

# THAIPOOYA KAVADIYATTAM FESTIVAL

## PERUNNA SUBRAMANYA SWAMI TEMPLE



### LOCATION

**Panchayat/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Changanassery Municipality

**District**

Kottayam



### ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Changanassery Private Bus Stand – 1.4 Km

**Nearest Bus station**

Perunna Bus stop – 800 m

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Changanassery Railway Station – 2 Km

**Nearest Airport**

Cochin International Airport – 111 Km



### CONTACT

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**TIME**

**DATES**

January (*Makarom*)

**FREQUENCY**

Annual

**DURATION**

1 Days



**ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)**

Subrahmanya Swami Temple is a famous Muruga temple where world famous Thaipooya Kavadiyattam (Kavadi) festival is celebrated annually in January- February in the Malayalam month Makaram. The day of the star Pooyam around Pournami (Full Moon) is celebrated as Thypooyam. There was a demon named Tharakasuran who was troubling the Rishis and Saints. Lord Muruga was called by his parents Lord Shiva and Parvati and given the job of destroying the asuran. Lord Muruga set off with the blessings of his parents, to destroy the demon Lord Muruga destroyed Tharakasuran on the Pooyam Nakshatram day in the Tamil month of Thai and hence Thypooyam is celebrated in all Murugan temples



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National / International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**

About 5000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Brahminipattu  
Thalappoli  
Classical music  
Chakyarkoothu

During this festival devotees take a vow to offer Lord *Subrahmanya* a *Kavadi* for boons received. The *Kavadi* festival generates a competitive spirit and two groups from *Padinjattum bhagam* (western side of 18 sections) and *Kizhaku bhagam* (eastern side) try to surpass each other in making *kavadis*. The main attraction of the *Kavadi* festival is between elephants from both groups called '*Thalapokka malsaram*', the elephants compete with each other to keep the head and trunk raised for 7 minutes continuously to win the contest. The winner elephant is given the honour of carrying the *Thidambu* (image of the deity in the procession). The *Chenda Melam* (drums) is another highlight. For the last 7 to 8 generations, the famous group called '*Thiruvalla Chenda Melam*', experts in this art of drumming, have been performing for the western group.

