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# ROLE OF KANNAMPALAYAM IN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

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**E. Juliet Princia** M.A, B.Ed , PhD scholar

*PG and Research,*

*Department of History, Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore.*

## Abstract

The people who selflessly sacrificed their blood and even their lives are known as freedom fighters. Fortunately, a fair share of freedom fighters is present in every country. India is a country blessed with a large number of freedom fighters. Their sacrifices and strive for freedom cannot even be put into words. Their sacrifice of blood and soul has left the generations after them in their debt. In this liberation movement a tiny village namely kannampalayam in Coimbatore played significant role. After the pandiya rule kannampalayam went into the hands of British. To stop the British dominance the kannampalayam people augmented so many protests.

## Introduction

Kannampalayam village is situated 15 km east of Coimbatore city. Kannampalayam village is a first grade town panchayat in Coimbatore district from January 27, 1982 under the Municipalities' Act of 1920. . Kannampalayam is surrounded in the east by Kalangal and Sulur, north by Sulur and Irrugur, west by Peedampalli and South by Pappampatti. The village is located on the eastern side of corporation boundary at a distance of 1.0km

Kongu Nadu is rich in history, culture, devotion and sacrifice Shakti worship is very ancient worship which has been practiced mostly in Kongu Nadu. Likewise kannampalayam was involved in shakti worship. Kannampalayam was named after an old temple called "**Kannamai Amman**". Perumal temples build by Pandian is located on the western side of kannampalayam.

In the early period most of the lands were agricultural lands apart from this, hand loom, pottery making, carpentry work were also famous on those days. Moreover, the architect, the shepherd, the shoemaker and the mercenary workers were lived in kannampalayam. At present so many mills were emerged, most of the people in kannampalayam are going to mill work. The main source of the water supply scheme is TWAD(Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage Board) from Pillur dam. On the north, Noyyal River flows in to the village. The irrigation pond of Noyyal is located in the village to an extent of 51.72 acres. In the middle of the village, the weavers of the kannampalayam gathered in pavadi ground and woven. Today agricultural had changed, or been abandoned. Sandfits is the major foundry units, almost 1500 power looms and more than 50 small scale industries are functioning at present in kannampalayam.

## Role of Kannampalayam

“REVOLUTION IS AN INALINABLE RIGHT OF MANKIND.  
FREEDOM IS AN IMPERSHABLE BIRTHRIGHT OF ALL”

- BHAGAT SING

Coimbatore was ruled for a short period by the Pandiyas after the decline of cholas. Then the city was conquered by the Mysore sultans as well as British troops after the Anglo Mysore war. The city was taken by the forces of the British East India Company in 1768. Colonel Fullerton occupied the city in 1783 but later returned to Tippu sultan as per the treaty of Mangalore.

At the beginning of the Third Mysore war Coimbatore was once again taken by the British troops after the death of Tippu sultan in 1799. And slowly British started to control over the city. Many protests were started to get freedom from the hands of British. In Coimbatore during the time of freedom struggle many people participated to get liberation. In this a tiny village called kannampalayam played a spontaneous role. In 1942 under the Quit India Movement struggle almost 30 freedom fighters from kannampalayam participated in several liberation movements. Followings are all the names and prison period of kannampalayam freedom fighters:

S.NO	NAMES	PRISON PERIOD
1	K.V.Ramasamy	20 years
2	K.K.Palanigounder	20 years
3	K.S.Palanigounder	20years
4	K.K.Palanigounder	20 years
5	Birla Ramasamy	10 years
6	K.N.Chinnayan	7 years
7	K.K.Palaniappan	7 years
8	K.S.Chinnappan	7 years
9	K.P.Karuppanan	7 years
10	K.K.Marappan	7 years
11	K.S.Palaniappan	7 years
12	K.K.Marappan	7 years
13	K.P.Marappan	7 years
14	K.R.Marappan	7 years
15	Stalin K.P.Chinnayan	1 year and 11 month
16	K.V.Palaniappan	1 year
17	V.Velusamy Naidu	1 year
18	K.P.VengatrayaGounder	8 months
19	K.M.Chinathambigounder	8 months
20	K.V.Kuthanan	8 months
21	K.P.Karuppanan	8 months

22	K.V.Maraiaan	8 months
23	K.V.Pattaiyan	8 months
24	K.R.Ramasamy	8 months
25	K.S.Murugaiyan	8 months
26	K.N.Palaniappan	8 months
27	K.S.Palaniappan	8 months
28	K.K.Marappan	8 months
29	C.Palanisamy Naidu	6 months
30	K.P.Aiyasamy	3 months

All the above mentioned freedomfighters received the lotus charter of the central government and state government.

