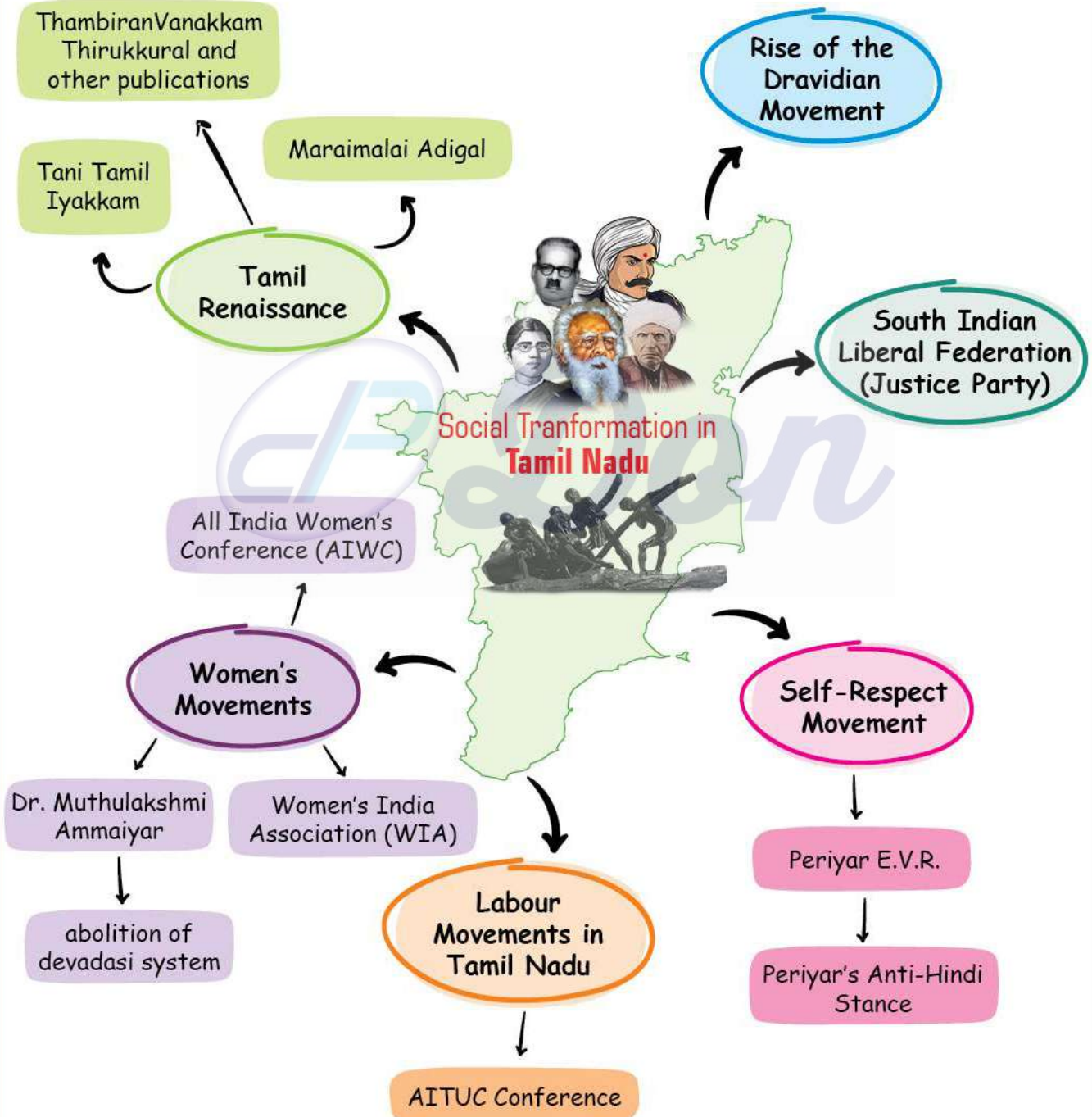


10

HISTORY * * *

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

MIND MAP



POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The cultural hegemony of colonialism and the rise of humanism brought several changes in the socio-cultural life of the Indian subcontinent.
- The introduction of printing press, linguistic research on Dravidian languages, etc., underpinned the process of Tamil renaissance.
- Maraimalai Adigal promoted the use of pure Tamil words and removal of the Sanskrit influence from the Tamil language.
- The Justice Party is the fountain head of the non-Brahmin Movement in the country.
- The Madras Legislature under the Justice Party government was the first to approve participation of women in the electoral politics in 1921.
- Self-Respect Movement demanded women's emancipation, deplored superstitions and emphasised rationality.
- Periyar condemned child marriage and the Devadasi system.
- Singaravelar organised the first ever celebration of May Day in 1923.
- Maraimalai Adigal's pure Tamil movement, the language reforms of Periyar and Tamil Isai Movement helped to galvanise the Tamil language.

