

# The Chola Empire- History in Detail

Special class

## Chola dynasty overview

### 1. Geographical extent:

- Chola mandalam: the region roughly between the pennar and vellaru rivers along the eastern coast.
- Major political centers:
  - Kaveripattinam,
  - Uraiyur,
  - Thanjavur (tanjore),
  - Kanchipuram,
  - Gangaikonda cholapuram.
- **Most important cities-** kanchipuram and gangaikonda cholapuram
- **Primary capital** - Gangaikonda cholapuram

### 2. Historical References:

- First mention of the Cholas in 'Vartika' by Katyayana (4th century BCE).
- Mentioned in the Mahabharata and Megasthenes' Indica.
- Kanchipuram served as a secondary capital throughout the Chola reign.

### 3. Names and Titles:

- Other names for the Cholas: Killi, Valavan (king of fertile land), and Sembiyan (descendant of Sibi).
- Tamil lexicon meaning of Chola (Solai): "New kingdom."

### 4. Ashoka's Edicts:

- Chola, Chera, and Pandya in Ashoka's 13th rock edict.
- A vast empire with Thanjavur as the capital.

## Sources of Chola History

### 1. Literary Sources:

- **Sangam Literature (100-250 CE):** Provides information about the early Chola ruler **Karikala**
- **Notable Works:**
  - **'Kalingattup Parani'** by Jayamkondar
  - **'Ula'** by **Ottakuttan** (focused on the romantic lives of Vikrama Chola, Kulothunga II, and Rajaraja II)
  - **'Periyapuranam'** by Sekkizhar
  - Grammar text **'Virasoliyam'** by Buddhimitra

### 2. Sinhalese Buddhist Texts:

- **Mahavamsa:** Details the Pandya conquest by Parantaka I and the conquest of Lanka by Rajendra I.

### 3. Archaeological Sources:

- **Epigraphs:** The most authentic sources of Chola history, written in Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada.
  - Rajaraja I initiated the compilation of the history of his ancestors through inscriptions, known as **'Tiru Mani Valar'** in Tamil.
  - **Key Inscriptions:**
    - **Leyden Grant** of Rajaraja I
    - Inscriptions in the **Thanjavur Temple**
    - **'Tiruvalangadu'** and **'Karandai'** grants of Rajendra I
    - **'Tiruvannipuran'** Inscription of Rajaraja III, detailing the rise of the Chola dynasty and gratitude towards the Hoysala rulers.
    - **'Manimangalam Inscription'** of Rajadhiraja I, mentioning his conquest of Lanka and Ashwamedha sacrifice.

### 4. Numismatic Sources:

- Coins discovered in various parts of South India confirm the Chola dominance.
- A treasure of gold coins was found in **Dhavaleswaram.**

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- Coins of Rajadhiraja I were found in Lanka, confirming his rule there.

#### 5. Foreign Accounts:

- **Periplus and Ptolemy's Works:** Mention the Chola dynasty in the early centuries CE.
- **Chinese Traveler:**
  - Chau Ju-Kua's (1225 CE) work 'Chu-fan-chi' provides insights into the Chola administrative system.

#### Vijayalaya (850 - 871 CE) - Founder of the Chola Empire

##### 1. Foundation of the Chola Empire:

- Around 850 CE, under the leadership of Vijayalaya, the revival of Chola power began.
- Initially, Vijayalaya was a feudatory of the Pallavas, ruling over the region of Uraiyur (Trichinopoly).
- Uraiyur was the ancient residence of the Cholas.

##### 2. Expansion and Titles:

- Vijayalaya took advantage of the weakened Pandya power and captured Thanjavur, which was previously under the control of the Muttaraiyar dynasty, vassals of the Pandyas.
- He assumed the titles 'Tanjai Konda' (Conqueror of Thanjavur) and 'Narkesari'.

##### 3. Religious Contributions:

- Vijayalaya built a temple dedicated to Goddess Durga (Nishumbhasudini) in Thanjavur.
- The conquest of Thanjavur is described in the 'Tirukoyilur' inscription.

#### 4. Capital Establishment:

- He made Thanjavur the capital of the Chola kingdom, replacing Uraiyur (Uraipur).

### Aditya I (871-907 CE)

#### 1. Initial Position:

- Initially, Aditya I was a vassal of the Pallava king Aparajita.
- He assisted Aparajita against the Pandyas in the Battle of Sripurambiyam.

#### 2. Rise to Power:

- Aditya I was an ambitious ruler who soon declared complete independence from the Pallavas.
- In 890 CE, he attacked Tondamandalam, defeated, and killed the last Pallava ruler, Aparajita.
- He assumed the title 'Tondainadu' (Conqueror of Tondamandalam), as mentioned in the 'Tiruvallangadu inscription'.

#### 3. Diplomatic Relations:

- Established marital alliances with contemporary dynasties like the Pallavas, Rashtrakutas, and Cheras.

#### 4. Conquests:

- Attacked the Pandya king Parantaka Veera Narayanan and seized the Kongu region (area of Coimbatore and Salem districts).
- His successes forced the Ganga dynasty to accept his suzerainty.

#### 5. Religious Contributions:

- Personally a devotee of Lord Shiva.
- Constructed numerous stone Shiva temples along both banks of the Kaveri River.

#### 6. Titles and Achievements:

- Known by titles such as 'Rajakesari' and 'Kodandarama' (in celebration of his victory over the Pallavas, mentioned in the Kanyakumari inscription).

#### 7. Death:

- He died in Tondaimandalam (near Kalahasti).

### Parantaka I (907-955 CE)

#### 1. Major Achievement:

- His greatest accomplishment was the annexation of the Pandya kingdom.
- With the help of the Western Gangas, Kodumbalur chieftains, and the Chera ruler, he defeated the combined forces of the Pandya ruler Rajasingha II and the Sinhalese (Sri Lankan) ruler Kassapa V in the Battle of Vellore in 915 CE.
- Assumed the title 'Sangramaraghava' following this victory.
- Captured Madurai and took the titles 'Maduraikonda' (Conqueror of Madurai) and 'Maduraantaka'.

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## Chola-Rashtrakuta Conflict

### 1. Initial Conflict with Krishna II:

- Upon ascending the throne, Parantaka I **faced** the **wrath** of **the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna II**.
- The conflict was triggered by Krishna II's **attempt to place his grandson Kannara Deva**, Parantaka's stepbrother, on the Chola throne.
- In 910-11 CE, Krishna II, with the support of his **vassals (Bana and Vaidumba)**, attacked the Chola kingdom.
- **Parantaka I defeated Krishna II** in a fierce battle in the **Vallam region** and assumed the title **'Virachola'**.

