



SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY

Role of Women in the Freedom Struggle

Previous Year Questions (2020 – 2026)

TNPSC Group 1, 2, 4 and other exams · with answers and explanations

33 questions

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The exam name and year are given in [] at the start of every question. Attempt the questions first without looking at the answers, then check with the answer section at the end.

Questions

1. **AGGS-2021** Which one of the following statements is correct regarding Rukmani Lakshmipathi?
 1. She participated in the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha agitation
 2. She participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement
 3. She was the Deputy Speaker under the ministry of Rajaji
 4. She participated in the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in 1926 at Paris

(A) 1, 2, 3, 4 are correct (B) 1, 2 are correct; 3, 4 are incorrect
(C) 1, 3, 4 are correct; 2 only incorrect (D) 1, 2, 3 are correct; 4 only incorrect
2. **ADGS-2021** On 2nd November 1927, the Manimegalai Sangam, the Devadasi Women's Association, organised a meeting at Coimbatore under whose presidentship?

(A) Choudri V. Konambal (B) Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy
(C) Mrs. Annamma Raja (D) Mrs. Annie Besant
3. **PSY-2022** _____ was appointed as the First Woman Chairperson of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board.

(A) Annie Besant (B) Muthulakshmi
(C) Govindammal (D) Sundarambal
4. **TNPSC-2022, PTGS-2021** Who was the first woman Legislative Assembly member of Madras Presidency?

(A) Muthulakshmi Reddy (B) Sarojini Naidu
(C) Moovalur Ramamirtham (D) Anandi Gopal Joshi
5. **G-2-2022, EO-GIII-2022, CTS (IV Post)-2026** Name the first woman who has been jailed for Salt Satyagraha in Madras Presidency?

