

## Rani Velu Nachiyar

**Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | History

### Why in News?

Prime Minister pays tribute to Rani Velu Nachiyar on her birth anniversary.

- Rani Velu Nachiyar was the **1<sup>st</sup> queen to fight against the British** colonial power in India.
- **Birth** - She was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1730, as the only child of Raja Chellamuthu Vijayaragunatha Sethupathy and Rani Sakandhimuthal of the Ramnad kingdom.
- **Training** - She was trained in war match weapons usage, martial arts like Valari, Silambam (fighting using a stick), horse riding and archery.
- **Skills** - She was a scholar in many languages, and she had proficiency with languages like French, English and Urdu.
- **Marriage & Conflict** - She married Muthuvaduganathaperiya Udaiyathevar, king of Sivagangai, who was killed by British soldiers and the Nawab of Arcot's son.
- **Exile** - She escaped with her daughter, Vellachi, and lived under the protection of **Palayakaarar Kopaala Naayakkar** in Dindigul for 8 years.
- **Alliance** - At Dindigul, she met **Haider Ali of Mysore**, won his support, and he admired her intellect and Urdu skills.
- **Return to Power** - In 1780, with allied forces, she attacked Sivaganga Fort, reclaimed her kingdom.
- She gave administrative powers to the Marudhu Brothers.
- **Title** - She is known by Tamils as Veeramangai (brave woman).
- **Succession** - Vellachi, Velu Nachiyar's daughter, succeeded her to the throne and ruled from 1790 to 1793.
- She died on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1796 in Sivagangai.
- **Legacy**
  - **Udaiyaal Unit** - She established one of the **first all-women army units**, named after her adoptive daughter Udaiyaal.
  - She constructed a mosque and church to honour Haider Ali's support and maintained ties with Tipu Sultan.
  - She was honoured with a postage stamp (2008), a memorial statue in Sivagangai (2014), and an annual celebration of her birth anniversary on January 3.

### Quick Fact

Kuyuili

- She was Velu Nachiyar's trusted **military commander**.
- **Historic Act** - On Vijayadashami, Kuyuili drenched herself in ghee, entered the British armoury, and set herself ablaze—destroying all weapons stored inside.
- **Legacy** - She is remembered as **India's first suicide bomber** in the context of resistance against colonial rule.

## References

1. [PIB | PM pays tribute to Rani Velu Nachiyar on her birth anniversary](#)
2. [Indian Culture | Velu Nachiyar](#)
3. [FII | Velu Nachiyar](#)

