# Thiru. V. Kalyanasundaram (Thiru.Vi.Ka.) – Tamil Scholar, Madras Labour Union 1918, Desabhakthan & Navasakthi, Congress Leader & Writer | TNPSC Notes

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**Thiru. V. Kalyanasundaram (1883–1953)**, known everywhere as **Thiru.Vi.Ka.** and also as **Kalyanasundaranar**, was a Tamil scholar, teacher, journalist, Congress leader and one of the founders of the **labour movement in South India**. He was a vice-president of the **Madras Labour Union (1918)**, regarded as the first organised trade union in India, edited the nationalist daily **Desabhakthan** and founded the Tamil weekly **Navasakthi (1920)**, and wrote more than fifty books such as **Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum** and **Pennin Perumai**. For his clear and graceful Tamil he is called **Tamil Thendral** (the Tamil breeze).

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on their own. Thiru.Vi.Ka. is a topic in **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu** (the labour movement, nationalist journalism and the Tamil renaissance) and in **History, Culture of India and Indian National Movement** (the Congress in Tamil Nadu, Gandhian ideas and the rise of trade unions). His works, titles and prose style are asked in **General Tamil** under **"Tamil scholars and their service to Tamil"** (தமிழ் அறிஞர்களும் தமிழ்த்தொண்டும்). Read each section, then revise with the tables, the quick revision table and the key points at the end.

## At a Glance

| Item | Fact |
|---|---|
| Full name | Thiruvarur Viruthachalam Kalyanasundaram (Thiru.Vi.Ka.); also T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar |
| Born | 26 August 1883, Thullam (now Thandalam), near Madras, then in Chengalpattu district |
| Parents | Viruthachala Mudaliar and Chinnammal |
| School | Wesley College High School, Royapettah, Madras |
| Tamil teachers | Na. Kathiraivel Pillai of Jaffna and Maraimalai Adigal |
| Journals | Desabhakthan (Tamil daily; joined December 1917); Navasakthi (Tamil weekly; founded 1920) |
| Labour | Vice-president, Madras Labour Union (1918); led the union in the 1921 Buckingham and Carnatic Mills strike |
| Congress | Presided over the Tamil Nadu Congress conference at Kanchipuram (1925); President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (1926) |
| Title | Tamil Thendral (the Tamil breeze) |
| Books | More than fifty – on Gandhi, women, religion, Tamil literature, labour and his own life |
| Spiritual ideal | Vallalar Ramalinga Swamigal (Samarasa Sanmargam – harmony of religions) |
| Died | 17 September 1953, at his home in Royapettah, Madras, aged 70 |
| Honours | India Post stamp (21 October 2005); Thiru.Vi.Ka. Award of the Tamil Nadu Government |

## Name, Birth and Family

- **Full name: Thiruvarur Viruthachalam Kalyanasundaram**. The short form **Thiru.Vi.Ka.** is made from **Thiru**varur, his father's name **Vi**ruthachalam and his own name **Ka**lyanasundaram. In English records he also appears as **T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar**.
- **Born: 26 August 1883** at **Thullam** village (now **Thandalam**), close to Madras, which was then in Chengalpattu district of the Madras Presidency. The Tamil Nadu Government's press releases place the village in today's Chennai area.
- **Parents: Viruthachala Mudaliar** (father) and **Chinnammal** (mother).
- **Childhood:** the family settled in **Royapettah, Madras**, which remained his home for the rest of his life.

Exam tip: his birthday, **26 August**, is marked by the Tamil Nadu Government every year. Officials of the **Tamil Development Department** garland his statue at **Thandalam**, the village where he was born.

## Schooling and Tamil Teachers

- He studied at **Wesley College High School, Royapettah**.

- He continued his studies on his own and with private teachers. His Tamil teachers included **Na. Kathiraivel Pillai of Jaffna (Yazhppanam)**, a Saiva scholar, and **Maraimalai Adigal**, the leader of the Pure Tamil movement.
- Through this private study he gained a deep knowledge of classical Tamil literature and Saiva texts.

He became a well-known Tamil scholar, teacher and public speaker.

