



# SASTHAPREETHI AND MANDALAKALAM

## NURANI VILLAGE



### LOCATION

**Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Palakkad

**District**

Palakkad



### ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Puthupally Post Office– 300 m

**Nearest Bus station**

Sadam square Bus Stop – 210 m

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Palakkad town railway station – 2.5 km

**Nearest Airport**

Coimbatore International Airport- 70 km



### CONTACT

Nurani Grama Samudayam  
Near Ganapathy Temple  
New Extension  
Nurani Village  
Palakkad – 678004

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### TIME

#### DATES

November-December(Vrishchikam,  
Mandalakalam)

#### FREQUENCY

Annual

#### DURATION

41 days



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

Nurani is a renowned village in Palakkad district of Kerala State and is famous for its culture and religious fervor. According to legends, this area belonged to Kurur *Mana* and Neelakanta Nambooridipad was the head. He as a harden *Bhaktha* of Lord Dharma Sastha was a regular visitor of Aryankavu for *Darshan* of Lord. Due to old age, he could not visit Aryankavu and was lamenting. As per the advice of Ayyappa (who came in his dream), he built a temple in his courtyard, installed the above idols seated on the elephant, worshipped them and got solace. About five centuries ago Brahmins – mostly Scholars, Pandits, Vaidikas, Priests and Cooks – from Thiruvannamalai in north arcot district and other parts of Tamilnadu came here in search of pastures new and established their dwelling in the present *Agraharam* (village). These Brahmins engaged the *Aadhivasi*, who were inhabitants of a nearby colony, for cultivation. Once when the *Aadhivasis* were working to clear bushes in a hillock, they heard the sound of bells and experienced a fragrance and strange phenomena. On hearing this, the Brahmins ordered further excavation and, to their astonishment, found three cylindrical *vigrahas*, a small granite elephant another flat *vigraha* buried under the hillock. On conducting *Ashtamangalya deva prasna* by eminent Astrologer and *Pandits*, it was found that The cylindrical *Vigrahas* are of Hariharaputhra (Ayyappa), Poorna and pushkala (the two consorts of Hariharaputhra) and the flat one of Ilaya Bhagavathy (Malikapurathamma). On hearing this, the Brahmins rejoiced and decided that the idols should be installed in a suitable temple and daily *poojas* should be conducted as prescribed by *Agama Sastras* for the prosperity of the village.

They built the temple at the North Western end, facing the entrance of the village and installed the three cylindrical *vigrahas* with the granite elephant. As Siva *Dhrishti* (sight of Siva) is said to be *Ugra* (harsh), to protect the residents of the street facing the Siva temple, a Bala Maha Ganapathy temple was erected directly facing the Siva Temple. A *Rajagopuram* constructed by the present generation in front of Ganapathy Temple is an added attraction. Certain family members and individuals were kind enough to sponsor major combination for the construction of all three temples of the village.

Daily *Thrikala Poojas* are being conducted in all the temples, as prescribed by *Agama Sastras*. As the idols were found by *Aadhivasis* during the excavation, they were also given a share by installing the flat *vigraha* (Malikapurathamma) in their colony, whom they worship in their own style. Soon after the *Sasthapreethi* functions, villagers visit here with *Narthakas* and exchange view each other.



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 10000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Mandala Abhishekam  
Sastha Pattu  
Kanakku (Nivedyam)  
Mahanyasam  
Rudra abhishekam  
Upanishad Parayanam  
Yajur Veda Krama  
Parayanam  
Sandhya Deeparadhana  
Vaara Japam  
Vigneswara Pooja  
Kumba abhishekam  
Aradhana Pooja  
Changalavatta  
Nattai  
Thodayamangalam

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Nurani Sasthapreethi is the most auspicious festival among all the 18 agraharams at Palakkad. Ayyappa Pooja is conducted in every nook and corner of the country during Mandalam to Kaliyuga varadhan Sri Dharma Sastha. This festival is celebrated at Nurani Village for more than 300 years now.