I. Choose the correct answer:



TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. _____ was the pioneer of social reformers in India.
 - a) C.W.Damotharanar
 - b) Periyar
 - c) Raja Rammohan Roy
 - d) Maraimalai Adigal
2. _____ established a full-fledged printing press in 1709, at Tranquebar.
 - a) Caldwell
 - b) F.W Ellis
 - c) Ziegenbalg
 - d) Meenakshisundaram
3. _____ was the official newspaper of the Self Respect Movement.
 - a) KudiArasu
 - b) Puratchi
 - c) Viduthalai
 - d) Paguththarivu
4. Periyar wanted religion to be replaced by _____.
 - a) Nationalism
 - b) Iconoclasm
 - c) Rationalism
 - d) Spiritualism
5. _____ founded Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1893.
 - a) Rettaimalai Srinivasan
 - b) B.R. Ambedkar
 - c) Rajaji
 - d) M.C. Rajah
6. India's first organised trade union, the Madras Labour Union was formed in _____.
 - a) 1918
 - b) 1917
 - c) 1916
 - d) 1914
7. _____ was established by the Justice Party Government for the selection of Government Officials.
 - a) Staff Selection Board
 - b) Public Service Commission
 - c) Provincial Staff Recruitment Board
 - d) Staff Selection Commission



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

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8. _____ was the first elected Legislative Council Member from the depressed class in Madras Province.
- a) M.C. Rajah
b) Rettaimalai Srinivasan
c) T.M.Nair
d) P.Varadarajulu

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

9. As early as in 1578, Tamil book, _____ was published from Goa.
- a) Thirukkural
b) Thambiran Vanakkam
c) Ilakkana Vilakkam
d) Viracholiyam
10. _____ was one of the earliest Tamil literary texts to be published in 1812.
- a) Tolkappiyam
b) Kaliththokai
c) Thirukkural
d) Culamani
11. _____ was popularly known as Vallalar.
- a) Ramalinga Adigal
b) Parithimar Kalaigiar
c) S. Vaiyapuri
d) Bharatidasan
12. The Justice party was established in _____.
- a) 1902
b) 1909
c) 1912
d) 1916
13. _____ promoted the use of pure Tamil words and removal of the Sanskrit influence from the Tamil language.
- a) Maraimalai Adigal
b) Bharatidasan
c) C.W. Damotharanar
d) Abraham Pandithar
14. The Madras Non-Brahmin Association was founded in _____ to help the non-Brahmin students.
- a) 1909
b) 1919
c) 1929
d) 1911
15. _____ is the fountain head of the non-Brahmin Movement in the country.
- a) The Justice Party
b) The Labour Movement
c) The Dravidian Movement
d) The Labour Party

ANSWER

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. c) Raja Rammohan Roy | 6. a) 1918 | 11. a) Ramalinga Adigal |
| 2. c) Ziegenbalg | 7. a) Staff Selection Board | 12. d) 1916 |
| 3. a) KudiArasu | 8. a) M.C. Rajah | 13. a) Maraimalai Adigal |
| 4. c) Rationalism | 9. b) Thambiran Vanakkam | 14. a) 1909 |
| 5. a) Rettaimalai Srinivasan | 10. c) Thirukkural | 15. a) The Justice Party |

II. Fill in the Blanks:

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

- _____ was the first non-European language that went into print.
- The College of Fort St. George was founded by _____.
- _____ is considered the father of Tamil linguistic purism

4. _____ was the first to approve participation of women in the electoral politics.
5. The name Suriyanarayana Sastri changed in Tamil as _____.
6. _____ gave prominence to Tamil music.
7. The first Woman Legislator in India was _____.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

8. The Self-Respect Movement declared _____ and _____ as the birthright of all human beings.
9. _____ was the founder of the Self-Respect Movement.
10. Periyar.E.V.R was the son of a wealthy businessman in Erode, _____ and _____.
11. Manonmaniam was written by _____.
12. Cheranmadevi Gurukulam was run by _____.
13. Periyar frequently wrote columns under the pseudonym of _____.
14. _____ is considered the first communist of south India and a pioneer of Buddhism.
15. The first ever Chief minister of the Justice party in Madras Presidency was _____.
16. 'Religion means you accept superstitious beliefs', _____ asserted.
17. The first woman doctor in India was _____.
18. _____ was popularly known as Grandpa.
19. Rettaimalai Srinivasan's autobiography was _____.
20. _____ was popularly known as M.C.Rajah.

