

TENKASI UNDER THE PANDYA RULERS – A STUDY

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Abstract

According to one of the many Inscription discover in the Tirunelveli Tenkasi Region. The Pandya Kingdom Quickly Regained a lot of the might and glory it once had. The Pandyas power become extremely powerful. The pandyas were able to flourish because of the favourable political climate that exist in Tamilnadu. The Pandya Empire was controlled by Jatavarman Kulasekaren (1190-1217 A.D) . Maravarman Sundara Pandian 1 (1216-1238 AD). Maravarman Sundara Pandiyan II (1253-1274), Jatavarman Sundara Pandiyan 1 (1261-1271). Veera Pandiyan (1253-1264AD) and Maravarman Kulasekaran (1268-1311 AD) all governed at the same time Maravarman Kulasekaran's region lasting approximately 40 years longer than the other two . The paper reveals Tenkasi Under the Pandya rulers with respect to economical social and political conditions.

Key words : Nadukal, Agraharas, Demonstrates , Privileges, Katramm Wondrous, palayam.

Introduction

The pandiyas were one of the three Asian Tamil dynasties that reigned intermittently in Southern India, The Tenkasi Pandiyas were driven out of Maduai by Wars in 14th Century AD by the Thanda nayaks under the Vijaya Nagar Kings. They ruled Korgai, kayathar, Tenkasi, Seevalaperi at different times either separately or jointly as there head city and paid tribute to the Vijaya nagara and nayakar Kings and ruled under them the origin of Tamil History and culture can be found in the many dynasties that affected in course of history from the very beginning of human history the Pandiyas were the most notable and lived in Indias most Southern region the pandiyas were exceptional and southern India had long served as the center of the power. In Madurai the second Pandiyan empire reased its pinnacle of power but

the arrival of Muslim control in the south hastened the collapse of the Pandiyan empire however the Pandiyas Maintain little amount of power in the Tirunelveli region well in to the seventeenth Century and the lost flame of their power before it faded away was seen in the Tenkasi region hypothesis for the Pandiya rulers with respect to political condition hits paper deals depicts Tenkasi under Pandiyas rulers with respect to social and economical condition to cite unstance for a study of the literature and serves as primary sources . The Pandiyas Maintained a little of power in the Tirunelveli region well in to the 17th century and the last flame of their power before of faded away was seen in the Tenkasi region.

Tenkasi Under Pandya Rulers

The Tenkasi region was dominated by Pandya monarchs for more than three centuries, from the 14th to the 17th. They dominated the Thenpandinadu region, with many capitals at various times. They had Korkai, Tenkasi, and Karivalamvandanallur as their capital cities.

There were three Parakrama Pandyan in the latter half of the 14th century and the early 15th century. The first of the three kings, who ruled over Thenpandinadu in 1387 AD, gave Thirukkutralam (Courtallam) religious patronage. From 1384 to 1415 A.D., the second sort governed the area, and from 1401 to 1434 A.D., the third kind did.

Sadaya Varman Parakrama Pandyan

In 1422 A.D., Parakrama Pandyan took the kingdom, with Vindhankottai serving as his capital. Vindhankottai, formerly known as Vindanur. It lay between the communities of Sambavar Vadagarai and Agraharam. The fort was made of mud by Parakrama Pandyan's forebears. The fort was located on an expansive 80-acre plot of land.

On one side of the fort, there was a teppakulam that was magnificent during Thenpandinadu's height. During Parakrama Pandyan's rule, the treasury house operated out of a separate location. The queens might take their baths in separate wells.

The fort is currently deserted, damaged, and surrounded by collapsed walls, trash, and deteriorated walls. Vindhankottai, once the seat of government for Thenpandinadu, now resembles a little village.

Nadukal

There is still a Nadukal near the Vindhankottai fort's east gate. The locals there claim that the east gate is guarded by the Nadukal, a security-related deity.

Local residents known as Nadars claim that Sudalai Madan guards the west gate. They revere Sudalai Madan and claim that he guards their neighbourhood. Tenkasi became the new capital of Thenpandinadu under Parakrama Pandyan. Information about Parakrama Pandyan

can be found in numerous inscriptions. He was an outstanding Tamil and Sanskrit scholar. His entire body of work has a refined Tamil style. He showed the educated contempt. He has written numerous poems.

