

Adikesava Perumal Temple/Tiruvattaru temple

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Why in News?

A Yali sculpture located at Sripalikal mandapam of the Tiruvattaru temple has been found damaged a few days ago.

- It is dedicated to Lord Adi Kesava Perumal, an early and ancient form of Vishnu.
- **Location** - Tiruvattaru, Kanniyakumari district, Tamil Nadu.
- **Rivers** - The temple is surrounded by 3 rivers - **Thamirabharani, Kothai and Pahrli.**
- **Presiding Deity - Lord Vishnu** is in the form of Ananthapadmanbhan or Adi Kesava Perumal and resides in a **reclining position.**
- **Unique feature**
 - Idol is 22 feet long, made of mustard, jaggery, and lime powder.
 - **Idol faces west**, opposite to Padmanabhaswamy Temple idol in Thiruvananthapuram (facing east), symbolizing spiritual connection.
 - The temple is also called the '**Srirangam of the Chera Kingdom**'.
 - It is one of the **108 Vaishnavaita shrines**, is sung in praise by Nammalwar.
- The temple was once a part of the erstwhile **kingdom of Travancore.**
- **Architecture** - It is built in authentic **Kerala-style architecture**, similar to the Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Its features includes murals, sculptures, and paintings that enrich the interiors.
- **Festivals - Vaikunta Ekadasi** is one of the festivals celebrated in great pomp and glory in the temple.
- Other important celebrations include **Panguni Uthiram** and **Brahmotsavam.**

Yali

- **Origin of Depiction** - Began during the Pallava period and evolved through subsequent dynasties.
- **Literary Note** - Historians said that the word Aazhi appears in Sangam literature, but it has no connection with Yali.
- **Types of Yali**
 - **Simha Yali** - Lion-like features.
 - **Vezha Yali** - Elephant-like, with a proboscis (snout); gained prominence during the Nayak period.
- **Symbolism & Features** - It is a **mythical creature**, considered more powerful than a lion, typically depicted with two horns above the eyeballs.
- It represents strength, protection, and ferocity in temple architecture.



References

1. [The Hindu | Tiruvattaru temple](#)
2. [TN Tourism | Tiruvattaru temple](#)