

***Re-Inventing Panthalayani Kollam: An Investigation on Heritage Tourism
Potential of Panthalayani Port***

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Abstract

Panthalayani Kollam is a forgotten medieval port town situated at present day Koyilandi of Kozhikode in Kerala. The place was found to be a trade center of Moorish people, Chinese people etc with influence of the port. It is mentioned as Pandarani by Portuguese writers, the Flandarina by Friar Odoric, and Fandreeah by Rowlandson's Tahafat-ul-Mujahidin, the Fandaraina by Ibn Batuta' says Logan in his Malabar Manual This port city was destructed in fire in 1800s. The study is to map and reinvent cultural and heritage wise potential of this coastal area. The study is done through historic and heritage mapping of the place. By exploring heritage potential of the area, tourism possibilities can be worked out. The intangible and tangible heritage of the area is mapped and guidelines for conserving each are proposed.

Keywords: Fandaraina, Intangible Heritage, Heritage Tourism, Medieval Port

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Introduction

Panthalayani Kollam was, a well-known medieval port city, blessed as it is with natural mud banks which ensured calm water on the open coast all through the south-west monsoon. It is mentioned as Pandarani by Portuguese writers, the Flandarina by Friar Odoric, and Fandreeah by Rowlandson's Tahafat-ul-Mujahidin, the Fandaraina by IbnBatuta' says Logan in his Malabar Manual. 15 Medieval archaeological evidence in the form of Chinese porcelain and other pottery brought to light corroborate the literary evidence of foreign contacts of Pantalayani Kollam. According to historical evidences, it comprises an area of 537.96 acres with a small market.

Aithiyamala 16 refers that a group of Vaisyas came here from southern Kollam (Kurakkeni Kollam) and they took rest under an '*Ayini*' tree which has many branches as a *pantal*(shade giving area) so they called it as Pantalayani and later the place was known as Pantalayani Kollam.

Today, it is a coastal small town, which is forgotten and present generation does not know the heritage value of the site. It is found to be existed at Koyilandy (or Quilandy/Quilandi) which is a taluk and a Municipality town in Kozhikode district in North Malabar region of Kerala. This town is between Kozhikode and Vatakaraon NH 66 (previously NH 17). close to historic Tyndis. The sacrificial rock *balikallu* or *velliyamkallu* is where many soul was butchered, is a little way north to Panthalayani Kollam. The study is on re-inventing the importance of this place and to propose conservation values of the area.

