

# Maravarman Vikrama Pandya I

(OF ACCESSION A, D, 1218)



Paper presented by

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## Introduction

The extreme south of the Indian Peninsula was the *Pandya Kingdom*. Madura was the traditional Capital of the *Pandya*s. In the course of seven hundred years i. e., from A. D. 1000 to 1700 scores of *Pandya Kings* existed. They had only six names often repeated. The six names were *Kulasekara*, *Srivallabha*, *Vira*, *Vikrama*, *Sundara* and *Parakrama*. They were either *Jatavarman*s or *Maravarman*s. Kings of same name with same or different titles ruled jointly or concurrently. Overlapping of the reigns is common. The phenomenon is more prominent in the 13th and 14th centuries. When one tries to study the chronology of these Pandyan Kings he is liable to be confused one with another.

Kielhorn (1907)<sup>1</sup> Jacobi (1911)<sup>2</sup> Swamikkannu Pillai (1913)<sup>3</sup> and Robert Sewell (1915)<sup>4</sup> published the dates of eighteen Pandya Kings who existed between 1162 and 1357. Following in their foot steps, in my book, "*The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology*", I identified twelve more *Pandya Kings*. The earlier scholars followed a system for assigning numbers to the kings of same name. The system is explained below.

From A. D. 960 to 1219 the Pandyas were subordinates under the Cholas. In the year 1219, Maravarman Sundara Pandya I (of accession 1216) defeated the *Cholas* and brought the entire *Chola* Mandalam under the Pandyan banner. His successors expanded the empire upto the banks of river Thungabadra and thus they attained the Imperial Status. Those Pandyan Kings who *lived* and *existed* between 1219 and 1372 are called the Imperial Pandyas. They are given numbers like Jatavarman Kulasekara I, Jatavarman Kulasekara II, Maravarman Sundara I, Maravarman Sundara II and so on. After 1372 the Pandyan capital Madura was under the control of the Vijayanagar. The Pandyas who existed after 1372 are called "*Later Pandyas*" and their records are available in Ramnad, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts. Pandyas who ruled between A. D. 1000 and 1216 were subordinates under the Cholas. Some of them are identified.<sup>5</sup>



They are called *Medieval Pandyas*. They are not given numbers because they did not attain imperial status since they were subordinates under the Imperial Cholas.

In my book *The Imperial Pandyas*, I have dealt with the Methodology<sup>6</sup> adopted in identifying the Pandya Kings and their records. For the convenience of the readers I shall repeat it here in a simpler form.

(1) *Kulothunga Chola I* (1070-1122) introduced the title *Tribhuvana-chakravartin*. Some of the Pandya Kings adopted this title. Therefore if we find this title for any Pandya king we can conclude that the king existed after 1070.

(2) Upto 1219 Pandyas were subordinates under the Cholas. After 1219 Cholas were subordinates under the Pandyas. Therefore records of the Pandya kings with the title *Tribhuvanachakravartin* found in Chola and Thondai Mandalams really belong to those kings who existed after 1219. Their records found in Pandi Mandalam are numerous.

(3) Records of the Pandyas, who existed prior to 1216 will be found in Pandi Mandalam only.

(4) When we try to identify the kings, we must have a firm grip over their Prasasthis, epithets, surnames, natal stars etc.

(5) The Paleography of the record should also be observed.

(6) The astronomical data are to be carefully applied satisfying 1 to 5 above. While working the astronomical data sufficient care should be taken so that no damage is done to *Historicity*. On the above basis let us see the dates of Maravarman Vikrama Pandya I.

