

## Mistaken identity': Deity worshipped at Hindu temple that of Lord Buddha

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As per Madras High, the Thalaivetti Muniyappan temple near Salem, where a local deity is worshipped, will be treated as a Buddhist temple.



[Ref: Indian express]

### Key Highlights:

- The temple is believed to have been a **Buddhist shrine** before it was converted into Hindu temple by force or due to the decline of Buddhism over centuries.
- An expert committee's inspection report confirmed that the existing temple structure that follows **Hindu rituals** "**is of modern origin**", "**built of cement, bricks and concrete**."

### About the Sculptor:

- The sculpture depicts several **mahalakshanas** (great traits) of the Buddha.
- The statue was of **Lord Buddha** and it had been worshipped by the followers of Buddhism for many years.

### Features:

- The sculpture was made of **hard stone**.
- The figure was in seated position known as '**ardhapadmasana**' on a lotus pedestal.
- The hands are posed in '**dhyana mudra**'.
- The figure was a **Sagati**.
- The head shows **lakshanas of the Buddha** such as curly hair, ushnisa and elongated earlobe.
- The head was slightly twisted towards the left side of the body.
- The **reverse side of the sculpture** was flat without any artistic work.