

## SRIVILLIPUTTUR

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Srivilliputtur is situated under the Western Ghats in the Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu. This town is the birth place of the great saint Perialwar and his still greater foster daughter Andal. . The railway station with the same name is one the main line that connects Madras to Thenkasi. It can be also reached by bus from Maduriai.

The emblem of the Tamil Nadu Government is the temple tower of the Vadapathra sayee perumal at Srivilliputtur. Manduka Maharishi ,Goraka Maharishi , Thirugnanasanbandar, Ponnayira swamigal, Sivaprakasa swamigal, Arumuga Thambiran swamy, Kailasasundara swami, Muktanandha swami, Mounaguru Sankaranandha swami they also lived in this place. One of the Azhwar Periazhwar & Andal born in Srivilliputtur. Srivilliputtur is also known as Varaha kshetram, Pudur, Pudevai Putrur, Vanmikapuram, Vadeswarapuram.

There are two temples in this town. One is that of Vadapathra Sayee Perumal. This is the divyadesam temple. The other is the temple of Andal, the famous vaishnavite saint. Both the temples face the east. The Andal temple is believed was originally the residence of Perialwar. It is locally known as Nachiyar Thirumaligai.

The Vadapathrasayee temple is also called as Periya Perumal temple, it has a huge 196 feet tall tower & it has got eleven tiers. It is believed that Sri Vallabha Devapandyan the King of Madura built this tower. It is said that at the time of Muslim invasion, the armies marching around the temple to plunder the precious jewels etc.. In the temple. The staunch Sri Vaishna devotee tried to prevent them; the king was shocked by his devotion. The king challenged the devotee, “If you jump from the top of the tower without any injure we will turn back” What a Surprise! He jumped from the tower With blessings of Andal & Periaperumal without injure, the Muslim chief left the place without looting the temple.

### PAGAL PATHU MANDAPAM

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It is said that once when the original ratham was doing its rounds on the mada streets it went out of control and landed in the Thirumukkulam tank. It could not be pulled out. It was therefore cannibalized and the Ramayana and Mahabaratha panel were taken from that ratham and fixed on the ceiling of Pagal pathu mandapam. In the southeren prakara of this temple is the Nandavanam where Andal was born.

### THIRUMUKKULAM

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The name of demon kalanemi has been giving disturbance to sages in their meditation. The sages sought intervention by Narayana .Lord ordered His powerful Chakrayudham to kill Kala Nemi. The chakrayudham killed him, Its stained blood cleaned by Ganga,

Yamuna & Saraswathi Ordered by Varuna. Mingle of three holy river in this place is called as Thirumukkulam as also Triveni.

### SRIVILLIPUTHUR

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Villi and Kanthan both the brothers went hunting in the forest of Vadeswarapuram. Unfortunately Kanthan was killed by tiger, after searching Villi got tired and fell asleep under a tree. In his dream, Perumal appeared and told him that Perumal himself was lying hidden underneath the shrubs and ant hills. Villi cleared the over growth of vegetation that hid Him and build a temple with the help of the Pandyan king at Madura. The suffix Sri came to be added to this name in course of time because of Andal's presence.

### A MIRROR WELL

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In the Andal temple, there are three wells. One is known as Kannadi Kinaru i.e. the mirror well. It is also known as Darpana theertham. This the famous well where Andal used to watch her reflection be decked with the tulasi garland meant for the Perumal. The water in this well is crystal clear and never dries up. There are no fishes or frogs in this well. The other well is known as Chandana kinaru i.e. Sandalwood well. It is also known as Garuda theertham. There is another well known as Thirumadapulli kinaru i.e. well the holy kitchen of the Perumal. It is known as Vasuki theertham.

### PRANAVAM

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In the garbagriham of this Andal temple, Rangamannar, Andal and Periya Thiruvadi all in Eka simhasanam. Rangamannar is in the middle with Andal on His right and on the left Periya Thiruvadi. They are seen as a pranava roopam. It is also known as pranavakara darsanam. Rangamannar represents akaram. Andal represents ukaram and Garuda represents Makaram. The three together i.e. As+ Uu+Ma form the holy word Om. Garuda represents achit, Perumal stands for Easwara, and Andal represents Chit which is known as Tatvatreyya in Vaishnava sidhantha.

### PARROT/ CUCKOO

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In Nachiar Tirumozhi, Andal sent cuckoo as her envoy to convey the Perumal her lover for Him. She then promised the cuckoo that in return for the services rendered, she could gift her pet parrot as a companion and friend. As a reminder of this pasuram, even to-day in the left hand of Andal's vigraham every day a parrot is kept. This represents the pet parrot brought up by Andal!

### SUDHARSAN PERUMAL

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The idol of Sudharsana Perumal from Trivandrum was brought to Srivilliputtur, to the Andal temple. For a long time, it was not even installed and it was placed in the top tier of the Vadapathra sayee Perumal koil without any worship. Only, later, a sannidhi was set up for this vigraha. This vigraha is made of panchaloham.

### BIGGEST CHAROT

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The present chariot in Andal koil was made by Vanamamalai jeer about 140 years ago. It is about 160'height. Originally, the chariot was requiring fifteen thousand people to pull it round the streets of the temple town. But to-day with certain technological improvements by putting bushes etc. to the chariot wheels and by reducing the height of the chariot, it requires only seven thousand people to pull it.

