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## Industrial and trade activities

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**Abstract**--In A.D 1763 the Nawab of Arcot, Muhammed Ali assigned Chingleput as a jahir to the English East India Company. When the company took over the jagir in 1782 under their direct administration Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Next to agriculture the industrial activities, particularly the spinning and weaving, played an important role in the economic transactions of the Jagir area. These were also potters and fishermen, barbers and washer men. The Chetties, Kavaris and Komatis participated in Trade. Fishing played a decisive role in the life of the people who lived in the coastal areas. In 1798 putting the fish market of Santhome, Vapery and Chintadripet with the weight and measures under Police committee. This weight and measure follows to the northward. The salt revenue was also susceptible of considerable augmentation but unless assistance was afforded in the disposal of it by transportation to Bengal on account of the Company, there would be little use in extending the manufacture. Before 1750 private English trade had operated outside the Company's system, complementing the Company's trade in many respects and following broad areas of demarcation. The decline of Company trade after the 1750s and the winding down of its inter-Asian trade left the field free for the private trader who moved in. Markets, bazaars and shops were running in Kanchipuram cloths, provisions, vegetables, brassware, pearls, corals and jewels were sold. Established road duties to bring load of cotton and thread from western ward by bullock. However, the economic programme that adopted by the Company's Officials in the jagir region helped them to increase their financial resources and thereby to strength their military strength that helped them to protect the Carnatic region from the Mysore forces and subsequently to establish British suzerainty in the Carnatic and finally they turned as a suzerain power of the Chingleput region by incorporating it with the Madras Presidency.

**Keywords**---Chingleput, jagir, madras presidency, English east India company, trade, commerce of eighteenth, century Chingleput, fishermen in Chingleput.

## **Introduction**

Chingleput district stretches in a wide arch, 180 km long and at places upto 80km deep, around the city of Madras (presently known as Chennai) capital of Tamilnadu. Chingleput was ruled by the Pallavas, Gangas, Rashtrakutas, Chola, Kakatiyas, the Vijayanar rulers and the Nawabs of Arcot on the different times. In the second half of the eighteenth century the Nawab of the Arcot were the sovereign ruler of the of chingleput region. During the carnatic war Nawab got financial and military help from the British against French and Mysore .

In A.D 1763 the Nawab of Arcot, Muhammed Ali assigned Chingleput as a *jagir* to the English East India Company. On the same year Company given chingleput as a annual lease for 3,68,350 pagodas to the Nawab. Without any change Nawab followed former Agrarian system of Mughal. The system of management in the *jagir* while it was rented by the Nawab was oppressive, exhibiting boundless exaction and rapacity. A considerable proportion of the produce was extorted from the husbandmen under varied devices. The Nawab's management was as bad as anything could be. He took even less interest in the welfare of the of the people as well as development of the economic condition of the *jagir*. Besides the outbreak of the second mysore war (1780-1784) created adverse effect on the economic condition of Chingleput. Hence, in 1780 it was brought under the direct control of the company and retained it as *jagir* until the carnatic was annexed in A.D. 1801, thereby, the company emerged as a colonial power.

When the company took over the *jagir* under their direct administration Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Next to agriculture the industrial activities, particularly the spinning and weaving, played an important role in the economic transactions of the *Jagir* area. There were the households were carpenters, blacksmiths, goldsmith, braziers and silver smiths. Others of the people of Chingleput engaged in a variety of other industries. There were also oil-pressers, woodcutters, arrack distillers, stonemasons, lime-burners, salt-maker, basket-makers, cotton refiners, engravers and perfume makers. These were also potters and fishermen, barbers and washer men. The Chetties, Kavaris and Komatis participated in trade.

## **Industries**

Agriculture was the main occupation in Chingleput region besides they engaged in weaving and spinning. However spinning was known to have been essentially a part time occupation. The majority of the full - time weavers were drawn from the four main weaving castes namely, Kaikolar, Devanga, Sale and Seniyar. Although the majority of men in these caste groups followed the occupation of weaving, there were notable exceptions. The variety of looms was to be found vertical looms were distributed quite widely and used for the production of carpets. Draw

looms, with their elaborate apparatus of weaver working in conjunction with a drawboy were utilised in the manufacture of fancy patterned cloths.