### **Maravarman Vikrama Pandyas.**

In the 13th and 14th centuries four kings of the same name *Maravarman Vikrama Pandya* existed. In my book "*The Imperial Pandyas-Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology*", I have identified those kings. They existed as follows :-

(1) *Maravarman Vikrama I*<sup>7</sup>: He was a contemporary of Jatavarman Kulasekara I (1190-1224)<sup>8</sup> and Maravarman Sundara I (1216-1241)<sup>9</sup>. Vikrama's records begin with the Tamil Prasasthi "*Tirumagal Jayamagal*" (திருமகள்

ஜயமகள்) (2) *Maravarman Vikrama II*<sup>10</sup> :- He ruled from 1250 to 1265) His records contain the Prasasthi "*Samastha Bhuvaneka Vira*" in Grantha and "*Tirumalar Madhu*" in Tamil (He was senior to *Jatavarman Sundara I* of accession 1251). (3) *Maravarman Vikrama III*<sup>11</sup> :- He ruled from 1283 to 1288. (4) *Maravarman Vikrama IV*<sup>12</sup> :- He ascended the throne on 26th January 1333. He ruled till 1341. His natal star was Hasta. His accession star was Robinl. He was called "*Rajakkal Nayan*".

### Maravarman Vikrama Pandya I:

In this paper we shall find the dates and the position of *Maravarman Vikrama Pandya I* whose Tamil Prasasthi begins with "*Tirumagal Jayamagal*" (We shall discuss the Prasasthi at a later stage). His records are tabulated below,

### Records of Maravarman Vikrama Pandya with the Prasasthi Tirumagal Jayamagal

TABLE I.

Record No.	Village	Regnal year
S. I. I. XVII 635	Srinivasanallur (Trichy District)	Lost
395/1917	Kilappavur	Lost
317/1928	Tirukkoshthiyur	Lost
297/1930	Alagar Koil (Madura)	8
472/1916	Giriyammapuram	8
486/1916	Nambantattai	8
312/1923	Tirukkoshthiyur	8
22/1924	Tirumalai	8
318/1923	Tirukkoshthiyurr	10
90/1907	Kalladakkurichi	11
539/1916	Pattamadai	13
704/1916	Sermadevi	13
239/1961	Tirumanikkam	13
369/1960	Cheyadunganallur	13
370/1960	Cheyadunganallur	14

His Srinivasanallur record is found in Chola Mandalam (Trichy District). His other records are found in the traditional Pandya country only.

In the year 1219, Maravarman Sundara I defeated the Cholas and the latter became the subordinates under the Pandyas. Therefore if we find any later Pandyan record in Chola Mandalam we can conclude that the subject record was engraved after 1219.

Trichy District Srinivasanallur record (S. I. I. XVII 635) contains the fragments of the Prasasthi "*Tirumagal Jayamagal*" which belongs to Vikrama Pandya. It is evident that *Tirumagal Jayamagal* Vikrama Pandya existed around or later than 1219. This is inference No. 1.

### Kattanimangalam records of 1929-30

Kattanimangalam is a small village in the Tiruchendur taluk of Tirunelveli district. The Vira Pandyaswara temple of this village contains many Pandyan records. Record No. 375 belongs to *Jatavarman Kulasekara I* (1190-1224) and it contains his Prasasthi *Puvir Kilathi*. The regnal year is 23 corresponding to 1213. The record mentions the name of the village as Kattanimangalam.

Record No. 377 of this temple is engraved on the same wall on which record No. 375 above is engraved. In the former record the name of the king and the regnal year are lost. The record states that the king while seated in his palace at Madura, east of Madakkulam, ordered that the name of the village Kattanimangalam should hence forth be called as *Vikramapandya Chathurvedhi Mangalam* in the name of the king<sup>13</sup>. It is evident that the record belongs to Vikrama Pandya and he existed after 1213.

Record No. 369 of the same temple belongs to *Maravarman Sundara I* (1216-1241) and it contains his epithet who presented the Chola country. The regnal year is 7 corresponding to 1223. The record mentions the name of the village as *Kattanimangalam* alias *Vikramapandya Chathurvedhi Mangalam*. It is evident that Vikrama Pandya existed in 1223. This is inference No. 2.

### Kalladaikkurichi, Nageswaram Udaiyar Temple records S. I. I., XXIII:

Record No. 97 belongs to *Jatavarman Kulasekara I* and it contains his Prasasthi *Puvir Kilathi*. The regnal year is 9 day 1430. In other words it is in year 12 day 335.

