Navagraha - Nine Planets in Hindu Astrology

Navagraha or the Nine Planets has great importance in Hinduism and Hindu rituals. Navagrahas are considered to play a major role in deciding the destiny of man. The Navagrahas are Surya (Sun), Chandra (Moon), Mangal (Mars), Budha (Mercury), Brihaspati (Jupiter), Shukra (Venus), Shani (Saturn), Rahu (North Lunar Node) and Ketu (South Lunar Node). It is believed that these nine planetary deities influence human lives and is responsible for all good or bad times, one faces in life.

Navagrahas – The Nine Planetary Deities in Hindu Astrology

The details of the nine planetary gods in Hindu religion are given below.
1-Lord Surya – The Sun God

Lord Surya or the Sun God occupies the central place amongst the navagrahahas facing the east. Also known as Ravi, Surya is the Lord of ‘Simha Rashi’ or Leo sign in Zodiac. Surya’s vahana is a chariot drawn by seven horses. The seven horses represent the seven colors of the white light and seven days of a week. He presides over ‘Raviwar’ or Sunday, his color is red and gemstone is ruby. The practice of doing Surya Namaskar is a good practice for a healthy life. Konark Sun Temple in Orissa and Suryanar Kovil near Kumbakonam in Tamilnadu are two famous temples of Lord Surya.

Konark Sun Temple.

The Sun Temple of Konark in Orissa India is one of the most stunning historic monuments of religious architecture in the world. Also known as Arka-Tirtha (Surya Temple), Konark Sun Temple India is a 13th century Hindu temple built by the King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. Konark Temple is designed in the shape of a colossal chariot with seven horses and twenty four wheels, carrying the Sun God, Surya. A masterpiece of Orissa's medieval architecture, the Sun temple was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1984.

Konark is located about 65 km from Bhubaneswar and 35 km from Puri. An ideal place for tourists, Konark forms one of the three points of the "Golden Triangle of Tourism" in the State of Orissa. The other two are Bhubaneswar - the city of Temples and Puri - the abode of Lord Jagannath. This temple chariot of the Sun God which stands majestically on the sands of Bay of Bengal is a symbol of Orissa's great architectural craftsmanship. “Kona” literally means “corner” and “Arka” means “the Sun”. The temple was called as “The Black Pagoda” by European sailors who used it as a navigational landmark to Orissa.

Famous Indian poet and Nobel Prize laureate Rabindranath Tagore wrote of Konark as "Here the language of stone surpasses the language of man."
Suryanar Temple – Surya Sthalam - Navagraha Temple of Sun
Suryanar Koil, Suryanar Temple or Sooriyanaar Koil, is the first of
the 9 Navagraha Temples in Tamil Nadu, located about 1 km from
Tirumangalakkudi which lies between Kumbakonam and Mayavaram,
near Thanjavur, in Tamilnadu. Popular known as Surya Sthalam,
Suryanaar Kovil is dedicated to the Sun God or Lord Surya, the first
of Navagrahas.

The presiding deity, Sri Suryanarayanaswamy, is found in a lying
posture inside the sanctum sanctorum with his consorts Sri Usha
Devi and Sri Pratyusha Devi. The other eight Navagrahas are seen
facing the Sun God. Besides, Suriyanar Temple also embodies the
shrines of Kasi Vishwanath, Visalakshi and Brihaspati (Guru) within
the sanctum. The Kol Theertha Vinayakar (Ganesha or Pillayar)
shrine is a prominent sculpture here.

Picture of Suryanar Temple - one of the nine Navagaha Temples of
Tamilnadu

Lord Surya Bhagawan is known as the giver of health, success and
prosperity. It is believed that those who are affected by 'Graha
Dhosham' and negative influence of Lord Shani (Planet Saturn),
Ashtama Shani (Shani in 8th house) and Janma Shani (Shani in 1st
house) can visit Suryanar Koil to get relieved of their sufferings.
Wheat, Red Lotus, Erukku (Madar Plant) and Sakkarai Pongal are some of the offerings to worship the Lord.

Sooriyanar Temple History and Architecture

Sooriyanar Kovil faces west and is built in such a way to receive maximum beneficial rays from the planets. Built by Chola King, Kulothunga Chola I in the year 1100 AD, the temple features a huge tower with three tiers and five domes at the top. The sanctum and the ardhamandapam are built of stone. This is the only Navagraha temple where all the nine grahas (nine planets) can be found in separate sannadhis (Sanctums).

There is a tank called Surya Pushkarni, which lies to the north of the Rajagopuram. This is considered as a sacred bathing ghat. There are around 15 theerthams in the Suryanar Temple. The one which is located inside the temple is called as Jnana Koopam. The inscriptions from the period of Krishna Deva Raya speak about the endowments made to this temple. The nearby Poolaivala River is an added attraction to this temple.

A sacrificial platform (bali peetam) is seen at the entrance and to its east lies a mandap. An idol of a horse, the Sun God’s vaahanam (vehicle), is seen here. The steps in front of Guru Bhagwan lead to the idols of other grahas. The Kol Theertha Vinayakar shrine is worshipped again.

Suryanar Temple Festivals

The annual Ratha Saptami festival (Rathasapthami) during the Tamil month of Thai (January – February) is one of the main festival celebrated here. The first Sundays in the months of Aavani (Leo) and Kartikai (Scorpio) is also considered very auspicious. Vijaya Dashami and annual Brahmotsavam festival (Bhrammotsavam) are also held with much devotion.

Temple Timings
Suryanar Temple is opened from 6:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

How to reach Suryanar Temple

Suryanar Koil is about 21 km from Swamimalai and 15 km from Kumbakonam. It is about 20 km from Mayiladuthurai on the Kumbakonam - Aduthurai – Mayiladuthurai Road. Aduthurai Railway Station is the nearest railway station.

Nearby Attractions

The Shivastalam, Arulmigu Prananadeswarar Temple at Thirumangalakudi and Sukrastalam, Arulmigu Agneeswarar Temple at Kanjanur (Navagraham Temple dedicated to Sukran) are nearby attractions.

2-Lord Chandra – The Moon God

Chandra is a lunar deity and is also known as Soma. The Moon represents the mind, feminine nature, beauty and happiness. He is believed to ride his chariot across the sky every night, pulled by ten white horses or an antelope. He is also called ‘Nishadipati’ and ‘Kshuparaka’. Lord Chandra is also one of the Gods of Fertility. Chandra is the god of Karka rashi or cancer zodiac sign. The mental stability and well being of a person largely depends on the placement of the moon in his horoscope. As Soma he presides over ‘Somavar’ or Monday and gemstone is pearl. Thingaloor Kailasanathar Temple near Thanjavur in Tamilnadu is one of the main Lord Chandra Temples in India.

