

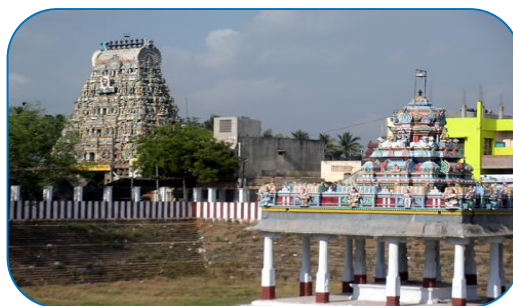


THIRUVOTTUR TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION AS GLEANED FROM INSCRIPTIONS A HISTORICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT :

The sambuvarayas were a feudatory family like the bana, the kadavaraya and the Telugu Cholas. Sambuvarayas flourished during the 14th century A.D. when Vijayanagara Empire was established these sambuvarayas would have also been commenced, before 14th A.D. sambuvarayas remained loyal to the Cholas. They were good administrators, let us analyses some of the administrative work of the sambuvarayas based on Thiruvottur temple inscriptions.

KEYWORDS : Telugu Cholas , good administrators , administrative work.

INTRODUCTION

During the period of later Cholas, Sengeni Viraperumal alias Attimallandar, Edhirilichola Sambuvarayar, Attiyandan Ammai, Attiyandan son of Sengeni Virandan, Sengeni Ammaiappan, Alagiya Cholan alias Edhirilichola Sambuvarayar, VeeraPerumal alias Edhirili Chola Sambuvarayar and others donated lands, kasus (coins) etc, to the Thiruvottur Temple.

An inscription of the 14th year of Rajaraja III records the gift of a village by Sengeni Attimallan alias Edhirili Chola Sambuvarayar. These lands were situated in Chirriyarrur (now it is called Chithathur) near Mavandur Lake. The same Sambuvarayar again donated tax free lands to Thiruvottur temple for its maintenance. The collected taxes were donated by him to the same temple. He donated 12,000 Kasus (coins) for performance of daily pujas and festivals to the god. A political pact made by Sengeni Attiyandan alias Rajendra Chola Sambuvarayar and Vikrama Chola Sambuvarayar has been described in one inscription. This pact is already discussed elaborately. In the 18th year of Rajadhiraja, a gift of 32 cows for a lamp was by Attiyandan son of Sengenivirandan.

Another inscription of the 17th year of Rajaraja III states that the village Chirriyarrur mentioned above was resumed by Vikrama Chola Sambuvarayar and that Damodaran Perumpandi Nayaka with the permission of Gandagopalan got back half of this village as Devadana of the temple while the other half was assigned as madappuram for feeding itinerant Mahesvara in the Putpagiri Jiyar mutt. This new order was engraved in the temple with permission of Viraperumal alias Edhirilichola Sambuvarayar.

During the time of KulottungaDeva III, Sengeni Alagiya Chola alias Sambuvarayar of Thattaicheri was donated lands to the temple. These lands were situated in Kalavai alias Rajanarayana Chatur Vedhimangalam and other villages.

In the 23rd year of Vira Pandya (14th century A.D.), Kulasekara Sambuvarayar issued an order to Cheyyarraivennaran Chatur vedhimangalam assembly. An endowment for feeding five learned Brahmins was made in the 23rd year of Vira Pandya by the village assembly.

The Sambuvaraya women also dedicated their lives to Thiruvottur temple. Some of them donated lands or kasus. Cheyyandai alias Sambuvaraya Nachi established one Subrahmanyaidol in

Thiruvottur temple. After the decline of Cholas so many feudatory chieftains captured and established independent dynasty during that period. Venrumankonda Ekambra Chakkaravarthy might have been the first ruler of Sambuvarayar. Egambaranatharula mentions about this king.

An inscription of 4th year of Rajanarayana I states about a gift of Madappuram lands for the Thiruppattu songs (Hymns), the same gift we can see in the 7th year of Rajanarayana inscription also. Attiparrunavalpakkam alias Thirugnana Sambandanallur assembly engraved this gift in Thiruvottur sanctum.

In the 6th year of Rajanarayana III inscription records an order of the chief communication to the tax free of the temple on Bhuvanegabagudevar son of Alagiya Thiruchchirramudaiyar Ayyan and the grandson of Bhuvanegabagudevar.

Another inscription of Rajanarayana records the details of taxes to be collected per loom from the Kaikolas of Thiruvottur. In his reign Virakambana alias Viravallaladevar constructed the Annamalai Nayanar shrine in the same temple. Sambuvarayas dedicated their lives to preserve the Tamil culture and civilization. All Hindu temples functioned normally and festivals were regularly celebrated during the period of Sambuvarayas.

THE VIJAYANAGHRA EMPIRE AND THIRUVOTTUR TEMPLE

A number of Vijayanagara inscriptions have been noticed in the Vedapuriswarar temple, Ilamulai Nachi Amman temple, and inner gopura.

One of them records the scarcity of water for irrigation and about the settlement of water dispute between two villages; these villages were called Vayalur and Thiruvottur.

Kampana Udaiyar, son of Vira Bokkanna Udaiyar inscription records a royal grant of 4 veli of lands in Thiruvankadanallur situated in Attiparru to Bharathvaja Saivadhiraja of Kanchikuri. Saivadhiraja was a native of Kanchipuram. Another inscription tells a fixed levy of 100 panam per year imposed on the Kaikolas, Senaikkadaiyar and Vanniyar of Thiruvottur with the assurance that nothing more would be collected from them.

During the period of 15th century one inscription records an endowment of land after purchase by Madarasar Vasavanatigal of the putimasha - gotras, Asvalayana - Sutra and Rig-Veda to the temple for the maintenance of a flower garden and mutt and also of house sites for a satra.

An inscription of the 16th century mentions Sadhasivamaharaja assistant' Yirakudaperumal' donated lands to temple. In 1547 A.D. Dalavai Gopana Iyengar was reconstructed yagasalai, and Madaippalli.

Another inscription records the appointment of Koneri son of Selvakon of Dusi, for the maintenance of a lamp in the Thiruvottur temple as the gift of Ayyanvenakopar Ayyan.

A Kannada inscription of NarasinganDeva Maharaja, has been found in the tower in Thiruvottur temple, it states that an information being received from his officer Madhiraja Chennaiya and Chokka nayanar that the villages and the temple lands were completely washed away by the floods, the king remitted an amount of 150 pon (gold) out of joti, Sulavari, Pattadai and Nulayam due from the temple and the village, to repair the breaches and for conducting festivals in the temple.

One of the inscriptions without the name of the king and regnal year mentions about Kedhari madam (Mutt). It was functioning in Thiruvottur Kalandar Street. A house site (manai) was also given to mutt by Pallavarasasivan. His father Kangaya was a hymn singer (Thirupattu oduvar).

Another inscription records an agreement made among the trustee the Mahesvara and the accountant of the temple, in the reign of Annadana Porerrupillai the agent of Konoti Timmaiyaadeva Maharaja, not to lend out any of the articles belonging to the temple such as Thiruppariyattam poles of temple vehicles, (Tiruvadidandu) rope and ornament of the temple car, umbrella etc.

Somadevar son of Avadatu Annappar, a Kannadiya Brahmana residing at Marudarasar Padaividu got 1500 kuli lands from trustee of the temple. Tattu Nayaka, an agent of Yisvara Nayaka on behalf of his master donated two lamps to Thiruvottur temple. An inscription records the conferment of the hereditary office of supervisor of stores (Palambandagal) of the temple on Ariyanmudali alias Thiruvanaikkavudaiyan of Sandilyagotra.

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