

Adhinam Publication No. 309

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Sri Panchanathiswaraswami Temple,  
TIRUVAIYARU.



*Attached to*

DHARMAPURAM ADHINAM

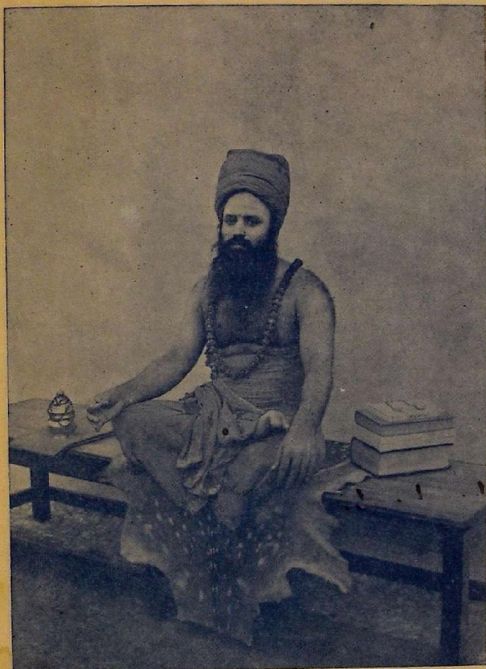
Dharmapuram, May

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Dharmapuram Adhinam 25th Mahasannidhanam.  
His Holiness Sri-La-Sri Kailai Subramanya Desika  
Gnanasambhanda Paramacharya Swamigal

# SRI PANCHANATHISWARASWAMI TEMPLE, THIRUVAIYARU.

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HIS HOLINESS  
SRI-LA-SRI KAILAI SUBRAMANIA DESIKA GNANASAMBANDA  
PARAMACHARYA SWAMIGAL  
25th in the Holy Line of Dharmapuram Adhinam

by

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Sri Panchanathiswaraswami Devasthanam, Thiruvaiyaru.  
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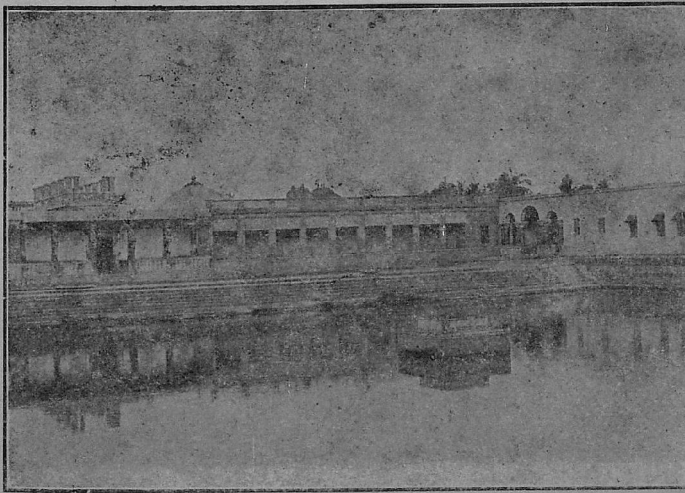
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Dharmapuram Adhinam is one of the important Saiva Mutts in South India. It was founded some 400 years ago by the great Saint Sri Gurugnanasambandar. The head of this Adhinam for the time being is the ex-officio hereditary trustee of various institutions. Sri Panchanadhiswaraswamy Temple at Thiruvaiyaru is one such Temple.