He was a supporter of the arts and construction. At Sankaranayanarkoil, Courtallam, Mudalaikulam, and Veerakeralampudur, he vanquished his adversaries. Inscriptions on copper plates found in Thalavai Agraharams for Brahmins in five villages, including Vindhanur, record his victory over the Chera ruler at Courtallam. His Meikeerthis eloquently demonstrate the truth that Parakrama Pandyan built the Agraharams.

Sudhanthara Pandyan

Thenpandinadu's king, Parakrama Pandya, and his successors were used to adorn the crown during the coronation celebration, a rare privilege among Tamil kings. This gave him the unique name Sudhanthara Pandyan, or Independent Pandyan, as the Pandya king was the only monarch at the time who ruled his country without the overlordship of any other king. He built Sivalaya Mandapans at Courtallam and Thirupputai Marudhur, contributed to the Arthajama Poojas in Nellaiyapparkoil, and excavated Viswanatha Pereri (also known as Viswanatha Grand Lake) to serve as a source of drinking water for the community. He built the well-known Viswanatha temple in Tenkasi and gave land to other villages so that they could perform regular poojas and celebrate annual festivals. In the year 1463, he died.

Sadaya Varman Kulasekara Pandyan

Sadaya Varman Kulasekara Pandyan, Sadaya Varman Parakrama Pandyan's younger brother, assumed the kingdom in 1463. The Viswanatha temple in Tenkasi's construction was finished by this Kulasekara Pandyan. He controlled his territory till 1473 A.D.

Viswanatha Temple at Tenkasi

Dream of Parakrama Pandya (1422-1463 A.D)

For a very long time, Parakrama Pandya had the desire to build Lord Siva a sizable temple in Tenkasi. At this point, Lord Siva appeared to him in his dream and gave him the instruction to follow the line of ants, where he would find a "Lingam" beneath the ground. Lord Siva further requested that he build a temple there in his honour. The monarch eventually came across a line of ants, just as Lord Siva had predicted in his dream. He followed the ant trail till it came to an end at the Shenbaga Vanam on the Chittharu riverbank. He discovered the Lingam there and made plans to build the temple.

Tenkasi Tower of Towering Rulers:

In addition to being a tall building constructed by the Tenkasi Pandyas, the tower of the Kasi Viswanatha temple is well-known for the important events that are documented there. The gopuram's inscriptions, which are written in several Tamil verses, describe the coronation of King Veeravel and Abirama Veera Pandyan.

Cultural Activities:

Numerous epigraphs discovered inscribed in the Viswanatha temple at Tenkasi demonstrate how later Pandyas promoted scholarship and culture by giving generous gifts to intellectuals. They patronised Tamil, and some of the kings themselves were talented poets, such Adhiv eerarama, Varadungarama, and others. There is documentation of the endowments given to Brahmans for various uses in inscriptions from the Arikesari Parakrama Pandya dynasty. During the 15th and 16th centuries A.D., Sanskrit education and learning were valued.

The Tenkasi Pandyas

- Sadayavarma Parakkirama Pandya (1422-1429 A.D)
- Sadayavarman Gulasekara Pandya (1429-1473 A.D)
- Azhagan Perumal Parakkirama Pandya (1473-1506 A.D)
- Abirama Parakkirama Pandya (1506-1534 A.D)
- Sadayavarman Seevallaba Pandya (1534-1552 A.D)
- Nelveli Maran (1552-1564 A.D)
- Sadayavaraman Adhiveera Rama Pandya (1564-1588 A.D)
- Varadunga Rama Pandya (1588-1613 A.D)
- Gulasekera Somasiyar (1700-1748 A.D)
- Varaguna Rama Gulasekara Deva Dhitsathar (1748-1750 A.D)
- Abirama Pandya (1750-1753 A.D)
- Seevala Varagunarama Pandya (1753 A.D)

The Salient Feature of Tenkasi Pandyas Regime

There are several materials accessible for reconstructing Pandyan history, ranging from classic literary works to foreign narratives like Marco Polo. We learn a lot about their social, economic, religious, and cultural circumstances from these sources. The Pandyas governed from 600 to 1300 A.D., which is a very long period of time. The government had strong public support and was friendly to the interests of the governed. "It was an enlightened monarchy with the welfare of the people at its head," claims K.V. Raman.

Political Divisions

The nation was split into Valanadus, which were then further subdivided into Kutrams; these Kutrams were created because Nadus, and later villages, were under Nadus.

Valanadu

A Valanadu was made up of numerous Kutrams, subsequently known as Nadus. Vaikunda Valanadu is referred to in an inscription by Varaguna II. Other Valanadus, such as Keralasinga Valanadu, Thiruvazhuthi Valanadu, Srivallaba Valanadu, and Amirthagana Valanadu, became recognised through inscriptions. Since Varaguna II and Rajasimha I, these Valanadus have existed.

