Marudhu Brothers (Maruthu Pandiyar) of Sivaganga – Velu Nachiyar and 1780, the South Indian Confederacy, Jambudweepa (Tiruchirappalli) Proclamation 1801, Kalaiyarkoil and 24-10-1801 | TNPSC Notes

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The **Marudhu brothers** – **Periya Marudhu (Vellai Marudhu, b. 1748)** and **Chinna Marudhu (b. 1753)** – were the warrior-administrators of Sivaganga. After Raja **Muthu Vaduganathar** was killed at Kalaiyarkoil in 1772, they stood by Rani **Velu Nachiyar** and helped **recover Sivaganga in 1780**, later running its administration. After Kattabomman's hanging (1799) they led the **South Indian Confederacy** (Second Palayakkarar War, 1800–1801) and on **16 June 1801** issued the **Tiruchirappalli Proclamation (Jambudweepa Proclamation)**, calling on all people, without distinction of caste or creed, to unite and drive out the English. **Kalaiyarkoil fell on 1 October 1801**, and both brothers were **hanged at the Tiruppattur fort (Sivaganga district) on 24 October 1801**.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants. The Marudhu brothers come under the units on the **Indian National Movement – early revolts against British rule** and the **History, Culture and Heritage of Tamil Nadu**. For the background, see our notes on Velu Nachiyar, Veerapandiya Kattabomman and, for the palayakkarar system, the Nayak period.

Profile at a Glance

Item	Detail
Names	**Periya Marudhu** (Vellai Marudhu) and **Chinna Marudhu**; together honoured as the "Marudhu Pandiyar"
Birth	Periya Marudhu – 1748; Chinna Marudhu – 1753; born at Mukkulam
Parents	Mookiah Palaniappan Servai and Anandhayee (Ponnathal)
Service	Served Raja Muthu Vaduganathar of Sivaganga; later rose to be Velu Nachiyar's commanders and administrators
Base	Siruvayal and Kalaiyarkoil (Sivaganga country)
Key achievements	Recovery of Sivaganga (1780); Tiruchirappalli (Jambudweepa) Proclamation (1801); South Indian Confederacy
Death	24 October 1801 – hanged at the Tiruppattur fort

Recovery of Sivaganga with Velu Nachiyar (1772–1780)

- **25 June 1772:** Company forces (Col. Joseph Smith and Capt. Bonjour) attacked Kalaiyarkoil; Raja Muthu Vaduganathar was killed.
- Rani Velu Nachiyar and the Marudhu brothers escaped and stayed for about eight years under the protection of **Gopala Nayak, the palayakkarar of Virupakshi** near Dindigul.
- With **Hyder Ali's** troops and Gopala Nayak's support, Sivaganga was **recovered in 1780** and Velu Nachiyar became queen again.
- After the recovery the brothers received high posts and, in Velu Nachiyar's last years, effectively ran the administration of Sivaganga (Velu Nachiyar died in 1796).

Social and Religious Work

- Built and renovated temples, tanks and choultries, winning popular support.
- Remembered for renovating the **Rajagopuram of the Kalaiyarkoil temple** (about 150 ft high).
- Tradition credits them with skill in traditional weapons such as the valari (throwing stick).

The South Indian Confederacy – Second Palayakkarar War (1800–1801)

The hanging of Kattabomman in 1799 and the fall of Tipu Sultan the same year spread the Company's power quickly. Leaders of several South Indian regions joined hands to resist it – the **South Indian Rebellion / Second Palayakkarar War**.

Leader	Region
Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu	Sivaganga – the centre of the confederacy
Gopala Nayak	Dindigul (Virupakshi)
Oomaithurai (Kattabomman's brother)	Panchalankurichi
Kerala Varma (Pazhassi Raja)	Malabar
Dhoondaji Waugh	Maratha–Mysore border
Krishnappa Nayak, Yadul Nayak and others	Other regions

- **February 1801:** Oomaithurai escaped from the Palayamkottai prison and rebuilt the Panchalankurichi fort; when it fell again he came to Sivaganga and joined the Marudhu brothers.
- Their shelter to Oomaithurai provoked the Company directly; a large force under **Lt. Col. Agnew** was sent against Sivaganga.

