Subramania Bharati (Mahakavi Bharathiyar) – Life, Journalism, Puducherry Exile, Works & Titles | TNPSC Notes

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Subramania Bharati (1882–1921), honoured as **Mahakavi** and **Desiya Kavi** (National Poet), was a poet, journalist, freedom fighter and social reformer from Ettayapuram who brought new life to modern Tamil poetry. Through Swadesamitran, India and his patriotic songs he carried the Swadeshi message to Tamil homes, and his works were the **first in India to be nationalised (1949)**.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete in themselves. In the Group 2/2A and Group 4 General Studies syllabus, Bharati appears in **Unit VI – History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu**, in **Unit III – History, Culture of India and Indian National Movement** (Swadeshi and the Extremists in the South) and in the **General Tamil** unit **"இலக்கியம், தமிழ் அறிஞர்களும் தமிழ்த்தொண்டும்"** (works, titles, pen names); Group 1 uses different unit numbers for the same topics. Read each section, then revise with the tables and key points at the end.

Birth, Family and Childhood

- **Name:** Subramanian, called **Subbaiah** at home; later known as Subramania Bharati or **Bharathiyar**.
- **Born: 11 December 1882** at **Ettayapuram**, then in Tirunelveli district of the Madras Presidency and now in Thoothukudi district.
- **Parents: Chinnaswami Iyer** and **Lakshmi Ammal**. His mother died in 1887, when he was about five.
- **Childhood:** he was drawn to Tamil poetry very early and showed little interest in routine schooling.
- **Father's death:** 1898, when Bharati was about 16 – a turning point that sent him to Kasi.

Ettayapuram Court and the Title "Bharati"

Ettayapuram was a zamindari (samasthanam) whose Raja patronised poets and scholars. As a boy – commonly stated as at the **age of 11** – Subbaiah impressed the learned men of the court with his verse and won a debate held before the Raja. The scholars honoured him with the title **"Bharati"**, a name associated with Saraswati, the goddess of learning. The title soon replaced his own name. After returning from Kasi he again served for some time at the Raja's court, but court life did not suit him and he left.

Marriage

In **1897**, while still in his teens, he married **Chellammal (Chellamma)**, then a young girl, as was the custom of the time. Her native place was **Kadayam** (Tenkasi area), where Bharati later lived after his exile.

The Kasi (Varanasi) Years, 1898–1902

- After his father's death he went to **Kasi (Benares)** and stayed with his aunt **Kuppammal** and her husband.

- He studied at the **Central Hindu College** (founded by Annie Besant) and passed the entrance examination.
- He learned **Sanskrit, Hindi and English**, read English poets such as **Shelley**, and came into contact with the national awakening of North India.
- His trademark turban (mundasu) and moustache made him a familiar figure; hence he is also called **Mundasu Kavignar**.

Teacher at Madurai (1904)

In **1904** Bharati worked for a few months (August to November) as a **Tamil teacher at Sethupathi High School, Madurai**. The same year he moved to Madras to begin his career in journalism.

Journalism – Bharati the Editor

Bharati was as much a journalist as a poet. He used newspapers to spread nationalism among ordinary Tamil readers, wrote in simple Tamil, and is credited with introducing **political cartoons** in Tamil journalism through India.

- **Swadesamitran** (Tamil daily, Madras; founded by **G. Subramania Iyer**): Bharati joined as assistant (sub-) editor in **November 1904**. Its moderate line did not suit his growing radicalism, and he later left it. He rejoined it in **1920** after his exile.
- **Chakravarthini** (Tamil monthly for women): edited by Bharati in **1905–1906**; it carried his ideas on women's education and freedom.
- **India** (Tamil weekly): started in Madras in **May 1906** by nationalists of the **Mandayam** family; Bharati was its editor and chief writer. It was the voice of the Extremists in Tamil Nadu. In 1908 it shifted with him to Puducherry.
- **Bala Bharatham (Bala Bharata)**: English journal edited by Bharati from 1907, with **M. P. T. Acharya**.
- **Vijaya**: Tamil daily brought out from Puducherry. The British banned the entry of India and Vijaya into British India in 1909; India ceased publication in 1910.
- **Suryodayam** and **Karmayogi**: Tamil journals of the Puducherry years. He also assisted Sri Aurobindo with the English journal **Arya**.

