

Vol II Issue IX

ISSN No : 2230-7850

---

Monthly Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal

*Indian Streams  
Research Journal*

Executive Editor

Ashok Yakkaldevi

Editor-in-chief

H.N.Jagtap

---

## Welcome to ISRJ

**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

**ISSN No.2230-7850**

Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

### **International Advisory Board**

Flávio de São Pedro Filho Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken, Aiken SC 29801	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Kamani Perera Regional Centre For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Department of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences [ PK ]
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya [ Malaysia ]	Catalina Neculai University of Coventry, UK	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Horia Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pinteau, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA Nawab Ali Khan College of Business Administration
Titus Pop	George - Calin SERITAN Postdoctoral Researcher	

### **Editorial Board**

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh,Ratnagiri,MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University, Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yaliker Director Managment Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU, Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play (Trust),Meerut	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director,Hyderabad AP India.	S.KANNAN Ph.D , Annamalai University,TN
	S.Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	Satish Kumar Kalhotra
	Sonal Singh	

**Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India  
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.isrj.net**



## Historical And Cultural Significance Of Adiyaman Fort, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu

D Sakthivel and L.Selvamuthu Kumarasami

Dept in History ,Dravidian University Kamaraj Nagar,  
Chellampatty (Post), Harur Taluk  
Dept in History ,Presidency College (Autonomous)Chennai

### Abstract:

*The purpose of this paper is to highlight Adiyaman Fort (Kottai), in Dharmapuri District. In 1965 the Salem District was bifurcated into Salem and Dharmapuri Districts. In respect of Dharmapuri District, Dharmapuri was made the headquarters of the District. Dharmapuri is one of the historical places in Tamil Nadu where, in ancient times, particularly during the rule of Adiyamans, Dharmapuri was in limelight in history and as well as in Tamil Literature. In this paper an attempt is made to highlight the historical evolution of Adiyaman Fort, its structure, Temples, inscriptions, paintings in the fort.*

### KEYWORDS:

Historical, Cultural, Fort, Structure, Inscription, Paintings.

### INTRODUCTION:

#### History of Adiyaman

In Tamil Sangam Literature, Dharmapuri District was called 'Tagadur Nadu'. The available inscription views that previously Dharmapuri was called as 'Tagadur' and at present it is called as Dharmapuri.1 Adiyamans, the Ancient Rulers of Tagadur were valiant warriors and patrons of Tamil Literature. Adiyaman Neduman Anji was the reigning chief at Tagadur. He was a great warrior. He was related to Cheraman, the King of the Cheras. He was a powerful and great chieftain and was able to inflict a crushing defeat on the combined forces of seven princes of seven principalities. Adiyaman was a philanthropist. He often used to reward the pandits in Tagadur. Later many pandits came in and praised him much in order to get reward from his hands.

There were even women pandits in the Court of Ancient Rulers of Tamil Country. Among them the remarkable woman poetess was Avvaiyar. She went in search of good people and sang in praise of them. Once Avvaiyar heard about Adiyaman's virtues, and sung much in praise of his virtues. Avvaiyar seems, to have spent a good portion of her life in the Court of Adiyaman Neduman Anji.2

#### TAGADUR'S SPECIALITY

Dharmapuri is one of the renowned historical places in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu with her rich cultural heritage has many places of aesthetic, historical, archaeological or religious importance which will be of attraction to anyone locally, nationally or globally.

All these places in the present Dharmapuri District have been brought out to public interest. When Adiyaman Fort was researched by Prof. K. V. Raman, Madras University, he discovered some of the

Please cite this Article as : D Sakthivel and L.Selvamuthu Kumarasami , Historical And Cultural Significance Of Adiyaman Fort, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu: Indian Streams Research Journal (Oct. ; 2012)

ancient things such as dolls made with mud, bangles and earrings. In Tagadur, different types of forts were discovered namely, mud and stone built forts and preserved well through the through the ages because of the keen interest taken by the ruling dynasties.<sup>3</sup>

#### CAPITAL OF ADIYAMANS

It is known from the inscription of Kambainallur, Dharmapuri Kottai Temple, Adiyaman milestone, Dharmapuri served as the capital of Adiyamans. After the end of the rule of Adiyamans in Sangam age, the Gangas immigrated from Kollar to Tagadur. During their period, the Kannada and Tamil spoken people mingled and hence the place was called Tagaduru. Tagadur was remained in the jurisdiction of Ganganadu for a few years.<sup>4</sup>

#### NAME OF ADIYAMAN

The Tamil words of Adigan and Adiyam gives the meaning of excellent and remarkable person respectively. The name Cheraman is derived from Chera + Magan and Malaiman from Maliayar + Magan. Similarly, the word Adiyaman has been derived from Adiyar + Magan.<sup>5</sup> Adirajan in Sanskrit means independent king and he came to be known as Adiyaman in Tamil.<sup>6</sup>