Record No. 91 belongs to the same *Jatavarman Kulasekara* and it is also in year 9 day 1430 (i. e. year 12 day 335). The Minister, the

signatories and the revenue officers who figure in these two records are same. Kulasekara came to the throne in June 1190. Therefore the records are dated May 1202.

Record No. 97 states that 5.5 *Ma* of lands were purchased from the village assembly. The boundaries of the lands are given. At the request of the Minister Kalingarayan, the king Kulasekara assigned the lands to the temple as *Devadana* lands and they were made tax free. The order was to take effect from the beginning of the 13th year i. e. from June 1202. Let us call these lands as "A".

Record No. 91 refers to another transaction. It states that 6.5 *Ma* of lands were purchased from the village assembly. The boundaries of the lands are given. At the request of the Minister Kalingarayan, the king Kulasekara assigned the lands to the temple as *Devadana* lands and they were made tax free. The order was to take effect from the beginning of the 13th year of Kulasekara i. e. from June 1202. Let us call these lands as "B".

It is to be noted here that the boundaries of the lands "A" and "B" are totally different. It is evident that the records 97 and 91 refer to two transactions related to the lands situated in two different places.

Record No. 97 (a) belongs to Maravarman Vikrama Pandya year 11. It contains his Prasasthi *Tirumagal Jayamagal*. It refers to the lands "A" of 5.5 *Ma*<sup>14</sup>. It states that *as of old entry* the lands "A", with the boundaries as mentioned in 97, were sold by the village assembly to the temple..... The record is incomplete. It intends to state something about a later transaction related to the lands "A". Unfortunately it stops incomplete. But the record states that "*as of old entry*" the lands "A" belong to the temple. (இவ்வூர் பழம் பற்றுக்கு). This indicates that Maravarman Vikrama Pandya was a later King. His 11th year is later than June 1202.

Record No. 90 belongs to Maravarman Vikrama Pandya. It contains his Prasasthi *Tirumagal Jayamagal*. It is in year 11. It states that *as of old entry* the lands "B" of 6.5 *Ma* with the boundaries as mentioned in 91, were sold by the village assembly to the temple. The transaction is referred to "*as of old entry*" (இவ் (வூ?)ர் பழம் பற்றில் நிலத்துக்கு சேர் பழம் பற்று எல்லையாவது). The record further states that the lands did not get the benefit of the first (head) flow of the irrigation water. This advantage







was held by one *Verrirundan Puyandan*. It is now rectified by paying 13 Kasu (money) to the village assembly at the rate of 2 Kasu per *Ma*. (It works out to 13 Kasu for 6.5 *Ma* of lands). Incidentally the record refers to another previous transaction related to the sale of some lands to a Vishnu temple also.

From the provenance of these transactions it is evident that the 11th year of Maravarman Vikrama is later than 1202, probably far removed. For a better understanding of the transactions, the details are tabulated below.

### S. I. I. XXIII

Record No.	King	Transaction
97	Jatavarman Kulasekara I dated May 1202	The Village assembly sold to the temple, the lands "A" of 5.5 <i>Ma</i> . They were made Devadana and tax free effective from June 1202.
97a	Maravarman Vikrama Pandya year 11	The above transaction related to the lands "A" is referred to <i>as of old entry</i> . The record intends to state what happen next. But it is incomplete.
91	Jatavarman Kulasekara I dated May 1202	The village assembly sold to the temple the lands "B" of 6.5 <i>Ma</i> . They were made Devadana and tax free effective from June 1202.
90	Maravarman Vikrama Pandya year 11	The above transaction related to the lands "B" is referred to <i>as of old entry</i> . The lands did not get the benefit of the first flow of the irrigation water. King Vikrama rectified the defect.

