Dheeran Chinnamalai of Kongu – Odanilai Fort, Alliance with Tipu Sultan, Battles of 1801–1804 & Sankagiri 1805 | TNPSC Notes

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Dheeran Chinnamalai (1756–1805), born **Theerthagiri**, was a **Palayakkarar of the Kongu country** in western Tamil Nadu who first defied Mysore's tax collectors, then fought the **English East India Company** as an ally of **Tipu Sultan**, and after Tipu's death in 1799 carried on the struggle alone from his fort at **Odanilai**. He won battles on the **Cauvery (1801)**, at **Odanilai (1802)** and at **Arachalur (1804)**, was betrayed by his cook, and was hanged at **Sankagiri fort on 31 July 1805** – one of the last chieftains of Tamil Nadu to resist British rule before the Vellore Revolt of 1806.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on their own. Dheeran Chinnamalai belongs to the syllabus unit **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements in Tamil Nadu** and to the **Indian National Movement** portion (early resistance to British rule in South India – the Palayakkarar wars and the South Indian Rebellion). Questions also come from the **Anglo-Mysore Wars** in Modern Indian History and from **current affairs** on his memorials. This page covers every exam-relevant fact – people, places, dates, the points on which sources differ, and the wider Palayakkarar context. Read each section, then use the tables, key points and practice questions at the end.

At a Glance

- **Name at birth:** Theerthagiri (in full, Theerthagiri Sarkarai Manradiar); popularly **Dheeran Chinnamalai**.
- **Life:** 17 April 1756 – 31 July 1805 (hanged at the age of 49).
- **Region:** Kongu Nadu – the Coimbatore–Erode–Salem belt of western Tamil Nadu.
- **Status:** a Palayakkarar (local chieftain) of the Kongu country, from the Mandradiar family of Palayakottai.
- **Ally: Tipu Sultan** of Mysore; later linked with the Marudhu brothers' confederacy and sought Maratha help.
- **Enemy:** the English East India Company.
- **Base: Odanilai** fort (Erode district).
- **Victories:** Cauvery (1801), Odanilai (1802), Arachalur (1804).
- **End:** betrayed by his cook **Nallappan**; hanged with his brothers at **Sankagiri fort**, 31 July 1805.

Background: the Kongu Region between Mysore and the Company

Kongu Nadu is the name for the western part of Tamil Nadu – roughly today's **Salem, Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Karur and Dindigul** areas. In the seventeenth century the region was part of the **Madurai Nayak** kingdom. It then passed to the **Wodeyars of Mysore** and later to the Mysore Sultans, **Hyder Ali** and his son **Tipu Sultan**. Mysore collected land revenue from Kongu through its officials, and this tax collection is the background to young Theerthagiri's first act of defiance.

The English East India Company fought four wars with Mysore (the **Anglo-Mysore Wars**). After the Third War, the Company acquired **Salem and Dindigul in 1792**; after the Fourth War, in which **Tipu Sultan was killed at Srirangapatna in 1799**, **Coimbatore** and the rest of Kongu also came under the Company. Chinnamalai's story therefore runs across both phases: resistance to Mysore's tax officers, then a long war against the Company once it replaced Mysore as the ruling power.

Birth, Family and Early Training

- **Born: 17 April 1756** at **Melapalayam** (also written Melappalayam), near **Chennimalai** and **Kangeyam**, in the then Erode district. Kangeyam now lies in Tiruppur district, so some books say "near Kangeyam, Tiruppur district" – it is the same place.
- **Birth name: Theerthagiri**; the family name is given as **Theerthagiri Sarkarai Manradiar**.
- **Parents: Rathinasamy** (Rathina Sarkarai Manradiar) and **Periyatha**.
- **Family:** the textbook places him in the **Mandradiar family of Palayakottai**, a ruling family of the Kongu country. He belonged to the Kongu Vellalar (Gounder) community.
- **Training:** as a youth he trained in **silambu (stick-fighting), archery and horse riding**, and later in modern warfare. He also settled family and land disputes in the Kongu region, which won him respect among the people.

How Theerthagiri Became "Chinnamalai"

The Kongu region was under Mysore, and taxes collected there were sent to the Sultan's capital. According to the Tamil Nadu Class 10 History textbook, when **Mohammed Ali, the Diwan of Tipu Sultan**, was returning to Mysore with the tax money, Theerthagiri **blocked his way and seized the money**. He let the Diwan go, asking him to tell the Sultan that the tax had been taken by **"Chinnamalai"** – the one who lives **between Sivanmalai and Chennimalai**. From this episode he became known as **Dheeran Chinnamalai** (Dheeran = the brave).

