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HISTORY \* \* \*

## EARLY REVOLTS AGAINST BRITISH RULE IN TAMIL NADU

### MIND MAP

Regional Powers  
against the British

Palayakkarars

Revolt  
1755 - 1801

Vellore Revolt  
1806



PULI THEVAR

Marudhanayagam  
Ondiveeran

1755-1767



VELUNACHIYAR

Kuyili

1730-1796



VEERA PANDYA KATTABOMMAN

Seige of Panchalankurichi

1790-1799



MARUDHU BROTHERS

Proclamation of 1801  
Carnatic Treaty, 1801

1800-1801



DHEERAN CHINNAMALAI

1756-1805



## EARLY REVOLTS AGAINST BRITISH RULE IN TAMIL NADU

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### POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The word "Palayam" means a domain, a military camp, or a little kingdom.
- The system was put in place in Tamil Nadu by Viswanatha Nayaka.
- In Tamil Nadu 72 Palayakkarars were created by the Nayak rulers.
- Puli Thevar also formed a confederacy of the Palayakkars to fight the British.
- Veera Pandya Kattabomman became the Palayakkarar of Panchalamkurichi at the age of thirty.
- Kattabomman was hanged in Kayathar.
- After Muthu Vadugar's death in the Kalaiyar Kovil battle Marudhu brothers assisted in restoring the throne to Velunachiyar.
- In June 1801 Marudhu brothers issued the Tiruchirapalli Proclamation.
- The Marudhu brothers rebellion was called South Indian Rebellion.
- The original name of Dheeran Chinnamalai is Theerthagiri.
- After Tipu's death Dheeran Chinnamalai built a fort and fought the British without leaving the place, Hence the place is called Odanilai.
- New military regulations were introduced by the commander in chief Sir John Cradock.
- The rebels proclaimed Fateh Hyder as their new ruler.
- Vellore Revolt had all the forebodings of the Great Rebellion of 1857.

### I. Choose the correct answer:



#### TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. **Who was the first Palayakkarar to resist the East India Company's policy of territorial aggrandizement?**  
a) Marudhu brothers                      b) Puli Thevar  
c) Velunachiyar                              d) Veera Pandya Kattabomman
2. **Who had borrowed money from the East India Company to meet the expenses he had incurred during the Carnatic wars?**  
a) Velunachiyar      b) Puli Thevar                      c) Nawab of Arcot                      d) Raja of Travancore
3. **Who had established close relationship with the three agents of Chanda Sahib?**  
a) Velunachiyar      b) Kattabomman                      c) Puli Thevar                      d) Oomai thurai
4. **Where was Sivasubramanian executed?**  
a) Kayathar                      b) Nagalapuram                      c) Virupachi                      d) Panchalamkurichi
5. **Who issued the Tiruchirappalli proclamation of Independence?**  
a) Marudhu brothers                      b) Puli Thevar  
c) Veera Pandya Kattabomman                      d) Gopala Nayak



6. **When did the Vellore Revolt break out?**  
 a) 24 May 1805      b) 10 July 1805      c) 10 July 1806      d) 10 September 1806
7. **Who was the Commander-in-Chief responsible for the new military regulations in Vellore fort?**  
 a) Col. Fancourt      b) Major Armstrong  
 c) Sir John Cradock      d) Colonel Agnew
8. **Where were the sons of Tipu Sultan sent after the Vellore Revolt?**  
 a) Calcutta      b) Mumbai      c) Delhi      d) Mysore



