



**राष्ट्रीयसंस्कृतविश्वविद्यालयः**

**National Sanskrit University :: Tirupati**  
**(Central University)**

**A Central University established under an Act of Parliament**

**Online Certificate Programme in**  
**Temple Culture and Temple Administration**

**Topic**

**M31 – 108 Divya Desam**

**By**

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- In Divya desam, *Divya* means "premium" or "divine" and *Desam* indicates "place" (temple).

## **Alvars**

- The word *azhwar* in Tamil, means one who immerses oneself into the ocean of the countless attributes of god.



Rangamannar-Andal temple  
Srivilliputhur



- *Azwars* are considered the twelve supreme devotees of Vishnu, who were instrumental in popularizing Vaishnavism during the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.



Rangamannar-Andal temple

Srivilliputhur



- The religious works of these saints in Tamil, songs of love and devotion, are compiled as Nalavira Divya Prabandham containing Rangamannar-Andal temple 4000 verses and the 108 temples revered in their songs are classified as Srivilliputhur Divya desam.



Rangamannar-Andal temple  
Srivilliputhur

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- The saints had different origins and belonged to different castes.
- As per tradition, the first three *azhwars*, Poigai, Bhutha and Pev were said to be born out of divinity.



Rangamannar-Andal temple  
Srivilliputhur



- According to tradition, Tirumizhisai was the son of a sage, Thondaradi, Mathurakavi, Peria and Andal were from brahmin community, Kulasekhara from *Kshatria* community, Namm was from a cultivator family, Tirupana from *panar* community and Tirumangai from *kazhwar* community.



Rangamannar-Andal temple  
Srivilliputhur

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- *Divya Suri Saritra* by Garuda-Vahana Pandita (11th century AD), *Guruparamparaprabavam* by Pinbaragiya Perumal Jiyar, *Periya tiru mudi adaiivu* by Anbillai Kandadiappan, *Yatindra Pranava Prabavam* by Pillai Lokacharya, commentaries on *Divya Prabandam*, Guru Parampara (lineage of Gurus) texts, temple records and inscriptions give a detailed account of the *azhwars* and their works.
- According to these texts, the saints were considered incarnations of some form of Vishnu.



- Poigai is considered an incarnation of *Panchajanya* (Krishna's conch), Bhoothath of *Kaumodakee* (Vishnu's Mace/Club), Pey of *Nandaka* (Vishnu's sword), Thirumalisai of *Sudarshanam* (Vishnu's discus), Namm of *Vishvaksena* (Vishnu's commander), Madhurakavi of *Vainatheya* (Vishnu's eagle, Garuda), Kulasekhara of *Kaustubha* (Vishnu's necklace), Periy of Garuda (Vishnu's eagle), Andal of Bhoodevi (Vishnu's wife, Lakshmi, in her form as Bhudevi), Thondaradippodi of *Vanamaalai* (Vishnu's garland), Thiruppaan of *Srivatsa* (An auspicious mark on Vishnu's chest) and Thirumangai of *Saranga* (Krishna's bow).



- The songs of *Prabandam* are regularly sung in all the Vishnu temples of South India daily and also during festivals.



# **List of Deities in Divyadesams**

- Majority of Divya Desam temples are spread over South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, Kerala state hosts highest number of Divya desams outside Tamil Nadu.
- Rest of Divya Desams are spread over Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Some of the prominent Sri Vaishnava temples in Tamil Nadu state and elsewhere do not make to this list.

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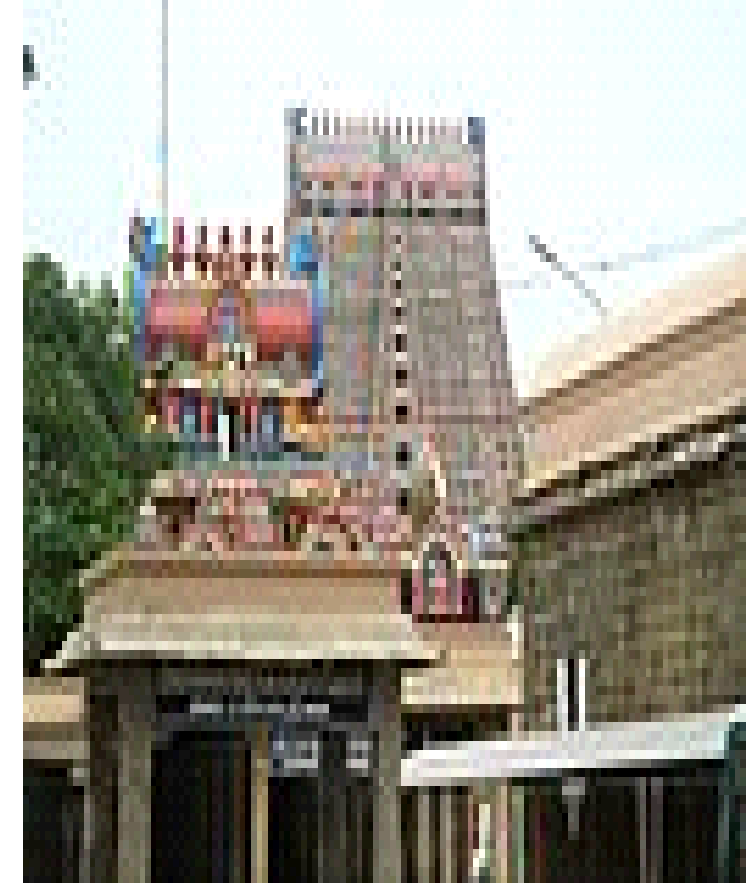
# **List of Deities in Divyadesams**

- Apparently, these places rose to prominence in the years after Azhvars.
- In this sense, Divya Desams are mostly geographically restricted places in much, but not all of the Ancient Tamil Nadu and Kerala states, with few places located outside alluding to the mythology of Puranas as then known to the Ancient Tamil or Proto-Tamil speakers of Southern India.



# Srirangam Temple

- **Location:** Srirangam, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu  
10.86250 N; 78.6897220 E
- **Presiding deity :** Ranganayagi Ranganathar (Periya Perumal)
- **Notes/Beliefs:** Srirangam temple is often listed as the largest functioning Hindu temple in the world, the still larger Angkor Wat being the largest existing temple.



