



VRISHCHIKA MAHOTSAVAM

OACHIRA PARABRAHMA TEMPLE



**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Oachira Grama Panchayath, Ward - 2
Oachira Block

District

Kollam



**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Oachira Town

Nearest Bus station

Oachira Bus Stop – 300 M

**Nearest Railway
station**

Oachira Railway Station –3 Km
Kayamkulam Railway Station – 8 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 104 Km



Oachira Parabrahma Kshethram,
Oachira,
Kollam- 690533

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TIME

DATES

November-December (Malayalam month of Vrishchikam);

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

12 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The myth of this festival is associated with *Parayipetta Pnthirukulam*. Akavoor Chathan, one among the 12 was lived in a village called Akavoor with a Brahmin master as an obedient servant. He used to accompany his master wherever he goes and the master treated him as a friend. His master is very religious and a worshipper of *Parabrahmam* the ultimate divine power. Once Chathan asked him how this *Parabrahmam* looks like. Enjoying the innocence of Akavoor Chathan, he told that it looks exactly like the bull which they use on their farms. One day Brahmin decided to go for a pilgrimage and asked Chathan to accompany him. They started their journey and after a few days, they reached a place where there were a lot of bushes and small plants around. Suddenly Brahmin came to know that Chathan is not following him. He turned back and worried and started going back. There he saw Chathan sitting in the sand and giving directions such as 'turn left', 'now down your head' etc. Brahmin could not find anybody else there and hence asked him whom he is talking to. Then Chathan replied that he was talking to the bull which was following him. Quite surprised by this answer Brahmin asked him which bull he is talking about. He told him that the bull which appeared in front of him when he started worshipping 'Parabrahma' in the form of a bull. Then Brahmin told him that he is not able to see. Akavoor Chathan asked his master to touch him and then look at it. Now the Brahmin was able to see the bull which has been caught inside a bunch of creepers and not able to move. Witnessing this, the master fell on the feet of Chathan and told him that he is far greater than his master and taught a good lesson to him. When the Brahmin asked Chathan to continue their journey, he refused to accompany him saying that he cannot come without the bull. Thus the bull and Chathan stayed back there and the divine power within him remained there forever along with the presence of 'Parabrahma'. That is the place where the present day Ochira Temple is situated. There is belief that the rest of the 11 members of *Parayipetta Panthirukulam* comes to visit Akavoor Chathan at ochira very year on these days. To commemorate this event Vrishchika Mahotsavam is celebrated.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Above 50000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Panthrandu Vilakk(twelve
Lamps)
Spiritual Discourses
Seminars
Trade Fair
Cultural Events and Art
Forms*

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The festival of Lights, Panthrandu vilakku (Twelve Lamps) is the most popular festival in this temple and probably the only one of its kind. A good number of small huts will be built in the vast temple compound sprawling across 36 acres and the devotees will stay in these huts for twelve days. Spiritual discourses, cultural programs, and bhajans will be there. Several cultural programs like Kadhakali, drama, Music fest, Mohiniyattam etc also takes place during this period. A lot of business activities also will take place with many street vendors and mobile carts around the temple premise