The angry Diwan sent a force against him. The two sides met on the **bed of the Noyyal river**, and **Chinnamalai won**.

Source note: the textbook links the episode with **Tipu's Diwan**. Some other accounts – the 2005 stamp brochure and a Lok Sabha statement – say the tax was going to **Hyder Ali**. For TNPSC, use the textbook version (Tipu's Diwan Mohammed Ali), but do not be surprised if an option mentions Hyder Ali.

With Tipu Sultan against the British

Tipu Sultan, who had heard of Chinnamalai's courage, made common cause with him against the English. Chinnamalai **mobilised Kongu youth** – the textbook says thousands; the stamp brochure speaks of a **Kongu army of about 1,000 young men** – and they were **trained in modern warfare by the French**, who were then Tipu's allies. With this force he fought on Tipu's side in the Anglo-Mysore Wars.

Battle (with Tipu)	What to remember
Chitheswaram	Listed among the victories of Tipu's side to which Chinnamalai's Kongu force contributed
Mazhavalli	Also listed among those victories (Fourth Anglo-Mysore War period)
Srirangapatna (1799)	Tipu's capital; Chinnamalai fought there; Tipu was killed when it fell in 1799

Exam tip: the French connection is a favourite question – **Chinnamalai was trained in modern warfare by the French** (Class 8 and Class 10 textbooks).

Odanilai Fort (after 1799)

After the fall of Srirangapatna and the death of Tipu Sultan in 1799, Chinnamalai returned to the Kongu country. He **built a fort** and continued the fight against the English from there. The textbook notes that this place **came to be called Odanilai**. Odanilai lies in present-day **Erode district**; the battle sites of **Arachalur** and the **Cauvery** bank are in the same region. From Odanilai he organised Kongu youth, gathered arms and kept contact with other rebel leaders of South India.

The South Indian Rebellion (1800–1801) and the Coimbatore Plan

While Chinnamalai was building his strength in Kongu, a wider revolt was being planned against the Company. The Tamil Nadu textbook calls it the **South Indian Rebellion (1800–1801)**; British records call it the **Second Palayakkarar War**.

- **Confederacy:** led by **Marudhu Pandiyar of Sivaganga**, with **Gopala Nayak of Dindigul**, **Kerala Varma of Malabar**, and **Krishnappa Nayak and Dhoondaji of Mysore**.
- **Virupachi meeting:** the leaders met at **Virupachi in April 1800** and decided to rise against the Company.
- **Coimbatore, June 1800:** the uprising broke out in **Coimbatore** and spread to Ramanathapuram and Madurai. The Palayakkarars of Coimbatore, Sathyamangalam and Tarapuram were captured and hanged.
- **Chinnamalai's part:** in **1800** he sought the help of the **Marathas** and of **Marudhu Pandiyar** to attack the British at **Coimbatore**. The Company's forces stopped the allied troops from joining him, so he had to attack on his own, and the attack failed (Class 8 textbook).
- **Tiruchirappalli Proclamation (June 1801):** issued by the Marudhu brothers, calling on Indians of every region, caste and religion to unite against the British.
- **End of the confederacy:** the Marudhu brothers were executed at Tirupathur on **24 October 1801**; the **Carnatic Treaty of 31 July 1801** brought the Tamil country under direct British rule and ended the Palayakkarar system.

Chinnamalai survived the collapse of this confederacy. That is why he is often described as one of the **last of the Palayakkarar leaders** to fight the Company in Tamil Nadu.

Guerrilla War: Cauvery, Odanilai and Arachalur (1801–1804)

After the failure at Coimbatore, Chinnamalai changed his method. Instead of open battle against a larger and better-armed army, he used **guerrilla attacks** – sudden strikes, quick withdrawal and knowledge of the local terrain – and repeatedly escaped capture. Three victories are credited to him:

Year	Battle	Result
1801	Banks of the Cauvery	Victory over the Company's troops
1802	Odanilai (his fort)	Victory – the British attack on his base failed
1804	Arachalur	Victory over the British

Memory aid: **C – O – A** = **C**auvery 1801, **O**danilai 1802, **A**rachalur 1804 (note that 1803 is skipped).

