

Timeline of Tamil History

SEENIVASA - MOODALI VERSION

Seenivasa (1861) & R.M. Moodali (1907)

Thiru Moodali

Timeline of Tamil History

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DEDICATED

To Tamil Humanists

The Tamil Humanist symbol

A is the first letter and with other letters forms the Tamil alphabet. It is also the first letter of the word 'Anbe'. 'Anbe' means love. So the letter A is a symbol of love.

The circle around the letter A symbolizes the earth. This emphasizes the universality of love and the philosophy of Tamil Humanism.

The shape of the heart around the earth is a symbol of love and healthy living.

Red, Black and yellow are traditional Tamil colours. Blue is the colour of the earth from space.

This Tamil Humanist symbol defines Tamil Humanism's unique identity and its philosophy's continued existence since the inception of the Indus Valley civilization to the present times. It is the symbol of humanism, human unity and cooperation.



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1. Pre-historic period of Tamil Independence

- BC 14 billion years : The universe appeared in a 'Big Bang'
- BC 6 billion years : The birth of the Earth.
- BC 2,5 million years : Genus Homo originates at the cradle of mankind.
- BC 300 000 years : Homo sapiens migrate from Africa to Asia.
- BC 250 000 - 70 000 : Homo sapiens settle in India and Eelam.
- BC 70 000 - 50 000 : Tamil Language, Culture and Religion develops.
- BC 30 000 – 3000 : Paleolithic industries developed in north Tamil Nadu. Pre-pottery microlithic industries develops. Neolithic and fine microlithic industries develop in Tamil Nadu
- BC 10 527 : The first Tamil Sangam was founded by Pandya King Kaisina Vazhudhi. 4449 poets assembled in this Sangam. The works such as Mudhunarai, Mudukuru, Kalariyavilai were created in this period.
- BC 10527 – 6100 : Reign of Pandya Kings Kaisina Vazhudhi, Vidivambalamba Ninra Nedian, Munner Vizhavim Nedian, Nilantharu Thiruvirpandiyar Chengon and Pandyan Kadungon. Tamil population is 100 000.
- BC 6087 : Kumari City Island submerged in a big deluge.
- BC 6000 – 3000 : Pandya King Venter Chezhan, who ruled the Pandyan Kingdom with Kapaadapuram as the capital founded the second Tamil Sangam, where 3700 poets were seated. Grammatical treatises such as Agathiam and Tholkaappiam were made. The reigning Pandya kings were Chembiyan Mandhadhan, Manu Chozhan, Thoongeyil Erindha Thodithotchembian, Adhyan Cheral, Chozhan Valithodilanda Uravon Thenpali Nagan, Pandyan Varanan Odakkon and Muthu Thirumaran.
- BC 5000 : Beginning of Indus Valley civilizations of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. Rice is cultivated in Eastern Indus Valley. There are earliest signs of Virtues being practiced in a collective society.
- BC 4000 : Indus valley population is 1 million.

- BC 3300 to 1700 : The Indus Valley cities flourish on the Indus River. The Tamils build Mohenjo-daro and Harappan civilizations with a vibrant Tamil culture. Chera, Cholas, Pandya and Eelam were kingdoms that produced food and brought other resources to the Indus Valley cities. The Tamil land and Eelam had a natural lifestyle, with farming, fishing and hunting being its main industry. The principles of the Thirukkural were already practiced by the Indus Valley civilization.
- BC 3102 : Tamil civilization was highly eminent in Indus valley.
- BC 3000 : Evidence of horses in Tamil Nadu
- BC 3000 : Agamas are recorded in the time of the earliest Tamil Sangam. Saint Siva spoke the Tamil Agamas to Saint Umai at 'Uththara Kosa Manggai'. The Tamil Agamas is the virtues of the Thirukural in ceremonial form.
- BC 2387 : Kapaadapuram was destroyed in the second big deluge. Eelam drifted away from the main land.
- BC 2000 – 1000 : Tamil kings of Tamil Nadu and the Tamils of Indus valley waged wars with the Sanskrit Aryans of Kandhram. Chera Princes embarked on sea voyages and they ruled the Tamils of Eelam.
- BC 1915 : Third Tamil Sangam is held at Tiruparankundram.
- BC 1700 - 1300 : The Aryan Sanskrit invasion of North India brings an end to the Indus Valley cities. The Tamil religion and culture ceases to exist in North India.
- BC 1500 : Use of iron. Cinnamon is exported from Tamil Chera Nadu to Middle East.
- BC 1300 - 200 : Tamil Country has four kingdoms Chera, Cholas, Pandya and Eelam.
- BC 950 : Jewish people arrives in Tamil country in King Solomon's merchant fleet.

2. Sangam period of Tamil Independence (600 BC – 300 AD)

- BC 600 : Tamil Brahmi became prevalent as the Tamil script
- BC 500 : The age of Karikar Cholan.
- BC 478 : Prince Vijaya, exiled by his father, King Sinhabahu, sails with 700 followers. Establishes Sinhala Kingdom in the present day Sri Lanka.
- BC 350 -328 : The age of Udhayan Cheralathan (Kuttuvan Neduncheiralathan).
- BC 328 – 270 : Son Imayavaramban Neduncheralathan (The victor of Aryan and who subdued the Yavanas).
- BC 300 : Mention about the Kingdoms of Chera, Chola, Pandya and Sathyaputhra in inscriptions. Tamil and Pragratham were the written and spoken languages till 2nd century BC. The coins contained Tamil on one side and Pragratham on the other side.
- BC 300 – 400 : Thiranathumakni compiled the Thol kapiyam. He was the son of Jamathakni and student of the grammarian Agathiyar. Agathiyar compiled a similar work known as the “Agathiyam” which is now lost. Thol Kapiyam is made up of three books, namely: Book One on Tamil Alphabet, Book Two on Tamil Vocabulary and Book Three on Subject Matter dealing with the Life and Times of that period.
- BC 270 – 245 : The age of Cheran Palyanai Selkezhu Kuttuvan, Cholan Perumpoon Chenni and Pandyan Ollaiyar Bhoodhappandyan.
- BC 251 : Emperor Asoka sends his son Mahendra (BC 270 -204) to spread Buddhism in present day Sri Lanka, where he is revered to this day as the national faith’s founding missionary.
- BC 250 : Asoka’s inscription recording the four kingdoms (Chera, Cholas, Pandya and Satyaputra) of the Tamil country.
- BC 245 -220 : The reign of Cheran Kalankaikkanni Narmudichiral.
- BC 220 – 200 : War between Karikar Cholan and Perum Cheralathan.
- BC 220 – 180 : The reign of Kudakko Neduncheralathan. The age of Uraiur Cholan Thithan and the love pair Attanathi and Aadhimandhi.
- BC 200 – 300 : This is the Sungam age where books of Sungam Literature are written.

- BC 150 : Kharavela of Kalinga records his conquest of a federation of Tamil kings in his Hathigumpha inscription.
- BC 145 – 101 : Elara Chola is the King of Tamil Eelam and contemporary of Dutte Gamini.
- BC 125 – 87 : The reign of Aadu Kotpattu Cheralathan.
- BC 101 : First Tamil Genocide. The Aryan King Dutte Gamini of Sinhala Buddhism kills King Elara Chola takes possession of Eelam and commits genocide on millions of Tamils. It is the first genocide in human history and is documented in the Sinhala Buddhist scripture the ‘Mahavamsa’.
- BC 87 – 62 : The reign of Selvakkadungo Vazhiathan. The reign of cheiftains like Pari, Ori, Kari, Killi, Engi etc.
- BC 62 – 42 : The reign of Yanaikatchei Mandharan Cheral Itrumporai. The rule of Cheraman Maari Venko in Thondi. Important leaders during this period: Thalalayalkanathu Chervenra Nedunchezhan, Mangudi Marudhanar and Kalladanar (Kalladam).
- BC 42 – 25 : The reign of Peruncheral Irumporai. Tamil kings Cheraman Maarivenko, Rajasooyan Vetta Peru Narkilli, and Kanapereil Kadandha Ukkirap Peruvazhudhi were united. Avvaiyar applauded their unity by cheering ‘Let your unity live long as ever as today’. Important leaders of this period were Mosi keernanar, Pon Mudiyar, Konkanangkizhan Nannan, Karumbanoor Kizhan and Nanjil Valluvan.
- BC 31 : Thiruvalluvar, the Tamil Prophet is born on 15 January during Pongol. Tamil Marai (Thirukural) is written by Thiruvalluvar. Tamil Humanism flourishes. Thiruvalluvar made Tamil Marai as the greatest contribution of Tamils to the world.
- BC 25 – 9 : The reign of Zlancheral Irumporai. The age of Pandyan Pazhayan Maran, Koperuncholan, Pisirandhaiyar, Pothiar, Pulvatrur Eyirriyanar.
- BC 20 : A mission or ambassador was sent to Augustus Caesar by the Pandiyan King as recorded by Strabo, the Greek geographer. Tamils took the lead in developing sea trade.
- BC 9 – 1 : The age of Karuvur Eriya Olval Kopperuncheral Irumporai and Pandyan Keeran Sathan.
- BC 5 : Avvaiyar 1, the saint, wrote the Aathisoodi. Avvaiyar is a Tamil word meaning ‘a learned woman of old wisdom’.

- AD 1 – 20 : The reign of Cholan Kulamutrathu Thunjiya Killivalavan. The age of Kovur Kizhar, Thamappal Kannanar, Iyur Mudavanar, Avur Muzhan Kizhar, Alathur Kizhar, Matrokkathu Nappasalaiyar, Idaikadanar, Aduthurai Masathanar and Vellaikudi Naganar.
- AD 10 : Ellalan Chola (grandson of Elara) becomes a disciple of Thiruvallvur. He makes a Gold brick inscription of Thiruvalluvar name on it.
- AD 21 – 42 : The reign of Kuraappalli Thunjiya Perunthirumalavan. The age of Cheran Kuttuvan Kodhai, Karikilar and Velliambalathu Thunjiya Peruvazhudhi.
- AD 42 – 100 : The reign of Cholan Chenganen and Cholan Nalluruthiran. Pandyan Nanmaran compiled Kalithogai.
- AD 52 : Saint Thomas the Apostle of Jesus arrives in the Chera Kingdom of the Tamil country. His followers came as Roman merchants bringing horses to trade with the Tamil country. He preached the Gospel. The Pandyan kingdom bought horses from him. His followers were called Saint Thomas Christians. He meets Saint Maanikkavaasagar.
- AD 53 : Legend records Saint Thomas death in present day Chennai, one of the twelve Apostles of Christ and founder of the church of the Syrian Malabar Christians in Goa.
- AD 53 : The lifetime of Manikkavasagar, the saint, born at Thiruvadavur, near Madurai. He wrote the Thiruvasagam, 51 poems of 656 verses. Scholars claim that he accepted Saint Thomas as his teacher. Buddhist and Jains were minority communities and developing their power bases in Tamil lands. Eelam king was converted into Buddhism and marched to Chola kingdom to convert the Chola king. A debate was held between the Buddhists and the Tamil Religious leader Maanikkavaasagar. The Buddhists were defeated in argument and the Eelam King converted back to Tamil Religion.
- AD 100 : Pathumanar, the saint, wrote Naladiyar.
- AD 101 – 120 : The reign of Pandyan Chithiramadathu Thunjiya Nanmaran.
- AD 120 – 144 : The reign of Aryappadai Kadantha, Nedunchezhan. The three northern Kings opposed. Athikkumba inscription confirms this.
- AD 130 : Chera king Udayanjeral rules in the Chera country