Thingaloor Kailasanathar Temple – Navagraha Chandra Sthalam, Tamil Nadu

Kailasanathar Temple, the second of the 9 Navagraham Temples in Tamilnadu, dedicated to Lord Chandra (Moon God), the second graha of the Navagrahas. This Chandra Navagraha Stalam is located at Thingaloor which is about 8 km from Tiruvaiyaru near Thanjavur in
Tamilnadu. Thingaloor is named after the Tamil word, ‘Thingal’, which means Chandra or Moon. As most of the other Navagraha Temples of Tamilnadu, Kailasanathar Temple is also a Shiva Stalam and the main deities worshipped here are Kailasanathar and Goddess Periyanakiamman.

Legend says it that the Lord Chandra worshipped Lord Shiva here to save him from a curse and gained his blessings. Hence it is believed that those who have any Chandra Dosha in their horoscopes can get relief from suffering by offering prayers and perfoming pujas to Lord Kailasanathar, Goddess Periyanayaki and Chandra Bhagwan. Devotees who worship Lord Chandra are blessed with good health, mother’s welfare, and get rid of the stress and sorrow in daily life.

Picture of Kailasanathar Thingaloor Temple, one of nine Navagraha Temples of Tamilnadu

Temple Architecture

Thingaloor Kailasanathar Temple is about 1500 years old. Built in the 7th century by Pallava King Rajasimha, this ancient Shaivite shrine reflects the early Dravidian architecture. A huge Nandi is seen in the front, facing the temple. The 16-sided Shiva lingam at the main shrine is made out of black granite. A unique feature of Thingaloor Temple is that during the months of Puratasi (September - October) and Panguni (March - April), the rays of the moon fall on the Shiva
Lingam. The architectural style and the decorations carved on this temple are added features.

Thingaloor Temple History

This Chandra Sthalam is associated with the life of Tirunavukkarasar, one of the 63 Nayanmars (Saivite saints). Legend says that there lived a merchant, Appoodi Adikal, at Thingaloor, who was a devotee of Tirunavukkarasar. Appoodi Adigal had an opportunity to host the saint, when he visited Thingaloor. At the same time, his son was bitten by a venomous snake. However, the merchant continued to serve the saint without revealing the tragedy. The saint was inspired by his devotion and restored the boy’s life by singing songs in praise of Lord Shiva at this temple. This collection of ten songs came to be known as ‘Thirupathikam’.

Temple Offerings

As Lord Chandran’s color is white, he is offered with raw rice mixed with jaggery, white Arali (a flower), and white clothing. It is believed that this pooja removes obstacles in life. Besides, special pujas are performed on all full moon days.

Temple Timings

The temple is opened from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 4:00PM to 8:00 PM on all days.

How to reach Thingaloor Kailasanathar Temple

Thingaloor Temple is about 36 km from Kumbakonam, on the way to Tiruvaiyaru. It is about 1 km from Thirupayhanam which is on the Kumbakonam - Thiruvayyaru Road. Kumbakonam Railway Station is the nearest railway station. Frequent buses are also available. Sethu Express (Rameswaram to Tambaram) and Tirupati Express (Tiruchirapalli - Tirupati) passes through Kumbakonam Railway Station.
The nearest domestic airport is Tiruchirapalli Airport or Trichy Airport, 90 km east of Kumbakonam. The nearest international airport is Chennai International Airport which is 315 km from Kumbakonam.

Nearby Attractions

Tiruvaiyaru Panchanadeeswarar - Aiyaarappar Temple, also known as Dakshina Kailasam or Thiruvayyaru Temple, is a famous Saivite shrine located around 5 km from Thingaloor Chandra Stalam. Picture of Navagrahas, the Nine Planets in Hindu Astrology

3-Mangala - Planet Mars

Mangala, also called Angaraka, is a ferocious god with four hands. He is considered to be the son of Prithvi or Bhumi. Mars is referred to as a ‘hot planet’ and protector of Dharma. He holds weapons in his two hands while the other two hands are held in abhaya and varada mudras. Mesha rashi (Medam) and Vrischika Rashi (Vrischigam) (Aries and Scorpio signs) are ruled by Mangala or planet Mars. He controls the muscular system of the body an also rules over nose, forehead and circulatory systems. His vehicle is Ram (a type of sheep) and his color is red. The day of Mangala or Mars is Tuesday and gemstone is coral. Pullirukkuvelur Vaitheeswaran Koil in near Sirkazhi in Tamilnadu is one of the famous temples of Mangala or Kujan.

Vaitheeswaran Temple Pullirukkuvelur – Angaraka Navagraha Sthalam Tamil Nadu

Vaitheeswaran Koil or Pullirukkuvelur Temple is one of the nine Navagraha Temples in Tamilnadu and is the Navagraha Stalam associated to Angaraka or Sevvai or Kuja (Planet Mars- one of the Navagrahas). Located near Sirkazhi, the shrine is about 24 km from Chidambaram, 50 km from Kumbakonam, and 4 km from Mayiladuthurai on the Chidambaram Road. Similar to other Navagara Temple, the main deity of Vaitheeswaran Kovil is Lord
Shiva as Vaidyanathaswamy and Goddess Parvathi Devi as Thaiyalnaayaki. Lord Shiva is worshipped here as Vaitheeswaran, which literally means the 'Lord Doctor' who can cure all diseases. Thaiyalnaayaki is seen carrying the "Sanjeevi Thailam", the medicinal oil for all illness.

Angaraka or Mangal (Planet Mars) worship is of great importance here and this is the uniqueness of this temple. Also known as Sevvai or Chevvai, the bronze image of Angaraka is placed in this shrine. This is taken out in procession on a goat mount every Tuesday, as Tuesday is considered as an auspicious day to worship Sevvai.

Picture of Vaitheeswaran Temple, Angaraka or Mars Navagraha Temple in Tamilnadu

Lord Muruga is worshipped here as Selvamuthukumaraswamy (Selva Muthukumara Swamy). The temple also has a shrine dedicated to Lord Dhanvantari or Dhanwantari, an avatar of Lord Vishnu and the God of Ayurvedic medicine. Another important feature of the temple is the shrine dedicated to Jvaraharesvara (Lord of Fevers). There are around eighteen theerthams (holy tanks) seen here, out of which the Siddhamirtham tank is of most important one. The nectar with which the Sidhas worshipped Lord Shiva is said to have flown into this theertham.