### 2. Renewed Conflict with Krishna III:

- The **Chola-Rashtrakuta conflict reignited** during the reign of **Krishna III**.
- With the **support** of the **Ganga ruler Butuga II**, Krishna III decisively **defeated Parantaka I** in the **Battle of Takkolam (949 CE)**.
- As a result, Krishna III **captured the Chola-ruled Tondamandalam region**.
- In this battle, the **Chola crown prince Rajaditya was killed** while fighting.

### 3. Other Endeavors:

- Parantaka I also made an **unsuccessful attempt** to **invade Sri Lanka**.
- He established **marital alliances** with the **rulers of Kerala**, leading to **significant migration of Malayali people into the Chola territory**.

#### 4. Local Self-Governance:

- Detailed descriptions of Chola local self-governance are found in the 'Uttaramerur inscriptions' published in 919 CE and 921 CE.
- Promoted agricultural development by constructing numerous canals throughout the kingdom.

#### 5. Religious and Cultural Contributions:

- Conducted 'Hemagarbha' and 'Tulabhara' sacrifices.
- Known by the title 'Uttama Chola'.
- Renovated the roof of the 'Maharaja Temple' in Chidambaram with gold.
- Contemporary of the famous Sanskrit scholar 'Venkata Madhava', who wrote a commentary on the Rigveda.
- A follower of Shaivism, he constructed the 'Dabhrasabha' for Shiva worship.

#### 6. Post-Parantaka I Period:

- After his death, the Chola dynasty experienced 30 years of turbulence from 955 CE to 985 CE.
- Successive rulers during this period were:
  1. Gandaraditya (955-957 CE)
  2. Arinjaya (957 CE)
  3. Parantaka II (957-973 CE), also known as Sundara Chola, who defeated the Pandya ruler Veera Pandya in the Battle of Chevur and assumed the title 'Maduraikonda Rajakesari'.
  4. Uttama Chola (973-985 CE)

#### 7. Military Campaigns:

- Parantaka II made an unsuccessful attempt to invade Sri Lanka.
- During his reign, the tradition of writing epigraphic eulogies began.

#### 8. Achievements of Uttama Chola:

- By Uttama Chola's reign, the Cholas had regained the Tondamandalam region from the Rashtrakutas.
- He was the first Chola ruler to issue gold coins.

### Rajaraja I (985-1014 CE): The True Founder of the Chola Empire

#### 1. Accession and Background:

- Rajaraja I, originally named Arimoli Varman, was the son of Parantaka II and Vanavan Mahadevi.
- Ascended the Chola throne in 985 CE.
- Known as the greatest ruler of the Chola dynasty due to his numerous military successes and effective administrative reforms.

#### 2. Transformation of the Chola Kingdom:

- Inherited a small and weak Chola state and transformed it into a vast, prosperous, and powerful empire.
- Following his ancestor Parantaka I's policy of "blood and iron," he assumed the title 'Rajaraja'.

#### 3. Era of Creativity and Expansion:

- Historian Nilakanta Sastri considered Rajaraja's reign the most creative period of the Chola Empire.
- Strengthened internal administration before embarking on military campaigns in the 9th year of his reign.
- Detailed records of his military campaigns are found in the Thanjavur inscription issued in the 29th year of his reign.
- The Tiruvallangadu inscription mentions his conquests of the Pandya and Chera territories.

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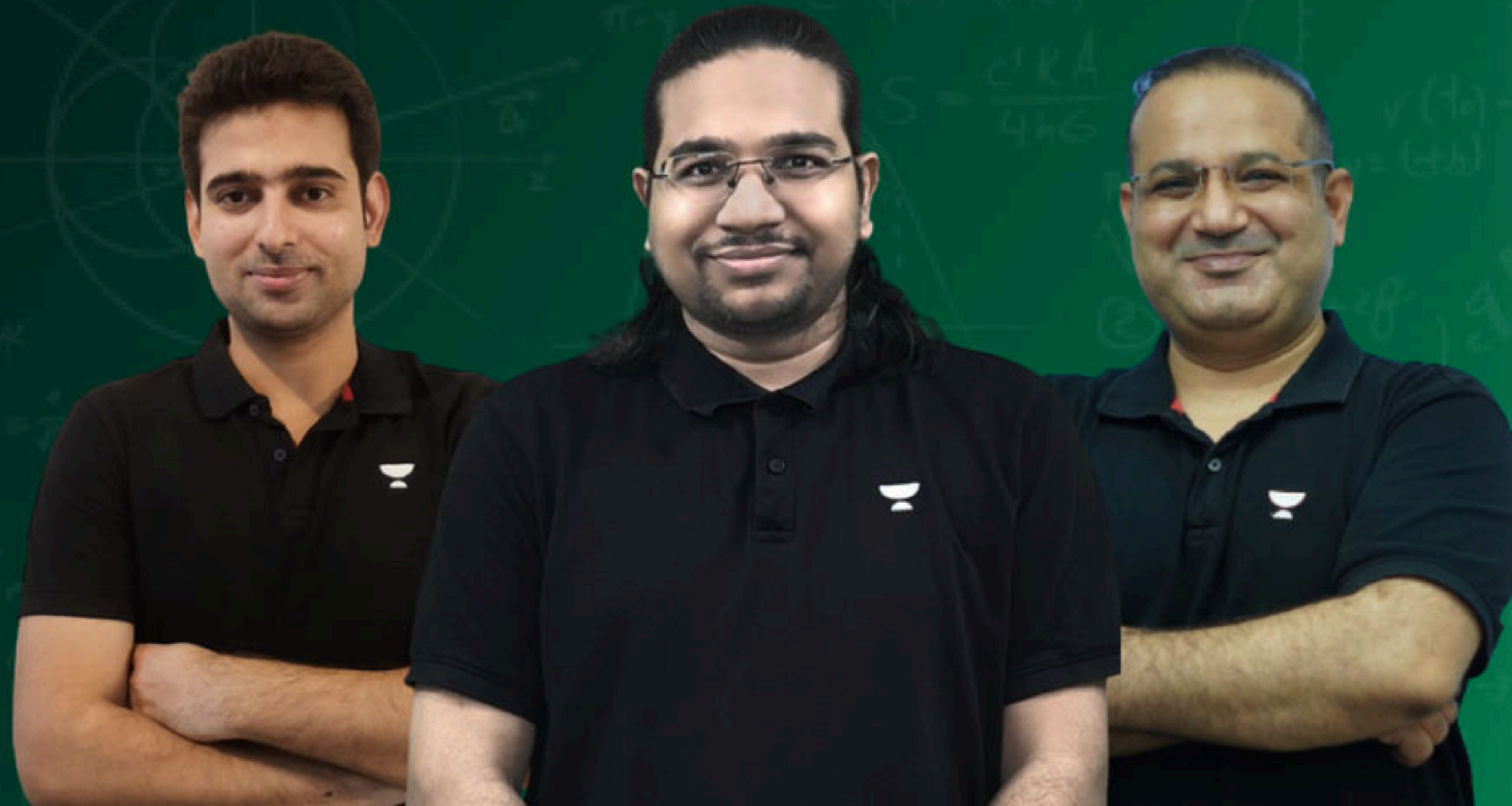
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## Military Achievements of Rajaraja I