(A) Rukmini Lakshmipathi (B) Durgabai
(C) Satyawati (D) Swaroop Rani



6. **G-1-2022** Which of the following statements are true in respect of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy?
1. She was the first woman in India to get a degree in medicine.
 2. She was the first woman Legislator in British India.
 3. She was the first female student to be admitted in Maharaja's college.
 4. She was the first woman President of the legislative council.
- (A) 1, 2 and 3 (B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 3 and 4 (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4
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7. **G-1-2022** In 1921 at Erode, E.V.R. picketed toddy shops. Two women also participated in the picketing. They were the first women to be arrested for picketing toddy shops in Tamil Nadu. Who were they?
- (A) Nagammaiyar and Kannammal (B) Nagammaiyar and Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya
(C) Kannammal and Muthulakshmi Reddy (D) Maniyammaiyar and Nagammaiyar
-
8. **G-1-2021** Name the woman leader who participated in the Neil statue satyagraha in Tamil Nadu in 1927.
- (A) K.P. Sundarambal (B) Padmasani Ammal
(C) Muthulakshmi Reddy (D) Selvi Durgabai
-
9. **G-1-2021** Which woman freedom fighter participated in the Madras salt satyagraha?
- (A) K.P. Sundarambal (B) Muthulakshmi Reddy
(C) Selvi Durgabai (D) Padmasini Ammal
-
10. **ACF-2023** Dr. Muthulakshmi was the first woman legislator in India because of
- (A) Minto Morley Reforms (B) Montague Chelmsford Reforms
(C) Resolution of 1921 (D) Government of India Act of 1935
-
11. **DEO-2023** Which of the following statements about Thillaiyadi Valliammai are correct?
- (i) She participated in the protest against the policy of Apartheid in South Africa at the age of 16
 - (ii) She worked with Gandhi in his early years
 - (iii) She died during the anti-apartheid agitation
- (A) (i) is correct (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct
(C) (i) and (ii) are only correct (D) (ii) and (iii) are only correct
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12. **CESS-2023** Choose the correct answer about Muthulakshmi Ammaiya.
- (A) Doctor (B) Engineer
(C) Teacher (D) Advocate
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13. **GEOLOGY-2023** Rani Velunachiyar lived under the protection of Gopala Nayakkar at _____ near Dindugal.
- (A) Kannivadi (B) Thandikkudi
(C) Virupachi (D) Aayakkudi
-
14. **COMBINED RESEARCH ASSISTANT-2023** Reason and Assertion type.
- Assertion [A] : VeluNachiyar is called India's 'Joan of Arc'
Reason [R] : She was a great warrior who fought against the British
- (A) [A] is true, but [R] is false (B) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
(C) [A] is false, [R] is true (D) Both [A] and [R] are true but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]
-
15. **HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENT CUM PTO-2024** Anjalaiyammal belongs to _____ region of Tamil Nadu.
- (A) Pudukottai (B) Cuddalore
(C) Thiruvavur (D) Madurai
-
16. **G4-2024** A woman reformer who was instrumental in Dr. Muthulakshmi's introduction of the Devadasi Abolition Act
- (A) Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar (B) Annie Besant Ammaiyar
(C) Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar (D) Nagammaiyar
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17. **G1-2024** Who among the following was India's first woman House Surgeon in the Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital?
- (A) Rukmani Lakshmipathi (B) Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar
(C) Sarojini Naidu (D) Moovalur Ramamirdham
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18. **G1-2024** Which of the following statements are true about S. Ambujammal?
- (i) She joined the Non Cooperation Movement in 1920
(ii) She was nominated to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926
(iii) She formed the Women's Swadeshi League in Madras.
- (A) (i) only (B) (i) and (iii) only
(C) (i) and (ii) only (D) (ii) and (iii) only
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19. **COMBINED TECHNICAL (IV POST)-2024** Consider the following statements on Ambujammal:
- (i) Participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement
 - (ii) She was called as Third Dictator of the congress
 - (iii) She worked for the development of Tamil Literature and Music
 - (iv) She was awarded Padmasri Award in 1964
- Select the correct response:
- (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) are true (iii) is false (B) (i), (iii) and (iv) are true but (ii) is false
(C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) are true but (i) is false (D) (i), (ii) and (iii) are true (iv) is false
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20. **COMBINED TECHNICAL SERVICE (ITI)-2024** Who gave the protection to Velunachiyar and her daughter for eight years?
- (A) Gopal Nayak of Dindigul (B) Hyder Ali of Mysore
(C) Kattabomman of Panchalamkurichi (D) Kuyili, a faithful friend
-
21. **Group 1B&C-2024** Assertion [A]: Velu Nachiyar was victorious in the war against the British.
Reason [R]: Haider Ali's force helped Velu Nachiyar.
- (A) [A] is true but [R] is false (B) [A] is false but [R] is true
(C) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A] (D) Both [A] and [R] are true but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]
-
22. **Group 1B&C-2024** Name of the first woman ruler in the history of Tamil Nadu
- (A) Mangammal (B) Velu Nachiyar
(C) Jhansi Rani (D) Chennammal
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23. **Special Competitive Exam-2025** "Chennai Manavar Mandram" was established by
- (A) Dr. S. Dharmambal (B) Dr. Muthulakshmi
(C) Periyar (D) C.N. Annadurai
-
24. **Group 1&1A-2025** Match the following:
- (a) Home Rule Movement - 1. S. Ambujammal
(b) Kudi Arasu - 2. Annie Besant
(c) Women's Swadeshi League - 3. Muthulakshmi Reddy
(d) Abolition of Devadasi system - 4. E.V. Ramasamy
- (A) 2 4 1 3 (B) 3 4 2 1
(C) 4 3 1 2 (D) 3 2 1 4
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25. **Group 4-2025** Which of the following statements are true about Velu Nachiyar?
- (i) Velu Nachiyar was the daughter of Chellamuthu Sethupathi, King of Sivagangai.
(ii) Velu Nachiyar's husband was assassinated by the Nawab Army and to attack the Nawab and British, she joined with Gopal Naicker and Hyder Ali.
(iii) In 1790, she died due to illness.
- (A) (ii) only (B) (i) and (iii)
(C) (i) and (ii) (D) (ii) and (iii)
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26. **CTS (IV Post)-2025** Choose the correct answer
- Which among the women freedom fighters accompanied K. Rajagopalachari on the Vedaranyam salt satyagraha and became the first political prisoner in Vellore women jail?
- (A) Rukmani Lakshmipathi (B) S. Ambujammal
(C) Muthulakshmi Reddy (D) Ammu Swaminathan
-
27. **CTS (Non IV Post)-2025** "My Experience as a Legislator" was written by
- (A) Raja Gopalachariar (B) Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy
(C) E.V. Ramaswamy (D) Annadurai
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28. **CTS (ITI Post)-2025** Which of the following statements are true about Thillaiyadi Valliyammai?
- (i) The parents of Thillaiyadi Valliyammai belong to Thillaiyadi at Madurai District.
(ii) Thillaiyadi Valliyammai was born in South Africa at Johannesburg.
(iii) Thillaiyadi Valliyammai actively participated in Swadeshi movement.
- (A) (i) only (B) (i) and (ii) only
(C) (ii) only (D) (i) and (iii) only
-
29. **CTS (ITI Post)-2025** Choose the correct pair:
- (1) Commander of Velunachiyar - Periya Marudhu
(2) Wife of Ramnad King - Velunachiyar
(3) Death of Velunachiyar - 1790
(4) Adoption by Velunachiyar - Kuyili
- (A) (1) only (B) (3) only
(C) (2) and (4) only (D) (1) and (3) only
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30. **CTS ITI Level II-2025** Assertion [A]: Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar became the first woman legislator in India in 1926.
Reason [R]: Justice party government was the first to approve participation of women in the electoral politics in 1921.
- (A) [A] is false [R] is true (B) [A] is true [R] is false
(C) Both [A] and [R] are false (D) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
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31. **CTS ITI Level II-2025** Dr. Muthulakshmi started the Cancer Relief Hospital in _____.