#### DHARMAPURAM ADHINAM MUTT

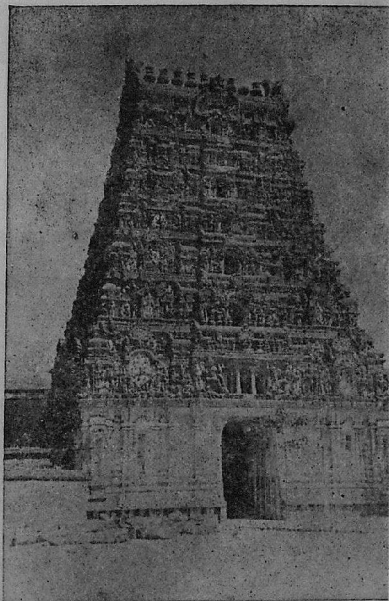


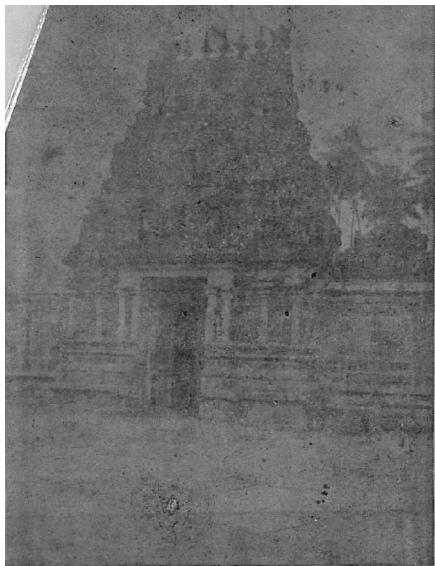
## Sri Panchanathiswaraswamy Temple, THIRUVAIYARU.

Tanjore District is well known by its great temples. Thiruvaiyaru, one of the important pilgrim centres in the District, lies at a distance of eight miles to the north of Tanjore town on the left bank of the sacred river Cauvery. Nayanmars Tirugnanasambandar, Tirunavukkarasar and Sundaramoorthy, have sung in praise of the Lord of this temple. It is in this place Tirunavukkarasu Nayanar had the sight of Kailas shown to him by God. The grand sight of Cauvery at this place, the large trees in exuberance on its banks and green and luxuriant vegetation throughout the place, have come up for mention in the sacred hymns. This holy place is called by a number of names Ayyaru, Panchanadam, Bhooloka Kailas etc. Ayyaru or Panchanadam is taken as representing the five great waters Suryapushkarani, Chandrapushkarani, Gangatheertham, Palaru and Nanditheertham.

Though there are many holy places on the banks of the river Cauvery, the fact that the exponents of Saivism have called this temple alone as Cauverikkottam evinces its special greatness.

This temple has Pancha prakarams. There are separate shrines for the Lord and the Goddess Mother, both facing the east. In the second court. Somaskanda has got a separate shrine with Japasa mantap by its side.





### South Kailas :

This is a stone temple situated in the southern part of fourth court (prakaram) of the temple of Ayyarappar, consisting of three parts, namely Ardhmantap, Mehamantap, and the tabernacle, and surrounded by a set of storied buildings. The image of the saint Appar presents a beautiful appearance here. This temple was renewed by Panchavanmadevi, the wife of Rajendra Chola I. The name of the lord is Panchanadivanan and that of the goddess mother is Anjalai.

### North Kailas :

This is also called Olokamadeechcharam. This temple is situated in the northern part of fourth court. It was built by Olokamadeviar, the wife of king Rajarajan I. This king ascended the throne in 985 A. D. So it is certain that



this Queen also should have lived at this time. The stone inscription found in the 21-st year of the reign of Rajarajan I, is the oldest available in the temple. So it should have been built before 1006 A. D. Thus it should have come into existence nearly 946 years ago.

### Subramaniyam :

As Lord Murugan appears here with bow and other weapons of war in his hand, He is called Danusu Subramaniam. His shrine is situated in the western part of the second court.



### Ayyarappar :

The presiding deity here is Lord Panchanadiswarar or Ayyarappar. He is Swayambu. He is also called as has been described by eminent devotees, Semporjotteeswarar. In the Tirumurais, He is hailed as Ayyarudaya Adigal and also Ayyatrinperuman. The puranas describe him as Kailasanathar, Japesar, Pranatarthiharar etc.

In the first court, Sapthamatha, Nayanmars, Dakshinamurthi, Umamaheswarar. Sankaranarayanar. Brahma, Thirupurasundari etc. are installed. In the second court, there is a separate shrine for Somaskandar. The Utsavamurthis of all Gods and Goddesses made of copper bronze etc. are housed here as also the crystal Linga referred to elsewhere. Japesa mantap is west of this temple. Adhi Vinayagar. Panchabootha Lingams and Navagrahams installed according to Agama tenets are in this



court. Paintings depicting old puranic stories are on the walls of this court. Chandrasekarar (சந்திரசேகரர்), Vinayagar, Subramaniam, Goddesses Mahalakshmi and Saraswathi, Chandikesvarar, Jvaraharesvar, Natarajar, Lingams of Saptha Sthalams are also in this court.

Yagasala and temple kitchen are in the third court. There are two towers, one in the east and the other in the south of this prakaram.

An unique feature in this court is, if one were to stand facing north at the west end of the southern part of this prakaram or facing south at the west end of the northern part of the same court and exclaim "Ayyarappa" the sound will reverbrate seven times.



