



Thrissur Pooram



Thrissur Pooram- Mother of all Pooram

- ▶ Thrissur Pooram is an annual Hindu festival held in Thrissur district of Kerala, India.
- ▶ This festival is celebrated to mark the importance of Pooram (Leo) nakshatra (star).
- ▶ It is held at the Vadakunnathan temple in Thrissur every year on the Pooram day. Pooram day is the day when the moon rises with the Pooram star in the Malayalam month Medam (April-May).
- ▶ It is considered as “the Pooram of all Poorams”.



- ▶ UNESCO considers Thrissur Pooram as “one of the most spectacular festival event on the Planet”.
- ▶ It is the biggest of all the Poorams in Kerala.
- ▶ It is a grand assembly of Gods and Goddesses in and around Thrissur. These Gods and Goddesses make their visit to the Lord Siva at **Vadakumnathan Temple** premises on caparisoned elephants accompanied by grand ensembles of **Chenda melam** and **pancha vadyam**(five instruments).

Chenda melam



Caparisoned elephants



Pancha Vadyam





- Participants of the Pooram are the Thiruvambady Bhagavathi Temple, Paramekkavu Bhagavathi Temple, Nethilakkavu Bhagavathi Temple, Karamukku Bhagavathi, Ayyanthole Bhagavathi, Laloer Bhagavathi, Choorakkattukavu Bhagavathi, Chembukkavu Bhagavathi, Panamukkumpally Sastha and Kanimangalam Sastha.