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Journals at a Glance

Journal	Language / type	Bharati's role and years
Swadesamitran (Madras)	Tamil daily; founded by G. Subramania Iyer	Assistant (sub-) editor from Nov 1904; rejoined 1920
Chakravarthini	Tamil monthly for women	Editor, 1905–1906
India	Tamil weekly; started May 1906 by nationalists of the Mandayam family	Editor and chief writer; moved to Puducherry Oct 1908; closed 1910
Bala Bharatham (Bala Bharata)	English journal	Edited from 1907 with M. P. T. Acharya
Vijaya	Tamil daily, Puducherry	Published during exile; banned in British India, 1909
Suryodayam	Tamil journal, Puducherry	Exile period
Karmayogi	Tamil journal, Puducherry	Exile period
Arya	Sri Aurobindo's English journal	Bharati assisted it

Bharati and the National Movement

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** Bharati accepted Tilak as his political guide and belonged to the **Extremist (Nationalist)** camp.
- **Sister Nivedita:** he met Nivedita, the disciple of Swami Vivekananda, in connection with the **Benares Congress of December 1905** (some accounts place the meeting after the Calcutta Congress of 1906). He regarded her as his **guru**; she strengthened his conviction about the freedom and dignity of women. He dedicated *Swadesa Geethangal* (1908) and *Janma Bhoomi* to her.
- **Surat Congress, 1907:** he attended with **V. O. Chidambaram Pillai** and Mandayam Srinivasachari and supported Tilak's group in the Moderate–Extremist split.
- **V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and Subramania Siva:** close friends and fellow workers in the Swadeshi movement of the south. Bharati wrote and spoke against VOC's arrest in 1908.
- His songs – **"Achamillai Achamillai"**, **"Senthamizh Naadenum Pothinile"**, **"Aaduvome Pallu Paaduvome"** (which celebrates freedom before it came) – made the freedom struggle a people's movement in Tamil Nadu.

Exile in Puducherry, 1908–1918

In **1908**, after the proprietor of India was arrested in Madras and a warrant was expected against him, Bharati escaped to **Puducherry (Pondicherry)**, then under **French** rule, where British police could not arrest him. He lived there for about ten years (**1908–1918**).

- **Journals:** India was published from Puducherry from October 1908; he also brought out Vijaya, Suryodayam and Karmayogi. The British blocked their circulation in British India.
- **Fellow exiles: Sri Aurobindo** (arrived on **4 April 1910**; Bharati and Srinivasachari received him), **V. V. S. Aiyar** and M. P. T. Acharya. With Aurobindo he studied the Vedas.
- **Most creative period: Kuyil Pattu, Panchali Sabatham and Kannan Pattu**, Pudhiya Aathichoodi and many other poems were written here, along with his Tamil translation of the **Bhagavad Gita**.

- **Bharathidasan:** the young Puducherry poet Kanaka Subburathinam came under Bharati's influence and took the name **Bharathidasan** ("servant/devotee of Bharati"). Note: the title **Puratchi Kavignar** (Revolutionary Poet) belongs to Bharathidasan, not to Bharati.
- **Poverty:** the family lived in hardship, depending on friends and admirers.
- His house at **No. 20, Eswaran Dharmaraja Koil Street** is now a memorial museum and research centre.

Return, Arrest at Cuddalore and Kadayam (1918–1920)

- In **November 1918**, after the First World War ended, Bharati left Puducherry and entered British India near **Cuddalore**, where he was arrested.
- He was held in **Cuddalore jail from 20 November to 14 December 1918**. **Annie Besant** and **C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar** were among those who worked for his release.
- He then lived at **Kadayam**, his wife's village, for about two years, where he faced hostility from orthodox society but continued to write.

Last Years and Death (1920–1921)

- In **1920**, after a general amnesty, he returned to **Madras** and rejoined **Swadesamitran**. He lived at **Thulasinga Perumal Koil Street, Triplicane**.
- In **July 1921** he was knocked down by the elephant of the **Parthasarathy temple, Triplicane**, which he used to feed. He survived, but his health declined.
- He died in the early hours of **11 September 1921** at Triplicane, Madras, aged 38. Because death came just after midnight, a few sources give **12 September**; 11 September is the commonly accepted date and is observed by the Tamil Nadu Government.
- Only a small group of friends – about a dozen – attended his funeral.

