

THE SUPREMACY OF KADAVARAYAS IN VILLUPURAM REGION GLEANED FROM INSCRIPTIONS

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Abstract

Kadavarayar were the Pallava rulers of South India. After the decline of the Pallava kingdom in the 9th century CE, their descendants became petty chieftains under the Cholas. They began to challenge the Chola power in the 13th century CE. Their inscriptions are found in places like Vriddhachalam, Thiruvannainallur, Kanchi and many other parts of Thondaimandalam. Koperuncingam, called Maharaja Simha in Sanskrit, the best known among them (13th century CE), was a very religious ruler and a great devotee of Shiva, especially Nataraja of Chidambaram. He constructed the eastern gopuram of the Chidambaram temple and decorated the four sides of this structure with the booty received from his conquests. This paper focuses on reign on Kadavarayas in Villupuram region in detailed manner.

Key Words: Kadava, Feudatories, Kopperunjinga, Epigraphs

Introduction

Kadavarayar were the Pallava rulers of South India. After the decline of the Pallava kingdom in the 9th century CE, their descendants became petty chieftains under the Cholas. They began to challenge the Chola power in the 13th century CE. Their inscriptions are found in places like Vriddhachalam, Thiruvannainallur, Kanchi and many other parts of Thondaimandalam. Koperuncingam, called Maharaja Simha in Sanskrit, the best known among them (13th century CE), was a very religious ruler and a great devotee of Shiva, especially Nataraja of Chidambaram. He constructed the eastern gopuram of the Chidambaram temple and decorated the four sides of this structure with the booty received from his conquests. This paper focuses on reign on Kadavarayas in Villupuram region in detailed manner.

He made many benefactions, including presents of jewels, crowns and throne to the Arunachaleshwara temple at Thiruvannamalai. Many of these inscriptions mention his endowments to temples in sacred cities like Kanchipuram, Thiruvanaikaval, Madurai, Kalahasti, Draksharama, Chidambaram, Thiruvannainallur and Shiyali for various services, including the laying of flower gardens. He beautified his capital Sendamalam with an impressive fort and a temple dedicated to Shiva (Apatsahayeshwara). The western gopuram of the Vishnu temple at Tiruvendipuram was constructed by an officer of his.

Koperuncingam, also referred as Kopperunjinga, was a scholar and a patron of Tamil and Sanskrit scholars. He was also a patron of music and the art of dancing. His inscription at Draksharamam mentions his title “Natyakya Vedambudhi” (the ocean of the art of dancing or Natyashastra). It was perhaps this king who was responsible for the carvings of the dance postures (karanas) enlisted in Natya Shastra of Bharata, together with descriptive labels found in the eastern gopura at Chidambaram.

Villupuram is the prominent place through the years which ruled by the several kings and feudatories. On the path this region ruled under the headship of kadavarayas, a feudatories from Sendamangalam. The battle between the Cholas and the Kadavayas in this Villupuram region may have been a watershed moment in Tamil Nadu's history. These battles are listed alongside those of other kings, specifically the Hoysalas and Pandyas. Following this event, Kadavarayas rose to prominence as the sole ruler. Moreover, their funeral was held in the Villupuram region, where Rajaraja III was imprisoned in this event. Earlier, from Parantaka to Rajaraja III, the Villupuram region was under the control of the Cholas or their feudatories for many years. But the combined force of the Kadavarayas defeated the Cholas and completely ended their supremacy over the region and Tamil Nadu. This article the battle between the Kadavarayas and the Cholas, as well as the other kings involved.

Villupuram is the prominent centre which has unique history, form the pre-historic to modern era. It has lot of historical, cultural; heritage values depicted 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 kind 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.

Chola dynasty

For more than 400 years, Chola power and glory had been extended to a large area of South India, which included the entire state of modern Tamil Nadu and contiguous areas of southern Karnataka and southern Andhra. The Cholas ruled this territory from the capital at Uraiyur, located on the southern bank of the river Kaviri near the city of Tiruchirappalli.

The Tamil country is divided into five major regions: Cholamandalam, the Tondaimandalam,¹ the Pandiamandalam,² the Naduvilnadu³ and Kondumandalam⁴ Cholas' territories were extended apart from Tamil Country, which included present day Mysore, the northern and central parts of Sri Lanka, and Andhra Pradesh. The Coromandel coastal region has been renowned as Chola Lake. because they dominated this region, which they annexed, including places like Lakshadweep and the Maldives. The Cholas were the prominent builders, as witnessed by the large number of temples they built throughout the Tamil country. The King of Cholas from Vijayalaya Chola's hereditary line multiplied in number as a result of reflection. Besides the kings, their relatives and officials also built temples.

Villupuram under the Kadavarayas

Kadavarayas, who might be the most powerful feudatories of the Cholas, are said to belong to the Pallava lineage. However, they never used the Pallavas nomenclature. The Kadavaraya territory was the greater part of modern Cuddalore district and Villupuram district. During the 13th century, the feudatories controlled

this region under a capital named Senthamangalam.⁵ The Kadavarayar region is bounded to the north by Chengalpattu, to the west by Dharmapurai and Salem, and to the east by Cuddalore and the Bay of Bengal. There are two kings who belong to the Kadavarayar dynasty, namely Kopperunjinga I and Kopperunjinga II. Their inscription was found in this region between A.D., 1213 and A.D. 1279. Kopperunjinga II was the most prominent ruler among the Kadavaraya chieftains. He ruled this region from A.D. 1243 to A.D., 1279 and Senthamangalam was his capital.⁶