ANSWER

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Tamil | 8. rationality, self respect | 14. Singaravelar |
| 2. F.W. Ellis | 9. Periyar E.V. Ramasamy | 15. Subbarayalu |
| 3. Maraimalai Adigal | 10. Venkatappa,
Chinna Thayammal | 16. Periyar |
| 4. Justice Party Government | 11. P. Sundaranar | 17. Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar |
| 5. Parithimar Kalaignar | 12. V.V.Subramaniam | 18. Rettaimalai Srinivasan |
| 6. Abraham Pandithar | 13. Chitraputtiran | 19. Jeeviya Saritha Surukkam |
| 7. Muthulaksmi Ammaiyar | | 20. Mylai Chinnathambi Raja |

III. Choose the correct statement:



TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1.
 - i) Thirukkural was one of the earliest Tamil literary texts to be published in 1812.
 - ii) Maraimalai Adigal collected and edited different palm leaf manuscripts of the Tamil grammars and literature.
 - iii) Robert Caldwell established the close affinity between the Dravidian languages in contrast with Sanskrit and also established the antiquity of Tamil.
 - iv) Thiru.Vi.Kalyanasundaram was an early pioneer in Trade Union movement.
- a) (i) and (ii) are correct
- b) (i) and (iii) are correct
- c) (iv) is correct
- d) (ii) and (iii) are correct.



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

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2. i) Margret Cousin was one of the founders of Women's India Association.
 ii) Periyar spent his entire life campaigning against superstitions through Thinkers or Rationalists Forums he had formed.
 iii) Singaravelar was a staunch supporter of the Hindu Mahasabha.
 iv) Periyar emphasised that the caste system in South India is linked with the arrival of Brahmins from the north.
 a) (iii) and (iv) are correct
 b) (ii),(iii) and (iv) are correct
 c) (i),(ii) and (iv) are correct
 d) (ii) and (iii) are correct
3. **Assertion (A) :** The Justice Party continued to remain in government from 1920-1937 in Madras Presidency.
Reason(R) : The Congress Party boycotted the Madras Legislature during this period of Dyarchy.
 a) Both A and R are correct
 b) A is correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
 c) Both A and R are wrong
 d) R is correct, but it has no relevance to A.
4. **Assertion (A) :** As World War I was in progress, the British Government was considering the introduction of representative institutions for Indians after the war.
Reason (R) : In 1920, Dyarchy as a form of Government was introduced in the provinces.
 a) A is correct, but R is not the correct reason
 b) Both A and R are wrong
 c) Both A and R are correct
 d) A is wrong and R has no relevance to A



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

5. i) Europeans established their political power over Indian subcontinent in the later half of the eighteenth century.
 ii) Telugu was the first non-European language that went into print.
 iii) Neelambikai compiled a dictionary that provided pure Tamil equivalents to Sanskrit words that had crept into Tamil vocabulary.
 iv) Rettaimalai Srinivasan believed that property rights for women would provide them a social status and protection.
 a) (i) and (iii) are correct
 b) (iii) and (iv) are correct
 c) (i) and (ii) are correct
 d) (ii) and (iii) are correct.
6. i) M.C Rajah condemned child marriage and the devadasi system.
 ii) Grandpa founded the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1893.
 iii) Singaravelar systematically studied the history of Tamil music and attempted to reconstruct the ancient Tamil musical system.
 iv) The first Tamil Isai Conference was held in 1934 to discuss the status of Tamil music.
 a) (i),(ii) and (iii) are correct
 b) (ii) is correct
 c) (iii) and (iv) are correct
 d) (i) and (iv) are correct.
7. **Assertion (A) :** Rajaji, the Chief Minister of Madras state (1952-54), introduced a vocational education programme that encouraged imparting school children with training in tune with their father's occupation.
Reason (R) : Periyar criticised it as Kula Kalvi Thittam and opposed it tooth and nail.