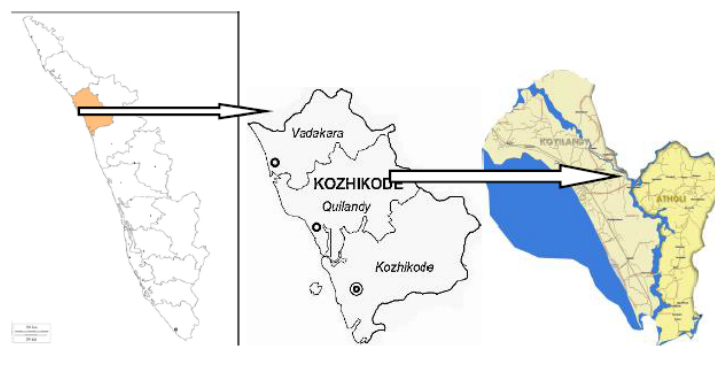


Figure 1: Location of study area

Study Methodology

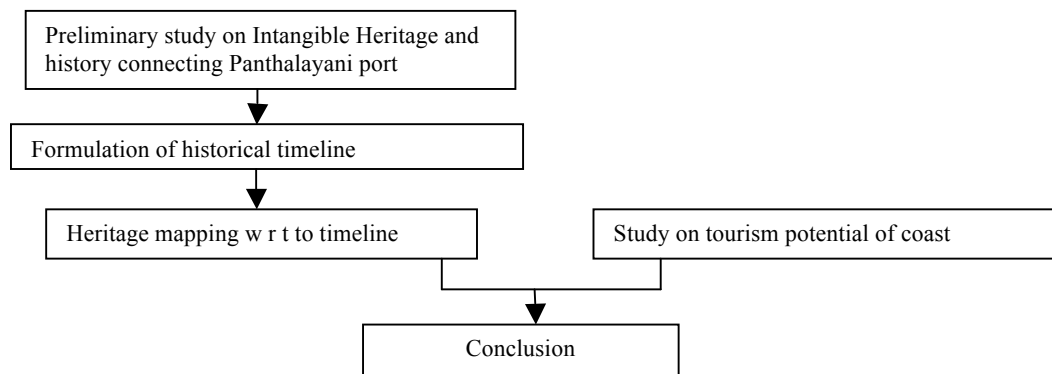


Figure 2. Study Methodology

Historical Mapping

Panthalayani Kollam is a place which went through drastic events and change from 1300 AD. Many Historical travelers are mentioned about this medieval port in their travelogues at different periods of time. A time line has been prepared considering this series of events in history of Panthalayani Kollam.



Figure 3: Timeline

The historical evidences show that, though the port existed at early times, it became popular only after 9th century due to two things. One is movement of Arab, Chinese

Quilon and Cragnore(Present Kodungalloor) to base their trade at Calicut and second when Zamorin took charge.

According to Sreedhara Menon's 'Survey of Kerala History' the Viceroy (KVK Iyer states kinsman of Viceroy) of Pantalayani belonging to the Kolathunad family met & fell in love with the Thampurati of the Zamorin family during a visit to Calicut and thence eloped to Panthalayani. The enraged Zamorin attacked & captured the port area and then aimed his sights at the Kolathiri Raja. This shows that the place had much importance and was a sizeable and rich place in those times, providing revenue to the Zamorin. The settlement of Zamorin was called as "Ananthapuram" and which can be seen around Ananthapuram temple.

Historians are pointing that pearl diving was popular off the Panthalayani coast line in ancient times and there were many oyster beds present. Several historians like K V Krishna Iyer and Prof Jussay had found out that there was also a Jew settlement and which was the second great center of Jews. Some believed that the Ben Yiju, the Adenese trader had lived here. Fandarina is a town built at the mouth of a river which comes from Manibar, where vessels from India and Sind cast anchor

"From Bana [Thana] to Fandarina is four days' journey. Fandarina is a town built at the mouth of a river which comes from Manibar [Malabar] where vessels from India and Sind cast anchor. The inhabitants are rich, the markets well supplied, and trade flourishing. North of this town there is a very high mountain covered with trees, villages, and flocks. The cardamom grows here, and forms the staple of a considerable trade. It grows like the grains of hemp, and the grains are enclosed in pods. From Fandarina to Jirbatan, a populous town on a little river, is five days. It is fertile in rice and grain, and supplies provisions to the markets of Sarandib. Pepper grows in the neighboring mountains"

(Al Idris, 1150)

The Famous traveler Ibn Batoota visited the port in 1340s and he mentioned P. Kollam as one of the three ports where Chinese ships moored during monsoon. According to his statement Muslims occupied 3 quarter and each quarter had a mosque within it. Likewise in the statements of Friar Odorico it can be seen that there was war between Christian and Jews who resided there in which the Christians always won these wars. In 1540's Zainuddeen Makhdom stated that Pantalayani became prosperous because of the Muslim population after explaining the visit of the Cheraman Perumal, construction of the mosque by Malik bin Dinar etc.