Pookattikkara-Karamukku Baghavathi

Kanimangalam Sastha Temple



Choorakkottukavu Durga Temple

Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple



Thiruvambady Bhagavathi Temple



Chembukkavu Karthiyayani Temple

Laloor Sree Karthiyayini Temple



Panamukkumpally Sastha Temple

Paramekkavu Bhagavathi Temple



Ayyanthole Karthiyayani Temple

Nethilakkavu Bhagavathi Temple



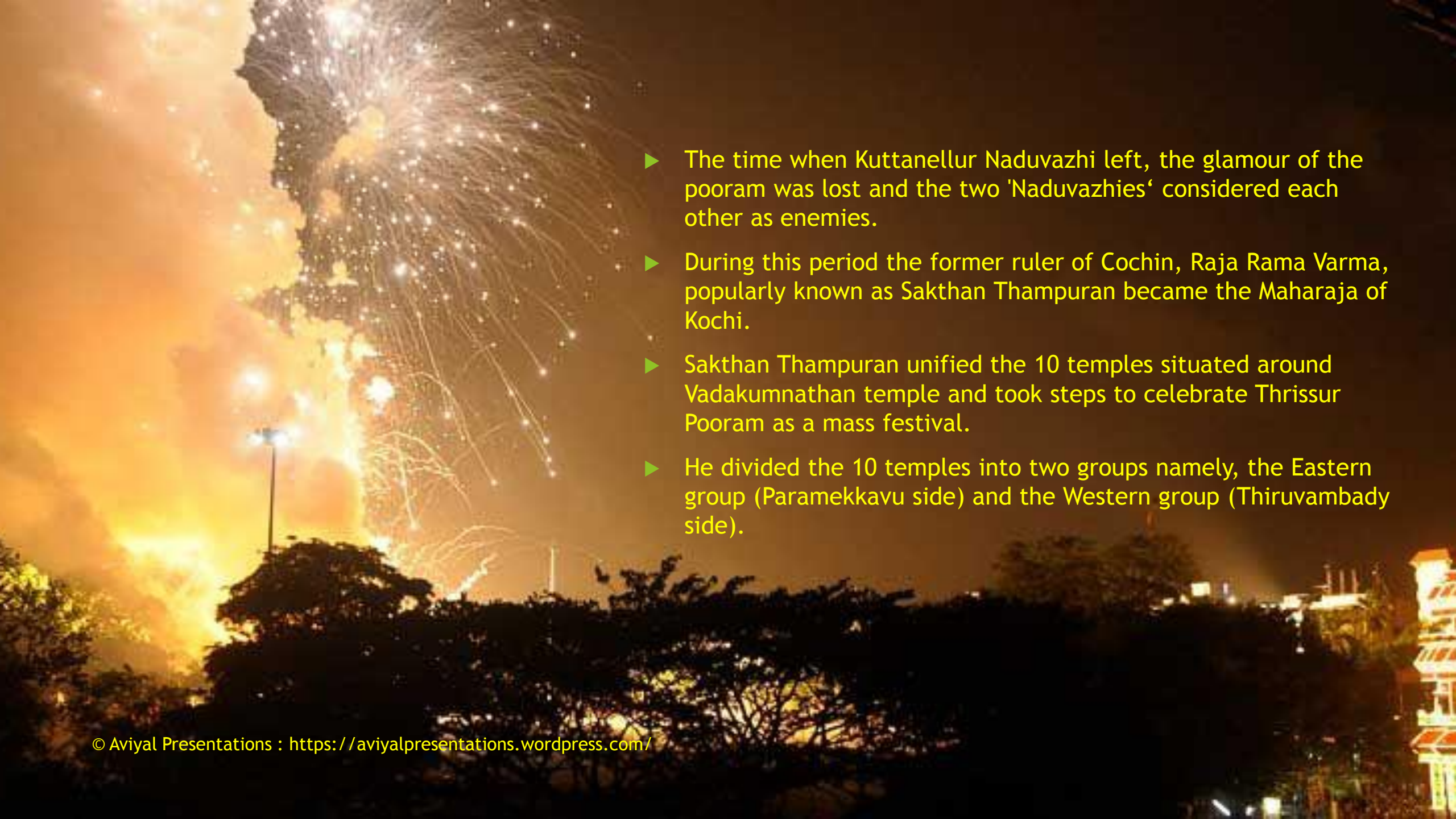


History of Thrissur Pooram

- ▶ There are many stories told and retold about the origin of Thrissur pooram.
- ▶ Thrissur pooram is 200 plus years old.
- ▶ Before this, the “Arattupuzha pooram” was the biggest one-day temple festival of Kerala. Arattupuzha is a temple 16km away from Vadakumnathan Temple.
- ▶ All the temples participating in Thrissur Pooram and Kuttanellore(city in Thrissur famous for a Bhagavathi temple) Pooram participated in Arattupuzha pooram.



- ▶ Thrissur Pooram was started by Raja Rama Varma(former ruler of Cochin 1751-1805), famously known as Sakthan Thampuran.
- ▶ Once, due to heavy rain many participating temples got delayed in attending the festival and were not allowed to enter the Arattupuzha temple premises.
- ▶ As an act of reprisal Thrissur Naduvazhi the chief of Vadakunnathan, known as Yogadiripad and Kuttanellur Naduvazhi started the pooram in Thrissur.
- ▶ Later the Kuttanellur Naduvazhi separated from the celebration at Thrissur.

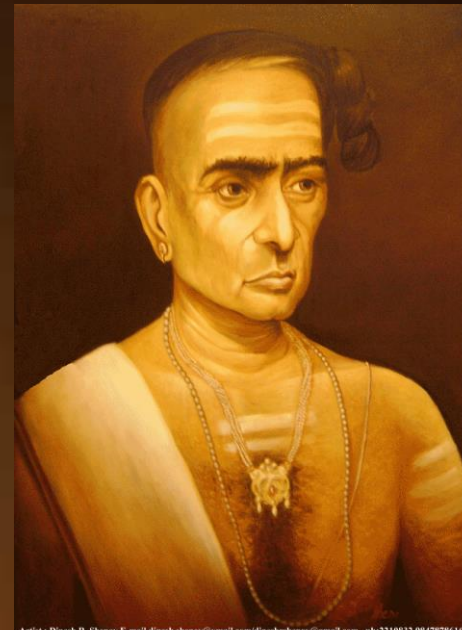
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- ▶ The time when Kuttanellur Naduvazhi left, the glamour of the pooram was lost and the two 'Naduvazhies' considered each other as enemies.
 - ▶ During this period the former ruler of Cochin, Raja Rama Varma, popularly known as Sakthan Thampuran became the Maharaja of Kochi.
 - ▶ Sakthan Thampuran unified the 10 temples situated around Vadakumnathan temple and took steps to celebrate Thrissur Pooram as a mass festival.
 - ▶ He divided the 10 temples into two groups namely, the Eastern group (Paramekkavu side) and the Western group (Thiruvambady side).