- a) A is correct, but R is not the correct reason
 b) Both A and R are wrong
 c) Both A and R are correct
 d) A is wrong and R has no relevance to A
8. **Assertion (A) :** Tamil regained its prominence in the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth century.
Reason (R) : Maraimalai Adigal's pure Tamil movement, the language reforms of Periyar and Tamil isai movement helped to galvanise the Tamil language.
- a) A is correct, but R is not the correct reason
 b) Both A and R are wrong.
 c) A is wrong and R has no relevance to A
 d) A is correct and R is the correct explanation

ANSWER

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. b) (i) and (iii) are correct | 5. a) (i) and (iii) are Correct |
| 2. c) (i),(ii) and (iv) are correct | 6. b) (ii) is correct |
| 3. a) Both A and R are correct | 7. c) Both A and R are correct |
| 4. c) Both A and R are correct | 8. d) A is correct and R is the correct explanation |

IV. Match the following:



TEXTUAL QUESTION

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| A) | 1. Dravidian Home | a. Maraiamalai Adigal |
| | 2. Thozhilalan | b. Rettaimalai Srinivasan |
| | 3. Tani Tamil Iyakkam | c. Singaravelar |
| | 4. Jeeviya Saritha Surukkam | d. Natesanar |

Ans:

- 1) d
 2) c
 3) a
 4) b



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| B) | 1. Suryanarayana Sastri | a. Maraiamalai Adigal |
| | 2. Abraham Pandithar | b. Parithimar Kalaignar |
| | 3. Vedachalam | c. Tamil Music |
| | 4. Gnanasagaram | d. a medical doctor |
| | 5. C. Natesanar | e. Arivukkadal |

Ans:

- 1) b
 2) c
 3) a
 4) e
 5) d

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| C) | 1. Hindu Religious Endowment Act | a. M.C.Rajah |
| | 2. Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar | b. 1926 |
| | 3. Mylai Chinnathambi | c. Telugu |
| | 4. Rao Bahadur | d. Devadasi system |
| | 5. Andhra Prakasika | e. Rettaimalai Srinivasan |

Ans:

- 1) b
 2) d
 3) a
 4) e
 5) c



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

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V. Answer the following in brief:



TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. **Write a note on Tamil Renaissance.**

- The cultural hegemony of colonialism and the rise of humanism brought several changes in the socio-cultural life of the Indian subcontinent.
- Modern Tamil Nadu too experienced such a historical transition. Tamil language and culture played a significant role in their identity construction.
- The introduction of printing press, linguistic research on Dravidian languages, etc.... underpinned the process of Tamil renaissance.
- Although religious literature was taken up predominantly for publication in the early years after the advent of printing technology, things began to change gradually.

2. **Highlight the contribution of Caldwell for the cause of South Indian languages.**

- In 1816, F.W. Ellis, formulated the theory that the south Indian languages belonged to a separate family which was unrelated to the Indo-Aryan family of languages.
- Robert Caldwell (1814-1891) expanded this argument in a book titled, "A Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian or South Indian Family of Languages." in 1856.
- He established the close affinity between the Dravidian languages in contrast with Sanskrit and also established the antiquity of Tamil.

3. **List out the personalities who contributed to the revival of Tamil literature through their writings.**

- C.W. Damotharanar, U.V.Swaminathar, Thiru Vi. Kalyanasundaram, Parithimar Kalaigarnar, Maraimalai Adigal, Subramania Bharati, S.Vaiyapuri and the poet Bharatidasan.

4. **Discuss the importance of Hindu Religious Endowment Act passed by the Justice ministry.**

- Tamil Nadu has a large number of temples and these commanded huge resources.
- In general, the resources were monopolised and exploited by the dominant caste in the society and led to mismanagement of public resources.
- The Justice Party introduced the Hindu Religious Endowment (HRE) Act in 1926 and enabled any individual, irrespective of their caste affiliation, to become a member of the temple committee and govern the resources of the religious institutions.

5. **What do you know of the Chermanmahadevi Gurukulam incident?**

- A Gurukulam was established in Chermanmahadevi by V.V.Subramaniam.
- It received funds from the Congress.
- However, students were discriminated on the basis of caste.
- Periyar protested against this discrimination.
- But the Congress continued its support to the Gurukulam.