- AD 145 – 175 : The reign of Vetrivier Chezhan. Chera Sanguttavan built temple for Kanagi. The period of Kayavahu, the King of Eelam and Cholan Mavankilli.
- AD 175 – 200 : Gajabahu I is the King of Tamil Eelam and is a contemporary of Chera Senguttuvan and Karikala Chola.
- AD 190 : Chera Kadukko Ilanjeral Irumporai rules in the Chera country
- AD 195 : Writing becomes widespread and *vattezhuttu* evolved from the Tamil Brahmi. It becomes a mature script for writing Tamil
- AD 200 : Avvaiyar 2, the saint, wrote Konrai Vendhan.
- AD 200 : Karikal Chola becomes King of Chola. He makes Eelam a province of the Chola kingdom. He builds irrigation works and beautified cities of Uraiyar, Kanchipuram and Keveri Poom Paddinam with good town planning, buildings, parks and gardens. He promoted foreign trade with the Roman Empire and was fond of the wine brought by Graeco-Roman merchants. Hindus, Jains and Buddhists were minority religions enjoying the right to freedom of religion. The majority followed the Tamil Religion or Tamil Humanism. The fishermen used boats to catch fish and prawns and they kept herds of goats and other animals. The Tamil religion's musicians held street processions in glory of Namasivaya, a scene similar to a poem in Thiruvagam. At the end of Karikal 45 year reign, he established Tamil unity with the Pandiyan King Peru Valuthi and Chera King Chelvak-Kadunko-Vali Athan II. The Chera King married Karikal's daughter named Sonai and they had two sons. The youngest son named "Ilangko Adigal" was the author of the epic 'Silappathikaram'. This need for unity of Tamil Kings was necessary in the face of threats to their security posed by the expansionism of the Aryan Sanskrit enemies from North India. He also established a 'Hall of Arts' known as 'Sithira Mandapam' in Kaveri Paddinam. Carpenters from Greece worked at the Palace of Karikal Chola. His city exported pepper, gold and precious stones from the northern mountains, pearls from the southern seas and coral from the eastern seas, and articles of food from Eelam.
- AD 200 : Tamil Kingdoms established in Cambodia and Malaysia.
- AD 210 : Pandya Nedunchelivan rules in Madurai and defeats his enemies at the battle of Talaiyalanganam
- AD 210 : Kannagi, the saint, fights for the Human Right principle of 'The right to life'. She protests against the death penalty and causes a civil disobedience in the capital city of Madurai. She is a freedom fighter for justice and

Women's Rights. Illango Adigal, the saint, wrote Sippatikaram which is Kannagi's struggle.

- AD 250 : Ilango Adigal, the saint, is born. He is the author of the Silappatikaram.
- AD 250 – 275 : The reign of Varaguna Pandyan
- AD 265 : Jaffna Peninsula or 'Mani-Pallavam' was a prominent port for seafarers. Killi-Valavan the son of Karikal Chola visited this port. He married Peeli-Valai, the daughter of the Naga King Valai-vanan who ruled the Jaffna Peninsula from his capital Nagadipa in what is now the Vanni land on the mainland. He had a son by her. The city Kaveri-Paddinam became submerged in the ocean. The capital of the Chola Kingdom was transferred to Kancheepuram. Here King Killivalavan died. All the three Tamil Kings, Peru-Nar-Killi the Chola, Ukkira-Peru-Valuthi, the Pandiyans and Ma-Ven-Ko the Chera were present together at his funeral ceremony, when the funeral oration was delivered by the poetess Avvaiyar 2, a saint. She warns the three Tamil Kings of the dangers of disunity. She said: "You Monarchs! Lords of the bannered chariots and yellow umbrellas of your sovereignty! May you forever remain assembled in unity as you have done now. I only know this. This Tamil country is as beautiful and as well endowed as the Naga Land, "Eelam". Although all this belongs to you, you cannot take it with you when it is time for you to depart this world at the end of your allotted span of life. It will pass away into the hands of foreigners who may prove to be more worthy of it if you are disunited and seek to dominate each other. When it is time for you to sink there is no other guarantor for you but your good deeds. May you flourish in unity and in good deeds for as many days countless as the stars in the sky and as the rain drops in heavy showers."
- AD 290 : Christians settle in the Tamil Country. Many Tamils embrace Christianity.

3. Kalabhras Kingdom period of Tamil Independence over the Southern part of Tamil Nadu (300 AD – 600 AD)

- AD 300 : Tamil Humanism influences the philosophy of Buddhism and Jainism. However the latter still clinged to Vedic Sanskrit beliefs. Kanagi's humanist revolution gave impetus to the rise of the Kalabhras Buddhist and Jain leaders.
- AD 300 – 700 : Dominance of Kalappirar over the Southern part of Tamil Nadu and the reign of Pallava over the Northern Tamil Nadu.
- AD 300 : Avvaiyar 3, the saint, wrote Aranericharam.
- AD 300 – 590 : Kalabhras rule the Tamil country and displace the traditional rulers. Kalabhras bring unity of four kingdoms. The four kingdoms of Chera, Cholas, Pandya and Eelam are ruled by the Kalabhras. The Tamil lands were ruled by Jains and Buddhist Kalabhras. Jain and Buddhist ideological hegemony dominated.
- AD 400 : Avvaiyar 4, the saint, wrote Nithi-Neri-Vilakkam.
- AD 500 : Avvaiyar 5, the saint, wrote Nanneri.
- AD 560 – 590 : Pandya Kadungon rules from Madurai and displaces the Kalabhras from the south
- AD 570 : Cultural Resistance Period against Foreign Religious Persecution begins.
- AD 573 – 654 : The lifetime of Thirunavukarasu. Thirunavukarasu (Appar), the saint, is born. He was born in a farmer family at Amur, now in South Arcot, Tamil Nadu. He is the author of the Thevarams. He wrote 3066 Thirumurai verses. He resisted against the Jain religious domination.
- AD 590 – 620 : Pandyan Kadungon established Pandyan Kingdom defeating Kalappirars.
- AD 600 : Avvaiyar 6, the saint, wrote Muthurai.
- AD 638 – 654 : Lifetime of Thirunyaanasambandhar. Tamil Thirunyaanasambandhar, the saint, is born in Tanjavur. He wrote 4158 verses that make up the first three books of Thirumurai. He is the author of the Thiruk-Kadai-Kaapu. He resisted against the Jain religious domination. He introduced Tamil as a national surname.

4. Pallava Colonization of Tamils in the Northern part of Tamil Nadu 550 AD – 668 AD

- AD 550 to 600 : Pallava Hindu kingdoms rise to power. Pallava Simha Vishnu overthrows the Kalabhras in Tondaimandalam
- AD 600 to 630 : Pallava Mahendra Varma I rules in Kanchipuram. The paintings of Sithannavayil were painted during this period. He converted to Saivism from Jainism on the advice of Saint Thirunavukarasu.
- AD 630 – 668 : The reign of Narasimha Varma. He conquered the Chalukkiya King, Pulikesi II. He brought the idol of Vinayaka from Vadhabhi and converted Tamils to worship Ganesha.

5. Pandya, Chola and Jaffna Kingdom period of Tamil Independence (700 AD – 1621 AD)

5.1. Pandya period

- BC 800 : Sangam Pandya kingdom begins.
- AD 590 -620 : The age of Pandiyan King Kadungon, who defeated the Kalappirars, and restored the rule of Pandyan dynasty.
- AD 620 – 645 : The age of Maravarman Avani Choolamaani. His Queen was Mangayarkarasi and his Chief Minister was Kulachirayar.
- AD 645 – 670 : The period of the King Chendhan. The cave temple Malaiadi Kurichi was built during his reign.
- AD 670 – 700 : The reign of Arikesari Maar Varman. Pandikovai was written about him.
- AD 700 : Ulagnathan, the saint, wrote Ulaga neethi.
- AD 700 : Moors, who are Arab Muslim traders, settle in Eelam. They contributed to the prosperity and enriched the Tamil nation and culture. They married Tamil women and left behind a legacy.
- AD 700 : Second Tamil Genocide. The Aryan King Rama of Ayodha kills King Ravana, takes possession of Eelam and commits genocide on millions of Tamils. It is the second genocide in human history and is documented in

the Hindu scripture the 'Ramayana'. The Ramayana is written in Sanskrit by the sage Valmiki. Rama is worshiped as a God in Hinduism.

- AD 700 – 730 : Kochadiyan Ranadheeran won the navy at Maruthur. He conquered Kongu Nadu.
- AD 730 – 765 : Maravarman Rajasimhan, who defeated Nandivarman Pallava at many places. He defeated Pallava king at Kuzhumboor. He had the title of 'Ther Maran'. Rajasimhan builds the Kailasanatha temple in Kanchipuram and many of the shore temples in Mamallapuram.
- AD 750 : A necklace timepiece, Kadikaram in Tamil is worn by an Emperor.
- AD 765 – 815 : Parandhaga Nedunchadiyan is known also as Varagunan I. He defeated Nandivarman Pallavan at Pennadagam. He had the title of Vathsalan. He is the author of Veilvikkudi Seevara Mangalam and Chinnamanur Copper plates.
- AD 800 : Avvaiyar 7, the saint, wrote Neethi Venba.
- AD 800 : Lifetime of Karaikal Ammaiyar, a woman saint of Tamil Nadu. Her life highlights how husbands neglect and abuse their wives.
- AD 800 : Lifetime of Andal, girl child saint of Tamil Nadu. She sung devotional poems to Thirumal. Her life shows the abuse of girl children by the Brahmins. Her poems which were preserved in oral tradition were recorded in the 16th century by Brahmins. They modified her poems and included Krishna's pastimes of the Mahabharata into it.
- AD 807 – 825 : Sundharamoorthi, the saint, is born in Thirunavalur in present day South Arcot. He is the author of the Thirupattu. His 100 poems in praise of Siva make up Thirumurai book 7. Thiru Tondattohai poem, naming the saints, is the basis for Saint Sekkilar's Periyapuram. The Tamil lands were free from all foreign religious domination. Political independence followed from this religious freedom.
- AD 815 – 862 : Pandya King Srimara Srivallaban rules in Madurai. Srimara Srivallaban captured some parts of Pallava country. His queen was Akkala Nimmadi. He assumed the title 'Parakkara Kolagalan.'
- AD 840 : Srimara defeats Sinhala Lanka and liberates the Tamils in the northern provinces of Eelam which was occupied by the Sinhala Lanka King Sena I
- AD 862 : Sinhala Lanka army under Sena II invades the Pandya country and sack Madurai. Tamil King Srimara is killed in battle.