**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

9. **Puli Thevar ruled this place**  
 a) Madurai      b) Nerkattumseval      c) Warrangal      d) Sivagiri
10. **The Nayak rulers created \_\_\_\_\_ palayakarars.**  
 a) 62      b) 52      c) 82      d) 72
11. **Who was the brother of the Nawab of Arcot?**  
 a) Mahfuzkhan      b) Mianah      c) Nabikhan      d) Chanda Sahib
12. **\_\_\_\_\_ formed a confederacy of the Palayakarars to fight the British.**  
 a) Kattabomman      b) Chinna Marudhu  
 c) Puli Thevar      d) Dheeran Chinnamalai
13. **In the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ Mahfuzkhan's troops were routed.**  
 a) Kalakadu Battle      b) Odanilai war  
 c) Dindigul war      d) Kalaiyar koil
14. **The capital of Chinna Marudhu was**  
 a) Thirupathur      b) Sivagiri      c) Vellore      d) Siruvayal
15. **Puli Thevar recaptured Nerkattumseval in \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 a) 1776      b) 1867      c) 1786      d) 1767
16. **Velunachiyar escaped and lived under the protection of Gopala Nayakar at \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 a) Manapparai      b) Devadanapatti      c) Virupatchi      d) Aanamalai
17. **\_\_\_\_\_ was the first female ruler to resist the British Colonial power in India.**  
 a) Lakshmibai      b) Lakshmi Nayakar      c) Kuyili      d) Velunachiyar
18. **Who is the faithful friend of Velunachiyar?**  
 a) Kuyili      b) Udaiyaal      c) Lakshmi      d) Vellachinachiyar
19. **Kattabomman met Jackson at \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 a) Panchalamkurichi      b) Ramanathapuram  
 c) Courtallam      d) Srivilliputhoor
20. **\_\_\_\_\_ ordered the suspension of the collector Jackson.**  
 a) Robert Clive      b) Lushington      c) Edward Clive      d) William Brown



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21. **The head of the South Indian Rebellion was \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) Puli Thevar
  - b) Dheeran Chinnamalai
  - c) Kattabomman
  - d) Marudhu Pandiyar
22. **Tiruchirappalli proclamation was issued in the year \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) 1801
  - b) 1802
  - c) 1805
  - d) 1806
23. **The Marudhu brothers were executed in the fort of \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) Sankagiri Fort
  - b) Tirupathur
  - c) Vellore Fort
  - d) Panchalamkurichi
24. **The English captured Dheeran Chinnamalai and his brothers and kept them in prison in \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) Sankagiri
  - b) Elagiri
  - c) Sivagiri
  - d) Nilagiri
25. **Vellore revolt broke out in the year \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) 1805
  - b) 1806
  - c) 1807
  - d) 1808

### ANSWER

- |                        |                        |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. b) Puli Thevar      | 10. d) 72              | 19. b) Ramanathapuram   |
| 2. c) Nawab of Arcot   | 11. a) Mahfuzkhan      | 20. c) Edward Clive     |
| 3. c) Puli Thevar      | 12. c) Puli Thevar     | 21. d) Marudhu Pandiyar |
| 4. b) Nagalapuram      | 13. a) Kalakadu Battle | 22. a) 1801             |
| 5. a) Marudhu brothers | 14. d) Siruvayal       | 23. b) Tirupathur       |
| 6. c) 10 July 1806     | 15. d) 1767            | 24. a) Sankagiri        |
| 7. c) Sir John Cradock | 16. c) Virupachi       | 25. b) 1806             |
| 8. a) Calcutta         | 17. d) Velunachiyar    |                         |
| 9. b) Nerrkattum seval | 18. a) Kuyili          |                         |

## II. Fill in the Blanks:



### TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. The Palayakkarars system was put in place in Tamil Nadu by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Except the Palaykkarars of \_\_\_\_\_, all other western Palayakkarars supported Puli Thevar.
3. Velunachiyar and her daughter were under the protection of \_\_\_\_\_ for eight years.
4. Bennerman deputed \_\_\_\_\_ to convey his message, asking Kattabomman to surrender.
5. Kattabomman was hanged to death at \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Rebellion of Marudhu Brothers was categorized in the British records as the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was declared the new Sultan by the rebels in Vellore Fort.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ suppressed the revolt in Vellore Fort.





## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

9. British referred to Palayakkarars as \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ means a domain, a military camp, or a little kingdom.
11. The Palayakkarars system was in practice during the rule of \_\_\_\_\_ of Warrangal.
12. The English succeeded in getting the support of the rajas of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Yusuf Khan was hanged in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Ondiveeran led one of the army units of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The raja of Ramanathapuram was \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The head of the Dindigul League was \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Velunachiyar organised an army and succeeded with the help of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Velunachiyar was crowned as Queen with the help of \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Kuyili led the unit of women soldiers named \_\_\_\_\_.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ was Kattabomman's father.
21. Kattabomman's minister was \_\_\_\_\_.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ prevented Kattabomman from meeting the Marudhu Brothers.
23. Kattabomman escaped to \_\_\_\_\_.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ were able generals of Muthuvudugur.
25. Kattabomman's brothers were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Tiruchirappalli Proclamation was pasted on the walls of \_\_\_\_\_ temple.
27. Marudhu brothers' rebellion was called \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Carnatic Treaty was made in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
29. The South Indian Confederacy was formed by \_\_\_\_\_.
30. Oomathurai was beheaded at \_\_\_\_\_.

## ANSWER

- |                           |                                   |                            |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Viswanatha Nayak       | 12. Ramanathapuram,<br>Pudukottai | 21. Siva Subramanianar     |
| 2. Sivagiri               | 13. 1764                          | 22. Lushington             |
| 3. Gopala Nayak           | 14. Puli Thevar                   | 23. Pudukottai             |
| 4. Ramalingar             | 15. Sellamuthu Sethupathy         | 24. Marudhu brothers       |
| 5. Kayathar               | 16. Gopala Nayak                  | 25. Oomathurai, Sevathiah  |
| 6. Second Palayakarar war | 17. Gopala Nayak, Haider Ali      | 26. Srirangam              |
| 7. Fateh Hyder            | 18. Marudhu brothers              | 27. South Indian Rebellion |
| 8. Gillespie              | 19. Udaiyaal                      | 28. 1801                   |
| 9. Poligar                | 20. Jagavira Pandya               | 29. Marudhu brothers       |
| 10. Palayam               | Kattabomman                       | 30. Panchalamkurichi       |
| 11. Prataba Rudhra        |                                   |                            |



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III. Choose the correct statement:



TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1.
  - i) The Palayakkarars system was in practice in the Kakatiya Kingdom.
  - ii) Puli Thevar recaptured Nerkattumseval in 1764 after the death of Khan Sahib.
  - iii) Yusuf Khan who was negotiating with the Palayakkarars, without informing the Company administration was charged with treachery and hanged in 1764.
  - iv) Ondiveeran led one of the army units of Kattabomman.
  - a) (i), (ii) and (iv) are correct
  - b) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct
  - c) (iii) and (iv) are correct
  - d) (i) and (iv) are correct
2.
  - i) Under Colonel Campbell, the English Army went along with Mafuzkhan's army.
  - ii) After Muthu Vadugar's death in Kalaiyar Kovil battle, Marudhu Brothers assisted Velunachiyar in restoring the throne to her.
  - iii) Gopala Nayak spearheaded the famous Dindigul League.
  - iv) In May 1799 Cornwallis ordered the advance of Company armies to Tirunelveli.
  - a) (i) and (ii) are correct
  - b) (ii) and (iii) are correct
  - c) (ii), (iii) and (iv) are correct
  - d) (i) and (iv) are correct
3. **Assertion (A) :** Puli Thevar tried to get the support of Hyder Ali and the French.  
**Reason (R) :** Hyder Ali could not help Puli Thevar as he was already in a serious conflict with the Marathas.
  - a) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
  - b) Both (A) and (R) are wrong.
  - c) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
  - d) (A) is wrong and (R) is correct.
4. **Assertion (A) :** Apart from the new military Regulations the most objectionable was the addition of a leather cockade in the turban.  
**Reason (R) :** The leather cockade was made of animal skin.
  - a) (A) is wrong and (R) is correct.
  - b) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
  - c) Both (A) and (R) are wrong.
  - d) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

5.
  - i) The Nawab of Arcot had borrowed money from the East India Company.
  - ii) Mahfuzkhan was the brother of the Nawab of Arcot.
  - iii) Puli Thevar wielded much influence over the western Palayakkarars.
  - iv) During the trial, Kattabomman denied most of the charges levelled against him.
  - a) (i) and (ii) correct
  - b) (i) and (iv) are correct
  - c) (ii) and (iv) are correct
  - d) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct



6. Assertion (A) : Under the terms of the Carnatic Treaty, the British assumed direct control over Tamilagam.

Reason (R) : Palayakkarars system came to an end with the demolition of all forts and disbandment of their army.

