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ADVENT OF EUROPEANS - THE PORTUGUESE, THE DUTCH, THE ENGLISH, THE DANISH AND THE FRENCH

Main Topic	Subtopics
Beginnings of European Influence in Tamil Nadu (15th–17th Centuries)	- Order of Arrival of Europeans - Political and Economic Context - The Portuguese: Pioneers and Decline - The Dutch and The Danes: Rivals - The Tranquebar Mission and Contributions of Ziegenbalg - The English: Architects of Dominion (Fort St. George) - The French: Late, Ambitious Contender - Tamil Nadu as the "Cockpit of Intrigue"
Civil Wars and European Intervention (The 1740s–1750s)	- The Wallajah Administration Begins - The Thanjavur Civil War (English Intervention) - Civil War in Arcot and the French-Nevayet Confederacy - French Ascendancy and the Nizam's Downfall - The Contest for Tiruchirapalli - The Diversion of Arcot - The Execution of Chanda Sahib (1752) - Outcome and Significance of the War (Treaty of Pondicherry, 1754)
Wallajah Expansion and Consolidation (1756–1773)	- Core Objectives of Nawab Mohammad Ali's Expansion - The Thanjavur Crisis (Treaty of 1762 and Sieges) - Annexation of the Marava States (Ramanathapuram & Sivaganga) - Final Annexation of Thanjavur (1773) - Post-Conquest Administration and Wallajah's Defiance
British Ascendancy (1775–1793)	- The Decline of the Wallajahs - The Restoration of Thanjavur (1776) - The Wallajah Response: Intrigue and Insolvency - Rebellions in the Marava States - Financial Enslavement: Assignment and Assumption of Revenue - The Treaties of 1787, 1792, and 1793

Company's Acquisition of Tamil Nadu	- Mechanisms of Conquest (Wars, Alliances, Diplomacy) - Annexation of Kongu Nadu (The Mysore Wars) - Annexation of Thanjavur (The Game of Succession) - Annexation of the Carnatic (Srirangapatnam Correspondence) - The Wallajah Dilemma and Final Consolidation
Company's Land Revenue Administration in Tamil Nadu	- Initial Challenges and Need for Reform - Permanent Revenue Settlement (Zamindari Model) - Village Settlement (Lease System) - Ryotwari Settlement (Final System under Thomas Munro)
Organisation of the Judiciary in Madras Presidency (1661–1861)	- Early Stages: Judiciary in Infancy (1661–1753) - The Crown Courts: Recorder and Supreme Court - Extension to the Provinces (The Cornwallis Model) - Munro Reforms and the Reorganisation of 1816 - Final Consolidation and the Indian High Courts Act of 1861 - Associated Reforms: Police and Prisons
Education in Madras Presidency (1800–1900s)	- The Indigenous Traditional System and its Decline - Missionary Endeavour in Education - Policy Shifts: Filtration Theory vs. Mass Education (Wood's Despatch) - The Debate: Tamil vs. English Medium - Beginnings of Higher Education (University of Madras) - Impact and Critical Analysis of Western Education

BEGINNINGS OF EUROPEAN INFLUENCE IN TAMIL NADU (15TH–17TH CENTURIES)

The entry of European powers into coastal Tamil Nadu marks a critical juncture in Indian history. It wasn't just about trade; it was a complex dance of politics and profit.

The Europeans—starting with the Portuguese and followed by the Dutch, Danes, English, and French—made their appearance during the **Vijayanagar period**. This phenomenon was not isolated to South India but common across the Indies.

Order of Arrival:

1. Portuguese

2. Dutch
3. Danes
4. English
5. French

Political and Economic Context (The Great Opportunity)

The primary condition that shaped European success here was the **disintegration of the Vijayanagar Empire** and the resultant **internal conflicts among the local powers**. This created a unique set of challenges and opportunities for the merchants:

Challenges Faced by Europeans	Opportunities Seized by Europeans
No Single Authority: They could expect no single power to deal with.	Political Maneuvering: They could play one power against the other to wrest both commercial and political concessions.
Lack of Order: Internal conflicts prevented trade in a peaceful atmosphere.	Economic Potential: The fertile tracts supplied a wide variety of goods (vegetables, fruits, rice, fish).
Frugality of Tamils: Commerce faced obstacles due to the simplicity and frugality marking the life of the Tamils. They needed consistent effort to change local habits and excite interest in foreign trade items.	Manufacture and Trade: Numerous towns manufactured the finest cotton goods and served as markets for cotton, timber, gold, and precious stones .
	Demand: Europeans urgently needed goods like spices, cloves, pepper, indigo, pearls, silk, calico and saw the possibility of reaping huge profits .

The Portuguese: The Pioneers (c. 1498 – 1658)

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach the coast.

Key Details & Goals

- **Arrival in India:** Portuguese vessels reached **Kozhikode** (Malabar Coast) in **17 May 1498**.
- **Headquarters:** They acquired **Goa in 1510** and made it their primary headquarters in India.
- **Primary Goal:** Control of the **eastern market** through alliances with princes and establishment of **isolated posts**. They did *not* aim for large territorial possession because their resources did not permit it.
- **Religious Enterprise:** They gave **equal importance to religious efforts**, extending support to the **Jesuits** for the conversion of people to Catholicism.

Settlements and Case Study: The Paravas

Settlement	Year/Context	Significance
San Thome	1522	Initially religious: interest in building a church where St. Thomas was believed to have been killed. Francisco de Almeida , Viceroy of Goa, sent men to trace the chapel in 1507 . The church was rebuilt, though later its walls were washed away by waves. It quickly became a trading settlement.

Porto Novo (Parangipettai)	—	Established as a settlement and developed into a seaport .
Nagapatnam	Settled during the administration of Sevappa Nayaka of Thanjavur .	Grew into a large town. Father Pimenta recorded in 1597 that many "Portugals" dwelled and wintered there, arriving from China, Bengla, Pegu, and Malacca.
Fishery Coast / Tutukudi	1533	This was their area of " considerable gains ". The Paravas (an industrious people) were oppressed by Telugu rulers and suffered clashes with Muslims. The Paravas appealed to the Portuguese at Cochin for help. The Portuguese made themselves masters of the port towns. Case Study: All in one day , the Paravas received baptism, accepted Christianity, and recognized Portuguese jurisdiction. Tutukudi, a port town with some 50,000 people in 1700 , became a stronghold of their influence.

Decline of Portuguese Influence

Their situation was critically altered by conflicts:

1. **Conflict with Nayaks:** **Vijayanagar forces** raided their settlement on the Fishery Coast. **Raghunatha Nayaka of Thanjavur** undertook an expedition against them (in support of his ally, the ruler of Jaffna), leading to the Portuguese losing influence in Thanjavur.
2. **Dutch Ascendancy:** The Dutch occupied **Nagapatnam** and other settlements by **1658**, seizing control of the market on the East Coast.

The Dutch and the Danes (The Rivals)

The Dutch and Danes appeared as **bitter rivals** to the Portuguese.

The Dutch (Challenging Portuguese Supremacy)

The Dutch were **enterprising and cosmopolitan** and were directed by their nation to **build forts and make alliances with Asiatic powers**.

- **Early Efforts:** They began with a fleet of four vessels in **1595**. Their initial experiences in the Tamil Country were disappointing.
- **Key Settlements:**
 - **Devanampatnam (1608):** They built a factory here with permission from **Krishnappa Nayaka of Senji**. (*Note: This settlement later became the English **Fort St. David**.*)
 - **Pulicat (1610):** They acquired this from the local Nayak and made it their **stronghold**.
- **Major Setback:** Due to **Portuguese intrigues**, **Emperor Venkata I** directed the Nayak of Senji to destroy the Dutch fort at Devanampatnam. The English records confirm the raid and demolition.
- **Military Success:** They retaliated in strength by defeating the Portuguese fleet in the **Battle of Malacca in 1606** and subdued rival settlements, including Nagapatnam and Tutukudi.
- **Capital:** In **1689**, they made **Nagapatnam the capital** of their possessions in India. They maintained efficient finances, fortified settlements, and gained large profits.

Decline of Dutch Influence

The Dutch gradually withdrew from the Tamil Coast due to specific failures and rivalries:

1. They became unpopular because they indulged in **slave trade** and entered into **intrigues in the courts**.
2. They faced **British opposition in India**.
3. They found greater scope for **lucrative trade in the East Indies**, prompting a strategic move to that region.

THE DANES

- **Arrival:** King **Christian IV of Denmark** sent the Danes to Thanjavur in **1620**.

The Tranquebar Mission: Pioneers of Protestantism

- **Establishment:** The mission was a direct outcome of the Danish settlement at **Tarangambadi (Danesborg)**.
- **Key Figures:** **Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg** and **Heinrich Pluetschau**.
 - They arrived in Tranquebar in **September 1706** as the **first Lutheran (Protestant) missionaries in India**.
 - They began preaching and baptized their first converts within ten months.

Challenges and Opposition

The mission's work was not smooth and faced opposition from multiple fronts:

1. **Opposition from Local Hindus:** Their proselytizing activities were met with resistance from the local Hindu population.
2. **Opposition from Danish Authorities:** The local Danish administrators were hostile to the mission.
 - **Reason:** They feared that converting natives would incite social unrest and rebellion, thereby disrupting their trade and administration.
 - **Consequence:** Ziegenbalg was imprisoned for four months in **1707-08** on charges of encouraging rebellion.

The Ziegenbalg Philosophy

A significant ideological debate shaped the mission's future and legacy.

- **The Copenhagen Missionary Society's View:** Instructed missionaries to focus *exclusively* on preaching the Gospel and not to involve themselves in other "worldly" matters. Their goal was a purely indigenous Christian Church.
- **Ziegenbalg's Counter-Argument:** He contended that a **concern for the physical and social welfare** of the people was an implicit and essential part of the Gospel's message. This holistic approach went beyond mere conversion and included education, health, and cultural engagement.

Seminal Contributions and Lasting Legacy

Ziegenbalg's holistic philosophy led to pioneering work that had a lasting impact on Tamil society and Indian Christianity.

1. **The Printing Press:** He established a printing press in Tranquebar, one of the earliest in the region. This was a revolutionary step for the dissemination of knowledge.
2. **Pioneering Vernacular Translation:**
 - **1715:** Ziegenbalg's translation of the **New Testament into Tamil** was published. This was the **first time the New Testament was translated into any Indian language**.
 - At the time of his death (**1719**), he left behind a full Tamil translation of the complete Bible.

3. **Linguistic and Cultural Studies:** He was not just a missionary but also a scholar. He published detailed studies on the **Tamil language, Indian religion, and local culture**, contributing to European understanding of India.
4. **Institution Building:**
 - **Church:** The church building constructed by Ziegenbalg and his associates in **1718** is still in use today.
 - **Seminary:** He successfully established a seminary for the training of local clergy, promoting an indigenous church leadership.
5. **Architectural Legacy:** The Danish Fort (Fort Dansborg) built in Tarangambadi remains a significant historical monument.

Contribution	Key Person / Fact	Year	Significance
First Lutheran Missionaries in India	Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg & Heinrich Pluetschau	1706	Marked the beginning of organized Protestant missionary work in India.
First New Testament Translation in an Indian Language	Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg (into Tamil)	1715	A landmark event for vernacular literature and Indian Christianity.
Establishment of Printing Press	Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg in Tranquebar	~1712	Enabled mass production of religious and secular texts in Tamil.
Holistic Mission Philosophy	Ziegenbalg's idea (Gospel + Social Welfare)	N/A	Influenced the model for future missionary work (education, health).
Key Danish Settlement	Tranquebar (Tarangambadi) / Fort Dansborg	1620	Main center of Danish activity in India.

The English: The Architects of Dominion (c. 1600 – 1687)

The English East India Company obtained a **royal charter for trade with the Indies in 1600**.

Strategic Shift to Tamil Nadu

- The English were thwarted by internal rivalry and European machinations in Konkan, Malabar, and the East Indies.
- They turned to coastal Tamil Nadu and Andhra, viewing it as a **"land of promise"**.
- This region produced what they needed and, critically, **lacked the unity that would have rendered their efforts difficult**.

Establishing Fort St. George (Madras)

The establishment of Madras was a foundational step in their rise to power:

Milestone	Details and Key Personalities
1639 Grant	Francis Day sailed south due to opposition from Golkonda and the Dutch at Masulipatam. He obtained a grant from Dameria Venkatappa , the Nayak of Poonamalle (under Emperor Venkata III), to construct a settlement and a fort in or around Madraspatnam.

Location	Day found the place sandy and muddy, lacking scenic beauty, but offering good anchorage for ships . (According to tradition, Day chose the spot because he had a girlfriend of Portuguese descent at San Thome).
1640 Construction	A small fort was erected, later enlarged and called Fort St. George .
Confirmation	The English secured confirmation of their right to possess Madras by agreeing to pay annual rent to the Rajah of Chandragiri, the Emperor of Vijayanagar, and the Sultan of Golkonda .
Growth	Madras grew rapidly from a settlement of traders and seamen to a city of Tamils and Telugus. It quickly overshadowed Kanchi, Vellore, and Arcot .
Naming	Madraspatnam is believed to be derived from <i>Madraskuppam</i> (after Maddarazu or Madda Raju). Chennapatnam is named after Chennappa —both were Telugu chieftains.
Administrative Status	In 1653 , Fort St. George was made a separate presidency , independent of Bentam. Aaron Baker was appointed the first Governor . In 1654 , it was made the headquarters of the English on the Coromandel Coast .