6. **Name the newspapers published by the South Indian Liberal Foundation.**

- Dravidian in Tamil, Justice in English and Andhra Prakasika in Telugu.

7. Estimate Periyar as a feminist.

- Periyar was critical of patriarchy.
- He had a concern over the plight of women.
- He emphasised women's right to divorce and property.
- He condemned child marriage and devadasi system.
- He believed that property rights for women would provide them social status and protection.
- He was a strong champion of birth control.
- According to him motherhood was a burden to women.

8. Explain the proceedings of All India Trade Union Congress Conference held in 1920.

- The first All India Trade Union Conference (AITUC) was held on 31 October 1920 in Bombay.
- The delegates discussed several resolutions.
- These included a demand for protection from police interference in labour disputes, the maintenance of an unemployment register, restriction on exporting foodstuffs, compensation for injuries and health insurance.
- They also demanded that Indian workers be given some representation in the government.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

9. Write a short on Periyar's Anti-Hindi stance.

- Periyar emphasised that the caste system in South India is linked with the arrival of Brahmins from the North.
- He said that ancient Tamil society had a different stratification based on tinai (regions), determined by natural surroundings and the means of livelihood or occupation of the people.
- Anti-north Indian campaigns had made Periyar to take an anti-Hindi stand.
- When the then Education minister, Avinashilingam, wanted to re-introduce Hindi as a compulsory subject in schools, Periyar said that it would make us slaves.

10. Describe Tani Tamil Iyakkam.

- Maraimalar Adigal promoted the use of pure Tamil words and removal of the Sanskrit influence from Tamil language.
- The beginnings of the movement are usually dated to 1916 even though the process of identifying influence of foreign words in Tamil and eliminating them can be dated much earlier to the late nineteenth century.
- His daughter Neelambikai, played an important role in its foundation.
- He changed his own name Vedachalam and took on the pure Tamil name of Maraimalai Adigal.
- His Journal Jnanasagaram was renamed Arivukkadal and his institution, Samarasa Sanmarga Sangam, was re-christened as Potu Nilaik kalakam.
- The movement was critical of Hindi, Sanskrit and the Brahminical hegemony in Tamil Society.

11. List out the names of the newspapers and journals started by Periyar.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| ➤ Kudi Arasu | ➤ Revolt | ➤ Puratchi |
| ➤ Paguththarivu | ➤ Viduthalai | ➤ KudiArasu |



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

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12. What do you know about Devadasi system?

- In India there was an old custom of dedicating young girls to the Hindu temples as servants of God known as devadasi.
- Though it was thought as a service to God, soon it got corrupted leading to extensive immorality and abuse of the women.
- Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar fought against this evil practice and got it abolished.

VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption:



TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. PERIYAR E.V.R.

a) When did Periyar found Dravidar Kazhagam?

Periyar founded Dravidar Kazhagam in 1944.

b) What were the Newspapers and Journals run by Periyar?

Kudi Arasu (Democracy), Revolt, Puratchi (Revolution), Paguththarivu (Rationalism) and Viduthalai (Liberation).

c) Why was Periyar known as Vaikom hero?

- In the name of “caste dharma” the “lower caste” people were denied access to the temples and the streets surrounding the temples of Vaikom in Kerala.
- Periyar opposed this practice and led the Temple entry movement. He succeeded in his attempt. So he is known as Vaikom Hero.

d) Which was the most important work of Periyar?

Periyar's most important work on this subject is “Why the Woman is Enslaved?”

2. LABOUR MOVEMENT IN TAMILNADU

a) Highlight the factors that caused the birth of Trade Union Movement in Madras.

- At the end of the First World War (1914-18) there were retrenchments across the industries, as the war time requirements receded.
- Combined with high prices, this gave a momentum to the labour movement.

b) Identify the three prominent persons associated with the Madras Labour Union.

B.P Wadia, M Singaravelar and Thiru. Vi. Kalyanasundaram were the three prominent persons associated with the Madras Labour Union.

c) Where was the first conference of All India Trade Union Congress held?

The first All India Trade Union Conference (AITUC) was held in Bombay.

d) Who organised the first ever celebration of May Day in Madras and which year?

Singaravelar organized the first ever celebration of May Day in 1923.

3. MARAIMALAI ADIGAL

a) Name the Sangam texts for which Maraimalai Adigal wrote commentaries.