## Early Work: Spencer & Co. and Teaching

- **Spencer & Co.:** for a short period he worked in the Madras firm of Spencer & Co.
- **Teacher:** he worked as a teacher and was a **Tamil teacher at Wesley College, Madras (1916–17)**, the institution where he had studied.
- **Leaving teaching:** drawn by the national movement, he left teaching and in December 1917 became a journalist.

## Journalism – Desabhakthan (1917) and Navasakthi (1920)

Thiru.Vi.Ka. used journalism to spread the message of freedom, social reform and workers' rights in simple Tamil that ordinary readers could follow.

| Journal | Type | Thiru.Vi.Ka.'s role | Key point |
|---|---|---|---|
| Desabhakthan (தேசபக்தன்) | Nationalist Tamil daily | Joined the editorial staff in December 1917; worked there for more than two years | Brought nationalist news and Gandhian ideas to Tamil readers |
| Navasakthi (நவசக்தி) | Tamil weekly | Founder and editor, from 1920 | His own paper for many years; carried his essays and his commentaries on classical Tamil works as serials |

- **Sadhu Press:** many of his books, including his autobiography (1944), were printed and published at the **Sadhu Press (Sadhu Achukoodam), Royapettah**.
- His commentaries on classical Tamil works appeared in Navasakthi as serials.
- Exam tip: **Desabhakthan** is a daily he **joined** (1917); **Navasakthi** is a weekly he **founded** (1920).

## Pioneer of the Labour Movement – Madras Labour Union (1918)

In early 1918 workers of the **Buckingham and Carnatic Mills** at **Perambur**, Madras, run by Binny and Co., complained, among other grievances, of the short time allowed for their midday meal, and took their problems to **B. P. Wadia**, a Theosophist colleague of Annie Besant. Two local businessmen, **G. Selvapathy Chettiar** and **Ramanujulu Naidu**, helped to organise the workers, and Thiru.Vi.Ka. addressed their meetings in Tamil.

- **13 April 1918:** at a meeting of the mill workers, Wadia spoke in English and **Thiru.Vi.Ka. translated his speech into Tamil**.
- **27 April 1918:** the **Madras Labour Union (MLU)** was formed. Most accounts give this date; a few give other dates in April 1918.
- **Office-bearers: B. P. Wadia** – first president; **G. Selvapathy Chettiar** and **G. Ramanujulu Naidu** – first secretaries; **Thiru.Vi.Ka.** – a vice-president.
- **Significance:** the MLU is regarded as the **first organised trade union in India**.

| Madras Labour Union | Fact |
|---|---|
| Formed | 27 April 1918 (most accounts), Madras |
| Workers | Mainly Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Perambur (Binny and Co.) |
| First president | B. P. Wadia |
| First secretaries | G. Selvapathy Chettiar and G. Ramanujulu Naidu |
| Vice-president | Thiru.Vi.Ka. |
| Place in history | Regarded as India's first organised trade union |

## The 1921 Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Strike

- In **May–June 1921** a dispute at the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills turned into a long strike and lockout lasting several months, until about **October 1921**.
- Thiru.Vi.Ka. led the Madras Labour Union and the striking workers during the dispute.
- **Lesson for answers:** the strike showed both the strength of the new unions and the need for legal protection for them. The **Trade Unions Act, 1926** later provided for the registration of unions.

## In the Congress and the National Movement

- **Gandhi:** he acted as **Mahatma Gandhi's Tamil interpreter** at meetings in Madras and spread Gandhian ideas among Tamil readers and listeners. His book **Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum (1921)** is one of the early Tamil studies of Gandhi's thought.
- **Speaker:** he toured Tamil Nadu speaking on the need for freedom.
- **Kanchipuram conference (November 1925):** he presided over the **Tamil Nadu Congress conference at Kanchipuram**. At this conference **E. V. Ramasamy (Periyar)** sought to move a resolution on communal representation; it was not allowed, and Periyar left the Congress.
- **TNCC President:** he was **President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee in 1926**.
- **Retirement:** he withdrew from political and trade-union activity in **1947**, the year of independence, and spent his last years in writing.

**Thiru.Vi.Ka. and Periyar:** the two worked together in the Congress in the early 1920s. They parted ways politically after the Kanchipuram conference of 1925.

