

# Study on Remand and the British in the Early Freedom Struggle

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**Abstract –** *In this thesis entitled, History of Freedom Movement in Ramanathapuram District (A.D. 1800 – A.D. 1947) has been the realization of a long-felt desire on the part of the researcher to trace the emergence of freedom movement in the erstwhile Ramanathapuram district with a view to identify and analyse the basic forces and factors which contributed to specific course of events from the early nineteenth to early twentieth century. It gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge and thank the people who have helped me in different ways in seeing this research work through. At the outset I am thankful to the authorities of the Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for having admitted me to this part time research programme. With high regards and deep sense of gratitude, I thank my research supervisor, Dr. A. Rajendran for his scholarly guidance, invaluable suggestions and earnest co-operation at every stage in the progress of my work. But for his constructive criticisms, directions on methodology, moral support this would not have taken the present shape.*

**Keywords –** Sethupathis of Remand, British, Freedom Struggle etc.

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## INTRODUCTION

The leaders of Ramanathapuram District were the first in opposing the developing impact and obstruction of the English. The individuals engaged an optimistic mood of military custom and autonomous soul too. The second 50% of the nineteenth century saw the development of sorted out National Movement in Ramanathapuram District. Patriots in Ramanathapuram stood for the national freedom as well as for the social changes. An endeavor is made to follow the development of Freedom Movement in the recent Ramanathapuram District which took in the types of early revolts and uprisings and examine how the nationalistic powers and factors rose in Ramanathapuram District. The leaders of Ramanathapuram District were the first in opposing the developing impact and obstruction of the English. The individuals engaged an optimistic mood of military custom and autonomous soul too. The second 50% of the nineteenth century saw the development of sorted out National Movement in Ramanathapuram District. Patriots in Ramanathapuram stood for the national freedom as well as for the social changes. An endeavor is made to follow the development of Freedom Movement in the recent Ramanathapuram District which took in the types of early revolts and uprisings and examine how the nationalistic powers and factors rose in Ramanathapuram District. Territorial history like national history has picked up energy as of late. The nitty gritty investigation of history at provincial level without losing seeing the effect of the national

occasions at work would to a huge degree help in outfitting the genuine inspiring powers and the subsequent elements, other than sifting through and putting the past in the correct point of view. The investigation of inception and development of Freedom Movement is picking up significance. The multi-faceted parts of the subject, Freedom Movement getvarious methodologies. The recent Ramanathapuram District in Tamil Nadu assumed a noteworthy job in the Freedom Movement.

## STRUCTURE AND FEATURES

Master Ramanathaswamy has His sanctuary at Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram District. Rameswaram sanctuary stays to be blessed spot drawing a few lakhs of explorers from everywhere throughout the nation a seemingly endless amount of time after year. As per well known legend, Lord Rama had coordinated his steadfast hireling, Guha to fabricate a town close to the Sethu (Adam's Bridge). The town was called Mugavainagaram. The town at that point seemed to have been exceptionally close to the ocean and even now it is once in a while alluded to as Mugavai implies entrance. This town has later known as Ramanathapuram in relationship with the name of Rama and his nearness to the Sethu would legitimize the town being viewed as an exceptionally antiquated one.

Arranged in the south east corner of Tamil Nadu, Ramanathapuram District is profoundly dry spell

inclined and generally in reverse in financial advancement. It is encompassed by Pudukkottai region on the north, Sivaganga on the northwest, Virudhunagar region on the west, Tuticorin area and Gulf of Mannar on the south and the Palk Strait on the east. This region in the present structure appeared from 15, March 1985 after the trifurcation of the composite Ramanathapuram District. The District has a region of 4233.44 sq. kms, lying between the North Latitudes of 09.56° and East Longitudes of 78.13° and 79.26°. The one of a kind component of the District is its long seaside line estimating around 265 kms, concurring for nearly one fourth of the all out length of the beach front line of the State.

