

**History Part – 24**  
**24] Sethupathi Rule**

**Notes**

**Sethupathis of Ramnad and Sivaganga**

- The rulers of Ramnad and Sivaganga region of early 17th Century were called Sethupathi's.
- The Nayak ruler Muthukrishnappa Nayak reestablished the ancient line of sethupathys who were the chieftains under the pandyas in the beginning of 17th century as protector and guardian of the pilgrims to Sethusamudram and Rameswaram.
- The protector of Sethusamudram was called as Sethupathy.
- Sadaikkathevar was a loyal subordinate of the Nayaks.
- He emerged as the chief of the poligas.
- Sethupathis were maravas of Ramnad, Madurai and Tirunelveli.
- They had Ramnad as their official headquarters. Sadaikkathevar and his son KuttanSethupathi acted as Sethupathis and extended protection to the pilgrims who visited Rameswaram.

- Apart from giving protection two Sethupathis did religious services to the Ramanathaswamy temple at Rameswaram.

### **Sadaikka Thevar (1636 AD To 1645 )AD**

- Kuttan Sethupathi made his adopted son Sadaikkathevar II as the next ruler.
- This was opposed by Kuttan Sethupathi's natural son Thambi, Thirumalai Nayak supported the claim of Thambi.
- The ruler Sadaikka thevar was dethroned and jailed.
- Thambi was made as Sethupathi.
- Thambi was not competent.
- Sadaikkathevar's nephews Raghunathathevar and Narayanathevar rebelled against Thambi's rule.
- Accepting the popular representation, Thirumalai Nayak released Sadaikkathevar from Jail and made him Sethupathi after dismissing Thambi from the throne Sadiakkathevar constructed a new Chokkanatha temple at Rameswaram.
- He did lot of Charitable and public works.

**Raghunatha Sethupathi (1645 AD to 1670 AD)**

- Raghunatha sethupathi was loyal to the Nayak ruler.
- He helped the Nayaks by defeating the Muslims under Kutbkhan and the poliga of Ettapuram.
- In appreciation help the Nayak ruler gave the privilege of celebrating Navarathri festival at the capital city.
- The Nayak ruler also donated places like Thirubhuvanam, Mannar Koil Tiruchuli to Sethupathi.
- He successfully annexed Devakottai and Aranthangi.
- He helped Thirumalai Nayak in his war against Mysore army.
- Thirumalai Nayak recognized the valuable military services of Raghunatha Sethupathi and conferred the title Thirumalai Sethupathi on him.
- Sethupathis loyalty towards the Nayaks was over with Thirumalai Nayak.
- Raghunatha Sethupathi recaptured all the forts and places from the Nayaks and became an independent ruler.

- Raghunatha Sethupathi patronized art and literature.
- He made Tamil and Telugu as official languages of his court.
- He encouraged Tamil poets namely Alagiya Chitramabala Kavirayar and Amirtha Kavirayar.
- He constructed the Second prakaram (outer courtyard) of the Ramanathswami temple in Rameswaram.
- The famous poet Thayumanavar spent his last days under the Patronage of Raghunatha Sethupathi.
- After Raghunatha Sethupathi both Surya thevar and Athana thevar were in power for a very short duration in 1670.

**Raghunatha Sethupathi - II alias kilavan Sethupathi : (1671 AD - 1710 AD)**

- Greatest ruler among the Marava Kings and the seventh king of Ramnad.
- He was helpful to the chokkanatha Nayak.
- Annexed some territories of Madurai Kingdom, Aranthangi, Thirumayam and Piranmalai
- He opposed the spread of Christian missionary activities.

- Liberated the Marava country from the control of Madurai Nayak. After defeating Rani Mangammal's army, he declared independent Marva country in 1707.
- He shifted his headquarters from Pughalur to Ramnad.
- Kilavan Sethupathi established the Nalcottal palayam (later Sivaganga) and appointed Udaya Thevar as governor.
- He served well for the development of Hinduism.
- He endowed villages to a temple at Thiruvadanai and Kalaiyar Koil.
- Kilavan Sethupathi (i.e) Raghunatha Sethupathi - II established the Nalcottal Palayam (later Sivaganga) and appointed Udaya Thevar as Governor.
- He constructed a fort around the Ramanathapuram, the capital city.
- He constructed dam across the Vaigai.
- His rule was marked as the golden age of Maravas.
- His rule was marked as the golden age of the Maravas.
- Kilavan Sethupathi was succeeded by Bhavani Shankarathevar and Thandathevar.

- After Kilavan Sethupathi (Ragunatha Sethupathi - II) the kingdom was divided into two.
- A new Sivaganga kingdom emerged. During the later period of Sethupathi's rule, the Ramnad was reduced to zamindar level.
- Then it was brought under the control of Britishers.

### **Bhaskara Sethupathi (1868 – 1903 AD)**

- Bhaskara Sethupathy (Hiranyagarbhayaji Ravikula Muthuvijaya Raghunatha Bhaskara) (3 November 1868 – 27 December 1903) was a Raja of Ramnad.
- He became the recognised proprietor of the Ramnad estate after his father's death in 1873 till 1895. 1895, He assumed Managership of Rameswaram till 1901.
- He was regarded as a pious, brilliant and generous ruler by his supporters.
- His supporters believed that he would regain control of Ramnad estate some day.
- He died suddenly at the age of 35 in 1903.

- In 1892, Swami Vivekananda stayed with Bhaskara when he visited Madurai and he sponsored Vivekananda's visit to Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago.
- During his stay, Swami Vivekananda had extensive discussions on Hindu philosophy with eminent scholars like Mahavidwan R. Raghava Iyengar.

### **Sethupathi Rule - Questions**

1) Who were the rulers of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga in the 17th century?

