



MYTHOLOGICAL AND LEGENDARY ORIGINS OF LORD SHIVA TEMPLES: INCOMPARABLE ORIENTATIONS TO THE SATTANATHAR TEMPLE, SIRKAZHI

M. Jayapriya¹

Ph.D. Research Scholar (Full-Time)
Department of History, Annamalai University
Annamalai Nagar

Dr. K. Alamelu (On Deputation)²

Research Supervisor, Assistant Professor of History
D.G. Govt. Arts College for Women, Mayiladuthurai-609 001

Abstract

This study delves into the mythological and legendary origins of the Lord Shiva temple, focusing specifically on the Sattanathar Temple in Sirkazhi. Renowned for its historical and religious significance, the Sattanathar Temple is deeply embedded in the ancient traditions of Shaivism. The temple's origin is intricately linked to various mythological accounts, many of which are reflected in its architecture, rituals, and cultural practices. The investigation examines the narratives that have shaped the temple's identity, exploring its divine connections and the role it plays in the spiritual life of the region. Furthermore, it analyzes these legendary origins continue to influence the worship and significance of Lord Shiva in Sirkazhi, contributing to the broader cultural and religious heritage of Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Mythological Origins, Legendary Origins, Lord Shiva Temples, Sattanathar Temple, Sirkazhi, Shaivism, Religious Significance, Shaiva Traditions.

Introduction

The Hindu religious tradition, particularly within the context of Shaivism These sacred edifices transcend their physical form, embodying rich narratives that trace their inception to ancient mythos and divine sagas. Lord Shiva, revered as the Supreme Being within the Hindu pantheon, manifests through these temples as a transcendent force, his divine essence believed to permeate both the temporal and the eternal realms. The foundational mythologies of these temples are deeply entwined with cosmic concepts of creation, preservation, and dissolution, themes that resonate with Lord Shiva's paramount role in the cosmic order and his omnipotent influence over the universe's cyclical existence. Spanning millennia, an array of temples dedicated to Lord Shiva have been constructed throughout India, with a particular concentration



in Tamil Nadu, a region renowned for its historically rich and culturally enduring Shaiva tradition. The legends associated with these temples vary, each shrine steeped in unique narratives of divine intervention, celestial miracles, and the fulfillment of spiritual destinies.

The architectural grandeur and liturgical practices of these temples are inextricably linked to the mythological tales that have been transmitted across generations, often enshrined in their iconography, rituals, and sacred texts. The Lord Shiva temples of Tamil Nadu stand as magnificent symbols of devotion, architectural brilliance, and rich religious traditions. Among these sacred shrines, the Sattanathar Temple in Sirkazhi holds a unique place, not only due to its historical significance but also because of its deep roots in mythological and legendary narratives. These temples, renowned for their divine association with Lord Shiva, are not just places of worship but also epic centers of spiritual and cultural expression.

The Sattanathar Temple, in particular, is enveloped in a rich tapestry of stories that transcend time, offering a fascinating glimpse into the mythological world of Shaivism the mythological and legendary origins of Lord Shiva temples, with a special emphasis on the Sattanathar Temple in Sirkazhi. The temple's genesis is intrinsically linked to the divine mythos of Lord Shiva, as articulated in various ancient texts and oral traditions. These stories not only define the temple's sacred space but also offer invaluable insights into the spiritual and cultural ethos of Tamil Nadu. By delving into the numerous legends associated with the Sattanathar Temple, this research seeks to highlight the incomparable orientations of these mythologies, which shape the temple's identity and its significance in the broader context of Shaiva worship. Through an in-depth examination of these mythological narratives, the study also explores how these legendary tales continue to influence the practices, rituals, and architectural design of Lord Shiva temples. In doing so, it unveils the profound connection between divine lore and religious practices, further enhancing our understanding of the role such temples play in the spiritual and cultural life of the region.