### Goddess Mother :

She goes by various names Sri Aramvalarta Nayaki, Tripurasundari, Dharmambigai etc. Her shrine is situated north east of Aiyarappar temple. There are two prakarams and a Raja gopuram to this shrine.

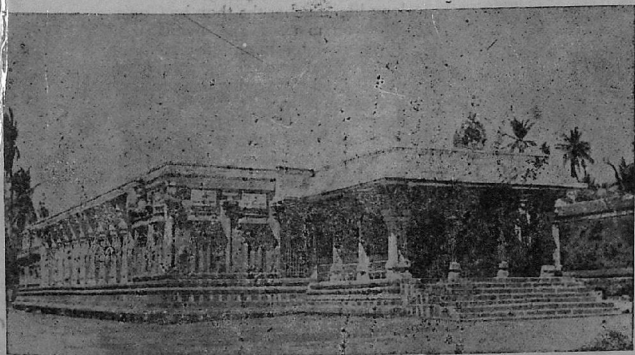


### Dakshinamurthy :

Holding a skull in the right hand which points upward and chinmudra in the other which points downward, and having a trident in the left hand which points upward and Sivagnanabodham in the other which points downward, He appears having a tortoise under his foot. Trampling the tortoise under the foot shows the indispensability of controlling the senses. He is called Harigurusivayoga Dakshinamurthy. Great significance is attached to this Murthy. He is in the first court of Ayyarappar shrine.

### Dandapani Shrine :

This is situated in the hundred pillared mantap by the side of the Rajagopuram in the outer court.



## Aalkondar :

He stands on the right side of the tower on the southern entrance. In his presence a kind of frankincense called Kungilium is always being burnt. He puts up a sort of heroic appearance with yama lying down under his feet.

Sucharita, a young brahmin, left the banks of the river Goutami overcome by sorrow upon the death of his parents, and undertaking a pilgrimage arrived at Tiruppazham, a place near by Tiruvaiyaru, and when resting there for the night in his dream, yama appeared and warned him that he had only five more days to live. He reached Tiruvaiyaru frightened but with the thought of praying to God for saving



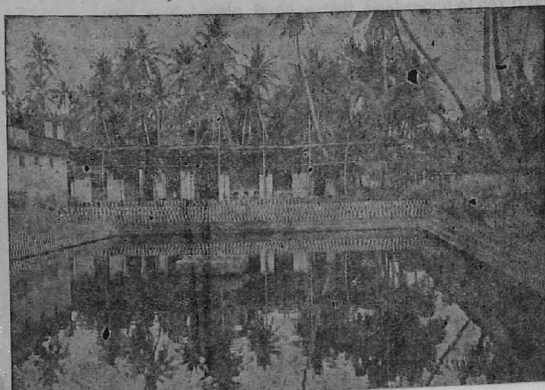
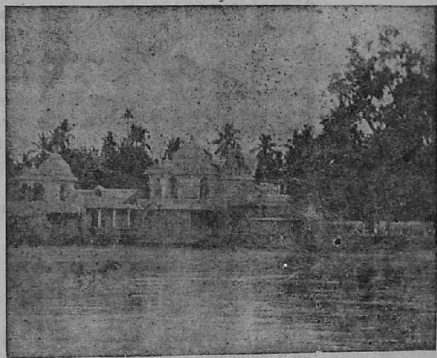
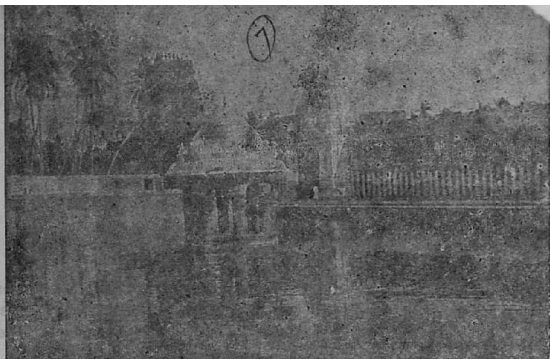
him. There he worshipped. Vashista instructed him in the Panchakshara-japa and he began doing worship and japa to the best of his ability. On the fifth day, yama appeared. Vasishta also prayed to god for the sake of the boy. God sent his guards to keep away yama. Yama put up a stern fight. God then appeared, punished yama and then blessed Sucharita and granted him long life. Sucharita then by God's direction married and lived as a house-holder with children for long years and attained salvation at the end. God revived yama too and warned him not to bother the devotees living in this holy place. God in the form in which he appeared to save Sucharita is called Aalkondesa. In his presence incense is being burnt perpetually.

