

Rani Velu Nachiyar

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Rani Velu Nachiyar on her birth anniversary acknowledging their inspirational contributions to society.



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About Rani Velu Nachiyar:

- Rani Velu Nachiyar was the **queen of Sivaganga estate** approximately from **1780–1790**.
- Known as "**Veeramangai**" or the **brave woman among Tamils**, she holds the distinction of being the **first Indian queen to fight against the East India Company**.

Early Life and Training:

- Born on 3 January 1730, Velu Nachiyar was the only child of the rulers of **Ramanathapuram**.
- Excelling in multiple languages including **French, English, and Urdu**, she was also trained in various **forms of combat and martial arts**, making her a **versatile and formidable leader**.

Conflict and Strategy:

- The conflict began in earnest after the demise of her husband, **Muthu Vaduganatha Periyavudaya Thevar**, during a battle against the East India Company's soldiers in **1780**.
- Fleeing her kingdom, she sought and received **aid from Hyder Ali**, who provided her with an **army and military resources**.

- After meticulous planning for **eight years**, with the support of various allies including **feudal lords, the Maruthu Brothers**, and **Dalit commanders**, she launched an offensive against the British.

Battle Tactics and Sacrifice:

- A notable event in her military campaign was the brave **sacrifice of her commander**, Kuyili, who conducted a suicide attack on the British ammunition store, significantly weakening the enemy.
- Rani Velu Nachiyar successfully **reclaimed her kingdom** and continued to rule it for a decade thereafter.

Legacy and Recognition:

- Rani Velu Nachiyar passed away on **25 December 1796**, but her legacy as a fearless leader and strategist continues.
- In December 2008, she has been commemorated in Indian history with a **postage stamp** issued in her name.