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Golden Research Thoughts



SRI DEVANATHASWAMY TEMPLE AT THIRUVANDHIPURAM AS A TOURIST CENTER IN CUDDALORE

P. Parameswari

Ph.D. Research Scholar , Department of History , Annamalai University.



ABSTRACT

his Paper highlights the temple history of Thiruvandhipuram temple in Cuddalore town. From Cuddalore town only 7 kms. from south side. Thiruvandhipuram is a small village situated in the Cuddalore district. Town buses ply between Cuddalore and Thiruvandhi puram in whole day.

KEYWORDS:Tourist Center, Sri Devanathaswamy Temple, river Gadilam.

INTRODUCTION

Thiruvandhipuram stands on the bank of the river Gadilam. Most of the in

habitants of the village are Brahmins. Tiruvendipuram is one of the hundred and eight Divyadesas held in great reverence by the Vaishnavas. A shrine devoted to Sri Mahavishnu which has been celebrated in song by an Alwar is called Dryad's. There are two Divyadess in the Cuddalore district one Thiruvandhipuram, and the other temple town as a Thiruvandhipuram. The Alwar who sang about this place is Thiruvandhipuram Alwar.

The Presiding deity of the temple of Thiruvandhipuram is Sri Devanathaswamy. His consort is Sri Hemam biyavalli, Sri Ramaniya. Vedanda and Pillaiperumal Ayyangar have visited the shrine and composd verses

praising the deity. In the puranas Thiruvandhipuram is referred to as Thiruvandhi puram. Ayindramd - Ahindran Means Atiseshan. Atiseshan is a mythological thousand headed serpent who supports the earth on his hoods and on whom Vishnu reclines. As this place was worshipped by Atiseshan it was called Thiruvandhipuram.

The word Ayintiram has another meaning viz. The east as this place is situated on the eastern bank of the river Gadilam, if could have got the Name 'Ayintrapuram'. People of this locality colloquially call it as.

HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE

Sri Devanathaswamy Temple at Thiruvandhipuram must be very old. There are three puranas which refer to this sthala. They are Brahman Purana, Skandapurana and Brihannaradeeyapurana all in Sanskrit.

The Devanathakainkarya sabha has published a book. Thiruvandhipuram Tirukkoil Kalvellukkaluni Sthalapurana Curukkangalum. On the basis of that a brief account of the

Sthalapurana is given below.

According to Brahmandapurana, once all rishis Likejanuka and others went to Tirupparkatal the ocean of milk where Vishnu sleeps. They met Vedavyasa on their way and requested him to let them know the exact place where they could see the Lord. They were taken to Sri Vaikunta. There also they could not meet Lord Vishnu and were told by the door keeper that Lord Vishnu had gone to Thiruvandhipuram wane Sri Markandeya and Goddess Earth (Boomi Devi) wane doing penance Hearing that, the sages came to Thiruvandhipuram and saw the Lord in all his slanders with the conch disc and beaming eyes surrounded by Sri Devi. The sages worshipped and praised the lord.

The Lord on seeing the riches was pleased and offered of grant them whatever who tenet they desired by way of boon. The riches made markandeya their spokesman who implored the Lord to bless his devotees in his 'Arch form' and stay in Thiruvandhipuram. The Lord was pleased and henceforth stayed in Thiruvandhipuram.

There are a number of legendary accounts about this temple. A local legend says that once a Cholas king, who was a staunch sainted had come to the temple with the aim of demolishing it he was told by a shepherd that it was a Siva temple. When the king entered the temple the Lord appeared as Siva with Villa.

Lord Devanatha of the Thiruvadhipuram temple is regarded and worshiped as the elder brother of Lord Venkadesa of Tirupathi, by the people of this Locality.

The temple at Thiruvandhipuram must be very old as it is mentioned in the Naalayira Divya prabanadam. Tirumangai Alwar in his Periya Tirumoli has sung ten songs about Lord Devanatha of the Thiruvandhipuram.

In all the ten songs Tirumangai Alwar has sung about the Luxuriance and beauty of Thiruvandhipuram and the greatness of Lord Devanatha. The flourishing condition of the villagers has been graphically portrayed in his songs.

Tirumangai Alwar belonged to the eighth century A.D. According to Guruparamparai he was born on 31.10.776

Tirumangai Alwar was the Younger contemporary of Nandivsrman Pallavamallla. He was also religious preceptor of the Pallava family. So we can be sure that Tirumagai Alwar belonged to the eighth century C. E. As this temple has been sung by Tirumangai Alwar we can come to the conclusion that the Thiruvandhipuram Temple must have been there at the time of Tirumagai Alwar thigh not in the present from.

Even though the art of temple building was known to the Tamils from time immemorial the Pallavas were the first people the build temple with permanent materials. They built stone temples.

Cuddalore region remained under Pallava rule for about six centuries. As the Vaishava temple all over the Pallava Kingdom received considerable help and support from the Pallava rulers, this Thiruvandhipuram temple also would have received the support of the Pallava Kings. But unfortunately we don't get any evidence to this effect.

Thiruvandhipuram temple must have been a structure built with bricks and wood like the other temple in the Tamil country before the Pallava period. The Pallava rulers were the first to build temple with permanent material. We do not get inscriptions which belong to the Pallava Period this temple. As the temple is mentioned in the periyatirumoli of Tirumagai Alwar and as some Pallava type stone pillars are found in the temple, it is probable that a small stone temple existed here in the Pallava period. Later it must have been rebuilt in the Cholas period.

After the decline of the Pallavas in the last quarter of the ninth century C. E., the Cuddalore region came under the Cholas power and it remained under the Chola rule of nearly fourth centuries.

The Chola who succeeded the Pallavas were also great builders. A large number of Temple was built by them throughout the Tamil Country. The kings of Vijayalaya Chola line multiplied their number. Besides the Kings their vela likes and officials also built temple. And then Nayakas and then British were Maintain his temple Administration. Though this temple is very benefit to Tamil Nadu, so all ones India and foreign tourists visit this temple. Yearly visit the tourist in cruxes in data visit.

ENDNOTES

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P. Parameswari
Ph.D. Research Scholar ,Department of History , Annamalai University.

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