Nurani Sasthapreethi festival starts from the commencement of *Mandalam* mostly on 16th November (*vrichikam* or *Karthikai 1st*) every year. *Mandala Abhishekam*, *Sastha Pattu* and *Kanakku (Nivedyam)* lasts for 42 days. During *mandalam*, every morning *Mahanyasam* and *Rudra abhishekam* by chanting *Sree Rudram* 11 times at *Sastha Sannidhi* and *abhishekam* to Mahavishnu by chanting *Purusha Suktha* 16 times is performed throughout *mandalam*. Daily at *Vishnu Sannidhi*, *Upanishad Parayanam* is performed. After *Sayam Sandhya Deeparadhana*, *Yajur Veda Krama Parayanam* and *Vaara Japam* is conducted. *Vaidhikas* are served a sumptuous meal.

Daily *poojas* conducted are *Vigneswara Pooja*, *Sankalpam*, *Maahanyasan*, *Rudra Japam*, *Kumba abhishekam* and *Deeparadhana*. At night, after *Aradhana Pooja*, Nurani Sastha songs in traditional style are sung. At night around 9 p.m. all devotees assemble in the temple for *Ardhayama Pooja* and sing *Bhajans* in conventional style peculiar to Nurani. *Changalavatta* (oil lamp) is lighted after breaking coconut in the *Sastha Sannidhi* and three *pradhakshinams* with the accompaniment of *Nadaswaram*, all devotees sit in two opposite lines facing each other at *Sastha Sannidhi*.

Destined *Bhagavathar* with the permission of the elders commences the song as per the *Paddathi* giving importance to *Sastha* songs. *Nattai*, *Thodayamangalam*, *viruthams*, *keerthanams* and *deeparadhana* is performed.



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Thevaramm*  
*Pathyam*  
*Venpa*  
*Kalithurai*  
*Nalanku*  
*Kummi*  
*Onjal*  
*Nadai chutthal Vazhthu*  
*Mantra pushpam*  
*Swarna Pushpam,*  
*Chaturveda Parayanam*  
*Sanku Pooja*  
*Pooma Dravya*  
*abhishekam*  
*Thulasi Amman Pooja*  
*Prathyaksha Ganapathy*  
*Homam*

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

After *deeparadhana* and distribution of *Prasadam* concluding *poojas* and songs continue. *Mantra pushpam*, *Swarna Pushpam*, *Chaturveda Parayanam* and *Ashirvadam*, one stanza from *Siva Ashtakam*, *Ashtapadi* and *keerthanam* followed by *Thevaramm*, *virutham*, *Pathyam*, *venpa*, *Kalithurai*, *Nalanku*, *kummi*, *Choomikai*, *Onjal*, *Nadai chutthal Vazhthu* follow. Preceding Wednesday before *Sasthapreethi*, *Sastha savarna Sahasranama Archana* to *Sastha* and on Thursday 1008 *Sanku Pooja* and *Abhishekam* to Lord Maha Vishnu are performed. Further *Pooma Dravya abhishekam* to *Sastha* and *Kalabhabhishekam* to Vishnu are also performed.

On the first auspicious Saturday after *Mandalam*, *Sastha Preethi* is scheduled on a day in which Oil Bath can be taken (except on the following *this* : *Sukla Shasti*, *Ekadashi*, *Amavasya*, *Pournami*) and *Thulasi Amman Pooja* (*BrindaLakshmi Pooja*) is conducted on the previous day i.e. Friday.

On the *Sasthapreethi* day *Usha Pooja*, *Upanishad parayanam*, *Prathyaksha Ganapathy Homam*, *Poornabhishekam* to *Sastha* and Maha Vishnu and Maha *Deeparadhana* is performed. On this day also, Lord *Ayyappa* is taken on procession (*Ezhunallippu*) with caparisoned elephants accompanied by *Sastha Pattu* and *Nadaswaram* in the morning through the streets of village and also *Ganapathy Temple* and *Shiva Temple*. After return of the procession, *Maha Deeparadhana* is performed at about 1.30 / 2.00 pm after the return of the procession. During *Deeparadhana* time, *Garudan* is seen flying high in the sky around the vicinity of the temple. It is said that the same *Garudan* accompanying the *Thiruvabharanam* from *Pandalam* to *Sabarimalai* is seen at *Nurani* village at the same time of *Neivedyam* and *Deeparadhana*. It is also said that the *Garudan* goes to *Sabarimalai* after *Nurani* festival.

