

MILITARY POTENTIAL OF MADURAI NAYAKA'S FROM 1564 TO 1623 A.D. – A STUDY

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Abstract

Military history of Tamilagam (Tamilnadu in India) is largely mentioned in Tamil literatures, inscriptions and copperplates. Majority of the Tamilagam military history has largely an unexplored due to secret warfare technology. Tamilagam was ruled by the Chera, the Chola, the Pandya, the Pallava and the Nayaka dynasties and others. Madurai Nayakas ruled southern part of Tamilagam from 1529 A.D. to 1736 A.D. by 13 rulers for 207 years. During the period from 1564 to 1623 A.D., there are five Madurai Nayaka Potentates ruled the country efficiently under Vijayanagr emperor. They always loyal to their lord Vijayanagar Emperor. At the time, Krishnappa Nayaka -I (1564-1672 A.D.), won the battle against combined 60,000 Ceylon troops & 10,000 foreign troops (probably Portuguese's) in Srilanka. As Hindu king, Veerappa Nayaka was settle down the Goripalayam Mosque land grant in favour of the Muhammadans. Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka (1601-1609 A.D.) was able to reduced crimes and robbery against pilgrims of Rameswaram and laid down the foundation of the rule of the Sethupathi of Ramnadu area under Madurai Nayaks. The research paper is to express about military campaign of Madurai Nayakas in a specific period in detail approach.

Introduction

Military history of *Tamilagam (Tamilnadu in India)* is mentioned in Tamil literatures, inscriptions and copperplates. Research scholars have covered mostly the administrative, social, political, cultural, economic, religious art and Architecture aspects of great rulers. But the military matters have been either silent or written a little. Majority of the *Tamilagam* military history is largely an unexplored or unknown since very long time. Because the military records and war strategies are kept in confidential. Tamilagam was ruled by the Chera, the Chola, the Pandya, the Pallava and the Nayaka dynasties. Madurai Nayakas under Vijayanagar emperor acted as Amaranayakas from 1404 A.D. to 1535 A.D., in Madurai Region for 131 years and also ruled by the name as Madurai Nayakas from 1529 A.D. to 1736 A.D. by 13 rulers for 207 years. This research paper is an attempt to highlight the Military potential of Madurai Nayaka Rulers Krishnappa Nayaka -I (1564-1672 A.D.); Veerappa Nayaka (1572-1595 A.D.); Krishnappa Nayaka -II (1595 to 1601 A.D.) and Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka (1601-1609 A.D.) from 1564 to 1623 A.D.

Aim of Military History

Military history of a country is clandestine always due to nation's security. Records related to military activities of a kingdom is kept confidential. Hence researchers are partly willing to take military history as their area for investigation. Therefore, this study is important pertaining to the history of regional level military of our nation. The aim of this paper **“MILITARY POTENTIAL OF MADURAI NAYAKA'S FROM 1564 TO 1623 A.D. - A STUDY”** is to divulge the strength and campaign of Madurai Nayakas and encourage the upcoming generation to distinguish how the battles are fought and how they subdued others with the help of their army.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this paper are:-

- (a) To review the existing literature of the study area.
- (b) To investigate survey relation between Madurai Nayakas and Vijayanagar Emperor.
- (c) To know about the background of Amaranayakas and Nayaka system in Madurai.
- (d) To analyse the responsibility of Palayakarars system in Madurai Nayakas.
- (e) To illustrate diplomatic achievement against Ceylon by Krishnappa Nayaka -I.
- (f) To find the reason of formation of Ramnadu Sethupathi by Krishnappa Nayaka-II.

Methodology

The study would be both evocative and analytical. By the way of historical research methodology, various evidences collected. Primary and secondary sources have been critically analysed and utilized in a persuasive way. Also, on filed investigation carried out for the subject study.

