CHAPTER II
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The three hundred and fifty odd inscriptions available in this area provide considerable materials which throw light on the historical vicissitudes through which this region passed. The inscriptions are valuable as they furnish data about various kings and dynasties that controlled this region at various times. Besides, they also mention the regnal years of the ruling kings, in some cases they mention specific chronological date like śaka era. Analysis of these records is presented in this chapter.

PALLAVAS

SIMHAVARAMAN OR NARASIMHAVARMAN? (630 - 638 / 700 - 720 A.D.)

The earlier ruler appears in the inscriptions of this region is Simhavaraman. The inscription belong to this ruler found at Sivanvayal seems to contain an eulogy of the king named Simhavaran who was described as a scion of the Pallavas and as having performed the daśās̄vatamēḍha and bahusuvarama sacrifices. On the palaeographical grounds this inscription is ascribed to 7th Century A.D. With palaeography as the only guide, one is tempted to identify Simhavaran of the present record with Narasimhavaran I whose date lay in the same period and who was the son and successor of Mahēndravaran I. Of the identity of our Simhavaran with Narasimhavaran [630-638] we can not be absolutely certain in the face of the fact that Simhavaran of our record does not bear the full name of Narasimhavaran by which the son of Mahēndravaran was usually referred to in stone and copper plate inscriptions. He might as well belong to a collateral branch of the family or a hither to unknown member of the same family different from Narasimhavaran. However, should the identification prove correct, the present inscription would be the third known record of the king, the other two being those at Bādami and Tirukkalukunram. It could also be possible that he can be identified with Narasimha II alias Rājasimha who was prominent ruler of Kāṅchi between 700 - 720 A.D.

One fact of importance brought out by the record is that king Simhavaran is stated to have performed the daśās̄vatamēḍha and the bahusuvarama sacrifices. The charters of the Pallavas do not attribute the performance of this sacrifice to Narasimhavaran with whom Simhavaran has been sought to be identified, nor to any other king of the dynasty, though speaking generally, they say that the Pallavas performed many sacrifices. However, T.N.Subramanyam, identified him with the Simhavaran III of the Pallankōyil charter.

PARAMESVARAVARMAN I (669 - 690 A.D.)

An inscription discovered at Tenkaraṇai alias Sirrampākkam assigned on the palaeographic grounds to the 7th century A.D. and may therefore be taken to be of Pallava Paramēśvaravarman I. The
Distribution of Inscriptions found in the Tiruvallur Region
inscription refers itself to the first regnal year of Mahārāja Paramēśvaravarman. The date of our epigraph would thus be about 670 A.D. He was the son and successor of Mahendravarman II. On the strength of the astronomical details furnished by the Vunnaguravāyapālam plates issued from Kāñchi it is determined that the accession of Paramēśvaravarman as having occurred in 669-670 A.D. His rule marked an important stage in the history of the Pallavas as it was during his reign that their feud with the Chālukiyas reached its zenith. Several copper plates refer to the struggle and the strained relationship between the Pallavas and the Chālukiyas.

The epigraph found at Sirrāmbākkam is of importance on account of the fact that it is one of the few early inscriptions on stone written in archaic Tamil. Added to this is another fact that it is also one of the few inscriptions referring to the reigns of the early Pallava rulers and citing the regnal years. Purely Tamil epigraphical records as such containing specific allusions to the contemporary rulers are conspicuous by their paucity. Only a few instances have come to our notice so far like the Vallam cave inscription mentioning Pallava Mahendravarman I and the Tirukkalukunram epigraph referring to his successor Narasimha I. The present record therefore makes a welcome addition to this meagre list.

NRIPATUŃGA VIKRAMAVARMAN [855 - 895 or 859-899/900 A.D.]

An inscription of Nrpatuṅga Vikramavarman is found at Kannigaipār. He was the son of Nāṭivarman III, by Rāṣṭrakūṭa princesses, Śankha. The Bahūr plates give us the details of his victory over Pāṇḍyas on the banks of Arasil near Kumbhakōnām.

The Pallava suzerainty was acknowledged by Sattam Paliyili [Mukharaiyars], Prithivipati [Gāngas] and Vidiyādhara [Bāṇās] as revealed by the inscriptions found at Guḍimallam and Nāṟṟamalai. His inscriptions are found scattered all over the Pallava kingdom from Tiruvālangādū and Tiruvottiyūr in the north, to Kandiyur, Kovilāṭi and Lāṅguḍi in the south, so that Nrpatuṅga's dominion extended from the river Svaramamukhi in the north to the Veṭṭaru in the south, i.e., the territory extending roughly between Guḍimallam and Madras in the north and Tiruchirāḷāḷi in the south. Nrpatuṅga seems to be the last great Pallava king to hold the extensive Pallava empire intact. For towards the end of his reign, we find several neighbouring powers, including the Nōḷambas, rising to prominence with the result that in the time of Aparājita (successor of Nrpatuṅga), it consisted only a few portions of Chingleput and Chittoor districts.

APARĀJITAVARMAN [885-903 A.D.]

An inscription dated in the 5th year of Aparājitalavarman [c 900 A.D.] is found at Pattaraiperumbudūr. It speaks about a gift of land to the servants of the temple.
The relationship of Aparājita with his predecessors is not clear. He was either the son of Nripatunga or it was another name of Nripatunga himself. Another view is that Nripatunga and Aparājita were two distinct scions of Pallava line who were perhaps related to each other and who ruled the Pallava family co-jointly for sometime. However, Aparājita's exact dates are not clearly known.

It is held that his inscriptions have been found only in the taluks of Saidapet, Ponnēri, Kanchipuram and Tiruttani. Now, Tiruvallur Taluk can also be added to the above list with the availability of inscriptions at Pattanariperumbudur.

The enmity between the Pāṇḍyas and the Pallavas continued even during the reign of Aparājita. The Pāṇḍyas under Varaguna II made irruption into the Chōla territory on their way to the Pallava dominion. The joint armies of Aparājita, Ganga Prithvpati and Āditya Chōla defeated the armies of Pāṇḍyas at Sripurambyam even though the Pallava ally Prithvpati lost his life in the battlefield. Āditya I who helped Aparājita perhaps got the southern Tonḍai maṇḍalam as the price of his cooperation. During Aparājita's reign the Pallava dominion consisted only a few portions of Chingleput and Chittoor districts. This small and depleted territory fell an easy prey to the rising Chōlas under Āditya I, who was an ally of Aparājita, soon turned into enemy and defeated and killed him.

KAMPAVARMAN

The inscriptions of this king are found at Pērattūr and Śivanvāyal. His place in the scheme of genealogy and chronology of Pallavas is not clear. He was considered either as the son of Nandivarman III and another of Nripatunga or as the son of Aparājita. Another view is that he ruled along with Nripatunga or Aparājita or with both. However, the inscription of all the three kings Nripatunga, Aparājita and Kampavarman have been found in the Tiruvallur region.

The provenance of his inscriptions indicates that Tonḍai maṇḍalam and some parts of the border districts such as Nellore, Chittoor and North Arcot were under his sway and that he made several efforts to penetrate into the northern borders of the Chōla kingdom. In spite of his best efforts the Pallava power collapsed, probably at the end of his 32nd year.

The power of Pallavas in Tonḍai maṇḍalam rolled back into the limbo of oblivion and powerlessness. According to Gopinatha Rao, there was no long interval between the death of Nripatunga and the fall of the Pallava Kingdom.
CHÖLAS : THE RISE OF THE CHÖLAS

ÂDITYA I [871 - 907 A.D.]