Further Acquisitions and Political Intrigues

- **Fort St. David & Cuddalore:** **Thomas Yale**, Governor of Fort St. George, negotiated with **Raja Ram**, the Maratha ruler of Senji. Yale offered a **liberal bribe** to the Brahmin minister to obtain the grant for Fort St. David and Cuddalore. Situated near Pondicherry, Fort St. David developed into a promising settlement.
- **Thanjavur:** The English showed interest but abandoned plans to build factories there as the local rulers were "very greedy" and European rivalry seemed formidable. They only acquired **Devokottai in 1749**.
- **Queen Mangammal's Invitation:** **Queen Mangammal of Madurai** invited the English to establish settlements at **Kayal** (near Tutukudi) and **Attingal** (on the West Coast). Mangammal sought to use the English against the **Dutch**, who were supporting the Queen of Attingal (who had defaulted on tribute to Madurai). The English showed interest in Attingal (due to the prospect of **pepper trade**) but declined the offer due to **fear of Dutch rivalry**.

The Critical Policy Shift (1687)

As trade volume and profits grew, the British gained confidence and developed **political ambitions**.

- In **1687**, the Company officially announced its major shift in policy: its resolve was to "Establish such a polity of civil and military power and create and secure such a large revenue ... as may be the foundation of a **large, well grounded sure English dominion in India for all time to come**". This shift had a massive impact upon the Tamil Country.

The French: The Late, Ambitious Contender

The French East India Company was formed in **1664**, largely due to the initiative of **Colbert**, the Minister of King Louis XIV.

- **Objective:** The Company was granted power to **conquer and occupy territories**, making a determined bid to emerge into a political power.
- **Pondicherry (1674):** They acquired possession from the **Sultan of Bijapur** and made it their **capital in India**.

- **Karaikkal (1739):** Governor **Dumas**, in alliance with **Chanda Sahib**, forced King **Sahuji of Thanjavur** to cede Karaikkal to the Company.
- **Decline:** The French became **obsessed with political ambitions**, causing them to neglect trade and entangle themselves in wars. Their political failure ultimately led to **commercial decay**.

Tamil Nadu as the "Cockpit of Intrigue"

Tamil Nadu acquired a **strategic importance of great magnitude** for all major European powers.

Economic and Geopolitical Significance

1. **Trade Hub:** Europeans engaged in both export and inland trade.
 - **Exports:** Cotton products, slaves, pepper, and salt petre.
 - **Inland Sales:** Woolen products, tents, bricks, and grain (mostly obtained from other parts of India).
2. **Major Strongholds:** The primary European strongholds—**San Thome, Nagapatnam, Tarangambadi, Madras, and Pondicherry**—were all located in the Tamil Country.
3. **Strategic Location:** The region was surrounded by the major Indian powers of the time: **Mysore, the Marathas, and the Nizam**.
4. **Control Imperative:** Control of this territory was deemed essential not only to deal with the **rival European powers** but also to negotiate with the **Indian powers from a position of strength**.

The Result: In the subsequent period, the region was **"transformed into a cockpit of intrigue and conflict"**.

CIVIL WARS AND EUROPEAN INTERVENTION (THE 1740S–1750S)

Context: The Dual Struggle and Wallajah Ascendancy

The mid-18th century Tamil Country was convulsed by two simultaneous struggles for power, both serving as magnets for European intervention.

The Wallajah Administration Begins

The successful acquisition of the Nawabship of Arcot by **Anwar-ud-din** marked the commencement of the **Wallajah administration** in the Tamil Country.

1. **Consolidation Efforts:** Anwar-ud-din attempted to consolidate his new position by embarking upon an offensive against local powers.
2. **Limited Success:** He made limited progress, including asserting his power in **Madurai**, defeating a confederacy of **Tirunelveli poligars**, and occupying **Kollody and Elangad** from Thanjavur.
3. **Renaming Tiruchirapalli:** He renamed Tiruchirapalli as **Nathar Nagar** in honour of a Sayyid saint, **Hadrat Nathar Wali**. He also built the beautiful mosque known as **Masjid-i-Muhammadi** and strengthened the strategic fort.
4. **The Check:** This consolidation process suffered a severe check due to the outbreak of civil wars.
 - **Arcot Rivalry:** **Chanda Sahib** appeared as a rival to Anwar-ud-din. (This became the **Wallajah-Nevayet struggle**).
 - **Thanjavur Rivalry:** **Sayaji** appeared as a rival to **Pratap Singh**.

The Thanjavur Civil War (English Intervention)

The internal struggle in Thanjavur provided the first formal opportunity for the English to intervene militarily.

The Succession Dispute

- **Sayaji** assumed government in **1740**. However, he did not prove acceptable to the nobles.
- In **1742**, the principal men replaced him with **Pratap Singh** by their general concurrence.
- Sayaji sought external aid to recover the throne:
 - He first approached King **Sahu** and **Fateh Singh** (no purpose).
 - Then, he approached the Nizam and Nawab Anwar-ud-din (who had their own problems).
 - In **1746**, he appealed to the **French**, promising to cede **Devakottai**. Dupleix, however, rejected the offer, considering Devakottai "**too small a bait to tempt him**".

The British Intervention (1749)

- Sayaji's entreaties turned fruitful when he approached the English.
- **Charles Floyer**, the Governor of **Fort St. David**, decided to lend support based on Sayaji's assurances of a strong loyal party and the crucial offer of concessions, including the **cession of Devakottai**.
- **First Expedition (April 1749)**: Captain **Cope** commanded the expedition. They expected popular support but were disappointed. Their march was intercepted by an unexpected hurricane, and the fleet support was lost.
- Captain Cope failed to besiege Devakottai. Thanjavur forces under **Manakji** counter-attacked, destroying two field pieces and forcing a retreat.
- **Motivation for Persistence**: Despite the failure, the Council of Fort St. David continued military operations. The declared object was Sayaji's rights, but the **real object** was **resentment at having been defeated by a local power**.
- **Peace Demand**: When Manakji offered peace, the English demanded the cession of Devakottai, payment of expedition expenses, and an annual allowance for Sayaji. Pratap Singh declined, and the war continued.
- **Second Expedition (June 1749)**: The English sent a powerful army under **Major Lawrence**.
- **Outcome**: Lawrence's second assault succeeded, and **Devakottai fell**.
- **Peace Settlement**: The Company withdrew its support to Sayaji (though later granted him a monthly allowance of Rs. 300 to prevent him defecting to Chanda Sahib), but they successfully **obtained possession of Devokottai**.

Civil War in Arcot and the French-Nevayet Confederacy

The Arcot succession struggle drew in the French, culminating in the critical Battle of Ambur.

Chanda Sahib's Release and French Support

- **Chanda Sahib** was a **Nevayet** chief detained as a prisoner at **Satara**. **Safdar Ali** had paid the Marathas periodically to keep his rival confined.
- After Safdar Ali's death, payments ceased, and **Raghuji Bhonsle** agreed to release Chanda Sahib and his son, **Abid Sahib**, upon payment of **seven and a half lakhs of rupees**.
- Chanda Sahib requested French help to advance the money, offering his jewellery deposited at Pondicherry as security.
- **Dupleix's Rationale**: Governor Dupleix agreed, realizing the advantages of upholding the Nevayets, who **still commanded considerable influence** and held posts like **Vellore**. Dupleix opened communication with Satara, paid the amount, and secured their release in early **1748**.

The Hyderabad Succession Crisis (The Catalyst)

Simultaneously, a crisis erupted in Hyderabad, creating a vast network of alliances:

- **Nizam Asaf Jah** passed away.
- **Nasir Jung**, Asaf Jah's second son, ascended the throne.
- **Muzaffar Jung**, Governor of Bijapur and grandson of Asaf Jah, appeared as a rival, claiming the nizamate of Hyderabad.
- **The Confederacy:** Dupleix's support for Chanda Sahib served as a **nucleus for a powerful military bloc**. Chanda Sahib, while traveling from Satara, entered Muzaffar Jung's service, defeating the rebel ruler of **Bednur** (where he lost his son, Abid Sahib).
- **Muzaffar Jung's Reward:** Muzaffar Jung appointed Chanda Sahib as Nawab of Arcot, Senji, Tiruchirapalli, Thanjavur, and Madurai.
- **The French, the Nevayets, and Muzaffar Jung** formed a confederacy to expel the Wallajahs.

Battle of Ambur (23rd July 1749)

- **The Forces:** In June 1749, Chanda Sahib and Muzaffar Jung descended upon Arcot with **14,000 horse and 15,000 foot**, joined by a French army of **2,300 men**.
- Nawab Anwar-ud-din, accompanied by his sons **Maphuz Khan** and **Mohammad Ali**, marched from Tiruchirapalli.
- **Result:** The confederates defeated and **slew the Nawab Anwar-ud-din**.
- **Aftermath:** **Maphuz Khan fell prisoner** (later secured freedom by promising 11 lakhs tribute to Muzaffar Jung for Tiruchirapalli). **Mohammad Ali made his escape**. Chanda Sahib seized Arcot, while Mohammad Ali retained control of **Tiruchirapalli**.

The Alignment of European Powers

Until Mohammad Ali's flight, the English and French maintained separate spheres of influence, but the French victory at Ambur changed everything.

Power	Supported Candidate	Opposed Candidate
English	Sayaji (Thanjavur)	Pratap Singh (Thanjavur)
French	Chanda Sahib (Arcot) / Muzaffar Jung (Hyderabad)	Anwar-ud-din (Arcot) / Nasir Jung (Hyderabad)

- **Initial Phase:** The rival European powers initially **did not come into conflict with each other**, allowing the French and their allies to win the first round.
- **Policy Shift:** The ascendancy gained by the French **excited the fears of the English** and forced them to join the camp opposed by the French.
- **Mohammad Ali's Asset:** The scope of British intervention, though initially limited, became critical because Mohammad Ali retained control of the **strong fort of Tiruchirapalli**.
- **French Blunder:** The French later drove **Rajah Pratap Singh** (who initially fought on their side) into the British camp through an **unwise invasion of Thanjavur**.

The Debate on Legitimacy

European intervention was often cloaked in the assertion of legitimate claims, though these were frequently baseless:

Region	Candidate	Claim Reality
Thanjavur	Sayaji	Elder brother, but Pratap Singh ascended at the will of the head inhabitants .
Carnatic	Chanda Sahib	Conqueror of Tiruchirapalli and rightful representative of the Nevayets .

Carnatic	Mohammad Ali	Usurper , inheriting power through his father's usurpation and his own usurpation from his elder brother, Maphuz Khan. He later alleged receiving a firman from the Mughal Emperor in March 1751.
Hyderabad	Nasir Jung & Muzaffar Jung	Claims were illusory . Both attributed claims to Asaf Jah , who was himself an "usurper of Moghul rights".

French Ascendancy and the Nizam's Downfall (1749–1751)

Crisis and Intrigue

- In October 1749, Chanda Sahib marched toward Tiruchirapalli. He failed to exploit the moment as the English were busy garrisoning Fort St. George (restored by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle).
- **Nasir Jung** descended upon Arcot in support of Mohammad Ali. Chanda Sahib and his allies withdrew to **Pondicherry**. Muzaffar Jung surrendered to the Nizam.
- **Dupleix's Sagacity**: Dupleix declared he withdrew forces only to settle terms, deceiving the Nizam. He sent deputies demanding the release of Muzaffar Jung and the confirmation of Chanda Sahib as Nawab. Simultaneously, the French used the opportunity to establish contact with **sardars (chiefs) in Nasir Jung's camp** to hatch a plot.
- Nasir Jung rejected the terms and appointed Mohammad Ali as his Nawab of the Carnatic.
- The French attacked the Nizam's camp under darkness, killing about 1,000 men. The Nizam, alarmed, dismissed the English embassy.

Assassinations and French Control

- Intrigues triumphed over negotiations: On **5th December 1750**, **Nasir Jung was assassinated by his own sardars**.
- The sardars and French proclaimed **Muzaffar Jung** as the next Nizam.
- **Rewards**: Muzaffar Jung confirmed Chanda Sahib as Nawab and **ceded villages near Karaikkal and Pondicherry** to the French.
- Dupleix sent a force led by **Bussy** with Muzaffar Jung to Hyderabad.
- **Second Assassination**: Disappointed sardars plotted again and killed Muzaffar Jung at **Raichout, near Cuddappa, in January 1751**.
- **Bussy's Prompt Action**: Bussy immediately proclaimed **Salabat Jung** (third son of Asaf Jah) as the next Nizam, effectively establishing **French influence at Hyderabad**. Salabat Jung confirmed Chanda Sahib in the nawabship.

