

Kerala's Thrissur Pooram

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About Thrissur Pooram

- **Cultural significance:** Thrissur Pooram is a **grand festival** showcasing Kerala's **cultural** and **spiritual** essence.
 - It is celebrated annually in the Malayalam month of **Medam** (April-May) at the **Thekkinkadu Maidanam** in Thrissur.
 - Often referred to as the **"mother of all Poorams"**, it is one of the **largest temple festivals** in Kerala.
- **Historical origin:** Initiated by **Raja Rama Varma**, famously known as **Sakthan Thampuran**, the **Maharaja of Cochin** (1790-1805).
 - Features the participation of **10 different temples**, replacing the earlier **Arattupuzha Pooram**, which was Kerala's largest festival before Thrissur Pooram.
- **Key highlights:**
 - **Majestic elephants**, adorned in traditional attire, are a central attraction.
 - **Traditional orchestra music** (Panchavadyam) adds vibrancy to the festival.

Kerala High Court Directives

- The High Court issued guidelines aimed at ensuring the **safety of elephants**, the **public**, and **artists** during the festival.
 - Key directives included:
 - **Minimum distance requirements** are 3 metres between two elephants, 8 metres between elephants and the public or percussion displays, and a 100 metres buffer zone near areas of **fireworks usage**.
 - **Rest period:** Elephants must have a minimum of **three days' rest** between public appearances.
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Q1: Who was Raja Rama Varma?

Raja Rama Varma, also known as Shakthan Thampuran, was a notable ruler of the Kingdom of Cochin (reigned 1790–1805). He is remembered for his administrative reforms, promotion of trade and commerce, and efforts to modernize the state. He played a key role in strengthening Cochin's economy and ensuring political stability during his rule.

News: [HT](#)

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