CHAPTER – I

LAND AND PEOPLE

Human inhabitation in Tiruchendur taluk dates back to Mesolithic times. Available evidences suggest almost continuous habitation of the region through the centuries down to the present time. The earliest cultural phases represented is the Mesolithic period. This is essentially a transitional stage between the Paleolithic food gathering economy and the more advanced Neolithic period characterised by food production, beginning of sedentary settlements and a stone industry dominated by ground and polished tools. A generalized change towards microlithization in the stone tool industry as well as the emergence of composite tool manufacture, in which series of microliths are hafted on organic handles of bone or wood is witnessed during the Mesolithic period. The substance economy of the sites was more broad based with coastal sites displaying evidence of fishing and exploitation of other marine food sources.

Robert Bruce Foote, the father of Indian prehistory spent 43 years exploring different parts of south India and during geological reconnaissance come across numerous fragment of chert, silified wood and limpid quartz embedded in the red sand dunes located along bamban coast.¹ These fossilized sand dunes locally knowns as Teris appear as huge reddish mounds along the coast and extend in abroad stretch from Kilakarai to Kanyakumari. The sands reach their broadest extent between Tissaiyanvillai and Tiruchendur foote attributed microlithic tools location on the teris to be the

result of human activity. He categorized the 73 tools she collected from the area as neoliths but these microlithic artifacts have been reclassified as belonging to the Mesolithic phase. Subsequently these sites were investigated by Aiyappan.\(^2\) Zeuner and Allchin\(^3\) in 1986. Martingell and Gardner in 1990 and 1995. The Microlithic yielding dunes were founding many localities in Tiruchendur taluks. The sites include Meignanapuram, Surangudi, Nazarath, Manadu, Kayamoli, Kurumbur, Puttantharuvai.\(^4\) Based on excavation conducted at the said above places It is asserted that the people of Tiruchendur taluk had a long history period to Indusvalley civilization of 4000 BC. The civilization that developed in the Tiruchendur region disappeared later on due to the natural calamities.

The northern part of Pandya country had its seat at Madurai and southern part at Tirunelveli. The southern part comprised of Tirunelveli region including Tiruchendur taluk. Upon the mouth of river Tamiraparani, there was the famous harbour Korkai reputed for pearl fishery. It is located 8\(^0\) 40 N 78\(^0\) 5 E at the southern end of the eastern coast.\(^5\) About seventh century B.C. by establishing a capital at Korkai an unknown southern ruler ruled the present Tamil Nadu and Kerala. To him It was stated that there were three sons namely Pandya, Chola and Chera. They prosperously lived together in Korkai.\(^6\) Native tradition represents the eponymous ancestors of

\(^4\) Ibid p.21.
the Pandyas, Cheras and Cholas as three brothers who lived and ruled in common at Korkai near the mouth of Tamiraparani. The lands hold in common by all. Three were at Mukkani near Korkai. Eventually a separation took place, Pandyan remained at home, while Chola and Chera went forth to seek their fortunes and founded Kingdoms of their own to the north and west. The Cholas seem to have ruled in Tiruchi and Thanjavur districts. While the Cheras established themselves in Travancore, Malabar and Coimbatore, the Pandyas were in Tirunelveli and Madurai.\(^7\) As the Pandya and his successors ruled the southern part of Tamil Nadu the region was called as Pandya Nadu as well as Pandy Mandalam. Since the Pandya rulers ruled Tirunelveli and its surroundings the Southernmost part of Pandya country was named as Tenpandi region.\(^8\) From the early days Tiruchendur has been one of the sub divisions of Tirunelveli region and the rulers who had Jurisdiction over Tirunelveli region wielded the same magnitude of rule over Tiruchendur region. In other words Tiruchendur was ruled by the same rulers of Tirunelveli region. The Pandya rulers ruled this region from the ancient seat of Korkai. Indeed Korkai served the Pandya rulers in two capacities as military camp and government head quarters. Thus Korkai the gateway of the Pandyas by its existence as a marine capital clearly affords evidences that the people of Tiruchendur region were civilized 4000 years ago.\(^9\) The Ancient Pandya rulers ruled the Tirunelveli seemai by dividing into many sub divisions. They were Kaliaka Nadu, Karugulavalanadu, Kannipura theyanadu, Keelavembunadu, Tenaryanadu, Manadu, Melvembunadu, Mullainadu, Vellanadu, Valuthivalanadu, Vananadu, Vaikunthavalanadu and


\(^8\) Perumal, K.V., *Porunaivalam (Tamil)* Madras, 1977, pp.11-12.

\(^9\) Ibid., p.52.
Indeed these divisions clearly indicates the Pandya rulers of Tirunelveli country had their sway over present districts of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari districts.

