

Special project

Study of Temple flags of north Malabar

Guide Prof Sreekumar

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Kerala



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Photo -Joshy Manjummel

Temple flags of Malabar



Temple flags of Malabar



Temple flags of Malabar



Temple flags of Malabar



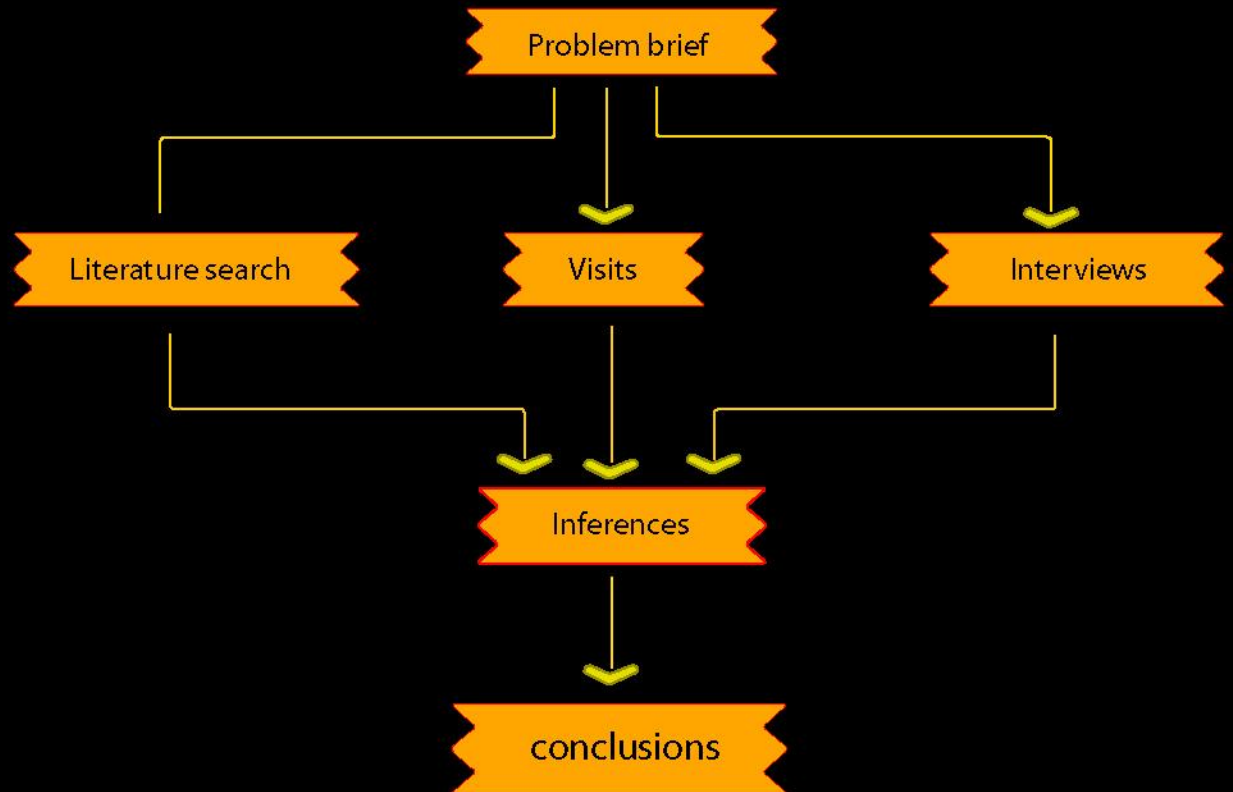
Temple flags of Malabar



Problem brief

The aim of the project was to study the unique temple flags of North Malabar and to find out the meaning, standards, usage, flag types and symbolism.