The mythological and legendary origins of Lord Shiva temples are woven into the very fabric of Hindu religious tradition, especially within the context of Shaivism. These temples are not merely physical structures but are imbued with sacred narratives that trace their origins back to ancient myths and divine stories. Lord Shiva, one of the principal deities of the Hindu



pantheon, is revered as the Supreme Being in many of these temples, where his divine presence is believed to transcend time and space. The origins of these temples are deeply rooted in mythological events and legends, often tied to the cosmic order, creation, and destruction, themes central to Lord Shiva's role in Hindu cosmology (*Sharma, 1992; Rajagopal, 2010*). Throughout history, numerous temples dedicated to Lord Shiva have been built across India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, a region renowned for its rich Shaiva tradition. The legends surrounding these temples vary, with each shrine offering unique stories of divine intervention, miracles, and the fulfillment of spiritual aspirations. The construction and worship practices in these temples are intricately linked to the mythological tales that have been passed down through generations, often reflected in their rituals, iconography, and sacred texts (*Chidambaram, 2004; Narayanan, 2008*). Through a deeper understanding of these origins, the paper aims to highlight the profound influence of mythological storytelling in shaping the religious practices and cultural significance of these temples, particularly within the Shaiva tradition (Karthikeyan, 2015).

A Historical Critique of Religion, and Cultural Identity in Tamil Culture

The mythological and legendary origins of Lord Shiva temples in Tamil Nadu are crucial to understanding the intricate tapestry of the region's religious, cultural, and historical evolution. These temples, far from being mere architectural structures, are deeply embedded in an array of mythic tales, legendary accounts, and sacred narratives that have shaped the collective consciousness of the Tamil people over centuries. By analyzing these temples through the lens of historical criticism, one can uncover the multifaceted interaction between mythology, cultural identity, and political power that defines the historical landscape of Tamil Nadu. Historically, Lord Shiva temples in Tamil Nadu have played an indispensable role in the spiritual and social fabric of the region. These sacred shrines are inextricably linked to mythological narratives that have been passed down through generations, often inscribed in ancient texts, oral traditions, and inscriptions that preserve the legends of divine intervention. These stories, though inherently religious, often reflect the intertwining of divine mythology with the socio-political realities of the time. They are integral to the temple's identity, sanctifying the physical structure while simultaneously creating a bridge between the divine realm and human society. Through these mythological accounts, these temples were not only consecrated but also became symbols of political legitimacy and divine favor. Historical criticism of these mythological narratives reveals



the political dimension of temple construction, demonstrating how rulers and kings sought to associate themselves with divine powers to strengthen their political authority. The patronage of Lord Shiva temples became a significant political strategy, used by kings to consolidate their power and reinforce their divine right to rule. This religious patronage often served as both a symbol of devotion and an instrument of royal propaganda. By commissioning the construction of these grand temples, rulers were able to display their piety and secure their position within the divine order. The narrative surrounding the construction of Shiva temples, particularly during the reigns of powerful dynasties like the Cholas and Pallavas, often served as a manifestation of the ruler's connection to the divine and the subsequent validation of their political and military authority. The legendary origins of these temples, as recorded in Tamil historical texts and epigraphs, further illuminate the role of temples in shaping the social, cultural, and political dynamics of the region. While rooted in mythology, these temples often became sites of social reform, cultural expression, and educational dissemination. During the reigns of influential dynasties, such as the Cholas and the Pallavas, Shiva temples played a critical role in transforming local cultures, promoting religious practices, and disseminating moral teachings. These temples functioned as centers of community life, with activities ranging from religious rituals and festivals to art, music, and literature. They were the nexus of social interaction and served as symbols of both divine power and communal identity.

In exploratory the historical criticism of these mythological and legendary narratives, one uncovers the multifaceted role of these temples in shaping local identities, social hierarchies, and cultural practices. They were not only places of worship but also mechanisms for the reinforcement of societal structures and cultural continuity. These sacred sites, while undeniably sacred, also serve as powerful cultural and political symbols that reflect the social dynamics of the time. The mythological tales and legendary origins of these temples are not mere relics of the past; they continue to influence and shape the region's religious landscape and cultural identity. By critically analyzing these narratives within their historical context, one can gain a deeper understanding of the religious, political, and social forces that have shaped the historical trajectory of Tamil Nadu. Through this lens, Lord Shiva worship not only stands as a pillar of Tamil religious practice excluding also remains a central force in shaping the cultural and historical identity of the region. The Sattanathar Temple, located in the town of Sirkazhi in Tamil



Nadu, is one of the most revered Shiva temples in the region, rich in historical, mythological, and architectural significance. This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in his form as **Sattanathar**, a name that translates to "*The Lord who grants liberation to seven generations*," signifying the temple's sacred status as a site of spiritual salvation for its devotees. Sirkazhi, historically known as **Sri Kshetra**, has been an important religious and cultural center since ancient times. The town is situated along the banks of the **Vellar River**, which is believed to have been an important factor in the establishment and growth of the temple. The history of Sattanathar Temple traces its origins back to the **early Chola period**, and it has flourished under the patronage of various dynasties over the centuries, particularly the **Pallavas**, **Cholas**, and later the **Nayaks**. The temple is believed to have been originally built by the **Chola rulers**, although it underwent several reconstructions and additions throughout its long history. During the reign of **King Rajendra Chola**, the temple is thought to have been expanded significantly, incorporating grand architectural elements that reflect the typical Chola style of temple construction.

