

## **Pujas And Festivals Of Sri Subramaniya Swamy Temple At Tiruchendur - A Historical Overview**

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### **Abstract**

This Article explore about the Popular Poojas and Festivals of Sri Subramaniya Swamy Temple at Tiruchendur this temple one of the famous pilgrim centre of South Tamil Nadu. One of the six holy places (Arupadai Veedu) devoted to Lord Murugan is the Tiruchendur Sri Subramaniya Swamy Temple, which is situated in the Tamil Nadu coastal town of Tiruchendur. The temple was built during the Pandya Period, however other dynasties such as the Cholas made major contributions. The temple has long drawn followers from all over South India and beyond because of its rich religious and cultural legacy. This article presents an overview of the Pujas and Festivals celebrated in the temple, giving an insight into their religious and cultural significance. The festivals of the temple, especially Skanda Sashti, Thaipusam and Chitra Pournami are celebrated with pomp and devotion, attracting devotees from all over the country and abroad. Rituals and pujas ranging from daily offerings to elaborate processions play an important role in the spiritual life of the temple.

**Key Words:** Subramaniya Swamy, Skanda Sashti, Thaipusam, Chitra Pournami, Annual Festivals, Monthly special Pujas, daily Pujas.

### **Indroduction**

Sri Subramaniya swamy Temple in the coastal city of Tiruchendur, in Tamil Nadu. The second residence of Lord Murugan is the beachside It is the only temple facing west throughout history. This temple has been an attraction to all Hindu peoples. Mentioned in Sangam literature and Silapathikaram. This settlement dates back around 2000 years. The place where this temple is situated is known as Thiruchiralaiwai by the witnesses. The tower of the temple is 157 feet high and has nine storeys. After conquering Surana, Lord Muruga performed Shiva Puja at this place as a thanksgiving for his victory. In this pose, Lord Murugan is seen with a lotus flower in his right hand. He wears a crown on his head like Lord Shiva. The Rajagopuram is in the western direction of the Tiruchendur Murugan shrine. Lord Muruga looks towards the east, overlooking the sea. The west tower should be facing the east. But because of the sea in the area, the tower is built in the west. The door of the Upper Raja Gopura is opened only for one day at midnight during the Skandasasti festival and Murugan Thirukalyana. Devotees are not allowed inside temples. Devotees of Lord Muruga observe a six-day long fast on the occasion of Mahashivaratri.

### **Historical background of the Temple**

Tiruchendur was called Thiruseeralaovai by Nakkeerar. The ancient Tamil epic Silapathikaram mentions Tiruchendur as Senthil, and stone inscriptions refer to it as Thiruchenthiloor, Thiripuvanamadevi, and Chaturvedhimangalam. Since Arunagirinathar, the Tiruchendur that is

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currently in use has existed. Tiruchendur means the city of prosperity. Tiruchiralaivai is variously known as Senthil Nagaram and Tiruchendur in Tamil literature, Jayantipuram and Sindhupuram in Sanskrit texts, Thirupuvana Mahadevi Chaturthevi Mangalam in later Pandyan inscriptions, and Tiruchendur in Thiruppugazh. Tiruchendur is the second place in the Thirumurugattupadai composed by Nakkeerar. Arunagirinathar has praised Thiruchendur in Thiruppugazh songs. Arunagirinathar is the patron saint of Lord Murugan. Tiruchendur Lord Murugan Temple was formed about 2000 years ago. It is said that King Ukkira Pandyan built this temple. In 875 A.D., Varaguna Pandyan gave 1400 gold coins for the worship of Thiruchendur Murugan to the village councils around the town. In return, each villager was instructed to offer rice, ghee, curd, banana, jaggery, flowers, incense, pepper, turmeric, spinach, mustard and coriander to the Tiruchendur temple. Many Saivite saints have done great work in the constructed of this temple. Raja Gopuram was built 300 years ago by Desika Murthy Swamy. Mouna Swami stayed here from 1868 to 1909 and carried out serious renovations of the temple. From 1872 to 1884, Kasi Swami accompanied Mouna Swami and participated in the temple's rituals. From 1910 to 1940, Arumuga Swami was involved in the renovation of the temple. Vallinayaka Swami was another Saivite who was involved in the Tiruppani of this temple. In commemoration of their dedication to the temple, a sculpture of them has been carved opposite the Dakshinamurthy shrine in the inner prakaram. There are many devotees in the temple. The Tiruchendur was the capital of the Panchamahala taluk until 1860. Tiruchendur taluk was formed in 1911. present day tiruchendur merged to thoothukudi district.