Two events were the main reason for the spread of freedom struggle in the Coimbatore district.

One is the Death of Tirupur Kumaran in 1932 and the Gandhi's visit to Sulur in 1934. This made the people to involve in freedom movement. It was then that a few supporters of the liberation movement were formed in kannampalayam. Congress leaders such as MahathmaGhandi, Jawaharlal Nehru, azad and sardar vallabaiappatell convinced in august 1942 at Wadha to formulate a final war plan with the slogan "do or die". The leaders condemned the arrest and raised slogans and motivational speeches. The crowed were desperate to get something done. A statement of action was prepared with the phrase "DO OR DIE" they, planned several agitation.

The first attempt started by the kannampalayam people massively is picketing the toddy shop.In kannampalayam many people gathered after hearing the patriotic talk of freedom fighters to protest against liquor shops near Sulur region, Because there were no liquor shops in kannampalayam area, so most of the people went sulur reign to by alcohol. The crowed was led by VengatrayaGounder who was the pioneer of this action and they picketed the shops in Sulur area. In that movement many were arrested and imprisoned and severely puni

on 12th March 1930 from kannampalayam patriots were led by K.V.Ramasamy marched to the banks of Valan Pond in Coimbatore on the north side of pond and produced salt. Those who produced salt were arrested and subjugated to brutal treatment.

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1942 day night was selected to collapse the train that carried military equipments. About sixty people set off towards the railway station via single lane opposite the existing Vengatalakshmi wedding hall. The project should be implemented near Singanallur pond, only then in case of fire they can protect all. They removed the nail and dislocated the track as soon as possible before the coming of the warheads train. The train carrying the Nilgiri Ammunition had left the Pothanur railway station at 1:50pm. Unaware of the removal of the tracks, the train engine collapsed with a loud thud on the tenth minute. Twelve boxes were stacked on the top of another. Some of the boxes were down the tracks. Comrades were delighted to have accomplished what they thought. Recalling

the pledge that " NO ONE WILL BE CAUGHT, NO BETROYAL, NO ONE WILL TALK ABOUT IT ". The fighters went back to work the next day, as if nothing had happened. All the war equipment had been destroyed when the train toppled.

After burning the Sulur airbase, they cheerfully agreed to take over the Sulur police station. K.S.Palaiappan who was a laundry man from kannampalayam accepted responsibility for making "VENDAYAS". Fire broke out at 10pm. Those who slept in thirty sheds were driven out and surrounded without escaping. Thirty sheds, twenty eight Mangalore trucks and many were burned in fire. Two men who were sleeping in a drunken lorry were burnt to death. They planned to surround every soldier and to be tied up but one military guard escaped from the sight of the fighters. The news was immediately dispatched to the Sulur police station by an escort guard.

Finally the police seek all the damage was done by the kannampalayam people so police force rushed towards kannampalayam to arrest those who involve in all events. So British government announces that civilians from the village of kannampalayam should pay the compensation tax for the attack on the Sulur air base. This tax is called "THIMIR VARI" (Arrogant Tax):

Allipuram jail is the place where all the convicts are suppressed. In the singanallur train crash 58 persons were arrested, 96 persons were arrested in sulur incident, 26 in the Kalukkadalai fire. There was a heavy water scarcity in jail. The prison administration provided only six cups of water for drinking, bathing, washing and cleaning the toilet. It is impossible to wash the cloth. So there was often a need to stay in the fold called kovanam. Many of the political prisoners were sick because they were unable to bathe for several days and many became the victims of summer sickness. The food was too bad. In morning they gave a glace of porridge and a lump of rice, lettuce or radish Sambar at 12 noon. Butter milk and Sambar were brought in iron ore. There were warms, toads and spiders in food. In evening they provide one cup of rice with Sambar. Many patriots fell ill due to inadequate water and food quality. Influenza, diarrhea and small box have struck. Protesters were held inside the jail against the mistreatment of prisoners. The protesters were severally persecuted.

## Conclusion

Those who played a major role in freedom Movement and went to jail were praised as martyrs. Thus the streets were named in kannampalayam in memory of the martyrs. On November 14<sup>th</sup>1990 the martyr of freedom fighters erected a monument namely "SUDANDIRRA POORATTA THIYAGIGAL NINAIVILLAM. Then in 2001 it was heavily rebuilt and named as "KANNAMPALAYAM SUDANDIRRA POORATTA THIYAGIGAL KALAI ARANGAM". Thought it's a tiny village it plays inevitable role in freedom movement.

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