



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**History**

**STRUCTURE OF SRI MATHIYASTHANATHER TEMPLE AT DARUGAPURAM AND THIRUPPATHISWARAMUDIYA NAYANAR TEMPLE AT TENMALAI - A HISTORICAL STUDY**

**KEY WORDS:**

Mathiyasthanather, Akilandeswari, Darugapuram, Structure

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**ABSTRACT**

The aim of this paper is to highlight the structure of Mathiyasthanather temple at Darugapuram and Thiruppathiswaramudiyayanar temple at Tenmalai. Mathiyasthanather – Akilandeswari temple at Darugapuram is situated three kilometers. South East of Subramaniyapuram on Tenkasi – Madurai road in Sivagiri taluk of Tirunelveli District. Seventh century inscriptions referred this village as Malaiyadikurichi. This village is situated under the foot of western ghats. In later period this village is mentioned as Darugapuram. Darugapuram means the town is surrounded by the trees. The Lord of Siva temple of this village is called as Pinakkaruthamahathevar. In Sanskrit language Pinakkarutha Mahadevar is known as Mathiyasthanather. According to Purana Chera and Pandya rulers were fought against each other in frequently for the border areas like Darugapuram. The Lord of this temple to solve the problems between the Pandya and Chera. So this Lord was known as Mathiyasthanather.

**INTRODUCTION**

Mathiyasthanather – Akilandeswari temple at Darugapuram is situated three kilometers. South East of Subramaniyapuram on Tenkasi – Madurai road in Sivagiri taluk of Tirunelveli District. Seventh century inscriptions referred this village as Malaiyadikurichi. This village is situated under the foot of western ghats. In later period this village is mentioned as Darugapuram. Darugapuram means the town is surrounded by the trees. The Lord of Siva temple of this village is called as Pinakkaruthamahathevar. In Sanskrit language Pinakkarutha Mahadevar is known as Mathiyasthanather.<sup>1</sup> According to Purana Chera and Pandya rulers were fought against each other in frequently for the border areas like Darugapuram. The Lord of this temple to solve the problems between the Pandya and Chera. So this Lord was known as Mathiyasthanather. Just like Jambukeswarar temple of Thiruvanaikka near Tiruchirappalli. Mathiyasthanather temple of Darugapuram is considered as the Appusthala or water one among the five elements of cosmos. In the early time Suyambulinga was raised under the mango tree surrounding with water. In course of time the mango tree was shattered the sanctum was constructed on the circular stage platform. In Sivarathiri worship this temple is considered as the sthala of second Puja time Devotees believe. In between the 8<sup>o</sup> clock to 10<sup>o</sup> Clock of the night time Puja give five to one portion of benefit to the Sivarathiri day. Mathiyasthanather shrine is of one hundred and eleven (111) feet and fifty five feet width of one Prakara.<sup>2</sup>

Mathiyasthanather temple is situated to face the east. This temple has sanctum sanctorum. Ardhmandapa, Idainaligai, Mahamandapa, Muhamandapa or Kodimara Mandapa, Nandhi, Plagmast, Palipida, Natarajar shrine Thalavarisai or First Prakara, Second or Seeviliprakara, Panthamandapa, Kannimula, Ganapathi Shrine, Urchavar shrine, Panchalinga shrine, Saphamaha shrine, Subramanyer shrine, Sastha Shrine, Kalabairavar shrine, Suriya shrine, Athikeranandhi shrine, Sura Thevar, Sixty Three Nayanmars, Moon Shrine and Sandikeswarar shrine.<sup>3</sup>

Akilandeswari Amman Shrine is situated in the southern or Rightern side of Mathiyasthanather shrine. It is of one hundred and eleven feet length and fifty feet width. A Small passage in the middle of the temple to connect the two shrines. Amman Shrine has Sanctum Sanctorium, Ardhmandapa, Idainaligai, Mahamandapa, Palliyarai, Muhamandapa, Panthal mandapa, Kannimula Ganapathi shrine, Subramaniyer shrine and sandikeswarar shrine are situated.<sup>4</sup>