Formation of Madurai Nayaka

The history of the Nayaka covers particularly that of the 15th to 17th and the first half of the 18th Centuries and carries the history of south India from the best days of the empire of Vijayanagar to the eve of the British occupation of the Carnatic. 'When Kumara Kampana, the younger son of Bukka -I removed the Sultanate from Madurai in 1378 A.D., and founded the Vijayanagar rule'. [1] The Mahamandalesvaras are appointed to administrate a particular rajya for a definite period. Maduraittala Varalaru gives a list of nine Nayakas who acted as Amaranayakas

(Telugu speaking front-runner) between 1404 A.D. to 1535 A.D. By the name as Madurai Nayakas, they ruled from 1529 A.D. to 1736 A.D., by 13 rulers 207 years in Madurai Region. At that time, Tamil country was divided into three Nayakships of Madurai, Senji and Tanjavur instead of rajyas. Visvanatha Nayaka was the founding father of the Nayaka kingdom at Madurai in 1529 A.D. By his turn, he introduced the Poligar or the Polygars or the Palayakarars system in Madurai Kingdom with the advice of Ariyanatha Mudhaliyar, his Dalavay and divided his region into 72 Bastions. Palayakarar were the subordinates of the Madurai Nayaka. The duties of Palayakarar were to maintained fixed volume of army and supplied to the Nayakas, when demanded. Also they collected various taxes from people from respective region and a fixed amount was paid to Nayaks according to their land holdings.

Military Potential of Madurai Nayaks

Under Madurai Nayaka administration, the Palayakarars maintained their own armed forces, extended their aid to the ruler on requisition. They ruled land was called Palayams. All Palayams were included from seven major *seemais* like Satyamangalam, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Tiruchirapalli, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelvely and Madurai. As a good number of Palayams lay at the command, they were given the right to occupy front position in the royal Army[2]. During hostilities and war campaigns the Maravar Sethupathis of Ramanathapuram rendered valuable services to the Nayakas of Madurai. Due to their fearless nature and commanding qualities, they found a place as mercenary soldiers in the armies of chief and rulers.[3] Pudukkottai, Sivagangai and Trvancore were also honoured to enjoy a high status[4]. The supreme of the Kannivadi Palayakarar was the chief of the 18 Palayams of Dindigul Seemai.[5] The Palayakarar of Kangeyam was the head of the 24 Palayams in the Kongu region.[6]

During the time of Madurai Nayaka, Muthuvelmani Chandra Koppa Mandradiar, the Palayakarar of Puravipalayam in Pollachi, gave 235 elephants and money as tribute to the Nayaka.[7] The Sethupathis of Ramanathapuram too were able to collect 25,000 Maravars on a single day to assist Thirumalai Nayaka in his battle against Mysore. The Palayakarar of Erumaikatti was powerful and influential at the Madurai Court as he was capable of maintaining 3,000 infantry, 200 horses and 50 elephants for the service and requirements of the Nayakas at the Centre, Madura.[8] The Urrakkuzhi Palayakarar, who controlled a small territory, was capable of Maintaining 5000 Infantry and 100 Cavalry and one elephant to cater the needs of Nayakas.[9] The Palayakarar of Thammampatti, Muthu Mathava Nayakar was able to send a contingent of 2,000 soldiers to fight against the Mysoreans.[10] Thirumalai, the Palayakarar of Bodinayakanur, possessed 600 foot soldiers.[11] One of the Palayakarar (i.e. of Hervecattle-Erumaikatti) maintained 300 infantry, 200 horses and 50 elephants.[12]

Military Divisions

The safety and stability of a nation depends on the strength of the Army it possesses. Only when the people are safeguarded from external threats they could lead a secure and happy life. Madurai Nayakas had maintained a strong powerful army. The Army consists of four divisions under the Nayakas and they were Infantry, Cavalry, Elephant and Camels.[13] Dalavay occupied an important place in administration. He was the principal officer of the kingdom. He controlled all civil and military administration. At the time of peace, he was deeply involved in internal administration and commanded the army at the time of war, thus he enjoyed the powers of minister and Senapathi. He played a vital role in making the internal and external policies of the ruler. Below him Palayakarars were powerful. The Kingdom was divided into Nadus, Nadus into Seemai and Seemai into Gramas. There were three large provinces Tirunelveli, Trichy and Sathya Mangalam each place was under the control of a governor.[14]

Infantry

Infantry formed the major unit of army operation and this was the advanced forces which decided the fate of the war. The troops carried with them different weapons of war, tents and medical herb. The weapons of war included bows, arrows, long spears and broad swords. There was a constant conflict took place during the Nayaka period. Nayaka army was extremely large.[15] The foot soldiers were engaged in offensive and defensive warfare. Bows and arrows were the main weapons of foot soldiers. Usually they carried bows in the left hand and arrows in the right hand.[16] Infantry soldiers were maximum in number in Nayaka army. Sword men had shields against their chest and hold in their right hand. They hold sword which was rest on the shoulders. They wore attire and headgear which looked like a turban.[17]