Literary Works

Bharati wrote poetry, prose, short stories, essays and translations. He used simple, musical Tamil that ordinary people could sing, and he is regarded as a **pioneer of modern Tamil poetry**. His poems fall into three broad groups: **national songs** (Desiya Geethangal), **devotional/philosophical songs** (Gnana and Thothira Padalgal) and **other songs** on society, nature and children.

- **The three great works (Mupperum Padalgal): Kannan Pattu**, **Kuyil Pattu** and **Panchali Sabatham**.
- **Panchali Sabatham** (1912) – based on the dice game of the Mahabharata; Draupadi's vow is used as a symbol of India's struggle against bondage.
- **Kannan Pattu** – presents Krishna as friend, mother, father, servant, king, child, lover and guru.
- **Kuyil Pattu** – an allegorical narrative poem about a cuckoo, written amid the groves near Puducherry.
- **Pudhiya Aathichoodi** – a modern "Aathichoodi" of short maxims following Avvaiyar's model, urging courage, strength and self-respect.
- **Paappa Pattu** – songs for children.
- **Prose:** Gnana Ratham, Chandrikaiyin Kathai (unfinished novel), short stories and many essays.
- **English:** The Fox with the Golden Tail and essays for journals such as Arya and New India.

Works at a Glance

Work	Type / notes
Swadesa Geethangal (1908)	First collection of patriotic songs; dedicated to Sister Nivedita
Janma Bhoomi	Second collection of national songs; also dedicated to Nivedita
Panchali Sabatham (1912)	Narrative poem on the dice game and Draupadi's vow (Mahabharata); Panchali stands for enslaved Mother India
Kuyil Pattu	Allegorical narrative poem on a cuckoo (kuyil); composed in Puducherry
Kannan Pattu	Devotional love songs presenting Krishna (Kannan) as friend, mother, father, servant, child, lover and so on
Pudhiya Aathichoodi	"New Aathichoodi" – short maxims in alphabetical order, modelled on Avvaiyar's Aathichoodi
Vinayagar Naanmanimaalai	Devotional poem on Lord Vinayagar (Ganesha)
Paappa Pattu	Songs of advice for children
Gnana Ratham	Prose work ("Chariot of Wisdom")
Chandrikaiyin Kathai	Prose fiction (novel), left unfinished
The Fox with the Golden Tail	Satirical fable written in English
Puthiya Russia	Writing that welcomed the 1917 Russian Revolution
Bhagavad Gita (Tamil)	Translation with commentary
Patanjali's Yoga Sutra, Vedic hymns	Translations into Tamil

Social Ideas – Women, Caste and National Unity

- **Women's liberation:** Bharati called for women's education, freedom to choose a spouse, the right to property, entry into public life and the end of child marriage. His idea of the "Pudhumai Penn" (new woman) was ahead of its time. Sister Nivedita's influence strengthened these views; his women's journal Chakravarthini was an early expression of them.
- **Against caste:** he strongly opposed caste discrimination and untouchability and mixed freely with people of all communities. In Puducherry his disciple **R. Kanagalingam** later wrote a memoir of him (*My Revered Guru, Bharathiyar*). In "Kakkai Kuruvi Engal Jaathi" he declared crows and sparrows to be his kin.
- **National unity:** he sang of India as one land with many languages and regions. His "Sindhu Nadhiyin Misai" pictures the whole of India united.
- **Love of Tamil and other languages:** though he knew several languages, he wrote that he had found no language sweeter than Tamil ("Yaamarindha mozhigalile Tamizh mozhi pol inidhavadhu engum kaanom"). He also urged Tamils to bring the knowledge of the world into Tamil through translation.
- **World view:** he welcomed the Russian Revolution of 1917 in Puthiya Russia.

Pen Names and Titles

- **Pen names: Shelleydasan** (from his admiration for Shelley) and **Sakthidasan**.
- **Titles and epithets: Mahakavi** (Great Poet), **Desiya Kavi / Rashtrakavi** (National Poet), **Mundasu Kavignar** (turbaned poet), **Paattukkoru Pulavan**, **Sindhukku Thandhai** (father of the sindhu song form).
- **Do not confuse: Puratchi Kavignar** and **Paavendhar** are titles of **Bharathidasan**.