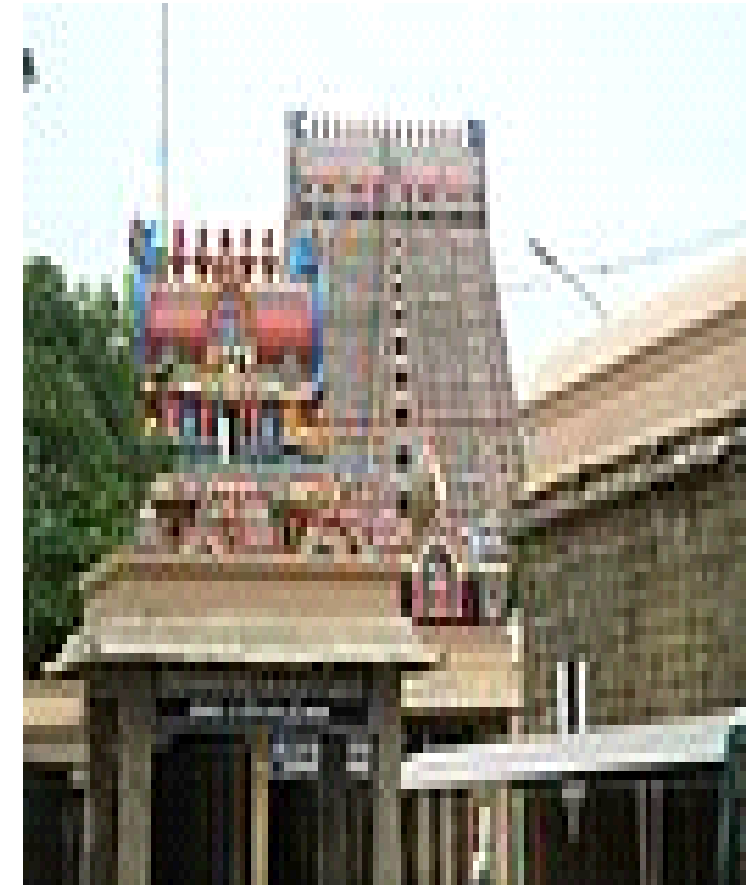
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# Srirangam Temple

- The temple occupies an area of 156 acres (631,000 m<sup>2</sup>) with a perimeter of 4,116m (10,710 feet) making it the largest temple in India and one of the largest religious complexes in the world.
- The annual 21 day festival conducted during the Tamil month of Margazhi (December-January) attracts 1 million visitors.



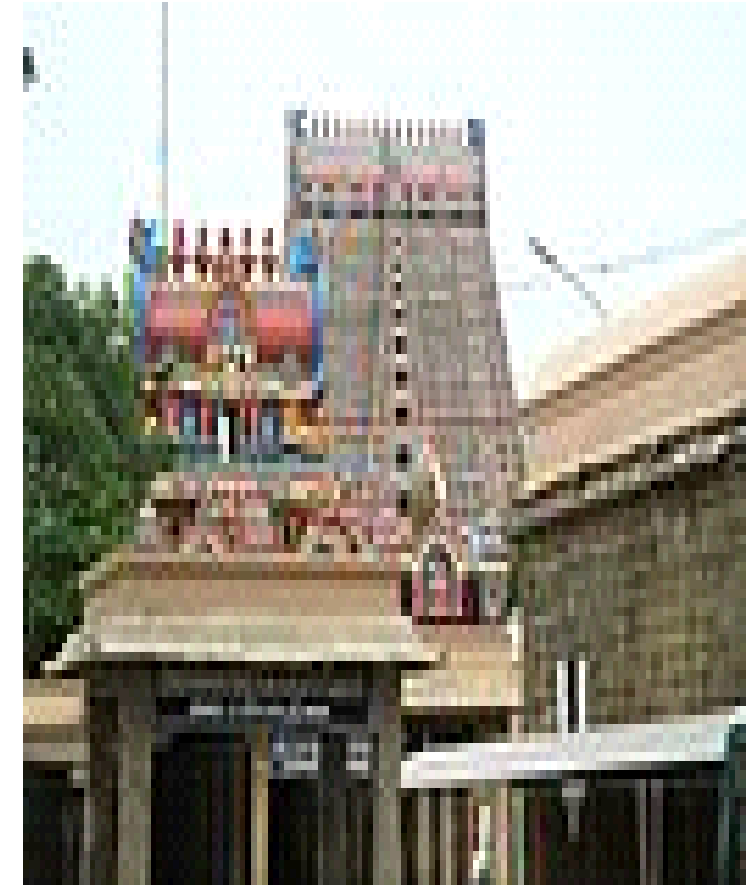
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# **Srirangam Temple**

- **Azhwars** : Periyalvar, Aandaal, Kulasekara Alvar, Thirumalasai Alvar, Thondaradippodi Alvar, Thiruppaan Alvar, Thirumangai Alvar, Poigai Alvar, Bhoothath Alvar, Peyalvar, Nammalvar



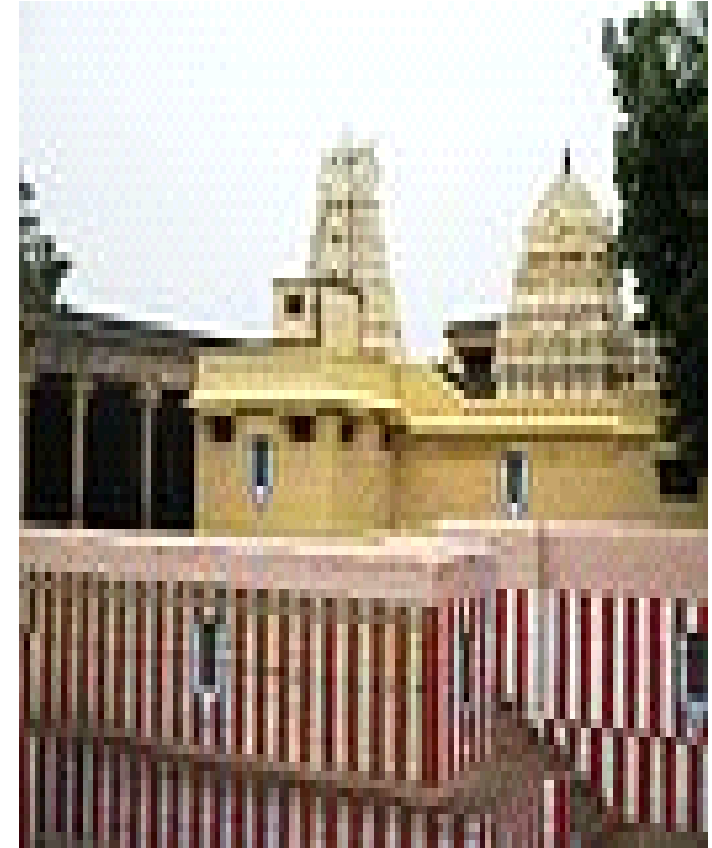
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# **Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Temple**