Methodology



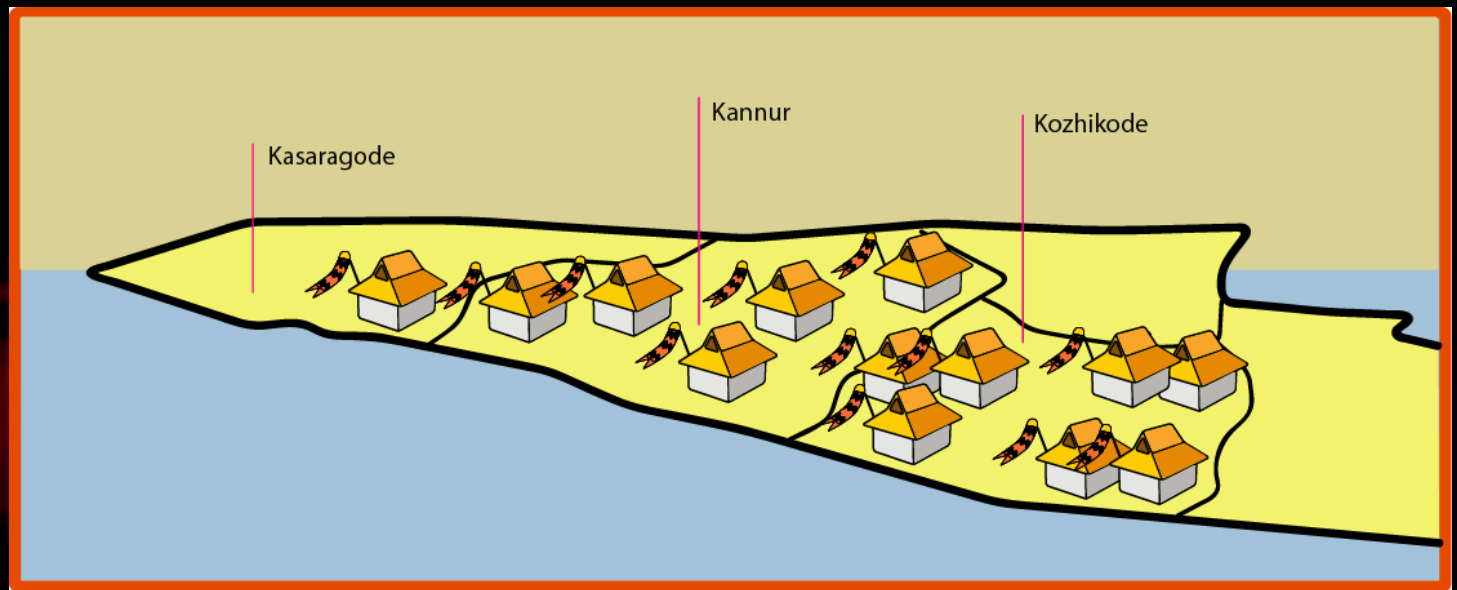
Temple flags

- Where are they seen ?
- When are they seen ?
- What makes them unique ?



Visits

- Temples in Kozhikode, kannur and Kasaragode were covered as part of the study



Interviews

Interviews were conducted

- Priests
- Devotees
- KSS members
- Academicians

The public understanding

- Flags are used as decorations
- Flags are indicator of festivals
- Flags don't have standards
- Flags have no meaning
- Flags are made as offerings
- Main flags are copied from the original
- Flag post serves just a means to put up the flag

Festivals

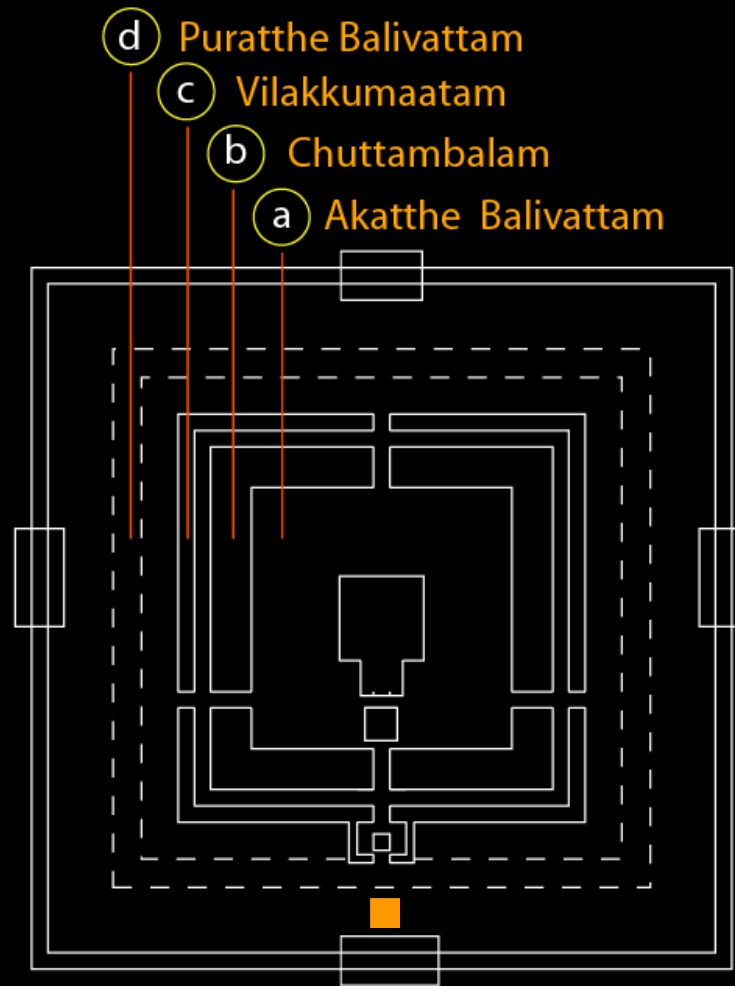
- Temple festivals
- The need for festivals



