P. Jeevanandham (Jeeva) – Boothapandi, Siravayal Ashram, Self-Respect Movement, Bhagat Singh Translation, Communist Movement, Washermanpet 1952, Thamarai and Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram | TNPSC Notes

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P. Jeevanandham (Jeeva, 1907–1963) was born on **21 August 1907** at **Boothapandi** in the then Travancore State (near Nagercoil, in today's Kanniyakumari district); his original name was **Sorimuthu**. Beginning in the Gandhian movement, he ran an **ashram at Siravayal**, and later joined Periyar's **Self-Respect Movement**. Encouraged by Periyar, he translated **Bhagat Singh's "Why I am an Atheist"** into Tamil and was arrested for it. He went on to become a pioneer leader of the **Communist movement** in Tamil Nadu and in **1952** was elected to the Assembly from **Washermanpet** in Madras. The literary magazine **"Thamarai"** and the **Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram** (1961) mark his literary work. He died on **18 January 1963**.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants. Jeeva appears under **Tamil Nadu's role in the freedom struggle**, the **Self-Respect Movement** and the **labour movement**. For the background, see our notes on the Self-Respect Movement and M. Singaravelar.

Profile at a Glance

Item	Detail
Original name	**Sorimuthu** (after the family deity)
Birth	**21 August 1907**, Boothapandi (then Travancore; now Kanniyakumari district)
Popular name	**Jeeva**
Movements	Gandhian movement → Self-Respect Movement → Communist movement (Communist Party of India)
Legislature	**1952** – Washermanpet constituency (Madras)
Journals	**Janasakthi** (Tamil daily of the Communist Party) – key role at its start; **Thamarai** (literary magazine) – founded and ran it
Organisation	**Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram** (1961)
Death	**18 January 1963**, Tambaram (near Chennai)

Life Journey – Timeline

Period	Event
1907	Born at Boothapandi
1920s	Active in the Gandhian national movement; ran an **ashram at Siravayal**. Jeeva had written to Gandhi disagreeing with his methods; Gandhi visited the ashram and met him in person
1920s – 1930s	Supported Periyar's protest against the separate dining of Dalit and upper-caste students at the **Cheranmadevi ashram** and left it; disillusioned with the social conservatism of the Congress; joined Periyar's **Self-Respect Movement** – anti-caste and rationalist propaganda
1933–34	Encouraged by Periyar, translated Bhagat Singh's **"Why I am an Atheist"** into Tamil – published by the Self-Respect Movement's press; the British government prosecuted and arrested him for it
Late 1930s	Left the Self-Respect Movement over its support for Justice Party politics and moved towards socialism and communism; one of the pioneer leaders of the Communist Party in Tamil Nadu (built the party with P. Ramamurthi during the years of the ban)
1940s	Work in the labour movement; jailed several times
1952	Won **Washermanpet** (a working-class area of North Madras) as a Communist Party candidate
1954, 1955	Lectures on the Kamba Ramayanam at the annual meetings of the **Kamban Kazhagam**, Karaikudi
1961	Founded the **Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram**
18-01-1963	Died at Tambaram; huge crowds at his funeral at the Kasimedu burial ground, Madras

Contributions

Field	Contribution
Freedom struggle	Began in the Gandhian movement; jailed many times under British rule
Social reform	Self-Respect Movement – abolition of caste, rationalism, opposition to superstition
Labour and communist movement	Organising work for the rights of workers and peasants; a pioneer of the communist movement in Tamil Nadu
Literature and journalism	Janasakthi, Thamarai; translation of Bhagat Singh's work; lectures on Kamban
Cultural organisation	Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram (1961) – a forum for progressive artists and writers
Simple life	Lived a simple life without seeking office or wealth; died at his modest home in Tambaram

Memorials

- Commemorative postage stamp issued by India Post on **21 August 2010** (his birthday).
- **Vyasarpadi Jeeva** railway station, Chennai.
- Jeevanandam Government Girls High School at Boothapandi; Jeevanandam Government Higher Secondary School at Puducherry.