About The Temple

Pullirukkuvelur (Pul - Irukku - Vel – Ur) obtained its name as Jatayu (Pull), Rig Veda (Irukku), Skanda (Vel) and Surya (Ur) are said to have worshipped Shiva here. Vaitheeswaran Koil has several mandapams and four rajagopurams and a significant feature in the temple construction is that the western tower allows the rays of the Sun to fall on the Shivalingam (Shiva Linga) for a few days every year. Inscriptions from the period of Vikrama Chola (12th century CE), the Nayakas (16th century CE) and the Mahrathas (18th century) are seen here. The temple is situated on the northern side of the Cauvery River.
Vaitheeswaran Koil History
The term Vaitheeswaran means ‘Lord Doctor’ in Tamil. Legend has it that Angaraka was suffering from leprosy and was cured by Lord Vaidhyanathaswamy. Hence, it is believed that a bath in the holy waters of the Siddhamirtham tank will cure all diseases. It is also said that Lord Ram and his brother Lakshman did the rituals for Jatayu here (Jatayu is the divine bird mentioned in the Hindu epic Ramayana). As such a pond is found here called Jatayu Kundam. Another importance of the temple is that the Saptarshi or Saptarishi (Sanskrit word which means "Seven Sages") have worshipped Lord Shiva here.

Prasadam

The ashes here, referred as Thiruchandu Urundai, is supposed to cure all the diseases. It is prepared from Homa Kundam. Another medicine is Chandan (sandalwood powder) with Saffron.

Offerings

As Sevvai is attired in red colour, he is offered with Thoor dhal and red arali flowers during Poojas. Besides, Milagu (Pepper) and Salt with Jaggery are offered in the Siddhamritam to get rid of diseases. Offerings of unrefined sugar are also placed here.
Worship

Tuesdays are preferred for the worship of Angaraka. If one observes the fast on Tuesday for 21 times, the unlucky influence of Tuesday (Mangal) can be got relieved. Generally, six worship services are offered daily. Kartikai (Karthigai) is celebrated in a great manner. The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil months of Pankuni and Thai with much religious fervor.

Temple Timings

Vaitheeswaran Kovil is opened from 7 AM to 12.00 PM and 4 PM to 8.30 PM daily. The opening and closing timings may change during special pujas and festive occasions.

How to reach Vaitheeswaran Temple

Vaitheeswaran Kovil is 24 km from Chidambaram, 50 km from Kumbakonam, and 110 km from Thanjavur, in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu. Kumbakonam railway station is the nearest railhead. The Mysore Express train passes through Mayiladuthurai from Mysore via Bangalore, Salem, Erode, Trichy, Tanjore and Kumbakonam.

Tiruchirapalli Airport or Trichy Airport is the nearest domestic airport. The nearest international airport is the Chennai International Airport.

Nearby Attractions

Nadi Jyotisa or Nadi astrology is a popular form Hindu Vedic astrology practiced here. It is believed that Hindu sages in ancient times have written down the past, present, and future lives of all human being in Nadi Grantha or Palm Leaf Manuscripts. If you believe in astrology you can try Nadi Jyotisha near Vaitheeswaran Kovil.
Bhramapureeswarar Temple at Sirkazhi, in Nagapattinam District is just 20 km from Mayiladuthurai. Thirukkazhiseerama Vinnagaram Perumal Temple and Thiruvenkadu Swetaranyeswarar Temple (Budha Stalam) are located nearby.

**Remedies for Mangal Dosha.**

Astrological Remedies for Manglik or Mangal Dosha or Kuja Dosha Mangal Dosha, also known as Kuja Dosha or Chowa Dosha, is said to occur when Lord Mangal (Planet Mars or Kuja) is situated in 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th or 12th house of a Rashi or lunar chart (Moon chart). It is also called as Manglik dosha, Kuja Dosha, Bhom Dosha (Bhauma Dosha) or Angaraka Dosha. According to Vedic Astrology, a person born in this condition is called as Manglik.

**4-Mangal - The God of Mars**

Mangal (Angaraka or Kujan) is one of the Navagraha planets in Hindu Vedic astrology and represents courage, strength, power, and aggression. Mangal or Kuja is celibate and is regarded as the “God of War” and also a teacher of the Ruchaka Mahapurusha Yoga (Occult Science). Mangal rules over the signs Mesha (Aries) and Vrishchika (Scorpio). Lord Surya, Lord Chandra and Jupiter are the planets which are considered friendly to him. A positive influence of Angaraka (Mars) can give a person energy, strong will, independence and self-confidence.

**Mangal Dosha - Chowa Dosha or Kuja Dosha**

However, the negative influence of Mangal, known as Mangal Dosha, is believed to be harmful for marriage, resulting in distress and tension in relationship, separation and even divorce. In certain cases, Chowa Dosha is believed to cause unfortunate death of one spouse. On the other hand, the negative effects of Kuja Dosha get cancelled by itself if a Manglik person is born on Tuesday. Moreover, if two Mangliks marry, the negative effects are believed to cancel each other.
Following are some of the Astrological remedies for Manglik Dosha

1) Kumbh Vivah

It is said that the negative effects for a single-manglik marriage can be resolved by performing a ceremony called Kumbh Vivah by the Manglik. It is a ceremony where the Manglik marries a banana tree, a peepal tree, or a silver or golden idol of Lord Vishnu.

2) Position of Mangal (Mars planet) in Horoscope

Astrologers say that if the first house is Aries or Mesha and Mars is in Aries, the Kuja Dosha is not effective, as Aries is the Own House of Mars.

3) Fasting to appease Mangal

Observing fast on Tuesdays is one of the remedies to appease Mangal. Toor Dhal (split pigeon pea) is the grain related to Mars and persons who observe fast on Tuesdays can consume it.

4) Chanting Navagraha Mantras
Apart from reciting the mantras of Mangal, people can perform particular rituals and poojas to appease the elements in their chart. Chanting Navagraha Stotra is also considered an efficient astrological remedy for Manglik.

5) Visiting Navagraha Temples and performing Poojas

Visiting temples of Navagrahahas, especially temples of Mangal (Chowa) is considered an important and efficient remedy to reduce the hardships caused by Mars. However there are only a few temples in India dedicated to Lord Mangal (Lord Kuja).

The most popular temples of Navagrahahas are the Navagraha Temples in Tamil Nadu near the town of Kumbakonam. Another set of Navagraha Temples are in Guwahati, Assam. Of the nine Navagraha temples in Tamilnadu, the Vaitheeswaran Koil or Pullirukkuvelur Temple near Sirkazhi is associated to Angakara (Mangal).

To reduce the ill effects of Mangal or Kuja, one can also pray to Lord Muruga or Goddess Durga.

6) Offerings

Offerings to the charity on Tuesdays are also a good remedy to get rid of Kuja Dosha. Some of the objects that can be donated to appease Kujan are red silks, knives or swords, foods made out of red dhal and red stones including corals.

