



VAISHAKA MAHOTSAVAM

KOTTIYOOR SREE MAHADEVA TEMPLE



**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Iritty Municipality

District

Kannur

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Chungakunnu Town – 4.5Km

Nearest Bus station

Kottiyoor Bus Stop - 500 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kannur Railway Station -61.6 Km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport-138 Km



Sree Kottiyoor Devaswom
Kottiyoor Post Office
Kelakam
Kannur District
Kerala - 670651
Phone: +91-490-2430234
: +91-490- 2430434



TIME

DATES

May-June

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

28 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The temple is situated on the beautiful Sahya mountain range valley and is blessed with abundant natural beauty. The Bavali river with her medicinal waters flow from the Wayanad ghats on the banks of the temple. On the northern side of the river bank, there is a small lake known as 'Thiruvanchira' and here in the midst of this lake is this temple sans temple. The temple has a Shiva linga believed to be a *swayambhu* which means born on his own or not man made. The small heap where this Shiva linga is worshipped is known as *Manithara*. The *abhishekam* for the Shiva *linga* is with milk, ghee (clarified butter) and *karikku* (tender coconut water). In the same lake, there is another heap *Ammarakallu* where Sree Parvati Devi is worshipped. This way, at Kottiyoor you get the blessings of both Shiva and Shakthi. Kottiyoor is also known by the names Kudiyoor, Dakshina Kashi. Thricherumana, Vdakkumkaavu, Kizhakkumkaavu and Vadakeeswaram. At Kottiyoor, there are two temples - Akkare Kottiyur and Ikkare Kottiyur, located on the opposite banks of Bavali river. Akkare Kottiyur is open during the Kottiyoor Vaisakha Maholsavam festival only. Daksha is son of Brahma and one of the Prajapatis. Sati, the consort of Shiva was the daughter of Daksha. Sati had married Shiva against the wishes of her father. The vain Daksha performed a great *yagna/ yaga* (with the sole aim of insulting Shiva), to which he invited all of the gods and goddesses except his son in law Lord Shiva. Against Shiva's wishes, Sati attended this *yagna* and was insulted by her father. Unable to bear this insult, Sati immolated herself in the *yagna* fire. Enraged at the loss of Satidevi, Shiva opened his third eye. Then appeared Veerabhadra with a 1000 arms and carrying weapons in each hand. He destroyed Daksha's sacrifice and cut off Daksha's head. Since the *yaga* was stopped, the Gods feared that many difficulties may arise in the future. The Gods along with Brahma and Vishnu went to Kailas and sought Shiva's help. Shiva was pacified and all of them reached the *yaga* place and restored the *yaga*. The dead were brought back to life. Daksha's head was destroyed in the *yaga* fire and was replaced by a goats head. Daksha pleaded to Shiva for his arrogance and was given Moksha.

After the *yaga*, every one went back and Lord Shiva took the form of the *swayambhu* linga next to where Sati immolated herself in the *yagna* fire. Since all the Trimoorthis or the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva met together at this place, it was known as Koodiyoor (Koodi in malayalam means meet or join). Koodiyoor became Kottiyoor. So Kottiyoor is believed to be the spot of the ancient Dakshayaga. The *auda* flowers/ *odapoo* is considered as the beard of Daksha.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Over 1,00,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Bringing a sword from
Muthirerikavu
Bhandaram Ezhunnallath
Elaneer Vayppu
Elaneeraattam
Rohini Aaradhana
Ezhunnallippu
Aanayootu

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The Vaisakha Maholsavam festival is held every year during the months of May - June. The twenty eight day festival commences with the Neyyattam ritual on the Swati Day in Edavam and concludes with the Thrikkalashaattu. The Vaisakha Maholsavam celebrations begin with the ritual of bringing a sword from Muthirerikavu from Wayanad. On the following day, on Visakham star Bhandaram Ezhunnallath ritual is held. Gold, Silver vessels, heavenly ornaments etc are brought from nearby Manathana village to Kottiyoor. An important ritual during the festival is the *Elaneer Vayppu* or submitting tender coconuts before the *swayambhu Shiva linga*. On this special day, thousands of tender coconuts carried from different parts of Malabar by the devotees are submitted. The following day, the main priest of the temple, pours the collected coconut water on to the idol which is known as '*Elaneeraattam*'. *Rohini Aaradhana* is a very important ritual which is not seen in any other temple. The priest embraces the *swayambhu Shiva linga* as part of the ritual. The belief behind this ritual is that Brahma himself worships Lord Shiva to pacify for the loss of Sati. As a part of the festival, a procession (*Ezhunnallippu*) is held with two elephants carrying the idols of Lord Shiva and Parvathi. After the procession, the elephants are fed well (*Aanayootu*) and given a formal farewell.

