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INDIAN

INSPIRING CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE MINDS



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MALAYSIAN INDIAN

- **Malaysian Indians** are a group of Malaysians largely descended from those who migrated from southern India during the British colonization of Malaya.



- There is evidence of the existence of Indianized kingdoms such as Gangga Negara, Old Kedah, Srivijaya since approximately 1500 years ago.
- Early contact between the kingdoms of Tamilakkam and the Malay peninsula had been very close during the regimes of the Pallava Kings (from the 4th to the 9th Century C.E.) and Chola kings (from the 9th to the 13th Century C.E.).

Indianized States





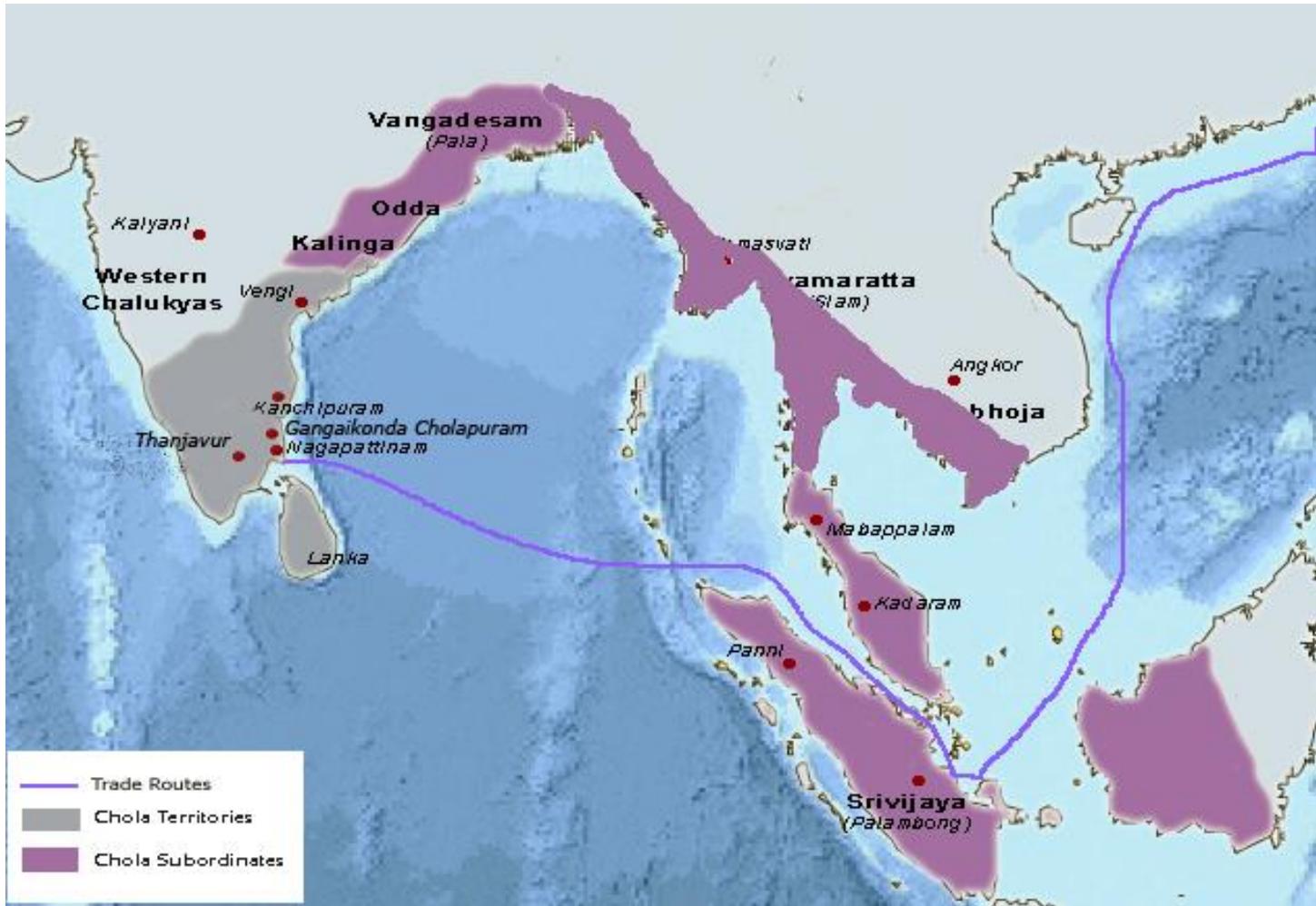
- The **trade relations** the Tamil merchants had with the ports of Malaya led to the emergence of Indianized kingdoms like Kadaram (Old Kedah) and Langkasugam.
- Chola king Rajendra Chola I sent an expedition to Kadaram (Sri Vijaya) during the 11th century conquering that country on behalf of one of its rulers who sought his protection and to have established him on the throne.



