Kochi Maharaja’s Pilgrimage to Kasi

6/7/1852-16/2/1853
Basis
Autograph Diary of the Maharaja

Credits
Museum Authorities at Hill Palace Tripunithura, who provided the picture of the Maharaja
Maharaja who died in Kasi
(Veera Kerala Varma)

Tenure: 1851-1853
Why go to Kasi?

- No rebirth if death occurs in Kasi
- Redressal of Sins - Kasi the solution!

\[ \text{anya dEsE krtham paapam puNya dEsE vinasyathi} \]
\[ \text{puNya dEsE krtham paapam vaaraaNasyaam vinasyathi} \]
\[ \text{vaaraaNasyaam krtham paapam kumbhakOnE vinasyathi} \]
\[ \text{kumbhakOnE krtham paapam kumbhakOnE vinasyathi} \]

- Oldest of the LIVING CITIES
Modes of Transport

- Horse
- Palanquin
- Boat
- Dock carriage
Distance covered (K M)

- Kerala - 150
- Tamizhakam- 275
- Mysore-150
- Andhra-900
- Orisaa-150
- Bengal-150
- Bihar- 250
- Uttar Pradesh-280
- Total~ 2300
- Average- 16 KM/day
Stayed in..

- Guest Houses
- Rented houses
- Satras
- Temples
- Tents
Who all accompanied?

- Younger brother Ravi Varma
- Diwan
- Dr. Bingle
- Cashier
- Manager Sankunni
- Vaidyan
- Brother in law
- Palanquin bearers
- Harikkar
- Peons
- Porters
Route followed..
Kerala (6/7-19/7)

- Tripunithura
- Mattanchery
- Chittore
- Thiruvanchikkulam
- Iringalakkuta
- Oorakam
- Thrissur (9-16)
- Pattikkad
- Anchumurtimangalam
- ThiruvalakkaTavu
- Vaalayaar
Thamizhakam
(19/7-11/8)

- Coimbatore
- Avinashi
- Bhavani
- Salem
- Thoppur
- Paalakkodu
- Uddanappilli
- Osur
Mysore
(11/8-2/9)

- Bangalore
- Kolar
Andhra
(2/9-24/11)
- Venkitagiri
- Chittore
- Tirupati
- Kaalahasti
- Nellore
- Ongole
- Guntur
- Rajamundry
- Vijayanagaram
Orissa
(24/11-27/12)

- Brahmapuri
- Chatrapur
- Puri
- Cuttak
- Soro
- Basta
Bengal
(27/12-9/1)

- Balasore
- Midnapore
- Salbani
- Beshanpur
- **Benkura**
- Gangajal ghatti
Bihar (Jharkhand) (9/1-23/1)

- Rajabhita
- Dumri
- Bagodar
- Berhi
- Chauparan
• Barachatti
• Sherghatti
• Madanpur
• Dehri
• Sasaram
• Jehanabad
• Mohania
Uttarpradesh
(2/2-16/2)

- Mughal sarai
- Kaasi
- (Allahabad)
Visited temples

- Tirupati
- Kaalahasti (Siva in the form of air)
- Vizianagaram
- Sreekakulam (Kurma, Suryanarayana)
- Puri (Jagannathan)
Kasi-1 phase

- Reached Kasi Feb 2 morning.
- Stayed in a quadrangle in Kedar Ghat.
- After morning shave, had dip at Manikarnika and darsan of Visvanath (2 PM).
- 3- Theerththa-sraadham.
- 4- rest.
- 5- rest.
Prayag

- Left Kasi on 6th; reached Prayag on 7th morning
- Dip at Samgam
- 8- Theerththa sraaddham
- 9- Dip at Samgam
- 10- Visit to Akbar’s Fort
- 11- Return to Kasi
Kasi- phase 2

- 12- Return from Allahabad.
- 13-15 rest
- 16- Visit to Kabribai temple
- ?????
Places not visited

visvEsam maadhavam duNdim
daNda-paaNim cha bhairavam
vandE kaaseeguhaam gangaam
bhavaanIm maNikarNikaam

( darshanavidhi for Kaasi)

Annapoorna, Visalakshi, Kalabhairav......
Whom he met and a not met

- Met
  - Collectors
  - Residents
  - Judges
  - Thahasildars
  - Shirasthdar

- Not met
  - Kings
  - Sankaracharya
To remember...