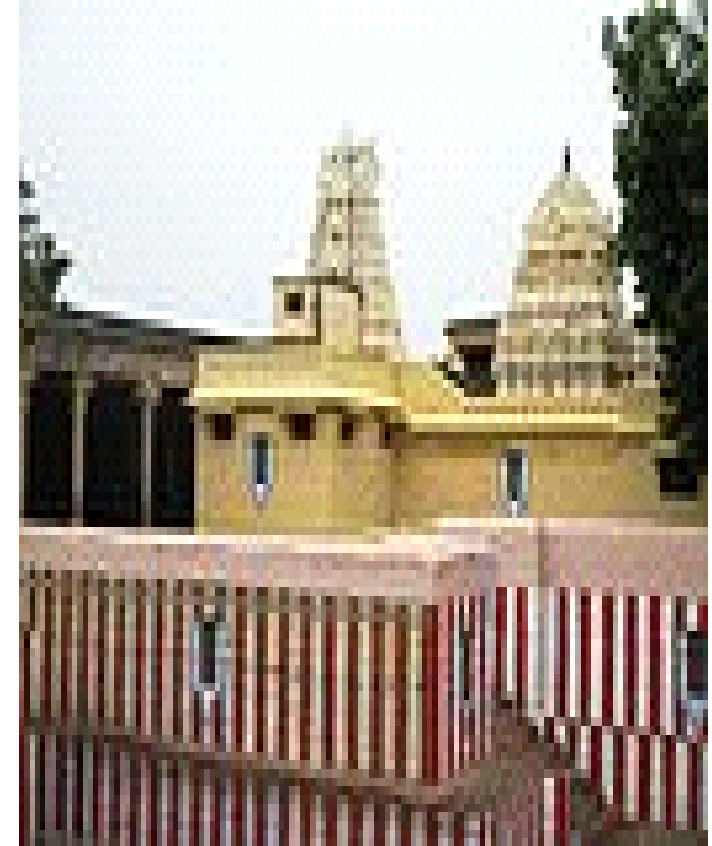
- **Location:** Uraiyr, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu  
10.820 N; 78.670 E
- **Presiding deity :** Kamalavalli Vasalakshmi  
Azhagiya Manavala Preumal
- **Notes/Beliefs:** The temple locally called Nachiyar Koil and is one of the few Divyadesams where the goddess has prominence over Vishnu.





# **Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Temple**

- The temple is believed to be the birthplace of Thiruppaan Alvar, one of the twelve Azhwar saints belonging to the 6th-8th centuries.
- In Srirangam, the yearly birth festival of Tirupannazhwar is celebrated with Viswaroopa darshan of Ranganatha at the sanctum on the occasion of his birthday.



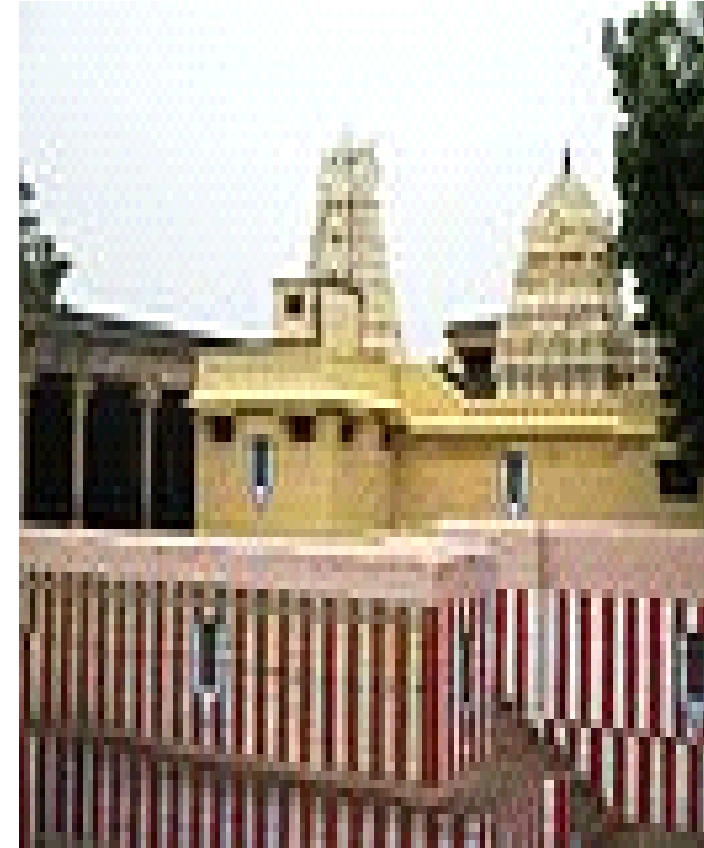
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# **Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Temple**

- The festive idol of Tiupannazhwar is taken from the temple to Srirangam.
- **Azhwars** : Kulasekara Alvar-11, Thirumangai Alvar-13.



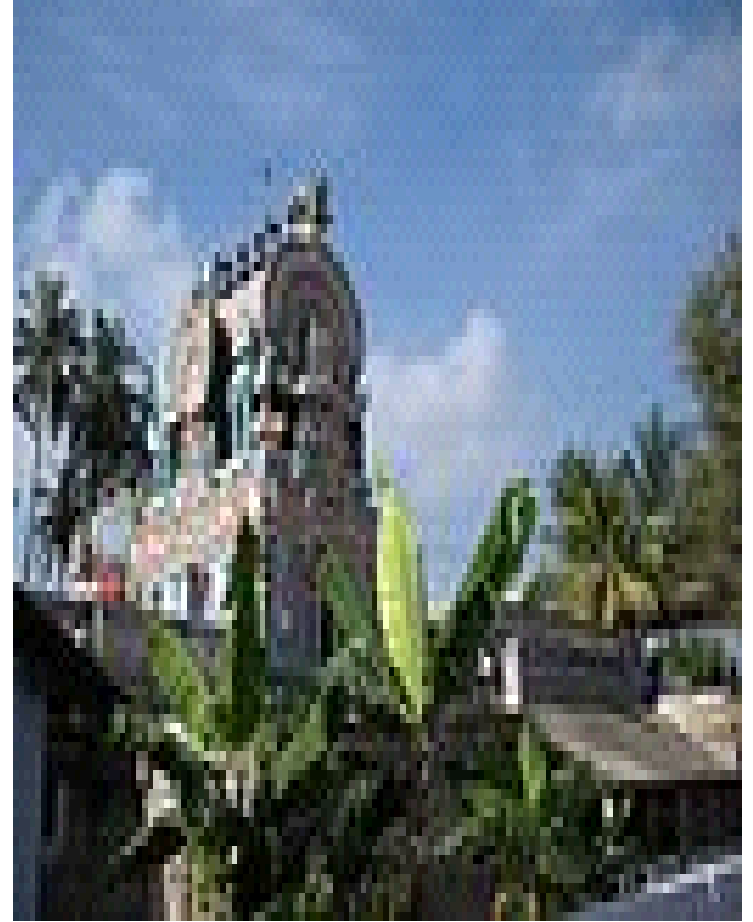
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# Uthamar Kovil

- **Location:** Bhikshandar Kovil, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu 10.490 N; 78.810 E
- **Presiding deity :** Poornaavalli Purushothama Perumal