(A) 1929

(B) 1939

(C) 1949

(D) 1959

32. **CTS ITI Level II-2025** Choose the right answer among type:

(i) Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar was elected to the Madras Legislative Council.

(ii) Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar started Ovvai Illam for the welfare of women.

(iii) She recommended the marriage age for boys and girls as 21 and 16 respectively.

(iv) She was awarded Padma Vibhushan award by Government of India.

(A) (iv) only

(B) (ii) and (i) only

(C) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

(D) (i) and (iii) only

33. **Group 2A Mains Re-Exam-2026** Which of the following statement/s is/are true about Papa Umanath of Tamil Nadu?

(1) She was the first woman in South India to have been arrested by the British for Salt Satyagraha.

(2) She organised a Peasant movement in Thuvaraman Village.

(3) She became part of the Ponmalai Women's Association.

(4) She joined the Congress Party in 1945.

(A) (1) and (2) are true

(B) (2) and (4) are true

(C) (1) and (4) are true

(D) (2) and (3) are true



Answers and Explanations

1. (A) 1, 2, 3, 4 are correct

Rukmani Lakshmipathi joined the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (part of Civil Disobedience) and was jailed, attended the 1926 Paris congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and was Deputy Speaker of the Assembly during Rajaji's 1937 ministry. All four are correct.

2. (B) Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy

The Manimegalai Sangam's meeting of Devadasi women at Coimbatore on 2 November 1927 was presided over by Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, the leading campaigner for abolishing the Devadasi system.

3. (B) Muthulakshmi

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy was appointed the first Chairperson of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board in 1954.

4. (A) Muthulakshmi Reddy

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, nominated to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926, was the first woman legislator of Madras Presidency.

5. (A) Rukmini Lakshmipathi

Rukmini Lakshmipathi, arrested for joining the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha in 1930, was the first woman in Madras Presidency to be jailed for the Salt Satyagraha.

6. (B) 2, 3 and 4

Statement 1 is false — Muthulakshmi Reddy was not India's first woman medical graduate (Kadambini Ganguly and Anandibai Joshi preceded her), so only option B, which omits it, fits. She was the first girl admitted to Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai, British India's first woman legislator (1926), and in 1927 became the first woman to preside over the Madras Legislative Council as its Deputy President.

7. (A) Nagammaiyar and Kannammal

In the 1921 toddy-shop picketing at Erode, Periyar's wife Nagammaiyar and his sister Kannammal took part; Gandhi remarked that calling off the picketing was in the hands of these two women.

8. (B) Padmasani Ammal

Padmasani Ammal of Madurai took part in the 1927 Neill Statue Satyagraha in Madras, which demanded removal of the statue of Colonel Neill.

9. (C) Selvi Durgabai

Durgabai (later Durgabai Deshmukh) took part in the 1930 Madras Salt Satyagraha led by T. Prakasam and was imprisoned.

10. (C) Resolution of 1921

In 1921 the Madras Legislative Council passed a resolution granting women the franchise, the first province in India to do so; this opened the way for women to enter the legislature and led to Muthulakshmi Reddy's nomination in 1926.



11. (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct

Thillaiyadi Valliammai joined Gandhi's early satyagraha against racial discrimination in South Africa at 16, was imprisoned, and died in 1914 at the age of 16 from an illness she caught in prison.