Karumalai, Betrayal and Capture (1805)

- As the Company brought heavier forces and cannon, Chinnamalai **left the Odanilai fort** to avoid cannon fire and continued the guerrilla war from **Karumalai in the Palani hills**.
- His cook, **Nallappan** (also spelt Nallapan), **betrayed him** by revealing his hiding place to the British.

- The English **captured Chinnamalai and his brothers** and took them to **Sankagiri**, where they were imprisoned.

Execution at Sankagiri Fort (31 July 1805)

Even as prisoners, Chinnamalai and his brothers **refused to accept British rule**. They were **hanged at the top of the Sankagiri fort on 31 July 1805**. Chinnamalai was 49 years old. Most accounts say two of his brothers were hanged with him.

- **Date:** 31 July 1805 – the date in the Tamil Nadu textbook and on the 2005 commemorative stamp. Some sources give **2 August 1805**; one Lok Sabha statement even says 1806. Use **31 July 1805**.
- **Sankagiri fort:** now in **Salem district**. It was built in the **15th century under the Vijayanagar empire**, served as a military base of Tipu Sultan and later of the British, and is now maintained by the **Archaeological Survey of India**.

Context: Veerapandiya Kattabomman was hanged at **Kayathar in 1799**, the Marudhu brothers at **Tirupathur in 1801**, and Chinnamalai at **Sankagiri in 1805**. One year later came the **Vellore Revolt of 1806**.

Why His Resistance Failed – and Why It Matters

- **Unequal strength:** the Company had trained regiments, artillery and reinforcements from other presidencies; Chinnamalai had local volunteers and limited arms.
- **Allies lost:** Tipu was killed in 1799; the Marudhu brothers and the other confederates were crushed in 1801; allied troops could not reach Coimbatore in 1800.
- **Betrayal:** his capture came through the treachery of his own cook.
- **Significance:** he joined local resistance in Kongu with the wider anti-British front of Mysore, the Marudhu brothers and the Marathas; he showed effective use of guerrilla war; and he resisted the Company for six years after Tipu's fall. Tamil Nadu remembers him as a freedom fighter who refused to pay tax or accept foreign rule.

Who's Who Table

Person	Connection with Chinnamalai
Rathinasamy and Periyatha	Parents
Hyder Ali	Ruler of Mysore; some accounts link the tax episode with his rule
Tipu Sultan	Ruler of Mysore (from 1782); Chinnamalai's ally against the British; killed at Srirangapatna, 1799
Mohammed Ali	Tipu's Diwan; tax money seized by Theerthagiri (textbook)
The French	Trained Chinnamalai's men in modern warfare
Marudhu Pandiyar (Marudhu brothers)	Leaders of the South Indian confederacy; Chinnamalai sought their help in 1800
The Marathas	Chinnamalai sought their help for the Coimbatore attack of 1800
Nallappan	His cook, who betrayed him
Pollan	A commander of Chinnamalai's army, killed by the British; memorial opened in 2025

Places to Remember

Place	Why it matters
Melapalayam (near Chennimalai / Kangeyam)	Birthplace, 1756
Sivanmalai and Chennimalai	"Chinnamalai" – the one who lives between these two hills
Noyyal river bed	Defeated the Diwan's force
Srirangapatna	Fought alongside Tipu; Tipu killed there in 1799
Odanilai (Erode district)	His fort and base after 1799; victory in 1802; memorial today
Virupachi	Meeting of the confederacy, April 1800
Coimbatore	Attack planned in 1800 failed
Cauvery bank	Victory, 1801
Arachalur (Erode district)	Victory, 1804
Karumalai (Palani hills)	Last hide-out; betrayed here
Sankagiri fort (Salem district)	Imprisoned and hanged, 31 July 1805

Memorials and Honours

Memorial / honour	Details
Commemorative postage stamp	Issued by India Post on **31 July 2005** (200th death anniversary), denomination **Rs 5 (500 paise)**
Manimandapam at Odanilai	Memorial built by the Tamil Nadu Government at his fort site; a statue was installed there
Statue at Guindy, Chennai	Installed during M. Karunanidhi's tenure as Chief Minister; the State pays official tribute here every year
Erode Collectorate	The Collectorate building in Erode is named after him ("Dheeran Chinnamalai Maaligai")
Memorial day	Observed by the Tamil Nadu Government in early August (3 August in 2022, 2024 and 2026), with tributes at the Guindy statue; his birth anniversary on 17 April is also marked

Current affairs link – Pollan memorial (2025): a memorial hall with a full-size statue of **Maaveeran Pollan**, a trusted commander of Dheeran Chinnamalai who was killed by British forces, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at **Jayaramapuram (Modakurichi taluk), Erode district**, in late 2025.

