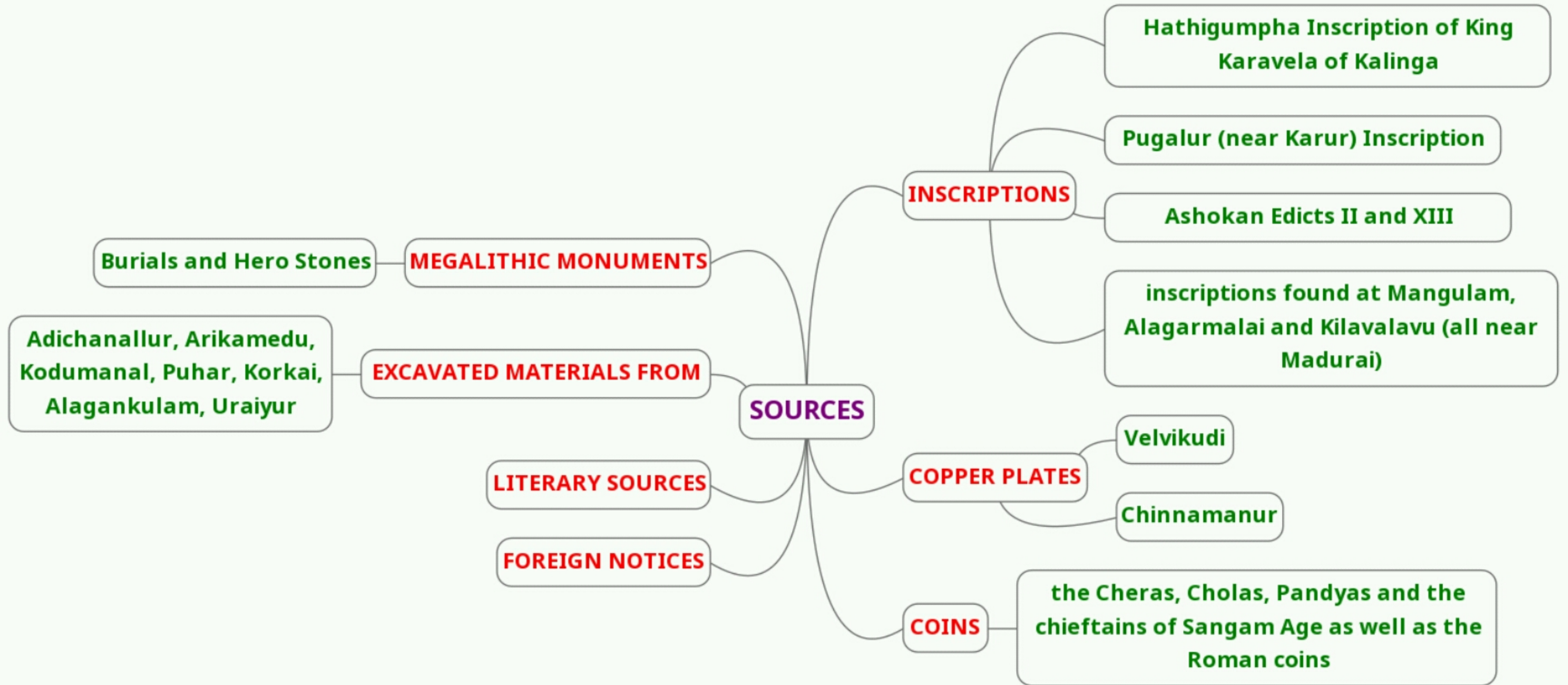


SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN ANCIENT TAMIZHAGAM: THE SANGAM AGE

- C.JAYA RENUHAA

- The word 'Sangam' refers to the association of poets who flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings at Madurai.
- The poems composed by these poets are collectively known as Sangam literature.
- The period in which these poems were composed is called the Sangam Age.