The Tiruchirappalli / Jambudweepa Proclamation (16 June 1801)

Aspect	Detail
Issued by	The Marudhu brothers (in the name of Chinna Marudhu)
Date	**16 June 1801**

Where posted	On the **wall of the Nawab's palace in the Tiruchirappalli fort** and on the **wall of the Srirangam temple**
Names	Tiruchirappalli Proclamation; Jambudweepa Proclamation, as it addressed the people of "Jambudweepa" (India); also referred to as the Srirangam Proclamation
Content	Called on all – Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Sudras and Muslims – to unite, without distinction of caste or creed, and drive out the Europeans; condemned those who served the English as base; warned of punishment for those who failed to spread it
Significance	One of the earliest documents to call for unity beyond local boundaries – half a century before 1857

End of the Rebellion

Date	Event
July 1801	The rebels themselves burnt Siruvayal to slow the Company's advance
31 July 1801	**Carnatic Treaty** – all the Nawab's territories came under direct Company rule; the palayakkarar system headed for its end
30 Sept – 1 Oct 1801	Kalaiyarkoil attacked from several sides; **fall of Kalaiyarkoil**
October 1801	Chinna Marudhu captured at Cholapuram and Periya Marudhu at Singampunari
24 October 1801	Both hanged at the **Tiruppattur fort**; many male members of the family were killed and a son was transported to Penang
November 1801	Oomaithurai and Sevathaiah captured and put to death at Panchalankurichi

Reasons for Failure

- The confederate leaders fought separately in different regions; there was no unified command.
- The Company's superiority in troops, weapons and communications.
- Some local chiefs supported the Company, which also set up a rival prince to divide local loyalty.

Memorials and Legacy

- **Kalaiyarkoil** – Marudhu Pandiyar memorial; Guru Pooja every year on **27 October**.
- India Post released a commemorative stamp in **October 2004**.
- A bronze equestrian statue of the brothers stands near the Mariamman Teppakulam in Madurai (unveiled 15 December 2007).
- The film "Sivagangai Seemai" (1959) portrays their story.

Writing Mains Answers (Group 1 / Group 2)

Assess the significance of the Tiruchirappalli Proclamation of 1801 (about 150–200 words)

- **Introduction:** 16 June 1801; the Marudhu brothers; posted at the Tiruchi fort and Srirangam.

- **Background:** Kattabomman (1799), fall of Tipu; the South Indian Confederacy.
- **Content:** appeal to all people of Jambudweepa; unity across caste and creed.
- **Significance:** an attempt to turn local revolt into wider anti-foreign resistance; a forerunner of Vellore 1806 and 1857.
- **Limits:** no unified command; crushed in 1801.
- **Conclusion:** an early freedom call from Tamil soil.

Velu Nachiyar and the Marudhu brothers – two phases of Sivaganga's resistance (about 150 words)

- Phase 1 (1772–1780): Kalaiyarkoil 1772, Virupakshi, Hyder Ali's help, recovery in 1780 – success.
- Phase 2 (1800–1801): confederacy, proclamation, fall of Kalaiyarkoil, 24-10-1801 – defeat.
- Comparison: Mysore help was available in phase 1; after Tipu's fall there was no outside help in phase 2.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
25 June 1772	Kalaiyarkoil – death of Muthu Vaduganathar
1780	Recovery of Sivaganga
16 June 1801	Tiruchirappalli Proclamation
31 July 1801	Carnatic Treaty
24 October 1801	Marudhu brothers hanged at Tiruppattur
27 October	Guru Pooja at Kalaiyarkoil

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- The brothers were hanged at **Tiruppattur in Sivaganga district** – not Tirupattur in Vellore region, and not Kayathar (Kayathar = Kattabomman, 1799).
- The proclamation was posted at the Tiruchirappalli fort and Srirangam – not Madurai.
- "Vellai Marudhu" is Periya Marudhu, not Chinna Marudhu.
- 24 October 1801 is the date of execution; 27 October is the Guru Pooja day.
- Oomaithurai was Kattabomman's brother – not a relative of the Marudhu brothers.

