Tanjore Maratha Rule (1676 AD - 1856 AD)

The Thanjavur Maratha kingdom of the Bhonsle dynasty was a principality of Tamil Nadu between the 17th and 19th centuries. Their native language was Marathi. Venkoji was the founder of the dynasty.

**Venkoji**

- Venkoji, a half-brother of the Maratha king Shivaji, was the first Raja of Thanjavur from the Bhosale dynasty.
- It is believed that he took over the administration of Thanjavur in April 1674 and ruled until 1684.
- During his reign, Shivaji invaded Gingee and Thanjavur in 1676–1677 and made his brother Santaji the ruler of all lands to the north of the Coleroon.
- During the last years of his reign, Venkoji also allied with Chokkanatha of Madurai to repulse an invasion from Mysore.

**Shahuji I**

- Shahuji I was the eldest son of Venkoji and he ascended the throne at the age of twelve.
During his reign, the Mughals occupied the Coromandel coast and Tiruchirapalli and forced him to pay tribute.

Shahuji was a patron of literature. During his reign, there were frequent skirmishes and battles with the Raja of Madurai and Ramnad for control of the border lands.

Serfoji I

Serfoji I was a younger son of Venkoji and he ruled from 1712 to 1728. His rule was marked by regular warfare and disputes with the Madurai Nayak. During his period independent sivaganga was formed.

Tukkoji

Tukkoji, a younger brother of Serfoji I, ruled Thanjavur from 1728 to 1736. His reign witnessed the invasion of Chanda Sahib and he is credited with having repulsed a Muslim invasion of Madurai.

Pratapsingh

A period of anarchy followed the death of Tukkoji and came to an end when Pratapsingh came to the throne in 1739.
He ruled until 1763. He allied with Muhammad Ali, the Nawab of the Carnatic, and aided the British East India Company against the French East India Company in the Carnatic Wars and the Seven Years' War.

He was the last king to be addressed to be the Directors of the British East India Company as "His Majesty".

In 1762, a tripartite treaty was signed between Thanjavur, Carnatic and the British by which he became a vassal of the Nawab of the Carnatic.

**Thuljaji**

Thuljaji was a very weak ruler and the last independent ruler of Thanjavur was crowned as the ruler thanjavurin 1763.

In 1773, Thanjavur was annexed by the Nawab of the Carnatic who ruled till 1776.

The throne was restored to him by the Directors of the British East India Company.

But his restoration came at a heavy price as it deprived him of his independence.

**Serfoji II**

Thuljaji was succeeded by his teenage son Serfoji II in 1787.
Soon afterwards, he was deposed by his uncle and regent Amarsingh who seized the throne for himself.

With the help of the British, Serfoji II recovered the throne in 1798.

A subsequent treaty forced him to hand over the reigns of the kingdom to the British East India Company, becoming part of the Tanjore District (Madras Presidency).

The district collectorate system was installed thereafter to manage the public revenues.

Serfoji II was however left in control of the Fort and the surrounding areas. He reigned till 1832.

His reign is noted for the literary, scientific and technological accomplishments of the Tanjore country.

Shivaji II

Shivaji II was the last Maratha ruler of Thanjavur and reigned from 1832 to 1855.

He was a weak and feeble prince with barely any authority. As his first wife did not have any male heir, the Queen adopted her nephew, and the adoption took place after the Maharaja's (Shivaji II) death in 1855.

The British did not accept this adoption and Thanjavur was annexed by them as per the provisions of the Doctrine of Lapse in 1856.
The significance of the Treaty of the English East India Company with Arcot Nawab in 1792 was that the English East India Company acquired the right to collect taxes from poligars.

**Saraswathi Mahal**

- When Surfoji II was relieved by political activities, he developed an interest in English Literature and engaged in scholarly activities.
- He collected books, manuscripts, old records, and preserved them in Saraswathi Mahal.
- With a huge collection of literature and other sources, Saraswathi Mahal became a centre of learning and research.
- It had 2200 palm leaf manuscripts, Sanskrit, Marathi, and a book in English, German, French, Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit.
- Statue of Serfoji also located here.
- In 1805 Sarfoji II established a printing press at Tanjore.