Festivals can be classified into

- Angurathi
- Dwajathi
- Padahathi

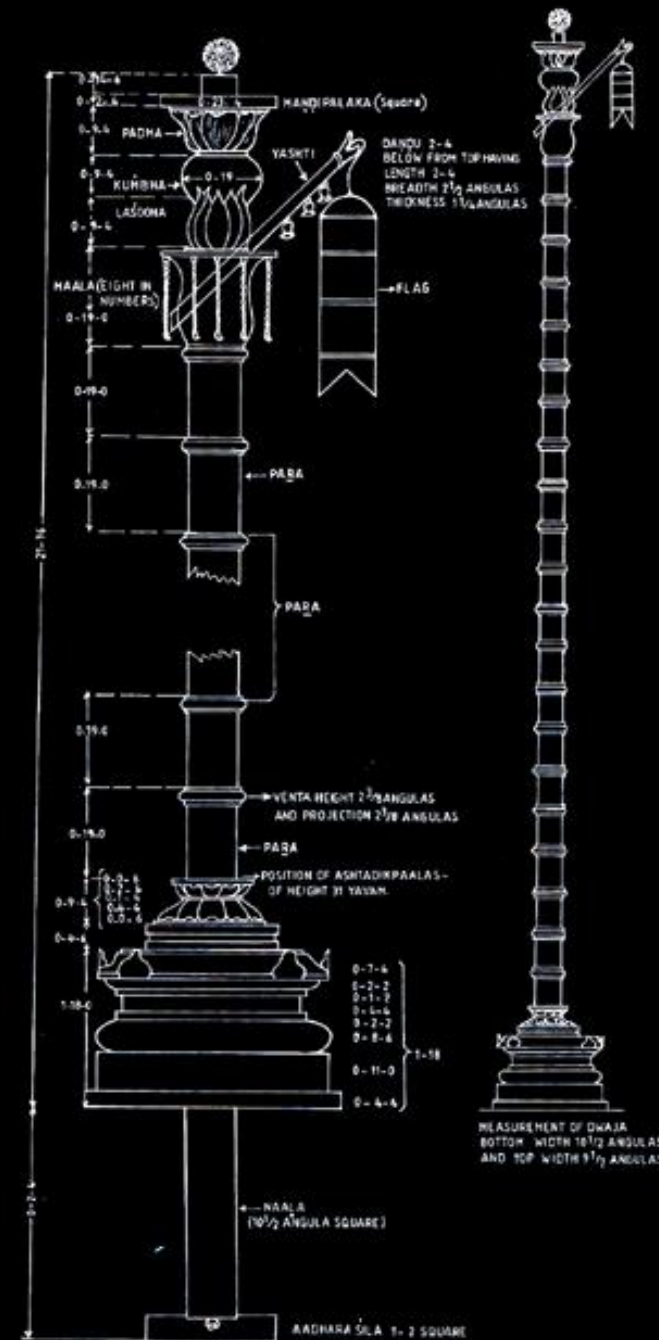
Kerala temple



Pancha-praakaaras scheme of Kerala temples

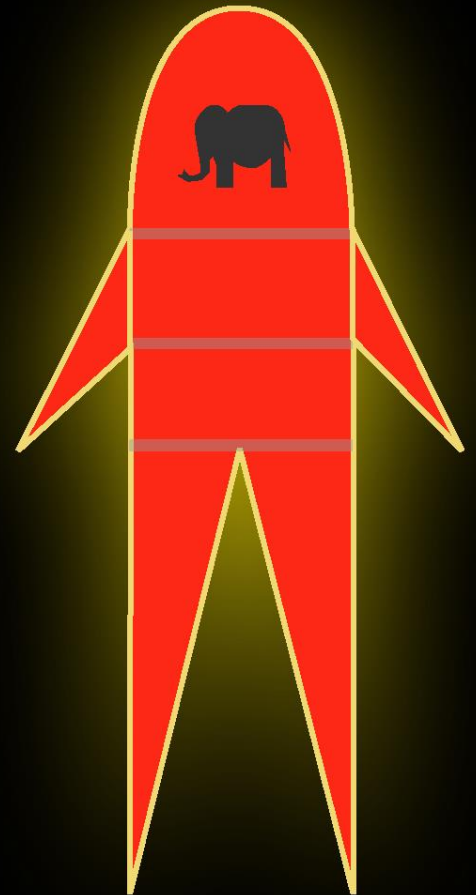
Kodimaram (Flag post)

