

MONUMENTS OF NALLUR DIVISION



Cultural Council
Divisional Secretariat,
Nallur.



Message from Divisional Secretary

I have great pleasure to pen this message for Monuments of Nallur Division. This publication contains the Map of Nallur Division, Photographs of Historical places.. etc. I hope that this booklet is more useful for Tourists, Students, and People who are from other communities.

I wish to convey my heartiest congratulations for all who took part in this service for public. Further, I wish this publication to attain its goal successfully.

P.Senthilnathanan

Divisional Secretary,
Nallur.

01.12.2014



Message from Assistant Divisional Secretary

We are delighted to publish the booklet entitled ***Monuments of Nallur Division*** consisting selected Historical, Religious and Administrative details of Nallur Division.

It has been prepared under the guidance and valuable ideas of the Divisional Secretary Mr. P. Senthilnathanan and the Cultural officer Mrs. .C. Rajani who financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth affairs, Northern Province. Moreover Prof. Krishnarajah Head of the Department of History, University of Jaffna has greatly assisted to publish this booklet.

In addition, the development officers Mr. T.Suthagaran , Mr.Y.Vijith and Mr.S. Senthooran working under the Ministry of Public Administration& Home affairs have worked hard as a team to produce this publication and Ms K.Thayalini and Ms P. Sasikala also have assisted to publish this booklet.

Finally I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Divisional Secretary for his valuable guidance, keen interest and his encouragement and I am very much thankful to all officers who provided valuable support in preparation of the booklet. And I thank Nobel Printers who designed this book attractively as well.

I hope this booklet will definitely help tourists, researchers and the students who have interest to gain knowledge on Nallur Division and it is clear this would be an indispensable asset for them.

Mrs.Subagini Mathiyalagan

Assistant Divisional Secretary,
Nallur.



Message from Cultural Officer, Nallur

This booklet contains valuable information about places of historical importance within the Nallur Secretariat Division. I am sure it will serve as a guide to visitors especially to the outside world and to the tourists. Historical monuments are national treasures which reflect our noble past.

I sincerely thank our Ministry of Education, Culture, sports and Youth affairs and Cultural Department of Northern Province for contributing financial assistance and I urge all to co-operate with us.

Rajani Cumarasingam

Cultural officer-Nallur

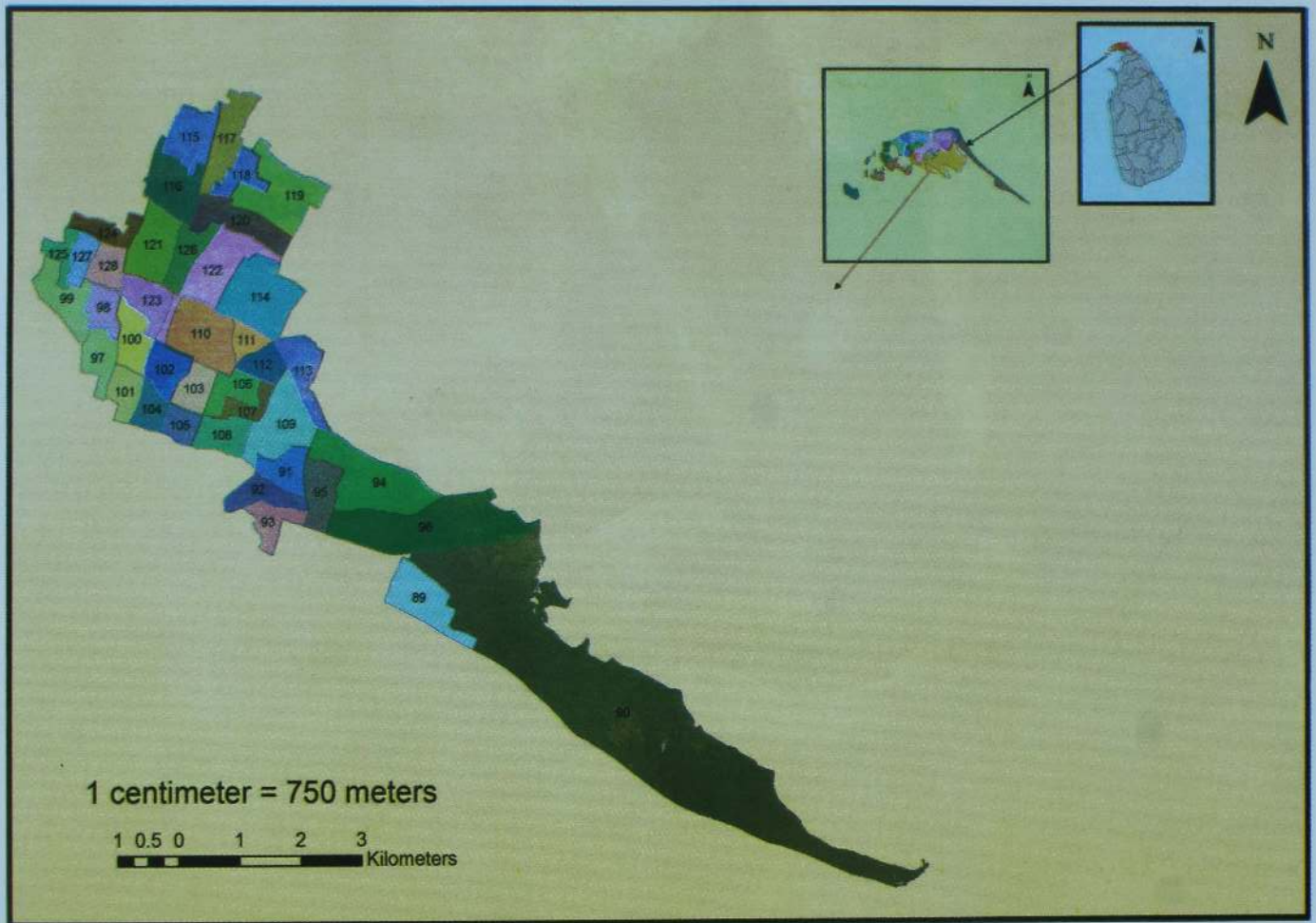
Dept. of Culture, Northern Province.

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DIVISIONAL MAP

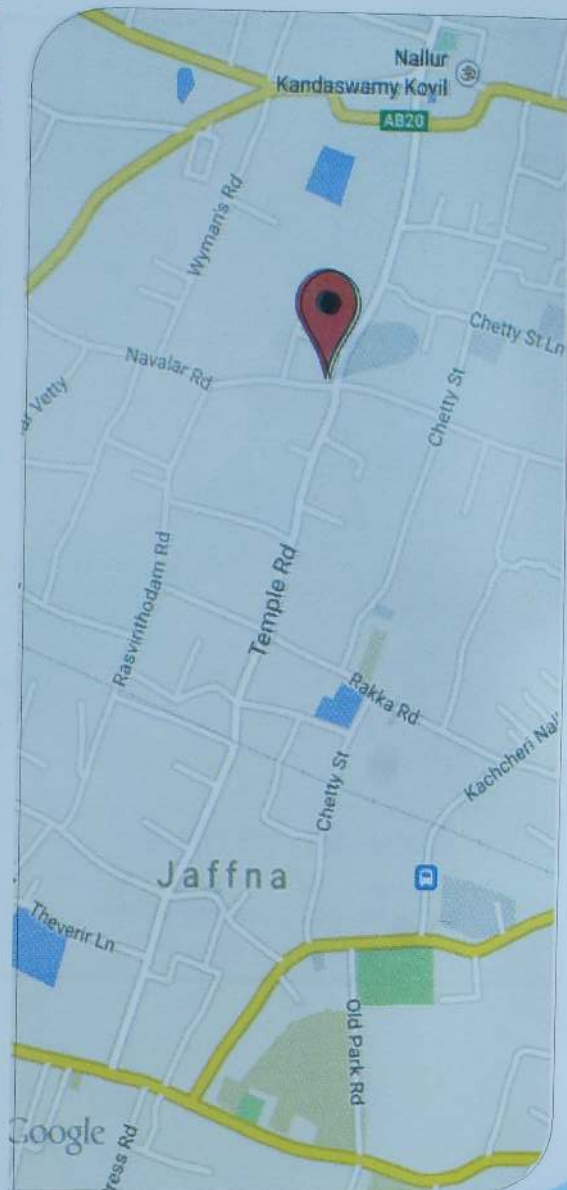


KAILASA PILLAIYAR TEMPLE



The temple is situated close to the junction where Navalar road and Temple road meet. According to Yarlpana Vaipavamalai, the temple was built and maintained by the King Singai Ariyan who ruled Jaffna Kingdom earlier. In addition, this temple was destroyed by Portuguese and was reconstructed by Navalar and Hindu Saivites with great effort in 1890. It is significant and indispensable temple in the Jaffna history.

