Veerapandiya Kattabomman of Panchalankurichi – Palayakkarar Revolt, Jackson & Bannerman, Kayathar 1799, Oomaithurai & the Poligar Wars | TNPSC Notes

TNPSC Notes · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/tnpsc-notes/kattabomman/en

Veerapandiya Kattabomman (3 January 1760 – 16 October 1799) was the **palayakkarar (poligar) of Panchalankurichi**, in present-day **Thoothukudi district**, who refused to pay tribute to the **English East India Company** and fought it in the **First Palayakkarar (Poligar) War of 1799**. After the siege of his fort by **Major Bannerman**, he was betrayed, captured and **hanged at Kayathar** on 16 October 1799. His younger brother **Oomaithurai** carried the struggle into the **Second Palayakkarar War (1800–1801)**, which ended with the **Carnatic Treaty of 1801** and the abolition of the palayakkarar system.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on their own. Kattabomman is a core topic in the syllabus unit **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements in Tamil Nadu**, and also in the **Indian National Movement** portion, where the early revolts against British rule in South India are studied as the background to the national struggle. Read each section in order, then use the tables, the quick revision table and the key points at the end.

At a Glance

- **Name:** Veerapandiya Kattabomman; palayakkarar of **Panchalankurichi**.
- **Born:** 3 January 1760, Panchalankurichi (now in Thoothukudi district).
- **Parents:** Jagaveera Kattabomman (Jagavira Pandya Kattabomman), the previous palayakkarar, and Arumugathammal.
- **Became palayakkarar:** 1790, at the age of thirty, on his father's death; he is counted as the **47th** palayakkarar of Panchalankurichi.
- **Brothers: Oomaithurai** and **Sevathaiah** (younger brothers).
- **Minister: Sivasubramanianar** (Sivasubramania Pillai).
- **Main opponents:** Collector **Jackson** (1798) and **Major Bannerman** (1799).
- **Bloc:** leader of the **eastern bloc** of palayakkarars (Telugu-speaking palayams), as against the western (Marava) bloc once led by Puli Thevar.
- **Death:** hanged at **Kayathar** (now in Thoothukudi district) on **16 October 1799**.
- **Memorials:** Memorial Fort at Panchalankurichi (Tamil Nadu Government, 1974); memorial at Kayathar; postage stamp (16 October 1999); **INS Kattabomman** (1990); the 1959 film **Veerapandiya Kattabomman**.

Background: The Palayakkarar System

A **palayam** was a small territory, usually a group of villages, held by a chief called the **palayakkarar** (anglicised as **poligar** or polygar). The palayakkarar held his palayam in return for military service and a share of the revenue paid to his overlord. He collected taxes, kept law and order, settled disputes and maintained troops, and ruled from a fortified centre.

- **Origin in Tamil Nadu:** the system was organised under the **Madurai Nayaks**. **Viswanatha Nayak**, who became ruler of Madurai around **1529**, introduced it with the help of his minister (Dalavai) **Ariyanatha Mudaliar**.
- **Number:** traditionally there were **72 palayams**.
- **Two blocs in the south:** by the eighteenth century the palayakkarars of the Tirunelveli region formed two groups – the **western bloc** of **Marava** palayakkarars led by **Puli Thevar of Nerkattumseval**, and the **eastern bloc** of **Telugu-speaking** palayakkarars led by **Kattabomman of Panchalankurichi**.
- **Claim to sovereignty:** the palayakkarars saw themselves as hereditary rulers of their lands; the Company treated them only as tribute-paying subordinates. This clash of ideas lay behind the revolts.

How the Company Got the Right to Collect Tribute

The palayakkarars of the south owed tribute to the **Nawab of Arcot (Carnatic)**. The Nawab, heavily in debt to the East India Company, gradually handed over his revenue rights to it.

- **1781:** during the war with Mysore, the Nawab assigned the revenue of the Carnatic to the Company.
- **1792:** under the **Carnatic Treaty of 1792**, the right to collect tribute from the palayakkarars passed to the Company.
- The Company's collectors used force to collect arrears and often humiliated the palayakkarars. Kattabomman, like Puli Thevar before him, refused to accept an outside power as his master.