- AD 862 – 885 : Varaguna II captured the place Idaivai in Chola country.
- AD 885 – 905 : Parandhaga Veera Narayanan is king.
- AD 905 – 920 : Maravaman Rajasimhan. During his period, Parandhaya Cholan captured Madhurai. He went to Eelam and left his crown and other valuables things there. From Eelam he went to Chera country.
- AD 1010 : Thirumurai, the Tamil devotional hymns of Saiva saints was collected as an anthology by Saint Nambiandar Nambi.
- AD 1190 : The rise of Pandya Empire. Maravarman Sundarapandiyan removed the Chola domination.
- AD 1216 – 1238 : Maravarman Sundarapandiyan I, younger brother of Sadayavarman Kulasekaran, was mainly responsible for the rise of Second Pandiyan Empire.
- AD 1232 : Bosala Veera Narasihan defeated Pandyas at Mahendramangalam on the banks of Kaveri. He defeated Kadava Koperunchingan, released Raja Raja III from captivity and restored the Chola country to the Cholas.
- AD 1238 – 1251 : Maravaraman Sundara Pandyan II is king.
- AD 1250 : Lifetime of Meikandar, a Saiva saint who establishes the Meikandar school of Saiva Siddhanta philosophy. His 12 Sutra Siva Jnana Bodham becomes its core scripture.
- AD 1251 – 1268 : Sadayavarman Sundara Pandyan I subdued Rajendra Chola III and put an end to the Chola Empire. He expanded the Pandyan Kingdom and made it an Empire. He invaded Eelam. He assumed the titles of 'Emmandalamum Kondaruliyavar', 'Ellam Thalainya Perumal' and 'Ponveynta Permal'. He also issued a coin in the name of 'Ellam Thalainya Perumal'.
- AD 1268 – 1310 : Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan rules in Madurai and the country prospers. Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan got the title of 'Emmandalamum Konderuliya Kollam Kondan'. He conquered Sinhala country and brought the tooth the symbol of Buddha to Madhurai. Sinhala King Parakramabahi III came to Madhurai, expressed his submission and got back the Buddha's holy symbol. The event occurred before AD 1284. Italian traveller Marco Polo toured Pandyan country during this period. Kayalpattinam was the best part during his administration. He ruled for more than 40 years. He had the Arab merchants in his royal court. He had heaps of gold, gems and pearls. Malik Gafoor, the general of Alludeen Kilji invaded and occupied the country.

AD 1272 : Marco Polo visits present day India enroute to China.

AD 1311 : Ravivarman Kulasekaran, nephew of Vikrama Pandyan pushed the Muslim forces up to Vegavathi river banks and crowned himself as the sovereign king of all the three territories. He assumed the titles of 'Kallam Adipan' and 'Saint of Koobakanadu' according to Poonamalle inscription. Pandya dynasty ends after the death of Kulasekara.

Marco Polo had mentioned that the treasury of Maravaman Kulesekaran had 12000 million gold coins. The industries were agriculture, weaving, production of oil by oil press, the production of jaggery from sugar cane juice and palmyra juice. It also had salt production, fishing and pearl fishing.

It had commercial products such as cotton textiles, silk cloths, precious stones (nine gems), jewels, perfumes like sandal and civet (Javvadhu), ginger roots, cardamom, cinnamon, pepper, spices, medicinal products, trained elephants and horses.

Wasaf a Muslim traveller had written the biography of Sundara Pandyan.

AD 1400 : Life of Namma Alvar, greatest of Alvar Saints.

5.2. Chola period

BC 800 : Sangam Chola kingdom begins.

AD 846 : Vijay Balan Chola rises to power in Tanjavur.

AD 850 – 875 : Vijay Balan Chola defeated Mutharaiyars and captured Thanjavur. Built a fort at Thanjai and made it the capital. He got the title of 'Thajai Konda Parakesari'. He consolidated the Chola Empire.

AD 875 – 907 : Adythyam Chola expanded Chola Empire up to Kalathi in the north. He built many temples on both the banks of Kaviri. He covered the Thillaiyambalam Ragasiyam with golden roof. He passed away at Kalathi.

AD 900 : Vaishnavas, Shaktas and other Aryan religious settlers arrive to convert Tamils.

AD 900 : Athi vira Raman , the saint, wrote Verti-Verkai.

- AD 903 : Adythyian Chola killed Aparajitha seated on an elephant and defeats the Pallava king
- AD 905 : Nampi Antar Nampi, the saint, was asked by Adythyian Chola to recover the hymns from Citamparam, edit them and set them to music. He completed this task and the books are called the Thirumurai. Hymn singing was a separate form of worship in Tamil Saivism.
- AD 906 -952 : Parandagan I defeated Pandyan Rajasimhan and captured Madhurai. He invaded Eelam. The famous Uthirameerur inscription on Panchayat system belongs to his period. He built the temples Adhythyeswaram and Kothanda Rameswaram in memory of his father. He assumed the title of 'Madhurai' and 'Eelem Kanda Kopparakesari'
- AD 952 – 956 : Kandaradhythya invaded Madhurai and captured it. A Saivite composed the work 'Thiruvisaippa'. Sambian Madhevi was his Queen. She is a loyal patron of Tamil Saivism, built ten temples and inspires and molds her grandnephew prince, son of Sundara Chola into the great temple builder, Emperor Rajaraja I.
- AD 956 – 957 : Arinjayan is a great hero. Since he died at Atrur, he was called as 'Atrur Thunjiya Devar'. Raja Raja I erected temple (Pallippadai) for him.
- AD 956 – 973 : Sundara Chola, the Parandhaga II defeated Veera Pandiyan at Chevur battle. He was called 'Madhurai Konda Rajakesari'.
- AD 970 – 985 : Uthama Cholan, son of King Kandaradhythyan (952 – 956).
- AD 985 -1014 : Raja Rajan Chola I is the greatest Chola King. He defeated the naval force at Kandhaloor Chalai. He had the titles of Sivapadha Sekaran and Mummudi Cholan. He conquered Pandyan and Lankan Kingdoms, conquered the overseas country Munneer Pazhandheevu Panneerayiram. He built the great temple of Thanjavur. He made copper statues. He recovered Thevaram hymns from obscurity. He inscribed several inscriptions.
- AD 990 : Raja Rajan Chola I liberates Eelam from the reign of King Mahinda. Mahinda took refuge in the hill country of Rohana in the south of the island which is the traditional sovereign homeland of the Sinhala people. Raja Rajan Chola I moved the capital city of Anuradhapura to a central location in Polonnaruwa. He built in Polonnaruwa a stone temple for Siva.
- AD 1000 : The Jaffna Kingdom was part of the Chola Empire.
- AD 1000 : Avvaiyar 8, the saint, wrote Nalvazhi.

- AD 1010 : Raja Rajan Chola I completes the Brihadisvara Temple.
- AD 1012 -1044 : Rajendra Chola I, son of Raja Rajan Chola I becomes king. He won the Pandyan kingdom and enthroned his son giving him the title 'Chola Pandyan'.
- During the reigns of Raja Rajan and Rajendra the Pandya kingdom was under the Chola Empire as a Governor's territory. In gangai Kanda Cholapuram there is a temple, a replica of the Great Thanjai Temple in memory of Rajendra's victories. These temples were Memorial Centers.
- AD 1023 : Rajendra I goes on an expedition to the Ganges.
- AD 1024 : Rajendra I send victorious naval expeditions to present day Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia, initiating decline of Mahayana Buddhist Empire of Srivijaya.
- AD 1024 : Rajendra I led a successful naval expedition and defeated Sri Vijaya Empire of the Bay of Bengal. The campaign ended with the restoration of the kingdom to its ruler subject to his acknowledging Chola suzerainty. The success of this expedition was due to the island chain of Ma-Nakkavaram now called Nicobars. A Tanjore rock cut inscription dated 1030 AD left by Rajendra Chola records its capture. He called this chain of islands the 'ottiyanam'.
- AD 1041 : Rajendra defeats Sinhala Lanka's aggression.
- AD 1044 – 1054 : Rajendra Chola I, die in the battle of Koppam against Western Chalukyas.
- AD 1050 : Thirukadavur Uyya Vantha, the saint, wrote Thiruvuntiyar.
- AD 1054 – 1070 : After Rajendra Chola II, his younger brother Veera Rajendra Chola came to the throne. He defeated Chalukyas at Koppam and crowned himself there. He marched up to Dungabhadra defeated Chalukyas and erected a victory column there. Buddhmithran made his grammatical treatise in Rajendra's name. It was called the 'Veera Choliam' He died in AD 1070.
- AD 1068 : Prince Anabayan left on a mission to China on behalf of Veera Rajendra Chola.
- AD 1070 – 1129 : Kulothunga Chola becomes King. The grandson of Rajendra II rushed to Chola country and crowned himself as the Chola king with the title 'Kulothunga'. Kulothunga withdrew the taxes which the people detested and so he was called as 'Sungam Thavirtha Cholan' In AD 1112, the Kalinga war was held under the leadership of Kulothunga. Cholas won the

war at Kalingam. In 'Kalingathu Parani' written by Jayankondar speaks of this war.

Kulotunga Chola begins a war against Sanskrit religions, idol worship and rituals. He dumps all idols into the sea. The Vishnu idol from Chidambaram was removed by him and dumped into the ocean. Tamils assert their Tamil Religious sovereignty.

- AD 1130 – 1133 : Vikrama Chola ruled the kingdom.
- AD 1133 – 1150 : Kuluthunga II becomes King. Anapayan, Apayan, Thiru Neerru Cholan are his other names. Ottakoother created Pillaith Tamil. He renovated and installed the golden roof of the Ragasiyam for Chidaparam Nataraja Temple.
- Sekkilar was the Tamil Chief Minister under Chola Emporor Kulothunga II (reign 1133 – 1150).
- AD 1150 : Sekkilar, the saint, wrote Periya Puranam. He consolidates the 12 books of Thirumurai. Periya Puranam has 4286 verses. It is an epic biography (hagiography) of 63 Saiva saints.
- AD 1150 – 1163 : Raja Rajan II diverted river Kaviri through Maliya hill for agriculture. He built Raja Rajeswaram temple Tharasuram near present day Kumbakonam. 'Muththamizh Thalaivan' is his title.
- AD 1163 – 1178 : Rajathirajan rules the kingdom.
- AD 1178 – 1218 : Kolothunga III became the Chola King. He defeated Kulasekara Pandiyan. Madhurai became a Chola territory. The Chola king was known as Chola Pandya Thambiran.
- AD 1180 : Meikandar, the saint, wrote Sivagnana Bodham.
- AD 1185 : Arul Nandi Sivachariyar, the saint, wrote Sivagnana Siddiyar.
- AD 1190 : Thirumular, the saint, wrote Thirumanthiram.
- AD 1218 – 1246 : Raja Rajan III is defeated by Maraverman Sundara Pandian.
- AD 1244 : Marai Gnana Sambandhar, the saint, orally says to Umapati 'Dead Wood'.
- AD 1244 – 1320 : Umapati, the saint, wrote Thiruvarutpayan.