Kuttanellur Pooram



Old pic of Thrissur Pooram



Artist : Dinesh B. Shenoy E-mail dinesh.shenoy@gmail.com/dineshshenoy@gmail.com ph:2210832,9847878616

**HIS EXCELLENCY RAJA RAMA VARMA
(SAKTHAN THAMPURAN) 1751-1805**

Raja Rama Varma



Thrissur Pooram, 1955



Participants of each group

- ▶ The western group participants were Thiruvambady, Kanimangalam, Laloore, Ayyanthole, and Nethilakkavu temples.
- ▶ Paramekkavu, Karamukku, Chembukavu. Choorakottukavu and Panamukkamppilly comes under eastern group.
- ▶ Recently the Kanimangalam changed to eastern side.

Kodiyettam

- ▶ The celebration begins with ceremonial flag hoisting, called as *Kodiyettam*.
- ▶ Kodiyettam begins seven days before Thrissur Pooram.
- ▶ The timing for kodiyettam in each temple is well scheduled.
- ▶ The schedule will be like this with some changes in timings :

Kodiyettam Timings

1. Laloore : 8.00 to 8.15 am
2. Ayyanthole : 11.00 to 11.15 am
3. Thiruvambadi : 11.30 to 11.45 am
4. Paramekkavu : 2.00 to 2.15 pm
5. Chembhookavu : 6.00 to 6.15 pm.
6. Panekkumppilly : 6.15 to 6.30 p.m
7. Pookattikkara - karamukku : 6.15 to 6.30 pm
8. Kanimangalam : 6.00 to 6.15 pm
9. Choorakottukavu : 6.45 to 7.00pm
10. Neithalkavu : 8.00 to 8.15pm



- ▶ Most of the temples have permanent flag posts but the pooram flag will be hosted in a temporary post made of fresh Arecanut tree.
- ▶ The post is cut in a ritualistic style by the carpenter of the domain (aka (Desathe Assari).
- ▶ The title is hereditary and the carpenter undergoes one week vow before starting this. He does the bhoomipooja too. This is the only Pooja done by a non Bhramin inside the four walls of the temple.



- ▶ Thiruvambhadi hosts temporary flags at Naduvilal (west) and Naickanal (north) and Paramekkavu at manikandalal (south) to declare the pooram has started. In line with this Karamuku pooram hoists another flag at ollurkkavu junction chiyaram.
- ▶ Two flags are hosted in Neithalkavu temple, one in front of Devi temple and other in front of Anthimahakalan.



Flag-hoisting ceremony at the Paramekkavu temple.



Fourth Day and Fifth Day

- ▶ Firework display or *Sample Vedikettu* on the fourth day and elephant decoration displays (Annachamayam) on the fourth and fifth days.
- ▶ It is a one-hour show presented by Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu Devawsoms. Swaraj Round is venue for this fireworks.

Elephant Decoration Displays



Kuda(umbrella)



Nettipatam



Nettipatam

Nettipatam



Kuda(umbrella)



Placards





The Pooram Day

- ▶ The celebrations are characterized by processions, music and dance performances, elephant decorations, fireworks display and several religious rituals.
- ▶ The 36 hour long pooram follows strict time schedule and prescribed route to pay honor to Lord Vadakumnathan.
- ▶ The pooram starts with the ceremonial entrance of "Kanimangalam Sastha" pooram through the southern goupuram at 7 am. This is followed by the arrival of Panamukkampilly Sathavu, Chembookavu Karthiayani Devi, Karamukku Karthiyani Devi, Choorakkottukavu Durga Devi, Ayyanthole Karthiayani Devi and Naithalakavu Bhagavathi .