#### **Tiruchendur Subramaniya Swamy Temple Annual Festivals**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Annual Festivals</b>	<b>Month</b>
01	Vaikasi Visagam	May – June
02	Avani Festival	August - September
03	Skanda Sasti Festival	7days-October- November
04	Masi Festival	12 days- February - March

#### **Vaikasi Visagam (May – June)**

Vaikasi Visakam is said to be the day when Lord Muruga Subramanya descended into this world with the intention of saving the earth from the demons like Surapadman. Vaikasi Visakam is widely celebrated in Murugan temples (Swamimalai, Tiruchendur). On the day of Vaikasi, Valli Kalyanam is celebrated in Murugan temples. It is believed that the divine creation of Subrahmanya, also known as Skanda, Kartikeya or Murugan, took place on the day of Vaikasi Visakam to relieve the suffering of the Devas. (Visakham is one of the 27 stars) On the occasion of Vaikasi Visakha, devotees from various parts of Tamil Nadu come to Tiruchendur carrying kavadis and stabbing Vel procession. Devotees took a holy dip in the sea and had darshan of Swami.

#### **Avani Festival (August – September)**

During the twelve-day Avani festival in August and September, which ends with the Theppam and just two temple cars are drawn, it ranks second in significance. The most beautiful days of both festivities are the seventh and eighth, when Shanmukha is taken outside the temple's sanctum to bless the various Mandagapadis in the town. It is especially a time for celebration since everyone, but notably those who were unable to visit the temple premises until recently, can now receive their darsan, which is very important to their bhaktas. One of the two celebrations that no one would want to miss is Pachchai Sattupadi, which is the floral adornment of the god in full green on the eighty morning. On the tenth day of every festival, the temple cars are drawn, and on the eleventh day, the festivals come to an end with the Theppam float. All of the local rural people are very drawn to them, and many of them join in dragging and carrying them to their stands.

#### **Skanda Sasti Festival**

An important Hindu holiday called Skanda Shasti Vratam honors Lord Murugan, also called Skanda or Kartikeya, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Known as the warrior deity, Lord

Murugan was created with a divine mission: to vanquish Surapadman, the terrible demon king who plagued all three worlds, including the Deva realm. Soorasamharam, which recreates Lord Murugan's triumph over Surapadman, marks the end of the six-day celebration. Tamil Nadu and Tamil communities around the world are the tiruchendur is a main spritual places where this event is celebrated. The event is a time for spiritual rejuvenation and devotion and represents the victory of good over evil.

### **Skanda Sasti Festival in Tiruchendur (October- November)**

Shashti festival in the month of Aipasi in October-November. In Tiruchendur the festival lasts for six days, starting on the sixth day of the waning moon of the month, like every celebration in Tamil land. The events leading to Surapatuma's victory are demonstrated on the evening beach on Sashti day through the monster's many transformations and actual representations of his defeat each time. During this festival, Senthil Nayakkar, the procession deity of Arumuga Nayanar, conducts worship at Tiruvavaduthurai Skanda Shasti Mandapam. Thirukalyana Utsavam is celebrated annually in the Thirukalyapa Mandapa in Melagapuram, the day after the Sura Samharam.

### **Masi Festival (February – March)**

Tiruchendur Brahmotsavam - a highly revered festival annually conducted during the Tamil month of Masi, February-March; all three temple chariots are drawn through streets in a grand procession as part of this twelve-day-long event; the festival ends with the Teppam - Float Festival, an important and much-awaited ritual conducted by devotees from this region. The Masi Festival is a great celebration time, especially for those who, until recently, could not enter the temple precincts. It provides them with the opportunity to seek the darshana of the deity, a blessing cherished by all devotees. One of the most highly anticipated highlights of the festival is the Pachai Sattupadi on the eighth morning, when the deity is decorated with bright green floral adornments, something no one wants to miss. On the tenth day, the temple priests and devotees come together and pull the temple cars down the streets surrounding the temple. Three chariots are drawn during the grand procession, which begins at 7:30 a.m. and continues until 11:30 p.m.

