



## CHRONOLOGY GLEANED FROM INSCRIPTIONS OF PUDUKKOTTAI

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### ABSTRACT

*Pudukkottai Samasthanam administration took a remarkable effort in collecting, copying, deciphering and publishing almost all the inscriptions found under his regime. In this effort totally 1130 records are published in the year 1929 by then Samasthana government. It is a commendable work no other Samasthanas in India have done such a wonderful job. Not only publishing these records with full text but also preparing a gist of them and published them in a chronological order with English notes in the same year 1929. It is very useful for the beginners of Archaeology, Epigraphy and historical studies.*

**KEY WORDS :** *chronological , Archaeology, Epigraphy and historical studies.*

### INTROCUPTION

Among the above mentioned 1130 inscriptions the first 14 records are dated from 1<sup>st</sup> CCE to (Brahmi) 9<sup>th</sup> century CE displaying minor dynasties such as Mutharaiyas and Irukkuvels. Two grantha inscriptions regarding Music and Veena found on the rocks of Kudumiyanmalai, copy of them at Thirumayam and Malaiya kovil are very important music treatises nowhere in India found such a record.

The next five records (IPS 15 to 19) belong to Pallava dynasty rules particularly Nanthivarman II, Danthivarman and Nirupatunga Varman dated from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9 century CE<sup>2</sup>.

Among these five one Kudrandar Kovil record furnishes the provisions made for feeding of 100 Brahmins during Arudra day. Another record reveals the construction of a sluice by one Aridam Pullan<sup>1</sup>. Other two records belong to the Mutharaiya chieftains.

Next to Pallavas Cholas appear in the political scenareo of Tamilnadu particularly in the Kaveri basin. These Chola rulers are named as Later Cholas who ruled almost the whole of Tamilnadu under a single umbrella for some centuries from 846 to 1279 CE. The first king Vijayalaya Chola who victoriously established his kingdom during 846 CE by dethroning the Mutharaiya Chieftain Kumarankusan. So he was called as Thanjai konda Ko-Parakesari. His son Aditya I got the name Rajakesari and also named as Thondainadu Pavina Rajakesari because of

his victory over Thodainadu particularly in Pallavas. Chola records starts from the serial no 20 and ends with the number with 235 totally around 216.

Among them the records from 20 to 37, totally 17 belong to Rajakesari Varman. From this epithet we cannot sure the name of the king but somehow suggest they denote Adidya I and Sundara Chola who ruled Tanjore with early years. These records are found in the places like Nerinjikudi, Thirukkattalai, Kudimiyanmalai, Kilathaniyam, Chittur, Vellanur, Thirukkokarnam, Nirpalani, Kodumbalur, Malaiyadipatti, etc. Most of these records reveal the donations to



the temple for lighting perpetual lamp and day to day maintenance. These donations were gold, cows and lands etc. Mainly the family members of Irukkuvel appear as donors in these records. Particularly Mahimalaiya Irukkuvel alias Partankan Virasolan, Rajaraja Ilangovelan, Mummudi Sola Irukkuvel and Vikkirama Kesari etc.<sup>2</sup>

The successive records numbered from 38 to 77 around forty furnish the name of the king as Parakesari only. From these records we cannot sure whom the king is mentioned in the records. But records from 78 onwards the name of the kings are directly mentioned so as to fix the actual date of the inscriptions.

The records No.78 to 81 mention the name of the king Parantaka Chola I. In these records the name of the king is mentioned as Madurai Konda Koparakesari. That means one who got Madurai victoriously. This king ruled Cholanadu from 907-953 CE<sup>3</sup> after his father Adityal. He won over Madurai in his third regnal year itself and then onwards he was mentioned in his Prasasthi as 'Mathirai Konda Ko-Parakesari'. So he might have been waged a war against Madurai Pandya in the year 910 CE, and then the Pandya king was Rajasimha II. Parantaka waged against a war with Pandya at Vellore. The Pandya king was assisted by Ceylon army but met with a great loss. Since then Parantaka was called as Maduraiyum Ilamum Konda Parakesari.<sup>4</sup>