(Source by Temple Administration)

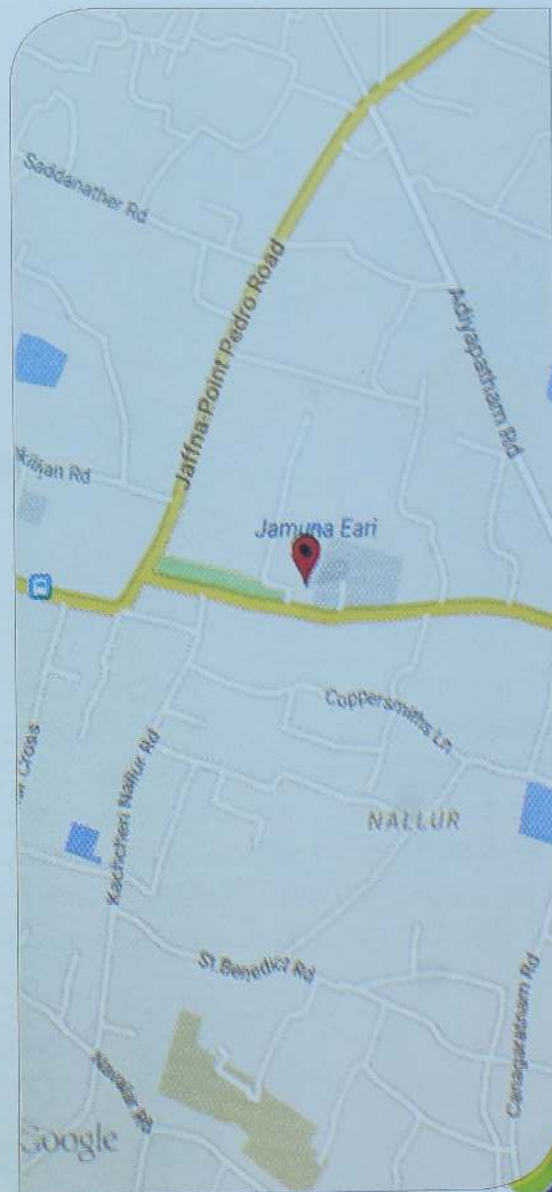


ST.JAMES CHURCH



This is one of the prominent churches that was established during the colonial period and it has a long history. The Christian church situated in the area called Sangillian Toppu was built by the Portuguese as a Catholic Church and later transformed into a Protestant Church by the Dutch and British. The church was administered by Rev. Joseph Knight in 1818 and was renamed as Jacob Church in 1823. The significant aspect of this church is that the ruins of moolasthanam (Main Shrine Place) of previous Nallur temple is still found behind the Church.

(Source by Church Administration)

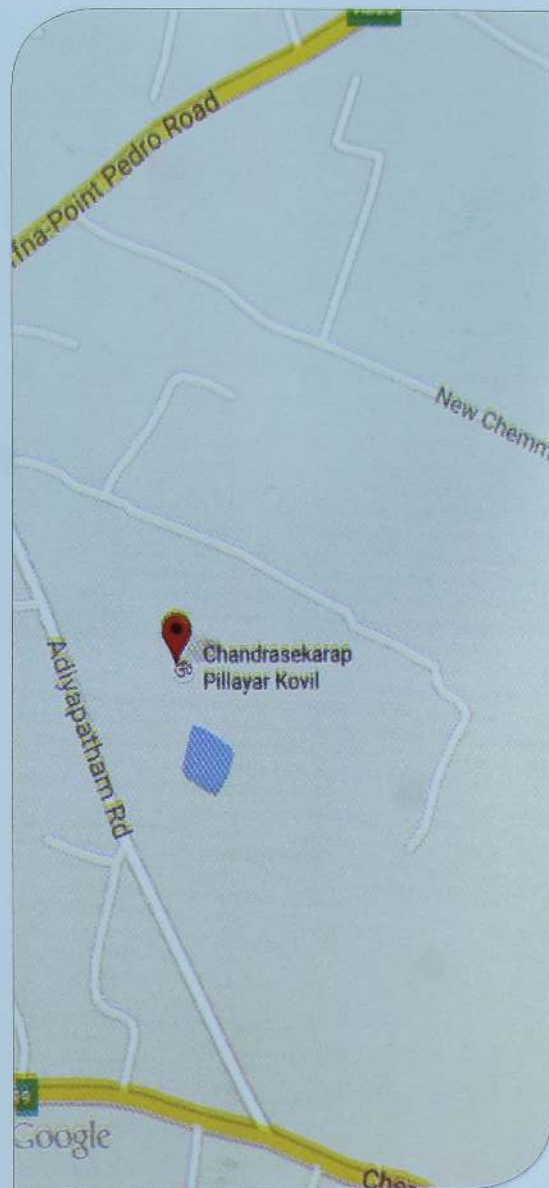


SANTHIRASEGARA PILLAIYAR TEMPLE



This temple is one of the temples which was established in 17th century situated in a beautiful surrounding in Kalvinyankadu. The temple is surrounded by the trees called "**Porasu**" and "**Palasu**" which are used for "**YAAGAM**" and the tree called "**VILVA MARAM**" known as the key tree of this temple. The annual festival of this temple lasts for 10 days

(Source by Temple Administration)



SRI VEYYILUGANTHA PILLAYAR TEMPLE



This is one of the prominent temples and it was built during the Jaffna Kingdom by Singai Ariyan as the "defence temple". According to history it was built 500 years ago and located at Chemmany Road, Nayanmarkaddu.

(Source by Temple Administration)

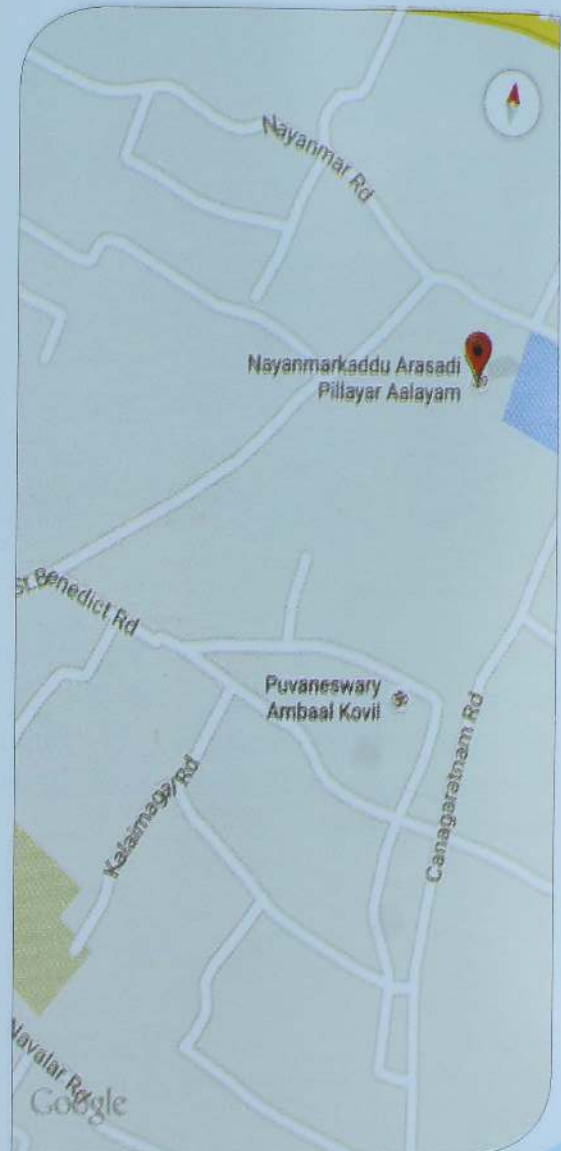


NAYANMARKADDU ARASAKESARI PILLAYAR TEMPLE



It is believed that this temple was named as “Arasakesary Pillaiyar” as Poet Arasakesari is supposed to have in a mansion adjoining the Nayanmarkaddu tank. It is from there he wrote the Raguvamsam in Tamil. This temple has since got the name as Arasakesary Pillayar temple. This prominent temple is located at Nayanmarkaddu road in Nallur. It is said that this temple was destroyed during the colonial period and reconstructed between 1800-1825.

(Source by Temple Administration)



SADDANATHAR SIVAN KOVIL



There is no doubt that this temple was prominent during the period of Jaffna Kingdom and the discovery of certain evidences among old ruins of the temple indicates that the temple has a long and old history. This temple was reconstructed by S.Thambayapillai in 1852 and presently this temple is located a few yards north of Manthirimana along Point Pedro road.

(Source by Temple Administration)

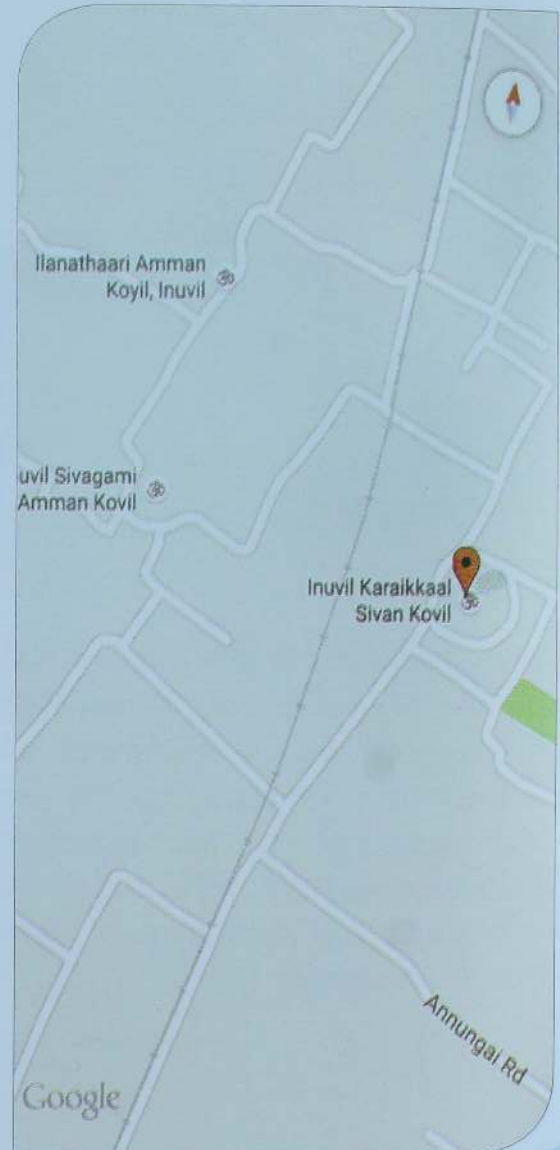


KONDAVIL-INUVIL KAARAIKKAL SIVAN TEMPLE.