Maraimalar Adigal wrote commentaries on the Sangam texts, Pattinapalai and Mullaipattu.

b) Name the journal where he worked as a young man.

As a young man, he worked in a journal, ‘Siddhanta Deepika’.

c) **Why did he oppose imposition of Hindi?**

Maraimalai Adigal pointed out that the Tamil language would suffer with the introduction of Hindi.

d) **Who were the key influences in Maraimalai Adigal's life?**

Maraimalar Adigal's teachers such as P. Sundaranar and Somasundara Nayagar were key influences in his life.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**4. **RETTAIMALAI SRINIVASAN:**a) **Where and when was he born?**

Rettaimalai Srinivasan was born at Kanchipuram in 1859.

b) **What were the titles given to him?**

Rao Sahib, Rao Bahadur and Divan Bahadur were the titles given to him.

c) **Name the autobiography of Rettaimalai Srinivasan.**

Jeeviya Saritha Surukkam is the autobiography of Rettaimalai Srinivasan.

d) **Name the sabha founded by him.**

He founded the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1893.

5. **M.C. RAJAH**a) **What was the real name of M.C.Rajah?**

The real name of M.C.Rajah was Mylai Chinnathambi.

b) **How did M.C.Rajah start his career?**

M.C.Rajah started his career as a teacher.

c) **Name the association founded by him.**

The association founded by him was All India Depressed Classes Association.

d) **What were the demands of M.C.Rajah?**

M.C.Rajah demanded abolition of untouchability. He wanted the "Untouchable castes" to have access to public wells and pathways to burial grounds.

VII. Answer in detail:**TEXTUAL QUESTIONS**1. **Attempt an essay on the foundation and development of Tamil Renaissance in the 19th Century.****Tamil Renaissance:**

- The cultural hegemony of colonialism and the rise of humanism brought several changes in the socio-cultural life of the Indian subcontinent.
- Modern Tamil Nadu too experienced such a historical transition.
- Tamil language and culture played a significant role in their identity construction.
- The introduction of printing press, linguistic research on Dravidian languages, etc...underpinned the process of Tamil renaissance.
- Although religious literature was taken up predominantly for publication in the early years after the advent of printing technology, things began to change gradually.
- Works that can be described as secular were taken up for publishing.



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

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Advent of the Printing Technology:

- In the nineteenth century, Tamil scholar's like C. W. Damotharanar (1832-1901), and U. V. Swaminathar (1855-1942) spent their lifetime in the rediscovery of the Tamil classics.
- C.W.Damotharanar collected and edited different palm-leaf manuscripts of the Tamil grammar and literature.
- His editions included such texts as Tolkappiyam, Viracholiyam, Iraiyanar Akapporul, Ilakkanam Vilakkam, Kaliththokai and Culamani.
- U.V.Swaminathar, took efforts to publish the classical texts such as Civakachinthamani, Paththupattu, Purapporul Venpa Malai, Manimekalai, Ainkurunuru and Pathitrupathu.
- This provided the Tamil people with a revelation about their heritage.
- Therefore , the rediscovery of ancient classics and their publication is considered the foundation of Tamil renaissance.
- The publication of these ancient literary texts created an awareness among the Tamil people about their historical tradition, language, literature and religion.
- Modern Tamils founded their social and cultural identity on the ancient Tamil classics, collectively called the Sangam literature.
- Linguists, historians and Tamil scholars recognised the uniqueness of Tamil culture, which had a separate and independent cultural existence before the coming of the Aryans into the Tami Land.
- Tamil intellectuals of this period identified the fundamental differences between Tamil/ Dravidian/Egalitarian and Sanskrit/ Aryan/ Brahmanism.
- They argued that Tamil was a language of Dravidian people, who are non-Brahmin and their social life was casteless, gender-sensitised and egalitarian.
- Tamil renaissance contributed to the origin and growth of Dravidian consciousness in the Tamil country.
- These ideas are exemplified in the Tamil invocation song written by Manonmaniam. P.Sundaranar.
- C.W.Damotharanar, U.V Swaminathar, Thiru. Vi.Kalyanasundaram, Parithimar Kalaiggar, Maraimalai Adigal, Subramanian Bharati, S.Vaiyapuri and the poet Bharatidasan, in their own ways and through their writings contributed to the revival of Tamil literature.
- Maraimalai Adigal's pure Tamil Movement, the language reforms of Periyar and Tamil Isai movement helped to galvanise the Tamil language.