Some of the records are showing that Vasco Da Gama landed in Kappad beach in 1498 and was directed to Panthalayani Port by Zamorin as it was the port suitable to Moore ships in monsoon. These incident is showing the importance of port in the medieval period and the port had equal importance as Calicut port during that time period. The place witnessed a lot of fights between Portuguese and "Marakkars"(They were Muslim Warriors of Zamorin) during 1524 and which resulted in burning of city and Juma masjid in 1524. About a third of the Muslims living there have lost their life in fights with the Portuguese according to Logan. The large graveyard of Parappilli is a proof of this. Kunhali Marakkar and team went in boats from this port, to Velliamkallu where they hide and attacked. Logan says that this was where the EIC ship Morning star struck a mud bank and was wrecked in 1793.

He points out that this was the mud bank that ‘supposedly’ protected Vasco Da Gama’s ship during the monsoon months of 1498. South of the Mohammedan burial ground is a small bay where ships could dock. Arabian ships used to call at this port if they were blown off course even in the 19th century and early 20th century. Another Important factor due to which port flourished port was Mecca trade. There is a general belief that the Marakkars, the Zamorin’s admirals were settled in Pantalayani Kollam before they moved to Kotakkal.

Chinese Mongol dynasty documents of 1296 states that it was prohibited to export more than 50,000 ting in paper money worth of goods to Maprah (Malabar), & Fantalaina during those days. The Chinese Sailor Wang Dayuan was the first to mention the availability of precious stones at Fandarina. This was in 1349. Asia's maritime bead trade By Peter Francis mentions that the port was frequented by Chinese traders. Once Chinese trade declined, the port also started to fall apart until Varthema’s visit when he pointed out that it was a miserable place. Place names of the region are proving the Chinese connection with the area like “China Paramba”, “China mosque” etc. China mosque still exists in the present Panthalayani Kollam. Several Chinese Porcelain wares were excavated from the region as archeological evidence of Chinese connection with the port.

