.851)

Sri Vembuliamman (Vembadiamman) and Nagalamman (Nagathamman) Temples

The village Muttukadu is 27 Kms away from Saidapet Railway Station and 43 Kms away from the Taluk headquarters. Bus facilities are available to reach the village from Saidapet, Chengalpattu and Vandalur. These temples are said to be 100 years old. It is built of brick and mortar. The presiding deities are Sri Vembuliamman and Sri Nagalamman. This temple is built on an area of 0.1-cent land. These temples are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. Vembuliamman temple owns dry lands to an extent of 3 acres. Nagalamman temple owns dry land of about 2 acres. A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. Annual festivals are celebrated in Ani, Adi and Avani months. A Board of

three trustees appointed by HR & CE administers the affairs of these temples.

EGATTUR (LC.852)

Sri Mamuthi Amman, Palandiamman, Gangaiaimman, Ellaiamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

KAZHIPATTUR (LC.853)

Sri Pillaiyar, Padavettamman and Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

SIRUSERI (LC. 854)

Sri Neela Manicka Perumal Temple

The village Siruseri is 20 Kms away from Tambaram Railway Station and 30 Kms away from the Taluk headquarters. Bus facilities are available to reach the village. The temple is said to be 200 years old. The presiding deity is Sri Neela Manicka Perumal This temple is built on an area of 20 cents of land. It owns lands to an extent of 2.70 acres. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day as per Pancharathra Agama.

SONNALLUR R.F. (LC.855)

No temples.

POLACHERI (LC.856)

Bhajan Mandapam

No details are available.

SONALLUR (LC.857)

Bhajan Mandapam

No details are available.

MAMBAKKAM (LC.858)

Sri Muruganadheeswarer and Kariya Manicka Perumal Temples

These temples are situated 12 km. away from Vandalur Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach these temples. These temples were built in 1200 A.D. and 1800 A.D. respectively. Some inscriptions are found in these temples. There are stone idols in these temples. The presiding deity in the Shiva temple is a Lingam. The temple covers 80 cents of land. These lands are leased for cultivation to the highest bidder in auction. The idol of Amman in Shiva temple resembles the idol of Sri Abirami Amman at Thirukkadaiyur. Muruganatheeswarer temple owns 1.51 acres of dry and 1.31 acres of wetland. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja. Special Poojas are performed on the days of Shivarathri, Amavasai, Pradhosham and Pournami.

Kariya Manicka Perumal temple owns wetland of 0.20 acres, which are cultivated through auction. There are no jewels in these temples. These two temples are under the control of HR & CE.

KEELAKOTTIYUR (LC.859)

No details are available.

MELAKOTTIYUR (LC.860)

No details are available.

NALLAMBAKKAM (LC.861)

Sri Perumal, Pillaiar, Varadapuri Amman, Muthallathamman and Meiyathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

UNAMANCHERI R.F. (LC.862)

No temples are available.

ARUNGAL (LC.863)

Sri Mariamman and Selliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KARANAI PUDUCHERI (LC.864)

Sri Moonukoil Amman, Pidariamman Mayileeamman and Kangothiamman Temples

No significant details are available.

GUDALORE R.F. (LC.865)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal, Kangai amman and Narasimha Perumal Temples

These temples are located at Gudalore village situated 3 Kms away from Maraimalai Nagar Railway Station and 15 Kms from Chengalpattu. These two temples are 150 years old. Hereditary Gurukkal performs daily poojas. Lakshmi Narayana Perumal temple has a property of 2.46 acres of wet and 0.10 acre of dry land. Narasimha Perumal Temple has a property of 0.50 acre of wetland. Special Poojas are performed during Purattasi Saturdays.

KAYARAMBEDU (LC.866)

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal and Thiruvaakeswarar Temples

The village Kayarambedu is 6 Kms away from Guduvancheri Railway Station on the Nellikuppam-Guduvancheri road. Buses from Guduvancheri to Nellikuppam take the passengers to this village. The presiding deity of this temple is Sri Kariamanicka Perumal. The temple is believed to have been built about 2 centuries back and covers an area of nearly half an acre. It has 4.80 acres of wetland and 1.54 acres of dry lands. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs daily pooja. Special poojas are performed in the days of Purattasi Saturday.

Sri Thiruvaakeswarar Temple is said to be 200 years old. It occupies 5 cents of land. It has no property. The goddess in this temple is known as Karpagambal. The other temples in the village are: Sri Kasi Amman Temple, Sri Venu Gopala Swamy Temple, Raja Ganapathi Temple and Vara Siddhi Vinayaka Temple.

PERUMATHUNALLUR (LC.867)

Sri Adikesava Perumal and Kailasanathar Temples

The above temples in Pandur village are located at a distance of 25 Kms from the Taluk headquarters. They are connected by both bus and train, the nearest Railway Station being Kalathur, which is about 8 miles off. The age and origin of these temples are not known. Sri Adikesavaperumal with His consort Ubayanachiyar and Sri Kailasanathar with His consort Sri Thirupurasundari are the presiding deities of the temples respectively. Sri Subramaniam, Vinayaka and the Navagrahas are the other deities in the Kailasanathar temple. Renovations and Kumbhabhishekam were performed about 4 decades ago by the trustees. The area of the Adhikesavaperumal temple is

about 25 cents, while that of Kailasanathar temple is about 20 cents. The Lingam in the Shiva temple is not a Swayambu and the Main deity Perumal is in a standing posture.

Pooja is performed once daily in both the temples by a Bhattacharya and Gurukkal respectively, whose offices are not hereditary. The Shiva temple owns 20 acres of wet and dry lands while the Perumal temple has 13 acres, which are under lease cultivation. Each temple owns a wooden Kedaya vahanam of 65 years old. The main festivals are Thiruvadhira in the Shiva temple, Chithra Pournami and Thirumanjanam in the Vishnu temple. Formerly, the temple affairs were managed by the Zamindars. Now a Board of two trustees who are under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department administer it.

KUMUZHI RF (LC.868)

No temple.

KEERAPPAKKAM (LC.869)

Sri Thulukanathu Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

MURUGAMANGALAM (LC.870)

Sri Mariamman Temple

No significant details are available.

MAMBAKKAM RF (LC.871)

No temple.

PUDUPAKKAM (LC.872)

Sri Veera Anjaneya Temple

The village is at a distance of 22 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station and bus facilities are available to reach the temple. The temple is an old one. It covers an area of 9.06.5 hectares and is located on top of a hillock. A Gurukkal performs Pooja once daily. The temple has an income of Rs. 15, 000/- per annum. Saturdays and Sundays are auspicious in this temple.

PADUR (LC.873)

Sri Vembuli Amman, Padavatta Amman, Angala Amman, Alangari Amman, Thulukanathu Amman, Kanni Amman, Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KUNNAKKADU (LC.874)

No details are available.

KOVALAM (LC.875)

Sri Kailasanathar Swamy Temple

The village Kovalam is at a distance of 25 Kms away from Tambaram Railway Station and bus facilities are available to reach the temple. The temple is believed to be around 700 years old. It covers an area of 16000 Sq.ft. The temple has a single storey Vimanam and an Ardha Mandapam. The presiding deity, Sri Kailasanathaswamy is in the form of a Lingam. Some renovations were made about four decades ago. The area of the temple is half an acre. A Gurukkal performs Pooja once daily. The temple owns 4 ½ acres of land. Arudhra and Shivarathri are celebrated annually. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple

The presiding deity, Sri Anjaneya Swamy, faces west in a standing pose with his hands folded. The age and origin of the temple is not known. About 80 years back, it was renovated by Sri Porooran Nayakar. It covers an area of 2 ½ cents. No pooja is performed except lighting of lamps daily. The annual festival is celebrated on the day of Krithigai asterism in Karthigai month. The affairs of the temple are managed by a Board of three trustees.

Sri Draupadiamman, Ekavalliamman, and Moola Shakti Amman Temples

The temples are believed to be around 200 years old. It occupies an area of 7200 Sq.ft. There are four Uthsava murthies, which are more than 100 years old. The temple owns 3.42 acres of dry land. Daily poojas are performed by a poosari. Special pooja is performed in the month of Adi. The annual income of these three temples as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 6, 255/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 26, 123/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.10, 126/-. These temples are under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

SEMENCHERI (LC.876)

No details are available.

KELAMBAKKAM (LC.877)

Sri Vinayaka, Paduvettu Renukambigai, Kali Amman and Thulukanathu Amman Temples

The village is at a distance of 22 Kms away from Vandalur Railway Station and bus facilities are available to reach the temple. Sri Vinayaka temple is 25 years old. It occupies an area of 0.15 cents. The temple owns 0.11.5 hectares of land. Padavettu Renukambigai temple is 20 years old. It occupies an area of 2

cents. The temple owns 00.07.5 hectares of land. Kali Amman temple is 75 years old. It occupies an area of 2 cents.

Thulukanathu Amman temple is 15 years old. It occupies an area of 2 cents. No more details available on these temples.

SATHANKUPPAM (LC.878)

No details are available.

VELICHI (LC.879)

Sri Pasupatheeswarer, Sundara Varadharaja Perumal Temples

Velichai village is about 18 Kms away from Vandalur Railway Station. The above two temples cover an area of 2 acres and were built in 1999 by a local holy man called Sadashiva Brahmendra. There is no property in these temples. The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam in the Shiva Temple. Daily poojas are performed. Special poojas are performed during the days of Pradhosham, Navarathri, Vaikunta Ekadasi and Natarajar Abhisheka. It is a private place of worship.

KOLATHUR (LC.880)

Sri Thiru Narayana Perumal Temple

The village is 14 Kms from Vandalur Railway Station and 36 Kms from Taluk headquarters. The presiding deity is Sri Thiru Narayana Perumal. The temple believed to have been built about 120 years back on an area of half an acre. It has wet and dry lands to the extent of 10.44 acres. A non-hereditary Bhattacharya performs Pooja once daily.

Sri Kalyana Ranga Nayaka Perumal Temple

This is an ancient temple where the presiding deity is Sri Kalyana Ranga Nayaka Perumal. It is built on an area of 35

cents of land. Local residents had carried out some renovations four decades ago. It owns about 8.35 acres of wet and dry lands. Poojas are not performed daily. Sri Desikar festival is celebrated annually in the month of Purattasi.

KOLATHUR R.F. (LC.881)

No temples are available.

PANANGATHUPAKKAM (LC.882)

No details are available.

AMMANAMBAKKAM (LC.883)

No details are available.

KUMIZHI (LC.884)

No temple.

OTHIVAKKAM (LC.885)

Sri Pazhandiamman, Chengeniamman, Otheeswarar

No significant details are available.

KANNIVAKKAM (LC.886)

No temple.

PANDUR (LC.887)

No Temple.

KATTANKOLATHUR R.F. (LC.888)

No temple.

APPUR R.F. (LC.889)

No temple.

BOX - 30

Saint Ramanuja

Saint Ramanuja was born in Sriperumbudur in the year AD 1027. His initiation to Vedanta was under Sri Yadavaprakasa of Kancheepuram. He then came under the tutelage of Saint Alavandar. Settling down at Srirangam, Saint Ramanuja wrote Vedantasara, Vedarthasangraha and Vedantadipa. He also composed his renowned commentaries on the Brahma Sutra and the Bhagavad Gita. He is the founder of the school of philosophy that is known as "Vishishtadvaita". This laid great emphasis on Bhakthi or devotion. According to him Jnana Yoga is only meditation on the nature of the soul for the purpose of the realization that it is different from its physical sheath. But Bhakthi Yoga is a higher form of meditation, accompanied by love, on the nature of God for the purpose of realising the soul's relation to him. Absolute self-surrender to the Lord is his message. Saint Ramanuja toured around South India and revived many temples and converted large number of people to Vaishnavism.

PERUMALTHANGAL (LC.890)

No temple.

SENTHAMANGALAM (LC.891)

No temple.

APPUR (LC.892)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The village is 6 Kms from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station and 15 Kms from Taluk headquarters. The presiding deity is Sri Agastheeswarar. The temple believed to be built about 50 years back on an area of 20 cents. It has wet and dry lands measuring 3.0 acres. A non-hereditary priest performs Pooja once daily. Special festivals are held in the month of Purattasi. 4 Trustees manage the temple. There is also a Perumal temple in the village.

THALIMANGALAM (LC.893)

No temple.

KALVOY (LC.894)

Sri Pillayar, Draupadi amman and Pidariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

HASTHINAPURAM (LC.895)

No details are available.

OTHIVAKKAM R.F.(LC.896)

No details are available.

KAYAR R.F. (LC.897)

No details are available.

KAYAR (LC.898)

Sri Adi Easwarar Temple

This temple is situated at a distance of 15 Kms away from Guduvancheri Railway Station. It is believed to be 300 years old. Renovations were carried out recently through HR & CE Board. It is spread over an area of 1300 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam. The temple owns 2.11 acres of land. A Gurukkal performs Poojas. Karthigai Deepam is celebrated annually. Trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Varadharaja Perumal Temple

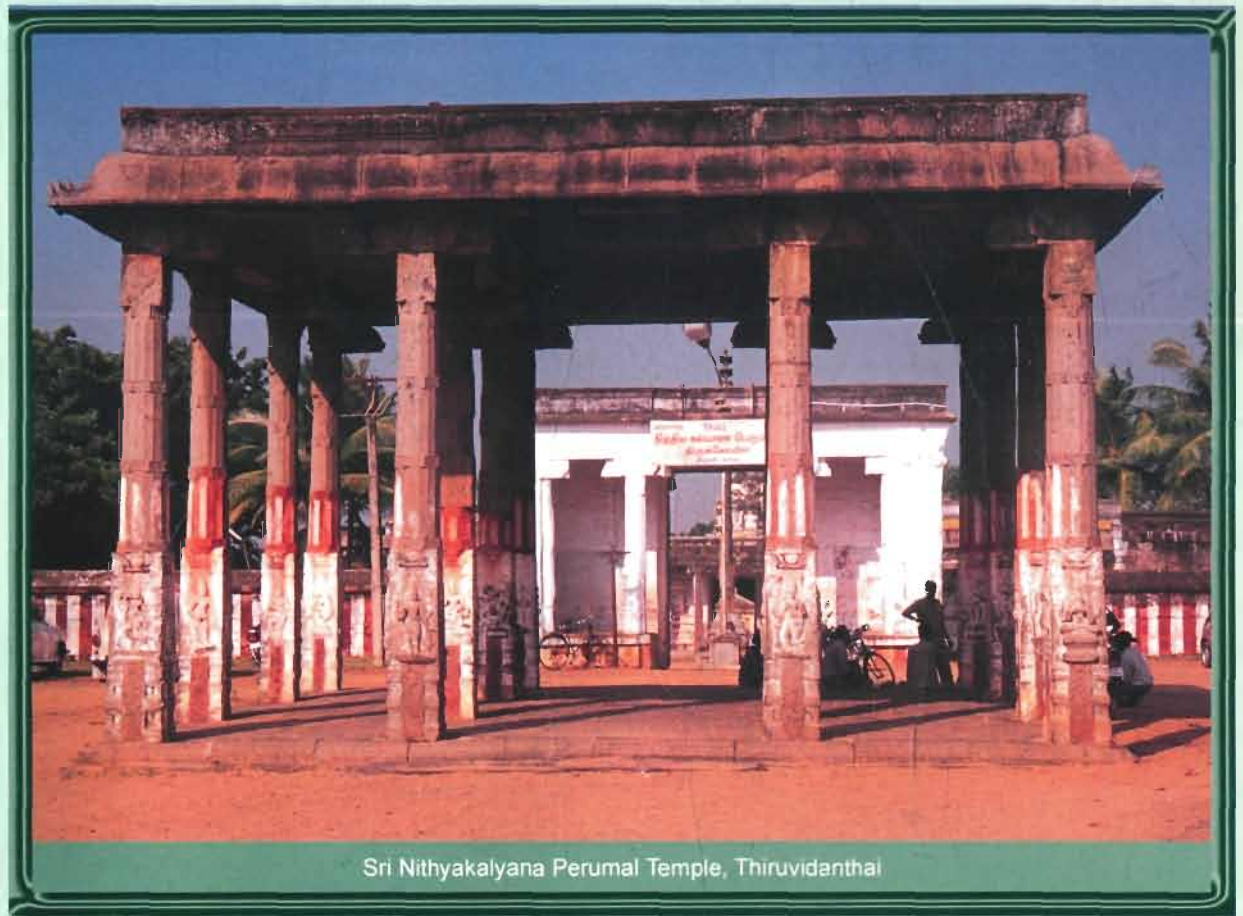
This temple is situated on the Tambaram-Tiruporur highway and 15 Kms from Guduvancheri Railway Station. It is believed to be about 300 years old. The HR & CE Board recently renovated it. This temple is built on an area of 1150 Sq.ft. and there are 7 main idols of Perumal, Thayar and Alwar. A lawsuit is on in respect of 3.22 acres of temple lands. The temple is under the jurisdiction of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

THAIYUR (LC.899)

Sri Senganmadaleswarar Temple

Thaiyur is at a distance of 36 Kms from Chengalpattu and 27 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station and can be reached by bus. This temple is dedicated to Shiva and the Lingam is not Swayambu. There are a number of Uthsava murthies. It had 53 acres of wet and dry lands under leased cultivation (in 1961). A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs one pooja daily. One Namasivaya Chettiar, who made renovations and performed Kumbhabhishekam of this temple in 1912, gifted the jewels.

As per legend, Lord Vishnu was once performing pooja to Lord Shiva with 1008 flowers. However, at the end of the





Thayar Shrine at Sri Nithyakalyana Perumal Temple, Thiruvandanthai



Sri Nithyakalyana Perumal Temple, Thiruvandanthai

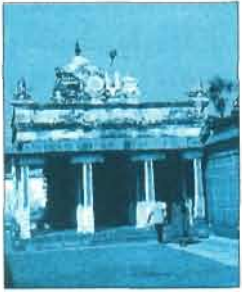
pooja he found that there were only 1007 flowers and that one flower was missing. On account of this Lord Vishnu's eyes became red in rage. To mark this, Lord Shiva is named Chenganmal (Shiva worshipped by a red eyed Vishnu).

Ten trustees look after the affairs of the temple. The month of Chithirai is considered auspicious.

Sri Murugeswaraswamy Temple

This temple is dedicated to Lord Murugeswaraswamy and His consort Sri Maragathambal. It covers an area of 1.72 acres and is believed to be 200 years old. The temple has 41.25 acres of wet and dry lands. A Gurukkal performs Poojas twice a day. A trustee manages the affairs of this temple.

THIRUVIDANTHAI (LC.900)



Sri Nithyakalyana Perumal Temple

The village Thiruvandanthai is at a distance of 28 Kms from Tambaram Railway Station and 43 Kms from Chengalpattu. It is located near Kovalam on the East Coast Road connecting Chennai and Pondicherry. Private transport facilities are also available from Kovalam Beach. This temple standing on an area of 2 ½ acres is believed to be 1200 years old, built by Chola rulers. It is one of the 108 Divya Desams of Vaishnavism. The presiding deity is Adi Varaha Perumal. Uthsavar is Nithya Kalyana Perumal with Consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. The Vimanam is of the Kalyana vimana type.

There are three theertham (tanks) – Kalyana theertham, Varaha theertham and Ranganatha theertham.

There are stone inscriptions in Tamil in the Sannidhi. They give us the following details:

- This village was given as grant by Vijayarajendra Chola on his 35th year of rule (1052 A.D.)
- Raja Raja Chola-I celebrated a 9-day Panguni Uthiram festival on his 19th year of ascending the throne (1003 A.D.)
- Raja Raja Chola-I ordered and gave grants to celebrate a 7-day festival on his birthday.
- Kulottunga Cholas 45th Year (1115 A.D.) inscription indicates the existence of a mutt known as Kalichhingan Mutt run by Thirumangai Aiyar.

As per legend, Saint Thirumangai Alwar visited this temple and composed 10 stanzas in praise of the deity in the Nalayira Divya Prabhandam. As per another legend, Galava Rishi had 360 daughters. He did penance to Lord Vishnu asking him to marry them. Accordingly, the Lord married all the girls at the rate of one girl per day. The eldest daughter was Komalavalli, who is installed in a separate shrine in this temple. The God is supposed to have converted all the remaining 359 daughters into one form who came to be known as Akilavalli Thayar.

The principal deity is 61/2 feet in height, in the form of Varaha (Pig) standing on His right foot with his consort Sri Akilavalli Nachiyar on his left thigh. Adisheshan and His consort are seen supporting this left leg. This pose is unique.

The temple owns lands to the extent of 35.66 acres of wet and 399.73 acres of dry lands. It also owns buildings and house sites. The total annual income from all sources is Rs.15.00 lakhs. The temple owns some antique jewels. The Vairamudi (Diamond Crown) deserves special mention. The temple has a Car, which is 29 feet tall. There are 13 Vahanam in the temple of which a Palanquin made of ivory is very beautiful and of great value. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.4, 41, 012/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.5, 53, 285/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.5, 23, 546/-.

Poojas are conducted as per the Vaikanasa Agama, 4 times a day. Special poojas are: Ani Garuda Sevai, Adi Pooram, Gajendran Moksham, Sri Jayanthi, Uriadi, Navarathri, Vijaya Dasami, Karthigai Deepam, Masi Magam, Brahmotsavam and Vasantha Uthsavam. There is a strong belief that single persons get married within a year after visiting this temple and performing special prayers.

Five trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department administers the affairs of the temple.

VADANEMMELI (LC.901)

No temple.

NEMMELI (LC.902)

Sri Amman Temple

The village is located 41 Kms away from Chengalpattu and has bus facilities. It is an ancient temple occupying an area of 0.3 cents. A Poosari conducts pooja. A speciality in this temple is that the Mahabharatham is read over an 18-day period every year at the end of which devotees walk over fire.

SENGADU (LC.903)

Sri Gangaiamman Temple

No significant details are available.

ILLALUR (LC.904)

Sri Swayambu Easwarar Temple and Kali Ammal Temples

The village is located 22 Kms from the Taluk Headquarters and bus facilities are available. Both the temples are said to be more than 150 years old. These temples occupy 3 cents each.

The Shiva temple has a Swayambu Lingam. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 0.90.5 hectares of land. The second temple owns 0.29.5 hectares of land, which are given out on yearly lease. The full-moon day and the month of Adi are considered auspicious.

THAIYUR R.F. (LC.905)

No temple.

VEMBEDU (LC.906)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The village is located 27 Kms from the Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are also available to this village. This temple is believed to be 200 years old and covers an area of 12 cents. The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam. A Gurukkal performs daily poojas. The temple is under the control of Hindu religious & Charitable Endowments Department. 7 trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

NELLIKUPPAM (LC.907)

Sri Vendavarahi Amman and Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temples

The village is located 29 Kms away from Chengalpattu and bus facilities are available. The temples are believed to be more than 100 years old occupying an area of 25 cents. The Amman Temple owns 0.57.0 hectares of land and the Perumal temple 1.23.0 hectares of land, which are on lease cultivation. The month of Adi is considered auspicious.

KALVOY R.F. (LC.908)

No temples.

AGARAM (LC. 909)

Sri Adikesava Perumal and Chelliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KONDANGI (LC.910)

Sri Easwarar Temple

The village is located 22 Kms from the Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are also available to this village. This temple is believed to be 600 years old and covers an area of 4 cents. The temple is in a dilapidated condition and there are no daily poojas. The other temples are Pillaiyar temple, Palandiamman Temple and Padavettamman temples.

MARUDERI (LC.911)

Sri Pidari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

KARUNILAM (LC.912)

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal Temple

The village is 24 Kms from Chengalpattu. Bus facilities are available. The presiding deity is Sri Kariamanicka Perumal. This temple standing on an area of 2 cents of land is believed to be about a century old. It owns 6 acres of dry lands. Poojas are performed daily. The villagers themselves are maintaining this temple.

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

The presiding deity is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal. This temple covering an area of 2 cents is believed to be about 140

years old. It has 6 acres of dry lands. One pooja is done daily. The local residents manage the temple.

The other temples in this village are Sri Subrahmaniar Temple, Muthumariamman Temple and Vinayaka Temple. The age of these temples is said to be 60 years. No other details are available.

KARAMBUR (LC.913)

Sri Perumal Temple, Selliamman Temple and Alavattamman Temple

No significant details are available.

SENGUNDRAM R.F. (LC.914)

No temples.

KOLATHUR (LC.915)

Sri Narayana Perumal Temple

The village is located at a distance of 2 Kms from the Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are not available to this village. This temple is believed to be 300 years old and covers an area of 50 cents. Sri Narayana Perumal Bhakta Jana Sabha renovated this temple. A Bhattacharya performs daily poojas. There are jewels worth Rs. 40,000 in the temple. Parivettai is an annual festival in this temple. Hereditary trustees under the control of HR & CE Department manage the affairs of the temple.

DASARI KUNNATHUR (LC.916)

No temple.

GURUVANMEDU (LC.917)

Sri Ulla Ooran Amman Temple

This temple is situated at a distance of 9 Kms from Villiambakkam Railway Station. It is said to be 200 years old. The temple covers an area of 56 Sq. Mts. It has landed property of 1.20 hectares. A hereditary Poosari from the Vanniar community performs Pooja. Special festivals are celebrated during Adi and Avani month. The affairs of the temple are managed by the Executive Officer, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

MELMANAPAKKAM (LC.918)

Sri Vinayaka and Selliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

PALUR (LC.919)

Sri Easwarar, Vinayaka, Perumal, Muthalamman and Peralamman Temples

No significant details are available.

VILLIAMBAKKAM (LC.920)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal and Thokkeaswarar Temple

The village of Villiambakkam is at a distance of about 10 Kms from Chengalpattu. The temple is 1 km. away from the Villiambakkam Railway Station. These temples are ancient ones built about 500 years ago. In 1942, after some renovations, a Kumbhabhishekam was performed for the Perumal Temple. The Perumal temple covers an area of one acre. The presiding deity is Sri Srinivasa Perumal. The Main deity is in a standing posture. The other deities are Lord Krishna, Alamelumangai

Thayar and Ubaya Nachiyar. A non-hereditary Bhattacharya performs Poojas every morning as per Vaikanasa Agama. The temple has 6.70 acres of wet and dry lands. There is a Kedayam made of wood, which is said to be 100 years old. Adi Pooram, Panguni Uthiram, Purattasi Shravanam, Dhanur masa Pooja, Boghi Uthsavam and Parivettai are the regular annual festivals observed by the temple. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The Shiva temple in the village, where the presiding deity is Sri Thokkeaswarar is in a dilapidated condition and no poojas are performed.

SASTHIRAMBAKKAM (LC.921)

No prominent temple.

VEMBAKKAM (LC.922)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

The village Venbakkam is at a distance of 5 Kms from Singaperumalkoil and 15 Kms from Chengalpattu. Bus facilities are available to reach this temple. The presiding deity is Sri Srinivasa Perumal with His consort Sri Alamelumangai Thayar. Sri Vengadam Krishnamachariar and Sri Somyaji Rangachariar built this temple on an area of one acre of land about 300 years ago. The temple owns 19.90 acres of wet and 48.10 acres of dry lands. Bhattacharya performs one pooja daily as per Vaikanasa agama. One Palanquin and a Garuda are among the Vahanam of this temple. There are some ornaments worth Rs.1, 26, 922.50 (as per HR & CE records). Thirukalyanam in Margazhi and Thirumalai Parivettai are the main festivals.

The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.43, 485/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.30,335/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.39, 798/-. The HR & CE manages the affairs of this temple.



Sri Gnanapureswarar Temple, Thiruvadisoolam



Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple, Oragadam



Sri Vadamalleeswarar Temple, Oragadam

VENKATAPURAM (LC.923)

No details are available.

KONGADU (LC.924)

No details are available.

CHETTIPUNYAM (L.C.NO.925)

Sri Devanatha Perumal Temple

The village Chettipunyam is 6 kms. from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. The presiding deity is Sri Devanatha Perumal. It is said that one Sri Appalarangam built it about 150 years ago on about 50 cents of land. One, Mysore Diwan Sirasdhar Rao Sahib Rangachari built the Rama shrine. Renovations were made during the middle of Nineteenth Century and in the beginning of the 20th Century. This temple owns some jewels worth Rs.80, 000/-. The temple has 33.0 acres of wet and 22.11 acres of dry lands which fetch an annual income of Rs.15, 000/-. The main festivals are Thiru Parivettai and Sri Rama Navami and Vaikunta Ekadasi. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 14, 242/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 20, 221/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.30, 217/-. The temple is under the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

THIRUTHERI (LC.926)

Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Temple

The village is about 8 Kms from Chengalpattu. Bus facilities are also available to reach this village. The presiding deity is Varasiddhi Vinayaka. The annual income of the temple under the control of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.11, 776/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.13, 813/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.16, 235/-. No other details are available.

Sri Chamundeeswari Amman Temple and Sri Atheeswaran Temples

These temples are 100 years old and cover an area of 0.22 hectares and 0.055 hectares respectively. These temples own neither landed property nor any jewels. A Poosari performs one pooja on all Fridays in both the temples. No other details are available.

KACHADIMANGALAM (LC.927)

Sri Karukatha Amman Temple

The village is about 12 Kms from Chengalpattu. Bus facilities are also available to reach this village. The presiding deity is Karukatha Amman. The villagers built the temple 100 years ago. It covers an area of 240 sq ft. It owns 51 cents of wetland. The annual income of the temple is Rs. 3000/- per annum. A hereditary Poosari performs poojas on all Fridays and special occasions. The third week of Adi is considered auspicious. 6 trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Muthial Amman Temple

The presiding deity is Muthial Amman. The villagers built the temple 110 years ago. It covers an area of 240 sq ft. It owns 0.82.5 cents of wetland. The annual income from property is Rs. 3000/-. A hereditary Poosari performs poojas on all Fridays and special occasions. The third week of Adi is considered auspicious. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

KONDAMANGALAM (LC.928)

Sri Ponniamman Temple

No significant details are available.

HANUMANTHAPURAM (L.C.NO.929)

Sri Veerabhadraswamy Temple

Hanumanthapuram is 12 Kms from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station on the Tiruporur road, which is covered by bus service. The presiding deity of this temple is Sri Veerabhadraswamy. This temple, built on an acre of land, is believed to be 5 centuries old. It has wet and dry lands to the extent of 25.84 acres (4.29 acres wet & 21.55 acres dry land) which are under auction lease cultivation. The annual income from lease is Rs.4, 000/-. The temple owns jewels worth Rs.10,436/- and it has Vahanam which are about 70 years old.

A hereditary Gurukkal performs three poojas a day. Thai Poosam, Pournami, Amavasai, Maha Shivarathri in Masi month are celebrated as the annual festivals. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 47, 059/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 46, 375/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.55, 983/-. The management of this temple vests with two trustees. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

SIRUKUNDRAM R.F. (LC.930)

No temple.

MELAIYUR R.F. (LC.931)

No temple.

KIZHUR (LC.932)

Sri Gangai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

KATTUR (LC.933)

Sri Vaithiyalingeswarar Temple

This village is located at 23 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. This temple believed to be built about 250 years ago. It covers an area of 5 cents. The presiding deity is a Swayambu lingam. An honorary Poosari performs daily poojas. There is no property. A board of five trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

ILLALUR R.F.(LC.934)

No temple.

EDAYANKUPPAM (LC.935)

No temple.

BOX - 31

Seasons- Rithu

Twelve months form six seasons. These are:

Vasantha-Spring; Grishma-Summer; Varsha-Rain;

Sharad-Autumn; Hemantha-Early Winter and

Sisira-Late Winter.

KRISHANANKARANAI (LC.936)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

THANDALAM (LC.937)

Sri Palandiamman Temple

The village Thandalam is 27 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facility is also available to reach this village. The temple is 50 years old and was built by the villagers. This temple covers an area of 400 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is made of metal. Pooja is performed on Full Moon day. Apart from this an annual festival is also celebrated. No other details are available.

EDAYANKUPPAM R.F. (LC.938)

No temple.

MADATHUR (LC.939)

No temple.

KATTUR R.F.(LC.940)

No temple.

KOTTAMEDU (LC.941)

Sri Jalakanteeswarar Temple

The village Kottamedu is 19 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and can be reached by bus from Chengalpattu. The presiding deity is Sri Jalakanteeswarar, which is not a Swayambu. This temple believed to have been built about 150 years ago on 10 cents of land. The local residents raised the compound walls and the temple for Navagrahas. It has lands to the extent of 6.25.09 hectares that are under Lease cultivation. An annual income of Rs.16, 000/- is derived from the lease amount. A non-hereditary Gurukkal offers daily one pooja. Karthigai Deepam, Arudhra and Shivrathi are the important festivals celebrated. The annual income of the temple as per the re-

ords of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 10, 389/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.16, 295/-. The administration is under the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The other temples in the village are Selliamman and Perumal Temples.

VENGUR (LC.942)

Sri Vinayaka, Thullukanathamman and Ponniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

SIRUNKUNDRAM (LC.943)

Sri Putridankondeeswarar Temple

The village is 12 Kms from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station and can be reached by bus. The presiding deity is Sri Putridankondeeswarar and other deities are Sivagami Amman, Eswaran, Murugan, Valli and Deivayanai. There is also a Vaishnavite temple close by. The temple is believed to have been built about 350 years ago on 15 acres of land. It owns 0.24 hectares wet and 0.45 hectares of dry lands, which fetch the temple, an income of Rs.4500/- per annum Except daily poojas no other festivals are celebrated. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 2, 156/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 11, 170/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.36, 849/-. The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department have appointed a trustee to look after the affairs of the temple.

DASARIKUPPAM (LC.944)

No Temple.

ANJUR R.F. (LC.945)

No temple.

ANJUR (LC.946)

Sri Pidari Vilakkathamman Temple

The village Anjoor Grammam is 4 Kms from Singaperumalkoil Railway Station. This temple is believed to have been built about 100 years ago. The presiding deity of this temple is Pidari Amman. The temple covers an area of 200 Sq. ft. A Gurukkal performs Pooja twice daily.

Sri Kariyamanicka Perumal Temple

This temple covers an area of 210 Sq. ft. The presiding deity of this temple is Kariyamanicka Perumal. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas twice a day. No other details are available.

Sri Somanatha Easwarar Temple

This temple is built on an area of 350 Sq.ft. The presiding deity of this temple is Easwarar and poojas are performed two times in a day by a Gurukkal. The temple lands were sold out and the proceeds were deposited in various Nationalized Banks through Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. Chithirai Varusha Pirappu (New Year Day) Vizha, Ayudha Pooja, Karthigai Deepam, Pongal Thiruvizha and Panguni Uthiram are celebrated annually. The affairs of the temple are managed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

THENMELPAKKAM (LC.947)

Sri Draupadi Amman, Agastheeswarar, Kamala Vinayaka, Sundareswarar, Pidariamman and Mariamman Temples

The village is located 14 Kms from Chengalpattu and bus facilities are available. The age of the first temple is said to be 150 years; the other temple is said to be 100 years old. Each of these temples occupies an area of 5000 Sq.ft. Daily poojas are per-

formed. The first temple owns 0.67.5 hectares of land, the second temple owns 1.86.0 hectares of land, and the third temple owns 0.16.5 hectares of land. A 10-day Mahabaratham festival is celebrated in the village in the month of Avani.

VEERAPURAM (LC.948)

Sri Thanthoniamman Temple

No significant details are available.

Box - 32

Adi Sankara's links with Kancheepuram

Several sources of authentic information lead to the conclusion that Sri Adi Sankara was born at Kaladi on the fifth day of the bright fortnight of the Vaisaka month of the cyclic year Nandana - Kali 2593 corresponding to 509 B.C.

According to one school of thought, Sri Adi Sankara placed one of the five-sphatika lingams - the Yoga Lingam for his own personal worship and that of his successors at Kanchi. Scholars of this school cite a number of authoritative texts to establish that Sri Adi Sankara repaired to Kanchi, the 'Southern Mokshapuri', towards the end of his earthly career and shook off his moral coils and attained the 'cit-svarupa', (eternal bliss) at Kanchi, in his 32nd year - Cyclic year Raktakshi, Adhika Rishabha Maasa, Sukla Ekadasi - Kali 2625 (477 B.C.)

Sri Adi Sankara got Kanchi city remodeled and also caused the reconstruction of the three principal temples of Kanchi, viz., the temples of Sri Ekambranathar, Devi Kamakshi and Sri Varadharaja with the assistance of Rajasena, ruler of Kanchi.

PARANUR (LC.949)

Sri Mariamman, Chelliamman, Dharmaraja, Perumal, Pillaiyar Temples and Bajana Madam

No significant details are available.

PARANUR R.F. (LC.950)

No temple.

KANTHALUR (LC.951)

Sri Mariamman, Pillaiyar and Chelliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

IDEYANKODUMANTHANGAL (LC.952)

No details are available.

ATHUR (LC.953)

Sri Kalyana Varadharajar and Mutheeswarar Temples

This village Athoor is 10 Kms from Chengalpattu. The temple is 2 kms. from Athoor Railway Station. The presiding deity is Sri Kalyana Varadharaja perumal in standing posture in the Vishnu temple and Muktheeswarar in the form of Pradhishta Lingam in Shiva Temple. Poojas are performed once daily by a hereditary Priest as per Vaikhanasa agamam. These two temples own 13.64 acres of dry land and 46.67 acres of wetlands, which are under lease cultivation through Auction. The main festivals are celebrated in the month of Purattasi and Karthigai. Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department through 3 trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Ellamman Temple

This shrine is about 100 years old. The Presiding deity is Ellamman. The area of the temple is 40' x 40'. The temple owns land to the extent of 1.70 acres of wetlands and 3.20 acres of dry lands, which fetch Rs.5000/- per annum through auction. A poosari performs pooja once a day and he gets a salary for the service. The affairs of the temple are managed by a Single trustee.

Sri Padavattamman Temple

This temple is believed to have been built about 350 years ago. It covers an area of 500 Sq.ft. The presiding deity of this temple is Padavettamman, an idol of Panchalogam. It owns 1.15-hectare lands. The income from the land is Rs.5, 000/-. Poojas are performed by villagers. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi.

Sri Pidari Thulliamman Temple

This temple is believed to have been built about 125 years ago. It covers an area of 1050 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is made of Panchalogam. Villagers perform Poojas. It owns 0.97 hectares lands. The annual income of the temple is Rs. 5000/-. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The affairs of these two Padavattamman and Pidari Thulliamman temples are maintained by village trustees.

PULIPAKKAM (LC.954)

Sri Vyagrapureeswarar Temple

The village Pulippakkam is 1 ½ miles from Chengalpattu Railway Station. This is one of the two temples in the village. The presiding deity is Lord Vyagrapureeswarar which is not a Swayambu. The temple occupies an area of 425 Sq.ft. and is believed to have been built about five centuries ago. It owns 2.77.0 hectares of lands. Poojas are done once daily; the

Kirithigai festival is celebrated every year. A hereditary trustee is in charge of this temple affair.

Sri Pundareega Varadaraja Perumal Temple

The presiding deity of this Vishnu temple is Lord Pundareega Varadaraja Perumal. The shrine covers an area of 672 Sq.ft. and came into existence along with the Shiva temple. It has 1.33.0 hectares of lands. Daily poojas are performed once a day. Krithigai is the annual festival. Two trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

RAJAKULIPETTAI (LC.955)

Sri Vinayaka Temple and Kangaiaimman Temples

No significant details are available.

HANUMANTHAI (LC.956)

Sri Pidariamman and Ponniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KUNNAVAKKAM (LC.957)

Sri Venugopalswamy Temple

The village Kunnavaikkam is 7 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Mini Buses are also available to reach this temple. This temple is believed to have been built about 400 years ago. The presiding deity is Sri Venugopalan and other deities are Ubaya Nachiyar, Sri Andal, Senai Mudaliyar, Thirumangai Alwar, Vishvigneshwarar, Ramanujar and Manavala Munivar. This temple was renovated during year 1996-1997. Flute Singing Venugopala is the special deity in this temple. Bhattacharya performs daily poojas and this temple owns 4.62 acres of

wetlands. The annual income of this temple is about Rs. 2 lakhs. Special poojas are performed during days of Panguni Uthiram and Parivettai festivals. Hindu Religious & Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple through a hereditary trustee.

ECHANKARANAI (LC.958)

Sri Mariamman (two) and Sakthi Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

PATTARAVAKKAM (LC.959)

Sri Ponniamman, Mariamman, Gangaiaimman, Vinayaka, Varadapuriamman Temples

No significant details are available.

SENNERI (LC.960)

Osuramman, Kalyana Easwarar, Vinayaka, Selliamman, Adi Kesava Perumal, Gangaiaimman, Kanniamman Temples and Bajan Mandayam

No significant details are available.

PERUNTHANDALAM (LC.961)

Sri Agastheeswaraswamy Temple

The village Perunthandalam is 13 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station on the Thirupporur road. Bus facilities are available to reach the temple. The presiding deity of this ancient temple is Sri Agastheeswaraswamy; it covers an area of 5 cents. The Lingam is not a Swayambu. The temple has about 5.63.5 hectares of wet and dry lands but no jewels and Vahanam. A

hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja daily. A single trustee is in charge of the temple affairs.

Sri Uthukkattamman Temple

The presiding deity of this temple is Uthukkattamman. It is a stone idol. Poojas are performed only on Fridays by a priest from the Valluva Community. Special poojas are performed during the third week of Vaikasi. Villagers maintain this temple.

Sri Vembuliamman Temple

This temple is believed to be built about 80 years ago. The presiding deity of this temple is Nagammal which is a stone idol. An Achary performs Poojas only on Fridays. Special poojas are performed during the third week of Adi.

Sri Sambandha Vinayaka Temple

This temple is believed to have been built about 50 years ago. The presiding deity of the temple is Sambandha Vinayaka, which is a stone idol. Poojas are performed only during the days of Vinayaka Chathurthi. It owns a land of 0.76.0 hectares. Villagers maintain this temple. The other temples Muthumariamman temple and Senkeniamman Temples for which no details are available.

POOLUPPAI (LC.962)

Sri Selliamman Temple

No significant details are available.

KARUMBAKKAM (LC.963)

Sri Thiruvathaiamman, Narasimhaswamy and Gangaiaamman Temples

The first temple occupies an area of 0.360 hectares of puramboke land. There is no idol. The temple owns 0.065 hect-

ares of wetlands. No poojas are done. No festivals celebrated. The Second temple is in an open space occupying 0.085 hectares and 0.0100 hectares of land. No poojas and no festivals.

VIRALPAKKAM (LC.964)

Sri Muthumariamman Temple and Vembuliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MAILAI (LC.965)

Sri Ponniamman, Mariamman, Perumal and Vinayaka temples

No significant details are available.

SEMBAKKAM (LC.966)

Sri Sivapparakasaswamy Temple

Sri Sivapparakasaswamy temple of Sembakkam village is situated at a distance of about 22 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. It is connected both by bus and train, the nearest Railway Station being Chengalpattu. The presiding deity of the temple is Sri Sivapparakasaswamy. The age of the temple is not known; a Kumbhabhishekam was done some 80 years back by a devotee. The temple extends over an area of about 20 cents and the Lingam is an installed one. A Gurukkal whose office is not hereditary performs Poojas twice a day.

Sri Jambugeswarar Temple

The presiding deity is Sri Jambugeswarar with His consort Alagambigai. The other deities are Vinayaka, Valli, Deivanai, Subrahmaniyar and Navagrahas. This temple is believed to be built about 700 years ago during the reign of the Pallavas. A later addition to the temple was a 24 pillar stone mandapam. Temple occupies an area of 2 acres of land. It has a Gopuram

with 5 tiers. The presiding deity, Jambugeswarar is in the form of Lingam 16 ft. in circumference and 6 ft. in height. The temple owns 8 acres of wetlands, which fetch an annual income of Rs.15000/-. The temple has a Rishaba (Bull) Vahanam. Though it is said that all the three Shaivite saints had visited the temples and composed hymns in praise of this shrine, none of these songs are in existence. Other Shaivite Saints like Thuraiyur Sivaprakasa Swamigal and Thirupathripuliyur Gnaniyar Swamigal have composed hymns in praise of this shrine. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Poojas twice a day. Special poojas are performed during Somavar (Monday) of Karthigai month. Vinayaka Chathurthi, Navarathri, Sashti, Krithigai, Parivettai, Shivarathri are celebrated as important festivals. This temple is managed by Sengunthar and Veera Saiva Lingathar community. It is believed that single persons will get married on offering poojas at this temple. It is also believed that the temple tree has special powers and persons coming around the tree get rid of their ailments. It is a belief among the devotees that the Shaivite Muzhuneer Poosiya Munivar offers pooja at this temple every day. Another story attached to this temple is that the demon Surapadman was defeated by Lord Muruga at Tiruchendur; his head landed at this village and village is named after this event.

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

This temple, which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, is believed to have been built about 400 years ago in an area of 1 acre. It owns 1 acre of wetlands. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas. Special poojas are performed during the days of Sri Rama Navami, Purattasi Saturday, Deepavali, Vaikunta Ekadasi and Dhanur Masa Pooja. The Sembakkam, Sengundhar and Veera Saiva Lingayathar community maintains this temple.

Sri Vendavarasi Amman Temple

This temple is situated at Sembakkam village on 1 acre of land. A Poosari performs Poojas and Villagers maintain this temple. No property details are available. The expenses of the temple are borne by the villagers.

Sri Chengazhuneer Vinayaka and Seetha Piratti Sametha Ramaswamy Temples

This temple is located at Nadutheru in Sembakkam village on ½ an acre of land. A Gurukkal performs daily poojas. This temple owns property of 1 acre of wetland and special poojas are performed during the days of Karthigai Deepam, Vinayaka Chathurthi, Navarathri, Shashti, Shivarathri, Ekadasi and Sri Rama Navami are the festivals.

CHETTIPATTURAYAMAN KUPPAM (LC.967)

Sri Shivsakti Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

MADAYATHUR (LC.968)

Sri Ponniamman and Venbadi Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

ALATHUR R.F. (LC.969)

No temples are available.

VENGALERI (LC.970)

No temples are available.

ALATHUR (LC.971)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The village is located at 30 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. The temple is said to be 150 years old. It occupies an area of 5 cents. It has a Gopuram 10 ft. in height. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja once a day. Temple owns 4.26.5 hect-

ares of land. The main festival in this temple is Surasambharam. The month of Masi is considered auspicious. The temple is managed by the local villagers.

PATTIPULAM (LC.972)

Sri Gangaiamman, Selliamman and Aladiamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KARUNGUZHIPALLAM (LC.973)

No temples.

SIRUDAVOOR (LC.974)

No temples.

ACHARAVAKKAM (LC.975)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

This temple is situated at the distance of 25 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Town buses are also available from Chengalpattu to Thirupporur road. It believed to have been built about 200 years ago. The presiding deity is a Swayambu lingam with His consort Anandavalli. The other deities are Vinayaka, BalaSubrahmaniar and Chandikeswarar. The temple covers an area of 2 acres. The temple owns 9 acres of land. A hereditary Gurukkal performs poojas once daily. Special poojas are performed during the days of Panguni Uthiram. Arudhra in Margazhi is the main festival. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 17,187/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 17,974/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.10,069/-. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. A Hereditary trustee manages its affairs.

Box - 33

Village Deities: Grama Devathas

Usually, village deities are installed under a tree, represented by a stone slab or three bricks fixed vertically close to one another to which sandal paste and saffron is applied. Margosa (Neem) twigs are placed on the idol. In temples where the deities are found within an enclosure or building, the Goddess is either in full figure in sitting posture with four arms or only the head is installed. In the former case, one hand holds a trident, the second a sickle, the third a small drum and the fourth a cock or a casket containing saffron. When a head represents the idol, the five-headed hood of a serpent covers it as an umbrella. A small Siva Lingam is carved on the serpent's hood; in front of the Goddess whether it is under a tree or in an enclosure, a sacrificial stone and a trident are fixed to the ground with limes fixed on its three prongs. The more common among the village Goddesses are: Kanni Amman, Ponni Amman, Mari Amman, Ayodhiamman, Selliamman, Ellai Amman, Nagalamman, Gangai Amman, Padvettamman and Draupadi Amman. The only male deity is Munneeswarar. The people worship these deities to ensure a good harvest and to prevent the spread of epidemics like smallpox, cholera and plague.

Kariamianicka Perumal Temple

The temple is 22 kms. away from Chengalpattu Railway Station from where Town Bus facilities are also available. It was built about 100 years ago. It covers an area of 20' X 35'. It owns 4.85 acres of wet land and 0.74 acres of dry lands which fetch Rs. 6000/- per annum through auction. A paid Bhattacharya performs pooja once daily. Karthigai Deepam, Margazhi and Adi Pooram are the important days. A Board of trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.

POONDI (LC.976)

Sri Pillaiyar and Pidariamman Temples

These temples are located at the distances of 18 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facility is also available to reach these temples. They were built about 50 years ago. The presiding deities of these temples are made of stone. A hereditary Poosari performs daily poojas. Pillaiyar temple owns 0.42 hectares of land while the Pidari Amman temple owns land of 0.09.5 hectares. The annual income from these properties is Rs.2000/-. Special poojas are performed during Vinayaka Chathurthi and in the month of Adi. The villagers maintain these temples.

EDARKUNDRAM (LC.977)

Sri Chinnammal, Selliamman, Perumal, Easwarar and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

ROYALPATTU (LC.978)

Sri Vinayaka, Palandiamman and Muthumariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MULLIPAKKAM (LC.979)

Sri Parasurama Easwarar Temple

The village Mullipakkam is 16 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and connected by bus service. This temple is believed to have been built about 200 years ago on 4 cents of land. The temple owns immovable property to the extent of 7.01.0 hectares of wet and dry lands. It has no jewels and Vahanams. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja once a day. No festivals

are celebrated. A single trustee manages the temple. The temple is in a dilapidated condition.

Sri Chelliamman Temple

The temple covers an area of 0.02 cents. It owns 0.18.0 hectares of land. A poosari performs poojas. The month of Adi is considered auspicious. The villagers maintain the temple. The other temples in the village are Sri Elliamman, Bajana Madam and Chinnamman Temples.

VALARKUNDRAM (LC.980)

Sri Perumal, Muthumariamman, Pillaiyar, Vembuliamman and Selliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KONERIKUPPAM (LC.981)

No temples are available.

REDDIKUPPAM (LC.982)

Sri Padavettamman, Pillaiyar and Gangaianman Temples

No significant details are available.

PERIYAPUTHERI (LC.983)

Sri Vinayaka, Neenjil Udaiamman, Thulukkanathamman, Muthumariamman and Manpodiamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

THIRUVADISOOLAM (LC.984)



Sri Gnanapureeswarar Temple

The village Thiruvadisoolam is 9 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station on the Thirupporur road. The temple covers an extent of 82 cents of land. The temple is an ancient one with stone inscriptions in the inner prakaram, which are not clear. The temple has a tank, which is in a dilapidated condition. The presiding deity is Sri Gnanapureeswarar facing east. He is also called "Idaichuranathar". The Lingam in this temple is said to be made of Emerald (Maragatham). It is said that when honey is poured over the lingam it turns in to green colour. The Goddess is known as "Gobharatnambigai" and is facing west in a standing pose. The Goddess is also called "Imayamadakodi".

Saint Gnanasambandar is said to have visited this temple and composed 11 songs about the deity. This is mentioned in the Peria Puranam.

It is believed that Sage Gouthama and Sanathkumaras offered prayers at this shrine. As per legend, Goddess Parvathi appeared in this temple in the form of a cow and performed Abhishekam to the presiding deity. The other shrines in this temple are dedicated to Brahmandeeswarar with His consort Brahmandeeswari, Vinayaka, Murugan with His consorts Valli and Deivanai and Bairavar. The Sthala Viruksham of this temple is Padiri.

The temple has some lands but has no ornaments. There are two Vahanams in this shrine. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja twice daily. Shivrathri, Chithra Pournami, Krithigai Deepam & Somavaram, Arudhra and Panguni Uthiram are the festivals celebrated annually. An Executive Of-

ficer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department and three trustees look after the affairs of the temple.

Address: Arulmigu Gnanapureeswarar Temple
Thiruvadisoolam
Sembakkam (via) S.O. 603 108
Chengalpattu Taluk
Kancheepuram District.

KOVILANTHANGAL (LC.985)

Sri Karpurathamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

THENUR (LC.986)

Sri Thantoniamman, Ponniamman and Gangaiaimman Temples

No significant details are available.

AMMANAMBAKKAM (LC.987)

Sri Chelliamman, Mariamman, Ellaiamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

HANUMANTHAPUTHERI R.F. (LC.988)

No temple.

PAZHAVELI (LC.989)

Sri Sivan, Veerabathiran, Manpadiamman, Mariamman, Moongilamman and Muneeswaran Temples

No significant details are available.

KAMMALAMPATTU (LC.990)

No details are available.

OZHALUR (LC.991)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 7 Kms from Chengalpattu. It covers an area of 1.20.0 hectares. This temple is said to be about 200 years old. The Lingam in the Shiva temple is not a Swayambu. The Lingam is 3 ft tall. Main deity and Uthsava murthi idols are made of Panchaloga. Saint Gnanasambandar has sung hymns on this temple. The temple owns 2.50.0 hectares of land. A hereditary Gurukkal offers poojas once a day. Arudhra is the main festival celebrated. Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Varadharaja Perumal Temple

This temple is believed to be 200 years old. It covers an area of 0.80.0 hectares. The Main deity stands at a height of 9 ft. It has landed property of 2.72.0 hectares. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs Pooja once a day. This temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

The other temples in this village are Vinayaka, Karumariamman, Kogilamman, Kallamittamman and Dharmaraja Temples.

VALLAM (LC.992)

Sri Mariamman and Malaikoil Temples

No significant details are available.

VALLAM R.F. (LC.993)

No temple.

PORUNTHAVAKKAM (LC.994)

Ettiamman, Gangaiamman Temples and Bajana Madam

No significant details are available.

PERIYALRUMBEDU (LC.995)

Sri Kaliyamman, Mariamman, Karumari and Easwarar Temples

No significant details are available.

OTTERI (LC.996)

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka, Kanimelazhagi Amman, Gangaiamman Temples

No significant details are available.

RAYAMANGALAM (LC.997)

Sri Vembadi Vinayaka, Swarna Vinayaka and Muthumariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MANAMATHY (LC.998)

Sri Thirukkarai Easwarar Temple

The village Manamathi is located 25 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facilities are available to reach this village. The presiding deity of this temple is Sri Thirukkarai Easwarar. The temple covers an area of 0.50 cents is believed to be three centuries old. It has 3.12 acres of lands, which are under lease cultivation. A part of the land measuring 0.31.0 hectares is located in Santhanampattu village. It has no jewels and Vahanam. Two poojas are performed daily. The festivals celebrated are Skandasashti and Arudhra. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.1, 02, 207/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.1, 02, 021/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.92, 224/-. A single trustee appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department is in charge of the temple affairs.

The other temples in the village are devoted to Karpaga Vinayaka, Dharmarajar, Karaimeladi Amman, Karpooa Vinayaka, Natarajar, Selva Vinayaka, Irumbeeswarar, Pidari Amman and Perumal Temples.

AGARAM (LC.999)

Sri Kailasanathaswamy Temple

The village Agaram is at a distance of 25 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station on the Manamathy road which is covered by bus service. The temple is said to be 150 years old. This temple covers an area of 1-¼ acres. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathaswamy with His consort Sri Akilandeswari. The Lingam is not a Swayambu. Except three Cars there is no other movable property. The temple has 17.03.0 hectares of lands which are under cultivation. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs one pooja daily. Special poojas are performed during the days of Shivarathri. There are no other festivals. A hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

AMOOR (LC.1000)

Sri Perumal and Iraiayeram Odayar Easwarar Temples

The village is located 23 Kms from Chengalpattu. These temples are said to be 100 years old. These temples occupies an area of 1 acre. Pooja is performed once a day by a hereditary Gurukkal. The Easwarar temple owns 6.33.5 hectares of land and the Perumal temple owns 3.03.0 hectares of land. The main festivals in the Easwarar temple are Karthigai Deepam, Tamil New Years Day, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Pradhosham and Shivarathri. The months of Margazhi and Purattasi are considered auspicious in the Perumal temple. 3 trustees manage these temples.

PORANTHAVAKKAM (LC.1001)

Sri Mariamman Temple

No significant details are available.

ATHIGAMANALLUR (LC.1002)

No temple.

SALAVANKUPPAM (LC.1003)

Sri Padavettamman, Vinayaka, Pidariamman and Kali Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PAIYANUR (LC.1004)

Sri Padavettamman, Muthumariamman, Chamundeeswarai Amman, Palandiamman,

Karunakara Perumal, Vinayaka, Easwarar Temples

No significant details are available.

PANCHANTHIRUTHY (LC.1005)

Sri Vaiathamman Temple

No significant details are available.

KUNNAPPATTU (LC.1006)

Sri Vinayaka, Perumal, Thullukanathu amman and Kali Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

DHAKSHNAVARTHY (LC.1007)

Sri Thullukkanathamman Temple

No significant details are available.

SANTHANAMPATTU (LC.1008)

Sri Chenkazhaniemman Temple

No significant details are available.

AMAIYAMPATTU (LC.1009)

Sri Thirupadalamman Temple

No significant details are available.

MELKANAGAMPATTU (LC.1010)

No temple.

THIRUNILAI (LC.1011)

Sri Vinayaka, Lakshminarayana Perumal, Ettiamman and Karumariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

PERIYAVIPPEDU (LC.1012)

Sri Ponniamman, Gangaiamman and Padavettamman Temples

No significant details are available.

CHINNAVIPPEDU (LC.1013)

Sri Gangaiamman Temple

No significant details are available.

KATTAKHAZHANI (LC.1014)

Sri Thantoniamman Temple

No significant details are available.

AMIRTHAMPALLAM (LC.1015)

Sri Ponniamman, Muthumariamman, Vinayaka and Easwarar Temples

No significant details are available.

CHINNA IRUMBEDU (LC.1016)

Sri Kaliyamman, Mariamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

ORATHUR (LC.1017)

Sri Ponniamman, Muthumariamman, Vinayaka and Easwarar Temples

No significant details are available.

THANDARAI (LC.1018)

Sri Ponniamman, Muthumariamman, Adi Vinayaka and Easwarar Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 34

Iconography: Shaivite Images

Shiva is generally worshipped in the form of a phallus or linga. Images are also worshipped. He is usually depicted with matted hair tied on the top of his head and ornamented with a jewel, skull, serpent, crescent moon and thorn apple flower. The hair is also depicted as flowing and surrounding the face like flames. A third eye is depicted on the forehead. Axe, Antelope, Trident and Drum are the usual emblems associated with Shiva.

Benign forms of Shiva are:

- a) Sukhasana (sitting at ease);
- b) Chandrasekhara (standing erect and holding axe and antelope with the crescent moon prominent in the matted locks)
- c) Pradoshamurthi (Chandrasekhara with Parvathi);
- d) Uma Maheshwara/ Uma Sahita (with goddess Parvathi seated on his left knee);
- e) Somaskanda (seated with Parvathi and Subramanya);
- f) Kalyanasundara (the form depicting the marriage of Shiva with Parvathi. Vishnu is seen giving away the bride);
- g) Gangadhara (standing with trident The goddess Ganga is depicted as tangled in the matted locks);
- h) Vishapaharana (holding in the right hand a vessel containing the poison produced by churning the oceans;
- i) Dakshinamurthi (upper right hand holding a snake, left hand holding a ball of fire, lower right hand in a mudra signifying teaching and the lower left hand holding the Vedas) and
- j) Natesa (A dancing pose. The upper left hand holds a ball of fire, the upper right hand holds a drum, the lower right hand is in the posture signifying protection (Abhaya) and the lower left hand points towards the upraised foot).

The other forms of Shiva are usually represented as standing. Some of these are: Bhikshatana (a naked beggar); Kankalamurthi (carrying a staff made out of a back bone and carrying a drum- usually accompanied by an antelope); Bhairava (represented in sixty four different forms-commonest being accompanied by a dog with two pairs of hands, the upper hands holding a drum and a noose); Virabhadra (with a linga in his hair and carrying sword and shield- is usually accompanied by a goat); Kalarimurthi (shown as protecting a devotee Markandeya from Yama the god of death); Sometimes Shiva is depicted as Harihara- a combination of Shiva and Vishnu (also called Sankaranarayanan). Shiva forms the right side and Vishnu the left. Shiva is also depicted as a combination of himself and his consort goddess Parvathi. In this form he is called Ardhanariswara. The right half is male and the left half female.

- "Catalogue of South Indian Hindu Metal Images in the Madras Government Museum" 1932

ORAGADAM (LC.1019)

Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple

Oragadam is 13 Kms away from Chengalpattu Railway Station. The temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, is an ancient one. Some stone inscriptions are found in this temple. It is constructed on 40 cents of land. The temple owns some ornaments and a Garuda Vahanam. Daily poojas are conducted regularly. Sri Rama Navami festival is conducted for a period of 10 days. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs.14,956/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.14,950/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.1,44,050/-. The Ahobila Mutt of Maduranthakam manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Vadamalleeswarar Temple

This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It has landed property of 2.55.0 hectares. A Gurukkal performs daily poojas. Special poojas are performed during the days of Shivarathri. Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department maintains this temple.

ORAGADAM RF (LC.1020)

No temple.

KALANIPAKKAM (LC.1021)

Sri Kanthiamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

ARUNGUNDRAM (LC.1022)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal and Muthumariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MANNAVEDUDEVADARAM (LC.1023)

No temple.

VALAVANTHANGAL (LC.1024)

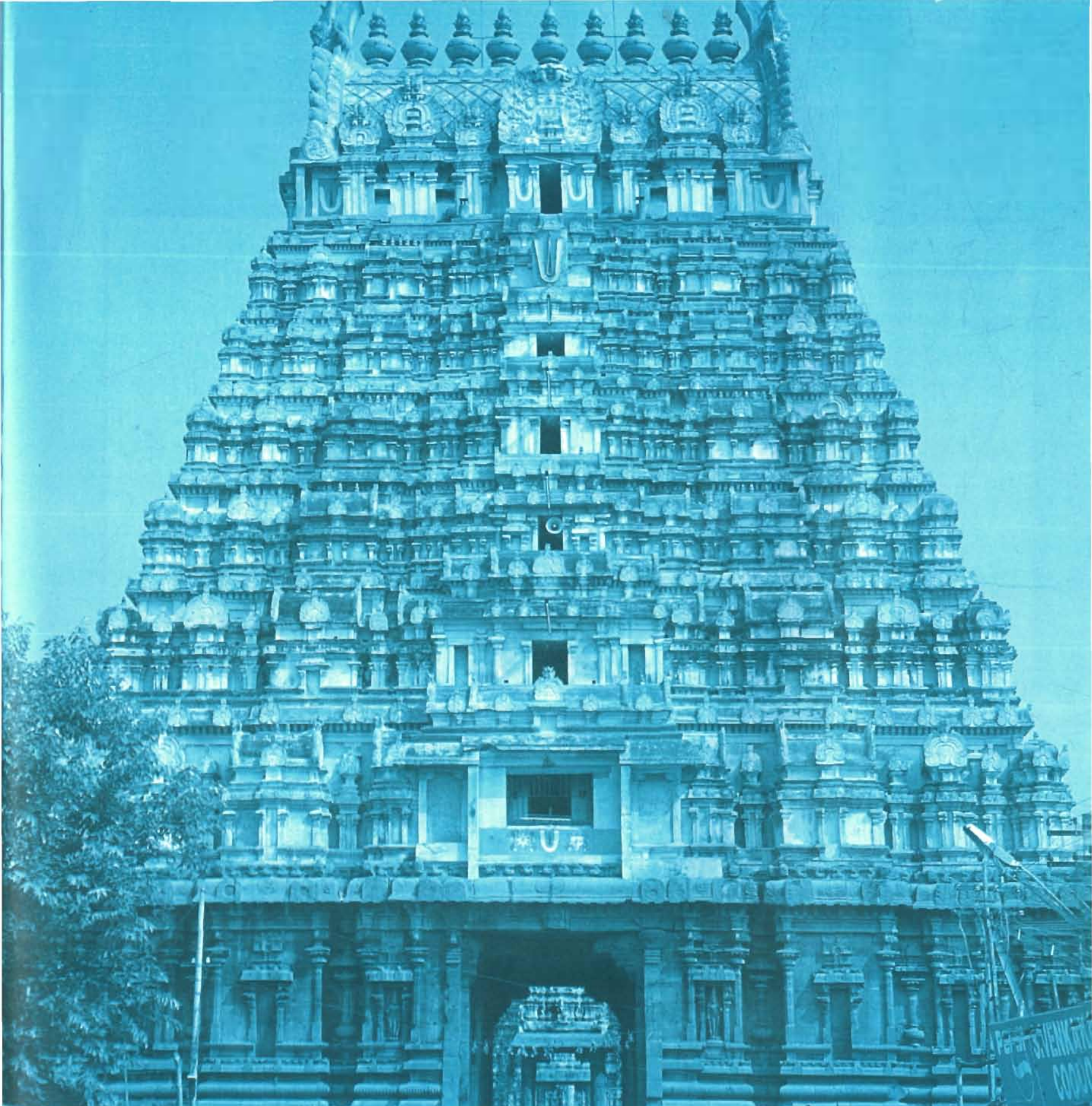
Sri Kunnathamman and Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KARANAI (LC.1025)

Sri Senkazhani Vinayaka, Pidari Kunnathamman, Gangaianman, Chinna Mariamman and Dandu Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.



KANCHEEPURAM TALUK

KANCHEEPURAM TALUK

Kancheepuram Taluk covers an area of 643.93 Sq.kms. The Taluk Headquarter is at Kancheepuram, a Municipality which is also the District Headquarter. It is located 5 kms. away from the National Highway (NH-4) from Chennai to Bangalore. It is well connected by rail as well as road.

The Taluk has 1 Municipality, 2 Town Panchayats, 3 Census Towns and 175 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Population Totals of the Census of India 2001, the Taluk has a population of 418,070.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 347 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 142 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 52 villages details are not available on temples. This includes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

Significant Highlights of the Taluk

Vaishnavite Saints: The Vaishnavite Saints Sri Poygai Alwar and Sri Vedanta Desikar were born in Kancheepuram.

Vaishnavite Temples: The following Mangalasanam Temples (Temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns) are situated in the Taluk:

- Sri Varadaraja Swamy Temple (Thirukkachi/Athigiri)
- Sri Pandava Dootha Perumal Temple (Thirupadagam)
- Sri Deepa Prakasa Temple (Thiruthunka)
- Sri Yathokthakari Temple (Thiruvehka)
- Sri Ashtabhuj Perumal Temple (Thiruashtabhujankaram)
- Sri Azhagiya Singhar Temple (Thiru Velukkai)
- Sri Pavalavannar Temple
- Sri Vaikunta Perumal Temple (Parameshwara Vinnagaram)
- Sri Adivaraha Perumal Temple (Inside Sri Kamakshi Temple (Thirukalvanur))
- Sri Nilathingal Thundathan Temple (Inside Sri Ekambareswarar Temple)

- Sri Ulagalandha Perumal Temple
(Uragam, Karagam, Neeragam & Karvanam)
- Sri Vijayaraghava Perumal Temple

Hymnology: Details of the Hymns sung by various Vaishnavite Saints in praise of Temples situated in the Taluk are as follows:

Sri Varadaraja Swamy Temple - Thirukkachi Nambigal, Manavala Mamuni, Vedanta Desikar, Appaiya Deekshithar, Purandhara Dasar, Thiyagarajar, Muthuswamy Deekshithar, Bhootath Alwar, Thirumangai Alwar, Nammalwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Pandava Dootha Perumal Temple – Bhootath Alwar, Peiyalwar, Thirumazhisai Alwar, Nammalwar, Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar

Sri Deepa Prakasa Temple – Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Yathokthakari Temple – Thirumangai Alwar, Thirumazhisai Alwar, Poygai Alwar, Periyalwar and Nammalwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Ashtabhujā Perumal Temple - Thirumangai Alwar, Peiyalwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Azhagiya Singhar Temple - Thirumangai Alwar, Periyalwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Pavalavannar Temple - Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Vaikunta Perumal Temple - Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Sri Adivaraha Perumal Temple - Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Adivaraha Perumal Temple - Thirumangai Alwar.

Sri Nilathingal Thundathan Temple - Thirumangai Alwar.

Sri Ulagalandha Perumal Temple - Thirumangai Alwar, Thirumazhisai Alwar, and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar.

Sri Vijayaraghava Perumal Temple - Thirumangai Alwar.

Shaivite Temples: The following 'Tirumurai Sthalams' (Temples about which Shaivite saints have composed Hymns) are situated in Kancheepuram Taluk: -

Sri Ekambareswarar Temple (Thirukkachi Ekambam)

Sri Metraleeswarar Temple (Thirukkachi Metrali)

Sri Onagantheeswarar Temple (Onaganthan Thali)

Sri Anekatangavatheswarar Temple (Kacchi Anekatangavatham)

Sri Sathyaviratheswarar Temple (Kacchi Neri Karaikadu)

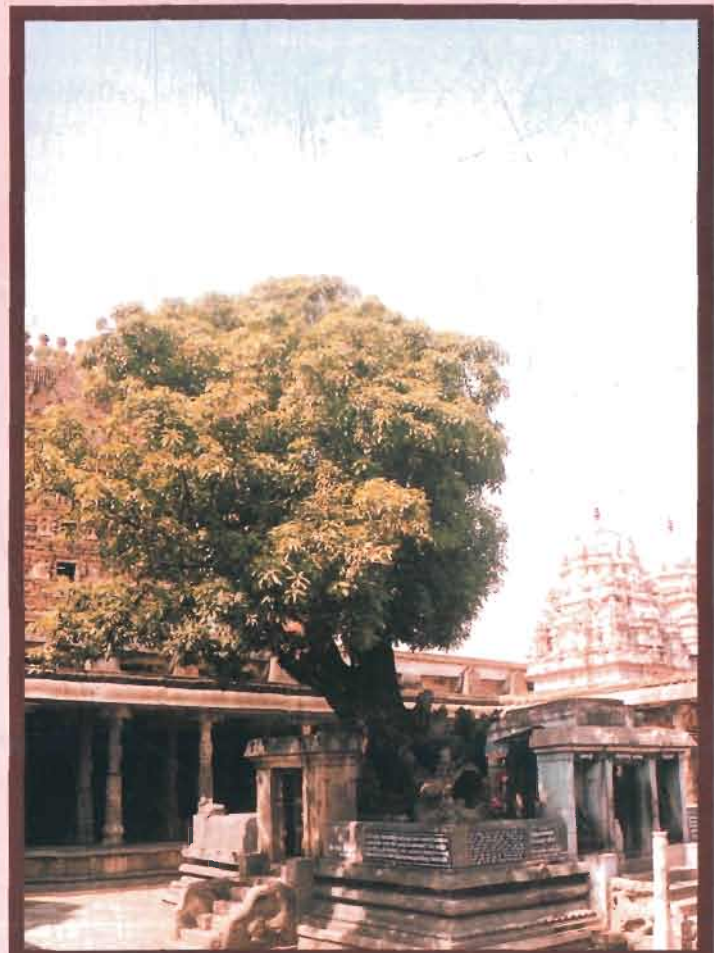
Jain Temples: Sri Adi Pattaragar Temple at Arpakkam is an example of Jain architecture. Exquisite mural paintings are found in another Jain Temple of Sri Trilokianathar at Kilkadirpur village.

Other famous Temples: The other famous temples in the Taluk are: Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple, Sri Subrahmaniaswamy Temple (Kumarakottam) and Sri Kailasanathar Temple.

Other Religious Institutions: Kancheepuram Taluk is also the seat of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, which is one of the Mutts established by Adi Shankara. After Sri Adi Sankara, a continuous line of seventy successors has adorned the Acharya Peetam at Kanchi Sankara Math. The last three sages in this illustrious line are the 68th pontiff of the Kanchi Mutt, His Holiness Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi swamy, who became pontiff in 1907 when he was barely thirteen years of age and



Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



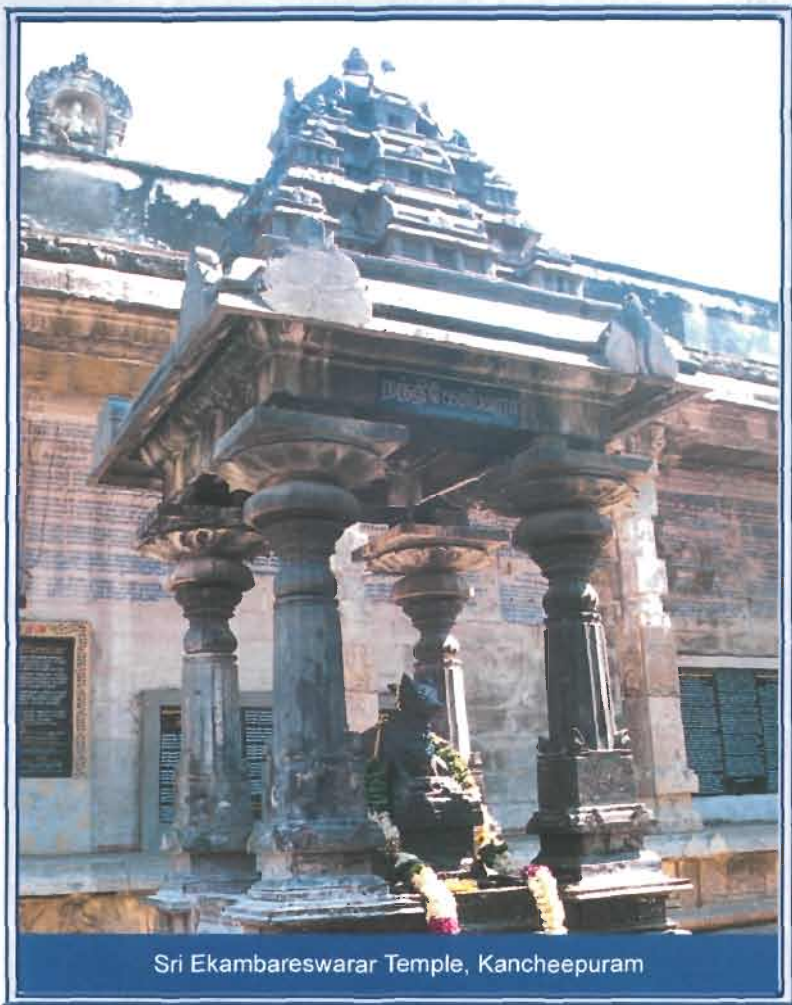
"Mavadi" at Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



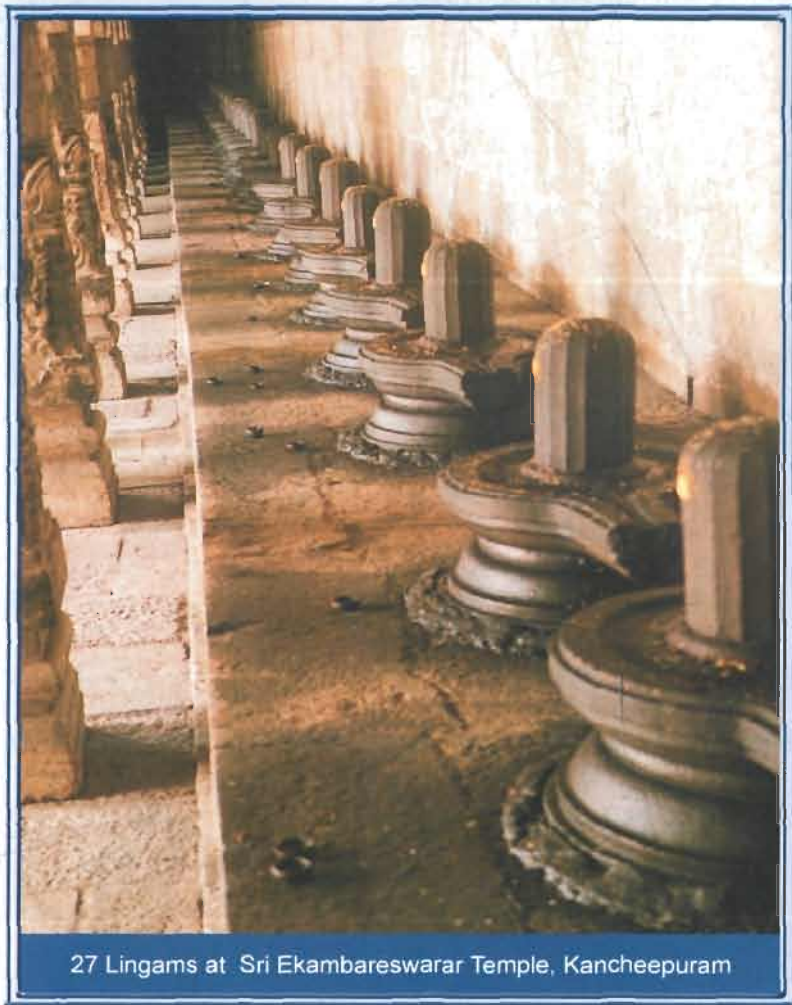
Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



27 Lingams at Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram

shone as Acharya for nearly 87 years; His successor, the 69th Pontiff is His Holiness Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamy who was initiated and nominated successor in 1954 and presently adorns the Peetam. The 70th Pontiff of the Mutt is His Holiness Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi who was initiated into the ascetic order in 1983.

KANCHEEPURAM (U) (M.43)



Sri Ekambareswarar Temple

History

This temple is one of the Thirumurai Sthalams (temples in praise of which Shaivite saints have composed Hymns). The temple also known locally as “Periyakoil” is located in “Periya Kancheepuram” 1km away from Kancheepuram Railway Station. It is also known as “Kachhi Thiruverkambam”, “Thirukachi Ekambam” or “Ekambaranathar”. It is one of the better-known temples of South India. This is considered a “Prithivi Kshetram” (see Box on Pancha Maha Bhootas). The temple is said to have been in existence prior to the 6th Century A.D. The Pallavas, it is said, pulled down the original temple and built a new one in its place.

The four main Nayanmars have composed 126 hymns in praise of this shrine: Saint Sundarar-11; Saint Appar-70; Saint Sambandhar-44 and Saint Manickavasagar has composed 1 hymn in praise of this shrine. The shrine is called by various names: “Kachi Thiruverkamban Semborkoil”. Saint Arunagirinathar has also sung hymns in the Thirupugazh. The temple also figures in the hymns of Saint Pattinathar who calls it “Thiruverkambamudayar Thiruvandathiyum”. This temple is also mentioned in epics like Kandapuram, Manimegalai,

Thakkayagarani, Matthavilasaprasanam, Dandi Alankaram, etc.