2. Describe the background for the formation of the Justice Party and point out its contribution to the cause of social justice.

South Indian Liberal Federation (Justice Party):

- As World War I was in progress the British government was considering the introduction of representative institutions for Indians after the war.
- Fearing that such political reforms would further strengthen the political power of Brahmins, educated non-Brahmins decided to organise themselves politically.

- On 20 November 1916 around 30 prominent non-Brahmin leaders including Dr. C.Natesanar, Sir Pitti Theyagarayar, T.M.Nair and Alamelu Mangai Thayarammal came together to form the South Indian Liberation Federation.
- Later, the South Indian Liberation Federation came to be called Justice party.

Programmes and Activities:

- The Justice Party is the fountain head of the non-Brahmin Movement in the country.
- The Justice Party government widened education and employment opportunities for the majority of the population.
- The Justicites removed the legal hindrances restricting inter-caste marriages and broke the barriers that prevented Depressed Classes from the use of public wells and tanks.
- The Justice Party government ordered that public schools accommodate the children of the Depressed Classes.
- Hostels were established for the students belonging to his social group.
- Women were permitted to participate in the electoral politics in 1921.
- The Justice Party worked towards legislating provisions for communal representation reservations for various communities.
- Two Communal Government Orders were passed to ensure equitable distribution in appointments among various castes and communities.
- The Justice Party rule established the Staff Selection Board in 1924 for the selection of government officials.
- In 1929, the Public Service Commission was established.
- The Justice Party further concentrated on reforms in religious institutions.
- Tamil Nadu has a large number of temples and these commanded huge resources.
- The Justice Party introduced the Hindu Religious Endowment (HRE) Act in 1926. It enabled any individual, irrespective of their caste affiliation, to become a member of the temple committee and govern the resources of the religious institutions.

3. Estimate Periyar E.V.R's decisive contribution to the social transformation of Tamil Nadu.

- Periyar E.V.Ramasamy was the founder of the Self-Respect Movement.

Caste based:

- The Self-Respect Movement introduced a programme of non-Brahmin uplift in Tamilnadu.
- The Movement criticized Brahminism and the cultural hegemony of the Brahmins.
- It advocated a casteless society devoid of rituals and differences based on birth.
- The movement declared rationality and self-respect as the birthright of all human beings.

Through newspapers:

- Periyar started a number of newspapers like Kudi Arasu, Revolt, Puratchi and Viduthalai.
- He exposed the voices of non-brahmins and minorities through these newspapers.

Education:

- He stressed on compulsory elementary education to all.
- He opposed the introduction of Kula Kalvi Thittam.

Anti Hindi stance:

- Periyar took an anti-Hindi stance.
- He was against the introduction of Hindi in schools.



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

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Periyar on religion:

- Periyar opposed superstitions.
- He advocated intercaste and self respect marriages.
- He objected to the hereditary priesthood in temples.
- He fought for the temple entry of untouchables.

Periyar, a Feminist:

- He was critical of patriarchy. He condemned child-marriage and the devadasi system.
- He believed that property rights for women would provide them a social status and protection.
- He welcomed equal rights for males and females in property, guardianship and adoption.
- Periyar's Self Respect Movement worked for emancipation of women.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

4. Write a short note on Rettaimalai Srinivasan.

- Rettaimalai Srinivasan, popularly known as Grandpa (Thatha), was born in 1859 at Kanchipuram.
- He fought for social justice, equality and civil rights of the marginalised in the caste order.
- He was honoured with such titles as Rao Sahib (1926), Rao Bahadur (1930) and Divan Bahadur (1936) for his selfless social services.
- His autobiography, Jeeviya Saritha Surukkam was published in 1939. It is one of the earliest autobiographies.
- Rettaimalai Srinivasan who had experienced the horrors of untouchability worked for the progress of the deprived castes.
- He founded the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1893.
- He served as president of the Scheduled Castes' Federation and the Madras Provincial Depressed Classes' Federation.
- He constantly engaged in discussions with leaders of the Indian National Congress and the Justice Party on questions involving the depressed castes.
- Rettaimalai Srinivasan met Gandhi in South Africa and was closely associated with him.
- He became a member of the Madras Legislative Council in 1923. He influenced the Justice Party to take affirmative action to safeguard the interests of the depressed and deprived sections of the society.
- A close associate of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he participated in the First and Second Round Table Conferences held in London and voiced the opinions of the marginalized sections of the society.
- He was a signatory to the Poona Pact of 1932.

