

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

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THE POPULAR FESTIVALS OF SRI ANDAL TEMPLE AT SRIVILLIPUTHUR -A STUDY

Rathakrishnan P.¹ and Dr. Selvakumar R.²

¹Ph.D Research scholar, Department of Philosophy, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.

²Assistant professor, Department of Philosophy, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.



Krishna is very important and remarkable one both Andal and Periyalvar who were here have treated the presiding deity of Vadaperumkoil an lord Krishna and have glorified him through their songs. Periyalvar has glorified Krishna through 'Pilli Tamil'. Because of such religious significance in Andal temple on the eighth day of ascendant phase of moon in the month of Aavani 'Sri Krishna Jeyanthi' urchovom taken place on this eighth day night after the of Thiruvarathanam take place in Andal, Vedabiran Bhattar after getting the formal 'Parivatam' honour recites 'Sri Jeyanthi Pooranam which in Sanskrit and contains details about Krishna celebration and importance of observing. After this the to one that took place in Andal temple will take place in Vadaperumkoil. On that day around 12'o clock in the midnight 'Krishna Avathara' Urchovom will take place for the deity of lord Krishna located in the temple premises Thirumanjanam and 'Alankara Thiruvathanam' will take place.

ABSTRACT

Through out the year, many festivals are celebrating in Andal temple at Srivilliputhur regularly. Large numbers of festivals are celebrating in all the twelve Tamil months. These festivals are

KEYWORDS: Popular Festivals , Krishna celebration and importance of observing.

INTRODUCTION

- Adi Urchavom and Thiru Adi Pooram Therhttam (Car Festival)
- Purattasi Urchavom on all Saturday of month purattasi
- Purattasi Urchavom of the Periya

Perumal

- Ennai kappu (Oil application) Urchavom in the month of Purattasi.
- Maha Theporchovom (float festival) in the month of Masi.
- Thirukalyana Urchavom (celestial wedding) in the month of Panguni

Apart from these above festivals, some important festivals are popularly celebrating in this temple. This paper deals with eleven important festivals celebrating in this famous temple.

1. Krishna Jeyanthi Festival

Among the festivals celebrated during the Tamil month of Aavani sri Jeyanthi Urchovom the day celebration of Lord

This premise the next day well decorated, Kannan will look in the Krishna temple and reach the temple premises of Andal. In the temple premises of Andal special poojas will take place for Andal and Rengamannar after this "Pasuram" sing by Andal glorifying Kannan will be sung. There after this Kannan well and will reach Periya Perumal temple tower entrance after passing through Kandadai and Mada Street in the chariot made out of 'Punnai' tree. From there after passing through 'Ratham' (Car) streets where car then pots called 'Uris' will be hung, 'Uriyadi' (Pot Breaking) festival will take place.

During this festival events of Kannan (Lord Krishna) who grew in Ayarpadi stealing butter from Uris will be depicted live a lengthy tree trunk after it is cut from the base will be erected at a prominent place and Uris will be hung from it the presiding deity will be made to present itself before it. It will be placed things like butter coconuts etc traditional right holders will break down the Uris with a pots this ritual of breaking the Uris is called 'Uriyadi' festival

2. Thirupavithra Urchovom

On the Tamil month of Aavani on the day of Avittai star these who wear 'Poonool' (Holy Thread) will change these 'Poonool' to a new one these festival is a representative of this 'Poonool' wearing ceremony. This seven day festival will begin on the 11th day of ascendant phase of moon in the Tamil month of Avani on the full moon day, night Periya Perumal and Periyalvar will start from these premises in these temples and reach Andal temple premise. There Periya Perumal in Garuda Vahanam will pass through mada streets and the devotees.

3. Unjal Urchavom (Festival of Swing)

During the Tamil month of Aippasi the seven day festival will take place with last day being the Thirupooram festival day. This is also called 'Andal Unjal Urchavom' similarly on the full moon day of the month of Aippasi 'Unjal Urchavom' will take for Periya Perumal therefore we can come to know from the above that these are two Unjal Urchavom that take place here.

3.1 Andal Unjal Urchavom

During all the seven day of this festival Andal and Rengamannar after the 'Alankara Thirumanjana' rituals, will start from the temple and will be present in the Unjal (swing) established in the Kalaya Mandapam (marriage hall) for the devotees, Unjal festival will take place by way of swinging of the Unjal. During this Unjal festival events like 'Iyalil Sevai' (Group recitation of divya Prabandham), sevai (worships) and 'Satru Murai will take place.

