

# Department of Employment and Training

## TNPSC GROUP II MAINS - UNIT II

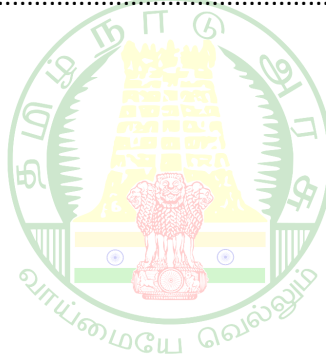
**Course:** TNPSC Group II Mains Material

**Subject:** Tamil Society

**Topic:** Guidelines given by Thirukkural in the field of administration, judiciary and day to day life

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**Director,**  
**Department of Employment and Training.**

## Thirukkural about Administration

The *Thirukkural* presents profound insights into governance, leadership, and the role of citizens in building a prosperous nation. In the division of **Porutpāl** (Wealth), it highlights the principles for an ideal state, emphasizing the responsibilities of the ruler and the duties of citizens.

Poet Bogiyar summarizes the essence of politics and administration as:

"அரசியல் ஐந்து, அமைச்சியல் ஈரைந்து."

This essay explores the political wisdom of *Thirukkural* as described in the section on governance.

### The Six Components of a King

Thiruvalluvar outlines six essential components for a ruler:

"படை குடி கூழ் அமைச்சு நட்புஅரண் ஆறும்  
உடையான் அரசருள் ஏறு."  
(Kural 381)

1. **படை (Padai):** A strong and reliable army.
2. **குடி (Kudi):** Happy and thriving citizens.
3. **கூழ் (Koozh):** Adequate food resources for the people.
4. **அமைச்சு (Amaichu):** Competent and wise ministers.
5. **நட்பு (Natpu):** Diplomatic relations with other states.
6. **அரண் (Aran):** Secure fortifications and defense systems.

These elements are crucial for ensuring the prosperity, safety, and governance of a nation.

### Chapters on Governance, King, and Administration

In the **Porutpāl** section, from chapters **39 to 63**, Thiruvalluvar details:

- The qualities of a ruler.
- The structure and functions of governance.
- Ethical principles and practices for state administration.

### A Welfare State

Thiruvalluvar emphasizes the significance of justice and equity in governance:

"முறைசெய்து காப்பாற்றும் மன்னவன் மக்கட்கு  
இறையென்று வைக்கப் படும்."  
(Kural 388)

A king who governs justly and protects his people is revered as equal to the divine. This highlights the importance of ethical governance aimed at public welfare.

### The Leadership of the King

"மன்னன் எவ்வழியோ, மக்களும் அவ்வழியே."  
(Kural 385)

When the king adheres to moral principles and leads with integrity, his subjects follow his example. The progress of a nation depends on the virtues of its ruler and the citizens' trust in their leader.

### Justice: The Ruler's Guiding Scepter

Rain is essential for the sustenance of life, and similarly, the just rule of a king is vital for the well-being of citizens:

"வானோக்கி வாழும் உலகெல்லாம் மன்னவன்  
கோல் நோக்கி வாழும் குடி."  
(Kural 542)

The king's adherence to justice and duty becomes the foundation for the prosperity of his people.

### The King as the Anchor of Society

Thiruvalluvar emphasizes the king's responsibility toward his subjects:

"குடிதழீஇக் கோலோச்சும் மாநில மன்னன்  
அடிதழீஇ நிற்கும் உலகு."  
(Kural 544)

If a ruler ensures the prosperity of his people by eliminating poverty and hunger, the world will honor his leadership. A nation's strength and stability rest on the moral conduct of its ruler and the happiness of its citizens.

### Consequences of Unjust Governance

Thiruvalluvar vividly portrays the detrimental effects of tyrannical rule through the following couplets:

"வேலோடு நின்று இடுவென் றதுபோலும்  
கோலோடு நின்றான் இரவு."  
(Kural 552)

A ruler who misuses power is akin to a weapon poised to strike, instilling fear and suffering among the people.

"அல்லற்பட்டு ஆற்றாது அழுதகண் ணீரன்றே  
செல்வத்தைத் தேய்க்கும் படை."  
(Kural 555)

The tears of the oppressed people will erode the wealth of a kingdom. These couplets serve as a warning against oppressive regimes and emphasize the importance of justice and fairness in governance.

