

HIS6B11 HISTORY OF MODERN KERALA

MODULE-I

TOPIC- KURICHIYA REVOLT

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- ▣ Kurichiya revolt- 1812-most imp upsurge by tribal people against colonial domination
- ▣ Tribals of Wayand like Kurichiyas & Kurumbas- leading their own way of life undisturbed by outsiders
- ▣ Advent of colonialists made interventions into the tribal life of the high ranges of Wayand- rhythm of the tribal life was shattered
- ▣ This disturbances forced the peace loving tribes to take up arms against the oppressors & intruders

- ▣ Pazhassi revolt-provided them the initiative of struggle against British
- ▣ Kurichias & other tribal's fought under Talakkal Chandu against company forces during Pazhassi revolt
- ▣ Their guerilla wars with traditional weapons had gained decisive victories for Pazhassi
- ▣ After the Pazhassi revolts, Wayanad was kept under strict surveillance of the company army
- ▣ Tribal's were subjected to severe persecutions by the British for the help they had extended to Pazhassi Raja

- ❑ Company officials denied freedom to tribal people & forcibly made them slaves of the British
- ❑ Tribal's like Kurichias & Kurumbas turned as rebels when forced to become slaves
- ❑ rebellious instinct spread deep into their consciousness & they started thinking about an upsurge against exploiters
- ❑ Unscientific revenue reforms- by Collector Thomas Warden- another reason for growth of hatred among tribes
- ❑ It was not the increased rate of tax which bought dislike of tribes but method of its collection

- ▣ Traditionally tribals had been paying their tax in the form of goods not in the form of money
- ▣ Company authorities strictly demanded that the tax must be paid in cash and not as goods
- ▣ Tribals were not to succumb to this new order & in fact they had no money with them as they were buying necessary articles from the outsiders for the exchange of forest goods- so tax became arrears
- ▣ revenue officials of the company tried to extract the arrears of tax by confiscating the property of the tribals attacking their residences, looting their belongings & evicting them from their property

- ▣ Many sided repression of the company officials forced the tribals to take up arms
- ▣ Kurichia revolt began on 25 March 1812 – not a spontaneous one- they had been making detailed arrangements for the upsurge
- ▣ Lower grade officials of the company, Nairs & Thiyyas had been getting informations about the skillful preparations of the kurichias for an upsurge under the leadership of Raman Nambi, but they kept it as secret because they were also against British

- ▣ Native Nairs & Thiyyas were working in the revenue & police depts of the company & were thoroughly dissatisfied by the treatments of the company
- ▣ These native officials could not publically help the revolutionaries, they were happy to see the preparations of the Kurichias for an forthcoming revolt
- ▣ Later stage of revolt these native officials indirectly helped the Kurichias to make their struggle against British a more popular one

- ▣ Tribal gods & oracles permitted the beginning of revolt – priests provided their help
- ▣ Some Kurichias were among Kolkarans of company
- ▣ Whole Kurichia kolkarans except Four, resigned their job prior to the revolt & joined the rebels
- ▣ The revolt was a localized one-popular revolt
- ▣ Attacked company forces with their traditional weapons like bow & arrow- guerilla method

- ▣ Actually started on 25 march when company police tried to disperse a meeting of tribals at Mallur
- ▣ In the beginning the police could not resist the attack of tribals with poisonous arrows & they retreated
- ▣ Within a short while the Kurichia rebels occupied the military strategic points of Wayanad & started their attack against the military camps of the British

- ❑ British authorities brought new forces from the coastal areas & Mysore to Wayanad to effectively suppress the revolt of the Kurichias
- ❑ But this attempt proved to be a failure & the Sub – Collector of north Malabar, Baber requested the higher authorities for further military help
- ❑ fresh company forces with modern weapons moved to Wayanad but were attacked by Kurichiyas at Kuttiyadi pass
- ❑ Company forces were wounded & they had no other way except to retreat

- ▣ Army from Mysore establish military camps from Sulthan Battery to Panamaram
- ▣ British armed forces with modern weapons entered in to Wayanad from different passes to fight against the guerilla warfare of the Kurichias
- ▣ Company forces entered dense forest of Wayanad from different directions
- ▣ Kurichias fought valiantly but many of them were killed – some surrendered- few of them betrayed their friends
- ▣ British could suppress the revolt by may 1812
- ▣ More popular revolt against British colonialism
- ▣ Revolt of tribals, first of its kind against colonialism
- ▣ Resistance of ancient traditional culture against the intrusion of modern counterpart from the modern imperialism in economic & political relams