The Contest for Tiruchirapalli (1751–1752)

Mohammad Ali's survival depended on the invulnerable fort of Tiruchirapalli and securing an alliance to counter the formidable French-Nevayet bloc.

English Commitment

- Seeing events turn against him, Mohammad Ali returned to Tiruchirapalli. He desperately sought aid from the English (the principal rivals to the French).
- **Saunders**, Governor of Fort St. George, saw this as an opportunity to **bolster the sinking prestige of the English** and sent Captain Cope to the fort.
- Chanda Sahib, relying on superior force and French support, began the siege in March 1751. He offered to grant Mohammad Ali territory elsewhere if he evacuated the fort, but Mohammad Ali evaded the reply on Saunders' advice.

The Crucial Alliance with Mysore

- The siege failed partly due to the **"unenterprising attitude of the French"**.
- Chanda Sahib sought aid from **Mysore** (who traditionally interfered in Tamil wars to acquire territory). He agreed to assign Mysore territory yielding **three lakhs of rupees annually**.
- **Dupleix Vetoes:** Dupleix disapproved, fearing the alliance would neutralise French influence and because **it did not bring in money**. This angered the Rajah of Mysore.
- **Mohammad Ali's Move:** Mohammad Ali seized this opportunity through intrigue and offered the **cession of Madurai Country with all its dependencies** to Mysore for military aid (a territory "not inferior to Mysore").
- **New Allies:** The Rajah of Mysore accepted and agreed to render active assistance. This brought the services of **Murari Rao**, the experienced **Maratha general**, with his disciplined cavalry.

The Diversion of Arcot

Mohammad Ali suggested that a disturbance raised in the Arcot country would **"confound the enemy and break their hearts"**. Arcot was undefended.

- **Clive's Expedition (August 1751):** Saunders sent a force of 500 men under **Robert Clive** from Fort St. David.
- **Success:** Clive occupied the fort of Arcot on **1st September 1751**, a remarkable event for such a small force.
- **Impact:** Dupleix viewed the loss as serious, though Chanda Sahib considered it an insignificant raid.
- **Siege of Arcot:** **Reza Sahib** (Chanda Sahib's son) led 2,000 horse from Tiruchirapalli to recapture Arcot but failed.

The Tide Turns (Late 1751)

- **Mysore Reinforcements (September 1751):** The much-anticipated forces arrived at Tiruchirapalli: **5,000 horse and 10,000 foot** commanded by **Nanja Rajah** and **Veeranna** (noted more for arrogance than enterprise).
 - A small corps of the Mysore troops was drilled by the French and led by **Haider Ali**.
 - **Murari Rao** arrived with 6,000 trained cavalry. Nanja Rajah advanced **80,000 rupees**.
- **Rallying Local Powers:** More powers rushed to aid the Wallajahs:
 - **Rajah of Thanjavur:** 3,000 horse and 2,000 foot.
 - **Tondaiman of Pudukkottai:** 400 horse and 3,000 troops.
 - Chanda Sahib only received 4,000 irregular troops from **Setupati Katta Tevar of Ramanathapuram**.
- **Balance of Power:** The balance stood firmly in favour of the Wallajahs.
- **Clive's Victories:** Forces from Mysore under **Boojinga Rao** (Murari Rao's brother) joined Clive. They defeated Reza Sahib in battles at **Arcot, Arni, and Kaveripak**. The British and Maratha troops then marched to Tiruchirapalli.
- **Blockade Collapse:** English troops (1,500 under Major Lawrence) joined the stronghold. This **marked the collapse of the blockade** instituted by Chanda Sahib a year prior. The French troops abandoned posts, crossed the Kaveri, and took defensive positions at **Srirangam**.

The Execution of Chanda Sahib (1752)

Final Defeats

- In April 1752, Murari Rao and Clive cut off French communication with Karaikkal and routed Nevayet troops at **Samayaveram**.
- **Alam Khan**, Chanda Sahib's gallant general, died in a clash near Tiruchirapalli.
- Major Lawrence defeated the principal columns stationed at Srirangam, and resistance collapsed by August.

Surrender and Betrayal

- Chanda Sahib, completely surrounded, attempted a last-minute escape.
- **The Deal:** He settled with **Manakji** (Thanjavur general) and **Murari Rao**, promising a sum of money to be conducted (disguised as a fakir) to the French settlement of **Karaikkal**.
- **French General Jacques Law** asked Manakji to assure Chanda Sahib's safety on oath, which was done by proxy: **Daud Khan swore on the Qoran**. Manakji refused to provide a hostage.
- Chanda Sahib surrendered.
- **Execution:** Manakji held a secret conference with **Major Lawrence** the same day and decided the fate of their victim. Chanda Sahib was **assassinated on 17th June 1752**.

The result was a decisive triumph for the English and their allies, firmly establishing Mohammad Ali (Wallajah) in Arcot and significantly raising the political prestige of the English in South India.

Outcome and Significance of the War

- **Treaty of Pondicherry (1754):** The French government, unhappy with the financial losses from Dupleix's political ambitions, recalled him. A provisional peace treaty was signed.
- **Mohammad Ali Khan Wallajah** was recognized as the Nawab of the Carnatic.
- **Significance:**
 1. **Rise of British Power:** The war demonstrated the superiority of British financial strength and naval power, which allowed them to sustain a long conflict better than the French.
 2. **Emergence of Robert Clive:** His heroic defence of Arcot marked him as a brilliant military strategist.
 3. **Decline of French Influence:** The recall of Dupleix was a major blow to French ambitions in India. Although French influence continued in Hyderabad under Bussy, their position in the Carnatic was irrevocably weakened.
 4. **Indian Rulers as Pawns:** The war exposed the vulnerability of Indian princes and their dependence on European powers for survival, setting the stage for greater colonial expansion.

WALLAJAH EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION (1756-1773)

The Grand Ambitions of Nawab Mohammad Ali

The victory at Tiruchirapalli, culminating in the death of Chanda Sahib, firmly established **Mohammad Ali** as the Nawab of Arcot (Wallajah). Empowered by British military support, he immediately embarked on a mission of vast political expansion.

Core Objectives of Wallajah Expansion

Nawab Mohamad Ali harboured the ambition to extend his authority far and wide. His primary targets were:

1. **Territories annexed by Mysore from Madurai.**
2. The subjugation of the local **poligars**.

3. Gaining possession of **Thanjavur** (the "fertile territory" he sought to annex).
4. Extending his authority to **Ceylon**.

Initial Consolidation (1756–1765)

Mohammad Ali made a determined attempt to translate his designs into practice immediately after his victory.

Territory	Year	Action / Outcome	Key Personality
Vellore	1756	Expedition sent; forced Murtaza Ali to acknowledge Wallajah sovereignty.	Murtaza Ali
Vandavasi	1757	Subdued the territory.	Held by Tuckia Sahib , brother-in-law of Nevayet ruler Safdar Ali .
Tiruchirapalli Palayams	1765	Annexed the palayams of Ariyalur and Wodayarpalayam with the aid of the Company.	—
Travancore	—	Sold Shenkottai and Kanyakumari to the Kingdom.	Agreed to receive an annual tribute of 4000 chakrams and an elephant.
Karur and Dindigul	—	Sought Company aid to occupy them from Mysore , but the Madras Council refused for fear of the outbreak of war .	—
Ceylon (Kandy)	—	Nawab claimed the King of Kandy as his vassal (based on a chief from Tirunelveli) and sought British assistance to collect tribute, but nothing materialised .	—

The Thanjavur Crisis and Diplomatic Manoeuvres

Thanjavur, ruled by the Maratha Rajahs, was a rich, strategic prize. It had rendered **meritorious service** (both military and economic) to Mohammad Ali in his wars against Chanda Sahib, Nanja Rajah, and the French. However, once his purpose was served, the Nawab turned against his ally.

Background: The Treaty of 1762

In 1762, at the instance of the Company, **Pratap Singh**, the Rajah of Thanjavur, settled a treaty with the Nawab.

- **Terms:** The Rajah accepted the **over-lordship of Arcot** and agreed to pay **four lakhs of rupees** as the annual tribute.
- **Guarantee:** The English assumed the role of an arbiter and **guaranteed the enforcement** of the treaty.

Mohammad Ali's Pretexts for Coercion (1769)

Mohammad Ali was determined to precipitate a crisis. In September 1769, he requested English aid to compel Rajah **Tulaji** (successor to Pratap Singh) to pay **twenty five lakhs of rupees** as compensation.

Charge by Nawab	Reality/Counter-Argument
Failure of Service: Compensation for his 'failure' to render active service against	The Treaty of 1762 did not make it obligatory on the Rajah to render any military aid.

Haidar Ali during the First Mysore War (1765–1768).	
Supporting Rebels: The Rajah assisted the rebel Khan Sahib and encouraged the poligars to join Haidar Ali.	The Nawab justified these as exactions "in consonance with the custom of the land".
Tribute Arrears (1769): Neglected payment of tribute for the year 1769.	Haidar Ali's expeditions inflicted serious damage to the state's economy, making payment difficult.
Instigating Powers: Instigated the Marathas , the Nizam and the French to ravage the Carnatic.	While uncertain whether he instigated, it was true that Tulaji sought Maratha aid due to his apprehension that the Nawab planned to conquer his territory.

The Marava Detour and the Bribe (1771)

While the expedition was being planned, Rajah **Tulaji** declared war on the Marava States (Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga).

- **Tulaji's Action:** Tulaji invaded **Ramanathapuram** in September 1771 with **4,000 horse** and **50,000 foot** to occupy **Hanumantgudi**. He captured **Mangalagudi**, **Hanumantgudi** and **Armogam**. The queen regent bought peace by ceding Hanumantgudi and paying **Rs. 1,30,000**. He then marched on **Sivaganga's** capital, **Nelakkottai**, directing **Rajah Udaya Tevar** to cede territory.
- **Nawab's Claim:** Mohammad Ali denounced this as hostile to his *circar*, claiming the right to maintain order among "dependent states". He asserted that **Thanjavur**, **Ramanathapuram**, **Sivaganga**, and **Pudukkottai** were all dependent upon his government.
- **The Commission:** Governor **Josias Du Pre (1770–1773)** appointed a commission including **Warren Hastings** and **Samuel Ardley** to investigate the political status of the Marava States. The commission concluded that the **Maravas** and **Pudukkottai** maintained their independence against both Arcot and Thanjavur, having never paid regular tribute.
- **Refusal to Aid:** Based on the commission's findings, the Madras Council initially **refused aid** to the Nawab.
- **The Price of Collusion:** Failing to win political support, Mohammad Ali resorted to finance. In return for assistance to conquer the state, he offered to meet the English military expenses and make a '**present**' of **thirty five lakhs of rupees** to the Company. Governor Du Pre agreed to "willingly receive it".
- **Neutralizing Marathas:** The Nawab averted the threat of Maratha General **Trimbuc Row**, who had been paid **five lakhs** by the Rajah, by giving Trimbuc Row a present of **four lakhs of rupees**. Mark Wilks famously remarked that Trimbuc Row "like a true Maratha **sold himself to both the sides**".

The First Siege (1771) and The Retreat

- **Campaign:** In September 1771, the combined forces led by **Colonel Joseph Smith** (military) and the Nawab's son, **Umdut-ul-Umara** (civil control), commenced the siege of the capital on **25th September**.
- **Abrupt End:** The war ended abruptly, "without achieving the object of the expedition, namely annexation". The Nawab later claimed he withdrew for fear of Maratha invasion.
- **The Real Fear:** The real motivation for the abrupt withdrawal was the Nawab's **apprehension of a latent purpose in the Company's guarantee** to the Treaty of 1762. He feared that the conquest

would lead to the **establishment of British sway over Thanjavur**. The Madras Council had indeed conveyed its view to the Court of Directors that they might "retain it in their own possession".

The Three Settlements of October 1771

The settlements conferred financial and territorial gains on the Nawab and commercial advantages on the Company, all at the expense of Thanjavur.

Settlement	Financial/Territorial Terms	Key Concessions by Rajah Tulaji
First Settlement	Paid eight lakhs of rupees as tribute arrears. Ceded the districts of Tervanur and Arni to the Nawab.	Restored all districts/effects taken from the Marava states. Abandoned all rights on Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, and Pudukkottai. Consented to safeguard the commercial interests of the English .
Second Settlement	Assigned the district of Mayiladuthurai and part of Kumbakonam (annual revenue > sixteen lakhs of rupees) for two years.	This was in lieu of paying thirty two and a half lakhs of rupees estimated as war indemnity.
Third Settlement	Promised to pay annual tribute without delay.	Promised to undertake no military operations whatsoever . Umdut-ul-Umara forced the cession of Vallam, Koilody, and Elangad .

Critical Detail: The possession of the 'anicat' at Koilody gave the Nawab **control over the irrigation system** of the kingdom.

Annexation of the Marava States (1772)

After his detour from Thanjavur, the Nawab proceeded with the annexation of the Marava States, which had maintained their independence during the Nayak rule.

