

JAINA INSCRIPTION IN GINGEE TALUCK UNDER THE CHOLAS**A. Ponnuram**

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There are totally 11 inscriptions in Gingee taluk issued by the cholas influenced by Jainism. All the inscription pertain to the endowments made to the jaina temple. The endowments were made both, by the royal people and also by the individual, in order to maintain perpetual lamps and serve as pallichandan.

Endowment's Made by the Royal Family:

There is only one inscription pertaining to this aspect. The endowment was made by the queen Kadavarkonpavai, the wife of Aditya I. She is said to have received some endowment to the Malainatha temple. The Malaintha temple was also known as Tiruniranpalli and Kattampalli.

Endowments Made by the Individuals in Form of Cattle:

There are 4 inscription's issued during the reign of Parantaka According to the first inscription, an individual had given a gift of 500 sheep to burn the lamps before the deity Parsvanatha. The second inscription dated 935 AD. Mentions that a certain Pusalan Pakaiyadakki of vilvan made a gift of 700 sheep for lamps to the deity. The third inscription also in the same year, records a gift 600 sheep for lamps. The fourth inscription also carries the same message.

In the Form of Land:

One of the Vikarama Chola inscription register a gift of 3 ma of wet land in some villages to the temple of Parsvanatha. In an inscription which belongs to Parakesarivarman, a village Gunanerimangalam alias Valuvamoli Arandamangalam together with some garden lands and wells at Tondur and Valuvamolipperumpalli village were left in charge of the Jaina teacher Vajrasinga-Ilamperumanadigal of Parambur as Pallichandam by the chief Vinnakovaraiyan, Vayiri Malaiyan. Pallichandam are the lands donated to the Jaina temple's. One of the Kulottunga II's inscription mention that the gift of the village Chittamur as Dirgamanya to the Parsvanatha Devaradiyar's. The village Chittambur is a reputed Jaina center in Gingee taluk, where the digambara sect of Jainism flourished. Another Chola record dated to 10th regnal year of Rajadhiraja II (1173AD) inscription a gift of 4 ma of land, including the house site surrounding the temple by Sengenimummalarayan. The inscription as seen from above were mostly donative in nature and mainly they were endowed to the temple of Parsvanatha and Malainatha temple. These inscriptions belong only to the Gingee taluk and go to prove that Jainism was also favoured during the Chola period.

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