Chinnamalai among the Palayakkarar Rebels

Leader	Region	Key fact	End
Puli Thevar	Nerkattumseval (Tirunelveli)	Early resistance from the 1750s	–
Velu Nachiyar	Sivaganga	Recovered Sivaganga with Hyder Ali's help, 1780	Died 1796
Veerapandiya Kattabomman	Panchalamkurichi	First Palayakkarar War	Hanged at Kayathar, 1799
Marudhu brothers	Sivaganga	Tiruchirappalli Proclamation, June 1801	Executed at Tirupathur, 24 October 1801
Dheeran Chinnamalai	Kongu (Odanilai)	Ally of Tipu; victories 1801, 1802, 1804	Hanged at Sankagiri, 31 July 1805

Writing Mains Answers on Dheeran Chinnamalai (Group 1 / Group 2)

Descriptive papers can ask about early resistance in Tamil Nadu or about Chinnamalai directly. Build your answer around these points and support each one with a fact from the notes above.

Dheeran Chinnamalai's role in the resistance against the British (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** Theerthagiri (1756–1805), Palayakkarar of the Kongu country; called Dheeran Chinnamalai.
- **First defiance:** seized the tax money of Tipu's Diwan Mohammed Ali; defeated the Diwan's force at the Noyyal river bed.
- **Alliance with Tipu:** mobilised Kongu youth, trained by the French; fought at Chitheswaram, Mazhavalli and Srirangapatna.
- **After 1799:** built the Odanilai fort; joined the wider rebellion – sought help from the Marathas and Marudhu Pandiyar for the Coimbatore attack of 1800.
- **Guerrilla war:** victories at the Cauvery (1801), Odanilai (1802) and Arachalur (1804).
- **End:** betrayed by his cook Nallappan at Karumalai (Palani); hanged with his brothers at Sankagiri fort on 31 July 1805.
- **Conclusion:** one of the last Palayakkarar leaders to resist; memory kept alive by memorials at Odanilai and Chennai and a 2005 stamp.

The South Indian Rebellion of 1800–1801 and Chinnamalai (about 150 words)

- **Confederacy:** Marudhu Pandiyar, Gopala Nayak, Kerala Varma, Krishnappa Nayak and Dhoondaji; Virupachi meeting, April 1800.
- **Coimbatore, June 1800:** revolt broke out and spread to Ramanathapuram and Madurai.
- **Chinnamalai:** sought Maratha and Marudhu help to attack Coimbatore; allies blocked, his attack failed.
- **Tiruchirappalli Proclamation (June 1801):** call for all Indians to unite.

- **Outcome:** Marudhu brothers executed (24 October 1801); Carnatic Treaty (31 July 1801); Chinnamalai continued alone till 1805.

Why did the early resistance in Tamil Nadu fail? (about 100 words)

- Superior British arms, artillery and reinforcements.
- Lack of unity – several rulers sided with the Company; allies could not join in time (Coimbatore, 1800).
- Loss of the main ally, Tipu Sultan, in 1799.
- Betrayal by insiders – Nallappan in Chinnamalai's case.
- Yet the revolts kept the idea of resistance alive and preceded the Vellore Revolt of 1806.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Melapalayam	Birthplace, 1756
Mohammed Ali	Tipu's Diwan whose tax money was seized
Noyyal river bed	Defeat of the Diwan's force
Odanilai	Fort built after 1799; victory 1802
Arachalur	Victory, 1804
Cauvery bank	Victory, 1801
Karumalai	Last hide-out in the Palani hills
Nallappan	Cook who betrayed him
Sankagiri	Hanged, 31 July 1805
31 July 2005	Commemorative stamp issued