Architecture

The Chola rulers who followed the Pallavas took special interest in the building of this temple. However, it was during the reign of the Vijayanagar ruler Krishna Devaraya that the main or South Raja Gopuram was completed in 1509 AD. The Raja Gopuram is a nine storeyed one. The Vijayanagar rulers also built the Kalyana Mandapam in front of the temple. There are many mandapams in the temple – Vahanamandapam, also known as “Sarabesa Mandapam”, Ayiramkal (1000 Pillared) Mandapam, also known as “Pallava Gopuram”, Pavithra Uthsava Mandapam, Sabanayakar (Nayar) Mandapam, etc.

There are 4 temples on the four sides of the main temple – Kacchi Mayanam, Vaaleesam, Rishabesam and Sathiyandhesam. Opposite to Kachi Mayanam there is a Mandapam built by Vallal Pachaiappan. Stone inscriptions of South India (AR) 439,444,448,452,453 and 456 contain valuable information about the temple. These inscriptions refer to various rulers like Raja Raja Chola Devan, Vishayakanda Gopala Devan, Kambanna Udayar, Acchutha Udayar and Kulothunga III.

Renovations

R.M.M. Lakshmana Chettiar effected extensive repairs and renovations about 250 years ago. Recently renovations were carried out from 1976 to 1979, which were followed by a Kumbabhishekam in 1979. The repairs and renovations to Raja Gopuram were done in 1991.

Presiding Deity

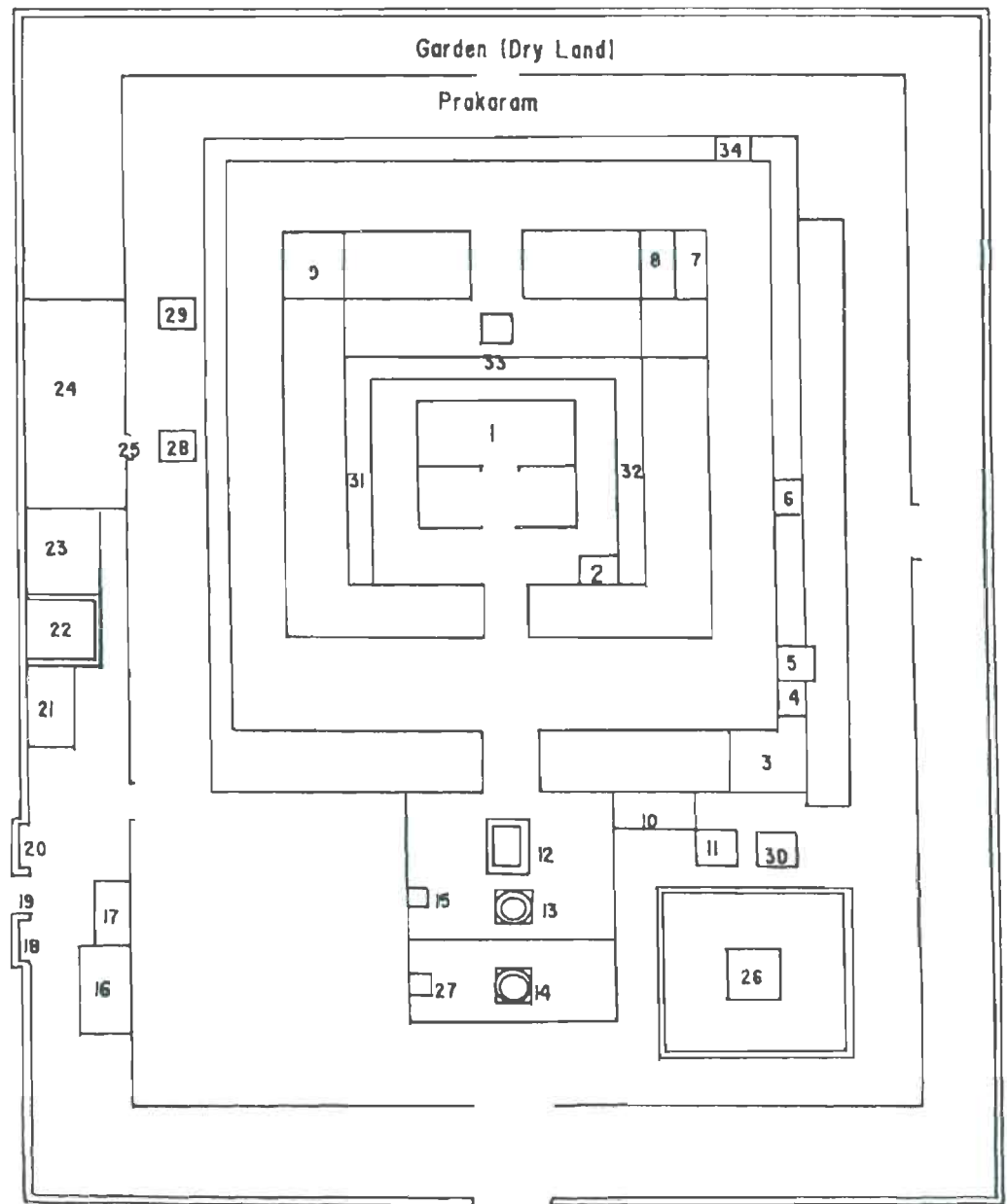
The presiding deity Sri Ekambareswarar is a Prithivi lingam. As per legend, goddess Kamakshiamman, the consort of Lord Shiva playfully closed the eyes of the Lord. As the two eyes of Shiva are considered the Sun and the Moon, the world was plunged into darkness. Lord Shiva opened his third eye to illuminate the world. Enraged, Lord Shiva ordered her to take birth on earth and perform penance to atone for her unthinking

SRI EKAMBARANATHAR TEMPLE

KANCHEEPURAM
(NOT TO SCALE)



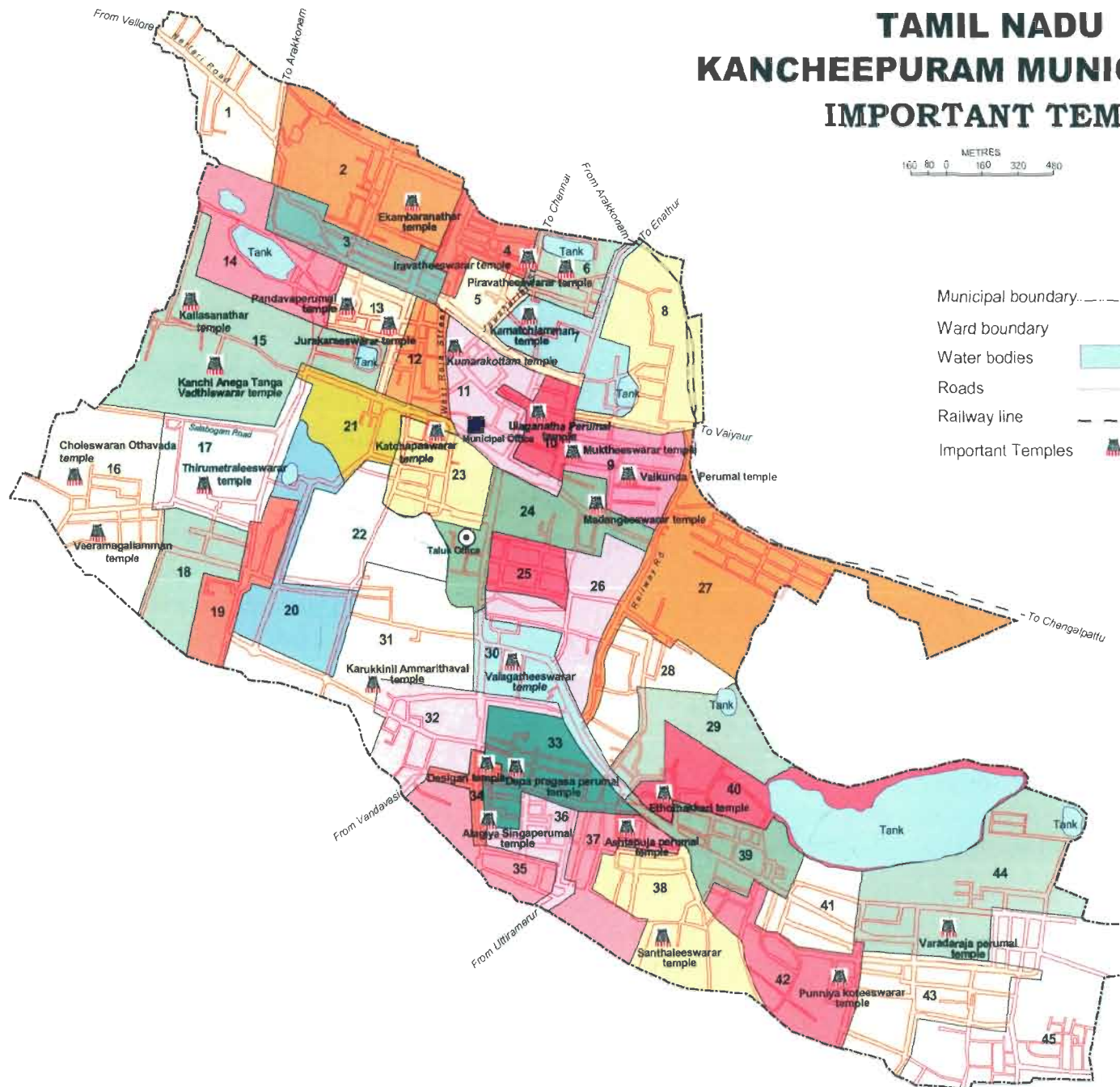
1. Ekambaranathar
2. Nilathenganthandam Perumal
3. Yagasalai
4. Arumugar
5. Natarajar
6. Palli Arai
7. Elavakuzhaliammai
8. Mavadikandhar
9. Uthsavar Mandapam
10. Office Room
11. Old Office Room
12. Nandhi
13. Kodimaram
14. Big Nandhi
15. Kachimayanam
16. Vahana Mandapam
17. Siva Siva Oli Mandapam
18. Vinayagar
19. Raja Gopuram
20. Subramanlar
21. Garden
22. Tank
23. Garden
24. 1000 pillar Mandapam
25. Gopuram
26. Tank
27. Valeeswarar
28. Vinayagar
29. Sathlanather
30. Rishibeswarar
31. 63 Nayanmars
32. 63 Nayanmars (Uthsavar)
33. 27 Lingas
34. Sahasra Lingam



TAMIL NADU KANCHEEPURAM MUNICIPALITY IMPORTANT TEMPLES

METRES
100 80 0 160 320 480

- Municipal boundary: - - - - -
- Ward boundary: _____
- Water bodies:
- Roads: _____
- Railway line: - - - - -
- Important Temples:



Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of Surveyor General of India.

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act. In a bid to placate the Lord, goddess Kamakshiamman made a Lingam out of sand and performed severe penance under a Mango tree. In order to test her, Lord Shiva released the river Ganges from his matted hair. Flood waters of the river threatened to engulf the idol. The goddess with her divine powers created two Shaktis, one of whom assumed the form of Kali. The latter stopped the river water and collected the floodwaters in a skull. Lord Shiva caused the waters to flow over. The goddess now prayed to her brother Vishnu, who assumed a huge form Viswaroopam in order to stop the floodwaters. Lord Vishnu also advised the goddess to embrace the idol of Lord Shiva in order to protect it.

The goddess was terrified but with great presence of mind embraced the Lingam and saved it from destruction. Pleased with her devotion, Lord Shiva gave her darshan and fulfilled her desire of regaining her place next to him. The deity has marks of bangles and body parts, said to have been caused when the goddess embraced the lingam. There are several statues in the temple depicting this legend. The marriage of the Lord with his consort is celebrated every year in the Tamil month of Panguni on the sacred day of Uthiram. The Goddess in this temple is Sri Elavar kuzhali.

Another popular legend associated with this temple is that Saint Sundaramoorthy Nayanar who became totally blind got back the sight of his left eye after worshipping at this temple. The priests who carry out the daily rituals at this temple trace their lineage to this saint.

There are three other Lingams in this temple, which are believed to have been worshipped by Brahma, Vishnu and Rudra. These are called Vellakambar, Kallakambar and Nallakambar respectively. There also two lingams in which 108 and 1008 lingams (Sahasra lingam) have been carved. The temple construction is such that on Rathasapthami Day, sunlight falls directly on the Ekambaraswamy.

The Sthala Viruksham (sacred tree) of this temple is a mango tree that is believed to be more than 2500 years old. The

tree has four main branches that are said to represent the four Vedas. Each of these branches bear fruits that are said to be of different taste- sweet, sour, tangy and bitter.

There are 4 tanks (theerthams) in this temple: “Shivagangai Theertham”, “Kamba Theertham” (said to be underground), “Sarva Theertham” and “Mangala Theertham”.

The Sthala Puranam of this temple, “Kanchi Puranam” was written by Sri Madhava Shivagnana Swamikal.

Pooja

Six Poojas are conducted at this temple at various times- Ushakkalam, Kala Santhi, Uchi Kalam, Pradosham, Sayaratchai and Ardhajaman. The priests are entitled to take the offerings of the devotees. Every year on Karthigai Somawar (Monday) a Kalasa Pooja is performed to Lord.

Festivals

Ani Thirumanjanam, Adi Pooram, Adi Krithigai, Avani Moolam, Navarathri, Annabishekam, Pavithrothsavam, Thai Poosam, Karthigai Deepam, Thoppam, Panguni Uthiram, Chithra Pournami and Vaikasi Visagam are the major festivals that are celebrated with great fanfare. The most important of these is the Brahmothsavam in Panguni, which is celebrated for 13 days, the highlight being the marriage ceremony of Sri Ekambareswarar and goddess Kamakshiamman. Also on one of the Karthigai Somawars Laksha Deepam (One lakh lamps) are observed when devotees illuminate the temple with 1-lakh lamps.

Sri Nilathingal Thundathan Temple

There is also a Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu in this complex. This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). The Lord is named Sri Nilathingal Thundathan or Chandrachooda Perumal. As per legend, when goddess Parvathi was doing penance under the Mango tree to propitiate Lord Shiva, she prayed to Lord Vishnu to help her. Lord

Vishnu appeared before her in the form of Vamana (dwarf) with his divine conch and disc and radiating bright light. The goddess is called “Ver Oruvar Illa Valli” or “Nila Thingal Thunda Thayar”. The Vimanam in this shrine is called “Purusha Suktha Vimanam”. Lord Vishnu is believed to be giving darshan to the Moon and to Lord Shiva in this temple.

It is rare to find a temple to Lord Vishnu in a Shaivite temple. A special feature is that a Saivite priest offers prayers to Lord Vishnu. The Vaishnavite saint Thirumangai Alwar has composed Hymns in praise of this shrine.

Lands and Assets

The temple is spread over an area of 24 acres. It owns 150.72 acres of wet and 43.97 acres of dry lands. The temple also own 141 grounds (2400 Sq.ft = 1 ground) at Kilpauk, Chennai and 250 Grounds at Kancheepuram. The other immovable properties include 15 shops and buildings at Kancheepuram and Chennai. The jewels in this temple are priceless. The diamond crown of the Lord- Makarakandigai and the diamond Viboothi Pattam are of exquisite beauty. A silver Car, a silver Mavadi, a gold Rishabam and an ivory palanquin are some of the other notable assets of the temple. The total value of these jewels is about Rs. 53,11,284/- as on 30.5.1984 appraisal.

Administration

The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.4, 99138/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.5, 61,568/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.7,36,028/-. The collections from Hundi are around Rs.8.00 lakhs. Income through various fees is around Rs.6.00 lakhs.

Sri Thirukacchi Mayanam

This temple is one of the Thirumurai Sthalams (temples in praise of which Shaivite saints have composed Hymns). The temple is located within the Ekambreswara temple. In the pillars of this temple are carved figures of Adi Sankara and Sri

Dakshinamoorthi. In the Mandapam opposite to this temple are the figures of Rathi mounted on a swan and Manmathan. Another Pillar has the same figures mounted on a parrot. (Rathi and Manmathan are the Goddess and God of love respectively). Saint Appar has composed hymns in praise of this shrine. Mayanam literally means a graveyard. The “Kapalikas” an extreme sect of Shaivism used to conduct tantric rites in the graveyard. Members of this sect always carried a staff called “Kattangam”, which acted as a mark of identification. Adi Sankara is said to have reformed these extreme practices. There is an idol of Umasahithar in this shrine, which has the “Kattangam” in one hand, a sword and a skull in another that is representative of the “Kapalika” sect. There are similar Mayanams in Kadavur and Nalur. In order to distinguish this temple from the others it is named “Thirukacchi”. It is believed that this temple was an independent one at some time but got integrated into the Ekambareswara complex later.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Kamakshiamman Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram- 631502
Kancheepuram District



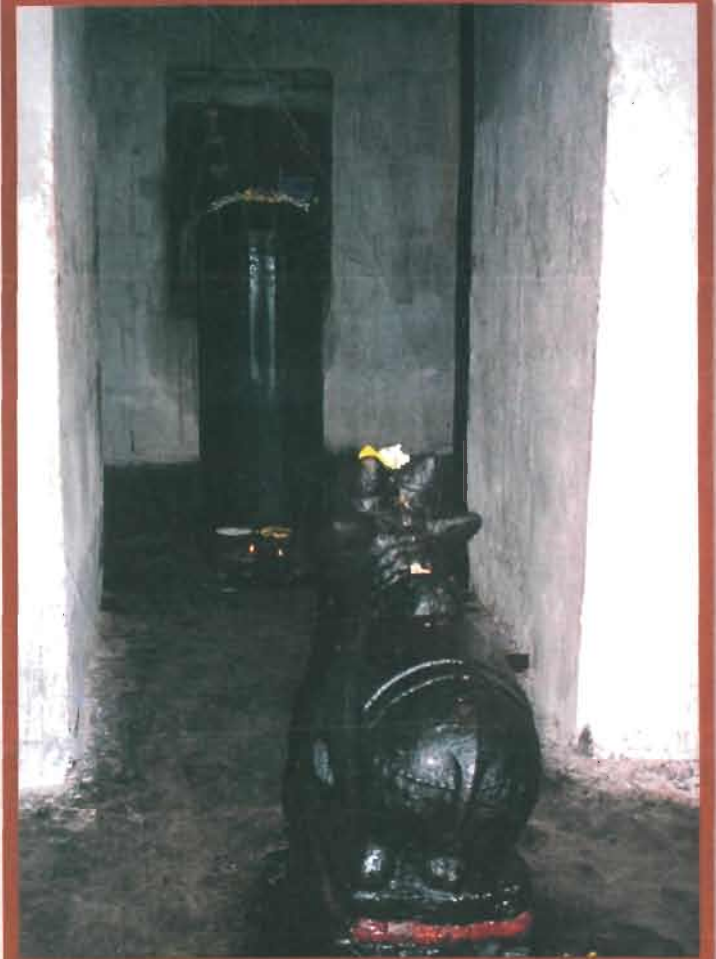
Sri Kamakshiamman Temple

History

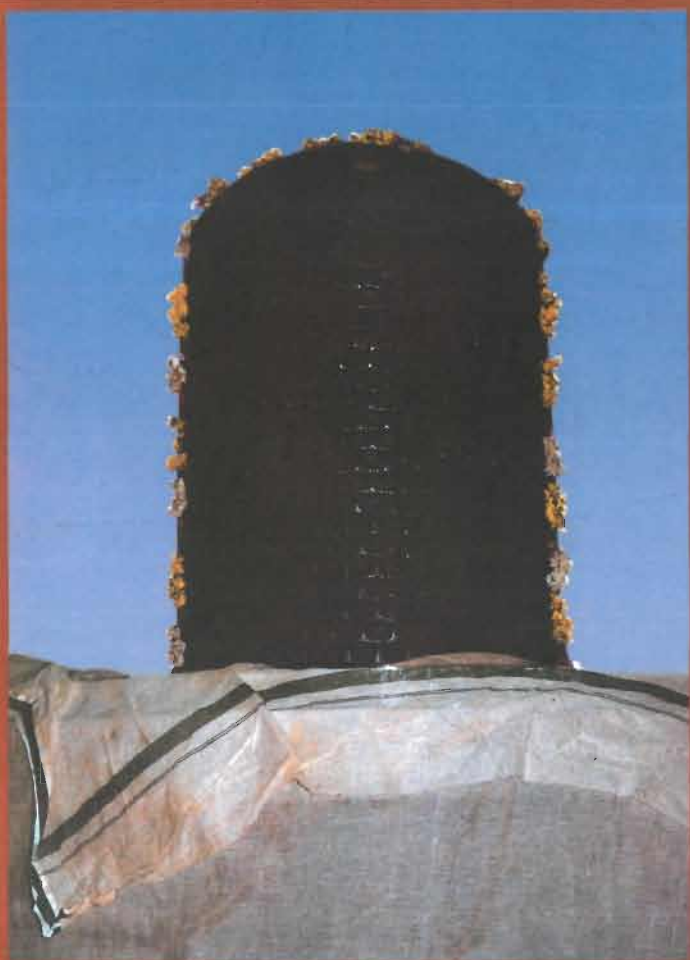
The temple of Sri Kamakshiamman in Kancheepuram is one of the renowned Shakti Sthalams of India. The temple is said to have been in existence during the time of Adi Sankara, the renowned proponent of the advaita philosophy. The old temple was renovated in 1880 and 1940 by his holiness the Sankaracharya of Kamakoti Peetam. The temple was again renovated and the Vimanam was covered with a Gold plating due



Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Rishabesam at Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sahasra Lingam at Sri Ekambareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kancheepuram



Golden Gopuram at Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kancheepuram

to the efforts of their Holiness, the Sankaracharyas of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

Presiding Deity

Goddess Kamakshiamman, the presiding deity is seated in the yogic pose of Padma Asana in the centre of the Garba Griha called the Gayathri Mandapam. She has four arms, which bear divine weapons- “Paasam (rope), Angusam (an instrument used by Mahouts to control elephants), Karumbu Vil (Bow made of sugarcane) and Pushpa Baanam (Arrow made of flowers). The exquisite crown adorning her head is called Chandra Choodamani. The earrings adorning her ears are shaped like the Sun and the Moon. Jewels of great beauty adorn her person.

BOX - 35

Adi Sankara

According to one school of thought, Adi Sankara or Sankara Bhagavatpada as he is known, was born at Kaladi on the fifth day of the bright fortnight of the Vaisaka month of the cyclic year Nandana - Kali 2593 corresponding to 509 B.C. Renowned scholars like Max Mueller and Professor Macdonell hold that he was born in 788 AD and died in 820 AD. He is one of the renowned philosophers and spiritualists of the world. He was a discerning dialectician, a consummate commentator and celebrated poet. His miraculous achievements, within a short span of life of thirty-two years, speak of his super-human aspect. Sages and scholars, who have shone through the centuries after his time, have regarded Him as an incarnation of the Divine. Many a thinker and many a scholar of different climes and times has been attracted by the philosophic discipline of Advaita (Monism) effectively propagated by Sankara.

Legend has it that Goddess Kamakshi offered worship to a Shivalingam made out of sand, under a mango tree and gained Shiva's hand in marriage. The presiding deity Sri

Kamakshiamman is also known as Para Brahma Swarupini. The idol of the goddess is in a sitting posture. The deity is believed to be sitting on Brahma, Vishnu and Rudra. There is a Sri Chakram in front of the main idol to which Pooja is offered. As per legend, goddess Kamakshiamman, the consort of Lord Shiva was in an enraged form (ugra roopam-deity in a ferocious form demanding sacrifice) until Adi Sankara propitiated and calmed her by installing a Sri Chakram. The Sri Chakram converted the goddess into a Santhaswaroopini. Adi Sankara also installed the deities of Ashta Lakshmis on the cardinal points of the Sri Chakram. It is believed that during the days of Adi Sankara, the presence of the Ugra Swaroopini was felt outside the temple precincts, and that Adi Sankara had requested her not to leave the temple complex. Symbolic of this, the festival image of Kamakshi, takes leave from Sankaracharya, at his shrine in the inner Praakaaram, each time she is taken out in procession.

Sri P.V.Jagadeesa Iyer in his “South Indian Shrines” observes, “In the case of almost all Hindu temples, the image of the goddess is always associated with Chakra, Yantra or Peetam and the sculptural representation rest on Chakra which is embedded in the earth and which accounts for the pooja or worship being performed at the feet of the image. But in Kamakshiamman temple the Chakra is placed in front of the idol which is peculiar.” (Page 22-23).

The Uthsava Murthy is in a standing pose. There are two other idols of Sri Lakshmi and Sri Saraswathi.

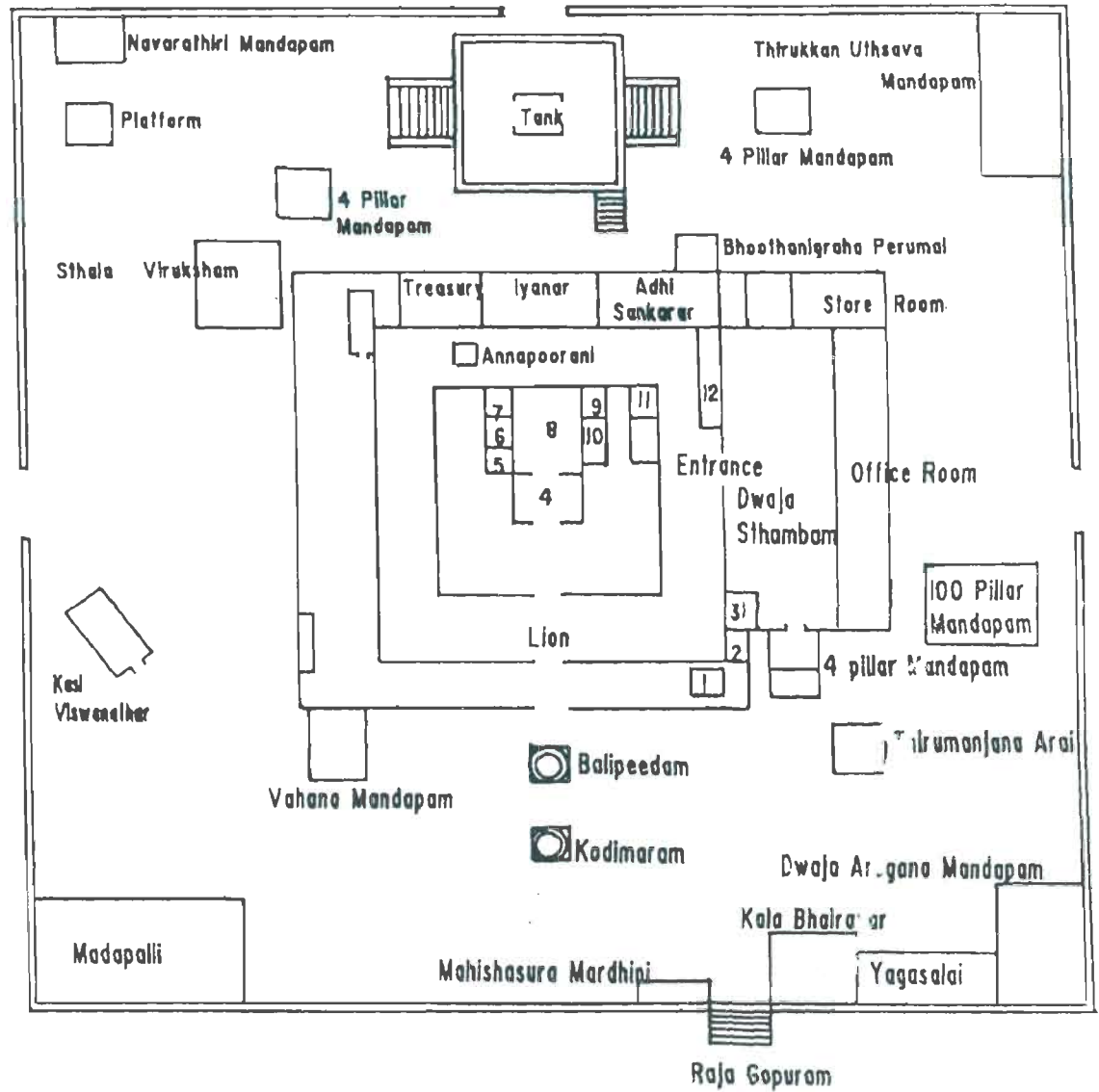
Adi Varaha Perumal Temple

There is a temple of Adi Varaha Perumal in one of the Praakaaras of this temple. This is one of the 108 Divya Desams of Vaishnavism. This shrine has an interesting story. It is said that goddess Lakshmi once made fun of Lord Vishnu's colour. Angered at this Lord Vishnu cursed her to lose her colour and beauty. The latter then prayed to goddess Kamakshiamman, who blessed her to stay to the right of her shrine. The Kumkum given to devotees in this temple is first offered to goddess

SRI KAMAKSHIAMMAN TEMPLE

KANCHEEPURAM
(NOT TO SCALE)

1. Uthsavar
2. Palli Aral
3. Adhishesan
4. Sri Chakkaram
5. Ardhanareswarar
6. Soundarya Lakshmi
7. Kallalagar
8. Kamakshiamman
9. Aruba Lakshmi
10. Vinayagar
11. Varahiamman
12. Varasidhi Vinayagar



Lakshmi who is in a formless state and only then taken. It is believed that goddess Lakshmi eventually regained her form and beauty by the grace of Goddess Kamakshiamman. It is interesting to see that Vishnu is worshipped in a Shaivite shrine. The Vaishnavite saint Thirumangai Alwar has sung hymns in praise of this shrine.

The great saints Sundarar and Thirumangai Alwar have composed hymns in praise of Goddess Kamakshiamman. Sri Kripa Sankara, the ninth pontifical head of the Kanchi Math, chose to continue and perfect the noble work inaugurated by Sri Adi Sankara. He is credited with the re-consecration of the Sri Chakra in the temple of Goddess Kamakshi.

Legends: One of the popular legends associated with this temple is that of Sri Muka Sankara, a deaf-mute of Kanchi, who gained the power of speech by the grace of Sri Kamakshi. He became the twentieth Acharya of the Kanchi Math. Sri Muka Sankara has written “Muka Pancasati” (Sanskrit) which contains five hundred verses. It is a lyrical outburst of poetry on Devi Kamakshi of Kanchi. It is said that, the beauty of diction and melliflence of the work is rivaled only by the Krishna-Karnamrta of Leela Suka.

Another legend is associated with the heirless King Akasha Bhoopathi. It is said that a famine once stalked Kanchi. The king organized a grand prayer to goddess Kamakshi as a result of which he was blessed with a son. The king organized a mass feeding on this occasion. It is believed that the goddess took part in this feast in the guise of an old lady. A shower of gold, which banished drought from the land, followed this. The 64th Acharya of the Kanchi Mutt, Sri Chandrasekharendra Sarasvati got the temple of Sri Kamakshi, repaired and performed Kumbhabhishekham to it in 1840 A.D.

In recent times, the 68th Acharya of Kanchi, Sri Chandrasekharendra Sarasvati Swamy, who became pontiff in 1907 and presided over the affairs of the Mutt for nearly 87 years was closely associated with the repairs and renovations to this temple. His successor, Sri Jayendra Sarasvati Swamy who

was initiated and nominated successor in 1954 and Sankara Vijayendra Sarasvati who was nominated Acharya in 1983 are the architects of all developments in this temple in recent times.

Pooja

Four Poojas are conducted at this temple at various times—Kala Santhi, Uchi Kalam, Sayaratchai and Ardhajaman. The priests are entitled to take the offerings of the devotees. They are also paid monthly salary. They are also paid monthly salary. Vaidheega pooja vidhi is followed.

Layout

The layout of the temple is rather complicated. The outer Praakaaram houses the temple tank, and several mandapams such as the 100 pillared hall, the dwajaarohana mandapam etc. Imposing views of the golden vimanam can be had from the outer Praakaaram, which is pierced with four entrances on all four sides. Images to Vishnu (Ninraan, Irundaan, Kidandaan) are seen near the temple tank.

One enters the four-pillared hall then the inner Praakaaram, and climbs a series of steps, and reaches the sanctum. Immediately surrounding the sanctum are small shrines to Ardhanareeswarar, Soundaryalakshmi, Kallar and Varaahi. In the outer Praakaaram are shrines to Bangaru Kamakshi, Maha Saraswathi and Adi Sankaracharya.

Festivals

Brahmothsavam in Masi, Navarathri, Vinayaga Chaturthi, Deepavali, Saraswathi Pooja, Karthigai, Adi and Ayppasi Pooram, Sankara Jayanthi in Chithirai and Vasantha Uthsavam in Vaikasi are the major festivals that are celebrated with great fanfare. The most important of these is the Brahmothsavam in Masi, which is celebrated for 11 days, the highlight being the Car ceremony of Sri Kamakshiamman on the 7th day.

Lands and Assets

The temple covers an area of about 5 acres, and the sanctum is crowned with a gold plated vimanam. It owns wet and dry lands to an extent of 60 acres. The jewels in this temple are

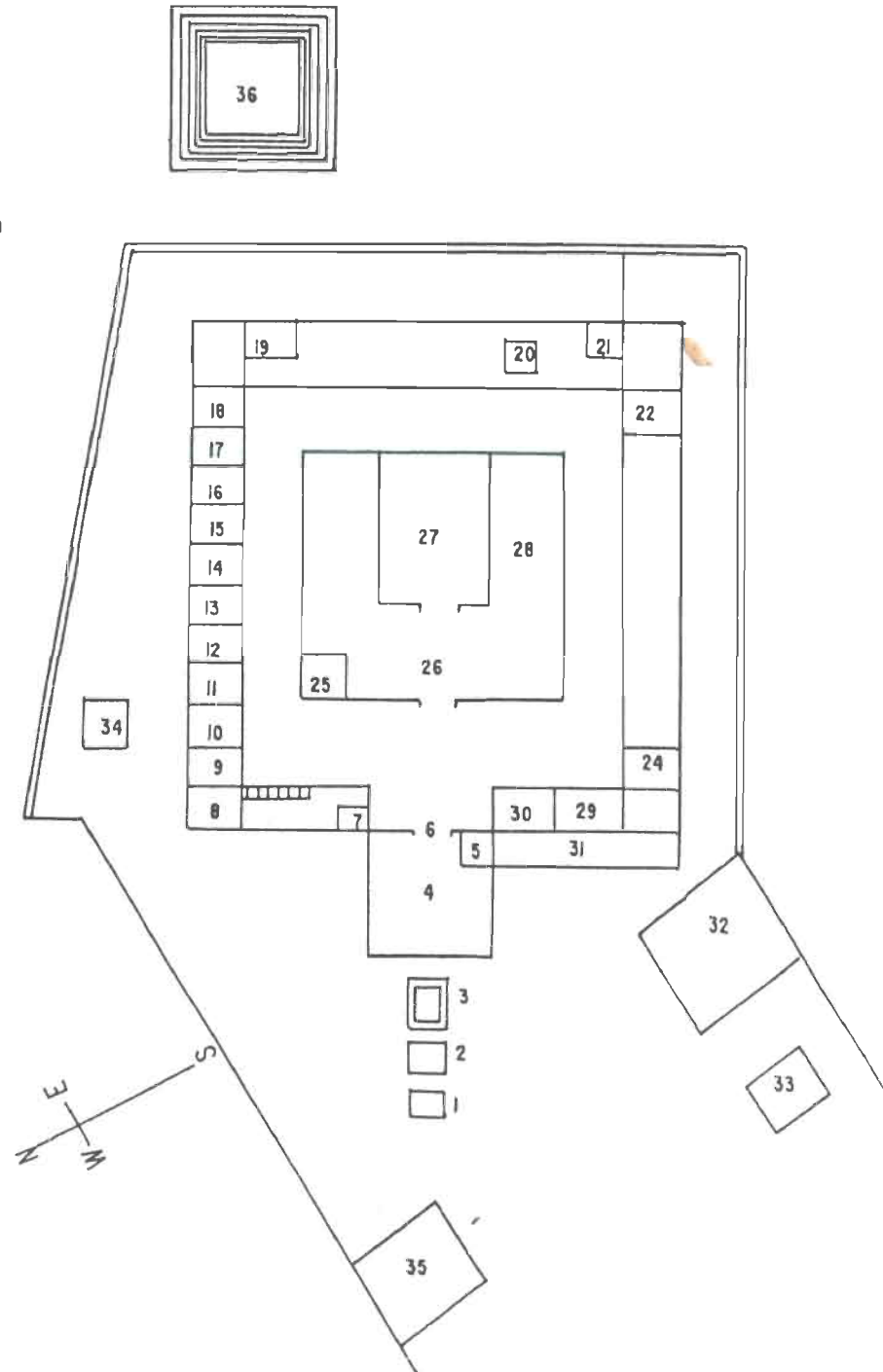
SRI SUBRAHMANIASWAMY TEMPLE

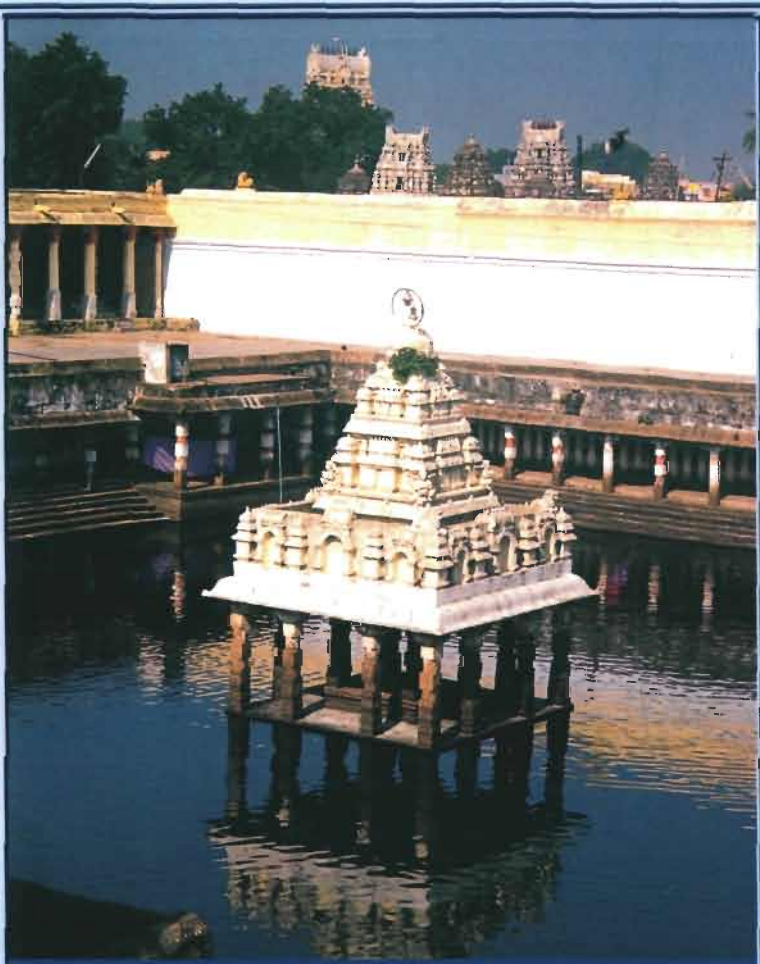
KUMARAKOTTAM, KANCHEEPURAM

(NOT TO SCALE)

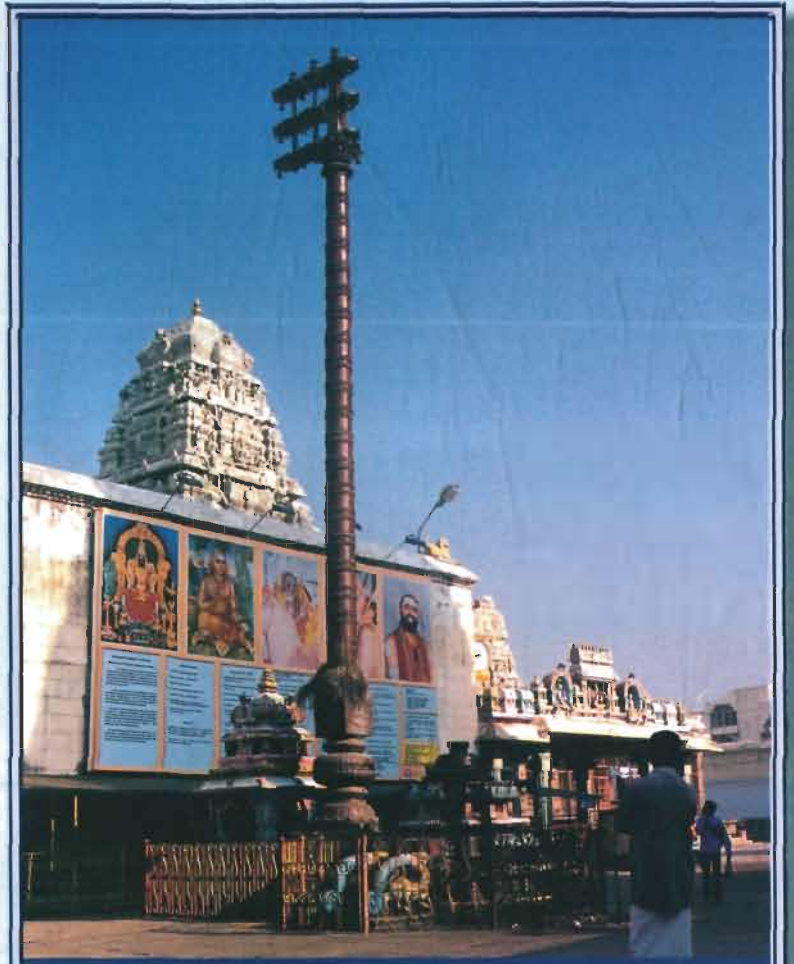
INDEX TO NUMBERS

1. Balipeedam
2. Dwaja Sthambam
3. Peacock
4. 16 Pillar Mandapam
5. Vinayagar
6. Front Entrance to the Inner Prakaram
7. Santhana Vinayagar
8. Dhandapani
9. Arumugaswamy
10. Yagasalai
11. Palli Arai
12. Bhalravar
13. Urukkamulla Perumal
14. Muthukumaraswamy
15. Somaskandhar-Uthsawar
16. Nava Veeras
17. Gajavalli
18. Room
19. Valli
20. Navagrahas
22. Arunagiri
23. Vahana Mandapam
24. Subramaniar Uthsawar
25. Senabatheeswarar
26. Front Mandapam
27. Subramaniar
28. Vahana Mandapam
29. Bala Subramaniar
30. Ramalingaswamigal
31. Store Room
32. Kandhapuranam
- 33 } Open Platforms
- 34 }
35. Office
36. Tank

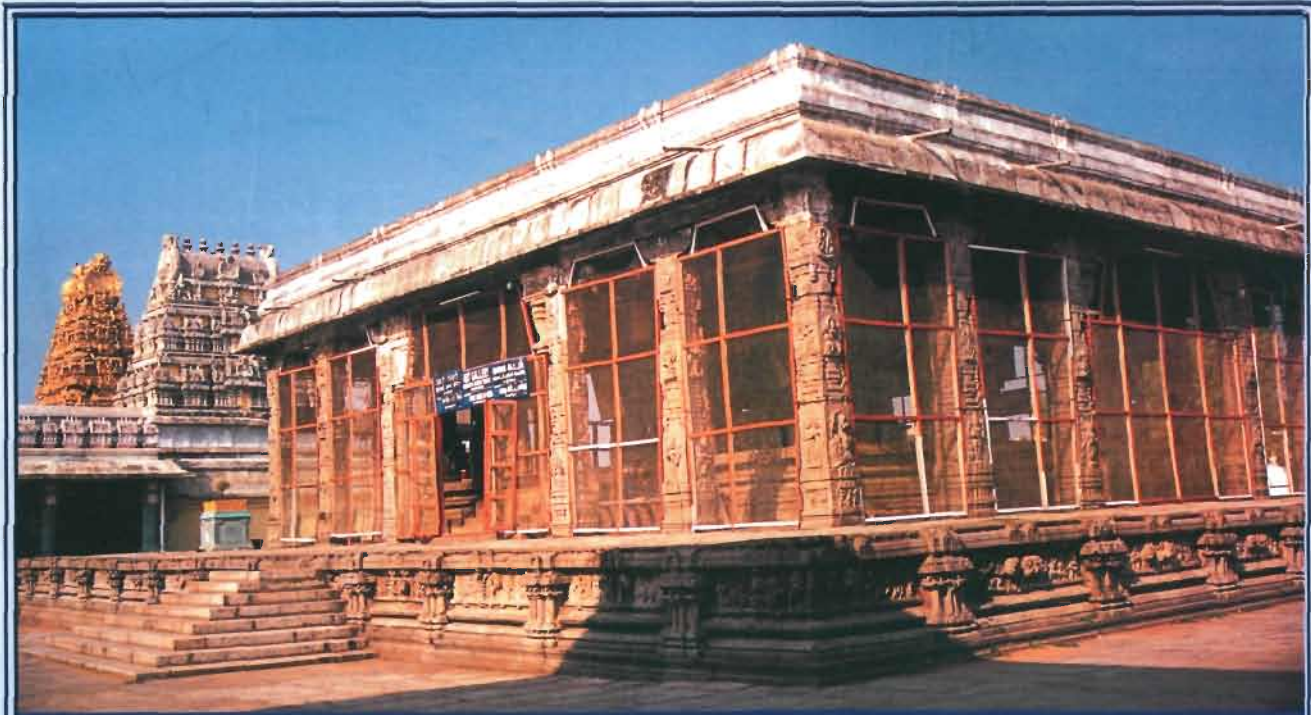




Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kancheepuram



Dhyanamandapam at Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Subrahmaniaswamy Temple (Kumarakottam), Kancheepuram



Sri Jurahareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram

priceless. The diamond crown of the Goddess-Makarakandigai, the diamond belt of the goddess Addigai and the diamond Kaligathurai are of exquisite beauty. A silver Car and a number of Vahanams are some of the other notable assets of the temple.

Administration

The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.11, 41,760/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.12, 59,294/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.12, 60,002/-.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Kamakshiamman Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram- 631502
Kancheepuram District



*Sri Subrahmaniaswamy
Temple (Kumarakottam)*

History

This temple is adjacent to the shrine of Sri Kamakshiamman on the Raja Veethi in the Shiva Kanchi portion of Kancheepuram town. The Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt is also close by. The age of the temple is unknown but is said to have been in existence when the literary work Kanda Puranam was written. It is believed that the temple was built in 11th Century. The Nattukottai Chettiars renovated this temple between 1901 and 1917.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity in this temple is Sri Balasubramaniam. The presiding deity has four arms – one right hand with Rudhraksh, another in the Abhyahastham pose, one left hand

with Kamandal and another left hand rest on his lap. He wears a Deerskin. As per legend, Lord Kanda imprisoned Lord Brahma (the creator) here and took over his duties of creation. The Rudhraksh and Kamandal in the deity's hands are actually taken from Lord Brahma. The deity and the temple face west.

There is also an idol of Shanmugar with Valli and Devayani. The saint poet Arunagirinathar is said to have visited this temple and composed a 'Thirupugazh' in praise of the deity here. There are 47 idols of various deities (all made of Panchaloga) in the temple. As the temple is located between Sri Ekambaranathar and Sri Kamakshi temples, the form is said to be Somaskandar. Apart from Saint Arunagirinathar, Pamban Swamigal and Kachiappar have also composed hymns in praise of this shrine. It is here Saint Kachiappa Shivachariar delivered his Kandapuranam. The Mandapam in which he presented his great epic is still maintained as a library.

Pooja

Poojas are done six times a day – Ushakkalam, Kalasandhi, Uchi kalam, Pradosham, Sayarakshai and Ardha jamam. Poojas performed as per Kamika Agama and Kumara thantram. The priests of this temple trace their lineage to Sri Kachiappa Shivachariar. Their office is hereditary. They are entitled to the offerings made as well as a salary.

Festivals

The Brahmothsavam in Vaikasi, and Kandasashti in Aypasi (6 days) are the main festivals.

Lands and Assets

The temple occupies an area of 2 acres. The temple has landed property to the extent of 15.33 acres of wetlands and 1.32 acres of dry lands. The temple has a car and several vahanams. The jewels of this temple are worth Rs.13, 19,897/-. The annual income from the lands is around Rs.12, 090/-; from house sites – Rs.6, 008/- and from buildings – Rs.71, 604/-. Collections from hundi for 1411 Fasli is Rs.6, 17,921/-. Besides these, fees are collected for archanas, and special entry on important days.

The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. A hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.2, 46,593/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.5, 94,096/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.5,02,798/-.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Kumarakottam Subrahmanian
Swamy Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram- 631502
Kancheepuram District

Sri Ishta Siddhi Vinayaka Temple

This temple is on Vallal Pachiappan Street, Kancheepuram. The deities are Sri Vinayaka and Saint Ramalinga Swamikal. The age of the temple is about 40 years. Sri Sanmuga Mudaliar built it. It covers an area 120 sq.ft. There are jewels worth Rs.13, 263/- offered by the devotees. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. Vinayaka Chaturthi and Thai Poosam are the main festivals. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 19,591/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 23,911/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.31, 545/-. Trustee is appointed by HR & CE Department.

Sri Nagareswarar Temple

This temple is located opposite to Mettu Street Bus Stop. The temple was built by Arya Vyasa community people about 200 years ago. It covers an area of 50 cents. This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Sri Parvathy Amman is in the form of Uthsavar. The other deities are Murugan, Hanuman, Navagrahas, Perumal and Vinayaka. The temple owns 3 shops and house site of 7.79 acres, which fetch Rs.75, 000/- per annum. Monthly Pradhosham, Karthigai Mondays, Shivarathri are the important days. The main festivals are Arudhra in Margazhi and Vinayaga Chaturthi in Avani when deity is taken on procession. The affairs of the temple are managed by a Board of 5 trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable

Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 20,450/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 19,839/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.55, 262/-.

BOX - 36

Kancheepuram Trivia

According to the Kanchi Puranam, taking a bath in the temple tanks on particular days is highly beneficial.

Sunday:	Ishta Siddhi Theertham at Sri Kachabeswarar temple.
Monday:	Sivagangai Theertham at Sri Ekambareswarar temple
Tuesday:	Mangala Theertham at Sri Gangaikondan temple.
Wednesday:	Indra Theertham Thirukalimedu temple.
Thursday:	Thayar Kulam at Sri Kayaroganeeswarar temple.
Friday:	Ulagani Theertham at Sri Kamakshiamman temple
Saturday:	Sarva Theertham at Sri Ekambareswarar temple.

Sri Trikala Gnaneswarar Temple

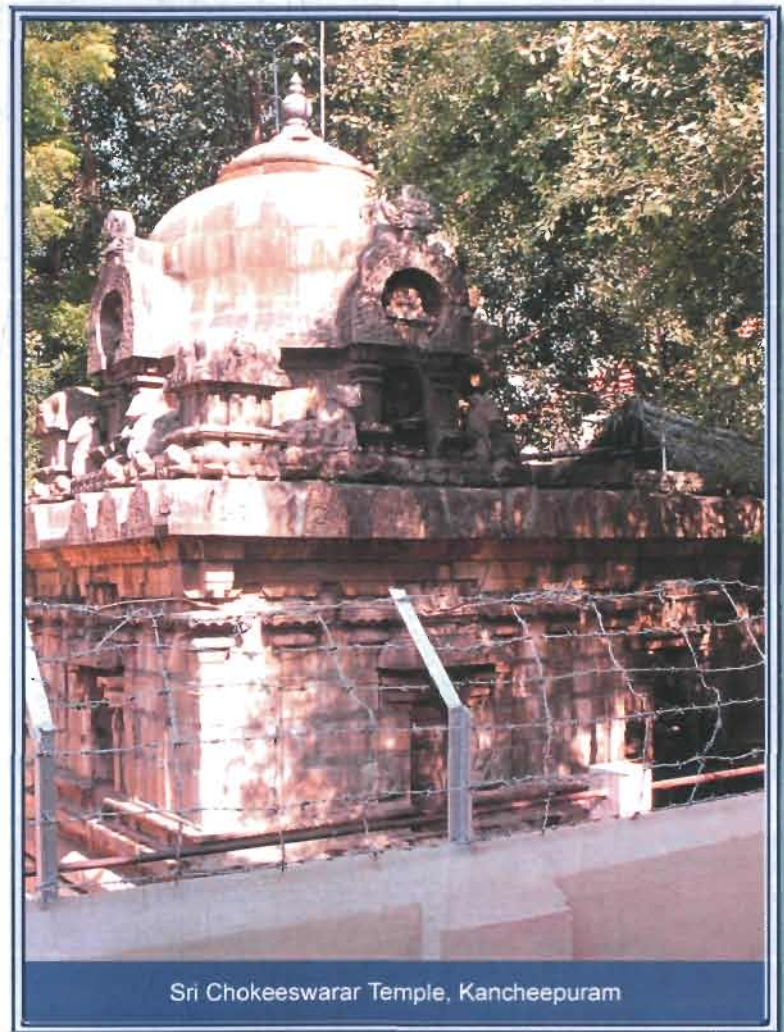
This temple is located on the Kancheepuram Main bus stand. This temple is devoted to Lord Shiva. The devotees believe that the Lord knows the present, past and future and hence he is called “Trikala Gnaneswarar”. All passengers using this Bus Stand worship at this temple.

Sri Sangupani Vinayaka Temple

This temple is located in the Irratai Mandapam of Kancheepuram. The presiding deity is in conch shape hence the name Sangupani (conch-shaped) Vinayaka. It is believed that this deity was worshipped before the city of Kancheepuram was established. The other deities of the temple



Sri Jurahareswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Chokeeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Onankanthan Thali, Kancheepuram



Sri Anegathangavatheeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Vayiruthari Pillaiyar at Sri Onankanthan Thali, Kancheepuram



Sri Salantheswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Metraleeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram

are Naga Lingam, Navagrihas and Sani (Saturn). This is a very small temple on the roadside having a small mandapam but it is famous among the local people. A Brahmin Gurukkal performs poojas twice daily. Special poojas are arranged according to devotees wish. The main source of income is from Hundi collections.

Sri Airavadeswarar Temple

This temple is located on the Raja Veethi (Main Road) of Kancheepuram and opposite to Sri Kachapeswarar Temple. The presiding deity is “Tharaga Lingam” with sixteen rows. The walls of the temple are adorned with the figures of a number of Gods offering their prayers to Lord Shiva. Shivarathri is the main festival of this temple. A gurukkal performs pooja twice daily.

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka Temple

It is located 3 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station at Chuklapalayam. The public built it about 100 years ago. It occupies 249 sq.ft. Area. The presiding deity is Vinayaka. One pooja a day is performed by an archagar. It owns 2.1 acres of wetland and 12000 sq.ft. House site, which fetch an annual income of Rs. 6,000/-. There are no jewels. Vinaya Chaturthi is the main festival. A trustee appointed by the HR & CE administers the affairs of the temple.

Sri Chokeeswarar (Kausekeswarar) Temple

This small shrine is located adjacent to Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple. It is a very small shrine and recently excavated by the Archeology Department. As per their records, the temple was built in the 12th Century A.D. It is also called Kausekeswarar Temple and Therkirunda Nakkar Temple. There are stone inscriptions belonging to the period of Kopura Kesari Verman. This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. A Gurukkal performs pooja twice a day.



Sri Jurahareswarar Temple

This temple is located in between Kanchi Mutt and Ekambaranathar Temple. It covers an area of about 1-acre. As per legend, Shiva created Arumuga from his Third Eye to kill the demon Surapadman. After Sura-samharam” (killing Surapadman), Arumuga was pacified by Shiva. The idols of Kubera and Indra are seen performing pooja behind the Lingam in the temple. It is said to be Kuber’s temple. The vimanam is of Gajabrishta Vimanam type. As per legend, the deity in this temple has the power to cure illnesses. Special prayers and Abhishegams are conducted at this temple for this purpose. The Garbha Griha has windows on three sides to allow free flow of air. This is a unique feature in this temple. The Archeological Survey of India maintains it.

Onankanthan Thali and Sri Salantheswarar Temple

This temple is one of the Thirumurai Sthalams (temples in praise of which Shaivite saints have composed Hymns). The temple is located on the Panjupettai Street, opposite the Electric substation of this area. It is an ancient temple believed to be built by two Asuras (Demons)— Onan and Kanthan who established two lingam and performed poojas. It is built in an area of 20 cents. There are two Swayambu Lingams in the name of the two Senapathis of Banasura- Onan-Oneswarar and Kanthan-Kantheswarar.

There is also a lingam said to have been installed by Salandaran called “Salantheswarar” in this temple.

There is also Vinayaka temple here called “Vayiruthari Pillaiar”. Saint Sundaramurthy has composed hymns in praise of this shrine. As per legend, Saint Sundaramurthy was singing his songs with great devotion. The Lord in order to test him left the shrine and took abode in a Tamarind tree. The saint followed him and continued his singing. The lord touched by his devotion turned the tamarind fruits on the tree into gold and showered them upon the Saint.

A poojari performs poojas twice a day. The temple owns house sites and receives Rs. 40,000/- p.m. as rent. Arudhra is the main festival. A trustee appointed by HR & CE manages the affairs of the temple.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Onakanthan Thirukoil,
Panchupettai,
Periya Kancheepuram- 631502
Kancheepuram District

Kacchi Anegathangavatham

This temple is one of the Thirumurai Sthalams (temples in praise of which Shaivite saints have composed Hymns). This temple is located on the way to the Sri Kailasanatha temple off Puthery Street, 2½ Kms Northwest of Kancheepuram. There are two Anegathangavathams - one in North India and another in Kancheepuram (South). Hence it is called “Kacchi” Anegathangavatham.

The temple has a small Gopuram but a large courtyard. The Maha Kumbhabhishekam of this temple was performed on 16th April 1999.

The presiding deity is Sri Arun Manneswarar and His Consort is Sri Manonmani. Saint Sundarar and Thirugnana sambandar sung hymns about this temple.

As per legend, Lord Vigneswara established “Anegabeswarar” in the form of lingam. Anegabeswarar killed Iraniyapura king “Kesi” and arranged the marriage of his daugh-

ter Vallabai with Lord Vigneswara. Kubera the God of wealth is also believed to have offered prayers at this temple. The temple is surrounded by a garden. A Gurukkal performs pooja twice a day. The temple owns some lands.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Anekathangavatheeswarar
Thirukoil,
Pillayarpalayam,
Kancheepuram- 631501
Kancheepuram District

Muppurarikottam

This temple is located 3 Kms away from Santhavelli Amman temple on the Kilambi Road. The other names are “Ezhir Kottam” and “Eeyapillaiar Temple”. The presiding deity is Muppurari Lingam. As per legend, Sudanman, Susheelan and Subukthi from Tiripuram came down to Kancheepuram, as per the orders of Lord Shiva, established “Mupurareesan” Lingam and performed poojas.

Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Muthialpet

It is a small shrine dedicated to Hanuman situated in Muthialpet. A poosari performs daily poojas. It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1400, 1401 & 1402 – Rs.12,450/- each.

Sri Gajendravaradar and Agastheeswarar Temples, Puliyambakkam

They are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of these temples as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 21,332/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 27,560/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.30,395/-.

Sri Chintamani Vinayaka and Mukteeswarar Temples

These temples are located in Pillayarpalayam area of Kancheepuram. They are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of these temples as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1400,1401 & 1402 – Rs. 32,506/- each.

Sri Metraleeswarar and Maha Ananda Rudreswarar Temples

History /Presiding Deity

This temple is one of the Thirumurai Sthalams (temples in praise of which Shaivite saints have composed Hymns). This temple is located 3 Kms south of Kancheepuram Railway Station. The area in which this temple is located is called Pillayarpalayam. Later Cholas built it in the 13th Century A.D. Some stone inscriptions are found in the temple. Hymns have been composed about this temple by the trinity of Appar, Sundarar and Manickavasagar. The street on which the temple is located is called Metrali Street. On the eastern side of the street there is a temple dedicated to the Shaivite saint Thirugnanasambandar. The saint is facing the Gopuram of Thirumetraleeswarar with folded hands. The Uthsavamurthi in this temple has a golden bowl in the right hand. In the middle of the Street, there is a shrine called Ottuketta Mutheesar. It is believed that when Saint Gnanasambandar was singing hymns, Lord Shiva himself sat at this shrine and listened to the divine songs. At the other end of the street is the temple of Sri Thirumetraleeswarar. There is a belief that 108 Rudras performed penance at this site and hence the place is also called “Ananda Rudresam” or “Maha Rudresam”. The Raja Gopuram is facing west and is three-tiered.

The presiding deity is Sri Metralinathar in the form of a Lingam facing west. The deity is also called “Odha Urugesar”. It is believed that the Lord Vishnu was so moved by the devotional songs of Saint Thirugnanasambandar on Lord Shiva and

he changed his form to a Shivalingam. Hence, the change is mentioned as melting and hence the name “Urugeswarar”.

According to legend, Lord Vishnu was engaged in penance here in order to attain Shivaswaroopiam (identity with Sri Shiva in form). Lord Shiva appeared before Lord Vishnu and granted a Boon that the latter should continue his penance at this spot till Saint Thirugnanasambandar appeared and composed a hymn. Accordingly, the Saint composed a thevaram in his praise and he took permanent residence here as a lingam facing the west. The deity takes its name from the fact that it is facing west (Merku in Tamil). There is a shrine of Thirugnanasambandar at the eastern end of the street.

Pooja

Two poojas are offered daily to the Sri Metralinathar, Sri Odha Urugeswarar, Sri Ottuketta Mutheesarar and Thirugnanasambandar. One pooja is offered to the other deities.

Lands and Assets

The temple is built on an area of half an acre and the garden occupies one and a half acres. The temple owns antique jewels of priceless value. It also owns cultivable lands. It has a wooden soora vahanam.

Festivals

Soorasamharam, Thirukalyanam, Vinayaga Chaturthi and Thirugnanasambandar Vizha are the main festivals. Of these, Soorasamharam is the **principal** festival, which attracts large crowds. On the fifth day of the Annual festival of Sri Kacchabesar, a special pooja is performed to the Goddess and she is taken out in ceremonial procession.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 15,985/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.18, 843/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.21, 212/-.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Metraleeswarar Thirukoil,
Thirumetrali Street, Pillayarpalayam,
Kancheepuram- 631501
Kancheepuram District

Sri Pana Mudeeswara Temple

The temple is located 3 Kms from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 1 acre. The stala puranam of this temple is found in the Kanchi Puranam in Panadaresa padalam. The presiding deity is Shiva in the form of a Pradhista lingam. As per legend, Naga (the divine serpent) prayed to Lord Shiva in this temple. The original name of this temple is said to be “Pana Dhareeswarar” (one who carries a serpent). This got transformed in the course of time to “Pana Mudeeswarar (one whose hair is in the form of serpents). The other deities are Dakshinamoorthi, Subrahmaniar with Valli and Deivayanai, Kala Bhairavar and Navagrahas. A hereditary priest performs one Pooja a day.

Vinayaga Chathurthi, Soorasamharam and Karthigai Uthsavam are the main festivals celebrated. The temple covers an area of one acre. It owns immovable property.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 24,793/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 19,052/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.43,889/-.

Sri Santha Valliamman Temple

The temple is located 2 Kms from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 25 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Santha Valliamman (Mother goddess). The other deities are Sri Vinayaka, Subrahmaniam, Durga and Pappathiamman. A priest belonging to the Mudaliar community offers puja once a day. The temple owns immovable property - 2.10 acres of wetland and jewels worth Rs.18,999/-. Navarathri, Adi Pooram are celebrated as festivals.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: Fasli 1403- Rs. 13,140/-; Fasli 1404 – Rs.17,399/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.20,289/-. The Executive Officer, HR & CE administers its affairs.



*Sri Devaraja Swamy /
Varadarajaswami
Devasthanam*

History

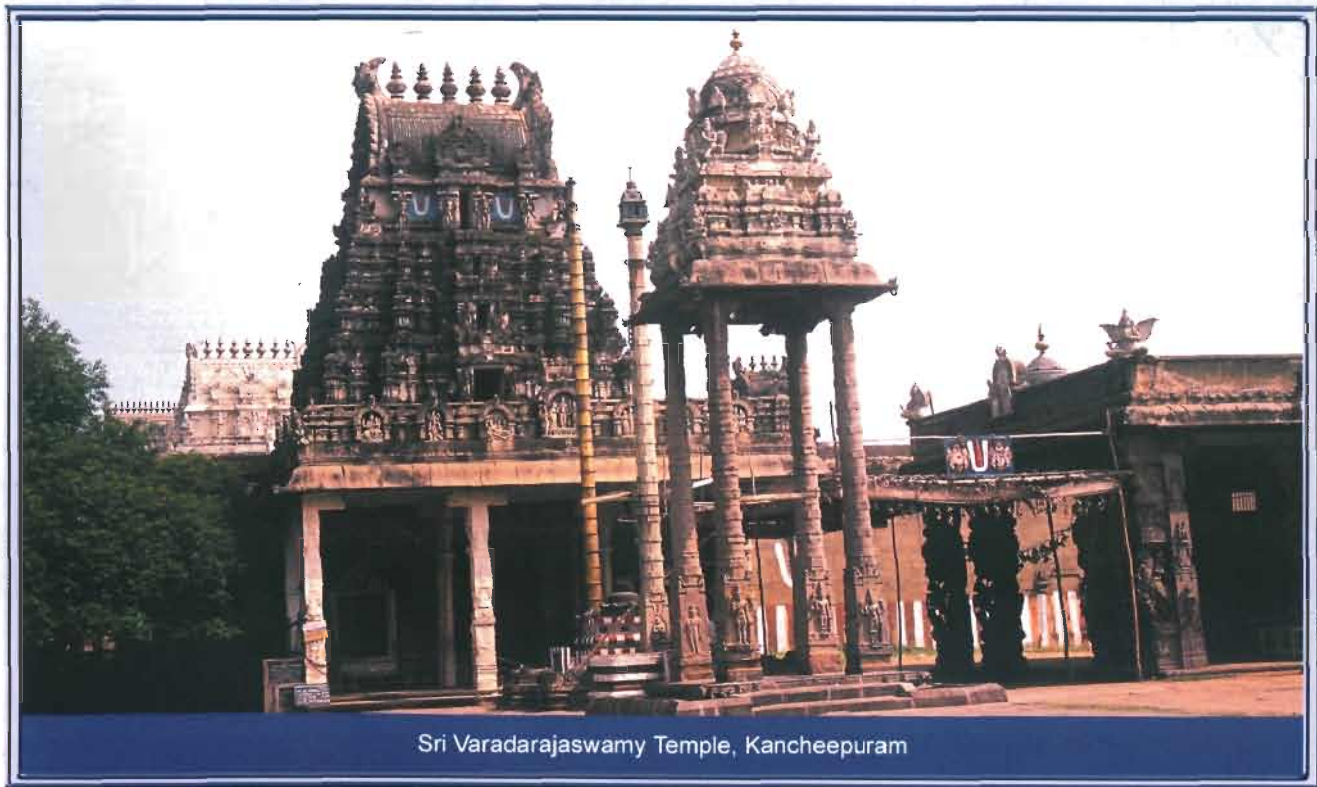
This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). The temple of Sri Devaraja Swamy/VaradarajaSwamy is located two miles from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. It is built on a hillock called Hasthagiri. The temple dates back to the 9th century during Rajaraja Chola-I (1018-1054 A.D.). Pallava, Chola and Vijayanagar rulers are credited with the construction, addition or repair of this shrine. A philanthropist from Calcutta renovated the temple in 1930.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Sri Devaraja Swamy, also known as Varadarajaswami who is believed to have emanated from the sacrificial fire of Lord Brahma. The main deity facing west is in standing posture over ten feet in height. The other deity of the goddess Sri Perundevi Thayar is in sitting pose and is four feet high. According to legend, Brahma who was temporarily estranged from his consort Sri Saraswathi decided to perform a horse sacrifice in order to get a darshan of Lord Vishnu. When Sri Saraswathi came to know of this she took the form of a river and rushed down to destroy the sacrificial Mandapam. Lord Brahma prayed to Lord Vishnu to avert this calamity. The latter lay down across the river seated on the legendary serpent Adishesha. Saraswathi could not proceed further and the river



Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram

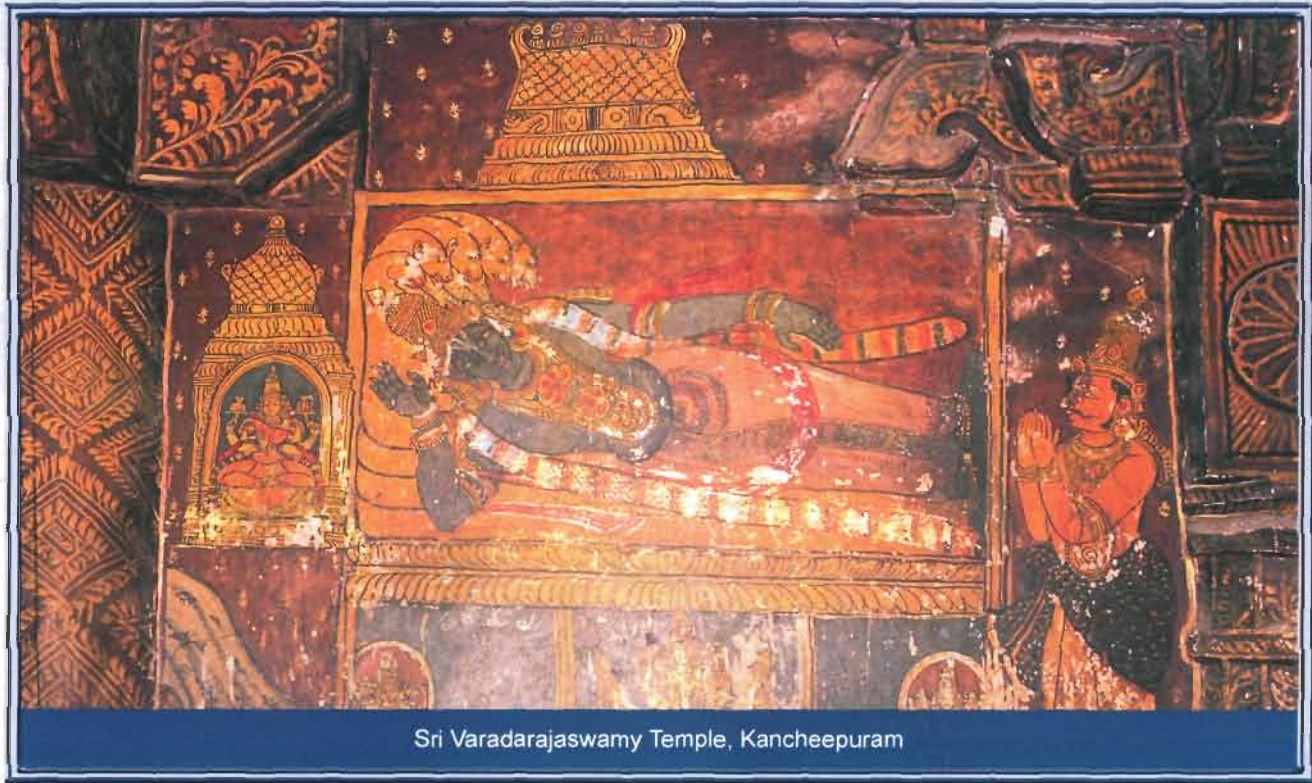




Sri Varadarajar with His consorts, Kancheepuram



Adi Hasthigirinathar (Athi Varadar) at Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram

disappeared underground. Saraswathi reconciled her differences with Brahma and together they completed the sacrifice. Lord Vishnu appeared from the sacrificial fire accompanied by his consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi and agreed to stay on in the same form on Hasthagiri. It is believed that Lord Brahma in Kretha Yuga worshiped Lord Vishnu, by Gajendran in Thretha Yuga and by Brahaspathi in Dwapara Yuga. In Kali Yuga Adishesan is supposed to be worshipping him. Saints Alavandar, Ramanuja, and other Alvars have visited this shrine and composed hymns in praise of the lord.

Another legend associated with this temple is that once Indra the King of the gods was cursed by Goddess Saraswathi to take the form of a mad Elephant. On the advice of Goddess Lakshmi, Indra worshipped Lord Varadaraja at Kancheepuram. The Lord delivered him from the curse and liberated him from the body of the elephant. The body of the elephant was converted into a hill, which came to be called Hastinagiri or Attigiri (elephant hill). The principal deity is therefore called by different names- Attiyuran, Atti Varadar, Arulalar, Varada, Hasthigirinathan, Karigirisa, Hasthibhushana, Devadi Devarajan, Gajendragirinathan, Pranatharthiharan, Karivaradan and Manickavaradan.

Another story in this temple is that two disciples of Sage Gauthama were once cursed to take the form of lizards. These Lizards took refuge in this temple and were delivered from their curse due to the grace of the Lord. There is a panel in this temple depicting this story.

An idol of Lord Varadaraja made of Athi wood is put in a silver casket and is kept immersed in the Temple Tank. This is believed to be the original idol consecrated by Lord Brahma and is called Adi Hasthigirinathar. However as the wooden idol was not capable of being exposed to the various rituals a granite idol was installed and this idol was kept in safe custody. The wooden idol is taken out once in forty years and is kept for public darshan for a period of 45-48 days. At the end of this period, the idol is again put back in the silver casket and immersed in the

Tank. It is believed that when the idol is put back in the casket, torrential rains pour down and automatically fill up the Tank.

An inscription dating back to 1335 AD refers to the gift of a throne to the temple by a Hoysala King Veera Vallalan. Another inscription in the temple refers to the invasion of the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb in 1688 A.D. It is believed that fearing the Muslim invaders the idols of this temple were shifted to Udayarpalayam in Trichy District. In 1710 after the danger was over, the authorities of the temple wanted to bring back the idols. The Chieftain of Udayarpalayam however refused. Only after the intervention of the Vaishnavite saint Paramahansa Parivrajakacharya Attan Jeer and his disciple Todar Mall were the idols returned. This event is commemorated as the Udayarpalayam festival.

Legends

A popular legend associated with this temple is regarding Thirumanjana Alwar. It is said that the Alwar after spending all his wealth in the service of the Lord had no money to pay the annual tax of the king. Consequently he was imprisoned. The Lord appeared in the dream of the King and directed him to a particular place on the river bank where he found a hoard of wealth thus saving the Alwar.

Another legend is associated with Thirukkachi Nambi who used to walk miles everyday to have a darshan of the lord and adorn him with flowers. So great was his devotion that when he grew old he was given the privilege of staying with the Lord and conversing with him.

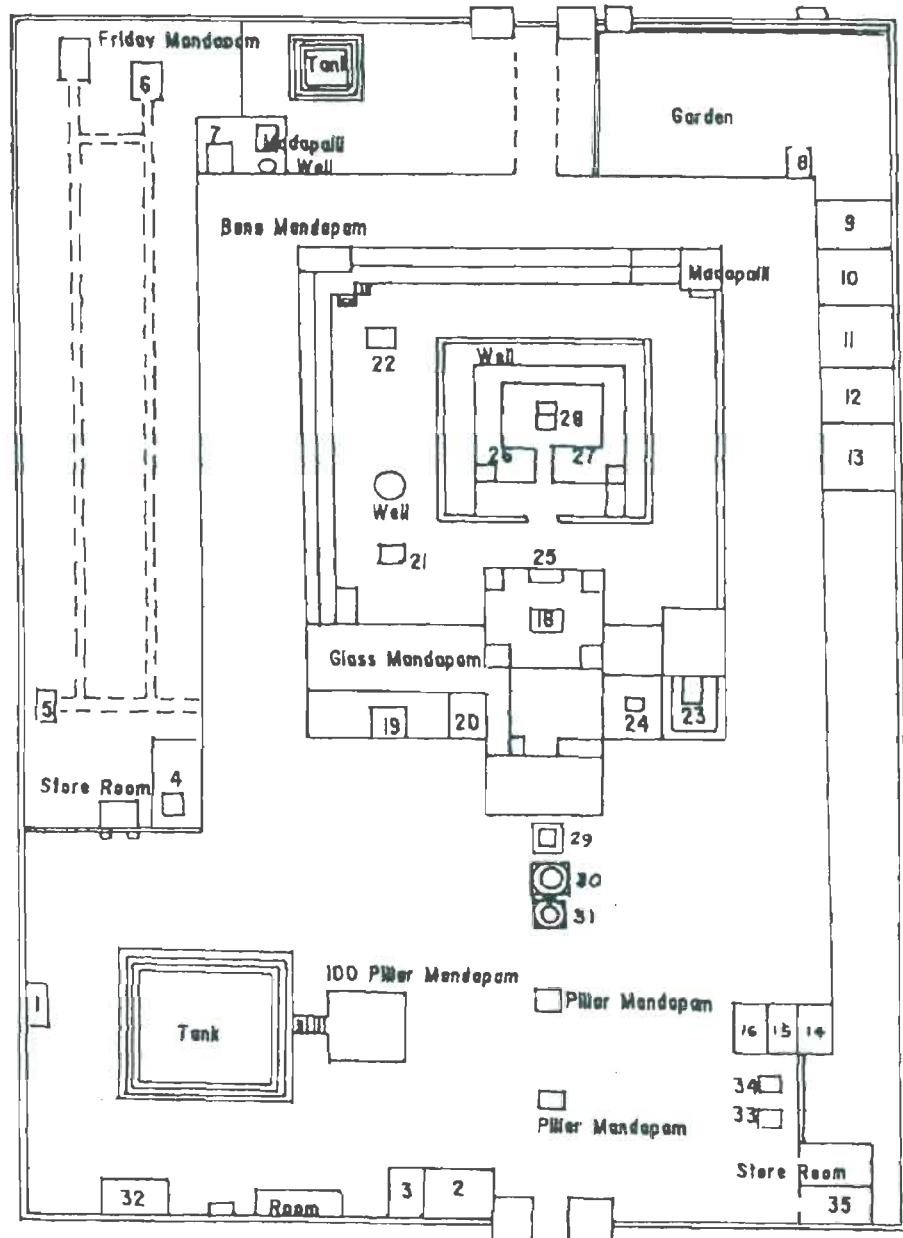
The legend associated with Sri Ramanuja recounts how the saint was saved from the evil designs of his teacher who wanted to kill him out of jealousy and how the Lord and Goddess of this temple guided him back to Kancheepuram in the guise of a hunter couple. Ramanuja later developed the tenets of Vaishnavite philosophy at this Temple.

SRI VARADHARAJASWAMY TEMPLE

KANCHEEPURAM
(NOT TO SCALE)

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16 Pillar Mandapam



Pooja

Priests known as Bhattacharyas do Poojas four times a day. These priests trace their lineage to the saint Yagya Valkier. The service is hereditary and they have been endowed with lands apart from a salary and offerings made by devotees.