The temple's history is intertwined with the rise and fall of dynasties, each contributing to its grandeur and spiritual prominence. The **Sattanathar Temple** in **Sirkazhi**, Tamil Nadu, stands as a testament to the rich cultural, historical, and architectural legacy of the region, with its origins deeply rooted in ancient history. The temple's establishment is believed to date back to ancient times, possibly during the **Pallava period**, although there is a lack of concrete evidence from this era to substantiate its exact origins. It is suggested that the early stages of the temple may have been a small shrine dedicated to **Lord Shiva**, and it is likely that the Pallavas, known for their architectural contributions, had some influence in its inception. However, the temple truly came into prominence and underwent substantial development during the reign of the **Chola dynasty** from the **9th to 13th centuries**. It was during the **9th century** that the Cholas, particularly **Rajaraja Chola I**, are believed to have significantly expanded the temple. Rajaraja Chola I, renowned for his architectural innovations and his efforts in consolidating the Chola Empire, played a pivotal role in the temple's development. Under his reign, the sanctum and other architectural elements were constructed, reflecting the grandeur of the **Chola architectural style**, which is characterized by expansive courtyards, towering gopurams (entrance towers), and intricate sculptures. The temple became a central part of the **Chola royal patronage system**, symbolizing the dynasty's deep devotion to **Shaiva** traditions.



In the **10th century**, **Rajaraja Chola I**'s contributions laid the foundation for the temple's architectural identity, with further additions made under the rule of his successors. These rulers continued to enhance the temple, ensuring its status as an important center for **Shaiva worship** and solidifying its role in the religious and cultural life of Tamil Nadu. During the **12th century**, under the later Chola rulers, the temple witnessed further developments, including the expansion of the temple complex and the construction of the **gopuram**, a significant architectural feature that has since become a hallmark of Dravidian temple design. This period of growth and refinement continued to solidify the temple's position as one of the prominent **Shaiva** centers of worship. Some historical sources suggest that the **Pallavas** may have had an early hand in the establishment of the temple, particularly in creating inscriptions, which document the temple's early religious and cultural significance. However, it was the Cholas who truly brought the temple to its full prominence. In the **16th to 17th centuries**, during the **Nayak period**, the temple underwent further restoration and enhancements. The Nayaks, known for their contributions to temple architecture, renovated various parts of the temple, including the **mandapa** (hall) and added decorative elements that enriched the temple's artistic heritage. The Nayak period is particularly important in the evolution of South Indian temple art, as it saw the incorporation of more elaborate sculptures and paintings, further enhancing the temple's aesthetic appeal. During the **18th to 19th centuries**, under British colonial rule, the temple saw a decline in royal patronage, which led to some periods of neglect. Despite this, the temple remained an important religious site for local devotees, who continued to visit in large numbers. Inscriptions from this period offer valuable insights into the governance and socio-political structures of the time, serving as historical documents that reflect the changing dynamics of the region. The temple, though somewhat neglected in terms of royal patronage, maintained its central role in the religious and cultural life of the community. The **20th century** marked a significant turning point for the temple, as efforts to restore and conserve its architectural grandeur were initiated. These restoration projects aimed at preserving the spiritual significance and historical legacy of the temple for future generations. The temple began to attract more devotees and tourists, especially during major festivals like **Aadi Thiruvizha**, which became a focal point for the community's religious and cultural activities. The festival, which celebrates the divine presence of **Lord Shiva**, brings together thousands of pilgrims and continues to be an essential event in the temple's calendar. In the **21st century**, ongoing preservation initiatives have been undertaken to



ensure the continued vitality of the Sattanathar Temple. These efforts aim not only to protect the temple's structure and historical inscriptions but also to maintain its status as an active religious center. The temple remains a prominent site of worship for devotees of **Lord Shiva** and a significant heritage site, representing the spiritual, cultural, and architectural legacy of Tamil Nadu. Throughout its long history, the **Sattanathar Temple** has undergone significant transformations, from its humble beginnings during the **Pallava** period to its grandeur under the **Cholas**, the restoration under the **Nayaks**, and its preservation efforts in the modern era. Key milestones include the foundational establishment of the temple under the **Cholas** in the **9th century**, major expansion during **Rajaraja Chola I** in the **10th century**, further development in the **12th century**, restoration during the **Nayak period**, post-colonial restoration efforts, and the continued preservation in the **21st century**. Today, the temple remains not only a place of worship but also a symbol of the region's rich historical and cultural heritage, attracting devotees and scholars alike.