- (A) and (R) both are wrong
- (A) and (R) are correct, (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (A) and (R) both are correct, But (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (A) is correct, (R) is wrong

## ANSWER

- b) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct
- b) (ii) and (iii) are correct
- a) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation
- b) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- d) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct
- b) (A) and (R) are correct, (R) is the correct explanation of (A)

## IV. Match the following:



## TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

- |    |                       |                   |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| A) | 1. Theerthagiri       | a. Vellore Revolt |
|    | 2. Gopala Nayak       | b. Ramalinganar   |
|    | 3. Bannerman          | c. Dindigul       |
|    | 4. Subedar Sheik Adam | d. Vellore Fort   |
|    | 5. Col. Fancourt      | e. Odanilai       |

Ans:

- e
- c
- b
- a
- d



## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- |    |                      |                          |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------|
| B) | 1. Ondiveeran        | a. Haider Ali            |
|    | 2. Kuyili            | b. Puli Thevar           |
|    | 3. Oomathurai        | c. Minister              |
|    | 4. Sivasubramanianar | d. Velunachiyar          |
|    | 5. Thandavarayanar   | e. Kattabomman's brother |

Ans:

- b
- d
- e
- c
- a

- |    |                             |         |
|----|-----------------------------|---------|
| C) | 1. Vellore Revolt           | a. 1799 |
|    | 2. Carnatic Treaty          | b. 1857 |
|    | 3. Great Rebellion          | c. 1806 |
|    | 4. Anglo-Mysore war         | d. 1800 |
|    | 5. Second Palayakkarars war | e. 1801 |

Ans:

- c
- e
- b
- a
- d



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### V. Answer the following in brief:



#### TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. **What were the duties of the Palayakkarars?**

- Collect revenue
- Administer the territory
- Settle disputes
- Maintain law and order

2. **Identify the Palayams based on the division of east and west.**

- The eastern Palayams were Sattur, Nagalapuram, Ettayapuram and Panchalamkurichi.
- The western Palayams were Uthumalai, Thalavankottai, Naduvakurichi, Singampatti and Seithur.

3. **Why was Heron dismissed from service?**

- Colonel Heron was urged to deal with Puli Thevar as he continued to defy the authority of the Company.
- Puli Thevar wielded much influence over the western Palayakkarars.
- For want of cannon and of supplies and pay to soldiers, Colonel Heron abandoned the plan and retired to Madurai.
- So Heron was recalled and dismissed from service.

4. **What was the significance of the Battle of Kalakadu?**

- The Nawab sent an additional contingent of sepoy to Mahfuzkhan and the reinforced army proceeded to Tirunelveli.
- Besides the 1000 sepoy of the Company, Mahfuzkhan received 600 more sent by the Nawab.
- He also had the support of cavalry and foot soldiers from the Carnatic.
- Before Mahfuzkhan could station his troops near Kalakadu, 2000 soldiers from Travancore joined the forces of Puli Thevar.
- In the battle at Kalakadu Mahfuzkhan's troops were routed.

5. **What was the bone of contention between the Company and Kattabomman?**

- The Company had gained the right to collect taxes from Panchalamkurichi.
- The Company appointed its Collectors to collect taxes from all the Palayams.
- The Collectors humiliated the Palayakkarars and adopted force to collect the taxes. This was the bone of contention between the English and Kattabomman.

6. **Highlight the essence of the Tiruchirappalli Proclamation of 1801.**

- In 1801 Marudhu Pandiyars issued a Proclamation of Independence which is called Tiruchirappalli Proclamation.
- The proclamation of 1801 was an early call to the Indians to unite against the British, cutting across region, caste, creed and religion.
- The proclamation was pasted on the walls of Nawab's palace in Tiruchirappalli fort and on the walls of the Srirangam Temple.