- Placement
- The symbolism of flag post

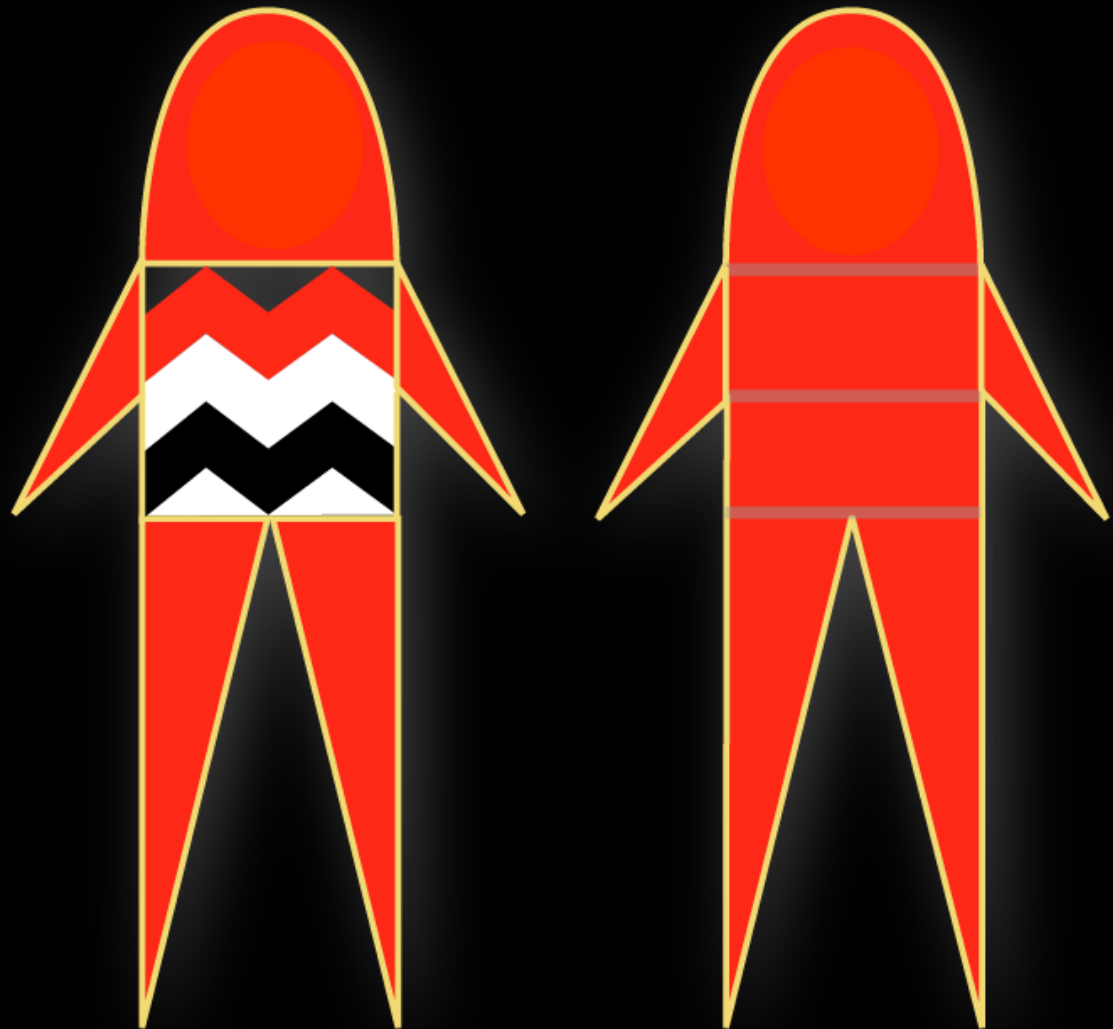


Dhwajam (flag)

Flags can be classified into two groups based on their usage.



Dhwajam: main



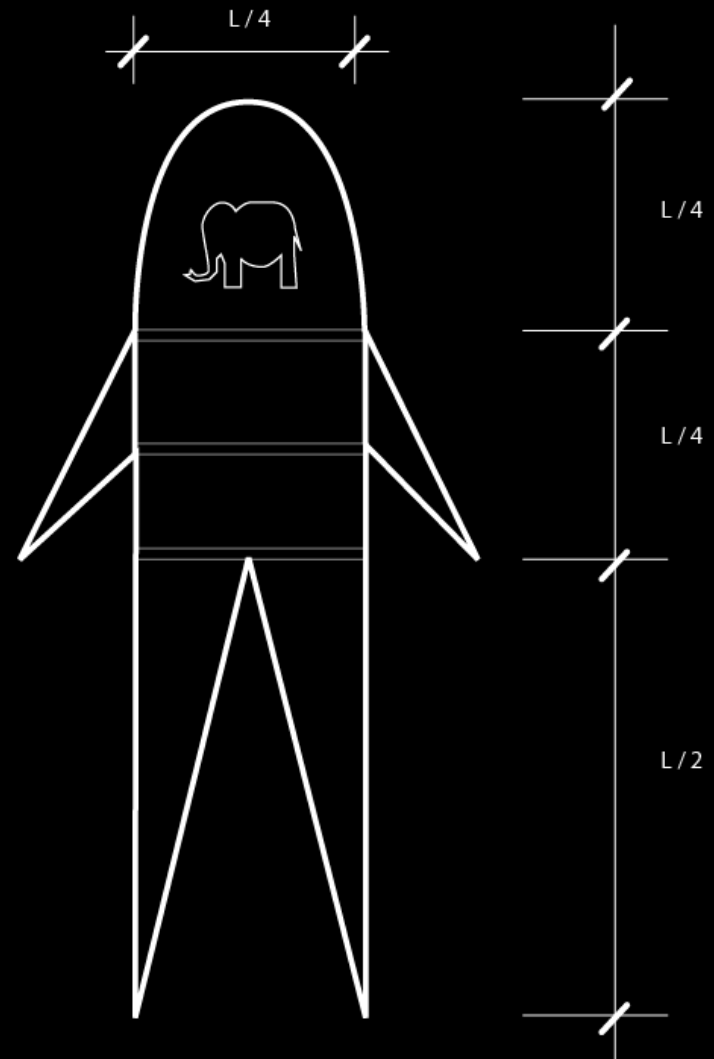
Dhwajam: main (meaning)

- The triangles in the flag are symbolic of fire
- The scale of the flag reflects the state of the holy idol

