

# Tiruvanthipuram Sri Devanathaswamy Temple – A Study

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### Abstracts

*Tiruvanthipuram is a small village situated in the South Arcot district, TamilNadu. It is seven kilometers west of Cuddalore. The headquarters of South Arcot district. Town buses ply between Cuddalore and tiruvanthipuram. Tiruvanthipuram is one of the hundred and eight divyadusas held in great reverence by the Vaishnavas. The presiding deity of the temple at tiruvanthipuram is Sri devanathaswamy. His consort is Sri hemambiyavalli, Sri ramanujar, Vedanta besika and Pillai Perumal ayyangar have visited the shrine and composed verses praising the daily. The temple built in Dravidian architecture, the temple is the only historical temple in south India to have the shine of Hayagriva.*

**Keywords:** *tiruvanthipuram, South Arcot district, Vaishnavas, Sri devanathaswamy, Dravidian architecture, historical temples.*

### Introduction

Tiruvanthipuram is a small village situated in the South Arcot district, TamilNadu. It is seven kilometers west of Cuddalore. The headquarters of South Arcot district. Town buses ply between Cuddalore and tiruvanthipuram.

Tiruvanthipuram is one of the hundred and eight divyadusas held in great reverence by the Vaishnavas. The presiding deity of the temple at tiruvanthipuram is Sri devanathaswamy. His consort is Sri hemambiyavalli, Sri ramanujar, Vedanta bezique and Pillai Perumal ayyangar have visited the shrine and composed verses praising the daily.

### History of the Temple

The epigraphical department has found more than so in inscriptions in the temple belonging to the period.2

Sri devanathaswamy temple at tiruvanthipuram must be very old. There are three Puranas which refer to this sthala. They are Brahadanda Purana, Skanda Purana and Brhanaradeeya Puranas all in Sanskrit. The devanatha kankarya sabha has published a book, "tiruvanthipurathu tirukoil kalvettukkalum sthalapurana surukkangalum." By that a brief account of the sthalapurana is given below;

There are some legendary accounts of this temple. Lord devanatha of the tiruvanthipuram temple is regarded and worshipped as the elder brother of lord Venkatesan of Tirupathi by the people of this locality. The temple at tiruvanthipuram must be very old as it is mentioned as the naalayirabhandan.

Tirumangai Alwar in has Priya tirumozhi has to sing ten songs about tiruvanthipuram and devanatha. The first song refers to this place as tiruvanthipuram. [Tamil song in English]

**“irundan maanil mealamthaiyvalai  
maruppilakathorukkik irundan maaridan  
kandu  
valluvanidam kamala nanmalar thearal  
arunthiinnisai  
muranrezhu manikulam poruviyal mozhi...  
ludea serunthi  
naalmalar senranain thuzhatharu  
niruvayintha purameaa...”**

In all the ten songs tirumangai Alwar has a song about the luvurance and beauty of tiruvanthipuram and the greatness of lord devanatha. The flourishing condition of the village has been graphically portrayed in his songs. Thirumangai Alwar belonged to the eighth century A.D. According to giruparamparai, he was born on 31.10.776.

Tirumangai Alwar was the younger contemporary of nandivarm an pallavamalla.

The Cholas who succeeded the Pallavas were also great builders. A large number of a temple were built by them throughout the Tamil country, the kings of vijayalayachola line multiplied their number.

### The Inscriptions

The inscription of rajarajan -1 is found on the right-hand side of the arthamandapa, this inscription is damaged and mentions Thiru- ayindapuram.

Another inscription which belongs to the same king in the arthamandapa recorded in the twelfth year mentions an order of the king granting a village as devadhana, brahmadeya to the temple. 8 we have another inscription of the eleventh century which records the gift of land to god Mahavishnu who was pleased to stand at tiruvanthipuram by trilogamadevi. 9The chief given of rajarajan-1 was trilogamadevi.10 There is another inscription in the western prakara of the devanathaswamy temple recorded in the sixteenth year of Raja raja-3. This record a gift in pull a village near tiruvanthipuram as madapuram for feeding the ascetics in the Narayana anubhava sanyasi-mutt at tiruvanthipuram.

The tiruvanthipuram region was bought by the English from the Nawab of escort for twenty-eight

thousand rupees. When the region come under the English rule, the residence of tiruvanthipuram stunted learning English as a result of their education many of them got good jobs and their native place. 12 there are some inscription and tablets which belong to the recent years, they speak of the donors who have contributed for the renovation and repair of the various parts of the temple.

### Architecture

The temple built in Dravidian architecture is the only Vishnu temple built on the banks of a river, which there are a few prominent Shiva temples. The temple faces east, but the rajagopuram, the temple's gateway tower is located on the western entrance and has five tiers and raise to a height of 60ft (18m).

Devanathaswamy is housed in the central shrine. The temple is the only historical temple in South India to have a shrine of Hayagriva. 14

### Festivals of the temple

In the light of the information gathered from the temple office and interview with the archakar, a brief account of the festivals celebrated in the Sri devanathaswamy temple at tiruvanthipuram. 15

The temple priests perform the pooja (rituals) as per vadakalai sampradayam during festivals and on a daily basis (vaikashasana agama). As at other Vishnu temples of Tamilnadu. The priests belong to the vaishnaite community, a Brahmin sub-caste. The temple rituals are performed six time's day, there are;

1. Ushatkalam at 7.00 A.m.
2. Kalashanti at 8.00 A.m.
3. Uchikalam at 12.00 A.m.
4. Sayarakshai at 6.00 P.m.
5. Irandamkalam at 7.00 P.m.
6. Ardha jamam at 10.00 P.m.

Each ritual has three steps; alangaram (decoration), naivedyam (food offering), Deepa Aradhana (waving of lamps).

The main festival of the year life brah-motsawam and the other monthly festivals which are celebrated Vishnu temple are celebrated in this temple.16

**Conclusion**

Tiruvanthipuram Sri devanathaswamy temple is one of the special temples for south Arcot district people. The temple at present is well maintained and is in good condition. The temple is maintained and administered by the Hindu religious and endowment board of the government of Tami Nadu.

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