## Holy waters :

There are many holy waters in this place such as the river Cauvery, Suryapushkarani, Chandrapushkarani, Samudra theertham, Devamirta theertham, and Nandi theertham. Suryapushkarani is the Sivatheertham east of South Kailas.

The bathing ghat in Cauvery here is very important. The benefit, that can be obtained by bathing for one year in other bathing ghats in Cauvery can be got by bathing for a day in this place.

The bathing ghat here is called Poosamantapathurai, and Pushyamantapathurai.



This is the tank from which Appar emerged after plunging in the tank at Kailas at the bidding of the Lord to have dharsan of Kailas.



## Puranic accounts :

### The Lord worshipped himself.

Of the 24 Adi Saiva Archakas of Ayyarappar temple, one went on pilgrimage to Benares. During his absence the other Archakas made encroachments upon his properties and rights. His helpless wife and sons sought refuge at the feet of the Lord of the five rivers i.e., the presiding God here. God stepped in the form of an old Archaka and carried on the duties of the absentee Archaka at the temple. When the original archaka returned from the pilgrimage, the divine substitute sportively sought to prove the former an imposter and when the astonished judges gave him the victory, He suddenly transformed himself into his divine form and blessed the devoted group. Following the tradition, on the 5th day of the annual festival this puja is being performed.

A crystal Linga in Somaskanda Mantap still bears witness to this traditional story.

### Tirunandi Devar :

Sage Silada, having no son, worshipped the Lord. He got a command from God to perform the Putrakameshti sacrifice and he was given to understand that a child placed in a box would be found by him while ploughing the sacred plot and that he would live up to an age of 16 years only. Silada performed the sacrifice and discovered a box. When he opened the box eagerly, what met his eyes was a divine form with four arms and three eyes with moon on the crest. Immediately a voice was heard from above instructing him to shut the box and then open the same. He did so. And lo! what he found inside was a beautiful child. The child was given the name of Japeswara. The boy grew up and before he was fourteen years old had mastered all the Vedas, Agamas, and the Sastras. The parents became sad to think that he had only two more years

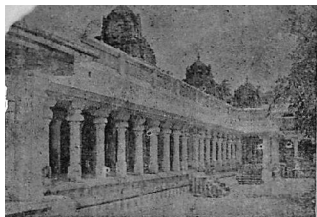
to live and on coming to know the reason of their sorrow, Japeswara went to Ayyarappan temple, began to perform a severe penance posting himself in the Brahma, Vishnu theertha. The aquatic reptiles and the fish in the water fed themselves upon his flesh and he was reduced to a mere skeleton. God then appeared before him sprinkled on him the five waters, restored his body to its original unimpaired condition, and also blessed him with the traditional sixteen gifts. Japeswara was married to Svayamprakasa the grand daughter of Vasishtha and the daughter of Vyagrapada, and the sister of Upamanyu in the month of Panguni, when the punarpoosa constellation was ruling. Finally Japeswara received the Upadesa of the Lord ascended to kailasam and became the head of the attendants on Siva. He obtained the honour of guarding the main gate there and became the prime founder of the line of Saiva Acharyas. He bears the name of Nandi Devar. Tirukalyana Vaibavam is being celebrated even today during the month of Panguni on a grand scale.

### Agastya :

Agastya came to this holy shrine bathed in the Surya-pushkarani and performed penance. God appeared to him mounted on the bull. Agastya prayed for a short statured form for facilities of worship at God's feet. This being granted Agastya became short of stature. He then wished to see kailas God imparted to him the Panchakshara and bade him plunge into the Suryapushkarani. Agastya emerged at kailas and stayed there.

### Goddess Mother :

In order that the people may know the greatness of the mother, the Lord here bade her perform all the charities with only two measures of paddy granted to her as the means. The mother gladly accepted the quantity so provided for the charities and through the exercise of her unlimited mystic powers carried out all the 32 kinds of charitable acts for the benefit of the devotees. She was thenceforth known as Aramvalarta Nayaki.



## Mantapas :

### Salvation Mantap. (Mukthi Mantapam)

This kind of mantap exists only in three places, at Nagapattinam. Thiruvaiyaru and Benares. In this place, this mantap is called Japasa mantap. Great sanctity is attached to this mantapam. The spiritual benefit and efficacy of Panchakshara japam, when pronounced in this mantapam, is stated to be ten times as much as that when done anywhere else. This is, otherwise, called Mukthi Mantapam.