The festival ends on the 11th day with the Theppam (Float Festival), a grand finale that attracts large numbers of devotees from surrounding areas, who eagerly participate in pulling the floats and bringing them to their designated spots. The celebrations start at the Tiruvizha Mandapam in Tiruchendur town, where the priests of the Devasthanam take out the Masi festival flag in a procession carried on elephant-back all through the town and to the temple. The next morning, the flag is hoisted on the kodi maram (temple flagpole) in a colorful and pompous ceremony marking the beginning of the festival.

### **An upcoming important festivals from 23-04-2024 to 11-5-2025**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Festival</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Chitra Poornami	23-04-2024
2	Vaikasi Visakam	22-05-2024
3	Ani Varushabishekam	15-07-2024
4	Avani festival	24-08-2024 to 04-09-2024
5	Puratasi Navratri to Vijayadashami	03-10-2024 to 12-10-2024
6	Diwali festival	31-10-2024
7	Kanda Shasti festival	02-11-2024 to 08-11-2024
8	Thirukarthikai Deepam	13-12-2024
9	Moolavar Pratishtha Day Varapishekam	19-01-2025
10	Thaipusam Festival	11-02-2025
11	Masi festival	03-03-2025 to 14-03-2025
12	Panguni Uttaram Festival	11-04-2025

## Puja of Tiruchendur Subramaniya Swamy Temple

### The temple daily Puja time

S. No	Time	Puja details
1	5.10 AM	Subrabadam - Tirupalli Uprising
2	5.30 AM	Vishwarupa Darshan
3	5.45 AM	Duvajasthambam (Flag) Namaska
4	6.15 AM	Udayamarthanda Abhisekam
5	7.00 AM	Udayamarthanda Deeparathana (1st Term Puja)
6	8.00-8.30 AM	Kalasanthi Puja (2nd, 3rd, 4th Pujas
7	10.00 AM	Kalasa Puja
8	10.30 AM	Uchikala Puja
9	12.00 PM	Uchikala Deeparathana (5th Kala Puja)
10	5.00 PM	Sayaratsai Puja (6th Period Puja
11	7.15 PM	Arthasama Abhishekam
12	8.15 PM	Arthasama Puja (7th Period Puja)
13	8.30 PM	Ekantha Seva (8th Period Puja)
14	8.45 PM	Secret Deeparathana, Pallayara Puja (9th Period Puja)
15	9.00 PM	Nadai Thirukappiduthal

### Monthly special Puja

S. No	Puja Details
1	Month First Day Special Puja.
2	Special worship every Sashti.
3	On Karthikai, Jayantinatha special Abhisekam evening Thiruvilakku Puja. Overnight departure.
4	Special Abhisekam and Deeparathanam to Lord Shanmukha on Visakha day of every month.
5	Monthly (Tamil last Friday of the month) special worship. Departure of Kirupakara Swami.
6	On the first day of Chitra (Visu Punniyakalam) Annaphisekam and special worship.
7	Puratasi is a nine-day Navratri festival.
8	On the first day of the month of Aipasi, Annaphisekam, Visupunniyakalam Deivanai Thirukalyana Vaibogam is a special worship.
9	Panguni Utthiram - Valli Thirukalyanam Vaibogam.

### Conclusion

The Pujas and festivals held within the precincts of the Tiruchendur Subramaniya Swamy Temple are an expression of the sublime spiritual practices, cultural vigor and heritage of the Tamil people. This temple is the one that has been attracting pilgrims to worship Lord Muruga for ages not only from the State of Tamil Nadu, but from around the globe as well. Its past and present go hand in hand with the already existing Tamil religion as the rites performed within are consistent with the age old practices as well as zeal of the people within the region. The everyday ceremonies performed at the temple, notably the morning calendar Abhishekam and the evening calendar Aarati, are crucial to the temple's cleanliness and spiritual strength. These cultural heritage customs are practiced today as they were practiced millions of years ago. They also enable the worshippers see, feel, and ideally interact with their maker and leave feeling content. Through these pujas and festivals the Tiruchendur Subramaniya Swamy Temple continues to preserve and transmit ancient religious practices ensuring that the spiritual and cultural significance of Lord Murugan worship Remnant alive and meaningful for future generations. the temple extremely stand arsenic amp life Storage to trust custom and one. Tiruchendur Subramaniya Swamy temple is not only a religious place but also unite the people. The festivals are Hostage the people in single platform.

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