

Historical Events

VELU THAMPI DALAWA

- On Dharma Raja's death in 1798, Balarama Varma(1798–1810), the weakest ruler of the dynasty, took over crown at the age of sixteen.
- The Prime Ministers (Dalawas or Dewans) started taking control of the kingdom beginning with Velu Thampi Dalawa(Velayudhan Chempakaraman Thampi) (1799–1809) who was appointed as the *divan* following the dismissal of Jayanthan Sankaran Nampoothiri
- Initially, Velayudhan Chempakaraman Thampi and the English East India Company got along very well.
- When a section of the Travancore army mutinied in 1805 against Velu Thampi Dalawa, he sought refuge with the British Resident and later used English East India Company troops to crush the mutiny.

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- Velu Thampi also played a key role in renegotiating a new treaty between Travancore and the English East India Company.
- However, the demands by the East India Company for the payment of compensation for their involvement in the Travancore-Mysore War (1791) on behalf of Travancore, led to tension between the Diwan and the East India Company Resident
- He wanted to defend Travancore and the King.
- He began to recruit soldiers and collect arms..
- On January 11, 1809 Velu Thampi issued the famous Kundara Proclamation. He wanted the people to rise against the British

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- Velu Thampi Dalawa now organised a guerrilla struggle against the Company.
- The Company defeated forces under Velu Thampi Dalawa at battles near Nagercoil and [Kollam](#) and inflicted heavy casualties on the rebels, following which many of his supporters deserted and went back to their homes.
- He committed suicide to avoid capture by the Travancore army at Mannadi Temple

KERALA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE



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