

Jatavarman Kulasekara Pandya II

(of accession 1237 A. D.)



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(Summary)

Jatavarman Kulasekara Pandya II came to the throne in 1237. His records begin with the Tamil Prasasthi Puthala Vanidhai (புதல வனிதை). It is generally believed that Kulasekara ruled for a few years and then died.

In this article, the author proves that Kulasekara continued to live upto 1266. The author has furnished many records of Kulasekara. The records of Kulasekara's successors are also quoted. Those records confirm the existence of Kulasekara in 1258 and 1260.

The regnal year of a Hindu King is counted on the basis of his accession star. This is the ancient Indian Calendar system. The author has applied this system to find the exact accession date of Jatavarman Kulasekara II.

The methodology adopted in the article is very important. It will help the researchers in identifying the Pandya Kings who had same name, same or different titles but who existed in different periods.

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Introduction

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 Jatavarmans or Maravarman. 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)¹ Jacobi (1910),² Swamikkannu Pillai (1913)³ and Robert Sewell (1915)⁴ 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 Tungabhadra and thus they attained the Imperial Status. Those Pandya 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 Madura was under the control of the Vijayanagar. The Pandyas who existed after 1372 are called the 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. Most of them are yet to be identified. They are called Medieval Pandyas. They are not given numbers because they were subordinates under the Cholas and most of them are not identified.

In my book The Imperial Pandyas, I have dealt with the Methodology⁵ 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 Tondai 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. If the solar day is given along with the data, suitable and authentic date can be found after following the methodology described above. Astronomical data with the solar day will repeat once in 100 or 150 years. Therefore such kind of data must be closely observed and worked out. On the above basis let us see the dates of Jatavarman Kulasekara II.

Jatavarman Kulasekara II (of accession 1237)

In the 12th and 13th centuries three kings of the same name Jatavarman Kulasekara existed. But in the research work the records of these kings were mixed up. In my book "The Imperial Pandyas" I have identified and sorted out the records of these three kings. They existed as follows.

1. *Jatavarman Kulasekara of the Pandyan civil war*:—⁷ He came to the throne early 1162. His records begin with the Tamil Prasasthi *Putala Madanthai* (புதலமடந்தை). In the year 1166 he advanced towards Madura, killed the then Madura king Parakrama Pandya and mounted the Madura throne. The subsequent events of the Pandyan civil war are known. Kulasekara was no more after 1178. Throughout his reign he was a subordinate under the Chola king Rajadhi Raja II (1166-80). Therefore this Kulasekara did not attain the imperial status and hence no number (like I or II) is assigned to him.

2. *Jatavarman Kulasekara I*:—⁸ He ascended the throne between the 4th and the 28th June 1190. His Tamil Prasasthi begins with *Puvir Kilathi* (புவின் கிழத்தி). He lived upto 1224. In the year 1219, his successor Maravarman Sundara I (of accession 1216) defeated the Cholas and the latter became subordinates under the

Pandya. Since Kulasekara lived upto 1224, he attained the imperial status in the last years of his reign. Therefore he is called Jatavarman Kulasekara I.

3. *Maravarman Sundara Pandya I* came to the throne⁹ in 1216. His records contain the Tamil Prasasthi *Pumaruviya Tirumadhum* or *Thirumadandaiyum* (பூமருவிய திருமாதும் or திருமடந்தையம்). He had the epithet "who took and presented the Chola country". His rule extended upto 1241. His successor was Jatavarman Kulasekara II whom we shall discuss below.

4. *Jatavarman Kulasekara II*:—¹⁰ He came to the throne in 1237. His records begin with the Tamil Prasasthi *Puthala Vanidhai* (பூதல வனிதை). Swamikkannu Pillai surmised¹¹ that this Kulasekara came to the throne between the 16th June and the 30th September 1237. For necessary deductions he applied the Christian Calendar system. Let us see the records consulted by Pillai. We shall apply the Indian Calendar system¹².

Madura Minakshi Temple East Gopura Tower Record No. 62/1905:— The record belongs to Jatavarman Kulasekara. The data are year 2, month Tula, ba 6, Thursday and Mirgaseera. The data perfectly agree with 30th September 1238. This makes Mirgaseera in Tula of 1237 the first year. The star was current on 10th October.

Tenkarai Mulasthanam Udaiyar Temple front Mandapa fifth Pillar record No. 135/1910:— The record belongs to Jatavarman Kulasekara. The data are year 2, Mithuna 20, Su 13, Wednesday and Anuradha. The data perfectly agree with 15th June 1239. This makes Anuradha in Mithuna of 1237 the 0th year. The star was current on 7th June.

10—10—1237 = 1st year

7— 6—1237 = 0th year

The king came to the throne between the 8th June and the 10th October 1237.