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Odanilai vs Sankagiri:** Odanilai was his **fort**; Sankagiri was where he was **hanged**.
- **Battle years:** Cauvery **1801**, Odanilai **1802**, Arachalur **1804** – not 1803.
- **Execution date:** 31 July 1805 (textbook). Do not confuse it with the **Carnatic Treaty of 31 July 1801** – same day and month, different year.
- **Kayathar vs Sankagiri vs Tirupathur:** Kattabomman – Kayathar (1799); Chinnamalai – Sankagiri (1805); Marudhu brothers – Tirupathur (1801).
- **Trainers:** his men were trained by the **French**, not the British or the Dutch.
- **Name:** in the textbook story the tax was taken by "Chinnamalai", the one between **Sivanmalai and Chennimalai** – remember this pair of hills.
- **Betrayer:** Nallappan, his cook – not Ettappan (who is linked with Kattabomman's story).
- **Sankagiri's district:** Salem district, not Erode.

Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
17 April 1756	Born Theerthagiri at Melapalayam, near Chennimalai/Kangeyam
Youth	Trained in silambu, archery, horse riding; settles disputes in Kongu
Mysore period	Seizes tax money of Tipu's Diwan Mohammed Ali; named Chinnamalai
Soon after	Defeats the Diwan's force at the Noyyal river bed
1782	Tipu Sultan becomes ruler of Mysore after Hyder Ali
1790s	Fights with Tipu – Chitheswaram, Mazhavalli, Srirangapatna
1792	Salem and Dindigul pass to the Company (Third Anglo-Mysore War)
1799	Tipu killed at Srirangapatna; Coimbatore annexed; Chinnamalai builds Odanilai fort
April 1800	Confederacy meets at Virupachi
June 1800	Revolt at Coimbatore; Chinnamalai's Coimbatore attack fails
1801	Victory on the banks of the Cauvery
June 1801	Tiruchirappalli Proclamation (Marudhu brothers)
31 July 1801	Carnatic Treaty
24 October 1801	Marudhu brothers executed at Tirupathur
1802	Victory at Odanilai
1804	Victory at Arachalur
1805	Moves to Karumalai (Palani); betrayed by Nallappan; captured
31 July 1805	Hanged with his brothers at Sankagiri fort
1806	Vellore Revolt
31 July 2005	Commemorative stamp (Rs 5) on 200th death anniversary
2025	Memorial to his commander Pollan opened at Jayaramapuram, Erode district

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Born: 17 April 1756, Melapalayam (near Chennimalai / Kangeyam). Birth name: Theerthagiri. Parents: Rathinasamy and Periyatha.
- Palayakkarar of the Kongu country; Mandradiar family of Palayakottai.
- Trained in silambu, archery, horse riding; his men trained in modern warfare by the French.
- Name: seized the tax money of Tipu's Diwan Mohammed Ali – "Chinnamalai, between Sivanmalai and Chennimalai, took it".
- Defeated the Diwan's force on the Noyyal river bed.

- Ally of Tipu Sultan; fought at Chitheswaram, Mazhavalli and Srirangapatna.
- After Tipu's death (1799): built a fort at Odanilai.
- 1800: sought help of the Marathas and Marudhu Pandiyar to attack Coimbatore – failed.
- Victories: Cauvery (1801), Odanilai (1802), Arachalur (1804); used guerrilla warfare.
- Last hide-out: Karumalai, Palani hills. Betrayed by his cook Nallappan.
- Hanged with his brothers at Sankagiri fort on 31 July 1805.
- Sankagiri fort: Vijayanagar period (15th century), Salem district, ASI-protected.
- Stamp: 31 July 2005, Rs 5. Memorials: Odanilai manimandapam, Guindy statue (Chennai); Erode Collectorate named after him.
- Pollan, his commander – memorial at Jayaramapuram, Erode district (2025).

Frequently Asked Questions

How did Theerthagiri get the name "Chinnamalai"?

According to the Tamil Nadu Class 10 History textbook, Tipu Sultan's Diwan Mohammed Ali was carrying the taxes collected in the Kongu region back to Mysore when young Theerthagiri stopped him and seized the money. He let the Diwan go with a message for the Sultan: the tax had been taken by "Chinnamalai", the one who lives between Sivanmalai and Chennimalai. From then on he was known as Dheeran (the brave) Chinnamalai. Some other accounts place this episode under Hyder Ali; for TNPSC follow the textbook version.

Where is Odanilai and why is it important?