AD 1246 – 1279 : Rajendra Chola III becomes king of the Chola dynasty. During this period Sadayavarman Sundara Pandyan conquered the Cholas and absorbed their territory into the Pandya Kingdom. He put an end to the Chola kingdom and revived the Pandya Empire. The Chola dynasty ends with the death of Rajendra Chola III.

6. The Great Tamil Divide

AD 1311 : The Tamils from the Indian subcontinent become separated from the Eelam Tamils.

The 3 Tamil Kingdoms Chera, Cholas and Pandya ends. Their political independence on the Indian subcontinent ends.

The political independence of Eelam Tamils continues until colonized by Europeans.

Tamil Humanism ceases to exist in the Tamil country. Tamils follow Hinduism, Christianity and Islam.

Eelam Tamils - Only 3 million Tamils are left claiming its Tamil Nation identity in Eelam.

7. Urdu Islamic Military Rule of Tamils 1311 - 1377

AD 1311 : Malik Gafoor, the general of the Delhi Sultan invades the Tamil country and establishes Urdu Islamic military rule. The Pandya and Chola Tamils are governed by Muslim foreigners. Urdu Islamic hegemony dominated.

AD 1377 : Urdu Islamic military rule ends.

8. Telugu Nayak Hindu Military Colonization of Tamils 1377 – 1736

AD 1377 : Kumara Kampana the general of the Telugu Vijaya Nagar Empire invades the Tamil country and defeated the Muslim Generals of the Delhi Sultan. The Telugu Vijaya Nagar empire generals took control of the Tamil country which eventually gave rise to the Telugu Nayak Military colonization. Many Tamil freedom fighters challenged Telugu Nayak rule

but the revolts were brutally crushed. The Nayak made Maduraiveeran a God who crushed every revolt of the Tamils. Tamils are colonized by Nayak Hindu foreigners. Tamil Nadu came under the administration of Nayaks after the advent of Vijayanagar Empire.

- AD 1377 : Nayak Hindu hegemony dominated. Nayak Hindu genocide of Tamils begins.
- AD 1377 : The Nayak Brahmin settlers of the 1600's were of the most ferocious type. They took control of the temples, modified the meaning of Tamil words so that the Tamil scriptures are denigrated and the saint's activities made bizarre. The Nayak Hindus used Telegu and the Brahmins used Sanskrit to change the pronunciation and meaning of Tamil words, created new idols like Maduraiveerean and converted statues of saints into idols for Tamils to worship. This ensured that for generations to come the Tamils became primitive and backward.
- AD 1377 : Nayak Hindu colonization forced the majority of the Tamils to follow rituals, superstition and mythology. The people gave up their Tamil philosophy, culture and religion. Between 1377 to 1947, within a few generations the Tamil population lost their religion and culture. Their language used borrowed Sanskrit words and the Tamil nation was reduced to a primitive state because education was denied to the majority of the people. The Hindu caste system made them a backward nation.
- AD 1377 – 1500 : Alvar saints of Tamil Nadu flourish, singing 4000 poems for saint Thirumal. (In the 16th century it was written in their book called Nalayira Divya Prabandham). The Sanskrit gods of Narayana, Rama and Krishna was integrated into the stories of Thirumal by Nayak Hindu Brahmins. Thirumal was considered as another name for Vishnu.
- AD 1382 : Nayak Brahmin priests introduce Temple prostitution. The Temples were converted into brothels. Tamil girls who performed arts and dances were made Temple prostitutes. The Temples became centers where prostitutes lived and the Nayak military visited them. Tamil arts and dance could not receive funding as the Chola kingdom did not exist. The women could only earn a living by becoming a Temple prostitute. A Temple prostitute was called Devadasi. Tamil girls were forced to become Temple prostitutes to raise money for idol worship and to feed and support the Brahmins. Many illegitimate children were born to these girls and their fathers were either Nayak Hindu priests or Nayak soldiers. In 1947, the Tamil Nadu state banned Temple prostitution.

- AD 1390 : Siva Purana and the Agamams was written in Sanskrit. It promoted Sanskrit Saivism and was imposed on Tamils. It prescribes the Hindu rituals to be done.
- AD 1400 : The names of Tamil places and institutions were changed to Sanskrit. The Tamil Cirrampalam was changed to Chidambaram. Brahmins in the Vijayanagar Empire propagated Shankara's Vedanta rituals. Chidambaram adopted Vedantic ideas of worship.
- AD 1500 : Lifetime of Arunagirinathar, the saint, who wrote Thiruppugal.
- AD 1546- 1575 : During this period Soorappa Nayak and Kritinappa Nayak ruled Tamil Nadu.
- AD 1595 : Construction is begun on Chidambaram Temple's Hall of a Thousand Pillars in Tamil Nadu, completed in 1685.
- AD 1600 : Nayak Hindu Brahmins reintroduces Hindu rituals to Tamils which was stopped in the year 210 AD by Saint Kanagi. During Nayak Hindu colonization, most of the Tamils were converted to Nayak Hinduism and corrupt Hindu practices which were not practiced for over 2000 years were brought back.
- AD 1601 : East India Company was founded. The East India Company established headquarters at Chennai, at the beginning of 17th century.
- AD 1619 : Jaffna Tamil Kingdom is annexed and present day Eelam ruling dynasty deposed by Portuguese.
- AD 1623 – 1659 : Thirumalai Nayak ruled Tamil Nadu. Adhireerarama Pandyan wrote the story of Nalan in the name of 'Nydatham'. He also authored Linga Puranam, Mahapuranam, Koormapuram, Pathiruppathu and Andhathi in praise of Siva in Karivalamvanthanallur and Kokkogam by Adhiveerarama Pandyan, younger brother of Varathunga Rama Pandyan. They belong to Pandya Royal family.
- This is the period when Thirumal poems were written and modified to assimilate Sanskrit scriptures.
- AD 1650 : Dharmapuram Aadheenam, Saiva monastery, founded near Mayuram South India, by Guru Jnanasambandar.
- AD 1650 : Mariamman, the woman saint, wrote Mariamman Thalaatu. She protested against the Brahmin Priests who were called Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma, who were regarded as Gods and lived in wealth, while Tamils

suffered diseases, famine and poverty. She did service to humanity by helping to cure diseases.

AD 1682 : Christian missionary John de Britts carried out religious work in Madurai area. He visited Thillai and witnessed the genocide of Tamil saints.

AD 1690 : Genocide and massacre of Tamils at the Thillai temple of Chidambaram by the Nayak Hindus. Many Tamil saints were killed. Thousands of Tamils were forced to convert at gun point.

The Three Thousand were Tamil Saints who resided in Thillai with Cirrampalam being its main institution of worship since time immemorial. After their conquest they were replaced by 2999 Bengali Brahmins who arrived with their Bengali Prince. A Saint Siva or Nadaraja was included giving a new Three Thousand priests for the Temple. Tamil Saints were pushed to live in forests or as low caste living in the outskirts of the city.

AD 1706 : The regime of Vijayaranga Chockanathan, grandson of Queen Mangammal. After his rule, his Queen Meenakshi reigned. Chandra Sahib imprisoned Queen Meenakshi. He captured Trichy in 1786 and put an end to the Nayak dynasty.

AD 1712 : Maradhu Pandian. Hailing from an ordinary family, Maradhu Pandian became an inevitable leader of Sivaganga. He organized and campaigned against the British, revolted against the foreign ruler and recovered Sivaganga from the hands of the British and handed it over to the Royal family. Melappan of Ramanathapuram, Singamchetty, Muthu Karuppan and Thanjai Gnanamuthu accepted Maradhu Pandian's leadership. With the support of the Palayakars of Tirunelveli, he formed the coalition of the rebels against the British. No tax payment campaign started in Ramanathapuram. Melappan turned into a revolutionary, was imprisoned and escaped from the prison. He began the no tax campaign in Ramanathapuram.

AD 1736 : Telugu Nayak military rule ends.

9. British Colonial Rule of Tamils 1781 – 1947

AD 1751 : Robert Clive, age 26 seizes Arcot in present day Tamil Nadu as French and British fight for control of South India.

AD 1760 : 4 April, the English captured all the forts. The French surrendered to the English.

- AD 1761 : Pulithevan who ruled Nerkattuseval Palayam in the Western part of Tirunelveli strongly opposed the English and set on the revolt of Palayakars against the British. In 1761, Pulithevan was defeated.
- AD 1761 : Veerpandi Kattaboman, son of Jegaveer Pandian, came to the throne at the age of 30. He had friendly relations with Marudhu Pandias.
- AD 1781 : Christian missionaries arrive strengthening the 1900 years of Saint Thomas Christian heritage among Tamils.
- AD 1781 : Sivaganga and Panchalankurichi heros, Udayana Thevar, Velu Nachiar, Marudu brothers, Kattabommu and Umayan revolted and resisted British colonization.
- AD 1799 : 5 September, Kattabomman battled with the English and won the encounter. In the second battle at Kolarpatti, Kattabomman was defeated by Major Banerman. He went into hiding in the Pudhukottai forest.
- AD 1799 : Veerpandia Kattabomman was hanged on 16 October 1799 at Kayathar. Even at the threshold of death he put up his spirit of independence and heroism. Banerman in his report had commended that the Veerapandia Kattabomman was a hero of valour, bravery and culture, which even his enemies appreciated highly.
- AD 1799 : The rebels attacked the police station and captured the arms. Looted and issued the granaries, food stuffs to the people suffering from hunger. Singam Chetty was killed in the battle at Palamaneri. The rebels, under supervision of Gopala Naicker sprang upon the British camps and plundered the weapons and commodities. Gopala Naicker was the Palayakar of Virupatchi. Gopala Naicker had contact with Marudhu Pandian and organized an extensive Southern alliance against the foreigners. Under Maradhu Pandian's leadership Ramanathapuram became an independent country. Dindigal joined the alliance under the leadership of Gopala Naicker and strengthened it.
- AD 1800 – 1801 : The first struggle of independence in South India. The kings became ineffective. The Palayakars took care of the people's welfare and safeguarded their rights. They had strong forts and armies and had won the good will of the public. They never accepted foreign hegemony.
- AD 1800 – 1801 : First war of independence in Tamil Nadu. Srirangam Declaration of Marudhu Pandian. It was the beginning of the history of Indian Independent Struggle.

