



SHIVARATHRI FESTIVAL

EMOOR BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE (HEMAMBIKA TEMPLE)



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kodumbu Panchayat

District

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Hemambika Sankskrit High School – 220 m

Nearest Bus station

Chithra Junction Bus Stop– 1.1 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Palakkad junction Railway Station- 2km

Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport- 66 Km



CONTACT

The Executive officer
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TIME

DATES

January-February (Kumbhom)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Maha Shivratri, the night of the worship of Shiva, falls on the month of Kumbham in February -March. According to the Puranas, during the great mythical churning of the ocean called *Samudra Manthan*, a pot of poison emerged from the ocean. The gods and the demons were terrified as it could destroy the entire world. When they ran to Shiva for help, he in order to protect the world, drank the deadly poison but held it in his throat instead of swallowing it. This turned his throat blue, and since then he came to be known as Nilkantha, the blue-throated one. Shivratri celebrates this event by which Shiva saved the world.

All through the day the devotees keep severe fast, chant the sacred *Panchakshara* mantra "*Om Namah Shivaya*", make offerings of flowers and incense to the Lord amidst ringing of temple bells. They maintain long vigils during the night, keeping awake to listen to stories, hymns and songs. The fast is broken only the next morning, after the nightlong worship. On the same day married women fast for the health and prosperity of their husband. Unmarried ladies also fast to get good husband of their choice. It is believed that Goddess Parvathy also took fasting for her husband Shiva. Also it is believed that Parvathy and Shiva got married on the *Thiruvathira* day. Fasting is observed on the *Makayiram* and *Thiruvathira* star. *Makayiram* fasting is for the health and well-being of the children. Special *prasadam* for this day is *ettuangaadi chutta nivedyam* which is made with baked tubers like *kachil* (purple yam), *chena* (yam), *koorka* (Chinese potato), *nanakizhangu* (lesser yam), *cheru kizhangu* (lesser yam), *cheruchembu* (colocasia), *valiyachembu* (colocasia) and *madura kizhangu* (sweet potato) in jiggery syrup, grated coconut, banana, boiled broad beans, sugarcane etc.

First *Thiruvathira* after marriage is called *Poothiruvathira*. On this day married women wake up early in the morning and light the lamp after morning ablutions. *Gayathri manthram* is to be recited after lighting the lamp. These women adorn themselves with eyeliner, apply *kuri* on the forehead using *manjal* (turmeric) and *chandanam* (sandal) and kumkum in forehead seeking blessings from Goddess Parvathy. Food with rice is avoided completely during the fasting and they consume *Thiruvathira puzhukku*, *Koova* (ragi) *kurukku*, wheat, fruits, tender coconut juice, etc. *Panjakshari manthram*, *Panjakshari sthothram*, *Shiva sahasranamam* are also recited to please the Lord Shiva. Special poojas like *Jaladhara* is done. *Koovala mala* is offered to the Lord and the devotees stay awake the whole day in prayers. *Thiruvathira* dance is performed at night after lighting lamp, decorating with *dashapushpam*. After *Thiruvathira naal*, the fasting comes to an end after consumption of rice or by visiting Shiva temple.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Ottanthullal
Chakiyarkoothu
Kazhchasheeveli
Kadhakali
Aarattu Mahotsavam
Shayanapradikshanam

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Shiva rathri festival is celebrated for a week in the Malayalam month of Kumbham (February - March). Chendamangalam Shiva temple also joins hands in the celebration.

Mostly Shiva rathri consists of traditional arts such as *ottanthullal*, *chakiyarkoothu*, *kazhchasheeveli*, *kadhakali*, etc. On the last day the programme concludes by *aarattu mahotsavam* and elephant race. At night, the devotees perform *shayanapradikshanam*.

Important offerings to the Goddess are *Naivilakku* (Ghee Lamp), *Kalabham* (Sandal Paste), *Chathussatham*, *Naipayasam* etc. The Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are the most auspicious days here. It is presumed that the Deity appears as Saraswathy Devi in the dawn, Lakshmi Devi at noon and Sree Devidurga at dusk and combination of Pooja is conducted with an assumption of the distinctive Bhava Swarooma of the Goddess. To safeguard the malefic effects of Jupiter, Offering shall be given to Guruvayurappan, as told by the ancient Astro-Stalwarts. Alike this faith, to eliminate the malefic effects of Goddesses, offering shall be rendered to Emoor Sreebhagavathy. Among the *thidhis*, *Ashtami* is considered here as propitious. *Vidyarambham* ceremony is also conducted with strong devotion. Thousands of devotees flock to her sanctum sanctorum and call out to her forgetting themselves. She protects them all with Her boundless love.