Odanilai is in the Kongu country of present-day Erode district. After Tipu Sultan's death in 1799, Chinnamalai built a fort there and made it the base of his resistance against the East India Company. The textbook notes that the place itself came to be called Odanilai. Today the Tamil Nadu Government's memorial (manimandapam) to Chinnamalai stands at Odanilai.

Which battles did Dheeran Chinnamalai win against the British?

After Tipu's death he fought the Company with guerrilla tactics and is credited with victories on the banks of the Cauvery (1801), at Odanilai (1802) and at Arachalur (1804). Earlier, while serving with Tipu Sultan, his Kongu force fought at Chitheswaram, Mazhavalli and Srirangapatna.

Who betrayed Dheeran Chinnamalai?

His cook, Nallappan (also spelt Nallapan). After leaving the Odanilai fort, Chinnamalai was carrying on guerrilla war from Karumalai in the Palani hills; Nallappan revealed his hiding place, and the British captured him and his brothers.

When and where was Dheeran Chinnamalai executed?

He and his brothers were hanged at the top of the Sankagiri fort (now in Salem district) on 31 July 1805, the date given in the Tamil Nadu textbook and on the 2005 commemorative stamp. A few sources give 2 August 1805. He refused to accept British rule to the end.

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Tamil PYQ book. 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. What was the birth name of Dheeran Chinnamalai?

A. Theerthagiri
B. Kulandaisamy
C. Muthuramalingam
D. Karuppasamy

2. In which year was Dheeran Chinnamalai born?

A. 1736
B. 1746
C. 1756
D. 1766

3. Where was Dheeran Chinnamalai born?

A. Odanilai
B. Melapalayam
C. Sankagiri
D. Arachalur

4. The name "Chinnamalai" refers to the place between which two hills?

A. Kolli – Pachaimalai
B. Palani – Sirumalai
C. Shevaroy – Kalvarayan
D. Sivanmalai – Chennimalai

5. According to the textbook, whose tax money did Theerthagiri seize?

A. The Nawab of Arcot's amildar
B. Company Collector Macleod
C. Tipu's Diwan Mohammed Ali
D. An officer of the Maratha Peshwa

6. Where did Chinnamalai defeat the Diwan's force?

A. Noyyal river bed
B. Amaravathi river bank
C. Thamirabarani bank
D. Bhavani–Cauvery confluence

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7. Who trained Chinnamalai's men in modern warfare?

A. The English
B. The Dutch
C. The French
D. The Portuguese

8. Which ruler of Mysore was Dheeran Chinnamalai's ally against the British?

A. Krishnaraja Wodeyar
B. Nanjaraja
C. Chikkadevaraya
D. Tipu Sultan

9. Which of these is NOT among the battles in which Chinnamalai's force fought alongside Tipu?

A. Chitheswaram
B. Mazhavalli
C. Srirangapatna
D. Wandiwash

10. Where did Chinnamalai build his fort after Tipu's death?

A. Odanilai
B. Sankagiri
C. Dindigul
D. Virupachi

11. In which district is Odanilai today?

A. Salem
B. Karur
C. Namakkal
D. Erode

12. In 1800, Chinnamalai planned to attack the British at which place?

A. Coimbatore
B. Tiruchirappalli
C. Madurai
D. Vellore

13. Whose help did Chinnamalai seek for the Coimbatore attack of 1800?

A. The Dutch and the Nawab of Arcot
B. The Nizam and the French
C. The Marathas and Marudhu Pandiyar
D. The rulers of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai

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14. Choose the correct set: Chinnamalai's victories

A. Cauvery – 1802, Odanilai – 1801, Arachalur – 1804
B. Cauvery – 1801, Odanilai – 1802, Arachalur – 1804
C. Cauvery – 1801, Odanilai – 1803, Arachalur – 1805
D. Cauvery – 1800, Odanilai – 1802, Arachalur – 1803

15. Where did Chinnamalai defeat the British in 1804?

A. Arachalur
B. Kangeyam
C. Bhavani
D. Dharapuram

16. After leaving Odanilai, from where did Chinnamalai wage his last guerrilla war?

A. Kolli hills
B. Anaimalai
C. Shevaroy hills
D. Karumalai (Palani)

17. Who betrayed Dheeran Chinnamalai?

A. Nallappan
B. Ettappan
C. Thondaiman
D. Velappan Thevar

18. Where was Dheeran Chinnamalai hanged?

A. Kayathar
B. Tirupathur
C. Sankagiri fort
D. Vellore fort

19. According to the textbook, on which date was Dheeran Chinnamalai hanged?

A. 16 October 1799
B. 24 October 1801
C. 31 July 1805
D. 10 July 1806

20. Which statement about Sankagiri fort is correct?

A. Nayak period, Erode district
B. Chola period, Karur district
C. Built by the British, Namakkal district
D. Vijayanagar period, Salem district

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21. When was the commemorative stamp on Dheeran Chinnamalai issued?