In the inscriptions of Kudumiyamalai, very first he is mentioned as Madurai Konda Parakesari with 15<sup>th</sup> regnal year<sup>5</sup>. The other two inscriptions found at the same temple also mention the same year. The last record in his name Madurai Konda Koparakesari is seen at Sundaresvara temple at Thirukkattalai which furnishes his regnal year 35 (942 CE). But some more inscriptions begin with Ko-Parakesari alone can be attributed to Parantaka I. For instance an inscription found at Munisandai with the regnal year 20 (927 CE) might have been belong this period. This record mentions the first time in Pudukkottai region the activities of Merchantile guilds such as Thisai Ayirathu Aynurruvar, Valanjyar etc and their charitable activities of digging a water tank in the name Aynuruvar Per Eri<sup>6</sup>.

Only one inscription<sup>5</sup> furnish the another Chola king Madhuranthakan Sundara Cholan in Kodumbalur Muchukunthesvara temple. In this record '**irandu Vagai Nagaraththar**' is mentioned. The details of this division should be studied carefully. Parantaka I had four sons viz., Rajathithan, Kandarathithan, Arinjayan and Uthama Chola. Among these three Rajathithan was died in the battle with Rastrakutar at Thakkolam in his young age without ascending the throne. So, after the death of Parantaka his second son Kantarathithan came to the power during 953 CE with the title Rajakesari. Kantarathithan married two queens Viranarani, and Sembiyan Mahadevi, the daughter of a Malava clan chief. Viranarani died in her early years. Sembiyan Mahadevi got birth a son who was named as Mathuranthakan Uththama Cholan. Since he was a small boy, after the death of Kandarathithan Arinjayan took the reign and ruled chola country for a short period 956-957 CE. No records are available in the name of Kandarathitha in Tamilnadu general and particularly in Pudukkottai region.<sup>7</sup>

Arinjayan who had another names such as Arinthaman, Arikula Kesari etc got the epithet parakesari. He had a son with the queen Kalyani daughter of Viathumbarayan. He son was also named as Parantakan. Already one Paranthakan Parakesari is known (his grandfather in chola history) he is named as Parantaka II and Sundara Chola also. He had the epithet Rajakesari as already mentioned only one record of him is found at Kodumbalur. But some other records mention the names of Sembiyan Irukkuvel, Mahimalaya Irukkuvel may be assigned to Parantaka II period. He had the titles as Madurai Konda Ko-Rajakesari<sup>8</sup>, Pandiyanai Suram Irakkiya Perumal<sup>9</sup> etc.

During Sundara Chola's period, Maduria was ruled by one Virapandyan, who was mentioned in some of his inscriptions as Cholan Thalaikonda Vira Pandyan (one who took chola's head). He might have killed a chola prince in one of his battle and had that title. But this pandya was defeated by Sundara chola and drove away the forest and so he is called Pandyanai Suram Irakkiya Perumal.. Sundara Chola had two sons. The elder one was Aditya Karikala and the younger one Arunmoli who was later on called Rajaraja chola the great. Elder son Aditya Karikala was killed by some rebels and the culprits names are mentioned in Udaiyarkudi inscriptions. No inscription with the name of Aditya Karikala is available in Pudukkottai area. After Sundara chola, Uththamachola who was the son of Kandavathitha with Sembiyan Madevi came to power and ruled for 12 years. His records also are not seen in Pudukkottai region.

Rajaraja chola came to power after the death of Uththama chola and ruled from 985-1014 CE. His inscriptions are found at Chittur, Melathaniyam, Narthamalai, Thiruvengaivasal, Thiruvilankudi etc., in Pudukkottai region. He was a great hero, a warrior who won the whole of South India and ruled the whole of Tamilnadu under his single umbrella. Although his original name was Arunmoli, from his 3<sup>rd</sup> regnal year the name Rajaraja was in vogue<sup>10</sup>. His first victory was against Kanthalur salai during his 3<sup>rd</sup> regnal year. So hereafter he had the epithet '**Kanthalur Salai Kalamaruth Tharuliya Ko Rajakesari**'. From his fourth regnal year this epithet is found in the inscriptions<sup>11</sup>. Rajaraja was the first king introduced prasasthi portions at the beginning of the inscriptions. Almost all of his inscriptions begin with the prasasthi '**Thirumakal pola peru nila chelviyum**' from his fifth regnal year. In Pudukkottai region also all of his inscriptions (totally 12) begin with '**Thirumakal Pola**'. The successive kings both cholas and pandyas followed this practice of writing long prasasthis (Megkir this) in their records either in stone or copper. All the victories of the king Rajaraja were added one by one in his prasasthi.