Early Life and Accession

- Kattabomman was born on **3 January 1760** at **Panchalankurichi**, near Ottapidaram, about 25 km from Thoothukudi.
- His father **Jagaveera Kattabomman** was the palayakkarar of Panchalankurichi; his mother was **Arumugathammal**.
- On his father's death he became palayakkarar in **1790** at the age of **thirty**. His rule lasted until 1799.
- His family deity was the goddess **Jakkammal**; the Sri Devi Jakkammal temple stands inside the present memorial fort complex.
- His younger brothers **Oomaithurai** and **Sevathaiah** stood by him throughout, and his minister **Sivasubramanianar** was his chief adviser.

Conflict with Collector Jackson (1798)

Jackson was the Company's Collector who dealt with the palayakkarars of the region. By 1798 Kattabomman's tribute was in arrears of **3,310 pagodas**. Jackson wanted to send an army against him, but the **Madras Government refused permission**.

- **18 August 1798:** Jackson ordered Kattabomman to meet him at **Ramanathapuram**.
- Kattabomman went after him, but Jackson refused to see him at **Courtallam** and at **Srivilliputhur**.
- **19 September 1798:** the two met at Ramanathapuram. Kattabomman is said to have been kept standing before the Collector for **three hours**.
- Sensing that he was to be arrested, Kattabomman tried to leave with his minister Sivasubramanianar. **Oomaithurai** entered the fort with his men and helped him escape.
- In the clash at the fort gate several people died, including **Lieutenant Clarke**. **Sivasubramanianar was taken prisoner**.

Inquiry by the Madras Council (December 1798)

- Kattabomman complained to the **Madras Council** about his treatment at Ramanathapuram.
- Governor **Edward Clive** ordered the **release of Sivasubramanianar** and the **suspension of Jackson**.

- A committee of **William Brown, William Oram and John Casamajor** sat on **15 December 1798** and found **Kattabomman not guilty**.
- Jackson was **dismissed** and **S. R. Lushington** was appointed Collector in his place.
- Kattabomman then paid almost all the arrears, leaving only a small balance (1,080 pagodas according to the present textbook; an older text gives 1,090).

Exam tip: the Ramanathapuram episode ended in Kattabomman's favour – the Company's own committee cleared him and removed the Collector. The final break came a year later, over his links with other rebels.

The South Indian Confederacy and Sivagiri

- **Marudhu Pandiyar of Sivaganga** organised a confederacy of rebels against the Company, with **Gopala Nayak of Dindigul** and **Yadul Nayak of Aanamalai**. Kattabomman joined it.
- Collector Lushington tried to stop Kattabomman from meeting the Marudhu brothers, but they decided together to oppose the English.
- The palayakkarar of **Sivagiri** refused to join. Sivagiri was a tributary of the Company, so when Kattabomman moved against it, the Company treated this as a direct challenge and ordered an army to Tirunelveli.

The First Palayakkarar War: Siege of Panchalankurichi (1799)

- **May 1799:** on the orders of the Governor-General **Lord Wellesley**, forces from **Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur and Madurai** were sent to Tirunelveli under **Major Bannerman**. **Travancore** troops joined them. (This was the year of the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, when Tipu Sultan was killed.)
- **1 September 1799:** Bannerman served an **ultimatum** asking Kattabomman to surrender. His reply was treated as evasive.
- **5 September 1799:** Bannerman moved his whole army to Panchalankurichi and cut off the fort's communications. He sent **Ramalinganar** with a demand for surrender; Kattabomman refused, and the information Ramalinganar gathered about the fort helped Bannerman plan his attack.
- **Kallarpatti:** in a clash at Kallarpatti (spelt Kolarpatti in some texts), Kattabomman's men suffered heavy losses and **Sivasubramanianar was captured again**.
- **13 September 1799:** Sivasubramanianar was **executed at Nagalapuram**.
- The fort could not hold out against the Company's artillery. Kattabomman escaped and went towards **Pudukottai**.

Betrayal, Trial and Execution at Kayathar (October 1799)

- The British offered a reward for Kattabomman's capture. He was **betrayed by the rulers of Ettayapuram and Pudukottai**.
- **Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman**, the ruler of Pudukottai, had him captured and handed over to the British.
- **16 October 1799:** Bannerman held a trial at **Kayathar** in the presence of the palayakkarars of the region, as a warning to them. Kattabomman **admitted the charges** without fear.
- He was **hanged from a tamarind tree near the old fort of Kayathar**. Most sources, and the official martyrdom day, give the date as **16 October 1799**; an older school text gives the trial on 16 October and the hanging on 17 October.
- He was 39 years old. Folk ballads sung across the region kept his memory alive long after his death.