## Writer and Tamil Prose Stylist

Thiru.Vi.Ka. wrote **more than fifty books** on politics, society, religion, women, labour and Tamil literature. He wrote and spoke in clear, simple Tamil that a factory worker or a student could follow. For this he is called **Tamil Thendral** (the Tamil breeze), and his prose is regarded as an important influence on **modern Tamil prose** and Tamil journalism.

## Major Works

| Work | Meaning / theme |
|---|---|
| Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum (1921) | Human Life and Gandhi – one of the first Tamil studies of Gandhi's thought |
| Pennin Perumai allathu Vazhkkai Thunai | The Greatness of Woman, or the Life Companion – on the dignity and rights of women |
| Murugan allathu Azhagu | Murugan, or Beauty – on Murugan as the form of beauty |
| Nayanmar Thiram (1922) | On the greatness of the Saiva saints (Nayanmars); first written for the Swadesamitran |
| Periya Puranam – commentary | Notes and prose rendering of Sekkizhar's Periya Puranam |
| Thirukkural – commentary (virivurai) | Detailed commentary on parts of the Thirukkural |
| Saivathin Samarasam | Harmony (samarasam) in Saivism |
| Ramalinga Swamigal Thiruvullam | On the thought of Vallalar Ramalinga Swamigal |
| Ullolli | The Inner Light (1942) |
| Thiru.Vi.Ka. Vazhkkai Kurippugal | Notes on My Life – his autobiography |

Exam tip: for 'Who wrote **Pennin Perumai**?' and 'Who wrote **Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum**?' the answer is Thiru.Vi.Ka. Do not confuse Pennin Perumai with Periyar's **Pen Yen Adimaiyanal?**

**Nationalised works:** the Tamil Nadu Government has nationalised his works, so they are free for the public to read and reprint; they are available in the Tamil Digital Library of the Tamil Virtual Academy.

## Social Ideas – Women, Workers and Religious Harmony

- **Women:** in Pennin Perumai he argued that a woman is an equal partner in life and that the progress of society depends on the education and freedom of women.
- **Workers:** he stood for the dignity of labour and for workers organising themselves into unions to secure fair treatment.
- **Religious harmony:** a devoted follower of **Vallalar Ramalinga Swamigal**, he preached **Samarasa Sanmargam** – respect for all religions.
- **Tamil:** he used Tamil, not English, for public speaking and writing on modern subjects such as politics and labour, helping Tamil to carry modern ideas.

## Titles and Names

| Name / title | Meaning |
|---|---|
| Thiru.Vi.Ka. | Short form of Thiruvarur Viruthachalam Kalyanasundaram |
| Kalyanasundaranar | Respectful Tamil form of his name |
| T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar | Form used in English records and newspapers |
| Tamil Thendral | The Tamil breeze – for his gentle, clear Tamil prose and speech |

## Personal Life and Death

- **Wife:** he married in **1912**; his wife died in **1918**.
- **Simple life:** he lived simply in Royapettah and gave his time to writing, speaking and public work.
- **Death:** he died on **17 September 1953** at his home in **Royapettah, Madras**, aged 70.

## Honours and Memorials

- **Postage stamp:** India Post issued a stamp in his honour on **21 October 2005** (Rs 5).
- **Thiru.Vi.Ka. Award (திரு.வி.க. விருது):** instituted by the Tamil Nadu Government and presented by the **Tamil Development Department** on **Thiruvalluvar Day** along with the other Tamil awards.
- **Statue at Thandalam:** his statue stands in his birthplace, where the Tamil Nadu Government pays homage every 26 August.
- **Places named after him in Chennai: Thiru.Vi.Ka. Nagar**, the **Thiru.Vi.Ka. Bridge** over the Adyar river, and **Thiru.Vi.Ka. Park** at Shenoy Nagar.
- **College: Thiru.Vi.Ka. Government Arts College, Thiruvarur**.

## Early Labour Leaders of Madras – Do Not Confuse

| Person | Remember for |
|---|---|
| B. P. Wadia | First president of the Madras Labour Union (1918); Theosophist, colleague of Annie Besant |
| Thiru.Vi.Ka. | Vice-president of the MLU (1918); translated Wadia's speeches; led the union in the 1921 strike |
| G. Selvapathy Chettiar and G. Ramanujulu Naidu | Organisers and first secretaries of the MLU |
| M. Singaravelar | Organised the first May Day celebration in India at Madras on 1 May 1923; founded the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan |

## Writing Mains Answers on Thiru.Vi.Ka. (Group 1 / Group 2)

Descriptive papers ask about his role in the labour movement, journalism and Tamil prose. Build your answer around these points and support each with a fact from the notes above.