Sendhamangalam fort (Chentamangalam)

The royals' palace was built to utilise the bricks. The ceiling was covered with "L"-shaped tiles. The fort of Sendamangalm seems to have followed the plan of the Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Thanjavur forts.⁶ This place is also known as Jayandamangalam in Sanskrit.⁷

Kopperunjinga I (A.D. 1216 - A.D. 1242)

Kopperunjinga I, the Kadava chieftain, was a feudatory of the Chola king Rajaraja III. Kopperunjinga I became independent of Chola power and reigned up to A.D. 1243. He had given many gifts to various temples⁸⁹ here are some epigraphs belonging to Kopperunjinga that I identified in and around Villupuram. Kopperunjinga was the greatest king in the Kadavarayas titled 'avanya vanodbhava Rajasimha, Maharajasimha, Khadyamalla. He might be formidable enemy to the kings of Kanchi. Cholas assumed the title Thirubhuvanachakravarthi, while Kadavaryas as Sakalabhuvanachakravartin.¹⁰

Kopperunjinga II (A.D. 1243-1279)

Kopperunjinga II might be the most important king in the Kadavaraya dynasty. He was the son of Kopperunjinga I, who ascended the throne in A.D. 1243¹¹

Rajaraja III(1216 A.D -1256 A.D)

The Chola ruler Rajaraja III was succeeded by Kulottunga III. He made a matrimonial alliance with the Hoysalas. During his reign, the Hoysalas were able to dominate the politics of the Tamil country. Another inscription from the sixteenth year of Rajaraja III may be found in the western Prakara of the Devanathaswamy temple. This document documents a gift of land in Pullai, a village close to Tiruvandipuram, to Madappura for the purpose of feeding the ascetics at Tiruvendipuram's Narayana-Anubhava Sanyasi-Mutt. ¹²From this inscription, it is understood that there was a mutt in Tiruvendipruam named Narayana Anubhava Sanyasi Mutt. It is also inferred that a number of ascetics lived in the Mutt.

There is a purely historical inscription, which is of great importance, in the Tiruvendipuram temple. This inscription is found in the west wall of the outer prakara, recorded in the sixteenth year of Rajaraja III. This inscription, which contains a very interesting account of the tribulations of Rajaraja III and the relief he obtained from the intercession of his Hoysala contemporary, is the most conspicuous among the handful of purely historical inscriptions.¹³

Maravarman Sundarapandy invaded the Chola country for the second time in 1231 and defeated Rajaraja III. Rajaraja III, having been defeated by the Pandya, had to leave his country. But for the Tiruvendipuram inscription, it would not have been possible for us to know what happened to Rajaraja III after his defeat. The last king to sit on the Chola throne and witness the final collapse of the Chola Empire was Rajendra III. There is no inscription belonging to the Cuddalore region; this may have caused the invasion of the Pandyas over the coal country.¹⁴ In Tirumanikuzhi, the only inscription found in the eastern wall in his 5th regnal year tells about a gift of a cow buffalo and its calf for a twilight lamp to the deity by a certain Mandai

So Man alias Elisaimagappadi Chechun.¹⁵

Jatavarman Sundra Pandya

Jatavarman Sundra Pandya besieged the fort of Chendamangalam, the fort of Kopperunjinga captured it and defeated the Kadavaraya king.¹⁶ Maravarman Sundara Pandya I was a capable ruler in the Pandya dynasty, whom invaded Chola Kingdom in A.D. 1219 and defeated Rajaraja III. He was ascended the throne while Jatavarman Kulasekara Pandya ruled the region of Tamil country.¹⁷ Maravarman Sundara Pandya I invaded the Chola country for the second time in A.D 1231 and defeated Rajaraja III. Rajaraja III, having been defeated by the Pandya, had to leave his country. However, the Devanathaswami temple was not given a clear picture about Rajaraja III after his defeat.¹⁸ He acted as the territorial head under the Pandyan Kingdom. At the same time, the Hoysalas become very powerful, while the Cholas require their assistance to expel the Pandyan from their country. On the way, the capital towns like Uraiyur and Tanjore were all burned to ashes. In Devanatha Swamy Temple, there are some inscriptions found in the south wall belonging to Sundra Pandya, dated the sixteenth regnal year, which record an agreement by the tanattar of the Devanayaka temple. Parasivas should observe the same type of customs that prevail in pandi mandalam, cholamandalam, makara mandalam, and naduvil mandalam.

Hoysalas

The Hoysalas became the dominant political force in Karnataka during the 10th century A.D. because of Hoysala's friendly relationship with the Cholas. The real founder of the Hoysala Dynasty is Bitti Deva or Vishnuvardana Kopperunjinga, a chieftain from Sendamangalam, very near Cuddalore, defeated King Rajendra III and imprisoned him.¹⁹ However, the Hoysala kings made an expedition to defeat King Kopperunjingan. King Veranarsimhan, the Hoysala king, destroyed the port city of Cuddalore and ruled over this region up to 1340 A.D.²⁰ This shows that the region was controlled by the Hoysalas in the middle of the 13th century. The Hoysalas released Rajaraja III from the Sendhamangalam fort slowly consolidated the power made veil of friendship with the Cholas.

Conclusion

To sum up, the Sendamangalam was the primary capital of Kadavaryas, and hopefully they defended the force of Cholas and Hoysals on that period. Also the powerful king of Rajaraja III was imprisoned in this fort. However, Hoysala ruler released the kings and made fruitful friendship with the same. Indeed, Villupuram could be the important place in the period of Cholas and Kadavarayas.

References

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