

The Legacy of Nawab Rule In South Arcot District- A Study

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Abstract

This article mainly focused to reveal the legacy of Nawab rule in South Arcot District during medieval period. In Nawab rule, the Cuddalore has known by the name of Islamabad and Villupuram renowned by Bailpur. The viceroys of Mughal emperors who were ruled their territory under the supremacy of Mughals. The Mughals ruled the entire India for sake of invasion and other way of attainment. Some of the Kings accept their paramount with any hesitation. The kings nominated the Governors in the name of Nawabs and Nizams. After the downfall of Mughal rule, especially Aurangzeb dominion, the feudatories and Governors ruled their region by their own. India has been ruled by numerous kings and dynasties, which segregated into three heads; ancient period ruled by Hindu kings, medieval period ruled by Muslim kings, and the Modern period ruled by Christians (Europeans). The South Arcot district has located on the southern part of India, might be important in the history of nawabs. This region played significant place in the growth and development of the Nawab kingdom. The Europeans tried to found a platform in the south Arcot district gradually. The geographical advantages given more benefit to the Europeans and partially benefit to the Nawabs of Arcot. Thus the legacy of nawab rule impacted in the region of South Arcot over the years.

Keywords: Naib, Muslim Kings, South Arcot District, Nawabs of Arcot, Mughal rulers, Nizams, Bailpur.

Introduction

In Nawab rule, the Cuddalore has known by the name of Islamabad and Villupuram renowned by Bailpur.¹ The viceroys of Mughal emperors who were ruled their territory under the supremacy of Mughals. The Mughals ruled the entire India for sake of invasion and other way of attainment. Some of the Kings accept their paramount with any hesitation. The kings nominated the Governors in the name of Nawabs in Arcot and Nizams in Mysore. After the downfall of Mughal rule, especially Aurangzeb dominion, the feudatories and Governors ruled their region by their own. This period the Europeans were getting the permission from Nawabs on the region to collect taxes. However, the British and French are settled by each other on the South Arcot region and frequently fought them by battles. These battles named as Carnatic wars. The three battles were solve the problem and British won the game by wars and techniques. All the battles fought with the help and support of the Nawabs and Nizams in Carnatic region. The impact of Carnatic wars, the so many small skirmishes and battles fought in the region of Carnatic especially Villupuram and Cuddalore region, so called South Arcot district. This article mainly focused to reveal the legacy of Nawab rule in South Arcot District during medieval period.

Nomenclature

Nawabs are the Governors of Mughal rulers² whom ruled after the downfall of imperialist power of Mughal rule. Nawab derived from Urdu word “Naib” means deputy. The nawab is intensive of naib ,a purist correction of plural of naib employed as pour. The term used under the Mughal rulers of India to designate a viceroy or governor of a province. It is sometimes found in combination with other titles namely the Nawab of Carnatic or Arcot.

The Governor was an under the authority of Nizam of Hyderabad. Nawab also is used also is in Persia as title of royal princess, and in India. Nabob is an English corruption of Nawab , which was also applied in a derogatory sense to wealthy Anglo-Indians who had returned from the east. It has been suggested that the term first became familiar to Englishmen in the second half of the eighteenth century.³ Arcot was the capital of Nawabs in Arcot and it has a fort city.⁴

Historical Review

South Arcot district ruled by various kings and had a name of unique dynasty. The earliest evidences depicted from Karikadu (alias Kudikadu) given the clear picture about the pre historic culture and Sangam age.⁵ The three important temples are given the details about the ancient endeavours like Tiruppathiripuliyur, Thiruvahindipuram and Thirumanikuzhi.⁶ The great saints were born or settled in the town in ancient period, namely Appar, Thirunavukkarasar and Sundarar.⁷ Later Cholas authorize this place with their supremacy, the feudatories are ruled this region Kadavarayars, Jatavaraman Sundra Pandiyan has defeated the Cholas and implement their paramount there. While the Muslim invasion made the region into Nawab Rule. Bahmini Sultan named Muhammed Adilshah invades the South Arcot region and captures some areas. At once they changed the name Cuddalore old town region into Islamabad.⁸ South Arcot district was bifurcated into two districts namely Villupuram and Cuddalore on 2001.⁹ South Arcot was called by different names asuch as Gadilanadu, Malainadu (hilly region), Maladu (corrupt form of Malayaman nadu) , Nadu-Nadu, Thirumunaipadi Ndu, Sedhi Nadu, Jagannatha nadu, Sannatha Nadu, Magada Nadu in ancient days.¹⁰

Nawabs of Arcot

After the downfall of Mughal ruler Aurangazeb on 1707, the Governor made the own kingdom which already taking the possession of the same. On the consequences, the Governors ruled the Arcot region in the name of Nawab. This district was under the legacy of Nawab of Arcot during the first decade of the 18th century. This division has come to be called as South Arcot to distinguish it from the northern division of Arcot. In 1601, Gingee which comprised almost the whole of South Arcot district fell to Muslims for some period. The forces of Bijapur took Gingee from the Golkonda Army and from 1648 to 1677 A.D. South Arcot was under the control of Bijapur Genreals. it was in 1677 that Chatrapati Shivaji took Gingee area with assistance of Golkonda forces. In 1680 Hari, the Maratha Chief asserted his individual position of Gingee area. After his dath, Gingee fell into the hands of the Mughals in 1698. Subsequently, there were group rivalries of the Nawab of Arcot, the Nizam and the British and the French. Sadat Ullah khan held away over Gingee from 1714 A.D.¹¹

Vazhudavur incident

The conquest of Senjin from Bussy, the General and brought Nazir Jung to move his troops further into the south. His troops devastated the whole region of Acharpakkam, Tindivanam, Villupuram , Triuvathi, Venkatammalpettai, etc., were plundered all that the tamil cultivators had in their houses, their gains and crops were stoelen or cut down and their bullocks and cows were driven off. Sadras , covelong , places around Madras like Poonamalee, Manimangalm, Salavakkam, Uttiramelur, Chinglepet, and Kanchipuram. Above the places are plundered and their women revised by 4000 Marathas. In March 1750 , Muhammed Ali Khan had left Trichinopoly to join Nazir Jung at Vazudavur.

Nazir Jung was camping at Vazhudavur, about 15 miles north-west of Pondicherry on the road to Senji on the right bank of the Senji River, near Matour(which was still under the

French). His camp spread from Mangalm beyond Villianur to Thiruvakkarai. Nazir Jung had the intention of punishing Muzaffar Jung, who surrendered to him eventually. His army is believed to have consisted of 300000 men. Besides he had the Maratha cavalry, commanded by Morari Rao and a detachment of sepoys from Fort St David, Major Lawrence joined Nazir Jung with 600 Englishmen. Muzaffar Jung's and Chanda Sahib's troops were less in number. But they had the French regiment, commanded by Combault d'Auteuil. However, the French were terrified by Nazir Jung army of 25000 men, camping from Thiruvakkarai to Villianur. The tent of Nazir Jung was at Vazhudavur, near the mosque and is found within the ruined fort of Vazhudavur.¹²

Conclusion

India has been ruled by numerous kings and dynasties, which segregated into three heads; ancient period ruled by Hindu kings, medieval period ruled by Muslim kings, and the Modern period ruled by Christians (Europeans). The South Arcot district has located on the southern part of India, might be important in the history of nawabs. This region played significant place in the growth and development of the nawab kingdom. The Europeans tried to found a platform in the south Arcot district gradually. The geographical advantages given more benefit to the Europeans and partially benefit to the nawabs of Arcot. Thus the legacy of nawab rule impacted in the region of South Arcot over the years.

End Notes

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