### Thiru.Vi.Ka. and the labour movement in Tamil Nadu (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** Tamil scholar and Congressman who became one of the founders of the labour movement in South India.

- **Background:** poor conditions in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Perambur, in 1918 – long hours, short meal breaks, harsh treatment.
- **Founding:** Madras Labour Union, April 1918 (27 April in most accounts) – Wadia president, Selvapathy Chettiar and Ramanujulu Naidu secretaries, Thiru.Vi.Ka. vice-president; India's first organised trade union.
- **Method:** speeches in simple Tamil; translation of Wadia's speeches; peaceful organisation.
- **Struggle:** led the union in the 1921 strike and lockout.
- **Ideas:** dignity of labour; peaceful organisation; link with the Gandhian national movement.
- **Conclusion:** he gave the workers' movement a Tamil voice and linked it with the freedom struggle; the later Trade Unions Act, 1926 met the need for legal recognition that these early struggles had shown.

### Contribution of Thiru.Vi.Ka. to Tamil journalism and prose (about 150 words)

- Desabhakthan (daily, joined 1917) and Navasakthi (weekly, founded 1920).
- Used simple, flowing Tamil for modern subjects – politics, labour, women's rights.
- More than fifty books; commentaries on classics serialised in Navasakthi.
- Title Tamil Thendral; regarded as an important influence on modern Tamil prose.
- Works nationalised by the Tamil Nadu Government.

### Thiru.Vi.Ka. as a social thinker (about 100 words)

- Women: Pennin Perumai – women as equal partners in life.
- Religion: follower of Vallalar; Samarasa Sanmargam; respect for all faiths.
- Politics: Gandhian; Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum (1921).
- Labour: dignity of work and peaceful organisation of workers.

## Practice: Match the Following

| Item | Match |
|---|---|
| Desabhakthan | Nationalist Tamil daily – joined December 1917 |
| Navasakthi | Tamil weekly founded by Thiru.Vi.Ka. in 1920 |
| B. P. Wadia | First president of the Madras Labour Union |
| 27 April 1918 | Formation of the Madras Labour Union |
| Kanchipuram, 1925 | Tamil Nadu Congress conference presided over by Thiru.Vi.Ka. |
| 1926 | Thiru.Vi.Ka. – President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee |
| Pennin Perumai | Book on the greatness of women |
| Nayanmar Thiram | Book on the Saiva saints (1922) |
| Na. Kathiraivel Pillai | Tamil teacher from Jaffna |
| Thandalam | Birthplace – statue |

## Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **President of the MLU:** the first president was **B. P. Wadia**; Thiru.Vi.Ka. was a **vice-president** at the start.
- **First trade union vs first May Day:** Madras Labour Union – 1918 (Wadia, Thiru.Vi.Ka.); first May Day in India – 1 May 1923, Madras (Singaravelar).
- **Daily vs weekly:** Desabhakthan was a daily he joined; Navasakthi was the weekly he founded.
- **Navasakthi year:** 1920 – not 1918 (that is the union).
- **Pennin Perumai vs Pen Yen Adimaiyanal?:** the first is by Thiru.Vi.Ka.; the second is by Periyar.
- **Kanchipuram 1925:** Thiru.Vi.Ka. presided; Periyar was the one who left the Congress.
- **Tamil Thendral** is Thiru.Vi.Ka.'s title – do not mix it with titles such as Mahakavi (Bharati) or Puratchi Kavignar (Bharathidasan).
- **Name:** 'Thiru' in Thiru.Vi.Ka. is from Thiruvarur – it is not the honorific 'Thiru' (Mr).
- **Death:** 1953 – not 1947, which is the year he retired from public life.

