



Available online at: <http://www.advancedscientificjournal.com>

<http://www.krishmapublication.com>

IJMASRI, Vol. 3, issue 1, pp. 562- 565, Oct. -2023

<https://doi.org/10.53633/ijmasri>

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (IJMASRI)

ISSN: 2582-9130

IBI IMPACT FACTOR 1.5

DOI: 10.53633/IJMASRI

RESEARCH ARTICLE

VILLUPURAM THROUGH THE AGES: A STUDY THROUGH INSCRIPTIONS

Vignesh R

PG second Year History (Second year), Department of History, Arignar Anna Govt. Arts College, Villupuram

Abstract

Villupuram is the prominent centre which has unique history, from the pre-historic to modern era. It has a lot of historical, cultural; heritage values depicted in the archaic sources, and even the colonial documents. Before the bifurcation from Cuddalore, it was conjoined with Cuddalore district and named as South Arcot District. Now it has divided into two pieces namely Villupuram and Kallakurchi district. No doubt, Villupuram has all kinds of heritage monuments from pre-historic to Modern era. The Central Archaeological protected monuments, State archaeological protected monuments, ticketing monuments, are located in Villupuram district. Moreover, category wise natural, cultural and spiritual monuments are held in this region. This chapter focused to exhibit the history of Villupuram district.

Introduction

Territorial Names of Villupuram through the Ages

Villupuram (formerly South Arcot District) has been known by many names, including Nadu Nadu, Thirumunaipadi Nadu, ¹Aruva Nadu, Sedi Nadu, Jagannatha Nadu, Sannatha Nadu, Gadila Nadu, Maladu, and Islamabad. The Union Territory of Pondicherry (alias Puducherry) and Cuddalore District were once part of a separate region called Nadu Nadu. The Sangam literature mentioned this region as Nadu

Nadu. ²The land between Tondai Nadu and Chola Nadu is called Nadu Nadu. The land was administered by the "Munaiyanar" from Thirunavalur, who are called Thirumunaipadi Nadu. ³The Thiruthondar Puranam has mentioned the rulers of Thirumunaipadi. Furthermore, the inscriptions mention *Thirumunaipadi Nattu Thirumudiyur* ⁵Villupuram was a part of Aruva Nadu, one of the thirteen Nadus in ancient times.

Ptolemy also mentions this Aruva Nadu as the *Arouarnori*. ⁶The Aruvalars were under the control of Chola ruler Karikala. ⁷The Sedi Nadu: A clan named

562

"Sethiyar" ruled this region from Thirukkivilur; the names Sedi Nadu, ⁸Sannatha Nadu, and Jagannatha Nadu are mentioned in the inscriptions of Thirukkivilur.⁹ Gadila Nadu, a name belonging to the bird Garuda (the eagle), is related to Lord Vishnu. A mythical story reveals the name of Garuda Nadu, alias Garuda Nadu. Once, Lord Vishnu came to Thiruvandipuram, a Brahmin settlement in Cuddalore. The Lord was very thirsty, and in his extremity, he applied to the snake that was dedicated to him, but the poor worm did not know how to help the god. He then applied to his faithful Garuda, who opened his mouth, from which a treasury of water poured forth, which is flowing this day and is called Garuda Nadu; this region is known as Garuda Nadu or Gadila Nadu.¹⁰The Malayamans, chieftains from Thirukkivilur, ruled this land, and their territory is named *Malayaman Nadu*, alias *Maladu*. Thirumudikari, a Mala Nadu king, is mentioned in literary sources.¹¹Cuddalore had a well-known forest during the ancient period, earning it the names Arcot or Arukadu, which mean "six forests." It continues to exist today

Historical Background

The paleography of Tamil Brahmi (alias *Tamizhi*) was identified in Jambai in Villupuram. These epigraphic and graffiti letters demonstrate the significance of Villupuram during the Sangam period. Moreover, these regions were close to three prominent educational institutions, namely Bahoo, Thirubhuvanai, and Ennayiram, which existed in the ancient period¹². The numismatic evidence shows that Villupuram was under the realm of the Satavahanas around A.D. 200. Villupuram was controlled by the Pallavas of Tondaimandalam in the middle of the thirteenth century. Malayamans of the Thiukkivilur had accepted the Pallava suzerainty, and their feudal territory was called Maladu or Nadu Nadu.¹³

The king Simhavishnu, the Pallava King, was the master of the region between the rivers Krishna and Cauvery.¹⁴Thirunavukkarasu, the great Saivaite, was the chief of the Pataliputra Jain center in his early days. Then he was renowned as 'Dharmasena'. Mahendra Varman I, the Pallava King as Jain follower, he punished the legend of Thirunavukkarasu for his

conversion to Saivism. He ordered, Thirunavukkarasu to be tied with a big stone and forcefully thrown into the river Gadilam. Appar was offshored at a place called Karaiyervittakuppam (near Vandipalayam).¹⁵ Appar stayed at Thiruppadhiripuliyur and recited ten stanzas of Tevaram on Lord Pataleeswara. However, things have changed since Mahendra Varman became a Saivite under the influence of Thirunavukkarasu. He erased the monastery at Pataliputra and constructed the Siva temple of Gunapadeeswara with those materials at Thiruvadigai, fifteen kilometers from Cuddalore. Thiruppadiripuliyur, which became the important religious centre for Saivism, speaks about great Tamil literature like the Tevaram, Periyapuram, and Thirupugazh.