Sanctum and other structure of the temple are kept on the Upapida, Adhithana has some structure like Upana, Padma, Jagathi, Viruthakamuthas, Kapotha and Vethigai Bhatti or wall

portion of sanctum is divided into Five parts Three portions are appeared as high level to portions are lower level. High level portion sare decorated with false ghostas on Salaviman, Kumbhapancharas are appeared on the lower portion of wall with Kumpa structure. Half Pilasters are appeared with circular and eight pattai. Northern and Southern walls of Ardhmandapa and Mahamandapa are decorated with false ghostas with Mahatharmas on the above level. In the middle of Maha thorns bulge out sculptors of Vinayagar and Kanmen with Bama and Rukmani are engraved.<sup>5</sup>

This temple has Thalavarisai Prakara, Sevili Prakara and outer Prakara. From Adhithana to Pirasthana this temple was fully constructed by the granite stone on the top portion of the Sanctum was constructed by the Suthai and Bricks. Sala type of Vimana is kept on the Sanctum. As per the records of special officer Temple lands. H.R. and C Department Administration, Chennai-34. Mathiyasthanather temple and Temple Pond are situated in the Darugapuram village in the Survey Number 154 with the area of Seven acres and twenty cents. Amman Sannathi and Swami Sannathi were constructed with temple Kit open and well within the area of one and half acres.<sup>6</sup>

Natarajar shrine is situated in the Thalavarisai Prakara as well as the northern side of Kadimara Manda of Mathiyasthanather temple and western side of Kalabairavar shrine. This shrine has sanctum, Ardhmandapa and Mahamandapa sanctum is of eleven feet with and ten feet length (10 × 11). In sanctum stone images of Natarajar, Sivagami Amman and Karaikal Ammaiyar are fixed Ardhmandapa is ten feet length and nine feet width (10 × 9) and two Pillars are supported this mandapa Mahamandapa is situated before the Ardhmandapa. It is supported by two rows of six pillars. This temple is believed to constructed by the early Pandyas. As per the present structure Mahamandapa looked like very old. Garbhagrah and Ardhmandapa were renovated during the time later Pandya Kulasekharapandya and Sundara Pandya inscription are found on the walls of Mahamandapa. Alagaperumal Parakara Pandya (1473 – 1506 A.D.) inscriptions found on the walls of sanctum and Ardhmandapas. So this inscription helps to ascertain the fact these shrines are renovated by him.<sup>7</sup>

Tripurandeswarar alias Thiruppathiswaramudiyayanar temple is situated at the foot hills of a small hillock of Tenmalai and Sixteen kilometers north west Sankarankovil and in the Jurisdiction of Vasudevanallur Pirka of Sivagiri taluk. This temple is situated to face the western direction with two big shrine one for Lord Tripurandeswarar another for Goddess. Sivapariapurani Two Shrines are connected by one mandapa. Tripurandeswarar temple is of one hundred and thirty seven

feet length and one hundred and eleven feet width. The Sanctum of Tripurandeswarar Shrine is of sixteen feet length and twelve feet width.<sup>8</sup> Linga Pose statue of Lord Tripurandeswarar enshrined the sanctum. Ardhamandapa is of sixteen feet length and twelve feet width. Mahamandapa is of twenty four feet length and twenty four feet width (24 × 24) Two rows of eight Pillars supported this mandapa. In the middle of Ardhamandapa Nandhi statue is fixed. In the northern wall of Ardhamandapa Natarajar shrine is situated. In the entrance of Ardhamandapa Southern side Pillar having the bulge out sculptures of Tenmalai Zamindar and his spouse. Mahamandapa is supported by the two rows of six Pillars. Nandhi mandapa is situated before the Mahamandapa. It is of twelve feet length and nine feet width. In the middle of this mandapa Nandhi statue is erected. In the outer of Nandhi mandapa five feet length and first feet width Alter is erected.<sup>9</sup>

