

**Gudiyatham Municipality**  
**Sri Kangai Amman Festival**

The Sri Gangaiyamman Koil is situated on the bank of Gowndaniya river. The temple extends about 150 feet North-South and extends about 250 feet East-West. The Goddess (MOOLAVAR ) stands upon Simmha Peetam and posture symbolize as pious and pleasant in nature. Next to the Moolavar mandapam , a sprawling mandapam has been constructed as the SIRASU Mandapam where the head of the Goddess Renuga Devi ( Sri Gangaiyamman ) is being placed in the festival day.

SIRASU FESTIVAL starts with the event called as “KAPPU KATTUTHAL” which commences prior to 15 days of Ist Vaigasi. On the previous day of Ist Vaigasi , car festival is being celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm. The SIRASU FESTIVAL takes place on Ist Vaigasi. SIRASU FESTIVAL is being celebrated on Ist Vaigasi. The SIRASU starts at 5.00 a.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> vaigasi day at Muthiyalamman Devasthanam and the procession of God Renugadevi celebrated in grand manner at arrives the SIRASU Mandapam by around 10.30 a.m.

On the 3rd day , to give dharsam to the public , the Goddess is placed in PUSHPA VIMANAM which is decorated using flowers by flower artists and the pushpa vimanam is being carried to all over the town around 2 ½ kilometers.

The festival is being celebrated on the following Historical event. The Goddess, Renuga Devi used to bring water daily in a mud pot by the venture of Her purity. One day , on seeing Kantharvara man , Renuga Devi was astonished. Resulting of this , Renuga Devi could not make a mud pot for fetching water. Jamathakkini , a saint and the husband of Renuga Devi , annoyed for not bringing water in time for the prayer and ordered one of the sons Parasuraman to sever the head of Renuga Devi. Without hesitation , Parasuraman , the son of Jamathakkini , executed his father’s order by severed the head of the mother Renuga Devi.

Jamathakkini asked his son whether he wanted a boon for the execution of his order. Parasuraman without hesitation , asked his father to bring his mother Renuga Devi alive. Jamathakkini gave the boon to Parasuraman as desired. Due to immenseness and astonishment, Parasuraman misplaced the head of his mother Renuga Devi to another woman’s body and made his mother alive by pouring scared water. The womanhood purity and father’s words as manthra are emphasised as great and unique to the mankind. This historical happening is being celebrated in remembrance of alive of mother Renuga Devi as SIRASU FESTIVAL on Ist Vaigai of every year.

To give impetus of the festival , the Government declares local holiday to enable the public to participate and to get blessings of the Goddess. Around 2 lakh pilgrims attending the festival with devotion.

## **HISTORICAL MOMENTS**

Historically the existence of the town is very well found in ancient inscription of Kulothunga Cholan 1st regime during 1705 A.D. This town is surrounded by a good number of temples. This town surpassed enrichment and advancement due to these good number of temples. To add glory of the existence of the town , an inscription of 14th Century found at Chenji ( now in Cuddalore District ) also reveals that existence of the town in the name of “ GUDI-YETRAM ”.

Temple of Kappuleeswarar is in existence during the period of Kulothunkkan 1st dynasty. During the regime , the king had denoted 90 ghots for maintenance and for purchase of oild for lighting. This inscriptions are found in Kappuleeswarar temple Nandi Veeda inscription. The ancient temple has been built at Nallore ( Alias ) Jayamkonda Sadurvedi Mangalam . This town has been donated by the king , Kulothungan, followed , the victory of Thondai Mandalam regions. The temple has been further modified and renovated by Vijayanakara Kings. The temple is a symbol of monuments of both Chola and Vijayanakara Kingdoms.

The area around the Kappuleeswarar temple situated at ancient “ Nallore ” is now named and called as Nellorepettai.

The occupation of the ancient town is artistic weaving by manual viz., Handloom weaving . To add glory of the profession and industry the Handloom weaved National flag which was prepared by weavers of this town was hoisted at New Delhi – Redfort being the 1st Indian National flag. In appreciation of this, the national leaders viz., Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabai Patel in their letter dated 12.08.1947 has commented and complimented the weavers.