Âditya I was the son of Vijayālaya, of the Imperial line of Chōlas reigning from Taṇṭāvūr. From the Tiruvāḷangādu copper plates, and the inscriptions of Kanyākumāri and Tillaisthānam it is clear that he defeated Pallava Aparājita and extended his power to the Tonḍainād. The battle of Śrīpurambyam signalled the emergence of a new power, the Chōlas of the Vijayālaya line on political stage of South India. Âditya put an end to the Pallava power by annexing Tonḍaimanḍalam and extended the Chōla dominions, till they bordered on those of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas.

An inscriptions from Vaḍamudurai refers to a regiment of warriors of the valangai class chosen by and named after manukulakēsari. As the record from its palaeography is assignable to about the early part of the 10th century, the epithet manukulakēsari which must have been the title of the donor's overlord, possibly refers to Âditya I. If the identification is correct this is the earliest Chōla inscription found in this region. (His inscriptions have also come from the neighbouring places viz Arasavanpālam, near Kāṇchi, which is discovered recently by the Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Madras)

PARĀNTAKA I [907 - 955 A.D.]

Âditya I turned against Aparājita and deprived him of his possessions. Thus at the accession of his son Parāntaka, the Chōla kingdom embraced the whole country between Madras and Kāḷahasti in the north and the Kāvērn in the south, with the exception of the Mysore table and the strip along the West Coast. But the settlement of the newly conquered territory in Tonḍaimanḍalam apparently took some years and might have involved fresh campaigns.

The inscriptions of Parakeśarivarman found at Tiruppandiyūr is ascribed to Parāntaka I which is dated in his 3rd regnal year. On the palaeographic grounds, the record may be assigned to King Parāntaka I, who bore the epithet Parakesarivarman. It may be noted that the records of Parāntaka I dated so early in his reign as the 3rd year are not found so far in this area.

The inscriptions found at Amidānallūr and Paṭṭaraperumbudūr record his title Maduraikōṇḍa. Parakeśarivarman Muvēndavelān. Parāntaka invaded the Pāṇḍya country soon after his accession. He bears the title Maduraikōṇḍa [who captured Madurai] as early as his third year. The conquest and subjugation of the Pāṇḍya Kingdom was however, a gradual process, the earliest inscription of Parāntaka actually found in the Pāṇḍyan country is dated in his 24th year. The splendid success of Parāntaka was shattered by the threatening crisis created by the combined forces of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas under the Krishna III and the Gānga forces under Bhūtuga II. These combined forces...
defeated the Chōla forces at Takkōlām, near Arkoṇam in 949 A.D. Parāntaka's eldest son Rājaditya lost his life, and Parāntaka himself did not long survive the cataclysm.

THE RĀṢḤṬRAKŪṬA INCURSION

The association of Rāṣṭrakūṭa with the Tiruvallūr region can be known from two inscriptions of Krishṇa III [930-957] at Viḍaiyur. They are dated in his 27th and 28th regnal years i.e. 966 and 967 A.D. Both the inscriptions mention him, as Kacciyum Tāṇjaiyum koṇḍa Kannarādeva. The battle at Takkolam was probably followed by the invasion and capture of Kāṇḍī by Krishṇa III. But some scholars do not approve his capture of Tāṇjavur.

Although the Rāṣṭrakūṭa occupation of the Tamil country is considered as a brief interruption yet it must be accepted that Krishṇa III had certainly inflicted a crushing defeat on the Tamil powers and held a sway over Tondaimandalam at least for 25 years. By his decisive victory on the Chōlas at Takkōlām during the reign of Parāntaka I, he firmly established his hold and occupied Tondaimandalam region. With the death of Krishṇa IV in 967 A.D the association of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas with this region came to an end. The inscription at Viḍaiyur confirm that he never lost his hold over regions till his 28th year (967 A.D).

NARASIMHA

An incomplete record from Veṅgal contains the Prāṣāṭi of a Chief named Narasimha, the lord of Milādu, who belonged to the Malaiyakula (the Malayāmans of Tirukkōvalūr South Arcot Dt chieftains since saṅgam age). The prāṣāṭi attributes to the Chief titles such as Malaya Kuloṭhava and Malayakula chūdāmani. This chief appears to be identical with his name sake of the Tirunāmanallur record wherein he figures with the same attributes as a subordinate of the Rāṣṭrakūṭa King Krishṇa III. The present inscription however does not mention his overlord. The characters of the inscriptions are of 10th Century A.D.

This chief may be one of the minor chiefs seem to have ruled Kāṇḍī and Tondaimandalam after Kampavarman [like Vairamegham Govindavarman etc] The exact relationship of these insignificant minor rulers, who were administering different parts of Tondaimandalam has not been established satisfactorily due to paucity of evidences. It is quite likely that he was descendant of Pallava dynasty perhaps still claiming his ancestry to them, just like Kādava Köpperuṇjaṅgan did in later times.
REVIVAL OF CHOLA POWER
ĀDITYA II [C. 956-989 A.D.]

The provenance of inscriptions of Ādiya II and Pārthivendravarman indicate that this region had once again come back to the Chōla hands after the short interlude of the Rāshtrakūṭa occupation. After the defeat sustained by Parāntaka I at the hands of the Rāshtrakūṭa Krishna III the Pāṇḍya ruler Virapāṇḍya became independent. Sundara Chōla Parāntaka II [956-973] the grandson of Parāntaka [son of Anīṣa] wished to recover the lost regions from Virapāṇḍya. So assisted by his brave young son Āditya II he inflicted terrible defeats on the Pāṇḍyas in the battle of Sēvūr.

According to the Tiruvālangādu plates he literally severed the head of Virapāṇḍya and that is how Āditya II entitled himself Virapāṇḍya talakonda. But the Lyden grant of Rājarāja I does not make this claim openly. Virapāṇḍya survived the battle of Sēvūr but was forced to seek refuge in the forest. The inscription found at Mappēdu mentions the 3rd year of the Chōla who took the head of Virapāṇḍya, who must be Āditya II.

PĀRTHIVENDRĀDHIPATIVARMAN

The inscriptions found at Vaḍamadurai and Aranvāyai recorded in the 6th and 7th year respectively of a king called Pārthivendrādhipati Varman. The records of Pārthivendrādhipativarman are found in the modern districts of North and South Arcots and Chingleput.

The identity of this ruler is involved in much obscurity. After examining the records of Āditya II and Pārthivendravarman, Krishṇa Shastri reached the following conclusions, "both these kings claim the epithet, "who took the head of Pāṇḍya or Virapāṇḍya" evidently the same Pāṇḍya king who was at war with Sundara Chōla Parāntaka II and the title Parasēśirvarman. Inscriptions of the former are very few and found only in the south, the latest regnal year being the 5th. Of the latter there are many in Tondaimanḍalam and the latest regnal year is the 13th. Pārthivendra Ādityavarman may have been a prince of the royal family and viceroy of Tondaimanḍalam. Āditya Karikāla appears to have been the actual successor. K.A.N Shastri suggested that Pārthivendrādhipativarman may be identified with Āditya II.

