

INTEGRATION OF INDIAN PRINCELY STATES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

India was split into two sets of territories prior to its independence in 1947, with one under direct British administration and the other under the suzerainty of the British Crown. Their hereditary rulers continued to have authority over their internal affairs in both sets of territory. The latter comprised 562 princely states with various revenue-sharing agreements with the British, frequently based on their size, population, and regional circumstances. There were also a number of Portuguese and French colonial enclaves. After the liberation of India in 1947, India was in a state of turmoil. Because there were many monarchical regions in India some of those provinces refused to accept the administrative responsibility of India under the Constitution of India in which we can specifically mention the state of Kashmir and the state of Hyderabad. In such an, there were Pudukottai Samasthan and Ramanathapuram Samasthan in Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: National Integration, Regionalism, Pudukottai, V.P. Menon, Ramanathapuram

Introduction

India is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country that sees unity in diversity. India is a country of great antiquity and cultural distress. India is a country ruled by many dynasties with a long history. India is one geographical entity. Yet, throughout her long and chequered history, a pioneering effort in this direction was made by the Magadhan kings, Bimbisara and Ajatasatru, in the sixth century B.C. But it was not till about three centuries later that under the Mauryas, and particularly Asoka, a large portion of India came under the sway of one emperor. The Mauryan Empire lasted only for about a hundred years, and after its disruption, the country again lapsed into numerous kingdoms. Nearly five centuries later, Chandragupta, and his more illustrious son Samudragupta, brought the major part of the country under their suzerainty; and Harsha, in the seventh century, was able to make himself the undisputed master of north India. These and later attempts at political consolidation failed again and again for one chief reason: the empires were held together almost entirely by the personality and might of the emperor

¹India is a country with a long history that encompasses a wide range of political dimensions and historical dimensions. In it the general of Alauddin Khilji, Malikpur, invaded Tamil Nadu and established the rule of the Mohammedans. After that, during the reign of Aurangzeb, Maratha kings arose and Venkoji, a descendant of Marathas, began his rule in Tamil Nadu. At that time the Europeans understood the arrival of Tamil Nadu and gained the right to trade during the reign of the Nayaka kings and established their presence. During the reign of the Nayaka kings the temples were divided and 72 camps were ruled separately. Those 72 camps later led to the formation of several monarchical provinces, especially Sivagangai, which fell under the rule of Velunacharya and after the execution of the brothers of Chinna Marudu and Periya Marudu after a fierce battle. At the same time the Sethupathi kings, who were in harmony with the Nayaka kings and aided and abetted them, arose during the reign of the old Sethupathi. They refused to surrender to Rani Mangammal and ruled separately creating fear for themselves. After that, the political crisis was not great for the Thondaimans who ruled the area of Pudukkottai as it was a British movement so the Thondaimans of Pudukkottai and the Sethupathi kings of Ramanathapuram ruled in Tamil Nadu for two terms. The Pudukkottai area was subsequently ruled by the Thondaiman dynasty.²

In Ramanathapuram, the Sethupathi kings ruled Ramanathapuram as the best Shiva devotee and did many spiritual charities. After the liberation of India, they were forced to hand over their rule to India under the Constitution of India. This study points out what the context was like. The whole edifice crumbled when a line of 'supermen' came to an end. Conflicts and wars between many different kings due to the disunity in India at that stage laid the foundation for the British to establish their dominance. Taking advantage of these opportunities, the British mobilized other colonial powers such as the French and Dutch and established themselves as a dominant force in India. There was also the gradual seizure of power by the British stationed in India. After the Revolution of 1857, the rule of the Company came to an end and the Government of India was under the direct control of the British. During this time many insurrections, many struggles and many national thoughts appeared among the Indian people. In the process of uniting the provinces, every kind of environment prevailed in every region. From

those contexts, this study is news that conveys how the provinces that may be in Tamil Nadu came into this political integration and what was the background in any political integration process. It did not happen so easily even after India's liberation. It is safe to say that Patel and VP Menon were in the process of shaping the list to bring India under one umbrella. It can be said that as a result of his determined efforts in every area, India today has taken the form of India. Before that each of the princely states.³

