



Thiruvalluvar Day

Why in News

The Prime Minister remembered Thiruvalluvar on the occasion of **Thiruvalluvar Day (15th January 2021)**, observed to mark the birth anniversary of Tamil poet and philosopher.

Key Points

▪ About the Thiruvalluvar Day:

- It was **first celebrated on 17th-18th May in 1935**.
- In the **present time**, it is **usually observed either on 15th or 16th January in Tamil Nadu** and is a part of [Pongal](#) celebrations.

▪ About Thiruvalluvar:

- Thiruvalluvar, **also called Valluvar**, was a **Tamil poet-saint**.
 - He is **regarded as a cultural and moral icon for Tamils** across caste and religious lines.
- The **period when he lived** is debated, as is his religious identity.
 - Some place him in the third or fourth century; others put him in the eighth or ninth.
 - Some call him a Hindu; some trace his past to Jainism; Dravidian groups count him as a saint, as **he dismissed the caste system**.
- His **primary work Thirukkural** (contribution to **Tamil Literature**) contains **1330 couplets (kurals)**.
 - The text is divided into three parts with **teachings on dharma, artha, and kama (virtue, wealth and love)**.

▪ Social Significance of Thiruvalluvar:

- A **statue** of the legendary Tamil poet was unveiled in **Ulsoor, near Bengaluru, in 2009**. A statue of Valluvar was also erected **outside the School of Oriental and African Studies in Russell Square, London**.
 - A 133-foot tall statue of Thiruvalluvar stands at **Kanyakumari** as well.
- The **Thiruvalluvar University** was established in Vellore district of Tamilnadu by the Government of Tamilnadu in October 2002.
- In **1976**, a **temple-memorial called Valluvar Kotam** was built in **Chennai** and houses one of the largest auditoriums in Asia.
- In the early **16th century**, a **temple** dedicated to Thiruvalluvar was built **within the Ekambareswarar temple complex** in Mylapore, Chennai.

[Source: PIB](#)