Tenkarai Mulasthanam Udaiyar Temple south Prakara wall Record No. 13/1894 (S. I. I. V 301):— It belongs to Kulasekara and it contains his Prasasthi *Puthala Vanidhai*. It is in year 3. Line 35 mentions the grants made in the year 2, Tula, ba 6, Thursday and Mirgaseera. The data agree with 30th September 1238. (Please compare this record with 62/1905 above.)

Viravanallur Record No. 720/1916:— The record belongs to Jatavarman Kulasekara. It contains his Prasasthi *Puthala Vanidhai*. The data are year 2, Mina 22, Su 10, Wednesday and Pushya. The data agree with 16th March 1239. This proves that the king did not ascend the throne till March 1237 and it agrees with the above finding.

Sri Vaikuntham record No. 440/1961-62:— The record belongs to Kulasekara. It contains his Prasasthi *Puthala Vanidhai*. The data are year 10, Mithuna 7, ba 18, Karthigai and Sunday. The data agree with 2nd June 1247. This date makes Karthigai in Mithuna of 1237 the Oth year. The star was current on 21st June.

21— 6—1237 = Oth year

10—10—1237 = 1st year

The king came to the throne between the 22nd June and the 10th October, 1237.

Tiruvalliswaram record No. 370/1916:— The record belongs to Kulasekara. It contains his Prasasthi *Puthala Vanidhai*. The data are year 3+7 or year 3 day 2690, Margali 20, Sunday, Saptami and Uttara Badrapada. The data perfectly¹³ agree with 16th December 1246.

Year 3 day 2690 = 16th December 1246

Year 3 day 1 = 6th August 1239

On the 6th August 1239 star Visaka was current in the month Avani. Visaka in Avani of 1239 belongs to the first day of the third year. Therefore 1st day of the first year belongs to star Visaka in Avani of 1237. The star was current on 31st July.

Jatavarman Kulasekara II of Puthala Vanidhai Prasasthi ascended the throne on Friday the 31st July 1237. His accession star was Visaka. His *Tirunelveli Record No. 139/1894 (S. I. I. V 428)* states that his natal star was also Visaka.

It is generally believed that this Kulasekara lived for a short time and died within 2 or 3 years¹⁴. Records prove that he ruled for a long time. The following records are assigned to Kulasekara and they contain his Prasasthi *Puthala Vanidhai*.

Jatavarman Kulasekara II (of accession 1237) Records with the Prasasthi Puthala Vanidhai

Record No.	Village	Regnal year	A. D. Date
349/1916	Tiruvalliswaram	Lost	
720/1916	Viravanallur	2	16— 3—1239
18/1894			
S. I. I. V 301	Tenkarai	3 day 85	12— 9—1239
189/1894			
S. I. I. V 428	Tirunelveli	3 day 504	2— 3—1241
673/1916	Sermadevi	3 day 2594	12— 9—1246
665/1916	Sermadevi	3 day 2638	26—10—1246
370/1916	Tiruvalliswaram	3 day 2690	16—12—1246
507/1916	Idakal	3 day 2766	2— 3—1247
440/1962	Sri Vaikuntham	10	2— 6—1247
379/1980	Kattarimangalam	10	1247

We have identified the records of Kulasekara upto year 10. - He was alive in 1247. There is reason to believe that Kulasekara could have lived upto 1266. The surmise is substantiated by the records of other kings.

Records of Maravarman Vikrama II

Maravarman Vikrama II ruled from 1250 to 1265. His records contain the Grantha Prasasthi "*Samastha Bhuvaneka Vira*" and the Tamil Prasasthi "*Tirumalar Madhu*" (திருமலர் மாது). His Tiruvennai Nallur record No. 462/1921 contains his Grantha Prasasthi. It is in year 6 corresponding to 1256. It mentions Annalvi Kulasekara Deva¹⁵.

Vikrama's Tiruchinopoly record No. 322/1956 contains his Grantha Prasasthi. It is dated 1st September 1258. The record mentions a colony in the name of the mother of Ulagudaiya Perumal (உலகுடைய பெருமாள்) Kulasekara Deva¹⁶.

Records of Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I (of accession 1251)¹⁷

Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I came to the throne in 1251. His records contain his Prasasthis "*Pumalar Valar*" (பூமலர் வளர்) in Tamil and "*Samastha Jagadadhara*" in Grantha. He had the epithets "*Emmandalamum Kondarulia*" (who took every country) or "*Anaithulakum Kondarulia*" (who took all countries). He gilded the Sri Rangam temple and so he was called "*Pon Meyndha Mahipathi*" (great king who covered the temple with gold).