- The Cholas had a powerful merchant and naval fleet in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.
- 3 kinds of craft are distinguished by the author of the *Periplus* – light coasting boats for local traffic, larger vessels of a more complicated structure and greater carrying capacity, and lastly the big ocean-going vessels that made the voyages to Malaya, Sumatra, and the Ganges.



CHOLA EMPIRE





- A very essential cultural element needed to carry out **commercial transactions** is a common language understood by all parties involved in early trade.
- Historians such as J.V. Sebastian, K.T. Thirunavukkarasu, and A.W. Hamilton record that Tamil was the common language of commerce in Malaysia and Indonesia during historical times.
- The maritime Tamil significance in Sumatran and Malay Peninsula.



- Trading continued for centuries and borrowings into Malay from Tamil increased between the 15th and 19th centuries due to their commercial activities.
- In the 17th century, the Dutch East India Company was obliged to use Tamil as part of its correspondence.
- In Malacca and other seaports up to the 19th century, Malay terminology pertaining to book-keeping and accountancy was still largely Tamil.



- The overwhelming majority of migrants from India were ethnic Tamil and from British Presidency of Madras.
- In 1947 they represented approximately 85% of the total Indian population in Malaya and Singapore.
- Other South Indians, mainly Malayalees, formed a further 14% in 1947, and the remainder of the Indian community was accounted for by North Indians, principally Punjabis, Bengalis, Gujaratis, and Sindhis.



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MAP OF INDIA

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- British acquisition of Penang, Melaka and Singapore - the Straits Settlements from 1786 to 1824 started a steady inflow of Indian labourers, traders, sepoy and convicts engaged in construction, commercial agriculture, defence and commerce.
- But large scale migration of Indians from the subcontinent to Malaysia followed the extension of British formal rule to the West coast Malay states from the 1870s onwards as British brought the Indians as workers to work in the rubber plantations.



- The Indian population in pre-independent Malaya and Singapore was predominantly adult males who were single with family back in India and Sri Lanka.
- Hence the population fluctuated frequently with the immigration and exodus of people.
- As early as 1901 the Indian population in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States was approximately 120,000.



- By **1931** there were 640,000 Indians in Malaya and Singapore and interestingly they even outnumbered the native Malays in the state of Selangor that year.
- The population was virtually stagnant until 1947 due to many leaving for Burma during the Japanese occupation as recruits for the Indian National Army and "**Indentured Japanese labors**" for the ***Death Railway***.



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Death Railway – River Kwai







- At the time of **Independence in 1957** it stood at a little over **820,000**.
- In this last year Indians accounted for approximately 8 to 12% of the total population of Malaysia.
- There has also been a significant influx of Indian nationals into Singapore and Malaysia in recent years to work in construction, engineering, restaurants, IT and finance with many taking up permanent residence in Singapore where they account for nearly a quarter of the Indian population.



- A vast majority of people from the Indian sub-continent brought over were the **Tamils**.
- They were predominantly **estate workers**, the majority being employed on rubber estates, though a significant minority worked in Government **public works** departments.



- The **North Indians**, with the exception of the Sikhs, were mainly **merchants and businessmen**.
- For example, the Gujaratis and Sindhis owned some of the most important textile firms in Malaya and Singapore.
- The **Sikhs** were either in the **police or employed as watchmen**.



- The close correspondence between the ethnic and occupational divisions of the South Asian community was inevitably reflected in the community's geographical distribution in Malaya.
- The **South Indian Tamils** were concentrated mainly in **Perak, Selangor, and Negeri Sembilan**, on the **rubber estates and railways**, though a significant proportion found employment on the **docks** in Penang and Singapore.