RĀJARĀJA I [985-1014 A.D.]:

The heavy gloom endured in the Chōla domain for a period of over three decades after the invasion of Krishṇa III was disappeared during the reign of Rājarāja I. Though under Parāntaka I the Chōla power spread as far north as Nellore, the Rāshtrakūṭa invasion did much to curtail it. The successors of Parāntaka I, recovered the territory around the present Chingleput region. It was left to Rājarāja to extend it up to Nellore as in the days of Parāntaka. Under Rājarāja the Chōla empire began to spread far and wide. The might of his vigorous policy of expansion and aggrandizement was felt by Ceylon.
parts of Bombay, Kaliṅga and Maldiv Islands etc. Under him the Chōḷa dynasty entered into an epoch of grandeur and glory.

In Tiruvallur region the inscriptions of Rājarāja are found from his 8th regnal year to 29th regnal year. The place Veṅgal was called Satyaśrayakulakālapuram after one of the titles of Rājarāja I is revealed by an inscription found at Veṅgal. 27

Another inscription from the same place commences with the title kāndalūrsālaik kalamarutta of Rājarāja dated in his 11th year. 28 The first military achievement of his reign was the campaign in the Kērala country [against Bhāskara Ravivarma Tiruvādi] of which the result was summed up in the phrase “Kāndalursaalaik kalamarutta” which precedes the name of the king in several of his inscriptions from the 4th year onwards.

Other inscriptions from Veṅgal, Punnapākkam, Tiruppāchūr, Rāmankoil, Kachchūr etc refer to the other titles and achievements of Rājarāja like “tirumagal pola” and the usurper of “Iraṭṭapādi the seven and a half lakh” etc. 29

The epigraph from Punnapākkam registers an assignment of land by Eļuvakkam. She is referred to as the wife of a general [Śrīdandaṇaṇyaka] whose name is not clear but who is referred to as the general of Śalukki Vimalāditya deva. Vimalāditya is obviously the eastern Chāḷukya prince who was the son-in-law of Rājarāja I. From the inscription found at Tiruvaiyāru in the Tānjavūr district it is known that this prince spent some days in the south in the realm of his father-in-law Rājarāja I. The present record at Punnapākkam is thus another evidence which may be taken to testify to the same fact, since the Tiruvallūr region where it has been discovered formed part of the dominions of the Chōḷas at the time of Rājarāja I. 30

RĀJENDRA I [1012 - 1044 A.D.]

Rājarāja the great was succeeded by his son Rājendra I who inherited extensive empire which included the whole of modern Madras and Āndhra, parts of Mysore and the island of Ceylon. Rājendra added many more territories to this mighty empire. In several inscriptions of his reign, Rājendra is described briefly as the “conqueror of Pūrvaṇeṣam, Gaṅgai and Kaḍāram.”

The most common form of Rājendra’s Tamil prasasti is that which begins with Tirumanni vallara. We come across this prasasti in the inscriptions of Tiruvallūr, Aranvōyal, Kāranai Nizāmāṭtu Vaḍamadurai, Velliyur and Chittambakkam. 32 The inscription at Aranvāyāl gives a long prasasti referring his military expeditions against Iditurainādu, Vanavāsi, Kolliṇakkai [whose ramparts were surrounded by sulli trees], Mannaṅkadakkam [whose fortifications were unapproachable] and
The inscription from Kāraṇai Nizāmpattu commences with a different praśasti, "Tirumadapuvilyennum".

The praśastis in the inscriptions of Tirvallur region give a vivid description of various military campaigns undertaken by Rājendra I. These inscriptions are dated from the 6th to 25th year of his reign.

RĀJĀDHĪRĀJA [1018-1054 A.D.]

He was the son and successor of Rājendra I. His inscription found at Kīlambākkam records in 35th year refers to his praśasti "Tingaleūtaru" records the earlier achievements of the king. His reign also witnessed the struggle with western Chālukyas which invariably ended in a victory for Cholas. In the battle of Koppam, in 1052 the Cholas defeated the western Chālukyas under Sōmeśvara I. But Rājādhīrāja fell fighting in the battle field.

RĀJĒNDRA II [1052-1064 A.D.]

Rājendra II, the son of Rājādhīrāja I crowned himself king on the very battle field of Koppam, where he had distinguished himself by his bravery and is said to have marched to Kolhapūr to erect a pillar of victory there. Later on Rājendra II inflicted yet another severe defeat on the Western Chālukyas at Kūḍal Saṅgamam with the object of preventing the interference with the eastern Chālukya affairs. The inscription at Vaṭamadurai records in length his achievements in a long praśasti which commences with "Tirumagal Maruviya Seṅgol" etc. Another inscription from Kūvam also refers to the 5th year [1057] of this king.

VĪRARĀJĒNDRA (1062/63-1070 A.D.)

The inscriptions recorded at Sattarai and Tiruppāchūr belong to this ruler. The inscription recorded at Sattarai commences with his praśasti. Since the praśasti portion is broken, the details are not available. Generally his inscriptions begin with the praśasti, the initial phrase of which is "tiruvalar tirai puyattu"; vīrame tunai āhavum is another phrase which begins his praśasti. Vīrarājēndra was the third son of Rājēndra I. He succeeded his brother Rājēndra II. In Vīrarājēndra I's time internal trouble arose between Sōmeśvara II and Vikramāditya VI. The sons of Sōmeśvara I Vikramāditya VI, along with his younger brother Jayasimha planned to invade the Chōla territory but at that time Jayakāśi, Kadamba king is said to have mediated and brought about an alliance between Vikramāditya, and the Chōla king. The latter also gave his daughter in marriage to Vikramāditya Sōmeśvara II. was consequently compelled to give up portions of his hereditary dominions.
ADHIRÁJÉNDRA (1067/68-1070 A.D.)

The king had a very short reign. He was the son of Viñarájendrā. The inscription from Tiruppáčhur which is recorded in his 3rd regnal year (1070) begins with the historical introduction “Tirumadandaiyum” etc., and states that ruled from Gangai Konḍa Chōḷapuram. He was succeeded by the eastern Chāluksya prince Rājendrā who had married Madhurāntakā daughter of Chōḷa king Rājendrā II. Adhirājendrā was the last Chōḷa in the direct line i.e. Vijayalaya line.

KULÓTTUNGA I (1070-1120 A.D.)

During his reign the Vėngi and Chōḷa powers were united in his hands. But Ceylon Gangavāḍi and Vėngi were slipped out of the Chōḷa hands. But Kullōttinga I exhibited his valour by the invasions of Kalinga territory in 1096 and 1110 A.D. His expeditions were immortalised by Jayangondār in his Kalingattupparaṇi. But these are only invasions and there was no permanent occupation of Kalinga territory by Chōḷa powers.

The records of this ruler are available in Tiruvallūr region from his 2nd regnal year. These inscriptions commence with the most common praśasti like tirumānnivilanā, pugalmaṇṇuvilāṇa and pugalśulindapunari. In the first four years the most common praśasti is the one commencing tirumānnivilanā or valara which records the achievements of Kullōttinga [here called Rajendrā] before he came to the Chōḷa throne. The inscriptions from Kāranainizāmpattī and Tiruvilambudūr and Pattaraiperumbudur contain this praśasti of Kullōttinga. Since the date of the inscription of Tiruvilambudūr is not clear, we may presume on the basis of praśasti this inscription can be datable around his 4th regnal year.

The longer praśasti, 'pugalśulindapunari' appears in the records of Tiruppáčhur, Narasiṅgapuram and Kuvam. This praśasti is most helpful to the historians on the account of the revisions undergone by it as the reign advances. The praśasti commencing with the phrase ‘pugalmaṇṇuvilāṇa’ appears in the epigraphs of Narasiṅgapuram Perambākkam Kuvam and Tiruppāčhur.