Cavalry

War animal, a high quality of horses was imported during nayak period. During sixteenth century, the demand of Persian horse was increased. They concentrated to purchase good variety of horses. The Nayakas purchased horses from the Arabs.[18] While the Arabs imported horses from Arabia.[19] The Nayakas procured them from the royal authority on payment of 200 pagodas per horse.[20]

Elephants

Elephants were used in warfare and also a means of transport of goods. An elephant force was considered a matter of prestige. These forces are also of great value to cross canals and used to transport goods to the military camps. Elephants were mostly imported from Ceylon and Peru. The trained elephants valued from 500 to 1,500 Cruzdos.[21] Thirumalai Nayaka had more than three hundred elephants. Madurai Nayakas gave more importance to elephant trade. [22] The Nayakas purchased elephants from Portuguese. While the Portuguese imported elephants from Ceylon. It is said that a Portuguese agent came to Turicorin to 'purchase saltpetre in exchange of elephant'. [23] War elephants were decorated with embroidered cloth, decked with ornaments and bells and head studded with metals and their trunks and eyes were painted in special pattern.[24]

Navy

Madurai Nayakas have several sea-ports within the coast of the kingdom, namely, Tuticorin, Punnaikayal, Mannarkudi or Thanuskodi, Kayalpattinam, Kanniyakumari, Thiruchendur and Attur had developed. The Portuguese designed forts and garrisoned their men and helped the Nayakas in their war campaigns against the Dutch and the Sethupathy kings of Ramnad.[25] During the initial period, the Maravas were taking guard of the coast and later the foreigners like the Dutch and the Portuguese concentrated on the coasts.[26] The Portuguese designed forts and garrisoned their men and helped the Nayakas in their war campaigns against the Dutch and the Sethupathy kings of Ramnad.[27] Madurai Nayakas were less concentrating in Navy. The control of sea engaged not serious attention. [28] The Nayakas did not have a proper navy for having foreign trade because the Nayaka kingdom of Madurai comprised mostly of self-contained villages. The Nayaka people got luxuries from the Portuguese and Dutch. Trade in pearl and chank was carried on exclusively by them. [29]

Weapons

Weapon used by the Nayakas and Palaiyakarars offensive, defensive and common weapons.

- (a) **Offensive Weapons** Spear and sword are commonly used by the soldiers of Nayaka Army.
- (b) **Defensive Weapon** The only defensive weapon was Shield.

(c) **Common Weapon** Bows, arrows, long spears and broad swords. Vogue Dagger, slings are mostly used weapons by Nayaka rulers.

The *amaran sevakar* (peons), *kattupudi sevakar* and *cooly sevakar* which means mercenary peons were the three broad divisions of their army. They used weapons like the bow and arrow, cannon, muskets, salt pieces, shields, swords and match locks. *Malaityadi* was the peculiar weapon of the poligars and the Kavalkars.[30] These peons absolutely followed the orders of their master orders.

(a) **The Amaran Sevakars.** They were assessed at a favourable rate. Further they were granted lands on hereditary basis. They were also divided into 20 or 30 groups and were kept under the control of an officer. They acted like policemen and prevented theft. If they were disloyal to their services they were dismissed.

(b) **The Kattupudi Sevakars.** They also received lands on hereditary basis. They were given waste lands and they cultivated those lands after reclamation. They had to supply war materials to the Palayakkarars.

(c) **Cooly Sevakars.** The mercenary peons were recruited in the times of emergency. Most of them were murderers and thieves.

Spy System

The spy systems were the basic principal sources of collection of enemies' information, defence and offence strategy of opponent territory. The poligar maintained a spy system generally Brahmins were appointed as spies. They moved freely to collect secrets and to watch the movements of the enemies. In those days a traditional policy of 'set a thief' to 'catch a thief' existed in the villages. Hence, Kallars and Maravars who were engaged in robbery were appointed as kavalkars.[31] Bangle sellers known as 'Valayial Chettis' acted as spies to Nayaka and they were called as 'Desais'[32] The spy system was employed to gather news, message and vital information reported to the Nayakas. Numerous spies roamed about the country in disguise collected intelligence about the enemies and the people and reported the developments to the rulers. Information received from Spy would be more authentic regarding opposition to military movement, political and other matter communicated the rules immediately. The spy and their agent were under the control of Sthanapati. Brahmins were given preference in the matter of selection of spies. Messages were written on palm leaves.