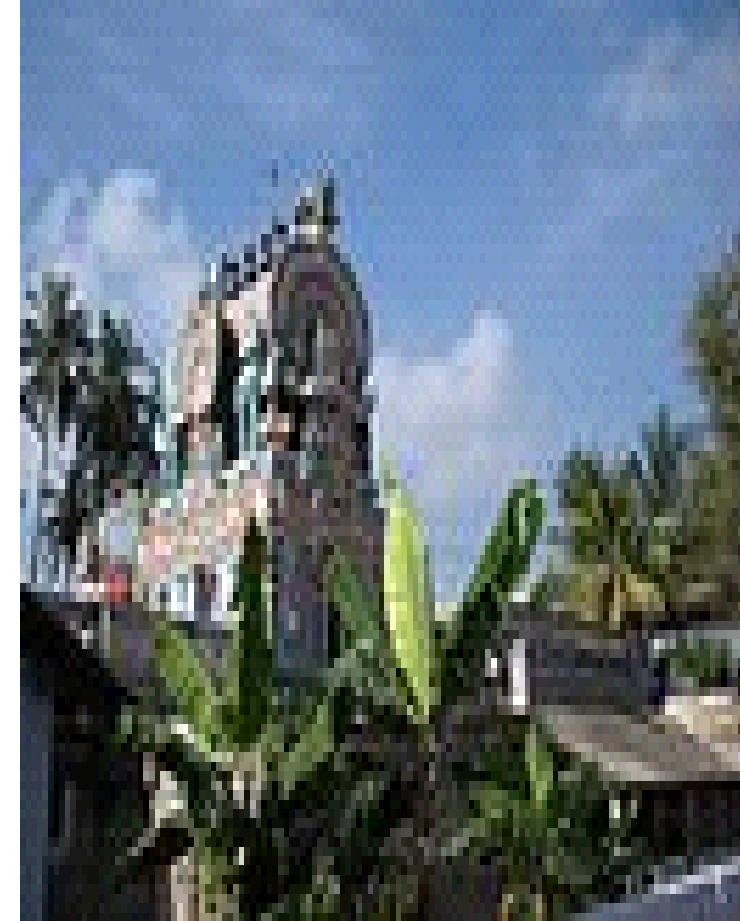
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# Uthamar Kovil

- **Notes/Beliefs:** The temple is only a few of the temples that are dedicated to the Hindu god Trimurti (trinity) namely Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma.
- As per Hindu legend, the temple is believed to have been constructed by Janakar, the king of Janakapuri and the father of Sita the epic Ramayana.



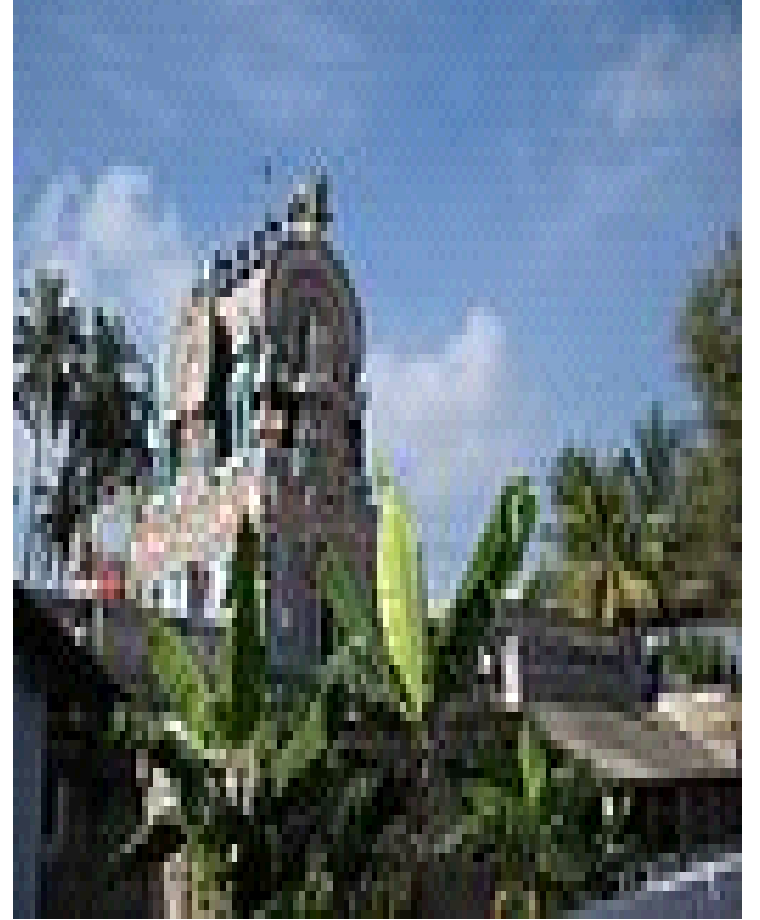
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# Uthamar Kovil

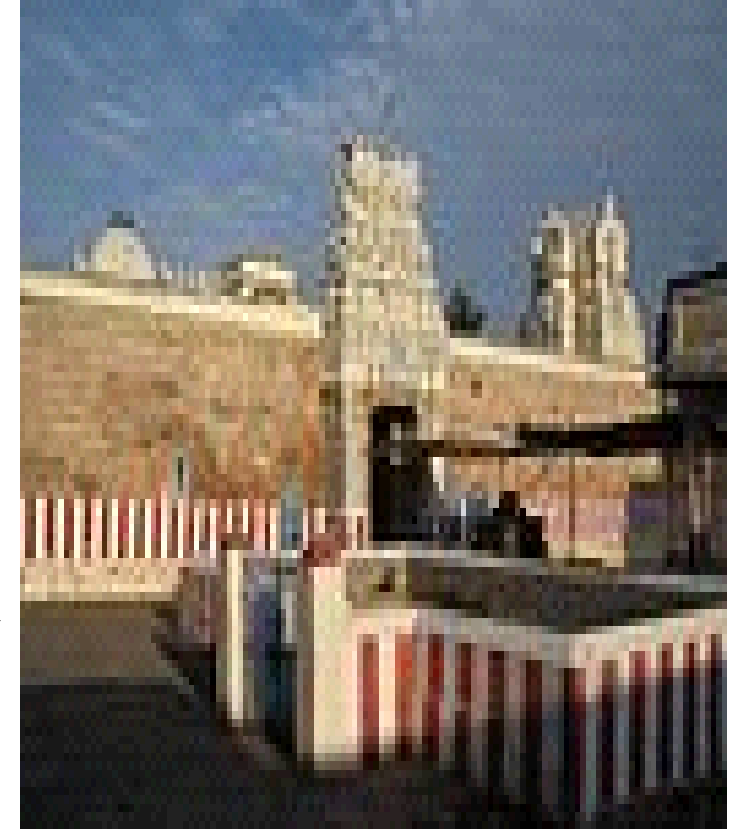
- Thirumangai Azhwar is believed to have resided in the temple to build the surrounding walls of the Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple.
- **Azhwars** : Thirumangai Alvar-10.





# **Pundarikakshan Perumal Temple**

- **Location:** Thiruvellarai, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu  
10.960 N; 78.670 E
- **Presiding deity :** Rakthapankajavalli Pundarikaksha Perumal
- **Notes/Beliefs:** Pundarikakshan Perumal temple is believed to have been built by the Pallava king Dantivarman (796–847 AD).