The inscription from Tiruppāčhur which recorded in his 45th year speaks of a village called Jayadharapura, after the king's surname Jayadharā. Kulōttunga's reign marks the commencement of a new era in the history of the Chōḷa empire. He ensured for his subjects a century of peace and good government. He avoided unnecessary wars and evinced a true regard for the well being of his subjects. His inscriptions in Tiruvallur region are found upto the 49th year of his reign i.e. 1119 A.D.
VIKRAMA CHŌLA [1118-1135 A.D.]
The son and successor of Kulōttunga I was Vikramachōla. His reign witnessed expeditions to recover Vengi and parts of Gaṅgavādi, which were lost during his father’s time. The inscriptions of this ruler appeared in this region from his 5th regnal year [1123 A.D.] His inscriptions starting with the prasasti, "puṃādu punara puṃādā vaḷaḷa" etc. are found at Tiruvilambudūr, Sittambākkam, and Seṇji. The inscription at Narasingsapuram commences with a large prasasti, “puṃalai midaindu". These prasasti record the battles waged by him against Kaṅgānagam and Teliriga Bhīma, during the early years of his viceroyalty in Vengi. His inscriptions in this region are found upto the 12th regnal i.e. 1130 A.D.

KULŌTTUNGA II [1133-1150 A.D.]
He was the son and successor of Vikrama Chōla. His rule is characterised by general peace. Only two inscriptions of this ruler are available in this region, one at Pattaraperumbudūr and the other one at Kūvam. One record commences with “puṃanru puḍumam" etc. and the other one with "puṃeṇuvalar tiruponmēṇru puna" etc. K. A. N. Sastri says that prasātis in his inscriptions take many forms, all of them purely rhetorical and in hyperbolical praise of the excellence of his rule, but not vouchsafing a single fact of the history of the reign.

RĀJARĀJA II [1146-1173 A.D.]
Kulōttunga II was followed by his son Rājarāja II, whose reign also, like that of his father was a peaceful one. Three inscriptions of this ruler are found at Tiruppāchūr recorded in his 11th and 13th regnal, i.e. 1157 and 1159 A.D. The closing years of Rājarāja II witnessed the succession dispute in the Pāṇḍya kingdom, in which the Chōlas and Sinhalese supported the opposite sides. The result of which proved dreadful to both Chōla and Sinhalese powers. The dispute continued beyond the reign of Rājarāja II and till about 1177 A.D.

RĀJĀDHIRĀJA [1163-1179 A.D.]
He succeeded Rāja II. As already mentioned the Pāṇḍyan civil war was continued during his reign also. He continued the Chōla policy of intervention in the Pāṇḍyan affairs, successfully drove back the Sinhalese and placed Virapāṇḍya on the throne as against Kulasēkhara who was found guilty of treachery towards the Chōla power. Under him, the extent of the Chōla empire continued to be same as under Rājarāja II. His inscriptions are found in many places in Tondaimāṇḍalam and even at Nellioe. His inscriptions in Tiruvellur region are found at Kūvam and Tiruppāchūr recorded in his 7th, 9th and 10th regnal years.
KULÖTTUNGA III [1178-1216 A.D.]

Kulöttunga III was last of the great Chōla kings. From his time the empire enters into an extremely troublesome period. Kulöttunga III entered into the internal affairs of the Pāṇḍyas and supported Vikrama Pāṇḍya and waged a war against the Sinhalese. But his last years witnessed a dreadful invasion by the Pāṇḍya king Mārarman Sundara Pāṇḍya who started a war against Kulöttunga III. The blow of Sundara Pāṇḍya in 1216-17 made the Chōla king to seek refuge in flight. Kulöttunga III was supported by Hoysala Vīranarasimha, who intervened and restored the Chōla king to his throne. Most of the inscriptions available in this region refers to the phrase "Maduraiyum Pāṇḍiyan mudittalayum kōndarulīna" which means who was pleased to take Madurai and the crowned head of the Pāṇḍya. Some inscriptions also added Īlam [Ceylon] to this title which refers to his interferences in Pāṇḍyan civil war and penetration to as far south as Ceylon.48

For a brief period, during his reign, the Telugu Chōdas who were his vassals, tried to declare their independent rule over Kāṇchi which necessitated Kulöttunga to undertake a campaign and recapture the city. The subordination of Madhurāntaka Pottappi Chōlan alias Tammusiddha is referred to in the record from Tiruppāzhūr dated in the 29th regnal year. The subordinate of Kulöttunga III Vīranarasimhadēva Yādavarāya also found mentioned in the inscription from the same place. The inscriptions of Kulöttunga in this region are dated from his 2nd year [1180 A D] to 36th year [1214 A D]. In his earlier inscriptions he was referred to as Vīrarajendrachōla.

RĀJARĀJA III [1216-1246 A.D.]

During this period the Chōlas began to loose their imperial authority giving place to the raise of men; subordinate chieftains like the Yādavarāyas, Telugu Chōdas etc. Rājarāja III succeeded Kulöttunga III. He was a very weak monarch and during his time the Chōla power was put to great troubles by its own vassals. He was imprisoned by Kāḍava chieftain Kōpperunīrūnga, when he abandoned his capital after his defeat in the hands of Mārarman Sundarapāṇḍya I [acc. 1216 A D]. Hoysala Vīranarasimha came to his rescue and restored him to the Chōla throne.

A Chōla subordinate Vīra Narasingadeva Yādavarāya figures in the inscription of Rājarāja III. in the 8th and 11th years of the King's reign. This Yādavarāya who was a subordinate of Kulöttunga III and Rājarāja III became independent in the late years. The inscriptions from Kūvam, Tiruppāzhūr, Vāṭatillai, Tiruvilambudūr, Perambākkam mention a Rājarāja, the identification of whom is difficult, due to the absence of Praśasti.51 He may be either Rājarāja II or Rājarāja III. Other inscriptions which are ascribed to Rājarāja III are ranged from his 8th regnal year to 30th regnal year, i.e. from 1224 A D to 1246 A D.
RAJENDRA III [1248-1279 A.D.]

Rajendra III made some attempts at reinstating the Chōla prestige. He got success in defeating Maravarman Sundarapāṇḍya II and Sambuvarāyas. But these successes were short lived. Jalāvarma Sundarapāṇḍya I defeated Hoysalas under Sōmeśvara and Chōlas under Rajendra III. The Hoysalas under Rāmanātha were compelled to withdraw from the Tamil Country. During Rajendra III, the Chōla rule in south India came to an end. His latest regnal year seems to be 33rd [1279 A.D.], which roughly marks the end of Chōla rule in south India.

A curious and only record of Rajendra in Tiruvallur region is found at Maṭavilāgam with an introduction combining the military achievements of Rājarāja I and his successors is dated in the 29th year of Rājakesīrivarma Rajendra Chōladēva. This Rajendra Chōladēva cannot be identified with the first king of that name since the encounter with the Āhavamalla at Koppam took place in the reign of his successors. Also the high regnal year of the present record precludes the identification of this king with either Rajendradeva II or Virarajendradeva. In the introduction the king claims the conquests Iruṅgolappāḍī, Vēngainādu, Gaṅgapāḍī, Nulambapāḍī Tadigaiappāḍī Kāśmirabhūmi three Kōṅgus, Kōsalamādu, Iḷamandalam, Imayamandalam Pāndimandalam Malainādu Kollam Kaliṅgam Irattappāḍī, Dharamandalam and Elaraikkakam. The defeat of Āhavamalla at Koppam is referred to as well as that of stubborn kings whose lands were taken away from them and presented to two of their subordinates. Several words are misspelt in this inscription and the style and the palaeography of the record point to the 14th century A.D. as its probable date. Moreover in the temple at Maṭavilāgam there are no Chōla records prior to Rājarāja III. This inscription may have been engraved sometime towards the end of the 14th century and the jumbled up historical introduction appears to have been improvised to give it an air of antiquity. After Rajendra III the Chōla kingdom became completely absorbed in the Pāṇḍyan empire.