This temple is situated at a village called as Kaaraikkal in the Kondavil- Inuvil area. It had Mariyamman as the god during the period of Periya sannasiyar a century ago. Later, it was made into a temple of Shivan. It is said that this Shivan temple was built by Ampalavanar. The annual festival of this temple takes place for 12 days and the generation of Ampalavanar are the trustees of this temple.

(Source by Temple Administration)

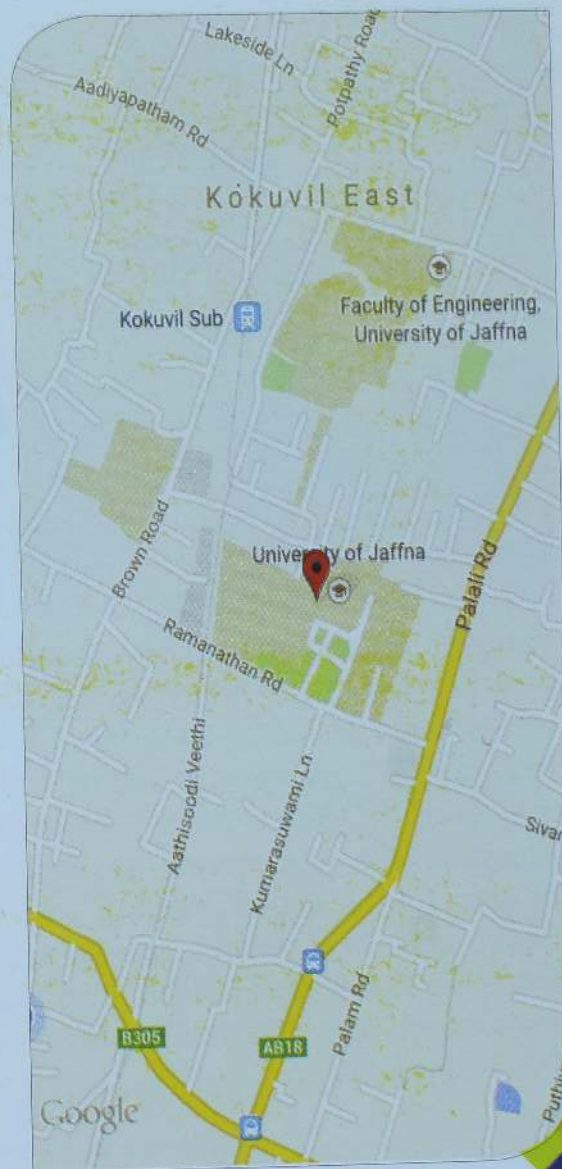


PARAMESWARAN TEMPLE, UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA



This temple is situated in the University of Jaffna . In fact the foundation stone for the temple was laid in 1926 and Khumbabishekam was held in 1928. The greatest and prominent Hindu Saivatee Sir Pon Ramanathan has all graces in constructing this temple. Prof.S.K.Sitrampalam is the present president of the temple.

(Source by Temple Administration)

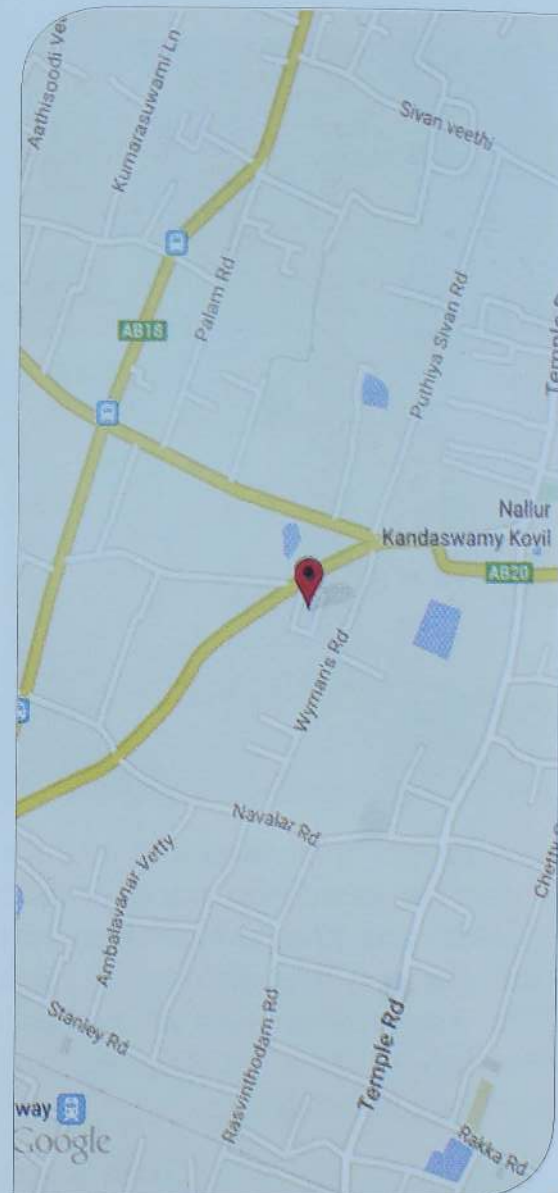


VEERAMAKALI AMMAN TEMPLE

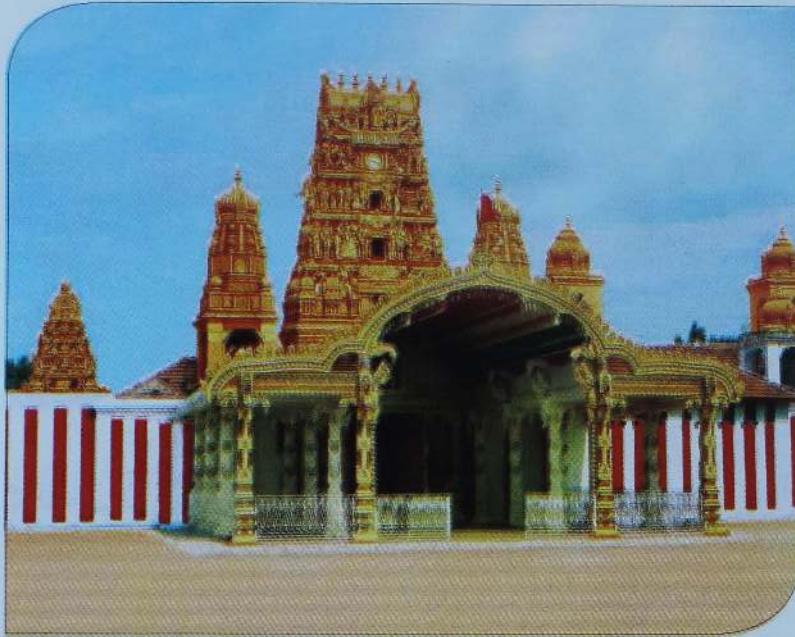


Yarlpana Vaipavamalai says that this temple was built by King Singai Ariyan as the “Guardian Angel” at the west of Nallur Kingdom. It is obvious that this temple possessed a prominent status among the Kings of Jaffna as the deity “Veeramahakali Amman” was worshipped as the Hindu Goddess of war. This is one of the big temples which were destroyed in Nallur during the Portuguese rule. Now there is a newly built temple at its place and it is on the western side of Nallur Kandasamy temple along Point - Pedro road.

(Source by Temple Administration)



NALLUR KANTHASWAMY TEMPLE



Nallur temple is one of the most significant Hindu temples in Jaffna District. It stands in the town of Nallur and this temple has a long story on its origin. According to the Yarlpana Vaipavamalai, in the 13th century the temple was developed at the site by Chenpagapperumal who was a Minister to the Jaffna King who ruled Jaffna earlier. Though this temple was reconstructed many times during the colonial period it has a grace in the history. At present this temple is maintained by the generation of Ragunatha Maapana Mudhaliyar who established this temple after the destruction by the colonist.