- Many Palayakkars of Tamil country rallied together to fight against the English.
- Chinna Marudhu collected nearly 20,000 men to challenge the English army.
- British reinforcements were rushed from Bengal Ceylon and Malaya.
- The rajas of Pudukottai, Ettayapuram and Thanjavur stood by the British.
- Divide and rule policy followed by the English split the forces of the Palayakkarars soon.

7. **Point out the importance of the Treaty of 1801.**

- Under the terms of the Carnatic Treaty 1801, the British assumed direct control over Tamilagam. The Palayakkarar system came to an end with the demolition of all forts and disbandment of their army.



**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

8. **In Tamil Nadu who opposed the British?**

- Puli Thevar
- Velunachiyar
- Veerapandiya Kattabomman
- Marudhu brothers
- Dheeran Chinnamalai

9. **What is Palayam?**

- The word Palayam means a domain, a military camp or a little kingdom.
- Palayakkarar in Tamil refers to the holder of a little kingdom as a feudatory to a greater sovereign.

10. **Who were the Nawab Chanda Sahib's agent?**

- The three agents were Mianah, Mudimiah, and Nabikhan Kattak.

11. **What are the three major forts of Puli Thevar?**

- Nerkattumseval
- Vasudevanallur
- Panayur

12. **What were the achievements of Velunachiyar?**

- Velunachiyar was trained in martial arts like valari, stick fighting and to wield weapons.
- She was also adept in horse riding and archery, apart from her proficiency in English, French and Urdu.

13. **Write a short note on Gopala Nayakar.**

- Gopala Nayak spear headed the famous Dindigul League, which was formed with Lakshmi Nayak of Manaparai and Poojai Nayak of Devadanapatti.
- He drew inspiration from Tipu Sultan who sent a deputation to show his camaraderie.
- He led the resistance against the British from Coimbatore and later joined Oomaidurai, Kattabomman's brother.
- He put up a fierce fight at Aanamalai hills where the local peasants gave him full support. But Gopala Nayak was over powered by the British forces in 1801.



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### 14. Write a short note on Kuyili.

- Kuyili was a faithful friend of Velunachiyar. She is said to have led the unit of women soldiers named after Udaiyaal.
- Udaiyaal was a shepherd girl who was killed for not divulging information on Kuyili.
- Kuyili is said to have walked into the British arsenal (1780) after setting herself on fire, thus destroying all the ammunition.

### 15. Write a short note on the Treaty of 1801.

According to this treaty of 1801, the Nawab was to cede the districts of North Arcot, South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Tirunelveli to the Company and transfer the administrative powers to it.

### 16. What do you know about Ondiveeran?

- Ondiveeran led one of the army units of Puli Thevar. He caused much damage to the Company's army.
- According to oral tradition, Ondiveeran's hand was chopped off in one battle and Puli Thevar was saddened.
- But Ondiveeran said that it was a reward for his penetration into enemy's fort causing many heads to roll.

## VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption:



### TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

#### 1. VELUNACHIYAR

##### a) Who was the military chief of Velunachiyar?

Velunachiyar's military chief was Thandavarayanar.

##### b) What were the martial arts in which she was trained?

Valari and stick fighting

##### c) Whom did she marry?

She married Muthuvadugar, the raja of Sivagangai.

##### d) What was the name of her daughter?

Her daughter's name was Vellachinachiar.

#### 2. DHEERAN CHINNAMALAI

##### a) When was Dheeran Chinnamalai born?

Dheeran Chinnamalai was born in 1756.

##### b) How did he earn the title "Chinnamalai"?

Dheerthagiri told monumentally that "Chinnamalai", who is between sivamalai & chinnamalai took the tax money. Thus he gained the name Dheeran Chinnamalai.

##### c) Name the Diwan of Tipu Sultan.

Mohammed Ali

##### d) Why and where was he hanged to death?

The English captured Dheeran and asked to accept the rule of the British. But he refused. So he was hanged at the top of Sankagiri Fort on 31 July, 1805.





