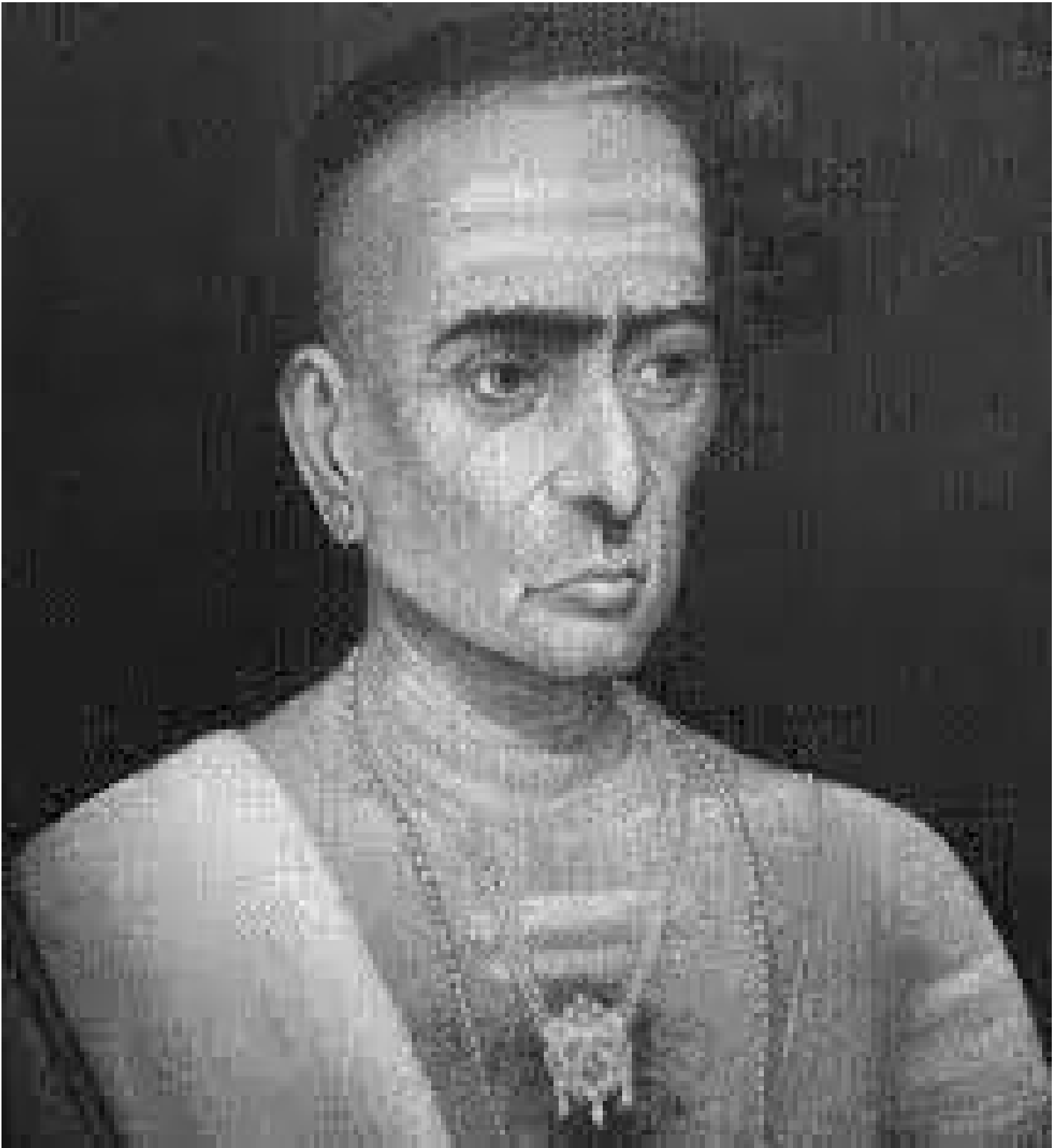


Sakthan Thampuran

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About Sakthan Thampuran:

- Sakthan Thampuran, also known as Raja Rama Varma Kunjipillai or **Rama Varma IX** and ruled over the Cochin kingdom **from 1790 to 1805**.
 - He was born in 1751 to Ambika Thampuran and Chendose Aniyar Namboodiri of the Cochin royal family, but was raised by an aunt who called him Sakthan, meaning 'powerful'.
 - **Strategist and ruler**
 - As an 18-year-old he advised his king to maintain **friendly relations with both the Dutch and the English**, who were vying for a larger share of trade in the region.
 - Sakthan is said to have **orchestrated Mysore's attempt to invade the Travancore** kingdom, which had established relations with the English East India Company.
 - This would result in the **Powney treaty** which freed the Cochin kingdom from its allegiance to Mysore, and helped formalise its relations with the British.
 - He ended the institution of the **Yogiatirippads** — the erstwhile spiritual heads of key temples of that time.
 - He **started the Thrissur Pooram in 1797** as an alternative to the Arattupuzha Pooram, then the largest temple festival in the state.
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Q1: What is Thrissur Pooram?

Thrissur Pooram is celebrated in Kerala during the Malayalam month of Medom (April-May). It is considered to be the Mother of all Poorams, a cultural highlight that towers above all other festivals. It is celebrated in the grand assembly of Gods and Goddesses in and around Thrissur.

Source: Who was Sakthan Thampuran, whose fallen statue in Thrissur Suresh Gopi wants to reconstruct

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sakthan-thampuran/>

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