## Revenue Management

Thiruvalluvar outlines the essential principles for managing a nation's revenue:

"இயற்றலும் ஈட்டலும் காத்தலும் காத்த  
வகுத்தலும் வல்லது அரசு."  
(Kural 385)

This couplet, recently quoted by Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the budget session, emphasizes:

1. **இயற்றல் (Production):** Promoting ethical means of generating wealth.
2. **ஈட்டல் (Collection):** Collecting resources judiciously without overburdening the people.
3. **காத்தல் (Preservation):** Safeguarding the collected revenue.
4. **வகுத்தல் (Distribution):** Allocating resources efficiently for the welfare of the people.

These principles reflect a comprehensive approach to economic governance, emphasizing sustainability and fairness.

In the *Porutpāl* section, Thiruvalluvar provides a timeless framework for governance and leadership. His political insights, devoid of exaggeration or ambiguity, remain relevant even after 2,000 years.

Thiruvalluvar's verses demonstrate remarkable foresight by advocating for "kudiyatchi" (democracy) during the era of monarchies. He boldly addressed the responsibilities of rulers and the rights of citizens, emphasizing justice, ethical governance, and public welfare.

Thiruvalluvar's wisdom continues to guide modern political leaders and economists, making his *Thirukkural* a perennial beacon of good governance.

## Arasu (Government)

- **Role of Government:** Thiruvalluvar emphasizes that a government's primary responsibility is to ensure the well-being of its people by maintaining order, justice, and prosperity. A king, or a ruler, is expected to manage the state effectively, with a focus on justice and the welfare of all citizens.

**Kural:**

## The Ideal Ruler

- **Attributes of an Ideal King:** Thiruvalluvar speaks about the qualities that make an ideal ruler: wisdom, courage, generosity, strength, and integrity. The ruler must not only be knowledgeable but also compassionate and just.
- **The King's Duty:** The king's primary duty is to protect his people. Thiruvalluvar stresses that the ruler must defend the kingdom from external threats and manage internal affairs justly. The ruler should ensure that the kingdom functions with peace and prosperity.

**Kural:**

- "குடிப்புறங் காத்தோம்பிக் குற்றம் கடிதல் வடுவன்று வேந்தன் தொழில்"
- *"The duty of the king is to guard his people, and by punishing the guilty, he fulfills his role." (Kural 549)*

## Justice and the Role of Ministers

- **The Importance of Ministers:** Ministers play a crucial role in advising the king and implementing policies that benefit the kingdom. They must be wise, skilled, and loyal.

**Kural:**

- "படைகுடி கூழ் அமைச்சு நட்பு அரண் ஆறும் உடையான் அரசருள் ஏறு"
- *"The six elements: strength of army, discipline of people, prosperity of food, wealth, qualified ministers, and foreign alliances—are what make a ruler great." (Kural 381)*

## Good Governance

- **Good Governance:** Thiruvalluvar believes that a ruler must always be fair and just. He also emphasizes the importance of being kind to the people and ensuring that the government operates with integrity.

**Kural:**

- "முறைசெய்து காப்பாற்றும் மன்னவன் மக்கட்கு"
- இறையென்று வைக்கப் படும்"
- *"The king who rules with righteousness and protects his people will be regarded as divine." (Kural 388)*

## Welfare of the People

- **People's Welfare:** The welfare of the people is central to the governance model outlined by Thiruvalluvar. A king who ensures that his people are treated fairly and justly will be loved and respected by them.

குடிதழீஇக் கோலோச்சம் மாநில மன்னன்

அடிதழீஇ நிற்கும் உலகு.

This Kural captures that a king who rules with justice and cares for his subjects is respected and admired worldwide. (Kural 544)

### Foreign Assistance

- **Foreign Aid:** Thiruvalluvar does not support seeking external assistance when internal resources can be mobilized. He emphasizes self-reliance and the importance of maintaining a strong, independent state.

**Kural:**

- "நாடென்ப நாடா வளத்தன நாடல்ல நாட வளந்தரு நாடு"  
■ *"A nation that depends on external resources is not a nation; self-sufficiency is the hallmark of a true nation."* (Kural 739)

### War and Peace

- **War:** Thiruvalluvar addresses the need for a ruler to choose battles carefully. War should only be waged when necessary, and the king must ensure that the timing and place of battle are strategically sound.

**Kural:**

- "தொடங்கற்க எவ்வினையும் எள்ளற்க முற்றும் இடங்கண்ட பின்னல் இது"  
■ *"Before beginning a battle, a ruler should carefully assess the terrain and strategies. Only then should the war be waged."* (Kural 491)

### Honor and Courage

- **Valor and Respect for the Fallen:** Thiruvalluvar honors warriors who fearlessly fight for their land and their king. He advises the ruler to celebrate bravery and to honor the soldiers who sacrifice their lives for the kingdom.

