



Thrissur Pooram

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Why in News

For the first time since its inception, **Thrissur Pooram** will be observed with rituals within the temple premises with just a few participants.

This was done in the wake of the **lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid-19**.

Key Points

- 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**.

Source: TH