



EDAKKUNNI UTHRAM VILAKKU

EDAKKUNNI BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE, OLLUR



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Thrissur Municipal Corporation

District

Thrissur



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Thrissur – 7.5 km

Nearest Bus station

Thrissur K S R T C Stand – 7 km

Nearest Railway
station

Thrissur Railway Station – 6.9 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 44 km



CONTACT

Edakkunni Sri Durga Bhagavathy Temple
Ollur. P. , Thrissur
Kerala - 680306
Ph No: 0487 235 2484 (Ollur Panchayat Office)



TIME

DATES

March - April

FREQUENCY

Annually

DURATION

Uthram day of the Meenam



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The uthramvilakku has its origin in uthrampattu, a form of ritual singing (Brahmani pattu) that was later converted into Uthramvilakku in its present form about 150 years ago. This is celebrated on the uthram day of the Meenam month of the Malayalam Calendar.

Uthramvilakku is a temple festival celebrated at Edakkunni in Ollur. The highlight of the event is an over four-hour Panchari Melamin the temple compound past midnight on the uthram day, with each of the five caparisoned elephants on the occasion carrying a deity each from as many temples.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 1000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettam

Anayottam

Lamp-lighting ceremony
Nadaswara recitals

Panchavadyam

Panchari melam

Idakka pradakshinam

Padikkal pooram

Kodikutthu

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The *Bhagavathy* returns from the town of *Arattupuzha*. Then Ceremonial reception of the deity will be conducted. After the *kodiyettam* (flag-hoisting) a small *pooram* ceremony is performed on three elephants. Over the succeeding six days the deity of Lord *Bhagavathi* is taken around the historic Perumanam village astride an elephant, receiving the obeisances of devotees and taking part in *pooram* ceremonies in different temples along the route.

The ceremonial elephant also participates in the traditional *Anayottam* (elephant race) at Piddikaparambu; which is near *Cherpu* about 14 km south-west of the town of Thrissur. Lamp-lighting ceremony and *nadaswara* recitals will be followed along with *panchavadyam* with five elephants. *Bhagavathy* deity is led in procession outside the sanctum sanctorum with the accompaniment of *valia pani* orchestra. The *Bhagavathy* idol is then hoisted atop a huge tusker which is joined by four others. This is followed by elaborate recitations, on various instruments including *Keli*, *kombu pattu* and *Kuzhal Pattu*. The illustrious *Panchari melam* is performed by Kerala's most renowned percussion experts. They are joined in this effort by as many as 100 artistes on the *chenda ilathalam kombu* and *kuzhal*. Besides the presiding deity of Edakkunni temple, four deities from nearby temples join the *Bhagavathy*. They are *Thaikatusserry*, *Chakkamkulangara*, *Namkulam*, and *Chittachatakudam*. The *melam* lasting nearly five hours culminates with a brief but vibrant display of fireworks. Closing ceremony is followed by an *Idakka pradakshinam*, a ritualistic circumambulation which sees participation of people in the belief that the run would help them get rid of ailments. By sunrise, the *Bhagavathy* sets for the *padikkal pooram*. This is the only time in a year that deity goes out through the western door. After the *Padikkal pooram*, the ceremonial send off of the neighbouring deities (*Upacharam*) takes place. The festivities come to an end with the *kodikutthu* (uprooting of the festival mascot).

