

# Services of sri Venkata Ramanuja Jiyar to Tirumala Temple

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## Abstract

*Tiruvenkata Ramanuja Jiyar was a contemporary of Sri Krishnadeva Raya of Vijayanagara Empire. He made extensive donations directly to the Tirumala temple during the period 1506 to 1544 AD. A study of research is made on the kankaryams to be performed to the LOrd Venkateswara against donations which were found even today. The kankaryams were listed and verified and two more Jiyars are added namely sri Manaval Mahamuni and sri Anusandhanam Jiyar.*

**Key words:** Panams, Kankaryams, Mitts, Tirukodi Tirunal, Sri Bhandaram.

## **Introduction**

Tiruvenkata Ramanuja Jiyar of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) was a contemporary of Emperor Sri Krishnadeva Raya (1509-1529) of Vijayanagara Empire. His extensive donations directly to the Lord of Seven Mitts had no parallel in the history of the TTD, if compared to jiyars. Even comparison to the monetary donations, excluding jewels and other property by any other ruler, including Sri Krishnadeva Raya, there is no equal to him. The reason for this was due to improper, careless and negligent editing of these inscriptions with extraneous consideration.

## **Sources**

This was due to the failure in identifying this jiyar with Anusandhanam Tiruvenkata Jiyar of (Vol. III, ins no. 2, dt. 19 Sept. 1504)' Koil Kelvi Tiruvenkata Jiyar (Ins no. 107 dt. 9 April 1516)<sup>2</sup>; Periyakoilkelvi Tiruvenkata Jiyar (Ins no. 139 dt. 6 Oct. 1520)<sup>3</sup>; Tiruvenkata Jiyar (Ins no. 140, dt. 24 Nov 1520<sup>4</sup> and no. 143, dt. 5 Dec. 1520)<sup>5</sup>; Koilkelvi Ramanuja Jiyar (Ins no. 173, dt. 19 July 1527)<sup>6</sup>; Koilkelvi Vada Tiruvenkata Jiyar (Vol IV, Ins no. 46, dt 7 July 1535)<sup>7</sup> and ins no. 137, dt. 8 Nov. 1539)<sup>8</sup>; and Vada Venkata Jiyar (Vol V, Ins no. 94, undated)<sup>9</sup>.

## **Vijayanagara Jiyars**

Though he was Senior jiyar during 1506-1544 AD, he was the Junior in 1504 AD. During his tenure of long years he had donated nearly 13,000 gold coins (panams), The two TTD Jiyars of Vijayanagara period were Appar Srinivasa Ramanuja Jiyar (1609-1645 A.D) who was butchered in invasion of Tirupati by Golkonda Forces under Mir Jumla and after his departure Tiruvengada Ramanuja Jiyar (1645-1686) A.D., who was junior jiyangar under the slain jiyar.<sup>10</sup>

## Two More Jiyars

It was in this connection the present jiyar, Venkata Jiyar, 1506-1544 with his donations to Sri Venkateswara Swami as outstanding among not only his genre but many others. He was Anusandhanam (junior) Jiyar in 1504 A.D. At that time the senior or pedda jiyar was Manavala Mahamuni from S1425 of Rudhirodgari, corresponding to 1503 A.D till S1428 of Akshaya, corresponding to 1506 A.D.<sup>11</sup> This Manavala Mahamuni is the unique jiyar, in the entire guruparampara who did not have, the appellation - Ramanuja Jiyar. He was shown respect by Venkata Ramanuja Jiyar in one of his donation. The succession list of Tirupati as shown in Epigraphical Glossary<sup>12</sup> is highly inadequate.

## Monetary Donations

Venkata Ramanuja Jiyar had made nine donations which were represented by inscription (wide foot notes 6 to 14). The total amount donated by him were 12,915 panam.

The difference in the amounts 13,773 panams and 12,915 panams is due to the payment of money by others like Madhava Jiyar, Kandadai Appan and Ethirajayyan.

**TableNo.: 1 Monetary Donations to the Tirumala Temple**

INSCRIPTION DETAILS		Panams
Ins No. 21	TT-266	2,000 Panams
107	GT-156	1,000Panams
		1,000 Panams
		858 Panams
139	GT-292	1,510 Panams
140	GT-155	2,100 Panams
143	GT-13	1,000 Panams
173	TT-598	500 Panams
		350 Panams
46	TT - 472	1,385 Panams
137	GT-157	1,230 Panams
94	TT-509-A	840 Panams
Total		13,773 Panams

Source : Inscriptions of Krishna Raya's time.

## **Kainkaryams**

He had made the above money donations for various deities like Periya Perumal (Moola Bera), Malai Kaniya Ninran, Udayavar (Ramanuja), Sri Govindaraja Perumal, Sri Krishnaswamy, Sri Raghunadha, Sri Hanuman and so on. Besides he made use of these donations to popularize alvars and his matha. The donations were meant for many Kainkaryams, Sudhannam, Panakam and so on.

## **Auspicious Occasions**

Of the nine inscriptions five are located in Govindaraja Temple and the rest in Tirumala Temple. They represent various festive occasions like Sravanam/Tiruvonam nakshatra of Bahula paksha in Kanya masam; Abhyantsavam; Tirukodi Tirunal (Brahmotsavam); Makha Nakshtram in Thula masam; Rohini Nakshatram of Bahula pooraima of Vrischika Masa; Swathi Nakshatra on 11<sup>th</sup> lunar day (Ekadasi) in the month of Dhanus (Margali) month; Aswini star on 10<sup>th</sup> lunar (Dasami) day of dark (suddha paksham) in Karkataka month; star Chithirai on 7<sup>th</sup> lunar day (Sapthami) in the bright fortnight of Karkataka (Kataka) month and so on. This-panam shall be utilized for the tank-fed channels in the Tiruvidayattam (Temple) villages and with the produce raised thereby shall be issued from the Sri Bhandaram (Temple store) towards the specified of (TT- 266).

The sum-panam has been spent for excavation of irrigation times and channels in Temple villages and with the income derived thereby Stanattaras undertook to supply articles from the temple for the preparation of offerings of different kinds on the stipulated scale (GT-292 and GT - 156). This sum shall be utilized for the excavation of the tanks and channels in the Temple villages and with produce derived there from, the following supply of articles shall be made from the temple store every year (TT - 598).

## **Sum Up**

The following issues are made out from this piece of research. Firstly Anusandham is the term used for junior jiyar which is not known. Secondly, so far, only two names of jiyars were alone known of Vijayanagar period. Now two more are added namely, Manaval Mahamuni during 1503 -1506 A.D and Venkata Ramanuja Jiyar during 1506-1544. Thirdly, list of kainkaryams to be performed against donations were found even today. Fourthly, auspicious occasions for kainkaryams were listed and verified. Finally, and most sadly the alienation of spirit of societal economic functions.

**References**

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12. Ibid, Ins No. 137 (GT- 157),dt.8nov. 1539, pp. 253-255.
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15. He is different from the popular Manavala Mamuni (1370-1445 A.D ) who had an active strategy of extending Tengalai influence in South India through gaining control over temples and linked with acquiring royal patronage. See Kanakalatha Mukund, The View From Below. Indigenous Society Temples and the Early colonial State in Tamil Nadu, 1700-1835 (New Delhi, 2005), p.63.

16. Table No. 31 Succession list of Tiruvenkata Jiyar of Tirupati, in V. Vijayaraghava Charya (comp.&Ed) TTDL, Vol.VII, Epigraphical glossary on TTD Inscriptions (Tirupati 1938).