Chingleput District Tiruppukkuli record (S. I. I. VI 455) belongs to Jatavarman Sundara pandya. The regnal year is not available. The record praises the king as "*Pon Meyndha Mahipathi*" (பொன்மேய்ந்த மகிமதி) and who took all countries (மண்டலம் யாவையும் கொண்டவன்). Sundara's Tirupputtur record¹⁸ is in year 7 and it is dated 7th October 1257. The record states that Sundara performed Tulabara at Sri Rangam and gilded the Sri Rangam temple¹⁹. His Magaral record is in year 7 and it contains his title "*Emmandalamum Kondarulia*" (who took every country)²⁰. Sundara adopted the titles in his 7th year. Therefore the Tiruppukkuli record was engraved in or after the 7th year say in 1258. The record states²¹ that Sundara built a Mandapa in the temple for the welfare of the sacred shoulders of Perumal Kulasekara Devar (பெருமாள் குலசேகர தேவர் திருத் தோளுக்கு நன்றாக). It is evident that Kulasekara was alive in 1258.

Salem District Aragalur records 426, 429 and 425 of 1913 belong to Jatavarman Sundara I and they are in years 9, 9 and 10 respectively. From these records we come to know that in Sundara's 9th year, his minister Kandiyadevan built the temple Kulasekara Avudaiyar in the name of Sundara's Annalvi (elder

brother) Kulasekara. A big lake Kulasekaran Periyeri was dug in the name of Kulasekara. It is evident that Kulasekara was alive in 1260.

Jatavarman Kulasekara II was alive in 1260. There is reason to believe that he could have lived upto 1266.

Darukapuram Record No. 578/1915 belongs to Jatavarman Kulasekara. The data are year 23+6, Karkataka 27, Revathi and Friday. The data²³ agree with 23rd July 1266. The date is authentic since it contains the solar day. Between 1190 and 1299 such a combination occurred²³ in 1266 only. So Kulasekara was alive in 1266.

Jatavarman Kulasekara II of "Puthala Vanidhai" Prasasthi came to the throne on 31st July 1237. His records are available upto year 10. He was alive in 1266. Probably he was no more after 1266.

His records after the 10th year are not many. But his existence is mentioned by his successors. Probably Kulasekara was sick between 1247 and 1266. This is confirmed by the Tiruppukkuli record (No. S. I. I. VI 455 above) which states that around 1258 a mandapa was built for the welfare of the sacred shoulders of Kulasekara.

Mannarkoil.

Mannarkoil is a small village in the Ambasamudram Taluk of Tirunelveli District. The present Gopalaswami Vishnu temple of this village is a huge complex and it contains many Chola and Pandyan records.

The main temple was built by the Chera King Rajasimha in the reign of Parakesarivarman Rajendra Chola Deva I (1012-1043). This is evident from Rajendra's record No. 112/1905 of this temple. The record is in year 24 corresponding to 1036. The date of the temple is 1036. In the records of Rajendra and his successors the temple is mentioned as Rajendra Chola Vinnagar²⁴ called after Rajendra I.

In the reigns of the Imperial Pandyas additions were made to the temple. Within this temple there is another shrine called *Kulasekara Alwar*. The central shrine and the Prakara walls of Kulasekara Alwar shrine contain many Pandyan records.

Kulasekara Alwar shrine was built²⁵ in 1209, by one Sendalangeradasar in the reign of Jatavarman Kulasekara I. Sendalangeradasar continued to live in 1230, the reign of Maravarman Sundara²⁶ Pandya I. In honour of Sendalangeradasar, Sundara constructed a tank and called it as Sendalangan Pudukkulam²⁷ (செந்தலங்காரன் புதுக்குளம்).

Record No. 408/1916 of this shrine belongs to Kulasekara probably Jatavarman Kulasekara II. This is evident from the contents of the record. The regnal year is 11 Masi 25 corresponding to 18th February 1248. The record registers an order of the village assembly under the instruction of the king. It states that certain private houses which were required for constructing the second Prakara of the temple according to the Sastra were acquired and granted. The record is important as it conveys some interesting information to the present day Hindu Religious Endowment Board department.

Madurai Thirunjanasambandar Mutt

Tenkarai Mulasthanam Udaiyar record No. 13/1894 (S. I. I. V. 301) belongs to Jatavarman Kulasekara and it is in year 3. Lines 6, 7, 17 and 22 state that the Thirunjanasambandar Mutt (திருஞானசம்பந்தர் மடம்) was in Madurai, the city east of Madakkulam. It is further learnt that as on 30th September 1238, the then presiding pontiff of the Mutt was *Tadpurusha Siva* one of the disciples of the *Tiruvarur Dakshina Golaki Mutt*. It is interesting to note here that the Madurai Thirunjanasambandar Mutt exists even today contributing yeoman services to Siva Sidhandha Philosophy.

Scholar in Tamil

Kulasekara's Tamil Prasasthi introduces the king as follows :—“ பூதலவனிதை மேதக விளங்க மேதக மாப்பினில் இந்திரை இருப்ப புயவரைத்தழுவி வயமகள் களிப்ப மயலது சிறப்பின் மாமுனி தெரிந்த இயல் இசை நாடகம் எழில் பெற வளர.....etc.”