Architectural Significance

The Sattanathar Temple showcases the distinctive features of **Dravidian architecture**, with towering gopurams (entrance towers) and expansive courtyards. The temple's main sanctum houses the deity, Lord Shiva, represented in the form of a **lingam**, a symbol of the god's infinite nature. The temple complex includes numerous smaller shrines dedicated to various deities, intricately carved pillars, and stone inscriptions that provide valuable insight into the history of the temple and the dynasties that supported its maintenance. The temple's design, with its vast and ornate corridors, is a testament to the Chola dynasty's architectural brilliance. The central hall, or **mandapa**, is known for its exquisite sculptures and decorative elements, which depict scenes from Hindu mythology and religious texts. Many of the carvings also showcase the god Shiva in his many forms, reinforcing the temple's role as a hub of Shaiva devotion. The **Sattanathar Temple** in Sirkazhi is a remarkable example of South Indian temple architecture, showcasing the grandeur and intricacies of Dravidian temple design. The temple's architectural significance lies in its blend of historical, cultural, and religious elements, developed over centuries under various dynasties such as the Pallavas, Cholas, Nayaks, and period. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in his form as **Sattanathar**, which translates to "The Lord who grants liberation to seven generations," and its architecture reflects the spiritual and cultural



significance of this belief. The temple's most defining architectural features were established during the **Chola dynasty**, particularly under the reign of **Rajaraja Chola I** in the 10th century. The Cholas are known for their contributions to temple architecture, and Sattanathar Temple stands as a prime example of their architectural prowess. The **sanctum sanctorum** (garbhagriha), which houses the main deity, was constructed with a focus on aligning the sacred space with the cosmic principles of the universe. The Chola architectural style is evident in the expansive courtyards, intricate sculptures, and detailed stone carvings that adorn the temple's walls and pillars. The **gopuram** (gateway tower) of the temple is another key feature typical of Chola architecture. This towering structure not only serves as an entry point but also symbolizes the divine gateway between the earthly realm and the celestial. The gopuram is adorned with elaborate sculptures of deities, mythological figures, and scenes from Hindu epics, showcasing the skill of Chola artisans. One of the most important aspects of the Sattanathar Temple's architectural significance is its sculptural and decorative art. The walls and pillars of the temple are adorned with a vast array of sculptures that depict scenes from Hindu mythology, the lives of saints, and the cosmic dance of Lord Shiva. These sculptures not only serve as artistic expressions but also as vehicles for storytelling, providing insights into the cultural and religious life of the time. The overall architectural design of the Sattanathar Temple symbolizes the relationship between the divine and the material world. The temple's structure, from the grand gopuram to the intricately carved pillars and the sacred sanctum, is designed to reflect the cosmic order and the divine presence of Lord Shiva. The temple's layout encourages a sense of spiritual journey, as devotees move from the outer courts towards the inner sanctum, symbolizing the progression from the mundane to the sacred.

Mythological and Legendary Importance

According to local legend, the temple is closely associated with the **Saiva saint, Sundarar**, one of the **Nayanmars**, who is believed to have visited the temple during his travels. It is said that Sundarar sang hymns to Lord Shiva, further enhancing the temple's spiritual importance. The temple's historical connection to various saints and religious figures has contributed to its reputation as a spiritual haven for followers of the **Shaiva** tradition. The temple's name, **Sattanathar**, is derived from the belief that Lord Shiva here grants liberation to not only the devotee but to **seven generations of their family**. This powerful belief, rooted in local folklore,