HOYSĀLAS

RĀMANĀTHA [1254-95 A.D.]

Three inscriptions of Ramanātha are found in Velliatikkōṭai. They are dated in his 8th and 18th regnal years [i.e. 1262 and 1272 A.D.]

He was the son of Sōmeśvara. He was a close ally of Rajendra III. The introduction of the Hoysāla power during Rājarāja III secured for the Chōla kingdom a somewhat longer lease of life than the Pāṇḍyas would have allowed it. In fact after they began to take the side of the Chōlas against the Pāṇḍyas in the struggle between these two powers, the Hoysalas appear steadily to have improved their position and influence in the Chōla and the Pāṇḍya kingdoms. They evidently aspired to a sort of hegemony over the whole of south India and to some extent succeeded in realising their ambitions for a time, during the second quarter the 13th century. Depending for their very existence on the
backing of the Hoysālas, the Chōḷas were in no position to offer any resistance to their aggrandizement. The friendship between the Chōḷas and Hoysālas was continued up to and even beyond the death of Somēśvara.

Kulasēkhara pressed the war against Hoysāla Ramanātha, who had allied himself closely with Chōḷa Rājendra III and defeated both in 1279. Kulasēkhara became unquestioned master of both of Chōḷa country and of those Tamil districts of the Hoysāla empire over which Rāmanatha had ruled.

YĀDAVARĀYAS
VĪRANARASIMHA YĀDAVARĀYA

The Yādavarāyas claim their descent from the mythological Yādavas of the lunar race through the Chālukeyas. They were the feudatory chiefs of the Chōḷa and they became very influential in Tondaimandalam in the 13th Century. They were the royal secretaries and the administrative officers under the Chōḷas. But the weakness of the Chōḷa central authority in the 13th century spurned them to aim at asserting their independence. Thus we find inscriptions issued in their own regnal years in places like Kālahasti, Tiruppāchūr, Seṅjī, Guḍimallam Tiruvannāmalai Venkatagiri Tiruvarniyūr and Kōyambūdu.

The most celebrated of the Yādavarāya rulers was Vīra Narasimha Yādavarāya whose tenure of chiefship occupied a considerably long period. He served the Chōḷa kings Kulottuṅga III and Rājarāja III and his jurisdiction covered the districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, South Arcot, and Chingleput, i.e. the whole of Tondaimandalam. This ruler figures in three inscriptions of Rājarāja III in the 8th and 11th regnal years from Tiruppāchūr and Seṅjī. Vīra Narasimha Dēvarāya was a subordinate to the Chōḷas in the 36th year of Kulottuṅga III and the 15th year of Rājarāja III became independent and issued orders in his own name in the 34th and 40th years of his own reign.

TELUGU CHŌDAS

The Telugu Chōdas of Nellore were feudatories who acknowledged the overlordship of Chōḷa monarchs. Betta was a feudatory of Vikramachōḷa. Many inscriptions at Tondaimandalam including those at Tiruppāchūr bear testimony to their position of vassalage of Kulottuṅga III. During the closing years of the reign of Kulottuṅga III the Telugu Chōdás under Nallasiddha rose in revolt against the central authority and even brought Kāṅchi under their sway for a short time. This necessitated Kulottuṅga III to take an expedition against them and to recover Kāṅchi from them. After this the Telugu Chōdás were loyal to the Chōḷas. But during the period of Rājarāja III and Rājendra III, they strengthened their position and asserted their independence. It was when the Telugu Chōdás were in charge of Kāṅchi in nominal subjugation to Kākatiya Ganapathi, came the Pāṇḍyan invasion of Tondimandalam. Jagāvarma Sundarapāṇḍya I (acc. 1251) advanced against Kāṅchi. His inscription.
claims that he had killed the Telugu Chōda king Gaṇḍagōpāla and put the latter’s brother in charge of Kāṇchi. 58

TAMMUSIDDHA

The Tiruppāchūr inscription gives the genealogy of the king, Tammusiddha who was a feudatory of the Chōla king Kuloṭṭuṅga III whose accession to the throne, as calculated by professor Kielhorn took place in 1178 A.D. 59

Four Sanskrit inscriptions of this ruler from Tīruvāḷangādu, Tiruppāchūr, Tīruvōṟiyūṟ and Kāṇchi throws light on the genealogy of the Telugu Chōla rulers. These inscriptions talk about the ancestors of Tammasiddha.

In verse no 15 of Tiruppāchūr inscription we are told in a more explicit way, that after the death of Manmasiddha, the government passed without any disturbances into the hands of Tammusiddha Betta II, being of a religious turn of mind and therefore renouncing his claims to the throne in favour of his younger brother

In the S’ 1129 (1207 - 08) Tammusiddha allotted to the lord of Pāḍipura the revenues due to the king in the villages belonging to the temple, and that in the same year he presented the village of Kāvaṉṭur to the God Pāḍipura, of course, is nothing but the Sanskrit name of Tiruppāchūr. The village, the same year he presented the village of Kāvaṉṭur must be identified with Kāvaṉṭur near Tiruppāchūr

Yet another inscription from Tiruppāchūr which belongs to Kuloṭṭuṅga III, refers to Madhurstakka Pottappi Chōla alias Tammusiddha. Tammasiddha was a feudatory of the Chōla king Kuloṭṭuṅga III. The present record dated in the 29th year (1207 A.D.) of Kuloṭṭuṅga III makes Madhurstakka Pottappi Chōla alias Tammusiddharasar, his contemporary and subordinate. The transaction mentioned in this record may be related to the inscriptions of Tammasiddha, mention of which is already made. The record of Kuloṭṭuṅga III seems to state that the merchant communities of Vellur, Nārāyanapuram, Ārkādu, Mayilappūṟ, Tīruvōṟiyūṟ, Pūndamalli, Nedumbrai, Damanagachcheri, Penungalur, and Tirunir acquired the village Kāvaṉṭur in tikkattukottam and gave it as a tax free devadāna in favour of the temple of Tiruppāṣur, for the construction of the half danmadāvalavan tirumadil in it and left the village in charge of Madhurstakka Pottappi Chōla alias Tammasiddharaiyar.
MADHURANTAKA POTAPPI CHOLA

In the inscription from Vałatilai, we find the mention of Madhurantaka Pottappi Chola. This inscription ended abruptly. We may infer that it may belong to the descendants of Madhurantaka Pottappi Chola. 61

The genealogy of the Telugu Cholas of Nellore subsequent to Tammusiddha is somewhat confusing. The names of the kings which are more or less similar cause the confusion.