- **Justification:** The Nawab alleged the Marava rulers occupied *circar* villages, harboured notorious robbers, and neglected tribute. The Company agreed, calling them "dangerous delinquents," and extended military support for the **destruction of the two kingdoms**.
- **Ramanathapuram Campaign (May–June 1772):**
 - Forces under **Joseph Smith** besieged the capital, while **Bonjour** occupied **Tiruppuvanam** to prevent forces of the two states from joining.
 - The town was stormed on **2nd June 1772**. A large part of the **3,000 strong Marava garrison** died fighting.
 - The twelve-year-old **Setupati, Muthuramalingam**, and the queen regent were imprisoned.
 - The Nawab renamed the state **Alinagar**.
- **Sivaganga Campaign (June 1772):**
 - A two-pronged offensive was used (Smith from the east, Bonjour from the west).
 - **Raja Udaya Tevar** died fighting in the **woods of Kalayarkoil**. His widow fled to **Virupakshi** in Dindigul.
 - The Nawab renamed the state **Hussain Nagar**.
- **Outcome:** The Wallajahs established their authority over the Marava states.

Final Annexation of Thanjavur (1773)

Having secured the Marava territory, the Nawab decided to complete the conquest of Thanjavur.

- **Renewed Charges (1773):** Mohammad Ali brought forward fresh charges, including the Rajah's refusal of aid against the Maravas, assisting Setupati and Udaya Tevar, mortgaging villages to the **Dutch and the Danes** without consent, and inducing Haidar Ali/Marathas to invade Arcot.
 - *Note:* The Rajah had mortgaged villages to the Danes to raise money for the 1772 tribute, which was not a violation of the 1771 treaty.
- **The Warning and The Price:** The Nawab warned the Madras Council that failure to **obliterate Thanjavur Raj** would allow the Marathas and French to endanger their common security. He reiterated the offer of **thirty five lakhs of rupees** as a present and promised to support **three battalions of the Company's troops** at his own expense.
- **British Collusion:** Governor **Alexander Wynch (1773–1775)**, Du Pre's successor, agreed to willingly receive the present out of the Nawab's "good-will".
- **Rajah Tulaji's Appeal:** Tulaji appealed to Wynch, citing that the destruction of his "charitable country is the support of multitudes of people" and pleading for the preservation of his kingdom. The appeal was ignored; the fate of the kingdom was sealed by the **helplessness of the Rajah, the avarice of the Nawab and collusion of the Company**.
- **The Second Siege and Capture:** The combined forces, again led by **Joseph Smith**, invaded in August 1773.
 - On **16th September 1773**, Smith surprised and carried the fort when the Rajah's army (**20,000 men**) had retired to their quarters for meals, anticipating the attack only in the evening. Smith carried the fort with **no loss whatsoever**.
 - Tulaji, his relatives, and ministers were taken as prisoners.
 - **Reward:** The Nawab rewarded the Company by making the promised present of **thirty five lakhs of rupees** and entertaining **three battalions** of its troops at his expense.

Post-Conquest Administration and Wallajah's Defiance

Oppressive Administration (1773–1776)

Following annexation, the Nawab reorganized Thanjavur's administration.

- **Reforms:** He appointed **Dubeer** (Tulaji's minister) and introduced servants from Arcot. Reforms included surveying land, introducing village settlement, repairing water courses, and advancing loans.
- **Extortion:** These benefits were "more than negated by **oppressive exactions**". Servants considered revenues not to be improved, but **extorted**.
 - In three years, they collected **120 lakhs of rupees**.
 - In 1775 alone, the revenue exacted was **eighty one lakhs of rupees** (compared to the Maratha maximum of 57.5 lakhs in 1761).
 - The Nawab granted *tuncaws* (orders for payment) amounting to more than **ninety lakhs of rupees**.

The Assertion of Independence

After annexing these vast territories, Mohammad Ali made a determined attempt to **assert his authority and free himself from the Company's influence**.

- **Military Strength:** He built a large war machine: **12,000 troops, seven regiments of cavalry, and an artillery**. Forts were repaired and garrisoned by his own troops.

- **Dynastic Goals:** Appointed his son, **Amir-ul-Umara**, in command. He aimed to place the entire Carnatic under Amir-ul-Umara's control and aspired to secure the **nawabship of Bengal** for his eldest son, **Umdut-ul-Umara**.
- **Sovereignty Claims:** He asserted the **equality of his status with the king of England** (as recognised by the **Treaty of Paris in 1763**).
- **Foreign Relations:** He established **direct relations with the French, the Dutch and the Danes** in an attempt to counter British influence and convince European powers of his independence.

BRITISH ASCENDANCY (1775 – 1793)

The Decline of the Wallajahs

The brief period of glory enjoyed by the Wallajahs, following their expansionist drive (1756–1773), quickly gave way to decline as the **English East India Company asserted its supremacy**.

The establishment of British Ascendancy was a multi-faceted process driven by four key factors:

1. The **restoration of Thanjavur** to the Marathas.
2. The outbreak of **Wars with Mysore**.
3. The **assignment and assumption of the revenues** of the Carnatic.
4. The **imposition of rigorous treaties** upon the Wallajahs.

Ultimately, the Wallajahs **ceased to be a political factor** in the country.

The Restoration of Thanjavur (1775–1776)

The annexation of Thanjavur by Nawab Mohammad Ali in 1773 was swiftly overturned by the Directors in London, marking a definitive shift in the balance of power.

The Madras Council Condemned

A major **turning point came in 1775** when the **Court of Directors** of the Company formally condemned the proceedings of the Madras Council in the conquest of Thanjavur.

- **Lord Pigot Arrives:** Lord Pigot was sent as Governor to **restore the state to Rajah Tulaji**.
- **Nawab's Resistance:** The exasperated **Mohammad Ali** declared categorically that the decision injured his **dignity as well as his interests**, demanding the revocation of the orders. He was compelled to abandon his dreams of greatness.
- **Pigot's Justification:** Lord Pigot argued that immediate restoration was necessary due to:
 - **Humanity** to the wretched inhabitants, distressed by the lack of established government.
 - **Justice** to the Rajah, who was "scarcely better than a prisoner".
 - **Attention to the Public Honour**.

The Formal Restoration (1776)

Mohammad Ali, understanding Lord Pigot's determination, agreed to give **no opposition** to the execution of the Company's orders, though he **persisted in the refusal of his concurrence**.

- **Date and Personalities:** Company troops obtained control in February 1776. Lord Pigot presided over the formal restoration of the throne to **Tulaji** on **11th April 1776**.

Fragmentation of Thanjavur Territory

The restoration was incomplete, resulting in a territorial split:

- **Restored to Tulaji:** Koilody, Elangad, Vallam, and Nagore.
- **Retained by Nawab:** Arni and Hanumantgudi, despite being part of Thanjavur in 1762.

The New Settlement of 1776: Subordination and Burden

The Company imposed a **new settlement** on Thanjavur, creating a *de facto* vassal state.

Political and Military Subordination

The political status of Thanjavur **went down considerably**:

1. **Foreign Relations:** The Rajah agreed to **enter into no relations with other powers** without the consent of the Madras Council.
2. **Military Demilitarisation:** The Rajah **cut down his armed strength to 500 men**.
3. **Garrisoning:** He permitted the English to **garrison the forts** in his kingdom in the name of protection.
4. **Territorial Loss:** The state lost the districts of **Nagore, Hanumantgudi, and Arni** and the right to maintain an armed establishment.

Financial Obligations (Increased Burden)

Thanjavur's **financial obligations increased considerably**. The state, which paid 4 lakhs in 1762, was now forced to shoulder a heavy burden of **twenty two and a half lakhs of rupees**.

Payment Obligation	Amount (Lakhs of Rupees)	Details
Tribute to Nawab	4.0 lakhs	Required as a vassal state of the Carnatic under the Treaty of 1762.
Protection Fee to Company	12.0 lakhs	Required as a "protected state of the English".
Loss due to Cession	4.0 lakhs	Annual loss due to the cession of Nagore to the Company.
Total Annual Burden	20.0 lakhs	(Note: The text states the total burden was 22.5 lakhs, composed of the payments (4+12) and the annual loss (4), showing the significant increase).

The Wallajah Response: Intrigue and Insolvency

The loss of Thanjavur had **very adverse repercussions** on the rising power of the Nawab.

Financial and Political Dislocation

- **Restricted Sovereignty:** The settlement of 1776 ignored the Nawab's relation with the state, restricting his exercise of sovereignty to the right of receiving an annual tribute of **four lakhs**.
- **Financial Crisis:** The unexpected cut in his revenue upset the Nawab's finances, which were "conditioned to increased expenditure". He had incurred considerable expenditure on the 1773 expedition, including presents to the English and Marathas, fort repairs, and land survey in Thanjavur.
- **Internal Chaos:** He was harassed by the **clamours of disbanded troops** (to whom he owed arrears) and besieged by those to whom he assigned the revenues of Thanjavur.

The Use of Intrigue

Mohammad Ali diverted his **vast powers of intrigue** to giving embarrassment to Tulaji and Lord Pigot.

- He sought to throw the Rajah's administration into disorder by **destroying the revenue records** and **removing the revenue servants** from the state.
- He fomented division in the **Council of Fort St. George** and successfully brought about the **arrest of Lord Pigot**.

- **Continued Struggle:** His struggle to regain possession continued without gaining ground. During the **Second Mysore War (1780–1784)**, he promised to appropriate Thanjavur collections for the conduct of the war and liquidation of his debt, but without result.

Final Loss of Rights

Unable to pay the Company for the defence of the Carnatic against **Haidar Ali's invasion** (during the Second Mysore War), Mohammad Ali had to surrender his right to the **receipt of tribute from the state to the English**. He reserved only "a grain of corn" for himself as a mark of his sovereignty, thereby losing his **residuary rights** too.

The Rebellions: Check on Wallajah Authority (c. 1772–1790)

The expansion of Wallajah authority also received a significant check with the **outbreak of a rebellion in the Marava States**.

Causes of Rebellion

- The Nawab failed to win over the inhabitants after six years of rule.
- The **overthrow of their royal institutions** and **confiscation of their lands** drove the Maravas (who were peasants as well as soldiers) to conflict.
- They raided *circar* territories, English camps, and Wallajah forts.

Leadership and Outcomes

Region	Leaders/Personalities	Outcome
Ramanathapuram	Rebels led by Mappiia Tevar .	Rebels occupied most of the territory, driving the administration to fortified places.
Sivaganga	Vella Marudu and Chinna Marudu (servants of Udaya Tevar), supported by a body of Haidar Ali's troops .	They expelled Nawab's forces and proclaimed Vellachi (daughter of Udaya Tevar) as the Queen of Sivaganga. The Marudus assumed administration as ministers.

- **Wallajah Defeat:** The situation went out of control. Mohammad Ali was compelled to release **Muthuramalinga Tevar** from jail and enthrone him as the Setupati.
- **English Recognition:** The English accorded recognition to **Muthuramalinga Tevar and Vellachi** and settled peace.
- **Result:** The **Wallajahs lost their control** of these territories.

Financial Enslavement: Assignment and Assumption

The wars of the English with Mysore had a **direct impact** upon the Tamil Country, giving the Company the pretext to take over revenue collection entirely.

The Assignment (Second Mysore War, 1780)

- **Need for Funds:** For the effective conduct of the war, the Madras Council suggested that the Nawab assign the revenues of his territory to the Company.
- **Terms:** Mohammad Ali opposed, but subsequently compromised, transferring the collection of revenue for a period of **five years**, retaining **one sixth** of it for his private expenses. This process was called the **Assignment**.

- **Company Benefit:** A Committee of Assigned Revenue collected taxes, ensuring a regular supply of money, provisions, and bullocks. The English used this opportunity to **consolidate their authority**.

The Treaty of 1787

Mohammad Ali worked vigorously for the revocation of the Assignment. The Company consented but imposed a new settlement:

- **Terms:** The Nawab agreed to pay **nine lakhs of star pagodas** every year in support of the defense establishment, created by the English.
 - **Implication:** This amounted to the Nawab paying for a military system maintained, in effect, **for controlling him too**.

Thanjavur Succession and The Treaty of 1787

A succession issue was created in Thanjavur for the sake of intervention.

- **Succession Crisis:** Rajah **Tulaji**, getting old and childless, adopted Prince **Sarajoji** (grandson of a near cousin) and appointed his half-brother **Amar Singh** as regent. Tulaji died in 1787.
- **Intervention:** Governor **Archibald Campbell** proceeded to Thanjavur, declared the adoption illegal, and **elevated Amar Singh to the throne**.
- **Terms:** In return for this service, Amar Singh accepted the **Treaty of 1787**, agreeing to pay **four lakhs of star pagodas** to the English for the defense of his kingdom.
- **Effect:** The two Treaties of 1787 imposed a **heavy burden** upon the Tamil districts, leading to rulers oppressing the people and contributing towards the **consolidation of the Company's authority**. (A star pagoda was exchanged for Rs. 3 1/2).