12. (A) Doctor

Muthulakshmi Reddy was a doctor trained at Madras Medical College; she founded the Adyar Cancer Institute.

13. (C) Virupachi

After the 1772 battle of Kalaiyarkoil, Velu Nachiyar lived for eight years at Virupachi near Dindigul under the protection of the poligar Gopala Nayakkar.

14. (B) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]

Velu Nachiyar was the first Indian queen to fight the British, recapturing Sivaganga in 1780; this valour is why she is called 'Veeramangai' and India's 'Joan of Arc'.

15. (B) Cuddalore

Anjalaiyammal was a freedom fighter from Cuddalore; Gandhi called her the 'Jhansi Rani of South India'.

16. (A) Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar, born into a Devadasi family, campaigned vigorously against the system and was a key supporter of Muthulakshmi Reddy's legislative effort to abolish it.

17. (B) Muthulakshmi Ammaiyar

After graduating in medicine in 1912, Muthulakshmi Reddy became the first woman House Surgeon in the Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.

18. (B) (i) and (iii) only

Ambujammal joined the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920 and formed the Women's Swadeshi League in Madras. It was Muthulakshmi Reddy, not Ambujammal, who was nominated to the Legislative Council in 1926, so (ii) is false.

19. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) are true (iii) is false

Ambujammal took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was jailed, was named the Congress's 'third dictator' (designated leader) of the agitation, and received the Padma Shri in 1964. Since (i), (ii) and (iv) are all true, option A is the only fitting answer.

20. (A) Gopal Nayak of Dindigul

After her husband Muthu Vaduganatha Thevar was killed in 1772, Velu Nachiyar and her daughter Vellachi stayed for eight years at Virupachi near Dindigul under the protection of Gopala Nayakkar.

21. (C) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]

With cavalry and infantry support from Hyder Ali, Velu Nachiyar defeated the British in 1780 and recovered Sivagangai, so the Reason correctly explains the Assertion.

22. (A) Mangammal

Rani Mangammal of the Madurai Nayak dynasty (ruled c. 1689–1704) is regarded as the first woman ruler to ascend the throne in Tamil Nadu's history.



23. (A) Dr. S. Dharmambal

Dr. S. Dharmambal, social reformer and Tamil activist, was instrumental in establishing the 'Chennai Manavar Mandram' (Madras Students' Forum).

24. (A) 2 4 1 3

Annie Besant – Home Rule Movement (1916); E.V. Ramasamy – 'Kudi Arasu' journal (1925); Ambujammal – Women's Swadeshi League; Muthulakshmi Reddy – abolition of the Devadasi system.

25. (A) (ii) only

Velu Nachiyar was the daughter of Chellamuthu Sethupathi, king of Ramanathapuram (not Sivagangai), and died in 1796; only her alliance with Gopal Nayak and Hyder Ali after her husband's killing is correct.

26. (A) Rukmani Lakshmipathi

Rukmini Lakshmipathi took part in the 1930 Vedaranyam salt satyagraha and became the first woman political prisoner in Vellore women's jail.

27. (B) Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, India's first woman legislator, wrote 'My Experience as a Legislator'.

28. (C) (ii) only

Valliammai was born in Johannesburg in 1898; her parents hailed from Thillaiyadi in the Thanjavur region (now Mayiladuthurai district), not Madurai, and she took part in Gandhi's satyagraha in South Africa, not the Swadeshi movement.

29. (A) (1) only

The Marudhu brothers served as Velu Nachiyar's commanders. She was the daughter of the Ramnad king and wife of Muthu Vaduganatha of Sivagangai, died in 1796, and Kuyili was her women's-army commander, not an adopted child.

30. (D) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]

The Justice Party government enfranchised women in 1921, opening electoral politics to them; this enabled Muthulakshmi Reddy to be nominated to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926 as India's first woman legislator.

31. (C) 1949

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy launched the cancer relief effort in 1949, which led to the Adyar Cancer Institute (which began functioning in 1954).

32. (C) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Muthulakshmi Reddy served in the Madras Legislative Council, founded Avvai Home in 1930 and recommended marriage ages of 21 for men and 16 for women; she received the Padma Bhushan (1956), not the Padma Vibhushan.

33. (D) (2) and (3) are true

Papa Umanath (1931–2010) was a communist leader who organised a peasant movement at Thuvaraman and worked with the Ponmalai women's association; she joined the Communist Party, not the Congress, and was a child during the Salt Satyagraha.