The chronology followed by Robert Sewell is that after Tammusiddha, came Tikka I alias Āluṅtikka Kāḷattī I, who ruled roughly from A.D. 1223 to 1250 A.D. After him came Nallasiddha II (who ruled between 1250 and 1291 A.D.), Tikka II or Tirukkāḷattī (about A.D. 1278 - 1280) and Manma Siddha III alias Vīra Gaṇḍagōpāla (about A.D. 1292 to 1316). 62

There is a considerable difference of opinion among scholars as to whom Jaṭāvarman Sundara Pāṇḍya claims to have killed. While some scholars hold that it was Vīragaṇḍagōpāla who was killed by the Pāṇḍya ruler, others hold that it was Vijayagaṇḍagōpāla. 63

Some scholars called these rulers as Telugu Pallavas since they endow with the prasasti of the Pallavas.

Vīragaṇḍagōpāla was the earliest known member of the Telugu Pallava family, who ruled this region. He ruled the territories between Nellore and Kāṇchi. He probably took advantage of the civil war between Rājarāja III and Rāyendra III in 1243 A.D. and asserted independence. He was defeated by Sundara Pāṇḍya.

Vijayagaṇḍagōpāla, the brother and successor of Vīragaṇḍagōpāla had a long reign of 35 years. From the Nirvachanottara Ramayana of Tikkana, we can infer the conflict of Vijayagaṇḍagōpāla with Telugu Cholas of Nellore, the expansion of his power southwards up to Kāṇchi, the civil war between Sundarapāṇḍya and Vīrapāṇḍya and the weakness of Rājarāja III were some of the reasons that helped Vijayagaṇḍagōpāla in establishing his power in this part of the region.

Some scholars are inclined to regard the two Gandagōpālas-Vijaya and Vīra as identical. But they are different as evidenced by their records at Tripurāntakam. 64 A careful analysis of the internal evidence of the records of Vīragaṇḍagōpāla reveals that there are two Vīragaṇḍagōpālas; one before and the other after Vijayagaṇḍagōpāla. The second one may be the son of Vijayagaṇḍagōpāla who ruled between 1250 - 1285. 65

36
Who ever it might be, inscriptions of both Vijayagōpāla and Viragandagōpāla have been found in this region. While only one inscription of Viragandagōpāla is available from Kūvam66 dated in his 5th regal year, about nine inscriptions of Vijayagandagōpāla are available from Tiruppāchūr, Suruttapalli, Kūvam, Tirūr, Kannigaiper and Irulaṇjēri, starting from this 3rd regnal year (1253 A D ) to 28th regnal year (1278 - 79 A D )67

PĀNDYAS

JAṬĀVARMAN SUNDARA PĀNDYA (1250 - 1270 A.D.)

Jaṭāvarman Sundara Pāndya I (1251 - 1270 A D ) inflicted a crushing defeat on Rājendras III and his allies. The Chōlas were reduced to an obscure state and the Hoysālas were punished for their past aggressiveness. Kānchipuram became secondary capital of the Pāndya empire. Under this celebrated ruler, the Pāndyan empire reached its widest extent and attained the height of its glory and splendour. Practically the whole of south India upto Nellore and Cuddapah was brought for a time under Pāndya supremacy and all the rival dynasties, old and new, were beaten in the field or laid under tribute. He performed his Viṇābhishēka at Nellore 68

The association of Pāndyas with Tiruvallūr region can be attested by the provenance of their inscriptions in this region. Thus the inscriptions of Jaṭāvarma Sundara Pāndya I, Jaṭāvarma Sundara Pāndya II, Māravarm Parākrama Pāndya andKonērimaikkōndān (either Jaṭāvarman Kulasēkhara or Māravarm Kulasēkhara I or Māravarm Kulasēkhara II) have been found at Tiruvūr, Tiruvilambudūr, Vellattukōttai, Madavilāgam, Sattarai, Seṅgi and Kūvam 69

Jaṭāvarma Sundara Pāndya's inscriptions are available in this region from his 11th year to 18th year i e from 1262 to 1269 A D. The inscription found at Sattarai belonged to Jaṭāvarma Sundara Pāndya which is dated in his 26th regnal year. So it is difficult to decide to whom this inscription is ascribed to. So far the latest year ascribed to Jaṭāvarma Sundara Pāndya is 1270 or 1271 A D 70. He might have reigned a little longer (According to N Sethuraman his rule extended upto 1274 A D) 71

Three inscriptions of this region mentioned Konērimaikkōndān found at Kūvam, Tiruvilambudūr and Vellattukōttai. They are dated in 9th, 12th and 27th years of the ruler 72

The Kūvam inscription refers to the Kulasēkhara Sandhi. So this inscription may belong to Jaṭāvarman Kulasēkhara or Māravarm Kulasēkhara I or Māravarm Kulasēkhara II 73
Another inscription from Vellattikkottai refers to a Kulasekhara, who may be one among the rulers mentioned above\textsuperscript{74} Another inscription from the same place refers to a Bharata pāṇḍya, identification of whom is difficult\textsuperscript{75}

SAMBUVARĀYAS

The Sambuvarāyas who were petty chiefs under the Chōlas rose to power taking the opportunity of the weakening empire and a number of chiefs of this family ruling in the areas of north Arcot South Arcot and Chingleput districts. Later they were the subordinates of new conqueror Jataavarman Sundara Pāṇḍya. Subsequently, when the Pāṇḍyan, the Telugu chōda and the Hoysāla powers were on the decline in Tondaimandalam, the Sambuvarāya chiefs were in charge of the area till they were over run by the Vijayanagara power. The record from Kūvam\textsuperscript{76} mentions a ruler called Rājanārayaṇa Tirumaliniātha Sambuvarāya, who may be identified with sakalalōka chakravarti Rājanārayaṇa Sambuvaraya who is taken to have reigned between A D 1337 and 1360, whose inscriptions are found at Pulal, Kunnattūr, and Tiruvorīryūr\textsuperscript{77}

VIJAYANAGAR RULERS

The Muslim invasion brought about a total change in the political scene in south India. The whole of peninsula practically came under the Muslim rule. The past glory which was obliterated as a result of Muslim invasion was reestablished in good measure by the Vijayanagar empire which came into existence in 1336 A D which extended its sway over the whole of south India. Madhurā Vijayam narrates that Kampaṇa(I), the son of Bukka(I) and the governor of the southern region proceeded against Kāṇchi defeated the Sambuvarāyas at Rājagambhiṭra in 1361 and occupied Kāṇchi, from whence we find his inscriptions in Tondaimandalam. His inscription from Tiruppāṭchūr is dated 1372 A D. He died in 1374 A D\textsuperscript{78}

HARIHARA II (1377 - 1404 A.D.)

After Bukka I came his son Harihara II (1377-1404) whose inscription is found at Madavilāgam (1381 A D)\textsuperscript{79}

BUKKA II (1405 - 1406 A.D.)

After Harihara II's death in 1404, there was a dispute between his sons for the succession. Virūpāksha I, first succeeded the throne around 1404-1405. But his rule was cut short by his brother Bukka II, who ruled between 1405-1406. His inscriptions are found at Kūvam and Venmanampudūr. An official (pillayār) named Obaladēva Mahārāja was referred to in the inscriptions at Kūvam.
After Bukka II his brother Dēvarāyā I became the king and ruled till 1422 A.D. While we get the inscriptions of Bukka II, the inscriptions of Virūpāksha and Dēvarāyā I are absent which are found in other places of Chingleput region. An inscription from Tiruppāchūr referred to a Dēvarāyā, but his date is not clear.  

DĒVARĀYĀ II (1422 - 1466 A.D.)