The Pallava suzerainty was retained by the Cholas at the end of the ninth century A.D., and the Villupuram region was under Chola dominance for more than four hundred years. Kadavarayas might be the most powerful feudatory of the Cholas, controlling the Cuddalore region, which belongs to the lineage of the Pallavas.¹⁶Seeyan Kopperunjinga was a Kadavaraya leader who made a secret agreement with Pandya ruler Maravarman Sundarapandya and a Ceylonese king. Then he made an expedition against Rajaraja III and imprisoned him. The Hoysala ruler came to extricate the Chola king, and he defeated Kopperunjinga. Then Kopperunjinga changed his capital to Sendamangalam.

The epigraphical sources depict that the Pandyas, their administrators, or the suzerainty existed in Villupuram for more than two hundred years. The Muslim sultans of Delhi once again began to cast their longing eyes on the Pandyan Empire. They built in the Madurai area and were known as the Sultanate of Madurai. While they lost their sovereignty, the Vijayanagara kings seized control of the entire southern India. In this way, Villupuram came under the Vijayanagar Empire, and Kumara Kampaana and Mallikarjuna established their authority over these regions of Tondaimandalam.

Virupuram was ruled by Imadi Narasimha of Ginzi. Subsequently, Tuvay Krishanappa Nayaka followed Emperor Vijayanagar in charge of the Ginji

nation. Virupuram came under the rule of Nayak of Jinji in 1510 AD. ¹⁷The most notable of the Nayakas was Krishnappa His Nayaka, who ruled over most of Tondaimandaram. Krishnappa allowed the Dutch to build a fort near Devananpattinam (AD 1608) and transferred it to the Portuguese under the putative authority of Emperor Vijayanagar. The Dutch, however, soon afterwards (A.D. 1610) recovered the fort from the Portuguese. Under his successor, Gingee became an easy target for Muslim invasion. The Nayak rule over South Arcot region extended for over a century.

Between A.D. 1648 and 1677 A.D., Bijapur Generals ruled Villupuram for a few years. Villupuram was rechristened "Bilapur" ¹⁸during this period of Muslim rule. The Muslims indulged in religious persecutions. Villupuram was also ruled by the great Maratha king Shivaji in 1677 A.D., when Shivaji rapidly came to power. He was instigated by Raghunatah Narayan Hanumante and assisted by the Golkonda forces in capturing Gingee. His half-brother Ekoji had established Maratha rule at Tanjore. Then Santaji took over the charge in the Gingee country. He had appointed havildars for Pondicherry.

The British have gradually established their power and authority in the Coromandel region. ¹⁹In 1690, the officials of the British made a truce with Ram Raja, the Maratha chief of Gingee, to buy an abandoned fort from the Portuguese. The fight between British and the French held in South Arcot region high volume. From downfall of Vijayanagaras, the Marathas, the Mughals, the Gingee Nayaks, the Bijapur Sultans, Nawabs, Europeans, Sarup singh are controlled this region some years. The entire region was directly or indirectly involved in the control of Gingee fort during this period.

Conclusion

Above the kings and their kingdom had been erected some of the manmade buildings, or erected in the natural attributes, also concentrated with the fortification. Those buildings are revealed the history of their own, and also glorified in the present generation as heritage monuments.

References

1. The land was administrated by the *Munaiyanar* from Thirunavalur are called as Thirumunaipadi Nadu; Rasamanikkanar, *Pallavar Varalau* (Tamil), Saratha Pathippagam, Chennai, 2019, p.55.
2. Comale, *Ten Arkkatu Mavattam* (Tamil),Pari Nilayam, Chennai, 1961, p.12.
3. The land between Tondainadu and Cholanadu called as Nadunadu; Srinivasan Vasanthi, *Archaeological Excavations of Tamil Nadu*, Department of Archaeology, Chennai, 2011, p.6.
4. Ra.pi.Sethupillai, *Tamilagam Oorum Perum* (Tamil), Palaniappa brothers, Madras, 2008, p.96.
5. *A.R.E.*, No. 376 of 1908, and No. 308 of 1921.
6. V.Kanagasabhai, *The Tamils 1800 years ago*, Asian Educational services, New Delhi,1979, p.27.
7. K.A.Nilakanda Sastri, *A History of South India*, (Madras: Oxford University press, 1976), p.125.
8. Ko.Kiruttinamurthi, *Kalvarayan Malai Makkal*(Tamil), Sekar Pathippagam, Chennai, 1992,p.50.
9. Kuttisamy Kanniah, *Cuddalore on the Coromandel Coast under the English, 1690-1939*, IRISH, Telicherry, 2002,p.12.
10. Eduard Raimund Baierlein, *The Land of the Tamilians and its Missions*, Asian Educational Services, Madras, 1995, p.161.
11. *Agananuru*, Verse 35, Line 15
12. J.R.Sivaramakrishnan, *Vadalur Varalaru* (Tamil), Verso Pejas, Pondicherry: 2020, p.18.
13. Sundara Shanmughanar, *Kedilakarai Nagarigam*(Tamil), Thiruvaranganar Achagam, Madras, 1975, p.177.
14. K.M.Venkataramaiah, *A Handbook of Tamil Nadu*, International school of Dravidian Linguistics,Madras, 1996, p.208.
15. Sundara Shanmughanar, *Kedilavalam*(Tamil), Saiva Chittanta Noolpathippu Kazhagam, Madras,1975, p.103.
16. B.S.Baliga, *Madras District Gazetteers*, Government press, Madras: 1962, p.75.
17. *Ibid.*, p.77.

18. Saraswathi Ramnath, *Kaveriyin Katai*(Tamil) , Tamil Puttakalayam, Madras, 1967, p. 151.
19. The name 'Coromandel' in its wider sense is applied to the Tamil-speaking territories of South

India first mentioned in Portuguese maps to mention eastern coast of India ; Charles Allen, *Coromandel, A personal History of South India*, Little, Brown Book Group, London: 2017, p.8.