In the early days of the imperialistic standard of the British, this area was called by them as Ramnad and this name is preceded till the beginning of autonomy. This anglicized name, Ramnad was anyway later changed into Ramanathapuram to be more in similarity with the Tamil name for the locale.

With its base camp situated at Ramanathapuram, presently the District has been partitioned into seven taluks and eleven network advancement obstructs for reasons for income and improvement of organization. There are 424 Revenue towns and eight towns including two metropolitan towns.

As indicated by the 2001 Census Report, the locale recorded an all out populace of 11,44,040 speaking to 2.4% of the number of inhabitants in Tamil Nadu. This District has low populace thickness of 268 people for every square kilometer. The rustic populace comprises 78% of the absolute population.

The District has a hot tropical atmosphere temperature extending from 22.30°C (Min) to 37.80°C (Max) and the relative moistness is high at 79% on a normal and it runs between 80% - 90% in waterfront areas.<sup>5</sup> This District gets precipitation both during the South West and North East rainstorm. Yearly normal precipitation is 819 mms. Significant piece of precipitation is from North East storm – 65% of the yearly precipitation. This District faces visit disappointment of storm.

There are no enduring waterways in the locale. This area is basically depleted by two waterways viz., Vaigai and Gundar. There are around 1840 tanks in this area, with a water system capability of around 60,000 hectares. The tanks typically don't accomplish full limit because of deficient rainfall.<sup>6</sup>

The dirt kinds in the region can be arranged into (a) Rock Clay soils conveyed all through the area. (b) Sandy soil basically found in Rameswaram Island. (c) Sandy loamy soil – in Kamudhi, Mudukulathur, Paramakudi and Ramanathapuram Taluks and (d) Alluvial soil – a little extent is found in Kamudhi, Mudukulathur, Paramakudi and Thiruvadanai Blocks.

The economy of the region conspicuously relies on farming. Paddy is the most steady yield developed in this District. Cambu, Cholam, Varagu, Kuthiravalli are the significant millets developed in the locale. Business crops like Chilly and Cotton are the most significant yields developed in this tract under semi dry development. In beach front regions like Tiruppulani and Mandapam, Coconut is the most significant ranch crop. The whole region economy relies upon agribusiness and fishing.<sup>7</sup>

Ramanathapuram locale has the longest seaside line in Tamil Nadu. Subsequently the anglers of this area appreciates a remarkable bit of leeway that they can angle for all intents and purposes all the 365 days in a year as a result of the land area of angling grounds, Rameswaram, Mandapam, Kilakarai, Athankarai, Mookaiyur, Devipattinam, Pamban, Thondi, Erwadi, Uchipuli, Pasipattinam, Periapattinam, Sayalkudi, Thangachimadam, Valinokkam, Vedalai, Mariyur are a portion of the significant angling focuses in this locale.

Ramanathapuram District has remained modernly the most in reverse area because of absence of satisfactory great quality water supply, insufficient accessibility of crude materials, poor vehicle organize. Be that as it may, there are four turning factories and two units for creation of rexine. There are numerous SSI units at Paramakudi, occupied with creation of materials required by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Handloom weavers are found in and around Rameswaram and Paramakudi. This area offers less degree for work openings in the little and bungalow modern part.

The District has an all out length of 1988 kms of metalled and unsurfaced streets. The area Headquarters is very much associated by rail and street. Despite the fact that the locale Headquarters is very much associated with Madurai and different spots, the vehicle arrange inside the region still stays poor and underdeveloped.<sup>9</sup>

## HOMELAND OF THEMARAVAS

There are plentiful confirmations to demonstrate that Ramanathapuram territory had been the home of Paleolithic Men. Climatic and geological changes could have driven the Pre-noteworthy Men to the waterfront regions in Ramanathapuram. The archeological unearthing of the region uncovered the reality of human presence during the Neolithic Age. The ongoing discoveries at Alagankulam additionally affirmed the artifact of the zone.