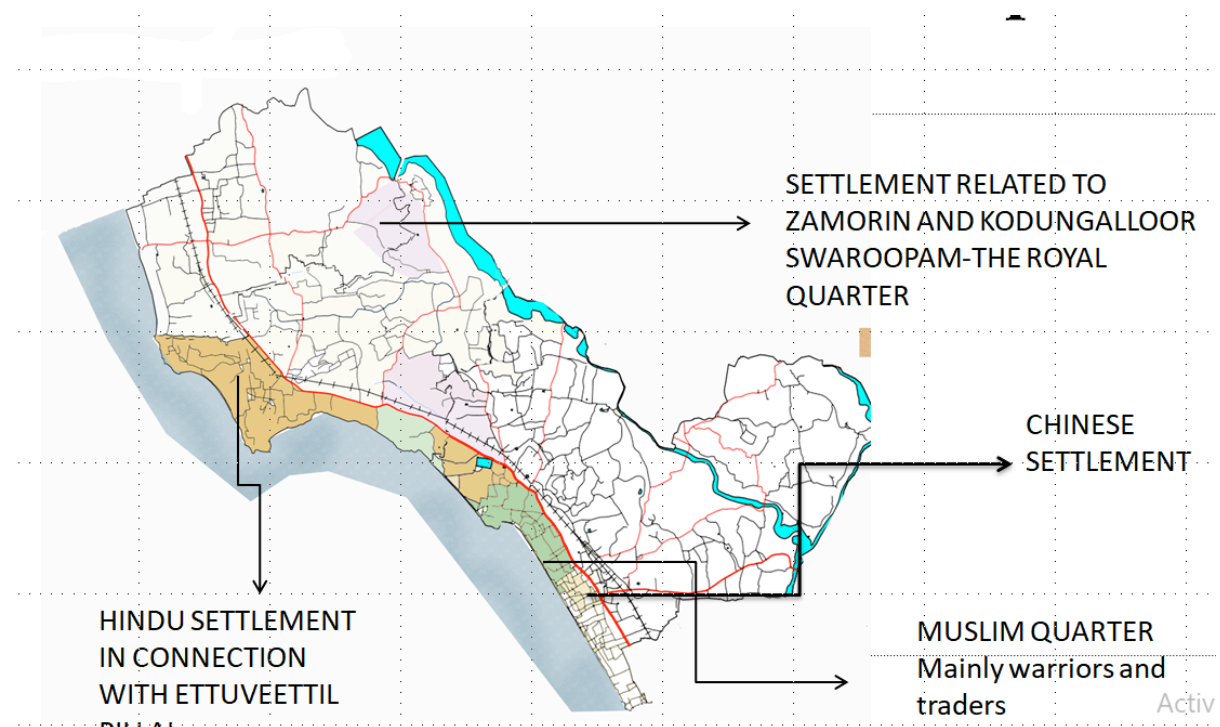


Figure 4: Possible settlement Mapping

Heritage Mapping

Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the crafts. Existing Heritage structures in the locality were mapped out based upon this intangible heritage as well as historical timeline. Three settlements were mapped in the region with respect to the history. (Figure 4).

Heritage structures Mapping

A. Muslim Quarter

The History is showing that three quarters of Muslims existed in the region and many of them lost their lives during fight with Portuguese. The Muslims in the region are mainly Traders. They had settled along coastal line of Panthalayani. The departure of Cheraman Perumal to the Mecca made the port a center for pilgrimage. Later on during spread of Islam in Kerala, Malik ibn Dinar established 10 mosques in Kerala. And one of which is in Panthalayani Kollam, present Parapalli mosque. The large graveyard of the mosque, presence of several ancient mosques and Mansions of Muslim Joint Families area are the existing Muslim heritage.

1. Parapalli Mosque

It is an ancient mosque on the shores of sea coast situated near rocky beach.

Importance:-One of the 10 mosques constructed by Malik Dinar and team in Kerala. Also there is a foot print in rock which is believed to be of Prophet Adam. The burial ground of Thameemul Ansari who was a warrior in sacred war of Badar can be seen here in the makham inside the mosque complex. The place is having a sacred value due to this. The mosque complex consists of several small mosques on the seacoast.



Figure 5:. Muslim quarter, land marks

B. Hindu Settlements

Hindu settlements in the region are mainly around Pisharikav temple which was established by *Ettuveetil Pillais* from Kollam. The 8 houses of *Pillais* and Houses of *Chettis* etc can be seen around the temple. Settlement consists of Anakkulam which was pond of Kollam Thali temple and which is another historical temple in the region. Another settlement is near to Urupunyakaav which is another pilgrimage point in the area famous for rituals like *Balitharppanam*. Following are the elements of Hindu settlement

1. Pisharikaav temple

Centuries before, remaining members of the "*Ettuveetil*" family after conspiracy against Marthandavarma (King of Travancore) settled down in the village named Kollam near present-day Koyilandy in Calicut district. The family by the grace of mother Badhra Kali became very rich and powerful. They paid Samoothiri-King of Kozhikode and brought a land there and settled down there with their family and built a beautiful temple here and worshiped the *Nandakkam* sword, it is believed that 8 families have migrated from south, namely Kiziyil, Vazhayil, Elayedathu, Echarathil, Punathil, Nanothu, Mundakkal, Erothu. Native people called them "*vyapari*" (merchants) at that time. The community is existing even now and they have special rights for conducting festival called "*Kaliyattam*".

2. Kollam Thali Temple

It is a temple older than 500 years ago which is one of the *Thali* temples in Kerala. Main deity of the temple is Vishnu. Temple is with less number of daily visitors. It is constructed in Kerala traditional architecture. But structure is not well conserved as authority in economic crisis.

3. Tharavads of Ettuveetil Pillais

The locality consists of 8 *Tharavads* of Ettuveetil Pillais constructed in traditional Kerala architectural style. During '*Kaliyattam*' of Pishaarikaav temple, these families have roles in temple rituals.



Figure 6: Hindu Settlement and Land marks

C. Royal settlement

Royal quarter is the sector of Panthalayni Kollam where Zamorin established their settlement, which is called as 'Ananthapuram'. The quarter consisted *Kovilakams* (Palace of Zamorin), Ananthapuram temple, several *agraharams* (dwelling of Brahmins) etc.