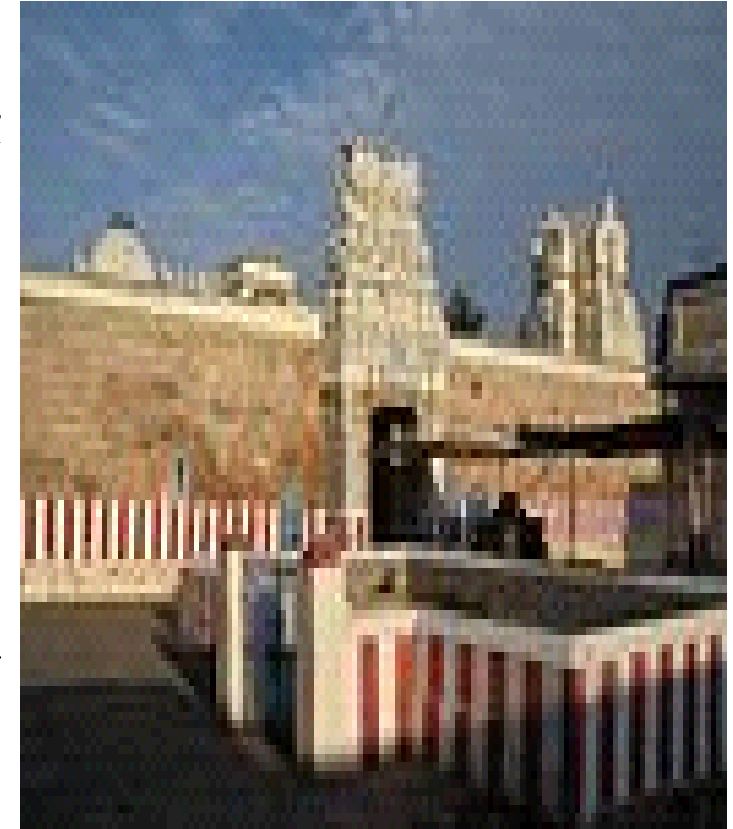
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# **Pundarikakshan Perumal Temple**

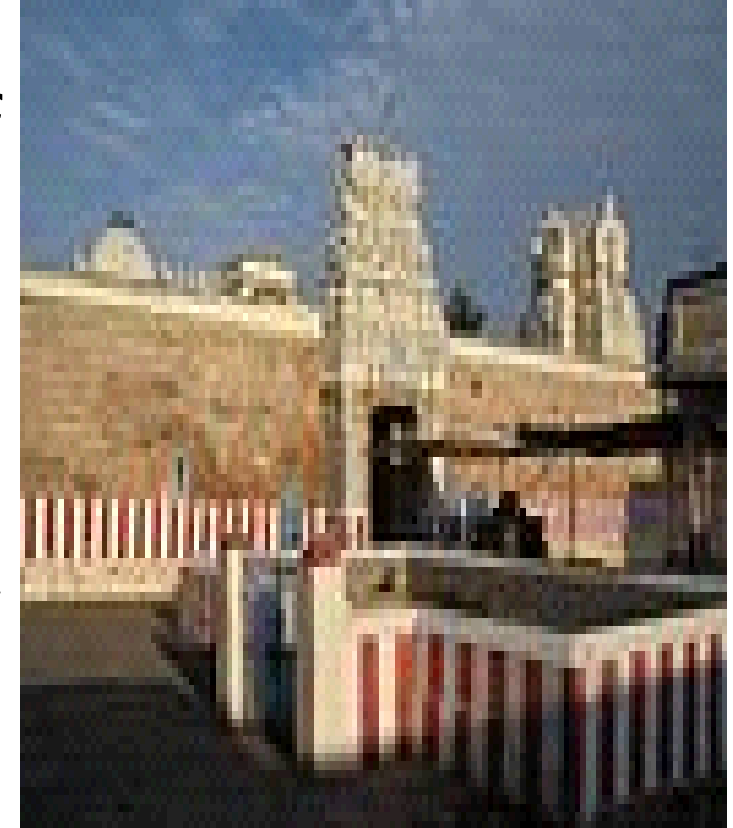
- A swastuja-shaped temple tank built during 800 AD is present in the south-western corner of the street around the temple.
- It has four stepped gateways, each having 51 steps.
- The tank is believed to have been built by Kamban Araiyan during the reign of Dantivarman.





# **Pundarikakshan Perumal Temple**

- In modern times, it is maintained by the Department of Archaeology of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- The temple complex covers an area of 2.62 ha (6.5 acres), while the tank covers an area of 0.1256 ha (0.310 acres).



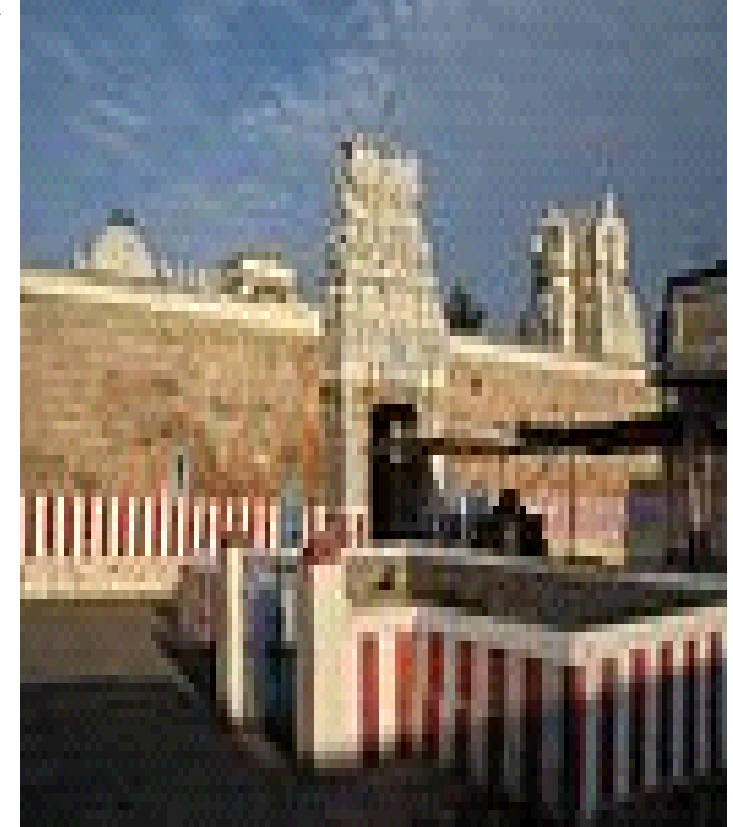
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# **Pundarikakshan Perumal Temple**

- The chariot festival is unique in the state as a community feast is offered by several individuals and committees, a custom many centuries old.
- **Azhwars** : Thirumangai Alvar-10, Periazhwar-10



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# Vadivazhagiya Nambi Perumal Temple

- **Location:** Anbil, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu  
10.8677350 N; 78.8821710 E
- **Presiding deity :** Soundaryavalli  
Sundaramoorthaye Poornaya Perumal



**Topic**

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# Vadivazhagiya Nambi Perumal Temple

- **Notes/Beliefs:** King Sundara Chola who ruled the area was a devotee of the temple and during each of his innumerable victories in wars, he showered a lot of wealth on this temple.
- His prime minister Anirudha Brahmarayar is believed to be from Anbil, the village where the temple is located.