#### ADIYAMAN FORT

The capital place of Adiyamans was Adiyaman Fort which is situated on the Salem- Dharmapuri road at a distance of 7.k.m. from Dharmapuri. The ruins of the Fort shows the shape as roughly oval. From the area of the ruins in the Fort and the Area of the location of the various temples and from the coverage area of the surrounding residential sites of the villages, it is deduced that he ruled a vast area <sup>7</sup>

The Archaeologists and Historians views that two thousand years ago Adiyamans might have ruled Tagadur. At present, Adiyaman Fort was in partial ruins. The National Highway Road passes near the Adiyaman Fort. During the flood occasions the ancient coins and the bricks of Kottai was brought to light. Therefore, the entrance of the Tagadur itself seemed as the location of the Adiyaman Kottai.

The Fort Temple which is near the market in Dharmapuri is a part and parcel of Adiyaman Fort.<sup>8</sup> In the Fort village belonged to Twelfth Century, there is a milestone on the way to Adiyaman Peruvazhi Navalthavalam, at the distance of 29 km. There is another milestone on the way to Krishnagiri from Matlampatti near Konguchettipatti which shows the distance of 27 km away to reach Adiyaman Fort.<sup>9</sup>

#### Structure of the Fort

According to the description of Purananuru, a Tamil verse, the entrance of Adiyaman Fort was very huge. The Fort was very strong and protective in such a way that no enemy can climb the fort because the outer part of the Fort was pasted with mustard oil. The armaments were placed on the Fort in the shape of birds, balls, bows and arrows in order to protect the Fort from all possible stacks of the enemies.<sup>10</sup>

#### TEMPLES AND INSCRIPTION IN THE FORT

The important temple in the Fort area is Someswara Temple. There is a stone slab outside this temple in which the figure of an elephant is engraved which is said to be the emblem of Adiyaman. On the basement of the outer walls, there are many inscriptions in Tamil.

Other temples in the Fort village were dedicated to Bhairava, Ankalamman, Narasimha and Kaliyamman. There is also a Jain sculpture near the Bairava Temple. The festival of Kaliyamman Temple takes place every year during the Tamil month of Panguni (March-April). The Chenneraya Perumal Temple is the biggest of its kind which is held as a protected monument.<sup>11</sup>

There is a mandapa in the Fort Village. An inscription of this mandapa belonging to Seventeenth Century views that the land was donated by Nayannar to Someswara Devan. There is another inscription engraved in Bhairava Temple facing south-west direction shows that the land of Veeranasimhan Devan was donated to the priest, Vidugadhar who belonged to Nandhimangalam.

When Bosala King reigned Adiyaman Fort, the seat of Adiyaman Fort was changed into Mahendramangalam. Later, during the Vidugathalagiya Perumal's period again the name was changed into Adiyaman Fort.

During the rule of the Cholas and Vijayanagar Kings, the name Adiyaman Fort was unchanged. On behalf of the Someswarar Devan, the people donated their land for the temple. Further there are sculptures showing the figures of the soldiers, engraved in Adiyaman Fort.<sup>12</sup>

### MALLIKARJUNESWARAR TEMPLE

The Mallikarjuneswarar Temple in Dharmapuri is intimately linked with history and mythology. The famous temple of Mallikarjuneswarar, which is situated in the Fort Area is also known as Fort Kamatchi Temple. According to the chief priest, Sivacharya Selvamuthukumarasivam, the linga of Mallikarjuna is as old and majestic as that of the presiding deity of Srisailam in Andrapradesh, and is hailed as 'Banalinga'. The Shrine is considered one among the 1008 Ancient Siva Temples. The Sthalapurana of the Temple says that Arjuna, one of the Pandava Brothers worshiped this deity by offering jasmine flowers. Hence the God came to be known as Mallikarjuna. Yudhishtira, the eldest of the Pandavas took to austerity here and hence the place came to be called Dharmapuri.

It was here that Indrajit, the son of Ravana had performed a sacrifice to get a boon from Goddess Nikubalai. This is also the only temple where Prathyankira and Soolini, consorts of Saraba are worshipped. According to historical evidences collected by the Hindu Religious and Charity Endowments Department, Saint Puri Siddha appealed to Kulottunga Choha to renovate the Shrine, which was then the King renovated the temple. It then came to be called Chanayiram Muzhamayiram.

The Temple inscriptions speaks of the renovations made from time to time by several Rulers including Tipu Sultan. Sundaramurthy Nayanar, in one of his hymns makes a passing reference to this Temple. The Temple is built on an area of 1.50 acres. The Shrine is conspicuous by the absence of the front Rajagopuram or Vimanas. The Linga of Mallikarjuna is placed on a square Aavudaiyar with 36 Patigas, which denotes the 36 Philosophical tenets in accordance with Siva Agama.