1. Ananthapuram Temple

It may have been built by either the Kolatthiris or the Zamorins - midway between the two more famous Ananthapuram Temples in Kasaragod and Trivandrum. It is one of the oldest temples in Panthalayani. Old Palace of Zamorins was situated close to this temple. But it is not existing more. Several *Agraharams* also existing connecting to this temple

2. Kottayil Shiva Temple, Muchukunnu

A best example of traditional architecture. It is with a huge and well-structured compound wall and a pond. Over six acres of land surrounded to the temple is a sacred grove called KottayilKavu, with thick foliage and rich biodiversity. According to a report by Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi, KottayilKavu is the one among the 22 remaining Virgin Forests of Kerala. It is said that the temple earlier belonged to the Zamorin, the King of Kozhikode, and it was handed over to the Rajas of KodungallurKovilakom as per a deal between them. From the Rajas of KodungallurKovilakom, the management of the temple and sacred grove went into the hands of feudal lords of Nair community. At present the whole property including the temple and sacred grove is managed by a family trust called the MuchukunnuDevaswom Trustee Board and is supported by a public committee 'KshethraSamrakshanaSamithi'. The present Koyilothumpaditemple was earlier functioned as *Kovilakom*, the home of Rajas for camping during their visits.

3. Koyiloth Temple

It was established by Kodungalloorswaroopam and later handedover to a Nair family. It is connected with MuchukunnuKotta temple

D. Public Buildings

Another Important Heritage building in the area is Kadalur Point Lighthouse. It is situated in Kadalur, near to existed port. The circular stone masonry tower has a height of 34 meters. The tower is painted with black and white bands. The lighthouse started its operation in 1907 to reduce ship wreckage due to Velliyamkallu. The light house was constructed by British during pre-independent era.

Intangible Heritage Mapping

Panthalayani Kollam is a land of myths. There are a lot of stories and beliefs connected with each heritage structure of Panthalayani. There are some traditions also which was grown due to influence of port. Koyilandi Hukkah is one of them.

1.Koyilandi Hukkahs

Koyilandy hookahs, were famous across North India, the Gulf and Pakistan. Prepared by Moosari, a coppersmith community, these Hookahs were once considered as a pride of Koyilandy. However it is not so any more. But in Gulf countries, Koyilandy hookahs are still very popular as "Malabar Hookah".

The craft owes its origin to a group of Yemeni merchants who had taken up residence at Koyilandy about 500 years ago. They commissioned the local craftsmen to make hookah, an object of oriental culture. Made by local craftsmen, the Hookah impressed Yemeni traders and soon came to be known as Koyilandy Hookah. Besides being ornately designed with attractive motifs, the Koyilandy Hookahs have a coconut shell as the water holder. Even today, these hookahs are exported to Gulf countries.

Panthalayani and Tourism

Presently, Panthalayani is not a highlighted point in the tourism map of Kerala. Only Tourism point is Kappad Beach, it is where Vasco Da Gama was landed according to history. The place where a lot of personalities like IbnBatuta, Gama etc. came is not even having any tourism value and native people doesn't know about intangible heritage of the region. The rocky beach of Parapalli and Driving Beach of Thikkodi etc. are having wide scope of tourism development due to geographical character as well as scenic values.

Conclusion

The heritage and historical potential of Panthalayani Kollam should be explored more and there is a wide scope of conservation and development similar to Muziris port re-establishment. The tangible heritage of area should be conserved and necessary actions can be taken for development of intangible heritage. Interpretation centres, Heritage museums etc. can be proposed for conserving intangible heritage. The name of Panthalayni Kollam has to be reinvented in heritage map of Calicut. Also there is a wide scope for Pilgrimage tourism as already area consists of three pilgrimage hotspots and a very scenic coastal line.

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