### Conquests of Pandya, Kerala, and Sri Lanka

#### 1. United Front Against Rajaraja:

- The Pandya, Kerala, and Sri Lankan states formed a united front against Rajaraja I.

#### 2. Battle of Kandalur (Trivandrum):

- Rajaraja first attacked Kerala and defeated the Chera ruler Bhaskara Ravi Varman.
- Assumed the titles 'Keralantaka' and 'Kandalur Salai Kalamarutta' following this victory.

### Pandya Conquest

#### 1. Attack on the Pandya Kingdom:

- Rajaraja attacked the Pandya kingdom, captured its ruler Amarabhujanga, and devastated the city of Madurai.
- Defeated the Pandya vassals Kollam and Kodungallur, capturing forts in Malaynadu, Kandalur, and Vilinjam.
- Assumed the title 'Jayangonda' to commemorate his victory over the Pandyas.

### Sri Lanka Campaign

#### 1. Naval Invasion:

- The Sinhalese ruler Mahinda V assisted the Pandyas and Cheras against Rajaraja.
- Rajaraja launched a naval invasion of Sri Lanka, capturing its northern parts and destroying the capital, Anuradhapura.
- Detailed descriptions of this conquest are found in the Tiruvallangadu copper plates, which liken Rajaraja's victory to the legendary deeds of Lord Rama.
- Assumed the title 'Singhalantaka' to mark his conquest of Sri Lanka.

#### 2. Administrative and Cultural Impact:

- **Annexed** the **entire northern Sri Lanka** into the Chola Empire, renaming it **'Mummudi Cholamandalam'**.
- Established the city of **Polonnaruwa** as the new capital, renaming it **'Jananathamangalam'**.
- Commissioned inscriptions (e.g., **Thirumangal**) and **constructed grand Shiva temples in the Dravidian architectural style** in Sri Lanka, **similar to the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur**.

### Western Ganga Conquest

#### 1. Victory over the Western Gangas:

- After the **initial victories**, Rajaraja **defeated the Western Gangas** in the Mysore region.
- Captured the territories of **Gangavadi**, **Nolambavadi**, and **Tadigaivadi**.
- Assumed the title **'Cholanarayanan'**.

### War with the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani

#### 1. Conflict with the Chalukyas:

- The emerging powers of the **Western Chalukyas under Satyashraya** and the Cholas under Rajaraja began competing for dominance over the **Vengi region**.
- Rajaraja made a significant strategic shift by sending a massive army of **900,000 soldiers led by his crown prince Rajendra Chola** to attack the Chalukyas of Kalyani.

#### 2. Campaign and Results:

- According to the **Hotter inscription of 1007-08**, the vast Chola army ravaged regions like Santalinge and Banavasi, establishing a **base camp at Donur**.
- Chola generals **engaged in widespread looting and committed atrocities** against the local population, including Brahmins, women, and children.
- The **wealth acquired** from these campaigns was **used in the construction of the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur**.
- The **northern boundary** of the Chola Empire now **extended** up to the **Tungabhadra River**.

### Rajaraja I's Intervention in the Eastern Chalukya Kingdom of Vengi

#### 1. Conflict in Vengi:

- Two Chalukya princes of Vengi, Shaktivarman and Vimaladitya, sought refuge at the court of Rajaraja I against the Vengi ruler Chodabheem.

#### 2. Military Action:

- Rajaraja I attacked Vengi, captured Chodabheem, and installed Shaktivarman as the ruler of Vengi.
- Vengi thus became a protected state under the Chola Empire.

#### 3. Marital Alliance:

- Rajaraja I strengthened his ties with Vengi by marrying his daughter Kundava Devi to Vimaladitya

#### 4. Protection from Western Chalukyas:

- Rajaraja I successfully defended Vengi from the attacks of the Western Chalukya ruler Satyashraya.

#### 5. Conquest of Kalinga:

- After securing Vengi, Rajaraja I invaded and annexed the Kalinga kingdom.
- He assumed the title 'Tailang Kulantaka' following this conquest.

## Final Conquest of Rajaraja I: The Maldives

### 1. Victory over the Maldives:

- The final **conquest** of **Rajaraja I** was the **Maldives**, an archipelago of 12,000 islands referred to as '**Sandimantivu**' in Purana texts.
- Arab traders settled along the **western coast and integrated into the local societies of Malabar and Konkan.**

### 2. Extent of the Empire:

- By the end of Rajaraja I's reign, his empire included:
  1. The entire South Indian region south of the Tungabhadra River.
  2. The far Deccan regions.
  3. Northern Sri Lanka.
  4. Kalinga.
  5. The Maldives.

### 3. Titles and Honors:

- To signify his greatness, Rajaraja I assumed numerous prestigious titles, including:
  - 'Chola Martanda'
  - 'Rajasraya'
  - 'Rajamartanda'
  - 'Arimoli'
  - 'Cholendrasimha'
  - 'Mummudi Choladeva'
  - 'Kshatriyashikhamani'
  - 'Ravikulamanikya'
  - 'Nityavinoda'
  - 'Nigarillashola'
- One of his titles, '**Ulakalantha Perumal**' (the great person **who measured the earth**), indicates both his **comparison to Lord Vishnu and his efforts in land surveying.**

## Cultural Achievements of Rajaraja I

### 1. Land Survey and Classification:

- In 1000 CE, Rajaraja I conducted a **comprehensive survey and measurement of all lands** within the empire.
- Implemented a **new classification system for different types** of lands.
- He introduced **new types of taxes**.
- Enforced tax collection strictly, **evicting those who failed to pay from their lands**.

### 2. Administrative Reforms:

- Appointed **state officials** to regulate the **administration of temples**.
- Ensured proper **oversight** of **village assemblies' accounts** and **records**.

