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Social Conditions under Later Pandyan

Brahmins The Pandyan rulers granted various privileges and concessions to the Brahmins. They occupied an important place in a Society. They settled in separate places. They were known as Chaturvedimangalam. The Velitkudi Copper plates mentioned the new colonies which were assigned to the Brahmins. Like the Kings, the Queens also granted lands to the Brahmins. Thus the Brahmins occupied an important position during reign of the Pandyan.

Vellalas Farmers were vellalas. The inscriptions mentioned them as sons of the Soil. Agriculture was their main occupation. Besides cultivation, they held higher positions in the court as well as in the Army.

Nagarathar The merchant Community of this period was called Nagarathar or Vysayas. Their main profession was trade. They were involved in import and export. They had trade contacts in all directions. They lived in groups in separate Streets.

Cowherds of this period ^{did} not hold any high position in the State. They were religious and cultured. They worshipped Lord Krishna and Balarama. This Community women performed fasting during the month of Margali.

Right hand and Left hand divisions.

The Society was divided into two fold divisions called Valantkai and Idantkai. The divisions had its antiquity from the days of Varahacholan. Each division consisted of 98 subcastes. They were having their own flags, Emblems etc.

Economic Condition (2) under Later Pandya

Irrigation: Vaigai and Tambaraparani were the major rivers and vellam, Kundam were minor rivers. These river plains were fertile for irrigation. Several canals were dug in Vaigai river. Veera Pandiya ^{grand} canal and Sri Vallabha ^{grand} Canal were dug in those days.

Traders were some trade guilds in Pandianadu. They had promoted exports of the country. They went to Java, South East Asian countries like Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Sri Lanka and other countries exchanging their goods.

Port: Koyal Port was the famous harbour of Pandianadu. Foreigners in large number came to the harbour and sold their goods.

Foreign Trade: Foreigners came and settled in Pandianadu and continued their business affairs. The Arabs and South Ceylonese were important. Arabs sailed to India. - They imported Arab breed horses and sold to the emperor. They brought in large quantity of Spices and pearls. Tondi and Koyalpatnam were their ports. Pandiya Nadu had trade contact with South-East Asia and Far East. Pandia king Kulasekaran had political relation with the Chinese Emperor Chubilai Khan.

Other occupations: In the Coastal areas of Pandianadu fishing, pearl fishing, Conch Shells cutting, Salt manufacturing were the common activities of the peoples of Pandiya Nadu. Pearl fishing was famous in the Southern Coastal region of Pandianadu. Conch Shell cutting and made of bangles, weavers, Gold Smiths, Black Smiths, carpenter, Potter, Sculptor are lived in the Pandiya Country and they contributed their skills and talents.

Art and Architecture of the Pandyan Empire.

The Architecture of Pandya Period may broadly be divided into two divisions. (A) Cave Temples and Structural Temples.

Cave Temples. Melaiyedik Kuruchi in Tirunelveli; Naresinha Temple at Acaimalar; Subramanya Temple at Thidupozan Kundan; Sathya giriswara Temple at Thidumaya Kelugumalai; Jain temple at Sittanavasal.

Structural Temples of the Pandyas are simple containing Sanctum and Sanctorium. Archa mandapa mutaa mandapa.

- 1. Siva temple at Ennetri;
- 2. Thidumalenathar
Erichacha Undeizer Temple } Anthe Samudra.
- 3. Alagar Koil at medusei;
- 4. Sowmiaswara temple at Thidukottiyur.
- 5. Kudal Alagar Koil at medusei
- 6. Alagar koil at Sivala peri
- 7. Nambi koil at Thidukungudi
- 8. Bhuvanadeswari temple at Vidanellur.
- 9. Raja Gopaleswary temple at manakkudi
- 10. Eastern Gopuram of Chidambaram temple
- 11. Vellaiyappan Temple.
- 12. Viswanath temple at Tenkes;
- 13. Minakshi temple at medusei
- 14. Thidumalenathar Swamy temple.
- 15. Bhuvanatheswary temple at kovilpetti

Sculpture

The ^{Cave} temple at Kelugumalai, The Pillayarpetti Cave temple, A temple at Thidumaiyeri Vettuvankoil. Here number of Sculptures especially the figures of Dakshinamurti, Vishnu, Shanda, Siva, Ganasa, Surya, Durga, Nandi found in the Cave temples and Structural Temples of Later Pandyas

Literature Development during Later Pandites

Sanskrit Studies

Copper plates of Pandites

reveal that Sanskrit was also highly patronised by Pandites. Chhatiga, Vidyaasthan, Selai were the names of the Educational Institutions of the Pandites. The teachers were given lands called Sola Brahman. Mandalur Selai was a college where thousands of Brahmins stayed and got education.