**Kural:**

- "உன் உயிர் அஞ்சா மறவர் இறைவன் செறினும் சீர்குன்றல் இலர்"  
■ *"A warrior who faces death with courage and without fear will never be forgotten, even in death."* (Kural 778)

### Thirukkural on Corruption

Thirukkural offers several proverbs that warn against corruption and unethical practices in society. These proverbs stress the importance of integrity, justice, and the consequences of engaging in dishonest actions.

### Corruption in the Context of Material Gains:

"ஈன்றாள் பசிகாண்பான் ஆயினும் செய்யற்க  
சான்றோர் பழிக்கும் வினை"  
(Kural 656)

Even a mother who is starving should not engage in the act  
That invites the blame of the wise.

This Kural warns against pursuing unethical ways to gain wealth, especially in times of need, as it leads to the disapproval of wise and virtuous people.

#### Corruption Driven by Desires:

"அழக்கொண்ட எல்லாம் அழப்போம்..  
"சலத்தாற் பொருள்செய்தே மார்த்தல் பசுமண்  
கலந்துள்ளீர் பொய்துஇரீ இ யற்று"  
(Kural 660)

These proverbs highlight how excessive desires lead to corruption. The first one emphasizes the ruinous effects of unfulfilled desires, while the second compares the corrupt actions to water mixed with sand, becoming impure.

#### Leadership and Corruption:

"முறைசெய்து காப்பாற்றும் மன்னவன் மக்கட்கு  
இறையென்று வைக்கப் படும்"  
(Kural 388)

A ruler who governs justly will be revered by the people,  
And be seen as divine by the citizens.

This Kural emphasizes that a ruler who practices justice and ethical governance will be highly respected, preventing corruption and promoting societal welfare.

"அல்லல்பட்டு ஆற்றாது அழுதகண் ணீரன்றே  
செல்வத்தைத் தேய்க்கும் படை"  
(Kural 555)

The greedy and corrupt rulers,  
Like a drought, will cause the wealth of the nation to vanish.

Thiruvalluvar highlights how corrupt rulers deplete the resources of the kingdom, leading to economic and social devastation.

#### Choosing the Right Employees:

"காதன்மை கந்தா அறிவறியார்த் தேறுதல்  
பேதைமை எல்லாந் தரும்"  
(Kural 507)

Hiring an incompetent person due to friendship  
Brings only trouble and harm.

Thiruvalluvar warns against appointing individuals based on personal relationships without considering their skills or qualifications, as it leads to problems and inefficiency.

"தேரான் பிறனைத் தெளிந்தான் வழிமுறை  
தீரா இடும்பை தரும்"  
(Kural 508)

A fool's choice of an incapable person  
Will lead to unbearable consequences.

This Kural further emphasizes the importance of selecting the right people for the right tasks, as failing to do so results in trouble and failure.

#### Corruption in Work Practices:

"செய்தக்க அல்ல செயக்கெடும் செய்தக்க  
செய்யாமை யானும் கெடும்"  
(Kural 466)

If you perform what is forbidden, it leads to disaster;  
If you fail to do what is required, disaster also follows.

Thiruvalluvar highlights that both action and inaction can lead to failure and destruction. This serves as a reminder that all responsibilities must be fulfilled properly.

"ஆற்றின் வருந்தா வருத்தம் பலர்நின்று  
போற்றினும் பொத்துப் படும்"  
(Kural 468)

Even if the weak try to protect themselves with help from others,  
The effort is futile unless it is supported by strength.

#### Thirukkural about Judiciary

Justice is the cornerstone of a nation's prosperity and the well-being of its people. Just as all living beings depend on rain, people depend on the justice administered by the ruler. Thiruvalluvar encapsulates this idea:



*"While the world looks to the sky for rain,  
People look to the ruler's scepter for justice."*

The term “kudi” (community) refers to family life, which is the foundation of society. A family, composed of a husband and wife, forms the basic unit. For this family life to flourish, **justice, order, and security are essential.**

### How Should a Ruler Administer Justice?

- Since society comprises a mix of virtues and flaws, a ruler must act impartially.
- Without bias toward class, wealth, education, or power, the ruler should show compassion and fairness to all.
- Justice must be dispensed by discerning truth and standing neutral, as emphasized in Thirukkural:

*"Without partiality or haste, discerning the truth,  
Let the ruler give fair judgment to all."*

This approach is what is referred to as “Chengolmai” (righteous rule).