Recruitment and Payment of Soldiers

The ordinary expenses of government as the salaries of officials, the army the police. The chief items of expenditure have been public works and charities. Funds in excess of the ordinary needs were invariably spent in the country and for its welfare.[33] Recruitment of the soldier was a voluntary one and open to all citizens irrespective of caste, religion and community. However, “under Madurai Nayakas kingdom, the military chief of western Tirunelvely and Ramanathapuram were mostly of Maravar community whereas those of Madurai and Tiruchirappalli were of Kallars and those of Triunelvely, Dindigul and Coimbatore were Nayakas and Tottians”.[34] The army maintained by the Palayakarars was always in accordance with the size and value of the land possessed by them. At the time of wars the Nayakas recruited troops and they approached the Palayakarars through a letter of requisition of the Dalavay, who was the military chief of the Nayakas. The palayakarars in their turn responded to the call of the Dalavay, the military chief of Nayakas and ordered village headmen and head of towns to keep men ready for service with the beating of drums.[35] The payments to the civil servant, military personnel and other accomplishments were made either in cash or grain or land by the Palayakarars and utilized 2/3 of income. Also during troops march one place to the other, they were given allowances. During the time of the Madurai Nayaka mercenary ‘soldiers were employed and paid. The ordinary expenses of government, as the salaries of officials, the army, the police and judicial department, did not constitute a serious drain on the public revenue. His standing army was small and inexpensive. The pensioners were provided for by grants of land’.[36]

Krishnappa Nayaka -I (1564-1672 A.D.)

Krishnappa Nayaka I (1564-1672 A.D.) was the son and successor of Visvanatha Nayaka. He was crowned as Madurai Nayaka on 25th January, 1564 A.D. Krishnappa Nayaka -I was very loyal to his master Vijayanagar and remitted the tribute regularly. The first event of his reign was that he participated the battle of Talikota. After death of Krishnadeva Raya, the signal for all the enemies of Vijayanagar to renew their attacks on that kingdom. Prataparudra Gajapathi and Ismail Adil Shah made simultaneous attacks upon Vijayanagar in the hope of recovering what they have lost during the preceding decades. ‘In 1565 A.D. the central forces of the Bahminis Sultanates of Bijapur, Golkonda, Ahamed Nagar and Bidar defeated the army of Vijaya Nagar empire in a decisive battle at Talaikota’.[37] In the battle, Couto, the Portuguese historian estimates the Vijayanagar army marched in 6,00,000 foot soldiers, 1,00,000 horses and possessed a considerable artillery.[38] Krishnappa Nayaka-I sent an army under the leadership of Dalavay

Ariyanatha Mudali to Talikota to aid of the Empire of Vijayanagar against the Muslim forces of the Daccan.[39] But, how much of Madurai Nayaka army marched to Talaikota war was not acknowledged.

Thumbachi Nayakkar Revolt

Meanwhile, many Palayakarars revolted during his reign under Thumbachi Nayakkar of Paramakudi Palayakarar against Krishnappa Nayaka-I. The Nayak kings offered severe punishments to the rebels, traitors and disloyal. Therefore, Krishnappa Nayaka sent an army under Pedtha Kesavappa Nayakar, due to absent of Dalavay Ariyanatha Mudali. In the initial war Pedtha Kesavappa Nayakar was killed by revolt forces leader Thumbachi Nayakar. Thereafter, Krishnappa Nayaka-I sent one more contingent Chinna Kesavappa son of Pedtha Kesavappa Nayakar. He defeated Thumbachi Nayakar army and him. The revolvers were suppressed and later Thumbachi Nayakar beheaded.[40] It served as a lesson to different disobedient Palayakarars.

