30 Thirukkural couplets recited in 60 seconds: Vellore boy enters a world record book

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News

Kanishkar, a 6-year-old boy from Vellore district, recited 30 Thirukkural couplets in 60 seconds accurately and fluently and entered the 'Noble World Records', a private record book (reported 8–9 Nov 2026). His interest in the Thirukkural led him to memorise the couplets. He received a medal, a certificate and a shield, and the organisation praised his early love for the Kural.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Achiever	Kanishkar, 6, Vellore district
Feat	30 couplets recited in 60 seconds
Record book	Noble World Records (private)
Kural structure	3 parts, 133 chapters, 1,330 couplets
Chapter split	Virtue 38, Wealth 70, Love 25
Metre	Kural venba (2 lines, 7 metrical feet)
First print	1812 – Thanjai Gnanaprakasar

Point	Details
Anthology	One of the Eighteen Minor Works (Pathinenkilkanakku)

Background

- The Thirukkural has 133 chapters and 1,330 couplets in three parts: Virtue (38 chapters), Wealth (70) and Love (25). Each couplet is a two-line kural venba of seven metrical feet. The Wealth section deals with statecraft – the king, ministers, army, friendship and citizenship.
- The Kural belongs to the post-Sangam Eighteen Minor Works (Pathinenkilkanakku). It is praised as 'Ulaga Pothumarai', 'Poyyamozhi' and 'Muppal'. Thanjai Gnanaprakasar first printed it in 1812; translators include Beschi (Latin) and G.U. Pope (English, 1886).
- Bharathiyar sang that Tamil Nadu won fame by giving Valluvar to the world. The Tamil Nadu government observes the second day of the Tamil month Thai as Thiruvalluvar Day. Valluvar Kottam, Chennai (1976), and the 133-ft Thiruvalluvar statue at Kanyakumari (1 Jan 2000) honour the Kural.

Tamil Nadu link: The achiever is from Vellore district. The Tamil Nadu Tamil Development Department runs a prize scheme for students who recite all 1,330 couplets; Thiruvalluvar Day (Thai 2) is a state holiday.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Achiever: Kanishkar, 6, Vellore district; Feat: 30 couplets recited in 60 seconds; Record book: Noble World Records (private); Kural structure: 3 parts, 133 chapters, 1,330 couplets.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which of the three parts of the Thirukkural has the most chapters?

A) Arathuppal (Virtue)

B) Porutpal (Wealth)

C) Kamathuppal (Love)

D) All three are equal

Answer: B – Explanation: Porutpal has 70 chapters; Arathuppal 38 and Kamathuppal 25 – 133 in all.

2. In which year was the Thirukkural first printed?

A) 1709

B) 1886

C) 1835

D) 1812

Answer: D – Explanation: Thanjai Gnanaprakasar first printed the Kural, together with the Naladiyar, in 1812.

3. Who sang that Tamil Nadu won lasting fame by 'giving Valluvar to the world'?

A) Subramania Bharati

B) Bharathidasan

C) Kavimani

D) Namakkal Kavignar

Answer: A – Explanation: The line is from Bharati's song 'Senthamizh Nadenum Pothinile'.

4. In which Tamil month does the Tamil Nadu government observe Thiruvalluvar Day?

A) Chithirai

B) Aadi

C) Thai

D) Karthigai

Answer: C – Explanation: Thiruvalluvar Day falls on the second day of Thai, the day after Pongal.

5. The Thirukkural belongs to which group of Tamil classics?

A) Ettuthogai

B) Pathinenkilkanakku

C) Pathupattu

D) Five Great Epics

Answer: B – Explanation: The Kural and the Naladiyar are part of Pathinenkilkanakku, a set of 18 mostly didactic works.

Sources: Daily Thanthi (8 Nov 2026); Viduthalai (9 Nov 2026). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.