3.2. Periya Perumal Unjal Urchovom

On the full moon day evening of the Tamil month of Aippasi 'Alankara Thirumanchanam' will take place for Periya Perumal. Later in the night after coming around in the streets Periya Perumal will be present in the Unjal rested in the Gopala Vilasam. After this Unjal festival will take place. During that time Thirupallandu and Thiruppavai will be sing. These after Periya Perumal will bless the devotees from the Unjal.

4. Ekadasi Festivals

During Ekadasi (11th day of ascendant and descendant phase of moon) day Andal and Rangamannar will leave these premises to bless the devotees. Among the Ekadasis Kaisika Ekadasi and Vaikunta Ekadasi is one that is celebrated in a grand manner. There two Ekadasis celebrations are called an Ekadasi festival celebration.

4.1. Kaisika Ekadasi

On the Ekadasi day of the Sukla Palesha (Ascendant phase of moon) during the Tamil month of Kaarthigai an ardent devotee of Thirumal called 'Nampaduvan' attained heavenly abode nu constantly singing 'Panns' (Hymns) called an Kaisigam and this Ekadasi day is called Ekadasi this festival taken place to commemorate the devotee called 'Nampaduvan'. Hence this festival is somewhat special and different when compared to other festive celebrations. On the morning of the festival day. Andal and Rangamannar will undergo Thirumanjanam and Thiruvaratham rituals and return to theses respective after the performance of the Thiruvasiriyam Iyal by devotees.

4.2. Vaikunta Ekadasi

The Suklapaksha Ekadasi that comes in the Tamil month of Margazhi is called on Vaikunda Ekadasi on the morning of Vaikunda Ekadasi day Periya Perumal and Periyalvar will be present before Andal's premises along with 'Tholoukkiniyani'. At that time Nammalavar, Ramanujar and Thirumangaialvar will also be present these in a well attired manner. After the rituals these deities along with the Acharyas will come around the temple Prakaram and reach the Sorga Vasal entrance. These Thirupallandu and Thiruppavai Pasuram will be sung.

5. Sorga Vasal Thirappu vizha (Heavenly Entrance Opening Festival)

On Vaikunta Ekadasi day early morning the 'Sorga Vasal' in Andal temple will simultaneously open at the time when the 'Sorga Vasal' is opened at Srirangam temple on this auspicious day the 'Sorga Vasal' will be opened by Jeeyar after getting the due respect of garlanding, Parivatta honours from the Vainava Vedapiran Bhattar of that place than Rangamannar and Andal after undergoing special poojas will pass through the 'Sorga Vasal' there deities will be first followed by Acharyas and than by devotee present there. The devotees when they pass through that 'Sorga Vasal' keep chanting 'Govinda' 'Govinda', they also pray that after the end of this life they should attain immortality end in eternal.

6. Mupazha Thriuvizha (Three Fruits Festival)

This festival taken place on the full moon day of Tamil month of 'Aani'. Three fruit varieties of the reason using Mango, Jackfruit and Banana are cut to pieces and finally grated coconut is added to this mixture. This mixture is called Mupazha Kalavai (mixture) and is offered to Andal and then after distributed to the devotees as Parasadam. The basic philosophy behind this is that to people before consuming the good varieties given by nature in a particular month would like to offer to God the particular good varieties before consuming them.

7. Thiru Adi Poora festival

In Srivilliputhur Andal temple among the three big festivals that are celebrated in grand manner, Thiru Adi Poora festival is one. The ten day festival will take place with the birth date of Andal on Adi Pooram falling on the ninth day. On these festive das, both Andal and Rengamannar will individual come out of the temple premises daily well decorated in 'Pallaku' (Palanquins)

CONCLUSION

In south India, Sri Andal temple is one of the famous Vaishnavite temple. This temple promotes community consciousness by bringing together people of all walks and stations of life in the holy bond of devotion. Especially the great festivals brings together people from far and near, rich and poor. Thus, the popular festivals of Sri Andal temple at Srivilliputhur is promoting religious harmony and peace among the people of our nation.

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Rathakrishnan P.

Ph.D Research scholar, Department of Philosophy, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.

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