

# RATHOLSAVAM

## MANTHAKKARA SREE MAHA GANAPATHY TEMPLE



**LOCATION**

**Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Kalpathy

**District**

Palakkad

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Ambikapuram Post Office– 350 m

**Nearest Bus station**

Puthiya Paalam Bus Stop– 1.7m

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Palakkad junction railway station- 2.5km

**Nearest Airport**

Coimbatore International Airport- 70km



**ACCESSIBILITY**

Manthakkara Sree Maha Ganapathy  
Temple  
New Kalpathy  
Chathapuram, Kalpathy  
Palakkad-678003  
Phone: 0491 257 6515

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**CONTACT**



TIME

DATES

October/November(Tamil month of *Aipassi* )

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

8 days



### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Manthakkara Maha Ganapathy Temple, the Grama Devatha of New Kalpathy Village, was consecrated nearly four to five centuries ago by the Tamil Brahmins, who had migrated from Tamil Nadu. The Temple is located in the heart of village - Kalpathy on the banks of Nila River. It is also believed that an idol of Ganapathy resting under a banyan tree on the eastern side of the *agraharam* (popularly known as Manthakkara), was installed at the present temple site facing the all powerful and omnipotent Lord Viswanatha Swamy, in order to protect the residents and devotees from frequent fire hazards, etc. Records show that the temple did not have much of landed properties, and the little it had, was endowed by the villagers and philanthropists in the area.

On the Eastern side of Sree Viswanatha Swamy Temple lays the New Kalpathy Village, which consisted of homes mostly built of thatched roofing. It belonged perhaps to the last batch of Tamil Brahmin migrants. Harassed by frequent fires, loss of life and property, the villagers consecrated a temple dedicated to Lord Maha Ganapathy to ward off *Sivadrishiti*. The idol of Mahaganapathy resting under a Banyan tree near a tank lying on the eastern side of this village (Manthakkara) was installed facing Lord Siva. The residents of this village were well known scholars of *Vedas & purohits* well versed in their profession. Most of the surrounding villages of Palakkad town used to depend on them for the conduct of Vedic rituals. Any doubt on observation of rituals and interpretation of *sastras* used to be debated and decided here.

New Kalpathy village was used to be a citadel of Vedic culture and *Sanathana dharma* and it has produced numerous scholars of Vedas and Vedangas. They are still being remembered by villagers with reverence and devotion. Their scholarship used to be recognized by both Shringeri &Kanchi Sankaracharya Mutts. This village sent the largest contingent of Vedic Scholars to attend the All India Sanathana Conference held at Kasi during 1932-33. These men of learning never cared for riches or material comforts. For this reason the Mandhakkara Lord Maha Ganapathy Temple had no properties worth mentioning. The *poojas* and Festivals used to be conducted on adhoc basis.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED

Approximately 8000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Dhwaja Arohanam*  
Religious discourses  
*Rishabha vahana procession*  
Music with percussion  
Cultural Programmes  
*Kuthira vahanam*

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The festival centres round the Viswanathaswamy Temple on the banks of the Nila river at Kalpathy. According to mythology, the deity was brought from the holy Ganga at Varanasi and the great Bana had worshipped in the temple. The Car Festival is celebrated in the last week of the Tamil month of *Aippasi*. The festival starts on the 22nd day of *Aippasi* and concludes on the last day of the month. The main centre of the festival is Kalpathy Sree Viswanathaswamy Temple. The three satellite temples in the village of Manthakkara Maha Ganapathy Temple (New Kalpathy), Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple (Old Kalpathy) and Prasanna Maha Ganaathy (Chathapuram) also celebrate the festival during this time.

The *Dhwaja Arohanam* takes place on the 2nd day in all the four temples. On the fifth day of the festival, the famous *Rishabha Vahana* procession is taken out in the night, with the deities from all the temples taken out in decorated cars. They converge at the western end of the New Kalpathy village ground around midnight. Competitions are regularly held for percussionists. This attracts thousands of people from villages around Kalpathy and other parts of the district and outside.

On the seventh day, the 28th day of *Aippasi*, the deity from Viswanathaswamy Temple is taken out and installed in three cars, one for the main deity Sree Viswanathaswamy and his consort Goddess Parvathy, the second for Vigneswara and the third for Lord Subramaniaswamy. The chariots set out on village tour around 10 a.m. After going around all the villages the three chariots return to the base on the 30th day around sunset. The *Kuthira Vahanam* procession held on the same day is very famous and the Youngsters Association conducts the same and this attracts huge crowd during night.