- ▶ Major event in Thrissur Pooram is "Madathil varavu" (the ceremonial procession of Lord Vishnu, the presiding deity of Thiruvambadi temple to Brahaswam Madom), a panchavadyam melam with instruments such as thimila, madhalam, trumpet, cymbal and edakka.
- ▶ At 2:00, the Ilanjithara melam (assembly of percussion performance artist held under Ilanji tree) starts inside vadakkumnathan temple, consisting of drum, trumpets, pipe and cymbal.
- ▶ The pooram has a good collection of elephants decorated with nettipattam (decorative golden headdress), strikingly crafted Kolam, decorative bells, and ornaments.

Thimila



Cymbal



Drum

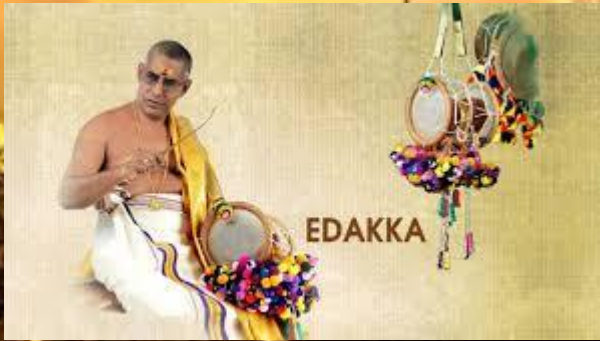
Madhalam



Trumpet



Melam



Melam






- ▶ At the end of the pooram, after the Ilanjithara melam, both Paramekkavu and Thiruvambadi groups enter the temple through the western gate, come out through the southern gate and arrange themselves face to face in distant places for “kudamattam” (changing umbrellas).
- ▶ The two groups in the presence of melam exchange colourful and crafted umbrellas competitively at the top of the elephants which is the eye-catching attraction of the pooram.
- ▶ All poorams conclude at Nilapaduthara near western goupuram of Vadakkunnathan Temple.