Aftermath of 1799

- The fort of Panchalankurichi was **demolished** by Bannerman's forces.

- **Oomaithurai** and **Sevathaiah** were imprisoned in the **Palayamkottai** prison.
- Other palayakkarars who had supported the rising were punished, and the Company tightened its hold on the Tirunelveli region.

Oomaithurai and the Second Palayakkarar War (1800–1801)

Oomaithurai ("oomai" means mute in Tamil) was Kattabomman's younger brother. He had already saved Kattabomman at Ramanathapuram in 1798. After 1799 he became the central figure of the second rising in the south.

- **The wider confederacy:** the Second Palayakkarar War was led by a confederacy of **Marudhu Pandiyar of Sivaganga**, **Gopala Nayak of Dindigul**, **Kerala Varma of Malabar**, and **Krishnappa Nayak and Dhoondaji of Mysore**. The leaders met at **Virupachi** in **April 1800**, and the rising broke out in **Coimbatore in June 1800**, spreading to Ramanathapuram and Madurai.
- **Escape (February 1801):** Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah escaped from the Palayamkottai prison. Their followers **rebuilt the Panchalankurichi fort** in a very short time and held it against the Company.
- **Siege of 1801:** the first British assaults failed. The fort was finally taken in 1801 – the present textbook says **Colin Macaulay's** troops retook it in April 1801, while other accounts describe the final assault under **Lt Col Agnew** in May 1801.
- **Destruction of the site:** after its capture the fort was razed to the ground.
- **Flight to Sivaganga:** Oomaithurai escaped, reached **Kamudhi**, and **Chinna Marudhu** took the brothers to **Siruvayal**; they fought on with the Marudhu brothers.
- **Tiruchirappalli Proclamation (June 1801):** the Marudhu brothers issued a call to all people, irrespective of region, caste or religion, to unite against the Company; it was pasted on the walls of the Nawab's palace in Tiruchirappalli fort and on the Srirangam temple.
- **End:** the Marudhu brothers were executed at **Tiruppathur** (Sivaganga) on **24 October 1801**. According to the Tamil Nadu textbook, **Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah were executed at Panchalankurichi on 16 November 1801** (some other accounts differ on the place and details). Seventy-three leading rebels were exiled to **Penang**.
- **Carnatic Treaty (31 July 1801):** the British took **direct control** of Tamil Nadu; the palayakkarar system came to an end, forts were destroyed, armies disbanded, and the **zamindari settlement** was introduced in its place.

First and Second Palayakkarar Wars Compared

Point	First Palayakkarar War (1799)	Second Palayakkarar War (1800–1801)
Main leader	Veerapandiya Kattabomman	Marudhu brothers; Oomaithurai; Gopala Nayak and others
Centre	Panchalankurichi (Tirunelveli region)	Sivaganga, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Panchalankurichi and beyond
British commander	Major Bannerman	Colin Macaulay; Lt Col Agnew
Key dates	1 Sept ultimatum; 5 Sept siege; 16 Oct 1799 Kayathar	June 1800 Coimbatore; Feb 1801 escape; June 1801 Proclamation; Oct–Nov 1801 executions
Result	Kattabomman hanged; fort demolished	Leaders executed; Carnatic Treaty (31 July 1801); palayakkarar system abolished