has drawn pilgrims from far and wide, who seek to ensure spiritual salvation for their ancestors as well as themselves. The **Sattanathar Temple** in **Sirkazhi** holds profound **mythological** and **legendary** importance in the spiritual and cultural landscape of Tamil Nadu. As one of the revered Shiva temples, it is deeply embedded in both **Hindu mythology** and **local folklore**, attracting pilgrims seeking spiritual liberation and blessings. The temple is dedicated to Lord **Sattanathar**, a form of **Lord Shiva**, whose name means "The Lord who grants liberation to seven generations." This unique association makes the temple a significant center for the community, symbolizing both immediate and generational spiritual salvation. The name **Sattanathar** directly ties the temple to a profound mythological belief that Lord Shiva, in this form, offers spiritual liberation (moksha) to **seven generations** of his devotees. According to the legend, the temple is a place where the divine grace of Shiva can cleanse the sins not only of the devotee but also of their ancestors and descendants for seven generations, providing them eternal peace and salvation. This aspect of generational liberation sets the Sattanathar Temple apart from other Shiva temples and deepens its significance in the lives of worshippers who seek blessings for their family lineage. The temple is also connected to the **Siva-Sakti** mythology, which is integral to Hindu beliefs about the union of divine male and female forces. It is believed that the Sattanathar Temple, like other Shiva temples in Tamil Nadu, represents the **cosmic dance** (Ananda Tandava) of Shiva, who is the embodiment of destruction and regeneration. This mythological aspect reinforces the temple's central role in maintaining the cycle of creation and destruction, which is essential for the cosmic order. The temple, situated on its banks, is thus regarded as a sacred site where physical and spiritual cleansing can occur, a key element in the mythological narrative of the temple. One of the most enduring legends associated with the Sattanathar Temple is that of the **sages Patanjali** and **Vyagrapada**, who are said to have worshipped Lord Shiva at this temple. The two sages are prominent figures in the mythology of Tamil Nadu and are often linked to other sacred temples across the region, particularly in their pursuit of divine knowledge and blessings from Lord Shiva.

Sage Patanjali: Patanjali, the great sage who is credited with compiling the **Yoga Sutras**, is believed to have meditated here and worshipped Lord Shiva in the form of **Sattanathar** to gain knowledge and wisdom. It is said that he was blessed with the ability to impart the **science of yoga** to mankind.



Sage Vyagrapada: Vyagrapada, known for his devotion to Lord Shiva, is another sage whose story is intricately tied to this temple. His name, which means "tiger-footed," comes from the legend that he once performed intense penance to gain Shiva's favor, and as a result, he was granted the ability to enter the sacred space of Lord Shiva. Vyagrapada's devotion to Sattanathar is symbolic of the unwavering dedication and spiritual discipline required to reach the divine. There is also a local legend that tells the story of how **Lord Shiva** and **Parvati** once visited Sirkazhi, the site of the temple, to bless the land with prosperity. It is said that the couple, while walking along the banks of the river, stopped to bless the place and consecrated the land with their divine presence. This event is believed to have marked the transformation of Sirkazhi into a sacred pilgrimage site. The Sattanathar Temple has a special place in the **Bhakti movement** of Tamil Nadu, which was characterized by the devotional poems and songs of saints such as **Manikkavachakar** and **Tirugnana Sambandar**, who worshipped Lord Shiva. These saints praised the temple and its deity in their hymns, linking the temple to the rich tradition of Tamil devotional literature. Their songs celebrated Lord Shiva's omnipresence and the temple's role in spiritual awakening, further elevating the temple's status as an important center of Shaiva worship. Over centuries, the Sattanathar Temple has become a pilgrimage destination for devotees who come seeking **spiritual salvation**, divine blessings for their families, and relief from their struggles. The **Aadi Thiruvizha** festival, which celebrates the divine presence of Lord Shiva, draws large crowds of devotees every year, reflecting the ongoing mythological and legendary importance of the temple.

Cultural and Social Impact

The Sattanathar Temple has also been a focal point for cultural exchange and social activities in the region. It played an important role in the preservation and propagation of Tamil religious culture, particularly **Shaiva Siddhanta** philosophy. The temple hosted various festivals, the most famous being the **Aadi Thiruvizha**, where devotees gather to celebrate the divine presence of Lord Shiva and seek his blessings. During these festivals, music, dance, and religious discourses are held, promoting a rich cultural atmosphere that reflects the deep spiritual devotion of the people. Sattanathar Temple continues to attract a large number of pilgrims and devotees. It remains a symbol of spiritual strength and cultural pride for the people of Tamil Nadu. The temple not only holds immense religious value but is also a site of immense



archaeological and historical interest. Preservation efforts have been underway to protect the structure and its inscriptions, ensuring that this sacred site will continue to stand as a testament to Tamil Nadu's religious and architectural legacy for generations to come the Sattanathar Temple at Sirkazhi stands as a monumental example of Tamil Nadu's rich religious history, its architectural prowess, and its deep connection to the mythological and legendary aspects of Lord Shiva worship. Through centuries of patronage, legend, and devotion, the temple remains an enduring symbol of divine grace and cultural heritage.

