

Historical Events

KURICHIYA REVOLT.

- The Kurichiya uprising of 1812 is one of the distinctive resistance movements against the British in Malabar.
- Kurichiyas were a tribal folk who lived in the mountainous regions of Wayanad.
- The Kurichiyas under their leader Thalakkal Chandu had played a leading role in the Pazhassi revolt. Many of Pazhassi victories were attributed to the Kurichiyas.
- The British acquisition of Wayanad rudely disturbed their peaceful life.
- After the suppression of Pazhassi revolt, the British subjected the Kurichiyas to untold miseries.
- The British captured many of them and reduced some of them to slavery.
- However it was the new revenue settlement made by the new collector Thomas Warden that led the Kurichiyas to raise the banner of revolt

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- They were forced to pay the revenue in cash rather than in the traditional mode of kind.
- The defaulters were treated cruelly
- The Kurichiyas rose in revolt in March 1812 under the leadership of their chief Rama Namby.
- They made elaborate preparations for a final fight with the British.
- The Kurumbar aided their fellow tribals in the fight
- The aim of the rebels was to expel the “Watta Thoppikkar” (Round Heads or Europeans) from the country.
- The rebellion spread to all parts of Wayanad

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- They attacked police stations ,persecuted English personals.
- They besieged British military posts at Sulthan Bathery and Mananthavady.
- For a few days at least, the British flag ceased to fly in Wayanad. However the rebellion was crushed:
“Tribal heroism with tribal weapons became powerless before the sophisticated military
- machine of the English”.
- The British brought reinforcement from Mysore and South Canara and they moved in to the jungles from different directions, surrounded them and suppressed them.
- By May 1812, the revolt was completely crushed.
- The Kurichiya revolt is significant as it was basically a peasant’s revolt.

KERALA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE



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