- AD 1800 : Brahmins learn the English language and dominate the education, civil service and temples of Tamil Nadu. The existence of the Tamil Religion was denied by the Brahmins.
- AD 1801 : 22 May, Battle at Panchalankurichi. Rain, thunder and storm marred the battle. Panchalankurichi fell. Umaithurai sustained injuries and escaped to Kamudhi, where Maradhu Pandian welcomed him.
- AD 1801 : 24 October, Vellai Marudhu , Chinna Maradhu, Sevathumbi and Muthu Karuppan were hanged at Thiruppathur.
- AD 1801 : 16 November, Umaithurai was killed at Panchalankurichi.
- AD 1802 – 1857 : The English East India Company created and ruled over Madras Province.
- AD 1804 : a Freedom movement was launched in Coimbatore under the leadership of Ramaswamy alias Dasan.
- AD 1806 : 10 July, Sepoy mutiny at Cuddalore.
- AD 1817 -1947 : British took control over the management of Temples. The Brahmin rituals, myths and superstition were the only form of worship that was allowed. The ritual dance of the Thillai Temple was stopped by the British colonial authority and it is now very difficult to reconstruct that great art.
- AD 1820 – 1808 : Rev. G.U. Pope was born in Prince Edward Island. He came to South India in 1839. He made a compilation of selective poems from Thirukural, Naladiyar, Pazhamozhi and Iniyavai Narpathu in the name of ‘Thani Cheyyut Kalambagam’. He translated Thirukural into English.
- AD 1822 - 1879 : Lifetime of Arumuga Navalar, born at Nallur in Jaffna, Eelam. He wrote books on Tamil revival in Eelam. On the request of Father Peter Percival a Christian missionary, he translated the Bible into Tamil.
- AD 1823 – 1874 : Lifetime of Ramalinga Swamigal (Vallar), a saint born at Manidhur, near Chidambaram. He was the founder of Vadalur ‘Hall of wisdom for universal worship’. He founded the Samarasa Sanmarga Sangam in 1865. He started the Sathya Dharuma Salai at Vadalur in 1867. Vallalar, the saint, wrote the Thiruvartupa, Agaval and other books. Vallalar built a temple similar to the Ragasiyam in Vadalur, and reintroduced a form of worship without images. He began the revival of pure Tamil Religion.
- AD 1825 : First massive immigration of Indian Tamil workers from Tamil Nadu to Reunion and Mauritius.

- AD 1832 – 1900 : C.V. Damodaram Pillai, born in Jaffna, Eelam. He was a pioneer in publishing Thirukural, Thirukkovaiyar, Kandhapuram and Periyapuramam.
- AD 1837 : Britain formalizes emigration of Indian indentured laborers to supply cheap labor under a system more morally acceptable to British society than slavery, which was illegal in the British Empire since 1833. Tamils migrate to British colonies around the world establishing the Tamil diaspora. The indentured laborers added value to the British economy.
- AD 1838 : British Guyana receives its first 250 Indian laborers.
- AD 1841 : Farmers in South Arcot had an uprising against the English.
- AD 1841 : Ramanuja Kavirayar for the first time edited and published Thirukural.
- AD 1845 : Trinidad receives its first 197 Indian immigrant laborers.
- AD 1855 – 1906 : U.V. Swaminatha Iyer, born at Uthamathanapuram in Thanjavur. He revived several Sangam Literature such as Pathuppattu, Silappadhikaram, Purananuru, Purapporul, Vemba malai, Manimekalai, Iynkurunuru, Pathitruppathu, Kurunthogai, Ahanahuru and Perungathai by discovering palm leaf writings, editing and publishing them in printed form.
- AD 1860 : Tamils arrive in South Africa as indentured labourers. SS Truro and SS Belvedere dock in Durban, South Africa, carrying first indentured servant labourers (from Madras and Calcutta) to work sugar plantations. With contracts of five years, a total of about 100 000 thousand emigrate over the next 51 years.
- AD 1876 – 1950 : Marai Malai Adigal, the saint, was born on 15 July 1876 at Nagapattinam. He launched the Pure Tamil Movement. He is the author of the works ‘Thamizhar Madham’, ‘Kadavul Nilaikku Marana Kolgaigal Saivam Aga’, ‘Pazhanthamizh Kolgaiye Saiva Samayam’, ‘Siva gnanabodha Araichi’, and Saiva Siddhantha Gnanabodham.
- AD 1877 -1947 : Lifetime of Ananda Coomaraswamy, from Ceylon, was a foremost interpreter of Tamil art and culture to the West.
- AD 1879 : The ‘Leanida’ first emigrant ship to Fiji adds 498 Indian indentured labourers.
- AD 1879 – 1973 : Lifetime of Periyar EVR. In 1905 he undertook pilgrimage to Benaras. In 1919, he was involved in the Indian Independent struggle. In 1920 he participated in the picketing of arrack shops and was imprisoned. In 1925, he started the magazine ‘Kudiyarasu’. He declared the day of launching his magazine as the inaugural day of self-respect movement. From 1954

onwards he extended support to Kamarajar Ministry. From 1967 to 1971 he supported the DMK.

Periyar's books created a revolution in religious and social fields not only in Tamil Nadu but the entire world. Popularly known as 'Thanthai Periyar', EVR was a humanitarian and a humanist. He staunchly supported women's rights, women's education, right of women to work, willing marriage, inter caste marriage and widows' remarriage. He lived for 95 years. His life has been a movement and an institution in Tamil Nadu.

- AD 1882 -1921 : Subramani Baaradhiyaar, wrote poems on the liberation of Tamils.
- AD 1887 – 1920 : Ramanujam was born in Erode present day Tamil Nadu. He was an internationally known mathematician.
- AD 1888 – 1970 : C.V. Raman was a scientist and was the first Tamil to get the Nobel Prize for physics.
- AD 1889 : Seenivasa Padayachi arrives in South Africa and built a Ragasiyam and established a Tamil Sangum in Tinley Manor. He propagated the Tamil Religion.
- AD 1893 – 1974 : G.D. Naidu was an industrialist and inventor in Coimbatore.
- AD 1894 – 1977 : Selvanayagam, father of Tamil Eelam. His selfless work and ambition grouped the Tamils to march towards freedom from the Sinhala oppression in Sri Lanka.
- AD 1898 – 1914 : Valliamma Munuswami Mudliar led the Passive Resistance movement with Gandhi in South Africa. She fought against colonization and apartheid and died after release from prison on 22 February 1914 as a martyr.
- AD 1900 : The revolutionary voice of Bharathiar and the movements of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai attracted the people towards the freedom struggle.
- AD 1902 – 1981 : Devaneyar Pavanar was a Tamil scholar. He is also called Shining Sun of Tamil Language.
- AD 1905 – 1912 : In Tamil Nadu the freedom struggle was progressing in the revolutionary path under the leadership of V.O. Chidambaram from 1905 to 1912 and under the leadership of various leaders from 1913 to 1919.
- AD 1905 : Bharathiar roused nationalism through his orations in public meetings and his writings.

- AD 1907 – 2008 : Lifetime of R.M. Moodali. He was an anti-apartheid activist in South Africa and a leader of Tamil Humanism.
- AD 1908 : In Thoothukudi the people opposed the dominance of foreign shipping companies under the leadership of V.O.C.
- AD 1908 – 1957 : N.S. Krishnan was a man who raised comedy to a thoughtful level to reach the millions through the silver screen to make social change palatable.
- AD 1910 – 1998 : Chandrasekar was the second Tamil who won the Nobel Prize.
- AD 1910 : V.V.S. Iyer, a freedom fighter and a great Tamil scholar, published books entitled, 'Be prepared for sacrifice', 'Bharathamatha calls', and '1857 returns'. He went to Russia and came back learning the technique of manufacturing bombs.
- AD 1910 - 1953 : Lifetime of Siva Subramonia, the saint, who wrote Subramonium in South Africa.
- AD 1911 : On 17 June, Vanchinathan shot dead Ash, a British officer at Maniachi station and sacrificed his life.
- AD 1912 – 1974 : M. Varatharajanar was a great Tamil writer with 85 books to his credit. He was the first Tamil doctorate from Madras University.
- AD 1913 : New law prohibits Indian immigration to South Africa, primarily in answer to white colonist alarm at competition of Indian Merchants and expired labor contracts.
- AD 1918 : The first Trade Union was formed in Chennai by Thiru Vika, Kesava Pillai and Wadia.
- Dr T.M. Nair, Thiagaraja Chettiar, Kesava Pillai and Natesa Mudaliar campaigned for the civil rights of common men and against the dominance of orthodoxy.
- AD 1921 : Devadasi system (Temple prostitution) was abolished by enacting a law. An Act was also passed to give voting rights to women.
- AD 1922 – 1988 : Akilan was born at Perungalur, Pudukkotti Mavattam. He continuously wrote since 1938 for 40 years.
- AD 1924 : Sir John Marshall (1876 – 1958) discovers relics of Indus Valley civilization. He begins large scale excavations.

- AD 1925 : Periyar E.V.R started Vaikom struggle.
- AD 1927 – 1981 : Kavingar Kannadasan who simplified the Sungam literatures to the present day Tamils in the form of silver screen songs.
- AD 1932 : On 1 October the day of Civil disobedience, Kumaraswamy, popularly known as Thirupur Kumaran, took out a procession with his party. Workers holding the flag and raising the slogan ‘Vande Mataram’ He was brutally beaten to death by the police. He came to be known as ‘Kodi Katha Kumaran’. Under the leadership of Rajaji, salt satyagraha was held at Thirumaraikadu (Vedaranyam) in which 100 workers including Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar, O.V. Alagesan, Sardar Vedaratnam and Bombay Tamil representative Subramanian participated chanting the lines of the patriotic song specially composed by Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam Pillai for the occasion.
- AD 1938 : Temple entry law gave religious freedom to common people. The government’s pro Hindi Policy led to anti-Hindi campaign. Periyar EVR was sent to jail for opposing Hindi Imposition.
- AD 1938 : Tamil movement was born in Rajakkamangalam. The pro-Hindi policy led to Dravida Nadu demand.
- AD 1939 : Thalamuthu gave his life to protect the Tamil language.
- AD 1940 : The Dravida Nadu policy took a concrete shape.
- AD 1942 : ‘Quit India’ movement against the British rulers began.
- AD 1944 : Dravidar Kazhagam was formed at the Salem conference.
- AD 1945 : Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress was started under leadership of Mathaneal at Nagercoil. The Campaign demanding merger of Tamil areas into Tamil Nadu was going on in full swing.
- AD 1947 : The police tried to systematically to put down the campaign for the merger of Tamil areas into Tamil Nadu. The people were up in revolt. The police unleashed unprecedented oppression. Mangattu Chelliah and Devasahayam were killed.
- AD 1947 : British colonial rule ends in the Tamil country.