**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

3. **VEERAPANDYA KATTABOMMAN**

a) **Who was the father of Kattabomman?**

Jagavira Pandya Kattabomman.

b) **When did he become the Palayakkarar?**

At the age of thirty.

c) **Who considered him a man of peaceful disposition?**

James London and Colin Jackson.

d) **Who were the brothers of Veerapandya Kattabomman?**

Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah.

4. **MARUDHU BROTHERS**

a) **Who were Marudhu brothers?**

They were the rulers of Sivagangai.

b) **Who was the leader of the South Indian Confederacy?**

Marudhu Pandiyar.

c) **In which year was the Proclamation of Tiruchirappalli issued?**

In the year 1801.

d) **Which policy followed by the English spilt the forces of the Palayakkarars?**

Divide and rule policy.

5. **VELLORE REVOLT**

a) **When did Vellore Revolt break out?**

Vellore Revolt broke out in the year 1806.

b) **Who introduced new military regulation?**

Commander-in-Chief Sir John Cradock introduced new military regulation.

c) **Who was the first victim of the revolt?**

Colonel Fancourt was the first victim of the revolt.

d) **Who was proclaimed by the rebels as their new ruler?**

The rebels proclaimed Fateh Hyder, Tipu's eldest son, as their new ruler.

**VII. Answer in detail:**



**TEXTUAL QUESTIONS**

1. **Attempt an essay of the heroic fight Veerapandya Kattabomman conducted against the East India Company?**

**Veerapandya Kattabomman :**

- He became the Palayakarar of Panchalamkurichi at the age of thirty, on the death of his father, Jagavira Pandya Kattabomman.
- The company had gained the right to collect taxes from Panachalamkurichi.
- The company appointed its Collectors to collect taxes from all the Palayams.
- The Collectors humiliated the Palayakarars and adopted force to collect the taxes.
- This was the bone of contention between the English and Kattabomman.



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### Confrontation with Jackson :

- The land revenue arrears from Kattabomman was 3310 Pagodas in 1798.
- So Collector Jackson ordered Kattabomman to meet him in Ramanathapuram.
- Kattabomman met Jackson in Ramanathapuram on 19 September, 1798.
- It is said that Kattabomman had to stand for three hours before the haughty Collector Jackson.
- Sensing danger, Kattabomman tried to escape along with his minister Sivasubramanianar.
- Oomaithurai suddenly entered the fort with his men and helped the escape of Kattabomman.
- Sivasubramanianar was taken prisoner.
- Kattabomman appeared before the committee that sat on 15 December 1798 and reported on what transpired in Ramanathapuram.
- The committee found Kattabomman was not guilty.
- Jackson was dismissed from service.
- Kattabomman cleared almost all the revenue arrears leaving only a balance of 1080 Pagodas.

### Kattabomman and the Confederacy of Palayakkarars:

- Kattabomman was interested in this confederacy.
- Marudhu Brothers and Kattabomman jointly decided on a confrontation with the English.
- Kattabomman tried to influence Sivagiri Palayakkarar who was a tributary to the Company.
- So the Company ordered the army to march on to Tirunelveli.

### The siege of Panchalamkurichi :

- A British force advanced towards Tirunelveli under the leadership of Bannerman.
- On 1 September 1799 an ultimatum was served on Kattabomman to surrender.
- Kattabomman's "evasive reply" prompted Bannerman to attack his fort.
- Bannerman moved his entire army to Panchalamkurichi on 5 September.
- They cut off all the communications to the fort.
- Bannerman deputed Ramalinganar to convey a message asking Kattabomman to surrender.

### Execution of Kattabomman :

- Kattabomman escaped to Pudukottai. The British put a prize on his head.
- Betrayed by the rajas of Ettayapuram and Pudukottai, Kattabomman was finally captured.
- A trial was conducted in front of the palayakkarars.
- During the trial Kattabomman bravely admitted all the charges levelled against him.
- Kattabomman was hanged from a tamarind tree in the old fort of Kayathar, close to Tirunelveli.

