

**MODULE-1**  
**EARLY RESISTANCE AND BRITISH CONSOLIDATION**  
**TOPIC- KURICHIYA REVOLT**

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- The Kurichia Revolt of 1812 is one of the most important and distinctive of resistance movements against the British rule in Malabar.
- The Kurichias were the tribal folk who lived in the mountain ranges of Wayanad.
- They were leading their own way of life without outside disturbances for centuries.
- The advent of the colonialists made interventions into the tribal life of the high ranges of Waynad and the rhythm of the tribal life was shattered.
- This interference forced the Kurichias to take arms against the oppressors and intruders.

- The Pazhassi revolt gave them inspiration to take arms against the British.
- The Kurichias and other tribal people under the leadership of Thalakkal Chanthu had fought against the British during the Pazhassi revolt.
- Their support was a great source to Pazhassi and it was with their support that Pazhassi could find out the remote areas of the jungles to hide.
- It was their guerilla wars with traditional weapons that Pazhassi could gain decisive victories.

- After the suppression of the Pazhassi revolts, Wayanad was kept under the strict surveillance of the Company army.
- The atrocities of the British in the Wynad jungles were unbearable to the tribals.
- The British subjected them to utter miseries.
- The company official denied freedom to the tribal people and forcibly made them the as mere slaves of the British.
- The unscientific revenue reform introduced by the Malabar Collector, Thomas Warden in Waynad was the major reason behind the outburst of the revolt.
- The revolt was started not against the increased rate of tax, but as a protest against the British Governments policy of collecting revenue from them in cash rather than in kind.

- As their money exchange system was unknown to them, they were not having cash to pay the tax, but the British Government strictly enforced them to pay the tax in cash which made them debtors of the Company.
- Their tax was become arrears and the Government authorities began to confiscate properties of the tribals, attacking their residences, looting their belongings and evicting them from their property.
- In front of the poor tribal nothing was there other than revolt. The Kurichia Revolt began in 25th March 1812 under the leadership of their chief Rama Namby.

- The revolt was not a spontaneous one. After making elaborate preparations for a final fight with the British that they started the revolt.
- The Kurumbras also joined with their fellow being in the fight.
- The low grade official of the Company like the Nairs and Thiyyas had got information of the preparations of the tribals for an upsurge against the British, but they didn't inform this to the Company due to the fact that basically they were also against the rule of the British.
- They were working in the revenue and police departments of the Company and were thoroughly dissatisfied by the treatment of the Company.

- It has been reported that in the later stage of the revolt, these native officials indirectly helped the Kurichias to make their struggle against the British a more popular one.
- Some of the Kurichias were working in the Kolakkarans of the Company and almost all of them resigned from their job prior to the revolt and joined with the rebels.
- The Kurichias attacked the Company forces with their traditional weapons like the bow and arrows in their own guerilla method. T.H. Baber has noted that the aim of the rebels was to expel the Europeans from the country.
- The revolt spread to all parts of Wynad

- Their priests accelerated the rebellion by declaring it to be sanctified by the blessings of the tribal gods.
- In course of the revolt it assumed the character of a mass upheaval.
- The revolt actually started on 25th March when the Company police tried to disperse a meeting of the tribal's at Mallur.
- Within a short span of time the rebellion spread to the whole of Waynad.
- The key passes were brought under their control. They attacked police stations and persecuted the English policemen.
- They cut down the reinforcements to the British troops in the valley.



- They besieged British military posts at Sulthan Bathery and Mananthavady.
- For a few days at least, the British flag ceased to fly in Waynad.
- The British forces reacted very severely against the tribal group.
- They brought new forces from the coastal areas and from Mysore to Waynad to suppress the Kurichia revolt, but all these were in futile.
- Then the Sub-Collector of North Malabar, Baber requested the higher authorities for further military help.
- The fresh Company forces with modern weapons moved to Waynad, but were attacked by the Kurichias at the Kuttiadi Pass.

- Many of the Company soldiers were wounded and they had no other way except retreat.
- The army came from Mysore established many new military centers from Sultan's Battery to Panamaram.
- The British armed forces with the then modern weapons entered in to the interior areas of the jungles could send many of the Kurichias into death.
- The British forces could suppress the Kurichia revolt completely by May 1812.

- The Kurichia revolt was one of the most important episodes in the history of resistance movements against the British.
- It was basically a peasant revolt and not a feudal uprising. With the Kurichia revolt a new episode has been opened in Indian history.
- It was the resistance of the ancient traditional culture against the modern imperialism in economic and political realms.