Writing Mains Answers (Group 1 / Group 2)

Nationalism, Self-Respect and Communism – trace Jeeva's political journey (about 150–200 words)

- **Introduction:** 1907–1963; Boothapandi; original name Sorimuthu.
- **Gandhian phase:** Siravayal ashram; meeting with Gandhi.
- **Self-Respect phase:** with Periyar; anti-caste work; Bhagat Singh translation – arrest.
- **Communist phase:** pioneer of the communist movement; labour movement; Washermanpet 1952.
- **Literary work:** Janasakthi, Thamarai, Kamban lectures, Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram (1961).
- **Assessment:** joined Tamil literature, social justice and working-class politics; a model of simple living.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Sorimuthu	Jeeva's original name
Boothapandi	Birthplace
Siravayal	Jeeva's ashram
Why I am an Atheist	Bhagat Singh – translated by Jeeva
Washermanpet	Assembly constituency, 1952
1961	Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Jeeva was born at Boothapandi (Kanniyakumari) – not Pondicherry.
- Jeeva translated Bhagat Singh's "Why I am an Atheist" – not his jail notebook or the Communist Manifesto.
- "Thamarai" was Jeeva's literary magazine; "Kudi Arasu" was Periyar's journal – do not mix them up.
- In 1952 Jeeva won the Washermanpet seat in the Madras State Legislative Assembly – not the Lok Sabha.
- The first May Day in India (1923, Madras) was organised by Singaravelar – not Jeeva.

Key Terms – Tamil / English (for the bilingual paper)

தமிழ்	English
பொதுவுடைமை	Communism
சுயமரியாதை இயக்கம்	Self-Respect Movement
பகுத்தறிவு	Rationalism
தொழிற்சங்கம்	Trade union
மொழிபெயர்ப்பு	Translation
ஆசிரமம்	Ashram
கலை இலக்கியப் பெருமன்றம்	Forum for art and literature
சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர்	Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)

Quick Revision Table

Year	Event
1907	Born at Boothapandi (21 August)
1920s	Siravayal ashram; meeting with Gandhi
1933–34	Bhagat Singh translation – arrest
1952	MLA, Washermanpet
1954–55	Kamban Kazhagam lectures, Karaikudi
1961	Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram
1963	Death (18 January)
2010	Commemorative stamp (21 August)

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- P. Jeevanandham (Jeeva) – original name Sorimuthu; born 21-08-1907, Boothapandi.
- Siravayal ashram – visited by Gandhi.
- Bhagat Singh's "Why I am an Atheist" – Tamil translation (encouraged by Periyar).
- Pioneer of the communist movement in Tamil Nadu; 1952 – MLA, Washermanpet.
- Journals – Janasakthi, Thamarai.
- Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram – 1961.
- Died 18-01-1963; stamp – 2010.

Related notes: Periyar, Self-Respect Movement, M. Singaravelar, Thiru. Vi. Ka..

Frequently Asked Questions

What was Jeeva's original name and where was he born?

His original name was Sorimuthu. He was born on 21 August 1907 at Boothapandi in the then Travancore State (near Nagercoil, in today's Kanniyakumari district), and later became known as P. Jeevanandham – "Jeeva".

Which work of Bhagat Singh did Jeeva translate?

Encouraged by Periyar, he translated Bhagat Singh's "Why I am an Atheist" into Tamil in the early 1930s; it was published by the Self-Respect Movement's press. The British government arrested him for it.

From which constituency did Jeeva become an MLA?

In the 1952 general election he won Washermanpet, a working-class area of North Madras, as a Communist Party candidate and became a member of the Madras State Legislative Assembly.

Who founded the Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram?

P. Jeevanandham founded it in 1961 as a forum to bring together progressive artists and writers. The literary magazine "Thamarai", which he founded and ran, shared the same aim.

What is an example of Jeeva's simple life?

Even as a legislator and party leader he lived simply, and he died at his modest home in Tambaram. When he died on 18 January 1963, huge crowds paid their last respects at Kasimedu in Madras.