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

தமிழ்	English
பிரகடனம்	Proclamation
கூட்டமைப்பு	Confederacy
ஜம்புத்தீவு	Jambudweepa (India)
பாளையக்காரர்	Palayakkarar (Poligar)

தூக்கிலிடுதல்	Execution by hanging
நாடு கடத்தல்	Transportation / exile
உடன்படிக்கை	Treaty
வளரி	Valari (throwing stick)

Quick Revision Table

Year	Event
1748 / 1753	Birth of Periya Marudhu / Chinna Marudhu
1772	Kalaiyarkoil – death of Muthu Vaduganathar
1780	Velu Nachiyar recovers Sivaganga
1796	Death of Velu Nachiyar
1799	Kattabomman hanged; fall of Tipu
Feb. 1801	Oomaithurai escapes from prison
16-06-1801	Tiruchirappalli / Jambudweepa Proclamation
31-07-1801	Carnatic Treaty
01-10-1801	Fall of Kalaiyarkoil
24-10-1801	Hanged at the Tiruppattur fort
2004	Commemorative stamp

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Marudhu brothers – Sivaganga; Periya Marudhu = Vellai Marudhu.
- Helped Velu Nachiyar recover Sivaganga in 1780; help from Hyder Ali and Gopala Nayak.
- South Indian Confederacy: Marudhu brothers, Gopala Nayak, Oomaithurai, Kerala Varma, Dhoondaji Waugh.
- Tiruchirappalli Proclamation = Jambudweepa Proclamation – 16 June 1801.
- Company commander – Lt. Col. Agnew.
- Hanged – 24 October 1801, Tiruppattur fort.
- Kalaiyarkoil – Rajagopuram renovation; Guru Pooja on 27 October.

Related notes: Velu Nachiyar, Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Dheeran Chinnamalai, Puli Thevar.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who were the Marudhu brothers?

Periya Marudhu (Vellai Marudhu, 1748) and Chinna Marudhu (1753) were the warrior-administrators of Sivaganga. They helped Velu Nachiyar recover Sivaganga in 1780 and, as leaders of the South

Indian Confederacy of 1800–1801, fought the English.

What is the Jambudweepa Proclamation?

It is the Tiruchirappalli Proclamation issued by the Marudhu brothers on 16 June 1801. It was posted on the wall of the Nawab's palace in the Tiruchi fort and on the wall of the Srirangam temple, and called on all the people of Jambudweepa (India), without distinction of caste or creed, to unite and drive out the English.

Where and when were the Marudhu brothers hanged?

They were hanged on 24 October 1801 at the Tiruppattur fort in present-day Sivaganga district. Kalaiyarkoil had fallen earlier, on 1 October 1801.

Who were the leaders of the South Indian Confederacy?

The Marudhu brothers of Sivaganga, Gopala Nayak of Dindigul (Virupakshi), Oomaithurai of Panchalankurichi, Kerala Varma (Pazhassi Raja) of Malabar and Dhoondaji Waugh of the Maratha–Mysore border, among others.

What is the link between Kalaiyarkoil and the Marudhu brothers?

Kalaiyarkoil was their main stronghold and religious centre, and they are remembered for renovating its Rajagopuram. It fell in October 1801; today a Guru Pooja is held at their memorial there every year on 27 October.

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Practice questions

1. Who was called "Vellai Marudhu"?

A. Periya Marudhu
B. Chinna Marudhu
C. Oomaithurai
D. Muthu Vaduganathar

2. With which territory are the Marudhu brothers associated?

A. Ramanathapuram
B. Sivaganga
C. Panchalankurichi
D. Nerkattumseval

3. Which Sivaganga ruler was killed at Kalaiyarkoil in 1772?

A. Sethupathi
B. Gopala Nayak
C. Muthu Vaduganathar
D. Periya Marudhu

4. In which year did Velu Nachiyar and the Marudhu brothers recover Sivaganga?

A. 1772
B. 1780
C. 1799
D. 1801

5. Who gave refuge to Velu Nachiyar and the Marudhu brothers at Virupakshi?

A. Gopala Nayak
B. Dhoondaji Waugh
C. Kerala Varma
D. Oomaithurai

6. On which date was the Tiruchirappalli Proclamation issued?

A. 31 July 1801
B. 16 June 1801
C. 1 October 1801
D. 24 October 1801

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7. What is another name for the Tiruchirappalli Proclamation?