Budha – Planet Mercury

Budha is generally represented with four hands, three of his hands holding a sword, a shield and a mace respectively while the fourth one is held in usual varada mudra. He rides a carpet or an eagle or a chariot drawn by lions. Mercury represents one’s intelligence and communication. The planet governs the nervous system. His color is green his day is Wednesday or ‘Budhwar’ and his gemstone is Emerald. Budha is the God of Mithuna Rashi and Kanya Rashi in Astrology. Thiruvenkadu Swetharanyeswarar Temple near Sirkazhi in Tamilnadu is one of the main Lord Budha Temples in India.
Swetharanyeswarar Temple at Thiruvenkadu, the fourth Navagraha sthalam of the 9 Navagraha Temples in Tamil Nadu, is the abode for Bhudhan or Bhuda (planet Mercury). Thiruvenkadu Bhudha Sthalam is located near Poompuhar, around 10 km from Sirkazhi, 24 km east of Mayuram and 59 km from Kumbakonam. The presiding deity is Lord Shiva as Swetaharanyeshwarar and Goddess Parvati as Brahma Vidya Nayaki Ambal (Brahmavidyanayaki). Swetharanyeswarar Temple enshrines a separate sanctum sanctorum for Bhudhan or Bhudan, one the nine Navagrahas and the bestower of wisdom and wealth.

Temple History

The name Thiruvenkadu, also spelled Thiruvengadu, means ‘sacred white forest’ (Ven means white and Kadu means forest). It is said that this place was surrounded by thick forests on all sides and when seen from a distance, it looked white, and hence the name. In Sanskrit it is known as Swetaranyam (Swetam means white and Aranyam means forest). The place also bears various names such as Jnana-aranya, (forest of wisdom), Patala Kailas and Aadi Chidambaram.

It is said that the Lord performed seven of His dances - Tandavam - known as Ananda, Sandhya, Samhara, Tripuranta, Urdhva, Bhujanga and Lalita.

Picture of Swetharanyeswarar Temple in Thiruvenkadu - Planet Budha or Mercury Navagraha Shrine Tamilnadu

Temple Architecture
Thiruvenkadu Temple is surrounded by five prakarams known as pancha prakarams. Here the Lord is consecrated in His forms as Aghoramurthi (manifestation of His wild and angry form) and Nataraja (a manifestation of Shiva, assumed as the Lord of Dance). The Nataraja image holds seven instruments and weapons, namely, Vetalam, Khadgam, Udukku, Mani, Kedayam, Kapalam and Trisulam.

A unique feature about Swetharanyeswarar Temple is that the image of Lord Shiva has five faces, Easanam, Tatpurusham, Aghoram, Vamadevam and Sadyojatam. The posture of Nandi at the entrance is another unique feature here. It bears nine scars on its body and is seated at the entrance of Devi’s shrine. The face is turned towards the Lord’s shrine and ears cocked towards that of Devi, signifying that it is ready to receive orders from the Divine Couple. Devi in Her divine form of Bhadrakali has a separate shrine. Besides, there are separate shrines for Ashta Lakhsmis and the Navagrahas.

Swetharanyeswarar Temple has three theerthams (holy tanks) called as Agni Theertham, Surya Theertham and Chandra Theertham which are said to have been created out of the three drops which fell from Lord Shiva's eyes when he was dancing. The sthala vrikshams are also three in number - Vilvam, Vadaval and Konrai. The stone inscriptions on the walls of the temples depict important historical
information on the Chola Dynasty and about several kings of Vijayanagar. The rivers, Kaveri and Manikarnika, run near the holy shrine.

Worship

Worship to Lord Shiva's fiery form Aghoramurthy is considered to be of great importance especially on Sunday nights.

Budhan is the planetary ruler for knowledge, music, astrology, Maths, sculpting, medicine and language skills. Wednesdays are very auspicious to Budha and offering pooja on that day is believed to rectify any Budhan Dhosham in horoscope. Budha is attired in green and can be offered with green moong dhal, white kanthal flower and green cloth.

Thiruvenkadu Temple Festivals

The most important festival is the float festival which is celebrated on the last day of 12 day celebrations in the Tamil month of Maasi (February - March).

Temple Timings

The temple is opened from 6 AM to 12.00 PM and 4 PM to 9 PM

How to reach Swetharanyeswarar Temple at Thiruvenkadu

Swetharanyeswarar Temple is situated 23 kilometers away from Mayiladuthurai, on the Sirkali – Poompuhar linking road. The temple is 10 km from Sirkazhi and 59 km from Kumbakonam.

Shiyali Railway Station, Thanjavur is the nearest railway station, about 9 km from the temple. Thiruvenkadu is accessible by road from Vaitheeswaran Koil railway station and Semponnar Koil railway station as well.

Nearby Attractions
Naganathar Temple, known as the Kethu Navagraha Sthalam, is located at Keezhperumpallam, around 6 km from Thiruvenkadu. Thiruppallavaneeswaram Temple and Valampurananathar Temple at Melapperumpallam is also located close to Poompuhar. Pullirukkuvelur Vaitheeswaran Koil (Sevvai Sthalam) and Sirkazhi Bhramapureeswarar Temple are just a few minutes drive from the temple.

5-Brihaspathi – Planet Jupiter

Brihaspati also known as Brahmanaspati is the guru of Devas and is praised in many hymns of Rig Veda. Brihaspati is described of yellow or golden color and holding a stick, a lotus and his beads. Jupiter symbolizes knowledge, love and spirituality. The planet rules the thighs, flesh, kidney, liver, fat and arterial system. The day of Jupiter is Thursday and gemstone is Sapphire. Dhanu Rashi and Meena Rashi are ruled by Brihaspati or planet Jupiter. One of the famous Brihaspati Temples in India is the Alangudi Abathsahayeswarar Temple near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu.

Brihaspati, also known as Guru or Vyazham, is the name for the Navagraha planet Jupiter according to Hindu Astrology. Brihaspati is the Guru of Devas and is the epitome of goodness and religion. Also popular as Brahmanaspati and Devaguru, Brihaspati is considered to be the greatest beneficial among the nine Navagrahas. Concerned with education, teaching and the dispensation of knowledge, he is regarded as the god of wisdom and fluency. Guru is depicted in yellow or golden color, holding a stick, a lotus and beads. Thursdays are considered good for the worship of Brihaspati. Ill placement of Jupiter can cause diabetics, piles, tumors, liver malfunction, and blood cancer.

Main Mantra of Brihaspati or Guru

*Om Rim Guru E Namah*

Lord Guru in Hinduism
According to Shiva Purana, Brihaspati is the son of Rishi Angirasa and Surupa. The consort of Lord Guru has 3 wives – Tara, Shuba and Mamata. Brihaspati performed penance on the banks of Prabhas Tirtha to appease Lord Shiva. Shivdev pleased in his penance gave him the position of Devaguru. The mount of Lord Guru is Elephant (some pictures shows Brihaspati in a chariot drawn by eight horses).

Picture of Brihaspati or Lord Guru, Navagraha Planet Jupiter

Worship

In Hindu tradition, worshipping Brihaspati results in curing the diseases related to stomach. His beneficial aspects are reputation, wealth and children.

