



THAIPOOYAM FESTIVAL

THRIPPEROORKULANGARA SUBRAHMANYA

TEMPLE, PERISSERY



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Chengannur Municipality

District

Alappuzha

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Chengannur Town – 2 Km

Nearest Bus Station

Chengannur Bus Station – 2 Km

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Chengannur Railway Station – 1.5 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 117Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Thripperoor kulangara Sree Subrahmanya Swamy temple ,
Perissery P.O,
Chengannur,
Alappuzha - 689121
Phone: +91-9947290713(Mobile No-Santhosh Kumar- President)



TIME

DATES

January-February(*Makaram*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Thaipooyam festival is celebrated in the name of Lord Subramanya, son of Lord Shiva. The name Thaipooyam is derived by blending two words. Thai is a Tamil month (Jan- Feb) and Pooyam is the star (It is called as Poosam in Tamil). There are numerous stories associated with Thaipooyam. But the most important story is that of Goddess Parvati presenting Vel to Muruga to eliminate demon Tharakasura. Sages were fed up with the troubles created by demon Tarakasuran and his lieutenants. They complained to Shiva and he instructed Muruga to help them. Shiva gave him eleven weapons and Mother Parvati presented the most powerful Vel. Muruga killed all the demons including Tharakasuran on Pooyam star in the month of Thai with the Vel. Thaipooyam is celebrated to commemorate this victory of good over evil. The kavadiyattom which showcases a rich vibrancy of colors is one of the major attractions of this festival. There are two different myths about kavadiyattam. One tells that this is the dance of Lord's servants encouraging him to start the war with the demon as he had the divine spear with him. According to this, the word Kavadi means temple or divine place and Adi means servants. In kavadiyattam, the dancers will bear an arch-shaped structure decorated with flowers. Dancers will keep this heavy structure on their shoulder and will dance to the rhythm of drums. According to some other version, kavadi denotes burden and the dancers are taking all their burdens on their shoulders and dance to appease Lord Subramania



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Over 40000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Kavadiyattam
Temple arts
Classical Dance
Musical Concerts
Percussion Music
Kadhakali
Ottanthullal
Cultural Programs and folk arts
Arattu

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Thaipooyam festival is celebrated in the name of Lord Subramanya, son of Lord Shiva. There is a flag hoisting ceremony marking the beginning of the festival. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights. The *kavadiyattom* which showcases a rich vibrancy of colors is one of the major attractions of this festival. *Kavadiyattam* starts from Chengannur Mahadeva temple. *Kavadi* denotes burden and the dancers are taking all their burdens on their shoulders and dance to appease Lord Subramanya. Devotees bearing the *kavadis*, spinning about to the rhythmic and catchy beats of the chenda and cymbals make the onlookers fill with bliss. The temple premises burst with thousands of devotees from far and wide during the month of January / February to witness this spectacular festival. The dance ritual starts in the morning where several groups such as *ambalakkavadi* and *pookkavadi* are formed on the basis of the shape of the *kavadi* (*kavadi* is a richly decorated wooden arch) is carried on shoulders. The dancers follow certain ritual before participating in *kavadiyattam*. They should observe penance for 41 days by avoiding alcoholic liquor, non-vegetarian food etc. According to this belief, Lord will enjoy their dance and remove the burdens from their shoulders. Other than this several cultural programs and cultural events is there on the festival days. On the final day *Arattu* (holy bath) takes place, The *utsava murti* of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritual bathing. Caparisoned elephants and *melam* are part of the ritual. It is believed Lord Shiva and Parvathy from Chengannur Mahadeva temple watches the whole festival events of their son.