### 3. Inscriptions and Historical Records:

- Before Rajaraja I, inscriptions typically **began with a brief introduction to the activities of the ruler's ancestors**.
- Rajaraja I innovated by **prioritizing the detailed account of his own contemporary achievements** at the beginning of the inscriptions, which served as historical prologues.

### 4. Military Organization:

- Rajaraja I was the first Chola ruler to **establish a permanent standing army**.
- Formed a **large and powerful navy**, which played a crucial role in his military campaigns and conquests.

## Cultural Achievements of Rajaraja I

### 1. Diplomatic and Trade Relations:

- In 1015 CE, Rajaraja I **sent an embassy to China**, initiating friendly and trade relations with the Chinese court.

### 2. Regional Administration and Coinage:

- Renamed various regions incorporating his titles and appointed capable officials to govern them.
- Introduced **gold, silver, and copper coins**, and ensured they were inscribed with **Nagari script**.
- Issued the **first coins in South India depicting seated figures**.

### 3. Devotion to Shiva:

- As a devout follower of Shiva, he adopted the title **'Shivapada Shekhara'**.
- Constructed the **'Brihadeeswarar Temple'** or **'Rajarajeswara Temple'** in **Thanjavur**, considered the pinnacle of South Indian temple architecture.
- **The temple features include:**
  - Magnificent murals and paintings from the Chola period.
  - High boundary walls, setting a precedent for South Indian temples.
  - Structures like the vimana, ardhamandapa, mahamandapa, and nandimandapa aligned in a straight line.
- Honored his **elder sister Kundavai** by **inscribing her name** on the **inner walls** of the **temple sanctum**, while inscriptions of other queens and officials were placed on the outer walls.

### 4. Religious Tolerance and Contributions:

- Constructed a **Vishnu temple in Nagapattinam**, demonstrating his tolerance towards all religions.
- **Supported Jainism and Buddhism**.

- At the request of the Shailendra ruler of Srivijaya, **Sri Mara Vijayottungavarman**, Rajaraja I encouraged the construction of the **'Chudamani Buddhist Vihara' in Nagapattinam** in 1006 CE and donated the village of **Anayimangalam** for its maintenance.
- The donation was later **reaffirmed during** the reigns of **Rajendra I** and **Kulothunga I**.

#### 5. Personal and Cultural Contributions:

- Performed the **'Tulabhara'** and **'Hiranyagarbha'** sacrifices with his chief queen **Lokamahadevi** at the **Thiruvallarjuli Temple**.
- His reign marked the zenith of the Chola dynasty in both political and cultural spheres.

#### 6. Foreign Relations:

- In 1012 CE, the **Khmer ruler** of **Cambodia**, **Suryavarman I**, sent a **chariot as a gift** to Rajaraja I, signifying diplomatic ties.

#### **Rajendra I (1014-15 CE - 1044 CE) –**

#### **'Singhalantaka, Madurantaka, Keralantaka'**

#### 1. Succession and Training:

- In 1012 CE, Rajaraja I appointed his son Rajendra I as the 'Yuvaraja' (crown prince), training him to be the future emperor.
- Rajendra I ascended the Chola throne in 1014 CE.

#### 2. Military Campaigns and Empire Expansion:

### Conquest of Kerala and Pandya Kingdoms:

- **Kerala:**
  - Rajendra I first suppressed a powerful rebellion in Kerala in 1018 CE, rendering the region powerless.
- **Pandya Kingdom:**
  - In the same year, his general Dandanatha invaded the Pandya kingdom with a large army and conquered it.
  - Rajendra I appointed one of his sons with the title 'Cholapandya' as the viceroys of these regions, establishing Madurai as the headquarters.
  - The Tiruvallangadu inscription details these conquests.

### Conquest of Sri Lanka:

- Building on his father's initial conquest of northern Sri Lanka, Rajendra I conquered the entire island.
- Captured the Sinhalese king Mahinda V, who was brought to the Chola kingdom and remained imprisoned for 12 years until his death in 1029 CE.
- Recovered the 'Indra's necklace', a prized possession held by the Pandya king and given as a token to the Sinhalese king.
- The Mahavamsa Tika and the Karandai copper plates describe his conquest of Sri Lanka.

### Conflict with the Western Chalukyas:

- According to historian Nilakanta Sastri, Rajendra I's first battle was against the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani.
- During the succession conflict in Vengi, Rajendra supported Rajaraja, while the Kalyani Chalukya ruler Jayasimha II supported Vijayaditya VII.
- Rajendra I defeated Jayasimha II and took control of the Tungabhadra-Raichur Doab.

## Ganga Valley Expedition

### 1. Prelude: Conquest of Kalinga:

- Rajendra I first defeated the Eastern Ganga ruler of Kalinga, Madhukamarnava, as a show of strength before embarking on the Ganga Valley campaign.

### 2. Leadership and Forces:

- Rajendra I sent his son, Vikramachola, along with the Chola general Dandanatha and the formidable 'Hasti Pradhan Shadang Chola' (an elephant-centered sixfold army) to lead the expedition to the Ganga Valley.

### 3. Path of Conquest:

- **Conquered Regions:**
  - Kalinga
  - Bastar
  - Indraratha
  - Southern Kosala
- The campaign advanced northward, targeting several northeastern Indian states.
  - **Defeated rulers:**
    - Dharmapala of Dandabhukti
    - Ranashura of South Radha
    - Govindachandra of East Bengal
    - Mahipala I of the Pala dynasty in Bengal

### 4. Symbolic Bath and Objective:

- Vikramachola and his victorious Chola army bathed in the sacred waters of the Ganges River.
- The primary objective of this northern campaign was to bring the sacred Ganga water back to the Chola Empire.

#### 5. Title and New Capital:

- Rajendra I assumed the title 'Gangai Kondan' (the conqueror of the Ganga region) after the campaign's success.
- Established a new capital named 'Gangaikonda Cholapuram' in the Trichinopoly district.

#### 6. Cultural Impact and Settlements:

- Unintended outcomes included the migration of several South Indian groups, especially Brahma-Kshatriyas, to Bengal.
- These migrants included Brahmins from Karnataka, who later adopted warrior roles and were known as 'Brahma-Kshatra'.
- A descendant of these settlers, Samanta Sena, founded the Sena dynasty in Bengal.

#### 7. Religious and Cultural Unity:

- Rajendra I aimed to strengthen Indian cultural unity and integrate the revered Ganga and its associated Aryan culture into South India.
- Collected the holy Ganga water in a tank named 'Cholaganga' at Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- Erected a victory pillar consecrated with Ganga water.
- The expedition and the establishment of Gangaikonda Cholapuram are documented in the Tiruvallangadu copper plates.