### Festival Mantap :

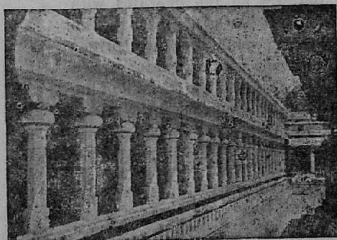
There are separate mantaps in the temple of the Lord and in that of the Goddess mother. Apart from these, there are the Asthanam mantap and the Prasanga sabha mantap. The sokkattan mantap is in the Sannadhi Ayyarappan.

## Festivals :

The main festival which extends over 12 days, takes place in the month of Chittrai. The fifth day festival is very important, as, on that day, the Lord transforms Himself into a Saiva Acharya and worships Himself. It is on that day itself that Maheswara pooja is done to the deities Swamis, and Saiva Acharyas that go to Thiruvaiyaru from Tiruppazhanam and six other places.

### Seven temples festival : (Saptasthala Festival)

The grand and note worthy feature in this place is that Lord Ayyarappan starts in procession along with Goddess Aramvalartha Nayaki, Nandi Emperuman and Swaymprakasa Ammai and after visiting Tiruppazhanam and six other holy places, where he is honoured and worshipped, returns along with the deities of the said places to Ayyaru the next morning. This festival falls on the full moon day coupled with Visaka nakshatram in the Tamil month of Chittrai.



## Monthly festival :

On the new moonday of every month, Lord Ayyarappar comes on in procession in the streets, and is taken to the Pushpai mantap ghat of the river Cauvery where he bestows his grace on the people that take holy bath in the Cauvery river at that time.

The Thirukkalyanam festival of Tirunandi Devar takes place in the month of Panguni each year at Thirumazhapadi. Lord Ayyarappar along with Aramvalarta Nayaki goes to Thirumazhapadi to grace the marriage.

## Daily worship :

Six kalams of puja according to the tenets of காமிகாம காரணகம் sastras are performed daily, monthly, monthly festivals such as Amavasai, summer (vasantha) utsavam. Adi puram lasting ten days, Adi Amavasai, when St. Appar had Kailas Dharsan, floating festival on Avani mulam day, Navarathiri (ten days) in Purattasi, Skanda shasti in Ayppasi, Thirukkarthikai, and Thiruvembavai (ten days) in Margazhi are also conducted.

## Properties :

There are about 400 acres of nanja lands, 300 acres of punja lands, thope and some bazaars and houses, besides silver and gold jewels for Gods and Goddesses.

A gold Kandikai made of gold and studded with precious stones was presented to the temple by His Holiness Sri-la-Sr-Kailai Subramania Desika Gnanasambanda Paramacharia Swamigal Avergal.

## Vahanams :

There are two big Silver Rishaba (Bull) Vahanams for God and Goddess, a small one for Pradhosham, Silver Lotus with canopy, Silver padichattam, Peacock and Mouse Vahanams.



Flag staff in front of Swami Sannidhi was gold plated. at the sole expense of Sri K. Kolandaivel Moopanar, landlord and V. H. M. of Thiruvaiyaru and Kumbabishekam performed on 29-4-60 (தமிழ் வரலாறு பக்கம் 21.)

An elephant is also maintained.

#### Income :

Income from lands, bazaars buildings and other items amounts to approximately Rs. 1,00,000.

#### Amenities to pilgrims and worshippers :

Two free rest houses are provided in the Amman Sannidhi, with modern conveniences for the accomodation of the pilgrims and temporary stay of high officials and other gentry.

Electric fans are fixed in the Swami sannidhi for the comfort of worshippers.

A hand pump is installed in the Swami Temple to provide drinking water to people visiting the temple.

#### Management :

This is one of the 27 Devasthanams and Kattalais belonging to Dharmapuram Adhinam in Mayuram Taluk, Thanjavur District. It is under the able management of its sole hereditary Trustee His Holiness Sri-la-Sri Kailai Subramania Desika Gnanasambandha Paramacharia Swamigal Avergal ever since 20<sup>th</sup> June 1945 when he ascended the holy gadi.

#### The Six other holy places in the order of Saptha Sthalam.

##### Tiruppazhanam :

This place is at a distance of two miles east of Thiruvaiyaru, on the road leading to Kumbakonam. Tirunavukkarasu Swamigal has sung in praise of Appoodi Adigal in the Thevaram of this place. The name of the Lord here is Apatchahayar and that of the Goddess is Perianayaki.