According to his prasasthi, it is known that he was victorious over Kanthalur salai, Vengi, Gangapadi, Thadigai padi, Nolambapadi, Kudamalai nadu, Kollam, Kalingam, Iratta padi 7 ½ lakhs, and Ilam. Rajaraja had the traditional titles '**Rajakesari**'. In all of his records the political units and geographical divisions are named with his different titles. The whole of his region was divided into 9 mandalams and each mandalams were divided into several valanadus. Pudukkottai area was named as Keralanthaka Valanadu, Pandikulasini Valanadu etc.

Rajaraja had only one son Rajendra by name and two daughters Mathevadikal and Kunthavai. During the fag end of Rajarajas rule (ie) 1012 CE Rajendra was crowned as a co-ruler with his father. Before that he was appointed as a vice-roy in the name of Chola Pandya to look after the affairs of Pandya country. He participated in all the battles occurred in the southern states and got victory and caused to be annexed the Kollam, Kalingam, Gangapadi, Nolampapadi areas under chola rule. He became the independent king after the death of Rajaraja the great around 1014 CE. His inscriptions begin with a very long prasasthi '**Thirumanni valara Irunila madanthaiyum**'. Before that a small prasasthi was given to him with the beginning '**Poorvadesamum Kadaramum Kaikonda**'.

In Pudukkottai region Rajendra I inscriptions are found at Chittur, from his 3<sup>rd</sup> regnal year with the title Parakesari Rajendra chola deva and the other places such as Thiruvilankudi, Varappur, Parampur, Thiruvengaivasal, Thirukogarnam, Periyur, Kodumpalur etc and are numbered in IPS volume 95 to 104 totally 10 records. The first record found at Chittur furnishes his 3<sup>rd</sup> regnal year begins without the prasasthi but with '**Ko-Parakesari Varmarana Rajendra chola devarku yandu** and so on. The other records found in other places begin with '**Thirumanni valara prasasthi**'. This prasasthi is very long and narrates all his victories on various countries in South India, Gangai, Elam, Kadaram and all other Islands around South India, Rajendra ruled chola country and entire Tamil Nadu during 1012-1044 CE.

He had three sons viz, Rajathiraja I, Rajandra II and Virarajendra. He appointed his sons as vice-roys in the other mandalam. He won in the battles. The first son Rajathiraja acted as a Co-ruler with his father from the year 1018 CE itself. His rule extended upto 1054 CE. His records are seen in Pudukkottai region in the places such as Madathukovil, Tennankudi, Thiruvengaivasal and they are numbered as 105 to 108 in IPS volume. In the first three records he is referred to as Ilamum Maduraisyum Kondaruliya Rajakesari Rajathi raja Deva. From this it is known that he had controlled Ilam and Madurai which was won by his grand father's period. The last record begins with his prasasthi '**Thingalertharu Than Thonkal Venkudai**' etc.

Next to him his younger brother Rajendra II took the reign of chola country. He ruled from 1051-1063 CE. When Rajathi raja died at Koppam battled 1054 CE Rajendra was crowned as the king in the battle field itself and got the title Parakesari. His inscriptions are found in the villages such as Chittur, Narthamalai, Puvalaikudi etc from his third regnal year to fifth regnal year. His inscriptions begin with his prasasthi '**Thirumaruviya Senkol**'. He has one more prasasthi begins with '**Thirumadhu Puviyenum**' which can be seen at Narthamalai Thirumalai Kadampar temple. He died during the year 1063 CE.