- Did not buy an English horse for Rs. 500 from Andhra. Spent Rs. 2000 for Gaya sraadhham.
- Paid only Re 1 as stitching charges against an invoice of Rs 1.75, since the dress was not fit to size.
Habits..

- “I was very hungry and tired and consequently I took some biscuits at noon.”
- “I got a fine and comfortable chatram with a small tank like Kocarny for bathing and a well with good water for drinking”
- “Today I bathed in the river and am observing Sudhopavasam, today being the anniversary of my uncle’s death in Thulam 1013 ME.”
- “It is so cold now that the water in the tanks at these places, when touched quite benumbs the body. Notwithstanding this I am obliged to take bathe every day in the morning”
- Till my arrival here somehow I could bathe almost every day in cold water but hereafter I think, I will be obliged to put that off and go on according to the way in which I was instructed by the Dewan at Coimbatore” (Jan 23)
As an administrator

- “Saw some Irish bridges on the road. I think it would be proper to make some at Arattupuzha as it will prevent spoiling the roads, when they are over-flown”

- “Major Cotton was mentioning to me the great advantage of cutting a road to Nelliyampady hills for bringing down teak timber and deepening the edathuruthy channel for passage of boats”
Tripunithura...Tripunithura...

- “Today is our Onam which was done much better than at Tripunithura.”
- “There is an old women in the chatram, looking something like Copachy, we had at Tripunithura”
- “Last evening at Puree, I went to visit the Pagoda of Lancanatha Swamy and it had got water around the Image as in the Pagoda at Peroonananacolum.”
Requirement of Travel..

“I saw the suspension bridge on the way and was quite surprised and astonished with it having never seen a similar one before. Had I not been marching this way, I would not have had the opportunity of seeing several extraordinary things.”
Mishaps

- Ceepoy attacked by Tiger- 3/1/53
- Silver maze stolen- 6/1
- Followers beaten up by tailor- 7/1
- Money chest stolen- 12/1
- Theft from tent in Allahabad- 10/2
Those who left...

- manager’s servant- 2/10
- Horse caretaker- 23/12
- servant- 25/12
- Palanquin bearer- 1/1/53.
- Chief Palanquin bearer- 8/1
Ailments..

- **31st Dec 1852**
  - “I have caught cold, and I am coughing, and feeling pain in the throat and on that account I was prevented from bathing in the river today morning”

- **18th Jan 1853**
  - “I got this morning a giddiness at Bagodur, and was senseless for a few minutes as at Rajamundry. I had another giddiness at Coucherlagundam, where at the time it came, I was lying down so that it passed off without making me insensible. I have had this giddiness several times in my country, for a few minutes and get perfectly recovered.”
On the 12th of Kumbham, 1028, this flame got extinguished!
The funeral pyre of our uncle also would have burned down here!

Agnim prajjvalaya!
In the path shown by Kasiyil theeppetta Maharaja, we also undertake pilgrimage trips.

Trip made by his nephew (Chingamasaththil theeppetta Maharaja in 1892) to the Trip taken by Ikkamma Thampuran Kovilakam members 3 months back, fall in this bracket.

Only difference in quality of travel and accommodation available at present are significantly better.
Kovilakam in Kedar Ghat

- Kasiyil theeppetta Maharaja stayed in a quadrangle in Kedar Ghat.
- For the benefit of the family members undertaking pilgrimage to Kasi, a building was purchased in the same ghat.
- Later it was handed over to Cochin Devaswom Board.
- This dilapidated structure is now being renovated.
Samarpayaami...

yad yad aacharathi shrEshTha:
thal thal eva itharojana:
sa: yad pramANam kuruthE
lOka: thadanuvarththathathE

bhagavad geetha( 3.21)