

Constantine Joseph Beschi

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The Constantine Joseph Beschi (or **Costanzo Giuseppe Beschi**) had acted as a **Dewan of Tiruchi** under the **Chanda Sahib**, the **Nawab of the Carnatic**.



[ref-Indian catholic matters]

About the Constantine Joseph Beschi:

- The Constantine Joseph Beschi was an **Italian Jesuit priest, missionary**, and Tamil language **scholar** of the **18th century**.
- He was born on November 8, 1680, in Italy.
- He had joined the **Society of Jesus** (Jesuits) and was sent as a **missionary** to India.
- He is also known as “**Veeramamunivar**” and “**Thairiyanathaswamy**”.
- He has contributed to **Tamil literature** and is considered one of the pioneers of **Tamil prose**.
 - Besides that, he had also mastered **Sanskrit**, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Urdu, Portuguese and **Telugu**.
 - Hence, he is often referred to as the “**Father of Tamil Prose**.”
- He arrived in India in **1710** in the **Madurai region**, which was under the rule of the **Nayak** dynasty.

- **Chanda Sahib** had conferred on him the surname "**Ismattee Sannyasi**", due to his excellence as a **religious devotee**.
- He had promoted **Christianity** in the Tamil-speaking regions.
- He passed away on **4 February 1742**, in **Palayamkottai**, Tamil Nadu, India.

Literary Contributions:

- He was a **polyglot** and had acquired proficiency in Tamil.
- He wrote many Tamils literary works including the "**Thembavani**" and Sathurakarathi.
 - Thembavani is also known as "**Veera Vilayattu**" or "**Veerabhahu Charitram**", which narrates the story of the martyrdom of **Saint Xavier**.
- He had also contributed to Tamil grammar, which includes the work such as "**A Grammar of the High Dialect of the Tamil Language**".