The transactions reveal that the 11th year of *Maravarman Vikrama Pandya* of *Tirumagal Jayamagal Prasasthi* is later than 1202. This is inference No. 3,

# Cheyadunganallur records of 1959-60

## Tirunelveli District, Sri Vaikuntam Taluk

### Cheyadunganallur records of 1959-60

TABLE 2

Record No.	King	Regnal year	A. D.	Year
864	Maravarman Vikrama	18		?
867	Jatavarman Kulasekara I	14		1204
868	Jatavarman Kulasekara I	24		1214
868 A	Jatavarman Kulasekara I	28		1218
869	Maravarman Vikrama	18		?
870	Maravarman Vikrama	14		?

The report A. R. E. 1959-60 (page 24) states that the donors, individuals and witnesses who figure in 368 and 368 A also figure in 369 and 364. One Sundara Peruman of 368 figures in 370. Therefore Kulasekara and Maravaman Vikrama are contemporaries.

No. 369 contains the Prasasthi *Tirumagal Jayamagal*. This proves that the 13th year of Maravarman Vikrama of Tirumagal Jayamagal Prasasthi is close to 1214. The contents of the above records further reveal that 368 and 368 A are earlier transactions. 369 and 370 are later. Therefore the 14th year of Vikrama is later than 1214. This is inference No. 4.

Our inferences 1, 2, 3 and 4 prompt us to surmise that *Maravarman Vikrama Pandya* of *Tirumagal Jayamagal* Prasasthi existed around 1219 and 1223. His accession should be prior to these dates.

Srivilliputhur record No. 554/1926 belongs to Maravarman Sundara I. (of accession 1216). It contains his epithet "Who having taken the Chola country was pleased to perform the anointment of victors at Mudikonda Cholapuram". The regnal year is 15 Chittirai Vishu corresponding to 26th March 1231. The record registers the reduction of taxes for certain lands. The record further states that the order was passed by *Prince Vikrama Pandya* after obtaining permission from *Sundara Pandya*. This proves that *Vikrama Pandya* was *Junior to Maravarman Sundara I* and the former should have come to the throne after 1216 say, in 1217 or later.

Record No. 415/1914 is found on a stone of the well opposite to the choultry in the Aruppukkottal town. The record is dated Saka 1154 corresponding to 1232. It records the construction of the well. It also mentions the name Vikrama Pandya. This proves that Vikrama Pandya existed in 1232 also.

The above facts prove that Maravarman Vikrama Pandya of *Tirumagal Jayamagal* Prasasthi came to the throne sometime after 1217 and he existed in 1223 and 1232. The highest regnal year so far found for this king is 14. To sum up,

(1) Maravarman Vikrama of *Tirumagal Jayamagal* Prasasthi was Junior to Maravarman Sundara 1 of accession 1216.

(2) Maravarman Vikrama would have come to the throne in 1217 or some time after this date. He existed in 1232.

(3) Prior to 1223 Vikrama changed the name of the village Kattanimangalam as Vikrama Pandya Chathur Vedhi Mangalam.

(4) Therefore Vikrama existed between 1223 and 1232. The interval is 9 years. His highest regnal year is 14. The balance 5 years may be prior to 1223 or later than 1232. Or they may cover some years prior to 1223 and few years after 1232.

(5) In view of the logical deductions made in 1 to 4 above we can safely surmise that Vikrama's accession could be in 1218 or later.

Sermadevi Ramaswami temple Record No. 704/1916 belongs to *Maravarman Vikrama Pandya*. It contains his Prasasthi *Tirumagal Jayamagal*. The data are year 13, month Karkataka, 3rd solar day, Purva Paksha Panchadasi (Full Moon) and Thursday. The date should fall in 1230 or later satisfying the conditions 1 to 4 above. The data agree with 27th June 1230. It was Thursday. Full Moon was current upto Noon. But it was Karkataka first solar day and not the third. The photograph of the record is published elsewhere. It clearly reads *Munram tedi* (முன்றும் தியதி) which means 3rd solar day. I am of the opinion that it is the mistake of the engraver. He should have engraved it as *Onram tedi*. (ஒன்றும் தியதி) which means first solar day. I am not inclined towards correcting records. However with much reluctance I suggest correction because I have to justify Historicity and Paleaography. If we rely on the data, then in the whole of the 13th century we get only one date and it was 29th June 1284. It was Karkataka 3. This date is against *Historicity and Paleaography*<sup>15</sup>.