The Assumption (Third Mysore War, 1790)

The **Third Mysore War** began in 1790 when **Tipu Sultan** attacked the Lines of Travancore (an English ally).

- **Nawab's Failures:** The Nawab, lulled into security by the 1787 Treaty, attempted no improvement in administration. The **tyranny of his amildars intensified**, the ryots neglected cultivation, revenue fell, and default in payments occurred.
- **Company Decision:** The bankruptcy of the administration and the default in payments convinced the Company that **"no dependence could be placed upon the rulers"**.
- **The Assumption (1790):** The war offered an opportunity to invoke the emergency clauses of the 1787 Treaty. In the name of efficient war conduct, the English **assumed the collection of revenue** of the Carnatic and Thanjavur.
- **New Administration:** The **Board of Assumed Revenue** was created.
 - It appointed collectors and entertained the revenue servants of the Nawab and the Rajah.
 - Districts were portioned into **small allotments** and farmed out for **one-year periods** to minimise risk and prevent **"overgrown renters"** from excelling in exaction.
 - In Thanjavur, two collectors set up a **court of justice** and functioned jointly in deciding cases of property.

Final Subordination: The Treaties of 1792 and 1793

The short duration of the Third Mysore War forced the Company to restore the administration to the Nawab and the Rajah in 1792. However, this restoration was conditional upon the imposition of **more rigorous treaties**.

The Terms of Subordination

The **Carnatic Treaty of 1792** and the **Tanjore Treaty of 1793** reduced the two powers into mere tributaries.

Condition	Carnatic (1792)	Thanjavur (1793)	Overall Effect
Military Support Payment	Nine lakhs of star pagodas.	Three and a half lakhs of star pagodas.	Reduced the rulers into mere tributaries.
Forts	English were allowed to garrison all the forts.	English were allowed to garrison all the forts.	Tightened the Company's grip over the country.
Military Control	English stationed their army in the territories.	English stationed their army in the territories.	Enabled the Company to suppress the poligars by bringing them under their direct authority.

The ultimate result was that the Nawab and the Rajah **intensified their exactions** to meet the heavy financial demands made by the British.

COMPANY'S ACQUISITION OF TAMIL NADU

THE MECHANISMS OF CONQUEST

The English East India Company established direct administration over the Tamil Country through a **gradual yet steady growth of its influence**. This monumental shift was achieved through a calculated strategy involving:

1. Wars.
2. Alliances.
3. Diplomacy.

Initially, the Company established trading settlements via agreements with the Nayaks, Bijapur, Golkonda, and the Marathas. Supported by the rulers of the Carnatic and Thanjavur, the Company first asserted its supremacy over rival Europeans, particularly the French. Once the European threat was neutralized, the English turned their focus towards reducing local powers to insignificance.

Key Initial Acquisitions

- **1767:** Acquisition of the **jaghir of Chengalpattu** from Nawab Mohammad Ali of Arcot. This was a payment for services rendered against Chanda Sahib, Nanja Rajah, and the French.
- **1801:** Final direct possession of the *rest* of the Tamil Country was obtained through the settlement of the **Treaty of the Carnatic**, made with a nawab specifically created for this purpose.

ANNEXATION OF KONGU NADU (The Mysore Wars)

Kongu Nadu comprised key regions like **Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Satyamangalam, and most of Dindigul**. This territory, originally part of the Nayak Kingdom of Madurai, was annexed by the Wodayars of Mysore, and subsequently came under the rule of Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan.

The region was acquired through the military victories achieved in the four major Anglo-Mysore Wars.

War & Period	Key Events in Kongu Nadu / Outcome	Personalities & Treaties
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First Mysore War (1767–1769)	Company forces ravaged parts of Kongu Nadu but <i>failed to occupy</i> it.	—
Second Mysore War (1780–1784)	British forces captured Coimbatore, Karur, and Dharapuram, but restored them to Mysore in 1784.	Haidar Ali died in 1782; Tipu Sultan succeeded him. Ended by the Treaty of Mangalore (1784) .
Third Mysore War (1790–1792)	<i>Cause:</i> Tipu's invasion of Travancore (a British ally). Kongu Nadu served as the principal theatre of conflict . General Medows reduced Karur and Coimbatore. Colonel Stuart besieged Dindigul. Tipu temporarily drove British forces from Erode into the Carnatic.	Governor General Lord Cornwallis allied with the Marathas and the Nizam. Ended by the Treaty of Srirangapatnam (1792) .
Fourth Mysore War (1798–1799)	<i>Cause:</i> Governor General Wellesley alleged Tipu sought a French alliance and refused British protection. Tipu died fighting at Srirangapatnam. Colonel Brown occupied Tipu's forts: Karur, Erode, and Avarakurichi.	Acquisition: By settlement with the Nizam, the Company acquired Karur, Erode, Dharapuram, and Coimbatore .

Final Result: As a result of the Third and Fourth Mysore Wars, the **entire Kongu Nadu** passed under the control of the English.

ANNEXATION OF THANJAVUR (The Game of Succession)

The Company's influence in Thanjavur was overwhelming since 1776, when it intervened to restore the Kingdom from the Wallajahs back to the Marathas. The path to annexation exploited succession disputes and diplomatic pressure.

Succession Crisis and Protectorate

- Initial Succession (1787):** Upon the death of Rajah **Tulaji**, his adopted son, **Sarafoji**, succeeded.
- British Intervention:** The Madras Council set aside Sarafoji's succession, elevating **Amar Singh** (Tulaji's half-brother).
- Protectorate:** A treaty was imposed upon Amar Singh, reducing Thanjavur to a British protectorate.
- The Plot Thickens (1792):** To facilitate annexation, the Madras Council removed Sarafoji to Madras, fearing Amar Singh might use him as a rival. Amar Singh appealed to the Marathas for help, but they were ineffective.

The Legal and Political Justification

- The Pandit's Verdict (1796):** Governor **Hobart** ordered Resident Macleod to examine Sarafoji's rights. The seven *pandits* who previously invalidated the adoption **now asserted it was legal**.
- UPSC Insight:** The source notes that the legality of adoption was fluid, depending on the "shifting emphasis on the relative aspects of the flexible rules furnished by the Sastras," enabling the Company to take political or judicial decisions as circumstances warranted.
- Restoration (October 1798):** The Madras Council, with approval from the Court of Directors, restored Sarafoji to the throne. This act terminated Amar Singh's reign.

Sarafoji's Reign and Mounting Pressure (1798–1799)

- Sarafoji's return consolidated British influence. He attempted genuine reforms (increasing *ryots'* share, suspending duties on grain during famine, introducing individual settlement in place of village settlement).
- He faced opposition from rising *puttackdars* (renters), inadequate finances, disloyal troops, and the strain of the Fourth Mysore War.
- During the Mysore War, huge demands for provisions and carriage bullocks were placed on the Rajah, leading to famine conditions, yet he complied.

The Forced Handover

- **The Pretext:** The Bengal Council instructed Fort St. George to assume administration only if Sarafoji conveyed such a desire. Paradoxically, Sarafoji shortly thereafter requested Fort St. George to take over the administration for a period of **not more than two years**, citing his inexperience.
- **Wellesley's Delay:** Lord Wellesley initially hesitated in 1798, fearing that immediate assumption would be unpalatable to the Maratha powers, who were allies in the war against Mysore.
- **Investigation:** A commission was appointed, nominally to assist Sarafoji, but *really* to conduct a **minute investigation** into the state's economy and administration in preparation for assumption.
- **Annexation Order (1799):** After the Mysore War, Governor **Edward Clive** (1798–1803) directed Resident **Torin** to proceed with prompt annexation.
- Sarafoji, realizing the futility of opposition (seeing "the writing on the wall"), acquiesced.

The Treaty of Annexation (25th October 1799)

- **Official Name:** "Treaty for cementing the friendship and alliance between the Company and the Rajah of Tanjore and for establishing the Government of Tahjore on a permanent Foundation".
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Established a **judiciary** under the sole authority of the Company for civil and criminal justice.
 - The Rajah was deprived of his right to interfere with revenue administration.
 - **Rajah's Allowance:** He received **one lakh of star pagodas** annually, plus 1/5th of the remaining revenue after deducting collection charges.
 - **Rajah's Retained Rights:** He kept possession of the **Fort of Thanjavur** (though the Company could use it as a military post during war) and the right to receive an annual *peishcush* (tribute) of 2,000 *chakrams* from the Danish settlement of Tranquebar.
- **Diplomatic Strategy:** The treaty achieved annexation by restricting the Rajah's rights and extending the British sphere, while **strictly avoiding the use of the word 'annexation'**.
- **Result:** The Company acquired a fertile territory covering **4,000 square miles**. The acquisition replaced the dual system in Thanjavur.

ANNEXATION OF THE CARNATIC

The annexation of the Carnatic, the domain of the **Wallajah** dynasty, was the final stage in the acquisition of Tamil Nadu, achieved through economic pressure, legal manipulation, and exploiting the Fourth Mysore War.

Background: Erosion of Authority

- Nawab **Mohammad Ali's** wars (against Chanda Sahib, the French, poligars, etc.), supported by the Company, led to his **financial embarrassment** and the erosion of his authority.
- The Treaties of **1787 and 1792** recognized the supremacy of the English in the Carnatic.
- **Treaty of 1792 Stipulation:** The Nawab was required to contribute **thirty-one and a half lakhs of rupees annually** for the British military establishment. The English were empowered to assume revenue administration in the event of war in South India.
- Nawab **Umdut-ul-Umara** (succeeded 1795) struggled to reassert his sovereignty.

The Failure of Diplomacy and Wellesley's Designs (1796–1799)

1. **Refusal to Modify Treaty (1796):** Lord Wellesley suggested modifying the Treaty of 1792, but Umdut-ul-Umara refused, honouring his late father's advice: **"Don't forget one word of mine – that is do not make the deviation of a hair's breadth in the late Treaty (of 1792)".**
2. **Succession Planning:** Anticipating Umdut-ul-Umara's "early death," Wellesley instructed Edward Lord Clive to prepare to decide the succession, enabling the British to anticipate "the mischiefs of a disputed succession".
3. **The Debt Claim (1798):** Lord Clive demanded 11,62,770 pagodas in "unsettled debts" during the Mysore mobilization.
 - *Nawab's Position:* This claim was legally untenable as the 1792 Treaty, where the Nawab granted the *peishcush* of Thanjavur, had cleared all outstanding claims.
 - *Nawab's Counter-Claim:* Umdut-ul-Umara complained that the Company refused him any share of war benefits, despite his expenses. He claimed the Company owed him **eighty lakhs of pagodas**, pointing out they retained revenue from Ramanathapuram, Sadras, and the pearl fisheries of Tutukudi.
4. **Wartime Assumption Attempt (1799):** While the 1792 Treaty allowed the British to assume administration during the Fourth Mysore War, Wellesley doubted the utility of this temporary measure. He attempted to force a permanent cession of most of the country in exchange for the Nawab retaining North Arcot and recognition of his claims over the fisheries and Sadras, but the Nawab refused, and the war ended quickly.

British Pressure Tactics and the Nawab's Resistance

Failing subtle methods, the Company sought to cause default in payments (which would trigger the right to assume mortgage provinces).

British Pressure Tactics	Nawab's Response
Restriction of grain sales (chief source of income).	Umdut-ul-Umara wrote a poignant letter, lamenting that "it is the arm of friendship which is raised against me, that draws the hostile arrow of destruction".
Prohibiting inhabitants from dealing with the <i>circar</i> (government).	He compared his situation to a rose where the flower has fallen and only the stalk with thorns remains.
Objecting to tax payments and inviting complaints against <i>amuldars</i> (public servants).	Despite insult and distress, he complied with obligations punctually by exploiting all resources and raising loans.
Evolving a parallel administration.	His compliance frustrated all Company efforts to find a plausible ground for assumption.

The Pretext: Srirangapatnam Correspondence (The Controversy)

1. **The Discovery (1799):** After the fall of Srirangapatnam, papers were discovered proving correspondence between Tipu Sultan (enemy) and the Nawab (ally). Historian **James Mill** noted this provided the "extraordinary perfection" of a plausible reason the British needed for seizure.
2. **The Allegation:** Persian translator **N.B. Edmonstone** alleged that Mohammad Ali and Umdut-ul-Umara maintained secret, detrimental correspondence through Tipu's deputies, **Ghulam Ali Khan** and **Ali Raza Khan**.
3. **The Suspicious Terms:** The correspondence used vague expressions: "the writing known of," "the affair known of," "**Despicable**," and the "**New Comers**".
4. **The Investigation (Webbe and Close):** Commissioners J. Webbe and B. Close interrogated five people, including the deputies and Dewan Poornega.
 - **Result:** The enquiry indicated the correspondence was intended to settle a **matrimonial alliance**.
 - **Cypher Key:** "New Comers" designated the **English**; "Despicable" the **Marathas**; and "well-wisher of mankind" designated **Mohammad Ali**.
 - The commissioners **failed to establish any criminal purpose**.
5. **Lord Clive's Conclusion (Ignoring Evidence):** Edward Clive asserted hostile designs, citing the secret nature, the composition of the cypher, Umdut-ul-Umara's "determined obstinacy" against administrative reform, and "repeated violations" of treaties.