Layout

The temple is located on a rectangular plot 378 meters long and 212 meters broad. It covers an area of 22.28 acres of land. The temple has seven Praakaaras. The first of these has the garbagriha and the pradakshina padha. This is known as the Vayya (earth) Maligai (mansion). The second Praakaara is called Thirumalai Pradakshina. The third one is known as the madapalli Praakaaram as it houses the temple kitchen. This is also known as Alavandar Praakaaram to mark the place where the renowned Vaishnavite saint met Sri Ramanuja for the first time. Numerous shrines and mandapams are housed here. The fourth Praakaara is called the Alwar Thiruveedhi and this houses all the shrines dedicated to the Alwar saints and the temple tank called Anandasaras Pushkarani. The temple has two main Vimanas (Gopuram). The East Gopuram is 180 feet high and the West Gopuram 160 feet tall. The garbagriha is at a height of 40 feet. There is also a Mandapam with 100 pillars, which is decorated with ornate carvings. The chains made out of stone are a speciality.

Paintings and Carvings

Paintings in the Vijayanagara style adorn the outer verandah of the main shrine. These are said to date back to the 16th Century. Exquisite woodcarvings are seen on the temple car, which is 60 feet in height. This car is said to have been donated by Krishnadeva Raya in 1517 A.D.

Festivals

Brahmothsavam is the main festival in Vaikasi. The Garudothsavam, which is observed on the third day of this festival, attracts huge crowds. Chithra Pournami, Navarathri, Deepavali, Karthigai Deepam and Pongal are also celebrated with great fanfare.

Land and Assets

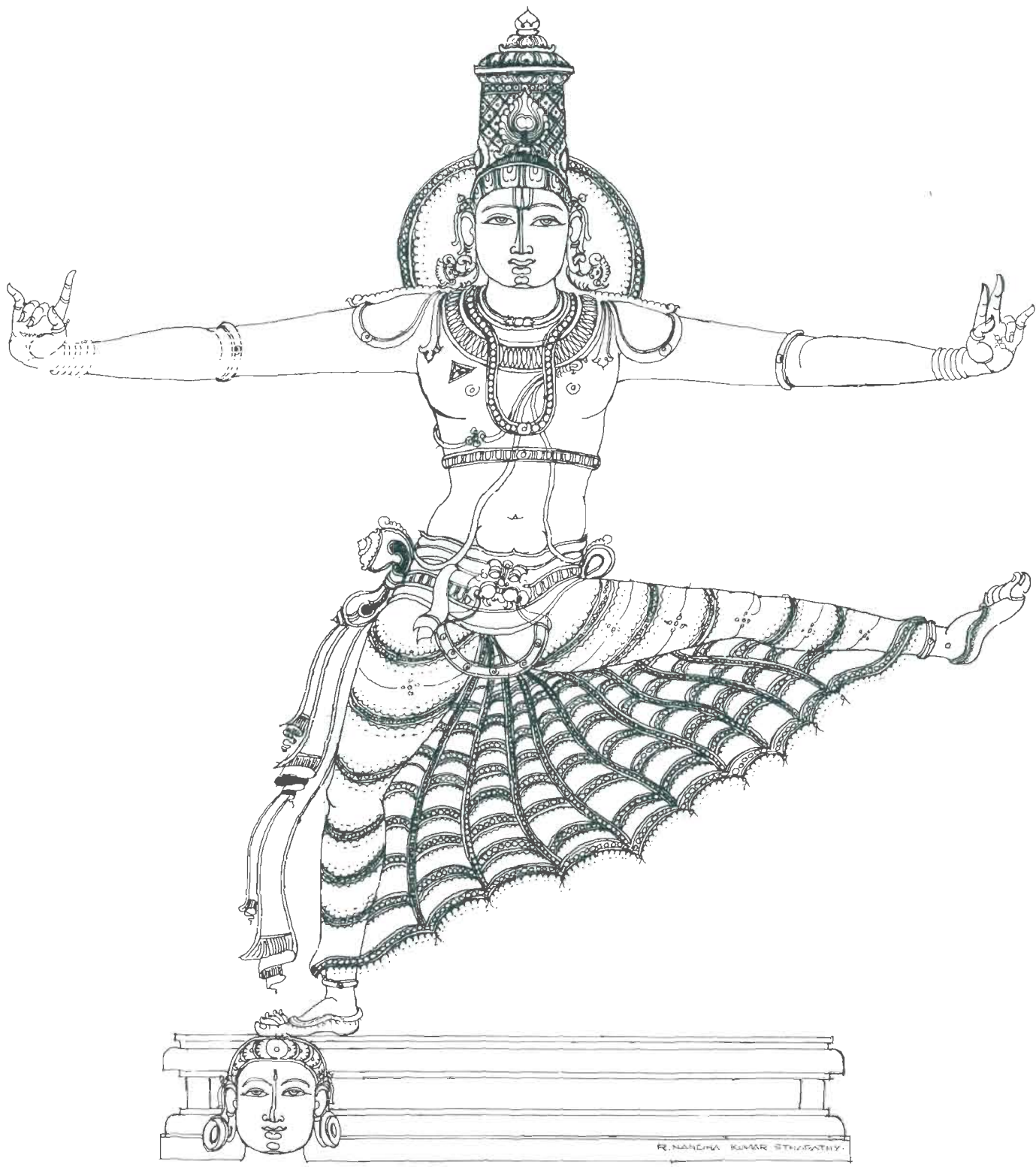
The temple covers an area of about 20 acres. It owns wet and dry lands to an extent of 174.17 acres wet; 241.85 acres dry and uncultivable land of 26.36 acres. The annual income from lands is Rs.75,000/-. Hundi collections amount to Rs.12.00 lakhs per annum. The jewels in this temple made of gold, diamonds, pearls and other precious stones are of great antique value and are priceless. The Clive Makarakandi is a necklace with an interesting story. It is said that Robert Clive the founder of the British empire once visited Kancheepuram to witness the Garudaseva festival. He was so moved by the decorations made to the Lord that he presented the necklace of his wife to the Lord. This necklace is used during the annual garudaseva festival every year. The Ananthachar Makarakandi presented by Prativadi Bhayankaram Ananthachariar and another set of jewellery presented by a British Collector Mr. Price are part of the collection of jewels in this Temple. The total worth of jewels is Rs.5, 33,20,466/-.

A wooden Car (200 years old) and 15 Vahanams are some of the other notable assets of the temple.

Administration

The affairs of the temple were formerly managed by the representatives of the Vijayanagara rulers one Thathachariyar. At present, as per High Court, Chennai orders A.No.175/1934; it is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.17,81,137/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.16,36,245/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.18,29,069/-.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Devaraja Swamy Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram- 631501
Kancheepuram District



SRI ULAGALANDHA PERUMAL



Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram



Golden Lizard at Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram



Athi Tank at Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram



Kalyanamandapam at Sri Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Ulagalanda Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram

Sri Ulagalandha Perumal Temple

History

This temple has four of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns) within its premises. The four Desams are called – Peragam, Neeragam, Karagam and Karvaanam. The above temple is located 1 Km from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. It is close to Sri Kamakshi Temple. It was built in the reign of Jayamkonda Chola. Inscriptions indicate that King Kulothunga-I offered prayers at this temple in the 40th year of his reign. Renovations were carried out in 1926. The temple occupies an area of 60,000 Sq.ft. The Vimanam in this temple is called Salahara Vimanam.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Shri Ulagalandha Perumal, also called Peragathan. As per legend Adi Sheshan, the divine serpent requested Lord Vishnu to give Darshan in the “Trivikrama pose”. Accordingly, the Lord gave Darshan. The deity is in standing posture 35 ft. in height and 24 ft. in breadth in the form of ‘Trivikrama’ with two hands. As per legend, Shri Vishnu approached the legendary king Shri Mahabali in the form of a dwarf and requested land, which he could cover in 3 steps. The first two steps the Lord had covered the entire world and the heavens and there was no place to keep the third step. King Mahabali offered his head as the resting place for the Lord’s third step and thereby attained salvation. As the Lord measured the world he is named Ulagalandha Perumal (measurer of the world). It is also believed that Lord Vishnu gave darshan to Anjaneya at this spot.

Several saints (Thirumangai alwar, Thirumazhisai alwar and Peialwar) have composed hymns on this temple. The foremost among these are Parimelazhagar. The temple finds a place in the “Nalayira Divya Prabhandham”.

The shrines of Ooragam, Neeragam, Karagam and Karvannam are also located within this Temple. There is a small shrine for “Adi Seshan”-the divine serpent on which

Vishnu lies. The goddess is called Amudhavalli Thayar. A separate shrine for Her is there in the temple. The theertham (tank) in this temple is called ‘Nagatheertham’.

Poojas

A Hereditary Bhattacharyas conduct Poojas twice daily as per the Pancharathra Agama. These priests had been endowed with lands from the temple. Aavani Sukhla Panchami, Thai Poosam, Purattasi Sravana Dwadasi, Vamana Avatara Uthsavam, Vaikunda Ekadasi and Garuda Seva are the main festivals. The Car festival in this temple is also very famous.

Lands and Assets

The temple owns 12.16 acres of wet and 3.11 acres of dry lands. Jewels valued Rs.47, 793/- are known to be owned by the temple. The temple car, a Chapparam, a palanquin and several vahanas are the other notable assets of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 99,124/-; Fasli 1403 – Rs. 1,24,751/- and for Fasli 1404 - Rs. 1,13,252/-.

Administration

A Board of Trustees formerly managed the affairs of the temple. The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department now administer it since 1934.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Ulagalandha Perumal
Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram- 631501
Kancheepuram District



Sri Kailasanathar Temple (Salabogyam)

History

The temple is located 1 km. from Kancheepuram Railway Station. Sri Kailasanathar temple was commenced by Sri Raja Simha Pallava around 700 A.D. and completed by his son Mahendra Verman - III. It is built in the Pallavas style with a pyramidal tower, a pillared hall and a vestibule all enclosed by a wall. The temple is famous for its exquisite carvings. Stone inscriptions and murals are seen in the temple.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. There is also figure of Ardhanareeswarar. The feminine aspect has a Veena in her hands while the masculine aspect of Shiva is seated in a Bull. This style is peculiar to this temple. There is no separate shrine for the Goddess. The Uthsavar idol of the Goddess is called Parvatha Vardhini.

This temple has a unique feature that it was not consecrated- no Kumbhabhishekam was performed and there is a story behind this. As per Legend, after Rajasimha Pallava constructed and fixed a date for Kumbhabhishekam of this temple, that night Lord Shiva appeared in his dream and told him that he would not be present at the Kumbhabhishekam, as he has to go to Thiruninravoor where Saint Poosalar Nayanar had constructed a temple and fixed the same date for Kumbhabhishekam. Later on, the King realised that Poosalar Nayanar was blind and that the temple mentioned by Lord Shiva is a Manaseega (built in mind) temple. So, the Kumbhabhishekam was not performed to this Temple. This temple is called by various names: Rajasimheswaram, Mahendravermeswaram and Naradeswaram temple, South Kailash and Salabogyam.

The outer Praakaara was made of smaller temples with huge lions at the base of the pillars. In the inner Praakaaram, while approaching the main deity, one has to bend and crawl like a child before the hall opens up and one can come to normal standing position. The temple occupies an area of 1 acre. The two Praakaarams in the temple are full of exquisitely carved sculpture.

A hereditary "Gurukkal" performs Pooja twice daily as per Kamiga Agama. His services are honorary. The temple owns 4.73 acres of wetland and 5.27 acres of dry lands.

Shivarathri in Masi and Arudhra in Margazhi are the main festivals.

Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. It has been taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India and maintained under the Monuments Act.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Kailasanathar Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram- 631501
Kancheepuram District

Sri Soleeswarar Temple

This is an ancient temple. Renovations and Kumbabishekam were performed about 80 years ago. The presiding deity is Sri Soleeswarar in the form of Prathishta Lingam. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Poojas twice a day. The temple owns some immovable property and two vahanas. Kandasashti in Aypasi and Vinayaga Chathurthi in Avani are the annual festivals. A single trustee manages the temple.

Sri Pillaiyar Temple

This is an ancient temple covering an area of 4 cents. The presiding deity Vella Pillaiyar is in a sitting posture. The Gurukkal performs Poojas twice a day. The temple has no properties. Vinayaga Chathurthi is the annual festival. A single trustee manages the temple.



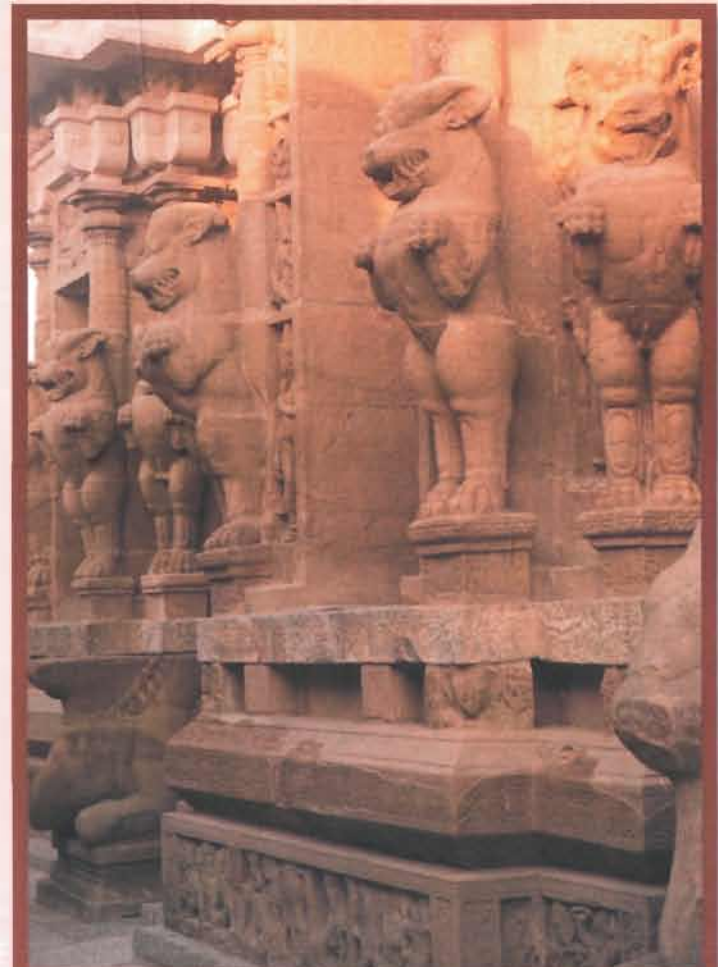
Sri Kailasanathar Temple (Salabogyam), Kancheepuram



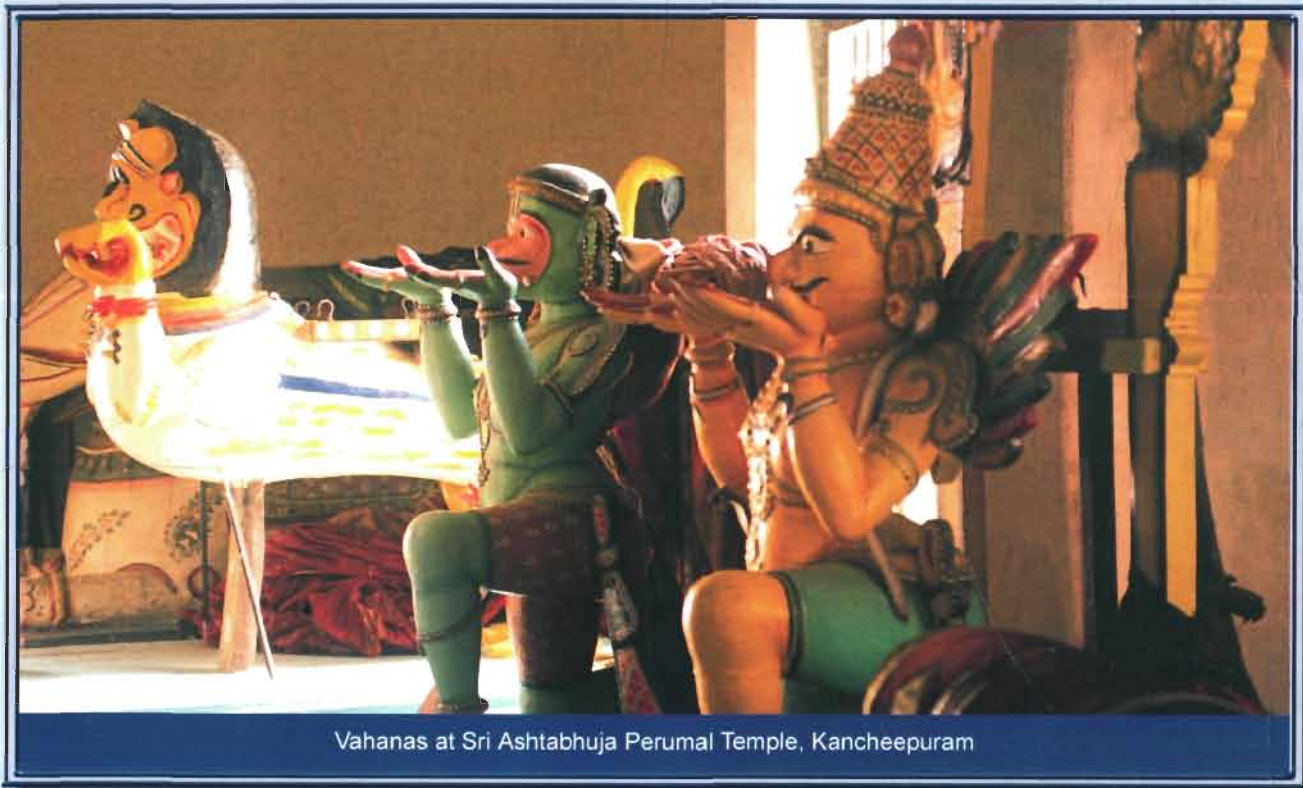
Nandi at Sri Kailasanathar Temple, Kancheepuram



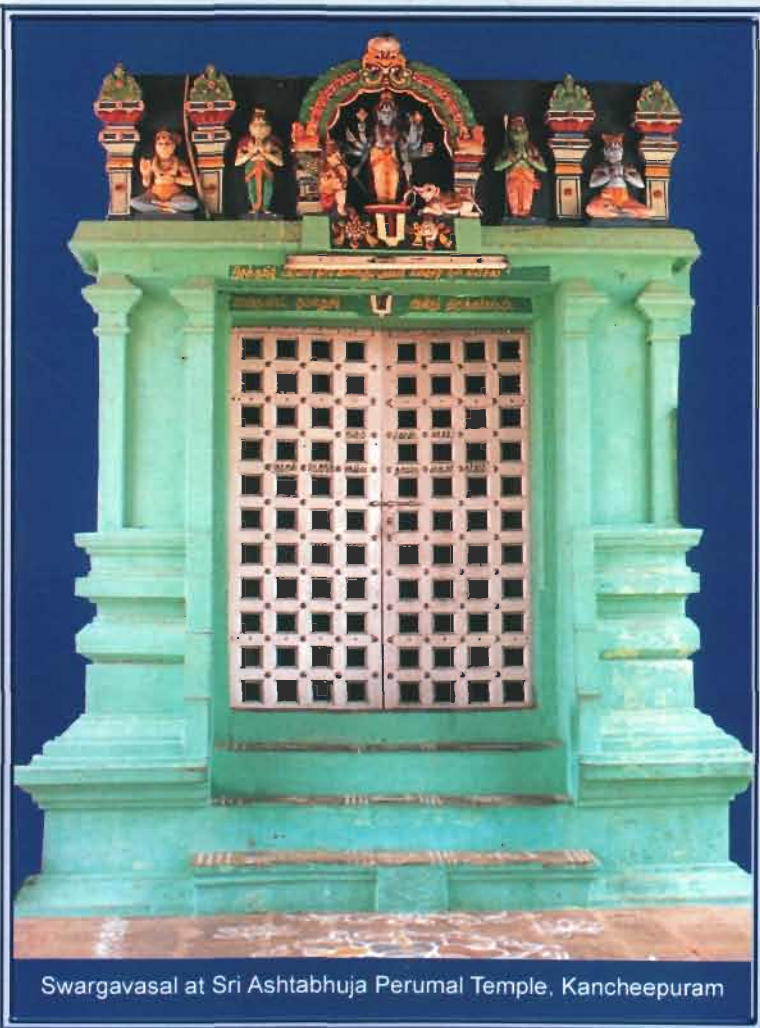
Salabogyam, Kancheepuram



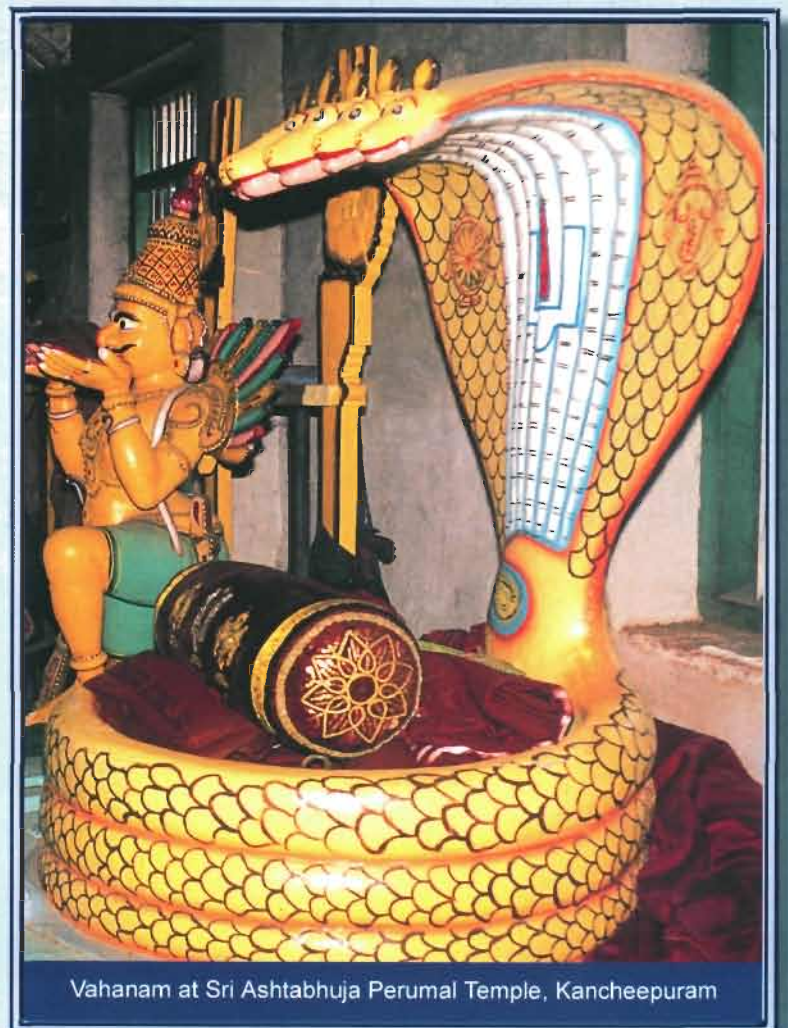
Architectural Work at Salabogyam, Kancheepuram



Vahanas at Sri Ashtabhuja Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Swargavasala at Sri Ashtabhuja Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Vahanam at Sri Ashtabhuja Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram

Sri Anjaneyar Temple

This temple is constructed by the local residents in an area of 3600 Sq. ft. Kumbhabhishekam was performed about 70 years back. The priest called Bhattacharya whose service is not hereditary performs Poojas twice daily. The temple has one Kedayam, two houses and a garden. The main festival is Hanumanth Jayanthi. Three trustees manage the temple.



Sri Ashtabhuj Perumal Temple

History

This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). This Temple is located 2 Kms from the Varadarajaswamy temple at Little Kancheepuram. It was built about 1850 years ago on an area of 3 acres.

Legend

As per a legend, Goddess Saraswathi in order to disturb the penance of Lord Brahma, let loose an army of Demons. Lord Vishnu vanquished this army. She then sent down a ferocious beast called Sarabha. In order to defeat this beast the Lord took an eight handed form and hence the name Ashta (eight) Bhuja (hand). Another legend is that a crocodile in this temple tank caught Gajendran the elephant. Hearing his cries for help, Lord Vishnu saved him from the crocodile. Several Chola and Pallava kings are connected with this temple.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Vishnu. The idol of the Lord is in a standing posture facing west. Four arms on the right are seen holding the celestial discus, sword, lotus, and an arrow. The

four arms on the left hold the conch, bow, shield and mace. The Goddess is called Pushpakavalli Thayar. The practice here is to worship the Goddess first and then the God. The Uthsavar is called Gajendra Varadar. He is also known by the name Ashta Bhuja Narasimha Perumal.

Several Vaishnavite saints have sung hymns in praise of this shrine. Pey Alwar and Thirumangai Alwar are prominent among them. Saint Vedantha Desikar has also composed 10 songs on this shrine.

The Theertham (Tank) of this temple is called Gajendra Pushkarani. Apart from the temple tank, a unique feature of this temple is that it has a Paramapadavasal (gateway to heaven). The temple owns 3.60 acres of wetland, 1.43 acres of dry land and 12 house sites.

Priests known as Bhattacharyas perform Poojas twice a day as per Vaikhanasa Agama. Brahmotsavam in Chithirai, Vaikunta Ekadasi and Gajendra Moksham in Adi are the main festivals. A single trustee manages the affairs of this temple.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Ashta Bhuja Perumal
Thirukoil,
Thirukacchi Nambigal Street,
Chinna Kancheepuram- 631501
Kancheepuram District

Sri Santhaleeswarar Temple

The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of two acres. The presiding deity, Sri Santhaleeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. His consort is Sri Thirupurasundari. Hereditary Gurukkals perform Poojas twice daily. The temple owns 6 acres of wetlands. The main festival is Arudhra in Margazhi. A single trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Punya Koteeswarar Temple

The temple is located two and a half miles from the Railway Station. It is an ancient temple. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of one acre. The presiding deity, Sri Punya Koteeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam with a square pedestal. His consort is Sri Bhuvaneshwari. Hereditary Gurukkals perform Poojas twice daily. The temple owns garden lands. The main festival is Shivarathri. Two trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Renuka Parameshwari Amman Temple

The age of the temple is about 75 years old. It covers an area of two cents. The presiding deity, Sri Renuka Parameshwari is represented by the head of the Goddess. Priests belonging to the Chettiar community conduct Poojas twice daily. The temple owns no lands. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Valadheeswarar Temple

It is an ancient temple more than 150 years old. It covers an area of 13 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Valadheeswarar also known as Aram Valartha Easwarar is a Prathishta Lingam. Hereditary Gurukkals perform Poojas twice daily. The temple owns few houses. The main festival is Shashti. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Seetheswarar Temple

It is an ancient temple. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 10 cents. There are two deities- Sri Seetheswarar and Sri Lakshmaneswarar – both are Prathishta Lingams. Seetha and Lakshmana are supposed to have performed Pooja to these two idols and hence their name. Hereditary Gurukkals perform Poojas twice daily. The temple owns houses. There are no important festivals. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Sidhiswarar Temple

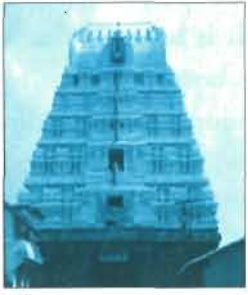
The temple is located close to the Railway Station. It is an ancient temple. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 13 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Sidhiswarar is a Swayambu Lingam with a square pedestal. Hereditary Gurukkals perform Poojas twice daily. The temple owns a cinema theatre and shops. The main festivals are Shivarathri Navarathri and Rathasapthami. Five trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: Fasli 1402- Rs. 7,732/-; Fasli 1403 – Rs.42,335/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.62,292/-.

Sri Chitragupthaswamy Temple

The Temple is located in the Nellukara Street, close to the Bus Stand. The age of the temple is more than 100 years. It covers an area of 6000 sq. ft. The presiding deity, Sri Chitraguptha is in a standing pose. The Goddess is Sri Karunagi Devi. Chitraguptha is the official scribe of Yama, the God of Death. He is supposed to maintain accounts about the meritorious deeds as well as sins of all beings and render these accounts to Yama on the day of judgement. A separate temple dedicated to Chithraguptha is extremely rare. The sect called 'Karuneevara' is supposed to trace its lineage to this God. The Navagrahas installed in this temple, particularly the worship of 'Kethu' is considered a speciality of this temple. Priests perform Poojas twice daily. The temple does not own any property. The main festival is Chithira Pournami. Two trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Bhargeeswarar Temple

The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 13 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Bhargeeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. Non-hereditary Gurukkals perform Poojas twice daily. The temple owns some wet and dry lands. Four trustees manage the affairs of the temple.



Sri Yathothakari Perumal Temple

History

This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). The temple is one of the most ancient ones in Kancheepuram. Inscriptions dating back to 944 A.D. are found here. Several Chola kings have contributed to this temple. This is also a well-known Vaishnavite shrine. The temple finds mention in ancient texts such as Perum Pannatru Padaigal of Pathanjali, Pathanjali Mahabharatham, Tholkappiam and Silappadhigaram.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Sri Yathothakari, also known as "Sonnavañnum Seitha Perumal". The Name of the Lord is derived from two words- Yathotha meaning 'as requested' and Kari meaning 'person'. Thus, the Lord here is one who acts according to the wishes of his devotees.

The main deity is Yathothakari Perumal in a lying pose facing west. The Goddess is named Sri Komalavalli Thayar. According to legend, Brahma who was temporarily estranged from his consort Sri Saraswathi decided to perform a horse sacrifice in order to get a darshan of Lord Vishnu. When Sri Saraswathi came to know of this she took the form of a river and rushed down to destroy the sacrificial Mandapam. Brahma prayed to Vishnu to avert this calamity. The latter lay down across the river seated on the legendary serpent Adishesha. Saraswathi could not proceed further and the river disappeared underground. The lying posture of the Lord is known as Bhujagasayana. As the Lord lay like a dam in the course of the river Veghavati, the place is also called Veghavanai (dam across

Veghavati). In course of time this got corrupted as Veggannai, Vehkanai and Vekkaa.

Vaishnavite saints Thirumangai Alwar, Thirumazhisai Alwar, Poigai Alwar, Pey Alwar and Nammalvar have composed Hymns in praise of this shrine.

The Temple covers an area of 4 acres. Non-hereditary Bhattacharyas conduct two Poojas a day. Exquisite ornaments, a golden palanquin, several house-sites and several vahanams are the main assets of the temple.

Legends

One of the popular legends associated with this temple is that of Shivavakkai also known as Thiru Mazhisai Alwar or Bhakthisarar. As per this legend Shivavakkai was born deformed and was abandoned by his parents. By the grace of the Lord his deformity was removed and foster parents adopted him. He grew to become a great scholar. Once he met a great Vaishnavite saint Pey Alwar who engaged him in a religious debate and converted him to Vaishnavism. He became an ardent devotee of Lord Bhujagasayana.

Another story relates to Kanikannan a disciple of Bhakthisarar: An old crippled lady used to perform devoted service to the Lord. Pleased with her devotion, Bhakthisarar transformed her into a beautiful young girl. The king of the land saw her and married her. As years rolled by the king grew old but his wife remained as beautiful and as youthful as ever. The king then sent word to Bhakthisarar to give him everlasting youth too. The latter sent his disciple Kanikannan to the king's court to tell the king that this could not be done. The King then asked the disciple to sing verses in praise of him. On the latter's refusal, he ordered him to leave the kingdom. Hearing this Bhakthisarar moved out of Kancheepuram and Lord Bhujagasayana accompanied him. The entire kingdom was then plunged in darkness. The king begged forgiveness and the saint as well as the Lord returned.

Maham Festival in Thai, Sri Poygai Alwar Avatharam in Ayyappasi and Vaikunta Ekadasi in Margazhi are the main festivals celebrated in this temple.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Yathothakari Perumal
Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram - 631 501
Kancheepuram District



Sri Kacchapeswarar Temple

This is an ancient temple located south of Ekambaranathar Temple. Though the exact age of the temple is not known, the Pallavas constructed it. It covers an area of 4 acres. There is a 5-storeyed Gopuram and a tank in the middle of the temple. The presiding deity, Sri Kacchapeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. It is also known as Kuniga Lingam. The Goddess is called Sundarambigai. Sri Vishnu in the form of Koorma (Tortoise) is seen worshipping Shiva in this temple. As per legend, Lord Vishnu under a curse took the form of a tortoise. In order to get relieved of this curse he took refuge under a tree in this temple and along with Goddess Lakshmi offered prayers to Lord Shiva. Pleased with his prayers Lord Shiva lifted the curse and Lord Vishnu regained his original form.

It is believed that sick persons, who light lamps at this temple during the holy month of Karthigai, are cured of their ailments. The other deities in the temple are Panchachanti Vinayaka, Durga, Sun (Surya), Nataraja, Maha Vishnu, Arumugar, Saraswati, and Chandikeswar.

Hereditary Brahmin Gurukkals perform Poojas six times a day. There are several Theerthams (tanks) in the temple- "Ishta Siddhi Theertham, Surya Theertham, Siddha Theertham,

Kama Theertham and Mukti theertham". It is believed that a dip in these tanks gives the devout various boons. As per legend, a King called Mayurasarman lost his vision. He took a dip in the "Ishta Siddhi Theertham" and prayed to the Sun God (Surya). The god, pleased with his prayer restored his sight. He composed the Shloka "Surya Sadakam" and this is etched on the walls of this temple.

The temple owns 60.85 acres of wetland and 80.97 acres of dry lands and 21 shops. The income from property is around Rs.1, 59,342/- per annum. The temple owns jewels worth Rs. 56,234/- some are antique value. The annual hundi collections works out Rs.1, 13,895/-. The temple owns a wooden Car and two palanquins, which are 100 years old.

The main festival is Brahmotsavam in Chitrai. Adhigara Nandi on the 3rd day, Rishabha Vahanam on the 4th day, Kalyana Uthsavam on the 5th day and Pancha Murthy Uthsavam on the 12th day are the highlights of the Brahmotsavam. Arudhra and Saraswathi pooja are the other festivals celebrated.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.2,46,593/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.2,96,806/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.2,41,872/-.

The temple is under the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Pazhaya Karukkinil Amarnda Amman Temple

This temple is 200 years old. It was constructed by the ancestors of one Appa Rao Mudaliar. It covers an area of 2 acres. The presiding deity, Sri Pazhaya Karukkinil Amarnda Amman is in standing posture.

As per legend the Goddess settled down at this temple after destroying the demon Soma Asura. She is supposed to be in a wrathful state and hence is seated in the dark.



Sri Yathothakari Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Pavalavannar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Kacchapeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Deepaparakasa Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Muktheeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram

Priests called Poosaris perform Poojas twice a day.

The temple owns some lands and other immovable property.

Adi Pooram, Navarathri, Arudhra and Laksha Deepam are the main festivals in this temple. A trustee and an officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Valakarutheeswarar Temple

This is an ancient temple situated on the Gandhi Road. It covers an area of ½ acre. The presiding deity, Sri Valakarutheeswarar also known as Sri Pathala Easwarar is a Prathishta Lingam that is under ground. Mention of this temple is found in the Kanchi Puranam and Kandapuranam.

As per legend, there was a quarrel among Devas about the meaning of a word in the Vedas. Lord Shiva appeared and sat as a judge and after hearing both sides he gave his judgement. Hence it is a belief that all legal entanglements will be smoothly settled after praying this deity. Devotees come from far and wide to offer prayers at this temple in order to win legal suits.

A hereditary Gurukkal performs Poojas three times a day. Karthigai Somavaram, Shivarathri and Pradosham are important in this temple.

The temple owns 21 shops and 3 house sites which fetch an annual income of Rs.2,13,185/-. The temple owns jewels worth Rs.56,868/-. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 36,035/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 41,064/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.39,749/-.

An Executive Officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Mandala Easwarar Temple

This is an ancient temple built by the Cholas. The exact age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 50 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Mandala Easwarar is a Prath Archaeological Lingam.

Hereditary Gurukkals perform Poojas twice a day. The temple owns wet and dry lands.

A trustee and an officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.



Sri Muktheeswarar Temple

This is an ancient temple situated on the Gandhi Road. Though the exact age of the temple is not known, it is believed that the Pallavas built it. It covers an area of 1.5 acres. The presiding deity, Sri Muktheeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. Mention of this temple has been made in the Periya Puranam in Sirukurippu Thondar Puranam.

As per legend, Sirukurippu Thondar, a Washerman by birth and a devotee of Lord Shiva, had a principle of washing others clothes only after washing of a saint or devotee of Shiva which he use to do as service to Shiva. Lord Shiva wanted to test him. He came in the form of man to whom Sirukurippu Thondar requested to give his only cloth for washing so that he could wash it. Shiva gave the cloth on condition that it should be ready when he came back in the evening. When Shiva came back, due to rain Nayanar could not return the clothes. Disappointed at his inability to keep his word, Sirukurippu Thondar dashed his head against washing stone and tried to kill himself. A hand appeared from washing stone and stopped Sirukurippu Thondar

and Lord Shiva appeared before him to explain that he was only testing his devotion.

Garudesam

According to another legend, Garuda (King of Birds) performed prayer to this God to kill two snakes who were the sons of one Kathuru. It is a strange feature that Garuda associated with Lord Vishnu did prayer here to Lord Shiva. Hence, this place is called “Garudesam” and also there is a shrine for Shiva in the name of Garudesar.

There is a mandapam in this temple called “Mukthi Mandapam”. It is believed that aged people would attain Mukthi (salvation) if they visited this Mandapam. Gurukkals perform Poojas twice a day. The temple owns a few shops. A Vimanam, a palanquin and a Chapparam are the other assets.

The main festival is Brahmotsavam in Margazhi. Arudhra on the 10th day is the highlight of the Brahmotsavam. Three trustees and an officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.58,889/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.1,01,755/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.1,65,597/-.

Sri Nageswarar Temple

The temple is 150 years old. The Vysyas of Kancheepuram constructed it. It covers an area of 1 acre. The presiding deity is Sri Nageswarar. Gurukkals perform Poojas twice a day. The temple owns lands, houses and shops. The main festival is Thiruvadhira. A trustee and an officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Pavalavannar and Pachai Vannar Temples

History

This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). This Temple is located on the Raja veedhi near the Kancheepuram Railway Station. The name of the Lord is derived from two words- Pavala (coral) and Vannam (colour). Thus, this is a place where the Lord is coral hued.

As per a legend, Brighu Maharishi was asked by the other Rishis to test the Trinity. As a part of the test the Maharishi kicked Lord Vishnu on his chest. The Lord instead of getting angry massaged the latter’s foot and asked him if he was hurt. Brighu ashamed at himself begged forgiveness of the Lord and undertook severe penance at Kancheepuram. The Lord pleased with his devotion granted him Darshan at this temple.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Sri Pavalavannar. The idol of the Lord is in a sitting posture seated on the divine serpent Adisheshan and is facing west. The Goddess is called Pavalavalli Thayar.

The shrine of Pacchai Vannar is also located opposite to this temple. The Vaishnavite Saint Thirumangai Alwar has composed hymns on this temple. The Thayar in this temple is said to have 3 Roopams – Sita, Gajalakshmi and Thayar.

The temple covers an area of 2 acres. It owns lands, jewelry and houses. It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 65,899/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 1,58,524/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.81,584/-.

A priest known as Bhattacharya performs Pooja twice a day. Brahmotsavam in Vaikasi, Pavitrotsavam in Panguni and Vaikunta Ekadasi in Margazhi are the main festivals.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Pavala Vannar Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram - 631 501
Kancheepuram District



Sri Deepaprakasa Temple

History

This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). The temple is located at ½ km. from Kancheepuram Railway Station. Inscriptions found in this temple indicate that the temple was in existence prior to 1223 A.D. It is believed that the temple was built about 2300 years ago. Chola Kings have contributed to the building of this temple. Azhagia Manavala Jeer, a Vaishnavite saint is also credited with contributing toward construction of this temple.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Lord Vishnu called Sri Deepaprakasar in this temple. The main idol is in a standing posture facing west. The Goddess in this temple is called Maragathavalli in sitting posture. Uthsavar with Ubhaya nachiar, Sri Andal, Sri Desikar are other idols in the temple.

As per legend, Brahma was performing pooja to Lord Vishnu at this spot. He had been temporarily estranged from his consort Sri Saraswathi due to some misunderstanding. When Sri Saraswathi came to know of this she created a ball of fire, which engulfed the sacrificial site. Brahma prayed to Vishnu to avert this calamity. The latter converted the fire into a lamp and averted the danger.

Another legend is that Sri Saraswathi plunged the world into darkness in order to disrupt the sacrifice of Brahma. Lord Vishnu appeared as a big ball of light to dispel the darkness.

Thus, the Lord is known as Deepa (lamp) Prakasa (light). He is also known by the Tamil name Villakku Oli Perumal, which also means the same.

This is also the birthplace of Thoopul Mahadesikan, later known as Vedanta Desikar. As per legend, the Saint's mother had a vision that the ring of Lord Balaji of Tirupathi was lost and that the same was taking the shape of a child in her womb. This child was Saint Vedantha Desikar, who was born on the Purattasi Thiruvonam day. It is said that Lord Balaji does not wear a ring to mark this. This area was a forest of tall grass in those days. The Saint was born in this forest of tall grass and hence the name 'Thoopul' (Thoo=Holy; Pul= Grass) is suffixed to his name. There is a separate shrine for the saint.

The Vaishnavite saint Vedanta Desikar has composed hymns in praise of this shrine. Saints Nammalwar, Thirumangaiar and Thoopul Mahadesikan have also composed hymns.

A Vadakalai (a branch of Vaishnavism) Bhattacharya performs daily poojas as per Vaikhasana Agama. Brahmothsavam and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the main festivals. On Purattasi Thiruvonam day- the birth star of Vedanta Desikan, a 10-day festival is celebrated. In the month of Vaikasi and Chithrai, Sri Varadaraja is brought to the shrine of Vedantha Desikar mounted on the Garuda Vahana. In the month of Avani, Sri Deepaprakasar is similarly brought to this shrine.

The temple covers an area of 3 acres. Apart from antique jewellery worth Rs.19,359/-, the temple owns 12.14 acres of wetland, 4.07 acres of dryland, 7 shops, 2 house sites and a number of vahanas including a gold plated Palanquin. The Theertham (tank) in this temple is known as the 'Saraswathi Theertham' and 'Lakshmi Pushkarani'.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is : for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 57,707/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 19,022/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.22,542/-. A Board of 5 Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department administer the temple.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Deepaprakasa Perumal
Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram - 631 501
Kancheepuram District

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Saint Arunagirinathar was a revered saint who lived in the 15th Century. Thiruppugazh, Thiruvakuppu, Kandar Anthadi, Kandar Alangaram, Kandar Anubhoothi, Vel Viruttham, Mayil Viruttham and Seval Viruttham are the various devotional works attributed to this saint. These are collections of songs steeped in great devotion to Lord Kanda or Subrahmanya. These songs are still sung in temples all over Tamil Nadu.

Sri Azhagiyasingar Temple, Velukkai

History

This Temple is located close to the Deepaprakasar temple. The name of the place is derived from two words- Vel (desire/wish) and Irukkai (place of stay). Thus this is a place where the Lord is happily settled. In course of time the word got corrupted and came to be known as Velukkai.

As per a legend, Goddess Saraswathi in order to disturb the penance of Lord Brahma, let loose a demon called Kapalika. Lord Vishnu took the form of Narasimha and vanquished him.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Vishnu. The name given to him at this temple is Sri Azhagiyasingar or Mukunda Nayaka. The idol of the Lord is in a sitting posture facing west. He is in the form

of Narasimha- half human, half lion. The Goddess is called Amruthavalli Thayar.



Sri Vaikunta Perumal Temple

History

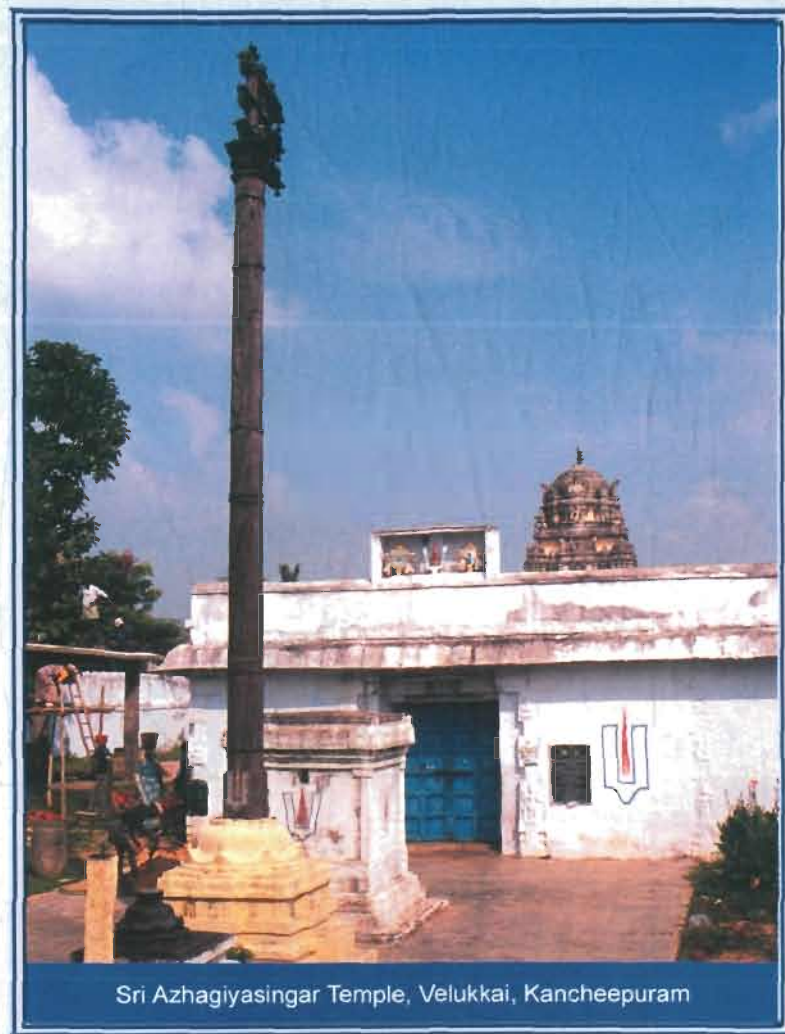
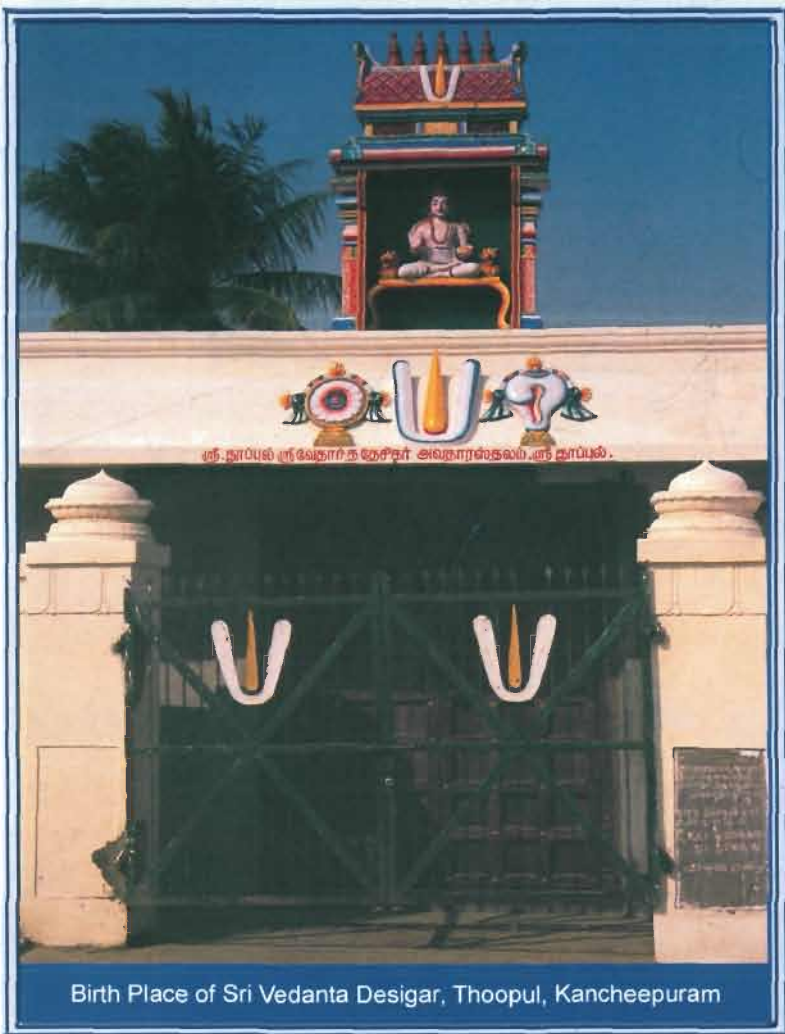
This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). It is an ancient temple. Parameswara Verman in 6th Century A.D started the construction of this temple and Nandi Verman II completed it in 7th Century A.D. Other Chola kings contributed to its development.

This Temple is called Parameshwara Vinnagaram located at 1 Km from the Kancheepuram Bus Stand and 2 Kms from the Railway Station.

As per a legend, the king of Vidharba Virosana, who was an ardent devotee, had no heir. On his prayer the Lord deemed his two attendants Pallavan and Villavan to be born as the kings two sons. The sons performed a horse sacrifice at Kancheepuram. Pleased with their devotion, the Lord gave them Darshan as Sri Vaikuntanatha Perumal

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Sri Vaikuntanathar. The name of the Lord is derived from two words - Vaikunta (the celestial abode of Vishnu) and Nathan (Ruler). The Lord is in a sitting posture facing west. The Goddess is called Vaikuntavalli Thayar. The Theertham (tank) in this temple is called "Ayiram Theertham". The Vaishnavite Saint Thirumangai Alwar has composed hymns on this temple.





Sri Vaikuntanatha Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Vaikuntanatha Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Vaikuntanatha Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram

Layout and Architecture

This temple is an example of early Dravidian style of architecture. The Vimana of this temple bears a distinct resemblance to the ancient Viharas. The Vimana has three tiers, each depicting different poses of Lord Vishnu- standing ('Nindran'), sitting ('Irundhaan') and reclining ('Kidanthaan'). The style of sculpture resembles those found in the cave temples of Mahabalipuram. The temple is built in sandstone and granite. The vimanam is called 'Sri Mukunda Vimanam'. There is a Rajagopuram and temple faces west. There is sculptures on the entire length and breadth of the inside walls. The visit of Hiuen-Tsang, Chinese pilgrim to India and his departure on a sailor's boat are depicted on the sidewalls. The sculptures are made of sand stone.

The temple covers an area of 3 acres. Apart from antique jewellery worth Rs.8860/- (as per 1991 report), the temple owns 14.75 acres of lands and a house site to the extent of 8322 Sq.ft. The annual income from the immovable property is about Rs.2,99,265/-. There are nine vahanas made of wood which are 300 years old.. A Bhattacharya conducts Poojas twice a day as per Vaikhanasa Agama. Brahmotsavam in Vaikasi, Vaikunta Ekadasi, Ratha Saphthami, Panguni Uthiram, Adi Pooram and Navarathri are the main festivals. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 62,235/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 77,988/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.99,700/-.

A Board of trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department administer the temple but the temple is under the control for Archaeological Survey of India.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Vaikunta Perumal Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram - 631 501
Kancheepuram District

Sri Veera Mahakaliyamman Temple

The temple is located in Pillaiyarpalayam area 2 Kms from Kancheepuram. The local Senkundhar community constructed

the ancient shrine about 700 years ago. The temple covers an area of 2310 Sq.ft. The presiding deity Sri Veera Mahakaliyamman is in a sitting pose. Pooja is performed daily by a priest called "Gurukkal" whose services are hereditary. The temple owns 4.60 acres of dry lands. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi other than Navarathri . Board of three Trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Kadukkaliyamman Temple

The temple is located 2 miles from the Railway Station. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 120 X 40 Sq.ft. The presiding deity, Sri Kadukkaliyamman is in a sitting posture.

A Gurukkal performs Poojas once a day. The temple owns some lands and other immovable property.

Adi Velli is the main festival in this temple. A trustee and an officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Kaya Aroganeeswarar Temple

The temple is an ancient one. It is situated in Pillayarpalayam, 1 ½ Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. The temple is also called "Guru Kovil" as there is a separate shrine for Guru (Jupiter-Sagittarius and Pisces). It covers an area of 1 acre. The Vimanam in this temple is of the "Gaja Prishta" type (shaped like the back of an elephant).

The presiding deity is Sri Kaya Aroganeeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. It is believed that the Lord here is capable of healing all wounds. Goddess Mahalakshmi and Lord Saneeshwara are supposed to have propitiated the Lord at this spot. Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu are also believed to have been cured of their injuries by worshipping to Lord Shiva here. As per legend, Goddess Lakshmi created a pentagon shaped tank here, which is called "Thayar Theertham". The shrines of

Sri Dharma Lingeswarar and Sri Lingeswarar are located on the bund of the tank.

The separate shrine for Sri Guru is a speciality here. The deity in this shrine is in a sitting posture with hands folded in prayer to Lord Shiva. Thursdays are considered auspicious for the prayer of Guru. Similarly, the monthly “Pradosham” and the annual “Guru Peyarchi” are considered very auspicious.

The temple owns some land and jewellery. A hereditary Gurukkal perform Poojas twice a day as per Kamika Agama.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 10,490/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.18,484/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.10,498/- and Fasli 1411- Rs.25,496/-.

Sri Veerabhadraswamy Temple

This temple is situated in the Nellikara Street, Kancheepuram. It was built about 500 years ago. It covers an area of 0.50 acre. The presiding deity of the temple is Sri Veerabhadraswamy. The idol is in a standing posture. The temple owns 6 acres of drylands, 2 shops and housesites which fetch an annual income of about Rs.10,000/-. Karthigai deepam, Arudhra and Thai Pongal are the main festivals. A paid archagar performs pooja daily. A trustee appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department adminster the affairs of the temple.

Sri Thanthoneeswar Temple

The temple covers an area of 20 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Thanthoneeswarar or Ubamanyeswarar. This is a Swayambu lingam. A Shaivite Saint Shivagnana Munivar has dedicated hymns to this shrine in the Kanchi Puranam. The idols of the four Nayanmars- Appar, Sundarar, Sambandar and Manickavachagar are brought in procession to this temple on the Shivarathri day.

As per legend, the Lord bestowed everlasting youth and great intellect on Upamanyu in this temple. Gurukkals perform Poojas twice a day as per Kamika Agama. Arudhra and Maha Shivarathri are the main festivals. Kanda Sashti and Manickavasagar festivals are additionally celebrated.

The Shiva temple owns a shop, a building and 2 house sites which fetch an annual income of Rs.24,000/-.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 29,247/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 28,637/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.42,635/-.

Sri Dharmarajar Temple

The temple is an ancient one. It covers an area of 1.5 acres. The presiding deity is Sri Dharmarajar is in a sitting posture. Priests called Poosaris perform Poojas twice a day. The Parivettai festival celebrated once in 5 years is the main festival of this temple. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

BOX - 38

Vaishnava Agama

Vaishnava Agamas are of two types- Vaikhanasa and Pancharathra. Vaikhanasa Agama Mantras are Vedic in origin and are practiced by those who are born in this tradition. The Pancharathra system grants eligibility of worship for all and adopts Vedic as well as Tantric Mantras. These texts are written in the Devanagari script. Elaborate details on the selection of temple sites, temple structure, conduct of festivals, rituals etc are given in these Agamas.

Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka and Sri Dheepanji Amman Temple

The temple is about 100 years old. It is located close to the Railway Station. It covers an area of 1200 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka is in a sitting posture. The head of the Goddess is installed under a tree in the same complex.

Gurukkals perform Pooja once a day in the Vinayaka Temple. There is no daily Pooja at the Amman temple. The temple owns lands.

Thai Poosam, Pongal, Vinayaga Chaturthi and Shivarathri are the main festivals in the first temple. Adi Uthsavam is celebrated in the second temple.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 20,828/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 26,729/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.21,522/-.

A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Adipeeta Parameswari Kalikambal Temple

The temple is an ancient one predating the Kamakshiamman temple. It is believed that the original deity of Kamakshi Amman was in this temple. It covers an area of 1 acre and has three towers. The presiding deity Sri Kali Amman is in a sitting posture facing east. A Sri Chakram is installed in front of the deity, as in the case of Sri Kamakshiamman. There is a Sakthi Lingam (a Lingam with an image of the Goddess etched on it) in this temple, which is unique.

Gurukkals perform Pooja twice a day. The temple owns 9.21 acres of wet and dry lands, a shop and some silver and gold jewellery worth Rs.36,511/-. The income from property is about Rs.1,19,425/- per annum

Navarathri, Parivettai, Arudhra and Panguni Uthiram are the main festivals in this temple. The Goddess is taken in procession on the 10th day during Navarathri, which draws large crowds.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.48,181/-; Fasli 1403 – Rs. 57,451/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 58,077/-.

Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Pandavadootha Perumal Temple

History

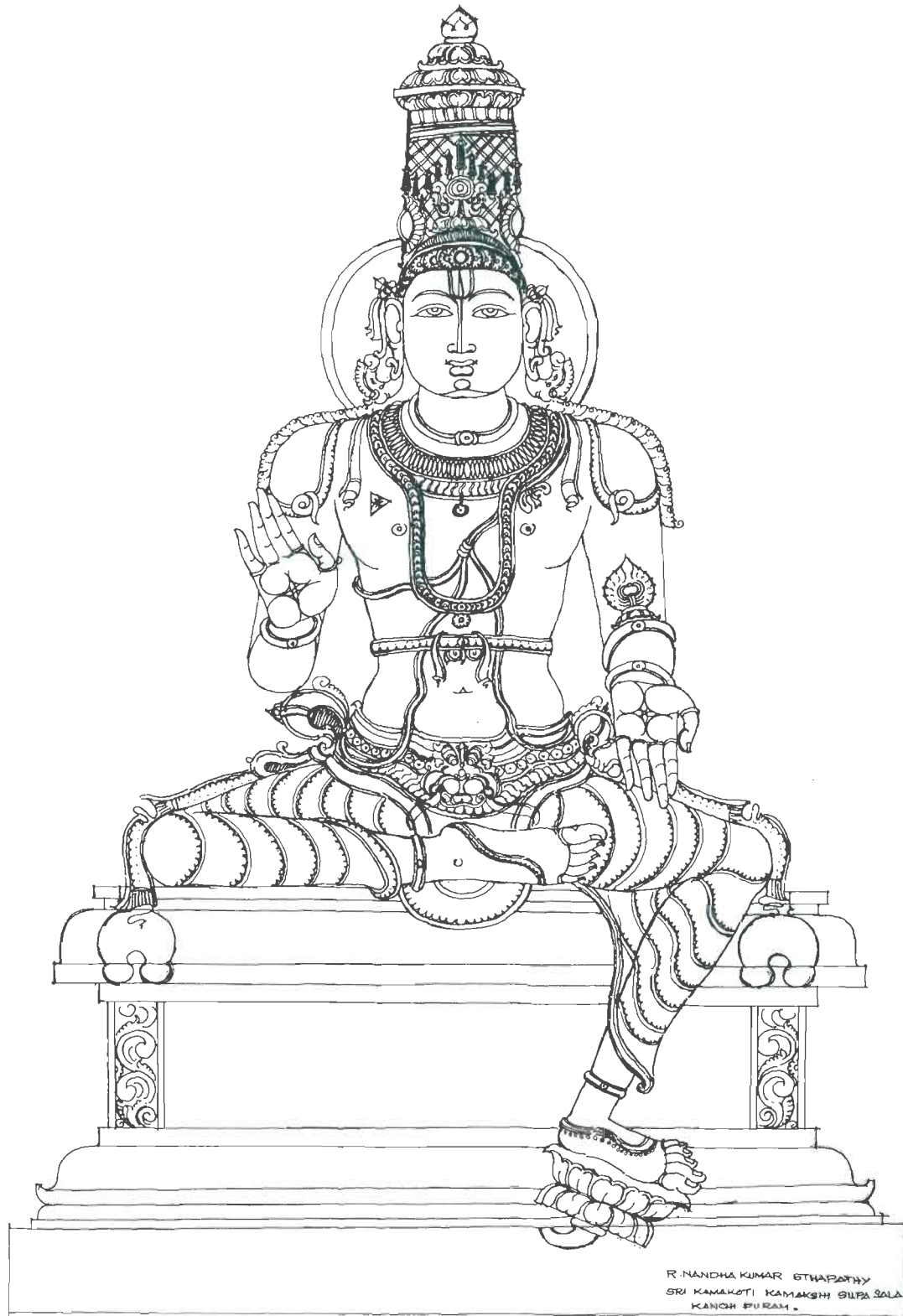
This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). The temple is located very close to the Railway Station. It is an ancient temple built by Raja Kesari Verman and renovated by Kulothuga Chola-I.

The stone inscriptions in this temple called it “Thoothahari”. The vimanam type is Chakra Vimanam. The Theertham (tank) in this temple is called “Matsya Theertham”. Pandavadootha literally means ‘Ambassador of the Pandavas’.

This Temple is located near the Ekambareswarar temple at Thirupadagam. As per legend, Janamejaya, the great grand son of Arjuna along with saint Hareeta performed a severe penance at this site in order to get a darshan of Lord Vishnu in the form that he took when he went as an envoy of the Pandavas to the Kauravas. The Lord granted their prayers at this spot. The name of the place is derived from two words- pada (big) and agam (place of stay). Thus Thirupadagam literally means the place where the Lord stays in his big form. Several Chola rulers were associated with the construction of this temple.

Presiding Deity

The presiding deity is Krishna. The idol of the Lord is in a sitting posture facing east. The idol is a sandstone work. It is 25



R. NANDHA KUMAR GTHAPATHY
SRI KAMAKOTI KAMAKSHI SWA SALA
KANON PURAM.

SRI PANDAVADOOTHA PERUMAL



Sri Vaikuntanatha Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Pandavadootha Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram



Sri Sathyavirathanatha Easwarar Temple, Thirukallimedu, Kancheepuram



Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sevilimedu, Kancheepuram

feet in height to signify the viswaroopam of the Lord. Such a huge statue of Lord Krishna is rare. The Lord is depicted with a beatific smile as if to signify that he is amused by all the happenings around him.

There are separate shrines in this temple for the goddess called Rukmani Pirattiyar and for Chakkarathu Alwar.

Several Vaishnavite saints have sung hymns in praise of this shrine. Bhoothathalvar, Peyalvar, Thirumazhisai Alwar, Nammalvar and Thirumangai Alwar are prominent among them. Saint Emperumalanar was born here. As per legend, this Saint engaged in a debate with Saint Ramanuja for 18 days. At the end of the debate, he became a disciple of Saint Ramanuja.

Brahmothsavam and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the main festivals in this temple.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Pandavadootha Perumal
Thirukoil,
Kancheepuram - 631 501
Kancheepuram District



Sri Mahalingeswarar Temple

It is a private temple built and maintained by the local people. The presiding deity is in the form of Lingam. The lingam is very big in size and hence called Mahalingam. As per legend, Brahma and Vishnu were fighting for supremacy with dreadly weapons. Lord Shiva defused all weapons which would have destroyed the entire world. Shiva, by defusing all weapons, enlightened both and make them realize that Shiva is supreme power. When they apologise to Shiva, he asked them to go to Kanchi

and do penance. Both Brahma and Vishnu came down to Kanchi, established Mahalingam (Big) and performed poojas.

NATTAPETTAI (THIRUKALIMEDU) (CT -44)



*Sri Sathyavirathanatha
Easwarar Temple*

The temple is located two miles from Kancheepuram. The temple is an ancient one. It covers an area of 22,500 Sq.ft. The outer Gopuram is 50 feet high. There are two Praakaaras and a lotus tank. It is believed that Lord Indira and Lord Budha had bath in this tank.

The presiding deity is Sri Sathyanatha Easwarar is a Swayambu lingam. It is believed that the idol absorbs all the ingredients used for the daily sacred bath (abhishekam). The Goddess in this temple is known as Shivagami Amman.

Saint Thirugnanasambandar has composed hymns in praise of this shrine.

Shivachariars perform Poojas twice a day. The temple owns lands, buildings and jewellery. Arudhra is the main festival in this temple.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 14,812/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.13,062/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.11,386/-.

A trustee and an officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Nithyakalyana Agastheeswarar Temple

The presiding deity here is Sri Nithyakalyana Agastheeswarar. The temple is 200 years old. It covers an area of 30 X 20 Sq. ft. The presiding deity is Prathishta Lingam.

The second temple is a Vinayaga temple. The presiding deity here is Sri Athi Arulala Vinayaka. The temple is 150 years old. It covers an area of 25 X 17 Sq. ft. The presiding deity is in a sitting posture.

The third temple is a Vishnu temple. The presiding deity here is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal. The temple is 150 years old. It covers an area of 20 X 14 Sq. ft. The presiding deity is in a sitting posture.

The fourth temple is Kanni Amman temple. The presiding deity here is Sri Kanni Amman. The temple is 150 years old. The presiding deity is installed under a tree. Priests perform Poojas once a day in all the four temples. The temples own lands and jewellery.

The other temples are Muthal Amman, Padavettu Amman, Bhuvanagiri Amman, Selli Amman and Thandu Mari Amman.

SEVILIMEDU (TP-45)



*Sri Lakshmi
Narasimhaswamy Temple*

It is an ancient temple built during Parameswara Pallava's reign. The temple covers an area of 1.5 acres. The main Raja Gopuram is in a dilapidated condition. Many parts of the temple have fallen down. There are stone inscriptions indicating Vimana Balalayam. There are two versions about the name Sevilimedu. The Tamil word for step-mother is Sevili. As it is

believed that Parameswara Pallava built this temple for his step-mother. It is called "Sevilimedu". Another version is that the area was covered by Sevali (Red) flowers and hence Sevilimedu. The presiding deity is Lakshmi Narasimhar. The idol of the Lord is in a sitting posture. The Goddess is known as Sri Soundaravalli.

The temple has lands and jewellery. A hereditary Bhattacharya offers Pooja twice a day. Navarathri, Puratasi Saturdays and Narasimha Jayanthi are the main festivals in this temple.

The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Selva Vinayaka Temple

The temple is situated at a distance of 7 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. The temple is 110 years old. The presiding deity here is Sri Selva Vinayaka with His consorts Siddhi and Bhudhi in a standing posture. Local residents built it on an area of 10 cents. A Priest perform Poojas once a day. The temple has 0.19 acres of wetland. Hundi collection are about Rs.45,500/-. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival celebrated. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 21,916/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 22,070/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.27,579/-. A Board of 3 trustees appointed by HR & CE Department administers the affairs of the temple.

THENAMBAKKAM (CT-46)

Sri Venugopala Swamy, Etti Amman, Mari Amman, Pillaiyar and Mannarswamy Temples

No significant details are available.

AYYAMPETTAI (CT-47)

Sri Shakti Amman Temple

The temple is 450 years old. The temple is located 1.5 miles from Nathapettai Railway Station. The temple covers an area of 4 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Shakti Amman. A Priest offers Pooja once a day. The temple has lands and jewellery. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival in this temple. The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The temple is an ancient one. The temple is located 1.5 miles from Nathapettai Railway Station. The temple covers an area of 60 cents. The temple has three Praakaaras.

The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathar in the form of a lingam. The Goddess here is known as Santhavelli Amman. Gurukkals offers Poojas twice a day. The temple has lands and jewellery. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival in this temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1408 – Rs.37,978/-; for Fasli 1409 – Rs.41,832/- and for Fasli 1410 – Rs.72,380/-. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

WALAJABAD (TP-48)

Sri Shivasubramaniaswamy Temple

The temple is located in Walajabad. The temple is 100 years old. One Sri Muthukumaraswamy Chettiar of the local area built it. The temple covers an area of 2400 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is Sri Shivasubramaniaswamy. The other deities are Sri Valli and Sri Deivayanai. Gurukkals offer Pooja twice a day. The temple has jewels, some lands, buildings and other property. It also has a Peacock and Elephant Vahanam. Adi

Krithigai, Kanda Shashti, Thiruvadhirai and Thai Poosam are the main festivals in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Dharmaraja and Sri Draupadi Amman Temples

The temple is located in Walajabad. The temple is 140 years old. The temple covers an area of 1800 Sq.ft. Poosaris offer Pooja once a day. The temple has some lands. No specific festivals are celebrated in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Angala Amman Temple

The temple is located in Walajabad. The temple is 140 years old. Residents of the local area built it. The temple covers an area of 5 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Angala Amman. Gurukkals offer Pooja twice a day. The temple has some lands and other property. It also has a Simha Vahanam. Masi Maham is the main festival in this temple. On this day, the deity is taken in procession to the local burial ground, where some ceremonies are performed. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

PULLALUR (LC.1026)

Sri Kailasanathar, Kothandaramaswamy, Bhajanai Madam, Palandi Amman Temples

The village is located 20 Kms from Kancheepuram. There are Bus facilities too. The Kothandaramaswamy and Kailasanathar Temples own 18.00 acres of land. A Brahmin priest in both the temples conducts Poojas. The other temples own land ranging from 1 acre to 4 acres.

Sri Draupadi Amman, Pidari Ponni Amman, Mari Amman, Balasubramaniam, Vallabha Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available

KANAKAMBAKKAM (LC.1027)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available

THANDALAM (LC.1028)

Sri Jalakandeswarar Temple

The village is located 25 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is available. The temple covers an area of 0.50.0 Ares. The presiding deity is a PradIshta Lingam. A Gurukkal performs Pooja. The temple owns 0.18.5 hectares of land. 3 Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

PURISAI (LC.1029)

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal Temple

The temple is located 25 Kms from Kancheepuram. The nearest Railway Station is Thakkolam, 3 Kms away. Bus facility is also available to the village. The temple is believed to be 3 centuries old. The temple is spread over an area of about 0.21.0 Ares.

The principal deity is Sri Kariamanicka Perumal. Temple owns wet and dry lands to an extent of 7.14.0 hectares and jewelry. Poojas are performed twice a day. There is no special festival in this temple but Margazhi month is observed with the recital of Thiruppavai and special poojas. Sri Ananthalar Sathumurai Day in Chittirai is also celebrated. Thirukarthigai is also celebrated by lighting a lamp, which is sent through the village leader to be kept near a tank located one mile away. The Temple is under the control of the HR & CE Department.

VALATHUR (LC.1030)

Sri Parvathi Amman and Vinayaka Temples

The village is located 18 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is available. The temples are believed to be 70 years old. It is a small temple. The first temple owns 2.19.0 hectares of wet and dry land and the second owns 0.36.0 hectares. Daily Poojas are conducted. The month of Adi is considered auspicious. The villagers manage the affairs of the Temple.

PULLAMBAKKAM (1031)

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Mari Amman, Kanni Amman and Muchathu Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

BOX - 39

Lord Dakshinamurthi

Lord Shiva is often represented as Sri Dakshinamurthi, the first teacher. As per legend, Lord Brahma the creator of the universe first created the Sanatkumaras to assist him. These assistants were keen to know the ultimate truth prayed to the Lord. Lord Shiva appeared before them as Sri Dakshinamurthi and imparted the ultimate truth. The Lord is depicted in a sitting pose with four hands and matted locks sitting under a Banyan tree. He is facing South and a group of students facing North are depicted at his feet. This image of Shiva is commonly found in Saivite temples of South India.

PONDAVAKKAM (LC.1032)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available

MOOLAPATTU (LC.1033)

Sri Selva Vinayaka temple

No significant details are available

PADUNELLI (LC.1034)

No Temples

GOVINDAVADI (LC.1035)

Sri Dakshinamurthy or Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The temple is located 15 Kms from Kancheepuram. The nearest Railway Station is Thirumalpur at 3 Kms. The temple is an ancient one.

The principal deity is Sri Kailasanathar 2.5' in height and 3' in breadth. The Goddess is Sri Akilandeswari. Though the temple deity is Kailasanathar, Sri Dakshinamurthy also called "Guru" has prominence over the main deity. The Dakshinamurthy Sannadhi is in the southern side. The Uthsavar is called Sri Chandrasekarar.

The temple is spread over an area of about 2 acres. There is a gopuram 22' high. On the outside wall of the temple there are beautiful sculptures in the "Kumbhan chara" style (Chola architectural style). Temple owns 20.34 acres of wet and 12.88 acres of dry lands which fetch an annual income of Rs.19,895/-. A Brahmin Gurukkal performs Poojas twice a day. Guru Peyarchi, Maha Shivarathri, and Deepam are the main festivals.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 47,244/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.66,106/-; for Fasli 1405 – Rs.1,11,270/- and for Fasli 1411- Rs.2,43,050/-.

An Executive Officer appointed by the HR & CE manages the affairs of the Temple.

Postal Address : Arulmigu Dhakshinamurthy
Thirukkcoil,
Govindavadi Agaram,
Kancheepuram Taluk and District,
Pin: 631502

UVERI (LC.1036)

No Temples.

PUTHERI (LC.1037)

Sri Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples.

No significant details are available

BOX - 40

Agama Shastra

This refers to the body of knowledge that deals with the various forms of worship, esoteric rituals for installation of a deity, rules of temple building, the role of priests and so on. There are three categories of Agamas- Shaiva, Vaishnava and Sakta. In the first, Shiva with Parvathi is the main deity; in the second, Vishnu with Lakshmi and in the third, Devi are the chief deities.

MANIYACHI (LC.1038)

No Temples.

KOTTAVAKKAM (LC.1039)

Sri Vinayaka, Perumal, Kafi Amman, Angala Parameshwari Amman, Kanni Amman Temples

No significant details are available

PARANDUR (LC.1040)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal and Brihadeeswarar Temples

The village is located 15 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is available. The two temples cover an area of 0.50.0 Cents each. The presiding deity in the first temple- Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal is 3.5 feet tall with goddess Lakshmi seated on his lap. As per legend, the idols in the temple are said to have been established by a king called Abhi ranjitha. One of the Stone inscriptions allude to this fact and state that the temple is also called Abhiranjitha Mangalam. The presiding deity in the second temple is a PradIshta Lingam. A Gurukkal performs Pooja. The temple owns 4 acres of land. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

THANDALAM (LC.1041)

Sri Subrahmaniar Temple

No significant details are available

NELVOY (LC.1042)

Sri Perumal, Mari Amman, Parvathi Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available

PODAVUR (LC.1043)

Sri Thiruvatreeswarar, Tripura Sundari Amman and Gomathamman Temples

The village is located 12 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is available. These are small temples. A Gurukkal performs daily Poojas. The temple owns 0.94.5 hectares of wetlands, which is cultivated by tenants. The Gomathamman temple also owns 3.64.0 hectares of wet and dry lands. It is however reported that both the temple do not get regular income from this source.

SIRUVALLUR (LC.1044)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 7 mile from Kancheepuram. The temple was built by a local name Sri Ramaswamy Mudaliar. The principal deity is Sri Agastheeswarar in the form of a Swayambu Lingam, which is 2 feet in height and 2.5 feet in breadth. It is believed that Saint Agasthya worshipped at this temple. The temple is spread over an area of about 3.07 acres.

A Gurukkal performs Poojas regularly. It owns lands and jewellery. Brahmotsavam is the main festival. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 12,294/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 45,290/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.38,293/-.

The Temple is under the control of the HR & CE Department.

SIRUVAKKAM (LC.1045)

Sri Vedapureeswarar Temple

No significant details are available

VELIYUR (LC.1046)

No details are available.

PUDUPAKKAM (LC.1047)

Sri Kandeewarar Mari Amman, Alai Amman and other Temples

The village is located 12 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facilities are available. The local Naicker community built the temple 150 years ago. There is a Shiva temple, a Perumal temple, 2 Vinayakar Temples and two Amman temples in the above village. The principal deity in the Shiva temple is Sri Kandeewarar in the form of a Pradhishta Lingam. Each temple is spread over an area of about 2 cents. Temple owns some lands. Shivarathri, Vaikunta Ekadasi, Vinayaga Chaturthi and Adi Thiruvizha are the festivals celebrated in these temples. Villagers manage the affairs of these temples.

OLAKKALPATTU (LC.1048)

Sri Mari Amman, Vinayaka, Lakshmi Athal and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

No significant details are available

THAIPAKKAM (LC.1049)

Sri Mari Amman Temple and Bhajanai Madam

No significant details are available

MELBANGARAM (LC.1050)

Sri Mari Amman Temple and Bhajanai Kovil

No significant details are available

VATHIYUR (LC.1051)

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Perumal, Mari Amman, Lakshmi Amman and Easwarar Temples

No significant details are available

KURAM (LC.1052)

Sri Adikesava Perumal and Koorathalwar Temples

The temple is located 12 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temples are believed to be more than 7 centuries old. The main temple is facing east. The Koorathalwar temple is facing south. This temple has been mentioned in the Nallayira Divya Prabhandam. It is the birthplace of Saint Kurathalwar. Sri Koorathalwar was the chief among Sri Ramanujar's disciple. He published "Sri Bashyam" composed by Sri Ramanuja.

The principal deity is Sri Adikesava Perumal. It is believed that eye and mental diseases get cured here.

These temples cover an area of about 4000 sq.ft. They have a gopuram, two Praakaarams, three Gharbagrahas and more than 50 pillars. There is a pillar known as Garuda Kambam, 35 ft. high on which a lamp is lit on the Karthigai day. The temple owns lands and jewellery. In addition, there is a temple Car, a Palanquin and a number of vahanas. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas. The main festival is Sri Koorathalwar festival.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 74,035/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.78,721/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.1,23,218/-.

The Temple is under the control of the HR & CE Department.

PERIYAKARUMBUR (LC.1053)

Sri Kachaleeswarar Temple

The temple is located 1.5 Kms from Injambakkam Railway Station. Local Naickers built the temple 200 years ago. The temple is spread over an area of about 225 sq.ft.

The principal deity is Sri Kachaleeswarar in the form of a Pradhista Lingam.

A Gurukkal performs Poojas once a day. Shivarathri and Vinayaga Chathurthi are the regular annual festivals.

A Board of Trustees appointed by the HR & CE manages the affairs of the Temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is Rs. 50,314/-.

Sri Sundara Vinayaka Temple

The temple is believed to be 2 centuries old. The principal deity is Sri SundaraVinayaka. The temple is spread over an area of about 1200 sq.ft. Temple owns some lands. A Gurukkal performs Poojas once a day. Vinayaga Chathurthi, Thiruvathirai, Masi Magam and Urani Pongal are the main festivals.

VISHAKANDIKUPPAM (LC.1054)

No details are available.

SEMBARAMBAKKAM (LC.1055)

No details are available.

INJAMBAKKAM (LC.1056)

No details are available.