Honours, Memorials and Nationalisation of Works

- **Nationalisation (1949):** the Madras (Tamil Nadu) Government nationalised his works in 1949 – the **first time in India** that a writer's works were nationalised, making them free for anyone to publish.
- **Postage stamp:** issued on **11 September 1960**, his death anniversary.
- **Bharathiar University, Coimbatore:** established in **February 1982** and named after him.
- **Ettayapuram:** his birthplace house is preserved as a memorial.
- **Puducherry:** his house at No. 20, Eswaran Dharmaraja Koil Street was acquired by the Puducherry Government and opened to the public; it now functions as a memorial museum and research centre.
- **Triplicane, Chennai:** his last residence, **Bharathi Illam** on Thulasinga Perumal Koil Street, was acquired by the Tamil Nadu Government and restored as a memorial.
- **Mahakavi Naal:** in 2021, his death centenary, the Tamil Nadu Government declared **11 September** as **Mahakavi Naal** (Mahakavi Day). The Prime Minister announced a **Chair in his honour at Banaras Hindu University**.
- **Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas:** his birthday, **11 December**, is observed in educational institutions as Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas (Indian Languages Day), on the proposal of the Ministry of Education's Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.
- **Complete works:** a compendium of his complete works in **23 volumes**, compiled by **Seeni Viswanathan**, was released by the Prime Minister on **11 December 2024**.

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People in Bharati's Life

Person	Connection with Bharati
Chinnaswami Iyer, Lakshmi Ammal	Father and mother
Chellammal	Wife (married 1897); native of Kadayam
Kuppammal	Aunt with whom he stayed at Kasi
G. Subramania Iyer	Founder-editor of Swadesamitran, where Bharati began his journalism
Mandayam Srinivasachari	Nationalist of the Mandayam family linked with India; went with Bharati to Surat (1907); with him received Sri Aurobindo in Puducherry (1910)
M. P. T. Acharya	Co-editor of Bala Bharatham; fellow exile in Puducherry
Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Political guide; Bharati backed his group at Surat (1907)
Sister Nivedita	Spiritual guru; Swadesa Geethangal and Janma Bhoomi dedicated to her
V. O. Chidambaram Pillai	Close friend; went with Bharati to the Surat Congress
Subramania Siva	Fellow Swadeshi worker of the south
Sri Aurobindo	Fellow exile in Puducherry from 4 April 1910; studied the Vedas together; Bharati assisted his journal Arya
V. V. S. Aiyar	Fellow revolutionary exile in Puducherry
Bharathidasan (Kanaka Subburathinam)	Puducherry poet who took the name "Bharathidasan" out of devotion to Bharati
R. Kanagalingam	Disciple in Puducherry; wrote My Revered Guru, Bharathiyar
Annie Besant, C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar	Worked for his release from Cuddalore jail (1918)
Seeni Viswanathan	Compiled the 23-volume complete works released in 2024

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Places in Bharati's Life

Place	Importance
Ettayapuram	Birthplace; title "Bharati"; court service; birthplace memorial
Kasi (Varanasi)	Studies 1898–1902; Benares Congress 1905; BHU chair (2021)
Madurai	Tamil teacher, Sethupathi High School (1904)
Madras (Chennai)	Swadesamitran, India; last years at Triplicane; death (1921)
Surat	Congress session of 1907
Puducherry	Exile 1908–1918; great works; memorial museum
Cuddalore	Arrest and jail, Nov–Dec 1918
Kadayam	Wife's village; lived there c. 1918–1920
Coimbatore	Bharathiar University (1982)

Common Confusions in the Exam

- **Bharati vs Bharathidasan:** Bharati (1882–1921) is Mahakavi; Bharathidasan is Puratchi Kavignar / Paavendhar, who took his name from Bharati.
- **Ettayapuram vs Ottapidaram:** Ettayapuram is Bharati's birthplace; Ottapidaram is V. O. Chidambaram Pillai's.
- **Birth and death days:** born 11 December, died 11 September – both on the 11th. Mahakavi Naal = 11 September (death); Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas = 11 December (birth).
- **Swadesamitran vs India:** Swadesamitran was G. Subramania Iyer's moderate daily where Bharati was assistant editor; India was the radical weekly that Bharati edited.
- **Aathichoodi vs Pudhiya Aathichoodi:** Aathichoodi is Avvaiyar's; Pudhiya Aathichoodi is Bharati's modern version.
- **Nationalisation:** 1949, and Bharati was the first – do not confuse with the stamp (1960) or the university (1982).
- **Exile:** Puducherry was French territory, not British – that is why he could escape arrest there.

