FactsDid you know

The Revathi Pattathānam and its learned assembly

The Revathi Pattathānam began in the 14th century and ran until 1928. It was a grand yearly gathering of learning at the Tali temple. The Zamorin of Calicut was its royal patron. For seven days in Thulam, from Revati to Tiruvathira, scholars came from across the region. They debated philosophy in four old fields: Vyākaraṇa (grammar), Kumārila Mīmāṃsā, Prabhākara Mīmāṃsā, and Vedānta.

Mullappalli Bhattathiri was the standing chief judge. Scholars chose candidates by scholarly agreement and presented them to the Zamorin. Entry into Vidvatsabhā, the elite academy of letters, brought immense prestige and an annual purse of 101 fanams. Even Melputtur Narayana Bhattathiri, one of Kerala's greatest Sanskrit master poets, faced six rejections. The scrutiny was legendary, but the assembly finally judged his learning worthy of entry.