Maravas were viewed as the individuals of Palai Land. Sangam abstract works separate the Tamil nation into five common divisions. Palai is said to be dry like a desert.<sup>10</sup> There are references to the Maravas in Purananuru and Silapadikaram. As

indicated by the customs, the Maravas of Ramnad district helped SriRama when he attacked Lanka to vanquish Ravana.<sup>11</sup> The words, Marava and Maravan are found in the Tamil scholarly works like Ahananuru, Purananuru, perumpaanarrupadai, Natrinai and Thirukural.<sup>12</sup> There are likewise references to the exercises of the Maravas before building up themselves as free powers.

## **BIRTH OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT**

At the point when the Viceroy of India dove the nation into the Second World War without counseling the common pastors, the pioneers of Congress and Muslim League<sup>1</sup> met at Wardha on eighth September 1939 and requested a presentation of the war points of Britain concerning vote based system and colonialism and how these points apply to India. It additionally said that the Congress would co-work with the British if the battle was for majority rules system and popular government for everything except the Government's reaction to the Congress request was solid, as it just vowed to reconsider the plan of Government of India Act of 1935 after the War. It likewise guaranteed that the British would build up a consultative body including the Viceroy and agents of different Indian ideological groups as a token of generosity. The Congress working panel requested the Provincial Governments to leave since it was frustrated with the British reaction. Every Provincial Government disintegrated the services on fifteenth November 1939.<sup>2</sup>

In March 1940, the Congress met in sessions at Ramgarh and emphasized interest of complete autonomy. It settled on Civil Disobedience as the following arrangement of the Congress.<sup>3</sup> Instructions were sent to the Congress Committees to sort out 'Satyagraha Committee' and War Council'. Presently the Congress needed to pick between co-activity or non-co-activity. The Congress individuals were pulled back from the Central Legislative Assembly as a demonstration of dissent against the dispatch of Indian soldiers abroad. On two conditions, Congress was prepared to co-work with the British in their war endeavors. The first was that the Government should give a serious affirmation that India would be permitted to outline its very own constitution. Furthermore, the subsequent one was that the Congress ought to be permitted to frame a "National Government" at the middle with different gatherings during the war.<sup>4</sup> The British reaction came as August Offer on eighth August 1940 with no positive guarantees.

## **LATERPANDYAS**

The Imperial Cholas had not destroyed the Pandyas however decreased the status of the Pandyas into a sub-ordinate power. By the mid thirteenth century MaravarmanSundara Pandya crushed Chola lord Rajendrall, ousted the Cholas from Madurai and established the Second Pandyan Empire. With the

fall of the Chola Empire and the rise of the Second Pandya Empire, the Marava nation too went under the Pandyas. Marcopolo alludes to this reality in his movement accounts. The epigraphical references found in the Ramanathapuram District affirm the way that the Marava nation was under the Pandya rule till the intrusion of MaikKafur in Madurai.<sup>56</sup> MaravarmanSundara Pandya (A.D.1216-1238) climbed the royal position at a crucial point in time throughout the entire existence of Tamil nation. The Cholas fall quickly and Kadamba under KopperumSingam moved toward the South. MaravarmanSundara Pandya, he prevailed upon triumphs the Cholas and decreased them into a tributary status. His successor was MaravarmaSundara Pandya II (A.D.1238-1255). Very little data is accessible about this ruler. He was prevailing by Jata Varman Sundara Pandya I (A.D 1255-1268). He was an incredible officer and colonialist.

Jata Varman crushed the Cheras, Kadavas and constrained them to pay tribute. Hoysalas were ousted from Kannanurkuppam. After these triumphs, he crushed Telegu Cholas and Kakatiyas and involved regions broadening upto Nellore. The Pallavas and Yadavas of Devagiri likewise bowed to his standard. Because of these splendid adventures Maravarman developed undisputed ace over the South India. He raised the Pandyas to a majestic position.