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# Vadivazhagiya Nambi Perumal Temple

- The copper plates having the records from the Chola period from Anbil indicate generous contribution from the Medieval Cholas indicate various gifts to the temple.
- **Azhwars** : Thirumazhisai Azhwar-2





# Appakkudathan Perumal Temple

- **Location:** Koviladi, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu  
10.8393070 N; 78.8890730 E
- **Presiding deity :** Indravalli Appala Ranganatha Perumal
- **Notes/Beliefs:** The temple has inscriptions from the 18th year of the reign of Aditya Chola.



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# Appakkudatha Perumal Temple

- The recorded inscriptions in this temple are numbered 283, 300, 301 and 303 of 1901.
- The temple is one of the five Pancharanga Kshetrams (also called Pancharangams, meaning the five Rangams or Ranganathas), a group of five Hindu temples on the banks of the Kaveri River dedicated to Ranganatha, a form of Vishnu.



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# Appakkudathan Perumal Temple

- **Azhwars** : Periyalvar-33, Thirumangai Azhwar, Thirumalisai Alvar, Nammazhwar.



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# Hara Saabha Vimocana Perumal Temple

- **Location:** Kandiyur, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu 10.8602550 N; 79.1088910 E
- **Presiding deity :** Indravalli Appala Ranganatha Perumal
- **Notes/Beliefs:** Since Vishnu relieved (vimochana) the sin (sabha) of Shiva (also called Hara), the temple is called Hara Saabha Vimochana Temple.





# Thirukoodalur Temple

- **Location:** Aduthurai, Thanjavur District,  
Tamil Nadu 10.9251520 N; 79.2035320 E
- **Presiding deity :** Padmasani  
JogathrakshagaPerumal





# Thirukavithalam Temple

- **Location:** Kapisthalam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu 10.9468900 N; 79.2565120 E
- **Presiding deity :** Ramamanivalli  
Gajendravaradha Perumal





- **Thiruppullambo Thangudi Temple**
- **Location:** Pullaboothangudi, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu 10.9715960 N; 79.3034150 E
- **Presiding deity :** Hemabja Thrudatanvee Ramabadhra Perumal



- **Thiruaadhanur Temple**
- **Location:** Adanur, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu 10.9764700 N; 79.3134540 E
- **Presiding deity :** Ranganayagi  
Varshakalathinayaka Perumal





- **Thirukudanthai Temple**
- **Location:** Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District,  
Tamil Nadu 10.9596490 N; 79.3749990 E
- **Presiding deity :** Komalavalli  
Aparyapthamrutha Perumal





- **Thiruvinnagar Temple**
- **Location:** Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu 10.9615700 N; 79.4320800 E
- **Presiding deity :** Boodevi Lavanavarjitha Srinivasa Perumal



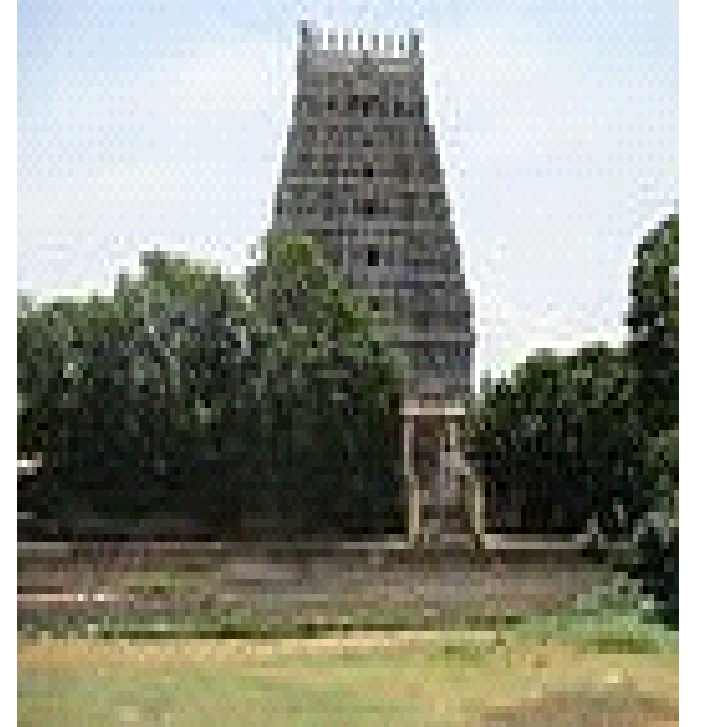


- **Thirunaraiyur Temple**
- **Location:** Nachiyar Kovil, Thiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu 10.9158440 N; 79.4455540 E
- **Presiding deity :** Vanjulavalli Srinivasa Perumal





- **Thirucheraï Temple**
- **Location:** Thirucheraï, Thiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu 10.8791350 N; 79.4544020 E
- **Presiding deity :** Saranganayagi Saranatha Perumal



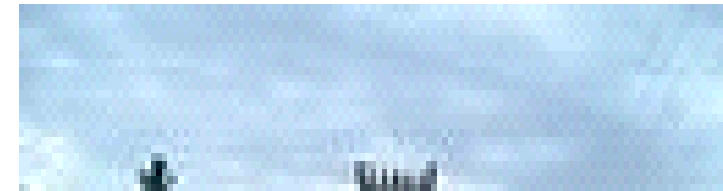


- **Thirunandhipura Vinnagaram Temple**
- **Location:** Nathan Kovil, Thiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu  $10.922075^0$  N;  $79.372192^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Shenbagavalli Jagannatha Perumal



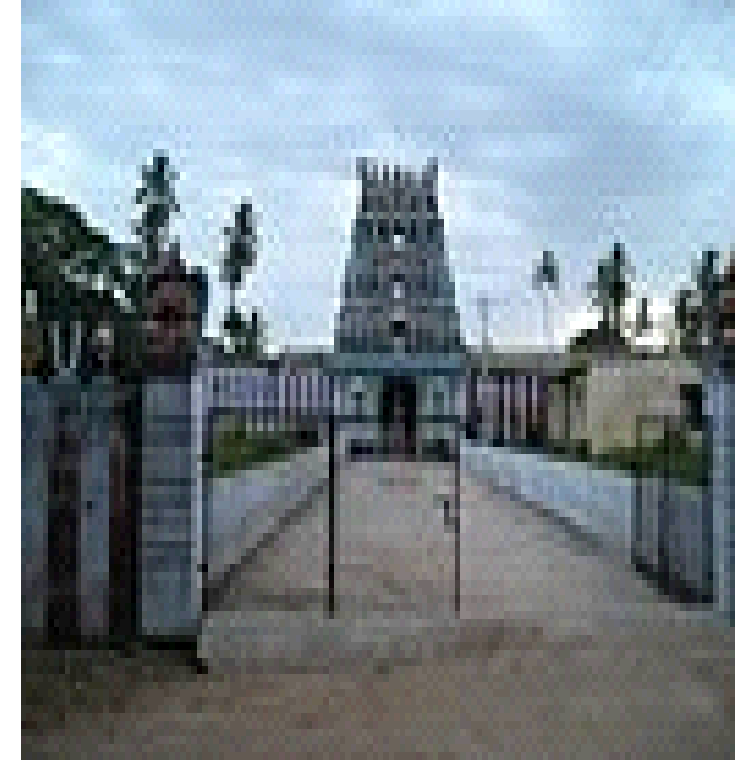
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- **Thiruvelliyangudi Temple**
- **Location:** Thiruvelliyangudi, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu 11.056687<sup>0</sup> N; 79.443095<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Maragadhavalli Srungarasundara Danushbani Ramaya Perumal