**Literature**

- There were 46 poets in the court of King Shahji.
- Ramapathara Alluri Kuppana was a great Telugu poet and was respected as Kalidasa of Andhradesa.

**Important points to be noted**
Venkaji founder of Tanjore Maratha Empire

Saraswathi Mahal at Tanjore - A good library and center of learning and research

Shivaji - the last ruler of Tanjore Maratha Empire

Venkaji father was Shahji Bonsle

Venkaji was also called as Ekoji

Sarfoji - I established Siva Ganga

Sarfoji - II established Printing Press in Tanjore

'Thiruvarur Vaidyanthadesikar' and 'Swaminathadesikar' were the famous tamil poet lived during Marathas of Tanjore

Shaji II was harsh towards the Christians.

Tuljajis adopted son is Serfoji II.

Shivaji II was the son of Serfoji II

The greatest telugu poet who got the title of Andhra Kalidasa was 'Ramapathara Alluri Kuppana'

Aluri Kuppanna - Telugu poet was patronized by Tuljaji

Rambhadra Dikshit is the Telugu poet in Shahji's palace

Rambadra Dikshit, Baskara Dikshit were Sanskrit poets

Shahji Bonsle - Father of Shivaji and Venkaji

Venkaji - The First ruler of Tanjore Maratha
Sarfoji - I - Rise of Siva Ganga
Sarfoji - II - Eastablished Saraswathi Mahal
Shivaji - The last ruler of Tanjore Maratha

**Veerapandyya Kattabomman**

- Veerapandiya Kattabomman was an 18th-century Palayakarrar and chieftain from Panchalankurichi in Tamil Nadu, India who waged a war against the British East India Company. He was captured by the British and hanged in 1799 CE.
- Veerapandiyan was born to Jagaveera Kattabomman and Arumugattammal on 3 January 1760. Veerapandiyan was called ‘Karuthaiah’. and had two younger brothers Dalavai Kumarasami and Duraisingam. On 2 February 1790, Veerapandiyan became the ruler of Panchalankurichi.
- Kattabomman refused to accept the sovereignty of British East India Company, and fought against them.
- Kattabomman was betrayed by the then ruler of the kingdom of Pudukottai Vijaya Raghunatha Tondaiman to the British on 1 October 1799.
- He was subsequently arrested at Kayathar, interrogated till 16 October 1799 and sentenced to public hanging. On 16 October 1799, he was hanged at Kayathar in Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu which was done by bannerman.
South indian rebellion (1800-1801)

The south indian rebellion was the outburst of the accumulated hatred and anger against the East india company’s rule.

Maruthu pandya

- The Marudhu brothers (Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu) ruled Sivagangai as their capital towards the end of the 18th century.
- They were the first to issue a proclamation of independence from the colonial British rule from Trichy Thiruvarangam Temple, Tamil Nadu on 10 June 1801, 56 years before what is generally said to be the First War of Indian Independence which broke out mainly in Northern India in 1857.
- The Marudhu Pandiyars, along with the war leader Sivanandi and many of their family members, were captured at Cholapuram. They were hanged in the fort of Tirupputhur, in what is now Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu, on 24 October 1801. Chinna Marudhu is known as lion of sivaganga helped umaithurai.
- But umaithurai was impaled at panchalamkurichi on 16th November 1801 AD.
- Thus the south indian rebellion came to an end.
Tanjore Maratha Rule - Questions

1) Who is the founder of the Maratha kingdom in Thanjavur?
   (A) Chokkanatha Nayak
   (B) Azhagiri
   (C) Sengamala Das
   (D) Venkoji

2) The Period of maratha rule in tanjore was
   (A) 1676-1856
   (B) 1776-1856
   (C) 1830-1856
   (D) 1766-1856

3) Who is known as ekoji?
   (A) Venkoji
   (B) Santhaji
   (C) Shivaji
   (D) Shaji II

4) Which of the following statement is wrong?
   (A) Shaji II was harsh towards the Christians.
   (B) Shivaji II was the son of Serfoji II
(C) Tuljajis adopted son is Serfoji II.

(D) According to the doctrine of lapse, in 1858 Thanjavur was annexed with the British Empire.

5) Rambadra Dikshit, Baskara Dikshit were

(A) Arab poets

(B) Sanskrit poets

(C) English poets

(D) Kannada poets

6) Who is known as Andhara Kalidasa?

