

Kochi Maharaja's Pilgrimage to **Kasi**

6/7/1852-16/2/1853

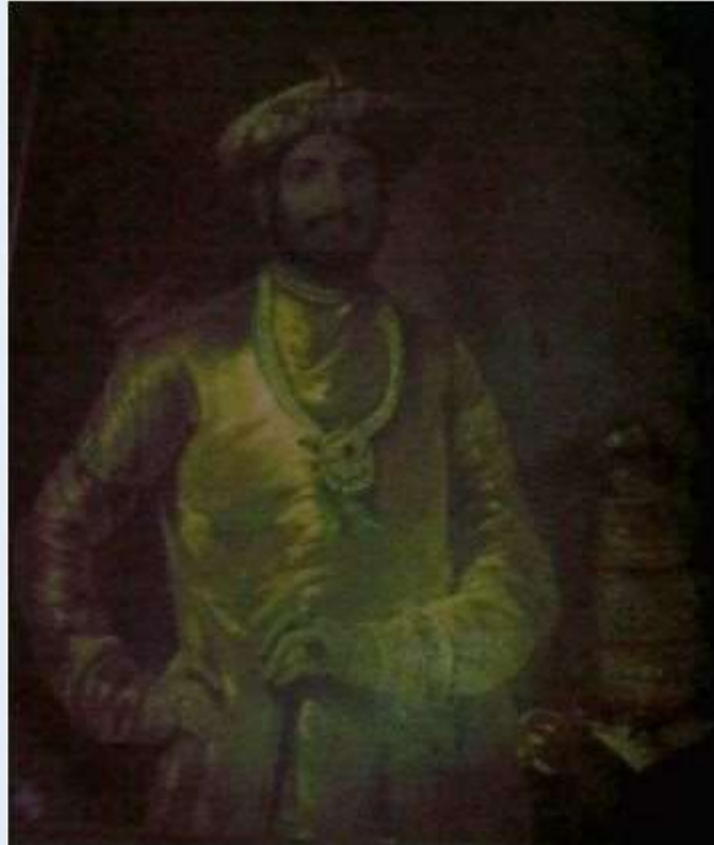
Basis

Autograph Diary of the Maharaja

Credits

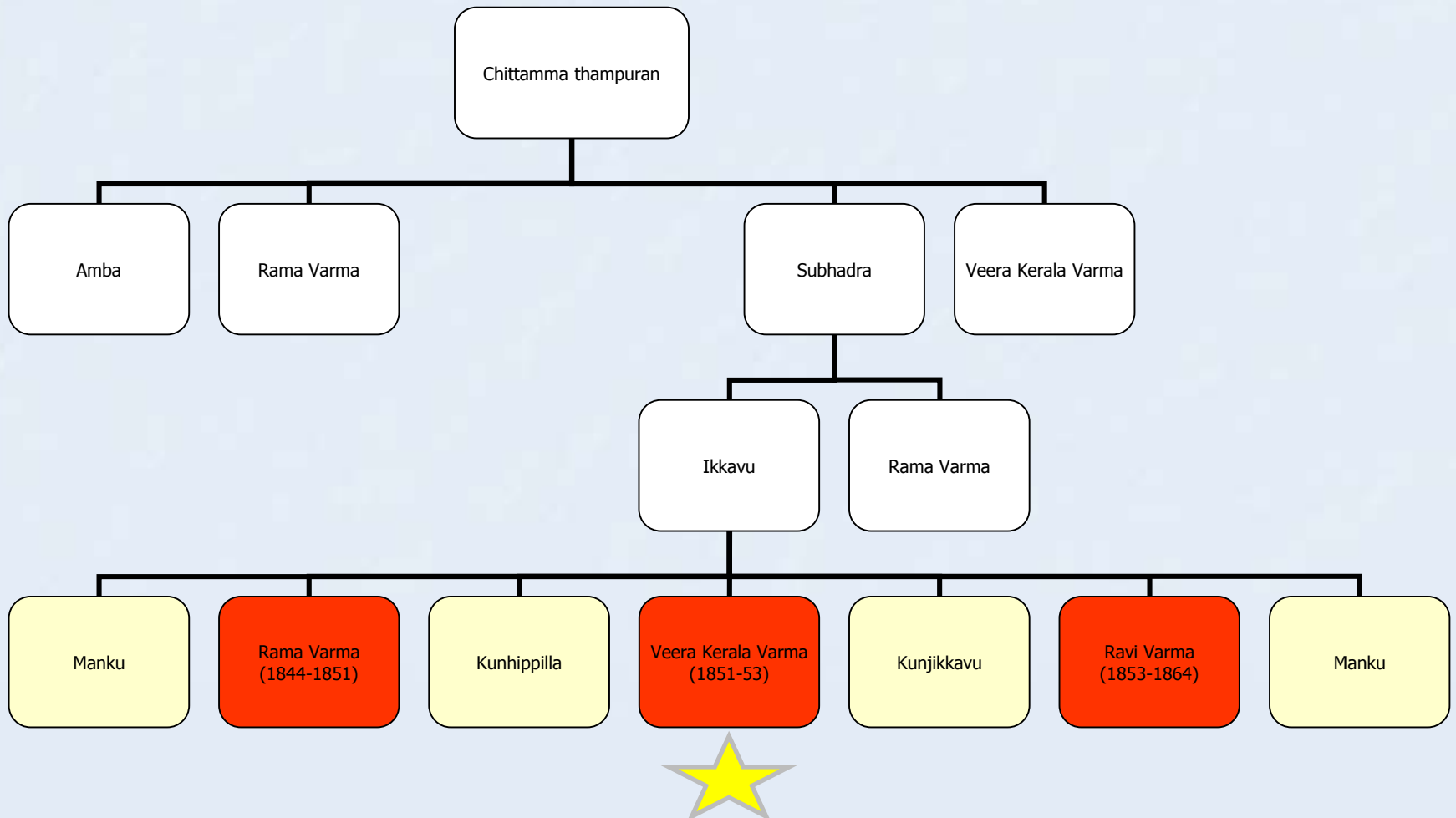
**Museum Authorities at Hill Palace
Tripunithura , who provided the picture of
the Maharaja**