Who's Who

Person	Role
Jagaveera Kattabomman	Father; previous palayakkarar of Panchalankurichi
Oomaithurai	Younger brother; saved Kattabomman in 1798; leader in the Second Palayakkarar War
Sevathaiah	Younger brother; escaped with Oomaithurai in 1801; executed with him
Sivasubramanianar	Minister; captured at Ramanathapuram (1798) and at Kallarpatti; executed at Nagalapuram, 13 September 1799
Jackson	Collector; summoned Kattabomman to Ramanathapuram (1798); later suspended and dismissed
Lieutenant Clarke	Company officer killed in the clash at Ramanathapuram
Edward Clive	Governor of Madras; ordered Sivasubramanianar's release and Jackson's suspension
William Brown, William Oram, John Casamajor	Committee that found Kattabomman not guilty (15 December 1798)
S. R. Lushington	Collector after Jackson
Lord Wellesley	Governor-General who ordered the 1799 expedition
Major Bannerman	Commander of the 1799 siege; conducted the Kayathar trial
Ramalinganar	Carried Bannerman's surrender demand into the fort
Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman	Ruler of Pudukottai who handed Kattabomman to the British
Raja of Ettayapuram	Neighbouring ruler who sided with the British against Kattabomman
Marudhu brothers	Leaders of the South Indian Confederacy; executed 24 October 1801
Puli Thevar	Leader of the western (Marava) bloc, 1755–1767; an earlier resister

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in

Places to Remember

Place	Connection
Panchalankurichi	Kattabomman's palayam and fort; Memorial Fort (1974); Oomaithurai's execution (1801)
Ramanathapuram	Meeting with Jackson, 19 September 1798; death of Lt Clarke
Courtallam, Srivilliputhur	Places where Jackson refused to meet Kattabomman
Kallarpatti	Clash in which Sivasubramanianar was captured again (1799)
Nagalapuram	Execution of Sivasubramanianar, 13 September 1799
Pudukottai	Where Kattabomman fled; its ruler handed him over
Kayathar	Trial and hanging, 16 October 1799; memorial today
Palayamkottai	Prison of Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah; escape in February 1801
Kamudhi, Siruvayal	Oomaithurai's route to the Marudhu brothers
Virupachi	Meeting of the confederacy, April 1800
Vijayanarayanam	INS Kattabomman naval communication station (1990)

Legacy, Memorials and Honours

- **Memorial Fort, Panchalankurichi:** built by the **Tamil Nadu Government in 1974** on the site of the old fort. Its memorial hall has paintings of the main events of his life; the remains of the old fort are protected by the archaeology department.
- **Kayathar memorial:** the Tamil Nadu Government maintains a memorial at the place of his execution. Actor **Sivaji Ganesan** had earlier set up a statue of Kattabomman at Kayathar.
- **Postage stamp:** issued by India Post on **16 October 1999**, the bicentenary of his execution.
- **INS Kattabomman:** the Indian Navy's VLF (very low frequency) communication station at **Vijayanarayanam**, near Tirunelveli, commissioned on **20 October 1990** by President **R. Venkataraman**.
- **Film (1959): Veerapandiya Kattabomman**, directed and produced by **B. R. Panthulu**, with **Sivaji Ganesan** as Kattabomman. It was based on the play by **Sakthi T. K. Krishnasamy**. At the **Afro-Asian Film Festival in Cairo (1960)** Sivaji Ganesan won the **Best Actor** award.
- **Ma. Po. Sivagnanam (Ma. Po. Si.)** wrote a biography of Kattabomman and headed the history research team for the film.
- **Commemoration:** his birth anniversary (**3 January**) and martyrdom day (**16 October**) are observed every year; leaders pay tribute at Panchalankurichi and Kayathar, and the Panchalankurichi festival includes bullock-cart races.

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
Palayam	Small territory held for military service and tribute
Palayakkarar (Poligar)	Holder of a palayam
Kist / tribute	Revenue payment demanded from the palayakkarar
Pagoda	Gold coin used as the unit of account (arrears of 3,310 pagodas)
Carnatic Treaty, 1792	Gave the Company the right to collect tribute from the palayakkarars
Carnatic Treaty, 31 July 1801	Company took direct control; palayakkarar system ended
Zamindari settlement	System introduced in place of the palayams after 1801
Tiruchirappalli Proclamation	Call by the Marudhu brothers, June 1801, for unity against the Company

Writing Mains Answers on Kattabomman (Group 1 / Group 2)

Descriptive papers ask about the palayakkarar revolts and Kattabomman's place in them. Build your answer around these points and support each with a fact from the notes above.