Expert Historical Defence of the Nawab

The following facts contradict the British charges:

- Mohammad Ali had initially entered into correspondence at the instruction of **Lord Cornwallis** to cultivate friendship with Tipu and preserve peace.
- The letters contained expressions of civility and confirmed the Nawab's anxiety for the preservation of a fellow Muslim power ("pillar of the Religion of Mohammad").
- The Nawab advised Tipu against intriguing with the French or at Poona, attempting to **avert a clash** with the English.
- The Nawab supported British campaigns in the Fourth War (donated **16,000 pagodas** and supplied animals), without seeking compensation.
- Legally, if the Nawab had violated the treaty, it would only restore the *status quo ante*, not entitle the Company to assume administration under the guise of improvement.

The Final Act: Setting Aside Succession (1801)

- **Nawab's Death:** Umdut-ul-Umara died on **15th July 1801**. He nominated his 18-year-old son, **Ali Hussain**, as his successor.
- **Refusal to Defend:** Webbe and Close informed the deputies of the annexation decision. The British refused the deputies' request for an opportunity to defend against the charges, stating the Company was "satisfied of the sufficiency of its proofs" and would not judge its ally.
- Ali Hussain categorically refused to assent to the transfer of authority, despite warnings from Edward Clive.
- **The Political Solution:** The Madras Council decided against annexing by proclamation (to avoid "wanton humiliation"). Instead, they chose to regulate the succession order.

- **New Nawab:** They set aside Ali Hussain's hereditary rights and recognized **Azim ul Doula** (son of Amir ul Umara). Azim ul Doula agreed to the settlement in exchange for the title, as he had "nothing to lose but everything to gain".
- **The Fate of Ali Hussain:** Azim ul Doula ascended the throne on 31st July 1801. Young Ali Hussain died within a few days, "not without the **suspicion of being poisoned to death**".
- **Result:** Azim ul Doula became the Nawab of the Carnatic **without territory**. He received **one-fifth of the net revenue** (minimum 1,44,000 star pagodas; maximum 5,00,000 per year) and retained few appendages of sovereignty.

The acquisition of the Carnatic marked the logical culmination of the successful working of **aid and alliance**—a powerful agency of imperialism.

The Wallajah Dilemma:

- So long as rivals (French, Nevayets) existed, the negative effects of the alliance were masked.
- Once enemies were eliminated, the Nawab found himself "saddled in the clutches of imperialism".
- Mohammad Ali's continued dependence on the English to suppress local powers (poligars) prevented him from building his own military strength.
- The Nawab's resources were diverted to support British forces garrisoned in strategic forts, creating a situation where he could neither extricate himself nor re-assert his sovereignty.
- **Consolidation:** With the acquisition of Kongu Nadu (from Mysore), Thanjavur (from the Marathas), and the Carnatic (from the Wallajahs), the English gained possession of the **entire Tamil Country**.

COMPANY'S LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION IN TAMIL NADU

The English East India Company's administration in the newly acquired Tamil districts (after their victory over the Peninsular Confederacy) immediately prioritised reform.

M. Ruthnaswamy precisely encapsulated this priority, noting that "**The revenue was beyond all questions the first subject of the Company's Government, that on which all the rest depended and to which every other was made subservient**".

Initial Challenges and Existing System

When the Company assumed direct control, they inherited various forms of revenue collection that varied from place to place and period to period. These settlements were made with peasants, village headmen, or *zamindars* for varying durations.

Initially, revenue was collected through indirect forms via the agency of **poligars, renters, and headmen**. This system, however, gave scope to **oppression and corruption**.

The Need for Reform

1. **Exploitation:** People were compelled to sell their lands, cattle, and utensils just to pay taxes.
2. **Administrative Strain:** The existing system required the administration to frequently interfere with the people's lives and maintain a cumbersome machinery for frequent assessments.
3. **Security:** The Company sought a system that provided the least scope for frequent interference, believing this was the "surest way to retain possession of the vast country".

4. **Inefficiency:** Vast details of accounts, the great extent of land, collusion of revenue servants with taxpayers, and assessment intricacies created a traditional struggle between "oppressive exaction and fraudulent evasion".

These considerations led the English to believe that introducing a **permanent revenue settlement** offered the best solution to these varied problems.

PERMANENT REVENUE SETTLEMENT (The Zamindari Model)

Following the instructions of the **Court of Directors** to assess revenue on a permanent basis (as done in Bengal), the Company began implementing this system.

Implementation and Key Personnel

- **1801:** Governor **Edward Clive** directed the Board of Revenue to study the collection system and frame necessary regulations.
- **The Commission:** A commission headed by **William Petrie** introduced this reform in stages.
- **Chengalpattu Case Study:** The district was divided into 'estates,' assessed permanently, and sold in auction to the **highest bidders** for revenue collection.
- **Palayams:** It was introduced in the *pallayams* of **Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, and Tirunelveli**.
- **1802:** Revenue in parts of **Salem Baramahal** was permanently assessed.

Key Terms and Mechanisms

- **Transformation:** *Poligars* became *zamindars*, and *palayams* became *zamindaries*.
- **Muttadars:** Those who gained possession of estates through auction were called *muttadars*.
- **Sanads:** Documents granted to proprietors specifying the terms.
- **Fixed Revenue:** The assessment was declared **perpetual**. The rent related only to land revenue, excluding other sources like excise and customs.
- **Government Share:** The share of the government was fixed at **two-thirds** of the amount collected at the time of assessment.
- **Rights of Tenants (Ryots):** The claims of the *zamindars* and *muttadars* upon the *ryots* were restricted to "**customary rates**." They had to issue *pattas* (certificates) stipulating the tax to be received.
- **Penalties:** If a *ryot* failed to pay taxes, the *zamindar* could **dispossess his property** (but not otherwise). If the *zamindar* failed, the government could confiscate or assume possession of the estate. Both tenants and lords could seek justice in law courts against arbitrary proceedings.

Failure and Discredit

The introduction of the permanent settlement was driven by the Company's eagerness for a steady income and freedom from a complicated collection system. However, it severely harmed peasant interests.

- **Injustice:** It was a "flagrant misuse of power" that the English deprived the peasants of their rights, grouped their holdings into estates, and sold them to high bidders, transforming a few rich individuals into **lords over independent villages**.
- **Lack of Access to Justice:** Although theoretically, peasants could seek justice from the courts, in practice, this was impossible for the **poverty-stricken people, ignorant of the proceedings of the court**, against the powerful *zamindars*.
- **The Verdict:** The Company prioritised **selfish interests** and **expediency** over respect for rights. No wonder the system became discredited over time.

- **Consequence:** The system failed in **Chengalpattu, Salem, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, and Tirunelveli**, leading to a great portion of the land falling back into the **direct possession of the Government**.
- **Board of Revenue Attribution:** Failure was attributed to **over assessment** and the **neglect of cultivation** by the *zamindars*.
- **Continuance:** Despite the failures, the system continued in various forms until 1921-22.

VILLAGE SETTLEMENT (The Lease System)

Because of the failing expectations regarding the success of the Permanent Revenue Settlement, the idea of the Village Settlement (or Village Lease System) was formulated.

Proposals and Rationale

- **Advocate (Hodgson):** Hodgson, a Member of the Board of Revenue, advocated for the system. He noted the varied rates: *circar* collected **40 to 60 per cent** of gross produce from wet lands (after deducting expenses), while dry lands paid tax in cash (rates varied).
- **Hindu vs. English Practice:** Hodgson noted that in Travancore, where Hindu tradition continued, rates were low for higher communities, but in Tamil districts, a tradition of oppression established by Telugu-Muslim tyranny was continued by the English.
- **Mechanism:** Hodgson favoured settlement with all the *mirasdars* of a village based on the extent of cultivation, price level, and previous tax rates. If *mirasdars* refused, villages were formed into *muttas* and sold to the highest bidders. This initial lease was restricted to **three years**.
- **Official Support:** Governor of Madras, **Lord Bentinck (1803–1806)**, and the Board of Revenue supported the system as it was agreeable to local customs, less oppressive, and more profitable.

Implementation Details

- **Timeline:** Implemented between **1804 and 1814**.
- **Regions:** Tirunelveli, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, South Arcot, and North Arcot. It was renewed for a five-year period in **Thanjavur** in 1810.
- **Leasing Method:** The Company leased or "farmed out" the lands to the principal cultivators, head inhabitants, *mirasdars*, or the entire village community. These renters then leased to individual *ryots*.
- **Lease Duration:** The settlement was initially intended to work for **ten years**.
- **Standard Rent (*Sist*):** A standard rent called *sist* was to be permanently fixed based on the average collections of previous years and the village's permanent resources.
- **Rates:** The rate of the *sist* worked out to about **half of the gross produce** but was expected to work at one-third with improvements.
- **Assumptions:** Governor **George Barlow (1807–1813)** expected the reform to simplify revenue, avoid frequent settlements, and save treasury funds. The government proceeded on the assumption that **it owned all the lands**, and the cultivators were merely its tenants.

Termination

The **Court of Directors** ultimately doubted the advantages of any permanent system. They found no effective difference between this permanent village settlement and the failed Permanent Revenue Settlement. On this ground, they directed the Madras Council to implement the **Ryotwari Settlement** in all districts where permanent settlement was not yet enforced.

RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT (The Final System)

After a series of experiments, the English decided in favour of the indigenous *ryotwari* system.

Pioneers and Adoption

- **Initial Experimentation (1792):** Collector **Alexander Read** and his assistant, **Thomas Munro**, successfully experimented with *ryotwari* in **Salem**.
- **Munro's Success:** Colonel **Munro** implemented it in Rayalascema of Andhra Desa, and its success there deeply impressed the Court of Directors.
- **Official Mandate:** The Court of Directors directed the reluctant Madras administration (who favoured the village lease) to enforce *ryotwari* in non-permanently settled districts.
- **Implementation:** It was implemented in **1814** and vigorously pursued during the administration of Governor **Thomas Munro (1820–1827)**. It was eventually adopted in all non-permanently settled villages.

Thomas Munro's Vision

Thomas Munro had earlier suggested reducing the existing assessment by **twenty-five per cent** to provide against crop failure and poor productivity, fixing the remainder as the state share.

- **Rejection:** The Government found this unacceptable because it refused to part with any revenue and feared that corrupt officials (*tahsildar* and revenue servants) would collect the old high rates anyway.

Munro later argued that the *ryotwari* system provided significant advantages to the peasant:

- The *ryot* has the advantage of **knowing the exact amount** of what he is to pay at the beginning of the season.
- He knows the fixed rents of his fields, and the demand **cannot exceed the total amount** unless he takes additional land.
- This certainty enabled the *ryot* to better provide for the regular discharge of his *kists* (payments) and guard against losses during bad seasons by using profits from good ones.

Mechanism and Key Features

1. **Direct Contact:** The Government entered into a settlement directly with **each ryot** regarding the rent he had to pay, dispensing with the middlemen.
2. **Assessment:** The administration ascertained which fields were cultivated and by whom they were held.
3. **Waste Land:** Waste lands were regarded as **circar property** but were assessed only when brought under the plough.
4. **Patta and Registers:** The *patta* issued to the *ryot* detailed the extent of the field and the rent amount. Field registers in district *cutcheries* contained particulars about the rights of both the *ryots* and the *circar*.
5. **1818 Improvements:** Based on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, the system was improved:
 - Ryots were given the freedom to **take up or give up lands** as needed.
 - Settlement was made with persons having a **hereditary right** on their holdings.
 - Rates were reduced where there was **over assessment**.
 - No tax was collected from **unproductive lands or improvements**, and **no forced cultivation** was allowed.

- Complaints against exaction could be made to the **collector**, and cases against over assessment could be filed in **zillah courts**.

Assessment Calculation (Post-1857)

- **Payment:** The share of the *circar* was paid in **cash**.
- **Revision:** Assessment was liable for revision once every **thirty years**.
- **Survey (1858):** A survey was ordered to delimit village and holding boundaries. This involved preparing land registers, field maps, and *taluk* maps.
- **Rate Calculation:** The maximum assessment ranged from thirty to fifty per cent of the gross produce.
- **1864 Rule:** It was laid down that the Government share should **not exceed half of the net produce**.
 - *Calculation Method (1864):* Land was graded by productivity; a portion was reduced for bad seasons and poor land; the net produce was converted into money; the estimated cost of cultivation was deducted; and the final rate was fixed not to exceed half of that remaining net money value.

Advantages (Why it prevailed)

Compared to the Permanent Settlement and Village Lease, *ryotwari* was more satisfactory to the Government and beneficial to the peasantry.

- It established a **direct contact** between administrators and cultivators.
- The inherent **frequent tours** enabled English officials to learn more about the customs of the land.
- It **diffused the right of property** more extensively.
- It gave the cultivator the right to pay rent in **money** and the freedom to enjoy the benefits of **improvements** without additional tax.