10. Indian Independence 1947

- AD 1947 : In the midnight of 14 August 1947, India gains independence from Britain.
- AD 1948 : Zamindari system was abolished.
- AD 1949 : Dravida Munetra Kazhagam was started under the leadership of Arignar C.N. Annadurai.
- AD 1949 : Dravidar Kazhagam intensified social reformist work. They put forward the fact the superstitions were the cause for the degeneration of the Tamils. They vehemently fought for the abolition of untouchability. It focused its attention on women's liberation, women's' education, willing marriage, widow marriage, orphanages and mercy homes.
- Ad 1952 : M.P. Sivagnam leader of Thaamizharasu Kazhagam, raised voice for the merger of Tamil areas of Chittore district (Andra) into Tamil Nadu.
- AD 1955 : Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), German physicist formula of the Relativity theory dies. He declared Lord Siva (Nataraja) best metaphor for the workings of the universe.
- AD 1956 : Indian government reorganizes states according to linguistic principles.
- AD 1961 : Tamil patriot 'Sankaralinga Nadar' gave his life after 78 days hunger strike against the then Tamil Nadu Congress government to change the name of Madras State to Tamil Nadu without success. Later Aringar Anna during his term in office on 18 July 1967 fulfilled his wishes and named the state as Tamil Nadu.
- AD 1963 : Anti-Hindi agitation under the leadership of Arignar Anna. They burnt the Constitution and the Sanskrit scriptures.
- AD 1964 : Self-immolation of Tamil Magan Chinnaswamy in Trichy protesting against Hindi imposition.
- AD 1964 : 26 January self-immolation by another Tamil Magan Sivalingam in Chennai.
- AD 1965 : Major student demonstration against Hindi imposition in Tamil Nadu on 25 January. Dravida Mannetra Kazhagan observed 26 January as the 'Day of Mourning' in protest against Hindi imposition.

- AD 1969 : Arignar Anna passes away on 3 February. Kalignar M. Karunanidhi was formally elected by the ruling DMK party to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- AD 1972 : Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was started by M.G. Ramachandran, who broke away from the DMK.
- AD 1977 : M.G. Ramachandran became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- AD 1977 : 100 000 Tamil tea pickers expatriated from Sri Lanka are shipped to Chennai, India.
- AD 1981 : Fifth World Tamil Conference was held in Madurai. Universities were established in Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore. Tamil university in Thanjavur, Annai Theresa University for woman in Kodaikanal, Bharathidasan University in Trichy and Bharathiar University in Coimbatore were instituted.
- AD 1983 : Worlds first Women's Engineering College in Vallam, Thanjai. It was named after Periyar EVR and Maniammai.
- AD 2000 : Tamil Nadu population is 55 million. The world Tamil population was 75 million. Indian Tamils work towards assimilation as an Indian nation and unifying their Indian identity. They are patriotic, loyal and proud Indians. They accepted the Hindu religious identity and are Hindu Tamils. Others are Christian Tamils, Muslim Tamils and Buddhist Tamils. They are the Indian nation who linguistically speak Tamil and practice the Hindu Religion. Most Tamils are fluent in the official languages of Hindi and English.

11. The Jaffna Kingdom period of Tamil Independence in Eelam (1215 AD – 1621 AD)

- AD 1215 : Kalinga Segarajasekaran I
- AD 1240 : Kulasekara Pararajasekaran I is King of Jaffna
- AD 1256 : Kulatunga Segarajasekaran II is King of Jaffna
- AD 1279 : Vikkrama Pararajasekaran III is King of Jaffna
- AD 1302 : Varothaya Segarajasekaran IIII is King of Jaffna

- AD 1325 : Marthanda Pararajasekaran IV is King of Jaffna
- AD 1348 : Kunapushana Segarajasekaran IV is King of Jaffna
- AD 1371 : Virothaya Pararajasekaran IV is King of Jaffna
- AD 1380 : Seyaveera Segarajasekaran V is King of Jaffna
- AD 1410 : Kunaveera Pararajasekaran V is King of Jaffna
- AD 1440 : Kanagasuriya Segarajasekaran VI is King of Jaffna
- AD 1561 : Puviraja Pandaram Pararajasekaran VII is King of Jaffna
- AD 1570 : Periya Pillai Segarajasekaran VII is King of Jaffna
- AD 1582 : Puviraja Pandaram II is King of Jaffna
- AD 1591 : Ethirmanasingam Pararajasekaran VIII is King of Jaffna. He built the Raasaakkal-Thampiraan Mutt at Chidambaram. Chidambaram was the center of spiritual influence for the Jaffna Kingdom in all its history as part of the Chola Kingdom.
- AD 1615 : Arasakesari (as Regent for the infant Crown Prince). Tamil Eelam survives as an independent Tamil country until Portuguese colonization.

12. Tamil-Portuguese War of 1560

The King of Portugal, Dom Joao III wanted the King of Jaffna removed from power. He appointed Dom Constantino de Braganza who was a zealous supporter of the Church as the Viceroy of Goa to invade Eelam. On 7 September 1560 he set sail with ninety two vessels to invade Jaffna. The Tamils defended and from every roof and garden Tamil archers poured their arrows. The Portuguese agreed to sign a treaty ending the war and restoring the King to his throne under conditions that the island of Mannar would be retained by the Portuguese.

13. The Dark Ages of Tamil History

The Dark Ages of Tamil history consists of two periods. The first is the European Colonization from 1621 – 1948. This is followed by the Modern Period of Sri Lankan Genocide from 1948 to present.

13.1. Portuguese Colonization

13.1.1. Tamil – Portuguese War of 1619

War broke out on 5 June 1619 between the Tamils and the Portuguese. Constantine de Saa ordered his military commander General Philippe de Oliveira to capture Jaffna. His total army was 230 Portuguese and more than 3000 Sinhala Buddhists.

The Portuguese governor of Colombo, General Constantine de Saa defeated the Jaffna King. He was captured, sent to Goa in chains and executed there by hanging. The war against the Portuguese continued from the Vanni territory on the mainland. Kailaya Vannian, Nalla Mapanan and Pandara Vannian led at different times the movements of resistance first against the Portuguese and later against the Dutch until 1780, a period of nearly one and a half century.

AD 1621 : The Portuguese invade the Kingdom of Jaffna. Tamils are defeated and colonized by the Portuguese foreigners.

13.2. Dutch Colonization

AD 1658 : The Dutch took control of Tamil Eelam. The Tamils are colonized by the Dutch foreigners.

13.3. British Colonization

AD 1796 : The British took control of Tamil Eelam. The Tamils are colonized by the British foreigners.

AD 1802 : The Treaty of Amiens of 1802/3 which ended the First Napolenic War allowed the British to retain the territories in Ceylon captured from the Dutch. The Portuguese, the Dutch and the British administered the North East of the island, Tamil Eelam, as a single unit. The Sinhala had its own administration.

AD 1833 : The Colebrooke Commission Report of 1833 merged these territories with the rest of the island for supervisory convenience thus reducing the Tamil population to a minority status in the island. The Tamils were then subjected to discrimination, poverty, economic loss and racism and religious oppression from the majority Sinhala people.

AD 1853 -1924 : Sir Ponnabalam Arunachalam was the youngest son of Mudaliyar A. Ponnambalam and was born on 14 September 1853. In 1913 he was knighted at the hands of King George V at Buckingham Palace. He founded the Ceylon Tamil League putting forward the demand for a separate, sovereign state for the Tamils naming it “Tamil Eelam”. He died on 9 January 1924.

13.4. Sri Lankan Colonization and Genocide of Tamils

AD 1948 : Third Tamil Genocide. The Sinhala nation takes possession of Eelam and commits genocide on millions of Tamils. It is the worst form of structural genocide in human history and is supported by Sinhala Buddhist scripture and mindset. Sinhala Buddhist genocide of Tamils begins.

AD 1948 : The Soulbury Independence Constitution of 1948 gave Sri Lanka control over the homeland of Tamil Eelam.

AD 1948 : Sinhala Sri Lanka gains its independence from Britain.

AD 1948 : The Sinhala Sri Lankan Military Colonized Tamil Eelam. The Sri Lankan genocide of Tamils begins. Eelam Tamils faces colonisation, oppression, poverty, death and constant persecution for being Tamil.

AD 1948 : Tamils migrate as refugees around the world. They created a vibrant, activist international Tamil diaspora.

AD 1948 : Sinhala Buddhists ideological hegemony dominates in Sri Lanka.

AD 1948 : Sri Lanka engages in routine, of acts of interrogation, torture, sexual violence, abduction, burning Tamil books, children murdered, woman raped, mass graves, large massacres of entire villages, displacement of people, desecration of cultural symbols, and tearing down of social fabric of Tamils. The figure of the Sinhala is sought to be made omnipresent and omnipotent in Tamil territories.

AD 1948 : The Sinhala implemented the Constitution of 1948 with genocidal intent against the Tamils as follows:

AD 1948 - 1949 : One Million Tamil plantation workers were disenfranchised through the Citizenship Act of 1948 and 1949. Sinhala settlers occupy the Tamil Homeland through state aided Sinhala colonization schemes and the process is continuing unabated.

- AD 1956 : The Sinhala Only Act put an end to the equality of status of the Tamil and Sinhala languages and closed avenues of employment for the Tamils.
- AD 1970 : The Education System discriminated against Tamil students denying them educational advancement and creating a huge mass of unemployed Tamil youth.
- AD 1970 : Tamil areas were isolated from all national development projects and economically deprived.
- AD 1974 : Pogroms were organized against the Tamil people by state sponsored racial riots by the Sinhala in 1956, 1958, 1961, 1974, 1977, 1979, 1981 and 1983 threatening the very survival of the Tamils. In 1983, violence between Tamil and Sinhala in Sri Lanka marks beginning of Tamil rebellion, demanding an independent nation called Tamil Eelam. The Sinhala murdered 37 Tamil Eelam political prisoners in jail.
- AD 1976 : The Vaddukai Convention of May 1971 declared the restoration and reconstitution of the sovereign state of Tamil Eelam. TULF fought the General Elections of 1977 on this manifesto and won an overwhelming majority of votes. This was the people's mandate given in the last free elections ever held in the North East of Sri Lanka.
- AD 1976 – current : Tamil struggle continues.

14. FOUNDER OF TAMIL HUMANISM

❖ Thiruvalluvar



Thiruvalluvar is the founder of Tamil Humanism and is the author of the Tamil Marai. He is an internationally celebrated Tamil humanist. Thiruvalluvar's Path of Tamil Humanism is the Path of Virtue.

Thiruvalluvar was born in Mayilapur in Tamil Nadu on 15 January 31 BC. It is the day after the Tamil New Year.

Thiruvalluvar as a youth grew into a student, farmer and state advisor. He was a textile weaver by profession. Thiruvalluvar fell in love with Vasuki and their marriage was solemnised. She was a chaste, devoted and an ideal wife. Thiruvalluvar showed by example that a person can lead the life of a householder and at the same time lead a life of righteousness and with respect. A beautiful daughter was born. They named her Mullai and brought her up with loving care.

In 300 BC, Elala Chola, the King of the Tamil country ruled over Eelam. Elelasingan was his descendent and ship merchant of Mayilapur. He accepted Thiruvalluvar as his teacher and was his first disciple. One day in the evening, Elelasingan and Mullai met in a garden and they fell in love with each other. Thiruvalluvar solemnized his marriage with Mullai.

In 21 BC, Uggiraperuvazhuthi, the Tamil King, decided to send a delegation to Augustus Caesar and strengthen the trade link. He told the Romans visiting him that he is sending a delegation of merchants to Rome with Elelasingan as leader. Elelasingan left for Rome taking leave from Mullai. He left in the month of July and he promised Mullai he will return in December.

