

Nayak Rule in Tamil Nadu**The Nayak Rule: Madurai, Tanjore, Gingee and Vellore Nayaks**

- The Nayak rule in Tamil Nadu was established by the Vijaya Nagar Emperors.
- Krishna Devaraya popularised the Nayak System, the king Achyutharaya had 200 Nayaks under his control.
- Among them, the Nayaks of Madurai, Tanjore, Ginjee and Vellore were important.
- After the battle of Talikotta (1565 AD) and after the downfall of Vijaya Nagara empire the Nayaks emerged as an independent ruler.

Nayankara System: -

- Krishnadevaraya extended the system to Tamil country.
- According to this, king was considered as owner of all lands.
- Those who received land from the king were called as Nayak, in term they had to pay a fixed amount and send an army whenever the king needed.
- The Nayaks carried on administration on the name of King.
- This system is known as Nayankara System.

The Nayak Rule in Madurai (1529 AD - 1739 AD)

- On the request of Pandya King, the Krishnadevaraya sent his general 'Nagamma Nayak' to Madurak to help the Pandya king.
- Later Krishnadevaraya sent Nagamma Nayak's son Vishwanath Nayak and established Nayak rule in Madurai.

Viswanatha Nayak (1529 AD - 1564 AD)

- Krishnadevaraya appointed Viswanath Nayak as viceroy or Nayak of Madurai in 1529 AD.
- Defeated many local chieftian and brought them under him.
- He introduced Poliga system, according to it he divided his principality into 72 palayams, which enabled him to collect revenue.
- Extended the territory of Madurai Nayaks which included Trichy, Salem, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli.

- He renovated Ranganatha Temple at Srirangam and Rock Temple at Trichy, the Temples of Tirunelveli.

Krishnappa Nayak (1564 AD - 1572 AD)

- Son of Viswanatha Nayak.
- He developed Krishnapuram temple which is a good model for Nayak architecture.

Veerappa Nayak (1572 AD - 1529 AD)

- He developed the fort at Trichy and built a new fort at Aruppukottai.
- He renovated chidambaram Temple, Improvement were made in Meenakshi temple at Madurai.

Thirumalai Nayak (1623 AD - 1659 AD)

- Greatest among the Nayak of Madurai.
- Transferred the capital from Trichy to Madurai.
- He freed himself from the control of Vijaya Nagar Sovereignty and became an independent ruler.
- His kingdom included Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and some parts of Thiruvananthapuram.
- He built many forts.
- By introducing many festivals, he made madurai as city of festivals.
- Theppakulam, Thirumalai Nayakar mahal, Pudhu mandapam, Rajagopuram were some of his Contributions.

The Battle of Noses:

- Thirumalai Nayak defeated the Mysore ruler Kanthiravanarsa Nayak at Dindigal.
- Barbarious Punishment were given to the war prisoners.
- They cut off the noses and upper lips of the war prisoners.
- So, this war was called 'War of Noses'.

Rani Mangammal (1689 AD - 1706 AD)

- She was a good administrator and courageous General.
- She had diplomatically dealt with mugal army and avoided a defeat.
- She defeated and brought king Ravivarma of Trivancore under her rule.

- Brought Trichy and Tanjore under her rule.
- She donated land to Brahmins and Muslims and also patronised christians.
- Completed many public works like built many irrigations tank, digging wells and canals, laying roads, building choultries, mandapams, planting trees on both sides of the road.

Vijayaranga Chokkanathar (1706 AD - 1732 AD)

Meenakshi (1732 AD - 1739 AD)

- Wife of Vijayaranga Chokkanathar,
- She was the last ruler of Madurai Nayak.
- Rule was brought to an end by the Nawab.

The Nayaks of Tanjore (1532 AD - 1637 AD)

Sevvappa Nayak (1532 AD - 1580 AD)

- He was the first Nayak of Tanjore, appointed by Vijayanagara king Achyutharaya.
- He renovated and repaired Tanjore Lake, later the lake was called Sevappaneri.
- He built Sivaganga fort and many temples.