Brihaspati in Astrology

Brihaspati is Lord of three nakshatras – Punarvasu (Punartham or Punarpoosam), Vishakha or Visakam and Purva Bhadrapada or Poorattadhi.
Famous Brihaspati Temples

About 17 km from Kumbakonam on the way to Needamangalam, in Tiruvarur District of Tamilnadu is the Abathsahayeswarar Temple at Alangudi which is regarded as a Guru Sthalam. Here, Lord Dakshinamurthy (Lord Guru) is engraved on the wall and is not in the form of separate idol.

Associations of Brihaspati

Color – Yellow  
Metal – Gold  
Navagraha Gemstone – Yellow Topaz and Yellow Sapphire  
Season – Winter (snow)  
Direction – North-East  
Element – Ether or space  
Flower – Lily  
Food Grain – Chick pea

6-Shukra - Planet Venus

Lord Shukra or Planet Venus is the teacher of the demons and the author of Sukraniti. Sukra is of whit complexion, middle aged and is generally shown with four hands riding upon a golden or silver chariot drawn by eight horses. He holds a stick, beads and a lotus and sometimes a bow and arrow. Shukra Dasha actually remains for twenty years in a person’s horoscope and this planet is believed to give more wealth, fortune and luxury living, if positioned well in one’s horoscope. Venus symbolizes love and passion. The day of Venus is Friday and gemstone is diamond. Vrishaba Rashi (Edavam) and Tula Rashi (Thulam) are ruled by Lord Shukra or planet Venus. Kanjanoor Agneeswarar Temple near Kumbakonam in Tamilnadu is one famous Lord Shukra Temples in India.
Agneeswarar Temple, Kanjanoor – Navagraha Sukra Sthalam, Tamil Nadu

Agneeswarar Temple at Kanjanoor or Agniswara Swami Temple at Kanjanur is one of the nine Navagraha Temples in Tamil Nadu and is associated with Lord Sukran (Planet Venus), the sixth of Navagraha planets. Also known as Sukran Navagraha Sthalam, Agniswarar temple is located around 18 km from Kumbakonam and 2 km to the east from Sooriyanayanar Kovil, on the Kallanai - Poompuhar road, in Tamilnadu.

Similar to most of the other Navagraha Temples in Tamilnadu, the presiding deities of Agniswara Swami Temple is Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi. Lord Shiva is worshiped here as Agneeswarar, as it is said that Lord Agni (Fire God) have worshipped Lord Shiva here. Goddess Parvati is worshipped here as Karpagambal.

It is said that Lord Brahma was blessed with a vision of Shiva's marriage with Parvathi here. The Braham Linga enshrined in the Agniswarar Temple is said to have worshipped by Lord Brahma. Another important feature is that the Oil Abishekam performed to the main Siva linga is fully absorbed by the idol. There is no separate sannidhi for Lord Sukra as Lord Shiva himself is believed to have incarnated as Venus here.

The Temple and its History

Located on the northern banks of river Cauveri, Kanjanoor Agneeswarar Temple or Kanjanur Agniswara Swami Temple is built with two prakarams. A five tiered Rajagopuram is seen at its entrance. Other deities worshipped here are Maanakkanjaarar, Nayanmaar and Kalikkaamar. Images that describe the legends relating to Haradatta Sivacharyar of Vaishnava origins, inscriptions from the Chola and Vijayanagar periods, and stone images of Natarajar and Sivakami are seen in this temple.

The Nataraja Sabha is referred to as the Mukti Mandapam and the Shiva Tandavam here is called as Mukti Tandavam. Legend says that
Lord Shiva blessed Paraasara muni (Parasara Muni is the father of Vyasadeva and the author of Vishnu Puranam) with a vision of the cosmic dance - Mukti tandavam here.

This shrine is also referred to as Palaasavanam, Bhrammapuri, Agnistalam and Neelakudi.

One of the important features of the temple is that the Vilva leaf (Bilwa Leaf) seen here is 5 in number, which is quite unique.

Worship to Lord Sukran

Six worship services are offered daily. Fridays are considered auspicious to pray Lord Sukra. Sukran, the next most beneficial planet after Guru (Brihaspati), bestows his devotees with wealth and prosperity. If in a person's horoscope, Sukra is well placed, then the person enjoys better life and wealth. Lord Sukran is offered with white Lotus, white cloth, diamond, 'mochai' powder and athi to remove any obstacles in life and work caused by a misplaced Sukra (Sukira Dhosham) in a person’s horoscope.

Temple Festivals

A festival to honor Haradatta Sivacharyar is celebrated in the Tamil month of Thai every year. Besides, Mahasivaratri, Aadi Pooram, Navaratri, and Arudra Darisanam are also celebrated with much importance.

Temple Timings

Temple is opened from 6 AM to 12.00 PM and 4 PM to 9 PM.

How to reach Agneeswarar Temple, Kanjanoor

The temple is located about 20 km from Mayiladuthurai. Bus facilities are available from Kumbakonam and Mayiladuthurai. Aduthurai Railway Station is the nearest railway station.
Nearby Attractions

Suryanar Kovil, about 2 km from Kanjanoor, is the nearest Navagraha Temple dedicated to Lord Sun. Sri Sarabeswarar Temple at Thiruvhuvanam, Sri Mahalinga Swami Temple at Thiruvidaimaruthur, and Sri Kalyanasundara Swamy Temple at Thirumanancheri are other nearby temples of prime importance.

7-Shani - Planet Saturn

Lord Shani is regarded as a troublesome god and is capable of breaking fortunes by his influence and position in the planetary system. Lord Sani is generally shown with four hands riding upon a chariot or a buffalo or a vulture. Shani is seen holding a sword, arrows and two daggers. Saturn is often referred to as ‘dark planet’ and symbolizes longevity, misery and grief. The day of Saturn is Saturday and gemstone is Blue Sapphire. Kumbha rashi and Makara rashi in zodiac signs are ruled by Lord Shani or planet Saturn. Shani Shingnapur Temple in Maharashtra and Thirunallar Darbaranyeswarar Temple in Tamilnadu are two famous Lord Shani Temples in India.

Shani and Shani Dosha in Astrology

Lord Shani or Sani is one of the Navagrahas or the nine celestial planets in Hindu astrology. Shani Dev or Planet Saturn is the Lord of Saturday and is embodied in the planet Saturn. Saneeshwara is called so as it moves slowly and takes about 30 years to revolve around the sun.

Shani – The Son of Lord Surya

Shani is also known as Chayyaputra as he is the son of Lord Surya, the Sun God and his wife Chhaya. Yama, the God of death is his elder brother. A person’s life is rewarded or punished appropriately during his lifetime according to his present and past deeds. Shani is known as a great teacher and the impact of Shani is so much that when Shani opened his eyes for the first time while he was a baby the sun
went into an eclipse. Shani punishes those who follow the path of evil hence he is considered as the trouble giver as well as the well wisher.

