

**CCSE – 10-08-2023 -Paper 1**

**Explain the role of Valliappan Olaganathan Chidambaram in spreading economic nationalism in Tamil Nadu.**

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, played a significant role in spreading economic nationalism in Tamil Nadu during the Indian independence movement.

Here's an overview of his contributions:

1. **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company:** V.O.C.'s most notable contribution was the establishment of the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906. This was a direct challenge to British economic dominance, particularly the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company.
2. **Promoting Swadeshi & Economic self-reliance:** By starting an Indian-owned shipping company, V.O.C. demonstrated that Indians could compete with British businesses. This was a practical application of the Swadeshi (indigenous) movement's principles.
3. **Labor rights:** V.O.C. was involved in organizing workers, particularly in the Coral Mills strike of 1908, which brought labor issues to the forefront of the nationalist movement in Tamil Nadu.
4. **Inspiring local entrepreneurs:** V.O.C.'s initiative inspired other local entrepreneurs to start their own businesses, fostering a spirit of economic nationalism. He actively promoted the boycott of British goods, encouraging people to use locally produced items instead.
5. **Connecting economic and political freedom:** He linked economic independence with political freedom, arguing that true independence couldn't be achieved without economic self-sufficiency.

V.O. Chidambaram's work in spreading economic nationalism was particularly significant in Tamil Nadu, as it combined practical business initiatives with political ideology. His efforts helped to popularize the idea that economic independence was a crucial component of the broader struggle for India's freedom from British rule.

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