Invasion of Ceylon

Under Vijayanagar Empire, the Ceylon (Srilanka) ruler remitted the tribute regularly to Madurai Nayaka. But, after Thumbachi Nayakar execution, the ruler of Ceylon (friend of Thumbachi Nayakar) provoked to remit tribute and took over arms against Krishnappa Nayaka. To teach him a lesson, Krishnappa Nayaka invaded Ceylon.[41] The Ceylon expedition of Krishnappa Nayaka I (1564-1572 A.D.), there are 52 Palayakarars and other subordinate rulers extended their support with more than 20,000 soldiers.[42] The Ceylon, Kandi ruler grand army 40,000 soldiers decided to capture the forces of Nayaka. But in a battle held at Puttalam, Chinna Kesavappa, the commander-in-chief of Nayaka forces defeated the majestic army and captured two ministers and five chieftains and other were taken as prisoners. [43] However, Ceylon ruler further combined 60,000 Ceylon & 10,000 foreign troops (probably Portuguese's) and were faced the battle. In the battle, the ruler of Ceylon was murdered; more than 8,000 foreign soldiers and Ceylonese soldiers lost their lives. The Ceylon ruler dead body was taken with honour to capital. After conquest Krishnappa Nayaka appointed Vijaya Goplala Nayaka, his brother-in-law as his Viceroy in Ceylon. Arrangement was made for the regular payment of tribute. Then Krishnappa Nayaka returned to Madurai. The Singhala Diva Katah gave a vivid account of this invasion. [44] Krishnappa Nayaka was successfully ruled nine years during the reign he donated huge money and land for the rehabilitation of various temples. The martial qualities of an imperial popular general Krishnappa Nayaka died on 3rd December, 1572 A.D.

Veerappa Nayaka (1572-1595 A.D.)

After Krishnappa Nayaka-I, his two sons Veerappa Nayaka and Visvanatha Nayaka, who jointly and uneventfully ruled the Madurai till 1595 A.D. However, Veerappa Nayaka was the son and successor of Krishnappa Nayaka-I towards the end of 1572 A.D., and his brother assisted him. Ariyanatha Mudali also faithfully continued his service for him as Pradhani and Dalavay. Like his grandfather and father, Veerappa Nayaka also very loyal to his master Vijayanagar and remitted the tribute regularly.[45] According to ‘Piranmalai inscriptions (1588 A.D.), Veerappa Nayaka was always loyal to the emperor [Sri Ranga Raya-I (1572-1585 A.D.)]’.[46] In 1585 A.D., Veerappa Nayaka for the first time delayed the payment of tribute to Venkata raya. The army was sent to collect the exactions from Veerappa Nayaka and successfully carried out. Alagar Temple inscription expose the supremacy of Venkata-I over Veerappa Nayaka. [47] He served as loyal under three Vijayanagara emperor Thirumalai, Srinagana and Venkara –II .[48] He improved the strength of the Tiruchirappalli Fort; he constructed fort at Aruppukottai and constructed defence wall in Chidambaram temple.[49] He was very much concerned with the proper administration of Justice. During his time, there was a dispute with regard land grant. As per 1574 A.D., Goripalayam Mosque inscription speaking about land granted to the Muhammadans by Kun Pandiyan. He conducted the enquiry and confirmed the old grant to Muhammadans. [50] He peacefully ruled 23 years as Madurai Nayaka and demise in September 1595 A.D.

Krishnappa Nayaka-II (1595 to 1601 A.D.)

After Veerappa Nayaka, his elder son Krishnappa Nayaka-II had tenure of office from 1595 to 1601 A.D. He remained loyal and maintained cordial relationship with the Vijayanagara emperor [51] Venkata-I. During his time the famous Dalavay Ariyanatha Mudali who passed away in 1600 A.D., at the age of 80. It was big disaster to Krishnappa Nayaka-II, because Ariyanatha Mudali, performed an extraordinary role after establishment of Madurai Nayaka. He served an efficient Dalavay and Pradhani role in Madurai reign from 1529-30 to 1600 A.D., under Visvanatha Nayaka (1529-1564 A.D.); Krishnappa Nayaka -I (1564-1672 A.D.); Veerappa Nayaka (1572-1595 A.D.) and Krishnappa Nayaka -II 1595 to till 1600 A.D.).[52] After that, within a year Madurai ruler Krishnappa Nayaka-II also died in 1601 A.D. Ariyananthar Mudali sculpture was founded in Thousand Pillars Hall at the entrance of the hall in Madurai. The statue of Ariyananthar Mudali seated on a horse back, flanking one side of entrance to the temple.[53] The statue is periodically garlanded by worshippers

Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka (1601-1609 A.D.)