Appearance of Shani

Shani is dark in color, wearing black clothes, holding a sword, arrows and two daggers and mounted on a vulture. Vulture is Shani’s vahana. As protector of property, Shani is able to suppress the thieving tendencies of these birds.

Positive impact of Shani in Astrology

Lord Saneeshwara is more known for his blessings that his ill effects. A favorably placed Shani in the horoscope of a person stands for a strong career, healthy life and prosperity. Shani can also award one with leadership qualities along with fame and recognition among the masses. Lord Saneeshwara is known as Needhiman or judge as he always blesses those who are righteous and devoted.

Negative impact of Shani in Horoscope
Shani if unfavorably placed in a person’s horoscope is known as Shani Dosha and it denotes trouble in all ways. Shani is feared by those Hindus who believe in astrology as the effects of Shani being unfavorable can be very severe. Shani brings about the bad effects of one’s deed or karma and the diseases which Shani curses at physical level are poor blood supply, asthma, impotency, and tuberculosis (TB), and at mental level are narrow mind, low esteem among others and so on. Shani tests person’s patience and frustrations and delays.

**Remedies for Shani Dosha.**

Shani Dosha Parihara is the remedies of Shani Dosham in the horoscope of a person. Here are some successful Remedies for Shani Dosha for those who are passing through Shani Dasha period in their life. Shani Dasha is inevitable in every one’s life and the only way to reduce the ill effects of Lord Shani is to perform poojas and prayers as Shani dosha pariharas. The below mentioned remedies for Shani Dosha are for anyone who is going through the difficult period of 7.5 years of Shani Dosha. Below are some Shani Dosha (Sade Sati) remedies to appease Shani Dev or Planet Saturn. Read more about Lord Shani and impacts of Shani in Astrology here.

**Fasting on Saturdays**

Fasting is a form of Yagya. One can take a light fast on Saturday (the day of Lord Shani Deva) with only broth and sesame seeds.

**Worship Lord Hanuman**

Praying to Lord Hanuman will lead to freedom from an adverse Shani effects. Recite ‘Hanuman Chalisa’ on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday with a ghee lamp in front of his idol. Get lyrics of Hanuman Chalisa here.

**Shani Mantra**
Chanting short Shani mantra for 108 times every day or at least every Saturday.

"Om Sham Shaneeswaraya Namaha"

Shani Temple Darshan

Visiting Navagraha temple and doing Shani pooja on Saturday is also one of the remedial measures.

Picture of Lord Shani and Remedies for Shani Dosha

Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra

If Shani dasha effect is very severe then to protect you from the fear of untimely accidents or diseases recite Mrityunjaya Mantra at least once before starting your day. Click here for Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra Lyrics.

Navagraha Mantra

Chanting of ‘Navagraha Stothram’ is also good to ward off adverse effects of grahas which are not in favorable position in the horoscope. You can find lyrics of Navagraha Stothram here.

Lord Ayyappa Temple Darsha
Visiting Lord Ayyappa Temples and performing Neeranjanam on Saturdays is also considered as one of the remedial measures of Shanidosha.

Donation (Daanam)

Donating black cloth, gingely oil, blanket, iron articles, black cow, buffalo, black gram to poor people or at the temple and also providing ‘Annadhanam’ (free food) on Saturday to orphanages or beggars.

Shiva Bhajan

Prayer to Lord Shiva whole heartedly can protect you from Shani dosha.

Other Remedies

Procuring an iron ring from the horse shoe of a black horse, wearing Blue Sapphire (Before wearing any gemstones make sure you consult your personal astrologer) in your middle finger, watering the peepal trees lighting lamps in sesame oil are also other remedial measures for Shani dosha.

Shani Shingnapur Temple in Maharashtra

Shani Shingnapur Temple, also spelled Shani Shinganapur Temple, is one of the famous Lord Shani Temples in India, situated in the village of Shingnapur or Sonai in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Lord Shani (or Shaneshwara or Shanidev) is one of the nine Navagrahas in Hindu astrology. The idol of Lord Shani (planet Saturn) here is a Swayambu, which is a five and a half feet high black rock, installed on an open-air platform. At the side of the image is a Trishula (trident) and a Nandi (bull) image is on the south side. There are also small images of Lord Shiva and Lord Hanuman in the front.

Worship at Shingnapur Shani Temple
The devotees should take head bath and proceed in wet clothes to the platform of Lord Shani Bhagwan. Saffron-colored attire is generally worn by the devotees. No priest exists here to perform the pooja. Devotees themselves perform the puja in the form of circumambulations, offering prayers and performing abhishekams with water from the holy well nearby and sesame oil. Male devotees can go up to the platform wearing a wet cloth. However, women are offered worship without mounting the platform.

Devotees offer oil (preferably sesame) in multiples of quarter, coconut, dried dates, dried coconut, betel nut, rice, turmeric, kumkum, gulal, neel, sugar, colotropis flowers preferably blue, black cloth, curds and milk for abhishekam.

Fairs and Festivals at Shani Shingnapur Temple

Shani Amavasya

Amavasya or the no moon day, which falls on a Saturday, is considered to be the most auspicious occasion to worship Lord Shanidev at Shani Shingnapur Temple. Numerous devotees from all
around the country come here to receive the blessings of the Lord on this day. A huge fair and a palanquin procession of Shani are held on this day. Apart from Shani Amavasya, worshipping Lord Shani on all Saturdays is considered to be very favourable.

Shani Jayanthi

Shani Jayanti is considered as the day on which Lord Shani was born or appeared on earth. It is also known as Shanishchara Jayanti and observed on Amavasya (New moon day) in Vaishakh month. On this day, the idol appears blue in colour. ‘Panchamrut’ and ‘Gangajal’ are used for cleaning the idol of Lord Shaneshwara.

Importance of Shingnapur village

The uniqueness of Shingnapur is that no house in the village has doors, but only door frames. Even though, no theft is reported here and villagers never keep their valuables under lock and key. It is believed that god Shani punishes anyone attempting theft. Curtain is the only barrier they use to keep out stray animals.

Temple Timings

The Shani Temple at Shingnapur is open for worship from 5 am to 10 pm.

How to Reach Shani Shingnapur Temple in Maharashtra

Shingnapur is situated about 6 km from Ghodegaon, on Aurangabad - Ahmednagar Road. Shani Shingnapur is about 84 km from Aurangabad, 65 km from Shirdi, and 35 km from Ahmednagar.

By Road

From Ghodegaon, devotees can use the motor-able road up to Shani Shingnapur temple. State Transport buses are available to Shingnapur from Ahmednagar and Aurangabad.
By Train

The nearest railway stations to reach Shani Shingnapur Temple are Ahmednagar, Rahuri, Shrirampur and Belapur.

