



HI5B07-KERALA SOCIETY AND
CULTURE: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL
MODULE-4
TOPIC- KOCHI


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KOCHI


- Independent after disintegration of Perumal kingdom
- Known as 'Perumpadappu swarupam'
- Port of kodungallur became useless after 'Puduvaippu' in 1341- great flood of 1341- changed geography of Kochi & the island of Vaipin became important
- Mahodayapuram lost its earlier importance after 1341

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- It was during this period 'Kochazhi' (little port) or Kochi, a natural port became important
 - When the trading activities were shifted from Mahodayapuram to Kochi, the royal family or section of the royal family also shifted their head quarters to Kochi
 - According to Thrissur Gazetteer, Kochi was given to the nephew of Cheraman Perumal, whose father was the Perumpadappu Namboodiri
 - Rulers of Kochin also got the recognition of Perumals
 - Naduvazhis of Kochi called as ' Perumpadappu Gangadhara Veerakerala Trikkovil Adhikari'
 - Assumed that Kochi dynasty came up as the subordinates of the Perumal

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- Not possible to find the exact territory – extended from Ponnani in the North to Cherthala in the South
 - early head quarters was the 'Chitrakutam palace' at the Perumpadappu village in the Ponnani taluk- later head quarters shifted to Kochi
 - Complete details about rulers of Kochi up to advent of Portuguese is not available
 - References- literary works of 14th C – Sukasandesam, Sivavilas am, Unniyaticharitam


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- Works mentions about high status of Perumpadappu Swarupam among Naduvazhis of Kerala
 - Orthodox brahmins & Nair nobility – dominant forces of Kochi
 - Had high status among Naduvazhis- as real successors of Cheras of Mahodayapuram
 - This ancestral heritage- did not allow rulers to adopt new method of administration
 - Remained as the protector of the Brahmin supremacy & Vedic tradition

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- Most imp ruler before advent of Portuguese-
Veera Raghavan- Veera Raghava Pattayam/ Iravi
Korthan Copper Plates
 - Differnce in opinion about its period- 1225 AD
generally accepted date- calculated by
Elamkulam on the basis of historical evidences
 - Veera Raghava Ins- granting of Manigramam &
certain other rights to Syrian Christian leader
Iravi Korthan of Mahadevarpattanam- gives 72
privilages to Iravi Korthan, to have elephant, silk
umberlla, gold ornaments, slaves, Palanquin, etc

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- Ins also suggest that Perumpadappu Swarupam – only successors of Perumals & Veera Raghavan was the ruler of Perumpadappu
 - Local chieftains of Sukapuram, Panniyur, Eranad & Valluvanad- put their signature in Inscription
 - Some scholars- Iravi Korthan was Govardhan, a hindu chieftain- no historical recognition
 - Another opinion- Korthan, local variation of kathanar/ priest

VENAD

- Modern Travancore
- Rich in resources
- Became rich through expansion of agriculture - external & internal trade
- HQ- Kizhperur, near Kilimanur- later shifted to Trippapur near Trivandrum with the growth of Trivandrum as a city
- Venad included territories like Desinganad etc- records the Matilakam Grandavari
- Ayyan Adikal Tiruvatikal- Tarisappali copper plates of Sthanu Ravi & Govardan Marthanda Varma- Jewish copper plates of Bhaskara Ravi Varman, were the samanta rulers of Vnad under Perumals

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- Development of Venad as a samanta territory of Cheras had taken place at an earlier date
 - After disintegration of Perumals- Venad became independent- developed as separate nadu
 - With growth of power & extension of territories- Venad swarupam split in to 3 branches- Trippapur, Chirava, Desinganad
 - Adopted Kuruvazhcha
 - No historical evidences – early history of Venad
 - Assumed that Venad became strong under the rule of Veera Kerala Varma of 12th C
 - Pandya's conducted series of attacks- 13th C

- Ins from Tirunelveli- Jatavarma Sundara Pandyan- ruler of Pandyan Kingdom-13th C- maintained his dominance over Venad continued during rule of Maravarman, successor of Jatavarmen- ins calls Pandyan king as 'Cheran Venta' - one who defeated Cheras
- Jayasimhan- ruler of Venad during the attack of Maravarman
- Suggested that the name Desinganad- might have come from Jayasimhan- war of succession after the death of Jayasimhan b/w his sons & nephews- Ravivarma, the son , won the war & became the ruler
- Prof. Sreedhara Menon- Ravivarma- last Venad ruler, who came to power as per the 'Makkataya system'

- Most imp ruler- Ravivarma Kulasekhara/ Samgramadheeran- 1299 to 1314
- Trivandrum ins- Samgramadheeran- samanta ruler of Pandyan king maravarman till 1310
- Ravivarma- son-in-law of Maravarman- after death of father-in-law, Ravivarma worked for the expansion of Venad
- Attack of North Indian commander-Malik kafur- on pandyan kingdom created anarchy in that country- when Mlik Kafur returned to Delhi, Ravivarma attacked Pandyan kingdom
- After conquering Madurai & Tirupati, Ravivarma made further advances- declared himself as 'South Indian king' at the banks of river Vaigavati in 1313
- Next year- conquered Kanchipuram – ins of Ravivarma at Kanchipuram & Punamally-prove this conquest