LITERARY SOURCES

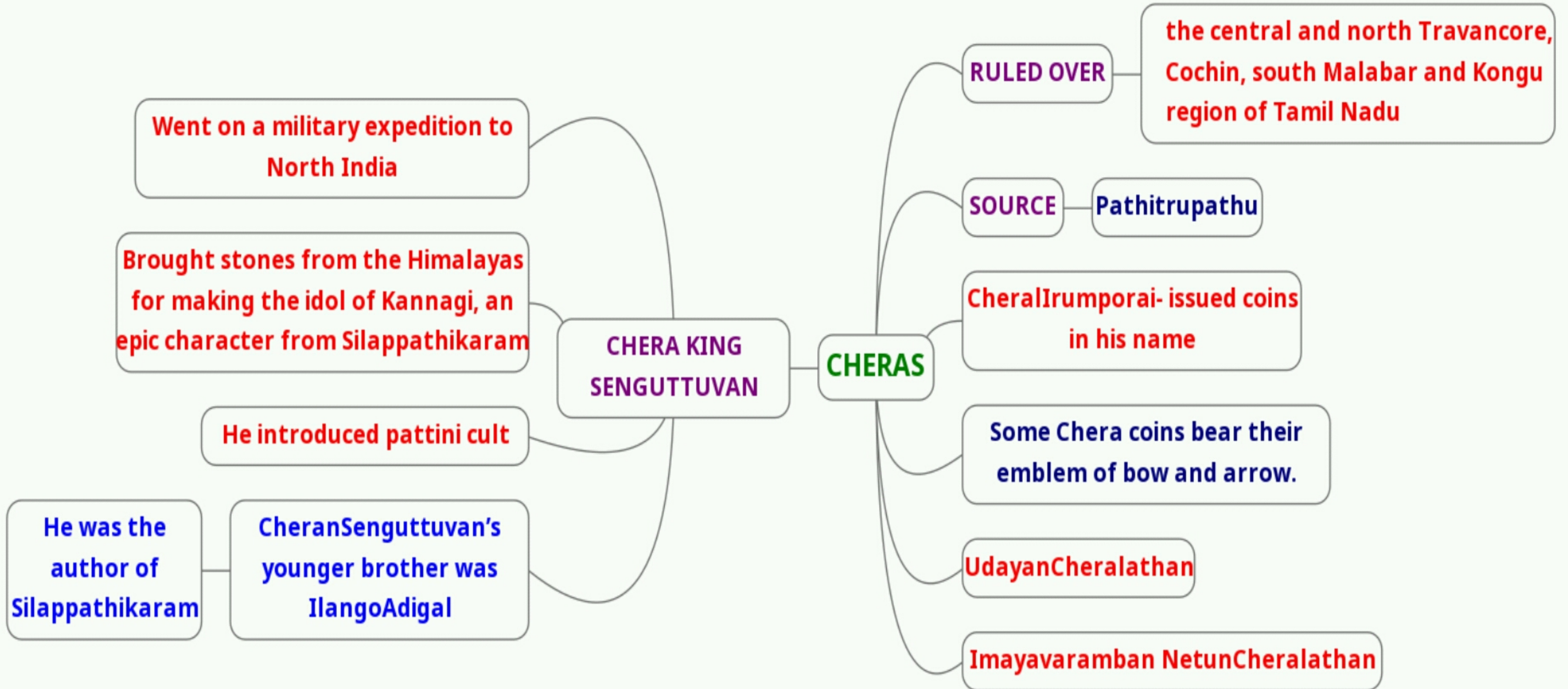
1. Tholkappiyam,
2. Ettuthogai (eight anthologies),
3. Pathupattu (ten idylls),
4. PathinanKeezhkanakku (a collection of eighteen poetic works),
5. Pattinapalai and
6. Maduraikanji.

