

Unit-1

History of Coimbatore from 1801 to 2000 A.D

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Coimbatore was coveted by the Mysore sultans as well as British troops during the Anglo-Mysore Wars.[15] The city was taken by the forces of the British East India Company in 1768 but were forced to abandon it due to treachery. (15) Colonel Fullarton occupied the city in 1783 but later returned to Tipu Sultan as per the Treaty of Mangalore (15) At the beginning of the Third Mysore War, Coimbatore was, once again, taken by the British. (15) Tipu Sultan besieged the city twice and repulsed in the first, he was successful in the second and Coimbatore surrendered in October 1791. The commanders of the garrison, Lieutenant Chalmers and Lieutenant Nash were taken as prisoners to Seringapatnam. [15] Coimbatore fell to the British at the end of the Third Mysore War but was restored to Tipu Sultan at the cessation of hostilities. 15) Coimbatore was eventually annexed by the British on the defeat and death of Tipu Sultan in 1799. Coimbatore was taken by the Polygars in 1800 and was an important stronghold in the Polygar Wars. It was made capital of Coimbatore district in 1865.

The municipality of Coimbatore was created in 1866 as per the Town Improvements Act 1865 with Robert Stanes as the first Chairman.[15][16] Stanes pioneered the industrialization of Coimbatore, establishing a number of textile mills. As per the 1871 census, the first in India, Coimbatore had a population of 35,310 and was the tenth largest town in the Madras Presidency.

Coimbatore was severely affected by the Great Famine of 1876-78 and the Famine of 1891-92. An earthquake on 8 February 1900 killed nearly 30 inhabitants damaging the Coimbatore jail, a Roman Catholic chapel and many other buildings.

Coimbatore is a municipal corporation administered by the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation and is the administrative headquarters of Coimbatore district. Coimbatore was established as the capital of Coimbatore district in 1804 and in 1866, it was accorded municipality status. [22][23] In 1981, Coimbatore was elevated as a municipal corporation. (30) The city is divided into five administrative zones - East, West, North, South and Central, each further subdivided into 20 wards. 56] Each ward is represented by a councillor who is elected by direct election and the Mayor of Coimbatore is elected by Councillors. The executive wing of the corporation is headed by a Corporation Commissioner and maintains basic services like water supply, sewage and roads.(57)[58] The district itself is administered by the district collector and the district court in Coimbatore is the highest court of appeal in the district. The Coimbatore City Police is headed by a Commissioner of Police and there are 18 police stations in the city.

A large part of the Coimbatore urban agglomeration falls outside the Municipal corporation limits. [60] These suburbs are governed by local bodies called Village Panchayats and Town Panchayats. Besides the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation, the Coimbatore urban agglomeration comprises the Town Panchayats of Vellalur, Irugur, Pallapalayam, Kannampalayam, Veerapandi, Periyanaickenpalayam, Narasimhanaickenpalayam, Idikarai, Vedapatti, Perur, Madukkarai, Ettimadai, Thondamuthur, Uliyampalayam, Thirumalayampalayam, Othakalmandapam, Alanthurai, Pooluvapatti, Thenkarai, Karumathampatti, Sarcarsamakulam, Mopperipalayam and Gudalur, census towns of Ashokapuram, Kurudampalayam, Malumichampatti, Selvapuram, Chettipalayam, Sulur, Chinnampalayam, Somayampalayam, Muthugoundan Pudur, Arasur, Kaniyur, Neelambur and municipalities of Kuniyamuthur, Kurichi and

Goundampalayam. These local bodies are in turn split into wards each electing a councillor through direct election. The head of the local body, known as the President, is elected by the councillors from among their number.

Kovai Subri (also K. Subramaniam and Soobri) was a Tamil revolutionary and freedom fighter during the Indian Independence Movement. lu

At the age of 23, Subri joined the Town Congress Committee in Coimbatore as the secretary in 1921. Shortly afterwards in 1923, he was imprisoned for a year for his participation in the Flag Satyagraha civil disobedience movement in Nagpur. In 1930 he joined the Salt Satyagraha. [2] He was later imprisoned on five more occasions and spent a total of 5 years of his life in prison. He would later go on to start a Khadi centre at Padiyur village in Uthukuli.

Gandhiji affectionately referred to Subri as 'The loudspeaker' for his commanding voice as his translator for his public speeches during his tour of the Coimbatore and Nilgiris Districts. (3) Gandhiji in an article in the Young India writes about Subri "young and old, men and women dote on him. The secret is his childlike innocence and his spirit of service. He is a jewel of a young man. I would do anything if only to please Soobri.

Noted freedom fighter T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar regarded Subri as one of his closest associates in the freedom struggle and the background of the movement in Coimbatore district .

Tiruppur Subrahmanya Avinashilingam Chettiar (5 May 1903 - 21 November 1991) was an Indian lawyer, politician, freedom fighter and Gandhian. He served as the Education Minister of Madras Presidency from 1946 to 1949 and was responsible for introducing Tamil as the medium of instruction.

V.P Kalimuthu was just 25-year old when he was arrested by the British government from his residence at Vellalore suspecting his involvement in the derailment of a train laden with explosives near Singanallur.

A farm labourer from a poor family, Kalimuthu said he was influenced by the speeches of freedom fighters K V Ramasamy and Avinashilingam Chettiar who called the people to join the 'Quit India' movement.

On August 13, 1942, K V Ramasamy and his friends derailed the train and escaped with the weapons. Several hundred people were arrested after this incident and V P Kalimuthu was one among them. Sullur aerodrome was also set on fire on August 26, 1942 to take revenge for these arrests.