



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Rani Velu Nachiyar: Tribute on Her Birth Anniversary

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Context:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** recently paid tribute to **Rani Velu Nachiyar** on her birth anniversary, honoring her legacy as a fearless leader and a pioneer in the fight against British colonial rule in India.

Background:

- **Rani Velu Nachiyar** (1730–1796) was a **princess of Ramanathapuram**, Tamil Nadu, and the daughter of the ruler of the **Ramnad kingdom**.
- Known as **Veeramangai** (meaning "brave woman") by the Tamil people, she was one of the earliest Indian queens to actively oppose British colonization.
- Rani Velu Nachiyar reinherited the **Sivagangai kingdom** after the death of her husband and led a significant resistance movement against the British.

Contributions:

- **Fighting British Rule:** Rani Velu Nachiyar was the **first queen** to wage an active war against the British East India Company. In collaboration with **Hyder Ali**, the ruler of Mysore, and **Gopala Nayaker**, she led a determined resistance, famously making significant strategic alliances.
- **Innovative Warfare:** One of her major achievements was the creation of the **first human bomb** and the formation of an **army of trained women soldiers**, making her a trailblazer in military leadership and gender inclusivity.

Legacy and Values:

- Rani Velu Nachiyar's reign is remembered for her **bravery, leadership, and commitment to protecting her kingdom** from foreign domination.
- She was also proficient in **multiple languages** like **French, English, and Urdu**, which reflected her broad intellectual and diplomatic capabilities.

Rani Velu Nachiyar's legacy continues to inspire generations, as she remains a symbol of courage, resilience, and defiance in the face of oppression.

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