



KADAVALLUR ANYONYAM

KADAVALLUR ANYONYA PARISHATH



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kadavallur Panchayat

District

Thrissur



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Edappal – 12 km

Nearest Bus station

Kadavallur Pazhaya Bus Stand – 21 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Thrissur Railway Station – 31 km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport – 70 km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

November – December

FREQUENCY

Annually

DURATION

8 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Kadavallur Anyonyam is a Rig Veda debate held annually at Kadavallur in Thrissur. In Kerala, only the Rig Veda used to have an institutionalised teaching system. The Yajur and Sama Vedas were traditionally taught in Namboothiri homes. Anyonyam represents the meeting of two major Rig Veda practitioner groups based in Thirunavaya Math and Brahwom Math, which were once patronised by the Zamorin and Cochin kings respectively.

Kadavalloor Anyonyam used to be held regularly till 1947. It was revived in 1989 and is being held regularly since then. In the anyonyam two major Rig Veda schools (known as Vadakke Madom) based in Thrissur, Thirunavaya takepart. Over the years, the two Brahmaswam Maths at Thrissur and Thirunavaya developed a healthy and constructive competitive spirit. Kadavalloor Anyonyam is the final examination for the Vedic Scholars of these institutions.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

1000

EVENTS/PROGRAM S

Vaaramirikkal
Ratha
Jata
Kadannirikkal
Valiya Kadannirikkal

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The two schools send around 16 aspirants each to take part in this cumbersome examination, which is the only one of its kind in the country. The participants are selected at the two *madhoms* through rigorous tests known as *kizhakku-padinjaru* (literally, east-west) noted for its complexity. The *namboothiri* boys who are initiated into learning the Vedas at an early age undergo arduous disciplining for several years. Not only are the intonations of supreme importance, but the diction and modulation of the verses, numbering 10,472 *riks*, can be perfected through a systematic practice, for which a ritualistic and highly disciplined life style is imperative for students.

A spirit of healthy rivalry and competition is discernible even in the preparations, well before the event. The modes of oral test are technically called *Vaaramirikkal*, *Ratha* and *Jata* and they are held in the night. One has to recite the verses selected from a particular *varga* of *Rig Veda* without any slip during the first one. If the memory fails one, a helping hand is rendered by the *Gurus*, but strictly through gestures, which form an intrinsic part of the training as well.

While *Vaaramirikkal* is held prior to supper, both the *jata* and *ratha*, for the winners of the previous one, are conducted during supper. These are more complex as they demand an admixture of both ascending and descending order of recitation of the selected verse.

While it is prestigious to have come out of the three tests successfully, to enter the *Kadannirikkal* and *Valiya Kadannirikkal*, the higher tests, are really challenging. The sitting postures of the two opponents, who face each other during these feats, are suggestive of the higher levels to which the competitions are carried out in this unique exercise.