(Source by book titled Nallai Nagar)

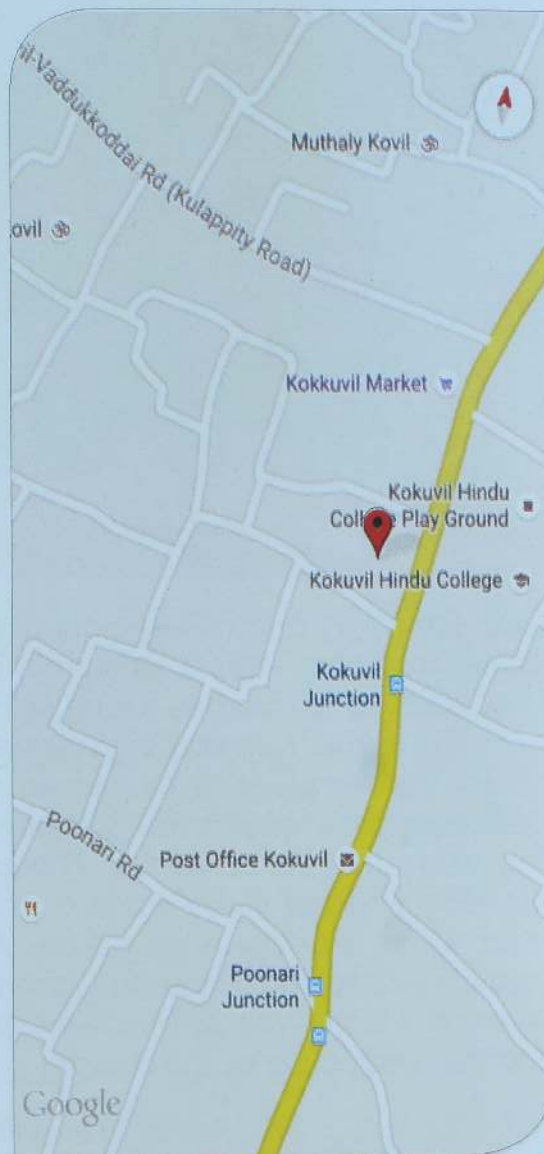


KOKUVIL MANCHAVANAPATHY MURUGAN TEMPLE



This temple is situated along the K.K.S road at Kokuvil west. There was a temple in the name of **Ampalavanar Vinayakar** at a village called as "**Manchamarudhikaadu**". Later, this temple was changed into the name of lord Murugan in 1917. It was built in concrete according to the Hindu Religious Customs. Since it was built in concrete, the poojas have been conducted by Brahmin priest. The first **Khumbabishekam** was taken place in 1890. The annual festival is conducted for 18 days in the fifth month of Tamil year.

(Source by Temple Administration)

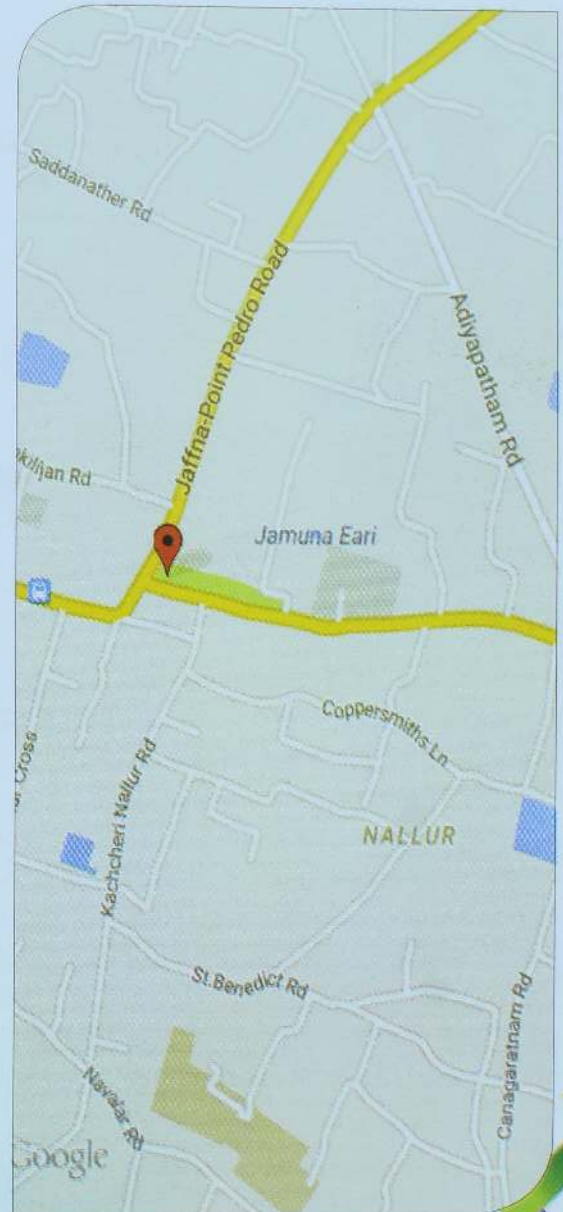


THE STATUE OF KING SANGILIYAN



The statue of King Sangilliyan who ruled the Jaffna Kingdom with Nallur as the capital in one of the heritage symbol. It reminds us the era of Jaffna Kingdom. The statue is situated a few kilometres west from the Christian Church and stands near the Jaffna-Point Pedro road. The statue was established and unveiled on 23rd of November in 1974 by Mr. Thuraiyappa who was the Mayor of Municipal Council then. Later, the statue was reconstructed in 2011 and now it stands with renaissance.

(Source by book titled Tourism and Monuments of Archeological Heritage in Northern Sri Lanka.)

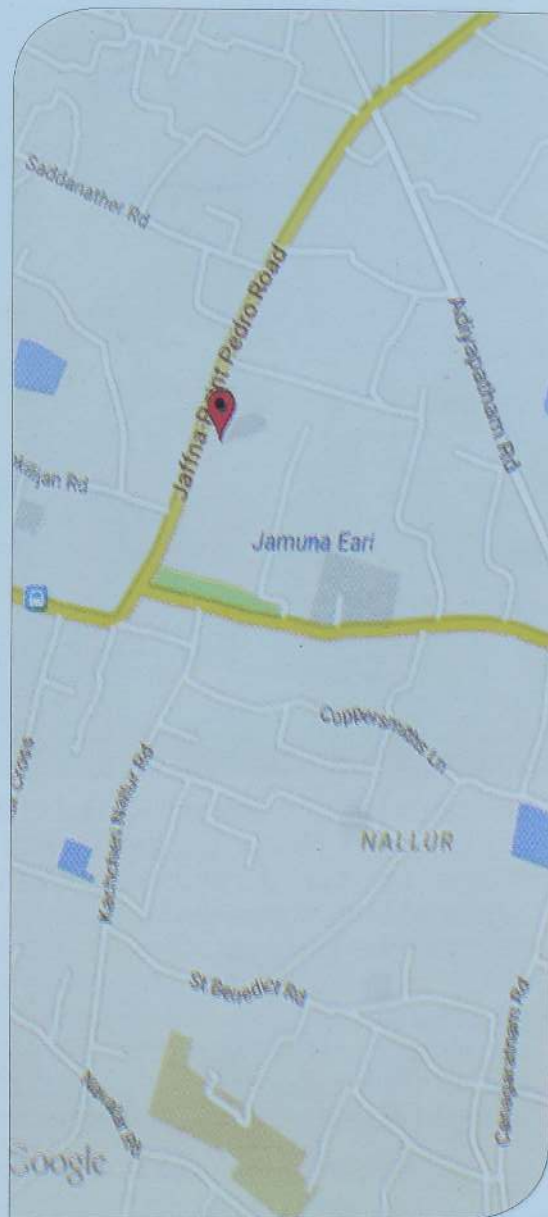


SANGILIYAN THORANA VASAL (Court Entrance)



This is the only evidence still in site that has to be considered as the remain of the Jaffna Kingdom, Nallur. It is located at a few yards towards the north from Muthirai Santhi Junction. The entrance of structure has some special architectural features regarding its period of origin. Some say it is the main entrance of the Palace of King of Sangillian but some others say it is a monument of the slavery life of Jaffna people. However it is seen as monument of the foreign dominant in Jaffna. In addition to these, it is stated that the story of its origin has been mixed with the formation of Nallur Kingdom as well.

(Source by book titled Tourism and Monuments of Archeological Heritage in Northern Sri Lanka.)

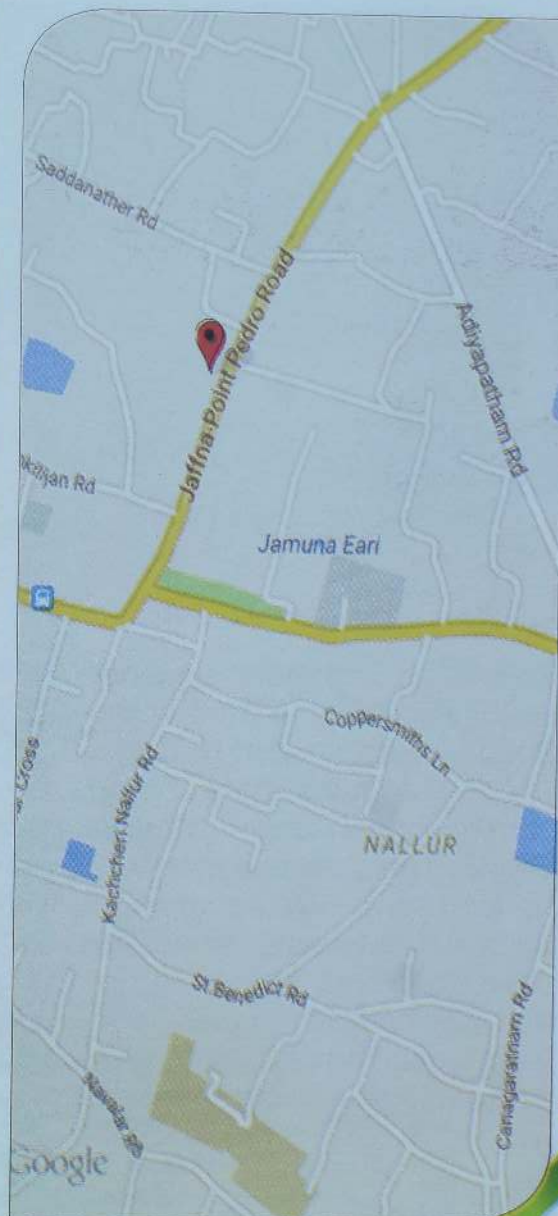


MANTHRI MANAI



Manthri Manai stands majestically in Nallur and reveals us about the past history of Nallur. It is situated about 900m north to Nallur temple and about 90m north to Sangiliyan Thoppu and on the left hand side of the Point Pedro road. This is the site where the royal administrative activities of Kings of Nallur stood earlier. To confirm the fact that there are evidences of ruins within this building belonging to the kingdom of Jaffna and the architecture and the wooden structures with beautiful monuments and its designs and decorations reflect a particular art of tradition prevailed during the period.