BOX - 41

Saligrama

Lord Vishnu is invoked in a type of stone obtained from the river Gandaki in Nepal called the Saligrama.

Saligrama is also the name of the place where the river Gandaki originates. The stone is believed to have the markings of the Chakra- the celestial discus of Lord Vishnu. There are 19 different types of Saligramas.

KARAI (LC.1057)

Sri Punniyathu Amman, Easwarar, Perumal Temples and Bhajanai Madam

No details are available.

SEEYATI (LC.1058)

No details are available.

POONDITHANGAL (LC.1059)

No details are available.

KUTHIRAMBAKKAM (LC.1060)

No details are available.

MADAPURAM (LC.1061)

No details are available.

THODUR (LC.1062)

No details are available.

ARIYAMBAKKAM (LC.1063)

No details are available.

NEERVALUR (L.C.1064)

Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal Temple alias Sri Veetriruntha Perumal

The temple is located 15 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is believed to be 300 years old by Vaishnava Vadakalai Brahmins. The principal deity is Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal with Sri Devi and Bhoodevi seated separately. The temple is spread over an area of about 30 cents. There is a praakaaram, a front mandapam supported by 8 stone pillars and inner mandapam and a Sanctum. The temple owns 6.05 acres of wet and 11.44 acres of dry lands. A Bhattacharya (Vadakalai) performs Poojas once a day as per Pancharatra Agama. Vaikunta Ekadasi, Sri Rama Navami, Thai Pooam and Sathumurai are the main festivals.

ATTUPUTHUR (LC.1065)

Sri Subrahmaniaswamy Temple

This temple is at a distance of 15 Kms from Kancheepuram. A local person Sri A. Velu Mudaliar built the temple in 1899 on an area of 50 cents. It was dedicated to Lord Muruga and a Brahmin priest does poojas twice daily. The post is not hereditary. The temple has some jewels. It owns 10.09.5 hectares of wet and 33.35.5 hectares of dry lands. There are vahanas, namely, Peacock, Elephant, Bootham, Surya Prabhai, Chandra Prabhai, Car and Palanquin made of wood some 50 years ago. Every year Sashti Uthsavam is conducted for nine days and on the sixth day "Soorasamharam" festival is cele-

brated. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.7,929/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.10,728/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs. 53,361/-. The temple is under the management of the hereditary trustee. The temple is under the control of HR & CE.

ILLUPPAPATTU (LC.1066)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details are available

VEDAL (L.C.1067)

Sri Pidariamman, Agasteeswarar, Selva Vinayaka Temples and Bhajanai Madam

The village is located 8 Kms from Kancheepuram on the National Highway (NH4). Bus facilities are available to reach the village. The nearest Railway Station is Kancheepuram. The age of the above temples is 100 years and they cover an area of 100 sq. ft. each. A Pooari appointed by the village committee performs pooja once a day. The annual festival is celebrated. The annual income of these temples is Rs. 5,000/- each. The affairs of these temples are managed by the villagers.

SEMANTHANGAL (LC.1068)

No details are available.

ENADUR (LC.1069)

No details are available.

PAPPANKUZHI (LC.1070)

No details are available.

BOX - 42**Shaiva Agama**

Shaiva Agama is generally divided into 4 sections: Vidya Pada (deals with the basic knowledge about Lord Shiva; Kriya Pada (Deals with the details to be followed in the construction of temples and in worship; Yoga Pada (deals with the eight steps of Yoga leading to a union with the Lord and Karya Pada (deals with one's conduct with reference to worship).

There are four basic texts in the Shaiva Agama. These are Kamika, Asita, Vatula and Raurava. Each of these texts have supplements called Upagamas. These texts are available in the form of Palm-leaf manuscripts written in the Grantham script.

CHITTERIMEDU (LC.1071)

No details are available.

THULUKKANTHANDALAM (LC.1072)

No details are available.

ARIYAPERUMBAKKAM (LC.1073)*Sri Alai Amman and Parvathi Amman Temples*

No significant details are available

SIRUNAIPERUGAL (LC.1074)*Sri Selliamman, Ponniamman, Easwarar and Pidari Amman Temples*

No significant details are available

MUTTAVAKKAM (LC.1075)

No details are available.

DAMAL (L.C.1076)*Sri Varagheeswarar and Damodara Perumal Temples*

The temple is located 8 Kms from Kancheepuram on the Chennai-Bangalore National Highway. Locals built the temple. The principal deities are Sri Varageeswarar and Sri Damodara Perumal. The deity of Varageeswarar faces west. Damodara Perumal is facing east. There is a separate shrine for Gowri Amman. Poojas are performed twice a day as per Kamika Agama in Shiva temple and Pancharatra Agama in Vishnu temple. The temple owns landed property to an extent of 47 acres. Pradosham, Annabhishekam, Arudhra and Navarathri are the major festivals celebrated.

Narasimhesam

It is opposite to Varageesam. It is believed that Lord Shiva took the form of a Snake to pacify Lord Narasimha. Narasimha after returning to normalcy came down to Kancheepuram and established a Shiva Linga here and prayed to him. Hence, it is called Narasimhesam. Presently, there is no temple here.

KILAR (LC.1077)*Sri Kolli Amman, Ellamman, Vinayaka, Anjaneyar and Perumal Temples*

No significant details are available.

THIRUPPUKUZHI (LC. 1078)

Sri Vijayaraghava Perumal Temple

This temple is one of the Divya Desams (temples in praise of which Vaishnavite saints have composed Hymns). This village is located 15 Kms from Kancheepuram on the Chennai-Bangalore National Highway. Devotees have to alight at Baluchetti Chatram and reach the temple by walk or vehicle. It is believed that Pandya Kings built the temple in 13th Century A.D.. There are some stone inscriptions of Sundara Pandya reign. The type of the vimanam called, "Vijaya Veerakoti vimanam". The temple is associated with the great epic Ramayana.

As per legend, Jatayu, the bird intercepted Ravana, the demon king, who was kidnapping Sita, the consort of Rama and engaged him in a battle. Ravana vanquished Jatayu and left him badly wounded at this spot. Lord Rama came to this spot created a pond, had his bath and then performed the funeral ceremonies of Jatayu. The tank is called Jatayu Pushkarani. The place is called Jatayu Moksham.

The presiding deity is Sri Vijayaraghava perumal. The idol of the Lord is in a sitting posture facing East performing funeral ceremonies for Jatayu. He has four arms and has Jatayu on his thigh as if performing funeral rites. The Goddesses Sri Devi and Bhudevi have their faces averted as if they are overwhelmed by this sight. The two Goddesses are also supposed to have exchanged places in their grief.

This is the place where Yadavaprakasa, the teacher of Sri Ramanuja lived. A Vaishnavite seer Pinpazhagia Perumal Jeer was also born here. The Vaishnavite Saint Vedanta Desikar has composed hymns on this temple. Saint Thirumangai alwar also visited this temple and sung hymns.

The temple owns 24.87 acres of wetlands and jewels worth Rs.8,33,848/-. A hereditary Bhattacharya belongs to Porakathi

Bhattar sub-sect, performs pooja twice a day as per Panjarathra Agaman. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 16,288/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 15,525/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.16,308/-. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Endowments Department.

Sri Manikandeswarar Temple, Andakesam

Andakesam village is situated in between Thiruppurkuzhi and Musaravakkam. The principal deity is Manikandeswarar with His consort Tripurasundari. As per legend, once Andakasura, son of the demon Iraniyan invaded Mount Kailash, the abode of Lord Shiva. Devas frightened at the fierce onslaught, disguised themselves as women and mixed with the Goddess's retainers. When Andakasura tried to imprison the women, he was defeated. On his deathbed, Andakasura prayed to Lord Shiva to grant him salvation. The Lord granted him his last wish. Hence the temple is called Andakesam. The other deities of the temple are the four Saints, Vijaya Vigneswarar, Arumugar, Navagrahas, Dakshinamurthy and Linkothbavar.

MELAMBI (LC.1079)

No details are available.

KILAMBI (LC.1080)

Sri Karumanicka Perumal Temple

The village is located 8 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is also available to the village. The Temple is believed to be 400 years old. The temple occupies an area of 360 Sq ft. The presiding deity is Karumanicka Perumal with his consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi. The main deity is 4 feet in height. "Veda Parayana Trust" reconstructed the main sanctum in the year 1983. There is a Mandapam and an Ardha Mandapam in front of the shrine. A Bhattacharya conducts Pooja twice a day, who is paid by the "Veda Parayana Trust. The temple owns 3 vacant house sites. The main festivals are Chithirai Varusha pirappu, navarathri, Deepavali, Karthigai Deepam, Pongal and Panguni

Uthiram. The month of Margazhi is considered especially auspicious. A hereditary Trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Ambikapathi Easwarar Temple

The presiding deity is called Ambikapathi Easwarar. The Goddess is called Kamakshi. The temple is believed to be over 1000 years old and built by the Chola ruler Vijayakanda Gopala Devan. There is a copper plate to this effect available in the Shankar Mutt at Kancheepuram. Several stone inscriptions are also available in the walls of the temple. The temple faces east. It occupies an area of 2400 Sq ft. A gurukkal conducts Poojas twice a day as per Kamika Agama. The temple owns wetlands to an extent of 1.56.0 hectares and 0.22.5 hectares of dry lands. It is under leased cultivation. 3 Trustees manage the affairs.

The other deities in this temple are dedicated to Vinayaka, Dhakshinamoorthi, Vishnu, Brahma, Nava Graha, Durga, Bhairavar, and Murugan with His consorts Valli and Deivanai.

Postal Address : Arulmighu Ambikapathi Easwarar Temple
21 Kilambi Village,
Krishnapuram Post,
Kancheepuram Taluk,
Kancheepuram- 631551.

SIRUKAVERIPAKKAM (LC.1081)

Sri Mannarswami and Pachai Amman Temples

The village is located 5.4 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is also available to the village. The temple is believed to be 120 years old. A Poojari conducts Pooja once a day. The temple owns dry lands to an extent of 0.94.5 hectares. The temple is under the HR & CE Department. The months of Adi and Chithirai are considered especially auspicious.

THIMMASAMUDRAM (LC.1082)

No details are available.

NETTERI (LC.1083)

Sri Gangai Amman and Muthal Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ACHUKATTU (LC.1084)

No details are available.

KARUPPADITHATTADAI (LC.1085)

Sri Jayantheeswarar Temple

The village is located 2.5 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is also available to the village. The temple is believed to be 100 years old. The temple occupies an area of 0.04.5 ares. The presiding deity is a Prdishta Lingam. The temple owns 0.31.0 hectares of wetland. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

TIRUMALPADITHANGAL (LC.1086)

No details are available.

SITTIYAMBAKKAM (LC.1087)

Sri Sellu Amman and Rama Temples.

The village is located 8 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facility is also available to the village. The temple occupies an area of 100 Sq ft. It owns wetlands to an extent of 4 acres. There is a tank in this village where the Float Festival of Sri Varadaraja Perumal of Kancheepuram is held every year in the month of



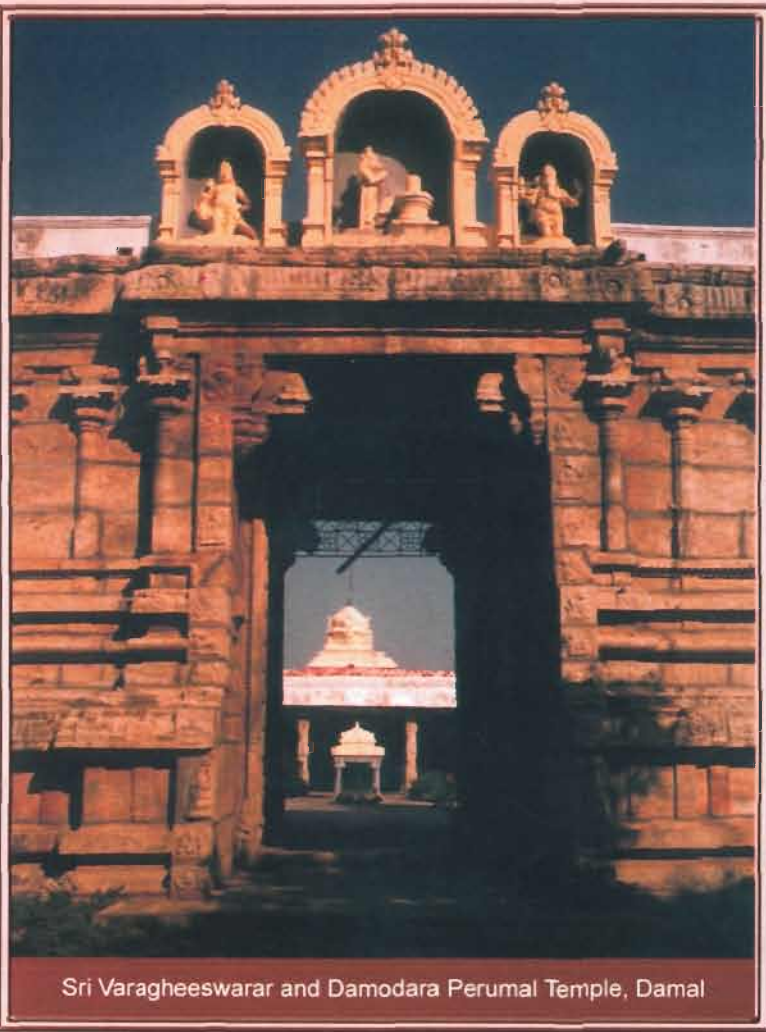
Sri Dakshinamurthy at Govindavadi



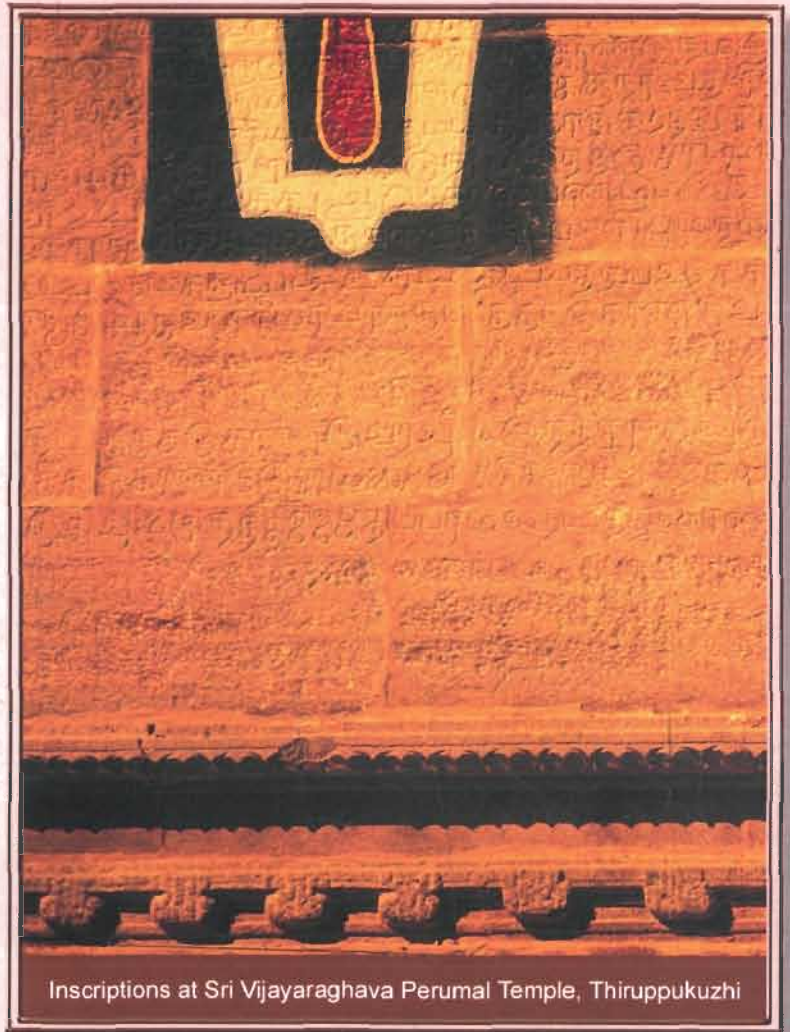
Sri Dakshinamurthy Temple at Govindavadi



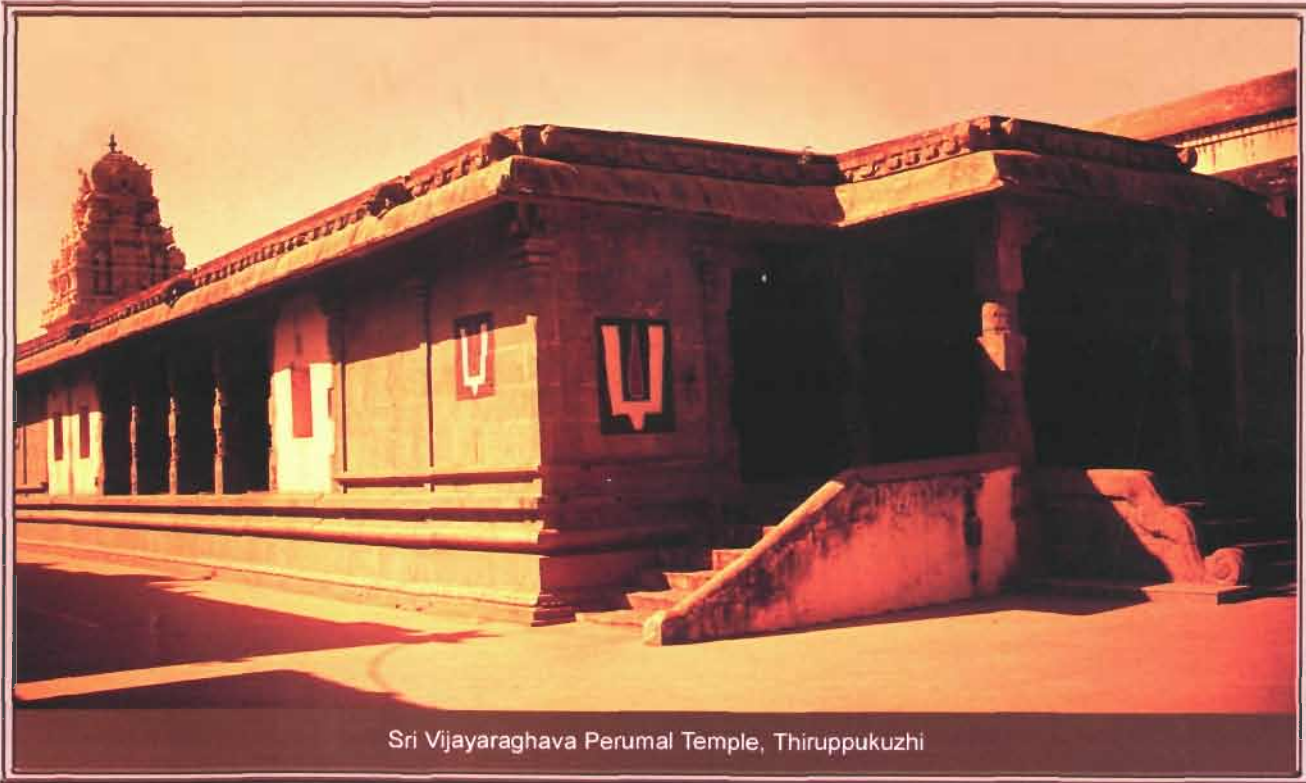
Sri Varagheeswarar and Damodara Perumal Temple, Damal



Sri Varagheeswarar and Damodara Perumal Temple, Damal



Inscriptions at Sri Vijayaraghava Perumal Temple, Thiruppukuzhi



Sri Vijayaraghava Perumal Temple, Thiruppukuzhi

Masi on the Pournami day. The villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

SEKKANKULAM (LC.1088)

No details are available.

SINGADIVAKKAM (LC.1089)

Sri Thirumaleswarar Temple

This temple is located at a distance of 20 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is believed to be 250 years old. The principal deity is Sri Thirumaleswarar in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. The unique feature of this temple is that the Lingam has a Namam, the caste mark of Vaishnavites. The temple occupies an area of 2 acres. A Gurukkal performs the pooja twice a day. The temple owns wetlands to an extent of 6.35.0 hectares and dry lands to an extent of 1.82.0 hectares. Shivarathiri, Arudhra and Vinayaga Chathurthi are the main festivals celebrated.

SIRUVEDAL (LC.1090)

Sri Siddhi Vinayaka, Perumal and Kulam Katha Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ATHIVAKKAM (LC.1091)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal, Pillaiyar, Etti Amman Temples

No significant details available.

Sri Pillaiyar Temple

The temple is located 17 Kms from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. The temple is 140 years old. It covers an area of

900 Sq.ft. It has landed property. Vinayaga Chathurthi is the main festival in this temple. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

NUMMAPPATTU (LC.1092)

Sri Pidari Amman Temple

The temple is located 16 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. It is 140 years old. The temple is dedicated to Goddess Pidari Amman. Poosaris offer Pooja. It owns some land. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

THIRUMALPATTU (LC.1093)

Sri Pamraya Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

BOX - 43

Sakta Agama

This is also known as Tantras. These are 64 in number. Kamakhya, Varahi, Rudrayamala, Kularnava and Tantrasara are a few of these. The Sakta Agamas are of two types: Dakshinakara (Devi is invoked in an image or symbol with Vedic Mantras) and Vamakara (here the Devi is invoked in a female person). These Agamas are available in the Devanagari script.

ALAPAKKAM (L.C. 1094)

Sri Sundararaja Perumal Temple or Alagusundara Perumal Temple

This temple is located at 12 Kms from Chengalpattu. It was constructed 100 years ago. It covers an area of 20 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Sundararaja Perumal. The Goddess is called Sri Anandavalli Thayar. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas.

The temple owns lands. Panguni Uthiram is the main festival celebrated. A trustee is managing the affairs of the temple.

SURAMENIKUPPAM (LC.1095)

No details are available.

AYIMICHERI (LC.1096)

Sri Adikesava Perumal and Thanthoni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KOVALAVEDU (LC.1097)

Sri Adikesava Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

NAVETTIKULAM (LC.1098)

Sri Prasanna Raghava Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

THIRUVENKARANAI (LC.1099)

Sri Pattabhiramaswamy Temple

The temple is located 12 Kms from Walajabad. The temple is believed to be 350 years old. It covers an area of 680 Sq.ft. The pillars in the Mandapam have fine carvings.

The presiding deity is Sri Rama known, as Pattabhiramaswamy and the other deities are Sri Sita, Bhu Devi and Lakshmana. Bhattacharya perform Poojas once a day. The temple owns wetlands to an extent of 20 acres and dry lands to an extent of 3.25 acres. Besides, it owns buildings and jewellery. Rama Navami is the main festival in this temple.

It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 12,263/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.7,182/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.10,724/-. Two trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

KUNNAVAKKAM (LC.1100)

Sri Adi Narayana Perumal Temple

The temple is located 20 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is said to be 700 years old. It covers an area of 0.19 cent. The pillars in the Mandapam have fine carvings.

The presiding deity is Sri Adi Narayana Perumal in a standing posture. Other deities are Sri Devi, Bhudevi, Srinivasar and Anantha Alwar. It is believed that the Vaishnavite saint Thirumalai Anantha Alwar offered worship at this shrine. There is a 4 pillar Mandapam in front of the main shrine.

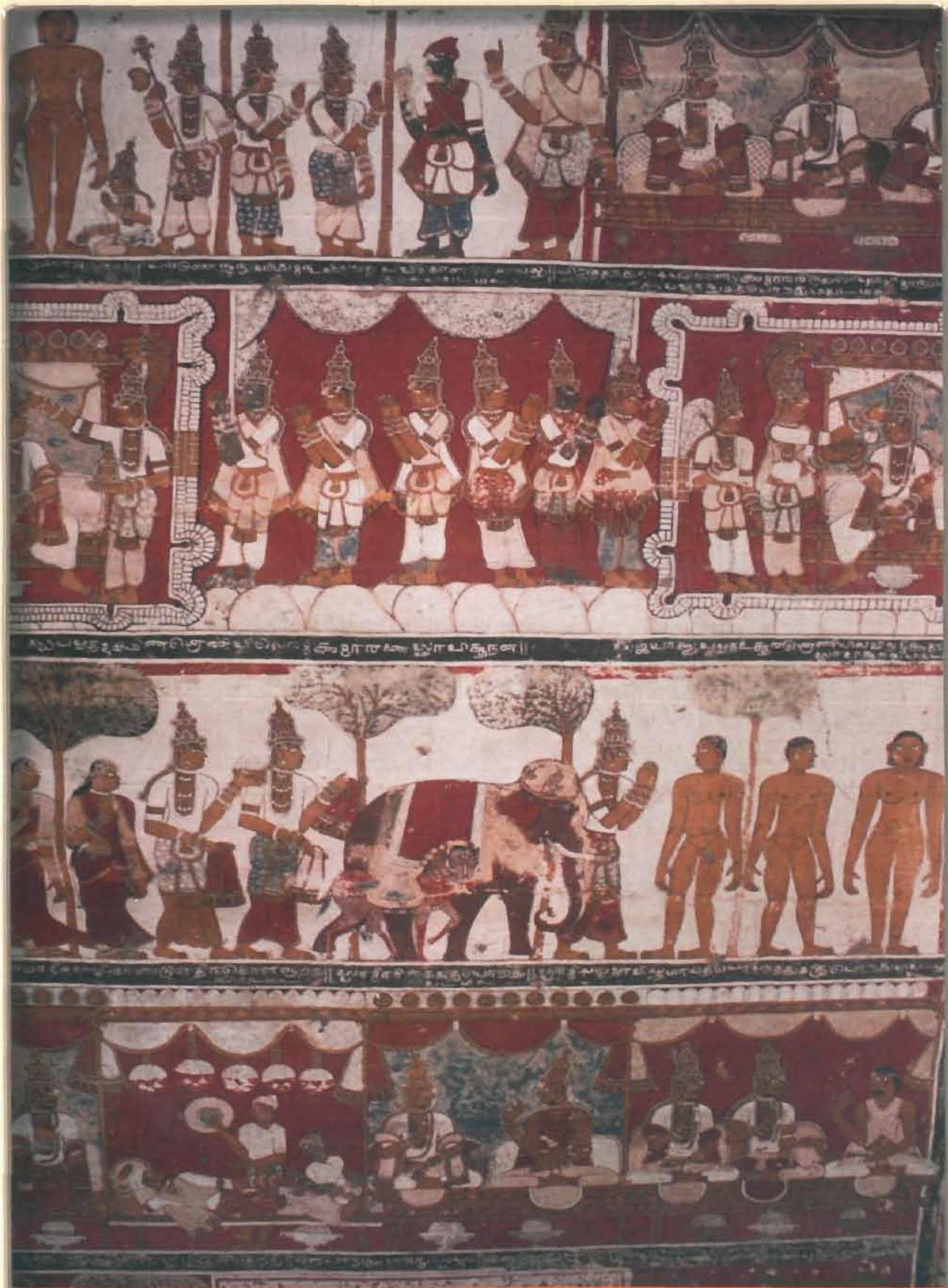
Bhattacharya perform Poojas once a day as per the Pancharathra Agama. The temple owns 9.22 acres of land, which fetch an annual income of Rs. 26,400/-. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 12,410/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 16,921/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.15,814/-. Dhanur (Margazhi) month is celebrated and Vaikunta Ekadasi is the main festival in this temple.

Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

AGARAM (LC.1101)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

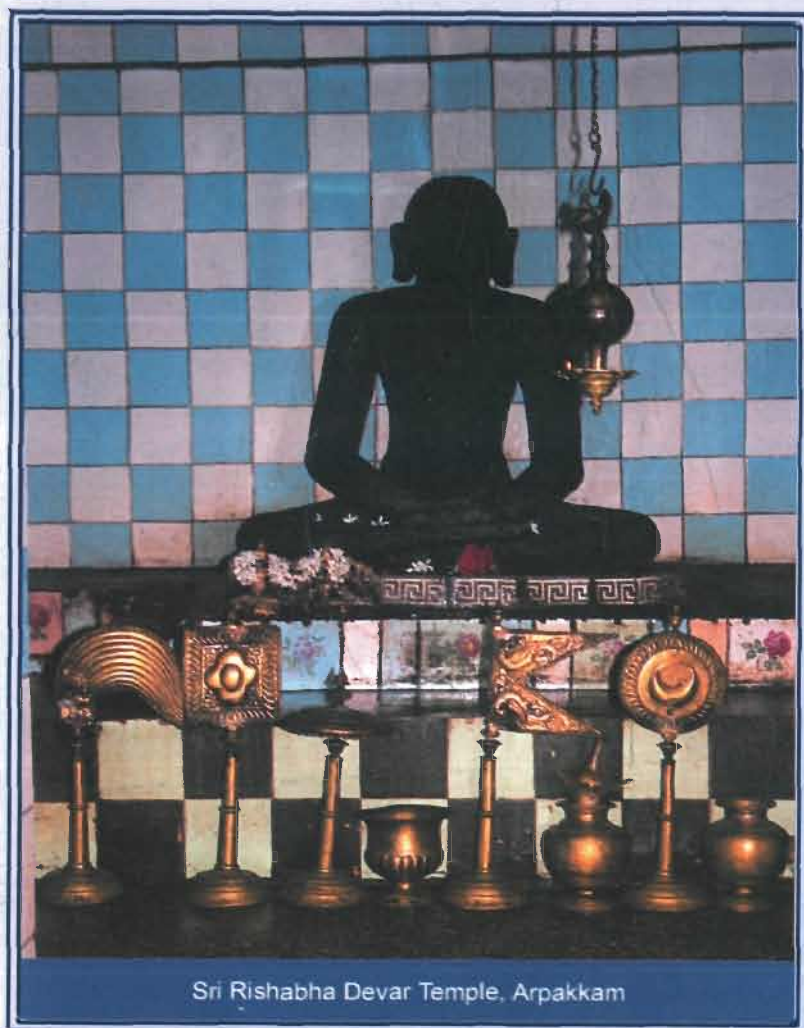
The temple is located 28 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. It covers an area of 20 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Srinivasa Perumal. Bhattacharyas perform Poojas once a day. The temple owns lands to an extent of 3.32.0 hectares and jewellery. The months



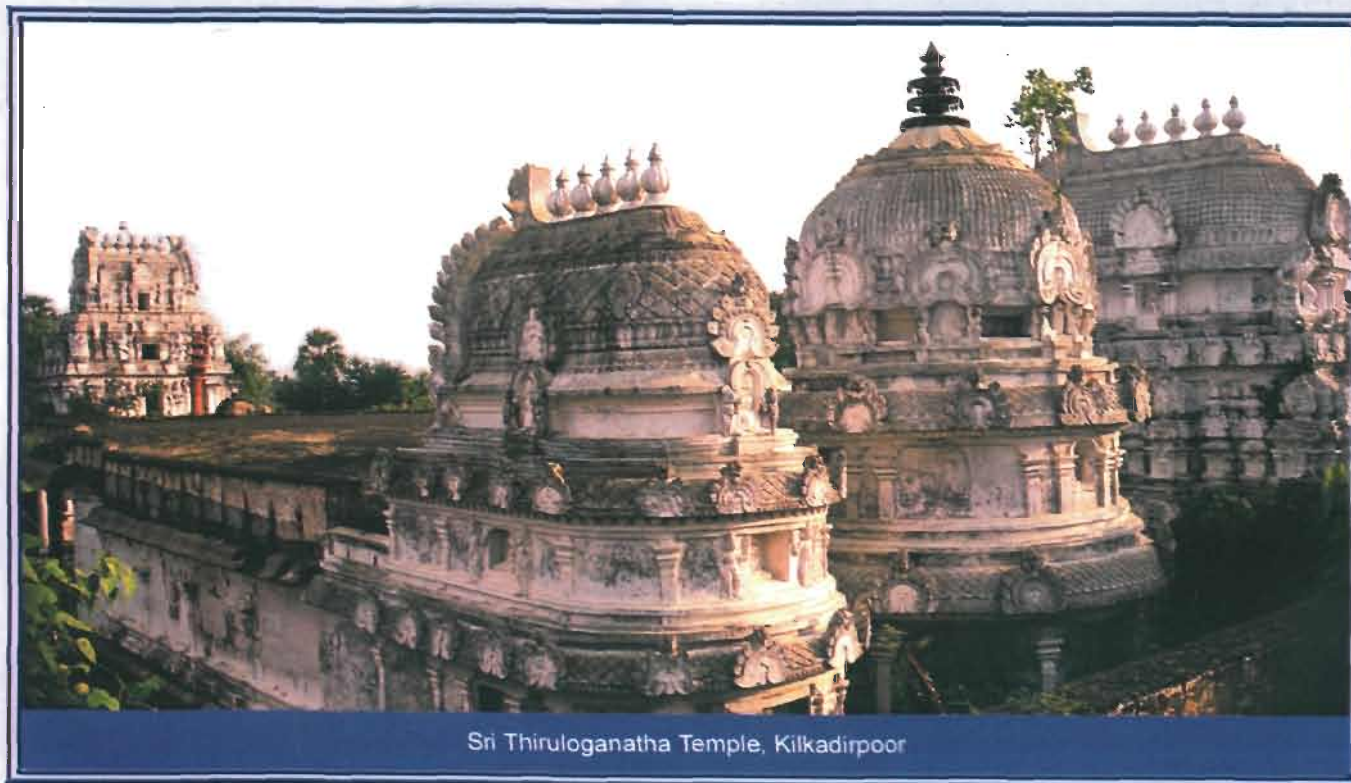
Murals at Sri Thiruloganatha Temple, Kilkadirpoor



Murals at Sri Thiruloganatha Temple, Kilkadirpoor



Sri Rishabha Devar Temple, Arpakkam



Sri Thiruloganatha Temple, Kilkadirpoor

of Masi and Margazhi are especially auspicious. Three trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

MANJAMEDU (LC.1102)

No details are available.

THENNERI (LC.1103)

Sri Kanthaaaleswarar and Kalyana Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The temple is located 23 Kms from Kancheepuram and 8 Kms from Walajahbad Railway Station. Bus facility is also available to the village. The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old and built during the reign of the Pallavas. Some Stone inscriptions are found in the temple premises. The first temple was renovated a few years ago.

The presiding deity in the first temple is Sri Kanthaaaleswarar in the form of a Pradishta Lingam and in the second temple is Sri Srinivasa Perumal. Gurukkals in the first temple and Bhattacharyas in the second temple perform Poojas once a day.

The temple owns lands to an extent of 2.00.0 hectares of land. The speciality of this village is that the deity from the Varadaraja Temple at Kancheepuram visits this village in the month of Masi. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

MADAVILAGAM (LC.1104)

Sri Abath Sahaya Swamy Temple

The Village is located 23 Kms from Kancheepuram and 8 Kms from Walajahbad Railway Station. Bus facility is also available to the village. The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old and built during the reign of the Pallavas. Some Stone inscriptions are found in the temple premises. The temple occu-

pies an area of 12 cents. The temple owns lands to an extent of 1.00.0 hectares of land.

SIRUPAGAL (LC.1105)

No details are available.

ODDANTHANGAL (LC.1106)

No details are available.

BOX - 44

Alvars/Azhwars

Revered saints of the Vaishnavite tradition. They are called Alvars/Azhwars because they were immersed deeply in their devotion to the Lord Vishnu. They sang verses in praise of him as their Lord, master, hero, child, friend and lover.

There were 12 Alvars. They are: Poygai Alvar, Boodathu Alvar, Peyalwar, Thirumazhisai Alvar, Nammalwar, Madurakavi, Kulasekaran, Periya Alvar, Andal, Thondar Adippodi, Thirupanalwar and Thirumangai Alvar.

Among the Alvars prominence is given to Nammalwar whose 4 books are compared with the 4 Vedas- Thiruviruttham-Rg Veda; Thiru vasiriyum-Yajur Veda; Periya Thiruvanthati-Atharvana Veda; Thiruvoimozhi-Sama Veda.

The devotional literature of the Alvars is known as the "Nalayira-Divya-Prabandham" (four thousand devotional songs).

NAICKENKUPPAM (LC.1107)

Sri Perumal, Vinayaka, Ponni Amman, Perumalswamy Temples

No significant details are available

SINNIVAKKAM (LC.1108)

No details are available.

VADAVERIPATTU (LC.1109)

No details are available.

MARUTHAM (LC.1110)

Sri Perumal Easwarar and Kanniamman Temple

The temple is located seven miles from Kancheepuram. The temples are 100 years old. The temples cover an area of 80 and 150 Sq.ft. respectively. The presiding deity in the first temple Sri Perumal Easwarar is a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess in the second temple is known as Kanni Amman. Gurukkals perform Poojas in the first temple and a Pandaram performs the Pooja in the second temple once a day. The first temple own 1.16.0hectares of lands and the second 2.08.0 hectares of land, buildings and jewellery. Navarathri is the main festival in the Kali temple. A trustee and an officer of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

PUTHAGARAM (LC.1111)

Sri Muthu Mari Amman, Perumal, Hanumar and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available

KALLIPATTU (LC.1112)

Sri Kanni Temple

In a dilapidated condition.

KARUR (L.C. 1113)

Sri Venugopaldaswamy, Vinayaka and Kuthalamman Temples

This village is situated 8 Kms from Kancheepuram. It is built about 150 years ago. These temples cover an area of 192.70 and 168 sq. ft. respectively. These temples own lands. Sri Jayanthi, Sri Rama Navami, Vaikunta Ekadasi are the festivals observed in Venugopaldaswamy temple. It is under the control of a Board of Trustees appointed by the HR & CE Department.

MURUKKANTHANGAL (LC.1114)

No details are available.

OLAIYUR (LC.1115)

Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple

This village is situated 9 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. The temple covers an area of 20 cents. The temple owns lands to an extent of 15.50 Acres. The month of Purattasi is especially auspicious in this temple.

KALIYANUR (LC.1116)

No details are available.

VAIYAVUR (LC.1117)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal, Varasiddhi Vinayaka and Kumbathamman Temples

No significant details are available

Sri Vembuli Amman and Inamkatra Amman Temples

No significant details are available

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Mari Amman, Easwarar Temples and Bhajanai Madam

No significant details are available

NALLUR (L.C.1118)

Sri Venugopala Perumal, Ponniamman, Mariamman and Kanniamman Temples

These temples are located at the distances of 4 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and they can be reached by bus also. Villagers built these temples about 300 years ago. They cover an area of 352 sq. ft. , 432 sq. ft. , 176 sq. ft. and 80 sq. ft. respectively. Special poojas are celebrated during the months of Adi and Purattasi.

Sri Varasakthi Vinayaka and Moongil Mandapam

The Vinayaka temple covers an area of 3 cents. It owns 5 shops fetching an annual income of Rs.28,000/-. Hundi collections are about Rs.48,750/-per annum Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main annual festival. Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department control these temples.

KONERIKUPPAM (L.C.1119)

Sri Kanaka Durgai Amman Temple

This temple is situated near the Sankara University, 1 ½ km. from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. There is bus facility from Kancheepuram to reach this temple. It was built about 150 years ago by the then Sankaracharya of Kanchi Mutt on an area of 30 cents. The other deities of the temple are Vinayaka, Nagar and Navagrihas. There are no jewels or property of any kind. All Fridays & Sundays in the month of Adi and Chitra Pournami are the important days. There is a belief that one gets married if he/she performs pooja in Rahu Kalam in this temple. As per legend, there was a shower of gold coins when Adi Sankara chanted the “Kanaka Dhara Sthothram”. The presiding deity “Kanaka Durga” is named after this event. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1407 – Rs.43,786/-; for Fasli 1408 – Rs.54,725/- and for Fasli 1409 – Rs.40,272/-. The only source of income is from Hundi collections. The Executive Officer of HR & CE manages the affairs of the temple.

ARAPPANACHERI (L.C.1120)

Sri Sathyanatha Easwarar Temple

The temple is located at a distance of 3 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and it can be reached by Mini buses. It covers an area of 0.25.0 ares and it owns 10.53 hectares of lands. Poojas are performed once a day by Gurukkals. The affairs of the temple are managed by Trustees. The annual income of the temple is Rs.5000/-.

PUTHERI (LC.1121)

No details are available.

KILKADIRPOOR (L.C.1122)



Sri Thiruloganathar Swamy Temple (Jain Temple)

The temple is located at a distance of 4 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and it can be reached by buses. It is believed to be about 1500 years old and built by the Pallavas. It was renovated in 1995.

There is a three-tiered Raja Gopuram in the temple. This was constructed by Pushpasena Vamanachari and Thirumadilai Koperumsingan, a local ruler. The Garba Griham is divided into two- the first one is called Thirukooda Basti and the second Thiruloganatha Sannadhi. There is a 24 Pillared Mandapam in front of the main shrine. There are wall paintings in this Mandapam, depicting the life history of the first Theerthankar and the 17th Theerthankar. There is a separate shrine for the 6th Theerthankar Padma Prabha Nathar. Another shrine is there for the 23rd Theerthankar Parsuva Natha Swamy. The Vimanams in this temple are built in the Gaja Prishtha and Nagara style.

There are stone inscriptions that indicate that a school to teach Sanskrit functioned at this temple. A Minister in the court of Bukka II called Irukappar is believed to have built a Music Academy here. There is an inscription in the temple that Vanigan Senkathir Selvanatha Pallavan worshipped at this temple. It covers an area of 3.74.0 hectares and it owns 2.48.0 hectares of dry and wetlands. The annual income of the temple is Rs.1500/-. The temple is maintained by the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department.

MELKADIRPOOR (LC.1123)

Sri Mari Amman, Easwarar and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

MANGALPADI (LC.1124)

Uninhabited

METTUKUPPAM (LC.1125)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details are available

MELOTTIVAKKAM (L.C.1126)

Sri Adaingiamman, Thanthoniamman and Vinayaka Temples and Bajanai Madam

These temples are located at the distances of 15 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and it can be reached by buses. Villagers built these temples about 200 years ago. It covers an area of 64sq. ft. . Archakar performs Poojas once a day. These temples own ornaments valued at Rs.2500/-. The main festivals are Adi Thiruvizha and Mylin Thiruvizha. Villagers maintain the affairs of the temples.

MUSARAVAKKAM (L.C. 1127)

Sri Adikesava Perumal Temple

Kancheepuram, the nearest Railway Station is 15 Kms away. Bus facilities are available to reach the village. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. A Bhattacharya, whose post is hereditary, performs Poojas. The temple has lands to the extent of 1.14.5 hectares; the income from which is spent for its main-

tenance. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is Rs.27, 565/-. The temple is under the control of the HR & CE Department.

Sri Saktheeswaraswamy Temple

This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and a Gurukkal offers pooja daily. His office is hereditary. The temple owns landed property to the extent of 1.12.5 hectares. Thiruvadhirai is the main festival in this temple. It has recently been taken over by the HR & CE Department.

PERUMBAKKAM (LC.1128)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

This temple is located 17 Kms from Kancheepuram and bus facilities are available. The temple owns lands to the extent of 13 acres and 4 cents and the trustees enjoy them. Out of the produce, a part is distributed in the form of food packets to poor people in Tirupathi. There is no pooja in the temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is Rs.14,472/-. It is under the control of the HR & CE Department. The other temples in this village are: Sri Ellai Amman, Gangai Amman, Ettiamman, Hanumar and Easwarar temples.

MUTHAVEDU (LC.1129)

Sri Muktheeswarar, Viduvanayagi Amman, Muthu Vinayaka, Kanni Amman and Gangai Amman temples

No significant details are available

PITCHAVADI (LC.1130)

Sri Easwarar, Selli Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VISHAR (L.C.1131)

Sri Bheemeswarar Temple

This temple is located 10 Kms from Kancheepuram. It covers an area of half an acre. A Gurukkal performs Poojas. The temple owns some land. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs. 15,179/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 22,555/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.22,555/-. It is under the control of a Board of Trustees appointed by the HR & CE Department.

There is also a Perumal Temple in the village.

SADATHANGAL (LC.1132)

Uninhabited.

NARAPAKKAM (LC.1133)

No details are available.

ALAVANDARMEDU (LC.1134)

No details are available.

VIPPEDU (LC.1135)

No details are available.

VALLUVAPAKKAM (LC.1136)

Sri Mannarswami and Pacchai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

POOSIVAKKAM (LC.1137)

Sri Thiruvalleeswarar Temple

The temple is located at the distance of 6 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station and can be reached by buses. It is believed to be 100 years old. It covers an area of 0.45 acres of land and it owns 15 acres of lands. As per legend, Vali, the legendary king of the Vanaras performed pooja at this temple. The temple derives its name from this. A Gurukkal performs Poojas once a day. The affairs of the temple are managed by a hereditary Trustee. Kanda Sashti Thiruvizha is celebrated during the month of Aypasi.

UTHUKADU (LC.1138)

Sri Ellai Amman Temple

The temple is located 5 Kms from Walajabad. The temple is an ancient one. It covers an area of 20 cents. The temple has a Praakaara. It is believed that a Chola king, in whose dreams the Goddess appeared found the idol in a tank and built a temple here. The presiding deity is Sri Ellai Amman. Priests perform Poojas once a day. The temple owns lands to an extent of 27 Acres and jewellery. Brahmotsavam in Chithirai is the main festival in this temple. Two trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

KATTAVAKKAM (LC.1139)

Sri Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ATHIPATTU (LC.1140)

No details are available.

VILAGAM (LC.1141)

No details are available.

THALAYAMPATTU (LC.1142)

Sri Durgai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

BOX - 45

Nayanmars

There are 63 saints in the Saivite tradition who are greatly revered. They sang hymns in praise of Lord Shiva and came to be known as the originators of the Bhakthi movement in Hinduism. Historians mark their period as 4th Century AD to 9th Century AD. Their history is narrated in the epic Periya Puranam. There were several women saints who lived in this period like Tilagavathiar, Punithavathiar and Mangaiyarkarasiyar. Among the Nayanmars the hymns of four- Appar, Sambandhar, Manickavachagar and Sundarar are particularly revered. These four have visited various temples and composed hymns in praise of the deities in those temples. These temples are called "Thirumurai Sthalangal" and are held very special by Saivites. The 'Thiruvachagam' of Manickavachagar occupies a place in Tamil Literature analogous to that of the Upanishads.

ALAVUR (LC.1143)

Sri Mari Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

VARANAVASI (LC.1144)

Sri Anjoor Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

VEMBAKKAM (LC.1145)

Sri Perumal, Amman and Pillayar Temples

No significant details are available.

PERIAMADURAPAKKAM (LC.1146)

Sri Kanni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

CHINNAMADURAPAKKAM (LC.1147)

Sri Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

AMBAKKAM (LC.1148)

Sri Mari Amman and Kannapiran Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

THOLLAZHI (LC.1149)

Sri Pakkali Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

KOSAPATTU (LC.1150)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

DEVARIYAMBAKKAM (LC.1151)

Sri Thanthoniamman, Santhiamman, Kulakkarai Vinayaka and Kothareeswarar Temples

No significant details are available.

Sri Srinivasa Perumal, Thiruveedhiamman Temples and Bajanai Madam

The Village is located at a distance of 7 Kms from Walajhabad Railway Station and can be reached by bus. Villagers built these temples about 100 years ago. They cover an area of 2 acres of land. Bhattacharya performs Poojas daily in the Perumal Temple. The affairs of the temples are maintained by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. Car Festival is an important festival in these temples.

THONANKULAM (LC.1152)

Sri Ettiyamman, Thanthoniamman, Srinivasa Perumal, Easwarar and Durgaiyamman Temples

These temples were built about 100 years ago by Sri. Sarangapani Ayyangar, Srinivasa Naicker and Villagers. These temples cover an area of 1 acre and they owned 1 acre 50 cents of lands. Poojas are performed twice a day by a Brahmin priest. Festivals are celebrated during the months of Adi and Purattasi. The affairs of the temples are managed by Villagers.

ULLAVUR (LC.1153)

Sri Agastheeswarar and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

The temple is located 2 Kms from Pazhayaseevaram Railway Station on the Kancheepuram-Chengalpattu line. The temples are believed to be more than 300 years old.

The first temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, covers an area of 45 cents. The presiding deity is in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. Gurukkals offer Pooja once a day. The temple owns land to an extent of 4.38.0 hectares. No specific festival is celebrated in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

The second temple covers an area of 30 cents. The presiding deity is Vishnu in the form of Sri Venkatesa Perumal. Bhattacharyas offer Pooja once a day. No specific festival is celebrated in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

PALAYASEEVARAM (LC.1154)



Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple

The temple is located close to the Pazhayaseevaram Railway Station on the Kancheepuram-Chengalpattu line. The temple is believed to be more than 1200 years old and built by the Pallavas. The temple has a Gopuram more than 300 feet high. It covers an area of 12 acres.

It is believed that the Maharishis Athri, Brigu, Bharadwaj and Kashyap all disciples of great sage Sri Vikanasaru wrote the Sthala Puranam of this temple. The spot where the temple is lo-

cated is believed to be the point of convergence of three rivers – Sheeva, Bahu and Vegavathi from the Javvadhu mountains. As per legend, sage Athri was guided by an inner voice to perform penance in a mountain called “Padmagiri” where Lord Narasimhar would appear before him. As such he reached Padmagiri and did penance. Pleased by the severe penance it is said, Lord Lakshminarasimha appeared before him. Sage Athri prayed to the Lord to sit permanently at Padmagiri. The Lord agreed and the temple came up at this spot. This place was earlier called Sripuram or Jeeyapuram.

As per another legend, about 300 years ago, a group of north Indians visited this place. One of them was affected by severe stomachache. In that night, in his dream somebody advised him to stay in Padmagiri for 48 days and worship Lord Lakshminarasimha. After doing so, he got relieved of his pain. In his lineage, Sri Govindas Purushotandas, Mathra Das Haridas, Sri Keshav Das became trustees of this temple.

Bhattacharyas offer Pooja. The temple has landed property of 200 acres. There are 9 Vahanas in the temple. Brahmotsavam in Ani and Thai Pongal are the main festivals in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs.54,593/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.72,624/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.3,28,889/-.

NATHANALLUR (LC.1155)

Sri Pidari Adanji Amman Temple

The temple is located 3 Kms from Walajabad. The temple is believed to be 90 years old. The temple covers an area of 250 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is Sri Pidari Adanji Amman. Poosaris offer Pooja once a day. The temple has jewels, some lands. Kaapukattu in the months of Vaikasi and Adi is the main festival in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.



Golden Prabai(Swamy) at Sri Thiruvaleeswarar Temple, Arpakkam



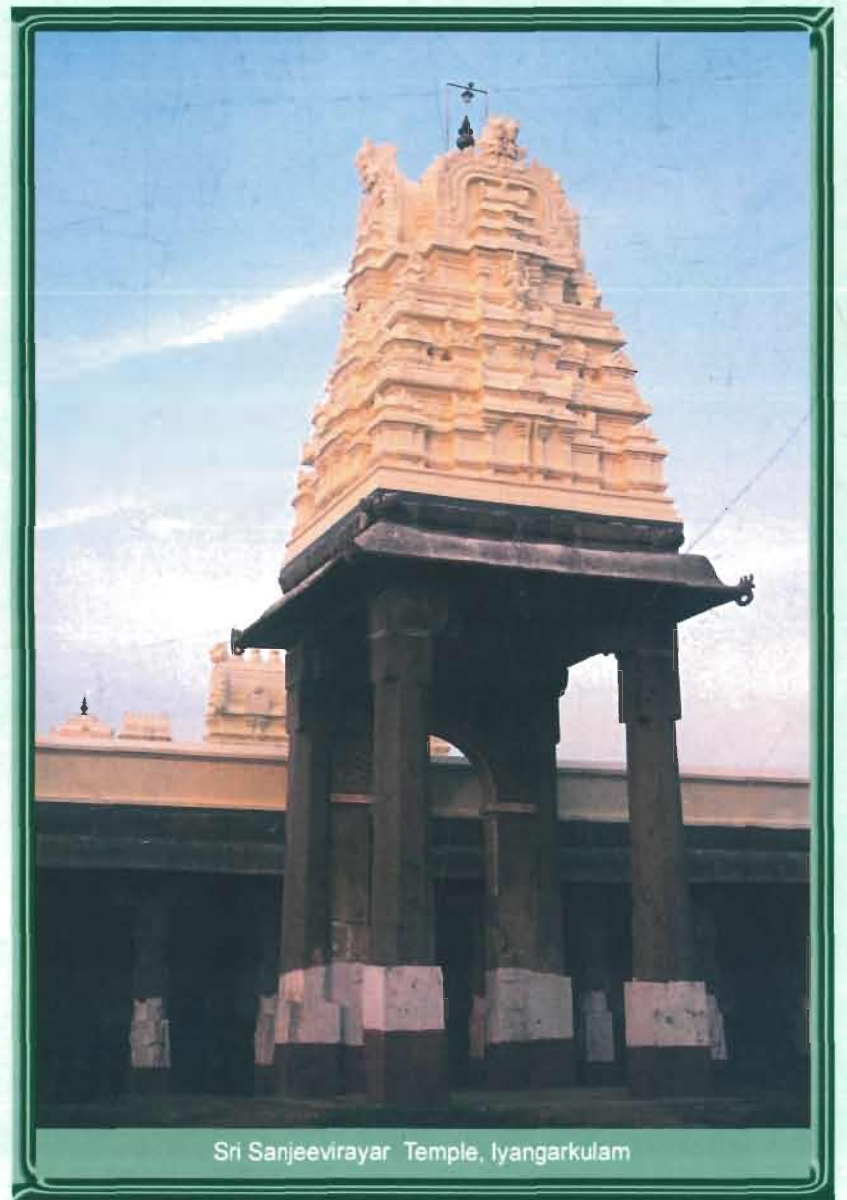
Golden Prabai(Amman) at Sri Thiruvaleeswarar Temple, Arpakkam



Sri Lakshminarasimha Perumal Temple, Palayaseevaram



24 Theerthankars at Sri Adi Pattaragar Temple, Arpakkam



Sri Sanjeevirayar Temple, Iyangarkulam

PULIYAMBAKKAM (LC.1156)

Sri Easwarar, Varadaraja Perumal, Kannuru Amman and Amman Temples

No significant details are available

VENGUDI (LC.1157)

Sri Agastheeswarar and Sri Selli Amman Temples

The village is located close to the Walajabad Railway Station. The temple of Sri Agastheeswarar is believed to be more than 100 years old. People of the local area built it. The temple covers an area of 60 cents. The presiding deity Sri Agastheeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. This temple has a Gopuram. Gurukkals offer Pooja twice a day. The temple has some lands. Thiruvadhira and Shivarathri are the main festivals in this temple. A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

The temple of Sri Selli Amman is also 100 years old. People of the local area built it. The temple covers an area of 20 cents. The presiding deity Sri Selli Amman is in a sitting posture. Poosaris offer Pooja twice a day. The temple has some lands. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival in this temple. The temple owns a Kedayam and a Simha Vahanam. A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

KILOTTIVAKKAM (LC.1158)

No details are available.

SEYAMANGALAM (LC.1159)

No details are available.

THIMMARAJAMPETTAI (LC.1160)

Sri Ramalingaswamy Temple

The temple is believed to be more than 300 years old. The temple covers an area of 7000 Sq. ft. The temple is located 2.5 miles from Walajabad. The presiding deity is Sri Ramalingaswamy is a Swayambu lingam. The Goddess is known as Sri Parvathavarthini. Gurukkals offer Pooja twice a day. The temple has some lands. Thai Poosam, Masi Magam and Adi Pooram are the festivals in this temple. A Trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

BAVASAHIBPETTAI (LC.1161)

Sri Mandaleswarar Temple

The temple is believed to be more than 150 years old. The temple covers an area of 0.08.0 hectares. The temple is located 6 Kms from Walajabad. The presiding deity is Sri Mandaleswarar, a Pradishta lingam. Gurukkals offer Pooja twice a day. The temple owns 6.76.5 hectares of land. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

THANGI (LC.1162)

Sri Kailasanathar Easwarar Temple

The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. People of the Mudaliar community built it. The temple covers an area of 500 Sq. ft. The temple is located 10 Kms from Walajabad. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathar is a Swayambu lingam. The Goddess is known as Sri Kamakoti. Gurukkals offer Pooja once a day. The temple has some lands. There are no specific festivals in this temple.

EKANAMPETTAI (LC.1163)

Sri Thiruvalleeswaraswamy Temple

The temple is believed to be more than 500 years old. The temple covers an area of 70 cents. There is a Gopuram a Praakaara and three sanctums. It is located 8 Kms from Kancheepuram. The presiding deity is Sri Thiruvalleeswaraswamy is a Prathishta Lingam, one foot in height. The other deities are of Sri Subrahmaniaswamy, Natrajar, Somaskandar, Chandrasekarar, Vinayaka and Sri Sundaramoorthy. Gurukkals offer Pooja twice a day. The temple has lands and jewellery. Kanda Shashti in Ayypassi is the main festival in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Mari Amman Temple

The temple is about 90 years old. The temple covers an area of 3 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Mari Amman is two feet in height. Poosaris light lamps at the temple once a day. The temple has lands. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival in this temple.

NAICKENPETTAI (LC.1164)

Sri Amrithakandeeswarar Temple

The temple is believed to be more than 500 years old. The temple covers an area of 5 cents. The temple is located 6 miles from Chengalpattu. The presiding deity is Sri Amrithakandeeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. Gurukkals offer Pooja once a day. The temple has no lands. There are no specific festivals in this temple. A Trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

VILLIVALAM (LC.1165)

Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple

The temple is located 4 miles from Walajabad Railway Station. The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. The

temple has a Gopuram. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It covers an area of 20 cents. Bhattacharyas offer Pooja. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Gangaikondeeswarar and Anjaneya Temples

The temple is 45 years old. The temple is dedicated to Lord Anjaneya (Hanuman). The temple has landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Muchandi Amman Temple

The temple is located 4 miles from Walajabad Railway Station. The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. The temple is dedicated to Goddess Muchandi Amman. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

All the three temples are under the control of the HR & CE Department. The annual income of the above temples as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 14,306/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 12,300/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.16,700/-.

KOYAMBAKKAM (LC.1166)

No details are available.

ERIVROY (LC.1167)

No details are available.

THIMMAIYANPETTAI (LC.1168)

Sri Kasi Viswanathaswamy Temple

The village is located 10 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is believed to be 150 years old and was built by the villagers. The temple covers an area of 7500 Sq.ft. There is a Gopuram 22 feet in height, a Praakaara and three sanctums. It



Sri Adi Pattaragar Temple, Arpakkam



Sri Magaraleeswarar Temple, Magaral



Sri Magaraleeswarar Temple, Magaral

was renovated in the year 1985 and a Kumbhabhishekam was performed on 4.1.1985.

The presiding deity is Sri Kasi Viswanathaswamy is a Swayambu lingam, one foot in height. His consort is Sri Visalakshi. The other deities are Sri Vinayaka, Chandrasekarar, Subrahmaniaswamy and Sri Veerabahu. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The temple has 17.33 acres of wetland and 20.44 acres of dry lands and jewellery worth Rs.83,010/-. Kanda Shashti in Ayppasi is the main festival in this temple apart from Adi Krithigai, Vinayaka Chaturthi and Karthigai Deepam.

MUTHIALPETTAI (LC.1169)

Sri Anjaneyar Temple

No significant details are available.

PADAPPAM (LC.1170)

No details are available.

CHINNAIYANKULAM (LC.1171)

No details are available.

KOTTAKKAVAI (LC.1172)

No details are available.

VELINKAPATTADAI (LC.1173)

No details are available.

ORIKKAI (LC.1174)

No details are available.

KOLIVAKKAM (LC.1175)

Sri Muktheeswarar Temple

No significant details are available.

IYANGARKULAM (LC.1176)

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The village is located at 8 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. The temple is an ancient one. The local Sengundhar community renovated the temple about 150 years ago. The temple covers an area of 50 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathar. The idol of the Lord is a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is known as Sri Kamakoti. The Uthsavar is called Sri Chandrasekarar. Gurukkals offer Pooja once a day. Karthigai Somavaram, Shashti and Valli Thirumanam are the main festival in this temple. The temple has 14.80 acres of wetlands which fetch an annual income of Rs. 16,500/-A single Trustee appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.



Sri Sanjeevirayar Temple

The temple is believed to be 400 years old. One Sri Thathachariar built it during the Vijayanagara reign. The temple covers an area of 2 acres. The temple has 9 Gopurams. As per legend bandits once surrounded the founder of this temple. He prayed to Lord Anjaneya and the bandits disappeared. This temple was built to commemorate this. As per another legend, while bringing "Sanjeevini" to treat Ram and Lakshman during

their war with Ravan, Anjaneya took rest here to change arms. Hence it is called Sanjeevarayar Temple.

The presiding deity is Anjaneyar. The idol of the Lord is in a standing posture. There are also shrines of Rama, Sita and Lakshmana. A Bhattacharya offers Pooja once a day. Nadai Pavai Uthsavam, Sri Rama Navami, Chithra Pournami, Navarathri, Deepavali and Sri Jayanthi are the main festivals in this temple. During the first festival, celebrated on the full moon day in Chithirai, Sri Varadaraja Perumal of Kancheepuram visits the village.

The temple has 133 acres of wetland and jewellery. A portion of the temple is in dilapidated condition. In the Kitchen of earlier days lie two big stones 20 ft. long, which were used to prepare rice (Prasadam) for devotees. There is a very big tank adjacent to the temple called "Thatha Samudram" in memory of the founder.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.19,927/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 19,927/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.15,802/-. A trustee appointed by HR & CE manages the affairs of the temple.

PUNJARASANTHANGAL (LC.1177)

Sri Pacchai Amman, Ponni Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VALATHOTTAM (LC.1178)

Sri Ponni Amman, Mari Amman, Pillaiyar and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

KAMUGAMPALLAM (LC.1179)

Sri Sellu Amman, Mari Amman, Vinayaka and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 46

Kancheepuram Trivia

According to the Kanchi Puranam there are 16,000 temples dedicated to Lord Shiva; 1,00,000 temples dedicated to Lord Vinayaga; 5000 to Goddess Kali; 12,000 to Lord Vishnu; 6000 to Lord Muruga and 2000 temples dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi and Saraswathi.

KURUVIMALAI (LC.1180)

Sri Muthu Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

VITCHANTHANGAL (LC.1181)

Sri Amman, Pillaiyar, Easwarar and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

KALUR (LC.1182)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

The temple is located 7 miles from Walajabad Railway Station. It is an ancient one. The temple is dedicated to Goddess Ponni Amman. Poosaris offer Pooja. It owns some land. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka Temple

The temple is located 5 miles from Kancheepuram Railway Station. It is 240 years old. The temple is dedicated to Sri Karpaga Vinayaka. It owns some land. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Easwarar and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

These temples are located at the distances of 15 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and can be reached by town buses. They are believed to have been built about 500 years ago by Pallavas. These temples cover an area of 6000 sq. ft. and they own 1.42 hectares of wet and 0.29 hectares of dry lands. Villagers maintain the affairs of the temples. The annual income of these temples is Rs.500/-.

ASOOR (LC.1183)

Sri Ekambareswarar Temple

The temple is located 7 Kms from Walajabad. The temple is 65 years old. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. It covers an area of 30 cents. Gurukkals offer Pooja. It has some landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of this temple is Rs.5000/-.

AVALUR (LC.1184)

Sri Kalyana Varadarajaswami Temple

The temple is located 3 Kms from Walajabad. The temple is believed to be 500 years old. The temple has a Gopuram. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It covers an area of 8 cents. Bhattacharyas offer Pooja. The temple has landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is Rs.3000/-.

ANGAMBAKKAM (LC.1185)

Sri Ambalavana Easwarar Temple

The temple is located at 3 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station. The original temple is said to be over 900 years old. It was renovated 300 years ago. The temple has three Praakaaras.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam of Chola period. The Goddess in this temple is called Sri Shakti Shivakama Sundari. It covers an area of 15,552 Sq.ft. A Brahmin Gurukkal offer Pooja three times a day as per Kamika Agama. The temple has antique jewels valued of Rs.51,163/- and landed property of 4.95 acres. The annual income from property is Rs. 45,000/-. There is one 100-year old Rishaba vahanam made of wood. Chithra Pournami celebrated for 10 days is the main festival in this temple. Other festivals are Vinayaga Chaturthi, Arudhra and Surasamharam. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 28,708/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 33,907/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.40,919/-.

Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

THAMMANUR (LC.1186)

Sri Ekambranathar Easwarar Temple

The temple is located 4 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station. The temple is believed to be more than 300 years old. The temple has a Gopuram. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The idol is a Swayambu lingam. It covers an area of 21,850 Sq.ft. Gurukkals offer Pooja twice a day. The temple has jewels and landed property of 6.57 hectares of wet and 10.27 hectares of dry lands. The annual income of the temple is Rs.50,000/-. There are 31 Vahanas in the temple. Thai Krithigai and Vinayaga Chaturthi are the main festivals in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

MELPUTHUR (LC.1187)

Sri Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

KOLATHUR (LC.1188)

No details are available.

PERUMANALLUR (LC.1189)

Sri Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

VEDAL (LC.1190)

Sri Perumaleswarar Temple

The temple is located 9 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. The temple is 140 years old. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. It covers an area of 240 Sq.ft. Gurukkals offer Pooja. It has some landed property. Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple. The other temples in the village are- Ponni Amman, Mari Amman, Selli Amman, Kanni Amman and Perumal.

KALAKATTUR (L.C.1191)

Sri Kariyamanicka Varadar Temple

This temple is located at the distance of 12 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and town buses can reach it. These temples were built about 120 years ago. The presiding deities are Kariyamanicka Varadar, Sri Devi, Bhu Devi, Krishnar, Sri Chakarathalwar and Sri.Maragathavalli Thayar. It covers an area of 120 X 50 ft.

THALAIYILLAPERUMBAKKAM (LC.1192)

Uninhabited

ARPAKKAM (L.C.1193)

Sri Thiruvaleeswaraswamy Temple

The temple is located 15 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is an ancient one covering an area of 1 acre. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. Gurukkals offer Pooja. It has some jewels and landed property of 6.70 hectares. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1408 – Rs.19,089/-; for Fasli 1409 – Rs.16,882/- and for Fasli 1410 – Rs.19,905/-.

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple

The temple is an ancient one. There are a few stone inscriptions in the temple. The temple covers an area of 75 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Bhattacharyas offer Pooja twice a day. It has some jewellery and landed property of 3.42 hectares. Adi Pooram and Masi Maham are the important festivals in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1408 – Rs.11,254/-; for Fasli 1409 – Rs.15,796/- and for Fasli 1410 – Rs.17,836/-.



*Sri Adi Pattaragar or
Rishabha Devar Temple
(Jain)*

This temple is a fine example of Jain architecture. The temple is located at the distance of 15 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and can be reached by town buses. It has some

landed property of 1.30 hectares. The presiding deity in this temple is Sri Adi Pattaragar, Adi Devar, Adi Nathar and Rishabha Devar. He is the first Thirthankar of the Jains. The deity is in a sitting pose. The other idols are Gomukha Yakshan and Chakreswari. There is an idol of all the 24 Thirthankars outside the Garba Griha. There are also the idols of Dharma Devar and Kushmandani. A number of Palm leaf manuscripts are available in the temple. The unique feature in this temple is that Hindus visit this temple and even fulfill vows. A hereditary Jain priest conducts Poojas.

MAGARAL (LC.1194)

Sri Veetriruntha Perumal Temple

The temple is located 18 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is an ancient one covering an area of 50 cents. It was built about 1300 years ago during the period of Ramanujar. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Bhattacharya offer Pooja twice a day. Brahmothsavam in Chithirai is the main festival celebrated for 10 days. It has some jewels and landed property. It is 6.83 hectares. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is Rs.14, 108/-. Trustees appointed by HR & CE manage the affairs of the temple.



Sri Thirumagaraleeswarar Temple

The temple has a Gopuram built in the Chola style. The age of the temple is not known. On 31.1.1971 the Raja Gopuram was renovated. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Lingam. The deity is known by various names: Adaikalam Katha Nathar, Magham Vazhvithavar, Udumbeesar, Bara Thazhumbar, Putridam Kondar, Nilai Itta Nathar, Mangalam Kathavar, Parindu Kathavar and

Agasteeswarar. The name Magaram indicates a type of giant lizard (monitor). The Goddess is known as Triubhuvana Nayagi and Bhuvana Nayagi. The Theertham (tank) is called Agni Theertham. The Sthala Viruksham (tree) is Lemon. It is believed that Lord Indra worshipped at this temple.

As per legend, two demons Magaran and Malayan worshipped at this temple and attained salvation. As per another legend, a jackfruit from this place was sent to the Chidambaram Nataraja temple regularly. After being offered to the Lord there it was given to the King. Once this tree was burnt down as a result of which the fruit could not be sent. The King who came to investigate saw a golden Lizard on the spot. He pursued it. The lizard disappeared into an anthill. Before disappearing, it transformed its tail into a Lingam. The King then built a temple at that spot.

Gurukkals offer Pooja four times a day. It has some jewels and landed property. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 31,438/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 50,915/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.46,990/-.

Thirugnanasambandar, the Shaivite saint has composed hymns in praise of this shrine. Masi Magam is the main festival in this temple. The temple is under the control of the HR & CE Department.

KAVANTHANDALAM (LC.1195)

Sri Choleeswaraswamy Temple

The temple is located 22 Kms from Kancheepuram. The temple is an ancient one. The temple covers an area of 50 cents. It was built about 150 years ago. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Gurukkals offer Pooja. It has some jewels valued of 10,000/- and landed property of 80 acres. Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

The temple is an ancient one covering an area of 50 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Bhattacharyas offer Pooja twice a day. It has jewels and landed property. There are a few vahanas. Krishna Jayanthi is the main festival in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

NELVELI (LC.1196)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 8 Kms from Walajabad. The temple is believed to be 140 years old. The temple is dedicated to Lord Agastheeswarar. The Goddess is known as Sri Akhilandeswari. The other deities are Selva Vinayaka and Ellai Amman. It covers an area of 21 cents. Gurukkals offer Pooja. It has some landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

KILPUTHUR (LC.1197)

Sri Tanthoni Amman, Poongathu Amman, Gangai Amman and Selva Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

KAMBARAJAPURAM (LC.1198)

Sri Abhaya Varadan Varadaraja Perumal, Aachi Amman and Ellai Amman Temples

The village is located 7 Kms from Walajabad. Bus facility is available to the village. The temple of Sri Varadaraja is be-

lieved to be 200 years old. The Goddess here is known as Perundevi Thayar. It is said that the Vaishnavite Saint Ramanuja himself has composed hymns in praise of this shrine. A Bhattacharya conducts Pooja once a day. The temple owns 7.29.5 hectares of dry and 15.40.5 hectares of wetlands.

ELAYANARVELUR (LC.1199)

Sri Bala Subrahmaniam Temple

The village is located 8 Kms from Walajabad. Bus facility is available to the village. The temple is believed to be 200 years old. Renovations were carried out in 1966, 1971 and 1994. As per legend, the "Vel" (Spear) of Lord Murugan fell at this spot after slaying the demons Malaiyan and Madhuran. There is a 50 feet tall Gopuram in the temple. Gurukkals perform pooja at this temple three times a day. The temple has gold and silver jewellery worth a few lakhs. The temple owns lands to an extent of 117.86 Acres. It also owns 960 trees. There are 6 Vahanas- Peacock, Elephant, Suriya and Chandra Prabhai, Serpent, Swan and Bhootha (Demon). Adi Krithigai, Masi Magam and Thai Pooam are especially auspicious here. Trustees appointed by the HR & CE Department manage the affairs of the temple.

CHITHAATHUR (LC.1200)

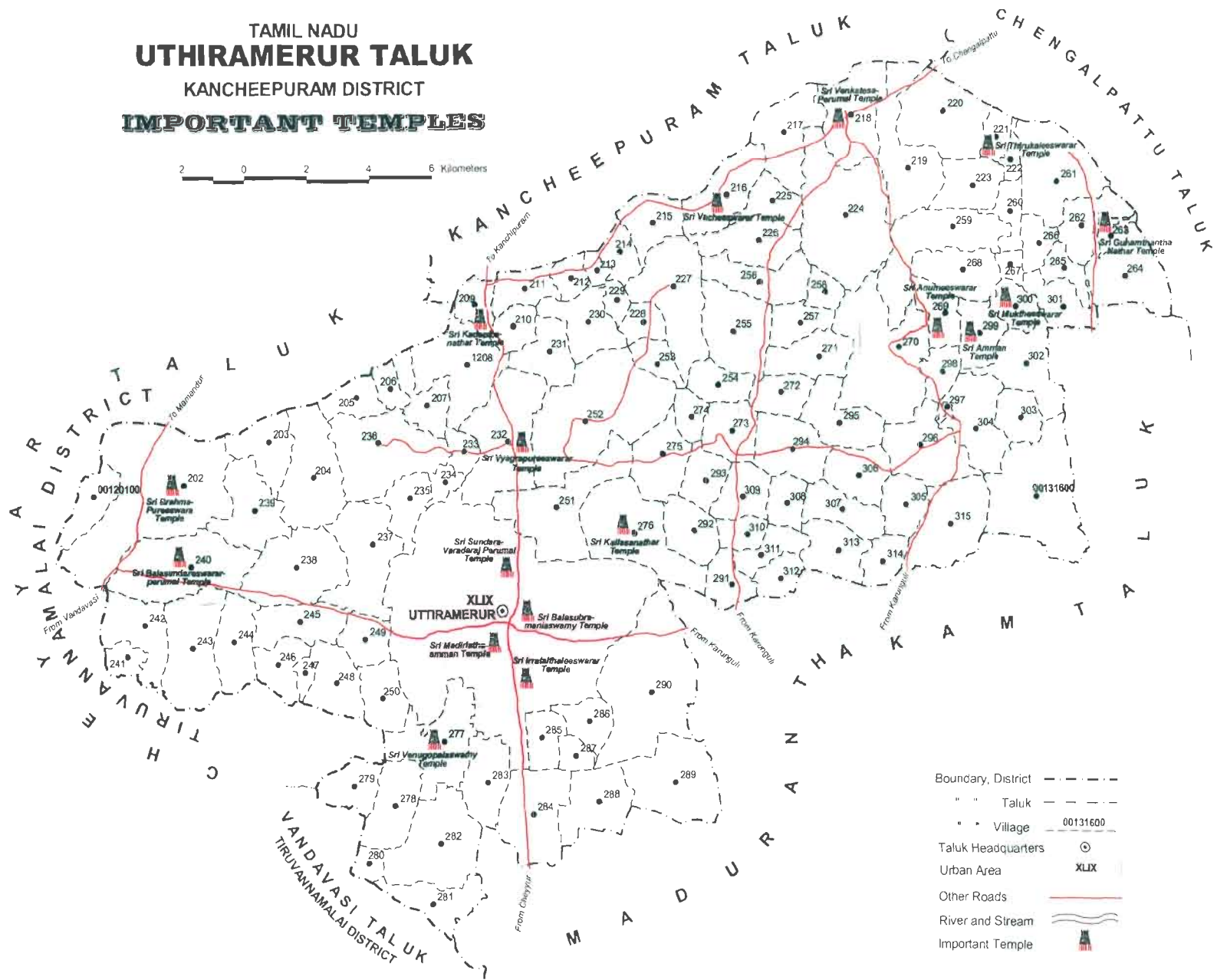
No details are available



UTHIRAMERUR TALUK

TAMIL NADU
UTHIRAMERUR TALUK
 KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT
IMPORTANT TEMPLES

2 0 2 4 6 Kilometers



- Boundary, District - - - - -
- " " Taluk - - - - -
- Village 00131600 •
- Taluk Headquarters ⊙
- Urban Area XLIX
- Other Roads ———
- River and Stream ———
- Important Temple

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UTHIRAMERUR TALUK

Uthiramerur Taluk covers an area of 428.52 Sq.km. The Taluk Headquarter is Uthiramerur, the lone Town Panchayat, which is 35 Kms away from the District Headquarters at Kancheepuram. It is connected by road.

Uthiramerur Taluk has One Town Panchayat and 116 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Population Totals of the Census of India 2001, the Taluk has a population of 136,867.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 247 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 117 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 17 villages details are not available on temples. This includes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

The famous “Uthiramerur Inscriptions” are found in the ancient shrine of Sri Vaikunta Vasa Perumal temple here. These

“Stone Inscriptions” give details on the Panchayat System prevalent in those days including Kudavolai way of electing the peoples representatives.

The other two famous temples in Uthiramerur are: Sri Sundaravaradaraja temple and Sri Balasubrahmania Swamy temple. The first one has an Ashtanga (8 tiered) Vimanam and the second one is carved on a rock. Saint Arunagirinathar composed songs on Sri Balasubrahmania Swamy Temple at Uthiramerur. The ancient temple of Sri Vyagrapureeswarar at Thirupulivanam is only 5 Kms away from Uthiramerur.

UTHIRAMERUR (TP-49)



Sri Vaikuntavasa Perumal Temple

The village is located 33 Kms from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. This temple is believed to be 500 years old.

This temple is located at the Uthiramerur Bus Stand. This temple is known for its famous “Stone Inscriptions”. These inscriptions elaborate on the Panchayat System prevalent those days including Kudavolai way of electing the peoples representatives. These inscriptions are maintained by the Archaeology Department. The temple covers 0.60.0 hectares of land. The Bhattacharya of Sri Sundara Varadaraja Perumal temple also performs pooja here twice a day. No other details are available.



Sri Sundara Varadaraja Perumal Temple

The temple was completed in the 10th year of the reign of Pallava king Dantivarman (Circa A.D.796-817). The temple covers 0.81.0 hectares of land. Architecturally the temple is of importance. Stone inscriptions are found here. The foundation inscriptions laud the designer-architect Paramesvara Peruntachan for understanding the measures and architectural details of this class of building and for having built this shrine in accordance with the agamas. Renovations are presently going on in this temple.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. There are 10 shrines in this temple – 9 for Vishnu as per ‘navamurthividhi’ - one each for each form and one for Thayar. Lord Vishnu is believed to have given darshan to the Pandavas and hence it is called “Panja Varada Shetram”. As per legend, 1008 Brahmins learnt the four Vedas here and hence it is also called by the name “Chaturvedi Mangalam”.

The deities of this temple are:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Vaikunta Varadar | 6) Krishnarjunar |
| 2) Sundara Varadar | 7) Yoga Narasimhar |

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3) Achuta Varadar | 8) Lakshmi Varahar |
| 4) Anirudha Varadar | 9) Ranganathar
(Ananthasayanam) |
| 5) Kalyana Varadar | 10) Anandavalli and Andar. |

The structure of this temple contains several tiers. There are four shrines each in the ground and first tier. The ninth shrine is in the second tier. The ground floor has the Lord in the Standing posture (Stanaka). Sri Vaikunta Varadar is the main deity flanked by Sri Sundara Varadar, Achuta Varadar and Anirudha Varadar. The first tier accommodates the Asana or sitting posture with Sri Kalyana Varadar as the main deity and flanked by Sri Krishna-Arjuna (Nara-Narayana), Yoga-Narasimha and Lakshmi-Varahar. On the second tier is the Sayanamurthi or reclining posture in the form of Sri Ranganatha. This temple closely follows the navamurthividhi prescribed in the Vaikhanasa Agama.