Sivaparipurani Amman Shrine is situated in the southern side of Tripurandeswarar shrine to face the western direction. This shrine is in the left side of Tripurandeswarar shrine. So Goddess is considered as the Kiriya Sakthi sanctum sanctorum of Amman shrine of ten feet length and twelve feet width standing posture statue of Goddess Sivaparipurani enshrined the sanctum sanctorum. Ardhamandapa is of nine feet length and eleven feet width (9 × 11). Mahamandapa is of seven feet length and twenty one feet width. In it in the northern wall six feet length and six feet width Palliyarai is situated. Mukamandapa is situated before Mahamandapa. It is of twenty feet length and twenty feet width. This mandapa is supported by two rows of eight simha pillars. Panthal mandapa is situated before the Mukamandapa. It is of twenty four feet length and twenty feet width. Two rows of eight ordinary pillars width mandapa connected the Mahamandapa of Tripurandeswarar shrine with Mukamandapa of Sivaparipurani shrine. Two rows of twelve pillars supported this mandapa. Nawagraha shrine is situated in the eastern side of joint mandapa between the four pillars of eastern side Mounts or Vahanas kept in the Southern side of this mandapa. Five feet width entrance is situated in the middle of Madappalli or temple Kitchen is situated in the southeast corner of the temple. Kalabairavar shrine is situated in the North Eastern Corner. Murugan and Vinayager shrines are situated respectively in South east and South west corner. Someswarar shrine is situated in the middle of southern compound wall. Sthalavirutcha vilva tree is situated near the Madappalli. This temple is represent the element of air one among the five elements of cosmos. In the sanctum Tripurandeswarar five feet lamp is hanging. Among the five faces of lamp middle face of the lamp is slightly seeking.<sup>11</sup>

From Adhistanam to roof this temple was fully constructed by the granite stone. Adhistanam of Sanctum and Ardhamandapa consists of Upana, Jagathi, Muppattai Kumuthar Kanda and Vediga. Half Pilasters and false ghostas are decorated the Bhitti or walls. On the top of the ghostas decorated with bulge out sculptures of Mahathornas. In the middle of tharans sculptors of Rama worship Lord Siva and Hanuman was worship Lord Siva are engraved circular type, Two storey Vimana is kept on the Sanctum suthai sculptors of Rishi and divines are decorated the Griva. Natarajar are Sivagami Amman statue are made of granites kept in the shrine. Pudai sculptors of Mahamunivar appeared in the fish structure from lions to feet.<sup>12</sup>

Mahamandapa Pillars are decorated with the Pudai sculptors of Zamindars and his spouse of Tenmalai. Raman and Lakshmanan kept the bow with Arrow and Rishis. Pandya emblem two fish engraved on the centre of the roof of this mandapa.<sup>13</sup>

From bottom to roof Amman shrine fully constructed by the granite stone. Adhithana is consists of Jagathi, Muppattai and Pothiga. In the Bhitti or walls are decorated with half plasters and false ghostas on the top of ghostas are appeared with the

unfinished, Mahathornas, Eastern side of Mahathorana decorated with sculpture of Siva and Southern side of Mahathorana is decorated with Vinayagar, Palagai row is decorated on the Kapotha. But Kapotha of Mahamandapa is decorated with Yali rows.<sup>14</sup>

Panthal mandapa of Amman Shrine is supported by four rows of forty pillars. Vithana or Curtar of this mandapa is decorated with the sculpture of ladies playing. Kolattam and Pig and tiger, roaring against each other. Two inscriptions belongs to the period of Sundarapandya and Virapandya found on the East and South wall of Tripuradeswarar temple and one inscription of fourth regnal year of Virapandya found on the East wall of Amman shrine.<sup>15</sup> Sundarapandya lake is situated before this temple.

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