### Tiruchchotruthurai :

This was the hermitage of the sage Goutama. Indra, Surya and others worshipped the Lord in this place. A brahmin bhaktha named Arulalar was blessed with the gift of Akshaya patram in this place. This is at a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south of Thiruppazhanam; the river Cauvery and its other tributaries have to be crossed. The name of the Lord here is Tolayachchelvar and that of the Goddess Mother is Oppilavammai.

### Tiruvetikudi :

This is one of the holy places worshipped by the Vedas. The Vinayakar here, is called Veda Vinayakar. This place is at a distance of 2 miles to the south of Tiruchotruthurai. The name of the Lord here is Vedapuriswarar and that of the Goddess is Mangayarkarasi.

### Tirukkandiyur :

This is two miles west to the last mentioned temple. This is one of the eight holy places, (Ashtaveerattanam). It is in this place that God Siva removed one head of Brahma. In this temple, there is a shrine for Brahma which is a peculiarity of this place, Tirugnanasambandha Swamigal and Tirunavukkarasu Swamigal have sung about this place. Sadannandar worshipped the Lord here and attained salvation. This place is at a distance of six miles from Tanjore, on the road leading to Thiruvaiyaru. The name of the Lord here is Veeratteswarar and that of the Goddess mother is Mangalanayaki.

### Thiruppoonturuthi :

This is two miles west of Tirukkandiyur. Indra, Kasyapper, and Cholan worshipped the Lord here. It is said that in this place, Nandi moved from his place to give darasan to Thirugnana-sambandamoorthy Nayanar. Thirunavukkarasu Swamigal had built a mutt here and lived in it. It is here that Thirunavukkarasu Swamigal

bore the palanquin of Thirugnanasambandamoorthy Swamigal when he returned from Pandi Nad. The name of the Lord is Pushpavanathan and that of the Goddess mother is Azhaharnda Nayaki.

### Tirunaitthanam :

This is the place where goddess Saraswathi worshipped the Lord. It is at a distance of a mile to the west of Thiruvaiyaru. The name of the Lord is Naiyadiappar and that of the Goddess is Valambigai. This place is now called Tillaisthanam. During the Saptasthanam festival, Ayyarappar visits this place last and then returns to Thiru Ayyaru.

### Sculpture at Tiruvaiyaru temple :

The sculptures of this holy place belong to a very early era. The image of Brahma here is a very beautiful one. Aalkondar the guard of this place and yama under his foot are also beautiful images instilling into the minds of the devotees, a sense of both heroism and awe. Research scholars of sculpture say that the sculptural works seen on the outer wall of the tabernacle in the South Kailayam appear to be the handicraft of the Chalukyas in the Deccan and that similar works of the same type are found at Hemavati in Anantapur District.

### Antiquity and Structure :

The Antiquity of a temple can be determined by examining the structure, the pillar, the images and such other things. The foremost of sculptures are the Pallava sculptures. In the rock cut temple at Mamallapuram, the image of the gate guard is seen with slender waist and two hands bending the head a little. Wherever such an image is seen it can be concluded that it is as old as the former. The Gate guard at the gate of the temple of Ayyarappar at Thiruvaiyaru, stands with two hands. From this it can be inferred that this temple might have been

built by the Pallavas. The temple of Somaskandar and the gate guard with four hands and crooked teeth exhibit the Chola civilisation.

### Antiquity :

According to a divine command through a voice from above, Priyavrata, a king of the solar race, first constructed the temple in this holy place. The great warrior king Karikar Peruvalathan who had extended his sway upto the Himalayas effected repair works next in this temple. In obedience to the mandate of God, Vimaladithan of Venginad renewed it again. Olokama devi, the wife of king Rajaraja I, built the North Kailayam and gave it her name. From these facts, it is evident that this holy place with its temple has been under the protection and patronage of the kings of the land. This temple is noted for historical interest and cultural importance.