Kattabomman's resistance to the East India Company (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** palayakkarar of Panchalankurichi (1790–1799); leader of the eastern bloc; one of the earliest resisters of Company rule in South India.
- **Cause:** the Nawab's transfer of tribute rights to the Company (1781, 1792); harsh collection of arrears; Kattabomman's refusal to accept a foreign master.
- **Ramanathapuram (19 September 1798):** humiliation by Collector Jackson; clash, death of Lt Clarke; inquiry cleared him and Jackson was dismissed.
- **Confederacy:** links with the Marudhu brothers; dispute over Sivagiri.
- **War of 1799:** Bannerman's ultimatum (1 September), siege (5 September); Sivasubramanianar executed at Nagalapuram.
- **End:** betrayal by Pudukottai and Ettayapuram; trial and hanging at Kayathar (16 October 1799).
- **Significance:** showed the spirit of local resistance; inspired the Second Palayakkarar War; remembered through ballads, memorials and the 1959 film.

Causes and results of the Palayakkarar Wars (about 150 words)

- **Causes:** Company's claim to tribute; humiliating collection methods; palayakkarars' claim to hereditary rule; loss of local power.
- **First war (1799):** Kattabomman; Bannerman; Kayathar.
- **Second war (1800–1801):** wider confederacy – Marudhu brothers, Gopala Nayak, Kerala Varma, Oomaithurai; Tiruchirappalli Proclamation.
- **Results:** leaders executed or exiled to Penang; Carnatic Treaty of 31 July 1801; end of the palayakkarar system; zamindari settlement.
- **Evaluation:** local in scale and weakened by betrayals, but an early example of united resistance across regions.

Role of Oomaithurai (about 100 words)

- Saved Kattabomman at Ramanathapuram (1798).
- Imprisoned at Palayamkottai; escaped with Sevathaiah in February 1801 and rebuilt the Panchalankurichi fort.
- Joined the Marudhu brothers via Kamudhi and Siruvayal; executed at Panchalankurichi on 16 November 1801 (textbook date).

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Ramanathapuram	Meeting with Jackson, 19 September 1798
Lieutenant Clarke	Killed in the clash at the fort gate, 1798
15 December 1798	Committee finds Kattabomman not guilty
S. R. Lushington	Collector after Jackson
Major Bannerman	Siege of Panchalankurichi, 5 September 1799
Nagalapuram	Execution of Sivasubramanianar
Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman	Ruler of Pudukottai who handed over Kattabomman
Kayathar	Hanging of Kattabomman, 16 October 1799
16 November 1801	Execution of Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah (textbook)
31 July 1801	Carnatic Treaty – end of the palayakkarar system

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Place of execution:** Kayathar – not Panchalankurichi (that is where Oomaithurai was executed) and not Tiruppathur (where the Marudhu brothers were executed).
- **Ramanathapuram vs Kayathar:** Ramanathapuram (1798) is the meeting with Jackson; Kayathar (1799) is the execution.
- **Jackson vs Bannerman:** Jackson was the Collector of the 1798 episode; Bannerman was the military commander of 1799.
- **Lushington:** he replaced Jackson as Collector – he was not the officer killed. The officer killed was Lieutenant Clarke.
- **Betrayers:** the rulers of Pudukottai and Ettayapuram – not Sivaganga (the Marudhu brothers were allies).
- **Bloc:** Kattabomman led the eastern (Telugu) bloc; Puli Thevar led the western (Marava) bloc.
- **Dates:** born 3 January 1760; became palayakkarar in 1790; hanged 16 October 1799 – the stamp was issued on 16 October 1999, the bicentenary.
- **Sivasubramanianar:** captured twice (Ramanathapuram and Kallarpatti) and executed at Nagalapuram on 13 September 1799 – about a month before Kattabomman.

Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
c. 1529	Viswanatha Nayak and Ariyanatha Mudaliar organise the palayam system (72 palayams)
1755–1767	Puli Thevar's resistance (western bloc)
1760 (3 Jan)	Kattabomman born at Panchalankurichi
1781	Nawab assigns Carnatic revenue to the Company
1790	Becomes palayakkarar at thirty
1792	Carnatic Treaty – Company gets right to collect tribute
1798 (18 Aug)	Jackson orders him to Ramanathapuram
1798 (19 Sep)	Ramanathapuram meeting; Lt Clarke killed; Sivasubramanianar captured
1798 (15 Dec)	Committee finds him not guilty; Jackson dismissed; Lushington Collector
1799 (May)	Wellesley orders forces to Tirunelveli under Bannerman
1799 (1 Sep)	Bannerman's ultimatum
1799 (5 Sep)	Siege of Panchalankurichi begins
1799 (13 Sep)	Sivasubramanianar executed at Nagalapuram
1799 (16 Oct)	Trial and hanging at Kayathar
1800 (Apr)	Confederacy meets at Virupachi
1800 (Jun)	Second Palayakkarar War breaks out at Coimbatore
1801 (Feb)	Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah escape from Palayamkottai; fort rebuilt
1801 (Apr–May)	Panchalankurichi fort retaken by the Company
1801 (Jun)	Tiruchirappalli Proclamation
1801 (31 Jul)	Carnatic Treaty – palayakkarar system ends
1801 (24 Oct)	Marudhu brothers executed at Tiruppathur
1801 (16 Nov)	Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah executed at Panchalankurichi
1959	Film Veerapandiya Kattabomman (B. R. Panthulu; Sivaji Ganesan)
1960	Sivaji Ganesan wins Best Actor at Cairo Afro-Asian Film Festival
1974	Memorial Fort at Panchalankurichi built by the Tamil Nadu Government
1990 (20 Oct)	INS Kattabomman commissioned at Vijayanarayanam
1999 (16 Oct)	Commemorative postage stamp (bicentenary)

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Palayakkarar of Panchalankurichi (Thoothukudi district); born 3 January 1760.
- Father: Jagaveera Kattabomman; mother: Arumugathammal; 47th palayakkarar; took charge in 1790 at thirty.
- Leader of the eastern (Telugu) bloc; Puli Thevar led the western (Marava) bloc.
- Palayam system: Viswanatha Nayak with Ariyanatha Mudaliar (c. 1529); 72 palayams.
- Company's right to tribute: 1781 assignment; Carnatic Treaty of 1792.
- Arrears of 3,310 pagodas; Collector Jackson; Ramanathapuram meeting on 19 September 1798; Lt Clarke killed; minister Sivasubramanianar captured.
- Governor Edward Clive; committee of William Brown, William Oram and John Casamajor; not guilty (15 December 1798); Jackson dismissed; S. R. Lushington Collector.
- Joined the confederacy of Marudhu Pandiyar; conflict over Sivagiri.
- Lord Wellesley ordered the expedition; Major Bannerman: ultimatum 1 September 1799, siege 5 September 1799.
- Sivasubramanianar executed at Nagalapuram, 13 September 1799.
- Betrayed by Ettayapuram and Pudukottai (Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman).
- Hanged on a tamarind tree at Kayathar, 16 October 1799.
- Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah escaped from Palayamkottai (February 1801); executed at Panchalankurichi, 16 November 1801 (textbook).
- Marudhu brothers executed at Tiruppathur, 24 October 1801; 73 rebels exiled to Penang.
- Carnatic Treaty, 31 July 1801: end of the palayakkarar system.
- Memorial Fort, Panchalankurichi: 1974 (Tamil Nadu Government). Stamp: 16 October 1999. INS Kattabomman: 20 October 1990, Vijayanarayanam.
- Film 1959 by B. R. Panthulu; Sivaji Ganesan won Best Actor at Cairo (1960).

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Veerapandiya Kattabomman?

He was the palayakkarar (poligar) of Panchalankurichi in present-day Thoothukudi district, born on 3 January 1760. He became chief in 1790 at the age of thirty, refused to submit to the East India Company's demand for tribute, fought the Company in the First Palayakkarar War of 1799 and was hanged at Kayathar on 16 October 1799.

What happened at the Ramanathapuram meeting of 1798?

Collector Jackson summoned Kattabomman over tribute arrears of 3,310 pagodas. Kattabomman met him at Ramanathapuram on 19 September 1798. Sensing a plan to arrest him, he tried to leave; in the clash at the fort gate Lieutenant Clarke was killed and his minister Sivasubramanianar was taken prisoner, while Oomaithurai helped Kattabomman escape.

Who led the British attack on Panchalankurichi in 1799?

Major Bannerman. On Lord Wellesley's orders, troops from Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur and Madurai, joined by Travancore forces, moved to Tirunelveli. Bannerman served an ultimatum on 1 September 1799 and attacked the fort on 5 September 1799. Kattabomman escaped to Pudukottai but was later captured.