(Source by book titled Tourism and Monuments of Archeological Heritage in Northern Sri Lanka.)



SANGILLIAN THOPPU



This is an important evidence among remains of Nallur Rajathani located in the eastern direction of Point - Pedro Road in Nallur.

The ruins here belong to a Portuguese parish school and a Christian school of Dutch period. The buildings exist here were built in small by wood and clay. According to the research done by Dr. P. Ragupathy some vessels made of clay were identified belonging to the period of 10th and 13th century. Later in 1984 the above ruins were reconstructed and are being protected by Archaeological Department.

(Source by book titled Tourism and Monuments of Archeological Heritage in Northern Sri Lanka.)



YAMUNA AERI



Yamuna Aeri is considered as one of the significant remains of Nallur Kingdom and it is situated to east of the stone entrance of Sangiliyan Thoppu and some distance for the present Christian Church. It is said that the former kings built underground tunnel at this pond for their defence. It is also said one of such tunnels was connected to "Manthirimanai". There is no wonder that the former kings of Jaffna built tunnels for their defence as they did not have any natural defence in their region. The discovery of the bricks, decorated pillars made of lime stone and potteries around this area are suggesting that there might have been a building complex in and around this area earlier.

(Source by book titled Tourism and Monuments of Archeological Heritage in Northern Sri Lanka.)

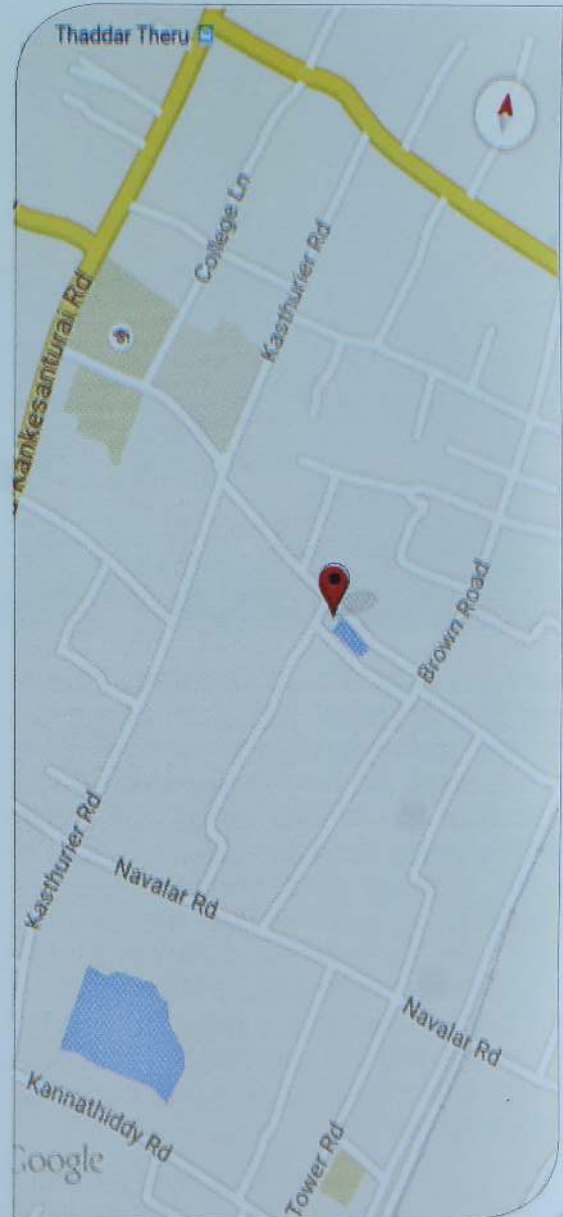


KADAYIT SWAMY SAMADHI



In the history of Jaffna Saints, Kadayit Swamy is to be considered as a prominent saint. Although it is difficult to find his history properly, it is believed that he was a judge in Bangalore, India and resigned his designation as his conscience could not accept a judgment made by him on a person who was alleged in a murder case. Later he got involved in spirituality due to frustration in the life. As he stayed at Grand Bazaar on his arrival to Jaffna so he was known as Kadayit Swamy. At last, he moved to south west of Pillaiyar temple located at Neeraviyadi, Vannarpannai and remained there. until he rested in peace in that place itself, a few years later.

(Source by book titled Kadayit Swamikal History)

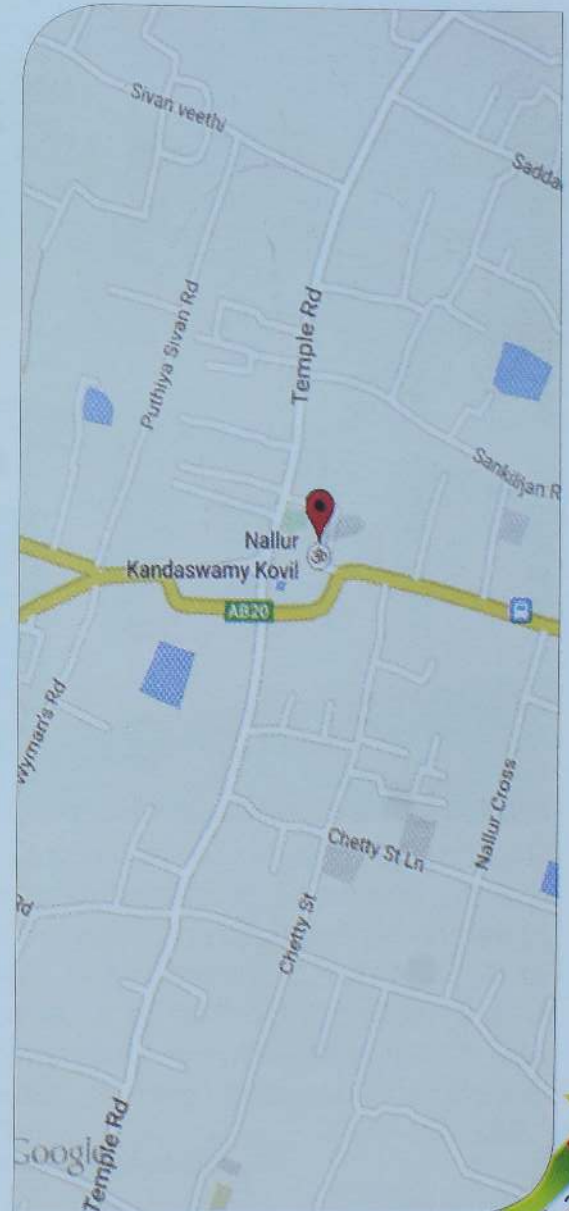


CHELLAPPA SWAMY MEMORIAL



Another prominent saint next to Kadayit Swamy is known as Chellappa Swamy in Jaffna saints' history. He was born in 1860 at Vaddukkoddai in Jaffna. He was called as *Therady Swamy* by his followers. As his physical appearances and behaviours seemed as unusual he was called as *Visar Chellappa* (*Mad Chellappa*) by the people. Chellappa Swamy was blessed by Kadayit Swamy who was very prominent and the first saint in Jaffna history. His tomb is visible close to Nallur temple and it is maintained by his generation at present.

(Source by News Paper)

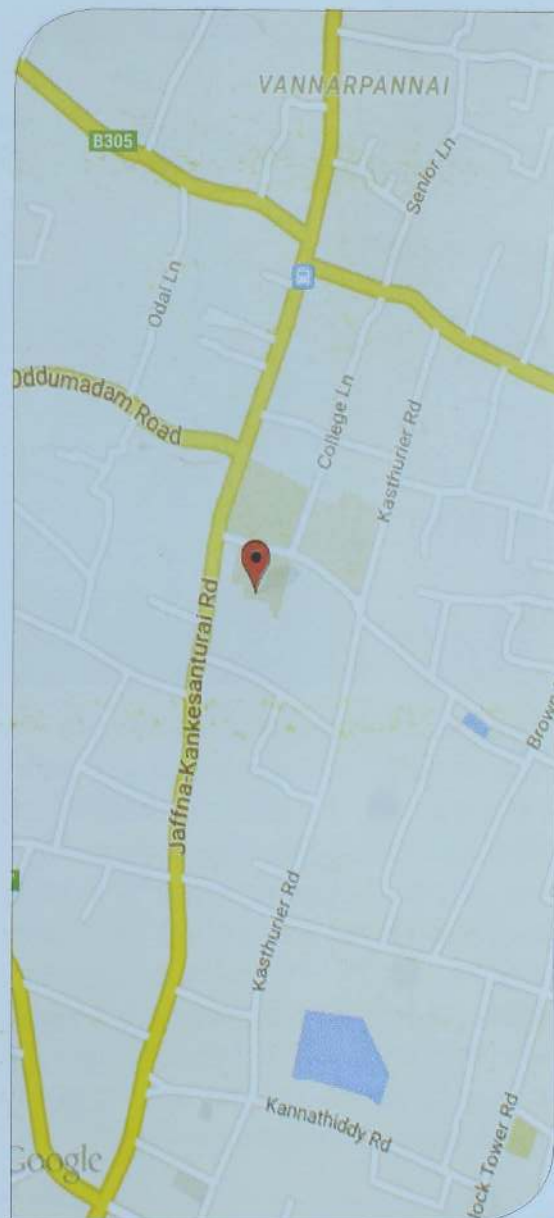


SIVATHONDAN NILAYAM



Sivathondan Nilayam is the place from where Yogar Swamy who was a prominent saint of Jaffna wished to extend his spirituality by staying there. It is located at No. 434, K.K.S. Road, Jaffna. The above Centre was established by Retired Architectural Overseer Mr. Thillaiyampalam, in association with Yogar Swamy and declared open on 29th of November in 1953.