The Vimanam is an Ashtanga Vimanam, a rare type that is seen only in Koodalazhagar temple, Madurai and Madavaperumal temple. Another unique phenomenon, in the Ranganatha shrine is the idol of Lord Shiva in the name of Adhinathar and Lord Brahma standing on both sides. It is said that there is an underground subway that leads to Kancheepuram.

A hereditary Bhattacharya offers Pooja six times a day. The temple owns jewels, some landed property, a Car and a few vahanas.

Brahmothsayam in Chithirai and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the main festivals in this temple. These draw huge crowds. The temple is under the management of HR & CE Department. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 6, 188/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 9, 295/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.26, 115/-.

Sri Irratai Thaleeswarar Temple

The temple is on the Uthiramerur Main Road opposite to the Vaikunta Perumal temple in the Uthiramerur Bus Stand. The temple covers an area of 0.12.0 hectares. The main Gopuram is facing north. The main deity is Iratai Thaleeswarar. His consort is Sri Manonmani Ambal. Other deities are Ayyappan, Vinayaka, Subrahmaniar with His consorts Valli and Deivayanai. The name of the God is derived from the Tamil word "Thali", which means an unfinished (unbaked) earthen lamp. The practice here is to light two such lamps in front of the deity and hence the deity is called Irratai (twin) Thaleeswarar.

A Kumbhabhishekam was performed in 1995. A Gurukkal performs pooja thrice a day. Pradosham, Krithigai, Pournami are the important days. Adi Krithigai, Kanda Sashti, Thai Krithigai and Shivarathri are the major festivals celebrated in this temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 42,006/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs. 42,506/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.55,642/-. It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.



Sri Bala Subrahmaniaswamy Temple

The temple is situated on a hillock adjacent to Sri Sundararaja Perumal temple. The temple was built in the year 690 A.D. The temple covers an area of 0.81.0 hectares. Stone inscriptions are found here.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Muruga. The Moolavar is a Swayambu in standing pose. Lord Muruga also called Karthikeya is depicted as a Bachelor doing penance with matted hair. He is carrying a Kamandal in one hand and Vajra

(weapon of Indira) in the other hand. He has four hands. It is believed that Muruga did penance here before proceeding to Thiruchendur to kill the demon Surapadman. A unique feature in this temple is the presence of an Elephant before the deity, instead of a Peacock. Saint Arunagirinathar has composed hymns in praise of this shrine.

A Gurukkal offers Pooja thrice a day as per Kamika Agama. Brahmothsavam in Masi and Pavithrothsavam in Purattasi are the main festivals in this temple. The temple has some jewels and landed property. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 30, 931/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 23, 424/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.18, 478/-. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

This temple is believed to have been constructed in 640 A.D. during the reign of Uthira Varma Chola. It is in a dilapidated condition. The presiding deity is Sri Kailasanathar. The special feature here is that the deity is facing northeast. The Goddess Sri Kamakshi is in separate shrine. The Pallavas and the Vijayanagara kings like Krishnappa Nayakar and Bommu Nayakar had later on carried out renovations. The trustee of Sri Balasubrahmaniaswamy temple is also the appointed trustee of this temple.

Sri Madiriathamman (Maduriamman), Mari Amman & Palaniandavar Temples

The temple is an ancient one renovated in 2002. The temple covers an area of 4 cents. The temple is dedicated to the Goddess Maduriamman who is in a sitting posture. Poosaris offer Pooja once a day. Navarathri is the main festival in this temple. It has some jewels and landed property.

The other two temples are of recent origin. A Poosari performs pooja in these temples. The annual income of these tem-

ples as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.70,595/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 36, 702/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.22, 645/-. A trustee appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department administers the affairs of the three temples.

Sri Dharmaraja Temple, Vedapalayam

The temple is located 17 miles from Kancheepuram Railway Station. The temple covers an area of 4 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Dharmaraja. Draupadi and Arjuna are the other deities. A Poosari offers Pooja once a day. It owns a Rice Mill and an Oil Mill. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Marimersakthi Amman Temple

The temple is an ancient one said to have been built during the reign of Chola rulers. Stone inscriptions are found in the temple. The temple covers an area of 40 cents. The temple is dedicated to Goddess Mari Amman. A Poosari offers Pooja thrice a day. The temple has some landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Pillaiyar and Velathamman Temples. Ongur

These temples are located at the distances of 29 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. Mini buses are available to reach these temples. The Villagers built these temples about 150 years ago. These temples cover an area of 00.5 hectares of land respectively. Poojas are performed only on special days. These temples have no income and ornaments. The affairs of the temples are maintained by Elected Trustees.

SETHUPATTU (LC.1201)

Sri Ekambareswarar temple

This village is 25 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and 17 Kms from Uthiramerur. Bus facility is available to

reach this village. This temple is believed to be 150 years old. It covers an area of 30 cents. The presiding deity of this temple is Sri Ekambareswarar in the form of a Lingam. The Goddess is known as Sri Kamakshi Amman. A salaried non-hereditary Gurukkal performs Poojas twice a day. The temple owns 15 acres of lands, which fetch an annual income of Rs.14,000/-. The main festivals are Chithra Pournami, Thai Poosam and Masi Magam. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

PERUNAGAR (LC.1202)

Sri Brahma Pureeswarar Temple

The village is 25 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and 15 Kms from Uthiramerur. Buses are also available to reach this village. This temple is believed to be 300 years old and built during the Chola period. Locals are presently carrying out renovations. It covers an area of 5 acres. Stone inscriptions are found here. It has a Vimanam, 2 Gopurams, 2 Praakaarams and a Mandapam with 55 finely carved pillars. The Sanctum Sanctorum is built with Green stone in a round shape. The presiding deity is Sri Brahmasureeswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam and His consort is Sri Pattambigai Amman. As per legend, Brahma, Durga and Ganapathi have offered prayers to this deity. A hereditary Gurukkal offers Pooja twice a day. The Goddess is called Sri Pattambigai. Saint Kachiappa has sung hymns on this deity.

Brahmothsavam, Nalvar Uthsavam, Navarathri, Shivarathri, Krithigai, Thiruvadhira, Maham, Shashti and Adi Krithigai are the main festivals. Of these, Brahmothsavam is celebrated over 15 days. On Thai Poosam day, which is the 10th day of the Brahmothsavam, deities from 20 villages congregate here and are taken out in procession. This festival draws large crowds. It has antique jewels worth Rs.2.00 lakhs and immovable property to the extent of 16.60 acres of wet and 9.54 acres of dry lands. A temple car, vahanas and Chapprams are also there. The annual income derived from landed property is Rs.25,000/-. A Board of 5 Trustees appointed by Hindu Reli-



Sri Vaikuntavasa Perumal Temple, Uthiramerur



Ashtathala Vimanam at Sri Sundara Varadaraja Perumal Temple, Uthiramerur



Sri Balasubrahmania Swamy Temple, Uthiramerur



Sri Sundara Varadaraja Perumal Temple, Uthiramerur

gious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.

Box - 47

Saint Auvaiyar

Saint Auvaiyar was one of the 30 women poets who lived in the Sangam Age (2nd Century BC). Several Auvaiyars are said to have lived at different times. 59 poems of this Saint called 'Atthichoodi' find place in the epic 'Pura Nanooru'. These deal with ethics and are meant for children. The language is very simple and the verses very short. Another such work by the same Saint is called 'Kondraivendan'

HANUMANTHANDALAM (LC.1203)

No details are available.

MELPAKKAM (LC.1204)

Sri Varutheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 25 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. The temple is believed to be 200 years old covering an area of 1 acre. Stone inscriptions are found here. The presiding deity is in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. It has landed property the details of which are not known. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

SILAMBAKKAM (LC.1205)

Sri Mari Amman, Vinayaka and Kanni Amman Temples

The village is located 15 Kms from Uthiramerur. Bus facilities are available. These temples are said to be 40 years old. The area covered by these temples is – Mari Amman and Vinayaka temples – 10 cents each; and Kanniamman temple – 20 cents. These temples own no property. Poosari performs Poojas. Festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. No other details are available.

VENGARAM (LC.1206)

Sri Vinayaka, Theniyamman, Parameswarar and Kannigan Temples

This village is 25 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station and 15 Kms from Taluk Head Quarters. Bus facilities are available to reach this village.

Villagers built these four temples about 75 years ago. They cover an area of 0.20,1.00,0.10 and 0.20 acres respectively. A hereditary Gurukkal performs poojas once in a day. These temples own some jewels worth Rs.6000/- and 5 acres of land. The annual income from the property is Rs. 25000/-. Rahu Kala Pooja is performed. The main festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. 7 Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

OZHUGARAI (LC.1207)

Sri Agastheeswarar and Ettiamman Temple

This village is located at the distances of 25 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available to reach this temple.

Village people built these temples about 75 years old. They cover an area of 1.00 acre of land and 20 cents respectively. The main deities are Lord Shiva and His consort. Daily poojas are performed by a hereditary Gurukkal. These temples own jewels worth Rs.5000/-. Eswaran temple owns 1.23.5 hectares of wetlands and 1.53.0 hectares of dry land and Ettiamman temple owns 0.26.0 hectares of wet and 0.35.0 hectares of dry lands. The annual income from these properties is Rs.11, 000/-. Festivals are celebrated in the month of Adi. A Board of 5 trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious Charitable & Endowments Department manages the affairs of these temples.

KARUVEPPAMPOONDI (LC.1208)

Sri Viswanathaswamy Temple

The village is located 7 Kms from Uthiramerur and the nearest railway station is at Kancheepuram which is 21 Kms away. The temple is believed to be 400 years old. The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. The temple owns 0.09.0 hectares of wet and 0.98.5 hectares of dry lands. A Board of 3 trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple. No other details are available.

VENGACHERI (LC.1209)

Sri Kadambanathar Temple

The temple is located 8 Kms from Uthiramerur on the banks of Cheyyar river. The temple is believed to be 1300 years old covering an area of 1.10 acre. The temple faces East. There is a small RajaGopuram, Balipeetam, Dwajasthambam and Nandi. There is a Mandapam called "Devasirya Mandapam".

The temple, also called "Kandashramam", is dedicated to Lord Shiva who is in the form of a Swayambu Lingam facing East. His consort is Sri Avudainayagi who is facing South. It is believed that Saint Kashyapa performed prayers here. There are 22 Uthsavar idols as per Archeology records.

As per legend, Lord Muruga *once came down to earth to help Saint Kashyapa in killing two demons - Malayan and Maharan, who were disturbing him while performing Shiva pooja. Lord Muruga with his army came here and established this village and temple. With his divine powers he brought the Cheyyar River to this spot and performed pooja on a Pradosham day. Hence the deity in this temple is named after Muruga as Kadambanathar. Saint Thirunavukkarasar is believed to have sung hymns in praise of this temple, but these hymns are not traceable. A saint called "Pallavapuram Thiru*

Sonachala Bharathiar" wrote "Sri Kadambanathar Puranam". A mention of this temple is also made in the Kanchi Puranam. Another story connected with this temple is that a Brahmin called Bhudhisenan was on his way to Kasi to immerse the ashes of his father. When he took a dip in the river and came back, he found some fragrance coming from the pot containing the ashes. When he opened the pot he found flowers inside and heard a voice that told him that this place was as sacred as Kasi and that he could immerse his father's ashes here. It is, thus, considered a very holy spot by the devout.

A Gurukkal offers Pooja four times a day. It has some jewels (Vilvamalai, Iratai Patchi Padakkam) worth Rs.5, 000/- and landed property to the extent of 132.87 acres. The temple has a number of vahanas. Brahmotsavam in Panguni, Navarathri, Shivarathri and Vinayaka Chaturthi are the main festivals in this temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 54, 399/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 1, 28, 333/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.44, 451/-.

KANNIKULAM (LC.1210)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

ADAVAPAKKAM (LC.1211)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

The village is located at 10 Kms from Uthiramerur and 25 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway station. The temple is said to be 30 years old. No other significant details are available.

IRUMARAM (LC.1212)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.



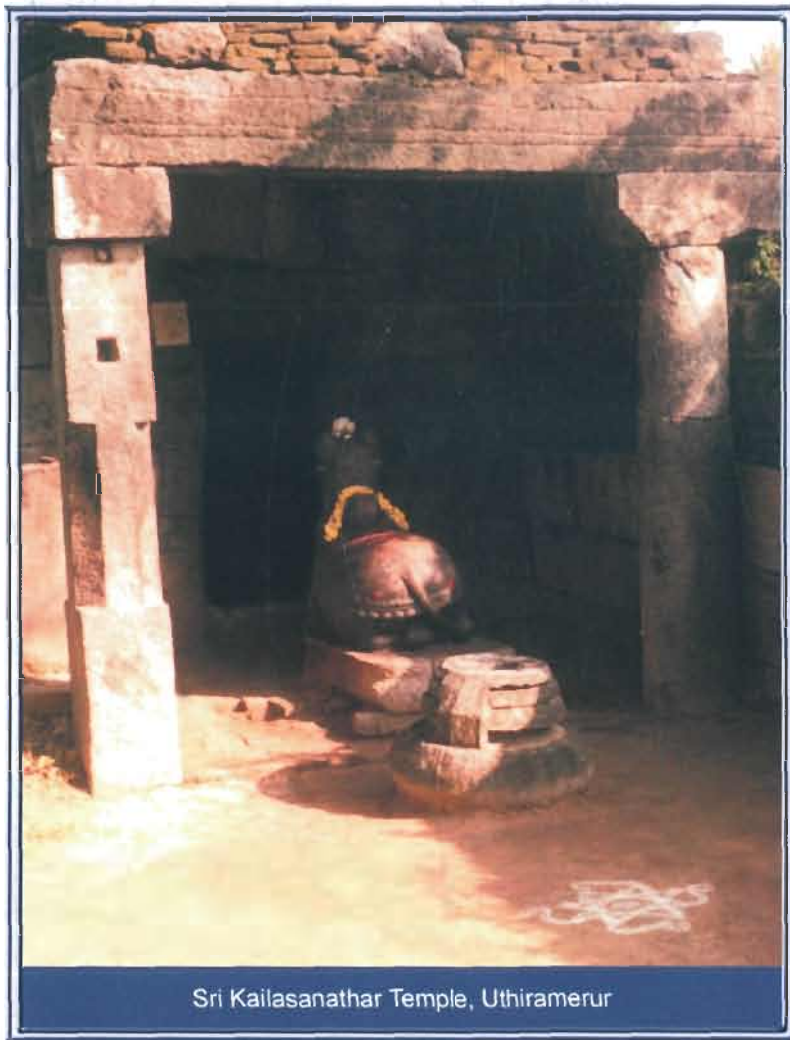
Sri Irattai Thaleswarar Temple, Uthiramerur



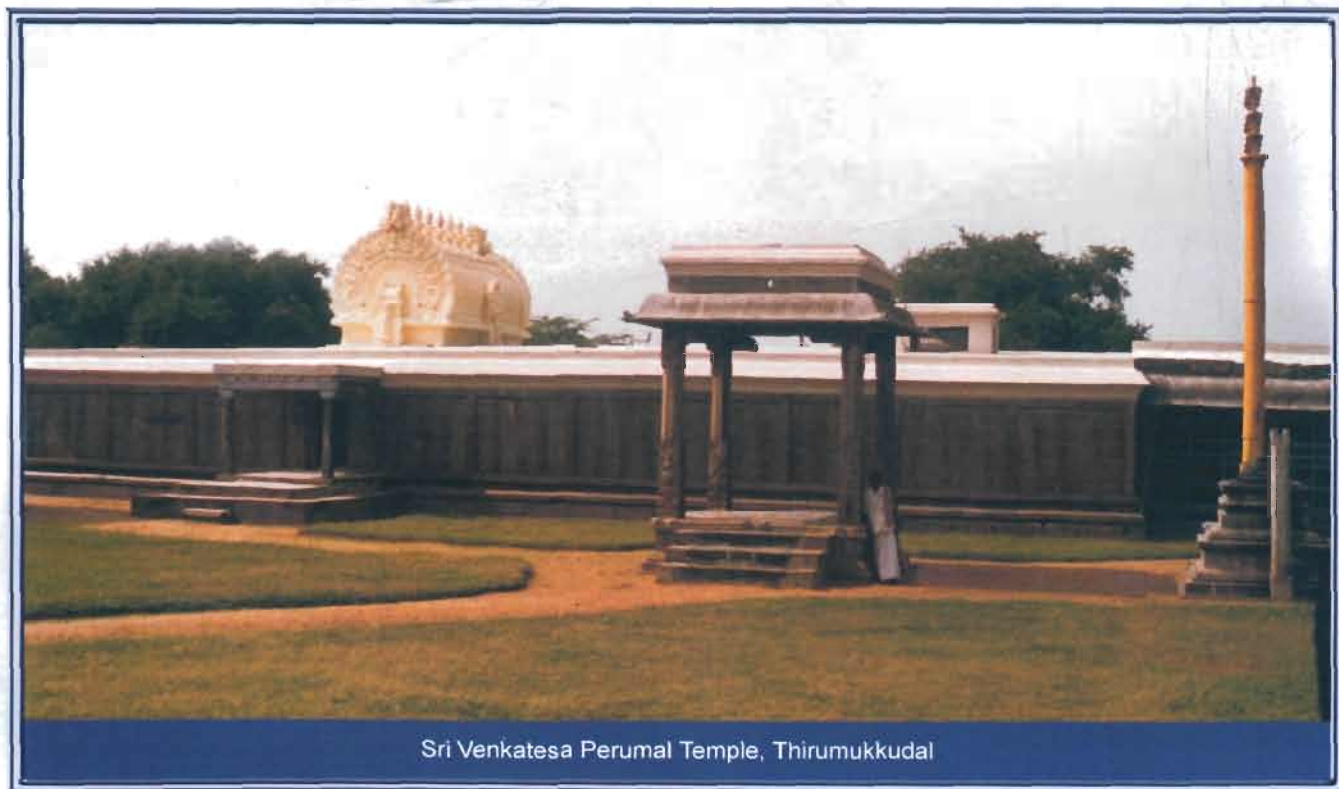
Sri Maduriamman Temple, Uthiramerur



Sri Venkatesa Perumal at Thirumukkudal



Sri Kailasanathar Temple, Uthiramerur



Sri Venkatesa Perumal Temple, Thirumukkudal

Box - 48**Saint Kamban**

Saint Kamban also called Kambanadan is the composer of The Kamba Ramayana in Tamil. He is believed to have lived in the 9th Century AD. He was a resident of Thanjavur and a Court Poet in the Court of Chola King Kulothunga II. The book is divided into 6 'Kandas' (Parts) and 118 'Padalams' (Chapters). In all there are 10, 500 verses in this book. The work is in exquisite Tamil and is considered a great literary composition in addition to being a religious epic.

SEMBULAM (LC.1213)*Sri Vinayaka Temple*

No significant details are available.

KAVAMPAIR (LC.1214)*Sri Pidariamman Temple*

No significant details are available.

NEYYADIVAKKAM (LC.1215)*Sri Pradhiganga Easwarar, Marudhaganga Easwarar and Pattabhi Ramar Temples*

The village is located 26 Kms from Kancheepuram. Three Shiva temples and a Vishnu temple exist in this village. All are ancient ones. Stone inscriptions are found here. The temples cover an area of 1 acre. A Gurukkal in the Shaivite temples and a Bhattacharya in the Vishnu temple offers Pooja twice a day. It has some jewels and landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. No other details are available.

Sri Unjiamman Temple & Buddheeswarar Temple

This temple is located at distances of 10 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station. They were built about 300 years ago and cover an area of 50 cents and 1.50 cents respectively. Poojas are performed by village Poosari and Gurukkal. The Buddheeswarar temple owns 10.21 cents of land. The affairs of the temples are managed by Villagers. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival of these temples.

VAYALAKKAVOOR (LC.1216)*Sri Vacheeswarar Temple*

The village is 26 Kms away from Walajabad railway station and this distance can be covered by bus. The temple is an ancient one and it is believed to be 2000 years old and renovated in 1960s. There are stone inscriptions in archaic Tamil. The area occupied by the shrine is 1.08 acres. The presiding deity, which is a Prathishta Lingam, is Sri Vacheeswarar. There are a number of Uthsavamurthies. It owns 10.50.0 hectares of land. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 9, 409/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.26,343/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.24, 327/-.

A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The annual festivals are Arudhra in Margazhi, Vinayaka Chaturthi in Avani and Deepam in Karthigai. Trustees appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

PULLAMPAKKAM (LC.1217)*Sri Rudravalleswarar Temple*

The village is situated at a distance of 4.5 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station. The temple is an ancient one. Stone inscriptions are found here. They cover an area of 8400 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is a Prathishta lingam. The Goddess is

called Bala Gnanambigai. There is a Gopuram of 6" x 9". There is also a Panchloga idol of Uthsavar. A Gurukkal performs Pooja twice a day. The temple owns 1.01.0 hectares of wet and 3.57.5 hectares of dry lands. The annual income from property is about Rs.18424/-. The main festivals are Krithigai, Arudhra and Panguni Uthiram. The temple is under the control of the Executive Officer, HR & CE Department stationed at Elayanarvelur.

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple

This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu who is known as Sri Adi Kesava Perumal. The age of the temple is said to be 100 years. It covers an area of 0.75 cents. The presiding deity is in a standing posture. The Goddesses are Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. A Bhattacharya performs Pooja twice a day. Trustees are appointed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Mari Amman and Pillathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

THIRUMUKKUDAL (LC.1218)



Sri Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The temple is located 2 Kms from Pazhayaseevaram Railway Station. The village Mukkudal is a place of convergence of the three rivers – Palar, Cheyyar and Vegavathi. This ancient temple is said to be built by Veera Rajendra Chola (1063-1070 A.D.), but it is believed that there existed a temple even before that. The temple covers an area of 1.00 acre. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

Moolavar is in the form of Trimurthi or the trinity. The lotus in the left hand represents Brahma, the creator. The matted hair and third eye represents Shiva, the destroyer. The Conch and Disc represents Vishnu, the preserver. This is a rare phenomenon. Moolavar is not a stone idol but is made of bricks. That is why no Abhishekas are performed; only oil is applied. The Goddess is Sri Alamelumangai Thayar. Sthala Viruksham is Vanni. Saint Markandeyar and Bhudevi are at the side of the deity. The Vimanam of this temple resembles Vimanam of Sri Ranganatha Temple at Srirangam, Trichy.

As per legend, King Thondaiman (Chola) wanted to retire from politics and to go to Tirupathi to serve Lord Venkatesa. Lord appeared in his dream and warned that his country might face the danger of attack from a neighbouring country and that the King may first protect his country and then carry on the proposed pilgrimage. But Thondaiman left the country under care of the Lord and went on pilgrimage. When the country was attacked, Lord Venkatesa of Tirupathi sent His weapons – Conch and Disc, which defeated the enemies. Since then both the Conch and Disc stay here and even now it is seen in the sanctum sanctorum of this temple. On his return from Tirupathi, the King came to know this and praised the Lord referred him as his father (Appan) and hence it is called Appan Venkatesa Perumal Temple. The other version is that the famous Shaivite Saint Appar sung in praise of this deity and hence it is called “Appan Venkatesa Perumal temple”.

There are lots of inscriptions on the outer walls of the temple. The following information are encrypted there:

- The information about Veera Rajendra Chola including his birth date (Avani) and star.
- He established a University in this temple with hostel facilities.
- There was a hereditary doctor and a nurse placed at this temple premises to serve students and the village people.
- He established an auditorium for dance in this temple.

A Bhattacharya offers Pooja twice a day as per Vaikhanasa agama. Garuda Seva and Vaikunta Ekadasi are the main festivals in this temple. On Sankranti Day, during Parivettai, four de-

ities- Varadaraja Perumal of Kancheepuram, Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy of Pazhayaseevaram, Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal of Salavakkam and Kariamanicka Perumal of Kavithandalam are given a ceremonial bath in the river and taken in procession. It has no jewels but owns landed property of 27.30 acres of wetlands and 40.01 acres of dry lands. An annual income of Rs.45,000/- is derived from the property. There is one Garuda Vahanam and a Car in this temple.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 15,389/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 51,847/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.18,466/-.

A Board of 3 Trustees under the control of the Executive Officer, HR & CE administers the affairs of the temple. The Archaeological Survey of India maintains the monument.

PAZHAVERI (LC.1219)

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The temple is located 8 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station. The temple is believed to be 100 years old covering an area of 2 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. There are no daily Poojas. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. No other significant details are available.

Sri Perumal Temple

This temple is believed to be 100 years old. It covers an area of 0.02 acres of land and it owns 3.12.0 hectares of land. A Bhattacharya performs pooja twice a day. The annual income from lands is Rs.12000/-, which is used for daily pooja, salary etc. Krishna Jayanthi is the main festival besides Purattasi Saturdays. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

PINAYUR (L.C.1220)

This village is located at 21 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station

Sri Kaleeswarar Temple

The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. This temple covers an area of 0.26.5 hectares of land. It was built in an ancient black stone on 2 cents and it is in a dilapidated condition. It owns 0.76.5 hectares of wetland. A Gurukkal performs Poojas. The expenditure of this temple is met from the income derived by leasing the lands. The temple has no ornaments. No annual festivals are celebrated.

Sri Brahmeshwarar Temple

The temple is built with black stone on a total area of 1.90.5 hectares. The dilapidated temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. It owns 25.99.5 hectares of dry and 1.24.5 hectares of wetlands. It has no ornaments. A Gurukkal, who lives in Seethanajeri Village, performs Poojas. No annual festivals are celebrated. The affairs of the temple are managed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Mari Amman Temple

This temple was built with bricks and cements in an area of 0.02 cents. The total area covered by the temple is 1.31.0 hectares. This temple is believed to be 65 years old and is renovated from time to time. It has no lands and ornaments. The villagers perform Poojas. Special poojas are performed every year and expenses are met by villagers.

SEETHANANJERI (LC.1221)

Sri Thirukaleeswarar Temple

The temple is located 1 Kms from Palur Railway Station. The temple is an ancient one believed to be 1500 years old. It covers an area of 2 acres. The temple has a five tiered Gopuram and Praakaarams. The presiding deity is Sri Thirukaleeswarar; a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is Sri Shivagamasundari Ambal. The other deities are- Somaskanthar, Amman, Nataraja, and Nalvar (4 saints). It is believed that Lord Krishna

worshipped at this temple. It is also believed that a Cow performed pooja here and hence it is called Kaleeswarar temple. As per legend, a King came to know that one of the cows in his cattle farm did not yield milk. He followed the cow one day and found that the cow poured all the milk on a particular place. He ordered that the place be excavated. On digging, a lingam was found. He then built the temple and established the lingam.

It owns 214.69 acres of lands and some antique jewels worth Rs. 3281/- (as per HR & CE records). The annual income from property is about Rs.2.00 lakhs. There is a 200-year old wooden Car, which is under repair. A salaried Gurukkal offers Pooja four times a day – Kalasandhi, Ucchikalam, Sayarakshai and Ardhamam. Poojas are performed as per Kamika Agama. Brahmothsavam in Chithirai (12 days), Vinayaka Chaturthi, Arudhra, Karthigai Deepam and Panguni Uthiram are the main festival celebrated.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 74, 744/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 72, 300/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.17, 372/-. An Executive Officer, HR & CE manages the affairs of the temple.

KURUMANJERI (LC.1222)

No Temple.

ARUMBULIYUR (LC.1223)

Sri Vaikuntavasa Perumal Temple

The temple is located 10 Kms away from Walajabad Railway Station. The temple is an ancient one, which is believed to be 100 years old. It occupies an area of 0.03.0 hectares of land. It is in a dilapidated condition. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in a standing posture. The Goddesses are Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. The temple has a Garuda Vahanam and two Chapprams. Poojas are not performed. It owns 6.67.5 hectares of wet and 1.00.5 hectares of dry lands and there is no income from these lands. Navarathri is celebrated as the main festival in

this temple. It has some jewels. The affairs of the temple are managed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Box - 49

Manu

Manu is considered the first lawgiver of India. He is believed to have lived prior to 800 BC. The 'Manu Smriti' is the first book on Hindu Law. It contains the earliest system of Do's and Don'ts and codifies the earliest system of trial and punishment.

Sri Nanjundeswarar Temple

The temple is very small covering an area of 2 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The temple has no landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. No other details are available.

Sri Alageswarar Temple, Poyya Vinayaka, Perumal and Pidari Velli Amman Temples, Peranakkavur

There are 4 temples in Peranakkavur located close to each other, which are all centuries old.

The first temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is called Sri Annapurani. The temple covers an area of 30 cents. A Gurukkal offers Pooja twice a day. Arudhra is the main festival. The temple has no landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

The second temple in the village is dedicated to Lord Poyya Vinayaka. The temple covers an area of 20 cents. A Gurukkal offers pooja.

The third temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in standing posture. The Goddesses are Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. The tem-

ple covers an area of 3 cents. A Bhattacharya offers Poojas twice a day.

The fourth temple is dedicated to Goddess Pidari Velli Amman. The temple covers an area of 3 cents. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival in this temple.

SIRUDAMUR (LC.1224)

Sri Srinivasa Perumal and Easwarar Temples

No significant details are available.

CHITALAPAKKAM (LC.1225)

No temple.

Box - 50

Saint Thirumular

A collection of 12 books containing devotional songs devoted to Lord Shiva is referred to as Tirumurai. The tenth book was composed by saint Thirumular (6th Century AD) and is known as Tirumandiram. This work consists of 3000 verses. The philosophical stream of Saiva Siddhanta is based on this book. These saints are believed to have visited many Shiva temples in Tamil Nadu and composed hymns in praise of the Lord. These temples came to be known as Tirumurai Sthalams and are highly revered.

SIRUMAILUR (LC.1226)

No temple.

MALAYANKULAM (LC.1227)

Sri Veetriruntha Perumal Temple

The temple is located 12 Kms from Uthiramerur; the nearest railway station being Kancheepuram. The temple is several centuries old. The temple covers an area of 40 cents. Stone inscriptions are found here.

The presiding deity, Sri Veetriruntha Perumal is in a sitting posture. A Bhattacharya offers Poojas twice a day. Vaikunta Ekadasi is the main festival in this temple. The temple has some jewels and landed property to the extent of 7.16.5 hectares. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Kumareswarar Temple

The temple is an old one covering an area of 2 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The temple has landed property to the extent of 1.70.0 hectares. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Muthumari Amman Temple

The temple is over 70 years old and covers an area of 22 cents. A Poosari performs pooja only in the morning. The temple owns 0.73.0 hectares of land. Special poojas are performed in the month of Adi. Villagers administer the temple.

NARIAMBAKKAM (LC.1228)

No temple.

SIRUKALATHUR (LC.1229)

Uninhabited. No temple.

PUTHALI (LC.1230)

Sri Sathyanatha Easwarar Temple

The village is located 13 Kms from Uthiramerur. The age of the temple is said to be 300 years. The temple covers an area of 1000 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is Sathyanatheswarar. A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 0.27.5 hectares of wet and 2.68.5 hectares of dry lands, which are in possession of the hereditary trustee who manages the affairs of the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Sundara Vinayaka Temple

This temple is said to be 200 years old. The deities in the temple are Vinayaka (Presiding), Murugan, Perumal and Navagrahas. Kumbhabhishekam was performed in 1997. The temple occupies an area of 700 Sq.ft. approximately. A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja daily. The temple has no property. Vinayaka Chathurthi, 3rd Saturday of Purattasi month are important days. A hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Mari Amman Temple

This temple is located in Madura Appaiyanallur a hamlet of Puthali. It is located 13 Kms from Uthiramerur. The age of the temple is said to be 150 years. Kumbhabhishekam was performed in 2001. The temple occupies 700 Sq.ft. It owns 0.575 acres of land. Adi month is celebrated with special poojas. A Poosari performs pooja. No other details are available.

The other temples in Puthali are Mari Amman and Ettiamman temples about which no details are available.

PULIVOY (LC.1231)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

The temple is located 35 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. There are no bus facilities to the village. The temple is an ancient one covering an area of 5 cents.

The temple is dedicated to Goddess Ponni Amman in sitting posture. Poosaris offer Pooja once a day. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival. The temple has no landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Mahamuneeswarar Temple

The temple is an ancient one and covers an area of 5 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of Swayambu Lingam. There are Panchloga idols of Sri Chandrasekarar, Amman, Vinayaka and Murugan with Valli. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The temple owns 1.00.5 hectares of land. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Kanneeswarar Temple

The temple is over 300 years old and covers an area of 1 acre. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of Swayambu Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja twice a day. The temple owns some land. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Sathyanathaswamy Temple

The temple is an old one and covers an area of 1.5 acres. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of Swayambu Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja twice a day. The temple owns some land. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

THIRUPULIVANAM (LC.1232)

Sri Vyagapureeswarar Temple

The temple is located 5 Kms from Uthiramerur. The temple is an ancient one. It covers an area of 5 acres and 73 cents. Kumbhabhishekam was performed in 1942. The outer wall of the temple extends to 280 ft. in length and 230 ft. breadth. Temple is 164 ft. long x 70 ft. breadth. Shrine of Goddess is 60 ft. x 42 ft. There is a Raja Gopuram, Tank, 100-pillared Mandapam and a Kitchen. There are many stone inscriptions in and outside the temple. They reveal that Rajendra Chola-II did renovations to this temple. Kulottunga Chola during his 9th year of reign granted 15 cows and 60 velis of land to this temple.

The presiding deity is Vyagapureeswarar, a Swayambu Lingam. The Goddess is called Sri Periya Nayagi. This temple is a very ancient temple and hymns have been composed by Saint Thirunavukarasar in his Thevaram, Saint Pattinathar and Saint Shiva Gnana Vallalar a disciple of the Shaivite saint Thirugnanasambandar composed 64 songs in praise of this shrine. Since Thirunavukarasar lived during 1162 – 1178 A.D., it is believed that the temple existed even before that.

As per legend, a saint because of a curse took birth as a tiger. The tiger took the pledge not to kill any living creature and lived eating vegetarian food and was doing pooja to this deity. Lord appeared before that tiger and liberated it from earthly bondage (Moksham). Hence it is called Pullivanam (Tiger forest).

The temple has jewels valued about 30000/- and landed property of 55 acres of dry and wet lands which fetch an annual income of Rs.20, 000/-. A Gurukkal offers Pooja twice a day. Laksha Deepam is the main festival in this temple. This draws huge crowds. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 15, 669/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.18, 970/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.14, 445/-. A Board of 5 Trustees manages the affairs of the temple. The temple is

under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

ANDITHANGAL (LC.1233)

Sri Alaimodhiamman, Mari Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No Significant details are available.

Box - 51

Iconography: Mudras (postures of the hand)

Abhaya Hastham - palm facing forward with hand and fingers extended downward. Symbolic of protection.

Varada Hastham - palm facing forward, hand and fingers extending downward. Symbolic of bestowal.

Anjali Hastham - palms together. Symbolic of worship.

Vyakyana or Upadesa - tips of thumb and forefinger touching. Palm facing forward. Symbolic of teaching.

Jnana and Chit - tips of thumb and forefinger touching. Palm facing backward. Symbolic respectively of knowledge and of realization of the absolute.

- "Catalogue of South Indian Hindu Metal Images in the Madras Government Museum" 1932

MURUKKERI (LC.1234)

Sri Kolanjiamman, Pillaiyar and Mari Amman Temples

No Significant details are available.

THINAYAMPOONDI (LC.1235)

Sri Mondhiamman, Pillaiyar and Mari Amman Temples

No Significant details are available.

ALISOOR (LC.1236)

Sri Arulaleswarar Temple

The temple is located 7 Kms from Uthiramerur. This temple is believed to be over 200 years old and it covers an area of 5 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The temple has landed property to the extent of 2.51.0 hectares of wet and 1.14.0 hectares of dry lands and a tank. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

KALIYAMPOONDI (LC.1237)

Sri Selliamman, Vinayaka and Anjaneya Temples

No Significant details are available.

RAVATHANALLUR (LC.1238)

Sri Mari Amman, Aladiamman Temples

No Significant details are available.

ELANAGAR (LC.1239)

Sri Dharmaraja Temple

The village is located 13 Kms from Uthiramerur and 29 Kms from Kancheepuram Railway Station. The age of the temple is not known. The deities are Dharmaraja and Panjali

Amman. The temple is connected with the epic "Mahabharatham". The temple covers an area of 5 cents. A Poosari performs Pooja once a day. A 10-day Festival is celebrated once in two years during which "Mahabharatham" is enacted. The villagers manage the temple affairs.

MANAMPATHY (LC.1240)

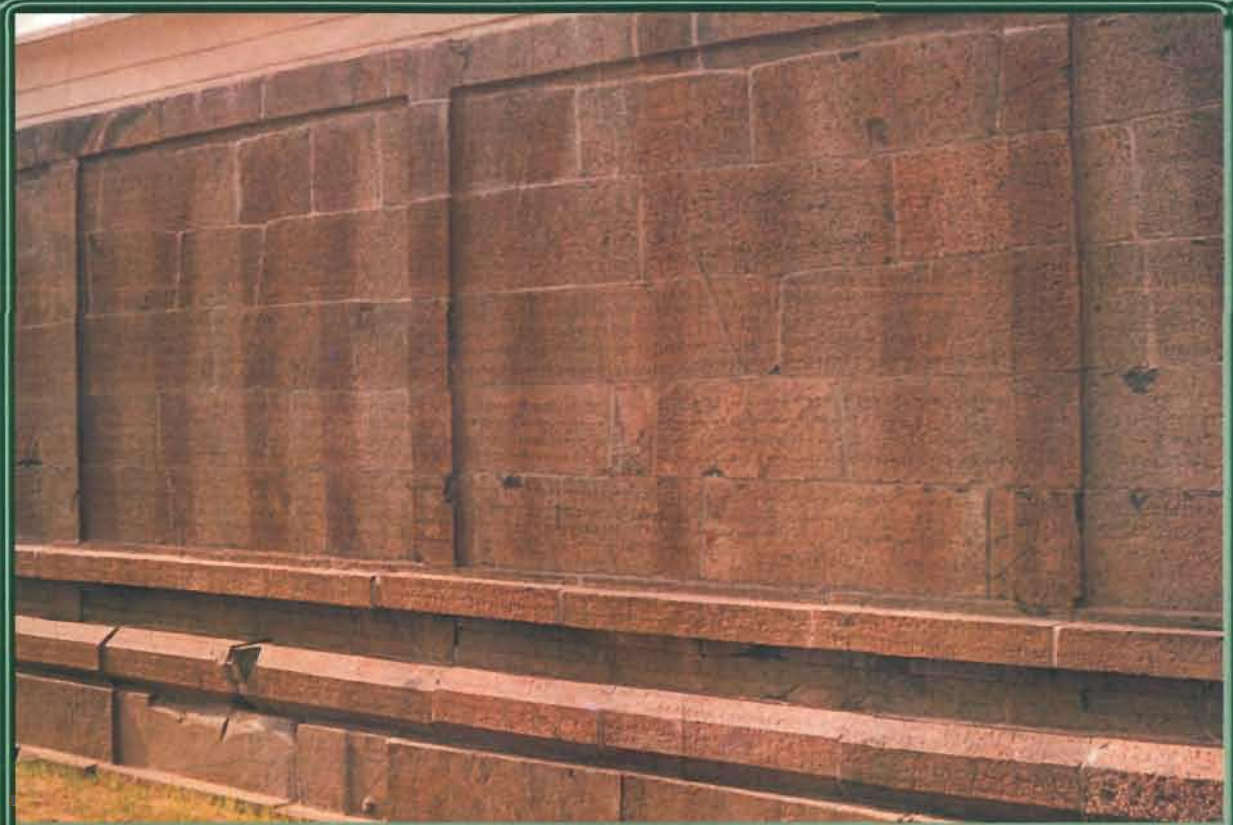
Sri Bala (Vana) Sundareswarar Temple

The temple is located at 10 Kms from Uthiramerur. The temple is an ancient one built during the Vijayanagara period. It covers an area of 2.30 acres. The temple has a Gopuram, Vimanam and 2 Praakaarams. Stone and copper plate inscriptions are found here. The Gopuram has 5 stages. Its dimensions are 25 ¼ ft. Length x 20 ¼ ft. Breadth x 55 ft. Height.

The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is called Sri Periya Nayagi. It is believed that Vanamadevi (Indrani) worshipped at this temple. Hence the Lord here is also called Vana Sundareswarar. Another version is that Raja Raja Chola constructed this temple in memory of his wife Vanathi. The structures are of later Chola and Pallava period. A hereditary Gurukkal offers Poojas thrice a day.

The temple has two garlands - one made of Rudhraksh weighing 40 grms. of Gold and another of Gold coins weighing 168 grams. The value of jewels is Rs.75, 000/-. The temple owns 0.95.5 hectares of dry and 1.87.5 hectares of wetlands, which are leased on 5-year auction. The annual income from property is about Rs.10, 000/-. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.10,000/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 11, 000/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.10, 160/-.

Thai Poosam, Masi Maham, Panguni Uthiram, Vasantha Uthsavam, Varusha Pirappu, Appar Uthsavam in Chithirai, Sambandhar Uthsavam in Vaikasi, Manickavasagar Uthsavam in Ani, Sundarar Uthsavam in Adi, Adi Krithigai, and Thiruvadhira (Arudhra) are the main festivals in this temple.



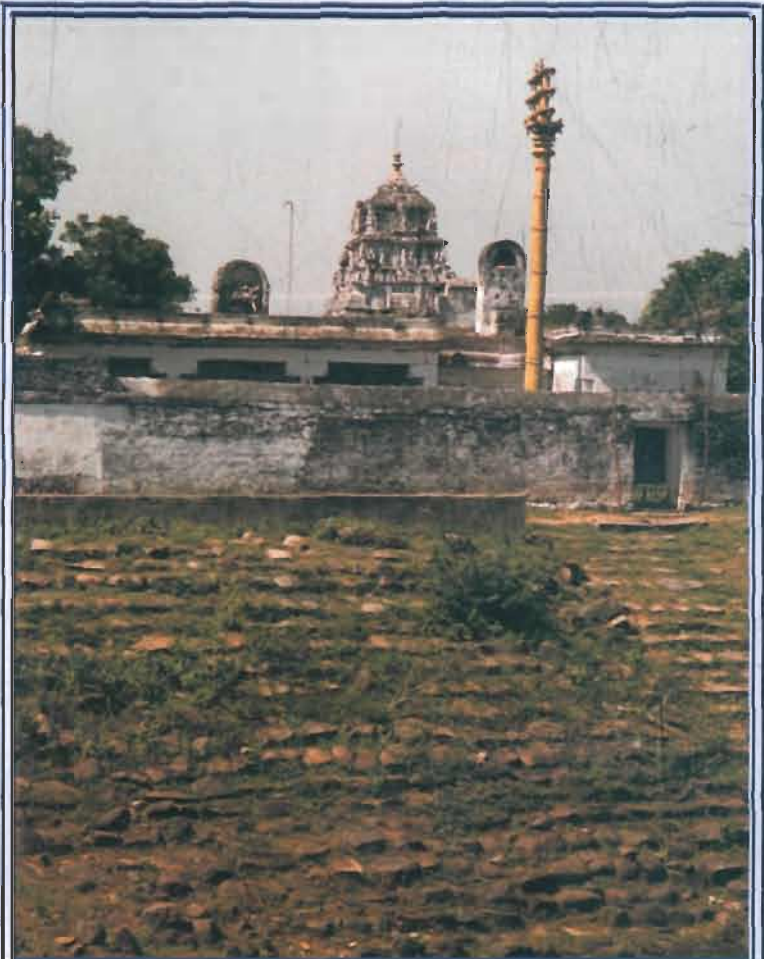
Inscriptions at Sri Venkatesa Perumal Temple, Thirumukkudal



Sri Vyagrapureeswarar Temple, Thirupulivanam



Sri Vyagrapureeswarar Temple, Thirupulivanam



Sri Swarnapureeswarar Temple, Salavakkam



Sri Vishnu Durgai and other Temples, Salavakkam

Of these Thai Poosam is the main festival. The deity is taken to Cheyyar in procession. This draws huge crowds. A Board of 3 Trustees manages the affairs of the temple. An Executive Officer of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department controls the temple.

Sri Chozhiamman Temple

The temple is over 100 years old. It occupies 5 cents of land. A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja thrice a day. The temple owns 1.60 acres of landed property, which fetches an annual income of Rs.2000/-. Festivals are celebrated in the month of Adi.

Sri Mari Amman, Draupadi Amman, Vinayaka and Murugan Temples

The other temples in this village are Sri Mari Amman Temple, Sri Draupadi Amman Temple, Sri Vinayaka Temple and Murugan Temples. Mari Amman temple is 80 years old and covers an area of 3 cents. It owns 80 cents of land. Festivals are celebrated in the month of Adi.

Draupadi Amman temple is 75 years old and covers an area of 3 cents. It owns 1 acre of land. A poosari performs poojas thrice a day. Annual festival is celebrated in Chithrai Month.

The other temples are 50 years old covering 2 cents of land. A Gurukkal performs poojas thrice a day. Annual festivals are celebrated in the month of Avani and Krithigai is important day for Murugan temple.

PUNGANANDAL (LC.1241)

No temple.

VISOOR (LC.1242)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 30 Kms from the Kancheepuram Railway Station. The temple is believed to be over 140 years old. It covers an area of 30 cents. The temple has a Vimanam but no Gopuram. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The Goddess is called Sri Akhilanda Amman. The temple owns a Rishabha Vahanam, Simha Vahanam and a Horse Vahanam. It owns 1.40 acres of land. It has jewels and landed property. Masi Maham and Thiruvadhirai are the main festivals in this temple. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Pundarikatcha Perumal Temple

The temple is the same age as the above temple. It covers an area of 25 cents and has a Vimanam and a Praakaara.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in a standing posture. A Bhattacharya offers Pooja once a day. It has landed property to an extent of 1.25 acres.

Vaikunta Ekadasi and Sri Jayanthi is the main festival in this temple. They draw huge crowds. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

The other temples in the village are – Veeriamman, Bajanai Madam, Perumal, Mari Amman, Draupadi Amman, MuthuVinayaka, PonVinayaka, Karmugilvannan, Kachhal Vinayaka, Vinayaka, Kanniamman Temples. No significant details are available.

THANDARAI (LC.1243)

The village is located 34 Kms from the Kancheepuram Railway Station and 11 Kms from Uthiramerur. There are three temples in this village.

Sri Kundheswarar Temple

The temple is an ancient one and said to be built 1500 years old. It covers an area of 5 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Kundheswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is called Sri Kamakshi Amman. There are Panchaloha Uthsavar idols for Kundheswarar, Kamakshi, Murugan, Valli and Deivayanai. Stone inscriptions are found here. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The expenses are met from the Government grant. It has jewels and landed property of 27 acres. 3 acres of land are given to Gurukkal as inam land in lieu of salary. The temple has Rishabha (Bull) and Peacock Vahanams. A wooden car is there which is in a dilapidated condition. Karthigai Deepam and Thai Poosam are the main festivals. On Thai Poosam day the deity is taken in procession to Cheyyar river where deities from 21 other temples are also brought for darshan. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Thanthoni Pillaiyar Temple

The second temple is dedicated to Lord Vinayaka. Its age is not known. It covers an area of 2 cents. It has landed property. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the annual festival.

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

It is an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu in a sitting posture. The presiding deity is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal with His consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. A Bhattacharya performs Pooja once a day. The temple owns 20 acres of landed property out of which 1 ½ acre has been granted as inam land to Bhattacharya in lieu of salary. Purattasi Uthsavam, Panguni Uthiram are important festivals celebrated. Trustees manage the affairs of the temples.

The other temples in this village are – Village deity (Kunthiamman) Temple, Mari Amman Temple and Bajanai Madam about which significant details are not available.

SERPAKKAM (LC.1244)

Sri Mannarswamy Temple

No significant details are available.

KARANAI (LC.1245)

Sri Ponniamman Temple

No significant details are available.

VAYALUR (LC.1246)

Sri Ettiamman Temple

No significant details are available.

NADUPATTU (LC.1247)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

Box - 52

Saint Parasara

Saint Parasara is the author of the 'Sri Vishnu Puranam'. He is believed to have lived prior to the 5th Century BC. The Puranam is in praise of Lord Vishnu and describes his various incarnations. This work is called 'Purana Rathna' (a gem among the epics).

PENNALUR (LC.1248)

No Temple.

AMMAIYAPPANALLUR (LC.1249)

No temple.

POONTHANDALAM (LC.1250)

No temple.

MARUTHUVAMBADI (LC.1251)

Sri Venugopal Swamy Temple

This temple is located at the distances of 4 Kms from Uthiramerur and the nearest Railway station is Kancheepuram which is at a distance of 25 Kms. It is believed to be over 100 years old. Renovations were made and a Kumbhabhishekam was performed in 2001. The temple covers an area of 100 Sq.ft. There is a Gopuram in the temple. The presiding deity is Venugopal Swamy. A separate shrine for the Uthsavar is also there in the temple. It owns 2 acres of wetlands which fetch an annual income of Rs.3, 000/-. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs Poojas twice a day. A trustee manages its affairs.

MARUDHAM (LC.1252)

Sri Somanatha Easwarar Temple

The village is located at 8 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is believed to be more than 200 years old. It covers an area of 719 Sq.Mtr. The presiding deity is Somanatha Easwarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam, which is 2 ft. in height. The Goddess is Sri Tripurasundari. The immovable property of this temple along with Sri Venugopalswamy temple includes 1.17 acres of wet and 4.66 acres of dry lands, which are auctioned once in three years, and the income is used for daily pooja and festivals. A damaged Car is also available in the temple. Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. Thai Poosam, Shivarathri and Masi Magam are the important days. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Venugopalswamy Temple

The temple is believed to be 200 years old. The presiding deity is called Sri Venugopalswamy. The temple has some landed property and some jewels. A Bhattacharya performs pooja daily. Avani Avittam, Krishna Jayanthi, and all days of Purattasi month are important days.

Sri Ellamman, Selliamman and Anjaneya Temples

Ellamman temple was renovated in 2002. The presiding deity Ellamman is a stone idol of 1 ft. height. Anjaneya temple covers an area of 4 x 8 Sq.ft. The presiding deity is Hanuman, an idol of 9 ft. high. The other temple is Selliamman where there is a small idol as Uthsavamurthy other than a stone idol. In these temples, daily poojas are performed by Poosaris. These temples own some jewels worth about Rs.15, 000/-. The Ellamman temple owns 1.69 acres of dry lands; Anjaneya temple owns 0.71 acres of wetlands and Selliamman temple owns 0.34 acres of dry lands. Two Trustees have been appointed to manage the affairs of these temples. These temples are in damaged condition.

Sri Kanni Amman Temple

The temple is believed to be 200 years old. It covers an area of 10 cents. The temple is dedicated to Goddess Kanni Amman. Poosaris offer Pooja once a day. It owns some land. Kaapu and Parivettai are the main festivals. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

NARIYAMBUDUR (LC.1253)

Sri Adi Pattalagar Temple

This temple is located at a distance of 13 Kms from Uthiramerur. Mini Bus and Town Buses are available to reach this village. This is a Jain temple. This temple is believed to be 80 years old and built by Sri Chakaravarthi Nayanar. The presiding deities are Virushaba Theerthankar and Varthamana

Theerthankar. The temple consists of Anthranam (Sanctum), Karbanam (Uthsavamurthy) and Mandapam (place for devotees). The temple covers about 500 Sq.ft. There is no Gopuram. Poojas are performed by a Jain priest. His office hereditary but honorary. No festivals are celebrated. Hereditary trustee who is also the priest manages the affairs of the temple.

VENDIVAKKAM (LC.1254)

No temple.

Box - 53

Yagnavalkya

Yagnavalkya was the author of 'Yagnavalkya Smriti' an improvement upon 'Manu Smriti'. He is believed to have lived in 800 BC. Duties and privileges of the members of society and Joint Hindu family are defined. The 'Daya Vibhaga' on family partition was considered an authoritative work on Hindu family law.

KATTANKULAM (LC.1255)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 12 Kms from Uthiramerur. It is believed to be around 400 year old. Temple covers an area of 0.040 acre. It was built by the local people. One Mr. Subrahmania Mudaliar carried out renovations. The presiding deity Agastheeswarar is in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is called Sri Akhilanda Nayagi. There are Panchaloga idols for Natarajar, Shivakamasundari Amman, Chandra sekarar, Akilanda Nayagi and Ponniamman. A Gurukkai performs Pooja once a day. He has been given 2 ½ acres of inam land for pooja expenses. Other than 2 ½ acres of wetlands, the temple owns 20 acres of dry lands. Thai Poosam, Shivarathri and Karthigai Deepam are the main festivals. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

PADOOR (LC.1256)

Sri Kannan Temple

No significant details are available.

ANAMBAKKAM (LC.1257)

Sri Vinayaka, Pidari, Draupadi Amman and Perumal Temples

The village is located at a distance of 15 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station and 27 Kms from Uthiramerur. Bus facilities are also available to reach the village. The age of the temples is not known. The area occupied by these temples is as follows:

- Vinayaka temple - 80 Sq.ft.
- Draupadi Amman temple - 240 Sq.ft.
- Perumal temple - 144 Sq.ft.
- Pidari Amman temple - 144 Sq.ft.

The main deities of these temples are Stone idols. These temples have no property except Draupadi Amman temple, which has 0.50 acres of land. Poojas are performed by Poosari. Vinayaka Chaturthi in Vinayaka temple; Festival once in 5 years in Draupadi temple; 3rd Saturday in Purattasi month in Perumal temple are the festivals celebrated. Villagers maintain the affairs of the temples.

NEERKUNRAM (LC. 1258)

The village is located 15 Kms away from Walajabad Railway Station and 27 Kms from Uthiramerur. Bus facilities are also available. There are 3 temples in this village whose age is not known.

Vinayaka Temple: It covers an area of 120 Sq.ft. Vinayaka Chaturthi is main festival.

Mari Amman Temple: It covers 96 Sq.ft. of land. It owns 1.16 hectares of land. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi

Perumal Temple: It covers an area of 144 Sq.ft. Annual festival is celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of Purattasi month.

A Poosari appointed by villagers performs pooja once a day. The villagers share the expenses. The villagers themselves manage the affairs. No other details are available.

KAVANIPAKKAM (LC.1259)

Sri Thiru Kumareswarar Temple

The village is located at 33 Kms from Kancheepuram. Bus facilities are available. The temple is believed to be over 100 years old. The temple covers an area of 0.5 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Kumareswarar, a Prathishta Lingam. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs Pooja once a day. The temple owns 7.86.0 hectares of lands. The annual income derived from the property is Rs.10000/-. No festivals are celebrated. Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

KARUMBAKKAM (LC.1260)

Sri Mallikatheeswarar Temple

The village is located at 4 Kms from Palur Railway Station and 34 Kms from Uthiramerur. Bus facilities are available. The temple is believed to be 125 years old and covers an area of 5 cents. The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is Sri Tirupura Sundari also called Brahma Kamakshi. A non-hereditary paid Gurukkal performs pooja once a day as per Kamika Agama. The temple owns 3.77 acres of wetland, which are auctioned and maintained by Government. Vinayaka Chaturthi, Arudhra and Karthigai Deepam are the important festivals celebrated. Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

SATHANANJERI (LC.1261)

Sri Virupakshi Easwarar Temple

The village is located at a distance of 5 Kms from Villiambakkam Railway Station and 35 Kms from Uthiramerur. Town buses are available to reach the village. The temple is believed to be more than 100 years old. It occupies an area of 1450 Sq.Mtr. It is in a dilapidated condition. Moolavar is a stone idol 1 ½ ft. in height. A non-hereditary priest from Nayakar community performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 0.62.5 hectare of wetland and 13.36.0 hectares of dry lands. No festivals are celebrated. No details are available about its administration.

Sri Vittalraja Perumal Temple

The temple is believed to be 100 years old. It covers an area of 1301 Sq.Mtr. It is in a dilapidated condition. The temple owns a house built on 41 cents. No Poojas are performed. There is no proper management and income.

KALIYAPETTAI (LC.1262)

Sri Kalakandeswarar Temple

The village is located at the distance of 15 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Town busses are available to reach this village. The temple is believed to be 300 years old and built during Pallava reign. Villagers renovated it recently. There is a stone inscription in this temple. The temple covers an area of 30 cents. There is no Gopuram. There is a 4-pillared stone Mandapam and 2 Sanctums. The main deity, Kalakandeswarar is a Swayambu Lingam. The Goddess is Sri Kanakavalli Amman.

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

The temple is believed to be 300 years old. The Moolavar is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal. Other Moolavar idols are

Andal and Thayar. The Uthsavar idols are Srinivasa Perumal, Radha, Rukmani, Venugopaldaswamy, Sridevi, Bhudevi, Andal and Thayar. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas once a day.

These temples own 6.50 acres of dry and 1.50 acres of wetlands. The annual income from property is Rs. 20,000/-. The important festivals are celebrated in the month of Ayyasi and Avani. The affairs of the temples are managed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

ORAKKATTUPETTAI (LC.1263)

Sri Gunam Thantha Nathar Temple

The village is located 2 Kms from Athur Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is believed to be 500 years old and covers an area of 50 cents.

As per legend, some thieves reformed themselves and left their profession and turned into good citizens under the influence of the Lord of this shrine. Hence the presiding deity is called Gunam Thantha Nathar- 'the giver of good behaviour.

The presiding deity is a Prathishta lingam. The Goddess is called Sri Tripura Sundarambal. A Gurukkal offers Pooja thrice a day – Kala Sandhi, Uchhi Kalam and Sayarakshai. Skandha Shashti is the main festival. It has landed property to an extent of 9.60 acres of wet and 7.10 acres of dry lands. A sum of Rs. 35, 000/- per annum is derived from the property. The temple has a Peacock and a Horse Vahanas, which are 100 years old. Vinayaka Chaturthi, Kanda Sashti, Arudhra and Karthigai Deepam are important festivals.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 17, 899/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.16,191/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.20, 367/-. Trustees appointed HR & CE Department manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The temple is located close to the Reddipalayam Railway Station. The temple is believed to be 140 years old covering an area of 23 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Poojas twice a day. The Goddess is called Sri Karpagambal. Arudhra is the main festival. It has landed property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

KAVITHANDALAM (LC.1264)

Sri Gunanandaswamy Temple

No significant details available.

Box - 54

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Janmashtami/Krishna Jayanthi/Sri Jayanthi

Janmashtami/Krishna Jayanthi/Sri Jayanthi celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu). It is celebrated on the eighth day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada or Purattasi (August-September). Apart from religious prayer, social functions are also celebrated like forming a human pyramid to reach up to a pot of Butter strung up high in the air.

THIRUVANAIKOIL (LC.1265)

Sri Thiruvalléeswarar Temple

The village is located 14 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Sundara Pandya Thevar built the temple about 900 years ago. It covers an area of 1 acre.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva where the presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. It is believed that the Vanara King Vali and Saint Agasthiyar performed poojas to this deity. On

the three stages of the Vimanam three different forms of Dakshinamurthy are depicted. A non- hereditary Gurukkal offers Pooja twice a day. It has landed property to the extent of 7.74.5 hectares of dry and 7.37.0 hectares of wetlands. The annual income from property is Rs. 35,000/-. Arudhra in Margazhi, Panguni Uthiram and Shivarathri are the important festivals. Hereditary Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Vandu Parapara Perumal Temple

The temple is 80 years old. It covers an area of 1 acre. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in a standing posture. The Uthsava Murthy is Sri Kannapiran. A Bhattacharya offers Pooja once a day. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. No other details are available.

MULAGINIMENI (LC.1266)

No temple.

MAMBAKKAM (LC.1267)

No temple.

PERANAKKAVUR (LC.1268)

Sri Alageswarar Temple

The village is located at a distance of 15 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is believed to be 150 years old. It covers an area of 400 Sq.Mtr. Moolavar is a Panchaloha idol. The temple owns 2.71.5 acres of wetland, which fetch an annual income of Rs.5,000/-. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day.

Sri Chennakesa Perumal Temple

The temple is believed to be 150 years old. The Moolavar idol of this temple is made of Panchaloha. A Gurukkal performs Pooja once a day. The temple owns no landed property.

Festivals are celebrated in the month of Thai and Adi. The affairs of these temples are managed by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department through Trustees.

The other temples in the village are Ettiamman temple and Poyyamozhi Vinayaka temple. They cover an area of 120 Sq.Mtr. each. Ettiamman temple owns 1.21 acres of wet and 0.04 acres of dry lands. Vinayaka temple owns 0.49 acres of lands.

PORPANDAL (LC.1269)

Sri Anumeeswarar Temple

This village is located at the distance of 15 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. The temple is believed to be 100 years old. It covers an area of 0.05 hectares of land. A hereditary Gurukkal performs Poojas. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 11, 218/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 12, 000/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.19, 537/-. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The other temples in the village are Erikkarai Pillaiyar and Pidariamman Temples.

EDAMICHI (LC.1270)

Sri Muktheeswarar Temple

The village is located 10 Kms from the Chengalpattu Railway Station and 27 Kms from Uthiramerur. This Shiva temple is about 240 years old and it covers an area of 22 cents. Stone inscriptions are found in the temple. The presiding deity is in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The other details of the temple are not available.

Sri Kanniamman Temple

The villagers built the temple 100 years ago. It covers an area of 1 acre of land. A hereditary Poosari performs pooja

once a day. Fire walking in the month of Adi on 4th Friday is the annual festival celebrated. The details about property and the deity are not known. The villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Sowmya Narayana Perumal Temple, Kidangarai

The nearest railway station is Chengalpattu. The temple is believed to be 140 years old. The villagers built it. It covers an area of 20 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The Moolavar deity is in a standing posture with Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. A hereditary Bhattacharya offers Pooja once a day. He has been paid from the donations from devotees. The temple owns 2 acres of land, which fetch an annual income of Rs.3,000/- that is used for daily poojas. A Board of 5 trustees manages the affairs.

NERKUNDRAM (LC.1271)

Sri Pidariamman, Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

The village is located 15 Kms from Walajabad Railway Station and 27 Kms from Uthiramerur. Bus facilities are also available. There is no information available about the formation of these temples except that they were built by the villagers themselves. These are all small temples having about 100 Sq.ft. area. A Poosari appointed by the villagers performs daily poojas, Abhishegams, etc.

CHINNALAMBADI (LC.1272)

Sri Vinayaka, Thantoniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KUNNAVAKKAM (LC.1273)

Sri Ettiamman Temple

The village is located 14 Kms from Uthiramerur. The temple is believed to be 50 years old. The presiding deity is a stone idol. A Poosari performs Poojas. He has been granted inam lands. The temple owns 0.40.0 hectares of wet and 0.65.0 hectares of dry lands.

Box - 55

Adhiparasakthi Siddhar Peetam

The Siddhar Peetam is running the following educational institutions under the Adhiparasakthi Charitable Medical, Educational & Cultural Trust: -

1. Adhiparasakthi Polytechnic
2. Adhiparasakthi Engineering College
3. Adhiparasakthi Matriculation Higher Secondary School
4. Adhiparasakthi College of Science, Kalavai
5. Adhiparasakthi College of Pharmacy
6. Adhiparasakthi Nursing College
7. Adhiparasakthi College of Physiotherapy
8. Adhiparasakthi Agricultural College & Research Institute, Kalavai.

PANDAVAKKAM (LC.1274)

No temple.

VADATHAVOOR (LC.1275)

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The temple is located 33 Kms from the Chengalpattu Railway Station. The temple is believed to be over 100 years old. It covers an area of 0.5 acres. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is called

Sri Kamalambal. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. The temple owns 1.25 hectares of dry and 3.25 hectares of Wet land. The annual income of this temple is Rs.25, 000/-. Festivals are celebrated during the day of Shivarathri. Arudhra is the main festival in this temple. Five Trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The other temples in the village are Sri Ellaiamman Temple and Sri Lakshminarayanan Temple about which no significant details are available.

KADALMANGALAM (LC.1276)

Sri Venugopalaswamy Temple

The temple is located 31 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. The temple is believed to be over 140 years old. It covers an area of 5 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in a standing posture. Sri Radha and Rukmani are the other deities. A Bhattacharya offers Pooja once a day. It has jewels and landed property to the extent of 12.050 hectares which fetch an annual income of Rs. 10, 000/- through auction. Sri Jayanthi is the main festival in this temple. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1408 – Rs.12,958/-; for Fasli 1409 – Rs.17, 035/- and for Fasli 1410 – Rs.17, 836/-. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

MENALUR (LC.1277)

Sri Ettiamman, Mari Amman Temples and Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

ARASANIMANGALAM (LC.1278)

Sri Kasi Viswanathar, Kaliyamman and Mari Amman Temples

These temples are located at the distances of 38 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facilities are available to reach these temples. These temples were built over 100 years

ago by the villagers. Kasi Viswanathar temple covers an area of 0.02 cents, Kaliyamman temples covers 0.01 cents and the Mari Amman temple covers 0.50 cents. Kasi Viswanathar temple owns 1.79 hectares of wetlands. The annual income of these temples is Rs. 1500/- only. Villagers manage the affairs of these temples.

ODDANTHANGAL (LC.1279)

Sri Vinayaka Temple and Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

GURUVADI (LC.1280)

No significant details are available.

AGARAMDULI (LC.1281)

Sri Ilankaliyamman, Gangaiaimman, Mari Amman, Easwarar, Karpaga Vinayaka, Selva Vinayaka, Valampuri Vinaygar and Om Sakthi Arulambigai Temples

No significant details are available.

ATHYURMELDULI (LC.1282)

Sri Kaliyamman, Pillaiyar, Mari Amman, Sakthi and Selliamman Temples

No significant details are available

KAVANURPUDUCHERI (LC.1283)

Sri Mari Ellai Amman Temple

The temple is located 22 Kms away from Madurantakam Railway Station. The temple covers an area of 16 cents. It is believed to be 500 years old, built during the reign of the Nawabs.

The temple is dedicated to Goddess Mari Amman. Poosaris offer Pooja once a week. The temple owns 0.57 hectares of wet land. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Box - 56

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Brahmotsavam

This refers to the 10 day annual festival celebrated in different months in different temples. It signifies the founding of the temple by Lord Brahma (the creator).

KAMMALAMPOONDI (LC.1284)

Sri Mari Amman and Gajendravaradar Temples

These temples are located at a distance of 20 Kms away from Madurantakam Railway Station. Bus facilities are available to reach these temples. Villagers built them about 600 years ago. These temples cover an area of 5 cents. Koozh varthal is the main festival during the month of Adi. Villagers maintain the affairs of the temples.

PULIYUR (LC.1285)

Sri Vinayaka and Mariaman Temples

No significant details are available.

THALAVARAMPOONDI (LC.1286)

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka and Muthu Mari Amman Temples

These temples are located at a distance of 30 Kms away from Kancheepuram Railway Station. These temples were built about 150 years and 100 years ago respectively. They cover an area of 00.5 hectares each. They owned 0.16 hectares of dry and 0.11 hectares of wetlands. Main festivals are Vinayaka

Chaturthi and Adi Thiruvizha. Villagers maintain the affairs of the temples.

KARIAMANGALAM (LC.1287)

Sri Nallatchiamman, Pillaiyar Temples and Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

NANJEEPURAM (LC.1288)

Sri Mari Amman, Durgaiamman, Selliamman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

KATTIAMPANDAL (LC.1289)

Sri Pillaiyar Temple

No significant details are available.

PERUMGOZHI (LC.1290)

Sri Kumareswarar Temple

The temple is located at a distance of 28 Kms from the Chengalpattu Railway Station. The temple is believed to be 400 years old. It covers an area of 10 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. The Goddess is Sri Kamakshi Amman. A Gurukkal offers Poojas twice a day. It owns 21.09.0 hectares of land. The annual income of this temple is Rs.2500/-. Trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manage the affairs of the temple.

NELVELI (LC.1291)

Sri Ponniamman Temple

No significant details are available.

THOTTANAVAL (LC.1292)

Sri Perumal and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

SADACHIVAKKAM (LC.1293)

Sri Emukathamman and Kannapiran Temples

No significant details are available.

PALESWARAM (LC.1294)

Sri Turathiamman, Selva Vinayaka, Baleswararswamy and Pidariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

MAMBUDUR (LC.1295)

Sri Kannuramman, Selva Vinayaka and Velathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KURUMBARAI (LC.1296)

Sri Thulukkanathamman, Palliathamman, Vinayaka, Bajanai Madam and MuthuMari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

SEETHAPURAM (LC.1297)

No temple.

GINDANGARAI (LC.1298)

Sri Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

SITHANAKAVOOR (LC.1299)

Sri Muktheeswarar and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

The annual income of these temples as per records of HR & CE is: for Fasli 1408 – Rs.18, 713/-; for Fasli 1409 – Rs.13, 536/- and for Fasli 1410 – Rs.25, 900/-. No other significant details are available. There are two other temples in the village dedicated to Sri Mari Ellai Amman and Sri Pidari Selli Amman. They cover an area of 0.02 and 0.04 cents respectively. A poosari from Pandaram community offers Poojas at these temples. Trustees appointed by the HR & CE manage the affairs of the temple.

THANDARAI (LC.1300)

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

The age of the temple is believed to be 150 years. It covers an area of 50 cents. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the

form of a Prathishta Lingam. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day. It owns 2.80 hectares of wet and 1.40 of dry lands. It is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of this temple is Rs.20, 000/-. The important festivals are Navarathri, Shivarathri, Arudhra Darshan and Vinayaka Chathurthi.

Box -57

Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam

The Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam was established on Vaisaka Sukla Purnima of the year Sidharthi - Kali 2620 (482 B.C.) by Sri Adi Sankara who initiated a very young boy Sarvajnatman into the ascetic order, nominated him as his successor in his Kanchi Mutt, and placed him under the care of Sri Suresvara, the most aged and the most erudite of His disciples. After Sri Adi Sankara, a continuous line of seventy successors has adorned the Acharya Peetam at Kanchi Sankara Math. The last three sages in this illustrious line are the 68th pontiff of the Kanchi Mutt, His Holiness Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Swamy, who became pontiff in 1907 when he was barely thirteen years of age and shone as Acharya for nearly 87 years; His successor, the 69th Pontiff is His Holiness Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamy who was initiated and nominated successor in 1954 and presently adorns the Peetam. The 70th Pontiff of the Mutt is His Holiness Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi who was initiated into the ascetic order in 1983.

Sri Mari Ellamman Temple

The other temple in the village is dedicated to Mari Ellamman, which covers 120 Sq.ft. of land. A Poosari performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 0.36.0 hectares of dry lands, which fetch an annual income of Rs.20000/-. The important festivals are Navarathri and Adi Thiruvizha.

VICHOOR (LC.1301)

Sri Vandu Parabara Vanna Perumal Temple

The village is located at a distance of 13 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facilities are available from Chengalpattu Bus stand. A stone inscription indicates that the temple was built on Tamil "Prathaba" year 8th day of Thai month. No equivalent Christian Era year is available. It is said to be built during the reign of the Pallavas. It covers 1 acre of land. No Gopuram is available. The Moolavar idol is in the custody of Police as it was stolen recently. Temporary Trustee performs pooja weekly. The temple owns 1.59.0 hectares of land. No festivals are celebrated.

Sri Boomeeswarar Temple

The temple was built in 1893. It cover 1 acre of land and has no Gopuram. The lingam is a Pradhishtha Lingam. Weekly poojas are performed by a private person. Temple owns 0.38.0 hectares of land. Karthigai Deepam festival is celebrated. No other details available.

ANNADHUR (LC.1302)

Sri Sundararaja Perumal and Koppeeswarar Temples

The village is located at a distance of 15 Kms from the Chengalpattu Railway Station. Town buses are available from Chengalpattu Bus stand. This temple is believed to be over 150 years old. The temple is under renovation by the Villagers. These temples cover an area of 0.04 hectares of land. These temples own 5.09 hectares of dry and 1.27 hectares of wetlands. The first temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. No Pooja is offered. The second temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. Trustees manage its affairs.

ALAPAKKAM (LC.1303)

Sri Alagusundara Varadaraja Perumal Temple

This temple is located at a distance of 13 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Town buses are also available to reach this temple. It is believed to be over 300 years old. The other deities in these temples are Sri Devi, Bhudevi, Anjaneya, Garuda, Nachiar, Viswakshana, Nagam and Anandan. Battachariyar performs Poojas twice a day. It covers an area of 0.11 acres of land. It owns 4.66 hectares of wet and 0.16 hectares of dry lands. Trustees maintain the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is Rs.15, 000/-. Panguni Thiruvizha is the main festival in this temple.

SALAVAKKAM (LC.1304)



Sri Swarnapureeswarar Temple

The village is located 15 Kms from the Chengalpattu Railway Station. Govt. buses are available to reach this temple. The temple is believed to be 50 years old. The presiding deity, Sri Swarnapureeswarar, is a Swayambu Lingam. It occupies an area of 90 cents. A stone inscription is available in the temple. A Gurukkal offers Pooja once a day in the morning. The temple has 1.25.0 hectares of wet and 0.64.0 hectares of dry lands. It has some vahanas. Krithigai, Pournami and Amavasai are important days.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR & CE is for Fasli 1402 – Rs. 16, 958/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 21,

311/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.26, 771/-. Trustees manage the affairs of the temples.

Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The temple covers an area of 50 cents. It owns 0.52 hectares of dry and 1.12 hectares of wetlands. A Bhattacharya offers Pooja once a day. There is a Garuda Vahanam in the temple. No other details are available.

Sri Selva Vinayaka, Vishnu Durgai, Veerabathiran Temples

No significant details are available.

PULIPAKKAM (LC.1305)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal temple

This village is located at a distance of 20 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Town buses are also available to reach this temple. This temple is believed to be 120 years old. This temple was renovated during 1959, 1962 by Sri Venkata Lakshmi Ammal, who is looking after its affairs since then. There is a Maha Mandapam and a 4-pillared Mandapam in the temple. The presiding deity is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal. Other Uthsavar idols include Garuda, Anchaneya, Sri Devi, Bhudevi, Srinivasa, Rama, Lakshmana, Seethai, Andal, a Sri Chakra, Udayavar and Nammalvar. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas twice a day. Adi Puram, Sri Jayanthi, Navarathri, Vaikunta Ekadasi are celebrated. Sri Rama Navami is also celebrated. The temple owns 0.44.5 hectares of dry and 0.31.0 hectares of Wetlands. Trustees appointed by Smt. Venkatalakshmiammal Trust in consultation with Sriperumbudur Jeeyar manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

This temple is believed to be 60 years old. The main deities are Draupadi, Krishna, Arjuna, Bheema, Dharmaraja and Potha Rajan and these idols are made of wood. It has no movable or immovable property except a Garuda Vahanam. A 10-day Mahabharatham pravachanam and a 8-day drama is conducted annually. The Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Swarnapureeswarar Temple

The temple is said to be 210 years old. It is in a dilapidated condition. It covers an area of 50 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Swarnapureeswarar in the form of a Lingam. The temple has 1.33.5 hectares of wetlands, which are not under cultivation. Neither daily poojas nor any festivals are performed. No other significant details are available. The other temples in the village are Sri Mari Amman, Sri Gangaiamman and Sri Pillaiyar temples.

Box - 58

Saint Valmiki

Saint Valmiki also called the Adi Kavi is the composer of the greatest Indian epic Ramayan. He is believed to have lived prior to the 6th Century BC. The Ramayan is written in very simple style. It narrates the story of Rama, Prince of Ayodhya, an Avathar of Lord Vishnu. The Ramayan is divided into 7 Kandas (parts). The total number of Sargas (Cantos) is 500 and the total number of verses 24, 000. It reflects the Indian way of life and stresses on performance of duty and surrender to God. The Ramayan gives an extensive glimpse of contemporary social structure and polity.

EDAYAMBUDUR (LC.1306)

Sri Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The village is located 16 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is 120 years old. There is no idol in the temple. It has no property and no income. Poojas are performed only in the month of Margazhi and Purattasi. Villagers administer its affairs.

Sri Moongilamman Temple

It is said to be 180 years old. Apart from Moolavar, there is a Panchaloha idol of Moongilamman as Uthsavar. A Poojari from Naicker community performs daily poojas. There is no property and no regular income for the temple. On the month of Adi special poojas are performed. The temple gets a grant of Rs.240/- per month from the Government.

Sri Vinayaka, Mari Amman, Gangaiamman, Deepanjamman and Thulukkanathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KAITHANDALAM (LC.1307)

Sri Selliamman, Mari Amman, Gangai Amman, Perumal and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

VINNAMANGALAM (LC.1308)

Sri Perumal, Pillaiyar and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 59

Foreign Scholars on India : Max Mueller, German Indologist

“Whoever cares for the historical growth of our language, that is, of our thoughts; whoever cares for the first intelligible development of religious and mythology; whoever cares for the first foundation of what in later times we call the Sciences of astronomy, metronomy, grammar and etymology; whoever cares for the first intimations of philosophical thought, for the first attempts at regulating family life, village life, and state life, as founded on religion, ceremonial tradition and contract must in future pay the same attention to the literature of the Vedic period as to the literature of Greece, Rome and Germany.”

If I were to ask myself from what literature we, here in Europe, who have been nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of the Greeks and Romans, may draw that corrective which is most wanted in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human, a life, not for this life only, but a transfigured and eternal life - again I should point out India.

In the study of the history of human mind, in the study of ourselves, of our true selves, India occupies a place second to no other country. Whatever sphere of the human mind you may select for your special study, whether it be language or religious or mythology or philosophy, whether it be laws or customs, primitive science, everywhere you have to go to India, whether you like it or not, because some of the most instructive materials in the history of man are measured up in India and in India only.

The mythology of the Greeks, the Egyptians and the Assyrians is wholly founded on the Hindu mythology. The poetry of Homer is founded on the mythology of the Vedas and without the Vedas the science of mythology would have remained a mere guess-work and without a safe basis.

The corner-stone of Christian ethics ‘Do unto others as thou wouldst they should do unto thee’, is nothing more than the teaching of the great Yajnavalkya, who says: “it is not our hermitage, still less the colour of skin that produces virtue; virtue must be practiced. Therefore, let no one do to others what he would not have done to himself.”

