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# Shakthan Thampuran

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**Why is in news?** Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays floral tributes to Shakthan Thampuran, former ruler of Cochin

Rama Varma Kunji pillai Thampuran (1751–1805), or **Rama Varma IX**, popularly known as Sakthan Thampuran (Sakthan meaning powerful), was the **ruler of the Kingdom of Cochin**.

He resided at Vadakkechira Palace in Thrissur. The city of Thrissur is referred to as the Cultural Capital of Kerala owing to its many traditional festivals and historic temples.

Sakthan Thampuran is considered the **architect of the city of Thrissur**. The **festival Thrissur Pooram** was started by him.

## Thrissur Pooram:

Thrissur Pooram is an **annual Hindu festival** held in Kerala. It is celebrated on the day when the star sign "Pooram" occurs in the Malayalam month of "medam (April-May)".

The festival was the **brainchild of Raja Rama Varma**, famously known as Sakthan Thampuran, the Maharaja of Cochin (1790–1805).

Pooram officially begins with Kodiyettam (flag hoisting ceremony) in which all the participating temples of the festival are present.

The Pooram consists of **ten temples in and around Thrissur** and is considered to be a ceremony where **these deities come together to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva at the Vadakkunnathan Temple**, located in the centre of the town.

One of the hallmarks of the festival is the **percussion ensemble** consisting of traditional instruments like **chenda, maddalam, edakka, thimila and kombu**.

The seventh day of the pooram is the last day. It is also known as "**Pakal Pooram**".

Pooram, though a Hindu ritual, has grown to encompass all religious and cultural strains of Kerala. **Both the Muslim and Christian communities participate** in the festival in a variety of ways **highlighting secular credentials** of the state.

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