

**History Part - 17****17] South Indian Kingdom - Pandya Empire****Notes****Extent of Pandya Empire:**

The Pandya country, as per the traditions extended from the Pudukottai district to Kanyakumari in south and Achankovil River in Kerala (west) to River Vegai (Madura) in East. The kingdom was ordinarily divided into 5 principalities which were known as "Five Pandyas". The early days capital of Pandyas is Korkai.

**Capitals and Main Cities:**

Korkai, which is now an insignificant village in Tamil Nadu, was the commercial capital and important port of the Pandya Kingdom. Korkai has been a cradle of South Indian Civilization and as per traditions; it is considered the home of three brothers who were supposed to have founded the Pandya, Chera and Chola Kingdoms.

Korkai was center of Pearl trade and this trade was the chief source of wealth for the Pandya Kings. Today, Korkai is located 6 kilometers from the coast. The shift is because of the silting up of the delta, which rendered Korkai inaccessible to ships. After Korkai, the commercial capital of the Pandyas was shifted to a new port of at a town Old Kayal, which were about one and half kilometers from the mouth of river Tambrabarni and located in present Tirunelveli district.

**Visit of Marcopolo**

Marcopolo landed in Pandya Empire (at Kayal) in 13th century and impressed by the wealth and magnificence of the King, Prince as well as people, tagged it as the richest kingdom in existence. However, the same silting process in 14th century caused the abandonment of the Kayal too, and the Portuguese were compelled later to shift their business to a port of Tuticorin, which was free from silting of Delta. The capital of Pandyas was later shifted to Madura (now Madurai).

**Madurai, the Later Capital of Pandyas**

- Madurai, the later capital of Pandyas was the central seat of Tamil Sangam literature.
- Today, Madurai is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities.
- Madura was located on the banks of River Vaigai in Tamil Nadu.
- As early as 3rd Century BC, Megasthenes visited Madurai and quoted this city as “Methora” in his document Indika.
- In Sangam literature, Madura finds special place in Mathuraikkanci, a Pathinenmaelkanakku anthology.
- This work praises a Pandya King Nedunchezhiyan. Similarly Madura has been described by Pliny, Ptolemy and Strabo too.

### Political History of Pandyas

- No continuous history of the Pandya Kings prior to **12th century AD** has been clearly written.
- In Maurya Period, the Pandya Kingdom was independent. One of the Pandya Kings had sent an embassy to Augustus Caesar.
- Pandya Kingdom was well known to Greeks and Romans for its pearl trade. Many Roman coins have been found on many places in Pandya Empire, which shows an existence of a well-developed trade between the Romans and Pandyas in the early centuries AD.

### The Early Pandyas

- The Early pandyas belonged to the sangam age. A remarkable feature of this period was the maintenance of a flourishing Tamil literary academy or sangam at Madurai.
- The capital of the pandyas was Madurai and their emblem was fish. With the rise of kalabhras the sangam age declined.

### First Pandya Empire

- Post Sangam period, the first Pandyan empire was established by a King named Kadungon, who defeated Kalabras in 6th century AD.
- The successors of Kadungon indulged in fighting with the nearby Chera and Chola Kings.

- Huen Tsang, who visited in 6th century AD traveled up to Kanchi which was southernmost point of his itinerary.
- He has mentioned the people of this area as Malakottai. Malakottai may refer to the Pandyan kingdom.
- Huen Tsang mentions that the people in this region little cared for learning; there were Buddhist Monasteries, which were almost in ruins.
- The last Pandya King of this first Pandyan Empire was Maravarman Rajasimha II who ruled from 900-920 AD.
- He was a contemporary of the Chola King Parantaka Chola I, who overran his kingdom and captured Madura.
- Parantaka Chola-I after this victory, earned the title of Maduraikonda. Rajasimha II fled to Ceylon after this defeat and returned to Kerala, where he lived in low profile under a Chera King.

### The Second Pandya Empire

- From the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards the pandyas progressively detached themselves from the chola rule and reasserted their independence.
- In the civil war which brokeout between vikrama pandya and virapandya, the vikrama pandya captured the power with the support of kulothunga III the chola emperor.

### Jatavarman Kulasekara I (1190 - 1216 AD) :

- In the turn of the 13th century, a vassal of Chola Empire named Jatavarman Kulasekaran I ascended to the Madura Throne in 1290, turned rebel to Cholas.
- The Cholas invaded him and sacked Madurai. Jatavarman Kulasekaran I surrendered to the Chola king Kulothunga with wife and son and acknowledging his surrender, he was returned his capital.
- But during this, the ancient coronation hall of Pandyas in Madurai was destroyed and it also destroyed the records if any of the previous Pandyas. This was the reason that the history of Pandyas lost in obscurity.