The objectives of the Research Paper are

Compiling history and realizing its impact on the various phased efforts made in the unification effort of India. Explaining how leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and VP Menon handled the integration of the princely states points to what the situation in India was like during this political integration. How did the Sethupathi dynasty and the Thondaiman dynasty come to terms with the integration of India into Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram, the princely states of Tamil Nadu that could be part of the monarchy? What is the current situation in the monarchical provinces what is the present status of the Thondaiman dynasty and how are the historical studies of the Pudukottai area and the present status of the Ramanathapuram Sethupathi dynasty? This article seeks to unravel and document their history and to point out how the monarchy in Tamil Nadu consolidated its territories and carried out its constitutional activities.⁴

Understanding the National Integration

In order to secure the goals and growth of the entire society, a nation must be devoted to integrating its citizens into an emotionally and psychologically cohesive team. This is what is meant by "national integration." India is a country with great diversity in terms of ethnicity, religion, caste, language, tribe, and other factors. Thus, achieving national integration becomes crucial for the overall growth and prosperity of the nation. Looking back at the history of independence, we can see that unity, regardless of caste, colour, race, sex, or religion, was the major tool employed by all the freedom fighters to free the nation from the monotony of British rule. The knowledge of a shared identity among a nation's population is referred to as national integration. It implies that even if we come from many castes, faiths, locations, and linguistic groups, we understand that we are all one. Building a strong and thriving country requires a lot of integration of this type. In terms of culture, language, religion, caste, people, cuisine, and everything else, India is a varied country. In India, social groups differ from one another not just in terms of physical or demographic traits, but also in terms of specific behavioural tendencies. National integration was thus one of the key goals for political leaders following independence.⁵

Tamil Country

The history of Tamil Nadu is different and unique from the history of India. The history, civilization, culture and social development of the Pandyan kings who ruled Tamil Nadu, the Chera kings and the Chola kings who ruled Tamil Nadu are different from the history of India. The fact that the Tamil language is related to the sentiments of the Tamil nation shows that the most ancient literature, inscriptions and ancient temples in Tamil are unique to the history of Tamil Nadu. The historical pride of Tamil Nadu can be pointed out, especially when referring to the reign of the Chola kings and their excellent civilization and the reign of the Pandya kings from the Sangam period onwards. The glorious region suffered setbacks after the rule of the Chola kings. Especially after the reign of Kulothunga Chola, there was no monarchy ruled over an unstable vast expanse of Tamil Nadu. The emergence of several devotional movements in Tamil Nadu has elevated the state's spiritual stature. Tamil Nadu has become a more spiritually advanced region thanks in particular to spiritual leaders like Nayanmara and Alvars. Nayaka dynasty ruled Tamil Nadu after the Maratha kings in such an environment after the Maratha kings. Especially the Thanjavur Nayaks, the Madurai Nayaks and the Ginger Nayaks, who belonged to the Nayaka dynasty, ruled over Tamil Nadu. The heroic warriors who could be called the strangers under the Nayaka kings became the generals of the Nayaka kings. Moreover, during the reign of the Nayaka kings, many parts of Tamil Nadu were subdivided into small camps and managed. The origin of the Nayaka kings did not belong to Tamil Nadu. The Nayaka kings were of different cultures from the culture of Tamil Nadu. Although the dynasty of Nayaka kings flourished under the rule of Nayaka kings especially Viswanatha Nayak and Thirumalai Nayak, many spiritual changes related to spirituality took place in Tamil Nadu at that time and the fall of Nayaka kings led to the liberation of many colonists. The dominance of the British after the matches was due to occur in India and especially in South India.⁶