An extremely difficult or rather a delicate choice is left before us. We have to justify either *Historicity* and *Paleaography* or the astronomical data. In the present state of the circumstances I rely on *Historicity* and *Paleaography* and consult the data treating the solar day as a mistake. For the present, in the midst of many difficulties this is the only solution till something turns up in the future. At any rate the fact remains that Maravarman Vikrama Pandya I was a contemporary of Jatavarman Kulasekara I (1190-1224) and Maravarman Sundara I (1216-1241). This information is one step forward in the research study of the Pandyan Chronology. Without prejudice to this truth we have to arrive at a reasonable surmise.

In the result we have to conclude that the third solar day mentioned in the record is a mistake for the first solar day. *Historicity* and *Paleaography* admit 27th June 1230 only the 13th year of the king.

13th year of Vikrama	=	27th June 1230.
0th year of Vikrama	=	June 1217.
1st year of Vikrama	=	June 1218.

Maravarman Vikrama Pandya came to the throne between June 1217 and June 1218. We can safely surmise that Vikrama came to throne early 1218. His highest regnal year is 14. Probably his rule extended upto 1232. In the light of these findings let us see his Prasasthi *Tirumagal Jayamagal*. The Prasasthi runs as follows.

### *Tirumagal Jayamagul Prasasthi (Tamil)*

திருமகள் ஜயமகள் திருப்புயத் திருப்ப  
 பொருகட லாடை நிலமகள் புணரக்  
 கடவுள் மேருவீற் கயல் விளையாட  
 வடபுல மன்னர் வந்து அடிபணிய  
 நேமிவரை சூழ்நெடு நில முழுவதும்  
 தர்ம வெண்குடை நிழலில் தழைப்ப  
 செங்கோல் நடப்பக் கருங்கலி துரந்து  
 வேத விதியில் நிதி நிலவச்  
 சேரனும் வளவனும் திறைகுணர்ந் திறைஞ்ச  
 வீரமும் புகழும் மிகநனி விளங்க  
 நதிப் பெருஞ்சடை முடிநாதன் சூடிய  
 மதிக்குலம் திகழ் மணிமுடி சூடி  
 விளங்கிய மணியணி வீர சிங்காசனத்து  
 வீற்றிருந் தருளிய கோமாற பற்மரான  
 திரிபுவனச்சக்கரவர்த்திகள் ஸ்ரீவிக்கிரமபாண்டிய தேவர்.....

The Prasasthi states that *Maravarman Vikrama Pandya* has the blessings of Goddess Sri Lakshmi, Vijayalakshmi and Bhudevi (Goddess of earth). The Pandyan emblem, the fish, plays on the Meru mountain of the Lord (God). The kings of the north bow before the feet of Vikrama. Under the shadow of Vikrama's white Umbrella, which is Dharma, the Kingdoms prosper. Right rule is established. The dark sin is driven out. The Chera and the Chola kings pay tributes to Vikrama whose heroism and fame marvellously shine; Vikrama wears the Jewelled crown belonging to the family of Moon which is worn on His head by Lord (Shiva) who on His head has the river (Ganga).

Vikrama says that he collects tributes from the Chola king. His claim appears for the first time in his Alagar Koil record year 3 dated 1220-21. This requires some explanation.

In the year 1219, Maravarman Sundara I invaded the Chola country and defeated the then Chola king Raja Raja III (1216-60) who became a subordinate under the Pandyas. Therefore in the year 1220-21 Vikrama rightly claims of having collected tributes from the Chola. The historicity of Vikrama's Prasasthi and his dates prompt us to infer that Vikrama Pandya participated in Sundara's Campaign against the Cholas.

