



**Sakthi foundation - cac
Madurai Meenakshi Temple - hand notice.**

Madurai city is the second largest city in Tamilnadu state of south India.

This city is the gateway to enter into southern most Indian peninsular.

This city is 8000 years old.

This city was the capital city of Pandiyaa dynasty till 13th century A.D.

Later Mughals, Andra Naayak rurels have ruled this city.

This is tthe first Sakthi peet in Devi worship.

The temple is the largest temple complex in India. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Parvathy.

But the prominence is given to Devi. Parvathy in Madurai is named as Meenaakshi - fish shaped eyes.

Lord Shiva is named as Sunderaswarar - handsome person. This temple is the energy spot for wedding.

Like Rama and Krishna the ancient most Queen Paandaya [4.B.C] is considered to be Parvathy's incarnation and being worshipped as Meenakshi.

The idol of Meenakshi is carved out of emrald and decked with diamonds.

All the rituals, festivals offered to Meenakshi is still observed with Pandiyaa royal customs.

The temple celebrates various festivals for 245 days.

The Linga is a swambhu - natural linga.

Indra and his royal elephant Iraavatham performed poojas with the lotus flowers from the temple pond. They were cursed by Durvaasa for abusing the sacred lotus offered to Indra on his birthday through Devi Mahalaxmi.

Indra established this temple. The present temple complex got completed in 16th century A.D by the great Andra King Thirumalai Naayak.

Every Paandiyaa king has offered various funds, ornaments to Devi and Lord.

The dress decorated by Meenakshi is the Paandiya queen style garment.

Lord has played 63 divine incidents o rescue his various devotees in this city.

In Devi worship the temple is being observed as Manthrini - Maathangi peetam. Devi undergoes 8 poojas in a day. In each pooja Devi is being worshipped with various mantras based on Devi cult. All the 16 forms of Devi cult is being observed in this temple. The afternoon 12 o' Clock pooja is Maathangi pooja. Maathangi is the energy for arts, wisdom and great spiritual lessons.

Several devotees have rendered their divine hymns upon Lord and Devi.

In 2 A.D Paandiya kings have established an association of Tamil poets to edit all work in literature and grammar. This was known as Tamil Sangam. Idols of 49 poets can be seen in this temple.

Devi's wedding festival is the most auspicious festival in May month, around 5 lakhs people gather.

All caste people were allowed to enter into tis temple from ancient time. So Gandhiji visited this temple.

This is the only temple in India where all respects, rituals are first offered to Goddess and then to Lord.