Achyuttappa Nayak (1580 AD - 1600 AD)

- Son of Sevvappa Nayak

Raghunatha Nayak (1600 AD - 1634 AD)

- Son of Achyuttapa Nayak.
- He was great among Tanjore Nayak.
- He sent his army to Jaffna.
- He encoursged British, Portuguese and Dutch to establish trade.
- He Patronised Telugu and Sanskrit languages.

VijayaRagava Nayak (1633 AD - 1637 AD)

- Last Tanjore Nayak Ruler.
- Telugu Scholar, wrote book Raghunatha Bhyudyama
- Chokkanatha Nayak of Madurai defeated and annexed Tanjore with Madurai and appointed his relative 'Alagiri' as viceroy of Tanjore.

The Nayaks of Gingee (1526 AD - 1671 AD)

- The Region between Palar and Kollidam formed part of the Nayak Kingdom of Gingee.
- The nayaks of Gingee were relatives of Vijayanagara rulers.
- Krishnadevaraya appointed Vaiyappa Nayak as the ruler of Gingee.
- During the period of Krishnadevaraya Gingee was the Capital City.

Vaiyappa Nayak (1526 AD - 1541 AD)

- Loyal of Krishnadevaraya.
- Built temple in thirukoilur.

Thubakki Krishnappar (1541 AD - 1554 AD)

- Son of Vaiyappa Nayak
- Built great walls around the three Hills of Gingee.
- Built great granary and a luxurious wedding Mahal.
- Constructed wall around Rajagiri Fort.
- After him small ruler ruled Gingee.
- Gingee was captured by the Sultan of Bijapur 1671 AD.

The Nayaks of Vellore

- The Vellore Rule was established by Chinna Nayak Pommer.
- After Chinna Nayak Pommar, Lingama Nayak ascended the throne.
- The Nayak ruled Vellore for short period.
- Chennappa Nayak was the ruler of Chennapatnam which later become chennai.

Social Conditions & Cultural Condition under the Nayak Rule

- Caste system prevailed and were very rigid.
- Trade and Commerce flourished.
- Valangai and Idangai continued their activities.
- Common People suffered from contagious disease like cholera and small pox.
- Poverty, Slavery and Bonded labours were their.

Education:

- Brahmins enjoyed rights of education.
- Vedic education was given in Sanskrit language.

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- Ordinary village people lived under poverty, were ignorant, illiterate

Religious Condition:

- The Nayak ruler patronised Hindu Religion.
- Temples were built during this period at Thiruvannamalai, Tindivanam, Gingee were famous.
- They patronised Saivism and promoted Linga worship.
- Mahamahana festival, Sivarathiri and Ekathesi festivals were celebrated.
- During the period of Thirumalai Nayak Chithira Thiruvizha, Theppa Thiruvizha and Ther Thiruvizha were introduced.

Important points to be noted

- Aruppukotai fort was built by Veerappa Nayak
- Viswanath Nayak was considered as the real founder of the Nayak rule in Madurai, and he was appointed by Krishnadevaraya
- Nayankara System was introduced by Krishnadevaraya
- Last Nayak ruler of Madurai was Meenakshi
- The Nayak rule in Vellore was established by Chinna Nayak Pommar.
- The Founder of Nayak rule in Tanjore was Sevvappa Nayak.
- The rule of Nayak was established in the year 1526AD
- Poliga System was introduced by Viswanath Nayak
- The First Nayak ruler of Gingee was Vayappa Nayak
- Vijaya Raghava Nayak last Nayak ruler of Tanjore
- Arunachala Kolambakkam written by Ellappanavlar
- Ariyanathan was the first Dalavoy (minister and military general) during the regime of Vishwanath Nayak
- Renovation of Meenakshi Temple done by Vishwanath Nayak
- Rani Mangammal - Grand Mother of Vijaya Ranga Chokkanathar