
PERUNGULAM AND MAYAKKUTHAR PERUMAL TEMPLE IN HISTORY- A STUDY

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Introduction

Perungulam, Thirukkulanthai in Thoothukudi district, is a historic town situated in the drainage area of Tamiraparani River. Various rulers and dynasties such as early Pandyan kings, Cholas, later Pandyan kings, Nawabs, Nayaks, British have come to this region. In this article we are going to see in detail about Perungulam and Mayakkuthar Perumal temple in history. This town of Perungulam is a town that has the living conditions of our ancestors since ancient times. Let's see about their features.

Perungulam

Perungulam has been called by names like Uttama Pandya nallur, Thadakavanam, Thenkulanthai, Thirukulanthai, Balikaivanam etc. The special features of this town called Perungulam are described in Purananuuthu songs, a song of the Sangam period. Also Nammalvarum has sung about the Mayakkuthar Perumal temple here in his songs.

Purananooru Songs

“Kan urai valkkai katha naai vedduvan
Man thasai sorintha vattiyum, aaimahal
Thayir kodu vantha thasmpum niraiya
Aerin valnar per yil arivaiyar
Kulakkeel vilaintha kalakkol vennei
Muganthanar koduppa, uganthanar peyarum
Thennam poruppan nalnattullu
Ezheil kathavam erinthu kai kondu Nin
Pelvai uzhuva porikkum attralai”

In the above Purananoottru song, during the Sangam period, our Tamil people have been fulfilling their food needs by doing hunting. It also tells us that this hunting community used dogs, engaged in agriculture, cattle rearing, and built a fort called Kathavam in the poor and lived in the Perungulam area. Through this song we can understand the life of the Tamil society during the Sangha period. The Chola king "Nalangilli" captured this town called Perungulam in the country of Potikai Hills and

engraved his mark on it. The Sanga period song Purananooru clearly conveys to us the message that Apuli has been majestic with an open mouth. Through these lyrics, we can consider these lyrics as evidence that the people of the Sangam period were living in the Serum region in Perungula region.

Ezheil Katavam Fort

Through the above Purananooru song, this Purananooru song conveys to us that the fort called "Ejeil Katavam" was built during the time of SangamChola King Nalangilli and the news that Nalangilli has been ruling Fortwith excellence. It is amazing to see that there was a king of the Sangam era who was so wealthy and valiant that he was able to build a fort and rule in the Sangam period 2000 years ago, and a huge landscape in this Perungula area has left us a life with cultural elements in the best way in agriculture and heroism through the Puranhundhu Song.

Mayakkuthar Perumal Temple

This Mayakkuthar Perumal temple is located at Thirukulanthai. This temple is also called Arulmiku Venkatavanam Thirukovil. The founder of this temple is known as Mayakkuthan and also known as Venkatavanam, Kayakkothan and Srinivasan. Also Nammalwar has sung pasuram about this temple. In his Mangalasanam Ninth Ten song, he sings the praises of Mayakkuthar. Its lines are as follows,

“Koodaj sentren iniyan kodukken
Kolvalai nenjath thodakka
Mellam padardoriya izhinthu vaikal palvalaiyaar mun parisalithen
Madakkodi mathil thenkulanthi vande pal nintra mayakuthan aadar
Paravai yuyarntha val por aazhi valavanai yatharithe”

Thus Mayakkuthar sang Nammalwar Mangalasanam about Perumal temple site.

Site History

Mayakkuthar Perumal Temple is known as one of the 108 Divya Desams of Perumal. This place is also considered as the 86th place. It is also considered as the seventh house in Nava Tirupati and Saturn house in Navagrahas. Venkatavanam Perumal, who resides in Perungulam, who resides in Perungulam, a woman named Kamalavathi, who was born to a Brahmin named Perumal, joined the Lord in the Andal temple of Srivilliputhur. Perumal shows his severe fasting. The local history of this temple tells us that he got married in accordance with Kamalavati's request.

Balikai Vanam

The place where this temple is located is called Balikai Vanam. Balikai is called 'Balikaivanam' because it is the place of penance. Local history says that Achmasaran, a demon, fought with Perumal here. It is history that this demon called Achmasaran to give severe trouble to the Devas, the Devas prayed to Perumal and Perumal listened to the

prayer and incarnated with the name of Mayakuthar and fought with the demon and destroyed the demon with the help of Lord Garuda and granted grace in Perungulam. And this place is also the place where Prakaspati, the Guru of Gods, appeared.

Historical Sources

The north and west side Rajagopurams were built in the twelfth century between 1190 and 1217 AD, the reign of the later Pandya king "Jatavarman Kulasekara Pandyan". And the name "Parakrama Pandian Nallur" has been given to the present Perungulam for this temple. Also "Perungulam Mahasabha" has donated temple lands. The news that the Vaishnavites have named the town where this pilgrimage takes place as Thirukulanthai is available as historical sources.

Main God

The sculpture of Perumal is placed in the sphere where Lord Venkatavana stood as the original god. Along with Perumal, Thirumenis such as Sridevi, Bhudevi, Neeladevi, Kamaladevi (Kulandaivalli's Alarmel Mangai) are placed in the temple. It is said that the name of this town as Thirukulanthai is derived from the name of Kamaladevi, Kulanthivalli. Garuda: It is believed that Garuda helped Perumal to destroy the demon Ajmanaran by making Lord Garuda appear near him as Utsavara. To confirm it, Garuda is present as Utsavar in the temple.

Navagraha Sannathi

Vaishnava temples do not have a separate sannadi for the nine planets, Navagraha. But in this Mayakkoothan Perumal temple they are worshipping by keeping a separate shrine. And it is unique to have a shrine to the Navagrahas alone. It is noteworthy that even the Nava Tirupati temples do not have a Navagraha shrine. Temple Structure: Mayakkuthar temple is situated on the bank of Tamiraparani river facing east. There are three Rajagopurams in this temple. After entering the Rajagopuram there is a flag tree and an altar. After that, it is a special one which is shown in a circle with the fetus standing with both arms folded directly opposite the sanctum sanctorum.

Arthamandapam

In the Arthamandapam of the temple, Mayakkuthar Sridevi is shown as Utsavara, with two hands clasped together with Bhudevi. After this arthamandapam is the sanctum sanctorum. Karurai Mandapam: After the Artha Mandapam in Karurai, Srinivasa Perumal is displayed in the sphere where Perumal, the original deity of the temple, stood.

Temple Prakaram

The prakaram of this temple houses the shrines of Parivar Murthys of the Vaishnava temple. Navagraha shrine is located in the front hall. The layout of the Mayakkuthar Perumal Temple is as mentioned above.

Conclusion

It is not an exaggeration to say that the Mayakkuthar Perumal Temple is the one that can bear the history of the town of Perungulam till date. The glory of this town is supported by the literature of the Sangha period, Mangalasanam of Nammalwar, and the charity of the Pandya king Jatavarman Kulasekhara Pandyan. The above are the ones that bear the glory of Perungula even today

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