The present day tiny hamlet of Korkai lies on the northern bank of river Tamiraparani and is situated 23 km from Tiruchendur. Korkai had once been a celebrated sea port in the Sangam age also the capital city of ancient Pandyan Kingdom. Sangam literature refers Korkai as Pugal Malisirappin Korkai and Nartarvaluthi Korkai Sangam classic point that Korkai was the capital city of Pandya vetrivelcheliyan. It was indeed a tribute to Korkai that Pandiyan monarches ruled from the place were called Korkai Koman, Korkaiventh. The pearls of Korkai had an international market. Such a city of name and fame in now reduced to a position of hamlet. According to scholars the port city of Korkai lost its importance after the eleventh century as a consequence of the gradual elevation of the sea coast. In 1860 Bishop Caldwell conducted excavations at Palayakayal, Maramangalam after unearthing burialurns. Ruined brick structures, under remnants identified the village of the sangam pandyas. Between 1969 and 1972 Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology conducted excavation at Korkai and based on Carbon dating established that was inhabited by civilized people who were familiar with the technique of Iron making in the eighth century B.C. An ancient temple with inscription is a note worthy feature lithic records refer the place as Kudanattukorkai and also Madurodayanallur. The central shrine has an image of Vinayakar. The temple is presently called Akkasalai

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11 Senthilselvakumaran, M., op.cit., p.16.
12 S.I.I. Vol. VIII, No.460, p.244.
The temple presiding deity according to inscription is Akkasalai isvaramudy Mahadever and Akkasalai iswaramudiyar thus indicating that it was originally a siva temple.\(^\text{13}\) The temple is of that it was originally a siva temple. The temple is made of granite from Adhistana to Vimana. The Vimana is Nagara variety being made of one stone. The temple has four inscriptions the earliest being that of Kulothunga Chola I. Hence the temple must have been erected in his time.

The History of Pandya rule in Tiruchendur region presented here is based on the research works available on the subject. Vadivalamba Nintra Pandya, Palyagasalaimudukhudumi peruvarhuthi, Mudathirumaran, Kadalunmaintha Elamperumvaluthi, Ariwdainambi, Ollaiyurthantha Boothapandyan, Aryapadaikadantha Nedunchelliyan, ChitrmaduthuinjiyaNanmaran, Talaiyalankanuthu seruventra Nedunchezhiyan and Kanaperayil Kadanthaukkiraperuvaluthi were the pandya rulers of the Sangam period who ruled present Thoothukudi including Tiruchendur taluk.\(^\text{14}\) After the eclipse of the sangam age the alien rule of Kalabhras was extended over Pandya country.\(^\text{15}\) They let loose repression and subjected the Tamils. They swept over Tamil Nadu their own language and religion. They established autocratic rule. The Kalabhra inter region lasted for nearly 300 years (250 A.D. – 575 A.D.) ending with the sixth century A.D.\(^\text{16}\) Following them the first Pandya Empire was firmly established by Kadungon (575 – 600

\(^{13}\) ARE 1903, No. 165 (B).


A.D.) the Pandy ruler by defecting the Kalabhrs. He laid his seat at Madurai had his sway over Tirunelveli region including Tiruchendur. Indeed he was consider as the founder of first pandya empire. The rulers of first Pandya empire were chezhiyansender (620-642) Maravarman Arikesari (642-700A.D.) Kocchadyan Ranadheera (700-768) Nedunchedayan Parantaken or Varaguna I (768-815 A.D.) Srimaran Srivallabha (815-862 A.D.) Varagunavarman II (862-885 A.D.) Parantakaviraranyanan (860-965 A.D.) Rajasimha II (900 – 920 A.D.) and Virapandya (946 – 960 A.D.) ruled over four centuries over Madurai and Tirunevleli regions.

ChezhiyanSendan or Sadaiyamaran Seventh regnal year 627 A.D. inscription found on the door Jumb of Pallikonda perumal Shrine in the Somanathesvarar temple at Attur. Varaguna II thirteenth regnal year 875 A.D. inscription found on two slaps setup in the Subramanyaswamy temple at Tiruchendur.

The eclips of the first Pandya empire began with Varaguna II (862 – 885 A.D.) and lasted for about one hundred and fifty years Varaguna II was defected by the allied confederacy under the Pallavar at Thiru Purambyiem in 880 A.D. In the field of religion during that period the Nayanmars spreate Saivaite Principles where as Alvars preached moral discriptions. The echo of their preaching was heard a lot in Tiruchendur, for Tiruchendur region was a junction for both the Saivas and Vaishavite Principles.