(Source by Magazine titled Sivathondan)

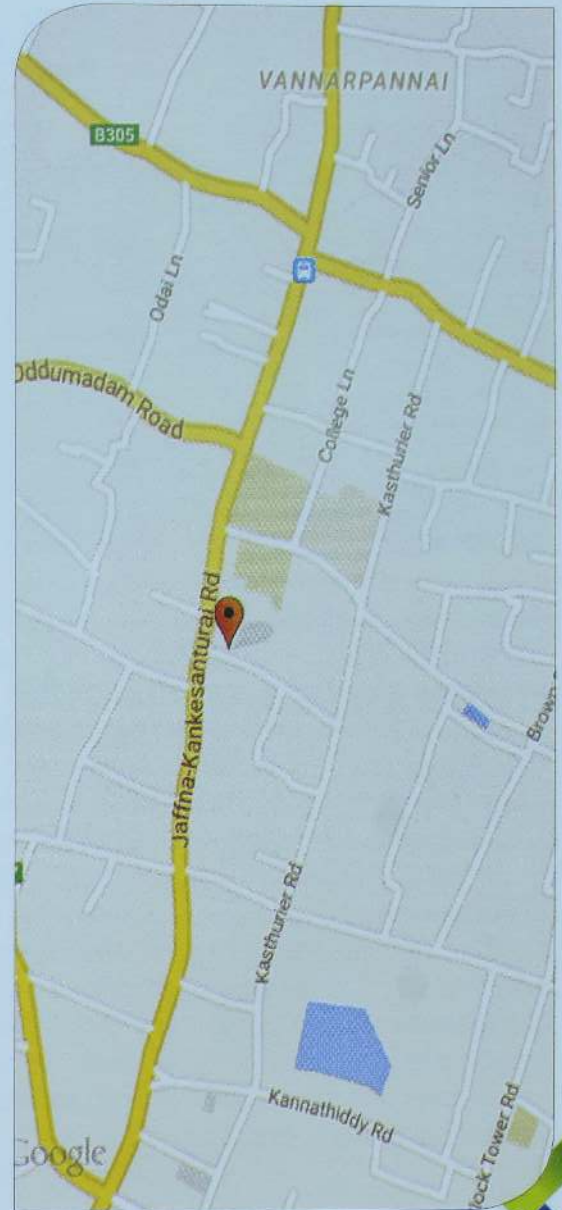


HILNER HALL



Hilner hall was built in memory of John Hilner (who was born in 1824) and in respect of his service in Sri Lanka. The foundation stone of the hall was laid by Mr. T.W. Garratt (who was an acting Chairman of "Saba Sangam") on 9th of September in 1909. The explanation of his service offered in Sri Lanka has been written on a stone slab (நிறைவுச்சின்னம்) which is located at St. Peters Church in Jaffna. Meanwhile, St Peters Hilner Nursery School established in 1987 in memory of John Hilner is a significant aspect.

(Source by Church Administration)

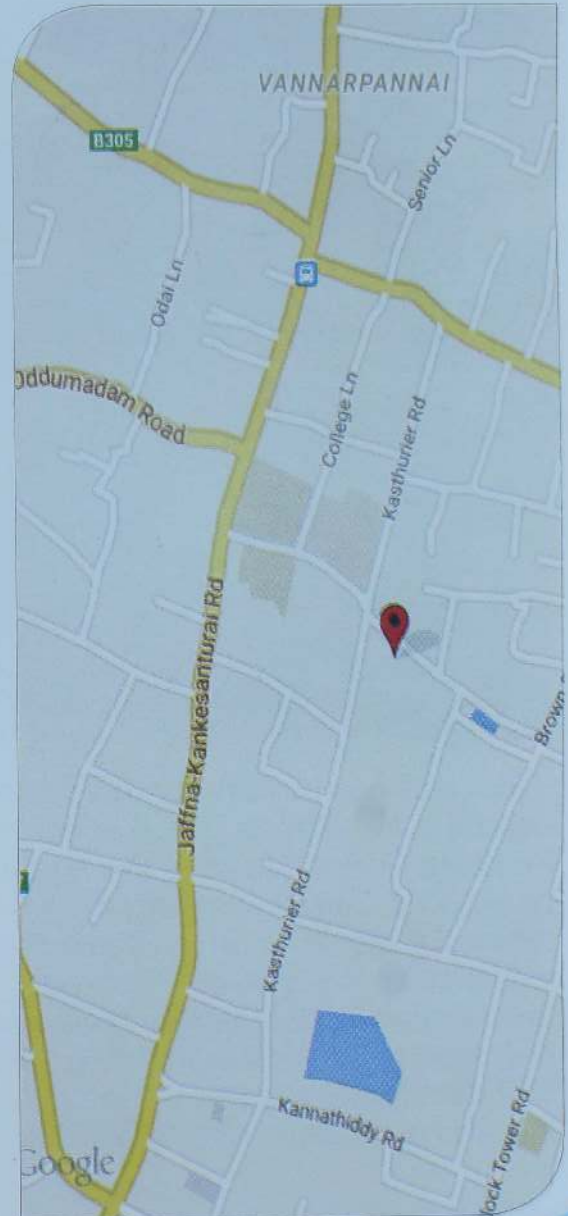


SAIVA PARIPALANA SABAI



It has been doing yeoman service to preserve and propagate the age –old traditions, values and heritage of saivaism which is one of the oldest religions in the world. The seat of the Saiva Paripalana Sabai is located at the College road Neeraviyady in Jaffna. It was established by Arumuganavalar lineaged Vidvasironmany Ponnambalapillai and K.Kailasapillai in 1888. The first Hindu Tamil news paper Hindu Sadanam and in English Hindu organ were published by the institution since 1989. The revival of Saiva Tamil values and traditions in the Northern Sri Lanka was initiated and lead by Arumuaga Navalar. He was instrumental in establishing several temples which conform to the Agamic traditions and a chain of Saiva Tamil Mixed School in Northern Sri Lanka. The board was established for conducting lectures, seminars, rituals and ceremonies and to publish books magazines and various other publication in Tamil, English and Sanskrit.

(Source by Sabai Administration)



SAIVA VIDYA VIRUTHI SANGAM



The Hindu Board of Education was founded in 1923 to propagate the Hindu religion with culture and education. It is an approved charity and located at Kalasalai Road, Thirunelvely.

It is managed by a board consisting of 25 Directors. Among them there are six Project Directors. Each of one for Home, Education, Health, Religion, Farm and Vocational training. The Hindu Board of Education runs a Children Home which perhaps the largest in the Northern Island. It provides shelter, food, clothing, health care, education, recreation and vocational training for about 250 children from Northern Sri Lanka. It is obvious that this children home is the largest in Sri Lanka which is administrated by the above organization. The present Director is Mr.S.Pathmanathan who carries his service well.