Criticisms and Failures (The Ground Reality)

Despite its apparent benefits, the *ryotwari* system was not a panacea for the peasants.

1. **Violation of Traditional Rights:** The government proceeded on the fundamental assumption that **all land belonged to it** and peasants were mere tenants paying rent. This approach, based on Islamic tradition and continued from the Telugu-Muslim tyranny, **violated the Hindu concept that land belonged to those who tilled it**.
2. **Increased Official Power and Corruption:** The system greatly **expanded the powers of the revenue servants** (especially the corrupt *karnam* and the *tahsildar*) who had the discretion to decide the quality of the land and the assessment rate. Moderate assessment often depended on the ability of the *ryots* to **"purchase the favour of the public officials"**.
3. **Oppression and Forced Labour:** Administrators displayed a tendency to collect the maximum possible, regardless of whether the season was good or bad, or whether the cultivator used the entire field or not. This resulted in *ryots* being subjected to **oppression, torture, and forced labour**.
4. **Agricultural Indebtedness:** Peasants constantly needed money for seeds, cultivation, and taxes. The **severe depression from 1810 to 1830**, marked by a sharp decline in agricultural prices without remission, compounded their misery. Unable to find relief, they turned to money lenders, borrowing at high interest rates, leading to heavy debt and making them easy victims to common famines and epidemics.

ORGANISATION OF THE JUDICIARY IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY (1661–1861)

EARLY STAGES: JUDICIARY IN INFANCY (1661–1753)

The British Government paid attention to the administration of justice from the earliest days of the Madras settlement. However, the initial courts were highly restrictive in scope.

Charter/Period	Court and Composition	Jurisdiction/Function	Scope Limitation (Crucial Detail)
Charter of 1661	Governor and Members of the Council of Fort St. George.	Constituted a criminal court. Sat as Court of Oyer and Terminer. Tried and decided criminal cases.	Intended for European inhabitants only.
Charter of 1687	Mayor and Aldermen (created with the Madras municipality).	Acted as a Court of Record. Tried civil and criminal cases.	Intended for European inhabitants only.
Charter of 1753	—	—	Expressly excluded the disputes between the Indians from the jurisdiction of the English courts.

The Catalyst for Change: With the growth and expansion of the Presidency, suits multiplied in number and diversity, bringing new legal issues that the existing courts were unable to handle, thus necessitating fresh reforms.

THE CROWN COURTS: RECORDER AND SUPREME COURT

Parliament enacted fresh legislation to establish new courts and improve existing ones, especially between **1798 and 1802**. This marked the transition toward judicial administration reserved for the British Crown.

The Court of Recorder (1798)

- Institution:** Instituted under a Charter granted by **George II** in **1798**.
- Composition:** Consisted of the **Recorder, Mayor, and Aldermen**.
- Key Personality:** **Sir Thomas Strange** was appointed the first Recorder. (He had previously served as Chief Justice in Canada).
- Jurisdiction:** Extended over **civil, criminal, ecclesiastical, and admiralty cases**. Covered the settlement of Madras and its subordinate/dependent factories.
- Superseded Courts:** It took over all judicial powers exercised by the Mayor's Court, as well as the powers of the Governor and Council in their capacity as the Court of Appeal and Court of Oyer and Terminer and Goal Delivery.
- Administrative Detail (Boundary):** Governor **Edward Clive** (1798–1803) demarcated the boundaries of Madras to avoid difficulties arising from the undefined limits of the settlement.

The Supreme Court of Judicature (1801)

1. **Establishment:** Established by an **Act of Parliament in 1801** (replacing the Recorder's Court). This move was driven by the view that the judiciary should be **separated from the executive** and reserved for the British Crown.
2. **Composition:** A **Chief Justice** and two **Puisne Justices**.
3. **Key Personnel:** Sir Thomas Strange, the former Recorder, became the **first Chief Justice**. **Henry Guillim and Sullivan** were the first Puisne Justices.
4. **Hierarchy:** The Chief Justice held a rank next to the Governor of Fort St. George; Puisne Justices ranked next to the Members of the Council.
5. **Extensive Powers:** Unlike the Recorder's Court, the Supreme Court was endowed with extensive jurisdiction.
 - It heard and decided all civil suits previously handled by the Mayor's and Recorder's Courts.
 - Dispensed justice as a Court of Equity, Conservators of the Peace, Coroners, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Goal Delivery, and a Court of Admiralty.
 - Covered cases related to **treason, murder, forgery, perjuries, and trespasses**.
6. **Jurisdiction Scope:** Extended within and throughout the settlement of Fort St. George, Madras town, subordinate factories, and all territories subject to or dependent upon the Government of Madras.
7. **Personal Law:** The court heard and determined all suits brought against the inhabitants of Madras.
 - Cases involving **Hindus** were decided according to Hindu laws and usages.
 - Cases involving **Mohammadans** were decided according to Mohammadan laws and usages.
 - If parties were a Hindu and a Mohammadan, the decision followed the laws and usages of the community of the **dependent**.
8. **Exclusions:** Certain officials in their capacity were excluded from jurisdiction: the Governor General and Council Members, the Governor of Fort St. George and Council Members, and the Chief Justice and Puisne Justices.
9. **Appeals:** Appeals from the Supreme Court lay to the **King in Council**.

Case Study: Judiciary vs. Executive Conflict (The Nawab of Arcot)

The Supreme Court functioned as a **Court of the Crown**, exercising power independent of the Governor in Council, which led to friction with the executive.

- **The Issue:** Governor Edward Clive's demarcation of Madras boundaries included the **Chepauk Palace** (permanent residence of the Nawab of Arcot).
- **The Conflict:** The Supreme Court refused to exempt the Nawab's establishment from its jurisdiction. It even issued a **writ of *habeas corpus*** for the release of certain persons held in custody by the Nawab.
- **Governor Clive's Dilemma:** Clive was bound to support the Nawab as a sovereign prince (under the Treaty of the Carnatic) and simultaneously obliged to honour the Judiciary's authority.
- **Resolution:** Clive appealed to the Court of Directors. The Court of Directors eventually exempted the **person of the Nawab, his family, servants, and all his property** from the court's jurisdiction. (Note: This privilege did not extend to persons seeking asylum to escape the process of law).

REORGANIZATION OF LOWER COURTS

The creation of the Supreme Court necessitated changes at the lower judicial level, focusing on providing speedy justice for minor claims.

Court of Commissioners for the Recovery of Small Debts (1802)

1. **Context:** The Supreme Court took over many duties of the Master in Equity, diminishing its role. Governor Clive proceeded to reorganise the existing **Court of Request** (authorized by a Parliamentary legislation of 1800).
2. **New Designation:** The reorganised court was designated "the **Court of Commissioners for the Recovery of Small Debts**".
3. **Timeline:** Established on the **1st of January 1802**.
4. **Composition:** Consisted of **three commissioners** who were British subjects resident within Fort St. George. **Walter Grant** acted as both Master of the Supreme Court and Chief Commissioner.
5. **Jurisdiction:** Extended to a sum of **120 pagodas or 360 rupees**. (This covered a large portion of native dealers' transactions).
6. **Significance:** This court offered a **speedy and easy remedy** for minor claims. Unlike the Supreme Court, which fixed the same table of fees regardless of the suit value (e.g., 50 pagodas vs. 5,000 pagodas), the Court of Commissioners fixed fees at a **comparatively low rate** for small causes. Costs were designed not to exceed fifteen per cent (for first summons) or twenty per cent (for contempt processes).

The Court of Wards

- **Purpose:** Created for the **protection of the rights and properties of incapacitated persons** (those incapacitated by minority, sex, or general infirmity).
- **Function:** Addressed the issue of temporary managers abusing trust over inherited properties. It provided legal provisions for proper maintenance of properties, education of minors, and care of lunatics.

EXTENSION TO THE PROVINCES (1802: The Cornwallis Model)

Prior to 1802, the judicial system outside Madras was "imperfect and inefficient". Collectors heard and decided civil cases (appeals lay to the Board of Revenue). Criminal jurisdiction was often handled by military tribunals, focused more on enforcement than equitable justice.

Factors Enabling Extension

1. **Removal of Divided Authority:** The **Treaties of Tanjore and the Carnatic** removed the political difficulty presented by divided authority.
2. **Availability of Personnel:** A sufficient number of qualified servants became available to be posted as judges.
3. **Revenue Supervision:** The establishment of permanent revenue settlements necessitated supervision to preserve the interests of the government, *zamindar*, and peasants.

The Hierarchical System (Modelled on Cornwallis System of Bengal)

The **Cornwallis System** (which established an ascending hierarchy of civil and criminal courts in Bengal) served as the model for the districts.

Court Level	Name and Composition	Jurisdiction/Function
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Lower Level (Native)	Indian Commissioner attached to Zillah Courts.	Heard and decided petty cases .
District Level (Zillah)	Zillah Courts (Presided over by British judges).	Jurisdiction over all civil cases . Established initially in Dindigul and Ramanathapuram.
District Dual Role	Zillah Judge served as the Magistrate.	Controlled the police (<i>thanadars</i> and <i>dorogas</i> for police duties, and <i>kavaikars</i> for village watch). Collectors ceased to exercise judicial/police functions.
Provincial Appeal	Provincial Court of Appeal.	Highest civil court in each province. Territories divided into four provinces : Northern, Central, Southern, and Western.
Provincial Criminal	Court of Circuit.	Instituted for each division. Judges toured districts and tried serious criminal cases .
Apex Civil Court	Sadar Adalat (Governor and Council).	Chief Court of Civil Judicature, hearing appeals from Provincial Courts.
Apex Criminal Court	Foujdary Adalat (Governor and Council).	Chief criminal court, hearing appeals from the Circuit Courts.

C. Initial Defects in the Graded System (1802)

- **Procedure:** Courts were guided by British rules of procedure, which were foreign to the country.
- **Access to Justice:** Poverty, illiteracy, complexity of processes, and financial inability often deterred the aggrieved from seeking help.
- **Police Corruption:** The association of the traditional **kaval** institution (village watch) was problematic, as it had degraded into an "engine of oppression" by the end of the eighteenth century, vitiating the ends of justice.

MUNRO REFORMS AND THE REORGANISATION OF 1816

Due to system inadequacies, a commission under **Thomas Munro** was appointed in **1812** to enquire into the judiciary. Governor Munro implemented the reforms in **1816**, intending to give new importance to the traditional system.

Reformed Court/Office	Key Change and Jurisdiction	Pre-1816 Comparison
Village Munsiff	Appointed to hear and determine all suits up to ten rupees on his own authority, without appeal .	Associated with the Panchayat system.
District Munsiffs	Appointed by Provincial Courts to try and determine suits against any Indian .	Associated with the District Panchayat system.
Collector Magistrate	Office of magistrate was transferred from the zillah judge to the collector .	Collectors regained judicial/police authority which they had lost in 1802.
Magistrate Power	Could arrest/examine persons charged with crime. Could decide petty offences, imprison up to 15 days , or impose a fine up to fifty rupees .	—

Zillah Judges	Became criminal judges . Their role was to examine prisoners, prepare them for trial before the Circuit Court, and supervise jails.	Lost magisterial authority to the collector.
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Apex Courts Continuity: The Sadar Adalat (highest civil) and Foujdari Adalat (highest criminal) continued to function, with appeals remaining with the Privy Council in England.

Defects of 1816 Reforms: The system failed to rectify corrupt practices at lower levels while vesting them with much authority. Additionally, collectors became overburdened with minor matters, preventing them from bestowing attention on important affairs, which made delay in decision-making inevitable.

FINAL CONSOLIDATION (1821–1861)

Between 1816 and 1861, further refinements were introduced:

- **1821–1827:** Auxiliary courts, each under an assistant judge, were created due to increasing pressure of work in the Provincial and Zillah Courts.
- **Developments:** The jury system was extended to criminal cases. Police authority was separated from revenue authority.
- **Structural Changes:** The Courts of Circuit were abolished, and their functions were transferred to the Zillah Courts. Provincial Courts of Appeal were replaced by Zillah Courts.
- **Law Change:** Mohammadan criminal law was dispensed with in 1865.

The Indian High Courts Act of 1861

1. **Enactment:** Passed by the British Parliament in 1861.
2. **Abolition:** It provided for the abolition of the **Supreme Court, Sadar Diwani Adalat, and Sadar Nizammat (Faujdari) Adalat**.
3. **Establishment:** In their place, it established the **High Court of Judicature at Madras** (as at Calcutta and Bombay).
4. **Result:** This established an organized system with defined jurisdiction, giving the High Court the right to **supervise all other courts** subject to its appellate jurisdiction.

ASSOCIATED REFORMS: POLICE AND PRISONS

The organization of justice was intrinsically linked to effective police administration and humane prison conditions.