**Maravarma Sundara Pandyan**

- To take revenge of this assault, younger brother of Kulasekaran, named Maravarman Sundara Pandyan, who came into power in 1216 AD, invaded the Chola Kingdom.
- The armies of Sundara Pandyan sacked the cities of Thanjavur and Uraiyur of Chola Kings and drove the Chola kings out in exile.
- His armies marched up to Chidambaram and in memory of this victory, Sundar Pandyan conducted a Thulabaram at the Chidambaram temple and donated wealth equal to his weight. In AD 1219 Maravarman Sundarapandian I defeated Kulothunga Cholan III.
- But, victory of Sundar Pandyan over Cholas was followed by a march of the Hoysala army towards Sri Rangapatnam.
- Kingdom of the Cholas was returned after interference of Hoysala king Veera Ballala III, but now Cholas accepted suzerainty of the Sundar Pandyan. Hoysala king Someshvaran helped Maravarman Sundarapandian I to get some parts from Rajendra Cholan.
- This was the revival of second Pandyan Empire. Also called as Sonadu valangiaruliya sundara pandya.
- Maravarma sundara Pandya II (1238 - 1253 AD) recovered some parts from the Rajendra III which he lost earlier.

**Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I (1253 - 1268 AD):**

- After Maravarman Sundara Pandyan II, we know about his successor Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I (1253-68).
- He was a mighty conqueror who invaded Ceylon and carried off the great booty.
- The famous tooth relic of Buddha was also included in this booty. With this victory Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan was called "Second Rama" for plundering the Island of Sri Lanka.
- He covered the Srirangam temple with Gold. He also conflicted with the Kakatiya Kings of Warangal.

- Also called as Emmandalamum Kondaruliya Maharajathiraja , sri paramesvaran and ponveintha perumal.

### Maravarma Kulasekaran I ( 1268 - 1308 AD) :

- Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I son Maravarma Kulasekaran I ( 1268 - 1308 AD) Enlarged his kingdom.He invaded Ceylon and captured kollam in the chera land.
- He assumed the title kollam konda pandya.The power of the pandyas started to decline after him.

### Invasion of Malik Kafur

- Early in the 14th century, a dispute arose about the succession of the Pandya throne and one of the claimants appealed to the Sultan of Delhi, Alauddin Khilji for help.
- This probably resulted in an invasion by the Sultan's forces in 1310 under Malik Kafur. Malik Kafur sacked, looted Madura and marched up to Rameshwaram, where he erected a mosque.
- After that invasion, the Pandya kings ruled sporadically at undefined territories and a sort of confusion was there.
- Malik Kafur was followed by two other expeditions from the Delhi Sultanate in 1314 AD led by Khusrav Khan and in 1323 AD by Ulugh Khan. What happened to Pandyas after that, very little is known.
- Later Muhammad Bin Tughlaq created a southern province and placed Sayyid Jalal-ud-Din Ahsan as its governor.
- In 1333 AD Sayyid declared his independence and created Madurai Sultanate.
- Madurai Sultanate was replaced by the Nayak governors, who kept on ruling until arrival of British.

### Decline of Pandya empire :

- A war of succession brokeout between sundarapandya and virapandya the maravarma kulasekaran I.

- With the help of Ala-ud-din Khiljis commander Malik kafur , sundara pandya ascend the throne.
- The tughluqs who succeeded the khiljis extend their hold oversouth india and declared pandya empire as a part of their empire.
- The decline of tughluq power led to the establishment of the sultans of Madura which ultimately resulted in the complete decline of the pandya empire.

### Administration:

- The pandya empire was called as pandyan mandalam.The Mandalam ws further divided into valanadu and urs.
- The king was assisted by the Ariyans and the Arm chief, Special officers were appointed to collect taxes and maintain accounts.

### Local self Government:

- Village administration was looked after by five variyams namely Aranilaya variyam , Neemilai variyam ,Nanaya variyam , varithandal variyam and Needhi variyam.

### Occupation:

- Agriculture and trade were their main occupations of the people.
- The agriculturist were called as Boomiputirar.Many slaves were employed to carr on different tasks.
- The pandyas were famous for pearl diving.

### Literature:

- 1) Manickavasagar - Thiruvagasam
- 2) Andal - Thiruppavai
- 3) Nammalvar - Thirupallandu
- 4) Srikaviraya - Seyur Murugan ula and Rathingiri ula

- 5) Adhiveerarama Pandya - Naidadham
- 6) Villiputhurar - Mahabharatha
- 7) Kalingathubharani - Naidadham

### Art and Architecture:

- The special features of the pandya temple architecture are the Gopuras , Prakaras , Vimanas , Garbaghras and gateways.
- The pandya period marked a reawakening in the field of rock - cut temples.
- More than 50 rock cut temples were excavated in the pandya kingdom at several places like Kannakudi, Anaimalai, Sithannavasal, Thiruparankundram, kalugumalai, Malayadikurichi, Tiruchirapalli etc.
- Structural temples were constructed by the pandya rulers at Kovilpatty, Tiruppathur, Madurai, Srivilliputhur etc.