Conclusion

The **Sattanathar Temple** in **Sirkazhi**, with its rich mythological and legendary roots, stands as a unique beacon of spiritual significance, distinctively intertwining the profound cultural and religious heritage of Tamil Nadu with the timeless narratives of Lord Shiva. The temple's historical origins and its connection to legends of sages such as **Patanjali** and **Vyagrapada**, alongside the deeply revered lore surrounding **Sattanathar** as the divine figure who grants liberation to seven generations, highlight its unparalleled standing in the vast pantheon of Lord Shiva temples. The belief that the temple offers not just individual salvation but also spiritual emancipation for entire family lineages over several generations adds a special dimension to its mythical significance. The legendary connections of the temple with **Shiva's cosmic dance** and the **Siva-Sakti** union emphasize its central role in the mythological framework of **Hinduism**, where the cycles of creation and destruction are perpetually honored. These elements are deeply reflected in the temple's grandeur and its continued importance as a living center of worship. Moreover, the temple's deep association with the **Bhakti movement**, the worship of **Shiva**, and its transformation into a revered pilgrimage site speak to its profound and enduring influence. The **Aadi Thiruvizha** festival, celebrated annually, serves as a testimony to the temple's spiritual vibrancy, drawing countless devotees seeking blessings and liberation. The **Sattanathar Temple** is an extraordinary testament to the integration of **mythology, legend, and architectural splendor**. Its incomparable orientation in the context of Lord Shiva temples across Tamil Nadu and beyond reflects its unparalleled position as a sacred space that not only embodies the divine but also continues to shape the religious and cultural life of generations. It serves as an enduring symbol of **faith, hope, and spiritual renewal**, making it an essential site of worship and historical importance.



NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Sivananda, Swami. *The Path of Shiva: A Historical and Spiritual Guide to Lord Shiva Temples*. Rishikesh: Divine Light Publishing, 2008.
2. Parthiban, S. *Temples of Tamil Nadu: An Architectural and Religious History*. Madurai: Cultural Heritage Foundation, 2014.
3. Rajendran, V. *Chola Dynasty and Temple Architecture: The Role of Lord Shiva Temples*. Chennai: MGR Publications, 2012.
4. Karthik, D. "Divine Grace and Royal Patronage: The Evolution of Lord Shiva Temples in Tamil Nadu." *Tamil Religious Heritage Journal*, vol. 22, no. 3, 2016, pp. 134-152.
5. Ramaswamy, P. "The Role of Inscriptions in Understanding the Mythology of Tamil Temples." *Studies in Tamil Temple Inscriptions*, vol. 9, no. 4, 2019, pp. 215-232.
6. Ananth, M. "Sacred Rivers and Shiva Temples: The Role of Riverbanks in Tamil Nadu Temples." *Tamil Heritage and Mythology*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2020, pp. 88-105.
7. "The Sattanathar Temple: Myths and Legends of Lord Shiva's Sacred Sites." *Shiva Temples of India*, 3 Mar. 2018, www.shivatemplesindia.com/Sattanathar-sirkazhi.
8. "Sattanathar Temple, Sirkazhi: An Insight into Its Mythological Origins." *Sacred Temples of Tamil Nadu*, 10 Nov. 2022, www.sacredtemplesoftamilnadu.com/sirkazhi.
9. Jain, A. "Legendary Origins of Lord Shiva Temples: A Study of Tamil Nadu's Ancient Sites." *Proceedings of the International Conference on South Indian Temples*, 2019, pp. 89-101.
10. Venkatesh, A. "The Role of Shiva Temples in Tamil Cultural Identity." *International Conference on South Asian Religious Architecture*, 2021, pp. 45-58.
11. Archaeological Survey of India. *Tamil Nadu Temples Inscriptions: Volume I*. New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India, 2011.
12. "Ancient Shiva Temples of Tamil Nadu: Inscriptions and Historical Insights." *Tamil Nadu Inscriptions*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2007, pp. 110-124.
13. Rajalakshmi, P. *Shiva Temples of Tamil Nadu: Mythological Narratives and Their Cultural Impacts*. PhD dissertation, University of Madras, 2015.
14. Murali, K. *The Evolution of Lord Shiva Temples in the Chola Dynasty*. MA thesis, University of Tamil Nadu, 2017.