By Air

Mumbai (330 km) and Pune (160 km) are the nearest airports.

Darbaranyeswarar Temple Tirunallar Shani Navagraha Sthalam

Sri Darbaranyeswarar Temple, also spelled Darbaraneswarar Temple, is one of the most famous Lord Shani Temples (Lord Saturn) in Tamil Nadu, India. Sree Dharbaranyeswara Swamy Temple is located at Tirunallar (Thirunallar) which is about 5 km west of Kaaraikal, on the Karaikal – Mayiladuthurai - Kumbakonam bus route, in Karaikal District, Tamilnadu.

Similar to other Navagraha Sthalams in Tamilnadu, Sri Darbaranyeswarar Temple also enshrines Lord Shiva as the main deity. Lord Shiv is known as Darbaranyeswarar here and Goddess Parvati Devi as Pranamambika or Bogamartha Poonmulaiammai.

The magnificent shrine dedicated to Saneeswarar (Lord Shani or Saneeswaran) near the inner tower known as `Kattai Gopuram'. He faces east with `Abhaya Varada Hastham' and is considered the 'Anugraha Murthi' (one who bestows good things). His idol is placed in between the presiding deities. Shani Bhagavan, one of the 9 Navagraha (nine planets), is reputed both as a giver and destroyer.

About Darbaranyeswarar Shani Temple

Located on the southern banks of river Cauveri, Thirunallar temple has a five-tiered Rajagopuram and faces east. Thyagarajar shrine is found at the southern entrance and in front of it is the emerald `Nakavidangar,' installed by Musukunda Chakravarthi. Its architectural features date back to the Chola period. Tirunallar is one of the 7 Saptavitanka stalams of Tyagaraja connected with the
Mucukunda Chola legend. The place was originally called as Darbaranyam or the place in a forest of Kusa grass (Darbam).

Tirunallar Shani temple is associated to many myths. According to a legend, King Nala was badly affected with numerous problems due to the adverse effects of Saneeswaran. He took a holy dip at the temple tank Nala Theertham and got relieved of the evil effects.

Saneeswaran and his effects in Horoscope

When Lord Shani (Saturn) passes through the ‘Janma Rasi’ in one's birth chart, he is said to cause difficulties to a person and when he passes through the eighth house from one's Janma Rasi (Ashtamathu Sani) he casts more challenges. However, the adverse effects of Shani can be relieved through prayer and by performing puja to appease Lord Shani. Sani transits from one house to another every two-and-a-half years and this is known as ‘Sani Peyarchi’. Shani Peyarchi is one of the best known festival celebrated at Lord Darbaranyeswarar Temple and is visited by large number of people. Saneeswarar’s deity is taken in a procession around the town on this auspicious occassion.

Poojas and Offerings

Saneeswaran is attired in black colour and the grain associated with him is sesame. He can be offered with the flowers - vanni and blue kuvalai; and rice mixed with sesame powder.

Special poojas and abhishekams are performed on Saturdays as Saturday is considered special of Lord Saneeswara.

Temple Festivals

Apart from daily worship services which are performed five times daily, Darbaranyeswarar Shani Temple hosts a number of festivals throughout the year. On Tamil New Year's day (Tamil Puthandu), (marked by the transition of the Sun from Pisces to Aries according to the Indian astrological system) Tyagaraja is taken in a
procession. An eighteen day festival is performed in the Tamil month of Vaikashi (when the sun resides in the sign of Taurus). Festivals related to Nataraja (the Lord of Dance) are held during the month of Aani (Gemini). Several special services are performed to the Emerald Lingam on the full moon night in the month of Purattasi (Leo). Besides, Navaratri, Kartikai Deepam and Panguni Uthiram are also celebrated here with much devotion.

How to reach Darbaranyeswarar Navagraha Temple

By Bus

Tirunallar is located near Karaikkal (5 km) and Nagappattinam, and is well connected by road to many other towns. Direct bus services are also available from Karaikal and even Chennai. Tirunallar to Bangalore (Karnataka) is around 298 km.

Thirunallar is 59 km from Kumbakonam, 35 km from Mayavaram (Mayiladuturai), 140 from Pondicherry, 100 from Thanjavur, 150 from Trichy. Tirunallar can easily be accessed from Mayiladuturai or from Nagapattinam.

By Train

Tirunallar Railway Station is on the Peralam - Karaikal line. Mayiladuthurai Railway Station is another major railway station near by to reach Thirunallar.

By Air

The nearest domestic airport is the Tiruchirappalli Airport, about 160 km from Tirunallar. The nearest international airport is at Chennai, around 300 km away.

Nearby Tourist Attractions in Tirunallar
Karaikal Beach, one of the natural beaches in the Tamil Nadu, is just a short drive from Tirunallar. The 12th century Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple is 7 km from Karaikal.

8-Rahu

In Hindu mythology, Lord Rahu is described as the head of a demonic snake that swallows the sun and moon, causing eclipses. Rahu is a shadowy planet and do not have any special day dedicated to him. He is depicted in art as a dragon with no body riding on a chariot drawn by eight black horses. When Rahu is affected one faces several miseries and obstacles in the way of success. The gemstone of Rahu is Gomedh or Honey Colored Hessonite.

Tirunageswaram Naganathaswamy Temple near Kumbakonam in Tamilnadu is one of the famous Lord Rahu temples in India.

Naganathaswamy Temple Thirunageswaram - Rahu Sthalam
Sri Naganathaswamy Temple or Rahu Sthalam is one of the 9 Navagraha Temples in Tamil Nadu and is associated to Lord Rahu (Raaghu Bhagvan). Sri Naganathaswamy Temple is located at Tirunageswaram, which is 7 km east of Kumbakonam on the Kumbakonam - Nannilam Road, in Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu. The main presiding deity of Thirunageswaram Rahu Temple is Lord Naganathaswamy (Lord Shiva) and his consort Giri Gujambika (Goddess Parvathi) who is enshrined with Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati by Her side. Rahu Bhagavan is seen with his two consorts Nagavalli and Nagakanni. Sri Naganathaswamy Temple is one where Lord Shiva was worshipped by Rahu (Raghu) and got relived of a curse. A unique feature of Naganatha Swamy temple is that Lord Rahu is seen with human face. While in other places, Lord Raaghu is worshipped with a serpent face.

Temple Features
Occupying a vast area, the Thirunageswaram Rahu Temple has vast prakarams, towering gopurams, and several mandapams. There are four entry towers with fort like walls which surround the outermost prakaram.
The Vinayaga temple, Balibeedam, Nandeeswarar Mandabam and Thwaja Sthambam (Flag post) are seen on the eastern gateway. Lord Ragu’s idol is placed in the south-west corner. The southern side of the temple has a water head with four Mandaps, surrounded by a 100 pillar Mandap in a temple-car style. The mandap is decorated by artistic pillars in all directions. The Dwarapalaga Sudhai work (made of Chunam clay) on each side at the entrance is an attractive feature of the temple.