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17 Kandasamy. V., Maduraivaralarum Panpadum (Tamil), Madurai, 1981, pp.48-50.
20 ARE 1929-1930, No.453.
22 Perumal, K.V., op.cit., p.517.
The Cholas who had lost their power to the Pandyas during the previous centuries upheld and rose to prominence under imperial cholas. Parantakachola defeated Rajasimha II the Pandya ruler in 915 A.D. and captured Madurai and its different parts. But the chola ruler had to meet crushing defeat at the hands of virapandya the son of Rajasimha II. Virapandya was defeated by sundarachola and his son Aditya II in 962 and 966 respectively. Under his successor RajaRaja Chola I (985-1016 A.D.) defeated the Pandya Amarapujanga and brought entire pandya country under the rule of Cholas of Tanjore and named it as Raja Raja Mandalam. Raja Raja Ist 24th regnal year (1000 A.D.) inscription found on a slab built into the flight of steps leading to the Kitchen in the vaithyamanidhi perumal temple at Tirukolur. Raja Raja Ist 21, 22, 27 and 28th Regnal year inscriptions (1006 A.D., 1007 A.D., 1012 and 1013 A.D.) found on the north and south wall of central shrine. West wall of central shrine. During the rule of Rajendra Chola (1012-1044 A.D.) a Chola representative was appointed to look after Madurai and Tirunelveli regions in the name of Chola Pandya. Rajendra Cholas third, fifth, and sixth regnal year inscriptions (1015, 1017 and 1018 A.D.) found on the east, north and south wall of Pallikondar Shrine in Somanatheshwarar temple at Attur. Jatavarman Sundarachola the son of Rajendrachola I become the first chola pandya (1018 – 1040 A.D.) Jatavarman Sundara Chola Pandya sixth, 21st regnal year inscriptions (1024 A.D. and 1030 A.D.) found on the north wall of central shrine and stone in the pavement of somasundari amman shrine. After him his

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23 ARE 1960-61, No.350.
24 ARE 1929-30, Nos. 388, 390, 392, 397, 409, 419, 415 and 420.
25 ARE 1929-30, Nos. 399, 412, 414 and 472.
26 ARE 1929-30, No.416 and SII. XIV, No.172, p.96.
successor maravarman parakirama (hall) Pandya served as representative over the Pandya country of the Tanjore crown. Maravarman alias Vikramachola Pandya deva 25th regnal year (1045 A.D.) inscriptions found on the north and south walls of central shrine in soma theswara temple at Attur.\textsuperscript{27} Jatavarman Chola Pandya 3rd regnal year (1050 A.D.) inscription found on fragments built into the basement of the platform around the central shrine in the Vaittamanidhi Perumal temple at Tirukkalur.\textsuperscript{28} Jatavarman Chola Pandya 3\textsuperscript{rd} Regnal Year 1050 A.D. and 26\textsuperscript{th} regnal year 1076 A.D. inscription found on fragments built into the basement of the Platform around the central shrine in the Vaittamanidhi Perumal temple at Tirukkolur.\textsuperscript{29} Vira Rajendra chola deva fourth and fifth regnal years (1067-1068) inscriptions found on the west and north wall of central shrine in Somanathar temple at Attur.\textsuperscript{30}

The post of Chola Pandya Viceroy was stopped during the rule of Kulottunga I (1090-1122 A.D.). The reason for this measure was due to the uprisings of Pandya Kings. Kulottunga I defeated the five Pandyas and brought the Pandya land under his direct rule. Sadaiyavarman Srivallabha one of the five Pandya defeated Kulottunga I established Pandya rule in Tirunelveli.\textsuperscript{31} Kulottunga Chola Ist 29\textsuperscript{th}, 34\textsuperscript{th} and 38\textsuperscript{th} Regnal years inscriptions (1099, 1104, 1106 A.D.) found on the tiers of the north wall of central shrine in vaittamanidhi perumal temple at Tirukkalur.\textsuperscript{32} Kulottunga Cholas Ist, 12, 20, 22, 24, 36, 38, 43 and 48\textsuperscript{th} regnal years. (1070 A.D.–1082 A.D., 1090,

\textsuperscript{27} ARE 1929-30, No. 400 and SII. XIV, No.191, pp.105-106.  
\textsuperscript{28} ARE 1961-1962, No. 452.  
\textsuperscript{29} ARE 1961-1962, No. 452.  
\textsuperscript{30} ARE 1929-30, Nos. 389 and 407.  
\textsuperscript{31} Raman. K.V., op.cit., p.95.  
\textsuperscript{32} ARE, 1961-1962, Nos.449-450 and 451.
During the rule of Rajathi Raja Chola II (1146 – 1173 A.D.) Jadavarman Kulasekhara Pandya, the son of Srivallabha (1096-1116 A.D.) the ruler of Southern part of Pandya country who had his head quarters at Tirunelveli. His brother Parakirama Pandya ruled over northern part of Pandya country had his capital at Madurai. The Separation of power was a significant one because the Tenpandi country existed separately.\(^{34}\) Jadavarman Sri Vallabhas (1090-1116 A.D.) first, third and sixth regnal years (1132 A.D., 1134 and 1138) inscriptions found on the north wall, west and south wall of central shrine and Pillar in the Antharala in the centural shrine in Somanathar temple at Attur.\(^{35}\)