Then his younger brother and the third son of Rajendra, Virarajendra by name ruled chola country since 1063-1070 CE. Only two inscriptions of this king are seen in Malaiyadiatti and Vellanur villages. He

might have been got the title Rajakesari. Virarajendra had two different prasasthis which are seen in other inscriptions. They are, 1. **'Thiruvular Thiral Puyaththu,'** the another one begins with **'Virame Thunaiyahavum Thiyahame Aniyahavum'**. After the death of this Virarajendra in the year 1070 his son Athirajendra (1070 CE) took the charge of chola nadu. His rule was ended in a short period. No inscriptions of this king can be seen in Pudukkottai area. Since Athirajendra chola had no issues to succeed him, and no other qualified princes are there, the great chola line of Vijayalaya chola came to an end. So at this juncture, Kulothunga chola I, the son of Eastern Chalukya king with chola queen got the chance to rule the glorious chola country.

Kulothunga chola I was the son of Rajaraja Narendra, eastern chalukya king of Vengi and Ammangadevi, the daughter of Rajendra chola I. Kulothunga got the traditional title of cholas Rajakesari and ruled Chola country from 1070 – 1120 CE. In Pudukkottai region 11 number of inscriptions of Kulothunga chola I are seen in the villages like Thiruvilankudi, Thirukkattalai, Thirukokarnam, Parambur, Kalasakadu, Irumbali, Irumbanadu, Kudimiyamalai and Idaiyathur. These inscriptions are ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> to 52 of his regnal years vide IPS Nos. 117 to 127.<sup>12</sup> He had the prasasthi begins with 'Pukalamathu vilanka, Jeyamathu virumba' which is referred to almost all Pudukkottai records of him.

He is known as Sungan Thavirthu Aruliya chola. His notable victory is the war against kalinga. Jeyankondar, the court poet of this king has narrated this ferocious battle in his literary work Kalingaththuparani.

Kulothunga's son, Vikrama chola came to power after his father and ruled around 1118-1136CE. He had the title Parakesari. His only one inscription is found at Thiruvengaivasal furnishes his 14<sup>th</sup> regnal year.<sup>13</sup> In this inscription no prasasthi is mentioned. He was died in the year 1135. Next to him his son Kulothunga II came to the region of Cholanadu with the title Rajakesare ruled from 1133 to 1150 CE.<sup>14</sup> Only two inscriptions of this king are found at Madaththukovil village. But the first inscription mentions him as Rajakesari<sup>15</sup> the second one<sup>16</sup> (I mentions him as parakesari. This reference is somewhat confusing After the demise of Kulothunga II in the year 1150 CE his son Rajaraja II was crowned as the king of chola country. He was already trained from 1146 CE and continued his reign upto 1163 CE. He ruled with the title parakesari. Totally seven inscriptions of this king area found in Pudukkottai region in the places like Ponnamarapathi, Kallampatti, Kudimiyamalai from his 4<sup>th</sup> regnal year to 19<sup>th</sup> regnal year record in IPS Vol. No.131 to 137.<sup>17</sup> He had the prasasthi begins with **'Pumaruviya Thirumathum Puvimaruviya Jeyamathum'**. This prasasthi is found in two inscriptions of Kudimiyamalai, the other records in other places have no such prasasthi.

During the last days Rajaraja II got serious illness but his sons were too young and so decided to coronate one Ethiril perumal who was the son of Neri Yudai perumal, and the grand son of Vikrama chola. This Ethirili perumal was crowned as a prince during 1163 but became full powered king in the year 1166 in the name of Rajathi raja II. He ruled from 1163-1178 CE with the title Rajakesari.

His inscriptions are found in Pudukkottai area in the villages such as Madaththu kovil, Thiruvengaivasal, Pinnankudi and Kunnandarkovil. These records are listed in IPS vol with Nos.138 to 142.<sup>18</sup> He had three different prasasthis in inscriptions. **1. 'Kadal sulntha Parmatharum, 2.Kadal sulntha par elum, 3.Pumaruviya Thisai mukaththon'** etc. But in Pudukkottai records no prasasthi is engraved.

