

Thukkachi Abatsahayesvar Temple

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Thukkachi Abatsahayesvar Temple Latest News

The oft-used phrase “rising like a phoenix from the ashes” finds its perfect expression in the story of the Abathsahayeswarar Temple at Thukkachi, near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district.

About Thukkachi Abatsahayesvar Temple

- The Thukkachi Abatsahayesvar Temple, also known as **Abathsahayeswarar Temple**, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- It is situated on the **banks of the Arasalar River** in Thukkachi village, Thanjavur district, **Tamil Nadu**.
- The temple’s **origins date back to the Chola dynasty** period, around the 10th to 11th centuries AD.
- During this time, the **Chola rulers** played a key role in the promotion of Shaivism across southern India.
- The inscriptions portray that **Kulothunga Cholan and Vikkirama Cholan** maintained the temple in the past.
- **Architecture:**

- The architecture of the Thukkachi Abatsahayesvar Temple reflects the typical features of **Chola architecture**.
- The temple consists of a **sanctum (garbhagriha)** where the main deity, Shiva, is enshrined.
- The **main entrance** features a **gopuram**, now conserved through recent restoration, marking the eastern orientation of the entire layout, which aligns with solar symbolism prevalent in **South Indian temple design**.
- The **outer walls** are **adorned with detailed carvings** that depict various scenes from Hindu mythology.
- The temple's **pillars** are also known for their fine craftsmanship, and many of them bear **inscriptions** that provide insight into the cultural and religious practices of the period.
- These inscriptions are valuable **sources for historians studying the Chola period** and the development of religious traditions in South India.
- After years of neglect leading to dilapidation, the temple **underwent comprehensive restoration**.
- On December 6, 2024, it received the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2024** for **exemplary revival of a living Hindu temple** while preserving its heritage integrity.

News: TH

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