Brahmins knew Mimamsa, Vyakarna, and ~~Prachina~~ Mutts also played an important role in the promotion of Education. Mutts were mostly attached to the temples - also taught Vedas, Sastras, and Puranas.

Ex. Thirugnana Sambandar mutt, Madurai. Nalleperumal mutt at Kozungule. Provisions made for the recitation of Devarnam and Thirumurai. Maravarman Sundarapandita granted a village for feeding. Para desikho reciting the Thirumurai in the ^{temple} ~~temple~~ ^{never} ~~never~~ ^{words} ~~words~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{mergali} ~~mergali~~.

Manikkavasagar was born in Thiruvadavur he was the minister of Varaguna Pandita 8th Thirumurai or (Saiva Canonical Collection) consists of Thiruvasakam and Thiruvaiyer were sung by him.

Nammalvar was the founder of Sri vaishnava Theology - is endearingly called our Alvar. - he wrote four works Thiruvaittam, Thiruvaymoli, and Periya Thiruvantathi. Gosthodox expounder says that these four works correspond to the four Vedas. The Nammalvar experiences of his presence of God, or intimacy of his presence in everything.

The Muslim Conquest ⑤

The civil war in the Pandya Kingdom paved the way for the interference of muslims in Tamil politics during the reign of marattah ruler Pandya I. And the son namely Sundara Pandya and Udaya Pandya - wife Pandya Challenged his brother. Sundara Pandya sought the help of Malabar, the general of Ala-ud-din Khilji. He invaded Madurai in 1311 and paved way for the downfall of Secord Pandya Empire. The civil war among the Pandya Princes gave an excellent opportunity to Malabar to enter Pandya country for looting the temple at Chidambaram, Srirangam, Madurai, and others. This was the first stage of muslim invasion of Tamilnad. Malabar had no intention to establish empire, but aimed at looting the Hindu temples. After the death of Malabar, Thughlak invaded Madurai. Both were established muslim rule in Madurai. After the fall of Khilji dynasty, Muhammad bin Thughlak invaded Pandya country and dislodged the Srirangam temple for the Secord time and Madurai became the Southern most Province of the Delhi Sultanate and he appointed Jalal-ud-din Hasan Shah, as the Governor of Madurai. After ~~that~~ he founded the Sultanate of Madurai in 1335 A.D. After the invasion of Kumara Kampa Secord in 1371 A.D. the Madurai Sultanate came to an end, and Madurai under Vijayanagar Empire till 16th century. People of Tamilnad had no cultural contact with North India. They disliked the culture of muslims because they were Dervidians. But in due course the different type of civilizations, came in close contact with each other. This led to the emergence of Tamil muslim community in due course.

Impact of muslim rule

As a result of the mingling of the Hindu - muslim civilisation the muslims adopted Hindu customs of daily life like the monarchical culture. became the a fashion in the Hindu society muslims spoiled the purity which existed in the Hindu society. The losing of Chastity at the hands of muslims so affected the Hindu society - The muslims considered the Hindus as slaves. The position of ^{brambles} ~~brambles~~ gradually diminished. They forcefully converted Hindus into Islam - demolished the Hindu temples and number of mosques were increased so the deriving Hinduism, a religious movement was started against the Islamic Purda system. unknown to the Hindus was introduced elaborately in to the Hindu society. The concubines enjoyed by the Hindus were curtailed. Hindu gods were humiliated. They often plundered and looted their wealth of Hindus. The religious restrictions imposed by the muslims wounded the feelings of the Hindus. The over taxation of Hindus wounded the minds. 50% of land revenue was collected as tax. Moreover the new taxes such as Jizya, excise taxes ~~and~~ were imposed on the Hindu people. During their Administration. Prohibited the sale and use of wine. The Hindu nobles found it difficult to give up drinking. Hence they protested against this policy. Thus the muslim Rule was considered as "Dark Age" due to the decline of Classical Hindu culture. The poor up feelings of the Hindus led to against the Authority of muslim rulers.