Kulothunga Chola III became the monarch of cholanadu after Rajathiraja II and ruled a considerably long period from 1178 to 1218 CE. According to an inscription found at Kudimiyamalai, it is known that Kulothunga was the son of Rajaraja II<sup>19</sup> Kulothungas inscriptions are already known and numbered in the IPS vol. from 143 to 180 (totally 38). They were found in the villages like Thirukkattalai, Kodumbalur, Kiranur, Saththanur, Ponnamarapathi, Kallampatti, Kudimiyamalai, Thirumananjeri, Thiruvetpur, Nirpalani, Karaiyur, Narthamalai, Pinnankudi, Idaiyathur, Kulathur, Seranur, Parambur, Maathukovil, Santhamangalam, Annavasal, Thiruvarankulam, Kunnandarkovil, Vayalogam, Panankudi etc.

Kulothunga got the title Parakesari, as traditionally and defeated Pandya and Karur. So he is mentioned in his records that Maduraiyum, Karuvurum Pandyan mudithalaiyum kondaruliya devar<sup>20</sup>. He has a prasasthi beings with 'Puyal vaythu man valara'. But very rarely this prasasthi is written in the records at Seranur<sup>21</sup> Kudimiyamalai<sup>22</sup> and Panankudi<sup>23</sup>. The last record from Panankudi had some what different

Prasasthi (ie) Puyal Parappi Valam Peruka. All other Kulothunga III records in Pudukkottai region begin with Thirubhuvana chakravarthikal Maduraiyum Pandyan mudithalaiyum Karuvurum kondariliya Parakesari varman and so on.

Rajaraja III took the crown of chola country after kulothunga chola III. He was the son of Kulothunga and took the title Rajakesari and ruled from 1216 to 1256 CE. His inscriptions are found in Pudukkottai region at Kudimiyamalai and Thirukokarnam. His prasasti begins with '**Thirumathu vilanka**' is found engraved in one of the inscriptions of Kudimiyamalai Sikkhanatha swami temple.

In this context Hoysala influence in this area is well attested by an inscription of Thirukkokarnam<sup>24</sup>. During the time of kulothunga III matrimonial relationship with the Hoysalas was very strong and because of this Hoysalas tried to have some influence in the politics of Tamilnadu. Hoysalas had matrimonial contact with both Pandyas and Cholas. Once Rajaraja III was imprisoned by the Kadavaraya at Senthamangalam, Narashimha II readily interfered into Tamil Nadu political affairs and released Rajaraja III. With this effect Hoysalas established their capital at Kannanur near present Samayapuram and had contact with the cholas and pandyas. It is well attested by an inscription at Thirukkokarnam, in which land donation was mentioned for a perpetual lamp donated for the merit of Somaladeviyar mother of Someswara deva and queen of Viranarashinga deva of Dwarasamudram, the Hoysala capital. Number of inscription from numbered 184 to 233 are also belong to chola kings Rajaraja, Rajendra, Rajathiraja, Kulothunga etc but no clue are there to fix the actual king of the record.

**Pandyas** : During the fag end of Cholas, Pandyas from Madurai raised against them and aimed to recapture their country and establish their rule in their home land. When Kulothunga chola III was in his last days Maravarman Sundarapandya mobilized a great army and waged a war against cholas particularly Rajaraja III. At Ponnamarapathy, the chola was defeated and since then Sundara Pandya was named as '**Solanadu Konda Sundara Pandya**' (Pandya who took chola country) Later on he given that land to the defeated Rajaraja because of an agreement and then onwards he was called as **Cholanadu Valanki Aruliya Sundarapandya** (one who pleased to give chola nadu). Number of his inscriptions are found engraved in various temples around Pudukkottai region.

But we have ample evidences for the rule of early Pandyas in Pudukkottai region during 8-9<sup>th</sup> CE. These early Pandyas had the titles Marvarman and Sadaiyavarnam one after another. Sadaiyavarnam, Maravarman inscriptions are found in the cave temple of Kudimiyamalai, Thirugokarnam, Nirpalani and Chithannavasal temples. Among these inscription at Sithannavasal furnish the name of the pandya king Srimara Srivallabhan who carved the front mantapa of Jain cave at Siththannavasal. After early pandyas, this area was ruled by choals, all of the inscriptions are discussed above. Later pandyas rule started in this region around the later part of 12<sup>th</sup> century CE is well attested by the presence of one or two inscriptions of Jatavarman Srivallabha and Jatavarman Kulasekara I (1190-1216 CE).