States of idols are classified into three

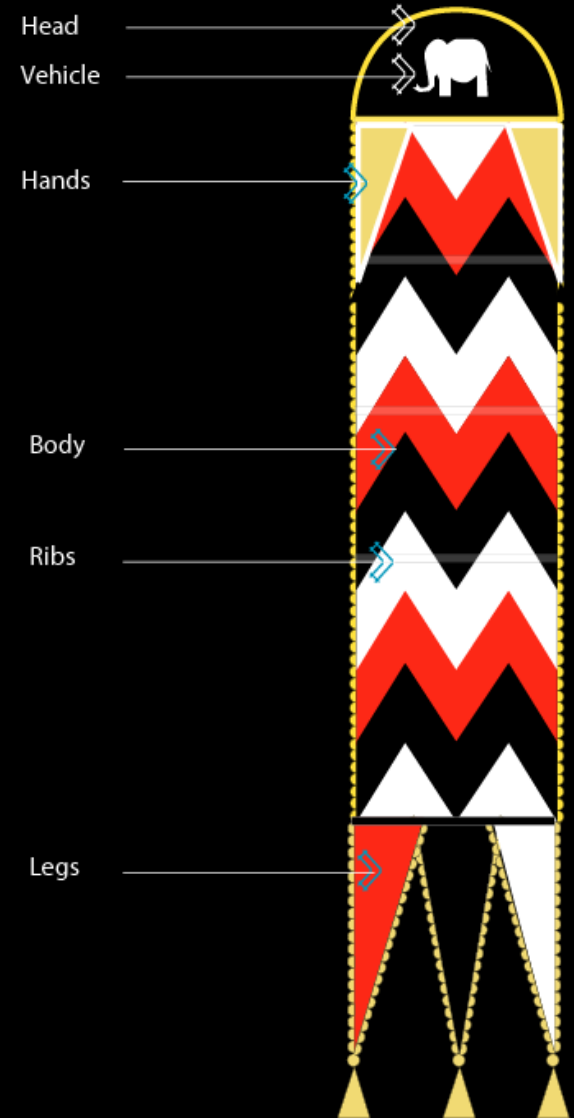
- Child L= 3ft
- Teenager L= 4ft
- Adult L=6ft
- Female L=5 1/2ft

Dhwajam: main (scale)