There are twelve sacred water heads in this place, namely, Suriya Pushkarani, Gowthama Theertham, Parasara Theertham, Indira Theertham, Prugu Theertham, Kannuva Theertham and Vasishta Theertham. Suriya Pushkarani is inside the temple compound and is very sacred. The theertham is built in Chola style and is in square shape with 'double-bat' roofing. Legend says that the mythological serpents Aadi Seshan, Dakshan and Kaarkotakan worshipped Shiva here.

Effects of Rahu Bhagavan

Rahu Bhagwan is said to be the cause for one's good position, status, business, faithfulness, winning over opposition, to travel overseas, and for mantra power. It is believed that by doing Milk
abishekam here for Rahu during Rahu kalam (period of 1 and 1/2 hours occurring every day) the delay in getting married, childlessness, trouble some married life, ill-effects of Kalasarpa Dhosha (affliction), Kalasthra Dhosha and, Sarpa Dhosha are all cured.

Special Feature

An important aspect of Rahu Temple at Thirunageswaram is that during milk abhishekam, the milk when poured over the idol, turns Blue which is clearly visible. Large numbers of devotees throng here for performing this. On every occasion of Rahu switching over to next Raasi (Rasi) which happens once in one and half years in anti-clockwise, special Abishekam with Homam is performed at Sri Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple. Lord Rahu is taken in procession in Sesha Vahanam.

Temple Festivals

Other major festivals celebrated here are Brahmotsavam (November or December), Thiruvathirai (December – January), Kanda Shashti (October or November), Sivaratri (February - March), Navaratri and Sekkizhar Vaikasi Pooja (June).
Temple Timings and Daily Poojas

Thirunageswaram Raghu Temple opens daily from 06:00 AM to 9:00 AM, 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM, and 07:00 PM to 09:00 PM. The temple conducts six pujas daily Ushakkala Pooja (6 am), Kalasandhi Pooja (9 am), Uchikkala Pooja (1 pm), Sayaratchai Pooja (5 pm), Irandam Kala Pooja (7 pm) and Arthajama Pooja (9 pm).

How to reach Sri Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram

Thirunageswaram Rahu Temple is on the Kumbakonam - Karaikal bus route and is just 7 km from Kumbakonam.

Railway Station

Thirunageswaram Railway Station or Tirunageswaram Railway Station, on the Mayiladuthurai - Kumbakonam rail route is the nearest railhead. Tambaram - Kumbakonam Fast Passenger and Kumbakonam - Mayiladuthurai Passenger passes through Tirunageswaram Railway Station.

Kumbakonam Railway Station, operated by Southern Railways, is the nearest major railway station to Thirunageswaram. Tirupati - Tiruchirapalli Express, Chennai – Rameshwaram Express (Sethu Express) are some of the long distance main trains passing through this Kumbakonam Railway Station.

Tiruvidaimarudur Railway Station or Tiruvidalmarudr Railway Station, on the Mayiladuthurai - Kumbakonam rail route, is another nearest railhead around 5 km from Thirunageswaram.

Tiruchirapalli Airport is the nearest domestic airport.

Route Map to Thirunageswaram Navagraha Temple, Kumbakonam

Nearby Attraction
Uppiliappan Kovil, a shrine dedicated to Lord Vishnu, is about 2 km from Tirunageswaram. Sri Thirupureeswarar Temple is another
ancient shrine situated at Pateeswaram, 5 km south east of Kumbakonam.

9-Kethu

In Sanskrit, Kethu (Dhuma Ketu) means comet. It is also a shadowy planet and is depicted as the tail of a demon snake. In the images he is usually shown with a poke marked body, riding upon a vulture and holding a mace. Lord Kethu is the representation of karmic collections both good and bad, spirituality and supernatural influences. The gemstone of Ketu is Cat’s Eye. Kethu Naganathaswamy Temple in Nagapattinam District of Tamilnadu is a famous Lord Kethu temple in India.

Kethu Navagraha Temple at Keezhperumpallam Tamil Nadu

The Kethu Naganathaswamy Temple or Kethu Navagraha Temple is one of the 9 Navagraha Temples in Tamil Nadu, located at Keezhperumpallam (Kizhaperumpallam), near Tarangampadi in Nagapattinam District. This renowned Kethu Sthalam is one of the most important Kethu Temples in Tamilnadu as well as in India. The temple presiding deities are Lord Naganathaswamy and his consort Soundaryanaki. It is said that Kethu prayed to Lord Shiva to get rid of his sins. It is rare to find Ketu Bhagvan enshrined with head of a snake and body of an asura, which you can see here. In this Kethu temple, Lord Kethu faces west in the north praharam. Lord Ketu appears with the body in divine form, his head as a five-headed snake and the folded hands worshipping Lord Shiva. Kethu Naganathaswamy Temple is located 6 km from Thiruvengadu (Thiruvenkadu), which is famous for the Swetharanyeswarar Temple dedicated to Lord Budha.

Temple History

Keezhperumpallam is also called Vanagiri. The planets Kethu and Rahu, known as ‘Chaaya Grahangal’, are associated with the legend of the churning of the milky ocean. When the Devas and Asuras churned the ocean of milk with the Manthira Mountain as the churning stick and snake Vasuki as the rope, the amirtham emerged.
This was consumed by an asura, who disguised himself as a Deva. Knowing this, Lord Narayana hit the asura on the head with the spoon in his hand. The head was cut off and fell on the ground. As the asura had consumed amirtham, his head and body continued to live. The head portion of the asura attached itself to a snake body and became Rahu Bhagavan. The body portion that was thrown away fell in Pothigai mountain region which was found and preserved by a Brahmin. The head of a snake got attached to the asura body to become Kethu.

Worship to Kethu

Kethu Bhagavan is adorned in multicolor and it is believed that offering pooja to the Lord Kethu at Keezhperumpallam with red Lilly, kollu (horse gram), and cloth will get relieved from illness, poverty and other doshams.

Daily Poojas Services

Besides the worship services that are offered six times daily, Abhisheka is performed by 08.30 AM. Pradhoshams are held great reverence here. The specialty of Kethu Temple at Keezhperumpallam is that the temple remains open even during Rahu kalam and Emakanda Kalam.

Temple Timings

Kethu Naganathaswamy Temple opens daily from 6 AM to 12.00 PM and 4 PM to 7 PM.

How to reach Kethu Navagraha Shrine at Keezhperumpallam

The Kethu Temple at Keezhperumpallam is located around 63 km from Kumbakonam. It can also be reached via the Sirkali (Sirkazhi) - Poompuhar Road.

Shiyali Railway Station, Thanjavur is the nearest railway station, about 15 km from the temple.