#### 8. Promotion of Shaivism:

- Rajendra I brought eminent Shaiva-Brahmins from the north to establish Shaiva traditions in Kanchipuram, as noted in Trilochana Shivacharya's commentary on 'Siddhanta Saravali'.

## Conquest of Southeast Asia by Rajendra Chola

### 1. Naval Expedition:

- Naval expedition to conquer the Srivijaya kingdom in Southeast Asia.
- Srivijaya included regions such as Malaya, Java, Sumatra, and other islands.

### 2. Conquest of Kadaram (Kedah):

- The Tamil inscriptions refer to the port city of Kadaram, located on the Malay Peninsula, known today as Kedah.
- The Thirukkadaiyur inscription from Rajendra's 15th regnal year (1027 CE), found in the Amruteswar Temple in Tanjavur district, details the military campaign against Kadaram.
- The Tiruvallangadu copper plates describe how Rajendra, with the help of his vast navy, conquered the Kadaram state and 12 other islands, establishing control over the Srivijaya capital.

### 3. Capture and Release of Sangrama Vijayatungavarman:

- Rajendra captured the contemporary Shailendra ruler Sangrama Vijayatungavarman.
- After a plea for mercy, Rajendra released him and made him a subordinate vassal ruler.
- This victory is also mentioned in the Karandai copper plates from Rajendra's 8th regnal year (1023 CE).

### 4. Titles and Final Victory:

- In commemoration of his victory, Rajendra assumed the titles 'Kadaramkondan' (Conqueror of Kadaram) and 'Katahadhipati' (Lord of Kataha).
- The conquest of Kadaram was Rajendra's final and most significant victory.

### 5. Expansion in the Indian Ocean:

- During this campaign, Rajendra Chola also conquered Manakkawaram (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Malaiyur, Arakan, and Pegu (Burma).
- His dominance over these regions transformed the Bay of Bengal into a "Chola lake."

#### 6. Strategic and Economic Motives:

- According to K. R. Hall, the primary objective of Rajendra Chola's conquest was to maintain uninterrupted trade relations between the South Indian Cholas and China.
- K. G. Krishnan suggests that the Khmer ruler of Cambodia perceived the rising power of Srivijaya as a threat and sought Rajendra's assistance by offering gifts and requesting the conquest of Srivijaya.
- Historians Nilakanta Sastri and R. C. Majumdar argue that the main cause of this conflict was the trade blockade imposed by Srivijaya, hindering the growing commercial ties between the Cholas and China as well as Southeast Asian countries. Rajendra's campaign aimed to eliminate this trade obstruction.

#### 7. Cultural and Trade Impact:

- Nagapattinam, a major port under Chola control, served as a crucial hub for trade in the region.
- As a result of these conquests, Indian culture spread extensively throughout the island regions, significantly strengthening and enhancing trade and commercial relations.

## Suppression of Rebellions by Rajendra I

### 1. Rebellion of Kerala, Pandya, and Sinhalese Rulers:

- While Rajendra I was engaged in his Southeast Asian conquests, a rebellion erupted led by **Sundara Pandya**, along with the rulers of Kerala and Sri Lanka.
- Rajendra I dispatched his crown prince, **Rajadhiraja I, to suppress these rebellions.**

### 2. Pandya and Kerala Rebellions:

- **Rajadhiraja I** successfully quelled the rebellions in Kerala and the Pandya kingdom.
- His decisive actions **restored Chola authority in these regions.**

### 3. Sinhalese Rebellion:

- In 1014 CE, **Kassapa**, the son of the former Sinhalese king Mahinda V, **declared himself independent** under the name **Vikrama Bahu I.**
- Rajadhiraja I **defeated and killed Kassapa in battle,** effectively crushing the rebellion in Sri Lanka.

### 4. Final Conflict with the Chalukyas:

- Towards the end of his reign, Rajendra I had to **confront the Western Chalukyas again.**
- The Chalukya ruler **Someshvara I attacked Vengi,** challenging Chola authority.
- After an indecisive **battle** at **'Kalidindi'**, the Chola forces achieved victory in the **battle of 'Dhannada'** (**Dhanakataka** or **Dharanikota**).

## Other Achievements of Rajendra Chola I

### 1. Patronage of Education and Scholars:

- Rajendra Chola was a great patron of education and scholars.
- In 1025 CE, he established a **Vedic school at Ennayiram with 14 teachers for teaching the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, grammar, and logic.**
- He took the titles '**Mudikondachola**' (indicating his conquests of Pandya, Kerala, and Sri Lanka) and '**Panditachola**' to signify his scholarship.
- Other titles included '**Veera Rajendra**' and '**Parakesarivarman**'.

### 2. New Capital and Architectural Contributions:

- Founded the **new capital 'Gangaikonda Cholapuram'** and constructed the grand '**Brihadeeswarar Temple**' there, known for its artistic excellence.
- The **Tiruvallangadu inscription** refers to this new capital as '**Gangapuri**'.
- Unfortunately, the city and temple are now in ruins and covered in vegetation.
- Built a vast **26-kilometer-long tank for irrigation** by damming the **Kolenu** and **Veddar rivers** in his new capital.

### 3. Diplomatic Missions:

- Following his father's foreign policy, **Rajendra Chola sent two embassies to China in 1015 CE and 1033 CE** to maintain diplomatic and trade relations.

### 4. Comparison with Great Historical Figures:

- Historian **Nilakanta Sastri** compared Rajaraja I and Rajendra I to **Philip of Macedonia and his son Alexander the Great**, highlighting their significant contributions and conquests.

## Rajadhiraja I (1044-1052 CE)

### 1. Continuing Expansionist Policies:

- Upon becoming the ruler in 1044 CE, Rajadhiraja I continued his father's expansionist policies.

### 2. Campaigns Against the Western Chalukyas:

- In 1046 CE, the Manimangalam inscription records that Rajadhiraja I attacked Someshvara I of the Western Chalukyas and captured Kampili.
- Destroyed the grand Chalukya palace at Kampili and advanced to Kalyani, where he conducted his 'Virabhisheka' (victory coronation) and assumed the title 'Vijayarajendra'.
- He brought a statue of the doorkeeper from Kalyani and installed it in Darasuram near Thanjavur.
- Defeated Someshvara I in the battles of Dhanyakataka and Pundur, setting up his camp at Yedagiri (Yadagir) and erecting a victory pillar with a tiger statue.
- However, in 1050 CE, Someshvara I managed to expel the Chola forces from his territory.

