



## JAMBU DWEIPA PROCLAMATION

The Jambudweepa Proclamation refers to the declaration made by the **Maruthu brothers** in 1801 during the South Indian Rebellion against British colonial rule.

- The proclamation was a call to arms against the British, criticizing their oppressive policies and urging Indian rulers and people to unite against colonial domination.
- Jambu Dweepa is an ancient term with significant cultural and historical connotations in Indian tradition. It is often mentioned in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain cosmology as a large continent or island, sometimes referring to the entire known world or, more specifically, the Indian subcontinent. The name “Jambu Dweepa” is derived from the Jambu tree, a mythical tree said to grow on this landmass.

### Colonial Resistance:

- The Proclamation of Jambu Dweepa in 1801, led by the **Maruthu brothers (Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu)** were de facto rulers of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu.
- They marked one of the earliest organized efforts to resist British colonial rule in India. They are credited with issuing the first proclamation against British atrocities, even before the more well-known uprisings such as the Vellore Mutiny of 1806 and the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

### Background And The Rise Of The Maruthu Brothers

- The British initially came to India under the guise of trade but soon used their superior weaponry and divisive tactics to establish control over large parts of the country.



Maruthu brothers

- The **Nawab of Arcot**, Mohammed Ali, exacerbated British dominance by handing over tax collection and ruling rights to them, leading to widespread impoverishment and subjugation of the local population.



- The Maruthu brothers, Periya Maruthu (the elder) and Chinna Maruthu (the younger), were born to Mokka Palanisamy Thevar and his wife Ponatha, who served the second king of Sivagangai, Muthuvadaganatha Thevar.
- Trained in warfare and artillery, the brothers became close aides to the king. However, their lives took a dramatic turn when the British, after failed negotiations, killed the king and queen in a nighttime attack.
- The Maruthu brothers fled with the first queen, Vedanachiyar, to the neighboring kingdom of Virupakshi, ruled by Gopal Nayak. After seven years, they returned to Sivagangai, where Periya Maruthu took charge as the commander of the army and Chinna Maruthu as the chief minister

## The Proclamation Of 1801

- The Maruthu brothers, having garnered support from other Southern Indian kings who were ideologically opposed to British rule, initiated a **rebellion against the British in 1801**
- They issued a proclamation that became a **rallying cry for resistance** across the region. The proclamation condemned the British for their deceitful takeover of Indian kingdoms and their brutal treatment of Indians, whom they regarded as inferior.
- The proclamation also criticized the lack of unity among Indian castes, which had allowed the British to dominate the country.
- This proclamation was inspired by an “all-Indian concept,” was one of the first to call for national resistance against the British.
- The Maruthu brothers displayed the proclamation publicly, including on the walls of the Sri Rangam Temple and the Rock Fort in Tamil Nadu, despite the risks to their lives and their kingdom.

## The British Response And The Execution Of The Maruthu Brothers

- Angered by the defiance of the Maruthu brothers, the British launched a **full-scale military campaign** against them.
- On October 24, 1801, the Maruthu brothers, along with about 500 of their supporters, were **captured and executed**.
- The British carried out these executions without proper legal procedures, in what Rajayyan described as “**anomalous and irregular**” actions. The British also sought to eliminate any future threats by executing the male members of the Maruthu family, sparing only one son of Periya Maruthu, Doraisamy, who was banished to Malaysia.

## Legacy Of The South Indian Rebellion

- The South Indian Rebellion of 1801, led by the Maruthu brothers, holds a unique place in India’s history as one of the **earliest and most organized** challenges to British rule.



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- The rebellion highlighted the potential for **collective resistance and the importance of unity** among Indians in the face of colonial oppression.
- Although the rebellion was **ultimately crushed**, the Maruthu brothers' courage and sacrifice served as a precursor to later, more widespread movements for independence.