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Practice questions

1. What was Jeeva's original name?

A. Sorimuthu
B. Subbaiah
C. Muthukaruppan
D. Somasundaram

2. Where was Jeeva born?

A. Nagercoil
B. Boothapandi
C. Swamithoppe
D. Kuzhithurai

3. In which year was Jeeva born?

A. 1897
B. 1907
C. 1912
D. 1923

4. Which work of Bhagat Singh did Jeeva translate into Tamil?

A. Hind Swaraj
B. Jail Notebook
C. The Communist Manifesto
D. Why I am an Atheist

5. Who encouraged Jeeva to translate Bhagat Singh's work?

A. Periyar
B. Rajaji
C. Thiru. Vi. Ka.
D. Singaravelar

6. Where did Jeeva run an ashram?

A. Cheranmadevi
B. Siravayal
C. Vedaranyam
D. Tiruchengode

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7. Which Assembly constituency did Jeeva win in 1952?

A. Triplicane
B. Mylapore
C. Washermanpet
D. Nagercoil

8. Which literary magazine did Jeeva found and run?

A. Kudi Arasu
B. Swadesamitran
C. Navasakthi
D. Thamarai

9. In which year was the Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram founded?

A. 1952
B. 1957
C. 1961
D. 1963

10. In which year did Jeeva die?

A. 1952
B. 1961
C. 1963
D. 1967

11. Which Tamil daily of the Communist Party is associated with Jeeva?

A. Dinamani
B. Viduthalai
C. Janasakthi
D. Swadesamitran

12. In which year was a stamp on Jeeva issued?

A. 1987
B. 1997
C. 2004
D. 2010

13. At which body's annual meetings did Jeeva lecture on the Kamba Ramayanam in 1954 and 1955?

A. Kamban Kazhagam, Karaikudi
B. Karanthai Tamil Sangam
C. Madurai Tamil Sangam
D. Tamil Isai Sangam

14. Which Chennai railway station is named after Jeeva?

A. Perambur
B. Vyasarpadi Jeeva
C. Tambaram
D. Washermanpet

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15. Boothapandi, Jeeva's birthplace, was then part of which state?

A. Mysore
B. Pudukkottai
C. Travancore
D. Cochin

16. Which ashram did Jeeva leave in protest against separate caste-based dining for students?

A. Sabarmati
B. Wardha
C. Puduppalayam
D. Cheranmadevi

17. Which movement of Periyar did Jeeva join and later leave?

A. Self-Respect Movement
B. Justice Party
C. Pure Tamil Movement
D. Swaraj Party

18. Where did Jeeva die?

A. Boothapandi
B. Tambaram
C. Madurai
D. Coimbatore

19. Who built the Communist Party in Tamil Nadu with Jeeva during the years of the ban?

A. Satyamurti
B. Rajaji
C. P. Ramamurthi
D. Anna

20. On which party's ticket did Jeeva contest and win in 1952?

A. Indian National Congress
B. Justice Party
C. Swatantra Party
D. Communist Party

Answers with explanations

1. A) Sorimuthu – Sorimuthu.

2. B) Boothapandi – Boothapandi (Kanniyakumari district).

3. B) 1907 – 21 August 1907.

4. D) Why I am an Atheist – Why I am an Atheist – encouraged by Periyar.

5. A) Periyar – Periyar E. V. Ramasamy.

6. B) Siravayal – Siravayal – Gandhi visited it.

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7. C) Washermanpet – Washermanpet (North Madras).

8. D) Thamarai – Thamarai.

9. C) 1961 – 1961 – founded by Jeeva.

10. C) 1963 – 18 January 1963.

11. C) Janasakthi – Janasakthi.

12. D) 2010 – 21 August 2010.

13. A) Kamban Kazhagam, Karaikudi – The Kamban Kazhagam, Karaikudi.

14. B) Vyasarpadi Jeeva – Vyasarpadi Jeeva station.

15. C) Travancore – The Travancore State.

16. D) Cheranmadevi – The Cheranmadevi ashram – he backed Periyar's protest and left it.

17. A) Self-Respect Movement – The Self-Respect Movement – he left over its support for the Justice Party.

18. B) Tambaram – Tambaram, near Chennai.

19. C) P. Ramamurthi – P. Ramamurthi.

20. D) Communist Party – The Communist Party – Washermanpet.

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