Maharaja who died in Kasi (Veera Kerala Varma)



Tenure : 1851-1853

Family tree



Why go to Kasi ?

- No rebirth if death occurs in Kasi

- Redressal of Sins - Kasi the solution !

anya dEsE krtham paapam puNya dEsE vinasyathi

puNya dEsE krtham paapam vaaraaNasyaam vinasyathi

vaaraaNasyaam krtham paapam kumbhakONE vinasyathi

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..



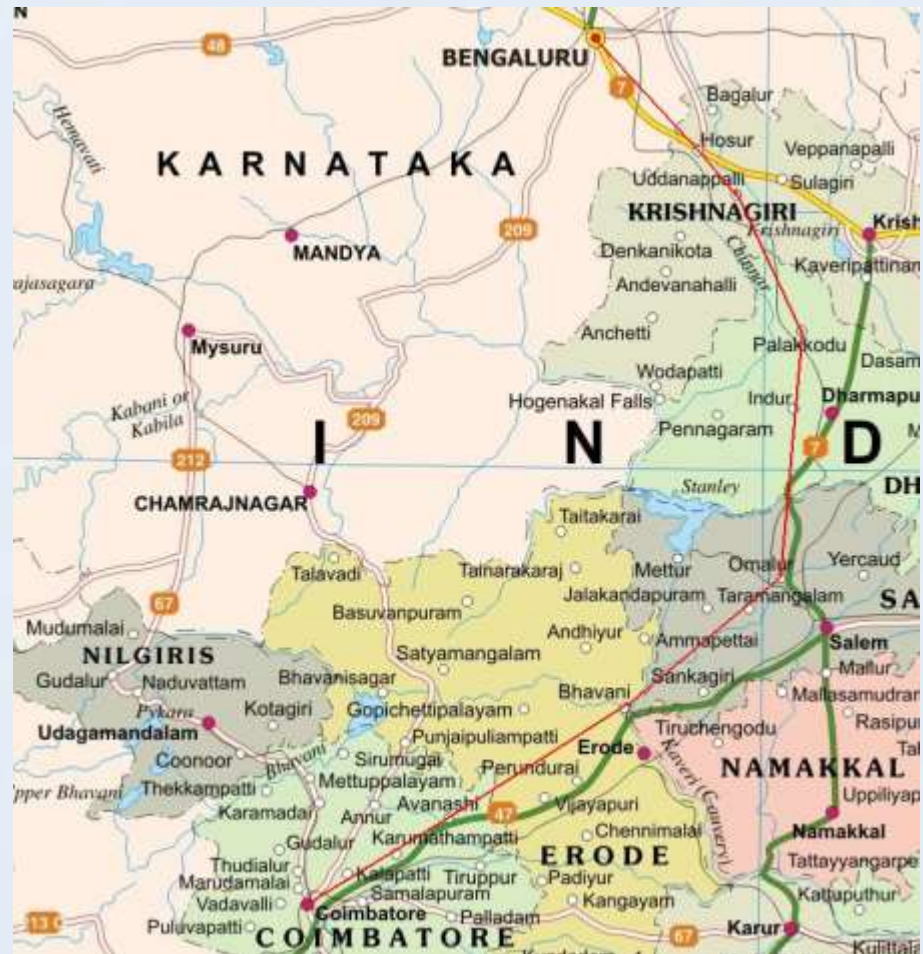
Kerala (6/7-19/7)