Thiruvalluvar saw that many people in this world are living without understanding humanist principles. He stayed in his house in Mayilapur and began writing his book under a LLuppai tree.

He formulated the concepts based on the 70 000 year old oral tradition of humanism and the 5000 year old Indus valley civilization, and the civilization of the four Tamil kingdoms of Pandya, Chola, Chera and Eelam. He wrote the philosophy of humanism into couplets in a book which he called Tamil Marai (Tamil Humanist Scripture). Thiruvalluvar also called it 'Muppai'. Muppai means three kinds of subjects which are righteousness, wealth and love. Thereafter he decided to travel propagating humanist principles to all people.

He travelled to Madurai to submit his work, 'Muppai', to the Pandya king. The Pandya kings ensured that many Tamil poets flourished. The Tamil Sanggam of Madurai which is an assembly of eminent poets, scholars and researchers called his work 'Thirukural'. The Tamil Sanggam introduced the Thirukural to the world. The Tamil Marai is considered as the 'Sacred Word of God'. Thiruvalluvar is regarded as a Tamil prophet by the Tamil community.

Thiruvalluvar said to the King: 'a small dew drop depicts even a Palmyra tree, so also the Kural. Oh King, spread these spotless couplets. Preach to the world the humanist message of the Tamil Marai.'

The Tamil Calendar is dated from the birth of Thiruvalluvar and is called Thiruvalluvar Aandu.

The Tamil New Year begins on the 14 January which is the 1st day of the 1st month (Thai) of the Tamil calendar. The next day is celebrated as Thiruvalluvar Day as the 15 January is the birthday of Thiruvalluvar. This celebration of New Years Day and Thiruvalluvar Day is the Pongal Festival.

15. LEADERS OF TAMIL HUMANISM

The two important leaders of Tamil Humanism are Mr. Seenivasa and Mr. R.M. Moodali. They are the two main authors of the books on Tamil Humanism. Therefore the books on Tamil Humanism are called the 'SEENIVASA - MOODALI VERSION'. They are the revivalists of Tamil Humanism.

❖ Seenivasa

Seenivasa Padayachi was a great advocate of the Tamil Religion. He tirelessly propagated Tamil Spirituality in Tamil Nadu and in South Africa.

The story of Seenivasa Padayachi is but a legend. The life of Seenivasa Padayachi and what we know is largely derived from oral traditions. What remains of his existence is the Tinley Manor Ragasiyam which he built in 1889 and the scriptures he recited with his last breathe in that Sanggam.

Seenivasa Padayachi was born in 1861 in Chidambaram. His father was Sabapathi. He was 28 years old when he arrived in Durban. He was educated in Tamil and English. His wife was Valliammal and she was born in 1867 in Chidambaram. Seenivasa and Valliammal had three children.

Seenivasa's father Sabapathi was a learned scholar and a Priest at Chidambaram. Some say he was a great yogi in Chidambaram. Sabapathi was born around 1801. Sabapathi taught Seenivasa the Tamil religion and culture in its purest form. He believed in Tamil Humanism and the Ragasiyam is the highest form of worship. He wanted all Tamils to worship in the Ragasiyam. Sabapathi's vision is: 'A Ragasiyam in every town and village'. However the Nayak Brahmins resisted and did not want all people to have the Truth.

Legend says that Sabapathi's grandfather who was born around 1681 was also a Priest at Chidambaram. He promoted the Tamil religion and the freedom of all to worship the Ragasiyam. The Ragasiyam is a Meditation and Cultural Hall. He resisted and challenged the Nayak Military rule.

However the Nayak Hindu Brahmins still dominated the villages and Tamil Religion was still forbidden. This led to a conflict between the Nayak Hindu Brahmins and Seenivasa Padayachi when he promoted the Path of Virtue, the Tamil Religion.

He condemned the village chief and Nayak Brahmins in Chidambaram for promoting South Indian Hinduism. He encouraged the villagers to follow Tamil Humanism which is the Tamil religion. The villagers protest was increasing against the Nayak Brahmin priests.

This conflict forced him into exile. If he continued living there his life and his family's safety was in danger. The Nayak Brahmin persecution forced him into exile. His exile brought him to the shores of South Africa, keeping the Tamil religion alive.

He took his only priceless possession the Tamil Marai and together with his family boarded the ship headed for South Africa.

Sabapathi gave Seenivasa his blessings to go to South Africa to protect the faith. He encouraged him to travel abroad to save the Tamil beliefs.

When Seenivasa arrived the first thing he did was to go and search for land to build the Ragasiyam as per his father's wishes. He found many Tamils living in the North Coast of Natal.

Seenivasa built the first Ragasiyam outside of India for the Tamils in Tinley Manor, Natal, South Africa. It was built out of wood and iron around July 1889. Alagiri also helped Seenivasa with the construction of the Ragasiyam.

The Ragasiyam is the Hall for the Praise of God. The congregation in Tinley Manor assembled there and in front of them is a room of empty space. In this room hangs the golden leaves with the Tamil alphabet on it. This Ragasiyam is the purist form of Tamil worship. Tamils worship God in this way for thousands of years. They recited the Tamil Marai and other scriptures and conducted their ceremonies in this Ragasiyam.

Seenivasa was involved in promoting the Tamil religion and culture in Tinley Manor. When his indentured contract expired after 5 years he moved to Germiston in 1894, Transvaal now called Gauteng. Seenivasa moved to Transvaal (Gauteng) because he knew there were many Tamils living here. In 1895 he built another Ragasiyam in Germiston. His vision was that wherever there is a Tamil community there should be a Ragasiyam.

During his stay in Germiston, he opened a cigar factory. He would travel from Germiston to Ottawa, Tongaat then to Tinley Manor to buy the Tobacco leaves and bring them to Germiston. It was a flourishing business as he supplied the mines and shops with cigars. He hired a factory manager to manage the cigar manufacturing while he was away in Tinley Manor. He was a highly spiritual person always in meditation and study of the Tamil religion. Around 1900, while he was away in Tinley Manor, his wife Valliammal made a mistake and had an affair with the factory manager.

On his arrival back to Germiston he came to know of it. He was disappointed but he forgave her. So he divorced her and decided to move back to Tinley Manor in Natal, KZN.

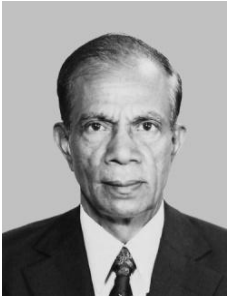
He gave her the house and the cigar business which made her financially independent. The children were well provided for and even their grandchildren still were financially well off. Seenivasa moved to Tinley Manor permanently in 1900. He lived there in meditation and study in the Tinley Manor Ragasiyam and established a Tamil Sanggam. He remarried to Alamalu and they had four children.

Alamalu was born in 1872. Alamalu was an excellent caregiver and took care of Muniamma like her own child. Alamalu together with Muniamma, Lutchmana and Subbu visited the Tinley Manor Ragasiyam in 1901. Seenivasa met Alamalu and admired her caring and family qualities. She lived with the Lutchmana Naik's family until she got married to Seenivasa Padayachi in 1901. When Seenivasa married Alamalu, she moved to Tinley Manor. She eventually lived in Tinley Manor for the rest of her life.

He propagated Tamil Humanism amongst the indentured labourers. He spent the rest of his life promoting the Tamil religion and culture in the Tinley Manor Ragasiyam.

His last day on earth was unforgettable. He took his wife and children to the Tinley Manor Ragasiyam. He entered the Sanggam. Seenivasa Padayachi sat down in the Tinley Manor Tamil Sanggam, facing the congregation, his friends, his family and children for the last time. He smiled at his loving wife, Alamalu, and his children and began to speak about Tamil Humanism. He praised God through words, recited all the Tamil scriptures in English and Tamil and while chanting 'Namasivaya' in the Sanggam he collapsed and died peacefully. And now the essence of Seenivasa Padayachi's recitation of Tamil Spirituality is presented to you.

❖ R.M. Moodali



R.M. Moodali



Kamatchi Moodali

R.M. Moodali is a political activist and an internationally renowned humanist. He made an immense contribution to the transformation of South Africa.

Rajoo Munisami Moodali was born on 31 October 1907. He was the son of an indentured labourer Thai. Thai came from a district called South Arcot in Tamil Nadu. In 1914, Thai died at the age of 41 years and R.M. Moodali was placed in an orphanage.

From 1918 to 1930, he worked on Apartheid farms for a Mr. G. Duncan. In 1931 he worked as a waiter at Victoria hotel. In 1935, he worked for the Hulletts family as a chauffeur. In later years he did part time bookkeeping for small companies as White businesses did not give him work because of the Job Reservation Act.

He went to the Wesleyan Missionary School in 1912, and had to leave school at Standard Four to work on the farm. In 1931 he completed a Bookkeeping course part time through correspondence. In 1940's he join the Study Circles and learnt politics and economics. This was the beginning of his political career.

In 1940, he joined the South African Communist Party. Latter he joined the ANC and the NIC. In the 1980's he joined the UDF in the anti- Apartheid struggle. He continued to be involved in politics until 1994, that's a total of 53 years struggling for Human Rights.

R.M. Moodali witnessed the rise and fall of Apartheid and participated actively in the Anti-apartheid struggle. Throughout his life, he was a Human Rights activist. He attended the protest meetings. He received pamphlets, posters, listened to Radio Freedom, the Voice of the ANC and distributed the pamphlets and messages from door to door. He was a freedom fighter against colonialism and Apartheid. His response is the way millions of people responded to the leaders, until the disbanding of the Natal Indian Congress and UDF structures.

R.M. Moodali was also a cultural activist. He belonged to various cultural organisations such as Stanger Youth Orchestra, Stanger Debating Society, The Rationalist Association of South Africa, Pretoria Tamil Rationalism Society, The Humanist Association of South Africa, Natal Buddhist Society, The Thirukural Society, International Movement for Tamil Culture: South Africa and many others. In the 1980's he suggested to his family and Babs about forming a Tamil humanist international society. He encouraged Mr Rowley Arenstein his old friend from the liberation struggle to join. R.M. Moodali was a loving person who went about his daily life with the universal principles of humanism. He was a humanist and a convinced atheist. He was talkative and an eloquent speaker.

He was also a cultural activist who promoted the reformation of Tamils by rejecting the caste system, superstition, rituals and fatalistic beliefs. The most important thing that had to change was the Tamil belief system in order for them to become progressive. He was involved in promoting the Tamil culture and language. His understanding of the Tamil Marai was from a Tamil perspective which is the concept of the Moodali version.

He promoted the Tamil language and he advocated other cultural and linguistics groups to promote theirs in unity and harmony as South Africans. He advocated South African multiculturalism to enrich the cultural fabric. The various cultural and linguistic identities of the world are the elements that make the world's multicultural social fabric beautiful and joyful.

R.M. Moodali has personally helped many people by providing them with financial, emotional support, advise and assisted them with legal issues. He helped people overcome their material needs. He was always helping people.

