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Title: Need to declare Thrissur in Kerala as a Heritage district.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Thrissur occupies an important place in the history and culture of Kerala and is known as the Cultural Capital of the State. From very early times, Thrissur became an important centre of Sanskrit learning. The great Sankara Acharya had taught Advaita here.

The history of Thrissur district since 12th century has seen the rise and growth of Perumpadappu Swarupam. The 14th and 15th centuries constituted a period of aggressive wars in the course of which the Zamorins of Calicut acquired a large part of the present Thrissur district. In the subsequent centuries the Portuguese dominated the scene. Later European powers like the Dutch and the English came on the scene. From the very beginning, Thrissur was in the fore front of the national movement. The famous Guruvayur Satyagraha is a memorable episode in the history of the National Movement. The present Trichur District was carved out of a bigger district of the same name on 1st April, 1958.

Kerala's architecture has grown here also and the temple features low, tiled roofs, an abundance of wood work, and the famous 'Koothambalam' or theatre hall with sloping roofs of metal plates within which is performed the dramatic art from 'Chakiarkoothu'. The famous Kerala Kalamandiram, Cheruthuruthi, founded by the late poet Vallathol Naryana Menon, is in Trichur district and is an approved Deemed University. It is a centre of performing arts, specifically significant to Kerala culture. The Kerala Sahitya academy and Kerala Sangeetha Nadaka Akademi are situated in Trichur district.

I urge upon the Government to declare Thrissur as a heritage district.