In the *jagir* the best months for weaving were October and December through March since there were no land winds in those months. Among the Kaikolar, Devanga, Sale and Seniyar the first three were the most numerous and most prominent in the manufacture of textile for export. The Kaikolar, a *Amuldar* speaking caste, were the largest in number and were settled mainly in the districts of the Chingleput. Land owning weaver called Janmavar. In the first stage of changes introduced into the weaving village in 1771 it treated the *nattavar* and head weavers as agents of the weavers for this they were allowed a commissions of 5/8 per cent. Every village had numbers of brokers; the broker was known as *kopudarudu* and occurs in the English record a copdar.

### **Fishing**

Fishing played a decisive role in the life of the people who lived in the coastal areas. Fisher men led a pathetic life. Their life was mostly centred on the fortunes of the sea. They carried their catches to the distant market places mostly by head loads. They became the victims of the arbitrary measures of the government. The Company tried to address their problems. The Company said that new arrangement to be established and the result that it led to the reduction in the selling price of fish for the benefit of community the former duties or tax were not collected. It was not reasonable to be enforced and also that the free sale of the article was restrained; otherwise the market would be left in a state of uncertainty with regard to the supplies. In 1798 putting the market of Santhome, Vapery and Chintadripet with the weight and measures under Police committee. This weight and measure follows to the northward.

Westward.....Coodore  
Manally  
The mount  
Southward.....Trevenbore

The Police committee got no authority to interfere in south *coopums* and Santhome. If any interfered should be taken up forth with sent to collector to have punished. The declaration further says that as fishermen of indigent circumstance they had placed their sole deposit upon the police committee. Fishermen were already supplied with sufficient fish to the generate market agreeable to the regulation after such order was made by the said collector. They continued to supply with fish for the use of Madras market agreeably to the order. Police committee allowed the fishermen, through the diversion of the usual channel of supply of fish. Madras market did not suffer very great inconvenience as it would appear from the declaration enclosed letter, which the fishermen were no ways restricted by the Collector; they were allowed to sell fish to any they think eligible.

### **Oil Mongers**

The Company resorted to arbitrary measures towards the collection of taxes from the toiling sections of the society. Two Oil Mongers were punished by short rope and placed a stone on their back because they disobeyed the circar order. The Company collected penalty for their manner and also gave another punishment to stand on one leg. Their disobeying activities were proved with two witnesses. This penalty was gathered by instalments viz 24 fanams. Ultrathin of the grand festival of little *Kanchipuram* pagoda communication day and sanctioned the expenses of the third day as had been usual was rendered the more necessary this year as the failure of the monsoon had considerably reduced the revenue of that pagoda(temple).

### **Salt Production**

The salt revenue was also susceptible of considerable augmentation but unless assistance was afforded in the disposal of it by transportation to Bengal on account of the Company, there would be little use in extending the manufacture. *Pardre* lived in Poonamalee conducted many *Amuldar* manufacturers of salt in Poonamallee. The *Amuldardar* of the region could not will and refused to take their salt from there. Hodgson requested to take and number of salt *Amuldariars'* production in deposited of their amount. The salt revenue was also susceptible of considerable augmentation, but unless assistance was afforded in the disposal of it by transportation to Bengal on account of the Company. There would be little use in extending the manufacture. The sales in *Faslies* 1205, 1206 and 1207 amounted on an average to no more than pagodas 4,770 indeed not to so much, this sum being the salt sold on account of those *faslies* up to the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1798. When Collector Place resigned the charge of the *Jagir*, but the average of the total produce to the Circar in those year according to the *Teerwa* was pagodas 7351,43,55.