A civil war broke out between the Pandya brothers. In that Civil war Parakrama Pandya (1087-1110 A.D.) was killed and Madurai was captured by Jatavarma Kulasekhara Pandya. But with the help of Srilankan forces, Virapandya the son of late Parakirama Pandya resumed his power. At this Juncture, Jatavarma Kulasekhara Pandya sought the help of Chola ruler of Tanjore. He gave timely helped and solved the problem. But Jatavarman Kulasekharapandyas change of alliance with Parakirama Babu of ceylone created strained relations between the Pandya and Chola rulers. It resulted in the reinstallation of Virapandya as Pandya rulers. At this time Kulasekhara Pandya died. His son Vikaramapandya sought the succor of the Chola ruler. As a result Vikrama Pandya became the king. Enraged by this incident


\(^{34}\) Perumal, K.V. op.cit., p.69.

\(^{35}\) ARE, 1929-1930, Nos. 394, 423 and SII, XIV, No.214, p.122.
Virapandya with the help of Chera ruler attacked Madurai. But the attack was crushed by the retaliation of the cholas under Kulotunga III yet his Son Jatavarman Kulasekhara 1190-1216 wished to free himself from the grip of the Chola ruler. By doing so he put the strongest nail of the coffin of the Cholas rule as king makers in the Pandya country his successors ruled the Pandya country. Untill the fourteenth century A.D.\(^{36}\) By the thirteenth century the Pandya empire was the mightiest Political power in south India.\(^{37}\)

The strained relations began between the Pandyas and Cholas with the rule of Kulasekhara Pandya (1190-1216 A.D.) the founder of second Pandya Empire. He brought the entire Chola mandalam under Pandya banner. He was succeeded by Maravarman Sundarapandya I (1216-1238 A.D.). Maravarman Sundara Pandya II (1238-1251) Jatavarman Sundarapandya I and Maravarman Kulasekhara I (1268 – 1311) respectively.

Jatavarman Kulasekhara I six regnal year (1196 A.D.). Inscription found on the east wall of Mandapa infront of the century shrine in somanathar temple at Attur.\(^{38}\) Maravarman Sundarapandyan I 14\(^{th}\) regnal 1230 A.D. Inscription found on the south wall of Mandapa infront of the central shrine in Somanathar temple at Attur.\(^{39}\) His 9\(^{th}\), 20\(^{th}\) and 22\(^{nd}\) regnal year (1225, 1236 and 1237) inscriptions found on the west and south wall of central shrine in the Vaithiamanithi temple.

During the Maravarman Kulasekhara Pandya rule the Pandya Empire witnessed with internal crisis in the form of civil war.

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\(^{36}\) Kandasamy. V. *op.cit.*, pp.10-12.
\(^{38}\) ARE 1929-1930, No. 435.
\(^{39}\) ARE 1929-1930, No. 426.
Virapandya and Sundarapandya, the two sons of Maravarman Kulasekhara contested for the throne while he was alive. In the civil war that ensued Virapandya emerged victorious. His arch rival Sundara Pandya killed his father Kulasekara Pandya and captured the throne. It made the entire Pandya country into hodge-podge situation. Sundarapandya wished to safeguard his position and sought the help of Malikkafur, the able general of Alaudin Khilji Sultan of Delhi. Malikkafur invaded the Pandya country and devasted Madurai and had taken away a lot of wealth on his home back. During Kafur invasion the Chera ruler as Ravivarman Kulasekhara conquered Pandya country in 1311 – 1312 A.D. But Virapandya recaptured the Pandya country from the Chera ruler. Virapandya left the country under the device of coregents rule. The coregency was shared by following rulers namely Sundarapandya, Vikrama Pandya. The Coregents on their part ruled different regions by dividing among themselves on his part Jatavarma Parakirama Pandya had his jurisdiction over Srivaikuntem region including Tiruchendur for he was entrusted with power over Tirunelveli region\textsuperscript{40}. The Chera rule over Pandya country was ephemeral one.

The Kafurs invasion was followed by Kuzhrukhan in 1319 A.D. and Ulughan in 1323 A.D. As a result of Ulughans invasion Muslim rule was established in Madurai and the Madurai sultanate came in to being in 1335 A.D. and lasted upon 1378 A.D. The scions of the Pandya royal family moved south wards and carved out petty kingdoms in Tirunelveli and Tenkasi.

\textsuperscript{40} Kandasamy V., \textit{op.cit.}, P.24.
At the end of fourteenth century A.D. and the beginning of fifteenth century A.D. three kings ruled the Tenpandi region in the Same name of Parakiramapandya from 1384-1415 A.D. 1387-1415 A.D. and 1401-1434 respectively. At the same time sadayavarman KulasekharaPandya, SadiavarmaVikrama Pandya Tirunelveli perumal Komaravarman alias vira pandya deva also ruled Tenpandi region. During the fifteenth century A.D. central shrine of Sri Kailasanathar temple of Srivaikuntam was reconstructed by the virapandya. Two inscriptions of virapandya deva of 1439 A.D. found on the eastern wall of Mahamandapa of Sri Kallarpiran temple describes the various grants of virapandya deva to srikallarpiran temple at Srivaikuntam.