## Quick Revision Table

| Year / date | Event |
|---|---|
| 1883 (26 Aug) | Born at Thullam (Thandalam), near Madras |
| 1916–17 | Tamil teacher at Wesley College, Madras |
| 1917 (Dec) | Joins the editorial staff of Desabhakthan |
| 1918 (13 Apr) | Translates B. P. Wadia's speech to the mill workers |
| 1918 (27 Apr) | Madras Labour Union formed; Thiru.Vi.Ka. a vice-president |
| 1918 | Death of his wife (married 1912) |
| 1920 | Founds the Tamil weekly Navasakthi |
| 1921 | Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum; leads the union in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills strike |
| 1922 | Nayanmar Thiram published as a book |
| 1925 (Nov) | Presides over the Tamil Nadu Congress conference, Kanchipuram |
| 1926 | President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee |
| 1947 | Retires from political and trade-union work |
| 1953 (17 Sep) | Dies at Royapettah, Madras |
| 2005 (21 Oct) | Commemorative postage stamp |

## TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Thiru.Vi.Ka. = Thiruvarur Viruthachalam Kalyanasundaram; born 26 August 1883, Thullam (Thandalam).
- Parents: Viruthachala Mudaliar and Chinnammal.
- School: Wesley College High School, Royapettah; Tamil teachers – Na. Kathiraivel Pillai (Jaffna) and Maraimalai Adigal.

- Tamil teacher at Wesley College (1916–17).
- Desabhakthan (daily) – joined December 1917; Navasakthi (weekly) – founded 1920.
- Madras Labour Union – 27 April 1918; Buckingham and Carnatic Mills workers; president B. P. Wadia; Thiru.Vi.Ka. vice-president; India's first organised trade union.
- Led the union in the 1921 Buckingham and Carnatic Mills strike.
- Presided over the Kanchipuram Tamil Nadu Congress conference (1925); TNCC President (1926).
- Translated Gandhi's speeches; Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum (1921).
- Books: Pennin Perumai allathu Vazhkkai Thunai, Murugan allathu Azhagu, Nayanmar Thiram, Ullolli, Periya Puranam and Thirukkural commentaries, Vazhkkai Kurippugal (autobiography).
- Title: Tamil Thendral. Follower of Vallalar.
- Died 17 September 1953, Royapettah. Stamp: 21 October 2005. Thiru.Vi.Ka. Award – Thiruvalluvar Day.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is Thiru.Vi.Ka. and what does the name stand for?

Thiru.Vi.Ka. is Thiruvarur Viruthachalam Kalyanasundaram (1883–1953), also called Kalyanasundaranar or T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar. The three parts of the short name come from Thiruvarur, his father's name Viruthachalam, and his own name Kalyanasundaram. He was a Tamil scholar, journalist, Congress leader and one of the founders of the labour movement in South India.

### What was Thiru.Vi.Ka.'s role in the Madras Labour Union of 1918?

The Madras Labour Union, formed in April 1918 (most accounts give 27 April 1918) mainly by workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Perambur, is regarded as the first organised trade union in India. B. P. Wadia was its first president, G. Selvapathy Chettiar and G. Ramanujulu Naidu were its first secretaries, and Thiru.Vi.Ka. was a vice-president. He addressed the workers in Tamil and translated Wadia's English speeches for them, and later led the union during the 1921 mill strike.

### Which journals did Thiru.Vi.Ka. edit?

He joined the editorial staff of the nationalist Tamil daily Desabhakthan in December 1917 and worked there for more than two years. In 1920 he started his own Tamil weekly, Navasakthi, which carried his writings on politics, labour, religion and literature for many years.

### Why is Thiru.Vi.Ka. called Tamil Thendral?

Tamil Thendral means 'the Tamil breeze'. He was given this name because his Tamil prose and speeches were simple, clear and pleasant, like a gentle breeze. His style is regarded as an important influence on modern Tamil prose.

### What are the important works of Thiru.Vi.Ka.?

He wrote more than fifty books. The best known are Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum (1921), one of the first Tamil studies of Gandhi's thought; Pennin Perumai allathu Vazhkkai Thunai, on the dignity of women; Murugan allathu Azhagu; Nayanmar Thiram (1922); Ullolli; commentaries on the Periya Puranam and the Thirukkural; and his autobiography, Thiru.Vi.Ka. Vazhkkai Kurippugal.