“Kulasekara has the blessings of Goddess of Earth, Goddess Mahalakshmi and Goddess Meenakshi. In his reign (Tamil) Prose, Poetry and Drama which were made known by the great sage (Agastya) prospered with fame.” It is evident that Kulasekara was a scholar in Tamil Prose, Poetry and Drama.

Viravanallur

Viravanallur is a village in the Ambasamudram Taluk of the Tirunelveli District. On the south wall of the central shrine of the Vikrama Pandyeswara temple, Kulasekara's record (720/1916) is found. It is dated 16th March 1239. The record states that one of the maid servants of the king serving in his Madura palace set up the image of Goddess and called it as “Sokka Nachiyar” after her daughter's name. She gave Jewels, Kalvadam, Padagam, Tiruchchari, Mugakkari, Mulaittadam, Haram, Mangiliyam, Pattaaikkarai, Todu, Vali, Panchasaram, Ekavadam and Talavadam to the image of Goddess. The date of the image of the Goddess in the Vikrama Pandyeswara temple is 16th March 1239. This date will be useful for the art historians.

Tiruvaliswaram

Kulasekara's Tiruvaliswaram record (370/1916) is dated 16th December 1246. The record registers an order of the king to the temple authorities that they should get the rice required for offerings from the paddy to be husked by the dancing girls.

Foot Notes :

1. E. I. IX pages 226 to 229
2. E. I. XI
3. Indian Antiquary 1913
4. E. I. X, XI and Indian Antiquary 1915
5. Pages 3 to 20 and 72 to 76 of "The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology" by N. Sethuraman.
6. See page 125 "The Pandya Kingdom" by Neelakanta Sastri edition 1972.
7. See pages 21 to 24 "The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology". Also please refer to Swamikkannu Pillai, page 229 Indian Antiquary 1913.
8. See page 25 "The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology". Also please refer to Kielhorn, E. I. IX page 226.
9. Pages 26 to 34 "The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology". Kielhorn E. I. IX page 226.
10. Pages 35 to 37 "The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology".
11. Page 168 of the Indian Antiquary 1913; Robert Sewell page 261 of E. I. XI and page 191 of the Indian Antiquary 1915.
12. Pages 3 to 8 "The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology". The regnal year of a Hindu king is counted on the basis of his accession star. See pages 105 to 109, Journal of the Epigraphical Society of India Volume Five 1978.
13. See page 93 of A. R. E. 1917.
14. Page 136 The Pandya Kingdom by Neelakanta Sastri edition 1972; page 124 Pandyar Varalaru by T. V. Sadasiva Pandarathar edition 1972.
15. Page 82 The Imperial Pandyas Mathematics Reconstructs the Chronology.
16. Ibid page 62.
17. Ibid pages 48 and 49; Also see page 152 The Pandya Kingdom edition 1972 by Neelakanta Sastri.
18. Tiruppundurutti Record No. 166/1894 (S. I. I. V. 459). Kielhorn page 307 of E. I. Vol. VI.
19. S. I. I. V 459 Lines 13 and 14 state".....பெருங்கடல் விரியிடை நிலத்திலங்குந் திருவரங்கம் பெருஞ்செல்வம் சிறப்பப் பல்முறை பணிதுலாபாரமேறி பொன் மலையென்ன பொலிந்து தோன்றவும் பொன் மேய்ந்தருளிய.....etc."
20. Magaral 218/1901; S. I. I. VII 431.
21. Tiruppukkuli Record No. 19/1899 (S. I. I. VI 455) belongs to Sundara Pandya. It states "வாழ்க கோயில் பொன் மேய்த்த மகிபதி, வாழ்க செந்தமிழ் மாலை தெரிந்தவன், வாழ்க மண்டலம் யாவையும் கொண்டவன், வாழ்க சுந்தரமன்னவன் தென்னனைய, பெருமான் குலசேகர தேவர் திருந்தோளுக்கு நன்றாக எடுத்ததை அழகியான் பல்லவராவர் செய்வித்ததன்மம்"
22. A. R. E. 1916 page 96.
23. Revathi in Karkataka of 1266 belongs to the 29th year. Therefore Revathi in Karkataka of 1287 falls in the 0th year. It was current on 15th July. The king did not ascend the throne till 15th July. This agrees with the accession date 81st July 1237.
24. Page 312 Middle Chola Temples by Padma Sri S. R. Balasubramaniam.
25. 402/1916 of Jatavarman Kulasekara I year 19 read with 400/1916 and also with 397/1916 of Maravarman Sundara I year 14
26. 397/1916 Maravarman Sundara I year 14
27. 405/1916 Maravarman Sundara I year 14 Masi 25th (February 1230.)