



# Shri Ramalinga Swamy

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## Why in News?

India celebrated the **200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Shri Ramalinga Swamy**, also known as **Vallalar**, on 5th October, 2023.

## What are the Key Contributions of Shri Ramalinga Swamy?



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The Vision

### ▪ About:

- Shri Ramalinga Swamy was a prominent Tamil poet in the **19<sup>th</sup> century** and a member of the "**gnana siddhars**" lineage.
  - He was born in the village of **Marudhur in Tamil Nadu**.

### ▪ Vision of Social Reforms:

- Vallalar's vision transcends **religious, caste, and creed barriers**, recognizing divinity in every atom of the universe.
  - Vallalar was strongly against the [caste system](#) and initiated the '**Samarasa Vedha Sanmarga Sangam**' in **1865**, later renamed '**Samarasa Suddha Sanmarga Sathya Sangam**.'
- He established '**The Sathya Dharma Salai**,' a free food facility in Vadalur, Tamil Nadu in 1867, serving all people without caste distinctions.
- In January, 1872, Vallalar opened the '**Sathya Gnana Sabha**' (**Hall of True Knowledge**) in Vadalur.

### ▪ Philosophical Beliefs and Teachings:

- One of Vallalar's primary teachings was "**Service to Living Beings is the path of Liberation/Moksha**."

- According to Suddha Sanmarga, the prime aspects of human life should be **love, connected with charity and divine practice**, leading to pure knowledge.
- Vallalar believed that the intelligence possessed by humans is **illusory (Maya)** intelligence and not accurate or final.
  - He emphasized "**Jeeva Karunyam**" (**Compassion for living beings**) as the path of final intelligence.
- He forbade killing animals for the sake of food and advocated **feeding the poor as the highest form of worship**.
- He also believed that God in the form of Grace is the **personification of Mercy and Knowledge**.
  - And, **Mercy is a path to God**.

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