A. Organisation of the Police

1. **Traditional System:** The *kavalkars* occupied an important place, controlled by headmen in villages and *kotwals* in towns.
2. **1801 Attempt:** The Company sought to dispense with the traditional system, appointing *sibendy peons* under revenue servants. This failed.
3. **1816 Regulation:** Police duties were entrusted back to village headmen, *tahsildars*, *amins*, *zamindars*, *kotwals*, and zillah magistrates. This represented a compromise with the traditional system.
4. **Continuing Failure:** The administration remained inefficient, corrupt, and oppressive. The combination of revenue and police authority (in *tahsildars* and headmen) led them to neglect the detection of crimes, focusing instead on tax collection.
5. **1857 Reorganization (Lord Harris):** Driven by concern over increasing crime (gang robberies). Lord Harris asserted that an efficient police force must be under **one command** with **uniformity of discipline**.

6. **1858 Implementation:** The government sanctioned reorganization and appointed a **chief commissioner of police** in charge of direction and discipline. **W. Robinson** (appointed 1858) helped structure the new force.
7. **New Structure:** Consisted of constables, head constables, inspectors, superintendents, and a chief commissioner. The improved village police were placed under a village police inspector.

Prison Administration

1. **Inherited System:** The traditional system was "highly irregular". Detainees were often seized, tortured, and kept in old *choultries* or deserted temples without food or water.
2. **1802 Attempt:** With the introduction of law courts, attempts were made to organise prison establishment. Rules were laid down regarding construction, accommodation, medical care, and moral improvement.
3. **Continuing Problems:** Conditions remained highly unsatisfactory: overcrowding, inadequate ventilation, poor sanitation, caste-based segregation, and bad food. Corruption was rife, with prisoners bribing jail *peons* to commit theft or purchase intoxicants.
4. **Mortality:** The ordeals and epidemics caused high mortality, with as many as **ten per cent of the convicts dying every year** (compared to only one per cent in England during the same period).

EDUCATION IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY (1800–1900s)

THE SHIFT FROM TRADITION TO WESTERNISATION

The British administration introduced significant changes in the cultural life of the Tamils. Although the Tamils traditionally valued learning, their existing institutions went into **oblivion** when administrators and missionaries introduced the Western system.

The spread of Western education fuelled a renaissance, aiding the development of language through the efforts of both foreign and local scholars.

THE INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL SYSTEM

Before the formal introduction of Company policy, an elaborate indigenous system existed, though it was largely limited by social constraints.

Thomas Munro's Survey (1822–1827)

1. **The Enquiry:** Governor **Thomas Munro (1820–27)** instituted an enquiry into the traditional system in 1822.
2. **Statistics (1826):** Collectors' statistics revealed **12,498 educational institutions** for a population of 12,850,941 in the Madras Presidency.
 - *Case Study Example:* The Madurai district (which included Madurai and Ramanathapuram divisions in 1822) had 844 schools and 13,781 scholars for a population of eight lakhs. Tiruchirapalli had 799 schools for 481,000 inhabitants.
3. **Munro's Stance:** Munro initially sought **no interference** with native schools. He recommended facilitating their operation by **restoring diverted funds** and potentially granting additional funds where advisable.

Structure, Curriculum, and Exclusion

Aspect	Detail/Key Fact
Grades	Elementary schools and high schools.

Location/Timing	Held in temple buildings, private houses, or shady places. Classes began early morning and continued late evening.
Admission/Fees	No regular periods or age limits. Children joined at age five and left at age fifteen. Fees ranged from an anna to four rupees a month , plus presents.
Free Instruction	Brahmin <i>pandits</i> gave free instruction in Sanskrit schools, viewing it as their privilege to impart sacred lore.
Curriculum	Principal content: Reading, writing, and arithmetic. Advanced courses (high schools): commercial accounts, composition of business letters, legal documents, philosophy, and jurisprudence.
Mediums	Varied based on mother tongue: Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, or Marathi.
Social Exclusion	Education was mostly restricted among the Brahmins . Girls generally did not attend schools, except for the devadasis .

Severe Discipline

The traditional system gave undue importance to discipline and the suppression of aptitudes. Students were required to obey teachers implicitly, work hard, sleep less, and abstain from 'evil' thoughts and deeds.

Any infringement invited **severe punishment**, including:

- Flogging with canes.
- Being made to stand with one leg up and a brick on.
- Application of solutions causing irritating sensations.

Causes for Decline (Since 1800)

Despite the numerous schools, the system declined steeply since 1800.

1. **Internal Defects:** Instruction lacked organisation. Subjects like **science or history** were neglected, making courses irrelevant to practical life. Students learned verses *verbatim* without understanding or criticism.
2. **Economic Impoverishment:** Unemployment rose due to European manufactures and **oppressive assessments** by the English. Rich turned poor, and **private support dwindled**. Parents lacked money for education and needed their children's labour.
3. **Lack of State Aid:** The necessary grants failed to materialise from the new rulers.
4. **Social Stigma:** A suspicion developed that girls who joined classes might "turn prostitutes" (as *devadasis* sent their daughters), discouraging female education.

MISSIONARY ENDEAVOUR: THE PIONEERS

The Christian missionaries took a pioneering interest in promoting education, guided by both **religious and humanitarian** motives.

- **System and Accessibility:** They devised a **liberal system** open to all inhabitants, regardless of caste or religion. They imparted education in **Tamil** and provided **free feeding** to reach the common people.
- **Curriculum:** Included reading, writing, Biblical lessons, and arithmetic. Colleges offered advanced courses in literature, science, and history.
- **Key Institutions and Centres:**
 - **1717:** The **Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge** opened two charity schools in Madras for poor students.

- **Reverend Swartz:** Started English schools at **Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, and Sivaganga.**
- **Jesuits:** Made **Tiruchirapalli** a centre of activity.
- **1834:** The American Jaffna Mission established the **American Madura Mission** (opening schools at Madurai, Dindigul, and Ramanathapuram).
- **Deep South:** Protestant missions started institutions at **Palayamkottai and Nagercoil.**

The Court of Directors noted that missionary educational efforts were **"more successful among the Tamil population than in any other part of India"**. However, the missions faced obstacles from poverty, caste prejudices, and religious suspicions.

EDUCATION: POLICY AND PHILOSOPHY SHIFTS

The English administration initially hesitated to enter the field of education, influenced by *laissez faire* and mercantilism, believing education was the concern of the inhabitants.

Initial Government Intervention (1813–1834)

1. **Need for Clerks:** The expansion of the administrative system created a keen need for **educated people for clerical jobs** at the lower levels.
2. **Charter Act of 1813:** Allotted a meagre sum of **one lakh of rupees a year for the whole of India**. This fund was intended for the "revival and improvement of literature and the encouragement of the learned natives".
3. **Madras Council's Approach:** Since the allotment was inadequate for supporting private institutions, the Council established:
 - **A Board of Public Instruction.**
 - **A School Book Society** (to translate good European works into Indian languages).
 - **Public schools:** Two schools were set up in each district (one for Hindus, one for Muslims). Teachers were trained at a central school in Madras.
 - By 1834, about **seventy tahsildari schools** were also opened in the taluqs.

The Rise and Fall of the Filtration Theory (1830s)

The administration initially sought to educate the **influential people** to strengthen their own authority.

1. **Rationale:** The Court of Directors argued that improving the education of the **higher classes** would produce a "much greater and more beneficial change in the ideas and feelings of the community" than directly educating the masses.
2. **Policy:** This belief evolved into the **filtration theory** by 1830. Governor General **Bentinck** supported this, concluding that the best results were achievable through **English education**.
3. **Impact:** Bentinck's government directed *all* appropriated funds toward English education alone. Consequently, by 1836, the district and *taluk* schools were discarded.
4. **Legacy:** The **Central School** was retained, however, and it later became the **Presidency College**, serving as the **nucleus of the University of Madras**.
5. **Failure:** The filtration theory proved a failure, as knowledge **did not reach the masses** from the higher orders.

Wood's Educational Despatch (1854): The Shift to Mass Education

The failure of filtration led the Court of Directors to mandate a new policy aimed at diffusing knowledge to the masses.

1. **Initiator:** **Sir Charles Wood**, President of the Board of Control.

2. **Mandate:** Directed the Government of India to create a properly **articulated system of education**, extending from primary school to university.
3. **Core Principles:**
 - Replacement of the filtration theory by the theory of **mass education**.
 - Support for the traditional schools through a **grant-in-aid scheme**.
 - Periodical inspection and religious neutrality.
 - Objective: Diffusion of the improved **arts, science, philosophy, and literature of Europe** (European knowledge).
4. **Language Policy:** English should be taught where there was demand, but instruction must **always be combined with a careful attention to the study of the vernacular language**.
5. **Implementation:** The government opened *taluk* schools and *zillah* schools.
 - Courses included English, Tamil, mathematics, history, economics, and geography.
 - The medium of instruction in *taluk* schools was **Tamil**, while in higher institutions it was **English**.
 - Students were permitted to learn English only **after acquiring proficiency in Tamil**.
 - Textbooks in Tamil and selections from Tamil poets were brought out with the assistance of **Reverend G. U. Pope**, a noted Tamil scholar.

THE GREAT DEBATE: TAMIL VS. ENGLISH

Despite official efforts to encourage vernacular education post-1854, the prevailing trend worked against Tamil medium schools.

Arguments for Vernacular Medium

Many administrators sought to encourage Tamil as the medium of instruction, with English as one of the subjects, arguing that English was unnatural.

- **Reach:** Knowledge was unlikely to reach the "**man in the field and woman in the kitchen**" through English.
- **Efficiency:** It took years to convey concepts to scholars through English.
- **Early Successes:** The *taluk* school at Vridhachalam showed a student preference for Tamil. At Mailaduthurai, Richards, the Inspector of Schools, was impressed when the senior class demonstrated Euclid propositions "**entirely in Tamil**," hoping it was the "commencement of a new era".

The Triumph of English

The high optimism for Tamil vanished quickly due to social and economic factors.

1. **Social Prejudice:** The promising start at Mailaduthurai collapsed when an '**untouchable**' was admitted, leading **208 out of 217 students** to immediately leave the school.
2. **Administrative Requirement:** The administration felt that if officials were educated in Tamil, the amount of knowledge acquired would be limited, and they would be unable to converse or correspond with their **European heads**.
3. **Economic Incentive:** A powerful conviction gained ground among inhabitants that **knowledge in English was the surest means for official employment**. Parents wanted their children to learn the "**language of their rulers and not that of their workers**".
4. **Neglect:** As a result, Tamil schools were neglected. For instance, a Tamil school opened at Cumbum could not find **even a single student**.

BEGINNINGS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The growth of higher education received considerable encouragement following the establishment of the University of Madras.

1. **Foundation:** An Act of the Legislative Council provided for the creation of universities at Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay.
2. **University of Madras (1859):** Established in 1859 alongside the Department of Public Instruction. It took over the conduct of examinations for the Madras Medical College, Engineering College, and Law College.
3. **Reorganization (1923):** The university's administration was reorganised, granting it the right to spend money without government approval, and the **vice chancellor became the executive head**.
4. **Growth:** By 1871, there were only twelve colleges in the Presidency, but their number doubled within ten years.
5. **Key Early Colleges:**
 - **Madras Medical College (1851):** Developed from a medical school functioning since 1835.
 - **Civil Engineering College (1857):** Developed from a survey school.
 - **Agricultural College (1878).**
 - **Pachaiyappa's College (1880).**
 - **Madras Law College (1891).**
 - Also included Madras Christian College, St. Josephs' College (Tiruchirapalli), Government College (Kumbakonam), American College (Madurai), St. John's College (Palayamkottai), and Scott Christian College (Nagercoil).
6. **Annamalai University:** Founded in 1929 due to the efforts of **Annamalai Chettiar**.

IMPACT AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS

The spread of Western education had mixed effects upon Tamil society.

Positive Contributions (Integrated and Progressive System)

1. **Integration:** The British evolved an **integrated and progressive system** of instruction, replacing what was previously disorganised and stagnant.
2. **Access to Modern Knowledge:** Placed the advances made by the West in arts, sciences, and philosophy within the reach of the people.
3. **Language of Elite:** English developed into a **common language of the elite** (in administration, polity, and trade), promoting contact and communication.
4. **Professional Focus:** Gave adequate importance to professional education, encouraging the study of **science and technology** alongside arts.

Negative Consequences and Limitations

1. **Decline of Traditional System:** Official encouragement of Western education harmed the indigenous system.
2. **Cultural Apathy:** The new elite displayed an **apathy for local sciences, local medicines, and local arts**, leading to the neglect of past achievements.
3. **Social Gulf:** The new education added to the **gulf between villages/backward sections** and towns/advanced sections, with benefits going primarily to the privileged sections.

4. **Limited Objective:** The English objective was limited: they needed **trained clerks to serve and control the population**. This strengthened **bureaucratic traditions** at the expense of popular welfare.

Systemic Problems

- **Teacher Demoralisation:** Poor pay and bad working conditions meant the profession did not attract talented teachers.
- **Examination System:** The system was detrimental. Those who failed public examinations were often condemned as "lazy and stupid" and swept out of educational institutions "without any hope" (*The Indian Patriot* lamented this in 1915).