### 3. Victory in Vengi:

- Achieved victory in Vengi and his son assumed the title 'Vengipurandhara'. *Vengipurameshwar*

### 4. Battle of Koppam (1052 CE):

- Rajadhiraja I was killed in the Battle of Koppam while fighting against Someshvara I of the Western Chalukyas.

### 5. Support for Vedic Education:

- Continued his father's patronage of Vedic education.

- Donated land to the Vedic school at Tribhuvan.

#### 6. Titles and Honors:

- Known as 'Ashwamedha Yajna Karta' (performer of the Ashwamedha sacrifice).
- Honored in inscriptions as the ruler who met his death 'on the back of an elephant'.

### Rajendra II (1052-1064 CE)

#### 1. Ascension to the Throne:

- Rajadhiraja I appointed his younger brother Rajendra II as the Yuvaraja (crown prince) instead of his own sons.
- After Rajadhiraja I's death in the Battle of Koppam, Rajendra II was coronated on the battlefield itself.

#### 2. Victory at the Battle of Koppam:

- Rajendra II demonstrated his valor and military skills, securing a victory for the Cholas in the Battle of Koppam.
- The Chalukya army fled the battlefield in panic, abandoning their women, horses, camels, and elephants.
- Advanced to Kolhapur and erected a victory pillar there.

#### 3. Conflict in Vengi:

- After the death of the Chola-supported ruler Rajaraja in 1056 CE, the Chalukya ruler Someshvara I intervened in Vengi.
- Installed his supporter, Shaktivarman II, as the ruler of Vengi and appointed his general Chamundaraja for his protection.
- Chola forces attacked and killed both Shaktivarman II and Chamundaraja.

#### 4. Battle of Kudal Sangamam (1062 CE):

- Rajendra II defeated Someshvara I in the Battle of Kudal Sangamam, located at the confluence of the Tungabhadra and Bhadra rivers.

#### 5. Suppression of Revolts in Sri Lanka:

- Rajendra II quelled the revolts in Sri Lanka and integrated most of its territory into the Chola Empire.

#### 6. Titles and Honors:

- Assumed the title 'Prakesari' following his military successes.

### Virarajendra (1064-1070 CE)

#### 1. Battle of Kudal Sangamam (1066 CE):

- Fought against the Chalukya ruler Someshvara I at Kudal Sangamam.
- The Chalukya army was decisively defeated in this battle.
- Someshvara I did not participate in the battle and later committed suicide by drowning in the Tungabhadra River.
- Virarajendra erected a victory pillar on the banks of the Tungabhadra to commemorate this victory.

#### 2. Conquest and Expansion:

- Launched another Chalukya campaign, advancing to Kapilnagar and capturing territories up to Karadigalgam (in Raichur district).
- Established a victory pillar in Karadigalgam.

#### 3. Chalukya Succession Conflict:

- After Someshvara I's death, a succession struggle ensued between Someshvara II and Vikramaditya VI.
- Virarajendra supported Vikramaditya VI, even marrying his daughter to him to solidify their alliance.

#### 4. Suppression of the Sinhalese Revolt:

- Suppressed the revolt led by the Sinhalese king Vijayabahu.
- Asserted Chola dominance over Sri Lanka.

#### 5. Claim to Kadaram:

- According to the Perumbur inscription (from the 7th year of his reign), Virarajendra claimed to have conquered and burned Kadaram (Kedah) and forced the Shailendra ruler to submit to him by performing foot worship.

#### 6. Intervention in Vengi:

- Continued the Chola tradition of intervening in Vengi's Chalukya rule.
- Supported Vijayaditya VII as the ruler of Vengi over the legitimate heir, Rajendra II.

### Athirajendra (1068-1070 CE)

#### 1. Rebellion in Vengi:

- Rajendra II, the legitimate heir of Vengi, openly rebelled against Chola authority.
- This rebellion created an atmosphere of chaos and unrest within the Chola kingdom during the reign of Athirajendra.

#### 2. Crisis and Death:

- The widespread unrest and rebellion led to significant turmoil in the Chola state.
- A furious mob, incited by the rebellion, eventually killed Athirajendra.
- His death marked the end of the line of the original Chola rulers from Gangaikondacholapuram.

### Kulottunga I (1070-1120 CE)

#### 1. Background:

- Born as Rajendra II, a Chalukya prince of Vengi, with a significant Chola lineage (75% Chola blood).
- His mother, Amangai Devi, was the daughter of the great Chola ruler Rajendra I, and his father, Rajaraja I of Eastern Chalukya, was the son of Rajaraja I of Chola's daughter Kundavai.
- Kulottunga I married Madhurantaki, the daughter of Chola ruler Rajendra II.

#### 2. Accession to the Throne:

- After the death of Athirajendra, Kulottunga I capitalized on the ensuing chaos and ascended the Chola throne.
- He was coronated as 'Kulottunga I', marking the union of the Chola and Eastern Chalukya dynasties.

#### 3. Chola-Chalukya Conflict:

- The Kalyani Chalukya kingdom was divided between Someshvara II and Vikramaditya VI.

- Someshvara II allied with Kulottunga I, and together they defeated Vikramaditya VI at Nangili, securing control over Gangavadi.
  - This conflict is documented in the Jain text 'Kalingattupparani' and Bilhana's 'Vikramankadeva Charita'.
- 4. Victory over the Kalachuris:**
- In 1075-76 CE, Kulottunga I defeated the Kalachuri ruler Yasahkarna and liberated Vengi from Kalachuri control.
  - Conducted successful campaigns against Gangavadi, Singanam, and Kalinga.
- 5. Conquest of Kalinga:**
- Faced a rebellion in Kalinga and sent his general, Karunakara Tondaiman, to suppress it.
  - Defeated the ruler Chodaganga Anantavarman.
  - Detailed accounts of his lineage and Kalinga campaign are found in Jayamkondar's 'Kalingattupparani'.
- 6. Relations with Sri Lanka:**
- The Sinhalese ruler Vijayabahu declared independence from the Chola Empire after Kulottunga I's accession.
  - Ultimately, Kulottunga I recognized Sri Lankan independence and established friendly relations, marrying his daughter to a Sinhalese prince, Virapperumal.
  - These events are recorded in the 'Mahavamsa Tika'.
- 7. Succession and Administration:**
- In 1118 CE, Kulottunga I summoned his son Vikrama Chola from Vengi and appointed him as the crown prince (Yuvaraja).
  - Following Vikrama Chola's departure, Chalukya Vikramaditya VI seized most of Vengi, exploiting the ensuing disorder.
  - Inscriptions from his 49th year, found in Draksharama (Vengi), mark the last records of his reign.
- 8. Conflicts with Hoysalas and Other States:**
- The final phase of Kulottunga I's reign saw the decline of the Chola Empire.
  - Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana took advantage of Kulottunga I's old age, invading and capturing Gangavadi and Nolambavadi.
  - Vishnuvardhana also conquered Rameswaram and the Talakad region, assuming the title 'Talakadukonda'.
  - In 1117 CE, Kakatiya ruler Prola declared independence from Chola suzerainty.