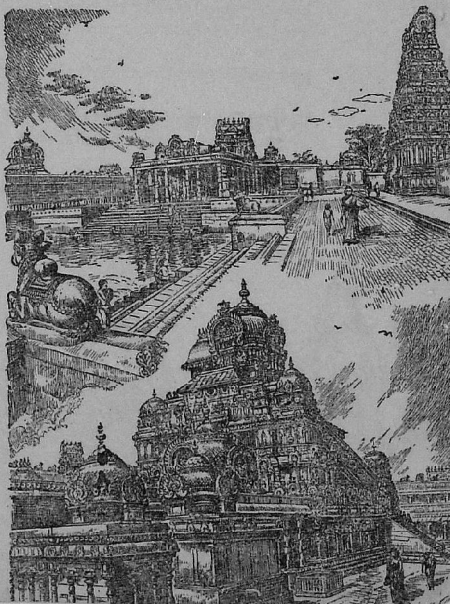
Certain other temples under the management of

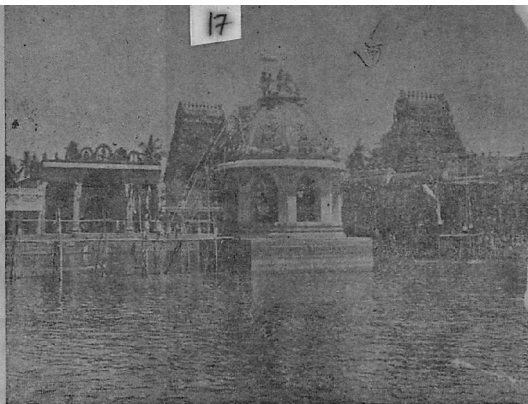
## DHARMAPURAM ADHINAM

### Sri Sattanathaswami Temple :

(Shiyali, Southern Railway.)

During the great deluge when Umamaheswarar was sailing, His boat is said to have got stranded at this place. When everything went down during the deluge this place alone was found to remain unaffected. This is the birth place of Saint Tirugnanasambandar. The mother Goddess here fed Sambandar with the milk of divine wisdom. All the four great Nayanmars have sung in this temple. Many other saints also have composed hymns of sacred character.





## Sri Vaithiyanathaswami Temple :

(Vaithiswarankoil, Southern Railway.)

This an important pilgrim centre and a great Prarthana-sthalam. Vaithiyanathar is the Lord's name. The Ambal is Thaiyal Nayagi. Subramaniam here is known as Selva Muthukumaraswami. Each one of these deities is important in its own way and pilgrims in thousands, visit the temple and fulfil various kinds of vows. It is here that Jatayu of Ramayana fame had his last rites performed by Rama.

## Sri Amirthagateswaraswami Temple :

(Tirucadaiyur, Southern Railway)

This is an ancient temple. Puranas say that it is here that for the sake of saving Markandeya the Almighty took the life of Yama. It is the

common belief that whoever worships the Lord here is blessed with long life. The Kalasamharamurthi is a more beautiful and powerful one. The presiding Lord is Amirthagateswara The Ambal is known as Abirami and she is graceful. Nayanmars have sung in praise of the God and a great baktha of the Goddess mother by name Abirami Pattar has sung in praise of Her.





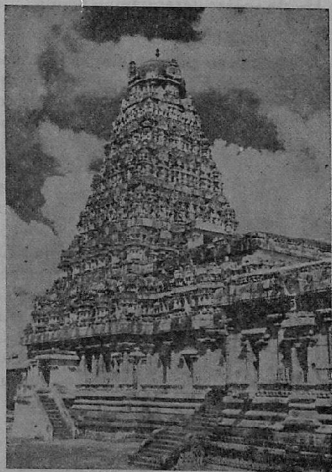


## Sri Kampahareswaraswami Temple,

Tirubuvanam near  
Kumbakonam.

This is a big temple constructed in the model of the famous temple Raja Rajeswaram at Thanjavur. This was built by Kulothunga III. The Lord here goes by the name of Kampahareswara,

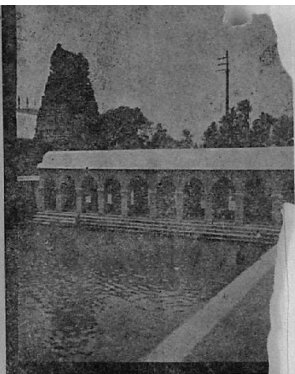
meaning thereby one who liberates those in mortal fear. Tradition says that Narasimhamurthi after Hiranyasamharam grew ferocious and the Lord came out in the form of Saraba and quenched his ferocity. The picture here is the Utsava Sarabhamurthy. Great architectural importance is attached to this temple.



## Sri Arunajateswaraswami Temple :

(Tiruppanandal, lying between  
Kumbakonam and Lower Anaicut.)