Jatavarman Kulasekara I (1190-1224), Maravarman Sundara I (1216-1241) and Maravarman Vikrama I (1218-1232) belong to the same joint family. Vikrama's records mention his palace in Madura<sup>16</sup>. Similarly Kulasekara and Sundara also mention their Madura palaces<sup>17</sup>. It is evident that they were united and were on cordial terms.

## GIST

*Maravarman Vikrama Pandya I* came to the throne in 1218. His Prasasthi begins with *Tirumagal Jayamagal* in Tamil. He participated in *Maravarman Sundara Pandya I*'s campaigns against the Cholas. *Vikrama* was on cordial terms with his seniors *Jatavarman Kulasekara I* (1190-1224) and *Maravarman Sundara I* (1216-1241). *Vikrama's* rule extended upto 1232.

## Foot Notes :-

1. E. I. IX pages 226 to 229
2. E. I. XI
3. Indian Antiquary 1913 pages 163 to 172 and 221 to 229
4. E. I. X, XI and Indian Antiquary 1915, pages 165 to 176 and 189 to 202

5. "Dates of some Medieval Pandyas and Some of Their Temples" paper presented by N. Sethuraman before the International Seminar held at Varanasi in December 1979.
6. Pages 8 to 20 "The Imperial Pandyas-Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology" by N. Sethuraman,
7. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12) Ibid; Please refer to the relevant chapters.
13. A. R. E. 1929-80 page 75 para 8.
14. S. I. I. XXIII 97 and 97 (a) equate *Kale Arai Ma* land to 5.5 *Ma* land. One *Veli* is 20 *Mas*. *Kale* means quarter. *Kale Arai Ma* means quarter of a *Veli* and half *Ma* which become 5.5 *Ma*.
15. Please refer to page 94 of A. R. E. 1917. Swamikkannu Pillai suggested 29 th June 1284. Now historicity and paleaography admit the date in 1280. Also refer to the suggestion made by Pillai in 427/1917 page 112 of A. R. E. 1918. If his advise and suggestion were followed up the date in 1280 would have been discovered long ago. G. V. Srinivasa Rao suggests that Vikrama was a predecessor to Kulasekara. See S. I. I. XXIII 90. Further research reveals that Vikrama came to the throne after Kulasekara.

In the Pandyan records mistakes in the astronomical data are numerous. Under such circumstances justice must be done to historicity. I have dealt with this subject in pages 72 to 76 of my book "The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology". I quote a few examples. Giriamma Puram record No. 462/1916 belongs to Maravarman Sundara Pandya "who was pleased to take all the countries". The paleaography is 18th century. The epithet belongs to Jatavarman Sundara I who came to the throne in 1251. But the record says Maravarman. The data with the solar day supply the date 25th March 1815, the reign of Jatavarman Sundara III who came to the throne in 1304. He too was not a Maravarman. He did not have the epithet "who was pleased to take all the countries". 218/1901 and 125/1903 belong to Jatavarman Sundara I of accession 1251. But the astronomical data are intrinsically wrong. (Please refer to Swamikkannu Pillai, page 169 of the Indian Antiquary 1913). Tirukkoshthiyur records 801 and 802 of 1923 belong to Jatavarman Sundara I. But the data with solar days are wrong. (Please refer to the report). Tirukkallakkudi record 107/1916 belongs to Maravarman Kulasekara II. The regnal year is 4. The saka year is 1289. The other data are Kanya, ba 11, Friday and Punarvasu. The equivalent date is 2nd September 1817. But the star ended the previous day. See page 95 of A. R. E. 1916. Also please refer to pages 259 to 261 of E. I. XI. Robert Sewell quotes six Pandyan records which are irregular in data. 489, 485 and 551 of 1916 are also typical examples.

16. Giriyampapuram 472/1916-Maravarman Vikrama year 8
17. Pattamadai 550/1916 Jatavarman Kulasekara I year 18; Idakkal 509/1916 Jatavarman Kulasekara I year 16; Valudur 483/1916 of Maravarman Sundara I year 16; Tirukkalakkudi 84/1916 of Maravarman Sundara I. Pappankulam S. I. I. XXIII 124 of Maravarman Sundara I year 23.