### The Ruler's Power and the People

The ruler's authority is the greatest safeguard for the people's well-being. The justice administered by the ruler is also the safeguard for their own power. Thiruvalluvar emphasizes this point:

*"If the ruler protects the world with justice,  
Justice will, in turn, protect the ruler."*

This principle holds universally true for all nations. The act of governing must always align with the welfare of the people. When the ruler acts in unison with the people, they will revere and support the ruler wholeheartedly. As Thiruvalluvar beautifully conveys:

*"The ruler who governs in harmony with the people,  
Will find their unwavering support."*

### The Evolution of Governance

In the medieval period, governance deviated from its ideal when rulers were distanced from their people. This separation disrupted the justice-oriented governance system, leading to the decline of monarchies and the rise of democracies.

### Justice and the Ruler's Responsibility

The administration of justice raises profound questions about the moral authority of punishing individuals, including imprisonment and capital punishment. Thiruvalluvar likens justice to the act of weeding in a paddy field. Just as weeds that hinder growth are removed to sustain the crop, wrongdoers must be corrected or removed to protect the welfare of society.

*"The king restraining evildoers is akin  
To weeding out tares from the flourishing crop."*

The purpose of imprisonment is not merely punitive but rehabilitative—encouraging the wrongdoer to reflect, repent, and reform.

### The Role of Justice in Society

- Justice ensures order and harmony in the community, while its absence leads to chaos and suffering.
- Poverty and inequality often give rise to crime among the oppressed, just as unchecked power and wealth can foster cruelty among the privileged.

Thiruvalluvar warns of the dangers of misgovernance:

*"Without fairness in rule, the community will decline,  
And prosperity will wither away."*

When rulers fail to act with integrity, the consequences are dire—both for the ruler and the people.

### The Ideal Ruler: Chengolmai (Righteous Rule)

A just ruler, guided by **Chengolmai**, possesses qualities of generosity, fairness, and compassion. Thiruvalluvar emphasizes the ruler's reliance on justice for lasting glory:

*"For kings, enduring fame lies in righteous rule;  
Without it, their reign fades like a dying flame."*

Such rulers, upholding justice and protecting the welfare of their people, gain not only loyalty but also lasting honor.

### The Consequences of Tyranny

In contrast, a despotic ruler causes misery for all. While the poor suffer visibly, the wealthy endure hidden anguish, constantly fearing theft and instability. Thiruvalluvar poignantly describes this plight:

*"Living under an unjust ruler,  
The wealthy suffer more than the poor."*

Tyranny leads to internal unrest and external threats, weakening the nation.

### The Tyranny of Kodungol (Oppressive Rule)

Oppressive rulers extort wealth from their subjects through unjust means, wielding power to induce fear. Thiruvalluvar highlights this:

**"Like one with a spear demanding alms,  
So is a king who uses his staff to extort."  
(Kural 103)**

#### Consequences of Kodungol:

1. **Fear and Suffering:** People live in constant dread and misery under such a rule.
2. **Inevitable Decline:** The tears of the oppressed erode the wealth and power of the tyrant:  
**"The tears of those tormented by suffering  
Will erode the tyrant's wealth like a flood."**

### The Virtues of Sengol (Righteous Rule)

A righteous ruler ensures justice, investigates wrongdoing, and metes out fair punishment to reform the offender.

**"To investigate thoroughly and punish appropriately,  
Without overstepping bounds, is the mark of a true king."  
(Kural 541)**

#### Key Principles of Sengol:

- **Measured Punishment:** Punishment should instill awareness, not fear, in the offender.
- **Compassionate Leadership:** A king should embody gentleness and justice, balancing firmness with empathy:  
**"Firm when needed, yet gentle in approach,  
A ruler's firmness brings enduring greatness."**

#### The Joy of Righteous Rule:

Under a just ruler, people view their king with reverence and joy, akin to seeing a deity:

**"The wealth of a ruler with a harsh face  
Is akin to that of a demon, hated by all." (Kural 386)**

#### Concluding Insights

1. **The Fate of Kodungol:** An oppressive king's reign is short-lived. Fear and hatred breed rebellion, leading to their eventual downfall:  
**"A tyrant who rules with fear  
Will meet a swift end."**

2. **The Glory of Sengol:** A righteous king fosters love, trust, and prosperity among the people, creating a harmonious kingdom.

Through these verses, Thiruvalluvar underscores that justice, fairness, and compassion are the cornerstones of governance, ensuring enduring prosperity for both the ruler and their kingdom.

### Practice Questions:

1. How does Thiruvalluvar describe the impact of an unjust ruler on society, and what is the significance of justice in ensuring the prosperity of both the ruler and the people?
2. What does Thiruvalluvar say about the importance of justice and leadership in governance?