Vijayanagar Rule

In the year 1336 the Vijayanagar Kingdom was established with the objectives of relieving the Hindus of the Mohammed an oppression. In 1344 Bukka invaded Madurai and defeated KhurbatHasansang the then Madurai Sultan. Kumarakambana’s Madurai invasion has much historical significance. In 1371 Kumarakambana conquered the pandya country held by the sultan Mobarakshah and annexed it in 1378 with the Vijaynagar empire. The Vijayanagar rule in Madurai was founded by Kumarakampana on the decline of the Madurai sultanate rule. He gave revival to the Hindu country of Madurai which suffered under the Muslim rule. After his death the Madurai country was left under his successors of Embanan and prakasa Udaiyar who ruled the country untill 1402. From that year to 1448 A.D. the country was under the rule of Ellahana and Madhanan respectively as the

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41 Nilakandasastri, K.A., History of South India, op.cit., P.457.
43 Kandasamy, V. op.cit., P.24.
viceroy of Devaraya II from 1404 to 1558 A.D. Fourteen Nayak Governors ruled the southern territory. The last of the fourteen was vittala. The Pandyas shifted their headquarters to Tenkasi and Tirunelveli and ruled until the 17th century. They were Sadaiyavarman Parakkirama Pandyan (1422 – 1461) who had built the Tenkasi Kasiviswanathar temple, Azhagen perumal Kulesekharan or Srivallabha (A.D. 1429 – 1473) whose inscription are found in the Srivaikuntam region including the two inscriptions issued in the name of Maravarman vikkerama Pandyan in Tiruchendur. Srivallabha (A.D. 1534 – 1543) Parakakkirama Pandya Kulasekharan Tiruenvleli Perumal Kulasekharan (A.D. 1551 – 1562) Adhiveera Rama Pandyan (A.D. 1564 – 1566). Varadungan (1558 – 1600) and Varaguna Rama Kulasekharan (A.D. 1615) After the later Pandyas the Travancore King Udayamarthandan ruled certain portions of this region. The inscription of Travancore Kings were found in the Kattarimangalam.

In the middle of 15th century the Cheraking of Travancore conquered certain places in the composite Tirunelveli district. Including Kayal and Tingalur from Tenkasi pandyas the Chera kings had a palace in Kayal. The death of Vittala was followed by anarchy in the Madurai Kingdom. There was a dispute between the Pandya and Chola princes. To settle their dispute Vijayanagar emperor sent Nagamanayak to reinstate the pandyas in the south tried himself become the king, on knowing this Krishna Devarayar sent Visvanatha Nayak, Nagamas own son to teach a lesson to Nagama and to reinstate the pandyas in power as feudatory of the empire, Viswanatha succeeded in his assignment of procuring the pardon of his father for the

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breach of trust. He obeyed the Vijayanagar king so far as to place the pandyas on throne but as policy and self interest were alike opposed to the course of handing over the supreme control in to his own hands.\footnote{Sathiyanantha Aiyar, R., \textit{History of Nayaks of Madurai}, London, 1924, P.61 and Kulasekharaj, B.J.M. A forgotten episode of History of South India. Being an account of family of Dalavay Mudaliars of Tinnevelly, Madras, 1924, P.20.}

The hereditary Nayakdom came in to being with Madurai as headquarters of Viswanatha Nayak. According to Chronicles the pandyas and effective political force now disappeared from history and Visvanatha was crowned by Achyuta Raya (1530 – 1542) the emperor of Vijayanagar as the ruler of Madurai. At Kayathar war Viswanatha Nayak of Madurai and his able general Ariyanatha Mudail killed the Panchapandyas sons of Chandra Sekhara Pandyas and restoring peace in the south and established the Vijayanagar supremacy. Parathavars of Punnakayal refused to pay tax to the ViswanathaNayak of Madurai so he invaded to Punnakayal in 1551 A.D. through Attur and burnt the houses and boats of Parathavars. They agreed to pay tax to him. In 1553 Vithalarya the General of Vijayanayar captured Punnakayal then he released it after receiving tribute from the Parathavars. In 1560 Viswanathanayak again invaded to punnakalay received the tributary. In 1562 Muslim sea priates Plundered the Punnakyal. Fifteen Variety of pearls were sold at Punnakayal and it was also served as the one of the pearl centre of Tiruchendur region Madurai Nayaks in ported horges from Arabia through Punnakayal fort.\footnote{Ungal Nulagam, Tamil monthly Journal Pubby New Century book house, Chennai, July 2013, p.5.} Viswanatha with the help of Ariyanathamudalilar organized the country into 72 palayams and assigned to each poligar in 1535. Out of 72, 34 were southern poligars The southern Poligars had their Pollams
most probably in the Tirunelveli region\textsuperscript{48}. The Tenkasi Pandyas remained as Royal feudatories to Viswanatha.