Maravarman Sundara Pandya I (1216-1244 CE) records are numbered from 247 to 327 (totally 80 inscriptions). His prasasthi '**Pumaruviya Thirumadhanaiyum**' is used as the introduction of most of his records. He was the powerful pandya ruler who put an end to the chola rule in the whole of Tamilnadu. Records from his 3<sup>rd</sup> regnal year to 28 regnal year are available in Pudukkottai area. So, we can assess his rule extended upto 1243 or 1244 CE in Pandya country. His records are found Kudumiyamalai, Kannanur, Neyvasal, Ponnamarapatti, Peraiyur, Sundaram, Kottaiyur, Narthamalai, Parambur, Kulathur, Thiruvengaivasal, Madathukovil and so on.

Next to him records of Jatavarman Kulasekara II are also seen in the places like Neivasal, Palakkarai, Perunthurai, Kannanur etc from his 2<sup>nd</sup> regnal year (1239 CE) to 26<sup>th</sup> regnal year 1263 CE. Maravarman Sundara Pandya II is considered as a notable king in the second pandyan empire who ruled pandya country from 1238 to 1258 CE. His prasasthi begins with '**Pumalar Thiruvum Porusaya Madanthaiyum**'.

His records are found in Vayalokam, Thirumayam, Sevalur, Palankarai villages in Pudukkottai area. During his reign one important inscription engraved on the original rocks of Thirumayam, Siva temple describes a prolonged dispute between the Saivites and Vaisnavaties and the amicable settlement made by the Hoysalas ruler of that area<sup>25</sup> During this time Thirumayam area was ruled by the Hoysala Dhandanayaka

Ravideva. His brother in law Appanna Dhandanayaka presided over the trial in which both Saivite and Vaishnavite representatives attended, with other dignitaries of that area and the dispute was settled with both sides consent.

Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I ruled as a crowned king of Pandya country during 1250 – 1284 CE. He is the most famous pandya king in the second pandyan dynasty and got the title **Emmandalamum Konda Sundara Pandya, Koyil Ponveynta Peruman** and so on. Pandyan rule was in zenith during his days. His inscriptions are found in Pudukkottai area in Irumbali, Oliyamangalam, Virachilai, Vayalagam, Mineveli, Mayilapatti, Athanur, Thiruvarankulam, Kunnandarkovil, Thiruvetpur and Nangupatti villages ranging from his 2<sup>nd</sup> regnal year 17<sup>th</sup> regnal year.

Records of Jatavarman Virapandya I (1253-1283) are found in Pudukkottai area with two different prasastis. First prasasti begins with **‘Thirumakal Valarmulai Thirumarbuthalai Pada’**<sup>26</sup> and the second one narrates his victories over kongu and Ilam as **‘Kongilam konda koduvadugu kodalithu, Gangai iru karaiyum kaviriyum kaikundu’** and so on. His inscriptions are seen in the villages such as Pillamangalam, Thirukkalampur, Unaiyur, Thiruvarangulam, Kudumiyamalai, Ambukkivil, Perunkalur, Irumapanadu, Thirumananjeri, Kodumbalur, Idaiyathur, Palankarai, Sundaram etc.

Maravarman Kulasekara was the next king who ruled from 1268 to 1311 in Madurai such a long period, is also have the title **Emmandalamum kondan**. His prasasthi begins with **‘Therpol Alkul’**. But the inscriptions found in Pudukkottai area don’t have this prasasthi but simple starts with **‘Komaraparumarana Thirubhuvana chakravarthikal Emmandalamum Kondaruliya Kulasekara Deva’** and so on.