(Source by Hindu board of Education)

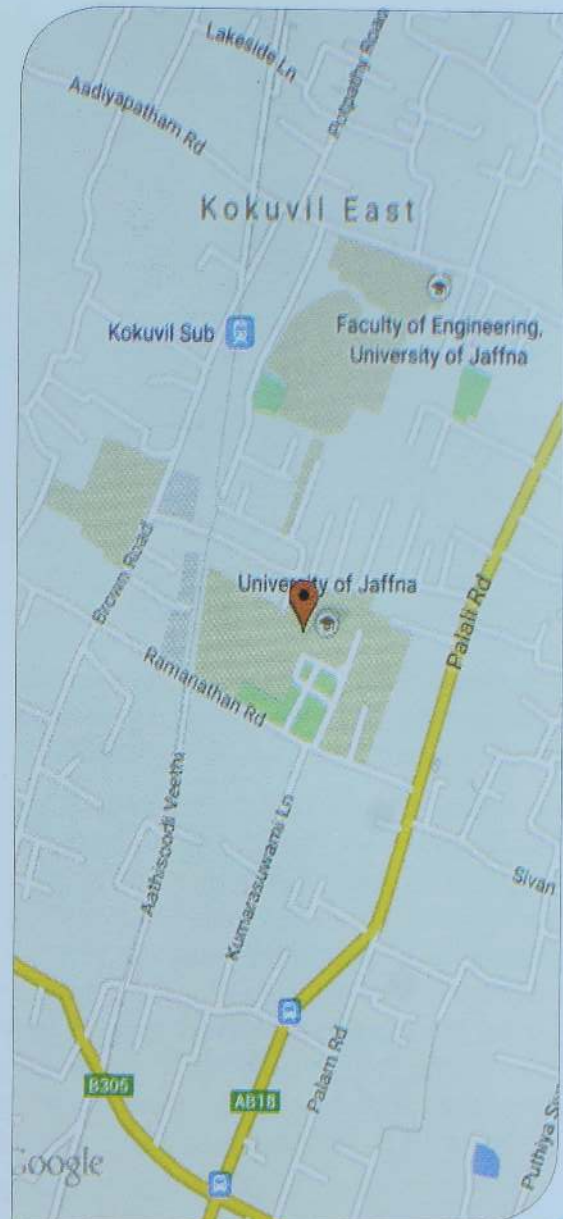


UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA



University of Jaffna was established in 1974 as the sixth University of Sri Lanka by absorbing the Parameswara College into the centre. It became an independent, autonomous university in 1979. It is located on Sir Pon. Ramanathan Road in Thirunelvely, Jaffna. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor are Professors S.Pathmanathan and Vasanthi Arasaratnam respectively. It is significant that about 5500 students are studying. There are 06 Faculties and 02 Institutes of Learning Centre such as Ramanathan Institute for Fine Arts..etc.

(Source by Internet)



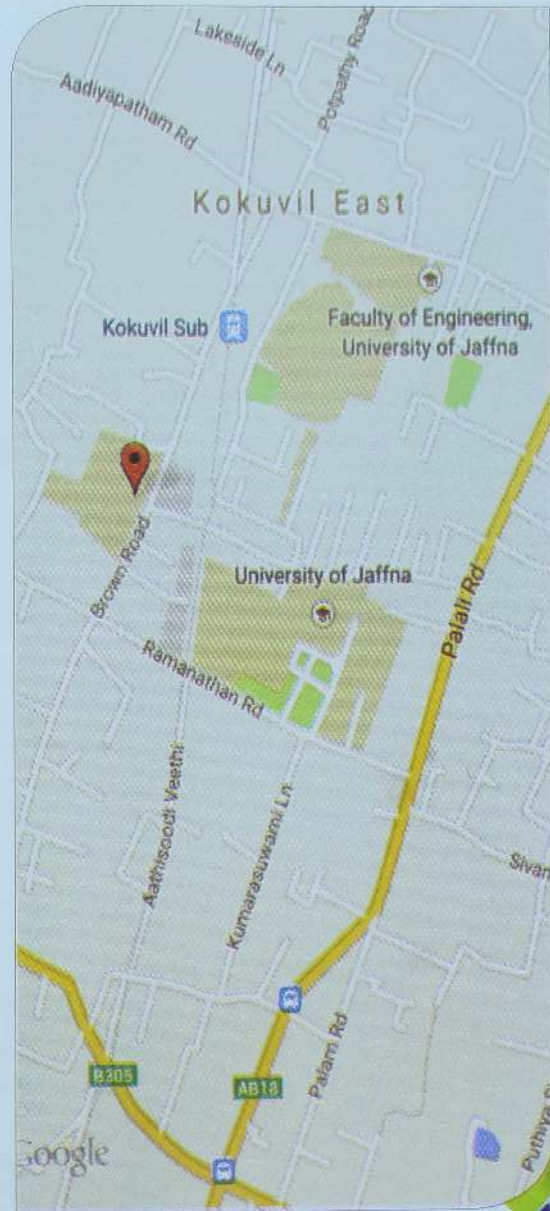
TECHNICAL COLLEGE, JAFFNA



This college is located along Brown Road, and it was inaugurated by Newzealand Councillor Mr.J.Hunter on 19th November in 1959. This college provides wide range of opportunities for school leavers, for those who failed to obtain university admission and for those who wish to obtain self employment. In addition, this college has been upgraded as College of Technology in 2009 and has many courses are available for students. The present principal of this college is Mr.Yogarajan.

(Source by Internet)

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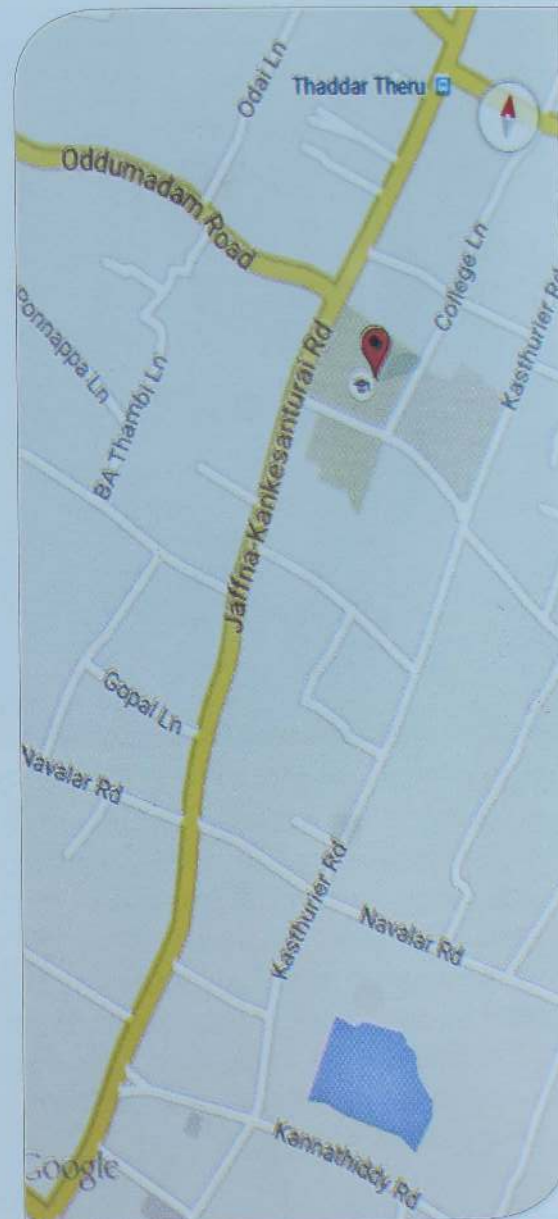


JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE



Jaffna Hindu College is one of the national schools in Sri Lanka. It was founded in 1887 by a group of Hindu people who wanted an English Language alternative to the Christian missionary schools. In those days this school was called as Native Town High School. The significant aspect of this school is Swamy Vivekananda visited the school in the year of that it was established. The first principal was Mr. Pothaman Appapillai from 1890 to 1892. When the school encountered some financial problems it was handed over to Saiva Paripalalana Sabai and renamed as Jaffna Hindu College. The present principal is Mr. I. Thayanantharajah. This school is situated in Vannarpannai.

(Source by Internet)



DISTRICT SECRETARIAT, JAFFNA



Jaffna district is one of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka and located in the Northern Province. This government institution is in Nallur Division. The District Secretariat, Jaffna administers 15 Divisional Secretariats come under its control. The present Government Agent renders effective service to public.

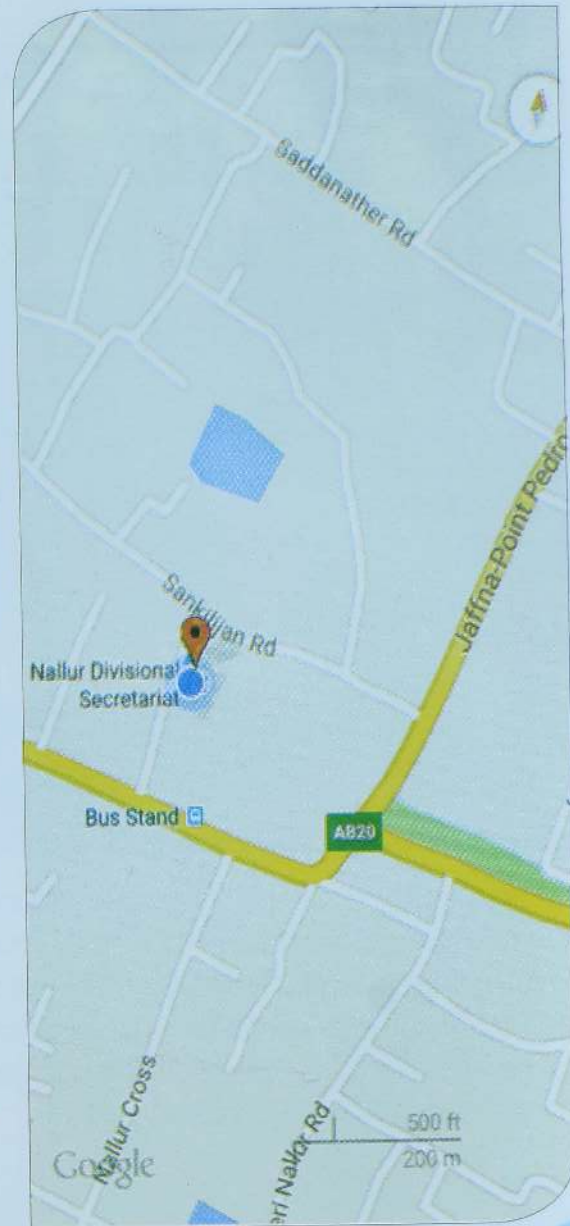
(Source by Internet)



DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT, NALLUR



Nallur Divisional Secretariat is situated in the southern part of Jaffna peninsula near the Jaffna town. Northern part of the division is bounded by Valikamam south. Valikamam east bounds the eastern part of the division and western part of the division is bounded with Valikamam southwest. Ariyalai, Kanatharmadam, Kokuvil, Kondavil, Nallur, Thirunelvely and Vannarponnai are the villages in the division. This secretariat administrates 40 Grama Niladhari Divisions and the total area of the division is 38 sq. km. Present Divisional Secretary is Mr. P. Senthilnathan who administrates well and renders efficient services to public.