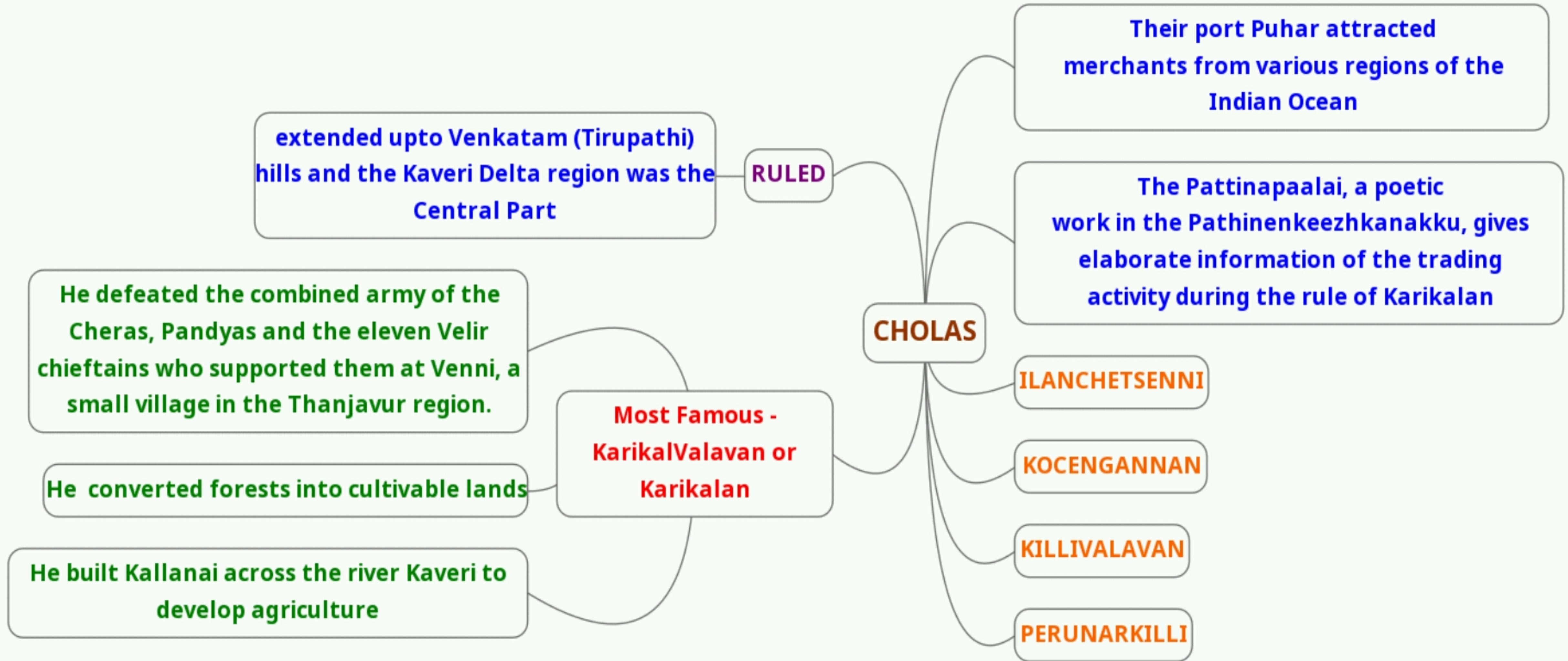
EPICS

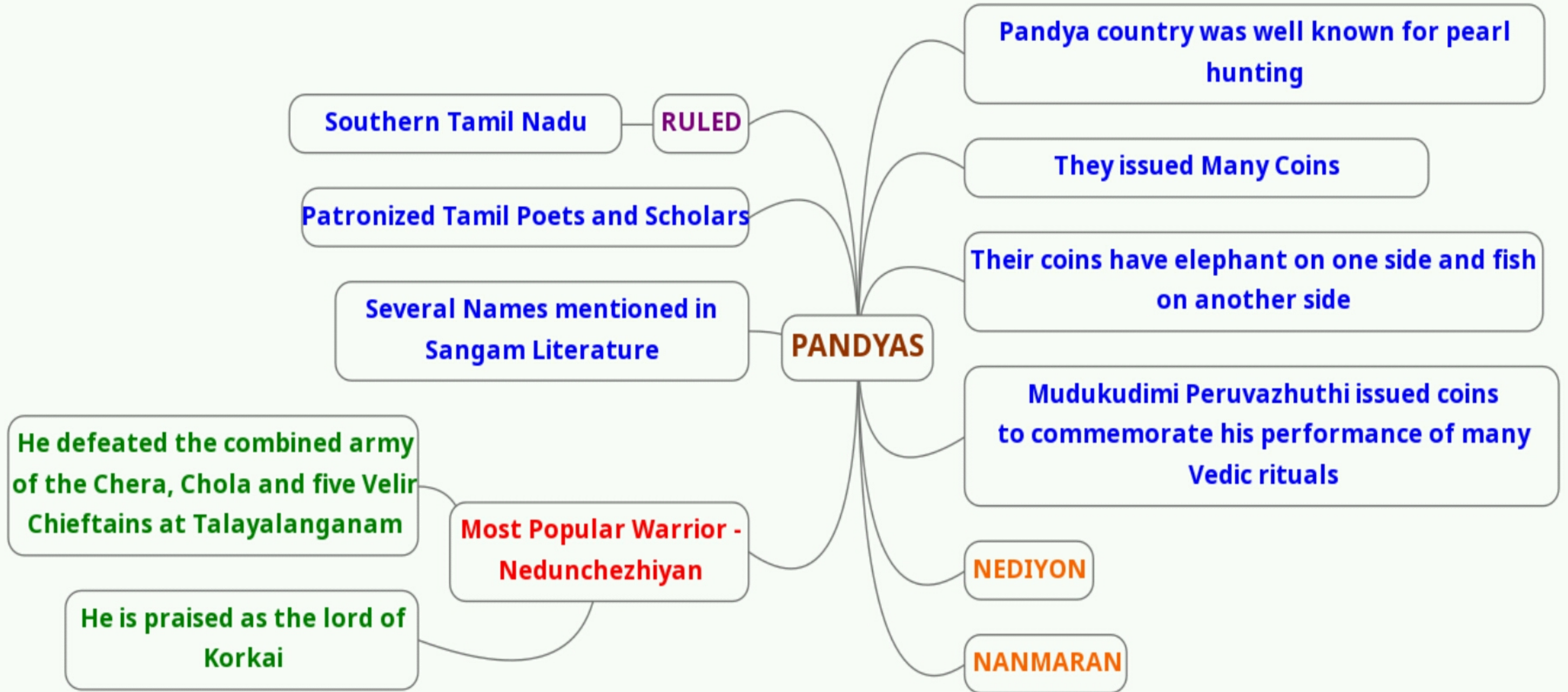
- Silapathikaram and
- Manimegalai.

FOREIGN NOTICES

1. The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea,
2. Pliny's Natural History,
3. Ptolemy's Geography,
4. Megasthenes's Indica,
5. Rajavali,
6. Mahavamsa and
7. Dipavamsa







TITLES BY MUVENDARS

CHERAN

- Adhavan
- Kuttuvan
- Vanavan
- Irumporai

CHOLAN

- Senni
- Sembiyan
- Killi
- Valavan

PANDIYAN

- Maran
- Valuthi
- Sezhiyan
- Tennar

MUVENDAR	GARLAND	PORT	CAPITAL	SYMBOLS
CHERAS	PALMYRA FLOWER	MUZIRI / TONDI	VANCHI / KARUR	BOW AND ARROW
CHOLAS	FIG	PUHAR	URAIYUR / PUHAR	TIGER
PANDYAS	MARGOSA	KORKAI	MADURAI	TWO FISH

Sceptre (kol), drum (murasu) and white umbrella (venkudai) were used as the symbols of royal authority.

MINOR CHIEFTAINS – AY, VELIR AND KIZHAR

- The name 'Ay' is derived from the ancient Tamil word 'Ayar' (meaning shepherd).
- Among Ay chiefs of Sangam Age, Anthiran, Titiran and Nannan were the important names.
- The Velirs–Vellalars– constituted the ruling and land-owning class in the ancient Tamizhagam.
- The famous Velirs were the seven patrons (KadaiyezhuVallalgal). They were Pari, Kari, Ori, Pegan, Ay, Adiyaman and Nalli.
- They were popular for their generous patronage of Tamil poets.
- Kizhar was the village chief