Viswanatha Nayak (1530 – 1564) and his Son Krishnappa Nayak of Madurai (1564 – 1572) constructed Raja Gopuram of Srikallarpiran temple at Srivaikuntam to satisfy the emperor Sadasivaryar of Vijayanagar (1542 – 1571 A.D.) and his general Ramaraya (1542 – 1565)\textsuperscript{49}. Inscriptions belonging to sadesivaraya (1542 – 1571 A.D.) corresponding to 1565 A.D. and 1571 A.D. are found in the west end of the northern wall of inner gopurem and west and of southern wall of inner gopurem\textsuperscript{50}. Virappanayak (1572) reign seems to have been a period of peace and prosperity. The reign of Krishnappanayak II rule (1545 – 1601) was not much eventful in respect of Srivaikuntem region. Muthukrishnappa Nayak II ruled the Madurai Kingdom from 1601 – 1609. MuthuirappaNayak I who ruled from 1609 – 1623. He transferred his capital from Madurai to Tiruchirappalli.

Ariyanatha Mudali was succeeded by his son Kalattinathamudali. He concentrated on his administration mainly in the south. He was succeeded by his son Nayinamudali and Viraraghava Mudali respectively. During the reign of Muthukrishnappa Nayak II (1601 – 1609) Viraraghava Mudali was succeed by Kadantaimudali who called himself as Mahipati the king of southern region\textsuperscript{51}. Kadanttai Mudali was succeeded by his son Nayinatimudali to the office of Dalavay. During the Dalavayship of Nayinatimudali, erst while Tirunelveli region including Tiruchendur taluk was separated from the

\textsuperscript{48} Madras council Military country correspondence, 3\textsuperscript{rd} May 1753 and K. Rajayyan, \textit{Rise and Fall of Poligars of Tamil Nadu}, Madurai, 1978, P.3.


\textsuperscript{50} ARE, 1960 – 1962, Nos. 344 and 345.

\textsuperscript{51} Kulasekharaj, B.J.M. \textit{op.cit.}, PP.21-22.
The history of Dalavay Governors had its long lineage in Tirunelveli province and of its sub divisions like that of Tiruchendur region continuously until the formation of Tirunelveli collectorate in 1801. Nayinattimudali was succeeded by chinnathambimudali whose Governorship was terminated in 1682. After chinnathambi Mudali, kumara Swami mudali was posted as Dalavay Governor. Vijayrenga Chokkanathanayak of Madurai (1706 – 1734 A.D.) visited once in two years and he endowed lands, gifted jewels gold etc., to many temples including Kallarpiran temple of Srivaikuntam.

**Governorship of Tirunelveli**

AralAlagappamudali son in land of MadaiDalavay Kumaraswamy mudali acted as Governor of Tirunelveli from 1700 – 1735 A.D. In 1736 Chandasahib son in law of Carnatic nawab DhostAli invaded Tiruchi and imprisoned Rani Meenakshi the last ruler of Madurai Nayak then he captured Madurai and declared himself as the ruler of Madurai and Tirunelveli. To govern the Tirunelveli province Kumaraswamy mudali was appointed as Nawab agent in Tiruneveli. Mean while Chandasahib was defeated by Marathas and they established their rule between 1740 and 1744.

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54 Kulasekharaj. B.J.M. *op.cit.*, P.33.
Maratha Agent Appaji Rao collected taxes in the Tirunelveli province\textsuperscript{56}. In Carnatic the Navayet Dynasty was replaced by Wallajaha dynasty in 1744. Anwaruddin was appointed as the first Nawab of Carnatic by Nizam of Hyderabad.\textsuperscript{57} Instead the Nawab appointed Anwarkhan as Paujder and Amuldar to look after the Tirunelveli province.

**Nawab Period**

The Tirunelveli province consisted of different categories of territory which included the sircar region and Dutch settlement in the coramental coast. The fertile never failing Thamiraparani river bed and the region south of it formed the sircar region which was under the direct Jurisdiction of the Nawab agents called Head renters or Amuldars. The Amuldars appointed many Amils to assist them. The Amuldar of Tirunelveli governed this region through his Amil. The Amils controlled the principal inhabitants or village head man, who looked after the revenue of villages. The Wallaja authority collapsed for a while. Chandasahib nominated Kumaraswami Mudalis elder brother TiterappaMudali for the post of Amuldar in 1751\textsuperscript{58}. Mundimeyen succeeded Tittarappamudali and acted as Amuldar in 1752 and 1753. Mean While Muhammed Ali, the Wallajah Nawab of Carnatic consolidated his authority in Tirunelveli province. Mafuzkhan the brother of Muhammed Ali killed Mundimeyan, the agent Chandasahib and was posted Nawab agent in Tirunelveli province\textsuperscript{59}.