### **Trade Merchants and the Marketing**

Before 1750 private English trade had operated outside the Company's system, complementing the Company's trade in many respects and following broad areas of demarcation. The decline of Company trade after the 1750s and the winding down of its inter-Asian trade left the field free for the private trader who moved in. The first major English contact with indigenous society was made through the demands of the Company's major enterprise on the Carnatic, the textile trade. It was soon found that *nattar* and head weavers had immense authority and influence but would undertake little responsibility on behalf of English investment. They refused to be responsible for advances made to the weavers or for the quality and regularity of cloth delivery. The hold that the head weavers, the cooly weavers and their desire to profit to the utmost any attendant responsibilities was a problem the Company. Then there was the secret but effective opposition of interests. Many of their avenues of profit had been respect of the trade in cloth and thread, but even grain to the weaver. In some villages it was obligatory to purchase his rice from the Circar, often at inflated the *Amuldar*,

*nattar* and merchants would profit. organized granaries in the villages where grain market rates. All these struck at local merchant interests.

Markets, bazaars and shops were running in *Kanchipuram* cloths, provisions, vegetables, brassware, pearls, corals and jewels were sold. With regard to the first part of place's observation in his survey, after the relief measure of 1780 war a small number of new habitations, which were to be seen throughout the Country, by no means, proportionate to the natural increase of population in the cause of so long a period- places once eminent for extensive inhabitation were dwindled to a state, and condition, little better than that of hamlets and in general there rarely exhibited any marks of their having emerged much from that, in which they settled soon after the return of tranquillity. Population, as it multiplied, ought in this time considerably to have increased society and by creating a multitude of wants, attracted trade and occupations to supply them, yet the foregoing fact, and this survey shows how little it had this tendency for what had not wholly alienated itself was dispersed into remote and obscure corners, where it draws a scanty subsistence from the means which chance had left of carrying on an inconsiderable cultivation, and where it was almost lost to the state and its own good, since few villages possessed on a shop, or afford encouragement to a Bazaar or often to an artificer to settle among them.

Select Committee opinion the produce of the country should be sold for ready money and therefore resolve that Mr. De Souza be directed to call on the several debtors for the balances which they once and thereafter not to give credit in this way also to settle his account with the garrison on store keeper that it might be properly adjusted. The Company's manager himself cleared the lands of jungle and cultivated the waste lands. All present there were about fifty canary merchants none residing in the town under rents who had solicited for permission to build the pitch at Kanchipuram they had taken in exchange copper, broad cloth, Raw silk clover cardamoms and other spices and china silks. To increase their trade to the amount of two lacks or twelve lacks and a half of pagodas in the following articles cotton thread, termericknutts, coats cloths, come less and silk cloth from the westward and from the East ward copper raw silk broad cloth and sundry spices. *Magan* is a petty dealer or merchant and *hawk* is a weekly market.

### **Bazzars**

In 1785 on the 27<sup>th</sup> September last on enquiry the renter found some difference in the weights and measures of the bazzars and gave two or three single fanams to different people and ordered them to buy some things on the bazaar, and the people accordingly brought some things and brought them to the *Cutchery*. There was not well relation renter and their paymasters of *jagir*. Renters wrote petition to the Company about that paymaster brought paddy and had dues to the renters. *Amuldar* asked escort to get sheep from the *Jagir* in the time of War. *Amuldar*, *Gomastah*, Sepoys participated in transaction of goods from *Jagir* to neighbouring region.

Prices of grain in for the years 1792, 1793 and 1794 showed that the oil seeds were sold 3 *mercals* per pagodas, *ellooor raggee* sold 29  $\frac{2}{3}$  *mercals* per pagodas, *cumboo* 19  $\frac{1}{3}$  *mercals* per pagodas, paddy 17 *mercals* per pagodas.

They sold their goods for ready money. *Punjai Teerwa* was collected for above dry grain except baddy. Mr. Place's account showed *Teerwa* of three *Pargannahs* of Karunguzhi, Uthiramerur and Tripppassore. Circar divided produce of land into *waraput* and *teerwaput* for Company and to the share of inhabitants. Share was mostly collected as money in some time as grain. Ready money collection was existed in Tripassore.