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Quick Revision Table

Year	Event
1882 (11 Dec)	Born at Ettayapuram (then Tirunelveli district, now Thoothukudi district)
1887	Death of his mother Lakshmi Ammal (Bharati was about five)
Boyhood	Title "Bharati" conferred at the Ettayapuram court (commonly stated as at age 11)
1897	Marriage to Chellammal (Chellamma)
1898	Death of his father Chinnaswami Iyer; goes to Kasi (Varanasi)
1898–1902	Stay at Kasi; learns Sanskrit, Hindi and English; studies at the Central Hindu College
After Kasi	Serves for some time at the Ettayapuram Raja's court
1904 (Aug–Nov)	Tamil teacher, Sethupathi High School, Madurai
1904 (Nov)	Joins Swadesamitran, Madras, as assistant (sub-) editor
1905	Benares Congress; meets Sister Nivedita (some accounts: 1906, after the Calcutta Congress)
1905–1906	Edits the women's monthly Chakravarthini
1906–1907	Becomes editor of the Tamil weekly India; English paper Bala Bharatham
1907	Attends the Surat Congress with V.O. Chidambaram Pillai; supports Tilak
1908	Swadesa Geethangal published; escapes to Puducherry (exile 1908–1918)
1909	India and Vijaya banned in British India
1910 (4 Apr)	Sri Aurobindo arrives in Puducherry; received by Bharati and Srinivasachari
1912	Panchali Sabatham and Kuyil Pattu (commonly dated 1912)
1917	Writes in praise of the Russian Revolution (Puthiya Russia)
1918 (Nov–Dec)	Leaves Puducherry; arrested near Cuddalore; in Cuddalore jail 20 Nov – 14 Dec
1918–1920	Lives at Kadayam, his wife's native place
1920	Returns to Madras; rejoins Swadesamitran; lives at Triplicane
1921 (July)	Hurt by the Parthasarathy temple elephant, Triplicane
1921 (11 Sep)	Dies at Triplicane, Madras, in the early hours (some sources: 12 Sep)
1949	His works nationalised – first in India
1960 (11 Sep)	Commemorative postage stamp
1982 (Feb)	Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, established

2021	Death centenary: 11 September declared "Mahakavi Naal" by the Tamil Nadu Government
2024 (11 Dec)	Complete works compendium (23 volumes) released by the Prime Minister

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Born 11 December 1882, Ettayapuram (now Thoothukudi district); parents Chinnaswami Iyer and Lakshmi Ammal; childhood name Subbaiah.
- Title "Bharati" given by the scholars of the Ettayapuram court (commonly stated as at age 11).
- Wife: Chellammal (married 1897); her village Kadayam.
- Kasi stay 1898–1902; learned Sanskrit, Hindi, English.
- Tamil teacher at Sethupathi High School, Madurai (1904).
- Assistant editor, Swadesamitran (Nov 1904); founder of Swadesamitran – G. Subramania Iyer.
- Edited Chakravarthini (women's monthly), India (Tamil weekly), Bala Bharatham (English), Vijaya (Tamil daily).
- Introduced political cartoons in Tamil journalism (India).
- Guru: Sister Nivedita; political guide: Tilak; attended Surat Congress 1907 with VOC.
- Puducherry exile 1908–1918; met Sri Aurobindo, V. V. S. Aiyar.
- Arrested near Cuddalore, November 1918; released 14 December 1918.
- Three great works: Kannan Pattu, Kuyil Pattu, Panchali Sabatham (1912).
- Pudhiya Aathichoodi – modelled on Avvaiyar's Aathichoodi.
- Gnana Ratham – prose; Chandrikaiyin Kathai – unfinished novel; translated the Bhagavad Gita into Tamil.
- Pen names: Shelleydasan, Sakthidasan.
- Epithets: Mahakavi, Desiya Kavi, Mundasu Kavignar, Sindhukku Thandhai, Paattukkoru Pulavan.
- Bharathidasan took his name from Bharati; Puratchi Kavignar = Bharathidasan.
- Hurt by the Parthasarathy temple elephant, Triplicane, 1921; died 11 September 1921 (some sources 12 Sep).
- Works nationalised 1949 – first in India.
- Stamp 1960; Bharathiar University 1982; Mahakavi Naal = 11 September; Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas = 11 December.