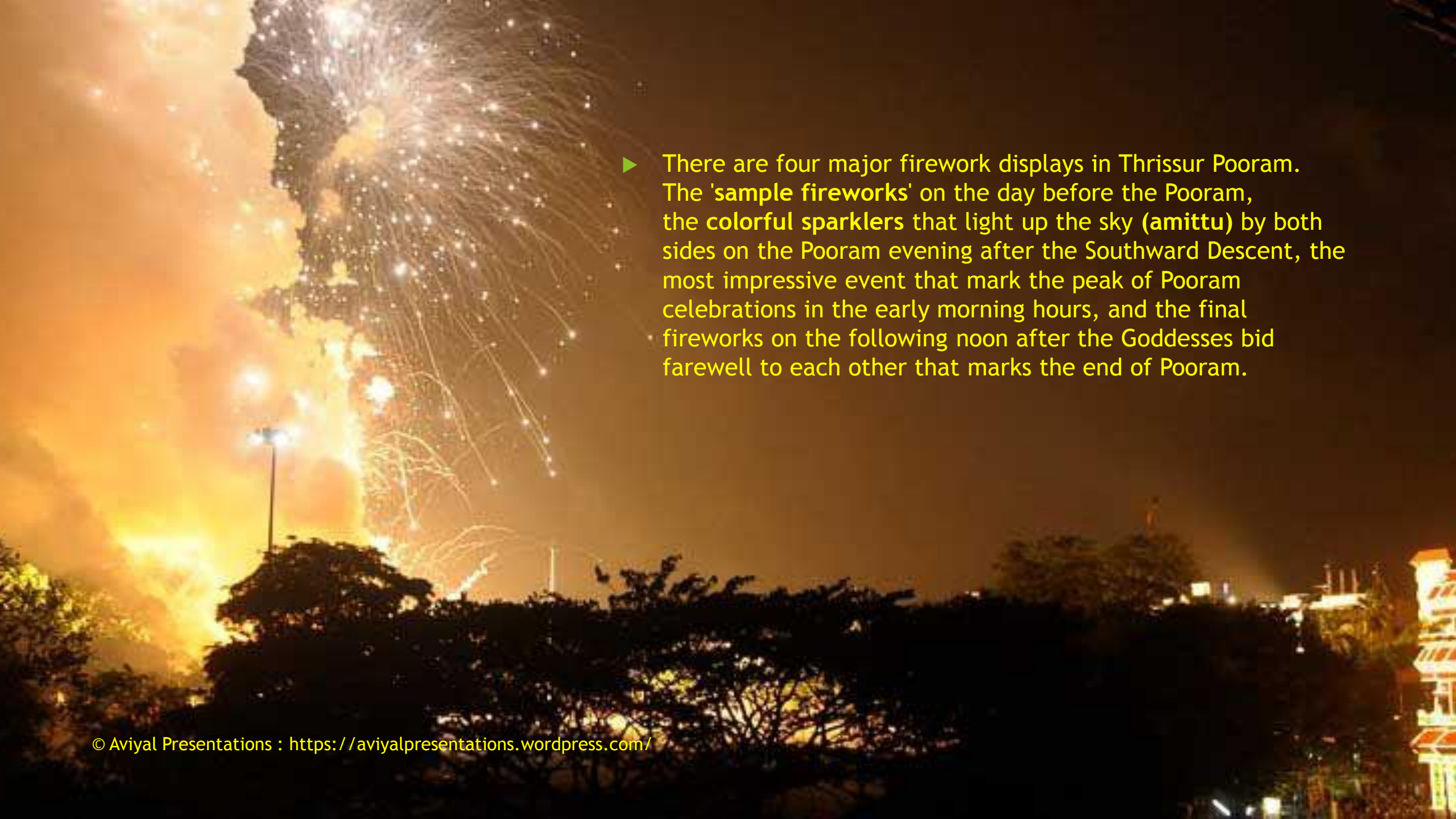
Kudamattam





Vedikettu- Fireworks

- ▶ Fireworks are an essential part of almost all events in Kerala.
- ▶ The fireworks are distinct in character, performance, excellence and magnitude.
- ▶ Vedikettu is held in the heart of Thrissur city, in Thekkinkadu Maidan.
- ▶ Thiruvambadi and Paramekavu are the main participants in this event.
- ▶ Fireworks begin in the early morning of the seventh day.
- ▶ People come from faraway places to watch this amazing display of fireworks.



- There are four major firework displays in Thrissur Pooram. The '**sample fireworks**' on the day before the Pooram, the **colorful sparklers** that light up the sky (**amittu**) by both sides on the Pooram evening after the Southward Descent, the most impressive event that mark the peak of Pooram celebrations in the early morning hours, and the final fireworks on the following noon after the Goddesses bid farewell to each other that marks the end of Pooram.

Vedikettu



Farewell ceremony- Pakal Pooram Day

- ▶ The seventh day of the pooram is the last day i.e. farewell ceremony day.
- ▶ It is also known as "Pakal Pooram".
- ▶ Upacharam Cholli Piriya (ഉപചാരം ചൊല്ലി പിരിയൽ) (farewell ceremony) is the last event held at Swaraj Round.
- ▶ Thiruvambadi Sri Krishna Temple and Paramakkavu Bagavathi Temple idols were taken from the Swaraj Round to their respective temples to mark the end of the Pooram celebrations.
- ▶ The festival ends with display of fireworks known as Pakal Vedikkettu.



The Thrissur Pooram Exhibition

- ▶ It is one of the biggest Trade Fairs in south India.
- ▶ The Exhibition starts a month before pooram. It is conducted in the vicinity of **Vadakumnathan**.
- ▶ In the 1964, the two groups of temples requested the municipality to allow them to run the exhibition to meet the **expenses of Thrissur Pooram**.





Coming Years....

Excited to experience this feel ?

Block your days for the upcoming Thrissur Pooram :

2019 - May 13th (Monday)

2020 - May 3rd (Sunday)

2021 - April 23rd (Friday)



Thank You!!!