### PILLARS AND PAINTINGS OF ADIYAMAN FORT

There is a mandapa which leads to the sanctum sanctorum in the Fort Temple. The paintings in the ceiling of the mandapa depicts the scenes from Mahabharata, Viswarupa Dharshan of Lord Krishna and some scenes from the Ramayana. It is still fresh and unfortunately a portion of the paintings have been white washed. However, what is left has been preserved and for the lovers of paintings and artists, it is really a treasure house. The colours of red, black, white and yellow are predominant in the paintings, and the techniques employed deserves a need of detailed study and research. These paintings belong to Sixteenth Century on which the scenes of war is depicted.<sup>13</sup>

The Mahamandapa is an architectural wonder. The hanging stone pillars never touch the ground. Each stone pillar weighs about two tones and sculptures of damsels are engraved on them. In the Sanctum Sanctorum of the presiding deity, the figure of Goddess Lakshmi with elephants on either side showering water on Her has been artistically sculptured.

This historical temple assumes significance during Deepavali Festival every year. Women belonging to around 58 hamlets in and around Dharmapuri throng the temple premises to perform Kethara Gowri Nonbu, a community festival. Special Poojas are also performed on the day of Gowriviratham by the local devotees in a grand manner.<sup>14</sup>

The Temple of Lord Kaalabairavam, adjacent to Kamatchi Temple is worshipped by the devotees every Sunday between 4.30 pm and 6 pm. They perform special Raagukaala Pooja before the Bhairava deity. The deities in the Temple are worshiped in accordance with the Kamiga Agama., Chandihuman and Thiruvilakku Poojas are also performed on all full moon nights. The people lit the lamps in white squash guard and coconut. It has been traditionally followed from the period of Adiyaman to the present day in Dharmapuri.

### ADIYAMAN KOTTAM

Realising the historical and cultural significance of the Adiyaman Fort, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constructed Adiyaman Kottam to preserve the ancient monument. The cost value of this place is 1.15 crores. The area is about 2 acres and 6190 square feet. This Kottam is very magnificent and it is maintained well. The statue of Adiyaman and Avvaiyar is placed at the entrance of this Kottam. Thus the Adiyaman Fort, the Fort Temple and Adiyaman Kottam are the significant historical and cultural place to be preserved through the ages, keeping the memory of the past, leaving the legacy to generation after generation.<sup>15</sup>

**END NOTES**

1. Anbarasu, P., Adimangalin Varalaru, (Tamil), 2002, p.20.
2. Jaganadhan, K.V., Tamil Mannar Vira Varalaru, (Tamil) Amudha Nilayam, Chennai, 2003,p.12 .
3. Om Sakthi Deepavali Malar, Chennai, 1992 .p.140
4. Anbarasu, P., op.cit., p.20
5. Marchiya Gandhi, N., Tamilazha Varalatrini Adiyar Marabu, (Tamil), 1988, p.32.
6. Pulney Andy, Tamil Nadu District Gazetteers; Dharmapuri , Madras, 1995 , p.136.
7. Ibid., pp. 130-137.
8. Rasu, S., Tagadur Maavata Varalartu Karutharangu, (Tamil), Dharmapuri, 1990, p.10.
9. Ramamurthy, V., Varalaru Matrum Panbattu Karutharangu Katturai, Adiyamangalin, Atchiyil Salem, (Tamil), Kongu Aaivagam , Salem, 1982.
10. Dinakaran, (pub.), Dharmapuri District Sirapu Malar, 2000, Salem, 31st May 2000, p.12.
11. Krishnamoorthy, S., and Selvaraj, S., Dharmapuri District Tholliyal Kaiyedu, (Tamil), 2005, pp. 134-135.
12. Dina Thanthi (Tamil Daily ), 15 August 2009, p.5
13. Indira , T., Dharmapuri District Tourist Spots - A Study. M.Phil Dissertation, Annamalai University, Chidambaram. 2007, p. 57.
14. Malaimalar (Tamil Evening Daily) Valikattimalar, Salem, 2009, p. 104
15. The New Indian Express, 12 November 2010, p.2

**Publish Research Article**  
**International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal**  
**For All Subjects**

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished research paper.Summary of Research Project,Theses,Books and Books Review of publication,you will be pleased to know that our journals are

**Associated and Indexed,India**

- \* International Scientific Journal Consortium    Scientific
- \* OPEN J-GATE

**Associated and Indexed,USA**

- \*Google Scholar
- \*EBSCO
- \*DOAJ
- \*Index Copernicus
- \*Publication Index
- \*Academic Journal Database
- \*Contemporary Research Index
- \*Academic Paper Databse
- \*Digital Journals Database
- \*Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- \*Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- \*Directory Of Academic Resources
- \*Scholar Journal Index
- \*Recent Science Index
- \*Scientific Resources Database

Indian Streams Research Journal  
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005,Maharashtra  
Contact-9595359435  
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com  
Website : www.isrj.net