## 2. Highlight the tragic fall of Sivagangai and its outcome.

- In June 1801 Marudhu Pandiyars issued a proclamation of Independence which is called Tiruchirappalli Proclamation.
- Chinna Marudhu collected nearly 20,000 men to challenge the English army.
- British reinforcements were rushed from Bengal Ceylon and Malaya.
- The rajas of Pudukkottai, Ettayapuram and Thanjavur stood by the British.
- Divide and rule policy followed by the English split the forces of the Palaykarars soon.



**Fall of Sivagangai :**

- In May 1801, the English attacked the rebels in Thanjavur, Thiruchirappalli, Piranmalai and Kalayarkoil.
- They were again defeated by the forces of the English.
- In the end the superior military strength and the able commanders of the English Company prevailed.
- The rebellion failed and Sivagangai was annexed in 1801.

**Outcomes:**

- Marudhu brothers were executed in the fort of Thirupathur.
- Oomathurai and Sevathaiah were captured and beheaded.
- Seventy three rebels were exiled to Penang in Malaya.
- The palayakkarars fell to the English. The rebellion was suppressed.
- It led to the liquidation of all local chieftains of Tamil Nadu.
- The Carnatic Treaty was signed.
- The palayakkarar system came to an end in Tamil Nadu.
- The British assumed control over Tamilagam.

3. **Account for the outbreak of Vellore revolt in 1806.**

**Causes for the revolt:**

- The British brought the districts of Salem and Dindigul under their control.
- The status of the Raja of Thanjavur was reduced.
- The nawab of Arcot was to cede five districts to the British.
- There was continuous opposition from the kings and chieftains which resulted in the revolt.

**Grievances of the Indian soldiers:**

- The sepoys in the British Indian army nursed a strong sense of resentment over low salary and poor prospects of promotion.
- The English army officers' scant respect for the social and religious sentiments of the Indian Sepoys also angered them.
- Many of the sepoys families were in dire economic straits.
- The family members of Tipu had been interned in Vellore fort.

**The New army regulations :**

- The Indian soldiers were asked not to wear caste marks or ear rings when in uniform.
- They were to be cleanly shaven on the chin and maintain uniformity about how their moustache looked.
- The new turban added fuel to fire.

**Outbreak of the Revolt :**

- On 10 July 1806, in the early hours, the sepoys started the revolt.
- Colonel Fancourt, who commanded the garrison, was the first victim.
- Colonel Mekerras of the 23<sup>rd</sup> regiment was killed next.
- Major Armstrong was also killed.
- About a dozen other officers were killed within an hour.



## EARLY REVOLTS AGAINST BRITISH RULE IN TAMIL NADU

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### End of the revolt:

- Colonel Gillespie reached the fort along with Captain Young.
- In the mean time, the rebels proclaimed Fateh Hyder as their new ruler and hoisted Tipu's flag over the fort.
- However the revolt was suppressed by the British brutally.
- Tipu's sons were ordered to be sent to Calcutta.



### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

#### 4. Velunachiyar was a brave female ruler - Discuss.

- Velunachiyar's husband Muthu Vadugar was killed in the Kalaiyar Kovil battle.
- Velunachiyar escaped with her daughter and lived under the protection of Gopala Nayakar at Virupachi near Dindigul for eight years.
- During her period in hiding, Velunachiyar organised an army and succeeded in securing an alliance with Gopala Nayakar and Hyder Ali.
- Dalavay Thadavarayanar wrote a letter to Sultan Hyder Ali on behalf of Velunachiyar asking for 5000 infantry and 5000 Cavalry to defeat the English.
- Velunachiyar explained in detail in Urdu all the problems she had with East India Company.
- She conveyed her strong determination to fight the English.
- Impressed by her courage, Hyder Ali ordered his commandant Syed in Dindigul fort to provide the required military assistance.
- Velunachiyar employed agents for gathering intelligence to find where the British had stored their ammunition.
- With the help of Gopala Nayakar and Hyder Ali she recaptured Sivagangai.
- She was crowned as Queen with the help of Marudhu brothers.
- She was the first female ruler or queen to resist the British Colonial power in India.