- **Thirukannamagai Temple**
- **Location:** Thirukannamangai, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $10.799552^{\circ}$  N;  $79.586645^{\circ}$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Abishegavalli Bhaktavatsala Perumal





- **Thirukannapuram Temple**
- **Location:** Thirukannapuram, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $10.868499^0$  N;  $79.704266^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Kannapura Sowriraja Perumal



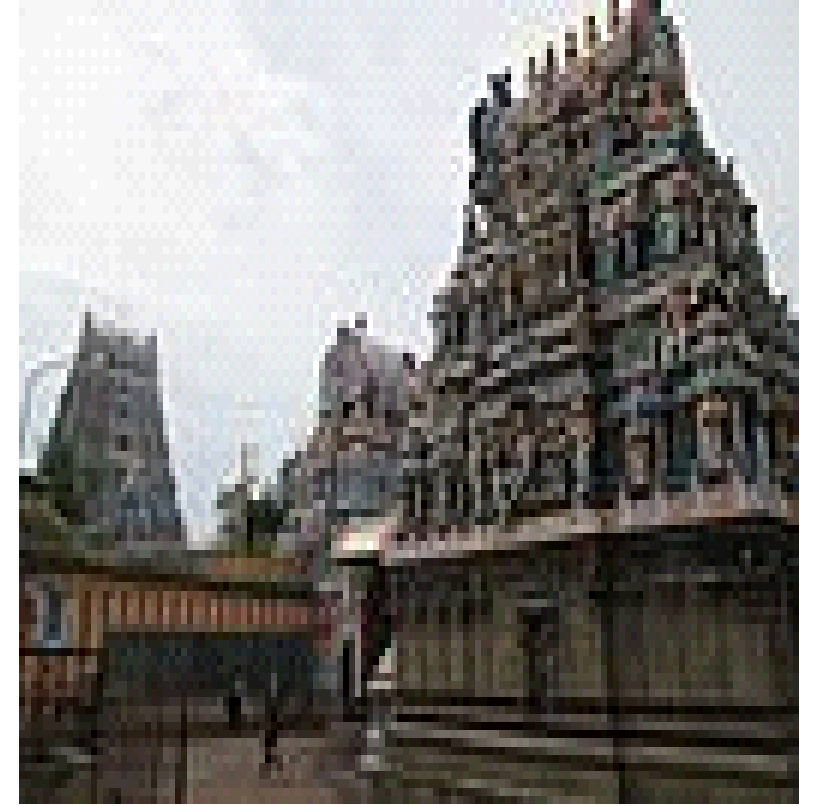


- **Thirukannangudi Temple**
- **Location:** Thirukannankudi, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  
10.757222<sup>0</sup> N; 79.763290<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Loganayagi Lokanatha Perumal



## ■ **Thirunagai Temple**

- **Location:** Nagapattinam, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu 10.759830<sup>0</sup> N; 79.843706<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Soundaryavalli  
Soundararaja Perumal





- **Thiruthanjai Temple**

- **Location:** Thanjavur, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu 10.815669<sup>0</sup> N;  
79.138677<sup>0</sup> E

- **Presiding deity :** Rakthapankajavalli Neelamega Perumal

- **Manikundram Temple**

- **Location:** Thanjavur, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu 10.816923<sup>0</sup> N;  
79.137229<sup>0</sup> E



- **Presiding deity** : Ambujavalli Maniparvatha Perumal
- **Thanjaiyali Nagar Temple**
- **Location**: Thanjavur, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu  $10.816022^0$  N;  
 $79.139155^0$  E
- **Presiding deity** : Thanjanayagi Narasimha Perumal



- **Thiruvazhundur Temple**
- **Location:** Theranzhdur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.046532^{\circ}$  N;  $79.579468^{\circ}$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Rakthapankajavalli Devadhiraja Perumal





- **Thiruchirupuliyur Temple**
- **Location:** Thirusirupuliyur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $10.991202^0$  N;  $79.669440^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Dhayanayagi Krupasamudra Perumal



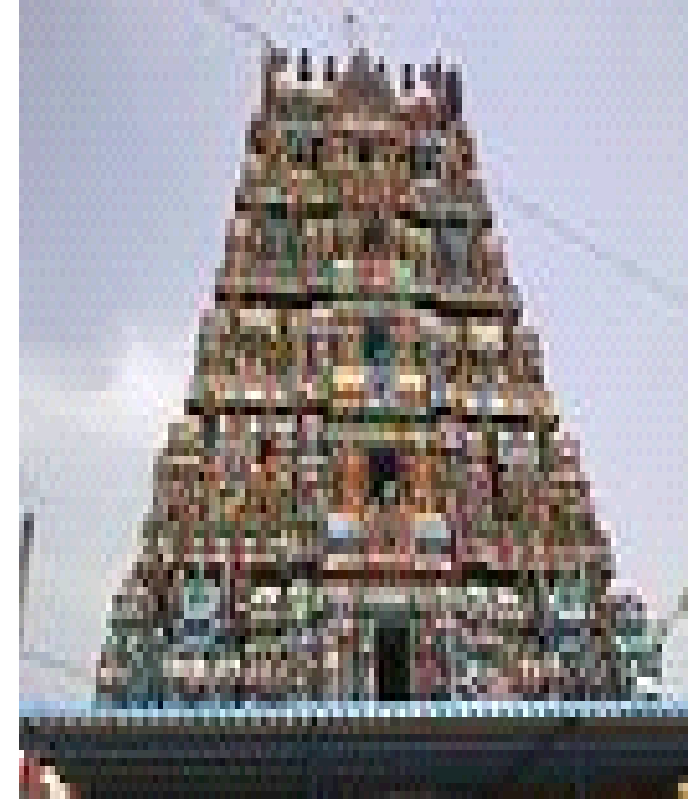


- **Thiruthalaichanga Nanmadiyam Temple**
- **Location:** Thalachangadu, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu 11.129789<sup>0</sup> N; 79.785252<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Sirassanga Chandrasabahara Perumal



- **Thiruindalur Temple**

- **Location:** Indalur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu 11.074792840373451<sup>0</sup> N; 79.73170427624518<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Pundareegavalli  
Parimalaranganatha Perumal





- **Thirukazhicheerama Vinnagaram Temple**
- **Location:** Sirkazhi, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu 11.074792840373451<sup>0</sup> N; 79.73170427624518<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Loganayagi Lokanatha  
Thrivikram Perumal





- **Thirukkavalambadi Temple**

- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District,  
Tamil Nadu 11.176927669494754<sup>0</sup> N;  
79.78247312847907<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Pankajavalli Gopala Krishna  
Perumal