- Faced with revolts from the Pandyas and Kerala rulers, Kulottunga I delegated the administration of these regions to local chieftains.

#### 9. Legacy:

- Reigned for nearly 52 years, the longest of any Chola ruler.
- Considered a capable and valiant ruler, despite the decline in the latter part of his reign

### Other Achievements of Kulottunga I

#### 1. Diplomatic Missions to China:

- In 1077 CE, Kulottunga I sent an embassy of 72 merchants to China.
- They brought gifts such as glassware, camphor, brocade, rhinoceros horns, and ivory, which the Chinese court considered as tribute.
- In return, the delegation received 61,800 copper coins.
- They donated 600,000 gold coins to a Buddhist monastery in Canton.

#### 2. Coinage and Titles:

- Kulottunga I introduced new gold coins of the same weight as those issued by his grandfather Rajaraja I.
- Coins were inscribed with titles such as 'Kadaikonda Chola' and 'Malayandukoonda Chola'.

#### 3. Relations with Srivijaya:

- In 1090 CE, the ruler of Srivijaya sent an embassy to Kulottunga I, led by Rajavidyadhara Srimanta and Abhimanyatungasamanta.
- At their request, Kulottunga I exempted the Chudamani Vihara in Nagapattinam from taxes.
- A Tamil inscription from 1088 CE found in Lobotoa (Sumatra) indicates the presence of Tamil merchant guilds, confirming friendly relations with Srivijaya.
- The claim in the 'Kalingattupparani' that he destroyed Kadaram appears to be fictional.

#### 4. Relations with Burma and Internal States:

- The Burmese king Kyanzittha established friendly relations with Kulottunga I by sending a gold-inscribed letter.
  - Friendly relations with internal Indian states, including the Gahadavalas, are documented.
  - An inscription from his 41st regnal year (1110-11 CE) in Gangaikondacholapuram praises the Gahadavala ruler Govindachandra, indicating strong ties. (Sun worship)
- 5. Trade and Economic Policies:**
- Kulottunga I abolished internal tolls and port duties, earning him the title 'Shungam Tavirtta Chola' (the Chola who removed tolls and taxes).
  - Conducted land surveys in 1086 CE and 1110 CE, ensuring accurate tax assessment and land records.
  - Notably, 1086 CE was also the year of the Domesday Book survey in England.
- 6. Titles and Devotion:**
- Titles included 'Kulashekara Pandya Kulanthaka', 'Tribhuvanachakravarti', 'Sarvalokashraya', 'Vishnuvardhana', and 'Jayadhara'.
  - He was a follower of Shaivism and contributed to the enhancement of the Chidambaram Temple and the Srirangam Temple.
  - His devotion to Shaivism led to Vaishnava reformer Ramanuja fleeing to the Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana for protection.
- 7. Cultural Contributions:**
- During his reign, Adiyarkunallar wrote a commentary on the Tamil epic 'Silappadikaram'.
  - Appointed numerous officials with titles like Dandanayaka and Mahadandanayaka, expanding their authority and jurisdiction.

### **Kulottunga III: The Last Great Ruler of the Chola Dynasty**

**1. Suppression of Kongu Rebellions:**

- Kulottunga III's first and foremost achievement was quelling the rebellions in the Kongu region and establishing control over it.

**2. Pandya Civil War:**

- During his reign, a severe civil war broke out in the Pandya kingdom between Veera Pandya and Vikrama Pandya.
  - Kulottunga III supported Vikrama Pandya and defeated the combined forces of Veera Pandya and the Sinhalese army.
  - Established a victory pillar in the Pandya capital, Madurai, to commemorate this victory.
- 3. Conquests and Subjugation:**
- Conquered and forced submission from several states, including the Hoysalas, Bana, Chera, Ganga, Kadava, and Malayaman.
- 4. Famine Relief:**
- In 1201-02 CE, a severe famine struck the Chola Empire.
  - Kulottunga III provided substantial financial aid from the royal treasury to help the people.
- 5. Patronage of Arts and Architecture:**
- Kulottunga III was a great builder, literature enthusiast, and art lover.
  - Constructed the famous Kampattareeswarar (Tribhuvanaveereshwarar) Temple at Tribhuvanam in Tanjavur district.
  - His reign saw the construction of many grand and artistic palaces, mandapas, gopurams, and prakara walls, showcasing his love for art and architecture.
  - Tamil poet Kamban composed the Tamil epic 'Kamba Ramayanam' or 'Ramavataram' under his patronage.
- 6. Decline of the Chola Empire:**
- After Kulottunga III's reign, the Chola Empire began to decline.
  - Emerging powers such as the Pandyas, Hoysalas, Kakatiyas, Telugu Cholas, and the Yadavas of Devagiri started becoming independent states.
  - The Chola ruler Rajaraja III suffered significant loss of power and prestige in his conflict with the Pandya ruler Sundara Pandya.
  - Sundara Pandya captured Rajaraja III, but he was later freed by Hoysala ruler Narasimha II, who assumed the title 'Chaul Rajya Pratishthapanacharya' (Restorer of the Chola Kingdom).
  - Narasimha II established Kannur near Srirangam as his secondary capital to protect the Chola kingdom.

Rajendra III – Last Ruler and defeated by Jatavarman Sundarpandya (Pandya Ruler)

## Chola Administration and Culture

### Central Administration:

#### 1. King and Central Control:

- The king was the hereditary sovereign and the central figure in administration.
- Titles - 'Ko' (King), 'Perumal', 'Peruman Adigal' (Great One), 'Chakravartigal' (Emperor), 'Triloka Samrat' (Emperor of the Three Worlds), 'Udaiyar', 'Rajadhiraja' (King of Kings), and 'Ko-Ko-Nonmai-Kindan' (The Supreme King).