ALANJERI (LC.1309)

Sri Avvaiyar, Pillaiyar, Perumal, Payandiamman, Theniamman and Selliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

VALATHODU (LC.1310)

Sri Perumal, Pillaiyar and Ponniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

RETTAMANGALAM (LC.1311)

Sri Kamala Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

ELAPAKKAM (LC.1312)

Sri Ettiamman Temple

No significant details are available.

OZHAIYUR (LC.1313)

Sri Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

KATTUPUTHUR (LC.1314)

Sri Pillaiyar, Easwarar and Vembathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KILAKKADI (LC.1315)

Sri Padavettamman, Ponniamman, Mari Amman, Vinayaka, Easwarar, Perumal and Thulukkanathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

SIRUPINAYUR (LC.1316)

Sri Tiruvantheeswarar Temple

The village is located at a distance of 15 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. The temple is believed to be 400 years old and it covers an area of 0.04.0 hectares of land.

The presiding deity, Sri Thiruvantheeswarar is a Swayambu Lingam. As per legend, Saint Thirugnanasambandar has sung hymns on the deity.

A Gurukkal on monthly salary performs daily poojas. The temple owns 1.36.0 hectares of land, which fetches an annual income of Rs.61, 800/- that is used for daily pooja and salary expenses. Arudhra is the annual festival celebrated.

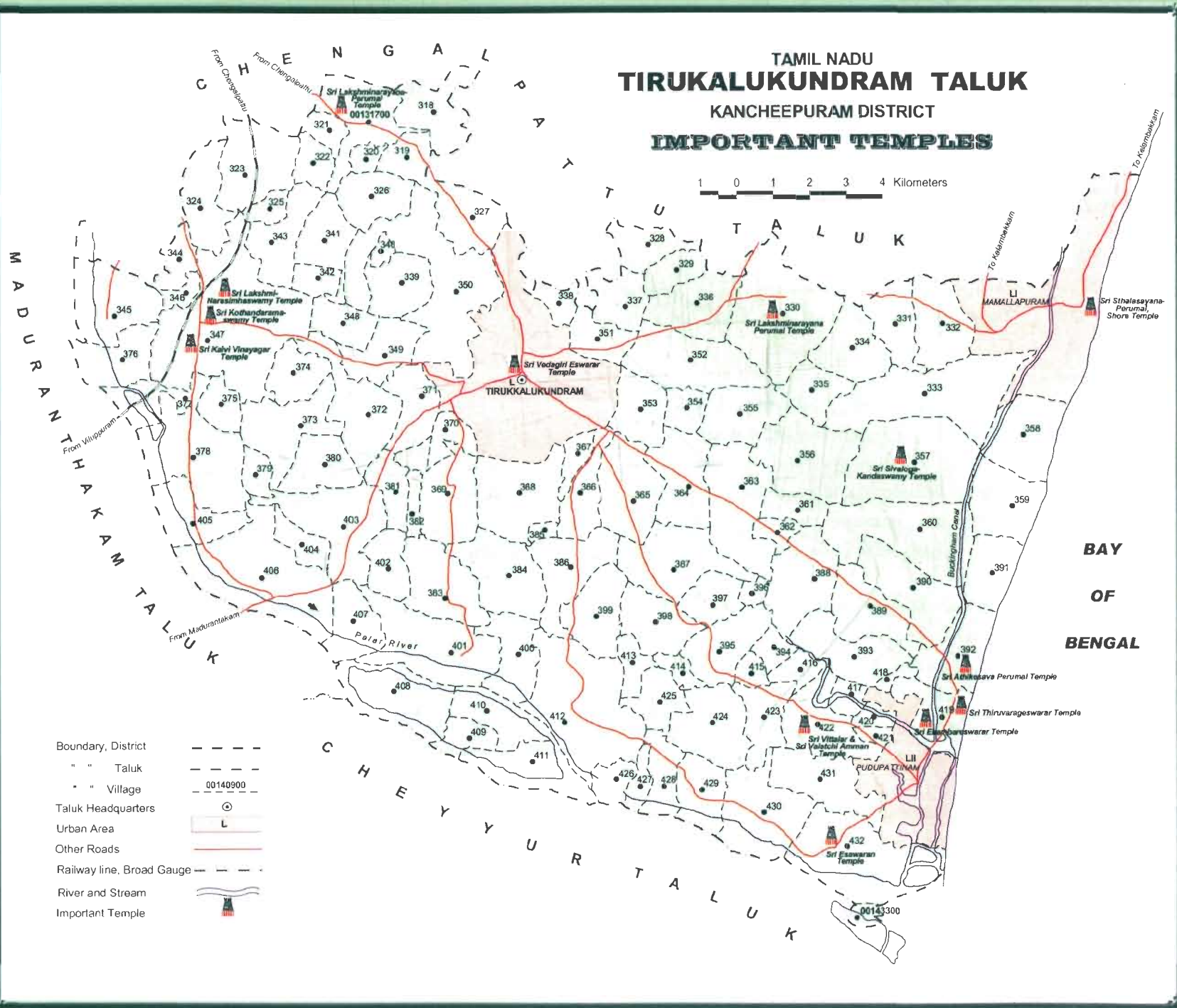
The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.



THIRUKALUKUNDRAM TALUK

TAMIL NADU
TIRUKALUKUNDRAM TALUK
 KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT
IMPORTANT TEMPLES

1 0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



- Boundary, District -----
- " " Taluk -----
- " " Village -----
- Taluk Headquarters (L)
- Urban Area (shaded area)
- Other Roads (solid line)
- Railway line, Broad Gauge (line with cross-ticks)
- River and Stream (wavy line)
- Important Temple (temple icon)

Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of Surveyor General of India.
 The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.
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TIRUKALUKUNDRAM TALUK

Tirukalukundram taluk covers an area of 219.03 sq.km. The Taluk Headquarter is Tirukalukundram, a Town Panchayat, which is 60 Kms away from the District Headquarters at Kancheepuram. It is connected by road.

The Taluk has 2 Town Panchayats, 1 Census Town and 117 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Population Totals of the Census of India 2001, the Taluk has a population of 171,980.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 232 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 145 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 35 villages details are not available on temples. This includes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

Sri Vedagireeswarar Temple at Tirukalukundram is famous. The tank associated with Sri Vedagireeswarar Temple is also famous for the emergence of a sacred conch once in 12 years. The temple is a Thirumurai Sthalam. Saint Appar, Thirugnanasambandar, Sundarar and Manickavasagar have composed songs in praise of this deity.

The Mangalasanam temple in the Taluk is Sri Sthalasayana Perumal Temple at Mahabalipuram. Bhoothathalwar, Thirumangai Alwar and Divya Kavi Pillai Perumal Iyengar composed hymns on these temples. Mahabalipuram is also the birth place of Vaishnavite saint Sri Bhoothathalwar.

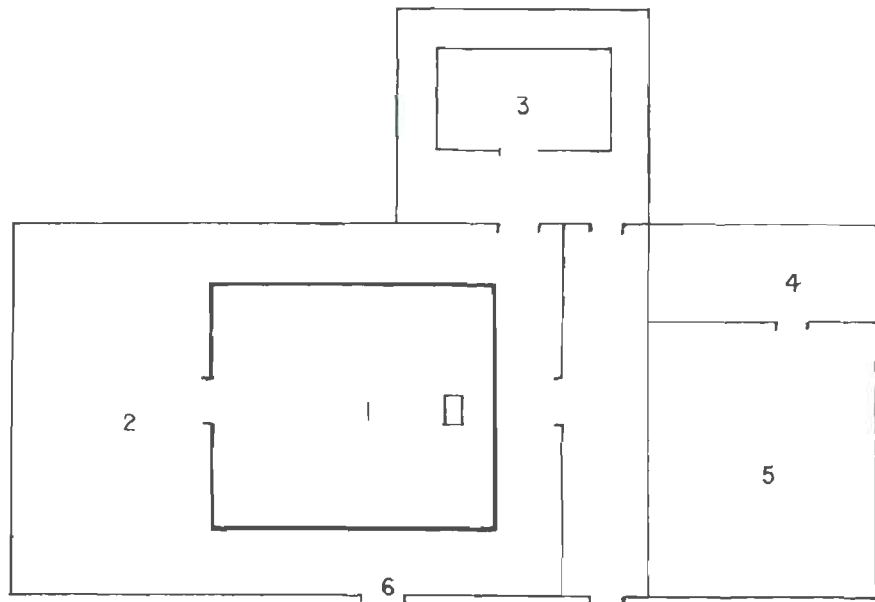
The famous tourist center, Mahabalipuram, is located in this Taluk. It is well known for Pallava style of architecture. The famous temples in Mahabalipuram are Five Rathas, Shore Temple, Mahishasuramardhini Temple, etc.

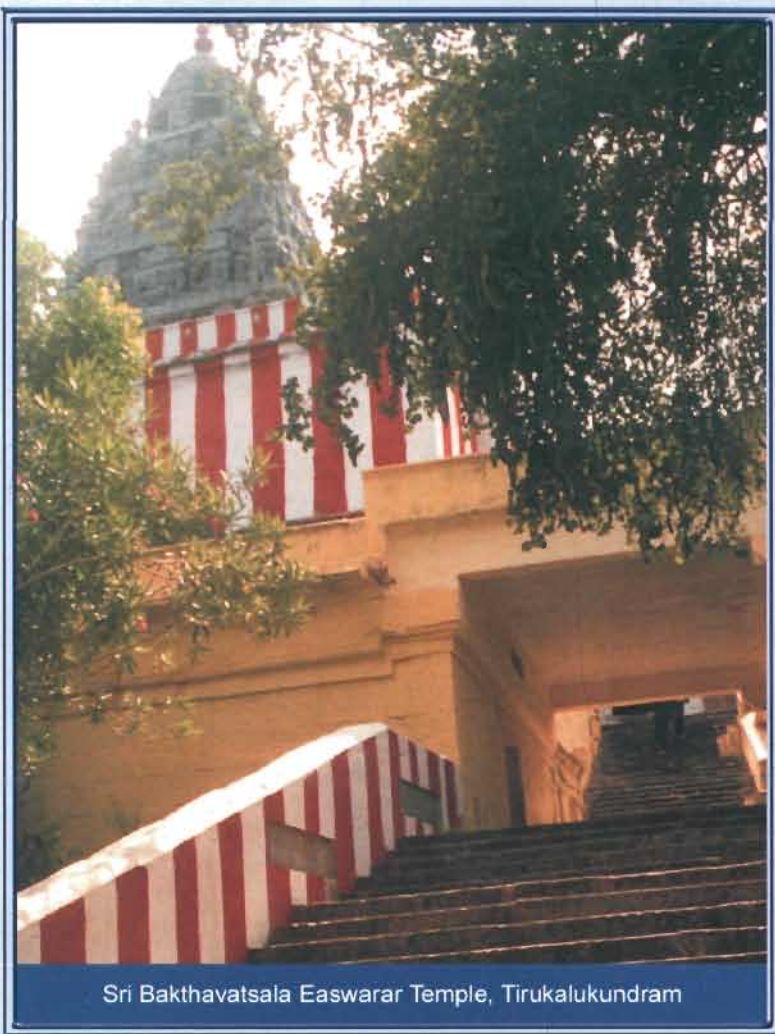
SRI VEDAGIREESWARAR HILL TEMPLE
THIRUKKALUKUNDRAM
(NOT TO SCALE)



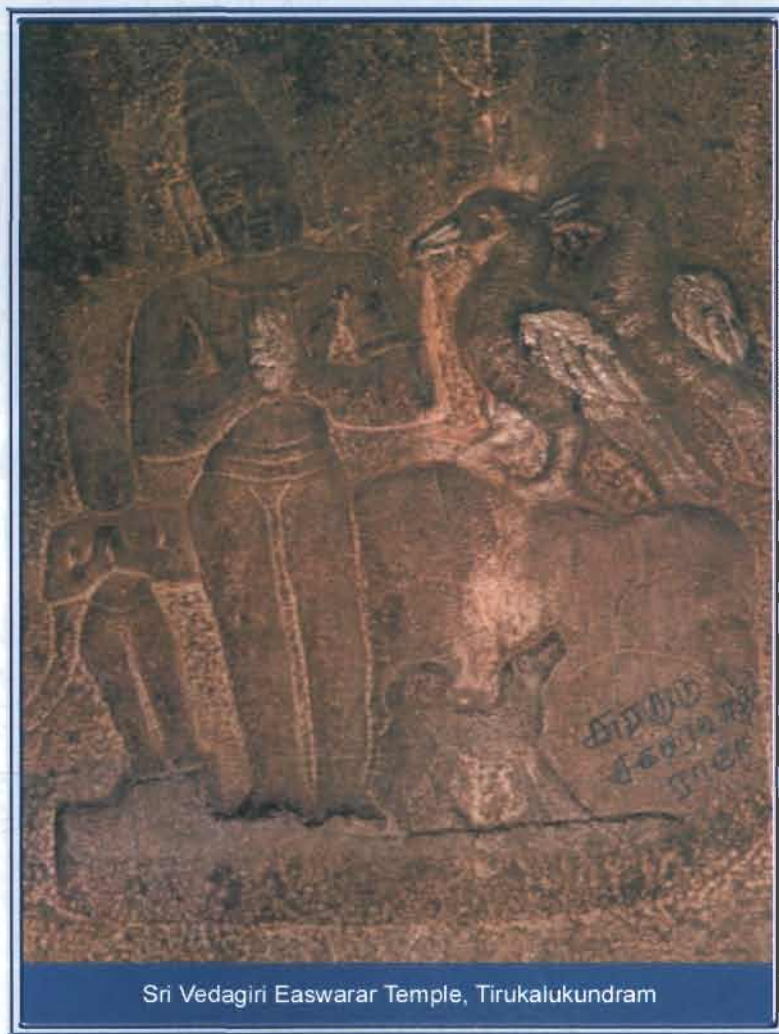
INDEX TO NUMBERS

- 1. Moolavar Vedagireeswarar
- 2. Mandapam
- 3. Chockkanayagi Ambal
- 4. Madapalli
- 5. Verandah
- 6. Main Entrance

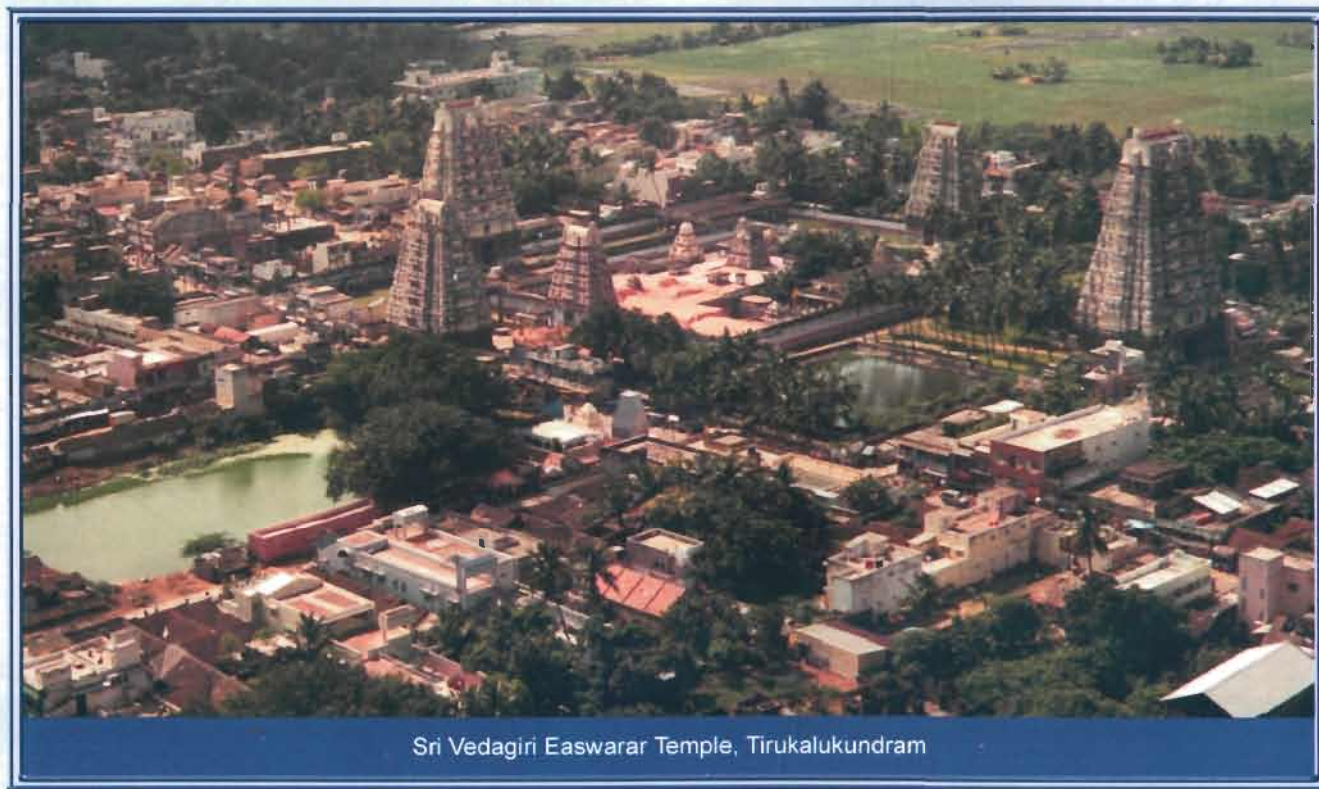




Sri Bakthavatsala Easwarar Temple, Tirukalukundram



Sri Vedagiri Easwarar Temple, Tirukalukundram



Sri Vedagiri Easwarar Temple, Tirukalukundram



Sri Agora Veerabathirar at Sri Vedagiri Easwarar Temple, Tirukalukundram



Sri Vedagiri Easwarar Temple, Tirukalukundram



A Mandapam at Sri Vedagiri Easwarar Temple, Tirukalukundram



Nataraja Mandapam at Sri Vedagiri Easwarar Temple, Tirukalukundram



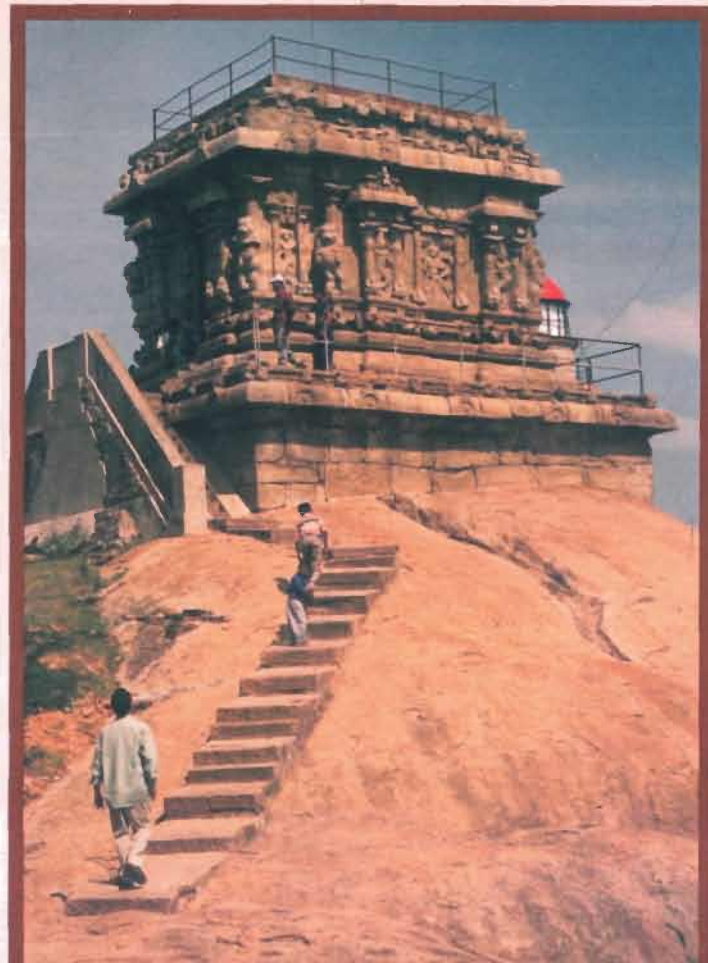
Sri Sthalasayana Perumal Temple, Mahabalipuram



Pidari Ratham, Mahabalipuram



Tiger Cave, Mahabalipuram



Old Light House, Mahabalipuram

TIRUKALUKUNDRAM (TP-50)



*Sri Vedagiri Easwar and
Bakthavatsala Easwar
Temples*

Location and Area

The village is popularly known as Thirukazhukundram. The place has several other names such as Pakshi Theertham, Rudrakoti, Adinarayanapuram and Vedagiri. As it is situated near Mahabalipuram, which is a tourist centre, this village is always included in the itinerary of every tourist. To Hindus this is a very sacred pilgrim centre, as it is believed that the four Vedas took the form of hills here and the Lord is seated on the Atharva Veda Hill. Hence, he is known as Sri Vedagiri Easwar. The temple facing east was built by the Pallavas. The place is associated with the feeding of two birds of the Kite species at about 11 A.M. daily. The village is 80 Kms from Madras and 16 Kms from Chengalpattu and can be reached by bus. The temple of Shiva covering an area of 12 acres is at the top of the hill, the height of which is 500 feet, which can be reached by ascending a flight of stone steps.

History

According to legend, 8 sons of Brahma who were Rishis did penance in order to attain Saroopam, that is, identity with the God in form; when Lord Shiva appeared; they asked him instead to bestow the boon Sayujyam which is the entire absorption in the deity. The Lord became angry since they asked for a boon different from what they originally desired and cursed that they would turn into birds. When the eight Rishis prayed for pardon, the Lord ordained that two of them would become birds in each Yuga, worship Him at Vedagiri and attain Sayujyam at the end of the Yuga. Accordingly, Sandan, Prasandan, Sampete, Jatayu, Sambukundan and Maguttan at-

tained Sayujyam in the previous three Yugas. Poosha and Vidata, the remaining two Rishis, who are birds in this Kali Yuga, visit the Hill daily for worship. These birds arrive at about 11 A.M. daily, eat the Pongal and Ghee offered by the priest at the top of the Hill, go round the peak of the hill thrice and disappear. The popular belief is that the birds bathe in the Ganges at Banaras in the morning, take their food at Tirukalukundram in the noon, go to Rameswaram in the evening to worship the God there and reach Chidambaram in the night. In the book published by Sri M.M. Kumaraswamy Mudaliar Trustee in 1923, it is recorded that on the 17th June, 1921 at about 9 A.M. two white eagles seen at the Madurai temple were photographed and sent to the trustee of the Tirukalukundram temple for verification whether they were the same that arrive there daily for their food. The trustee and a number of other gentlemen who saw the photograph identified the birds as the Sacred Eagles of Tirukalukundram. They are white in colour with beaks tinged with a little yellow.

Presiding deity

The Lingam is a Swayambu in the shape of a tender plantain flower. It is covered with a Kavacha to preserve it in tact. At the foot of the Hill is another ancient temple for Sri Bakthavatsalar and Sri Thirupurasundari Ambal. Unlike other Shiva temples, Nandhi is not in front of the Lord, but is installed in the inner Garbagraham. Saint Appar, Thirugnanasambandar, Sundarar and Manickavasagar have composed songs in praise of this deity.

Poojas and Festival

The Brahmin Gurukkal performs poojas four times daily at 8 A.M., 11 A.M., 7 P.M. and 9 P.M. The temple has some ornaments. There are three Cars for the Lord, His consort and Sri Vigneswarar. The main festival is Brahmotsavam in Chithirai. On 5th day Lord is taken round in Rishaba Vahanam while the Car festival is held on 7th day.

Administration

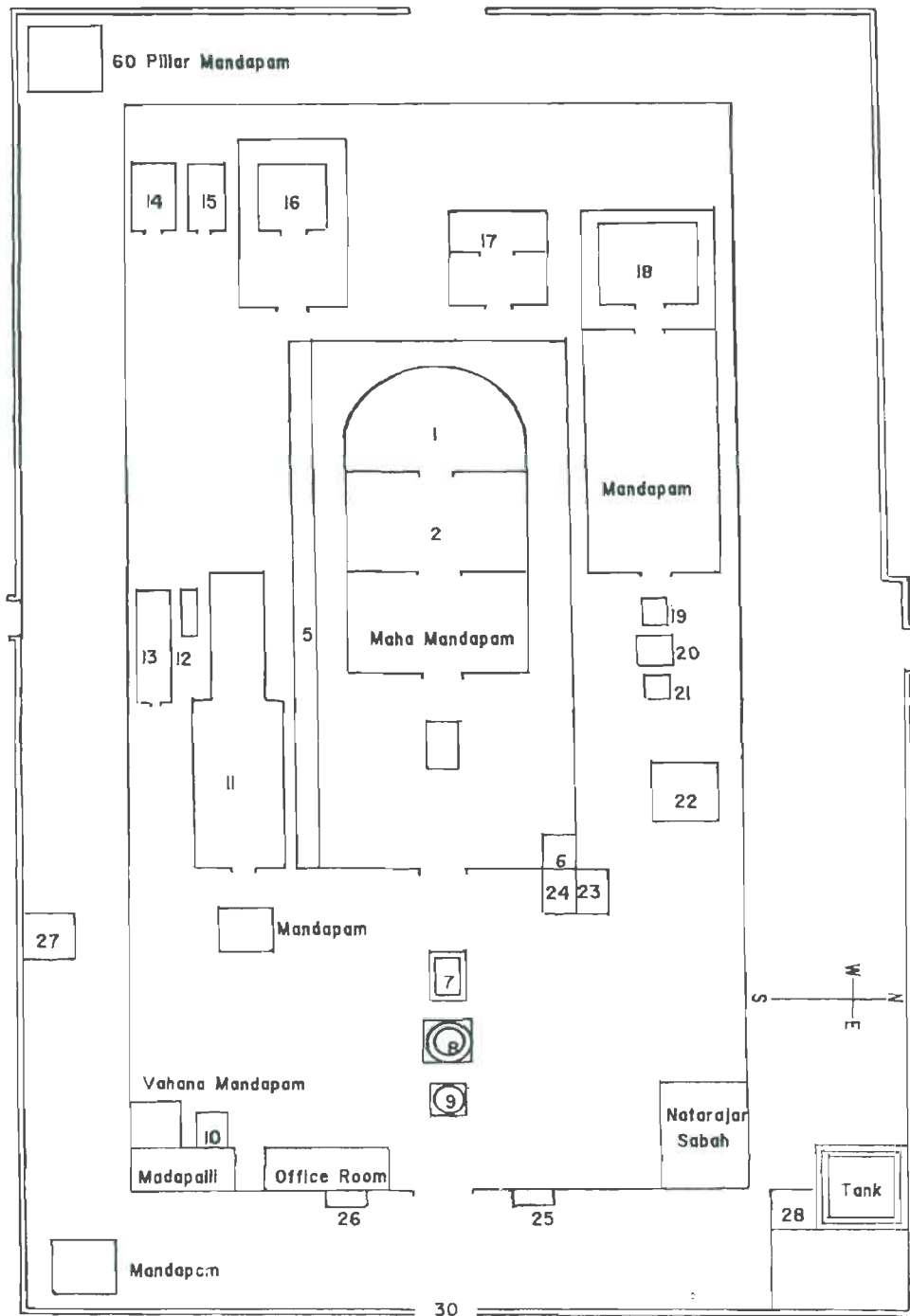
The temple is under the management of an Executive Officer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endow-

SRI BAKTHAVATCHALAR TEMPLE

THIRUKKALUKUNDRAM
(NOT TO SCALE)

INDEX TO NUMBERS

1. Garbagraham-Bakthavatchalees warar
2. Anthralam
3. Nandhi
4. Jewel Ware House
5. Nayanmars
6. Bhairavar
7. Nandhi
8. Balipeedam
9. Dwaja Sthambam
10. Manickavasagar
11. Bakthavatchalar Sabah
12. Ekambaranathar
13. Athmanathar
14. Vanduvana Pillayar
15. Jambukeswarar
16. Arumugaswamy
17. Arunachaleswarar
18. Thirupurasundari Ambal
19. Yali
20. Balipeedam
21. Dwaja Sthambam
22. Vedagireeswarar
23. Kalatheeswarar
24. Utsava Parivara Moorthys
25. Balasubramaniam
26. Vinayagar
27. Sangeetha Vinayagar
28. Nandhi
29. Sarva Vathiya mandapam
30. Main Gate



ments Department and 5 trustees. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.5,01,936/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.5,19,266/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.5,50,734/-.

Special features 1: The temple tank is considered very sacred. Once in 12 years, a Conch Shell makes its appearance in this tank. A King by name Suraguru who was suffering from white leprosy happened to pass by the tank with his dog, which was inflicted with some skin diseases. The dog bathed in the tank and got rid of its ailment. The king also took a bath with his mouth closed; the disease disappeared from all parts of his body except his mouth and he came to be known as white-mouthed emperor.

The popular belief is that Indra worships the deity once in 12 years. A bolt of lightning is seen to get into the Sanctum Sanctorum through the gopuram; it goes round the deity thrice in clock-wise direction and disappears into the ground without doing any damage either to the temple or to the deity. Two instances of such strikes have been recorded in 1889 and 1901.

MAHABALIPURAM (TP-51)



Sri Sthalasayana Perumal Temple

Mahabalipuram is famous for its world renowned cave temples. It is located at 55 Kms south of Madras on the coast of Bay of Bengal. It is 18 Kms away from Taluk Headquarters. It is a place of historical interest and tourists from all over the world visit this place. During the Pallava reign, it was an important port from which elephants were sent in ships to foreign countries. There are numerous rock-cut and stone-built shrines here. The above temple dedicated to Vishnu is said to be built by the rules of Chandragiri. However, as per a book

“Kadalmallai Karumbu” issued by Sri Pillailoga Trust, this temple was built in 1614 A.D. by Vijayanagara ruler Parangusa Uthiravan. Stone inscriptions in Tamil and a copper sanad in Telugu given by the Chandragiri rulers are found in this place. Renovations were done 140 years ago by Sri Seshadri Swamigal. The temple structure is of Vijayanagara type. The temple covers an area of 4 acres. A Raja Gopuram with 5 stages towering 35’ in height was built in 1988. This is one of the 108 Divya Desams of Vaishnavism.

The presiding deity is called “Sthala Sayana Perumal”. Lord Vishnu is usually seen lying on Adishesan, the serpent. But here he is lying on the earth (without Adishesan) and that is why the name Sthala Sayana Perumal. Lord Vishnu, here, is seen as a boar (Koorma). He is also known as Gnanapiran. The Uthsavamurthy is in a standing posture.

As per legend (Brahmanda Puranam), a pious Brahmin by name, Pundareeka used to visit daily all the temples, one after another, worshipping the deities with great devotion offering lotus flowers. Once he visited Thiruvudanthai (Sri Nithya Kalyana Perumal) and continued his travel and reached a place full of gardens, pools and water tanks. One pool was covered with beautiful large lotus flowers each of which had a 1000 petals. He was struck by the beauty and fragrance of the flowers and decided that those should adorn only His Lord. He wished to go to the sea of milk to worship Lord Vishnu who was lying in Adishesan there. So he started baling out the sea water. After sometime, a Brahmin came to his help and requested him to get some food in the meantime he would find a way to bale out water to find a way to the sea of milk. When the Pundareekar returned, he saw instead of the Brahmin, Lord Vishnu was lying down on bare land wearing a garland of giant Lotus. Lord was reclining on His right arm stretched His left hand towards His feet. The Rishi requested Him to be ever present at that place and give salvation to all those who worshipped him.

Another legend associated with this temple: One of the Pallava kings was turned into a crocodile on account of some curse and was living in the holy tank here; when Pundareeka

Rishi plucked a lotus from this tank, the crocodile got hold of his leg and immediately the curse was lifted; the king regained his original human form and ascended to the heavens. On the sacred Masi Maha day, thousands of devout Hindus bathe in the sea here.

The temple stands on an area of 2.30 acres. The Sthala Puranam in Sanskrit was written by Sri Egai Gopalachariar and after his death the manuscript is with Sri P.B. Annangarachariar of Kancheepuram. This place is the birth place of Saint Bhoothathalwar, who along with Saints Thirumangai Alwar and Nammalwar composed hymns on this deity. The temple owns some jewels gifted by devotees and the king of Chandragiri. Lord Linlithgow had donated a big Silver vessel. The temple has a Car, Palanquin and 10 other vahanas. A Bhattacharya performs two poojas daily as per Vaikanasa Agamam. His office is hereditary. The temple owns 13.90 acres of wet lands and 0.54 acres of dry lands from which an annual income of Rs.29,000/- is derived. The annual income of the temple through Hundi collections as per HR&CE records for Fasli 1411 is Rs.42,401/-. Brahmotsavam in Chithirai, Bhoothathalwar Birth star, Navarathri, Vaikunta Ekadasi and Masi Magam festivals are conducted.

The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.86, 193/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.76, 423/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.89, 424/-.

It is managed by a Board of three trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The Archaeological Department has published a book about this place.

Stone Inscriptions: On a stone in the temple of Varahaswami a gift of land by the people of Chennapuram is recorded. The inner stone in the temple of Sthalasayana perumal records a grant of 1000 kulis to the God

Sri Mallikeswarar Temple

This temple was built during the reign of the Pallavas. Renovations are being carried out. The temple covers an area of 0.50 acres in Pallava style of architecture. There is a Gopuram with 3 stages (Trithalam) and a Praakaaram. The presiding deity Sri Mallikeswarar is in the form of a Lingam. It is said that this temple has been mentioned in Saint Thirumangai Alwar's hymns on Sri Sthala Sayana Perumal. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day for which he is being paid a monthly salary of Rs.600/-. The temple owns no property. Monthly Pradhoshams and Shivarathri are the important days. The Executive Officer of HR&CE who is in charge of Sri Nemmeli Alavanthar Charities Trust is looking after the affairs of this temple.

There is a Trust called "Nemmeli Arulmigu Alavantha Nayakar Trust" founded by one Sri Alavanthar of Nemmeli. Sri Alavanthar was born in 1835 in a very poor family, lived as a bachelor, became very rich with his hard work and finally granted all his property to the temples by creating a Trust in his name. The Trust owns lands to the extent of 1039.27 acres in Nemmeli, Sulerikadu, Krishnankaranai, Pattipulam, Kadambadi, Saluvankuppam, Kovalam and Mamallapuram. Besides, the trust owns many buildings including staff quarters and a temple for the founder. The beneficiary temples include Sri Nithya Kalyana Perumal Temple of Thiruvidadanthai, Sri Sthalasanaya Perumal of Mamallapuram.

PUDUPATTINAM (CT-52)

No details are available.

NEMMELI (LC.1317)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

This village is 6 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facilities are available from Chennai to Kalpakkam and Chengalpattu to Tirukalukundram to reach this village. This temple was built about 500 years ago. It covers an area of 0.80

cent. The presiding deity is Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal with His consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. An hereditary Battachariya performs Poojas daily. The main festival is Gokulashtami. It has 4.80.5 hectares of land. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Pidari Temple

This temple was built about 500 years ago. The presiding deity is called Arasiamman. The temple occupies an area of 6 cents. Poosari performs daily poojas. This temple has a flat wooden chariot the size of which is 4' x 4'. A Board of 10 Trustees, which is also the trustee of other temples in this village, manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Abimuktheeswarar Temple

This temple was built about 800 years ago by Vikrama Cholan (1118 – 1135 A.D.) and then renovated by Mara Varma Pandiyan (1333 – 1340 A.D.). There are two stone inscriptions in the sanctum of this temple. One of the inscriptions reveals that 1600 Kuzhi (unit) of land was granted to this temple by one Tamilthirayan Uthaman of Kalathur during the reign of the Vikrama Chola of Pundareeka Nallur (presently Nemmeli). The temple covers an area of 0.52 cent. A hereditary priest from Shivacharyar community performs daily poojas. The temple has 1.62.0 hectares of land. Navarathiri is the main festival celebrated. A Board of 10 Trustees, whose members are also the trustees of other temples in this village, manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Mariamman Temple

This temple is 500 years old. The presiding deity is Mariamman. A Poosari performs daily poojas. Main festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The temple has no property. A Board of 10 Trustees, whose members are also the trustees of other temples in this village, manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Vinayaka Temple

This temple is 500 years old. The presiding deity is Vinayaka. A Shivachariyar performs daily poojas. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival celebrated here. A Board of 10 Trustees, which is also the trustee of other temples in this village, manages the affairs of the temple.

The total income of the above 5 temples is Rs.40,000/- per annum and it is appropriated by the Board of Trustees for temple expenses.

NEMMELI R.F. (LC.1318)

No temple.

PULLERI (LC.1319)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

This village is located 5 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and 7 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built about 50 years ago. It covers an area of 10 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Ponniamman, is an idol of 1 ½ feet high. It has 0.22.5 hectares of wet and 0.30.5 hectares of dry land. The poojas are done by a poosari only on Fridays. The poosari belongs to Vanniar community. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Vinayaka Temple

This temple is 50 years old. It covers an area of 4 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Vinayaka, is an idol of two feet tall. The temple has 0.08.0 hectares of wet land. The poojas are done by Poosari only on Fridays. Vinayaka Chaturthi is the main festival celebrated here. The temple is managed by the villagers.

Sri Muthumariamman Temple

This temple is 50 years old. It covers an area of 5 cents. The presiding deity is Mariamman and it is one foot tall. Poosari performs pooja on Fridays. Adi Thiruvizha is the main festival celebrated here. Villagers manage the temple.

THUNJAM(LC.1320)

Sri Vinayaka, Bajana Madam, Ponniamman, Mahalakshmi, Kanniamman, Gangaiamman and Lakshminarayana Perumal Temples

These temples are 50 years old. These temple were built by the villagers. The area covered by and the extent of landed property of each temple is given in the table below.

Temples Name	Temples Area in Cents	Temples Property in hectares
Vinayaka Temple	1/2	0.23
Bajana Madam	1	-
Ponniamman Temple	2	0.25
Mahalakshmi Temple	1/2	0.24
Kanniamman Temple	1	0.24
Gangaiamman Temple	1	0.31
Lakshminarayana Perumal Temple	1	0.34

Poojas are performed only on Fridays by the Poosari. Festivals are celebrated in the month of Adi, Avani and Purattasi. A Board of 10 Trustees manages the affairs of these temples.

KEELAVEDU (LC.1321)

Sri Muthaliamman, Kaliamman, Bajana Madam, Kanniyamman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details available.

MELERIPAKKAM (LC. 1322)

Sri Ponniamman, Gangaiamman, Ellamma, Pillaiyar Temples and Bajana Madam

No significant details available.

Box - 60

Saint Villiputhuralwar

Saint Villiputhuralwar is the author of the work 'Villi Bharatham'. He is believed to have lived in the 17th Century AD. 'Villi Bharatham' is the story of Maha Bharath in brief. It contains 4, 300 verses in Tamil. The verses are set to music.

THIRUMANI (L.C.NO.1323)

Sri Kalyana Vardaraja Perumal Temple

This village is located 5 Kms from the Chengalpattu Railway Station. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and was built 500 years ago. It covers an area of 0.20 cents of land. It owns 2.70.0 hectares of land. The annual income of this temple is Rs. 8000/-. A Gurukkal performs poojas once a day. The main festivals are celebrated in the months of Purattasi, Margazhi and Chithirai. A hereditary trustee manages the affairs of this temple.

THIRUMANI R.F. (LC.1324)

No temple.

JANAKIPURAM (LC.1325)

Sri Thanthoni Amman Temple

The village is located 5 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and 15 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. This temple is 100 years old. The temple was built on an area of 5 cent. A hereditary priest performs pooja daily. Festival is celebrated in the month of Avani.

ALAGUSAMUDRAM (LC.1326)

Sri Ponniamman, Mariamman and Kannabiran Temples

No significant details available.

KEERAPAKKAM (LC.1327)

Sri Vinayaka, Ponni Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details available.

MELAPATTU (LC.1328)

Sri Vinayaka and Amman Temples

No significant details available.

NELVOY (LC.1329)

No temple.

Box -61

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Maasi Magam

This is celebrated on the day the Magam star appears in the month of Maasi (February-March). In

Kumbakonam, devotees gather in large numbers on this day to have a bath in the Maha Maga Theertham.

Once in 12 years, a Maha Magam or a Kumbha Mela is celebrated wherein devotees assemble in lakhs to have a dip.

KUHIPANTHANDALAM (LC.1330)

Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal Temple

The village is located 21 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and 8 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. This temple was built in 18th Century. King Mahendra Pallava built this temple. This temple covers an area of 400 Sq.Mtr. A Bhattacharya performs pooja. The temple owns wet and dry lands to the extent of 15 acres. Annual income is Rs. 12, 000/-. Parivettai is the main festival. A Board of 3 trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

VADAKADUMBADY (LC.1331)

Sri Drowpathi Amman Temple

The village is located at 15 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 21 Kms. The temple is 200 years old and built by the villagers. The temple is constructed on 1.25 cents. Poojas are done here only on Fridays, Amavasai and Krithigai by the Poosari. The temple owns 4.58 acres of wet and dry land. Annual income of this temple is Rs. 850. There is a bullock cart in this temple to take the deity on procession. Festival is celebrated once in 5 years only. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

PERUMALERI (LC.1332)

Sri Nerunji Amman Temple

The village is 17 Kms away from Taluk Headquarters on the Chengalpattu – Mahabalipuram road. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 27 Kms This temple is 200 years old. The temple covers an area of 77 cents. Poojas are performed only on Fridays, Amavasai and Krithigai by a Poosari. The temple owns 0.85.0 hectares of dry and 0.75.5 hectares of wet lands. Annual festival is celebrated. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

KADAMBADY (LC.1333)

Sri Mari Chinna Amman Temple

The village is located 12 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 37 Kms This temple is 100 years old. The temple covers an area of 1.75 acres. A Vimanam 12 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. in height is on the sanctum of the temple. A 51 ft. tree dating back to the British period is seen in the temple on which the devotees hang themselves by punching hooks on their bodies. Trustee performs daily poojas. His office is hereditary. The temple has some jewels. It has some lands from which an annual income of Rs.7,000/- is derived.

Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. Theppa Uthsavam (Boating) is celebrated during the month of Masi. The other festivals are: Chithirai New Year's Day, Fire walking in Adi, Purattasi, Navarathri, Karthigai Deepam, Arudhra in Margazhi and Panguni Uthiram. As the deity is very famous in and around the village, these festivals draw a crowd of 2 lakhs people. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. Hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

NALLANPETHAL (LC.1334)

Sri Dropathy Amman and Thanthoni Amman Temples

No significant details available.

MELKUPPAM (LC.1335)

No temple.

ECHUR (LC.1336)

Sri Sellu Amman, Vellammal, Narayana samy and Dhrowpathi Amman Temples

No significant details available.

PULIKUNDRAM (LC.1337)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

The village is located 15 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and 3 Kms from Tirukalukundram. Devotees have to walk 1 km. from the Tirukalukundram – Mahabalipuram road to reach this temple. The temple was built about 400 years ago by the forefathers of the present hereditary trustee. A Kumbhabhishekam was performed some 90 years back. Outer compound walls have been constructed on 11.2.2001. The temple occupies an area of 4800 Sq.ft. There are two mandapams, a Vimanam and a sanctorum in this temple.

The presiding deity is Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal. The Moolavar is in a sitting posture with His consort Sri Lakshmi Amman on His lap. The other deities are Sri Varadaraja Perumal, Sri Devi, Bhu Devi, Perundevi Thayar, Desikar, Anjaneyar and Sudarshan. This temple is said to be sung by Nammalwar.

Poojas are performed by a hereditary Bhattacharya twice a day on Pancharatra Agamam. His services are purely honorary. The temple has 3 acres of land and Rs. 3000/- is derived from the property to meet daily pooja expenses. Vaikunta Ekadasi, Margazhi, Purattasi and Karthigai Deepam are the important days. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

IRUMBULI (LC.1338)

Sri Kunnathamman Temple

No significant details available.

THAZAMBEDU (LC.1339)

Sri Selliamman and Kailasanathar Temples

No significant details available.

Box - 62

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Adi Pooram

The entire month of Adi is considered auspicious in Amman temples. Gruel is cooked and offered on different days as a fulfillment of vow. On the day the Pooram star of this month special poojas are conducted in all temples of Goddess Parvathi.

KANKEYAMKUPPA (LC.1340)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details available.

SOGANDY (LC.1341)

Sri Vinayaka, Chelliamman, Thanthoni Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details available.

ADAVILAGAM (LC.1342)

Sri Padavettu amman, Vinayaka, Navaneetha Krishnan and Thanthoni Amman Temples

The village is located 11 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. These temples are about 50 years old. The villagers built these temples. Annual income of these temples is Rs.15,000/-. Vinayaka Chaturthi, Krishna Jayanthi and the month of Adi are important days. Trustees manage the affairs of the temples.

Name of the Temple	Area covered	Property
Padavettamman	0.10 acres	—
Vinayaka	0.04 acres	0.40 acres
Perumal	0.04 acres	0.60 acres
Thanthoni Amman	0.10 acres	0.60 acres.

OSIVAKKAM (LC.1343)

Sri Malleswara Amman

The village is located at a distance of 15 Kms from the Taluk Headquarters. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 10 Kms This temple is 100 years old. It covers an area of 0.05 acres. This temple has a property of 2 acres. Poojas are done daily in this temple by the Poosari. Festivals are celebrated in the months of Chithirai and Margazhi. A single Trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

PUDUPAKKAM (LC.1344)

Sri Ponni Amman, Gangai Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details available.

MANAPAKKAM (LC.1345)

Sri Kanniamman Temple

Manapakkam village is 4 Kms away from Othivakkam Railway Station. The temple was built about 100 years ago and it occupies an area of 0.0.40 hectares. Poojas are done by a hereditary Poosari twice daily. The temple has no property. Fire walking festival is conducted during the Tamil month of Adi. The temple affairs are managed by villagers themselves.

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple

This Vishnu shrine is 200 years old. This temple covers an area of 0.0.60 hectares. Poojas are done by a hereditary Bhattacharya twice daily. The temple has 3.03.5 hectares of wet land and 2.53.0 hectares of dry lands.

OTHIVAKKAM (LC.1346)

Sri Vinayaka and Mariamman Temples

No significant details available.

P.V. KALATHUR (LC. 1347)

Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple

This village is ½ a kilometer from Othivakkam Railway Station. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of 31 cents. The presiding deity Sri Lakshmi Narasimhar is in a sitting pose with a raised palm of protection (Abhaya Hastham) with

Sri Devi and Bhu Devi on either side. He is 5 feet high with a crown on his head. The temple possesses some jewels offered by devotees and owns some land. Various vahanas made of wood are in use in this shrine. The Vaikunta Ekadasi and Garuda Servai are the main festivals conducted by the Devasthanam besides other festivals.

The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE, is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs.15,316/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.17,086/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.17,174/-. A Board of three trustees administers the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple

This temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu was built 1000 years ago and was later renovated by the Jeer of Ahobila Mutt and others. It occupies an extent of 1 acre of land. The presiding deity is Sri Kothandaramar in a sitting posture and the other deity is Sri Dharba Sayana Sethuramar who is in lying posture. The Bhattacharya performs morning and evening poojas as per Vaikhanasa Agamam. Temple possesses some jewels and owns 16.08 acres of wet and 2.91 acres of dry lands. It owns a Palanquin and seven vahanas. Brahmotsavam, Vaikunta Ekadasi, Pavithra Uthsavam, Navarathri and Parivettai are the main festivals.

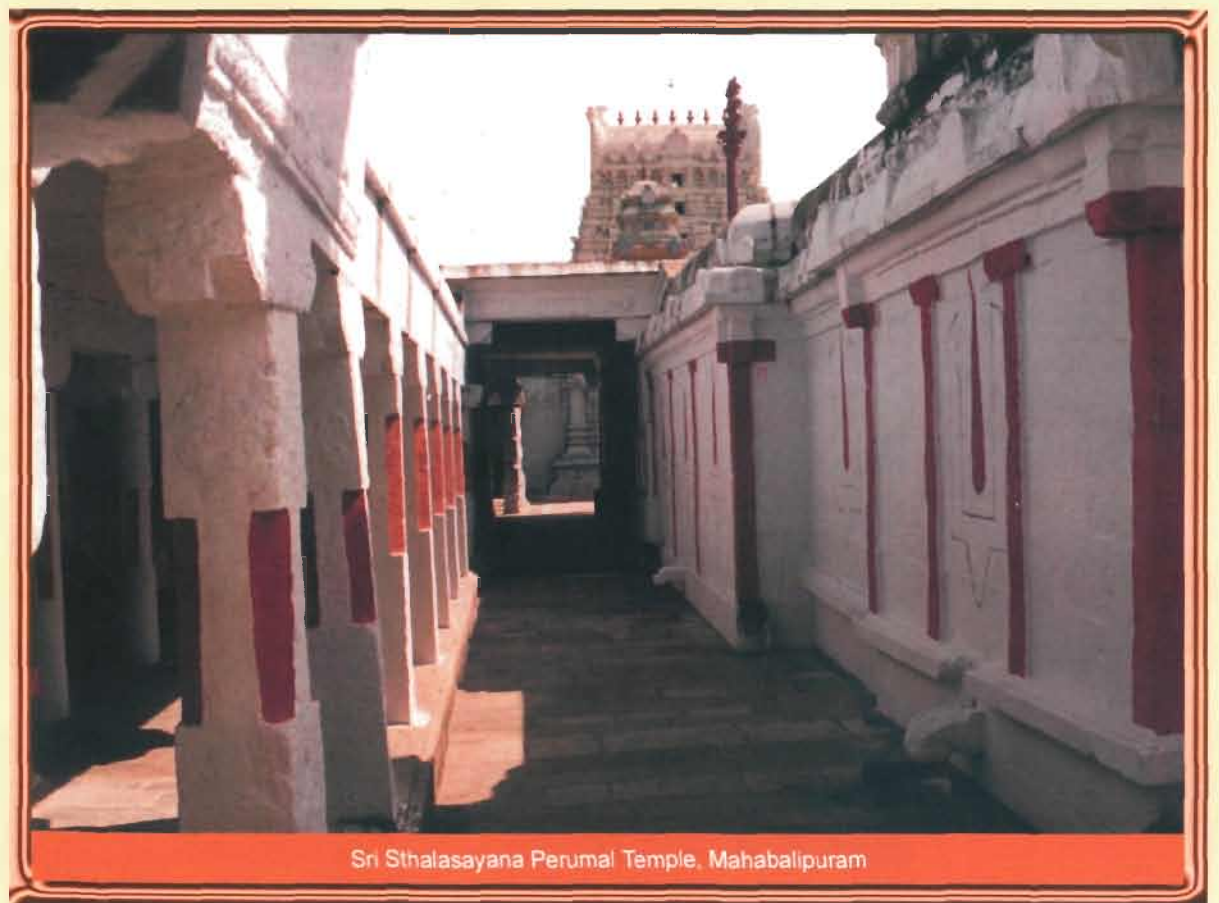
The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.10, 442/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.11, 917/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.17, 993/-. A Board of trustees manages it. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kalvi Vinayaka Temple

The temple was built 300 years ago by the villagers. In 1959, the then trustee performed a Kumbhabhishekam. It covers an area of about a quarter cent. This is a small temple with sanctum sanctorum and a front mandapam totaling 150 Sq.ft.



Garuda Vahanam at Sri Sthalasayana Perumal Temple, Mahabalipuram



There is no Gopuram. Vinayaka, the presiding deity is in a sitting posture. It is a Sila (Brick) idol. A priest belonging to the poosari caste, whose office is hereditary conducts Poojas every morning. The immovable properties of the temple include 0.41.5 hectares of wet lands. Tamil New Year's Day, Shivarathri, Panguni Uthram, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Deepavali and Karthigai Mondays are important days. A Single trustee appointed by the HR&CE Department manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Thiruvaleeswarar Temple

This temple is said to be built by a Chola King details about whom are not known. In 1946, a Kumbhabhishekam was done by the then trustees. Sri Thiruvaleeswarar and His consort Sri Thirupurasundari are the main deities. Other deities are Lord Muruga and Sri Vinayaka. The temple covers an area of about one acre. There is a Gopuram and a Praakaaram inside the temple built after the Chola pattern of architecture. The Lingam is a Swayambu and Lord Subrahmanya is the Uthsavar. A Gurukkal performs the pooja daily once. His office is hereditary and his services are honorary. The temple owns landed property to the extent of about 7 acres. The main festival is Parivettai which is celebrated in the month of Thai. A single trustee manages it.

Sri Munkudimi Easwar Temple

This temple is an ancient one. A Kumbhabhishekam was performed in 1961. The temple covering an area of 50 cents has been built after the Chola pattern of architecture. The presiding deity, Sri Munkudimi Easwar is a Swayambu Lingam. There are Moolavar idols for Amman, Subrahmaniar and Vinayaka and there are also Uthsava idols for them. It is narrated in the Sthala Puranam of the temple that the special feature of the Lingam here is a tuft of hair in the forehead and hence the deity is named as "Munkudimi" Easwar. As per legend, there was a practice in this temple that after performing pooja to this deity, the priest present a flower to the King who in turn give it to the Queen to wear. One day, the priest for some reason, could not get flowers but gave the King a flower that was worn by the

Queen already telling that was the fresh flower. The King found a long hair attached to the flower and questioned the priest. The priest replied that the God had hair. The priest was asked to prove it otherwise meet death sentence. The priest prayed to God, who heeding to his sincere prayer, developed a tuft of hair on the Lingam. The King saw the tuft and was pleased and the priest escaped the death sentence. That is how, the tuft Munkudimi came. Saint Kootruva Nayanar, one of the 63 Nayanmars, composed hymns in praise of this deity.

A non-hereditary Gurukkal regularly performs Poojas twice daily in the morning and evening. The temple owns 2.90 acres of wet lands. It has a Rishaba (Bull) vahanam, a Peacock vahanam, a Surya Prabhai and two Kedayams; all are made of wood. The Brahmotsavam in the month of Vaikasi and Maha Shivarathri in Masi are the main festivals. Till 1903, the hereditary Gurukkal managed the temple affairs. Presently, a single trustee, appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, is in charge of the management.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Draupadi Amman Temple, Sri Dharmaraj Temple, Sri Pidari Mallichhi Amman, Sri Muthumari Amman and Sri Mariamman Temple.

VEERAKUPPAM (LC.1348)

Sri Veda Vinayaka Temple

The village is located at 5 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The nearest Railway Station is Othivakkam at 6 Kms. This temple is 45 years old. It covers an area of 10 cent. Poojas are done by a Gurukkal daily. The temple has a property of 0.51.0 hectares. Vinayaka Chaturthi and Shivarathri are the important days celebrated. A single trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

EDAIYUR R.F. (LC.1349)

No details available.

TIRUKALUKUNDRAM R.F. (LC.1350)

No temple.

BOX - 63

Nakshatras- Stars

There are 27 Nakshatras (Stars) as per the lunar calender. They are Ashvini, Bharani, Karthigai, Rohini, Mirugashirisham, Arudhra, Punarvasuh, Poosam, Ahilyam, Maham, Pooram, Uttaram, Hastham, Chithira, Swathi, Vishakha, Anusham, Kettai, Moolam, Pooradam, Utharadam, Thiruvonam, Avittam, Sadayam, Poorattadhi, Uttharattadhi and Revathi. Different festivals are celebrated when a particular Star falls in a particular month.

KOTHIMANGALAM (LC.1351)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details available.

PULIYUR (LC.1352)

Sri Dharmaraj Temple

No significant details available.

EGAI (LC.1353)

Sri Vinayaka, Pandu Ranga Swamy and Village Deity Temples

No significant details available.

ACHARAVAKKAM (LC.1354)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details available.

PATTIKADU (LC.1355)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details available.

NALLUR (LC.1356)

Sri Muthumariamman, Selliamman, Kanni Amman, Pillaiyar, Santhana Gopalakrisna, Chelliamman, Kattu Pillaiyar Temples and Bajanai Madam

The village is located at 8 Kms from Tirukalukundram. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu. Bus facilities are also available from Kalpakkam and Tirukalukundram. There are 11 small temples in this village of which Kanniamman temple was built about 200 years ago. The villagers appoints the priest who performs daily pooja. As regards property, Sri Santhana Gopala Krishnan Temple owns 0.45.0 hectares of wet lands and Sri Muthu Mari Amman temple owns 0.03.5 hectares of dry land. The villagers celebrate the month of Adi with special poojas. The temple affairs are managed by the villagers themselves. The other temples in the village are: Sri Pillaiyar & Sri Mariamman Temples at Kollamedu and Sri Muthumari Amman Temple at Nallur Colony.

MANAMAI (LC.1357)

Sri Shiva Loga Kandaswamy, Perumal, Vinayaka and Subrahmaniyar Temples

No significant details available.

KOKILAMEDU (LC.1358)

Sri Kalliamman, Mariamman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details available.

Box - 64

Foreign Scholars on India : Prof. Paul Deussen of University of Kiel (Germany)

"The great Upanishads are deep, still mountain tarns, fed from the pure waters of the everlasting snows, lit by clear sunshine, or by night mirroring the high serenity of the stars... On the tree of Indian Wisdom there is no fairer flower than the Upanishads and no finer fruit than the Vedanta Philosophy."

EDAIYUR (LC.1359)

Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The village is 7 Kms away from Othivakkam Railway Station and can be reached by bus. The temple was built about 40 years ago and covers an area of about 0.15.0 hectares. A Battacharya whose office is hereditary performs pooja once a day. The temple has a property of 1.56.0 hectares. No festivals are celebrated. Villagers administer the affairs of the temple.

KUNNATHUR (LC.1360)

Sri Surath Amman Temple

The village is located at 15 Kms from Taluk Headquartrs. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 30 Kms The temple is 200 years old. It was built by the villagers. They renovated it afterwards. The presiding deity of the temple is Surath Amman. A hereditary poosari from Pandaram community per-

forms daily pooja. The temple owns 5.02.0 hectares of wet lands. The annual income from land is Rs. 10, 000/- which is utilized for salary of the priest and festival expenses. There is a 10 ft. wooden car in the temple. Festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. A Board of 2 Trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

Sri Perumal Temple

The temple is 200 years old. It was built by the villagers and renovated recently. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs daily pooja. The temple owns 0.47.5 hectares of wet lands. The annual income from land is Rs. 4,000/- which is utilized for salary of the priest, festival expenses. Festival is celebrated in the month of Purattasi when the main deity is taken on procession. A Board of 2 Trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

AMAIPAKKAM (LC.1361)

Sri Muthumari Amman, Pillaiyar and Mariamman Temples

No significant details available.

NARASANKUPPAM (LC.1362)

Sri Pillaiyar and Pidari Amman Temples

No significant details available.

NATHAMKARIAMCHERI (LC.1363)

Sri Vedagiri Easwar, Vinayaka and Pulikondra Amman Temples

The village is located at 8 Kms from Tirukalukundram and the nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 15 Kms These temples are more than 100 years old. The total area covered by these temples is 2.13.5 hectares. A Gurukkal performs daily

poojas. The Vedagirishwarar Temple owns 2.41.0 hectares of dry lands and Sri Vinyagar Temple has 0.32.0 hectares wet lands. The annual income from the lands is Rs.1, 000/-. The Shiva temple has a Car. The Car festival is celebrated in the month of Avani. Trustees look after these temples.

MULLAKOLATHUR (LC.1364)

Sri Murugan, Perumal and Pidari Amman Temples

No significant details available.

Box - 65

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Dhanur Masa Pooja

The month of Margazhi is especially auspicious for all temples. Pooja is performed before sunrise and devotees go out in procession singing songs in praise of God.

Thiruppavai, the hymns composed by Saint Andal, is recited with great devotion in Vaishnavite temples.

Thiruvambavai, a collection of songs by the Shaivite saint Manickavachagar, is sung in the Shiva temples. In some temples special festivals are organised on this occasion.

KARMARAPAKKAM (LC.1365)

Sri Vembuli Amman Temple

The village is 22 Kms from Taluk Headquarters and the nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 22 Kms. The temple is 150 years old. The presiding deity is Vembuli Amman in a standing posture. This temple covers an area of 0.66.0 hectares. There is no daily pooja. It is performed as per the wishes of the people. Festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. There is a special festival during which the villagers pray to this deity

to bring rain. The affairs of the temple are managed by the Gram Sabha, which convenes as and when needed.

ECHANKARANAI (LC.1366)

Sri Vembuliamman Temple

No significant details available.

SOORAKUPPAM(LC.1367)

No temple.

AMMANAMBAKKAM (LC.1368)

Sri Vinayaka, Agastheeswarar, Ponni Amman, Muthalamman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details available.

THATHALUR (LC.1369)

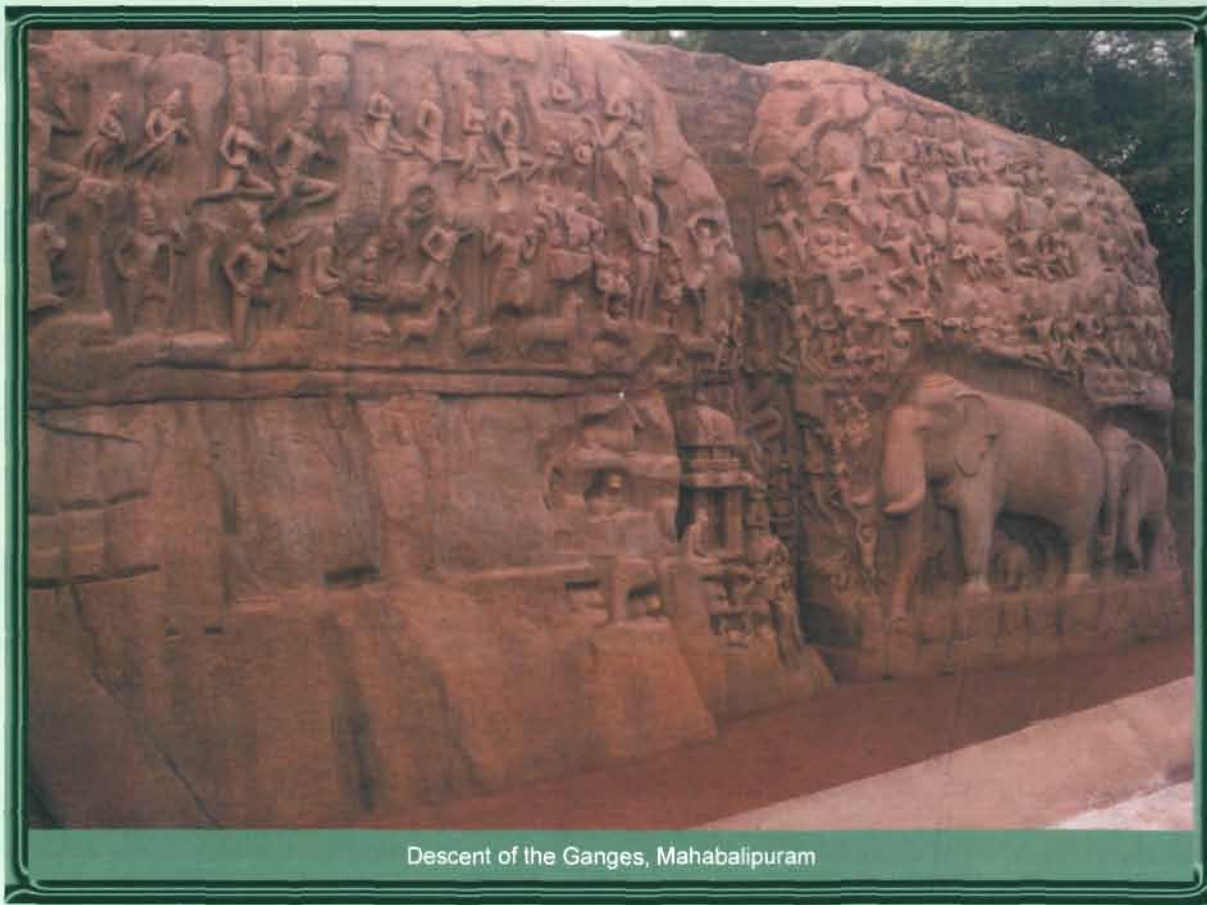
Sri Pidari Selliamman Temple

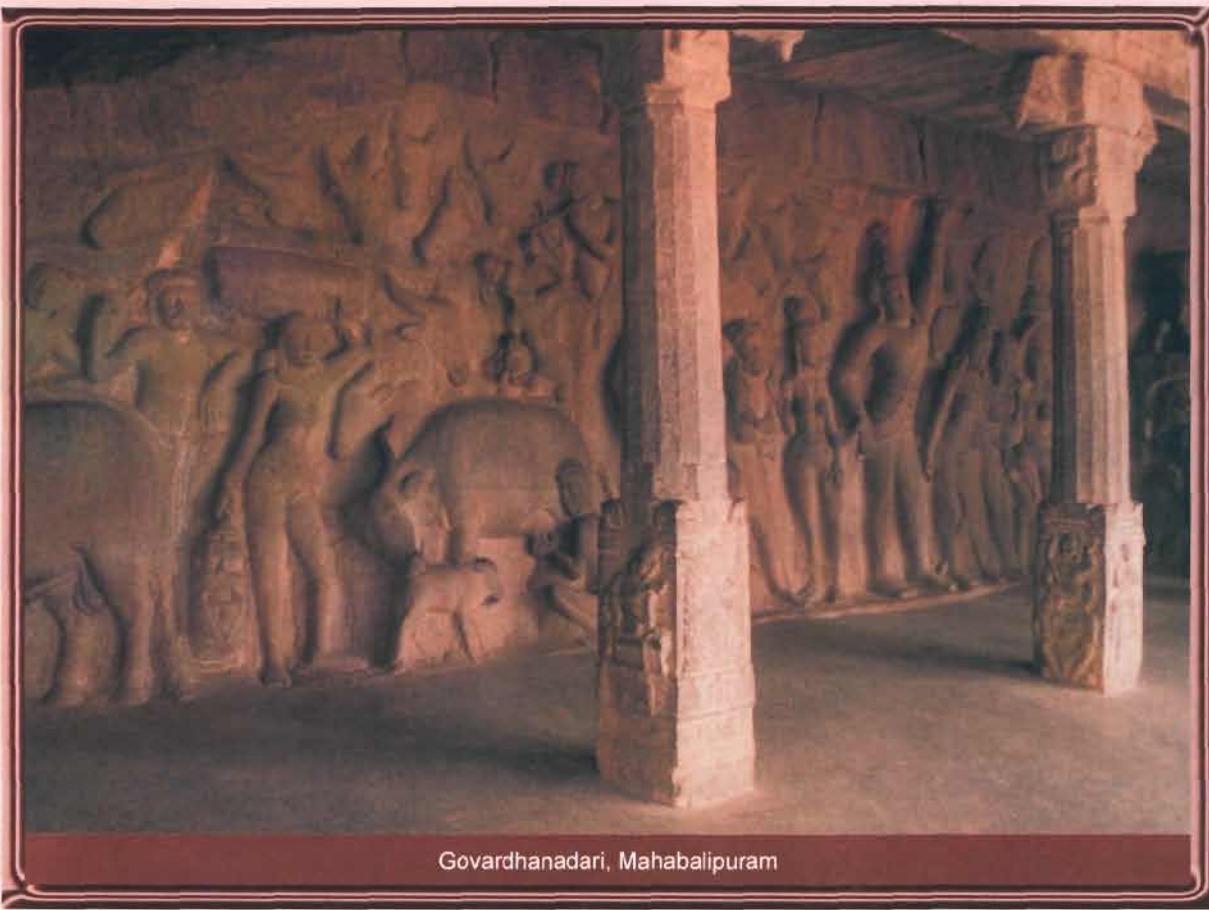
Thathalur is located 20 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. It was constructed about 200 years ago and covers an area of 10 cents. The Poosari attached to the Amman temple performs daily pooja. The temple owns 1.50 acres of land. A Board of Trustees manages it.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Selliamman, Vinayaka, Mariamman, Perumal and Sanyasi Temples.

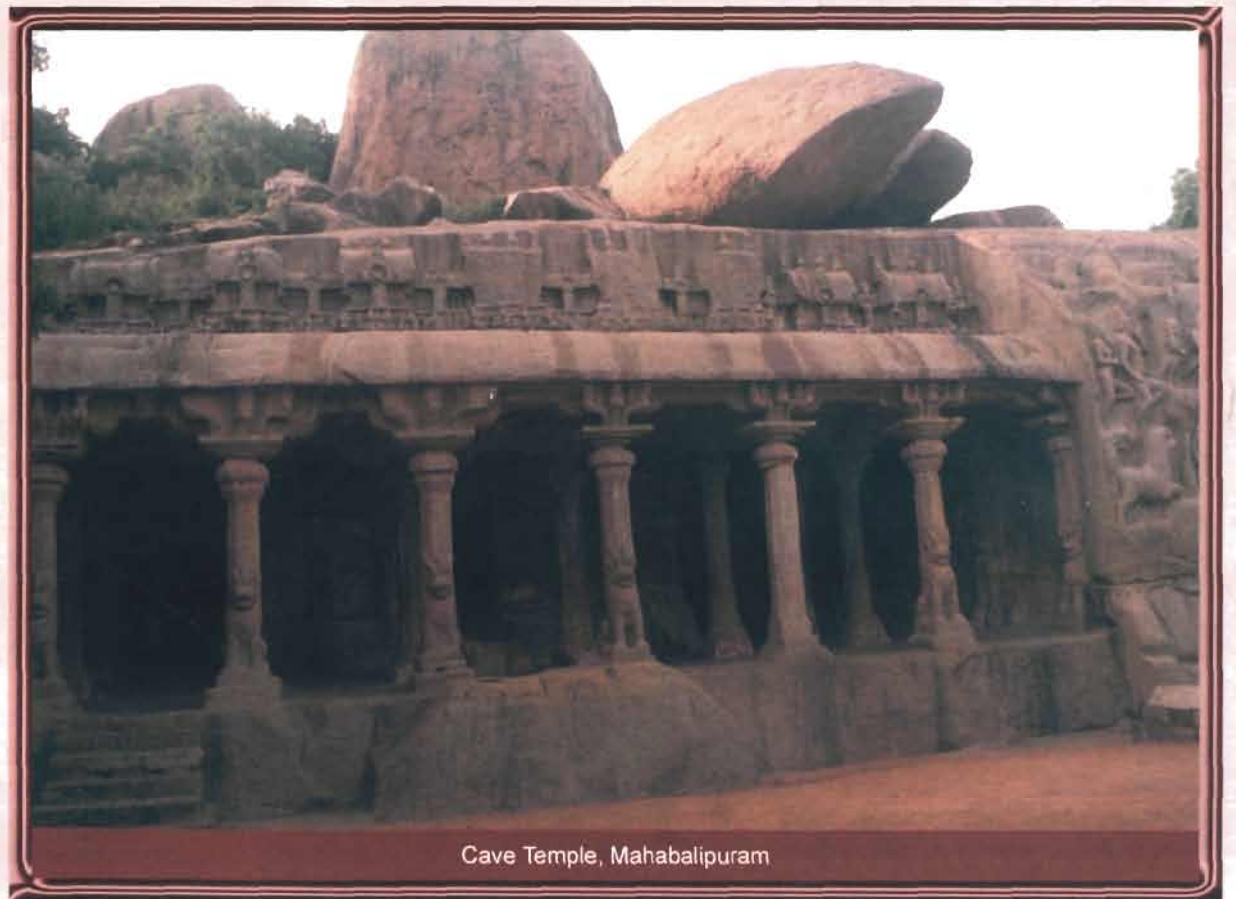
NAVALUR R.F. (LC.1370)

No temple.





Govardhanadari, Mahabalipuram



Cave Temple, Mahabalipuram

NARAPAKKAM (LC.1371)

Sri Mariamman, Nagathamman, Vinayaka and Gangaiamman Temples

No significant details available.

SALUR R.F. (LC.1372)

No Temple.

SALUR (LC.1373)

Sri Draupadi Amman, Mariamman, Selliamman, Perumal and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details available.

PONPATHIRKODAM (LC.1374)

Sri Chaturbhuj Ramar Temple

The village is located 5 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Othivakkam is the nearest Railway Station at about 5 Kms This temple is 65 years old. The presiding deity is Rama. This temple covers an area of 0.50 cent. It has a Gopuram. The important point to notice in this temple is that Lord Rama has two Chakras in his hand and this cannot be seen elsewhere. Poojas are done by a hereditary Bhattacharya twice daily. He receives monthly salary from the HR&CE Department. The temple has some jewels worth Rs. 20, 000/- and it has a landed property to the extent of 15 acres. The temple authorities are constructing a marriage hall. The annual income of this temple is Rs. 15, 000. Annual Festival is celebrated in the month of Purattasi. A single trustee manages the affairs of the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

VENBAKKAM (LC.1375)

Sri Selliamman, Pillaiyar and Kanniamman Temples

No significant details available.

BOX - 66

Paksha-Fortnight

As per the lunar calendar, there are two fortnights in a month- the Shukla Paksha corresponding to the waxing phase of the moon and Krishna Paksha, corresponding to the waning phase of the moon. Shukla Paksha is considered auspicious for performance of prayers and rituals to invoke the grace of the gods. Krishna Paksha is considered auspicious for invoking the grace of the ancestors. This phase is also considered auspicious for the worship of goddess Durga.

UDAYAMBAKKAM (LC.1376)

Sri Thanthoni Amman, Gangai amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details available.

PUNNAPATTU (LC.1377)

Sri Mariamman Temple

No significant details available.

ANOOR (LC.1378)

Sri Asthapureeswarar Temple

The village is located 5 Kms from P.V. Kalathur Railway Station. Bus facilities are available from Chengalpattu. This temple was built 700 years ago and it covers an area of 970 sq.ft. Later the hereditary trustees renovated it. The presiding deity is Sri Asthapureeswarar in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. This temple has a property of 50 acres. A Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The main festival is Arudhra. A single trustee looks after the temple affairs. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Kandaswamy Temple

This small temple occupying 4,400 sq.ft. of land was also built about the same time as the Asthapureeswarar shrine at Anur and both are under the same management. This temple is dedicated to Lord Muruga and the presiding deity is offered pooja once a day. Krithigai is the main festival celebrated here. It is managed by a single trustee.

KORAPPATTU (LC.1379)

Sri Mariamman and Selliamman Temples

No significant details available.

MAMBAKKAM (LC.1380)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal Temple

The village is located 7 Kms from P.V. Kalathur Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available from Taluk Headquarters and from Chengalpattu. The temple is an ancient one covering an area of 10 cents. A Mani Mandapam was built in 2001. The presiding deity is Sri Adi Kesava Perumal. The other deities are: Ubhaya Nachiars (consorts), Garudalwar, Baktha

Anjaneyar and three Alwars. There are 8 Uthsavar idols of Perumal, Nachiars, Yadhurajavalli Thayar, Kannan, Andal and Chakarathalwar. There are two big bells in the temple one with Chakra and Conch (shell). Poojas are performed daily by a paid Bhattacharya. There are no jewels. The temple has some lands. As a rare incidence special poojas are performed to the deity on National Holidays – October 2, August 15 and January 26. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Vinayaka, Ponniamman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details available.

MUDAIYUR (LC.1381)

Sri Ponniamman and Mariamman Temples

No significant details available.

KURUMUGHI (LC.1382)

No temple.

KILAPAKKAM (LC.1383)

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal Temple

The village is located 15 Kms from the Taluk Headquarters and the nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 30 Kms This small Vishnu temple covering an area of 5 cents was built about 100 years ago. Devotees can reach this temple by buses that ply from Tirukalukundram to Madurantakam. The temple owns neither jewels nor vahanas. It has 0.74 acres of land. The hereditary Bhattacharya performs pooja once a day. Festivals are celebrated occasionally.

Sri Selliamman Temple

No significant details available.

PERUMBEDU (LC.1384)

Sri Selliamman, Thanthoni Amman, Perumal, Mariamman and Kanniamman Temples

No significant details available.

AMANAMBAKKAM R.F. (LC.1385)

No temple.

KUNNAVAKKAM (LC.1386)

Sri Muthalamman, Draupadhi Amman, Papatthi Amman and Seshammal Temples

No significant details available.

VEERAPURAM (LC.1387)

Sri Sengazhuni Amman, Solaivazh Amman and Kannan Temples

No significant details available.

BOX - 67

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Garuda Sevai

A festival where the ceremonial idol (Uthsavar) of Lord Vishnu is decorated atop the Garuda Vahanam and taken in procession. Garuda is a kite. This is a very important festival in the Sri Varadaraja Temple at Kancheepuram celebrated in the month of Vaikasi. Lakhs of devotees gather to see this festival.

NEIKUPPI (LC.1388)

Sri Thanigai Amman, Perumal, Pillaiyar and Mariamman Temples

No significant details available.

VENGABAKKAM (LC.1389)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

The village Vengabakkam is situated at a distance of 10 Kms from Taluk Headquarters on Tirukalukundram – Sadras route. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu which is 25 Kms away. The temple is 80 years old. It was built by villagers on an area of 10 cents. The structure of the temple is made of limestone and bricks. It has a Gopuram of 15 ft. height. Poojas are performed by a priest from Pandaram community only on Wednesdays. The temple owns 0.32.5 hectares of land, a portion of which is used to construct a rice mill, a well and remaining as house sites. There is a 60 year old wooden car with a dimension of 40 ft. breadth x 60 ft. height. A 10-day annual festival is celebrated in the month of Chithirai. The villagers themselves manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Ranganatha Perumal Temple

This Vishnu temple was built about 100 years ago. The total area covered by this shrine is 8 cents and the main shrine stands on 30” x 15” of land. There is a Vimanam, which is 15 ft. tall. The presiding deity Sri Ranganathar is standing to a 6 ft. height. The moolavar is 4 ft. in breadth. Poojas are performed only on Saturdays. The temple owns landed property to the extent of 0.38.5 hectares which is lying vacant. Annual festival is celebrated. Villagers manage the temple themselves.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Gangai Amman and Mariamman Temples.

ARAMBAKKAM (LC.1390)

Sri Ponniamman, Ranganatha Perumal, Sengazhani Amman and Mariamman Temples

No significant details available.

KALPAKKAM (LC.1391)

No details are available.

MEIYUR (LC.1392)

Sri Adikesava Perumal Temple

The temple was constructed during the Pallava period. It extends over an area of about 2 acres. The Moolavar is in a standing posture. A Bhattacharya performs the pooja daily once in the morning and his office is hereditary. The immovable property of the temple consists of 1.75 acres of wet lands and 1.86 acres of dry lands. Masi Magam is the only festival celebrated in the temple. Three trustees manage its affairs.