(A) Aluri Kuppanna

(B) Rambadra Dikshit

(C) Baskara Dikshit

(D) Tuljaji

7) Who established Thanjai Saraswathy Mahal?

(A) Shaji II

(B) Serfoji II

(C) Shivaji II
8) What was the significance of the Treaty of the English East India Company in with Arcot Nawab in 1792?

(A) Arcot Nawab Acted as a representative of British

(B) Arcot acted as representative of the Mughals.

(C) The English East India Company acquired the right to collect the taxes from poligars

(D) Mughals acquired the right to collect taxes from the poligars.

9) When was vira pandya kattabomman hanged to death?

(A) October 2, 1799

(B) November 16, 1799

(C) October 16, 1799

(D) November 16, 1788

10) When was the South Indian Rebellion happened?

(A) 1800-1801

(B) 1802-1803

(C) 1799-1800

(D) 1803-1804

11) Who ruled by making Sivaganga as their capital?

(A) Vira pandya Kattabomman
(B) Marudhu pandiar
(C) Akniv
(D) Umaithurai

12) When was marudhu pandya hanged to death?

(A) October 24, 1801
(B) October 10, 1880
(C) October 5, 1801
(D) October 28, 1887

13) Who is the king of the Panchalamkuruchi?

(A) Kattabomman
(B) Sethupathi
(C) Umaithurai
(D) Serfoji II

14) Where was Vira pandya Kattabomman hanged?

(A) Kayatharu
(B) Sivaganga
(C) Kalaiyarkoyil
(D) Pudukkottai

15) Which Telugu poet was patronized by Tuljaji?

(A) Baskara Dikshit
(B) Rampathra Dikshit

(C) **Aluri Kuppanna**

(D) Serfoji II

16) Who is known as lion of Sivaganga?

(A) **Chinna marudhu**

(B) Umaithurai

(C) Muthu vadukanatha thevar

(D) Puli thevar

17) When was Umaithurai impaled?

(A) October 24, 1801

(B) **November 16, 1801**

(C) October 5, 1801

(D) October 16, 1799

18) Who hanged Vira pandya Kattabomman to death?

(A) Jackson

(B) Yousuf khan

(C) Captain Cambhell

(D) **Bannerman**

19) Who captured vira pandya kattabomman and handed him to the British?

(A) **Vijay Ragunatha Thondaiman**
20) During whose period independent Sivaganga was formed?

(A) Venkoji I 

(B) **Serfoji I**

(C) Shivaji 

(D) Shaji II 

21) Who handed over the Thanjavur kingdom to the English East India Company?

(A) Shaji II 

(B) **Serfoji II**

(C) Shivaji II 

(D) Tuljaji 

22) Who was the last king of the Thanjavur Maratha?

(A) Shaji II 

(B) Serfoji II 

(C) **Shivaji II**

(D) Tuljaji 

23) When did Tuljaji was crowned as the ruler Thanjavur?

(A) AD 1736
24) Thanjavur was annexed with british empire according to the policy of Doctrine of lapse in

(A) 1799
(B) 1855
(C) 1856
(D) 1858

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

1) Poligars emerged during the rule of Vishwanath Nayak, the ruler of Madurai.
2) The palayam means the land given for the military service.

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 2
(D) None of these

26) Who was the first king of Maratha ruler of Tanjore?

(A) Serfoji II
(B) Venkoji
(C) Tuljaji
27) Who built Saraswathi mahal library?

(A) Serfoji II

(B) Venkoji

(C) Tuljaji

(D) Serfoji I

28) Who was the guardian of Serfoji II when he took over the charge of Thanjavur?

(A) Wellesley

(B) Tuljaji

(C) Arcot Nawab

(D) Amar Singh

29) Who is the Telugu poet in Shahji’s palace?

(A) Swaminathana Dikshit

(B) Arunachala Kavi Roy

(C) Vaithiyanatha Dikshit

(D) Rambhadra Dikshit

30) Where is the statue of Serfoji II located?

(A) Thiruvidai Maruthur Temple

(B) Saraswathy Mahal
(C) Brahadeeshwarar temple

(D) Vaidyanatha temple