## VIII. Time Line:

1529 - Viswanatha Nayaka became Madurai Nayak

1730 - 1796 - 1. Velunachiyar was born  
2. Velunachiyar Period

1748 - 1801 - Periya Marudhu Period

1753 - 1801 - Chinna Marudhu Period

1755 - 1767 - Revolt of Puli Thevar

1755 - 1801 - Palayakkarar's Revolt



- 1756 - 1805 - Dheeran Chinnamali Period
- 1760 - Hyder Ali and Marathas the artillery arrived
- 1761 - Puli Thevar's three major forts under the control of Yusuf Khan
- 1764 -
  1. Puli Thevar recaptured Nerkattumseval
  2. Yusuf Khan was hanged
- 1767 - Puli Thevar escaped and died in exile
- 1772 - Muthu Vaduganathar's death
- 1790 - 1799 - Rebellion of Veera Pandya Kattabomman
- 1792 - Conclusion of the war with Tipu Sultan
- 1798 -
  1. Kattabomman met Jackson in Ramanathapuram
  2. Appearance before madras council
- 1799 -
  1. The seige of Panchalankurichi
  2. Kattabomman was hanged
  3. Coimbatore was annexed
- 1799 - Anglo - Mysore war
- 1800 - 1801 - Rebellion of Marudhu brothers
- 1800 - Second Palayakkarar war
- 1801 -
  1. Marudhu brothers were executed
  2. Tiruchirapalli proclamation
  3. Sivagangai was annexed
  4. Carnatic Treaty
  5. Gopal Nayak was overpowerd by the British forces
- 1805 - Dheeran Chinnamalai was hanged at Sankagiri fort
- 1806 -
  1. Vellore Revolt
  2. Outbreak of the Vellor Revolt
- 1857 - Great Rebellion





EARLY REVOLTS AGAINST BRITISH RULE IN TAMIL NADU

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MAP WORK

Centres of Early Revolts against the British Rule in Tamil Nadu





## 10

## Unit Test

## UNIT - VI – Early Revolts against British Rule in Tamil Nadu

Time : 1.00 hr.

Marks : 30

## I. Choose the correct answer:

5 × 1 = 5

- The head of the South Indian Rebellion was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Puli Thevar      b) Dheeran Chinnamalai      c) Kattabomman      d) Marudhu Pandiyar
- Tiruchirappalli proclamation was issued in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) 1801      b) 1802      c) 1805      d) 1806
- The Nayak rulers created \_\_\_\_\_ palayakarars.  
a) 62      b) 52      c) 82      d) 72
- Who was the brother of the Nawab of Arcot?  
a) Mahfuzkhan      b) Mianah      c) Nabikhan      d) Chanda Sahib
- Assertion (A) :** Under the terms of the Carnatic treaty, the British assumed direct control over Tamilagam.  
**Reason (R) :** Palayakarar system came to an end with the demolition of all forts and disbandment of their army.  
a) A and R are wrong      b) A and R are correct. R is the correct explanation of A  
c) Both are correct      d) A is correct R is wrong.

## II. Fill in the blanks:

4 × 1 = 4

- British referred to palayakarars as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Yusufkhan was hanged in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- The raja of Ramanathapuram was \_\_\_\_\_.
- The head of the Dindigul League was \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. Match the following:

4 × 1 = 4

- Carnatic Treaty - a) 1799
- Great Rebellion - b) 1801
- Anglo-Mysore war - c) 1800
- Second palayakkarar war - d) 1857

## V. Answer all the questions given under the Caption:

1 × 4 = 4

## 1. VEERAPANDYA KATTABOMMAN

- Who was the father of Kattabomman?
- In which year he became the palayakkarar?
- Who considered him a man of peaceful disposition?
- Who were the brothers of Veerapandya Kattabomman?

## VI. Answer briefly:

4 × 2 = 8

- Write a short note on Gopala Nayak.
- What are the three major ports of Puli Thevar?
- Write a short note on Kuyili.
- Write a short note on the Treaty of 1801.

## VII. Answer in detail :

1 × 5 = 5

- How to Velunachiyar oppose the British colonial power in India?