Nadu and Kutram

The Pandiya Mandalam contained roughly one hundred nadus. Even during the Sangam era, Kutram was well recognised.

King

The King was a devout man. Tennavan Apattudavigals, a kind of Persian Guard, stood watch over him. He had a very equitable system of government. He held all of the authority. The throne was often held by the eldest during this time because kingship was an inherited position. Varaguna II,⁵⁰ for instance, was replaced by Parantaka-Virananarayana. When succession occurred, the Pandya Kings had the following position: Rajan Avaniba Mannar Mannan Pandiyadi Emmadalamun Kondaruliya Sekaran Sakala Bhavna Chakravarti The King himself was a symbol covered with priceless gems. The royal amusements included hunting, wrestling, duelling Chaturanga (chess), music, dance, and theatre.

Courts

The splendour and spectacle of the Pandyan court were well known. The King was attended by several lords and attendants. The Kingdom was known for its incredible wealth, which attracted admiration from visitors from other countries. According to Marco Polo, the King wears a necklace that is totally made of valuable stones like rubies, emerald sapphires, and the like. Between the gold, diamonds, and pearls the King wears, a city ransom is more valuable. There were a great number of aristocrats, warriors, and dancing girls in the royal court, making it a vibrant picture.

Ministry

An experienced group of advisors in administrative matters advised and supported the King. The minister was referred to as Manthiri or Amaichchar.

Padaithalaivar (general in battle) Naduvakai Seivora, a land measurer (Tax collector) Variyilar (Revenue authorities) Purana-Vari-tinaikkolattar Records of royal orders are known as

Thirumugam eluduvor, olai nayagam, or Thirumandira olai. The aforementioned officers were recognised for their distinguished service with titles like "Kavadi" or "Enadi."

Administration

The first signs of local institutions may be found in the Manur (near Sankarankoil) inscriptions of Marayan Sadayan, which date back to 800 A.D. They describe the Mahasabhas' bylaws as well as the requirements for joining various variyams (boards). The following variyams were prescribed for the members: Vedic knowledge adequate Brahmans awareness of the Dharmasastras Good manners and wisdom Property in qualifications Possession of real estate that is movable.

Officials

The officials carried out or enforced the king's directives. The person in charge of writing down the king's directives on palm leaves was known as "Thirumanthira Olai." The copies of the orders (written by the officials) were examined by Thirumanthira Olainayagam, who was given permission by the monarch to sign the copies on palm leaves. The individuals known as "Agappurivara Muthaligal" were in charge of carrying out the king's daily responsibilities. For the purpose of collecting land income (tax), higher ranking officials under the king were given the suffix "Araiyar" to their names.

Conclusion

Tenkasi (kasi in the south) is considered a holy location, identical to 'kasi' (Varanasi) in the north. Pandya Kings governed the Tenkasi region for more than three centuries, from the 14th to the 17th. Tenpandinadu, the region they dominated, had multiple capitals at different eras. From 1422 A.D. until 1463 A.D., Parakrama Pandya ruled over Tenpandinadu. With Vindanur or Vindhankottai as his capital, he became known as Pandya the huge, and he built the huge Viswanatha temple at Tenkasi, which is considered an important holy spot in Tamil Nadu. In order to allow autonomous village government, Tenpandinadu (Tenkasi area) was subdivided into Valanadus and Kutrams. Tenkasi region was ruled by Nayak-governors after Nayakdom was formed in Madurai. Tenpandinadu was divided into 72 'Palayams' by the Nayak, and each 'Palayakkar' was responsible for the defence of the palayam. By 1750 A.D., Chokkampatti was one of the maravapalayams, and it was none other than the current Tenkasi region. Inscriptions discovered in Nagercoil, Courtrallam, Karivalam Vandannallur, and other locations document the reign of Pandya Kings from the 14th to the 17th centuries. The Palayams of Tenkasi region came under the administration of B. Torin, the Collector of Tirunelveli, during the British Ascendancy. Palayams were recognised as states, with Rajas as

their rulers. After 1801 A.D., the Palayakkars became Zamindars, or land tenants. They levied taxes at their leisure and discretion. The Zamindars were essentially the chieftains. They had soldiers, cavalry, and other equipment. After the Zamindari system was abolished in the post-independence period, the Zamindars became ordinary citizens.

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