In 1798 (*fasli*1208), *Pargannah* of Srikarikotah where the poverty of the inhabitants became severe, which led to transporting grain by water, to be available in the market. In 1798 February last country in consequence of a total failure of the monsoon, Had son made four through the country and he explained that the time country faced that inhabitant saw cover their grain into cash for their discharge of rent within year. The almost prevention and vigilance were requisite established such checks, as should prevent the practical of those artifices, to the reduction of the revenue. Which the *amanisyste* of management was exposed *Hodson* to protibite the corruption by the natives.

### **Policy towards the Sale of Arracks**

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1798, the Company established restriction on the sale of arrack. In consequence to suggest the expediency of permitting the renter to establish his shops as formerly for the Board thought they could not prove injurious to the troops in garrison if proper discipline be maintained and regulations established for preventing the clandestine admission of spirits into the fort, and sale of it to Europeans by the renter, or their employed by him but should government not approve of this proposition it was further resolved to recommend that the shops be erected within one mile of the fort as was the case at Masulipattinam if government acquiesces in the former arrangement all claims to future remission on the part of *sawmy* moodily would be prevented, or in the latter, the compensation to be granted to him would be considerably decreased.

Arrack Renter claiming their remission of 940 pagodas annually on account of the sale of arrack having been prohibited within two miles of Poonamallee by order of government in 1788. After that this same renter allowed to making rent pagodas 407 ½. He was allowed to whole District of Poonamallee to product of arrack. The Company gave loan for 500 pagodas by making the annual permission to be allowed for sale of arrack and renting Pagodas 657,37,40. The sources of revenue which might be improved were the farms and licenses. The number of Cocoa-nut trees which have been planted in the Circar Garden at Perumbakkam, (amounting to 9988) would in about 2 years afford a considerable supply of toddy and would add to the revenue by being included in the arrack rent. This garden would not be of so much utility under the new system as it had been, but being now nearly at that state when it would more than pay the expense of taking care of it. The Board would determine whether it should be continued for the purpose of making experiments with valuable exotics, or disposed of to the best bidder. The number of trees in it at this time was inclusive of Coconut trees amounting to 31,445.

### **Sale of Salt**

Considerable revenue derived from the sale of salt depends entirely upon place's being able to command the attendance of the boat people, and their boats to export it. Indeed the closing of a contract for a large quantity had been retained to the peons of the committee sepses carrying away some of the boat man.

### **North Coopums**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Madras      | 9. Cattevaukum  |
| 2. Attapaulum  | 10. Tanam       |
| 3. Taudavoor   | 11. Mogadawaram |
| 4. Trechala    | 12. Ennore      |
| 5. Travatore   | 13. Pooyed      |
| 6. Causee coil | 14. Cautoopolee |
| 7. Ernavoor    | 15. Caulanjee   |
| 8. Cuttevauk   | 16. Caurungaul  |

### **South Coopums**

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Chatayam     | 10. Coluvautum     |
| 2. Chapauk      | 11. Paulavaukum    |
| 3. Triplicany   | 12. Netumcany      |
| 4. Naudoo       | 13. Yeyumbaucum    |
| 5. Neehe        | 14. Pauneyoor      |
| 6. Saint Thomas | 15. Nenam          |
| 7. Vooroor      | 16. Reddy          |
| 8. Voda         | 17. Curry Caudoo   |
| 9. Trivamboor   | 18. <i>Kovalam</i> |

Taroopoo of *Kovalam* amen sawmyeyah derived Anumdyah taroopoo of cholaulen to collect the fish tax from the coopery people of *Kovalam* district in case they delay anumdyah authorized to seize their house, nett& Etc.