The next Vijayanagar ruler was Dēvarāyā II (1422 - 1466). Two of his inscriptions are found at Tiruppāchūr (1427 and 1447 A.D) and the other from Madávilāgam dated 1437 A.D. Razak and Nuniz, two contemporary writers, testify to the fact that Dēvarāyā was supreme over the whole of south India and that his dominion even spread to Quilon and Ceylon in the south. But his relationship with Orissa and Bahmani kingdom continued to be hostile.

The record from Tiruppāchūr dated 1440 A.D. referred to Dēvarāyā as Gajavēttaile Dēvarāyā (Hunter of Elephants). This title can be explained in two ways as a metaphor referring to his victories over enemy kings who were strong as elephants and more literally as indicating the monarch’s addition to the sport of hunting elephants. This title may be attributed either to Devaraya II or his younger brother Pratapadēvarāyā whose inscription is found at Paṭṭārapurumbudur which is dated in 1430 A.D. This inscription refers to Margarasa, the agent of Sāluva Timmayadēva mahārāyā Pratāparāya was probably put in charge of this region to look after Dēvarāyā’s interests.

MALLIKĀRJUNA (1447 -1465 A.D.)

Dēvarāyā II was succeeded by Vijayarāyā II (A.D. 1446-47) and shortly after, by his son, Mallikārjuna (1447-65). His inscription dated 1458 A.D. is found at Poonḍi. He was weak and incompetent. After his accession the empire started declining and there began a period of dissension and confusion. He had a tough time because of threats from Velamas, Ala-ud-din II and Kapileśvara Gajapati. The sovereignty of Vijayanagar was upheld by its nobles like Sāluva Narasimha and Sāluva Gopa Timma alias Tirumaladēva Mahārāyā, who were ruling in about complete independence of the emperor Mallikārjuna. Mallikārjuna died in 1465.

VIRŪPĀKSHA II (1465- 1485 A.D.)

Mallikārjuna’s son Rajasekhara was an infant when Virūpāksha II (1465-1485), cousin of Mallikārjuna occupied the Vijayanagara throne, whose inscription is found at Rāmānjerī, dated 1468 A.D.

As the reign of Mallikārjuna, his reign was also marked with chaos and confusion. It was at this critical time that the Vijayanagar empire was saved by Sāluva Narasimha, the powerful Vijayanagar viceroy, who along with his generals, fought against Gajapatis of Orissa and Bahmani Sultan.
Muhammad III Virūpāksha ruled till 1485 A.D. His sons Rājasēkhara (1466) and Praudharāya (1485) did not survive for a long time.

Sāluva Dynasty

Sāluva Narasimha, the powerful subordinate of Vijayanagara rulers made himself the emperor by about 1486 A.D. His inscription is found at Pērāmbākkam (see appendix). The inscriptions of his successor Immadi Tammarāya or Tammadedeva Mahārāya also called Immadi Narasimha are found at Rāmaṇjeri, Kōvilkuppam and Tiruvūr, dated from 1501 A.D to 1505 A.D. He was killed by Narasanaṇyaka, the general of his father. In the inscription we come across the name of mahāmandalēśvaras-Sāluva Tippayadeva, Malayadeva and vāsai Mallappanāyaka.

Tuluva Dynasty

Krishna Devarāya (1509-1529 A.D.)

The next Vijayanagar ruler, who is represented in the inscriptions of Tirvallur region is Krishnadēvarāya (1509-1529). Under him the empire spread far and wide. During his reign the Vijayanagar empire included practically the whole of south India. His inscriptions mention the names of Immadi Tirumala Nāyaka and his agent Sadaśiva Nāyaka. Tirumalānāyaka himself issued inscriptions at Tiruvūr. The copper plate grant of Krishnadēvarāya (1514 A.D) found at Mappedu gives the genealogy of his ancestors and his victories at various places of south India.

Achyuta Devarāya (1530-1542 A.D.)

After Krishnadēvarāya came Achyuta Dēvarāya (1530-1542) whose inscriptions are found at Pērāmbākkam, Narasingapuram, Tirppāchar and Ulundai. The inscription at Narasingapuram mentions Seliappa Nāyaka, who was a powerful and loyal chief of Krishnadēvarāya and who was in charge of the Tamil provinces of the Vijayanagar empire. He continued to serve under Achyutadēvarāya. But soon he turned a rebel to overthrow the central authority. He was defeated by the Achyuta's forces.

Sadaśivarāya (1542-1576 A.D.)

Achyutarāya was succeeded by his son Venkata I in 1541 A.D. but he was murdered by Sālakarāju Tirumala, whose rule was cut short by Sadaśivarāya who ruled between 1542 and 1576. His minister Rāmarāja ruled as the defacto ruler. The Narasingapuram inscription refers to Chinna Timmayadeva Deva Mahārāja, son of Rāmarāja Timmayya, and an official called Sankaranāyaka Linganāyaka.

It appears that the northern districts of extreme peninsular India, were left entirely to the care of Chinna Timmayadeva Mahārāja who was made a governor of these districts. He was the cousin brother of Rāmarāja, who sent him to south to obstruct the activities of Portuguese governor at Goa.
and the Portuguese missionaries and also to punish Tiruvadi ruler who refused to pay the tribute money. After getting success, Chinna Timmayya was made the governor of these southern districts.

**SRĪRĀNGA I (1572-1585 A.D.)**

The next ruler whose inscriptions found in this region is Srīraṅga I. After the battle of Talikōṭa in 1565 Rāmarāya was taken prisoner and put to death. Rāmarāya's brother Tirumala put Sadāsiva to death shifted his capital to Penugonda and crowned himself as the emperor in 1570 A.D. He divided the empire into three viceroyalties as a step to counteract the expansionist activity of the Muhammadans on the northern frontiers. He appointed each of his sons as the viceroy of a province for general control. Thus Srīraṅga, the eldest son was put in charge of the Telugu country with his capital at Penugonda. Rāmarāya II the next son was in charge of the Kannāḍa country with his capital at Srīraṅgapattana and the youngest son Venkaṭapatī was given the control over the Tamil country with the capital at Chandragiriṇīraḥya.

After the death of Tirumala, his eldest son Srīraṅga I succeeded him in 1572. His inscription at Pōlvākkam refers to mahamandalesvara Rāmarāju Venkatayyadēva Mahāraju. During Srīraṅga's time, Sultans of Bijapūr and Golconda occupied some of the regions. In the midst of this confusion Srīraṅga died in 1585 A.D.

**VENKATA II (1586-1614 A.D.)**

Srīraṅga was succeeded by his younger brother Venkaṭa II. His association with Tiruvallūr region is evidenced by the existence of inscriptions at Kūvam Tiruvūr Narasingapuram Mummadikumppam Toḍukāḍu, Rāmānēri, Tiruvallūr and Vengal.

Two of his inscriptions mention the names of his officials. They are Śivarāma Nāranappa Nāyaka, the agent of the king, Gobbuṭi ᪩baraṇa, vāsal Mallappa and dalavāy Timmarāsaya etc.

Gobbuṭi Obaraṇa deva Mahāraja himself issued an inscription at Kūvam. He was evidently the father-in-law of Venkaṭa II, who wielded influence by virtue of his relationship with Venkaṭa II. Venkaṭa died in 1614 A.D. who was succeeded by Srīraṅga who was killed by a rebel group. His son Rāmadēva ruled till his death in 1630.

