



# TOURISM IN INDIA

**Continuity, Development, Challenges and Issues**

**GUPTAJIT PATHAK**



# CHAPTER 1

## Temple Festivals as Reflected through Art and Literature during the Nayak Period

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General prosperity and a natural desire for association made the people to indulge in leisurely pursuits like celebrations of festivals resulted in social gathering. Many festivals were organized to express solidarity in religious beliefs<sup>1</sup>. Madurai temple has a rich tradition of festivals from the ancient times. The *tiruvatirai* festival is the one among them which is conducted in the month of *margali*. It is referred to in paripadal which is popular at the present day<sup>2</sup>. The Pandya inscription of the medieval period describes the *Avani tirunal*<sup>3</sup> and also mentions *Tiruppuratirunonbu* festival in the month of *Aippasi*<sup>4</sup>.

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1. A. Mahalingam, *Vijayanagara Nayakas: Art and Culture*, New Delhi, 2012, p. 225.
  2. *Paripadal*, II, 74-79.
  3. MER 278 of 1942.
  4. *Ibid*, 281.