R.M. Moodali married Kamatchi Moodali, the granddaughter of Seenivasa Padayachi on 22 January 1944. She was a dutiful wife to R.M. Moodali and a loving mother. She was an exceptional cook and always generously took care of others. They lived mostly in Bull Bull Drive and Desainagar. They had two daughters and a son Thiagesan (Babs) Moodali who was a successful businessman and philanthropist. He read a lot of health books and how to prevent diabetes. He did not drink alcohol nor did he smoke. He led a healthy lifestyle.

R.M. Moodali conducted much research into Seenivasa Padayachi and reunited the two families from Gauteng and Natal, KZN. He retold the story of Seenivasa Padayachi to all who visited him.

He had many major achievements. In 1931 he became a certified Bookkeeper. In the mid 1930's he was expert at playing the Violin and the Banjo. From 1936 to 1941, The Safety First Association awarded him 6 Diplomas, a Bronze medal, then finally a Gold Medal for Driving. He always owned a vintage Borgward car. In 1960's he bought a 6 ¼ acre farm in Bull Bull Drive. On 3 October 1998 at Technikon Natal, R.M. Moodali was honoured for his role in the human rights struggle. In 1994, he was 53 years involved in political activity in the ANC, NIC

and SACP. On 23 September 2007, he celebrated 60 years of marriage to Kamatchi. On 1 January 2001, he was 71 years involved in cultural activity. On 31 October 2007, he celebrated his 100 years birthday. He passed away on 9 April 2008 in Tongaat.

❖ **Thiagesan Rajoo Moodali (Babs)**



Thiagesan Rajoo Moodali

Thiagesan Rajoo Moodali, known to family and friends as Babs, was born on 26th April 1951. He is the son of R.M. Moodali. Babs was an outstanding entrepreneur and a successful businessman and a great philanthropist.

His philosophical religious outlook was similar to that of his father. He was a committed Tamil Humanist. He never performed any rituals nor did he believe in any superstition. He tirelessly kept the flame of humanism alive by advocating it among family members and the South African community. He began writing the Biography of R.M. Moodali but did not see its publication.

He had a quiet personality who never complained about anything. His disposition was always pleasing others and even making sacrifices at his own expenses. He was hardworking, honest, generous and a charitable person. He valued punctuality. He always had a smiling face and a unique laughter.

He completed his schooling at Chatsworth High School. He enjoyed drawing and sketching as a hobby. His other interests were baking and he made the best Christmas cake and pudding. He

also specialised in making sweetmeats and his favourite was Chana Margan and Burfi. On Sundays he also made scones for tea time and he helped his mother Kamatchi Moodali to make queen cakes.

He started off his career when he was in school by repairing cars. He enjoyed fixing things at home. He repaired the Borgward car engines and did welding and spray painting. He worked as a manager of a Bus company in Durban. He thereafter took a career in the field of instrumentation. He was a highly skilled person with great entrepreneurial skills. He became the CEO of Zimbali Engineering and he negotiated many contracts with SAB.

He bought land at Desainagar, Tongaat and built a big family house and owned a luxury Mercedes Benz. He loved his gardening and spent hours maintaining it. He took care of both his parents giving them the best lifestyle and health care. He was always conscious of his health, eating correctly and exercised. He also read a lot of health books and how to prevent diabetes. He did not drink alcohol nor did he smoke and also led a healthy lifestyle. Although he had excellent qualities as a father, he never married nor did he have any children.

He supported many charities and NGO's such as the Association of Mouth & Foot Painters. He also supported the Charity Circle. He made donations to Childline, The Avril Elizabeth Homes of South Africa, Age-in-Action, and St John. Childline offers counselling and support to children. Age-in-Action makes a difference in the lives of the aged. The Avril Elizabeth Homes allows the mentally handicapped to live their lives in a warm and nurturing environment. St John provides medical assistance.

He was involved in community projects of Desainagar. He attended Civic meetings and strove to keep high standards of maintaining the suburb. He was also a member of the ANC of the local Tongaat branch. He helped organise feeding schemes in the informal settlement and held meetings with their leaders.

In October 2013 he was diagnosed with leukaemia and was hospitalised for three weeks undergoing chemotherapy. On 2 December 2013, he sadly passed away. His death at an early age was a great loss for the Tamil Humanist community.

16. ABOUT THE WRITER



Thiru Moodali

Thiru Moodali is an academic, a researcher, a Life Coach, and a social and cultural activist.

After high school he completed a B.Admin degree from the University of Durban-Westville (UKZN). He successfully completed his post graduate qualifications at the University of South Africa, graduating in a Honours Degree, Hons. B.Admin (Unisa), and a Master's Degree, M.Admin (Unisa).

He belonged to the University SRC publications committee and SANSCO which was affiliated to the UDF during the anti-apartheid campaign. He participated in many mass marches and protest activities.

He took part in various social and cultural activities and assisted many community projects such as creating awareness of Human Trafficking, feeding schemes, clothes distribution and book distributions to promote the 'culture of reading'. He assisted the aged, the orphans, and the homeless in these drives as well as the HIV/Aids homes. He has been on many committees of charity that supported feeding schemes.

Thiru Moodali spent the past 25 years in Marketing and as a Senior Manager involved in coaching and mentoring employees to reach optimal performance. This experience meant that he

came face to face with the concerns and challenges facing employees at all levels up to top management level.

After he read Tamil literature, and understood its true meaning, he discovered that his purpose in life is working with people one on one or in groups to transform their lives so that they can develop their full potential. He believes that every person should live a life of excellence and quality.

As a qualified and certified life coach, Thiru Moodali holds the following certificates:

Life Coach

Negative Emotional Therapy Practitioner

Neuro-linguistic Programming Practitioner

Transformation Coach

He is actively conducting workshops that campaigns for a humanist lifestyle and creating support groups that will sustain a humanist culture.

He has written and edited several books. As a spirit-writer (ghostwriter) for R.M. Moodali, he recorded the oral tradition of humanism and wrote the following books:

1. Tamil Humanism
2. Tamil Spirituality
3. Tamil Humanist Scriptures
4. Writings of the Tamil Saints
5. Biographies: Tamil Prophet and Tamil Saints
6. Humanist Meanings in Tamil Religious Literature
7. Tamil Humanist Ceremonies
8. Tamil Humanist Readings
9. Tamil Calendar
10. Diacritic Tamil
11. Timeline of Tamil History
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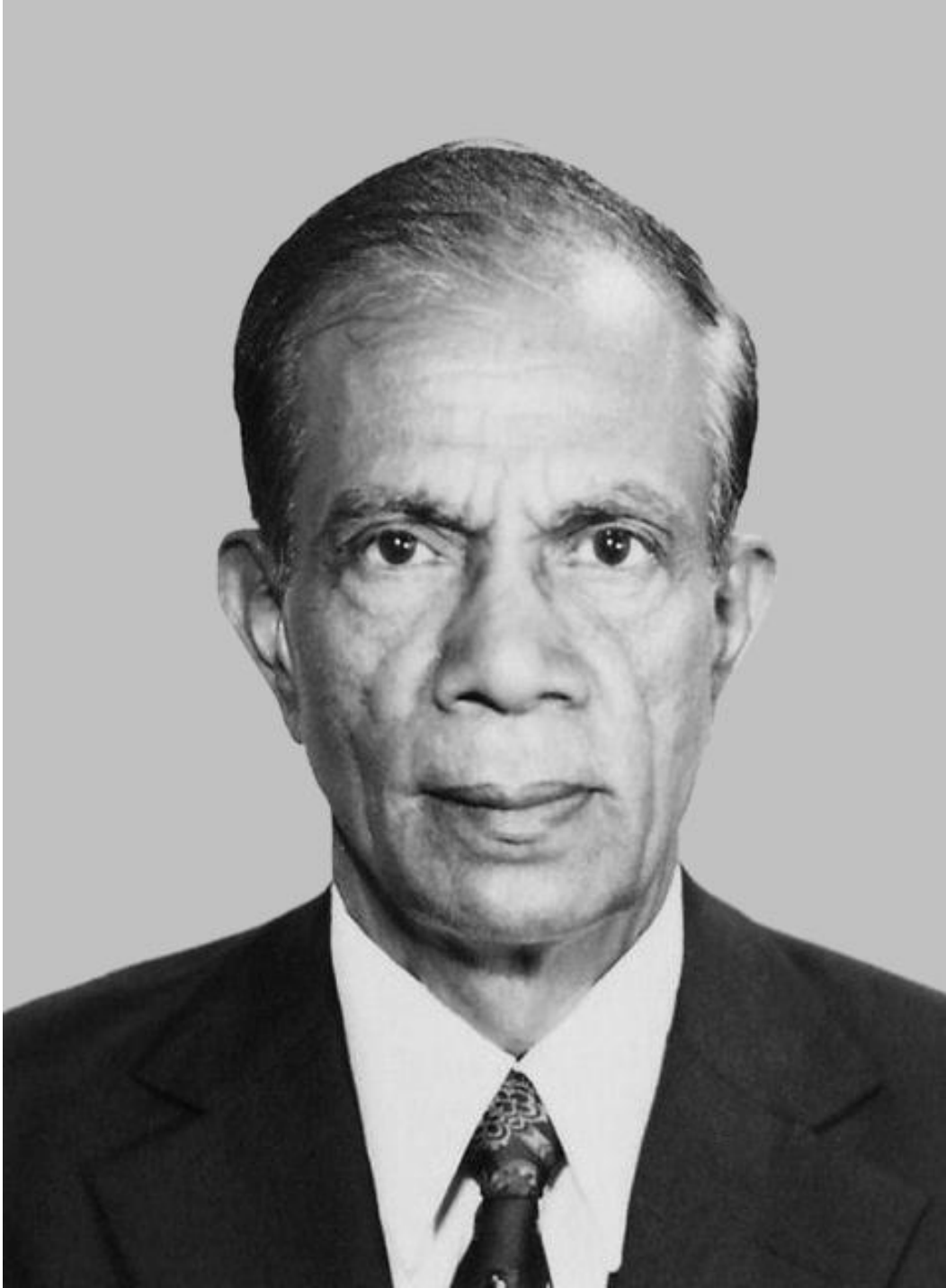
Thiruvalluvar



Thiruvalluvar Statue



Ragasiyam



R.M. Moodali

Life Coach



Thiru Moodali

Thiru Moodali is a Life Coach helping those who want a meaningful life in this world. The counseling and coaching given is based on the principles of Tamil Humanism.

He provides coaching for all life situations such as:

- Relationships, Family and Marriage issues
- Finances and business issues
- Work, Career and Entrepreneur challenges
- Health and Wellness issues
- Parenting and early childhood development issues
- Educational challenges
- Retirement challenges
- Death, Divorce and loss of loved ones
- Anger Management
- Low self-esteem
- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Alcohol And Drug Abuse

Life Coach

Negative Emotional Therapy Practitioner

Neuro-linguistic Programming Practitioner

Transformation Coach