Sri Velleeswarar Temple

The temple spreads over an area of about 1-½ acres. The presiding deity is Sri Velleeswarar, a Swayambu Lingam. Since Sukra (Velli in Tamil), one of the Navagrahas worshipped this deity; the deity is named as Velleeswarar. A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once daily in the morning. The temple owns 4.40 acres of wet lands, 3 acres of dry lands and garden of about 40 cents. There is a Rishaba vahanam, a Horse vahanam and 4 Kedayams made of wood, which are 90 years old. Three trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

POONTHANDALAM (LC.1393)

Sri Padavettu Amman, Chamundeeswari and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details available.

KUDIPERUMBAKKAM (LC.1394)

Sri Mavoolingambal, Chelliamman, Muthumariamman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details available.

PERAMBAKKAM (LC.1395)

Sri Panichamman and Bairagi Temples

No significant details available.

NEERADI (LC.1396)

No details available.

AMINJIKARAI (LC.1397)

Sri Selliamman, Sengazhuni Amman Temples and Bajanai Madam

No significant details available.

PERIAYAKATTUPAKKAM (LC.1398)

Sri Salaivazhi Amman, Navaneetha Krishnan, Gangai Amman and Thanthoni Amman Temples

No significant details available.

Box - 68

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Arudhra

This is also known as Thiruvadira. It falls on the day the Arudhra star appears in the month of Margazhi. It is considered specially auspicious for Lord Shiva in the form of Nataraja. Special Abhishekams are performed to the idol of Lord Nataraja and taken out in ceremonial procession before sunrise. A special dish known as "kali" served along with "thalagam" is prepared on this occasion. The Arudhra festival in the Chidambaram temple is famous.

NADURVAKKARAI (LC.1399)

Sri Sengazhuni Vinayaka, Easwar, Selliamman and Mariamman Temples

No significant details available.

PAKKAM (LC.1400)

No temple.

PANDUR (LC.1401)

No temple.

VELLAPANDAL (LC.1402)

No Temple.

VAZHUVODUR (LC.1403)

Sri Agnipureeswarar Temple

This temple is located at 8 Km. from P.V. Kalathur Railway Station and at equal distance from Tirukalukundram on the Chengalpattu – Tirukalukundram Road. A woman named Smt. Gandhimathi Ammal built this temple 27 years ago. The temple

owns 1.92 acres of wet lands. Poojas are performed daily by a Brahmin Gurukkal. Special Pooja is performed on monthly Pradhosham day. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Muthumariamman, Gangai Amman (3 nos.), Selliamman, Siddhi Vinayaka, Kanni Amman, Vinayaka, Ellamman and Thanthoni Amman Temples

No significant details available.

THIMMUR (LC.1404)

Sri Gangai Amman, Selliamman and Muthalamman Temples

No significant details available.

ELUMICHAMPATTU (LC.1405)

Sri Kandaswamy Temple

The village is located at 5 Kms from P.V. Kalathur Railway Station and 9 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is an ancient one. The details about its origin are not known. The temple covers an area of 56 cents. It is dedicated to Lord Muruga. There are Panchaloga idols of Sri Kandar, Valli and Deivayani. There is a Vimanam on the Sanctum with a dimension of 7" x 7". A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs poojas once a day. He is appointed by the HR&CE Department on a monthly salary basis. The temple has no jewels but it owns 5 acres of wet land which are auctioned by HR&CE for lease cultivation. Special pooja is performed on a Krithigai day every month. The annual festival is celebrated on Vaikasi Visakam. The affairs of the temple are managed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details available.

VALLIPURAM (LC.1406)

Sri Kalakandeswarar and Adi Kesava Perumal Temples

No significant details available.

VILAGAM (LC.1407)

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal Temple

This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It is 8 miles from Othivakkam Railway Station on the Tirukalukundram-Madurantakam road, which is covered by regular bus services. It was built 190 years back by the inhabitants of the village. It occupies 15 cents of land. An hereditary Gurukkal offers pooja once a day. A single trustee manages it.

EDAYATHUR (LC.1408)

Sri Pidari Kuzhanthai Amman Temple

The village is 15 Kms away from Taluk Headquarters. The nearest Railway Station is P.V. Kalathur at 15 Kms Bus facilities are available. This temple is more than 100 years old. It was renovated 2 years ago with a new Gopuram. This temple covers an area of 0.30 cent. No daily poojas performed. Poojas are done only on festive occasions by a hereditary Poosari. The Poosari is in possession of ½ cent of inam land for his livelihood. Besides this, the villagers also give some paddy for his family. The temple has landed property to the extent of 6.65.5 hectares. An annual income of Rs. 40, 000/- is derived from these lands. There is a wooden Car in this temple. Car festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

ERUMBILICHERI (LC.1409)

No temple.

THEPPANAMAPATTU (LC.1410)

No temple.

ATTAVATTAM (LC.1411)

Sri Muthu Vinayaka Temple

No significant details available.

NERUMBUR (LC.1412)

Sri Thiruvaleeswarar Temple

The village is situated 12 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 27 Kms The temple was built by Pallava rulers. The presiding deity is Sri Thiruvaleeswarar. His consort is Sri Thirupura Sundari. There is also a shrine for Sri Vinayaka. All these idols are made of Panchalagam. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. He is paid a monthly salary from the income of the temple. The temple has no jewels but has a landed property to the extent of 3.14.5 hectares. An annual income of Rs. 22, 000/- is derived from the property. There is no other source of income to this temple. Vinayaka Chaturthi, Arudhra and Panguni Uthsavam are the important festivals celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, which appointed a Board of 5 Trustees to look after the affairs of the temple.

Sri Neela Manicka Perumal Temple

This temple is also dated back to the same period i.e. the reign of the Pallavas. It covers 1,800 sq.ft. of land. This temple has eleven Panchaloga idols which include Sri Devi, Bhudevi,

Perumal, Kamalavalli Thayar, Andal, Theertha Bala Graha Perumal, etc. A Bhattacharya conducts poojas for once daily. The temple has some gold ornaments. The Temple has 6.22.5 hectares of land and the income from these lands are utilized for administrative expenses. Uriadi Uthsavam, Panguni Uthiram and Vaikunta Ekadasi are important festivals celebrated in the temple. A Trustee looks after the temple affairs.

CHINNAKATTUPAKKAM (LC.1413)

No temple.

ANGAMAMPATTU (LC.1414)

No temple.

CHITLAMBAKKAM (LC.1415)

No temple.

Box - 69

Saint Thiruvalluvar

Saint Thiruvalluvar was a Tamil Saint who lived around 100 B.C. His original name was not known. He is respectfully referred to as Nayanar, Thevar, Mudal Pulavar (first poet), Deiva Pulavar (divine poet), Nanmuganar and Poyyamozhi (eternal truth). His famous work "Thirukural" (Tamil) has been translated into all important world languages. The Thirukural is in three parts. Part I covers 38 topics and consists of 380 verses. The focus of this Part is on Ethics. Part II covers 70 topics and contains 700 verses. The topics covered are concerned with practical wisdom. Part III covers 25 topics on the subject of romance and consists of 250 verses. In all 133 topics have been covered in 1330 verses.

PUNNAPATTU (LC.1416)

No temple.

SOMASIPATTU (LC.1417)

No temple.

SOLAIKUPPAM (LC.1418)

No temple.

SADURANGAPATTINAM (LC.1419)

Sri Thiruvareswarar Temple

The village, also called Sadras, is 18 Kms from Tirukalukundram and 30 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. There is a regular bus service between Chennai and Sadras. The temple was built 800 years ago by Mudaliar community people. A Kumbabhishekam was performed on 7.2.2000. There is a stone inscription on the outer wall of the temple. The temple covers an area of 1 acre. The Vimanam is a Trithala (3 stage) Vimanam. There are two Praakaarams in the temple.

There is a story associated with this temple that Lord Shiva appeared in a man's dream and ordered to build a temple. Another story tells that during British period, one Sri Sami Mudaliar built a Mandapam from the tax collected from the people. There is an idol for Sri Sami Mudaliar. It is strongly believed that devotees recover from their diseases on performing prayers here.

The presiding deity is Sri Thiruvareswarar in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. It is 3 ½ ft. in height. The deity is also called "Thiru Araseswarar" His consort is Sri Thiruvateeswari. The Navagrahas are in Northeastern corner. The Sannathis (shrines) of Thiruvaregawamy, Amman, Murugar, Ganapathy, Natarajar and Navagrahas are accommodated in one

Mandapam. Other deities in the temple are Vinayaka, Subrahmaniar, Anjaneyar, Navagrahas, Dakshinamurthy, Kala Bairavar, Natarajar, and Amman. The Theertham is called “Karatheertham”.

A non-hereditary Brahmin Gurukkal performs pooja twice daily. He is paid monthly salary. There are no jewels in this temple other than two “Thirumangalyams”. The temple owns 28.06 acres of wet lands and 3.40 acres of dry lands. An income of Rs.45,000/- per annum is derived through lease by auction. There is no Hundi in this temple. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs. 13,213/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.22,899/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.18,787/-.Arudhra and Panguni Uthiram are the main festivals. A single hereditary trustee manages the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Box - 70

Saint Vedavyas

Saint Vedavyas also called Dvaipayana is the composer of the great epic Maha Bharath. The period of this work is said to be prior to 5th Century BC. The Maha Bharath is written in the form of a narration by Vaisampayan to Janamejaya, a King. It is the story of two families Kauravas and Pandavas. The Maha Bharath is divided into 18 ‘Parvas’ (Parts). The Bhagavath Gita is a part of the Maha Bharath. This is written in the form of a conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna in the battlefield of Kurukshetra. The three basic tenets of the Indian way of life- Karmayoga, Gnanayoga and Bhaktiyoga are the focus of this composition. It is considered as the finest work on Philosophy in the world.

Sri Ekambareswarar Temple

The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It was built some 200 years ago on an area of 80 cents. The Lingam is not a Swayambu. The priest performs poojas daily. The main festival is Panguni Uthiram. A hereditary trustee looks after the temple affairs. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the Ekambareswarar temple along with Malaimandala Perumal temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.30,667/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs. 45,255/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.37,952/-.

Sri Malaimandala Perumal

This 800 year old temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The other names for the presiding deity “Malaimandala Perumal” are Varadarajar and Girivaradar. The name of the Thayar is “Perundevi Thayar”. The presiding deity is in a standing pose with Sri Devi and Bhu Devi. It is believed that once the presiding deity was “Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal” and the present deity “Malaimanadala perumal” was found with Sri Devi and Bhu Devi later on. Lakshminarayana Perumal is about 6 feet high and in standing pose. There is also “Garudalwar” encircled with Naga (serpent). A Bhattacharya performs pooja twice daily. There are two Thirumangalyams. The temple owns 5.62 acres of wet lands and 2.80 acres of dry lands, which are under lease cultivation through auction system. An income of Rs.12,000/- is derived from lessee. Vaikunta Ekadasi and Masi Magam are the main festivals here. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. A hereditary trustee manages the temple affairs.

ILAYANARKUPPAM (LC.1420)

No temple.

VITTALAPURAM- I (LC.1421)

No temple.

Box - 71**Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Makara Sankranti or Pongal**

Makara Sankranti or Pongal is a harvest festival dedicated to the worship of the Sun. It is celebrated on the first day in the month of Pausa- the Tamil month of Thai (January). In Tamil Nadu, every family cooks rice with milk and Jaggery in a decorated pot and lets it spill over as a sign of prosperity. The festival is celebrated over a four-day period- the eve of Pongal being celebrated as "Bhogi", when all old articles are discarded and burnt. The day after Pongal is dedicated to the worship of cows (Maatu Pongal) and the last day to go sight seeing (Kaanum Pongal). Apart from religious functions, competitions are held wherein young men indulge in the sport of taming rampaging Bulls (Jallikattu).

VITTALAPURAM- II (LC.1422)*Sri Vittalar and Vaiatchi Amman Temple*

The village is located at a distance of 22 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus plying between Pudupattinam and Tirukalukundram passes through this village. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 40 Kms This temple is an ancient one dated back to the Pallava reign. Hence it is declared as an important monument under the Monuments Act and being maintained by the State Archaeology Department. The area occupied by these temples are :

Vittalar Temple	4,780 Sq.m.
Vaiatchi Amman Temple	0.04 acres

A Gurukkal does Poojas daily. The properties of these temples are 0.82 hectares. Annual income of these temples is Rs.4,000/-. A Trustee looks after these temples.

MERKANDAI (LC.1423)

No temple.

LATTUR (LC.1424)

No details are available.

SOORADIMANGALA (LC.1425)

No temple.

KONDAKARIKUPPAM (LC.1426)

No temple.

PANANGATTUCHERI (LC.1427)

No temple.

BOMMARAJAPURAM (LC.1428)

No temple.

NALLATHUR (LC.1429)

No temple.

AYAPAKKAM (LC.1430)*Sri Muthalamman Temple*

No significant details available.

VASAVASAMUDRAM (LC.1431)

Sri Muthu Mari Amman Temple

No significant details available.

Box - 72

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Deepavali or Diwali

Deepavali or Diwali is celebrated to signify the destruction of the Demon Narakasura by Lord Krishna (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu). It also commemorates the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating the Demon King Ravana. Another belief is that Goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth, appeared on this day and hence it is considered auspicious to offer Pooja to her on this day. In many parts of the country, businessmen start their new accounting year from this day. It is celebrated on the fourteenth day of the dark fortnight in the month of Karthika or Karthigai (October-November) as well as the following new moon day. Apart from religious prayer, oil bath at the crack of dawn, wearing of new clothes, distribution of sweets, lighting of rows of earthen lamps and bursting of crackers marks this festival.

VOYALUR (LC.1432)

Sri Easwar Temple

This temple is 800 years old. The nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu at 38 Kms. This temple is situated in 0.80 acres. Poojas are performed daily by a Gurukkal. This temple has a property of 2.40 hectares of land. Annual income of this temple is Rs.1,000/- Shivarathiri is the main festival celebrated here. A Trustee looks after this temple.

Sri Pidari Selliamman Temple

The temple was built about 100 years ago. The temple is built on an area of 1 cent with the dimension of 30" L x 30" B. The sanctum is in the size of 8"x8". There is no Gopuram. The presiding deity is Sri Selliamman and the other deity is Sri Vinayaka. These are Sila (Brick) idols of 2 ft. and 1ft. high respectively. A poosari conducts pooja once a day. The temple owns 0.17.0 hectares of wet lands. Special poojas (giving pourich to poorer) are performed in the month of Adi. A single Trustee appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department manages the affairs of the temple.

VENGADU (LC.1433)

No details are available.



MADURANTHAKAM TALUK

MADURANTHAKAM TALUK

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Maduranthakam Taluk covers an area of 728.10 Sq.Kms. The Taluk Headquarter is at Maduranthakam, a Municipality located 62 Kms from the District Headquarters at Kancheepuram. It is located on the National Highway (45), which connects the southern parts of the State with Chennai. It is well connected by rail as well as road.

The Taluk has 1 Municipality, 2 Town Panchayats and 188 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Population Totals of the Census of India 2001, the population of the Taluk is 252,692.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 389 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 301 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 32 villages details are not available on temples. This includes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

Sri Kothandaramar Temple also known as “Eri Katha Ramar Temple” is a famous temple in this taluk, which according to legend was built by an European District Officer. The other speciality of the temple is that Sri Ramanuja got “Deeksha” (Baptism to Vaishnavism) with the holly conch and wheel, and those symbols are kept here. The other vaishnavite temple in the Taluk is Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple at Vaiyavur (also called Malaivaiyavur). It is built on a hillock covering an area of 80 acres.

The Shaivaite temple - Sri Aksheeswarar Temple - at Acharapakkam is a “Thirumurai Sthalam”. Saints Appar and Thirugnanasambandar had visited this temple and composed verses in praise of this deity. The other famous Shaivaite temple is Sri Pitcheeswarar temple at Mamandur.

KARUNGUZHAI (TP-53)

Sri Gnana Vinayaka Temple

This is one of the five temples at Karunguzhi, which is a Railway Station. It is connected by bus service also. This temple which was built about 140 years ago covers an area of fifty

cents. A Gurukkal performs daily pooja. Some stone inscriptions are found on the pillars of the mandapam. Special poojas are offered on Panchaparvam days during Margazhi month.

Sri Vijaya Vinayaka Temple

This Vinayaka temple was built about 110 years ago. It covers an area of 5 cents. The priest performs poojas daily. Vinayaga Chaturthi in Avani month is the annual festival celebrated here.

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

This 80 years-old temple was constructed by the local residents. It covers an area of 12 cents. Poojas are conducted daily by the hereditary poosari. The temple has some ornaments and a Palanquin. It has some lands. The Draupadi Amman festival lasts for 18 days. A single trustee is in charge of its affairs.

Sri Ranganathar Temple

This small temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu was built a century ago. The area of the temple is one acre. A Pandaram offers pooja in the morning. The management of the temple vests with a single trustee who is in the enjoyment of 3.47 acres of land owned by the temple. During the Tamil month of Thai, a festival known as Parivettai is celebrated. An Executive Officer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department is in charge of its management.

Sri Gnanagireeswarar Temple

This temple dedicated to Lord Shiva was built about two centuries ago by the forefathers of the present trustees. Sri Gnanagireeswarar, the principal deity, is an installed (Prathishta) Lingam. Renovations were carried out in 1955 by the then trustee. The shrine covers an area of about one acre.

A Gurukkal offers pooja once in the morning daily. His office is not hereditary. The temple owns about 16 acres of wet

and dry lands which are under the management of the trustees. Arudhra, Parivettai Uthsavam and Panguni Uthsavam are the regular festivals observed by the temple of which the Arudhra is the main one, when the deity is taken round the streets in a procession. A Board of 3 trustees manage the temple affairs.

Sri Pidari Ponniamman and Muthumari Amman Temples

Some 100 years ago, the local residents belonging to the Vellala and Sengunthar communities built these temples on two cents of land. The priests of these temples offer special abhishekams and archanas every Tuesday and Friday. These temples own some land. There is a common Car for both the temples. An annual festival is celebrated when the deities are taken out in procession in the Car. There is a Board of 3 trustees to look after its affairs.

MADURANTHAKAM (M-54)



Sri Kothandaramar Temple

The above temple is located at 1 ½ Kms from the Maduranthakam Railway Station.

History

King Uthama Chola alias Maduranthakam, the predecessor of Raja Raja The Great, gave away the village as a gift to Brahmins for reciting the Vedas. It is, therefore, known as Maduranthakam Chaturvedi Mangalam. The temple should, therefore, have been in existence even then. The name of the deity is Sri Kothandaramar and His consort is Sri Janakavalli Thayar. The temple for Thayar was, however, built only in 1798 by Col. Lionel Place, who was the then Collector of

Chengalpattu. The story as to how an European District Officer built a Hindu temple is very interesting. It is as follows:

There is a big irrigation tank in this village, which irrigates about 3,000 acres of land. Every year due to heavy rains, there were breaches in the tank and the floodwaters damaged the crops; during 1795-1798, the Collector of Chengalpattu decided to take suitable steps to prevent such breaches. In 1798, he camped at Maduranthakam with the Engineers of the Public Works Department in the rainy season. During his rounds, he came to the temple. He received a warm welcome from the residents and the temple authorities and was invited to see the temple. After removing his shoes he went inside the shrine; he saw heaps of stones being kept in its precincts. When questioned, the Archakar of the temple replied that they were collected for building a separate shrine for the consort of Sri Rama and that on account of damage to crops, the villagers have been unable to give donations for this purpose. On hearing this, the Collector challenged that if their God Rama would prevent breaches in the tank, he would himself build a separate temple for Sri Janakavalli. Later, he returned to the Travelers Bungalow. On the said night and next day there were heavy and continuous rains. To satisfy himself that the Public Works Department authorities had made proper arrangements to prevent breaches, he walked along the tank bund. When he was near the sluice where breaches usually occurred, he saw two persons with bows and arrows guarding the bund. At once he threw down his hat and umbrella and knelt down and prayed to the Lord. As his followers did not see the divine vision, they thought that Mr. Place had slipped and fallen down. He proclaimed that he had a vision of Sri Rama and Lakshmana guarding the tank's bund. There were no breaches that year. Mr. Place kept up his promise and arranged to build a separate temple for Sri Janakavalli. Even now we can see a slab on the wall of Sri Janakavalli with inscriptions to this effect.

Land and Assets

The temple possesses both antique and modern jewels; it owns 0.80 cents of wet lands. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is Rs. 37, 340/-.

As a special feature there is a separate shrine for Sri Ramanujar where the holly conch and wheel, which were used to put tattoos on Sri Ramanujar, and a Sri Krishna Idol, are kept.

Poojas and Festivals

Poojas are performed twice daily. 'Kalyana Uthsavam' in the month of Panguni is the main festival of the temple.

An Executive Officer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department is in charge of its management. There are also five trustees.

Sri Pidari Selliamman Temple

This temple was built about 300 years ago; it covers 900 Sq.ft. It is dedicated to the village Goddess and a Poosari performs pooja daily. It owns 0.60 acres of land. The annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi when the deity is taken out in procession. A Board of three trustees looks after its affairs.

Sri Pidari Mariamman Temple

This 240-year-old temple covers an area of 60 Sq.ft. It is dedicated to the village Goddess. Poojas are conducted by a poosari daily. The temple was renovated 40 years back by the local residents. It has some lands. The annual festival is celebrated during the Tamil month of Chithirai. It is administered by a Board of Trustees consisting of three members. The annual income of the above two temples, Pidari Selliamman and Mariamman, as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.18, 492/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.14, 312/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.24, 290/-.

Sri Draupadi Amman and Dharmarajar Temple

The above temple in Maduranthakam town was built by the local residents some 90 years back. The area of the temple is about 25 cents and the presiding deities Sri Dharmarajar and

Draupadi Amman are in a standing posture. A hereditary poosari of Naicker caste performs pooja daily. The temple owns some land. The annual festival is celebrated in the month of Ani, when the deity is decorated and taken through the streets in a procession. The administration of the temple is vested in a Board of three trustees.

Movuthi Amman Temple

Sri Movuthi Amman temple of Mocheri village was built by the villagers and renovations were carried out by the trustees some forty years ago. It spreads over an area of about three cents and the presiding deity, Sri Movuthi Amman is in a sitting posture. A poosari from the Pandaram caste performs pooja every morning; his office is not hereditary. The temple owns one acre and fifty cents of wet lands. There is a 50-year-old Car made of wood, which was donated by the then trustees. The Amman festival is celebrated during the month of Ani for a period of 8 days. A Board of 3 trustees manages the temple.



Sri Venkateswarar Temple

This temple is located in East of Maduranthakam town. The temple was built around 900 years ago. The principal deity is Sri Venkateswarar. His consort is Sri Meenakshiamman. The temple tank is called “Vidaga theertham” and is believed to heal skin diseases. Prathosham, Krithigai, Chathurthi are the important days. Ani Thirumanjanam, Tamil New year's day, Navarathiri, Karthigai Deepam and Panguni Uthiram are the festivals celebrated in the temple.

Sri Draupadi Amman and Dharmarajar Temple

The above temple in Mocheri was constructed 60 years back by the local residents. The presiding deities Sri Dharmarajar and His consort Draupadi Amman are in a standing posture. The temple covers an area of about five cents. A poosari from Vanniar caste performs pooja once in the morning. The temple owns 2 acres and 10 cents of wet and dry lands. The annual festival of the temple is celebrated during the month of Ani. A Board of 3 trustees administers the temple.

Sri Arufaleeswarar Temple

The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is for Fasli 1403 – Rs.18, 020/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.19, 057/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.17, 791/-.

ACHARAPAKKAM (TP-55)



Sri Moongiliamman Temple

This ancient temple is half a mile distant from the Acharapakkam Railway Station. Train and bus facilities are available to reach this village. Sri Moongiliamman is the presiding deity of the temple, which was built by the local residents on 5 cents of land. Subsequent renovations were also made.

As per legend, as there was a thicket of bamboos near the temple, the deity was named as Moongiliamman. (Moongil in Tamil means Bamboo). The poosari performs pooja once a week. Out of 23.07 acres of lands gifted to the temple, only 4.56 acres were in its possession in the 60s. The temple has no regular income. Two trustees administer the affairs of the temple.



Sri Kothandaramar Temple, Maduranthakam



Sri Kothandaramar Temple, Maduranthakam



The Holy Conch and Disc at Sri Kothandaramar Temple, Maduranthakam



Sri Aksheeswaraswamy Temple

Location and Area

Sri Aksheeswaraswamy is the presiding deity of this temple, which was built by the Pandya Kings. The Lingam is a Swayambu; His consort is Sri Balasukambal. It covers an area of 1.21 acres. There are some stone inscriptions in this temple. There is a well in the Ardha-mandapam in front of the deity which is now closed with a stone slab.

History

As per legend, during the period of the Pandya kings, stones were brought from the Himalayas to Madura to build a temple for Kannaki. The carts containing stones made a night halt in this village. When they started again on their journey next morning, the axle, gave way and as directed by a divine voice, the Pandya king built a temple for Sri Aksheeswarar with the stones brought from the Himalayas.

Sthala Puranam

There are two Sthala Puranams published by Sri Kalyanam Pillai and Meikandar Kazhagam, Kancheepuram. Saints Appar and Thirugnanasambandar have visited this temple and composed verses in praise of the deity.

Land and Assets

The temple owns antique jewels and 14 vahanas apart from 2 Cars and a Palanquin. All these are made of wood. The Cars are 60 years old, while the others were made 90 years back. The temple owns wet and dry lands in 6 villages. The receipts of service inams perform their duties properly. The annual income of the temple as per the records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.1,00,679/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.1, 21, 043/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.86, 895/-.

Poojas and Festivals

Poojas are performed thrice daily by the hereditary Gurukkal. The Brahmothsavam is celebrated on a grand scale in Chithirai. The Thirukalyanam takes place on the fifth day. An Executive Officer appointed by the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department and a trustee are in charge of the temple.

Sri Angalamman Temple

The presiding deity in this 1,000 year-old temple is Sri Angalamman made of copper. She is one foot high and has four hands; weapons are held in two of the hands, a drum in the third hand, while the fourth hand holds a skull. A Poosari performs Pooja once a day. Brahmothsavam is celebrated in Masi month. The temple is managed by HR&CE. The annual income of the temple along with Moongilamman temple as per the records of HR&CE is Rs.11, 133/-.

PILAPPUR (LC.1434)

Sri Perumal Temple

The village is located at a distance of 14 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Town buses are available from Chengalpattu to reach this temple. The temple was built about 600 years ago. The temple covers an area of 0.75 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Keerthi Narayana Perumal. The other deities in this temple are Sri Devi, Bhu Devi, Chakrathalwar, Malmangai Thayar, Sri Kothanda Ramar, Sita Devi and Lakshmanar. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs Pooja at 12.00 Noon daily. The temple owns 1.53.5 hectares of wet and 0.49.5 hectares of dry lands. An amount of Rs. 7, 200/- per annum is derived from lease cultivating of these lands. There is a Garuda Vahanam and a Surya Prabha in this temple. Sri Rama Navami in the month of Panguni is the main annual festival celebrated. The Bhattacharya himself is the hereditary trustee of this temple and he looks after the affairs of the temple.

Sri Vasishteswarar Temple

This Shiva temple is opposite to the Perumal Temple. It was also built about 600 years ago. Renovations were carried out by the villagers. The presiding deity is Sri Vasishteswarar in the form of a Lingam. The temple covers an area of 0.40 cents. Poojas are performed once a day by a hereditary Gurukkal. He is being paid monthly salary. The temple owns 1.29.0 hectares of wet lands which are under lease cultivation and an annual income of Rs.4,000/- is being derived and used for salary and pooja expenses. No festivals are celebrated in this temple. A single trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

SITHANDI (LC.1435)

Sri Thirukacheeswarar Temple

The temple is located 33 Kms from Taluk Headquarters and the nearest Railway Station is Chengalpattu. Buses are also available from Chengalpattu and Maduranthakam to reach this temple. It is said that the temple was built during the period of later Pallavas. The temple is in a dilapidated condition. It occupies an area of about 10 Sq.Mtrs. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. There are 13 Panchaloga idols of the height from 1½ ft. to 2 ft. No poojas are performed for the past 14 years. The temple owns 2.28.0 hectares of dry and 4.49.0 hectares of wet lands. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department and efforts are being taken to renovate the temple.

ATHIYUR (LC.1436)

Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal Temple

Athiyur village is situated 13 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and 33 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is 450 years old following Chola type of architecture. It covers an area of 20 Sq.Mtrs. The presiding deity is Sri Lakshminarayana Perumal. The other deities are Sri Lakshmi, Sri Perumal, Sri Anjaneyar. It owns 0.27.0 hectares of wet and

1.44.0 hectares of dry lands. An annual income of Rs. 12, 000/- is derived from the lands and utilized for pooja and other administrative expenses. The temple has no ornaments or vahanas. The important festivals are celebrated during the months of Chithirai and Vaikasi. The affairs of the temple was maintained by hereditary Bhattacharya who performs daily poojas.

SAMPATHINALLUR (LC.1437)

Sri Gangai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

Box - 73

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Karthigai Deepam

This is celebrated on the Full Moon Day (Pournami) of the month of Karthigai (November-December). While this festival is celebrated by lighting of lamps in all Shiva as well as Perumal temples, in Thiruvannamalai, it is celebrated as a 10-day festival. On the Deepam day a huge fire is lit on the Hill adjoining the Lord Arunachaleswara temple at Thiruvannamalai to signify that the Lord manifested himself as a Jyothi or light. Lamps are also lit in the houses (just like Deepavali) and a special sweet made of puffed rice is made on the occasion.

MAIYUR (LC.1438)

Sri Easwarar Temple

No significant details are available.

MAMANDUR (LC.1439)

Sri Picheeswarar Temple

This ancient Shiva temple is located at 8 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and can be reached by bus. The temple covers an area of 100 Sq.Mtrs. The presiding deity Sri Picheeswarar is in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A poosari performs poojas once a week. The temple has some ornaments. It owns 3.99.0 hectares of wet and 2.32.5 hectares of dry lands. The annual income of this temple is Rs.15,000/-.Tamil New Year's Day, Arudhra dharsanam in Margazhi month and Karthigai Deepam are the important days. The temple affairs are managed by a Board of 3 trustees.

Sri Brahmasureeswarar Temple, Vadapathi

Vadapathi is a hamlet of Mamandur, which is 8 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station. Devotees should alight on Madras – Trichy Trunk road and walk a Kilometer towards west to reach this temple. The age of the temple was not known. It covers an area of 150 Sq. Mtrs. The presiding deity is in the form of a Prathishta Lingam. A poosari performs pooja once in a week. The temple owns 5.21.0 hectares of dry and 4.39.0 hectares of wet lands. On Arudhra, which is the main festival, the deity is taken out in procession on the wooden Rishaba vahanam of the temple. A Board of 3 trustees, who are also the trustees of Sri Picheeswarar temple, manage the affairs of the temple.

PAZHAMATHUR (LC.1440)

Sri Kallar, Picheeswarar, Thufukanathu Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

BUKKATHURAI (LC.1441)

Sri Pundareega Varadaraja Perumal Temple

The village is located 6 Kms from Padalam Railway Station and 12 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple was built during the reign of Sri Krishna Deva Raya of Vijayanagar. The presiding deity is Sri Varadaraja Perumal. A Bhattacharya appointed by the temporary trustee performs daily poojas.

KODITHANDALAM (LC.1442)

No temple.

KUMARAVADI (LC.1443)

No temple.

KARUNAGARACHERI (LC.1444)

No temple.

PALLIAGARAM (LC.1445)

No temple.

NELLI (LC.1446)

No temple.

MANGALAM (LC.1447)

Sri Perunkunriyamman and Lakshmana Narayanan Temples

These temples are located at a distance of 22 Kms from Chengalpattu Railway Station and they can be reached by buses. These temples were built about 120 years ago by local people.

The presiding deities are Perunkunriyamman and Lakshmana Narayanan. These temples cover an area of 0.06 hectares of land and own 16.40 hectares of land. Poojas are performed daily. Festivals are celebrated during the month of Chithirai. The affairs of the temple was maintained by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The annual income of these temples are not known.

NELVOY (LC.1448)

Sri Pidari Ponniamman, Lakshmi Narayana Swamy and Mariyamman Temples

These temples are located at the distances of 21 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station and they can be reached by buses. They were built about 105 years ago by Kasthuri Ayyangar. They cover an area of 10 cents, 3 cents, and 1 cent respectively. Ponniamman temple owns 0.40 hectares and Lakshmi Narayana Swamy temple owns 2.00 hectares of land. The presiding deities are Pidari Ponniamman, Lakshmi Narayana Swamy and Mariamman. Poojas are performed by Pandaram. The affairs of the temples are managed by the local villagers. The annual income of these temples are not known.

CHITHAMUR (LC.1449)

No details are available.

KOLATHUR (LC.1450)

No details are available.

KARIKKILI (LC.1451)

No details are available.

PUZHUTHIVAKKAM (LC.1452)

No details are available.

KUNNANKOLATHUR (LC.1453)

No details are available.

Box - 74

Festivals: Shivarathri or Maha Shivarathri

Shivarathri or Maha Shivarathri is a festival dedicated to Lord Shiva. To the devout it represents the day on which the Lord appeared in the form of a column of light (Jyothirlingam), to bless the sages who worshipped him. Shivarathri falls on the fourteenth day of the dark fortnight of Phalguna or Panguni (February-March). On this day the devotees observe a strict fast and observe vigil through the night chanting the name of Lord Shiva.

MAMBATTU (LC.1454)

No details are available.

VAIYAVUR (LC.1455)

Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple

The temple is situated 6 Kms from Padalam Railway Station. The village can be reached by bus also. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, who is known as Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal and it is built on a hillock covering an area of 80 acres. It was constructed about 1,000 years ago. Two poojas are performed daily. The temple owns 2.84 hectares of land. Brahmotsavam and Sri Kulasekara Alwar Sathumurai are the main festivals of the temple. Three trustees look after the routine work of the temple. Annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.78,893/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.68,028/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.1,38,864/-.

MOOSIVAKKAM (LC.1456)

Sri Pidari Temple and Bajanai Madam

These temples are located at the distances of 6 Kms from Padalam Railway Station and they can be reached by buses. These temples were built about 450 years ago in the later Chola period. It covers an area of 20 Sq.Mtrs. Bajanai Madam owns 0.14 acres of dry land and Pidari temple owns 0.05 acres of wet lands. Poojas are performed during third Saturday of Purattasi month. The affairs of the temple were managed by a Trustee.

PALAYANUR (LC.1457)

Sri Mahakaleswarar and Sundararaja Perumal Temples

These two temples for Shiva and Vishnu are situated at a distance of 3 Kms from the Padalam Railway Station and can be reached both by bus and train. The temples were built some 750 years ago. Some stone inscriptions are found in the Mahakaleswarar Devasthanam but they are not legible. These temples cover an area of 300 ft. x 200 ft. The Lingam in the Shiva temple is a Swayambu. The priests of these temples perform poojas once a day. There is a Palanquin. Arudhra is the only festival observed in the Shiva temple; no festival is celebrated in the Vishnu temple. A trustee is looking after the affairs of both the temples. Annual income of these temples is Rs.20,000/-.

PADALAM (LC.1458)

No details are available.

PULIPURAKOIL (LC.1459)

Sri Vyagrapureeswarar Temple

The village lies at a distance of 2 Kms from Padalam Railway Station. It is believed that this temple was built during the reign of Cholas and it is mentioned in the Sthala Puranam of Tirukalukundram. The temple covers an area of 40 cents. The Moolavar is a Swayambu. Pooja is performed once a day. The temple owns an extent of 9.82 acres of wet and dry lands. The important annual festival is celebrated on the day following the Pongal. Four trustees manage the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple is Rs.5,000/-.

LAKSHMINARAYANAPURAM (LC.1460)

Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple

The above Perumal temple which is 4 Kms from the Padalam Railway Station can be reached by train and bus. It was built about 1500 years ago in the Chola period and renovations were effected about 1900 A.D. There are stone inscriptions in this temple. The temple covers nearly an acre. The priest performs poojas once a day. It has 120 acres of lands and some jewels. During Panguni Uthiram and Chithra Pournami days, the deity is taken round in procession on a wooden Palanquin. A Board of three trustees manages the temple.

PATHUR (LC.1461)

No details are available.

ARAYAPAKKAM (LC.1462)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

JANAKIPURAM (SANUR) (LC.1463)

Sri Valachi Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

ATHIMANAM (LC.1464)

Sri Mari Amman and Sellu Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KALLABIRANPURAM (LC.1465)

Sri Pillaiyar, Draupadi Amman, Selliamman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

SATHAMAI (LC.1466)

Sri Mari Amman, Pillaiyar and Kanniamman Temples

No significant details are available.

VEDAVAKKAM (LC.1467)

Sri Draupadi Amman, Muthumari Amman, Perumal, Mari Amman and Sellu Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box -75

Foreign Scholars on India :

Will Durant, American Philosopher

“Nothing should more deeply shame the modern student than the recency and inadequacy of his acquaintance with India.

Here is a vast peninsula of nearly two million square miles; two-thirds as large as the United States and twenty times the size of Great Britain; an impressive continuity of development and civilization from Mohen-jo-daro 2900 BC or earlier; to Gandhi, Raman, and Tagore; faiths compassing every stage from barbarous idolatry to the most subtle and spiritual pantheism; philosophers playing a thousand variations on one monistic theme from the Upanishads, eight centuries before Christ, to Sankara, eight centuries after him; scientists developing astronomy three thousands years ago, and winning Nobel Prizes in our own time; a democratic constitution of untraceable antiquity in the villages, and wise and beneficent rulers like Asoka and Akbar in the capitals; minstrels signing great epics almost as old as Homer, and poets holding world audiences today; artists raising gigantic temples for Hindu Gods from Tibet to Ceylon and from Cambodia to Java, or carving perfect palaces by the score for Moghul kings and queens- this is the India that patient scholarship is now opening up, like a new intellectual continent, to that Western mind which only yesterday thought civilization an exclusively European thing”.

SOORAI (LC.1468)

Sri Ammani Amman, Mari Amman, Easwarar, Mannar Swamy, Kanni Amman, Sankara Pillaiyar and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 76

Foreign Scholars on India - E.B. Havell

"In India, religion is hardly a dogma, but a working hypothesis of human conduct, adapted to different stages of spiritual development and different conditions of life."

CHITHALAMANGALAM (LC.1469)

Sri Ellai Amman, Ponni Amman, Mari Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

ANDAVAKKAM (LC.1470)

Sri Ellai Amman, Ponni Amman, Mari Amman and Krishnan Temples

No significant details are available.

VINAYAGANALLUR (LC.1471)

No temple.

VELLAPUTHUR (LC.1472)

Sri Pillaiyar, Selli Amman, Mari Amman, Draupadi Amman, Padavettamman, Durgai Amman, Gangai Amman, Kali Amman and Kanni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

THURAIYUR (LC.1473)

No temple.

CHITHATHUR (LC.1474)

No temple.

PAPPANALLUR (LC.1475)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

This village is located 25 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. The temple is 56 years old and was built by villagers. The villagers also carried out renovations. There is no Gopuram in the temple. The temple covers an area of 0.01.0 hectares of land. The presiding deity Sri Ponni Amman is a stone idol. A poosari performs pooja. The temple has no property. The main source of income is the donations from the villagers. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The temple affairs are managed by the villagers.

PAMBAYAMBATTU (LC.1476)

Sri Mari Ellamman Temple

No significant details are available.

NELLAI (LC.1477)

Sri Pillaiyar Temple

No significant details are available.

KADAMBUR (LC.1478)

Sri Draupadi Amman and Muthumari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

THEETALAM (LC.1479)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

The village is situated at 15 Kms from Maduranthakam. Bus facilities are available. The temple is 100 years old. Renovations are being carried out. The temple covers 10 cents of land. The temple has a Gopuram and a front Mandapam. Poojas are performed daily by a Poosari. The temple owns a property of 15 acres of land. The annual income of the temple is Rs. 15, 000. The main festival is celebrated in the month of Adi.

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

KOZHIYALAM (LC.1480)

Temple for the Village Deity

The temple is located at 16 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The temple is 49 years old and was built by the villagers. It covers an area of 0.01.0 hectares. There is no Gopuram. The presiding deity is a stone idol. A poosari performs poojas daily. There is no property owned by the temple. There is a small wooden Car in the temple which is 5 years old. Annual festival is cele-

brated in the month of Adi. Villagers administer the affairs of the temple.

BOX - 77

Tamil Devotional Literature

'Sivagnanabodham' of Meykandadeva; 'Sivagnanasiddhiar' of Arulnandi Sivachariar; 'Sivaprakasam' of Umapathi Sivachariar are the three texts basic to Saiya Siddhantam. 'Tiruppugal' is a famous composition of Saint Arunagirinathar in praise of Lord Muruga or Karthikeya. 'Skandapuramam' of Kachiappa Sivachariar is also a work in praise of Lord Muruga. Saint Tayumanavar's 'Pasurams' in praise of Lord Shiva and Saint Ramalinga Adigalar's composition 'Arutpa' are also well known works. 'Ramanatakam', an adaptation of Ramayana by Arunachala Kavirayar is also celebrated literary work.

VALAYAPUTHUR (LC.1481)

No temple.

VEDANTHANGAL (LC.1482)

Sri Padavettamman, Ellai Amman, Mari Amman, Krishnan, Chinnamman and Muthu Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KUNNAVAKKAM (LC.1483)

Sri Pillaiyar Temple

No significant details are available.

PILLANTHIKUPPAM (LC.1484)

No details are available.

PASUMBUR (LC.1485)

Sri Renukambal and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

PUDUPATTU (LC.1486)

Sri Abathsahaya Easwarar, Kathavarayan, Mari Amman and Kodiatha Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

THOTTANAVAL (LC.1487)

Sri Pachai Amman Temple

The village is located near Karunkuzhi Railway Station and 4 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are available. The temple was built on 10 cents in an over all area of 20 cents. A Poosari belonging to Yadava community performs pooja. There is no property owned by the temple. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi when Fire walking, Palkudam (milk pots) are performed. A board of 6 trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

KEELAVALAM (LC.1488)

Sri Thiruvallieswarar Temple

The village is located 5 Kms from Karunkuzhi Railway Station and 5 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are available. The temple is 75 years old. There is a stone inscription in the temple. The structure of the temple is of Pallava style

of architecture. It covers an area of 15 cents. The Gopuram is in a dilapidated condition. The presiding deity is a Prathishta Lingam. There is a Panchaloga idol of Lord Muruga in the temple. A Gurukkal performs pooja both morning and evening. His office is hereditary and he is paid monthly salary. The temple owns 1.02.0 hectares of wet and 2.85.0 hectares of dry lands which are auctioned for lease cultivation. An annual income of Rs. 4, 000/- is being collected by the lessee. An area of 0.69.5 hectares are under inam cultivation. Festivals are celebrated in the months of Adi, Purattasi and Karthigai. A single trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

The other temples in this village are: Sri Kalivaradha Perumal, Sri Pillayar, Sri Asali Amman, Sri Mari Amman, Sri Gangai Amman and Sri Thulukkanath Amman Temples.

ERUVAKKAM (LC.1489)

Sri Sengazhaneer Pillaiyar, Someshwarar, Mari Amman and Thulukkanatha Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

BUDUR (LC.1490)

No details are available.

ISUR (LC.1491)

Sri Ponni Amman, Varadaraja Perumal and Srinivasa Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

KUNNATHUR (LC.1492)

No temple.

VEERANAKUNNAM (LC.1493)

Sri Kothandaramar Temple

The village is located 12 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. This temple is more than 300 years old. It occupies an area of 0.05 cent. There is no Gopuram. The presiding deity is Sri Kothandaramar. A Bhattacharya performs pooja daily. This temple has a property of 0.30 acres of land. Annual income of this temple is Rs. 500/-. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Margazhi. A Board of 5 Trustees manages the affairs of the temple.

MURUKKANCHERI (LC.1494)

No temple.

BOX - 78

Lunar Months

There are 12 months according to the Lunar Calendar.

These are: Chaitra (Chithirai)-March-April; Vaisakha (Vaikasi)-April-May; Jyeshtha (Ani)- May-June; Ashada (Adi)- June-July; Shravana (Avani)-July-August; Bhadrapada (Purattasi)-August-September; Asvina (Asvini)- September-October; Kartika (Karthigai)-October-November; Margasira (Margazhi)-November-December; Pausa (Thai)-December-January; Magha (Masi)-January-February; and Phalguna (Panguni)-February and March.

IRUSUMANALLUR (LC.1495)

No temple.

KINAR (LC.1496)

Sri Muktheeswarar Temple

This Shiva temple is 5 Kms from Karunguzhi Railway Station and 8 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. It was built some 200 years ago by people belonging to the Vysya community and occupies 57 cents of land. The priest performs pooja once a day. The temple owns some land. Two trustees manage its affairs.

Sri Veeravarathanaswamy Temple

This temple is 400 years old. It covers an area of 2.00 acres. The temple faces south. The inscriptions are in archaic Tamil script. There are two Vimanams for Easwarar and the Goddess. There is no Gopuram. The presiding deity Sri Veeravarathan is a Prathishta Lingam on a square altar. The lingam is 2-½ ft. high. The Goddess is 4 ft. high. There is a shrine for Perumal who is 5 ft. in height.

As per legend, Saint Gautama cursed Agalika to become a stone. She got relieved of the curse when Lord Ram's feet touches her. But, Indira was cursed by Saint Gautama and got 1000 holes in his body. Indira could get relieved of the curse only after performing pooja in this temple. Hence, this place was originally called "Thiru Kannar (Kan=eye)". During their exile the Pandavas worshipped the Lord here. As they were warriors, the deity came to be known as Sri "Veera Varathan".

The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam and the famous Shaivite Saint Sambandar has eulogized this deity. The Goddess is called Kamba Nayagi. There is also a sculpture on the walls of the Moolavar. In this, Somaskandar (Shiva with Parvathi and Murugan) is sitting on a dais with His right leg folded and left leg down in a posture called "Ardha Padmasana". Sri Ambal is by His side in a sitting pose with Her left leg folded and right leg down. Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu are standing behind fanning (Samaram) Lord Shiva.

Lord Muruga is also sitting with raised hands. A unique feature not seen anywhere - two servants are fanning behind the Lord.

Two poojas are performed daily by a hereditary Gurukkal. The temple has 33.0 acres of lands, which are under lease cultivation. For lack of funds, no festivals have been celebrated for the past 70 years except Panguni Uthiram. The two wooden vahanas are in good condition. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.23,286/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.22,441/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.25,759/-. The Gurukkal is also the hereditary trustee of this temple.

Sri Pidari Kalli Amman Temple

This temple is 100 years old. The nearest Railway Station is Karunguzhi. This temple occupies an area of 0.06 cent. Poojas are done by Poosari daily. This temple has landed property of 1.05 hectares. Adi Matha Thiruvizha is the main festival celebrated here and the wooden car will be brought only on the festive session.

ULUDAMANGALAM (LC.1497)

Sri Umayal Parvathi Amman Temple

This temple is 60 years old. The nearest Railway Station is Maduranthakam 5 Kms away. This temple occupies an area of 0.07.0 hectares. The presiding deity is Sri Parvathi Amman who is a Swayambu. A Poosari performs daily Poojas. This temple has landed property of 0.60.0 hectares. This temple has a wooden car. Annual festival is celebrated in the month of Ani when fire walking is performed. A single trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

KATHIRICHERI (LC.1498)

Sri Ellai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

THANDARAI (LC.1499)

Sri Angala Parameshwari and Dharmarajar Temples

The village is located at 10 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. These temples are 150 years old. A Poosari from Pandaram community performs daily Poojas. Masi Magam is the main festival celebrated here. The villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

PUDUCHERI (LC.1500)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

MADURAI (LC.1501)

Sri Nadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

PERUMBAKKAM (LC.1502)

Sri Chamundeeswari, Draupadi, Mari Amman, Easwarar and Bhavani Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

GUDAPAKKAM (LC.1503)

Sri Etti Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

VAIPPANAI (LC.1504)

Sri Alathamman and Muthumari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 79

Iconography: Dikpala (Guardian Deity) Images

The Dikpalas are the guardian deities of the eight directions or divisions of the universe. They are:

Indra seated on an elephant and armed with a thunderbolt. God of rain. Represents East.

Agni seated on a ram. He has two heads. He is the god of fire. Represents South-East.

Yama seated on a buffalo. He is the god of death. Represents South.

Nirriti seated on a man. Represents South-West.

Varuna seated on a crocodile. He is the god of the sea. Represents West.

Vayu seated on a deer with a fan. He is the god of wind. Represents North West.

Kubera seated on a horse. He is the god of Riches. Represents North.

Isana seated on a bull. Represents North-East.

- "Catalogue of South Indian Hindu Metal Images in the Madras Government Museum" 1932

LADAKARANAI (LC.1505)

Sri Perumal Bajanai Temple

The village is located 39 Kms from Kancheepuram. The nearest Railway Station is Maduranthakam at 13 Kms. This temple is 100 years old. The presiding deity is Perumal. This temple occupies an area of 0.10 cent. A Bhattacharya daily conducts Poojas. This temple has landed property of 3 acres.

The annual income of this temple is Rs. 5, 500. The villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

L. ENDATHUR (LC. 1506)

Sri Ekambareswarar Temple

The village is located 39 Kms from Kancheepuram. The nearest Railway Station is Maduranthakam at 13 Kms. This temple is 90 years old. Sri Ekambareswarar is the presiding deity, who is in the form of a Lingam. This temple occupies an area of 0.20 cent. A Gurukkal does the pooja daily. This temple has a land property of 3 acres. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

ALAPAKKAM (LC.1507)

Sri Ellamman, Vinayaka (3 nos.) and Mariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KILIYANAGAR (LC.1508)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The village is located at 17 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station. This temple is 250 years old. This temple occupies an area of 3 cents. The presiding deity is Sri Agastheeswarar. A Gurukkal performs pooja daily once with the aid of HR&CE Department. This temple has a land property of 8 acres. The annual income of this temple is Rs. 25, 000/-. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

Sri Vedha Narayana Perumal Temple

This temple is 200 years old. It occupies an area of 10 cent. There is no Gopuram in the temple. The presiding deity is Sri Veda Narayana Perumal. A Gurukkal performs pooja daily. Villagers look after the temple affairs.



Sri Venkateswarar Temple, Maduranthakam



Sri Venkateswarar Temple, Maduranthakam



Sri Janakavalli Thayar Shrine, Maduranthakam



Ramanuja Mandapam, Sri Kothandaramar Temple, Maduranthakam



Sri Ilankiliamman shrine at Aksheeswarar Temple, Achrapakkam



Sri Aksheeswarar Temple, Achrapakkam



Sri Aksheeswarar Temple, Achrapakkam



Sri Aksheeswarar with His consort, Achrapakkam

PASUVANKARANAI (LC.1509)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

Sri Solai Vazhiamman Temple

This village is one-and-a-half Km south of Endathur, which is on the Acharapakkam-Uthiramerur High Road. Devotees can go upto Endathur by bus and walk a mile from there to reach the temple. The village is 14 Kms from the Maduranthakam Railway Station. This temple was built some 90 years back by one Sri Jayarama Naidu. The deity is known as Sri Solai Vazhiamman. As per legend, Parvathi Devi while on her way to Kanchi to worship Sri Ekambaranathar made a halt in a grove in this village, which is 24 miles from Kancheepuram, and hence the deity was named "Solai Vazhiamman". It is a small temple and covers an area of 3 cents. The priest lights lamps daily and performs abhishegams on Fridays. During festive occasions special aradhanas are conducted. The temple owns some dry land. Two festivals are conducted every year in Thai and Vaikasi according to the availability of funds in the temple. A trustee is managing its affairs.

SEMPPONDI (LC.1510)

Sri Pachai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

THANDALAM (LC.1511)

Sri Pidari Nadi Amman and Ellai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KALANIPAKKAM (LC.1512)

Sri Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

These temples are 100 years old. The nearest Railway Station is Maduranthakam at 10 Kms. Mari Amman Temple occupies an area of 0.16 cent and Vinayaka Temple occupies an area of 0.03 acres.

MORAPPAKKAM (LC.1513)

Sri Valavettamman and Ponniamman Temples

The village is 3 miles from the Maduranthakam Railway Station. The Valavettamman temple was built 540 years ago and the Ponniamman temple about 140 year's ago. Both temples cover an area of 5 cents. The priest lights the lamps daily after an Abhishegam. There is a 90 year-old Simha vahanam. No regular festivals are celebrated; but when devotees desire and are prepared to meet the expenditure, festivals are conducted.

Sri Prasanna Varadarajaswamy Temple

This temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, was built about 540 years ago. Some stone inscriptions are found in this temple. It occupies an area of about 50 cents. The priest performs pooja daily. The temple has some jewels and two wooden - Garuda and Horse - vahanas, which were made 90 years back. Panguni Uthiram and Navarathri Uthsavam are celebrated every year. A Board of three trustees manages its affairs. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.4,600/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.11,420/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.33,690/-.

Sri Draupadi Amman, Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.



KARUNAGARAVILAGAM (LC.1514)

Sri Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 80

Iconography: Navagraha (Nine Planets) Images

Surya, the Sun, with a lotus flower in each hand. Has a halo around the head. He rides on a one-wheeled chariot drawn by seven horses.

Chandra, the Moon, with a water lily in each hand. Has a halo around the head. He rides on a two-wheeled chariot drawn by ten horses.

Angaraka or Mars, with a club and three-pronged mace.

Budha or Mercury

Brihaspathi or Jupiter with book and rosary.

Sukra or Venus with treasure chest.

Sani or Saturn with trident, bow and spear.

Rahu depicted with sword and shield.

Ketu depicted with a club.

- "Catalogue of South Indian Hindu Metal Images in the Madras Government Museum" 1932

MUNUTHIKUPPAM (LC.1515)

Sr Ellamman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

MULLI (LC.1516)

Sri Muthu Vinayaka, Sonachala Easwarar and Muthalamman Temples

No significant details are available.

VALARBIRAI (LC.1517)

Sri Sundara Vinayaka Temple

The village is located at 9 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are available. The temple is 40 years old and covers an area of 0.06.0 hectares. The presiding deity is Sri Sundara Vinayaka. A poosari from Mudaliar community is performing daily poojas. Vinayaka Chaturthi is celebrated annually. No other details available.

VILAGAM (LC.1518)

No temple.

KAVADUR (LC.1519)

Sri AdiKesava Perumal Temple

This Perumal temple is 10 Kms from the Maduranthakam, which is also the nearest Railway Station. It can be reached by bus from the Railway Station. The temple is 1,000 years old and is built on two acres of land. There are stone inscriptions in Sanskrit. It is learnt that Sri Ramanujar paid a visit to this temple. A Bhattacharya performs poojas regularly. The temple possesses some wooden vahanas. Sri Rama Navami festival is observed for ten days. A Board of three trustees is in charge of its management. The other deities in the temple are Sri Mariamman, Selliamman and Vinayaka. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

MURUKKAMBAKKAM (LC.1520)

Sri Ponni Amman, Mari Amman, Gangai Amman, Sengani Amman and Vallalar Temples

These temples are more than 60 years old. The nearest Railway Station is Maduranthakam at 13 Kms. Ponni Amman Tem-

ple occupies an area of 0.02 acres; Sengani Amman Temple occupies an area of 2 acres and Vinayaka Temple occupies an area of 0.01 acre of land. Poojas are done by poosari daily. Vallalar Temple has a madam and its property is 1.08 acres. Vinayaka Chaturthi and festivals in the month of Adi are celebrated here.

MARIPUTHUR (LC.1521)

Sri Pidari Selliamman Temple

Mariputhur village is located at 10 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station. The residents of this village built this temple some 130 years ago. There is also a Perumal temple close to the Selliamman temple. The villagers made renovations later. The area covered by the temple is 540 sq. ft. The priests for both the temples offer pooja once a day. The temple owns some land. There is a Car in Selliamman temple and the deity is taken out in procession during the festival conducted in Tamil month of Adi. A Board of three trustees manages the affairs of the temple. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1400 – Rs.1,126/-; for Fasli 1401 – Rs.19,090/- and for Fasli 1402 – Rs.16,124/-.

Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Perumal Temple

This temple is more than 75 years old. It covers an area of 1.34.5 hectares. A Bhattacharya performs Poojas once a day. The temple owns 1.34.5 hectares of land on which it stands. But the temple owns no other property. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

DEVADUR (LC.1522)

Sri Ardha Nareeswarar, Pidari Selli Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ARUNGUNAM (LC.1523)

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

Box - 81

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Ramanavami

This marks the birthday of Lord Rama (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu). It is celebrated on the ninth day of the bright fortnight in the month of Chaitra or Chithirai (March - April). In some places, this festival is celebrated for nine days during which the entire Ramayana is recited.

SHOLAMTHANGAL (LC.1524)

No temple.

GENDRACHERI (LC.1525)

Sri Pillaiyar and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VILVARAYANALLUR (LC.1526)

No details are available.

SILAVATTAM (LC.1527)

Sri Mari Amman, Ponni Amman Temples and Bajanai Madam

No significant details are available.

GUDDALUR (LC.1528)

Sri Poovizhi Amman, Vinayaka, Mari Amman, Uthukattu Amman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 82

Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Vaikasi Vishakam

This marks the birthday of Lord Muruga (Subramania/Karthikeya). It falls on the day on which the Vishaka star appears in the Tamil month of Vaikasi. Ceremonial processions are taken out on this occasion. In some temples the Car festival is also conducted on this day. Devotees fulfill different vows on this occasion.

MUNIYANTHANGAL (LC.1529)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

ORATHUR (LC.1530)

Sri Siddhi Vinayaka, Kanni Amman and Saneeswaran Temples

No significant details are available

KEEZHAMUR (LC.1531)

Sri Agastheeswarar, Mari Amman, Murugan, Vinayaka and Pazhani Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PADIRI (LC.1532)

Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple

Padiri village is located 22 Kms from Taluk Headquarters and the nearest Railway Station is Melmaruvathur at 12 Kms. Bus facilities are also available. The temple is 300 years old. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and covers an area of half an acre. There are separate temples for Sri Varadaraja Perumal and His consort Sri Perundevi Thayar. One Sri Dorairaja Ayyangar built the Thayar Sannidhi in 1924. A Bhattacharya performs two poojas daily. The temple owns 20.25.0 hectares of lands. Vaikunta Ekadasi is the main festival of this temple. Garuda Sevai is also celebrated. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.9,184/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.17,351/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.19,105/-. A single trustee manages its affairs.

VELAMUR (LC.1533)

Sri Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple

The temple is located 19 Kms from Taluk Headquarters and the nearest Railway Station is Melmaruvathur at 9 Kms. The temple is 600 years old and covers an area of 10 cents. It owns 1.78.5 hectares of land. The Bhattacharya of Sri Varadaraja Perumal temple at Padiri visits this village to perform daily poojas. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

MOGALVADI (LC.1534)

Sri Ponni Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

KATTUKKARANAI (LC.1535)

Sri Vinayaka, Draupadi Amman, Perumal and Mari Muthalamman Temples

No significant details are available.

KATTUGUDALUR (LC.1536)

Sri Ramar Temple

No significant details are available.

SENDIVAKKAM (LC.1537)

Sri Kongili Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

MATHUR (LC.1538)

Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple

This Perumal temple on the Cheyyur-Vandawasi road is 3 Kms from Melmaruvathur Railway Station. It is 10 Kms from Maduranthakam. It was built about 140 years ago and covers an area of four cents. The temple owns 5.50 acres of wet lands. Special poojas are conducted during Margazhi and Purattasi months. Garuda Sevai in Vaikasi is the main festival of the temple. A Board of two trustees manages its affairs.

Sri Dharmaraja Temple

No significant details are available.

AGILI (LC.1539)

Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple

The village is located 10 Kms from Maduranthakam and can be reached by bus. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and was built about 140 years ago. It covers an area of 1 cent. The presiding deity is Sri Varadaraja Perumal, a stone idol. Except on special occasions, no Poojas are performed daily. The temple owns some land. Third Saturday of Purattasi is celebrated with special Abhishekam. A trustee manages its affairs.

Sri Kailasanathar Temple

Sri Kailasanathar temple of Agili village was built by the local residents. The age of the temple is not known. It covers an area of about one cent and the Lingam here is an installed one. A hereditary Telugu Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple owns 2 acres of wet and 50 cents of dry lands. Shivarathri is the main festival. A single trustee manages the temple affairs.

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

CHINTHAMANI (LC.1540)

No temple.

UNAMALAI (LC.1541)

Sri Ponni Amman, Mari Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

SIRUNGALUR (LC.1542)

Sri Venugopalswamy and Poovathamman Temples

The village is located at 8 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. The Vishnu temple is about 75 years old. The presiding deity in Perumal temple, Sri Venugopalswamy, who is a Panchaloga idol of 10 Kg. weight. Poojas are performed thrice a day by a hereditary poosari. He belongs to Vettaikara Naikar community whose earlier occupation was hunting. The temple owns two sovereigns of gold jewels, which are donated. The temple owns no property. Sri Rama Navami, 3rd Saturday of Purattasi Month and a festival in Chithirai are celebrated. These temples are managed by villagers themselves.

PAKKAM (LC.1543)

Sri Anjur Amman, Mari Amman and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

PULIKKORADU (LC.1544)

Sri Anjur Amman, Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

AMAYAMBATTU (LC.1545)

Sri Gangai Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

VASANTHAVADI (LC.1546)

Sri Anjur Amman, Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

NETHAPAKKAM (LC.1547)

Sri Mariamman and Pidariamman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 83

Foreign Scholars on India : Romain Rolland

"If there is one place on the face of the earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began to dream of existence, it is India. India has a strange genius for converting what it borrows and assimilating it."

SIRUNALLUR (LC.1548)

Sri Mari Ellamman Temple

No significant details are available.

AVIRIMEDU (LC.1549)

Sri Pidari Amman, Pillaiyar and Venugopala Swamy Temples

No significant details are available.

CHITRAVADI (LC.1550)

Sri Venugopala Swamy Temple

The village is located at 13 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station. Bus facilities are also available. One Sri Masila Mani Pillai built the temple about 50 years ago. The size of the temple is 60”L x 20” B. It covers an area of 0.02.0 hectares of land. There is no Gopuram. The presiding deity, Sri Venugopalaswamy, is a Panchaloga idol. A non- hereditary poosari performs daily poojas. There is no property owned by the temple. Krishna Jayanthi is celebrated annually. The villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

PULIYARANANKOTTAI (LC.1551)

No temple.

Z. ENDATHUR (LC.1552)

Sri Devaraja Perumal Temple

The temple is located 12 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station. Bus facilities are available. The temple is 200 years old. It was built by people of the Naidu community and renovated by people of the Reddiar community. It covers an area of 0.10.0 hectares. The presiding deity is Sri Devaraja Perumal. There is a Panchloga uthsavar idol of 1 ft. high. A Bhattacharya performs daily poojas. The temple owns 4.90.0 hectares of wet and 6.48.0 hectares of dry lands which are under the control of HR&CE Department. Brahmotsavam, Purrattasi Saturdays and Garuda Sevai are the important days celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

MELAKANDAI (LC.1553)

Sri Mari Amman, Karpaga Vinayaka and Pidari Selliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

ATHIVAKKAM (LC.1554)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

DHARMAPURAM (LC.1555)

Sri Kundheeswarar Temple

This village is located at 19 Kms from the Maduranthakam Railway Station on the Maduranthakam – Cuddalore road and can be reached by bus. This 1000 year-old temple was renovated in the year 1960. The temple which is square in shape occupies 22,500 sq.ft. The total area covered is about 1 acre. There is a Gopuram of 12-ft. high and 10 ft. width and of 5 stages. The architecture is of Chola type. The presiding deity Sri Kundheeswarar is a Prathishta Lingam. Poojas are performed daily by a hereditary Gurukkal, who is paid monthly salary and granted some inam lands. The temple owns 2.79.5 hectares of wet and 0.58.0 hectares of dry lands. Maha Shivarathri is the main festival celebrated. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

NESAPAKKAM (LC.1556)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

ARIYANUR (LC.1557)

Sri Dharmaraja Temple

No significant details are available.

Box - 84

Festivals: Ganesha Chathurthi/Vinayaka

Chathurthi

Ganesha Chathurthi or Vinayaka Chathurthi celebrates the birthday of Lord Ganesha (the elephant headed god, son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi). It is celebrated on the fourth day of the bright fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada or Purattasi (August-September). Lord Ganesha is considered the embodiment of wisdom and the remover of all obstacles. No Pooja is undertaken without first worshipping him. In some parts of the country, huge clay idols of the Lord are erected and worshipped with great fanfare for ten days. Later these idols are taken in a grand procession and immersed in the sea or in rivers. The ten-day festival is celebrated with great devotion and gaiety. A special sweetmeat made on this occasion is called 'Modakam'.

VENMARI (LC.1558)

Sri Vigneswarar, Mari Amman and Selliamman Temples

No significant details are available.

CHINNAVENMANI (LC.1559)

Sri Bheemeswarar Temple

The village is located at 19 Kms away from Maduranthakam Railway Station on the Cuddalore road. It can be reached by bus. The temple was built about 180 years ago and the presiding deity is Sri Bheemeswarar. It covers an area of 10 cents; poojas are done daily. The temple has 2.10.0 hectares of wet and 1.80.5 hectares of dry lands. Arudhra in Margazhi and Uthiram in Panguni are the two festivals celebrated every year. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. A trustee is in charge of its affairs.

OZHAVETTI (LC.1560)

Sri Seeyathamman and Shiva Temples

No significant details are available.

NETRAMBAKKAM (LC.1561)

Sri Venugopalswamy Temple

The village Netrambakkam is 19 Kms distant from Maduranthakam Railway Station on the Maduranthakam-Cheyyur road and can be reached by bus. This temple, which was built 140 years ago, covers an area of 2 cents. Poojas are performed daily. Except Sri Rama Navami, no other festival is observed. The management is in the hands of a trustee.

PERUVELI (LC.1562)

Sri Dharmarajar and Other Temples

The village is 14 Kms from Maduranthakam which is also the nearest Railway Station and can be reached by bus. Altogether there are 4 temples close to one another for Sri Draupadi

Amman- Dharmarajar; Sri Vigneswarar; Sri Pidariamman and Sri Mariamman. The temples came into existence some 3 Centuries ago. Poojas are performed daily. The temple has some wet and dry lands. There is a wooden Car. Annual festivals are celebrated in the following months;

Draupadi Amman	- Chithirai month
Pidariamman	- Vaikasi month
Mariamman	- Adi month (fire walking)
Vigneswarar	- Avani month (Vinayaka Chathurthi)

Two trustees manage these temples.

NALLAMUR KEELAKARANAI (LC.1563)

Sri Draupadi Amman and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 85

Foreign Scholars on India : Dr. Arnold Toynbee, British historian

"It is already becoming clear that a chapter which had a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human race... At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way - Emperor Asoka's and Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence and Shri Ramakrishna's testimony to the harmony of religions. Here we have an attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family - and, in the Atomic age, this is the only alternative to destroying ourselves."

CHITAMUR (LC.1564)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal and Ettiamman Temples

No significant details are available.

Sri Nandagopalaswamy Temple

The village Sithampur is located at 20 Kms from Maduranthakam, which is also the nearest Railway Station. This temple occupying 10 cents of land was built about 140 years back. The deity is Sri Nandagopalaswamy. The Bhattacharya performs poojas daily. The temple has 6.26 acres of lands. Sri Rama Navami is the only festival celebrated here. A Single trustee is in charge of the temple affairs.

KATTUDEVADUR (LC.1565)

Sri Chelli Amman, Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

VIRALUR (LC.1566)

Sri Ponni Amman and Muthumari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

POONDI (LC.1567)

Sri Selliamman Temple

The village is located at 23 Kms from Taluk Headquarters which is also the nearest Railway station. The temple was built about 150 years ago. It covers an area of 0.03 acres of land. The presiding deity is Sri Selliamman. A Poojari performs daily

poojas. Festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. Villagers manage the affairs of the temple.

DEVANUR (LC.1568)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

VELLARAI (LC.1569)

No Temple.

NALLUR (LC.1570)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

ERUMBEDU (LC.1571)

Sri Sellî Amman, Murugan, Mari Amman, Muthalamman, Gangai Amman, Pillaiyar and Ovuri Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ZAMIN BUDUR (LC.1572)

Sri Mari Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

KILVASALAI (LC.1573)

Sri Muthalamman, Sellî Amman, Vennankodi Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

NEERPAIR (LC.1574)

Sri Pillaiyar and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

NEMAM (LC.1575)

Sri Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ATHIVAKKAM (LC.1576)

Sri Pillaiyar, Thanthoni Amman, Chelliamman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

BOX - 86

Tamil Devotional Literature: Kamba Ramayana

Around the 12th Century AD many Sanskrit epics were adapted into the Tamil Literature. Prominent among these works was an adaptation of Valmiki Ramayana known as Kamba Ramayana written by Kamban. This work has more than 10,000 verses.

THIMMAPURAM (LC.1577)

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

KOTTAKAYAPAKKAM (LC.1578)

Sri Muthumari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

MADHUR (LC.1579)

Sri Madhava Perumal and Agastheeswarar Temples

No significant details are available.

PINNAMPOONDI (LC.1580)

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

ELAPPAKKAM (LC.1581)

Sri Balamurugan & Aathivinayaka Temples

The village is located at 12 Kms from Acharapakkam Railway Station and 23 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. These temples were built about 100 years ago on an area of 725 Sq.Mtrs. A Poosari belonging to Pandaram community performs pooja in Vinayaka temple and a Gurukkal performs pooja in Murugan temple. Vinayaka Chaturthi and Karthigai asterism in Chithirai month are the important days. These temples are under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

PORPANANKARANAI (LC.1582)

Sri Sanjeevarayar, Mari Amman and Kottaikathamman temples

No significant details are available.

RAJAPALAYAM (LC.1583)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

GUNANKARANAI (LC.1584)

Sri Vinayaka, Mari Amman and Ponni Amman temples

No significant details are available.

ANNANGAL (LC.1585)

Sri Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ORATHY (LC.1586)

Sri Easwarar Temple

The village is located at 10 Kms from Thozhuppedu Railway Station and 32 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. Bus facilities are also available. This temple was mentioned in Dr. K.K. Pillai's book on the History of Cholas. There is a stone inscription in the temple. The temple covers an area of 0.05.0 hectares. The structure is of Chola type of architecture. The presiding deity is in the form of Prathishta Lingam. Saint Manickavasagar had composed hymns on this deity. This was mentioned in a stone inscription. A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day in the morning. He is paid a monthly salary from Government's grants. There are some gold jewels in the temple which belong to Chola period. The temple has no landed property. Shivarathri in the month of Masi is celebrated annually. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Prasanna Varadaraja Perumal Temple

This ancient Vishnu shrine covering an area of fifteen cents was built by the local residents. The name of the deity is Sri Varadarajaswamy. Both the Moolavar and Uthsavamurthy are made of copper. The hereditary Bhattacharya performs two poojas daily. The temple has some land. There are antique jewels, two vahanas and a Palanquin in the temple. The vahanas and Palanquin are in a state of disrepair. The main festival is Vaikunta Ekadasi. The management vests with a trustee.

Sri Sellu Amman, Draupadi Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

Box - 87

Foreign Scholars on India : German Philosopher Schopenhauer

“In the whole world there is no study so beneficial and so elevating as that of the Upanishads. They have been the solace of my life. They will be the solace of my death... Upanishad teaching is the fruit of the highest human knowledge and wisdom.”

VEPPANKARANAI (LC.1587)

Sri Vinayaka, Vembathamman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VADAKKUPUTHUR (LC.1588)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

VADAMANIPAKKAM (LC.1589)

Sri Vinayaka, Mari Amman, Ponni Amman and Thulukkanathamman Temples

No significant details are available.

THINNALUR (LC.1590)

Sri Polachi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

VINNAMPOONDI (LC.1591)

Sri Alankara Pillaiyar Temple

No significant details are available.

SIRUVANGUNAM (LC.1592)

No temple.

ANATHAMANGALA (LC.1593)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

SENAYANERI (LC.1594)

Sri Vinayaka, Murugar, Ganapathy Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

SIRUDAMUR (LC.1595)

Sri Vinayaka, Perumal, Easwar and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KONGARAIMAMBATU (LC.1596)

Sri Dharmarajar, Draupadi Amman, Surya Pillaiyar, Lakshmi Narayana Perumal, Malleeswarar, Mari Amman, Murugan and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KALATHUR (LC.1597)

Sri Muthalamman, Kongiliamman, Pidari Amman, Mariamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

PORAGAL (LC.1598)

Sri Vinayaka, Mari Amman and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KILATHIVAKKAM (LC.1599)

Sri Ramar, Murugan, Pillaiyar, Shiva, Ponni Amman, Mariamman and Angalamman Temples

No significant details are available.

BABURAYANPETTAI (LC.1600)

Sri Vijaya Varadaraja Perumal Temple

Location and Area

The village is located at 7 Kms from Thozhupedu Railway Station and 35 Kms from Taluk Headquarters. One Sri Baburayar son of Sri Krishnaji Pandit who was a Minister in the Hyderabad Samasthanam built a temple here and the village therefore came to be known as Baburayanpettai. The old name of the village was Pooratheri. The temple is said to be 300 years old. The entire temple covers an extent of 10 acres of land.

History

The story regarding the selection of the village for the construction of the temple is as follows:

Sri Baburayar was the Tahsildar at Kancheepuram. He used to visit Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple at Kanchi daily before taking his meals. One day, before he could visit the temple, the God was taken out in procession and he could not worship the deity as usual and therefore decided not to take his meals. He remained without food for three days. God appeared in his dream and directed him to build a temple in a village lying South of Kancheepuram. Sri Baburayar proceeded south and came to Sithampur which he found suitable for the purpose and commenced the construction of a temple. The local residents of the village objected to the raising of a temple in the village and Sri Baburayar was greatly worried. The God again appeared in his dream and stated that on the following morning he would see a Garuda (kite) flying in the sky and that he should build a temple in the area covered by the Garuda. The dream came true and he saw a kite circling in the sky. As the area covered by the kite was a forest, it was cleared and a temple was built there. All the necessary material for the construction of the temple, namely, bricks, mud, sand, iron etc., were available in the forest. Sri Baburayar was not sure as to where he should locate the Sanctum. The God appeared in his dream for a third time and informed him that he would find an anthill where a cow would of

its own accord give up its milk and that it was there that he should be installed. On the following morning the anthill was destroyed and while digging the ground two Hanuman idols were found which were removed and the Sanctum was built there. Four streets were designed so that people could come and reside in the new village. The design is similar to that of Srirangam in Trichy district. The deity of the Kanchi temple also was brought to this village in a procession and a Kumbabhishegam was performed. The Nawab visited the temple and gave the entire village as inam land to the shrine and this was confirmed by the British Government in 1860. During the reign of Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan, there was vandalism in the temple but the damage was subsequently repaired. As the Moolavar was damaged, it was removed and thrown into the tank. A new idol was installed. A new Sanctum for Sri Andal and Thayar were also built. The Shiva temple, which was at the Southern end of the village, was also shifted to the precincts of the Perumal temple.

Presiding deity

As Sri Kanchi Varadar visited the temple, the deity was named as Sri Vijaya Varadaraja Perumal, which is in a standing pose. Its height is 6 ft. The consort is Sri Perundevi Thayar. There are 14 other Moola vigrahams and 19 festival idols in the Perumal temple.

The Shiva temple where the presiding deity is Vijaya Prasanna Easwarar has 9 Moolavars and 12 Uthsavamurthys.

Land and Assets

Even though the entire village belongs to the temple, the tenants-at-will who are in the enjoyment and possession of the lands have been retaining the yield for them. The Assistant Settlement Officer gave a decision in 1960 that out of 420 acres of lands only 120 acres belong to the Devasthanam and the remaining 300 acres are the property of the ryots. Against this decision an appeal was made in the District Court. The temple has no ornaments but has three beautiful vahanas, namely Horse, Garuda and Elephant.

Poojas and Festivals

A Bhattacharya performs Poojas four times daily. Of the several festivals celebrated, the important are: Garuda Servai in Vaikasi; Vijaya Dasami when the deity is taken out in procession on the horse; Pongal (Third day in the Tamil month of Thai), Poosam festival in Thai when the deity is taken out in procession on the Elephant.

Administration:

The hereditary trustee is in charge of the temple.

STORIES:

1. In 1937-38, when the Principal of the Pachayappas College, Kancheepuram visited the shrine, he was given holy water which he poured down without drinking it. On the night of his visit to the temple, when he came out to answer the calls of nature he slipped, fallen down and broke his leg. Thereafter he used to visit the temple regularly and got cured of his foot injury. During his last days, he settled down in the village to worship the deity frequently; he died there.

2. One Sri Alwar Chetti had a fruit shop in Madras; from the time he started his business, he was sending flower garlands for the Pongal festival every year. In 1960 on account of disputes between the Devasthanam and the ryots, the festival was not celebrated and Sri Alwar Chettiar stopped sending the garlands. As a result, he fell sick and also incurred losses in his trade. From 1962 he resumed sending garlands as usual and after that returned to normal life.

SIRUPAIRPANDI (LC.1601)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

ALLANUR (LC.1602)

Sri Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

BOX - 88

Vara - Week

There are seven days in a Vara or week. Each day holds special significance for particular deities. The days are: Ravivara (Sunday); Somavara (Monday)-associated with the worship of Lord Shiva; Mangalvara (Tuesday)- associated with the worship of Lord Hanuman; Budhavara (Wednesday); Guruvara (Thursday)- associated with the worship of Guru; Sukravara (Friday)- associated with the worship of Goddess Parvathi (Devi); Shanivara (Saturday).

VILANGADU (LC.1603)

Sri Ponni Amman, Mari Amman and Ayyanar Temples

No significant details are available.

SEETHAPURAM (LC.1604)

Sri Balasundara Vinayaka Temple

The village is located at 3 Kms from Acharapakkam Railway Station. The presiding deity of this temple is Sri Sankara Bala Sundara Vinayaka. The temple covering an area of 12 cents was built about 70 years ago by Srimathi Peria Bangarammal. One pooja is performed daily by a Desigar. The temple owns some lands. No festivals are celebrated. A single trustee manages its affairs.

Sri Nandagopala Swamy Bajani Madam

No significant details are available.

UTHAMANALLUR (LC.1605)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

THIRUMUKKADU (LC.1606)

Sri Muktheeswarar Temple

The village Thirumukkadu is located at 2 Kms from Acharapakkam Railway Station; Maduranthakam is 16 Kms away. Bus facilities are available. The temple was built by the local residents of the village about 140 years ago. It was renovated later by a Chettiar in Athivakkam. The temple covers an area of 20 cents of land. The presiding deity, Sri Muktheeswarar, is a Swayambu Lingam. Daily poojas were stopped 50 years ago and recently they were resumed and performed by a Gurukkal. Apart from Inam lands, the temple has 2.93.0 hectares of wet and 1.88.5 hectares of dry lands. The only festival celebrated is Arudhra in month of Margazhi. A trustee is in charge of its affairs.