How was Kattabomman captured and where was he executed?

He was betrayed by the rulers of Ettayapuram and Pudukottai; Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman of Pudukottai handed him over to the British. Bannerman tried him before the assembled palayakkarars on 16 October 1799, and he was hanged from a tamarind tree near the old fort of Kayathar. His martyrdom day is observed on 16 October.

Who was Oomaithurai and what was his role?

Oomaithurai was Kattabomman's younger brother. He helped Kattabomman escape at Ramanathapuram in 1798, was imprisoned at Palayamkottai after 1799, escaped in February 1801 with his brother Sevathaiah, rebuilt the Panchalankurichi fort and fought in the Second Palayakkarar War with the Marudhu brothers. According to the Tamil Nadu textbook, he and Sevathaiah were executed at Panchalankurichi on 16 November 1801.

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 Tamil Nadu Administration PYQ book and the General 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. Veerapandiya Kattabomman was the palayakkarar of which palayam?

A. Nerkattumseval
B. Panchalankurichi
C. Sivagiri
D. Ettayapuram

2. When was Kattabomman born?

A. 15 December 1758
B. 16 October 1760
C. 3 January 1770
D. 3 January 1760

3. In which present-day district is Panchalankurichi?

A. Tirunelveli
B. Ramanathapuram
C. Thoothukudi
D. Virudhunagar

4. In which year did Kattabomman become palayakkarar?

A. 1790
B. 1785
C. 1780
D. 1795

5. Who led the eastern bloc of southern palayakkarars?

A. Puli Thevar
B. Periya Marudhu
C. Gopala Nayak
D. Kattabomman

6. Which minister helped the Nayak ruler introduce the palayam system in Madurai?

A. Thandavaraya Pillai
B. Ariyanatha Mudaliar
C. Ramalinganar
D. Sivasubramanianar

7. Which treaty gave the Company the right to collect tribute from the palayakkarars?

A. Treaty of Mangalore
B. Carnatic Treaty of 1801
C. Carnatic Treaty of 1792
D. Treaty of Seringapatam

8. What were Kattabomman's tribute arrears in 1798?

A. 3,310 pagodas
B. 1,080 pagodas
C. 5,000 pagodas
D. 10,000 pagodas

9. Where did Kattabomman finally meet Collector Jackson?

A. Courtallam
B. Srivilliputhur
C. Palayamkottai
D. Ramanathapuram

10. Which Company officer was killed in the clash at the Ramanathapuram fort gate?

A. Major Bannerman
B. Colonel Heron
C. Lieutenant Clarke
D. S. R. Lushington

11. Who helped Kattabomman escape at Ramanathapuram?

A. Sevathaiah
B. Oomaithurai
C. Chinna Marudhu
D. Ramalinganar

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in

12. Who was NOT a member of the 1798 inquiry committee?

A. William Brown
B. William Oram
C. John Casamajor
D. S. R. Lushington

13. Choose the correct statement: the 1798 inquiry committee –

A. found Kattabomman not guilty, and Jackson was dismissed
B. found Kattabomman guilty
C. sentenced Sivasubramanianar to death
D. annexed Panchalankurichi

14. Which Governor of Madras ordered Sivasubramanianar's release and Jackson's suspension?

A. Robert Clive
B. Lord Wellesley
C. Edward Clive
D. Thomas Munro

15. Who commanded the 1799 siege of Panchalankurichi?

A. Lt Col Agnew
B. Yusuf Khan
C. Colonel Campbell
D. Major Bannerman

16. On which date did Bannerman serve his ultimatum on Kattabomman?

A. 5 September 1799
B. 1 September 1799
C. 13 September 1799
D. 16 October 1799

17. Where was minister Sivasubramanianar executed?

A. Nagalapuram
B. Kayathar
C. Kallarpatti
D. Tiruppathur

18. Which ruler of Pudukottai handed Kattabomman over to the British?

A. Sethupathi
B. Muthu Vaduganatha Thevar
C. Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman
D. Serfoji

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in

19. Where and when was Kattabomman hanged?

A. Panchalankurichi, 16 November 1801

B. Nagalapuram, 13 September 1799

C. Tiruppathur, 24 October 1801

D. Kayathar, 16 October 1799

20. Match: (a) Jackson (b) Bannerman (c) Lushington (d) Clarke — (1) commander of the 1799 siege (2) killed in the clash (3) Collector in 1798 (4) succeeding Collector