\textsuperscript{56} Ibid., P.215.

\textsuperscript{57} Lushington, S.R., Report on Revenue settlement 28\textsuperscript{th} May 1802, Para. 15.

\textsuperscript{58} Lord pigot in council, 21, April, 1755, Military consultation, Vol.4, PP.70 – 71.

He sought the help of Madras Government to Quell the rebels in Tirunelveli province. Likewise the Madras Governor sent col. Heron with a regiment of five hundred soldiers and Two thousand native troops under the command of Yusuf Khan. The Nawab on his part sent his elder brother MafzhKhan with thousand horses. Herons expedition was not to a success politically and economically. Maphuzkhan with the help of some western Poligars of Tirunelveli province opposed hegemony of Muhammed Ali and become untrust worthy. He was suppressed and replaced by Alagappa Mudali in 1756. There after Yusuf Khan become the Amuldar of Tirunelveli from 1757. He revolted against Muhammed Ali, the Nawab of Arcot. It invited Major Donald Campbells expedition to Tirunelveli Province. Yusuf Khan was captured and executed on 16th October 1764.

As regards Tirunelveli province after Yusuf Khan it was under the management of Dalavay Alagappamudali in 1764. From 1765 to 1769 it was left under the supervision of Raja Hukumat Ram. In 1770 syed Muhammed looked after the provincial affairs and in 1777 Muhammed Ektibarkhan was entrusted with power.

In 1778, 1779 and 1780 Thirumalaiappu Mudali, Ali Nawazkhan and Dalavary Tirumalaiappamudali were respectively posted as Amuldars of Tirunelveli. In 1780 HyderAli perpetuated his famous invasion of the Carnatic. He conquered the part of Tirunelveli province. To safeguard his region Nawab entered into agreement with the British known as Carnatic

Treaty of 1781. The Madras Government introduced assignment system. This system continued up to 1785. Thus by the Assignment company had authority over Tirunelveli province, there was only gradual progress until the year 1801.

Lord MacCartney, Governor of Madras posted George Proctar as the superintendent of Southern Assigned revenue. He assumed the authority on 08.12.1781. He was allowed to collect revenue from the Nawab Amuldars. But George Procter appointment created clash in Tirunelveli province with head renter Dalavay Thirumalaiappa Mudali. It made the Madras Government to recall George proctor. In 1782 Dalavay Thirumalaiappa Mudali passed away and was succeeded by Tittarappamudali as the head renter of Tirunelveli. He failed to peshkush properly. Therefore the Madras Government posted Eyles Irwin as superintendent to secure the revenue of Tirunelveli province. Eyles Irwin also dismissed Tittarappamudali and arrested him on 3rd June 1783 for the embezzlement of the considerable part of revenue of Tirunelveli province and appointed Zinulabdein as the head renter besides. He himself supervised the Tirunelveli province by dividing it into the twelve revenue units for the revenue administration of years 1783,

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64 Stuart, A.J. *op.cit.*, P.144.
1784 and 1785. The Twelve Revenue units were Srivaikuntam, Alvarthirunagari, Ambasamudram, Authur, Kalakad, Durmossanum, Srivilliputhur. These twelve revenue units were left under the control of twelve renters, who were responsible for Zinulabedin, the head renter of Tirunelveli province Srivaikuntam was leased to renter periya Thiruvadipillai for the years 1783, 1784 and 1785.

Restoration of Amuldarship

As regard revenue administration the system of assignment ended in 1785. The Nawab appointed Ektiberkhan as Amuldar over Tirunelveli province from 1785 to 1790 A.D. He spread out violence and due to his instigation of the Amil of Tiruchendur. Unable to bear the atrocities the subjects deserted Srivaikuntam and even ran off to the Vellanadu hills to save their lives on 12th July 1792 the Carnatic treaty was signed between the Nawab and the British company. By that treaty the British government took on its shoulder the responsibility of collecting revenue from the Nawab over poligar region. At the same time Nawab authority over his sircer region was not totally ended. On the other hand the British drive over the poligar region in the name of revenue collection infuriated the latter who in retaliatory measure attacked sircar territory and plundered the revenue which belong to the Nawabs concern. It is to be noted Srivaikuntam was committed to such plunder on many occasions. But on some times the attempts of poligar were crackeddown. Srivaikuntam served as Taluk headquarters until 1838. After 1838 Alvarthirunagari became the taluk headquarters. In 1860 A.D. again

Srivaikuntam became the taluk headquarters replacing Alvarthirunagari since Srivaikuntam taluk was the biggest one. Tiruchendur taluk was formed in 1911 for administrative convenience. In 1871 local fund act was passed by which Tirunelveli district was divided into two circles namely Tirunelveli and Cheranmahadevi. The Tirunelveli circle contains six places namely Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur, Sattur, Sankarankovil, Srivilliputhur.