- Tripunithura
- Mattanchery
- Chittore
- Thiruvanchikkulam
- Iringalakkuta
- Oorakam
- Thrissur(9-16)
- Pattikkad
- Anchumurtimangalam
- ThiruvallakkaTavu
- 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

Bihar

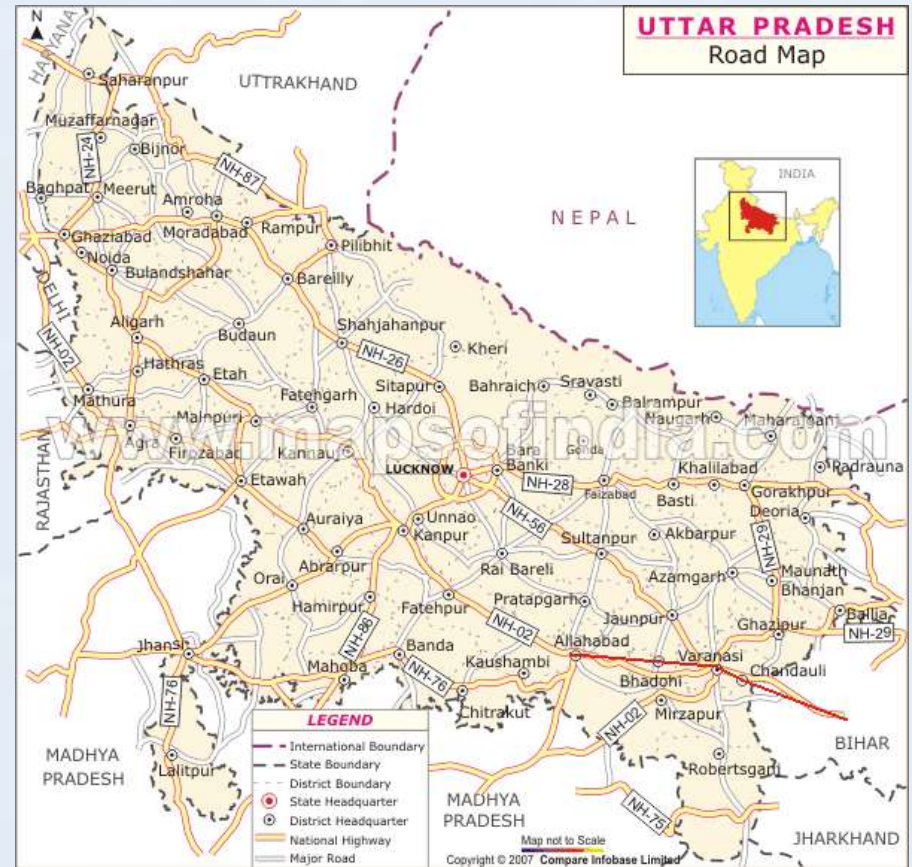
(23/1-2/2)

- Barachatti
- Sherghatti
- Madanpur
- Dehri
- Sasaram
- Jehanabad
- Mohania



Uttarpradesh (2/2-16/2)

- Mughal sarai
- Kaasi
- (Allahabad)

