



NAVARATHRI FESTIVAL

PANACHIKKAD TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Panachikkad Grama Panchayat

District

Kottayam

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/
Junction**

Puthupally Junction – 4.1 Km

Nearest Bus station

Paruthumpara Bus Stop – 1.7 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Chingavanam Railway Station – 3.7 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport- 91.66Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

PanachickaduDevaswam

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Website: www.panachickad.org



TIME

DATES

September- October

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

9 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

According to a very popular legend, *Mahishasura*, the mighty demon worshipped Lord Shiva and obtained invincible power. Soon, he started killing the innocent lives on earth and set out to win the seven lokas. He acquired the Swagelok. Nobody could save the living creatures from his tyranny. Even the three mighty gods of the Hindu Trinity - Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva - were unable to defeat him. Therefore, all the gods, including the Hindu Trinity, united their supreme powers and created a divine being called *Ma Shakti* or *Durga*, the Warrior Goddess. With all the accumulated power and the weapons given by the gods, Goddess *Durga* set her trail to defeat *Mahishasura*. To accomplish the task, she entered a war with him, which extended for nine days. After fighting hard with him for nine days, Goddess *Durga* killed *Mahishasura* on the tenth day. Consequently, she lifted the tyranny of the demon off the innocent lives on earth and restored the Swagelok to the *devatas* (Gods). Therefore, *Navratri* is celebrated to commemorate her victory over the demon, which symbolizes the victory of the good over the evil. The nine nights of *Navratri* symbolize the nine nights of the war between Goddess *Durga* and *Mahishasura*.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 2000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Ayudhapooja
Vidyarambham
National Dance and
Music festival

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The Navaratri festival lasts for 9 days. The last three days of Navratri are most important. Each day's festival is known as Prathipadam, Dwitheeya, Thritheeya, Chaturthi, Panchami, Sashti, Sapthami, Durgashtami, Mahanavami and Vijayadashami which occurs in the 10th day of Navratri. Durgashtami is the day of Ayudha Puja. At this day all the tools or materials or books used for job or education are offered to god for blessing. For two days these tools and books are not allowed to take. On Mahanavami day peoples worships Saraswathi Devi. Regular Pooja and prayers are conducted in the morning as well as in the evening of this day. The day next to Mahanavami is Vijayadashami. In Vijayadasami, after the Puja, the books, tools and the study materials which are kept for puja are taken away from the puja room and this ceremony is called Puja Eduppu. It is considered as an auspicious time to start any new works. It also considered as an ideal day for starting education. So in various temples Vidhyarambam or Ezhuthinuiruthu is conducted in Vijayadashami day. Vidyarambham - the ceremony that initiates infants to the world of letters is a major event as part of the Navaratri festival at the Panachikkadu temple. This ceremony is held on the Vijayadashami day, which is the last day of the Navaratri festival. Cultural events are also part of the festivities here. Classical dance and music performances are held on the temple premises during the festival days. They also conduct a National Dance and Music festival in connection with the festival which is on the last three days.

