

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF KARANKADU IN RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

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Introduction

Karankadu is a place of historical significance. The area is one of the coastal villages of Mugaivai District. There is a beautiful catholic Charch Sengol Matha (mother of Scepter) which is nearly four hundred years old. Mangrove forests and eco-tourism that surround it have had a profound impact on history. In this Seminar we will look at the historical background of this fishing village and the marine resources and their conservation that are fundamental to the economic development of the people of the area.

Historical Background of Karankadu

Its topography is one of the highlights of Ramanathapuram District. The sea is the best place where there are no mountains. 1076 km in Tamil Nadu. Ramanathapuram district has about 250 km of longest beach. Beautiful white sandy beaches with waves, Ariyaman, Valinokkam, Arichalmunai, Narippaiyur and many more. The areas from Sundarapandiyanpattinam to Devipattinam are rich in small streams and forests.

Muthuttukutram

Inscriptions indicate that in the 13th and 14th centuries BCE, there were port towns of Tondi, Nanadesipattinam, Sundarapandiyanpattinam, Neerpattinam, Muthuramalingapattinam and Pasipattinam. It has also been one of the best starving beach centers for centuries. Silappathikaram refers to Tondi in the Ramanathapuram district as “Bengal Eater Tondi”.

Thittanam means the top of the vessel stopping. The town may have been a trading post in ancient times. It is possible that four of the seven inscriptions found in the temple were of a merchant who lived in this town. Anjuvannam, Manikkramam, Samanthapandasali, Toyavathira Chetti, Tennilanai Valanciyar, Kaikolar, Dusuvar, Vaniyar and Karaiyar, who stayed in this town in 1269 AD, have agreed to repair the dilapidated hall in front of the Sarvathirthmudaiyar temple. It is noteworthy that the Anjuvannam business group was an Islamist caliphate of worshipping Allah.

Vattanam refers to a circular tree. Shipbuilding is likely to have taken place in the coastal areas from Sundarapandian Patt to Tondi in the past. There may have been a circular gift-making business in the area. Islamic tombs in the city date back to 1497 AD, indicating that Muslims lived in the town as early as the 15th century.

Pasipattinam is located on the banks of the river Pasipattinam. The town was once a port by the name of the river. The town gets its name. A.D. 875. Tali Marungur till 1090 was known as Veerakeralapuram Nanadesi Pattinam after the ninth century. The coastal town of Muthuramalingapattinam is still near Thondi. Karankadu may have been the port of Neerpattinam known from inscriptions in the 13th and 14th centuries AD. Most of the

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pottery is scattered in the backyard behind the Karankadu church. According to the locals, pottery was exported from this city to Sri Lanka up to 50 years ago. It is noteworthy that there are still pottery communities in the town. The natural backwaters of the city also make it an excellent natural harbor.

Catholic Charch Sengol Matha (Mother of Scepter)

The Portuguese aided the Nayaks in the war against the Thalawai Sethupathi, the king of the Drumlai Nayaks. Thanks to this, on August 13, 1639, the Nayaka king ordered the construction of a temple at 7 places between Pamban and Tondi. Accordingly, temples were built in 1715 at the Malabar Address of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Devipattidam, Muthupattinam, Riverside, Tirupalaikudi, Karankadu and Thondi (Sathayanatha Iyar, History of the Nayaks of Madura, P.123).

Bishop Gabriel Nathar Swami was beaten in 1886 to house travelers.

1. Here are two inns built by them. The tower of the Innovation Temple, built in 1865, is here thanks to the well-being of Bishop Gabriel Nathar Swami.
2. The tomb of His Holiness Gabriel Nathar Swami is here. The clock tower of St. Scepter Mata Museum is located here.
3. The fortified wall of St.Arulanandar is located at a distance of 3 km. Scenic nomadic forests and bird sanctuary is here.
4. Here is the Passover platform built by Bishop Gabriel Nathar Swami in 1894.

Ecotourism in Karankadu

The forest department declared the area as a Karankadu community based Eco-Tourism destination in 2017. From 2018 it was allowed to go by private boats and see the creatures including swamps, corals, seas

These swamp forests play a key role in protecting people from storms, floods, soil erosion and seawater flooding. Today is the day for the swamp forests to alleviate such misery that befalls human beings. July 26, 2015 is UNESCO world wetlands day. This day is being observed to recover the unique mangrove forests from the devastation and to create awareness about the need for its sustainable development.

The Ecological Park

The ecological park consists of rocks. The beach can be divided into three types according to its environment, sandy and clay. It is a sandy beach. Crabs and snails are more common in such areas. 5 km of natural swamp forest in the estuary where the Kottaiarai river divides into three and joins the sea.

Forest Activity in Karankadu

The Karankadu Environmental Development committee has been set up in collaboration with the Forest Department to attract tourists to the area and various tourism development activities are being carried out. In particular, the beauty of the mangrove forest is about 3 km. Recreational features include Long-distance about boat rides, Paddle boat rides, and snorkeling.

Ramanathapuram Forest Department is implementing a new mangrove afforestation project on 100 acres to expand the forest cover in the coastal village and increase biodiversity.

Mangrove Eco- System

The Mangroves and the Kalimuk forests not only protect the islands from erosion but make them picturesque. During low tide the exposed roots of the mangroves present a sight for the gods. All the mangrove species identified in India are found in this region. Of these, Pemphis acidula is endemic.

Conclusion

Karankadu holds great potential as a tourist destination due to its rich mix of religious, historical, scientific, and natural attractions. With proper planning and sustainable tourism practices, it can not only attract visitors but also create new job opportunities and support the economic growth of the Ramanathapuram district. Encouraging responsible tourism will help preserve its natural resources for future generations.

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