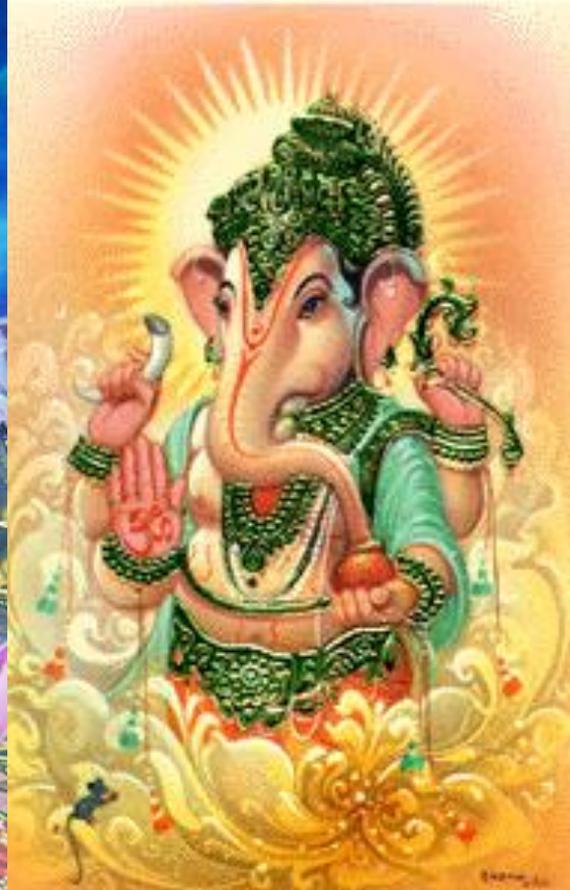
- The **Malayalees** were located predominantly in Lower Perak, Kuala Lumpur, parts of Negeri Sembilan, and Johor Bahru,
- The business communities, the **Gujaratis, Sindhis, Chettiars, and Tamil Muslims**, were concentrated in the **urban areas**, principally Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Ipoh, and Singapore.
- The Ceylon Tamils were also mainly an urban community, though some were found in rural areas working as staff on the estates.