## **RISE OF THE BRITISH**

The British came to India to trade. They expected to battle with different Europeans like the Dutch, the Portuguese and the French. The Company, which came here for business endeavor, found the political condition in India accommodating for wilderness adventure too. The eighteenth century India was politically partitioned, carefully separated and socially stagnated. These conditions engaged the British to set up their political command over Indians missing a great deal of difficulty. During the time spent setting up political position, they expected to deal with the trifling nearby rulers and the European powers. The relationship of the British with the Sethupathies of Ramnad is fascinating to note. Their relationship exchanged to and fro between welcoming relations and opposing vibe. As by virtue of other minimal Indian States, Ramnad moreover expected to stand up to abuse in light of the untouchable association. They found a workable pace, abdicated.

The verifiable setting of the nearby obstacle of Ramnad as the Headquarters of the Southern Poligars, its relationship with the British, its unforgiving limitation to the British include an interesting field of concentrate concerning the chronicled background of Freedom Struggle of.

## OBJECTIVE

- [1] To follow the ascent and fall of an autonomous realm of the Maravas and its relations with the local rulers.
- [2] To illuminate the connection between the Sethupathis of Ramnad and the British in the early freedom struggle.
- [3] To illuminate the endeavors made by the VeluNachchiar, MuthuramalingaSethupathi and Marudu Brothers to shield themselves from the mind boggling dispositions of the British.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The approach of British principle was welcomed with firm obstruction in Ramanathapuram and the neighboring domains. In the wake of prevailing upon a couple of the boss and denying MuthuramalingaSethupathi of his sovereign powers, the British Collector gave the Proclamation of 1801 by which the individuals were approached to give up their arms. This was the initial step to check their longing to oppose the outsider Government. The English efficiently depleted India's riches and disabled indigenous industry, exchange and farming. The individuals of Ramnad ended up enmeshed in wretched neediness, obliviousness and idleness because of remote mastery. The very presence of outside principle served to the development of a national supposition among the individuals. With the progression of time there was an acknowledgment that the outsider principle was answerable for all their untold tragedies. The harshness against remote principle and control was answerable for the development of patriotism around there. Any protection from the British was put down with an iron hand. Sorted out national protection from the British principle emitted with the Non-Co-Operation Movement.

## DATA ANALYSIS

The Carnatic Treaty of 1792 set up a kind of double control by the British East India Company just as the Nawab over the Poligars. The British Company was gradually ready to interfere into the political area of the local Poligars. The strategies and discretion of the British empowered them to build up unlimited oversight over Ramanathapuram. In course of time, the Sethupathis were decreased to the status of Zamindars. Sethupathis didn't acknowledge the British authority with no resistance. On various events, they attempted to rebel against the British. The Anti-British position of the Sethupathis structures a critical piece of their connection with the British. The valiant champion of Sivaganga, Queen VeluNachchiar involves a pride of spot in the archives of the Freedom Struggle of the nation. She

was in the front line in numerous parts of life. She can be contrasted and the Queen Lakshmi Bhai of Jhansi who battled against the British in the northern piece of India. The main Tamil Queen who battled and drove away the British and managed over her state as an autonomous ruler for a time of ten years. Sovereign VeluNachchiar was the First Tamil Queen and freedom fighter,<sup>230</sup> capable general, incredible warrior and generous ruler and embraced secularism, equity, club, majority rules system and social equity in her organization. As the Tamil Queen battled the British a lot sooner than Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi in north India, she was the First Woman Freedom Fighter in Indian History.

## CONCLUSION

The political, financial, ethnic and socio-strict factors and conditions make the individuals national cognizant. The ascent of patriotism and the improvement of hostile to British slants have connected with the approaches and the exercises of the British Government in India. The Freedom, proclaimed at 12 PM didn't come medium-term. The struggle for freedom was delayed as well as ceaseless. All through history, India had respected different intruders, lost its sovereign powers and exposed to remote control at various occasions. The second 50% of the nineteenth century saw the development of national political cognizance and the development of sorted out National Movement in India. The political limitations, spread of western training, development of correspondence and the working of social associations made a circumstance great for an enlivening in.

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