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

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

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

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

21. From which prison did Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah escape in 1801?

A. Vellore

B. Tiruchirappalli

C. Palayamkottai

D. Chengalpattu

22. On which date was the Carnatic Treaty signed that ended the palayakkarar system?

A. 31 July 1801

B. 16 November 1801

C. 24 October 1801

D. 10 July 1806

23. When did the Tamil Nadu Government build the Kattabomman Memorial Fort at Panchalankurichi?

A. 1959

B. 1999

C. 1990

D. 1974

24. Which statement about INS Kattabomman is correct?

A. A warship based at Visakhapatnam

B. A VLF communication station at Vijayanarayanam

C. A training ship at Chennai

D. A submarine base at Kochi

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in

25. At which festival did Sivaji Ganesan win Best Actor for 'Veerapandiya Kattabomman' (1959)?

A. Cannes Film Festival
B. Moscow Film Festival
C. Afro-Asian Film Festival, Cairo
D. National Film Awards

Answers with explanations

1. **B) Panchalankurichi** – Kattabomman ruled Panchalankurichi; Nerkattumseval was Puli Thevar's palayam.

2. **D) 3 January 1760** – He was born at Panchalankurichi on 3 January 1760.

3. **C) Thoothukudi** – Panchalankurichi lies in Thoothukudi district, about 25 km from Thoothukudi.

4. **A) 1790** – He succeeded his father in 1790 at the age of thirty.

5. **D) Kattabomman** – Kattabomman led the eastern (Telugu) bloc; Puli Thevar led the western (Marava) bloc.

6. **B) Ariyanatha Mudaliar** – Viswanatha Nayak (c. 1529) organised 72 palayams with Ariyanatha Mudaliar's help.

7. **C) Carnatic Treaty of 1792** – The Carnatic Treaty of 1792 transferred the Nawab's right to tribute to the Company.

8. **A) 3,310 pagodas** – The arrears were 3,310 pagodas; 1,080 was the balance left later.

9. **D) Ramanathapuram** – After refusals at Courtallam and Srivilliputhur, Jackson met him at Ramanathapuram on 19 September 1798.

10. **C) Lieutenant Clarke** – Lieutenant Clarke died in the 1798 clash.

11. **B) Oomaithurai** – His brother Oomaithurai entered the fort with his men and helped him escape.

12. **D) S. R. Lushington** – The committee was Brown, Oram and Casamajor; Lushington was the new Collector.

13. **A) found Kattabomman not guilty, and Jackson was dismissed** – On 15 December 1798 the committee cleared him and Jackson was dismissed.

14. **C) Edward Clive** – Governor Edward Clive passed these orders.

15. **D) Major Bannerman** – On Wellesley's orders Major Bannerman attacked the fort on 5 September 1799.

16. **B) 1 September 1799** – Ultimatum on 1 September; the siege began on 5 September 1799.

17. **A) Nagalapuram** – Captured at Kallarpatti, he was executed at Nagalapuram on 13 September 1799.

18. **C) Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman** – Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman of Pudukottai handed him over; Ettayapuram also betrayed him.

19. **D) Kayathar, 16 October 1799** – He was hanged from a tamarind tree near the old fort of Kayathar on 16 October 1799.

20. **B) a-3, b-1, c-4, d-2** – Jackson – 1798 Collector; Bannerman – commander; Lushington – next Collector; Clarke – killed.

21. **C) Palayamkottai** – They escaped from Palayamkottai in February 1801 and rebuilt the Panchalankurichi fort.

22. **A) 31 July 1801** – The Carnatic Treaty of 31 July 1801 brought direct British control.

23. **D) 1974** – The memorial fort was built in 1974 on the site of the old fort.

24. **B) A VLF communication station at Vijayanarayanam** – Located at Vijayanarayanam near Tirunelveli, it was commissioned on 20 October 1990.

25. **C) Afro-Asian Film Festival, Cairo** – He won at the 1960 Afro-Asian Film Festival in Cairo; the film was directed by B. R. Panthulu.

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS, Bank, SSC, SI – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **More free PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · This page: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/tnpsc-notes/kattabomman/en

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in