Frequently Asked Questions

When and where was Subramania Bharati born?

He was born on 11 December 1882 at Ettayapuram, then in Tirunelveli district and now in Thoothukudi district. His parents were Chinnaswami Iyer and Lakshmi Ammal, and his childhood name was Subbaiah.

How did he get the title "Bharati"?

As a boy (commonly stated as at the age of 11) he impressed the scholars of the Ettayapuram Raja's court with his poetry and debating skill, and they honoured him with the title "Bharati" – a name linked with Saraswati, the goddess of learning.

Why did Bharati go to Puducherry in 1908?

When the British moved against the nationalist weekly India in 1908 and its proprietor was arrested in Madras, Bharati escaped arrest by moving to French-ruled Puducherry (Pondicherry). He lived there in exile from 1908 to 1918 and continued India from there.

Which are Bharati's three great poetic works of the Puducherry period?

Kuyil Pattu, Panchali Sabatham and Kannan Pattu. Panchali Sabatham retells Draupadi's vow from the Mahabharata as a symbol of enslaved Mother India; Kannan Pattu presents Lord Krishna in many human relationships; Kuyil Pattu is an allegorical poem on a cuckoo.

When were Bharati's works nationalised?

In 1949 the Madras (Tamil Nadu) Government nationalised his works. Bharati was the first poet in India whose writings were nationalised, so his works became freely available to all.

Practise this topic with our free Tamil quizzes, follow daily current affairs (English) and Tamil current affairs, and see our TNPSC PYQ books such as the General Tamil PYQ book, which covers Bharati's works and titles asked in past papers. For classroom and online TNPSC coaching at Gandhipuram, Coimbatore and Anna Nagar, Madurai, see our TNPSC course page or call 99941 46662 (Coimbatore) / 73059 47122 (Madurai).

Practice questions

1. Where was Subramania Bharati born?

A. Ottapidaram
B. Ettayapuram
C. Kadayam
D. Tirunelveli

2. Who were Bharati's parents?

A. Ulaganatha Pillai – Paramayi Ammal
B. Chinnaswami Iyer – Lakshmi Ammal
C. Kanakasabai – Lakshmi Ammal
D. Chinnaswami Iyer – Valliammal

3. What was Bharati's childhood name?

A. Subbaiah
B. Subburathinam
C. Venkataramanan
D. Subbarayan

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4. Where was the title "Bharati" conferred on him?

A. Madurai Tamil Sangam
B. Ettayapuram court
C. Central Hindu College, Kasi
D. Puducherry

5. Who was Bharati's wife?

A. Kannamma
B. Chellammal
C. Kuppammal
D. Valliammai

6. In 1904 Bharati worked as a Tamil teacher at which school?

A. Sethupathi High School, Madurai
B. Hindu College, Tirunelveli
C. Pachaiyappa's School, Madras
D. V.O.C. School, Tuticorin

7. Who founded Swadesamitran, which Bharati joined as assistant editor?

A. G. Subramania Iyer
B. S. Satyamurti
C. V. V. S. Aiyar
D. Thiru. Vi. Ka.

8. Which women's monthly did Bharati edit?

A. Vijaya
B. Chakravarthini
C. Suryodayam
D. Karmayogi

9. Bala Bharatham, edited by Bharati, was a journal in which language?

A. Tamil
B. English
C. Hindi
D. French

10. Through which journal is Bharati credited with introducing political cartoons in Tamil journalism?

A. Swadesamitran
B. India
C. Chakravarthini
D. Arya

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11. Whom did Bharati regard as his guru?

