



# Rani Velu Nachiyar (1730–1796)

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Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to **Rani VelNachiyar** (Veeramangai) on her birth anniversary (Jan 3).

- **Historical Legacy:** She was the Queen of **Sivaganga** (Tamil Nadu) and the **first Indian queen** to defeat the British East India Company (EIC) in battle.
- **Major Conflict:** In 1772, the British killed her husband (King MuthVaduganatha Periyavudaya Thevar). She went into exile, gathered an army, and formed a strategic alliance with **Hyder Ali of Mysore**.
- **Key Contributions:**
- **Military Innovation:** Established the "**Udaiyaal**" (all-women army).
- **Tactics:** Her commander, **Kuyili**, is celebrated for a suicide attack on a British ammunition storehouse—the first recorded instance of its kind in the resistance.
- **Diplomacy:** She was a polyglot, proficient in French, English, and Urdu, which helped her secure international support against the EIC.