(A) Tondaiman

**(B) Sethupathi**

(C) Marathas

(D) Nayak

2) Who built the Chokkanatha Swamy Temple at Rameswaram?

**(A) Sadaikka Thevar II**

(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi

(C) Kizhavan sethupathi

(D) Kuttan sethupathi

3) Which was the capital city during the Sethupathi?

**(A) Ramanathapuram**

(B) Sivaganga

(C) Pudukkottai

(D) None of these

4) Who gave the permission to the Sethupathis to celebrate Navratri Festival in the capital?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar II

**(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi**

(C) Kizhavan sethupathi

(D) Kuttan sethupathi

5) Who helped the army of Thirumalai Nayak when he fought against Mysore army?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar II

**(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi**

(C) Kizhavan sethupathi

(D) Kuttan sethupathi

6) Who constructed the Second [prakaram](#) of the Ramanathswami temple in Rameshwaram?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar II

**(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi**

(C) Kizhavan sethupathi



(D) Kuttan sethupathi

7) Who is known as Para rajakesari?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar II

(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi

**(C) Kizhavan sethupathi**

(D) Bhaskara Sethupathi

8) Who endowed the villages to the temples in Thiruvadanai and Kalaiyar temple?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar II

(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi

**(C) Kizhavan sethupathi**

(D) Bhaskara Sethupathi

9) Who sponsored swami vivekananda for the parliament of the world religions held in Chicago?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar II

(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi

(C) Kizhavan sethupathi

**(D) Bhaskara Sethupathi**

10) What is the official language of court during the sethupathi rule?

(A) Tamil

(B) Telugu

**(C) Both (A) and (B)**

(D) None of these

11) Which of the following is /are wrong match?

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Sadaikka Thevar          | - AD 1645-1670     |
| 2) Raghunatha Sethupathi    | - AD AD 1636-.1645 |
| 3) Raghunatha Sethupathi II | - AD 1671-1710     |

(A) 1 and 3

(B) 2 and 3

**(C) 1 and 2**

(D) 1, 2 and 3

12) Which of the following statement is /are correct ?

- 1) The Sadaikka thevar and the Kuttan Sethupathi worshiped the temple of Ramanathaswamy temple.
- 2) Kutan Sethupathi's adoptive son is called as Thambi.

**(A) 1 only**

(B) 2 only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

13) Who helped the Nayaks by defeating the Muslims under Kutbkhan and the poliga of Ettapuram?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar II

**(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi**

(C) Kizhavan sethupathi

(D) Bhaskara Sethupathi

14) Which of the following statement is /are correct ?

1) Raghunatha Sethupathi encouraged Tamil poets namely Alagiya Chitramabala Kavirayar and Amirtha Kavirayar.

2) Kilavan Sethupathi established a new Pudukottai kingdom and made his son Raghunatha Raja Thondaiman as its first ruler.

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

**(C) 1 and 2**

(D) None of these

15) Who opposed the activities of Christian missionaries?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar

**(B) Raghunatha sethupathi II**

(C) Bhaskara Sethupathi

(D) Raghunatha Sethupathi

16) Who annexed the Devakottai and Aranthangi?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar

**(B) Raghunatha sethupathi II**

(C) Bhaskara Sethupathi

(D) Raghunatha Sethupathi

17) Who prisoned sadaikka thevar ?

(A) Thirumalai Nayak

(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi II

(C) Kuttan sethupathi

**(D) Thambi**

18) Who was known as Thirumalai Sethupathi?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar

(B) Raghunatha sethupathi II

(C) Bhaskara Sethupathi

**(D) Raghunatha Sethupathi**

19) Which of the following statements is related to the Raghunatha Sethupathi II ?

1) He helped the Thirumalai Nayak.

2) After defeating the rani Mangammal in 1707, he declared his country as an independent state.

3) He transferred capital from Pughalur to Ramanathapuram.

4) He established the Nalcottal palayam (later Sivaganga) and appointed Udaya Thevar as governor.

5) He constructed a dam across the Vaigai.

(A) 1 , 2 and 5

(B) 2 , 3 and 4

**(C) 2 , 3 , 4 and 5**

(D) 1, 2 , 3 and 4

20) Who helped the Thambi to imprison sadaikka thevar?

(A) Chokkanatha Nayak

(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi II

(C) Kuttan sethupathi

**(D) Thirumalai Nayak**

21) Who gave the title of Pararajakesari to the Kizhavan Sethupathi?

**(A) Chokkanatha Nayak**

(B) Raghunatha Sethupathi II

(C) Kuttan sethupathi

(D) Thirumalai Nayak

22) Who liberated the Marava country from the control of Madurai Nayak?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar

**(B) Raghunatha sethupathi II**

(C) Bhaskara Sethupathi

(D) Raghunatha Sethupathi

23) Who built fort in Ramanathapuram?

(A) Sadaikka Thevar

**(B) Raghunatha sethupathi II**

(C) Bhaskara Sethupathi

(D) Raghunatha Sethupathi

24) Which of the following statements is/ are correct ?

1) Kuttan Sethupathi's adoptive son is Sadaikkathevar II .

2) The Nayak ruler also donated places like Thirubhuvanam, Mannar Koil  
Tiruchuli to Sethupathi.

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

**(C) 1 and 2**

(D) None of these

25) Which of the following statements is /are correct ?

1) Sivagangai became a separate country after the reign of the old Sethupathi.

2) Baskara Sethupathi served Thayumanavar with love.

3) Thakalai Nayakar gave the title "Thirumalai Sethupathi" to Bhaskara  
Sethupathi.

**(A) 1 only**

(B) 2 only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) 1 , 2 and 3