A. Annie Besant
B. Sister Nivedita
C. Sri Aurobindo
D. Swami Vivekananda

12. To whom was Swadesa Geethangal (1908) dedicated?

A. Tilak
B. Sister Nivedita
C. V.O.C.
D. Sri Aurobindo

13. At the Surat Congress of 1907 Bharati supported whose group?

A. Gokhale
B. Tilak
C. Pherozeshah Mehta
D. Dadabhai Naoroji

14. During which period did Bharati live in exile in Puducherry?

A. 1905–1910
B. 1908–1918
C. 1910–1920
D. 1912–1921

15. Which of the following is NOT one of Bharati's three great poems?

A. Kannan Pattu
B. Kuyil Pattu
C. Panchali Sabatham
D. Pudhiya Aathichoodi

16. Panchali Sabatham is based on which epic?

A. Ramayana
B. Mahabharata
C. Silappathikaram
D. Periya Puranam

17. Pudhiya Aathichoodi is modelled on whose work?

A. Thiruvalluvar
B. Avvaiyar
C. Kambar
D. Ilango Adigal

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18. Which of the following is a pen name of Bharati?

A. Shelleydasan
B. Kanaka Subburathinam
C. Kalki
D. Pudhumaipithan

19. Who is called "Puratchi Kavignar"?

A. Bharati
B. Bharathidasan
C. Namakkal Kavignar
D. Kavimani

20. Where was Bharati arrested after leaving Puducherry in 1918?

A. Villupuram
B. Near Cuddalore
C. Madras
D. Tirunelveli

21. After his release from Cuddalore jail, Bharati lived in his wife's village. Which village was it?

A. Ettayapuram
B. Kadayam
C. Tiruchendur
D. Kovilpatti

22. The elephant that knocked Bharati down in 1921 belonged to which temple?

A. Kapaleeswarar, Mylapore
B. Parthasarathy, Triplicane
C. Srirangam
D. Meenakshi, Madurai

23. In which year were Bharati's works nationalised?

A. 1947
B. 1949
C. 1960
D. 1982

24. Which day is observed by the Tamil Nadu Government as "Mahakavi Naal"?

A. 11 December
B. 11 September
C. 15 August
D. 29 April

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25. In which year was Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, established?

A. 1960

B. 1972

C. 1982

D. 1992

Answers with explanations

1. **B) Ettayapuram** – Bharati was born at Ettayapuram on 11 December 1882.
2. **B) Chinnaswami Iyer – Lakshmi Ammal** – His father was Chinnaswami Iyer and his mother Lakshmi Ammal.
3. **A) Subbaiah** – He was called Subbaiah at home.
4. **B) Ettayapuram court** – The scholars of the Ettayapuram court gave him the title in his boyhood.
5. **B) Chellammal** – He married Chellammal in 1897; her village was Kadayam.
6. **A) Sethupathi High School, Madurai** – He taught Tamil at Sethupathi High School, Madurai, for a few months in 1904.
7. **A) G. Subramania Iyer** – Swadesamitran was founded by G. Subramania Iyer; Bharati joined in Nov 1904.
8. **B) Chakravarthini** – He edited the women's monthly Chakravarthini in 1905–06.
9. **B) English** – Bala Bharatham was an English journal.
10. **B) India** – He published political cartoons in the weekly India.
11. **B) Sister Nivedita** – He regarded Sister Nivedita as his guru.
12. **B) Sister Nivedita** – Both Swadesa Geethangal and Janma Bhoomi were dedicated to Nivedita.
13. **B) Tilak** – He went with VOC and backed Tilak's Extremist group.
14. **B) 1908–1918** – He lived in French Puducherry from 1908 to 1918.
15. **D) Pudhiya Aathichoodi** – Pudhiya Aathichoodi is also Bharati's, but the three great poems are Kannan Pattu, Kuyil Pattu and Panchali Sabatham.
16. **B) Mahabharata** – It is based on the dice game and Draupadi's vow in the Mahabharata.
17. **B) Avvaiyar** – It follows the form of Avvaiyar's Aathichoodi.
18. **A) Shelleydasan** – He used the pen name Shelleydasan out of admiration for Shelley.
19. **B) Bharathidasan** – Puratchi Kavignar is Bharathidasan, who took his name from Bharati.
20. **B) Near Cuddalore** – Arrested near Cuddalore, he was in Cuddalore jail from 20 Nov to 14 Dec 1918.
21. **B) Kadayam** – He lived about two years at Kadayam, Chellammal's village.
22. **B) Parthasarathy, Triplicane** – In July 1921 the Parthasarathy temple elephant at Triplicane knocked him down.
23. **B) 1949** – Nationalised in 1949 – the first such case in India.
24. **B) 11 September** – In 2021 his death anniversary, 11 September, was declared Mahakavi Naal.
25. **C) 1982** – Bharathiar University was established in February 1982.

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