

# Freedom fighter Ondiveeran

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**In news**– The Government of India has recently approved a proposal to release a commemorative postage stamp to honour freedom fighter Ondiveeran, who had fought against British rule.

## Who is Ondiveeran?

- Ondiveeran was a trusted **lieutenant in the Pulithevan Army that had taken on the imperialist forces.**
- Ondiveeran was a **native of Nerkattum Seval near Sankarankoil** in the erstwhile Tirunelveli district (since bifurcated and now in Tenkasi district).
- He came from the **Arunthathiyar community** and is viewed by them as a hero.

## **Arunthathiyar community-**

- **Arunthathiyar is a scheduled caste community mostly found in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu**, which is also a part and home to an ancient Chera Dynasty region.
- The term has two distinct usages: for the purposes of the state government's positive discrimination program, in 2009 **it was designated an umbrella term for the Arunthathiyar, Chakkiliyar, Madari, Madiga, Pagadai, Thoti and Adi Dravida communities.**
- While the Office of the Registrar-General, which administers the census of India, does not recognise all of those communities as one.