### THE THEERTHAMS OF SRIVILLIPUTHUR

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There are a number of holy tanks in this town. The kannadi theertham, the chakra theertham, the Thiruparkadal theertham, the Thirumukkulam or Tiruventi theertham, Manduka nadhi or Noopura Ganga theertham located near Kattahzhagar Temple near Srivilliputtur, the Koneri tank at the foot of Thiruvannamalai near Srivilliputtur, the Kanva theertham, a small water fall about five miles to the north of Srivilliputtur.

### PERIALWAR;

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Perialwar known as Vishnu Chittar was the fifth son of Brahmin parents – Mukunda and Padma. He picks flowers and makes garland for the daily worship of Vadapatrasayee. Vallabha deva pandian king was ruling the Madura, on one such inspection round, he saw a Brahmin sitting on a pial. The king asked him some worthy philosophy to impart to him. The pilgrim then recited a poem  
“Eight months in the year, labour, to happily live at home  
The four rainy months.  
Half the day labour for spending the night happily.  
Work in manhood to provide for dotage.  
Use present birth on earth to secure moksha hereafter”

The king was struck with wonder. He thinks himself “What we do for moksha”, he called all wise men from all parts of his kingdom. He also announced that a precious bag filled with money and gems and jewels would be offered as a reward for the victor. One day when Vishnu Chittar was sleeping, the Perumal appeared in his dream and ordered Perialwar to attend the king's court and win the prize. However, the faithful devotee did not dare to disobey Vadapathrasayee, he journeyed to Madurai. He was received by the king as well as his council of ministers. The debate began, Vishnu chittar started speaking, the fundamental vedantic philosophy floated out of his lips due to the inspiration from God. Vishnu Chittar explained to the august assembly that Vishnu is Narayana, that He is parabrahma, the beginning and end of all creation, Can attain

Moksha only the Kruba Blessing of Narayana. Thus a miracle occurred to prove that Vishnu chittar was the undoubted victor. The entire assembly stood up in reverential devotion and threw themselves at the feet of Vishnuchittar. The trumpets were sounded, the conches blew. The king conferred on him the title 'Pattarpiran' or the Brahmana chief. Perumal the Thayar seated on divine vehicle, Garuda, came to witness with all the nitya suris and other devas. Perialwar who saw this sight was happy and at the same time worried. He knew that God was all powerful and all protective. Yet he got worried that Perumal had come in to this mortal world which was under the control of time, & kali ruled. He had fear for the safety of His divine master, in this unworthy world.

His sentiments of motherly love towards God, distinguish him from other saints. He then burst out into hymn, blessing the Lord which verses are now known as Thiruppallandu. He is the only Alwar who has sung this kind of a song blessing god himself.

The life history of Perialwar does not end with this Thirupalandu. On his return to Srivilliputtur with the huge prize money he used the entire prize money for renovating the prakara walls, the mandapas etc. in the Vadapathrasayee Perumal temple.

## ANDAL

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Bhoomithevi was incarnation of Andal in the Thulasi Garden, and She was brought up by Perialwar.. Andal also known as Goda is the only Vaishnava women Alwar. In Sri Vaikuntam, Bhoodevi asked the Lord as to whom He loved most on earth. Perumal replied that He loved the person who had no desires and who constantly thought of Him without expecting any benefit in return. Bhoodevi then requested Perumal to allow her to be born in the earth, God conceded this wish. The girl also helped the father in watering the plants, gathering the flowers and tying the garland. Usually, Perialwar makes garland to offer Vadapathrasayee perumal, Andal would adorn herself with the garland whether she was fit enough to match the beauty of Perumal Himself and carefully remove it ,Unfortunately its being seen by Perialwar , he dropped the idea to offer Periaperumal.. Periaperumal appeared Perialwar's dream, asked about the absent of offering garland. Perialwar explained the sacrilegious desecration due to the unwitting act of his daughter. Perumal ordered to bring garland after worn by Goda, its became more sweet and did not loose their sanctity. Hence forth Andal was known as Chudi Kodutha Nachiyar.

## ANDAL'S MARRIAGE

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Perialwar wanted to get Kothai married. She determined to marry only the Lord Sriranganathan. One day again in the dream of Vishnu Chittar Lord Rangantha appeared and ordered him to bring Andal to Srirangam. At the same time in Srirangam a priest also had a vision when Sri Ranganatha directed him to take the insignia, the umbrella, the Val (sword) the mace etc., to Srivilliputtur and escort Andal with all royal honours to Srirangam. Thus even as the retinue from Srirangam started and arrived in Srivilliputtur, the message was given by God to Perialwar to get Andal ready to go to Srirangam. The Alwar thus accepted the divine message. Andal was seated in the palanquin, screened from the public gaze so that no mortal could look at one who was to be God's bride. In great pomp and glory with trumpets blowing this procession reached Srirangam. As the

palanquin reached the inner sanctum sanctorum, Andal got down and even when the huge assembly was witnessing, She is said to have gone near the divine couch and merged with God. Perialwar felt happy that Rangamannar had accepted Andal as His divine Consort. Perialwar wanted to have the pleasure of celebrating the wedding at Srivilliputtur, Ranganathan conceded this request. On Panguni Uthiram day, at Srivilliputtur all were anxiously waiting for Sri Ranganatha to arrive. But there was no sign of His arrival. Andal naturally was worried. She prayed to Garuda, the divine vehicle to bring the God on time before the muhurtham is over. She promised him a place on the same seat (Sama asanam) with herself and the God. Andal is on the right and Garuda on the left. This is called as Pranava darsanam.