A. Vellore Proclamation
B. Kayathar Proclamation
C. Jambudweepa Proclamation
D. Madurai Proclamation

8. Where was the 1801 proclamation posted?

A. Madurai and Rameswaram
B. Palayamkottai and Kayathar
C. Thanjavur and Kumbakonam
D. Tiruchi fort and Srirangam temple

9. Where were the Marudhu brothers hanged?

A. Tiruppattur fort
B. Palayamkottai
C. Kayathar
D. Sankagiri

10. On which date were the Marudhu brothers hanged?

A. 16 June 1801
B. 24 October 1801
C. 1 October 1801
D. 31 July 1801

11. Who led the Company's 1801 campaign against Sivaganga?

A. Col. Heron
B. Major Bannerman
C. Lt. Col. Agnew
D. Jackson

12. Which brother of Kattabomman took refuge with the Marudhu brothers?

A. Sevathaiah
B. Vellaiya Thevan
C. Sundaralingam
D. Oomaithurai

13. Which leader of the South Indian Confederacy belonged to Malabar?

A. Kerala Varma (Pazhassi Raja)
B. Dhoondaji Waugh
C. Gopala Nayak
D. Krishnappa Nayak

14. When was the Carnatic Treaty that brought the Nawab's territories under direct Company rule?

A. 1792
B. 1799
C. 1801
D. 1806

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15. Where is the annual Guru Pooja of the Marudhu brothers held?

A. Tiruppattur
B. Sivaganga palace
C. Kalaiyarkoil
D. Mukkulam

16. In which year was a stamp on the Marudhu brothers released?

A. 1997
B. 2004
C. 2007
D. 2010

17. On which date did Kalaiyarkoil fall in 1801?

A. 1 October
B. 31 July
C. 16 June
D. 24 October

18. Which Mysore ruler gave military help for the recovery of Sivaganga (1772–1780)?

A. Tipu Sultan
B. Hyder Ali
C. Krishnaraja Wodeyar
D. Chanda Sahib

19. Which of the following was NOT among those the proclamation appealed to?

A. Brahmins
B. Muslims
C. Europeans
D. Sudras

20. In which year was Periya Marudhu born?

A. 1730
B. 1748
C. 1753
D. 1760

Answers with explanations

1. A) Periya Marudhu – Periya Marudhu was known as Vellai Marudhu.

2. B) Sivaganga – Sivaganga.

3. C) Muthu Vaduganathar – Muthu Vaduganathar – 25 June 1772.

4. B) 1780 – 1780 – with Hyder Ali's help.

5. A) Gopala Nayak – Gopala Nayak, the palayakkarar of Virupakshi.

6. B) 16 June 1801 – 16 June 1801.

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7. C) Jambudweepa Proclamation – Jambudweepa Proclamation – addressed to the people of Jambudweepa (India).

8. D) Tiruchi fort and Srirangam temple – The Nawab's palace wall in the Tiruchi fort and the Srirangam temple wall.

9. A) Tiruppattur fort – The Tiruppattur fort (Sivaganga district).

10. B) 24 October 1801 – 24 October 1801.

11. C) Lt. Col. Agnew – Lt. Col. Agnew.

12. D) Oomaithurai – Oomaithurai – who escaped from prison in February 1801.

13. A) Kerala Varma (Pazhassi Raja) – Kerala Varma (Pazhassi Raja).

14. C) 1801 – 31 July 1801.

15. C) Kalaiyarkoil – At the Kalaiyarkoil memorial – 27 October.

16. B) 2004 – October 2004.

17. A) 1 October – 1 October 1801.

18. B) Hyder Ali – Hyder Ali.

19. C) Europeans – The proclamation called for driving out the Europeans, not appealing to them.

20. B) 1748 – 1748; Chinna Marudhu was born in 1753.

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