**RĀMADĒVARĀYA (1615-1630 A.D.)**

Rāmadesvarāya succeeded Venkaṭa II, when he died in 1614, and after his father Srīraṅga was put to death by the rebel group. But the loyalists headed by Yāchama crowned him. He ruled till 1630 A.D. His inscriptions are found at Tiruvallūr in this region.
VENKATAPATIDEVARĀYA (1630-1642 A.D.)
Rāmadēva was succeeded by Veṅkata III. He is represented by four inscriptions in Tiruvallur. Venkata III seems to have been only the nominal emperor. The region round Chandragiri fell to the share of his nephew Śrīraṅga, whose territory bordered on that of the Golconda, and hence had to bear the brunt of the Golconda attacks from the north-west. He made Vellore as his capital. Venkata was assisted by two influential officers Dāmarla Veṅkata and Dāmarla Ayyappa. They were the two sons of Chenna, the famous general of Venkata II.

ŚRĪRĀNGA III (1642-1674 A.D.)
Veṅkata died in 1642 and Śrīraṅga III was raised to the imperial throne despite of opposition from many chiefs including Dāmarla brothers. He is represented in an inscription from Tiruvallur.

In 1645, he was defeated by his own feudatories. By 1649 Ginge and Tanjore had accepted Muslim suzerainty. Śrīraṅga left for Mysore where he lived in obscurity till 1672 when he and his empire perished.

Raghunātha Nāyaka of Tanjore and Tupāki Krishnappa Nāyaka of Ginge are referred to in the inscription of Tiruvallur and Pēmbākkam. In an inscription from Kuvam Qutub shah of Golconda was referred to, which is dated 1670. During his time the supremacy of the Golconda power was established in the Tondaimandalam. After them this area was under the control of Mughals who invaded these areas in 1687 A.D. When Carnatic war broke out between the French and the English, the Chingleput district passed into the hands of the Nawab who gave it as war compensation to English. By the second Mysore war (1750 A.D.) this region came under the direct control of the East India Company.
Table No.4

THE RULERS OF THE TIRUVALLŪR REGION AS ATTESTED BY THE EPIGAPHS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF THE RULERS</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PALLAVAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simhavarman or Narasimhavarman</td>
<td>7th Century or 630 - 638 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paramēśvara varman I</td>
<td>669 - 690 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nripatungavikrama Varman</td>
<td>859 or 869 - 900 A.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aparājita Varman</td>
<td>885 - 903 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampavarman</td>
<td>869 - 912 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHÓLAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Āditya I</td>
<td>871 - 907 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parantaka</td>
<td>907 - 955 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Āditya II</td>
<td>956 - 969 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rājarāja I</td>
<td>985 - 1016 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rājēndra I</td>
<td>1012 - 1044 A.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rājādhirāja I</td>
<td>1018 - 1054 A.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rājēndra II</td>
<td>1052 - 1064 A.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vīrarajēndra</td>
<td>1063 - 1069 A.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhirajēndra</td>
<td>1067/68 - 1070 A.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulōttunga I</td>
<td>1070 - 1120 A.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vikramachola</td>
<td>1118 - 1135 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulaṭtuṅga II</td>
<td>1133 - 1150 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raṅgarāja II</td>
<td>1146 - 1173 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raṅḍhirāja II</td>
<td>1163/66 - 1179/82 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulottuṅga III</td>
<td>1178 - 1217/18 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raajaranā Jā III</td>
<td>1216 - 1246 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raṇjendra III</td>
<td>1246 - 1279 A D</td>
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</table>

**RASHTRAKUTAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krishṇa</td>
<td>939 - 967 A D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TELUGU CHODAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tammusiddhi</td>
<td>C 1207 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vijayaganḍa gōpāla</td>
<td>1250 - 1291 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viraganḍa gōpāla</td>
<td>1290 - 1316 A D</td>
</tr>
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**PANDYAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kōnere Maikoṇḍan</td>
<td>C 1204 - 05 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jatāvarma Sundara Pāṇḍya</td>
<td>1251 - 1270-74 A D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Māravarman Paṇākrama pāṇḍya</td>
<td>1332 - 1352 A D</td>
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**SAMBUVARAYAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raṇjanārāyaṇa Tirumallinātha</td>
<td>1337 - 1360 A D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VIJAYANAGAR RULERS

Śaṅgama Dynasty

Kampaṇa 1368 - 1372 A D

Hari hara II 1377 - 1404 A D

Bukka rāya II 1405 - 1411 A D

Dēvarāya Mahārāya 1422 - 1446 A D

Pratīpadēvarāya C 1430 A D

Mallikārjunadēva 1447 - 1465 A D

Virūpāksha II 1465 - 1485 A D

SĀLUVA DYNASTY

Sāluva Narasimha 1486 - 1491 A D

Immaḍi Tammarāya C 1501 - 1505 A D

TULUVA DYNASTY

Krishṇadēvarāya 1509 - 1529 A D

Achyutadēvarāya 1530 - 1542 A D

Sadāśivarāya 1542 - 1576 A D

ĀRAVIDU DYNASTY

Śrīraṅgaḍēvarāya I 1572 - 1585 A D

Venkaṭadēvarāya II 1586 - 1614 A D

Rāmadēvarāya 1615 - 1630 A D

Venkaṭadēvarāya III 1630 - 1642 A D

Śrīraṅgaḍēvarāya III 1642 - 1674 A D
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10. ARE 8 of 1944-45, ARE 13 of 1944-45
12. SII Vol III, p 205, Verse 29, p 395, Verse 45
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14. ARE 84 of 1947-48
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19. ARE 313 of 1953-54
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23. ARE 60 of 1947-48
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27. ARE 267 of 1952-53
28. ARE 265 of 1952-53
30. ARE 25 I of 1952-53
31. ARE 1952 - 53, part II, p15
33. ARE 234 of 1952-53
34. ARE 261 of 1952-53
35. ARE 328 of 1909
37. ARE 113 of 1929-30
38. ARE 133 of 1929-30
40. ARE 118 of 1940-41
41. ARE 129, 123, 132 of 1929-30, 330 of 1909, 244, 247, 248, 249 of 1910
42. ARE 325, 330, 338 of 1909, 112, 146, 148, 129, 123, 132, 133 of 1929-30,
   245, 244, 248, 247, 241 of 1910, 69 of 1947-48
43. ARE 129 of 1929-30
44. ARE 122, 123, 131 of 1940-41, 166, 167, 159 of 1929-30, 248 of 1910.
45. ARE 248 of 1952-53, 324 of 1909
47. ARE 343 of 1909, 134, 150 of 1929-30
48. ARE 133 of 1940-41
49. ARE 120 of 1929-30
50. ARE 135, 165 of 1929-30
51. ARE 346, 323 of 1909; 137, 135, 130 of 1929-30, 115, 124, 125, 126, 128 of 1940-41
52. 290 of 1926-27
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57. ARE 407 of 1896
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60. ARE 149 of 1929-30
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    213 of 1949-50.
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    132 of 1940-41, 82 of 1947-48,
    487, 488 of 1926-27, 337 of 1909, 129 of 1940-41
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80. ARE 342 of 1909, 24 of 1944-45
81. ARE 154 of 1929-30.
82. ARE 152, 153 of 1929-30, 489 of 1926-27
83. ARE 153 of 1929-30
84. ARE 249 of 1952-53
85. ARE 250 of 1952-53
86. ARE 257 of 1952-53
89. ARE 341, 342 of 1939-40.


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92. ARE 78 of 1947-48


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