- **Thiruarimeya Vinnagaram Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.177685493369651^{\circ}$  N;  $79.78152899090583^{\circ}$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Amrudhagadavalli Gadakeli Narthanaya Perumal



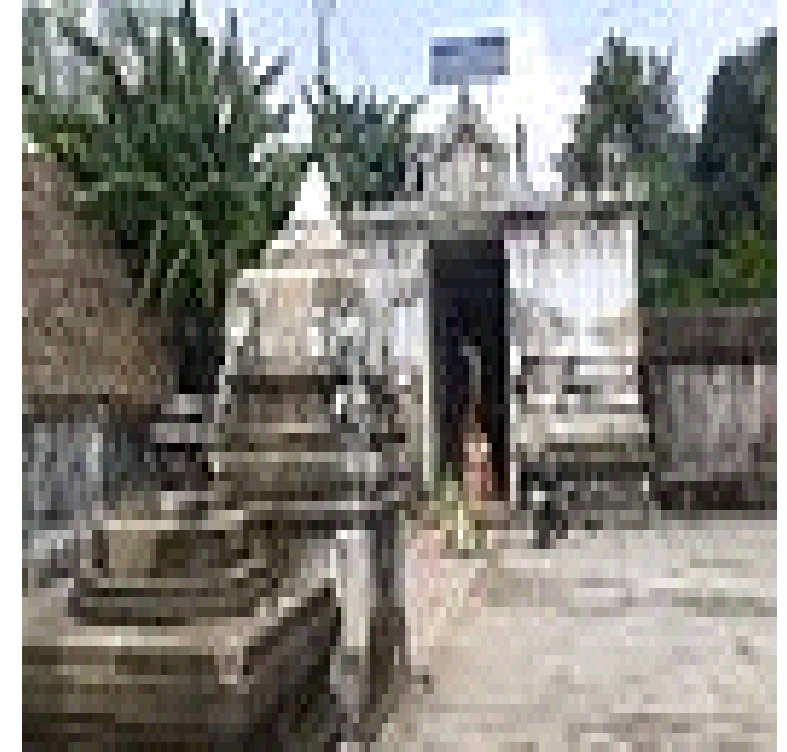


- **Thiruvanpurushothamam Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.178783^0$  N;  $79.776690^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Purushothama Purushothama Perumal





- **Thirusemponsaikoil Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.178446^0$  N;  $79.779651^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Sweda Pushpavalli Hemaranganatha Perumal





- **Thirumanimadakoil Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.173971^{\circ}$  N;  $79.776872^{\circ}$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Pundareegavalli Sashvatha Deepaya Narayana Perumal





- **Thiruvaigunda Vinnagaram Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.179804^0$  N;  $79.778267^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Vaigundavalli Vaikuntanatha Perumal





- **Thiruthetriambalam Temple**

- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.173022740077984^0$  N;  $79.79514388386542^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Rakthapankajavalli  
Lakshmiranga Perumal





- **Thirumanikoodam Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.177415^0$  N;  $79.777838^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Boonayagi Varadharaja Perumal





- **Thiruparthanpalli Temple**
- **Location:** Parthanpalli, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.169952^0$  N;  $79.797515^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Kamala Parthasarathyroopa  
Kamalapathaye Perumal





- **Thiruvali Temple**
- **Location:** Thiruvali, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.202979^0$  N;  $79.774538^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Amrudhagadavalli Kedarapathivaraya Perumal





- **Thirunagari Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunagari, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.226354^0$  N;  $79.800335^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Perumal





- **Thiruthevanarthogai Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunagur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu  $11.196842^0$  N;  $79.775504^0$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Samudradanaya Devanayaka Perumal





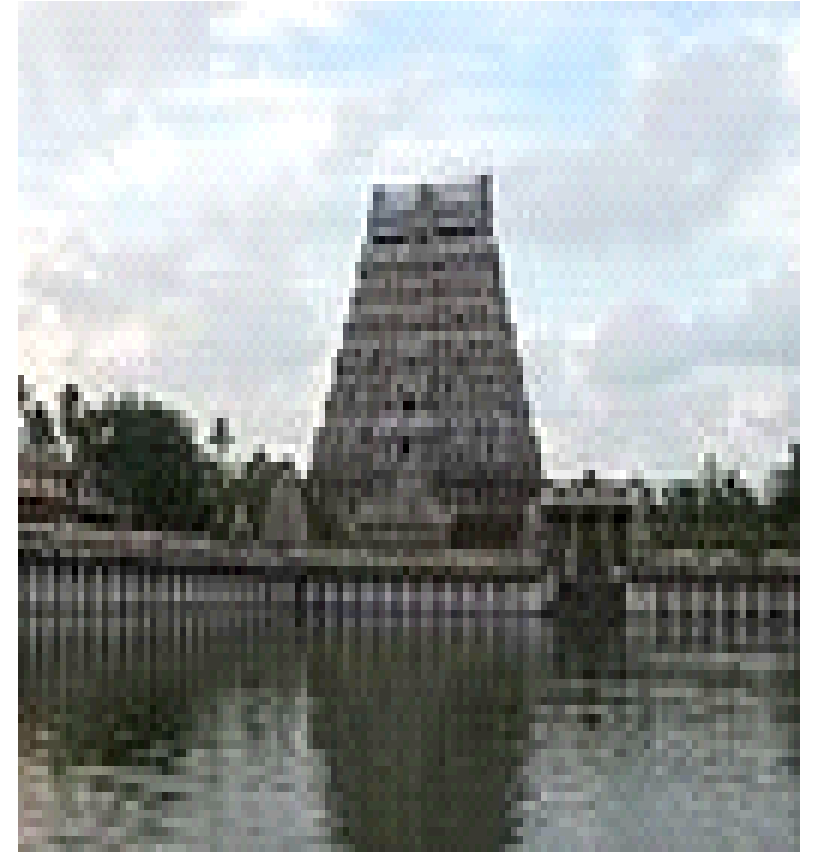
- **Thiruvellakulam Temple**
- **Location:** Thirunangur, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu 11.190106<sup>0</sup> N; 79.764929<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Padmavathi Srinivasa Perumal





- **Thiruchitrakoodam Temple**

- **Location:** Chidambaram, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu 11.399207<sup>0</sup> N; 79.693364<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Pundareegavalli Govindaraja Perumal





- **Thiruvaheendrapuram Temple**
- **Location:** Thiruvathipuram, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu 11.745099<sup>0</sup> N; 79.709351<sup>0</sup> E
- **Presiding deity :** Hemabujavalli Devanatha Perumal



# Haridwar and Hrishikes

- **Thirukkovalur Temple**
- **Location:** Thirukoyilur, Thiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu  $11.967006^{\circ}$  N;  $79.202479^{\circ}$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Pushpavalli Thrivikrama Perumal





# Haridwar and Hrishikes

- **Thirukkachi-Atthigiri Temple**
- **Location:** Kanchipuram, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu  $12.819137^{\circ}$  N;  $79.724646^{\circ}$  E
- **Presiding deity :** Perundevi Devathiraja Perumal