### **Taxation System**

The inland trade was operated by road and water way, for this route they used cow, horse, bullock carts, and palanquin boys. Chingleput did not have very well condition of road, it only had little improved. In the war time Company concentrated in the making of road. Bullocks and Buffaloes were used to inland trade. In 1800 Madras had no significant commodity alternatives to textiles. Cotton, indigo and sugar did not begin to play an important role in its commerce until the late 1830. The merchants who were drawn into close relationship with the English came from many castes. The largest number were those of various Chetty sub-castes, the most prominent being Balija, Chetties and Komaties. There were always Muddy, Pillai and Reddi merchants. Granaries were also built in Uthiramerur at the cost of pagodas 1049,19,70. Madurantakam 833,43,54 and Karunguzhi 1181,22,20. (the latter including the bazaar and cutwal'schoultry which were not separated in the accounts) in order to preserve the *amani* grain.

Carymondlum was located in Srikarikotah and was aenam village to the Madras Cauzee.

*Waratondoo* tax was collected by peons from grass saler, stone cutter and petty *kavalgars*. This tax did not collect throughout the year, but a particular month and day only paid by the people. Betel farmer was prevented to cutting the gropes by the gardeners and they participate in paddy cultivation. Garden or *tottakal* lands were *punjai* lands brought under irrigation which were reserved exclusively for the cultivation of high grade cash crops like vegetables, chillies, tobacco, betel, etc. The best cotton was grown on the black cotton soils of Tirunelveli, and to a certain extent as well. The cotton cultivated along the coast was the common 'dwarf cotton; it also grew in North Arcot district near Vellore. However, on the whole, cotton cultivation was not too extensive and its production was certainly inadequate for local consumption. In the main cloth manufacturing centres of South India, cotton was imported from the Maratha country, Nagpur and some of the native states. As cotton was a risky crop and exhausted the soil easily, it was only the rich fanner who could afford its regular cultivation. Sugarcane was cultivated to a limited extent in Chingleput at the close of the 18th century, as soil conditions were not suitable for its extensive cultivation. As in the case of cotton, sugarcane was also a Capital and labour intensive crop.

## **Conclusion**

The agricultural operation remained the main occupation of the Chingleput region. Paddy was the main cultivable item. The grains like *varagu*, *raggy*, *cumboo*, *maize*, samai, millet, blackgram, dhall, pulse, horsegram, and *karamani* were also cultivated. The oily substances such as gingelly, little castor oil plant, large castor oil plant and ground-nut were also cultivated. Roots such as *semboo*, sweet potatoes, *karanei*, turmeric, radish, ginger and onions were cultivated. The other items cultivated there were sugar-cane, cotton, chilly, tobacco, plantains, flowering plants and different kinds of vegetables. The Vanniars, the Kamma Naidus, the Reddis, the Vellalas, the Senguntha Mudaliars, the Rajus, the Muslims, the Brahmins, the Thattans, the Karumans, the Kammars, the Kalthachans, the Komuttis, the Beri Chettis, the Vania Chettis, the Gramanis (Nadars), the Irulas, the Yanadis, the Adi Andhras, the Chakkilians, the Arunthathiyas and the Valluvans as cultivators, agricultural labourers, weavers, Fishermen, artisans, traders contributed to the development of Chingleput region. The Chetties, Kavaris and Komatis were mostly engaged in trade and commerce. Among the industries that developed in the *jagir* area, the weaving assumed a greater importance. The villages in Kanchipuram, Madurantakam and Arani became the famous weaving areas in the territory of *jagir*. During 1790s the East India Company adopted several measures to improve the cash crop cultivation for the development of the industries thereby to improve the economic condition. As early 1790 Dr. Anderson was engaged in distributing a variety of cotton seeds obtained from Malta and Mauritius to throughout the Madras Presidency. The pieces of cotton were good demand in Europe. Established road duties to bring load of cotton and thread from western ward by bullock. However, the economic programme that adopted by the Company's Officials in the *jagir* region helped them to increase their financial resources and thereby to strength their military strength that helped them to protect the Carnatic region from the Mysore forces

and subsequently to establish British suzerainty in the Carnatic and finally they turned as a suzerain power of the Chingleput region by incorporating it with the Madras Presidency.

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