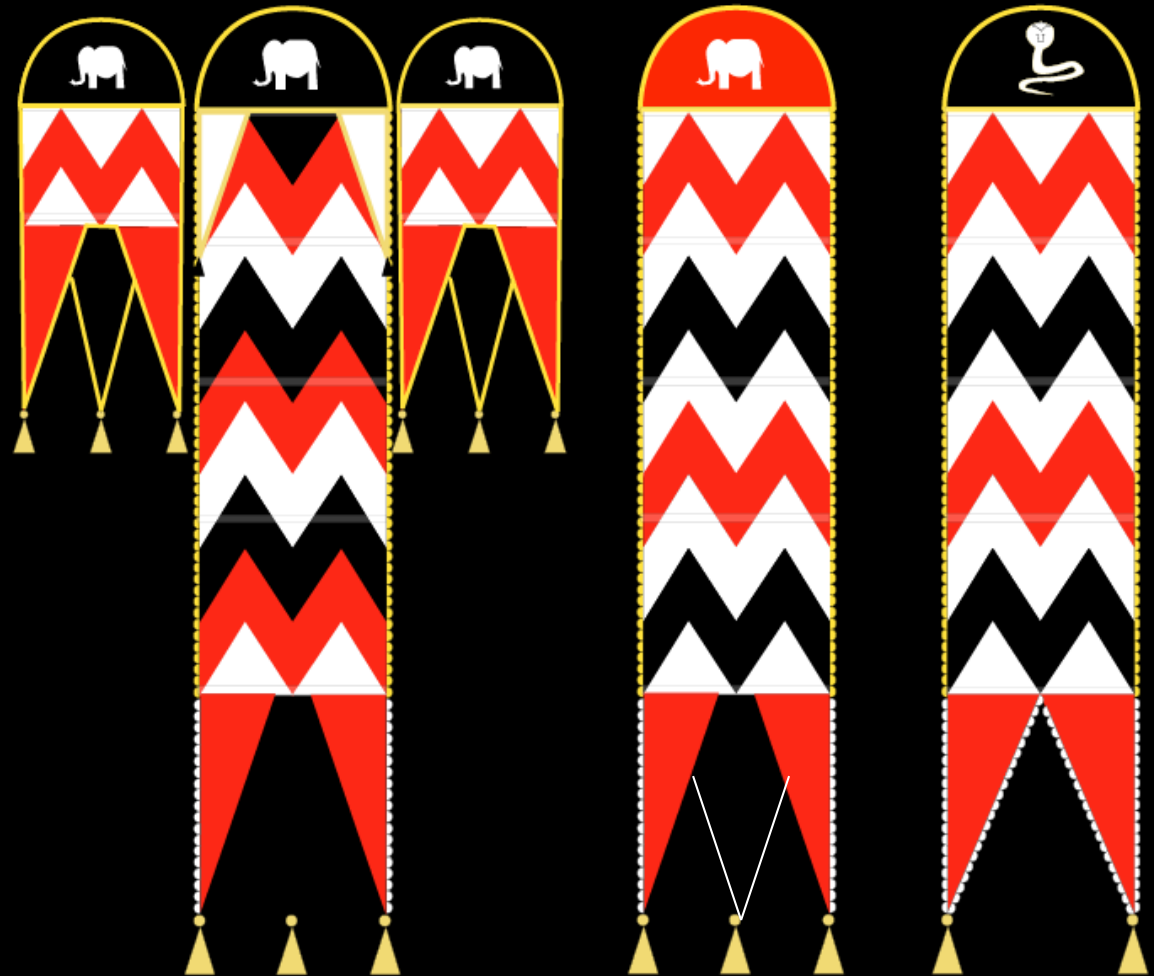


Dhwajam

- Used as a signifier
- Used to inform people about the festival
- No strict standards are followed
- They are hung all around the temple
- They are part of offerings made by people



Dhwajam (types)



Dhwajam



Dhwajam



Dhwajam



Colors



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Colors

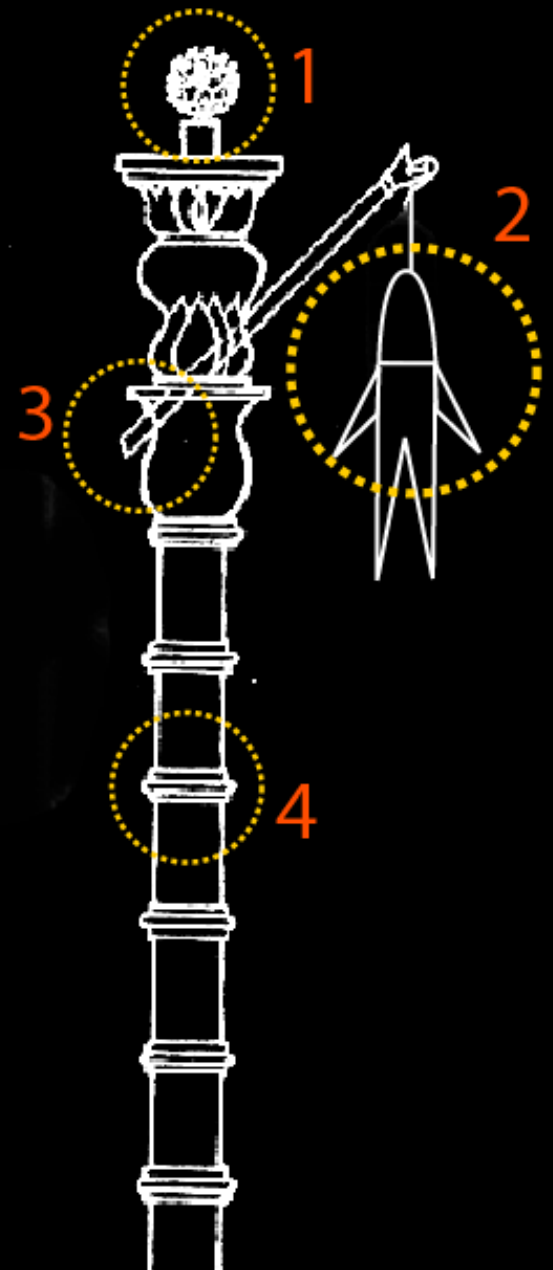
- Red is the most dominant color used in the flag
- Red is the color of blood thus signifies creation.
- Yellow symbolizes earth and thus mother goddess
- White symbolizes fertility and prosperity
- Black represents disintegration and annihilation
- Red is the most extensively used color in various art forms of Kerala
- The flags are made from cotton and bamboo is used for the ribs





Flag and flag post... why ?

Conclusion



References

- Kshetra chaitanya rahasya Madhav G
- Chuvanna Keralam Raghavan P
- Temples of kerala S Jayashanker

Interviews

Dr Priyadarsan Lal

Mr Deva Shikamani Kozhikode

Priests

K. S. S. members