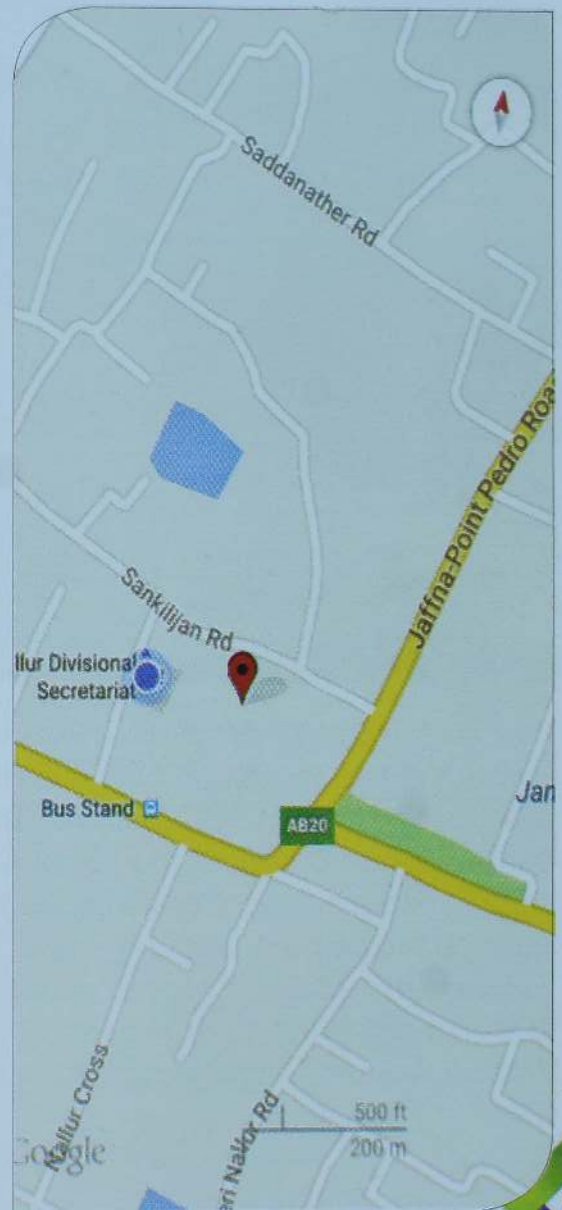


JAFFNA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



Since the local government in Jaffna was initiated in 1930, Schools, Churches, Cinema Theatres, Bus stands, Shopping complex, Hospitals, Courts and Food stores were built around the complex of Jaffna Fort which was built by the Dutch. At the beginning of 1940, it was modified with the assistance of the Jaffna Urban Council administration. As a result, it became as the centre of Municipal Council in 1949. The present building of the Municipal Council is shifted to Nallur and the present Commissioner of the Council is Mr. Pranavanathan.

(Source by Municipal Council)

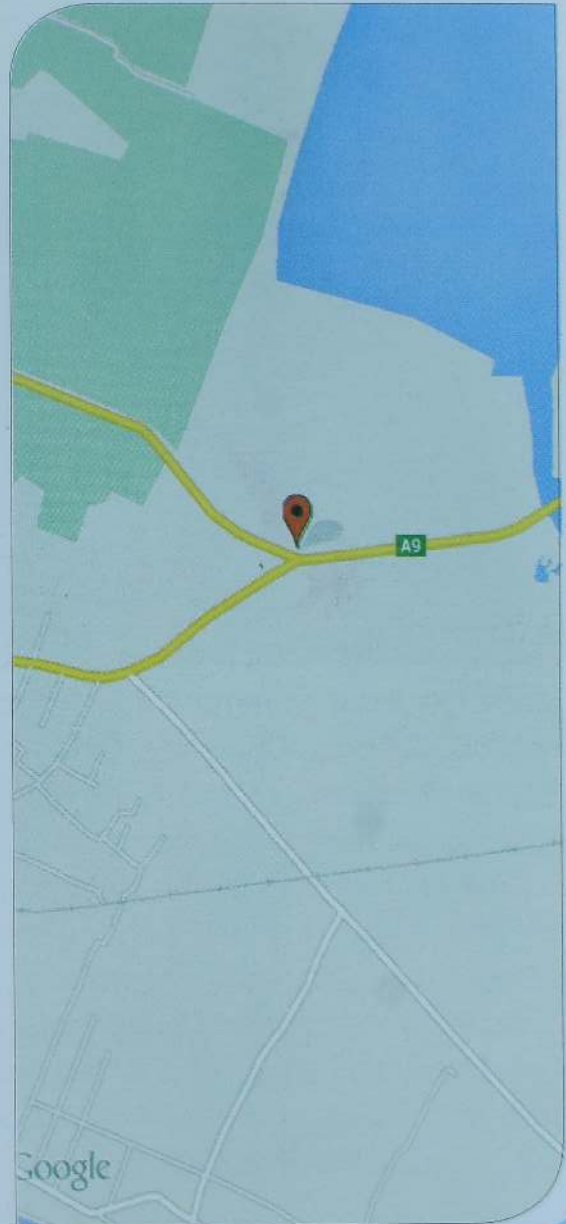


JAFFNA ARCH

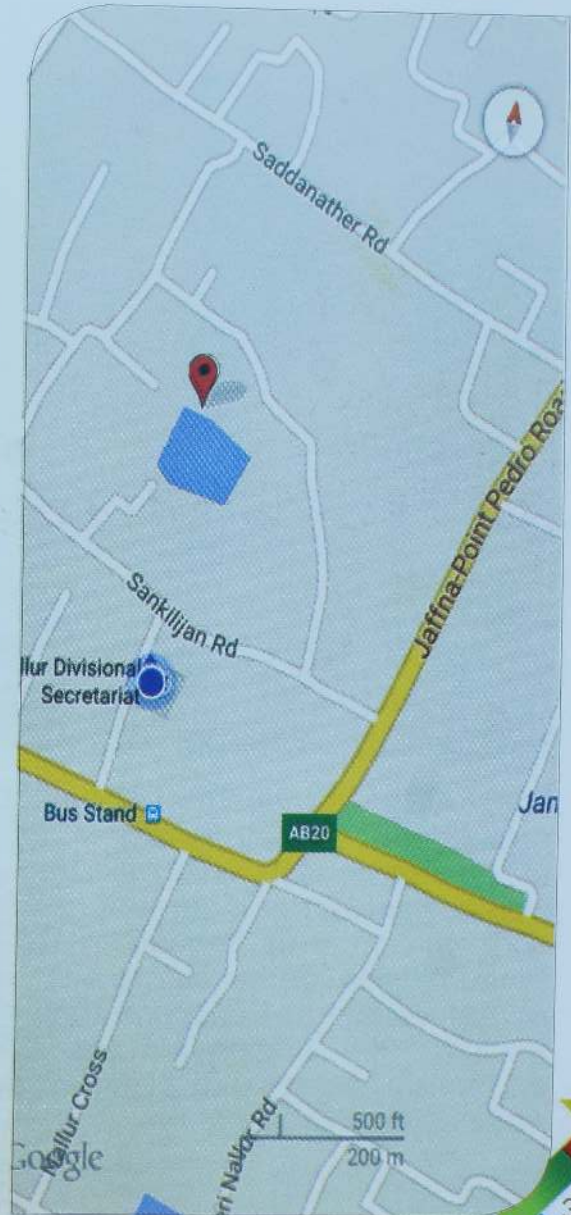


This arch warmly welcomes those who enter into Jaffna and it is located in Nallur Division. The arch was established in 1970 by Mr.Nagarajah who was a Mayor of Jaffna Municipal Council. During the A9 road extension, this was demolished by the Road Development Authority and was provided compensation. Later, this arch was re established at 7.3m in height and 11 m in width in 2012 by Nallur Pradesiya Sabha with the compensation granted by RDA.

(Source by Nallur Pradeshiya Sabha)



BANDARAKULAM



This is a pond situated behind Maruthavalavu Pillayar Temple in Nallur area. The name of the pond denotes a King's name and it was a custom that in the ancient period some Kings and Princes had added a word "*Bandaram*" as prefix with their names.

(Source by book titled Tourism and Monument of Archeological Heritage in Northern Sri Lanka)

NALLAI AATHEENAM



Mani Aiyer (a priest) who had an intention of establishing an Aatheenam in Sri Lanka similar to the Aatheenams (Hall) existing in south India, worked hard for the improvement of Hindu religion in northern Sri Lanka. Because of his involvement on Hindu religion, he became a saint and established an Aatheenam at Peripheral road of Kandaswamy Kovil in 1966. Primary classes, religious activities and music classes are being conducted at Nallai Aatheenam at present.

(Source by News paper)

*"Our obligation is to preserve our Historical
and Traditionl aspects"*



Ariyalai East Beach