



SHIVARATHRI MAHOTSAVAM

MANIKODU SIVA TEMPLE, VENJARAMOODU



**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Venjaramoodu

District

Thiruvananthapuram

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Venjaramoodu junction-850 m

Nearest Bus station

KSRTC Bus Stand Venjaramoodu -900 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Murukkumpuzha Railway Station – 16 km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 28 km



Manikodu Siva Temple Trust
Vayyettu
Venjaramoodu
Kerala -695607
Manickamangalam Babu (President) : 9497013511





TIME

DATES

February- March (Kumbham)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 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 ettungaadi 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 matura 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 woman wake up early in the morning and light the lamp after morning ablutions. Gayathri manthram is to be recited after lighting the lamp. These woman 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 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 people

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettam
Palliunarthal
Nirmalyam
Abhishekam
Ashtadravya Ganapathi
Homam
Deeparadhana
Uchapooja
Utsava vilambara
Ghoshayathra
Chendamelam
Annadanam
Athazha Pooja
Cultural programmes
Traditional Art forms
Sangeeta Kacheri
Folk Songs
Mimic Shows
Drama
Dance Performances
Musical Night
Yama Pooja
Shivadhara



DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Pooja on the festive days starts with *Palliunarthal* followed *Nirmalyam* in the morning after flag hoisting (*Kodiyettam*). *Abhishekam* *deeparadhana* and *Ashtadravya Ganapathi Homam* are performed in the morning. *Kalashabhishekam* and *Ucha pooja* are performed around 9:30 am. Poojas in the evening includes *deeparadhana*, *Athazha Pooja* and the premises get closed. The official inauguration of the festival is marked by *Utsava vilambara Ghoshayathra* with the back up of *Chendamelam* starting from Vayyettu to Venjaramoodu junction. *Annadanam* or feast is offered on all the days. Different programmes at the night includes cultural programmes , *ganamela* (musical night), traditional art forms like *Kathakali* , *Chakiyarkoothu* and *Ottamthullal*, *Sangeeta Kacheri*, folk songs, mimic shows, drama, dance performances, *Kadhaprasangam* etc.