A. 31 July 1995

B. 17 April 2000

C. 31 July 2005

D. 15 August 2010

22. Who was NOT a member of the South Indian confederacy of 1800–1801?

A. Gopala Nayak

B. Kerala Varma

C. Dhoondaji

D. Thondaiman of Pudukkottai

23. Match: (a) Odanilai (b) Sankagiri (c) Kayathar (d) Tirupathur – (1) Marudhu brothers hanged (2) Chinnamalai's fort (3) Kattabomman hanged (4) Chinnamalai hanged

A. a-2, b-4, c-3, d-1

B. a-4, b-2, c-1, d-3

C. a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1

D. a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

24. Consider: (i) Chinnamalai was a Palayakkarar of the Kongu country. (ii) He joined the British against Tipu Sultan. (iii) He was hanged at Sankagiri. Which are correct?

A. (i) and (ii) only

B. (i) and (iii) only

C. (ii) and (iii) only

D. All three

25. Which commander of Dheeran Chinnamalai got a memorial at Jayaramapuram, Erode district, in 2025?

A. Pollan

B. Sundaralingam

C. Kuyili

D. Vellaiyathevan

Answers with explanations

1. **A) Theerthagiri** – His parents named him Theerthagiri.

2. **C) 1756** – He was born on 17 April 1756.

3. **B) Melapalayam** – He was born at Melapalayam, near Chennimalai / Kangeyam.

4. **D) Sivanmalai – Chennimalai** – He told the Diwan that "Chinnamalai", between Sivanmalai and Chennimalai, had taken the tax.

5. **C) Tipu's Diwan Mohammed Ali** – He waylaid Tipu's Diwan Mohammed Ali, who was taking the tax money to Mysore.

6. **A) Noyyal river bed** – He defeated the Diwan's force on the Noyyal river bed.

7. **C) The French** – The French, Tipu's allies, trained them.

8. **D) Tipu Sultan** – Chinnamalai fought the British together with Tipu Sultan.

9. **D) Wandiwash** – Wandiwash (1760) was an Anglo-French battle, unrelated to Chinnamalai.

10. **A) Odanilai** – After 1799 he built a fort at Odanilai and continued the fight.

11. **D) Erode** – Odanilai is in Erode district, where his memorial stands.

12. **A) Coimbatore** – He planned to attack Coimbatore with Maratha and Marudhu help; the attack failed.

13. **C) The Marathas and Marudhu Pandiyar** – Class 8 textbook: he sought help from the Marathas and Marudhu Pandiyar.

14. **B) Cauvery – 1801, Odanilai – 1802, Arachalur – 1804** – Cauvery 1801, Odanilai 1802, Arachalur 1804.

15. **A) Arachalur** – He won at Arachalur in 1804.

16. **D) Karumalai (Palani)** – He fought from Karumalai in the Palani hills.

17. **A) Nallappan** – His cook Nallappan revealed his hiding place.

18. **C) Sankagiri fort** – He was hanged with his brothers at the top of the Sankagiri fort.

19. **C) 31 July 1805** – 31 July 1805; the others relate to Kattabomman, the Marudhu brothers and the Vellore Revolt.

20. **D) Vijayanagar period, Salem district** – It was built in the 15th century under Vijayanagar and lies in Salem district.

21. **C) 31 July 2005** – A Rs 5 stamp was issued on 31 July 2005, his 200th death anniversary.

22. **D) Thondaiman of Pudukkottai** – The Raja of Pudukkottai sided with the British.

23. **A) a-2, b-4, c-3, d-1** – Odanilai – fort; Sankagiri – Chinnamalai; Kayathar – Kattabomman; Tirupathur – Marudhu.

24. **B) (i) and (iii) only** – (ii) is wrong – he joined Tipu against the British.

25. **A) Pollan** – A memorial to Maaveeran Pollan was opened at Jayaramapuram, Modakurichi taluk.

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