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. When was Thiru.Vi.Ka. born?**

A. 26 August 1883
B. 17 September 1883
C. 15 July 1883
D. 11 December 1882

**2. Where was Thiru.Vi.Ka. born?**

A. Thiruvarur
B. Royapettah
C. Kanchipuram
D. Thullam (Thandalam)

**3. In the name 'Thiru.Vi.Ka.', what does 'Vi' stand for?**

A. Villupuram
B. His father Viruthachalam
C. Virudhunagar
D. The title Vidwan

**4. Who were Thiru.Vi.Ka.'s parents?**

A. Viruthachala Mudaliar and Chinnammal
B. Kumaraswami and Sivakami
C. Chinnasamy and Lakshmi
D. Venkatappar and Chinnathayammal

**5. Which school did Thiru.Vi.Ka. attend?**

A. Pachaiyappa's School
B. Presidency College
C. Hindu High School, Triplicane
D. Wesley College High School, Royapettah

**6. Which Jaffna scholar taught Tamil to Thiru.Vi.Ka.?**

A. Arumuga Navalar
B. C. W. Thamotharampillai
C. Na. Kathiraivel Pillai
D. Swami Vipulananda

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**7. In which year was the Madras Labour Union formed?**

A. 1908
B. 1918
C. 1920
D. 1926

**8. Who was the first president of the Madras Labour Union?**

A. Thiru.Vi.Ka.
B. M. Singaravelar
C. B. P. Wadia
D. Annie Besant

**9. The Madras Labour Union was formed mainly by workers of which mills?**

A. Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Perambur
B. Harvey Mills, Madurai
C. Somasundaram Mills, Coimbatore
D. Coral Mills, Thoothukudi

**10. At the meeting of 13 April 1918, whose English speech did Thiru.Vi.Ka. translate into Tamil?**

A. Annie Besant
B. George Joseph
C. S. Satyamurti
D. B. P. Wadia

**11. Which nationalist Tamil daily did Thiru.Vi.Ka. join in December 1917?**

A. Swadesamitran
B. Desabhakthan
C. India
D. Kudi Arasu

**12. Which Tamil weekly did Thiru.Vi.Ka. start in 1920?**

A. Tamil Nadu
B. Viduthalai
C. Gnanabanu
D. Navasakthi

**13. Who presided over the Tamil Nadu Congress conference at Kanchipuram in November 1925?**

A. Periyar
B. Rajaji
C. Thiru.Vi.Ka.
D. S. Srinivasa Iyengar

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**14. In which year was Thiru.Vi.Ka. President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee?**

A. 1920
B. 1922
C. 1926
D. 1937

**15. In which year did 'Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum', an early Tamil study of Gandhi's thought, appear?**

A. 1915
B. 1921
C. 1930
D. 1948

**16. Who wrote 'Pennin Perumai allathu Vazhkkai Thunai'?**

A. Periyar
B. Moovalur Ramamirtham
C. Bharathidasan
D. Thiru.Vi.Ka.

**17. Which title is associated with Thiru.Vi.Ka.?**

A. Tamil Thendral
B. Sollin Selvar
C. Tamil Thatha
D. Panmozhi Pulavar

**18. Thiru.Vi.Ka.'s 'Nayanmar Thiram' (1922) is about whom?**

A. The Saiva saints (Nayanmars)
B. The Vaishnava Alvars
C. Jain monks
D. Buddhist monks

**19. Thiru.Vi.Ka. spread Samarasa Sanmargam as a devoted follower of which saint?**

A. Thayumanavar
B. Vallalar Ramalinga Swamigal
C. Ramana Maharshi
D. Swami Vivekananda

**20. When did Thiru.Vi.Ka. die?**

A. 2 October 1951
B. 15 August 1947
C. 26 August 1953
D. 17 September 1953

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**21. When was the commemorative postage stamp on Thiru.Vi.Ka. issued?**

A. 26 August 1983

B. 17 September 2003

C. 21 October 2005

D. 15 July 1976

**22. On which day is the Tamil Nadu Government's Thiru.Vi.Ka. Award presented?**

A. Thiruvalluvar Day

B. May Day

C. Teachers' Day

D. Republic Day

**23. Match: (a) Desabhakthan (b) Navasakthi (c) B. P. Wadia (d) Singaravelar — (1) First president of the Madras Labour Union (2) Weekly of 1920 (3) First May Day, 1923 (4) Daily joined in 1917**