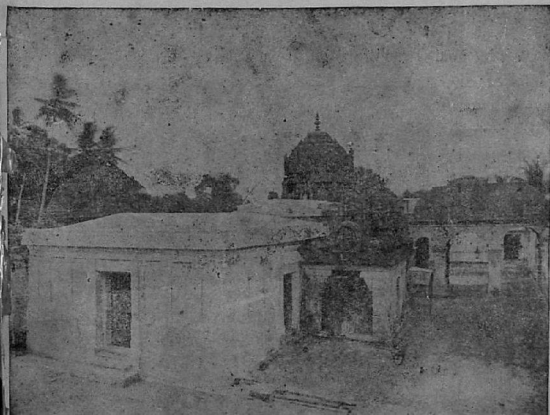
It is here that Mother Goddess underwent severe penance to get initiated into the secrets by God Himself. One day when Thadagai was attempting to garland the Lord in puja time as usual, the saree worn by her was about to drop down and she had to struggle to keep the saree in position and at the same time garland the Lord. God condescended to bend his head so as to come within easy reach of her thus saved her from the embarrassment.



## Sri Vadhanyeswaraswami Temple :

(Vallalkoil, Mayuram Town.)

This lies on the north bank of Cauvery. During the great Thula month (October - November) Dakshinamurthy here is taken in procession to the bathing ghat when people in thousands have their holy bath in the sacred river Cauvery.





## Tirukkuvalai :

(Nagapattinam Taluk.)

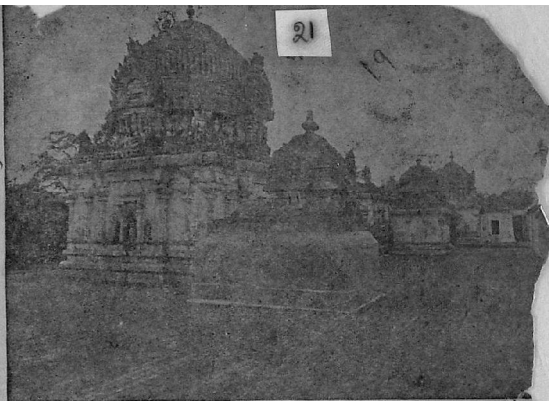
This temple lies in Nagapattinam taluk. Three Nayanmars have sung. This is one of the six Vitangasthalams, where Sri Ththagaraja is worshipped. Here are number of inscriptions.

## Uyyakondan :

(Tiruchirappalli.)

This is very near Tiruchirappalli. It is a beautiful hill temple. A number of devotees have sung in praise of this Kshetra. There are a good number of inscriptions.





### Sri Veeratteswaraswami Temple :

(Parasalur, Mayuram Taluk.)

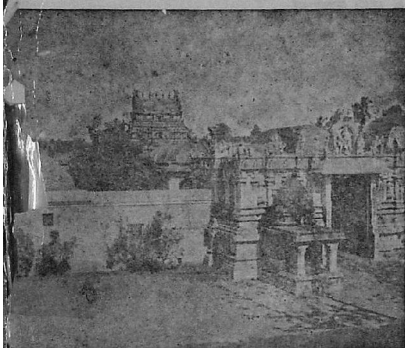
This is one of the Ashta Veera Kshetras. This is the place where Dhaksha performed Yagna and Siva was affronted.

### Sri Dharmapuriswaraswami Temple :

(Dharmapuram, Mayuram Taluk.)

This temple is at Dharmapuram where the great Dharmapuram Adhinam Mutt is situated. Here Yama who was sacked by

the God at Tirucadayur for the sake of Markandaya was restored to life. Here the Lakshmi Durga with 18 hands, is famous.



## Sri Mahalakshmi Durga Devi :

(Dharmapuram,  
Mayuram Taluk.)

A temple for Sri Mahalakshmi Durga Devi is within the Dharmapureeswarar temple at the north western corner. The graceful Goddess with 18 hands stands bestowing various prarthanas. Several crores of archanas are performed and annually Chada Chandi Maha-yagna is performed during navarathri days for world peace and prosperity.

अक्षम्वरश्च गदेषु कुलिशं पद्मं धनुः कुण्डिकां  
दण्डं शक्तिमसिं च चर्म जलजं घण्टां सुराभाजनम् ।  
शूलं पाशसुदर्शने च दधतीं हस्तैः प्रवालप्रभां  
सेवे सैरिभ्रमर्दनीमिह महालक्ष्मीं सरोजस्थिताम् ॥