PALLIPETTAI (LC.1607)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

PERUMBAIRKANDIGAI (LC.1608)

Sri Ellamman Temple

This is one of the four temples in the village, which is close to the Tozhupedu Railway Station (1 Km.). The village is located at 100 Kms from Chennai on the Grand South Trunk

Road (NH-45). The temple covers an area of 2 acres and was built about 540 years ago by the villagers. The Gopuram is 60 ft. high. The Uthsavar is 2 ft. high and the Moolavar is like Mariamman. A non-hereditary Gurukkal performs two poojas daily. The temple owns a little over two acres of wet and dry lands. The only ornament is a Necklace weighing four sovereigns. The annual festival is celebrated in the month of Adi. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1403 – Rs.10, 561/-; for Fasli 1404 – Rs.11, 755/- and for Fasli 1405 – Rs.18, 338/-. The temple is under the control of HR&CE Department. A Board of two trustees manages the temple.

Sri Thanthoneeswarar Temple

Location and Area

The temple is located at 1 Km. west of the village Perumbairkandigai. There are 5 stone inscriptions in this place. This famous Shiva temple was about 2000 years ago and believed to be built during Saint Agasthiar's period. Another version says that it was built by a Chola King about 1000 years ago. Renovations were carried out by Kulothunga Chola – I. The original temple was covering an area of 1.50 acres but after a major portion of which was destroyed by the Nawab (Arcot) the reconstructed temple stands on an area of 20 cents. There are stone inscriptions in this temple.

There is no Raja Gopuram. Though the Sanctum is facing east, the main entrance is in south. The lingam is of Chola style. There is a Bali Peetam, Dwajasthambam, Ardha Manadapam, Maha Mandapam and a Alankara Mandapam in the temple. In the Alankara Manadapam there are Uthsavar idols for Chandikeswarar, Annapoorni and Vinayaka.

Presiding deity

The presiding deity is Sri Thanthonri Easwarar in the form of a Swayambu Lingam. The Lingam is made of sand and closed with a copper plate. As the Lingam made its appearance by itself i.e. Swayambu, it is known as "Thanae Thonri" which in Tamil slang called "Thanthonree". The Goddess is known as

"Thaduthu Atkonda Nayagi". She has Angusam, Pasam, Abhyahastham and varada hastham. She is facing south.

On the Southern side of the temple, there is Sri Mahishasura Mardhini (Durga) in a standing posture. A unique feature is that, this deity is seen with a Deer as her Vahanam. The other deity Sri Ranabathira Kali with a child in one of her earrings and Strop in another is seen in a standing posture stepping on two asuras- Chanda and Munda. There is an unusual Komadi Sangu (conch) here. The other deities are Sri Ganapathy, Sri Subramaniam with Valli and Deivanai – a single stone sculpture, Sri Vaishnavi and the Sthala Viruksham – Thiruvathi tree.

Legend:

As per legend, Saint Agasthiar got darshan of Lord Shiva Subramania in this village on the hillock and sat in penance in this temple. It is believed that Lord Shivasubramania with His consorts Valli and Deivanai came round the twin hills thrice which are treated as His parents, Lord Shiva and Sri Parvathi. This incident is enacted on the 10th Day Festival at Sri Atcheeswarar Temple at Atcharapakkam.

A Shivachariar whose office is hereditary, performs poojas six times a day. The temple has no jewels or vahanas. It has about 7 acres of wet lands including 3½ acres of inam lands, which are under personal cultivation of the hereditary Gurukkal who performs poojas. The annual festival is celebrated on Chithra Purnami day; when Sri Shivasubramaniam along with His consorts adorned as bridegroom and bride, is brought here to pray to His parents and returning back to the temple after giving dharshan to Saint Agasthiar. This festival is celebrated with much fanfare. The other festivals celebrated are Annabhishekam in the month of Ayyappasi, Shivarathri in the month of Masi and Navarathri in the month of Purattasi. A Board of two trustees manages the affairs of the temple. The temple is under the control of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

Sri Subramaniaswamy Temple

Sri Subramaniaswamy temple standing on a hillock is an ancient one built by the people of Vysya Community and it covers an area of 1 acre. Sage Arunagirinathar had visited the temple. Besides Arunagirinathar, Vannacharabam Dhandapani Swamy and Pamban Kumaragurudasa Swamy have sung hymns on this deity. 225 Steps were laid in 1962 to this Hillock. In 1989, one Sri S. Sriramulu Reddy of Sitapuram constructed sidewalls, 3 Mandapams and performed Kumbhabhishekam. The Gopuram is 21 ft. high and 11 ft. wide. There are 8 pillars, 2 Praakaaras, a Sanctum, an Ardha Mandapam, a Maha Mandapam and a front Mandapam in the temple.

The Moolavar, which is four feet high, has six faces and His two consorts Valli and Deivayanai are installed on either side. The Moolavar is facing south which is unique. The other shrines in this temple are: Sri Swayambu Parai Vinayaka, Navagrahas, Idumban, Sakthi Ganapathy, Selvasundara Ganapathy, Sri Visalakshi and Sri Viswanathar. There is also a Dwajasthambam, Anna Pakshi (swan) and a Bali Peetam. Unlike any other Murugan temples, here the Swan (Anna Pakshi) is the Vahanam of Lord Muruga instead of Peacock. Due to this reason, this temple is said to be a place where Lord Brahma worshipped. The present Uthsavar idols were donated by one Sri V.N. Narasimha Reddy at a cost of Rs. 1.00 lakh. The other uthsavars are Dhandapani, Asthira Devar, Veerabahu and Chandikeswarar.

Legend:

As per legend, Saint Agasthiar got darshan of this deity when he sat in penance in Sri Thanthonreeswarar temple. It is believed that Lord Shivasubramania with His consorts Valli and Deivayani came round the twin hills thrice which are treated as His parents, Lord Shiva and Sri Parvathi on a Chitra Pournami Day. This incident is enacted on the 10th Day Festival at Sri Atcheeswarar Temple at Atcharapakkam.

The temple owns 22 acres of dry hilly land and 6 acres of wet lands. It has no jewels but has two peacock vahanams – one

made of Teak wood and another Athi wood. The hereditary Gurukkal performs two poojas daily. The expenses are being met from an income of RS. 4,500/- per annum derived from 6 acres of lands owned by the temple. The Shivachariar, who is performing poojas in Shiva temple, also performs poojas here. On Kirthigai day in every month devotees visit the temple in large numbers. The Brahmotsavam is celebrated in Vaikasi. The other festivals are Padi Uthsavam on Krithigai in Chithirai month; Kandasashti in Ayyappasi, Deepam in Karthigai, etc. Over and above these, Chitra Pournami is also celebrated. A single trustee is managing its affairs. The temple is under the control of HR&CE Department.

Sri Kari Varadaraja Perumal Temple

This Vishnu temple was built about 300 years ago by the Janappas of Baburayanpettai. It covers an area of 2 acres. The Moolavar is Sri Kari Varadaraja Perumal and His consort is Sri Ambhujavalli Thayar. The Uthsavamurthy is Sri Adikesava Perumal with Sri Devi and Bhu Devi.

The temple has five acres of wet lands which are under the personal cultivation of the trustee. A hereditary Bhattacharya performs two poojas daily. There are neither vahanas nor jewels in the temple. It is under the management of a single trustee.

KADAMALAIPTHU (LC.1609)

No details are available.

MINNALKILMINNAL (LC.1610)

Sri Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

MINNAL CHITHAMUR (LC.1611)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

KILPATTU (LC.1612)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

NEDUNGAL (LC.1613)

Sri Mari Amman, Panai Amman, Venugopala Swamy, Murugan, Pillaiyar and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

MUNNAKULAM (LC.1614)

Sri Mari Amman, Bambai Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

MURUNGAI (LC.1615)

Sri Murugan, Sadhu Chetti Venkatachalapathy, Mari Amman, Vinayaka, Easwarar, Gangai Amman, Kathavarayan and Ayyanar Temples

No significant details are available.

ALLUR (LC.1616)

Sri Mari Amman, Perumal and Murugan Temples

No significant details are available.

KARASANGAL (LC.1617)

Sri Mari Amman, Ettiamman, Vinayaka, Saneeswarar, Gangai Amman and Anjaneyar Temples

No significant details are available.

VELIAMBakkAM (LC.1618)

Sri Gangai Amman, Perumal, Selliamman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

EDAYALAM (LC.1619)

Sri Sakthi Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

THOZHUPPEDU (LC.1620)

No details are available.

ATHUR (LC.1621)

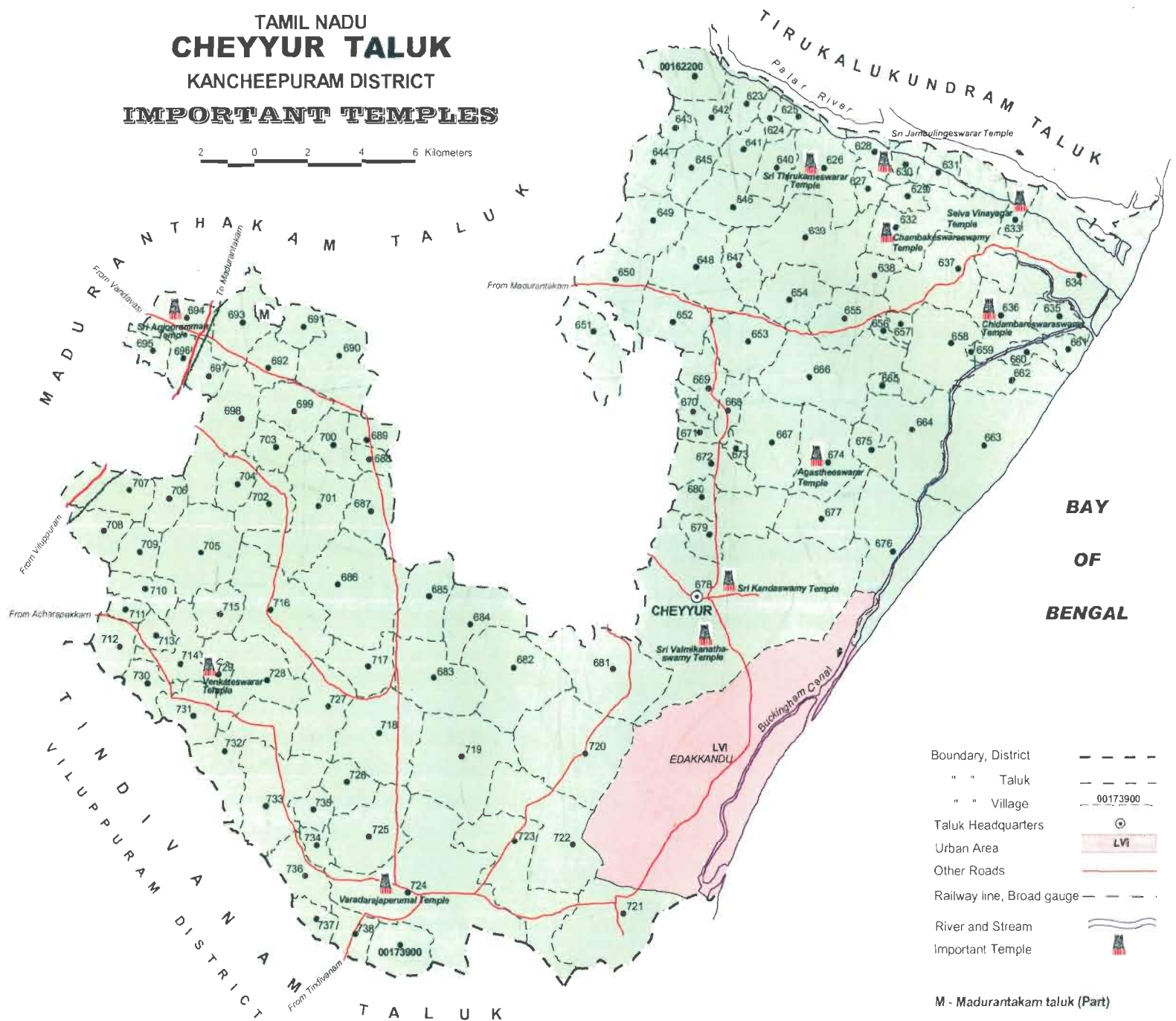
No details are available.



CHEYYUR TALUK

TAMIL NADU
CHEYYUR TALUK
 KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT
IMPORTANT TEMPLES

2 0 2 4 6 Kilometers



- Boundary, District -----
- " " Taluk - - - - -
- " " Village - - - - - 00173900
- Taluk Headquarters (Circled symbol)
- Urban Area (Pink shaded area)
- Other Roads (Red line)
- Railway line, Broad gauge (Dashed line with cross-ticks)
- River and Stream (Blue wavy line)
- Important Temple (Temple icon)

M - Madurantakam taluk (Part)

Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of Surveyor General of India.
 The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.
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CHEYYUR TALUK



Cheyyur Taluk covers an area of 645.66 Sq. Kms. The Taluk Headquarter is at Cheyyur, a Revenue Village which is 90 Kms. away from the District Headquarters at Kancheepuram.

The Taluk has one Town Panchayat and 118 Revenue Villages. As per the Provisional Poluation Totals of Census of India 2001, the Taluk has a population of 186,066.

Temple survey schedules were canvassed from the Village Administrative Officers (VAO) of all the villages and the Executive Officers of the Towns. Based on the information provided by the Revenue/ Municipal officials as well as information provided by the HR&CE Department, details have been provided in this Report on 331 temples in this Taluk. In the case of 263 temples no significant details were available and hence the name of the temples alone have been provided without any details. In 9 villages details are not available on temples. This includes villages, which do not have temples as well as those for which forms are incomplete.

Sri Kandaswamy Temple and Sri Valmikanathar Temple at Cheyyur are the famous temples in the Taluk.

EDAKALINADU (TP-56)

No significant details are available..

NEELAMANGALAM (LC.1622)

Sri Gangai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

NELVOY (LC.1623)

Sri Perumal Temple

No significant details are available.

KARUPPUR (LC.1624)

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

SEVUR (LC.1625)

Sri Sellī Amman, Mari Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

MADAVILAGAM (LC.1626)

Sri Thirukameswarar Temple

The village is 32 Kms from Maduranthakam and 33 Kms from the Cheyyur. It can be reached by bus. The presiding deity of the temple is Sri Thirukameswarar, a Pradishta Lingam His consort is Sri Shivakama Sundari. The temple covers an area of 3 cents. There are a number of festival idols. The hereditary Gurukkal performs poojas daily in the morning and evening.

The temple owns 113.34 acres of wet lands and 170.53 acres of dry lands. Apart from Palanquins there are 5 Vahanams all made of wood. There is a silver covering for the Goddess. The important festivals are Arudhra in the month of Margazhi and Panguni Uthiram. At the time of Arudhra, the festival of Sri Manickavasagar is also celebrated. On all Full Moon days, discourses by pundits on religious subjects are arranged.

The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.23,427/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.22,025/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.23,453/-. The temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

SEMBUR (LC.1627)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

THANDARAI (LC.1628)

Sri Jambulingeswarar, Vinayaka, Angala Amman, Kanni Amman and Arul Patha Amman Temples

The village is located 32 Kms from Maduranthakam. Bus facilities are not available to this village. The nearest bus stand is located 4 Kms away from the village. Daily Poojas are conducted in the first temple only. A Gurukkal performs the poojas. In all the other temples a Poosari conducts Poojas on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Jambulingeswarar temple owns 1.20.5 hectares of land. The other temples also own land but to a very small extent. The month of Adi is considered auspicious for the Amman temples

PARASANALLUR (LC.1629)

Sri Gangai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

POIGANALLUR (LC.1630)

Sri Kanni Amman, Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

The village is located 32 Kms from Maduranthakam. Bus facilities are not available to this village. The nearest bus stand is located 4 Kms away from the village. Daily Poojas are not conducted in the temples. A Poosari conducts Poojas on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Kanni Amman temple owns 0.08.5 hectares of land. The Vinayaka temple owns 0.29.5 hectares of land and the Mari Amman temple owns 0.07.5 hectares of land. The month of Adi is considered auspicious for the Amman temples. Villagers manage the temples.

PORANJERI (LC.1631)

Sri Vinayaka and Muthal Amman Temple

The village is located 32 Kms from Maduranthakam. Bus facilities are not available to this village. The nearest bus stand is located 4 Kms away from the village. Daily Poojas are not conducted in the temples. A Poosari conducts Poojas on Tuesdays and Fridays. The month of Adi is considered auspicious for the Amman temples. Villagers manage the temples.

PARAMESWARAMANGALAM (L.C.1632)

Sri Champakeswaraswamy Temple

The village is 29 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station and can be reached by bus. The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam - Sri Champakeswaraswamy. The temple is believed to be over 540 years old and covers an extent of one acre. Copper plates with inscriptions relating to the temple are available. The hereditary Gurukkal performs two poojas daily in the morning and evening. He is in the enjoyment of 3.33 acres of temple lands. The recipients of service inams perform their duties properly. Festivals are celebrated on Chithra Pournami and Arudhra Margazhi. A trustee is managing the affairs of the temple.

Sri Selva Vinayaka Temple

The presiding deity of the temple is Sri Selva Vinayaka whose height is 2 ft. This temple covering 900 Sq.ft is believed to be 120 years old. The Gopuram and the compound wall were repaired some 40 years back by the then trustees. A Gurukkal performs pooja once daily. The temple owns dry and wet lands to the extent of 16.10 acres. Except a Mouse Vahanam there are no other movable properties. Vinayaga Chaturthi festival is celebrated annually on a modest scale. It is under the management of a trustee.

Sri Aramvalartha Eswarar Temple

This Shiva temple covering an area of about 11 cents was built in 1913-14 by Sri Narayana Reddiar of Parasanallur. The stone inscription specifies the properties owned by the temple. The Lingam is an installed one. The Gurukkal performs one pooja daily. The temple has wet lands to the extent of 2.85 acres. Except a Rishabha Vahanam there is no other movable property in the temple. Panguni Uthiram, Thai Poosam and Chithra Pournami festivals are celebrated annually. The temple is under the management of a single trustee.

Sri Pidari Kavathamman Temple

Two devotees constructed this temple some 120 years ago. It covers an area of about 33 cents and renovations were carried out some 40 years ago by then trustees. Sri Pidari Kavathamman, the presiding deity, is in a standing posture. A priest of Naicker caste, whose office is hereditary, performs Pooja once a day. The temple owns about 3 acres of wet lands. There is a 50 year-old Simha Vahanam made of wood. A Board of four trustees administers the temple.

Sri Dharmaraja Temple

This temple in Anaikattu village was built by an individual in 1948. It covers an area of about 20 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Dharmaraja is in a sitting posture. A hereditary Gurukkal performs pooja once a day. The temple has no other source of income except hundi collections. The annual festival is celebrated during the month of Ani. The temple is managed by a Board of three trustees.

VEPPANCHERI (LC.1633)

Sri Gangai Amman, Ellai Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.



KADALUR (LC.1634)

No details are available. are available.

KILARKOLLAI (LC.1635)

Sri Vinayaka, Perumal, Gangai Amman, Koti Amman, Mathal Amman and Muthu Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KOOVATHUR (LC.1636)

Sri Anjaneya, Angal Amman, Dharmaraja, Thiruvaleeswarar, Chozhavattamman, Selvi Amman, Selva Vinayaka, Kanni Mari Amman, Mari Amman, Polaramman, Nemili Amman, Rama and Pitheeswarar Temples

The village is located at 28 Kms from Maduranthakam. Bus facilities are available to this village. Daily Poojas are conducted in these temples. The Thiruvaleeswarar temple owns 3.35.0 hectares of land. The Vinayaka temple owns 1.66.5 hectares of land and the Selvi Amman temple owns 0.29.0 hectares of land. The month of Adi is considered auspicious for the Amman temples. Villagers manage the temples.

NERKUNAMPATTU (LC.1637)

Sri Kandaswamy, Easwarar, Draupadi Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available..

MANICUPPAM (LC.1638)

No details are available.

THONDAMANALLUR (LC.1639)

No details are available.

KALKULAM (LC.1640)

Sri Govindaraja Perumal Temple

The village is located at 21 Kms from Maduranthakam and can be reached by bus. The temple dedicated to Vishnu was built in Chola style a thousand years ago and covers an area of 80 cents. A Bhattacharya performs poojas every morning and evening. This temple owns a wooden Garuda Vahanam. Vaikunta Ekadasi festival is celebrated every year. A trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

BOX - 89

Saint Pey Alwar

Saint Pey Alwar was one of the revered saints of the Vaishnavite tradition. He was the third in the line of 12 Alwars. He was born in Mylapore in Chennai. He composed the "Mudram Thitruvanthathi", a collection of 100 verses wherein he eulogizes the various Avathars of Lord Vishnu and emphasizes on Bhakti and total surrender to him as the only path to salvation. Beautiful verses on nature are also found. The devotional literature of the Alwars is known as the "Nalayira-Divya-Prabhandam" (four thousand devotional songs).

VADAKKUVAYALLOOR (LC.1641)

Sri Sandhi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

SATHAMANGALAM (LC.1642)*Sri Panichai Amman Temple*

No significant details are available.

PEKKARANAI (LC.1643)*Sri Gangai Amman Temple*

No significant details are available.

SEEVADI (LC.1644)*Sri Vinayaka, Shiva and Amman Temples*

No significant details are available.

PUNNAMAI (LC.1645)*Sri Mari Amman Temple*

No significant details are available.

BOX - 90**Saint Nammalwar**

Saint Nammalwar was one of the revered saints of the Vaishnavite tradition. He was the fifth in the line of the 12 Alvars. He composed the

“Thiruvirutham”-equivalent of the Rig Veda;

“Thiruvasiriyam”- equivalent of the Yajur Veda; “Peria Thiruvanthathi”- equivalent of the Atharvana Veda and

“Thiruvoimozhi”- the equivalent of the Sama Veda.

The devotional literature of the Alvars is known as the “Nalayira-Divya-Prabhandam” (four thousand devotional songs)

LATHUR (LC.1646)*Sri Padavetamman Temple*

No significant details are available.

PACHAMBAKKAM (LC.1647)*Sri Selli Amman Temple*

No significant details are available.

PAVUNJUR (LC.1648)*Sri Selli Amman Temple*

No significant details are available.

ULUDAMANGALAM (LC.1649)*Sri Uyyalamman, Moongil Amman and Vinayaga Temples*

No significant details are available.

PERIAVELIKADU (LC.1650)*Sri Vinayaka and Amman Temples*

No significant details are available.

CHINNAVELIKADU (LC.1651)*Sri Gangai Amman, Vinayaka, Sanjeevirayar and Ponni Amman Temples*

No significant details are available.

THIRUVADUR (LC.1652)

Sri Muthal Amman, Pidari Amman, Adi Kesava Perumal and Kuntheeswarar Temples

No significant details are available.

KADUGUPATTU (LC.1653)

Sri Perumal, Vinayaka, Selli Amman and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PALUR (LC.1654)

Sri Palathu Amman, Mari Amman, Perumal, Vinayaka and Kanni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

NELVOYPALAYAM (LC.1655)

No details are available.

PERUMALCHERI (LC.1656)

Sri Dhanakoti Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

MALRAJAKUPPAM (LC.1657)

Sri Kanni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

NEDUMARAM (LC.1658)

Sri Shanbaga Eswaraswamy Temple

This temple is a very ancient one. It is believed that it was built by a Pallava King. It is located at 42 Kms from Maduranthakam, which is the nearest Railway Station and this distance can be covered by bus. Sri Shanbaga Eswarar, Sri Subrahmaniaswamy and Sri Ganapathy are the deities of the temple. Stone inscriptions are found inside the temple. The temple covers an area of one acre.

A hereditary Gurukkal performs Poojas. He is paid monthly salary. The temple owns some lands. Of the two annual festivals, namely, Chithra Pournami and Thiruvadhiraai celebrated by the temple, the latter is the main one, when the deity is taken round the streets in a procession. A Single trustee manages the temple affairs.

MURUKKANTHANGAL (LC.1659)

No details are available.

KODAPATTINAM (LC.1660)

Sri Muthal Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

KANATHUR (LC.1661)

Sri Muthal Amman, Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

VADAPATTINAM (LC.1662)

Sri Subrahmanya Swamy, Muthal Amman, Eechi Amman, Gangai Amman, Periya Palayathu Amman and Pappathi Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

MUGAIYUR (LC.1663)

Sri Gangai Amman, Vanchi Amman, Muthal Amman, Sangothi Amman, Angalamman, Asapoor Amman, Mari Amman, Venugopalaswamy and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

KODUR (LC.1664)

Sri Agastheeswarar, Adi Kesava Perumal, Draupadi Amman, Pidari Amman and Muthal Amman Temples

The village is located at 16 Kms from Maduranthakam. Bus facilities are available to this village. The Sri Agastheeswarar temple is believed to be an ancient one. There are a few stone inscriptions available in the temple. The temple occupies an area of 60 cents. The Goddess is called Swarnambigai. A Gurukkal conducts poojas every day. There is a Rishabha Vahanam and a Simha Vahanam. The villagers manage the temple.

A Poojari conducts Poojas everyday in the Amman Temples. Tuesdays and Fridays are especially auspicious. The month of Adi is considered auspicious for the Amman temples. Villagers manage the temples. No other significant details are available.

SATHIAMANGALAM (LC.1665)

Sri Venugopalaswamy Temple

No significant details are available.

AKKINAMBATTU (LC.1666)

Sri Onjiamman, Panduranga Perumal, Ponni Amman, Agastheeswarar, Muthal Amman and Sundara Varadharaja Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

PERUMBAKKAM (LC.1667)

Sri Muthal Amman, Easwarar and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

PUDUPATTU (LC.1668)

Sri Vinayaka, Selli Amman, Mari Amman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

IRANYASIDHI (LC.1669)

Sri Ponni Amman, Mari Muthal Amman and Gangai Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

NEMANADAM (LC.1670)

Sri Vinayaka, Perumal and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PAKKAVANCHERI (LC.1671)

Sri Sellai Amman, Mari Amman and Pillaiyar Temples

No significant details are available.

SENGATTUR (LC.1672)

Sri Chenna Kesava Perumal Temple

The villagers themselves built this temple in Sengattur some 240 years ago and later on renovations were made by a devotee by name, Sri Ranganatha Mudaliar. The village is 5 Kms from Maduranthakam Railway Station and can be reached by bus.

The temple covers an area of about 8 cents. The presiding deity, Sri Chenna Kesava Perumal is in a standing posture. A non-hereditary Bhattacharya performs pooja every morning. The temple owns 2.06.0 hectares of wet and dry lands, which are managed by the trustees. The main festivals are Krishna Jayanthi in Avani and the third Saturday in Purattasi. Trustees manage the temple affairs.

THIRUPURAKOIL (LC.1673)

Sri Easwarar, Mari Amman, Durgai Amman and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

MADAYAMBAKKAM (LC.1674)

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The village Madayambakkam is 28 Kms from Maduranthakam. Devotees can travel by bus upto Nelvoipalayam and from there proceed 3½ miles southwards by cart or foot to reach the temple. It covers an area of 90 cents and the Lingam is a Swayambu. Though the temple has 9.07 acres of land, they are under the enjoyment of the tenants and at present there is no pooja in the temple. It has neither jewels nor Vahanams. This is one of the temples, which has fallen into neglect.

Sri Kandaswamy Temple

Sri Kandaswamy temple of Madayambakkam is in a dilapidated condition and no pooja or festival is observed. Though it owns about 4 acres of wet lands the income does not accrue to it.

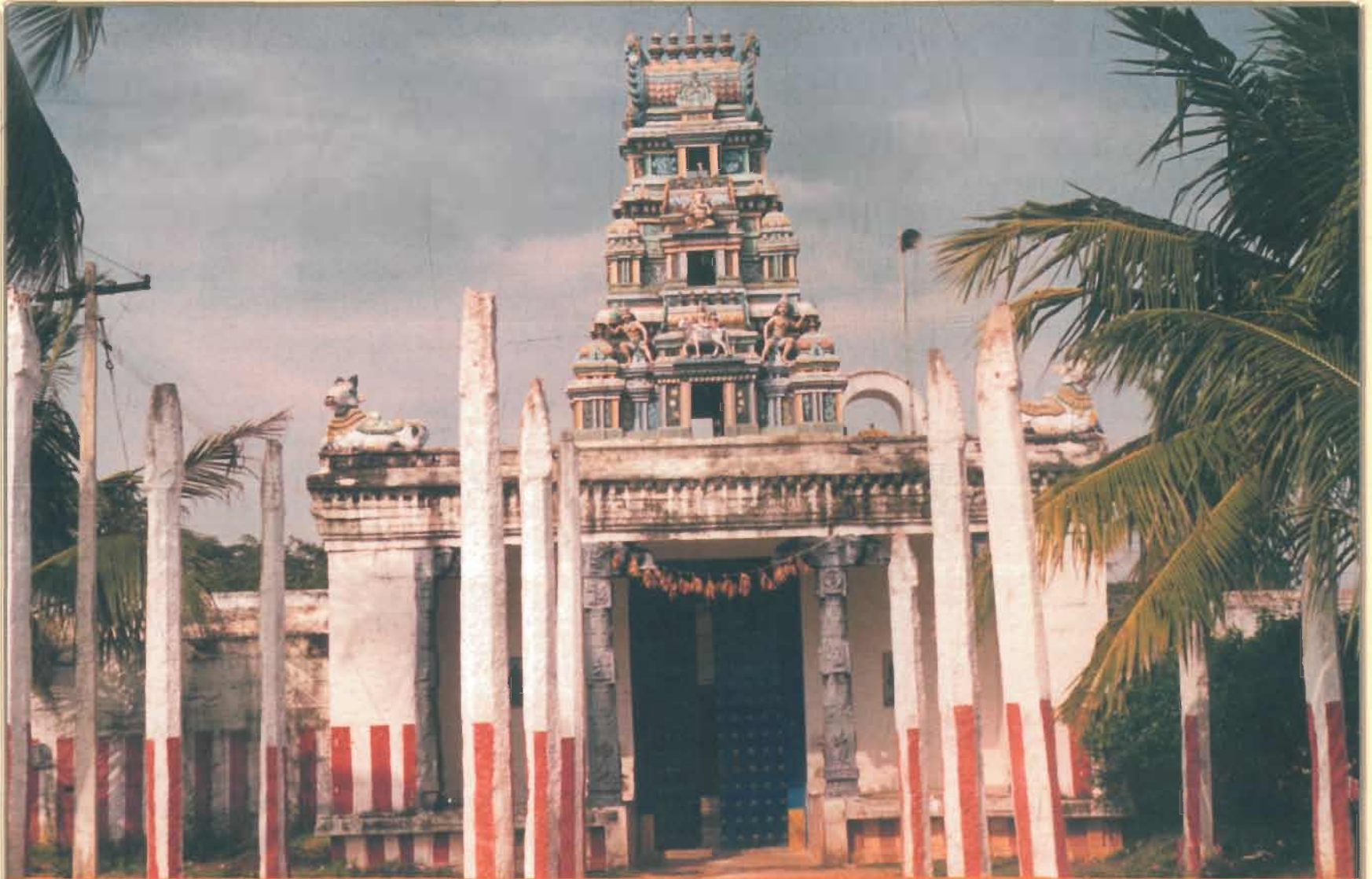
ATCHIVILAGAM (LC.1675)

No temple

PARAMANKENI (LC.1676)

Sri Vigneswara Temple

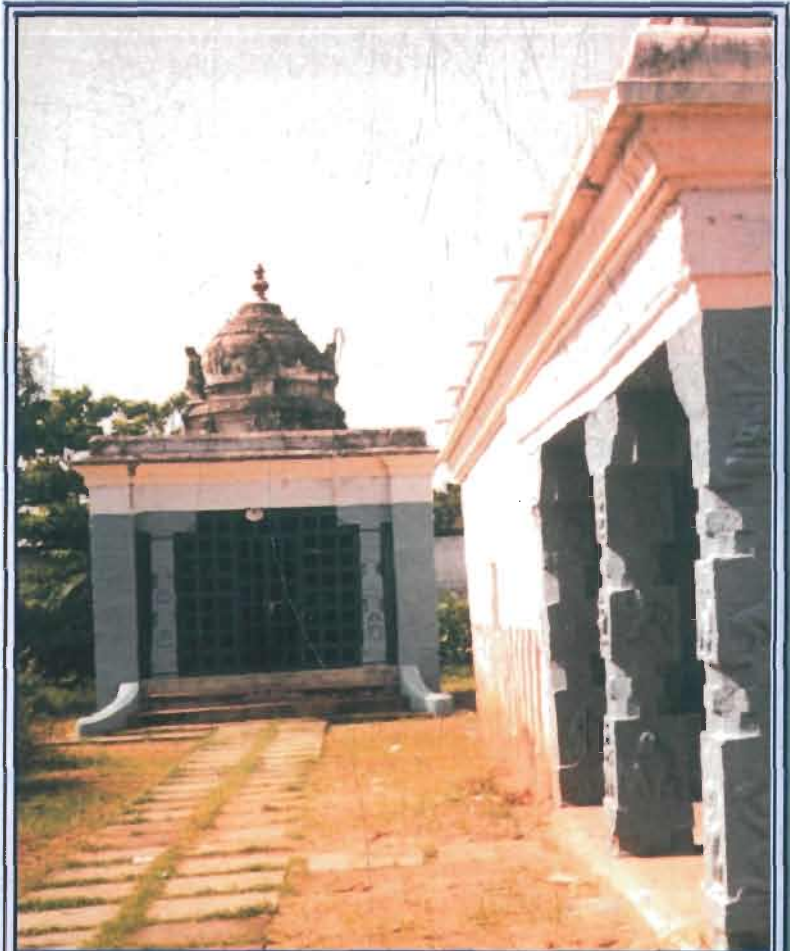
This temple in Seekinankuppam village was built by the local residents about hundred years ago. The nearest Railway Station, Maduranthakam, is at 40 Kms and this distance can be covered by bus. The temple occupies an area of about one cent and is square in shape. The presiding deity Sri Vigneswara is in a sitting posture. A Poosari from Naicker caste performs pooja once daily. The temple owns about 1 acre and 33 cents of wet lands. Vinayaga Chaturthi is the only important festival celebrated here, which attracts about 300 devotees. The temple affairs are managed by a single trustee.



Sri Valmikanathar Temple, Cheyyur



Sri Kandaswamy Temple, Cheyyur



Sri Karia Manicka Perumal Temple, Cheyyur



Sri Valmikanathar Temple, Cheyyur

Sri Mannadeeswaraswamy Temple

The above temple in Seekinankuppam village was built by two devotees about 75 years back; renovations were done about 40 years ago by the then trustees. Sri Mannadeeswaraswamy and His consort Sri Pachaiamman are the presiding deities of the temple. The temple covers an area of about 30 cents. The temple has a Sthala Puranam written by Sri Kottai Naicker of Kancheepuram.

A Poosari from Naicker caste, whose office is not hereditary performs pooja every morning. The landed property of the temple is 15 acres of dry and 1 acre of wet lands. The annual festival of the temple is observed during the Adi month. A single hereditary trustee manages the affairs of the temple.

PAKKUR (LC.1677)

Sri Agastheeswarar, Kandaswamy, Muthal Amman, Selli Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

CHEYYUR (LC.1678)



Sri Kandaswamy Temple

This is one of the three temples at Cheyyur, which is at a distance of 26 Kms from Maduranthakam and can be reached by bus. The temple covers 70 cents of land and is believed to be over 800 years old. There is no Gopuram at the entrance, but there are Vimanas over the Sanctum of the Lord and His consort. The principal deity is Sri Kandan or Murugan. Among the several other deities installed in the temple are Brahma and Vishnu. There is also a Lingam in the temple, which is a

Swayambu. The hereditary Gurukkal performs three poojas daily. He has been given service inam lands. The temple has some jewels and a Car, which is forty feet high. The Kandasashti Utsavam in Ayypassi is celebrated for six days. The Brahmothsavam in Panguni is observed for 12 days.

Sri Kariamanicka Perumal Temple

The temple covers an area of 65 cents. There is a small Gopuram at the entrance. There is also a Swayambu Lingam in this Perumal Temple. There are a number of other Gods and Goddesses. The hereditary Bhattacharya who has been given service inam lands performs poojas once daily. It owns wet lands to an extent of 5.73.5 hectares and dry lands to an extent of 5.06.0 hectares. The main festivals in this temple are: Vaikunta Ekadasi, Purattasi Saturday and Tamil New Years Day.



Sri Valmikanathaswamy Temple

This Shiva temple is believed to be 800 years old. It is built on about 65 cents of land. The presiding deity is a Swayambu Lingam. A hereditary Gurukkal conducts two poojas daily. He has been given service inam lands. A Palanquin and a gold chain weighing 3 sovereigns are among the movable properties. It has wet lands to an extent of 21.19 acres and dry lands to an extent of 7.04 acres. The main festivals celebrated in the temple are: Pradosham, Chithra Pournami, Shivarathri, Karthigai Deepam and Arudhra. The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.39,389/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.32,632/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.26,362/-.

The Archaeological Department has published a book about inscriptions in this temple. It is gathered that in ancient

times this place was known as Valmiki Puram and that Devendran worshipped the Swayambu Lingam here.

AMMANUR (LC.1679)

Sri Selli Amman and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

MARUDERI (LC.1680)

No temples.

CHITHARKADU (LC.1681)

Sri Valmiganathar, Mari Amman , Ponni Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

KOKKARANTHANGAL (LC.1682)

Sri Draupadi Amman, Ponni Amman and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PONDUR (LC.1683)

Sri Adikesava Perumal Temple

The village Pondur is located at 18 Kms from Acharapakkam Railway Station. Buses ply upto the village. The temple, which occupies an extent of 72 cents, is believed to be over 250 years old. It was also renovated later. The temple has 15.81.5 hectares of land. The Bhattacharya who holds the post hereditarily performs two poojas daily. The movable properties are some jewels and some Vahanams. Brahmotsavam, Sri Rama Navami, Sri Jayanthi and Navarathri festivals are cele-

brated every year. A single trustee is in charge of its management.

BOX - 91

Panchanga- The Hindu calendar

The Hindu calendar is called the Panchanga. It is drawn up using a highly scientific system of time calculation.

Sauramana: The first system is called Sauramana and is based on the apparent movement of the sun around the Zodiac. The Zodiac signs are called Rasis. There are 12 Rasis- Mesa- Aries; Vrishaba-Taurus; Mithuna-Gemini; Kataka-Cancer; Simha-Leo; Kanya-Virgo; Tula-Libra; Vrichikka-Scorpio; Dhanus-Sagittarius; Makara-Capricorn; Kumbha- Aquarius; Mina-Pisces. A solar month refers to the time required for the Sun to move from one Zodiac sign to the other and consists of 30 risings and settings of the Sun. The movement of the Sun from the Zodiac sign of Makara to Mithuna is called Uttarayana (movement in the Northern Solstice). The movement from the Zodiac sign of Kataka to Dhanus is referred to as the Dakshinayana (movement in the Southern Solstice).

Chandramana: This is based on the moons revolution around the earth. A lunar month is the time period between two new moons or two full moons. Amavasya or new moon is the day when the longitudes of the sun and moon are equal or the moon is nearest to the sun. Purnima (Pournami) or the full moon is when the differences between the longitudes of the sun and moon is 180 degrees, or the moon is farthest from the sun. Many Hindu festivals are celebrated on the Amavasya and Pournami days.

VILANGADU (LC.1684)

Sri Bala Dhandayudhapani, Selliamman, Mariamman, Ayyanar and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

PORUR (LC.1685)

Sri Muthalamman, Mariamman, Ayyanar, Easwarar and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

POONGUNAM (LC.1686)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

PAZHUVUR (LC.1687)

Sri Ponni Amman, Easwarar, Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

KANNIMANGALAM (LC.1688)

Sri Gangai Amman and Karpaga Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

CHITHAMUR (LC.1689)

Sri Pidariamman and Muthalamman Temples

No significant details are available.

BOX - 92

Saint Poygai Alwar

Saint Poygai Alwar was one of the revered saints of the Vaishnavite tradition. He was the first in the line of the 12 Alvars. He was also called the Adi Kavi. He was born in Thiruvehka in Kanchipuram. He composed the "Mudal Thitruvanthathi", a collection of 100 verses wherein he sings in praise of Lord Vishnu as the creator and describes his various Leelas. He also emphasizes Bhakti, surrender and love for the Lord as the only path to salvation. The devotional literature of the Alvars is known as the "Nalayira-Divya-Prabhandam" (four thousand devotional songs).

POLAMBAKKAM (LC.1690)

Sri Agastheeswarar, Karpaga Vinayaka, Draupadi Amman and Selli Amman Temples

The first temple owns 1.42 acres of land. No other significant details.

KURAMBARAI (LC.1691)

Sri Shiva Vishnu Temple

No significant details are available..

MALUVANKARANAI (LC.1692)

Sri Draupadi Amman, Mari Amman, Vinayaka, Murugan, Ayyanar and Selli Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PORAIYUR (LC.1693)

Sri Ponni Amman, Madurai Veeran, Mari Amman, Vinayaka, Ayyanar, Easwarar and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

SOTHUPAKKAM (LC.1694)

Sri Anjooramman Temple

This temple is at a distance of 1 furlong from the Sothupakkam Railway Station. The inhabitants of this village and four other villages built the temple more than 300 years ago. On festival days, the deity is taken round all the five villages and is therefore called "Anjooramman" (Anju= five; Oor= Village; Amman= Goddess). The temple covers an area of three cents. Pooja is done daily. Besides some Gold and Silver jewels, the temple has 5 acres of dry and 0.30 cents of wet lands. A wooden Car and Simha Vahanam are among the properties of the temple. During the Tamil month Vaikasi, the deity is taken round in procession on the Car and Vahanams. The other temples in this village are dedicated to: Sri Draupadi Amman, Murugan, Easwarar, Vinayaka and Perumal. No significant details are available about these temples.

KESAVARAYANPETTAI (LC.1695)

Sri Mari Amman, Vinayaka and Muthal Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

MELMARUVATHUR (LC.1696)



Sri Adi Parasakthi Amman Temple

The village Melmaruvathur is located 92 Kms. from Chennai on the Grand Southern Trunk Road (NH-45) connecting Chennai and Trichy. There is a Railway Station in this village and many trains from southern parts stop at this station. In recent years this place has become famous for the Adi Parasakthi Siddhar Peetam located here. The temple is associated with the Peetam. A Saint, Sri Bangaru Adigalar, established this temple in 1966. It is said that an oval shaped stone emanated from beneath a Neem tree that was uprooted by a severe cyclone. The saint is called "Amma" by the devotees. It is believed that this place is the abode of 21 saints who attained salvation (Samadhi) and all their powers added to the greatness of this Siddhar Peetam. It is also believed that the presiding deity is about 2000 year old. Unlike the other Hindu temples, there is no usual Bali Peetam, Vahanam, Dwajasthambam and Navagrahas etc. But there is Mandapam called Om Sakthi Medai with a Trident and a Naga Peetam where devotees light lamps. The temple includes a 4-pillared Mandapam, 16-pillared Mandapam, Garbha Griha, Putru Mandapam (anthill) from where the deity surfaced in 1966. There is a special shrine (Sannidhi) for Saptha Kannigas without roof. They are 7 forms of Sakthi and they are named Brahmi, Vaishnavi, Maheswari, Kaumari, Indirani, Varagi and Chamundi. The Sthala



Sri Murugan Temple, Sothupakkam



Sri Anjooramman Temple, Sothupakkam



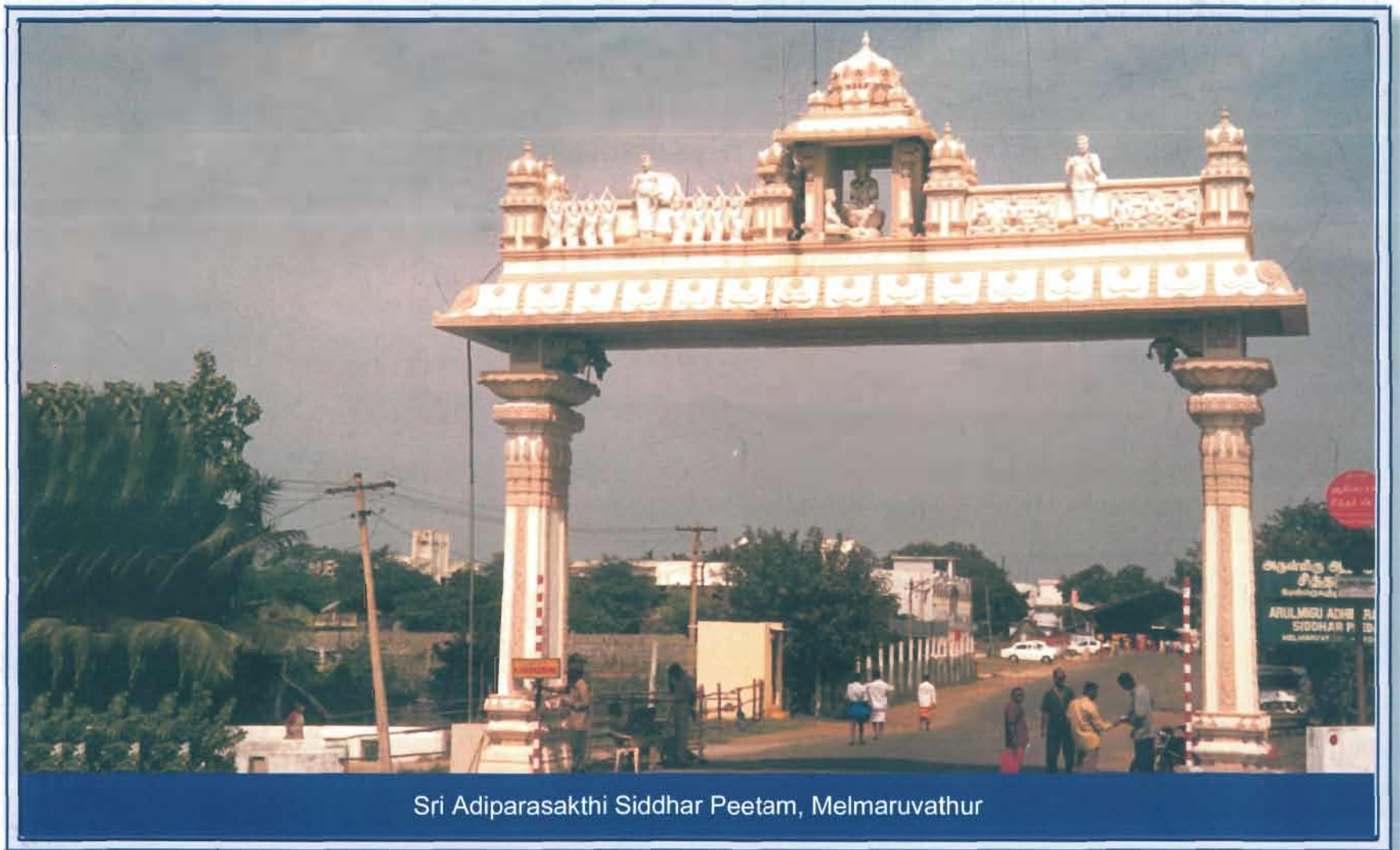
Om Sakthi Peetam, Melmaruvathur



Putru Mandapam, Melmaruvathur



Naga Peetam, Melmaruvathur



Sri Adiparasakthi Siddhar Peetam, Melmaruvathur

Viruksham is “Neem”. The other deities in the temple are Adharvana Badrakali and Prathyankara Devi.

There are several establishments created by this Mutt like Siddhar Peetams, Vara Vazhipattu Mandram (weekly worshiping centres), Endowments for Educational, medical, cultural and women welfare etc. There are 14 Siddhar Peetam in various parts of the State. Likewise, there are 2500 weekly pooja groups spread over India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, USA, Zambia and France. These establishments are engaged in social service, temple service, organizing yagnas etc. for the welfare of the people. Free meals are also provided in this temple.

Poojas and Festivals

Poojas are performed daily. A unique feature is that devotees can perform poojas directly to the deity. It is a convention that devotees wear Red colour clothing in this temple. The festivals in this temple are New Year Day (1st January), Thai Poosam, Saint Sri Bangaru Adigalar’s Birthday (3rd March), Telugu New Year Day (April), Tamil New Year’s Day (April), Chitra Pournami (April), Adi Pooram (Aug.), Navarathri (Oct.) and Christmas (Dec.25). On Thai Poosam Day the Saint lights a lamp (jyoti) on top of the Gopuram.

KEELMARUVATHUR (LC.1697)

Sri Anjoor Amman, Draupadi Amman, Mari Amman, Vinayaka and Kanni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

IRUMBILI (LC.1698)

Sri Sellu Amman, Navaneetha Kannan, Karpaga Vinayaka, Srinivasa Perumal and Osur Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PERAMBAKKAM (LC.1699)

Sri Pidari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

MAGUNDAGIRI (LC.1700)

Sri Kothanda Rama Swami Temple

The village is located 7 Kms from Melmaruvathur Railway Station. A Bhattacharya conducts daily Poojas in the temple. The temple owns 1.20.0 hectares of dry and wet lands. No other significant details are available.

PERUKKARANAI (LC.1701)

Sri Nadupalani Murugan, Vinayaka and Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PARUKKAL (LC.1702)

Sri Gangai Amman, Mari Amman, Perumal and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

THANDALAM (LC.1703)

Sri Mari Amman, Murugan, Vinayaka and Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

VETTAMPERUMBAKKAM (LC.1704)

Sri Ponni Amman, Vinayaka, Perumal and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

INDALUR (LC.1705)

Sri Sriranga Narayana, Vinayaka, Manampureeswarar and Ayyanar Temples

No significant details are available.

AMMANAMBAKKAM (LC.1706)

Sri Thavasu Amman, Vinayaka and Theertha Lingeswarar Temples

No significant details are available.

TENPAKKAM (LC.1707)

Sri Pasupatheeswarar Temple

The village is located at about 3 Kms from Acharapakkam Railway Station. The temple was built 20 years ago by the residents. It covers an area of about 20 cents. The Lingam in this temple is said to be a Swayambu. The temple owns 0.71.0 hectares of land. A Poosari from Vanniar caste performs pooja every morning; his office is not hereditary. Trustees manage the affairs of the temple.

The other temples in the village are dedicated to: Sri Selva Vinayaka, Pidari Amman and Perumal. The first temple owns 0.48.0 hectares of land; the second 0.16.5 hectares and the third 0.44.0 hectares of land.

ARAPPEDU (LC.1708)

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka, Ponni Amman, Ayyanar, Nukkal Amman, Pandurangan and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KOLATHUR (LC.1709)

Sri Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

AYAKUNNAM (LC.1710)

Sri Karpaga Vinayaka Temple

No significant details are available.

THUTHUVILAMPATTU (LC.1711)

Sri Mari Amman Perumal and Ayyanar Temples

No significant details are available.

PULIYANI (LC.1712)

Sri Sellu Amman, Hanuman, Vinayaka and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VOYALUR (LC.1713)

Sri Draupadi Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

NERKUNAM (LC.1714)

Sri Mari Amman, Vinayaka, Ponni Amman, Murugan, Easwarar and Gangai Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ATTUPATTUKOTTAIPUNJI (LC.1715)

Sri Vinayaka and Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

KAYAPAKKAM (LC.1716)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal, Karpaga Vinayaka, Mari Amman, Ponni Amman and Draupadi Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

PERIAKALAKADI (LC.1717)

Sri Kunnathamman and Mari Amman Temples

The temples own 11.65.0 hectares of land. No other significant details are available.

PUTHIRANKOTTAI (L.C.1718)

Sri Govindaraja Perumal Temple

The village is 22 Kms from Maduranthakam. The above Vishnu temple is at a distance of half a mile from the main road. It is an ancient temple. It covers an area of 50 cents. The Gopuram is 30 feet high. Daily, one pooja is performed by the Bhattacharya. The temple has wet and dry lands. Sri Rama

Navami festival is celebrated annually. A trustee is in charge of the temple.

BOX - 93

Tithi

Tithi is the time the moon takes to increase or decrease its distance from the sun by 12 degrees. There are 15 tithis in a Paksha. The tithies are: Amavasya, Prathamai, Dwiteeyai, Triteeyai, Chaturthi, Panchami, Shasti, Sapthami, Ashtami, Navami, Dasami, Ekadasi, Dwadashi, Trayodashi and Pournami.

Every tithi is associated with the worship of certain deities. Chaturthi is associated with Lord Vinayaga. Shashti is associated with Lord Skanda or Murugan; Ekadasi with Lord Vishnu; Trayodashi and Chaturdashi with Lord Shiva; Pournami with Goddess and Amavasya with ancestors.

Annual tithies are associated with certain specific festivals- Vinayaga Chaturthi, Krishna Ashtami, Rama Navami, Skanda Shashti etc.

Sri Agastheeswarar Temple

The temple is an ancient one. In 1917, repairs were done and the Navagrahas and Ambal idol were installed. There are inscriptions in the temple that are not decipherable. The temple covers an area of 96 cents. The Gopuram is 30 feet high. The shrine has wet and dry lands. The non-hereditary priest performs Pooja once a day. A trustee is in charge of the temple.

PANAYADIVAKKAM (LC.1719)

Sri Sellu Amman, Ponni Amman, Vinayaka and Pappathi Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VEDAL (LC.1720)

Sri Easwarar, Perumal, Draupadi Amman, Vinayaka, Kanni Amman, Mari Amman, Ayyanar, Sellu Amman and Muthal Amman Temples

The first two temples own lands to an extent of 4 acres and 2.5 acres respectively. No other significant details are available.

KOTTAIKADU (LC.1721)

Sri Bhadrakali Amman Temple

This old temple is presently under renovation. It occupies an area of 1 acre. Third week of Adi is considered extremely auspicious in this temple. It is a privately managed temple.

KADUKALUR (LC.1722)

Sri Adi Kesava Perumal, Agastheeswarar, Muthu Mari Amman and Kanaka Durga Amman Temples

The village is located at 15 Kms from Cheyyur. Bus facility is available to reach the village. The presiding deity in the Perumal Temple is Sri Adi Kesava Perumal with his consort Sri Ambujavalli Thayar. The temple occupies an area of 40 cents. A Bhattacharya performs pooja twice a day. It does not own any land. There are a number of wooden Vahanams in the temple- Garuda, Horse, Elephant, Hanumantha and Surya Prabhai. Sri Rama Navami and Pavithra Uthsavam are the important festivals in this temple. The temple is under the control of the HR & CE Department. The presiding deity in the Easwarar Temple is Sri Agastheeswarar, a Prathishta Lingam. The Goddess is Sri Muthambigai. The temple occupies an area of 30 cents. It does not own any land. A Gurukkal performs pooja twice a day. Maha Shivarathri and Arudhra are the important festivals in this temple. The temple is under the control of the HR & CE

Department. No significant details are available. about the other temples in the village.

OTHIVILAGAM (LC.1723)

Sri Mari Amman and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

CHUNAMPET (LC.1724)

Sri Varadharaja Perumal and Agastheeswarar Temples

The presiding deity in the Perumal Temple is Sri Varadaraja Perumal with his consorts Sri Sri Devi and Bhuvaneswari. The temple occupies an area of 1 acre. A Bhattacharya performs pooja twice a day. It owns lands to an extent of 9.92.0 hectares. There are two wooden Vahanams in the temple- Garuda and Horse. Vaikunta Ekadasi is the important festival in this temple. As per legend, a local chieftain had a son who was blind. He prayed at this temple and by the grace of the Lord, the eyesight of the child was restored. The deity is therefore known as “Kann Ugantha Perumal” (Kann= Eyes; Ugantha=Giver).

The presiding deity in the Easwarar Temple is Sri Agastheeswarar with his consort Sri Shivakama Sundari. The temple occupies an area of 1 acre. A Gurukkal performs pooja twice a day. It owns lands to an extent of 39.09.5 hectares. There is a wooden Rishabha Vahanam in the temple. Arudhra is the important festival in this temple.

Both the temples have jewellery, estimated in 1976 to be worth Rs.85,000/-. The temples are under the control of the HR & CE Department. The annual income of these temples, as per the records of HR&CE, is: for Fasli 1402 – Rs.35,516/-; for Fasli 1403 – Rs.95,914/- and for Fasli 1404 – Rs.30,884/-.

ILLEDU (LC.1725)

Sri Gangai Amman, Konchi Amman, Dhandumari Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

AGARAM (LC.1726)

Sri Gangai Amman, Draupadi Amman, Vinayaka, Mari Amman and Orupanai Amman Temples

No significant details are available..

SIRUNAGAR (LC.1727)

Sri Perumal and Ekathamman Temples

No significant details are available..

SIRUMAILUR (LC.1728)

Sri Pidari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available..

KADAPPARI (LC.1729)

Sri Mari Amman, Gangai Amman, Vinayaka Thanthoni Amman and Venkatesa Perumal Temples

No significant details are available.

Sri Venkateswarar Temple

The temple is an ancient one. It occupies an area of 6.38 acres. The Gopuram is 150 feet high. There are two Praakaarams, Ardha-Mandapam, Maha-Mandapam and a front Mandapam. There are 151 stone pillars in all. It is stated that the Moolavar was installed by one of the Pandya Kings. Saint Arunagirinathar has sung in praise of Lord Shanmuga, which is also installed in this temple. It has 19.32 acres of wet and dry lands, which are under lease cultivation. A hereditary Gurukkal who is in the enjoyment of two acres of service inam lands performs four poojas daily. Antique jewels and several Vahanams form the movable property of the temple. Brahmothsavam is celebrated in the month of Vaikasi.

As per legend, a King who was suffering from Leprosy visited this temple. He saw a dog with skin disease entering the tank and coming out free from the disease. Seeing this, he also bathed in this tank and got relief from the disease. It is believed that the water in this tank has curative powers. The Tank is known as Visha-hara Theertham.

The annual income of the temple as per records of HR&CE is: for Fasli 1401 – Rs.5,308/-; for Fasli 1402 – Rs.29,089/- and for Fasli 1403 – Rs.28, 316/-.

SIRUVILAMBAKKAM (LC.1730)

Sri Mari Amman and Vinayaka Temples

No significant details are available.

VENMALAGARAM (LC.1731)

Sri Mari Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

EASUR (LC.1732)

Sri Muthumari Amman, Selva Vinayaka, Malleeswarar and Pidari Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ARASUR (LC.1733)

No details are available.

VENNANDAL (LC.1734)

Sri Agneeswarar, Lakshmi Narayana Perumal and Megathamman Temples

The village is located at 23 Kms from Cheyyur and 29 Kms from Maduranthakam. The temple is an ancient one. It occupies an area of 10 cents. A Gurukkal conducts Pooja once a day. The temple owns 12.40 acres of wet lands and 20.69 acres of dry lands. The temple has an annual income of Rs. 25,000/- approximately. Navarathri, Vaikunta Ekadasi, Arudhra and Vinayaga Chathurthi are the important festivals. The temple is under the HR & CE Department.

ANDARKUPPAM (LC.1735)

Sri Mari Amman, Vinayaka, Selli Amman and VenugopalaSwamy Temples

No significant details are available.

VANNIANALLUR (LC.1736)

Sri Muthu Mari Amman, Vinayaka and Etti Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

BOX - 94

Shiva Lingam

The word Lingam in Sanskrit means a symbol. The Lingam actually represents formlessness. Lord Shiva is believed to be of indefinable form. All forms in the universe are supposed to be elements of the Lord and when they combine an indefinable form emerges that is represented as Lingam. With the advent of Tantra Yoga, an esoteric philosophy emerged that looked at the Lingam as the masculine aspect and the Adishtanam or base on which the Lingam is placed as the feminine aspect- the union of the two representing the universe. This philosophy, however, has no reference in the Vedic texts. Lingams that occur in natural form are referred to as Swayambu Lingam (that which originates of its own accord) and those that are manmade are called Pradishtha Lingam.

VILAMBATTU (LC.1737)

Sri Ponni Amman Temple

No significant details are available.

PUDUPATTU (LC.1738)

Sri Mari Amman, Vinayaka and Ponni Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

VELLANKONDAGARAM (LC.1739)

Sri Muthu Mari Amman and Mari Amman Temples

No significant details are available.

ANNEXURE

A SELECT GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATING TO TEMPLE SURVEY

Abhaya hastham	The palm of the Deity in the posture of assuring freedom from fear or danger to the devotees
Abishekam	A holy bath given to the Deity with oil, milk, scented powder, honey, rose-water, ghee, sugar cane juice, etc.
Abhista Varadhan	The Deity who fulfils the prayers of the devotees - Usually applied to Vaishnavite Gods
Addigai	A necklace usually made of gold and precious stones adorning the neck
Adi Sankarar	The Jagathguru of Hinduism and the founder of Advaita
Adi Shesha	A celebrated serpent said to have one thousand heads and represented as forking the couch of Lord Vishnu
Agamas	Texts of Learning which have come down to us/ They are inter-connected with the Vedas and also the forms of worship
Agasthyar	A famous sage (Rishi) who was short in stature, who is regarded as the first teacher of Science and Literature
Amarathvam	Immortality
Amirtham	Nectar
Amman	Goddess
Andigals	Ascetic
Annam	Swan - A common vahanam used in temples
Antharalam	Artha Mandapam or an intermediary space in between the Sanctum Sanctorum and the exterior of the temple
Appar	One of the famous Nayanmars and the author of the great "Thevaram," who lived in the 7th century
Aradhana	A form of worship to the deity
Aravall	Snake's tail
Aravoo	Serpent

Archagar	A Brahmin priest in a Saivite Temple
Archana	Devotional worship offered to the deity by the priest with flowers or holy ashes or saffron
Arthajama Pooja	The last of the daily poojas performed at night
Arunagirinathar	A great saint who lived in the 15th century and the author of the famous "Thiruppugazh".
Ashram	A hermitage or abode of ascetics; also a stage in the life of a Brahmin
Ashtabhuja	Deity with eight hands
Ashtothram	A form of archana usually offered to the deity with a recital of 108 names
Asthana Mandapam	Assembly Hall
Asuras	Demons
Aswametha Yagam	This was performed by Kings who were great conquerors. A horse was turned loose and all foreign countries where it entered had either to submit or to fight
Aswany Devathas	Twin divine doctors
Athi-Kavi	Sage Valmiki, the author of the famous Epic "Ramanaya" in Sanskrit
Athreya (Atri) Maharishi	A great sage - An exogamous sept among Brahmins has originated from him
Avarangadu	A forest full of 'Avara' trees
Avatharam	Descent of a deity upon earth : Incarnation in human form
Azhwars (Alwars)	The ten Vaishnava saints whose hymns in praise of Vishnu are regarded as sacred sceiptures
Bajanai	Mass worship
Bajanai Koil / Madam	A miniature temple containing divine portraits like Lord Krishna, Perumal, Sri Ramar etc.' where mass worship is done
Bala roopam	A figure of child
Bali Peedam	Altar or the sacrificial stone

Bhaktar	Devotees
Bharadwaja	A Maharishi or Sage, the originator of another sect among Brahmins
Battachari	A Brahmin priest belonging to the Vaishnavite sect who offers pooja in a Vishnu temple
Bootha-ganas	The whole class of spirits or devils, the collection of created beings
Boothakkal Mandapam	A mandapam built by Boothaganas
Boothas	Spirits
Boothath Alwar	One of the ten renowned Alwars who were the stalwarts of Vaishnavism
Brindaranya	Thulasi Vanam - A forest full of Basil plants
Chakram	Discus
Chapparam	Chariot
Dakshinayanam	The Sun's progress - South of Equator
Darsanam	Sight of God or of Holy-men
Dasavatharam	The ten Incarnations of Lord Vishnu to punish the wicked
Deepa-aradhanai	Illuminating the deity's face with burning camphor or with a deepam i.e. a lamp with oil and wick
Devadasi Inam	Lands endowed to dancing girls who are doing service to the temple by their performances or dances before the deity during festivals. This is now abolished
Devasthanam	The body administering the affairs of the temple
Dhanur Masam	The Tamil month of Margazhi - December - January
Divya Desas	Sacred centres
Dravida	A type of vimanam crowned with an octagonal or hexagonal "Sikhara" above the neck. (South India)
Dwajasthambam	The flag mast-usually a pillar fixed outside the main shrine in line with the Sanctum Sanctorum
Dwapaara Yuga	The third among the four yugas before "Pralaya".
Dwara-palas	Guards of the deity found on either side of the entrance to the Sanctum Sanctorum
Erukku	A coarse milky shrub
Gajaprishtam	The Sanctum in the shape of the back of a sleeping or recumbent elephant
Garbagraham	The inner part of Sanctum Sanctorum
Garuda	A mythological bird - the vehicle of Lord Vishnu
Garuda-kambam	A pillar with Garuda at the top found in Vishnu temples
Gnana Mudra	A symbol or sign signifying knowledge
Gopuram	Pagoda
Gothras	Exogamous septs in Hinduism descending from the Rishis or Sages
Grantham	A script pronounced like Sanskrit -Not a spoken language
Guru	Preceptor
Gurukkal	A Brahmin priest belonging to the Saivite sect who offers pooja in a Siva Temple
Hundi	A sealed receptacle with a slit at the top in which devotees deposit cash and other valuables
Iravatham	The white elephant of Indra, the King of the Devas
Kachiappa Munivar	A well-known saint belonging to the 18th century and the author of the famous "Thiru Thanigai Puranam"
Kailas	The abode of Lord Siva
Kalasandhi	The morning pooja

Kaligathurai	A type of necklace adorning the Ambal
Kali Yuga	The fourth of the Chatur or four yugas before Pralaya or Deluge
Kalyana Mandapam	A special mandapam dedicated to the celebration of the marriage of the Lord with His consort
Kamadhenu	The holy cow which fulfils the desires of devotees
Kandhakottam	The above of Temple or Lord Muruga
Kani	The unit of area for measuring lands
Karnapathiram	A special type of gem set ear ornament
Kattalai	A type of endowment of the devotees for doing periodical poojas or offerings
Kavacham	A cover made of precious stones, gold or silver to armour
Kavadi	A decorated wooden pole with an arch over it carried on shoulders with offerings such as flowers, milk, rosewater etc. mostly for Lord Muruga with some parade
Keerthanas	Devotional songs
Koorai	The saree worn during marriage
Kretha Yuga	The first of the Chatur or four yugas before Pralaya
Kireedam	Head wear or crown
Ksheerabthi	Sea of milk
Kumarakottam	The temple of Lord Muruga
Kumbabishekam	The periodical holy bath given to the presiding deity, purifying the temple at the time of every renovation
Kural	The philosophical poetic composition by Thiruvalluvar
Laksha deepam	The grand illumination of the temple with one lakh of oil lamps
Laksharchanas	The recital of divine names for one lakh of times
Madam	A religious institution
Madapalli	Kitchen
Magara Kandigai	A type of gem set gold bangle adorning the hands of the deity
Mahabaratha	The Great Hindu Epic describing the famous battle of Kurushethra between the Pandavas and the Gauravas
Maha Mandapam	A big hall in temples for holding religious discourses
Mandapam	A big terraced hall
Mangala Sasanam	Scripts composed by Alwars in praise of Maha Vishnu
Mangalyam	The sacred ornament symbolizing marriages
Manyam	Landed endowments to the temple servants for their services
Mavilakku	A form of offering to the deity in which a wick is burnt in a flour paste
Mohini allowance	A kind of allowance given to the temple
Moolasthanam	Sanctum Sanctorum
Moola Vighram	The presiding deity
Moongil	Bamboo
Mullai vanam	A forest full of jasmine flower creepers
Munivar	Saint
Munjur	Bandicoot
Nagabaranam	A gold or silver kavacham or metallic cover fashioned after the serpent with five heads to adorn the deity
Nagam	Serpent
Nagapasam	An ant-hill bearing a five headed serpent covering it as an umbrella
Nagara	A type of vimanam crowned by a circular Sikhara above the neck (Central India)

Namam	The Vaishnavite sect mark of three stripes made on the forehead in 'U' or 'Yours faithfully,' shape
Nambudris	A class of Brahmins belonging to the Kerala State
Nathaswaram	A type of musical pipe played mostly on auspicious occasions
Nayanmars	The sixty three Saiva Saints whose history is narraged in "Periyapuranam"
Neivedhyam	Offerings to the deity, namely, coconuts, plantains, jaggery, butter, sweet meats etc.
Nirvana	Nude
Ochar	A sect of priests
'OM'	Then sacred syllable representing the universal vibratory sound
Oonrukole	A stick meant for support
Othuvars	Priests in Siva Temples
Padakkam	A locket or pendant
Paditharam	An allowance in kind
Padmasali	A sect among the weavers
Pallakku	Palanquin
Panchaksharam	A mantra comprising of five syllables, namely, "Nama-sivaya"
Panchalagam	An alloy of five metals
Pancha murthys	The five deities, namely, Vinayagar, Murugar, Lord Siva, Uma Devi and Chandikeswarar
Pancharatra	A Vaishnava Agama
Pandaram	A special community of priests who are empowered to offer ceremonial worship to village deities
Papanasini	That which wipes out sins
Para Brahma Rupini	Deity in its universal aspect
Parkadal	Sea of milk
Partha	Arjuna, the third among the five Pandava brothers of the Great Epic Mahabaratha
Pattam	A special form of honour done to a respectable person by tying around his forehead, a metallic sheet with a silk thread
Peetam	A specially made platform on which the idol is placed
Ponnadi Sabhai	A special committee of members instituted in Bajanai Koils
Pooja	A form of ceremonial worship offered to the deity
Poosari	The priest who does worship to village deities in street temples
Prabandam	A poetic composition of ninety six varieties
Pradishta	Installation
Pradosham	Evening of the 13th Thithi of dark fortnight. 90 minutes before and after sunset and considered auspicious for worshipping Lord Siva
Prakaram	The verandah or passage around the Sanctum Sanctorum attended for the devotees to go around the deity
Pranavam	The Sacred syllable "OM"
Prarthana Sthalam,	A sacred place for fulfilling the vows of devotees
Prasadhham	Any propitiatory offering to idols or the reminiscence of such things
Prithivi	The Earth
Punarvasu	The seventh Lunar mansion or an epithet of Vishnu or Siva
Purogitham	The office of the priest
Raja Gopuram	The main Pagoda
Rakshasas	Demons

Ratham	Chariot
Rishabam	A bull
Rudrakshamalai	A rosary or neck ornament made of the berry of a particular sacred tree
Sapa vimochanam	Deliverance from a curse
Sadagopam	A small metal head cover on which Vishnu's feet are engraved and which is placed over the head of worshippers in Vishnu temples
Sahasranama Archana	A form of archana or worship usually offered to the deity with a recital of 1,008 names
Samadhi	Penance, a stage being completely absorbed in meditation; a tomb
Sandanakappu	Smearing the idol with sandal wood paste
Sangu	The Conch Shell
Sannadhi	The passage leading to Sanctum
Santha Murthy	God in a state of tranquility
Saropam	Identity with the God in form; assimilation to the deity which is one of the four states of 'Mukthi' (Salvation)
Sathu Murai	Close of the festival in honour of Vaishnava Saints
Sayanam	In a lying pose
Sayaratchai Pooja	Pooja in the evening
Sayujyam	The entire absorption in the deity
Sevalkodi	The banner of Lord Muruga having the figure of a cock
Shrotrium	Service inam lands assigned to Government servants as reward for their services
Shudkonam	Hexangular
Sikhara	Peak
Simha	Lion - A common vahanam used in temples
Sivasaropiam	Identity with Siva in form
Somavaram	Monday
Sthala puranam	The legends regarding the origin of a sacred place
Sthala viruksham	The sacred tree connected with the legend of the temple
Swathi	Arcturus which forms the 15th Lunar asterism
Swayambu	That which comes of its own accord
Swetha	Sweat
Thaila kappu	Smearing the idol with oil
Thali	An ornament symbolising marriage
Theerthavari	A festival during which the deity is immersed in holy water
Thenkalai	The 'Yours faithfully,' mark worn on the forehead by the Thenkalai sect of the Vaishnavas
Theppam	Floating festival
Thretha Yuga	The second among the four yugas before 'Pralaya'
Thirumanjanam	The bath of an idol
Thirumudi	The head of the chief idol in a temple
Thiruvadi	Sacred feet of a deity
Thiruvoymozhi	Devotional verses by Saint Nammalwar
Thirunakshathiram	An asterism under which a saint or a great person is born
Thiruneerpattai	A decorative piece of silver fixed on the forehead of the deity resembling the lines usually made by the sacred ash
Thiruppavai	A poem in Malayira Prabandam by Sri Andal in praise of Lord Vishnu

Thirusoolam	A trident
Upayadhars	Persons making donations for specific purposes
Uchikala Pooja	Pooja done in mid-day
Ugra	Fierce, powerful, angry
Upanayanam	The sacred thread ceremony
Urchavam or Uthsavam	Festival
Urthuva Thandavam	The gigantic dance of Lord Siva with one leg poised upward in which He defeated Goddess Kali
Ushatkala Pooja	Early morning Pooja
Utharayanam	The Sun's progress - North of Equator
Uthsava Murthy	An idol worshipped on festival days
Vadakalai	The 'U' shaped caste mark worn by the Vadakalai sect of the Vaishnavas
Vahanam	A vehicle
Vairamudi	Diamond Crown
Vamana	Dwarf, the fifth incarnation of Lord Vishnu
Varaga	A Boar, the third incarnation of Lord Vishnu
Varam	A kind of agricultural tenancy

Veena	A stringed musical instrument
Vel	A spear
Vesara	A special type of vimanam crowned by a circular sikhara above the neck (Central India)
Vibhoothi	The sacred ash
Vigraham	An idol
Vilvamalai	A garland of leaves belonging to the sacred Vilva tree
Vimanam	The roof of the Sanctum
Virutha swaroopam	The form of an old man
Viswaroopam	The omnipresent form of God
Yaga	A special sacrificial ceremony
Yagasalai	The place in which a sacrificial ceremony is observed
Yantra or Peetam	The seat on which the deity is placed
Yowana roopam	The form of a youth
Yuga	An age of the world. There are four Yugas viz' Kretha Yuga, Thretha Yuga, Dwapara Yuga and Kali Yuga each of which runs into several lakhs of years

TEMPLES - QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of the District :

1 Name of the Taluk

2 Name of the Village

3 Distance from the nearest Railway Station-

State the name of the Station.

4 Distance from District Headquarters

5 Distance from Taluk Headquarters

6 Bus facilities available to reach the village -

Brief description.

7 Name of the temple or temples

8 Name or names of the deities

I. Historical aspects -

(a) Approximate age of the temple

(b) In whose time and by whom was it built first?

(c) If there were subsequent substantial additions or renovations, by whom was it done?

(d) Are there any stone inscriptions or copper sanads in support of the origin of the temple?

(e) Is there any legend attached to the construction of the temple?

(f) Were there any subsequent events?

II. Details of the temple-

(a) Describe in detail with pictures about the style, layout and construction of the temple.

(b) Area of the land occupied by the temple.

(c) Describe the size and style of the pagados, about the architecture, about pillars, number of praakaarams, sanctum sanctorum etc.

III. Details about the deity -

(a) If Siva temple, is the Lingam a Swayambu Lingam or otherwise? If Vaishnavite or Murugan or other temple, what is the posture of the deity? Describe the style, size and pose of the deities (both about Moolavar and Uthsavamurthy).

(b) Are there any legends attached to the pose of the deities?

(c) Do you find anything peculiar to this temple, which are not found in other temples?

(d) Is there any 'Sthala Puranam' attached to this temple? If so, is there any information about the author of it?

(e) Have great Saints like Appar, Sundarar, Manickavasagar and Thirugnanasambandar, Arunagirinathar,

Ramanujar and other Nayanmars or Alwars visited the temple? If so, give details of their songs, year of visit and any important events during the visit?

(f) Give details about the daily poojas in the temple.

IV. Priesthood -

(a) Who perform the daily poojas?

(b) Is there any special significance attached to the institution of this priesthood? If so, what?

(c) Are the priests selected from any special category of persons within that community?

(d) Have they to observe any special rituals or vows?

(e) Is the institution hereditary?

(f) What are the means of livelihood for the priests? Are they given a service inam or are they paid wages out of the income of the temple, or do they depend only on the offerings of devotees?

V. Jewels -

(a) What are the jewels and other ornaments kept in the temple and what is their value?

(b) Is there any information about the acquisition of these?

(c) Do you find any speciality in the making of these jewels and ornaments?

(d) How many of these jewels are antique and how many modern?

(e) Give a brief description of some exquisite items among the jewellery.

VI. Other properties, inams and endowments-

(a) What are all the immovable properties belonging to the temple Devasthanam?

(b) How are they at present enjoyed and managed?

(c) What is the annual income derived out of these properties and how are they collected?

(d) How is the money utilised?

(e) Are any institutions, schools, chatrams, etc. maintained out of it?

(f) Are there any service inam lands (Devadasi or "Kattalai" inam lands) attached to the temple? If so, by whom are they held and are the services attached to these service inam lands rendered properly?

(g) Are there any legends or stone inscriptions, copper plates, etc., describing the institution of such inams or endowments? (Photographic plates, if possible, may be taken)

VII. Income from hundies and daily offerings-

(a) Does the temple derive any income from hundi collections and from offerings of devotees?

(b) If so, what is the annual income from these items?

(c) Are the hundies broken open and counted on any special date?

(d) Should all the trustees be present when the hundies are opened and counted?

(e) Does the temple collect any charges from devotees for performing poojas, abishekams, etc.?

(f) What are the charges for each such item?

(g) What is the average annual income from such charges?

VIII. Cars, Rathams and Vahanams, etc.

(a) What are the Cars, Rathams, Vahanams, Palanquins, etc., attached to the temple?

(b) Describe the size, style, make, material used, etc. about these.

(c) What is the age of these vehicles and is there any legend or story attached to their acquisition?

IX. Festivals-

(a) What are the festivals attached to the temple? On what dates are they celebrated?

(c) Briefly describe the main festival and some of the important festivals.

(d) Are there any legends attached to the celebration of these festivals?

(e) What is the size of the crowd attracted?

(f) Does the festival attract people from adjacent villages, taluks, districts, etc.?

X. Managements-

(a) How were the temple affairs managed in olden days?

(b) How are they managed at present?

(c) Is the temple under the control of the Endowments Board; and if so, is there any Executive Officer?

(d) Is there any Board of Trustees, and if so, how many?

XI. General-

(a) Are there stories current among the devotees about the power of the deity?

(b) Describe some of the most interesting stories with particular reference to the miracles attributed to them - in ancient as well as in modern times.

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