The British East India Company, which came here to trade during the Jahangir period, retained its presence throughout the day. Aurangzeb, who came after him, did not want to gain power and dominate the British rule so Aurangzeb did not have a smooth relationship with the British. During the course of the Mughal dynasty, British companies established their presence in areas such as Kolkata and Punjab, and dependent sailors planned to travel to many parts of the world to establish their rule. Accordingly, they set up a chain of business centres in many parts of Asia, largely capturing the resources of India. History proves that they exploited the resources of the Indian nation. The lack of unity and enmity between the then kings in India made it much easier for the British to work. That is to say. It must be said that British rule was established throughout India despite repeated wars and rivalries. Many areas were taken over by the British through the efforts of people like Robert Clive. During this time the colonists mobilized their forces against the British and began to wage wars. In particular, we should mention Pulitzer. Rani Velunachiyar, the wife of Muthuvaduga Nathar, who ruled the Sivagangai camp at a time when the settlers under the leadership of Pulithevan dared to oppose her, said she had no such history in many other Indian states.⁷ Ramnad Kindom

The Sethupathi dynasty, which ruled under the Nayaka dynasty, ruled over Ramanathapuram, also known as Maravar Seemai. During the fall of the Nayaka kings, especially during the reign of Ranimangammal, Kizhava Sethupathi became a famous leader and influential leader of the southern region, especially of the Maravas.

Kizhava Sethupathi Nayaka kings were able to rule independently of the conditions. He refused to submit to Nayaka dynasties like Rani Mangammal. After Rani Mangammal, the Nayaka dynasty was completely weakened. They were not considered an enemy at the time. At that time they were unable to establish contact with the Pudukottai and Sethupathi kings or to act with an anti-Semitic attitude as they had conflicts with other European businesses such as the French.

This situation changed over time and caused the Sethupathi and Pudukottai kings to come into contact and contradict each other. After making history in the 12th century AD, degenerate Haiti re-emerged during the reign of King Nayaka of Madurai and is found in historical records from the beginning of the 17th century AD. These are considered to be the autonomous kings who ruled the Ramanatha kingdom also known as Maravar Nadu. The male rulers of Ramanathapuram received the title of "Sethupathi" ("Guardian of the Bridge"). It was first given by the Thanjavur Nayaks to the first Sethupathi Iragunatha Kizhavan. The bridge here is the famous Sethu Bridge (Adam's Bridge). Its female rulers held the title of "Nachchiar". Of the seventy-two settlers of the region (the Chitrasars under the Nayaka rulers), Sethupathi was the first. This special position was granted on the basis of his kingdom's income, rather than on his military prowess. At the beginning of the 18th century, the Sethupathi kings were able to mobilize considerable troops, with the potential to mobilize about 30,000 to 40,000 soldiers in a short period of time (a week). Sadaikan was the first Sethupathi to be recorded in history during the reign of King Muthukrishnappa Nayaka of Madurai. He was the first ruler from 1606- 1621.⁸

The Sethupathis, who were loyal to the Madurai Nayaks, became full-fledged sovereign rulers in 1702. The kingdom of Ramanathapuram lost its independence to the British Empire. Ramanathapuram, also known as the Great Maravar Seema, became a princely state and the smaller Maravar Seema became Sivagangai Seema. The name Sethupathi is a Tamil word meaning "leader of Sethu". Sethu means the bridge of Adam.

It is found in rows of limestone sand dunes in the Mediterranean Sea from Pamban Island in India to Mannar Island in Sri Lanka. B.C. The 5th-century Maravar clan were the guardians of the Ramanathaswamy Temple. They then accepted the title of Sethupathi. The rulers of Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai region in the early 17th century were called Sethupathis. Muthukrishnappa Nayakar, the Nayaka king, recognized the succession of the Sethupathis as leaders under the ancient Pandyas in the early 17th century.⁹

The protector of the Sethusamudram was called Sethupathi. Sethupathi Sadaikanthevar was a believer of the Nayaks. He emerged as the leader of the colonists. Sethupathis are Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Tirunelveli strangers. They had Ramanathapuram as their official headquarters. Sadaikan Thevar and his son Koothansepthy provided protection to the devotees coming to Rameswaram from Sethupathi. The Sethupathis also minted copper coins until they became Samindras in the 18th century. Coins depict horses and peacocks with deities. They also have the name Sethupathi in Tamil. Udayan Regunatha Sethupathi or Sadaikan Sethupathi was the Samasthana king of Ramanathapuram. Reign 1601 - 1622 (1603). His (or) ancestor's ancestry appears to have been a quick rebuke. It is not known the name of the king's father or how he qualified for the title of Sethupathi. AD about the donations made by this king to the Rameswaram temple. According to the Anupam Chepat of 1607, his given name was Thirumalai Sadaikan and his name was Udayan Raghunatha Sethupathi Kathathevar. Three prayer books issued by this king have been found.¹⁰

Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi

The tenure of Shanmuga Rajeswara Naganath Sethupathi, who assumed charge of the land in 1944, came to an end in 1948 with the enactment of the Land Abolition Act. This last king was also involved in politics and was elected chairman of the Ramanathapuram district board and later elected to the Chennai state assembly in 1952 and 1962 from the Ramanathapuram assembly constituency on behalf of the Indian National Congress and in 1957 separately. He has served as the Minister of Housing Control in the Tamil Nadu Cabinet. He was the Chairman of the Madurai Tamil Sangam and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rameshwaram Temple until his death. He is a music lover. He is an athlete. Proficient in Cricket, Tennis, Equestrian. He has been the President of the Chennai Racing Association for many years. During his rule he arranged for a drinking water pipeline from the Vaigai River to Ramanathapuram, 18 stone west of Ramanathapuram. He assisted in the construction of major bridges on the National Highways near Tirupullani in the south of Ramanathapuram, near Rajasingamangalam in the north and near Landai in the west. He also helped to set up large science laboratories at the Madurai College in Madurai where he studied and at the Ramanathapuram King's High School. Ramanathapuram Sethupathi Government College was established with his donation. Even today, the Sethupathi dynasty lives in the Sethupathi Palace. Rajeswari Nachiyar is still the last crown prince of the Sethupathi dynasty and his family still lives in the Ramanathapuram fort.¹¹

Thondaiman Kingdom

The Thondaman dynasty is a South Indian dynasty that ruled Pudukkottai and its environs from the 17th to the 20th century AD. Ruled. The Pudukkottai area was ruled by a leader called Sivantheluntha Pallavarayar. The king of Ramanathapuram doubted the allegiance of its leader to the Ramanatha dynasty. He began to think that he would begin to show allegiance to the king who ruled Tanjore. The king of Ramanathapuram, therefore, removed the chief from office and made his nephew and brother of Kathai Nachiyar the new king of Pudukkottai. Thondaiman was the son of Avadaya Raghunatha Thondaiman, who had previously ruled the diocese. Appreciating Thondaiman's services, Raghunatha Kizhavan Sethupathi gave him the Pudukkottai area. After the death of Raghunatha Kizhava Sethupathi, Thondaiman became the ruler of Pudukkottai. In later centuries, the Thondaiman rulers, though landlords of the Ramanathapuram district, pursued a private foreign policy, which was common practice in all parts of India at that time. Later there was a direct confrontation between the Thonman kings of Pudukkottai and the Nayaka kings who ruled Tanjore. Thondaiman captured the western part of

Thirukattupalli.

The next ruler was Raja Vijaya Regunatha Raya Thondaiman. He aided the Nawab of Arcot against Haider Ali, the ruler of Mysore. He was loyal to the British government. A few days later, when Haider Ali's army tried to capture the Pudukkottai principality, Thondaiman's army defeated them and drove out Haider's army. Thondaiman captured areas including Aranthangi. He also aided and abetted the British government against Tipu Sultan. Pudukkottai finally came under formal British protection in 1800. This became inevitable as Mysore was threatened by the Thondaiman kings Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. Tipu Sultan tried to use the power of the French against the British. Thondaiman dynasty: Raghunatha Raya Thondaiman was the first of the Pudukkottai kings. He ruled from 1686 to 1730. Early in his life, he started his career as a warlord with Ramanathapuram Sethupathi. The work he did for Sethupathi