Captain W.H.Horsely prepared the proposal for the project of construction of an anicut across the Thamiraparani at Srivaikuntam. The bridge across the river Tamiraparani on the top of Srivaikuntam anicut was constructed in 1890. Out of Srivaikuntam taluk Tiruchendur taluk was formed in 1911 for administrative convenience.73

Social condition

The Population of Tiruchendur taluk as per census of India 2001 is 2,91,428. The social condition of the people in Tiruchendur taluk is highly improved from the past condition. The people are divided by castes. The Siva Brahmins are numerous are found throught the richer part of the taluk especially in Attur, Tiruchendur and Thenthirupperai. Vishnu Brahmins are found surrounding the Vaishavite temples in Alwarthirunagari and other places. The Brahmins in the taluk are mostly landed properties. They are an enterprising community and the high social status they enjoyed in early lest days helped them to become a progressive community only a few Brahmins now earn their living by priest had majority of them are lawyers, doctors and teachers. They also have got employment in Government and private sectors as officials. Pillaimars belonging to an agricultural Vellala subcaste live in

73 Ganapathy Raman. S, op.cit., p.5.
Tiruchendur taluk. The Vellala caste people are majority in Tiruchendur taluk. Kondaiyankottai Maravars live in large numbers in the Tiruchendur taluk. The Vellala caste people are majority in Tiruchendur taluk. There are other caste people namely the Nadars, Kammalas and scheduled caste people. The low caste people of Tiruchendur region are highly free from the past social in equality and discrimination. They are allowed to the temples to worship their deities. To protect their people the Nadars, the Maravas and scheduled caste people have their own organizations. By the advent of Christian Missionaries most of the Nadar community people converted to Christianity.\(^74\) Thereafter step by step they involved themselves in the business and educational activities. Now the Nadars of Tiruchendur region are leading honest life by initiating many schools and maintaining a profitable business.

Economically the people of Tiruchendur taluk are so sound. The seventy five percent lands in Tiruchendur taluk is irrigated by the never failing Tamirparani river. The river course of Tamirparani into Tiruchendur taluk is properly Channelised by the Marudur and Tiruchendur anicuts. The surrounding area of Tiruchendur and the vast land upto the sea in the eastern side is irrigated by the southern channels of Srivaikundam anicut. Thus Srivaikundam anicut made prosperous the most tract of the Thoothukudi District. The Thoothukudi drinking water supply is made through Tiruchendur region gives good earning to the people and make themselves wealthy. The bags of paddy grains and the large quantity of banons are transported from this taluk to various parts of Tamil Nadu and District headquarters. The

\(^{74}\) Ibid., P.22.
geographical area of Tiruchendur taluk is accounted for 60627 hecare\textsuperscript{75} Cotton, Cumbu, blackgran, greengram, Cholam, Maize, ragi, sunflower, ground nut, coriander, Chillies, and gingely are the major rain fed crops cultivated in the black soil track of Tiruchendur taluks\textsuperscript{76}. Betalvine is raised in Attur in Tiruchendur block\textsuperscript{77}. In Tiruchendur block paddy is the main crop which is cultivated in 6000 hectare. It followed by banana which is grown in 3000 hectare and pulses in 3000 hectere. Soil is alluvial type Northern portion of the black has gravel red soil suited for horticultural crops. Paddy in 4000 hectere and pulses in 1200 hectere are cultivated in the Attur region of Tiruchendur taluk Banana is cultivated in Tiruchendur area Brick and tile works are found in Alwar Thirunagari, Attur and Hemalabath in Tiruchendur taluk\textsuperscript{78}. Brick making units are found in large numbers in Attur is a predominate business centre seven chamber brick kilns are functioning in Alwarthirunagari block. Attur and Tiruchendur have more concentration of handloom weaving units\textsuperscript{79}.

Tiruchendur taluk comprises of nine town panchayats and fourty seven revenue villages out of this twelve villages have either reported No temples.

\textsuperscript{75} Potential linked credit plan for chidambaranar district, Tamil Nadu, 1996 – 1997, NABARD REPORT.  
\textsuperscript{76} Report from the Joint Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Thoothukudi, February, 2000.  
\textsuperscript{78} Report from the Director and Commissioner of Industries andCommerce, Chennai 2001.  
\textsuperscript{79} Report from the Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Thoothukudi, November, 1996.
The total number of Temples are 188 out of this nine Temples are significant. Twenty one are dedicated to Srinivayakar two to Sri Murugan 20 to Srishiva 30 to Srizvishnu 83 to Various Goddesses and 32 to other deities. The famous Temples of this taluk. Srisomanathar temple Attur Kailasanathar temple sernthemangalam, Kailasanathar temple. Thenthirupperai Chera Chola Pandeswarar temple, Thirukkalur and Narasinganathar temple Attur.\textsuperscript{80}

\textsuperscript{80} Chandramouli. C. (ed.), Temples of Tamil Nadu, Thoothukudi district, Chennai, 2004, p.25.