### Sculptures:

- The pandya sculptures are beautiful and ornamental. The sculptures of Somaskandar, Durga, Ganapathy, Narasimha and Nataraja are good specimens.
- Many sculptures are also found at kalugumalai, thiruparankundram, thirumalaipuram, narttamalai and kunnakudi.

## Short Notes

- 1) Who brought up the Tamil by keeping sangam community?

### Early pandyas

- 2) Who restore the position of pandyas by overthrowing the kalabhras?

### Kadungon

- 3) What brings the first Pandian Empire to end?

### War with Pallava and Cholas

4) When did the Second Pandian Empire established?

### AD 13th century

5) Who is called as Sonadu valangiaruliya sundara pandya?

### Maravarman sundara pandya I

6) Which Hoysala king helped Maravarman Sundarapandian I to get some parts from Rajendra Cholan?

### Someshvaran

7) In which year did the Maravarman Sundarapandian I defeated Kulothunga cholan III ?

### AD 1219

8) Who is called as Emmandalamum Kondaruliya Maharajathiraja?

### Jatavarman Sundarapandian I

9) Maravarman Kulasekaran I won Sri Lanka and Kollam part from Cheras. He is the son of the Jatavarman Sundarapandian I.

10) Who is called as maharajathiraja , sri paramesvaran and ponveintha perumal?

### Sadayavarman Sundarapandian I

11) Who is called as Kollam Konda Pandian ?

### Maravarman Kulasekaran I

12) A war of succession broke out between sundara pandya and vira pandya, the sons of Maravarman Kulasekaran I. Tughlaq's descendants expanded their dominance in South India. Madurai Sultanates began to rule Madurai.

13) Sort the areas separated for the Pandya Empire administration

### Pandiya mandalam - Valanadu - Urban

14) How many variyams were there in the Pandyas goverment?

5

15) What are the important ports of Pandya empire?

### Thondi, Korkai

16) Farmers in the Pandyan period were called Boomiputirar. The pandya empire were famous for pearls. The appointed ministers is known as the Ariyans to assist the king.

17)

1) Manickavasagar - Thiruvagasam

2) Andal - Thiruppavai

3) Nammalvar - Thirupallandu

4) Srikaviraya - Rathingiri ula

5) Adhiv eerarama Pandya - Naidadham

6) Villiputhurar - Jeyamkondar

7) Kalingathubharani - Naidadham

18) What is the specialty of the Pandya architecture - **Gopuras**

19) The Pandya period marked a reawakening in the field of rock cut temples. Tiruparankundram, Anaimalai, Kalugamalai, Trichy, Kunnakudi, Sithannavasal etc were the examples of rock cut temples. Kovilpatti, Tirupathur, Madurai, Srivilliputhur were the construction sites of Pandya.

20)

(1) Maravarman Sundarapandian I - AD 1216 - 1238

(2) Maravarman Sundarapandian II - AD 1238 - 1253

(3) Kulothunga Chola I - AD 1071 - 1122

21)

(1) Sir Walter Elliott - Chera period coins

(2) The Trivandrum inscriptions - Chola trajectories

22) Thirumalaiyooram, Tiruparankundram, Aniamalai, Kundarakudi, and Kalugallai Rock cut temples of Pandian. Madurai Meenakshi temple, Aranganathar temple in Srirangam is the architecture temples of the Pandyas.

23) Who is called as 'Emmandalamum kondaruliya pandya'?

### **Jatavarman Sundarapandian I**

24) Maravarman kulasekaran I is the son of Jatavarman sundara pandya I. Kaliyugaraman - Sadayavarman Sundarapandian I.

25)

1) Silappatikaram explained notes - Adiyarku nallar

2) Tolkappiyam explained notes - Senavaraiyar

3) Thirukkural explained notes - Parimelalakar

4) Nanool explained notes - Mayilainathar

26) How can we classify the Pandya dynasty?

1. Early Pandyas
2. First Pandya empire
3. Second Pandya empire

27) What was the period of First Pandya period?

**550 A.D to 950 A.D**

28) Who was titled as 'Sonadu Valangiaruliya Sundara Pandya'?

### **Maravarma Sundhara Pandya I**

29) Who was titled as Kollam Konda Pandya?

### **Maravarman Kulasekaran I**