Raja Sri Raghunatha Raya Tondaiman (1641-1730) was the first king of Pudukkottai to rule from 1686 to 1730. He started his career as a warlord with Ramanathapuram Sethupathi from 1686 until his independence in 1686. Raghunatharaya Thondaiman ruled his country from 1686 to 1730. He was also friendly with the king of Ramanathapuram, Iragunatha. Following the death of King Ramanathapuram in 1720, Sarapoji I supported Bhavani Sankara as the next king. But Iragunatharaya Thondaiman supported Thanda Thevara against Bhavani Shankar. Following this, Bhavani Shankar captured the throne, defeating Thanda Deva with the support of Sarapoji. Sarapoji changed his support for Bhavani Shankar and invaded Ramanathapuram in 1723. In this matter, Iragunatharaya Thondaiman supported Thanda Thevara and made him win. Iragunatharaya Thondaiman died in April 1730. After that, his grandson Vijayaragunatharaya Thondaiman ascended the throne.¹²

Role of Vallabhaipatel and V.P.Menon

There were more than 565 princely states in India. Many monarchies agreed to the Coalition for Democracy, recognizing the sacrifices of many freedom fighters who lost their power, influence, wealth and so on in order to remain united in this country, under the managed constitutional plans of India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was the Home Minister during the Congress rule under them under the Constitution of India, took various measures to unify the various provinces of India. In which the Hyderabad region did not agree with the unification of India If King Harisingh of Kashmir was a Hindu then the people living there were Muslims. For such reasons, this political integration was fraught with many difficulties. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a staunch supporter of India's efforts to unite India and coordinated many parts of India with the support of VP Menon from Kerala. VP Menon summoned the kings of Fort and Ramanathapuram in the coordination movement of Tamil Nadu and took up the situation of compelling them to bring India under one rule. At that time the Sethupathi kings agreed to hand over their monarchy to India under this agreement and offered to relinquish their kingship later VP Menon told the Pudukkottai dynasty and the Sethupathi dynasty daily that the monarchies would be given due status and respect. It is noteworthy that Indira Gandhi later abolished the monarchy system in the provincial movement. It is noteworthy that VP Menon said that kings would be given due status and respect for their pensions and that he first served in the Sethupathi dynasty especially Rajagopala Thondaiman and Rajagopala Thondaiman affiliated with the Congress party. It is also noteworthy that he was elected to the Legislative Assembly from the Congress Party.¹³

On that basis, they agreed to give up the so-called influence of their king and leave India under their control according to Indian political integration and live as ordinary citizens in accordance with administrative legal schemes. It must be said that at that time the Sethupathi kings' place and many of the treasures possessed by Pudukkottai Thondaiman were donated to India especially many lands and other riches used by the kings but they only thou honour the honour of being king. It was only when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was engaged in such political integration in an attempt to unite the villages in the north Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel made efforts to ensure that most of the provinces in northern India did not accept themselves as governing India under the legal provisions of the Indian Constitution. He handled the fire with fire. It must be said that the water was handled by water. He made such strenuous efforts. Talked and solved things that needed to be solved. He also dared to control by military action the kings of the monarchy who did not agree to negotiations. As a result, most parts of India relinquished their sovereignty to accept the rule of India but French-controlled areas such as Goa and Pondicherry did not come to an agreement and areas such as Kashmir and Hyderabad did not come to an agreement.¹⁴

Conclusion

This magnificent work is admirable anywhere in history. That is why historians refer to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as the Bismarck of India. A nation called India would not have emerged if he had not completed the task of uniting India expeditiously. The fact is that VP Menon did important work to unite the two provinces that may exist in Tamil Nadu. Only these two regions gained monarchical status during the struggle for independence under British rule. Other areas were not ruled by kings. The fact is that they were under the direct control of the British and on that basis, the Sethupathi kings ruled Ramanathapuram. The Thondaimans ruled the Pudukkottai area. After the liberation of India in 1947, they accepted the management of India at the initiative of VP Menon and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and volunteered for the integration of the country. Karthik Thondaiman is currently a Member of the Legislative Assembly. It is noteworthy that they are also carrying out many spiritual activities and their contribution to the administrative development of the Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram areas is very significant. It is also worth noting that many spiritual pursuits continue to this day.

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