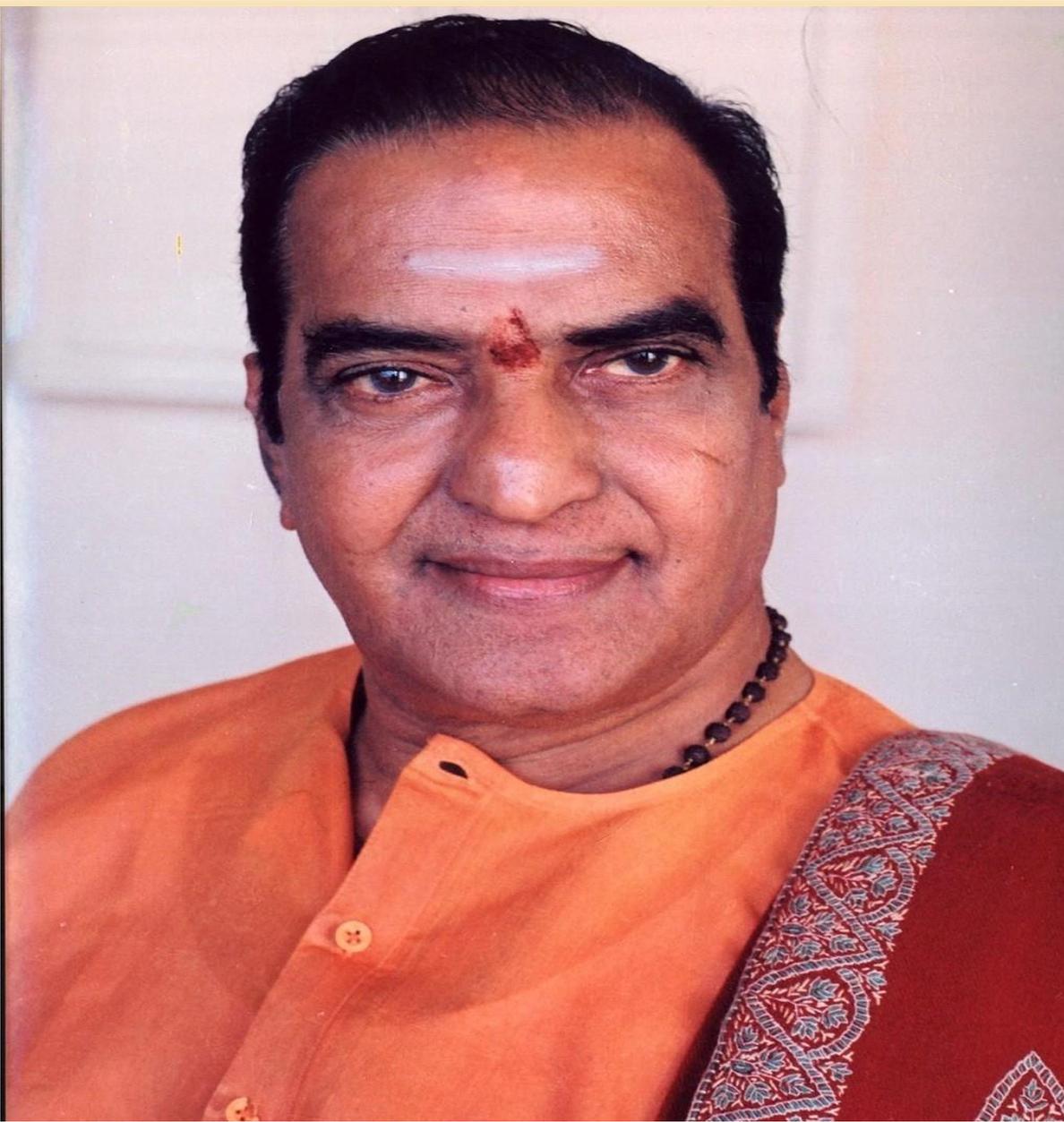


- In Malaysia are a number of religions and faiths practiced by a majority of Malaysians such as Islam primarily amongst the Malays, Buddhism amongst the Chinese, **Hinduism** amongst the Indians, and Christianity amongst the Chinese, Indians, Kristang people, and Eurasians of British descent.
- In the Indian communities which compose of Tamils, Telugus, Malayalees, Punjabis, Gujaratis, and Sindhis reside a number of faiths.

Hinduism

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Telegu



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Tamils



Malayalam



- Malays came to know about **Islam** through the Muslim merchants of south India and not through Arab missionaries.
- Furthermore Islam had reached South India, particularly Tamil country in the 8th century A.D., while the state of Gujurat received Islam during the early 14th century, as a result of the invasion of the Delhi sultanate.
- Muslim traders of the Coromandel Coast are said to have been even politically influential in historical Malaya.



- During the coming of Islam to Malaysia was the early decline of Hinduism and Buddhism.
- The practice of Hinduism began to rise during the second wave of people from the Indian subcontinent during British rule.
- Hinduism is the most practised religion amongst the Tamils comprising of the both the major Hindu and Tamil pantheon of deities.
- Tamils of both Indian and Sri Lankan backgrounds practice Hinduism.



- Islam is the religion of roughly 10% of Malaysian Indians with a population of roughly 200,000.
- Sikhism is practiced amongst the Punjabis. (The majority of Punjabis are Muslims in South Asia with significant Sikh and Hindu populations.)



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Hindu Temple





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punjabis





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Kavadi





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Thai Pongal





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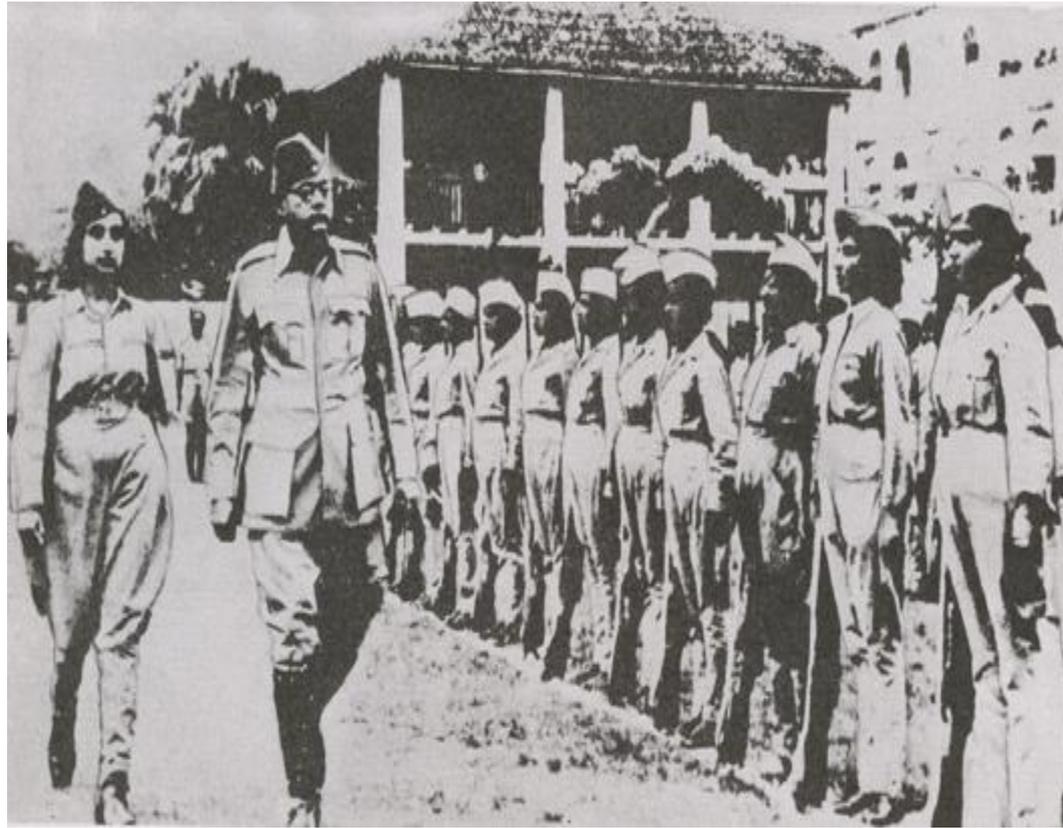


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Rubber estate





Caste System