VIII. Time Line

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1709 | - Establishment of printing press |
| 1816 | - Establishment of the college of Fort St George |
| 1893 | - Formation of the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha |

- 1909 – Establishment of the Madras Non- Brahmin Association
- 1912 –
 - 1. Establishment of the Madras United League
 - 2. Tamil Music Movement
 - 3. Tanjore Sangitha Vidya Mahajana Sangam
- 1916 –
 - 1. Formation of the South Indian Liberation Federation
 - 2. Non-Brahmin Manifesto
- 1917 –
 - 1. Women's India Association
 - 2. All India Women's Conference
- 1918 –
 - 1. Madras Labour Union
 - 2. India's first organised trade union
- 1920 – First All India Trade Union Conference
- 1921 – Participation of women in the electoral politics
- 1923 –
 - 1. Madras Legislative Council
 - 2. First ever celebration of May Day
- 1924 – Establishment of the Staff Selection Board
- 1925 – Self Respect Movement Started.
- 1926 – Hindu Religious Endowment Act
- 1928 – Formation of All India Depressed Classes Association
- 1928 –
 - 1. Revolt (Newspaper)
 - 2. All India Depressed Classes Association
- 1932 –
 - 1. Self Respect Movement Started.
 - 2. Poona Act
 - 3. May day
- 1933 – Puratchi (Newspaper)
- 1934 – Paguththarivu (Newspaper)
- 1935 – Viduthalai (Newspaper)
- 1943 – First Tamil Isai conference was held
- 1944 – Justice Party rechristened as Dravidar Kazhagam
- 1947 – Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act
- 1989 – The Hindu Succession Tamil Nadu Amendment Act



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMIL NADU

Don

10

Unit Test

Time : 1.00 hr.

UNIT - X – Social transformation in Tamil Nadu

Marks : 30

I. Choose the correct answer:

5 × 1 = 5

- _____ was the pioneer of social Reformers in India.
a) C.W.Damotharanar b) Periyar
c) Raja Rammohan Roy d) Maraimalai Adigal
- _____ founded Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1893.
a) Rajaji b) B.R. Ambedkar c) Rettaimalai Srinivasan d) M.C. Rajah
- _____ was the official newspaper of the Self Respect Movement.
a) KudiArasu b) Puratchi c) Viduthalai d) Paguththarivu
- _____ was popularly known as Vallalar.
a) S. Vaiyapuri b) Parithimar Kalaingar c) Ramalinga Adigal d) Bharatidasan
- Assertion (A)** : The Justice Party continued to remain in government from 1920-1937 in Madras Presidency.
Reason (R) : The congress party boycotted the Madras Legislature during this period of Dyarchy.
a) Both A and R are correct b) A is correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
c) Both A and R are wrong d) R is correct, but it has no relevance to A.

II. Fill in the blanks:

4 × 1 = 4

- Rettaimalai Srinivasan's autobiography was_____.
- _____ is considered the father of Tamil linguistic purism.
- _____ gave prominence to Tamil music.
- The first Woman Legislator in India was_____.

III. Match the following:

4 × 1 = 4

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Dravidian Home | - a) Maraimalai Adigal |
| 2. Thozhilalan | - b) Rettaimalai Srinivasan |
| 3. Tani Tamil Iyakkam | - c) Singaravelar |
| 4. Jeeviya Saritha Surukkam | - d) Natesanar |

V. Answer all the questions given under the caption:

1 × 4 = 4

- Periyar E.V.R.**
a) When did Periyar found Dravidar Kazhagam?
b) What were the newspaper and journals run by Periyar?
c) Why was Periyar known as Vaikom hero?
d) Which was the most important work of Periyar?

VI. Answer briefly:

4 × 2 = 8

- Estimate Periyar as a Feminist.
- What do you know about the Cheranmahadevi Gurukulam incident?
- Write a note on Tamil renaissance.
- Name the newspapers published by the South Indian Liberal Foundation.

VII. Answer in detail :

1 × 5 = 5

- Estimate Periyar E.V.R's decisive contribution to the social transformation of Tamil Nadu.