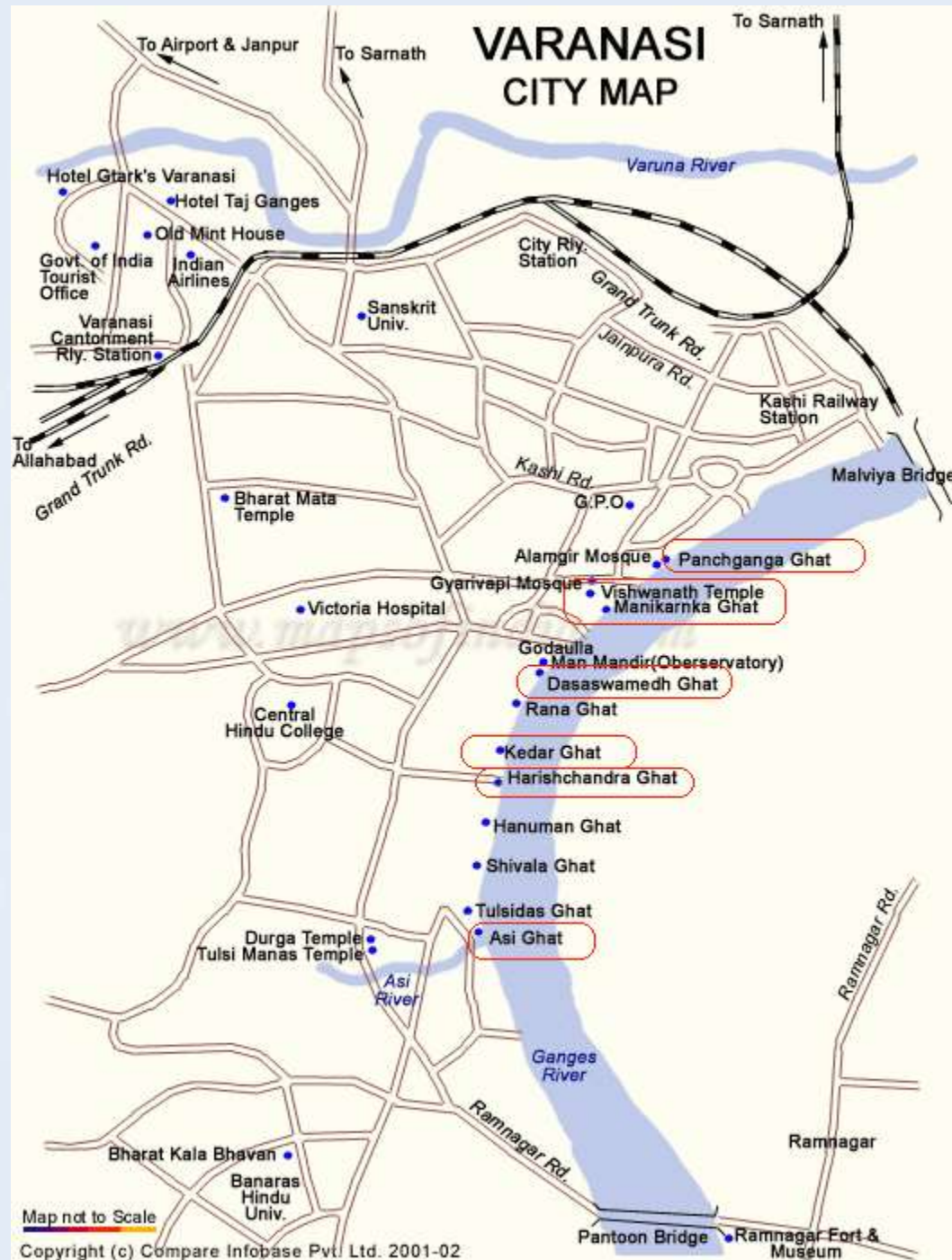


Visited temples

- 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
 - Tahsildars
 - 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 Nelliampady 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 Peroonanacolum.

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 !



Agnim prajjvalaya !



The funeral pyre of our uncle also would have burned down here !

Trend-setter

- In the path shown by Kasiyil theepetta Maharaja, we also undertake pilgrimage trips.
- Trip made by his nephew (Chingamasaththil theepetta 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 theppetta 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.

Samarpayami...

yad yad aacharathi shrEshTha:

thal thal eva itharojana:

sa: yad pramANam kuruthE

IOka: thadanuvarththathE

bhagavad geetha(3.21)