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

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

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

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

**24. Which statements are correct? (1) Thiru.Vi.Ka. was the first president of the Madras Labour Union. (2) He led the union in the 1921 Buckingham and Carnatic Mills strike. (3) He retired from political and trade-union work in 1947.**

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

**25. Which is Thiru.Vi.Ka.'s autobiography?**

A. En Sarithiram

B. Thiru.Vi.Ka. Vazhkkai Kurippugal

C. Sathiya Sothanai

D. Ullolli

## Answers with explanations

1. **A) 26 August 1883** – Thiru.Vi.Ka. was born on 26 August 1883 at Thullam (now Thandalam).

2. **D) Thullam (Thandalam)** – He was born at Thullam (Thandalam) near Madras; Thiruvarur only gives the first initial of his name.

3. **B) His father Viruthachalam** – Thiru – Thiruvarur, Vi – father Viruthachalam, Ka – Kalyanasundaram.

4. **A) Viruthachala Mudaliar and Chinnammal** – His father was Viruthachala Mudaliar and his mother Chinnammal.

5. **D) Wesley College High School, Royapettah** – He studied at Wesley College High School, Royapettah, and later taught Tamil at Wesley College.

6. **C) Na. Kathiraivel Pillai** – Na. Kathiraivel Pillai of Jaffna and Maraimalai Adigal were among his Tamil teachers.

7. **B) 1918** – The Madras Labour Union was formed in April 1918 (27 April in most accounts).

8. **C) B. P. Wadia** – B. P. Wadia was the first president; Thiru.Vi.Ka. was a vice-president.

9. **A) Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Perambur** – Workers of Binny's Buckingham and Carnatic Mills at Perambur formed the core of the union.

10. **D) B. P. Wadia** – He translated B. P. Wadia's speech to the mill workers at Perambur.

11. **B) Desabhakthan** – He joined the editorial staff of Desabhakthan in December 1917 and served for over two years.

12. **D) Navasakthi** – He founded the Tamil weekly Navasakthi in 1920.

13. **C) Thiru.Vi.Ka.** – Thiru.Vi.Ka. presided; Periyar left the Congress when his communal representation resolution was not allowed.

14. **C) 1926** – He was President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee in 1926.

15. **B) 1921** – Thiru.Vi.Ka.'s Manitha Vazhkkaiyum Gandhiyadigalum appeared in 1921.

16. **D) Thiru.Vi.Ka.** – Thiru.Vi.Ka. wrote this book on the dignity of women; 'Pen Yen Adimaiyanal?' is by Periyar.

17. **A) Tamil Thendral** – For his gentle and clear Tamil he is called Tamil Thendral (the Tamil breeze).

18. **A) The Saiva saints (Nayanmars)** – Nayanmar Thiram is on the greatness of the Saiva saints; written in 1921 as an essay for a Swadesamitran supplement, it appeared as a book in 1922.

19. **B) Vallalar Ramalinga Swamigal** – He followed Vallalar and also wrote Ramalinga Swamigal Thiruvullam.

20. **D) 17 September 1953** – He died on 17 September 1953 at his home in Royapettah, Madras.

21. **C) 21 October 2005** – India Post issued a stamp in his honour on 21 October 2005.

22. **A) Thiruvalluvar Day** – The Thiru.Vi.Ka. Award is given with other Tamil awards on Thiruvalluvar Day by the Tamil Development Department.

23. **D) a-4, b-2, c-1, d-3** – Desabhakthan – 1917 daily; Navasakthi – 1920 weekly; Wadia – first president; Singaravelar – May Day 1923.

24. **B) 2 and 3 only** – The first president was B. P. Wadia, so statement 1 is wrong; statements 2 and 3 are correct.

25. **B) Thiru.Vi.Ka. Vazhkkai Kurippugal** – Thiru.Vi.Ka. Vazhkkai Kurippugal (1944, Sadhu Press) is his autobiography; En Sarithiram is U. V. Swaminatha Iyer's; Sathiya Sothanai is the Tamil title of Gandhi's autobiography; Ullolli is another of his books.


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