The later part of this king's rule ended with confusion and calamity. He had two sons one Sundarapandya son of a legitimate queen and Virapandya son of an illegitimate queen (concubine). Kulasekara coronated Virapandiya as Yuvaraja to assist his reign. This was irritated Sundarapandya and raised against his father and even killed him. Then he appealed Sultans of Delhi to help him to get his right to rule. This Sultanate aggression headed by Malikafur during the year 1311 CE is well known to the students of History in Tamilnadu.

During the calamity of Mughal sultanate with Tamils areas their rule and activities are also recorded in stone inscriptions. Some Mohameden inscriptions are also found in Pudukkottai region. For instance Rangiyam and Paniyur villages have each one inscriptions of this period. Rangiyam record mentions the name of the king as Athi Suraththan and his date Hijiri year 732 (ie) 1354 CE. This inscription directly mentions the Thirukkar Kalakam<sup>27</sup> at Rangiyam. The second record seen at Panaiyur furnishes the name of the king Maharajan Mahamadi Surathan and records an agreement reached Panaiyur and Kula mangalam resident's.

In between this turmoil situation so many Pandya chiefs ruled this area and their records are also registered. Among them Rajarajan Sundara Pandyan, Parakrama Pandyan, Srivallabha Pandyan etc are some notable kings to be discussed. During 12-14 centuries Banachiefs also held some areas to rule as the feudatories of Pandyas and Cholas. Their inscriptions versus found in particularly Kudumiyamalai temple well attest their influence in this area.

Sultanate rule was ended by the aggression of Vijayanakara emperors. Particularly Kumarakurupara marched towards south during 1371 and subdued Madurai sultanates and established Hindu rule in Tamil area. From that period the whole of Tamilnadu was under Vijayanakara rule and then it was divided into Madurai, Tanjore, Vellore, Ginji principalities and ruled by the Nayaks.

Records of Vijayanakara rulers Bukka I, Kampanna II, Sevanna Udaiyar, Virupaksha, Bukka II, Bhupathi Udaiyar, Devaraya I, Devaraya II, Mallikarjuna, Pratapa Devaraya, Virupaksha II, Virupaksha III, Royanna Udaiyar, Immadi Narashimha, Krishna devaraya, Achchutaraya, Sadasivaraya, Venkata I, Venkata II are found almost the whole of Pudukkottai region. During these days their sub-ordinates, Mallappa Nayaka, Sivantheluntha Pallavaraya, Thondaimans also appeared in the political area of Pudukkottai. Their records are also found in temples, sluices, pillars, rocky surfaces, bridges etc. All these records narrate the social conditions of that particular period, caste disputes and their settlements, some communal clashes between

under privileged sections of the community are recorded. So in a whole the study of Pudukkottai inscriptions with a chronological perspective is quite interesting and eventful.

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1. Inscription of Pudukkottai state., Nos.15-19.
  2. Inscription of Pudukkottai state.,Nos.20-37.
  3. South Indian Inscription.,. Vol.V No:570
  4. T.V.Sathasiva Pandarathar, **Pirkala Cholar Charithiram**, Vol.1,Amilthan Pathippakam, Chennai 2008.,P.33.
  5. Inscription of Pudukkottai state.,No.78.
  6. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State** No.61.
  7. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State** No.82
  8. S.I.I. Vol.III, No.115 to 118
  9. EPI. India, Vol.XII, No.15, INS 302/1908.
  10. ARE 56/1913
  11. ARE 395/1922
  12. **Inscriptions of Pudukkottai State** No.117 to 127.
  13. Inscription of Pudukkottai State, No.128
  - 14.T.V.. **Sathasiva Pandarathar., Ibid P.91.**
  15. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State** No.129.
  16. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State** No.130.
  17. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State** Nos.131-137.
  18. Inscription of Pudukkottai State, Nos.138 to 142.
  - 19.Inscription of Pudukkottai State, Nos.143 to 180.
  20. **T.V.Sathasiva Pandarathar Op.cit.P.No.145.**
  21. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State.,** No.163
  - 22.Inscription of Pudukkottai State.No.166.
  - 23.Inscription of Pudukkottai State No.180.
  - 24.. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State.,** No.183.
  
  25. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State.,** No.340.
  26. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State.,** No.366.
  27. **Inscription of Pudukkottai State.,** No.669.