During the reign of Krishnappa Nayaka-II, his first younger brother Viswanatha Nayaka died. Therefore after Krishnappa Nayaka-II, his last brother Kasturi Rangappa Nayaka became the ruler of Madurai. But due to internal conflict and revolt within a week, he was murdered and found his body in Satya Mandapa. In that condition Viswanatha Nayaka's son Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka became ruler of Madurai.[54]

Formation of Sethupathi of Ramnadu

During his reign the Marava country, due to lack of efficient leadership, crimes and robbery found frequently against pilgrims of Rameswaram through the wild jungle. Therefore, Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka (1601-1609 A.D.) laid down the foundation of the rule of the Sethupathi of Ramnadu area under Madurai Nayaks. Also, Sethupathi of Ramnadu was made to paid tribute to the Nayakas. Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka appointed Sadayakka Teva as Sethupathi in 1605 A.D. to suppressed crimes and protected the pilgrims of Rameswaram through the wild and inhospitable region. [55] Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka was loyal to Vijayanagar. He made a cordial relation Portuguese and with opened doors at coastal reign of Madurai Nayaka for trading.

Construction of Dindigul Fort

The Dindigul Fort is a natural fort of strategic military importance on top of an isolate hill in the town of Dindigul. The location at 10°21'41.8" North and 77° 57'48" East. Dindigul got its significance gateway to their kingdom from North. The strong hill fort that was built during the rule of Madurai Nayaka dynasty by its ruling king Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka in 1605 A.D. "It measures 400 yards long and 300 yards wide and lines with its thin end pointing towards North-east. The ticker top of the South western end is 1223 feet above from the sea level and is 280 feet above the ground immediately around it. Burnt bricks and stones are used for construction. This fort played a major role during the military activities of the Nayakas and Mysoreans. It was located in a strategic point between Coimbatore and Madurai".[56] He also built a fort at the bottom of the hill. This was later called "Pettaiwall". Later Thirumalai Nayaka redressed the Hill tort and regent queen Rani Mangammal also built the six hundred steps for the hill fort.

Muthu Veerappa Nayaka –I (1609-1623 A.D.)

According to records, Muthu Virappa, Tirumala and Kumara Mutha were the three sons of Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka. Muthu Veerappa Nayaka succeeded his father in 1609 A.D. According to missionaries' reference, he fought a war with Tanjavur Nayaka in 1611 A.D., and reason and consequence of the war not came to notice. He maintained cordial relation with Varatunga and Srivallbha Pandya's. The loyal Pandyas were assisted him against Tanjavur war. Muthu Veerappa Nayaka-I was transferred his capital from Madurai to Tiruchirapalli but year not confirmed. Reason for transfer the capital to protection Madurai country from invaders and easily invades against Tanjavur Nayaka.[57] Muthu Veerappa Nayaka-I did not refuse payments to Vijaynagar, mentioned by Jesuit missionary Fr. Vico dated 30th August, 1611 A.D., and challenged the imperial authority. 'When he was engaging a war with Tanjavur, Mysore ruler Raja Udaiyar under chieftain Mukilan and troops, tried to infiltrate to Dindigul reign. In that critical situation, *Virupatchi and Kannivadi Palayakarars* prevent successfully and the Mysorean infiltration was probably 1620 A.D.'[58]

Conclusion

During the period between 1564 to 1623 A.D., Madurai Nayaks were maintained a cordial relationship with the Vijayanagara emperor and pay the tribute timely exemption of one case. When Krishnappa Nayaka became to power from 1564 to 1572 A.D., he sent an army under the leadership of Dalavay Ariyanatha Mudali to Talikota (1565 A.D.) to aid of the Empire of Vijayanagar against the Muslim forces of the Daccan. He able to suppress revolted Palayakarars under Thumbachi Nayakkar of Paramakudi against him. His major military achievement was expedition of the Ceylon. And able to defeated combined troops of 60,000 Ceylonese and 10,000 foreign troops (probably Portuguese's) over the Kandy ruler of Ceylon. Veerappa Nayaka ruled peacefully 23 years from 1572 to 1595 A.D. He strengthened the Tiruchirappalli Fort; the constructed fort at Aruppukottai and constructed defence wall in Chidambarm temple. He settled down dispute with regard land grant of Goripalayam Mosque land granted the Muhammadans by Kun Pandyan. For easy control of the crime and robbery at the Ramnadu of Madurai country, Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka laid down the foundation of Sethupathi of Ramnadu and the new petty king able to reduce the crimes. Muthu Veerappa Nayaka fought war with Tanjavur Nayaka in 1611 A.D. and also transfer the capital from Madurai to Tiruchirappalli for protection Madurai country from against Tanjavur Nayaka. He also maintained cordial relation with Varatunga and Srivallbha Pandya's and able to suppressed Mysore ruler Raja Udaiyar troops infiltration to Dindigul reign under assistance of *Virupatchi and Kannivadi Palayakarars* in 1620 A.D.

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