#### 2. Deification:

- The king was considered divine, akin to the Kushanas who also worshipped deceased rulers and built temples as their memorials.
- The Chola state religion prominently featured the worship of Shiva in his Nataraja form, and the 'Periyapuranam' was a revered text.
- Rajaraja I was referred to as 'Ulkalantha Perumal' (the king who measured the earth), while Rajaraja II and Kulottunga II were praised as 'Tamil Deva'.

#### 3. Mythological Lineage:

- The Cholas claimed descent from the Solar dynasty (Suryavanshi), as seen in the narratives of Virarajendra's long lineage described in the Charla plates, Kanyakumari inscription, and Enbil Karnadai copper plates.

### Notable inscriptions made by Chola kings

| King          | Inscription                                  | Location             | Significance                                   |
|---------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Vijayalaya    | Tirukoilur Inscription                       | Tirukoilur           | Details his conquest of Thanjavur              |
| Aditya I      | Tiruvalangadu Inscription                    | Tiruvalangadu        | Mentions his conquest of Tondainadu            |
| Parantaka I   | Uttiramerur Inscription                      | Uttiramerur          | Details on village self-administration         |
| Parantaka I   | Tiruvalangadu Plates                         | Tiruvalangadu        | Celebrates his victories over Pandyas          |
| Rajaraja I    | Thanjavur Brihadeeswarar Temple Inscriptions | Thanjavur            | Details on his conquests and temple endowments |
| Rajaraja I    | Leyden Grant                                 | Leyden (Netherlands) | Mentions his conquests and genealogy           |
| Rajaraja I    | Anbil Plates                                 | Anbil                | Genealogy and temple grants                    |
| Rajendra I    | Tiruvalangadu Copper Plates                  | Tiruvalangadu        | Detailed genealogy and conquests               |
| Rajendra I    | Karandai Copper Plates                       | Karandai             | Details on Ganga and Southeast Asian campaigns |
| Rajendra I    | Tirukkodikaval Inscription                   | Tirukkodikaval       | Details on his military campaigns              |
| Rajadhiraja I | Manimangalam Inscription                     | Manimangalam         | Mentions his victories over Western Chalukyas  |
| Rajendra II   | Kudal Sangam Inscription                     | Kudal Sangam         | Celebrates victory over Western Chalukyas      |
| Virarajendra  | Kudal Sangam Inscription                     | Kudal Sangam         | Marks his victory over Western Chalukyas       |
| Kulottunga I  | Draksharama Inscription                      | Draksharama          | Mentions his conquests and governance          |

|                |                               |                 |  |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Kulottunga I   | Anbil Plates                  | Anbil           | Details on his administration and grants           |
| Kulottunga I   | Punganur Inscription          | Punganur        | Mentions land grants and temple endowments         |
| Kulottunga III | Tribhuvanam Inscription       | Tribhuvanam     | Mentions his conquests and temple construction     |
| Kulottunga III | Srirangam Temple Inscriptions | Srirangam       | Details on temple renovations and grants           |
| Kulottunga III | Thiruvannamalai Inscription   | Thiruvannamalai | Details his victories and contributions to temples |

#### Battles fought by Chola kings

| King        | Battle/Campaign                       | Opponents/Allies                | Outcome/Significance                       | Title Adopted                                |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Vijayalaya  | Conquest of Thanjavur                 | Muttarayar (Pandya feudatories) | Established Chola rule in Thanjavur        | Tanjai Kondar, Narkesari                     |
| Aditya I    | Battle of Shripurambiyam              | Pandyas and their allies        | Defeated Pandyas, strengthened Chola power | Tondainadu Kondar                            |
| Parantaka I | Battle of Vellore                     | Pandyas and Sinhalese           | Conquered Madurai and Sri Lanka            | Sangrama Raghava, Maduraikondar, Madurantaka |
| Parantaka I | Battle against Rashtrakutas (Vallala) | Rashtrakutas                    | Victory over Rashtrakutas                  | Virachola                                    |
| Rajaraja I  | Battle of Kandalur (Trivandrum)       | Cheras                          | Defeated Cheras                            | Keralantaka, Kandalur Salai Kalamarutta      |

| King          | Battle/Campaign                       | Opponents/Allies            | Outcome/Significance                   | Title Adopted                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Rajaraja I    | Pandya Conquest                       | Pandyas                     | Conquered Pandya territories           | Jayangonda                        |
| Rajaraja I    | Sri Lanka Campaign                    | Sinhalese                   | Captured northern Sri Lanka            | Singhalantaka                     |
| Rajaraja I    | Western Ganga Victory                 | Western Gangas              | Subjugated Western Gangas              | Cholanarayana                     |
| Rajaraja I    | Eastern Chalukya (Vengi) Intervention | Eastern Chalukyas           | Installed a loyal ruler                | -                                 |
| Rajaraja I    | Kalinga Campaign                      | Kalingas                    | Conquered Kalinga territories          | Tailangkula Antaka                |
| Rajaraja I    | Maldives Campaign                     | Maldives                    | Conquered Maldives                     | -                                 |
| Rajendra I    | Kerala and Pandya Conquests           | Kerala and Pandyas          | Suppressed rebellions                  | -                                 |
| Rajendra I    | Complete Conquest of Sri Lanka        | Sinhalese                   | Captured the entire island             | Gangaikondachola                  |
| Rajendra I    | Ganga Valley Campaign                 | Various North Indian rulers | Reached the Ganges                     | Gangaikondachola                  |
| Rajendra I    | Southeast Asia (Srivijaya) Campaign   | Srivijaya empire            | Established Chola dominance            | Kadarangkondachola, Katahadhipati |
| Rajendra I    | Subjugation of Kalinga                | Kalingas                    | Strengthened eastern frontier          | -                                 |
| Rajadhiraja I | Kampili Campaign                      | Kampili                     | Defeated Kampili                       | Vijayarajendra                    |
| Rajadhiraja I | Various Battles Against               | Western Chalukyas           | Consolidated Chola power in the Deccan | -                                 |

| King           | Battle/Campaign                                    | Opponents/Allies            | Outcome/Significance                   | Title Adopted |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
|                | Western Chalukyas                                  |                             |  |               |
| Rajendra II    | Battle of Koppam                                   | Western Chalukyas           | Victory against Chalukyas              | -             |
| Rajendra II    | Battle of Kudal Sangamam                           | Western Chalukyas           | Further victory over Chalukyas         | -             |
| Virarajendra   | Second Battle of Kudal Sangamam                    | Western Chalukyas           | Decisive victory                       | -             |
| Virarajendra   | Sri Lanka Campaign (Suppression of Uprising)       | Sinhalese rebels            | Reestablished control                  | -             |
| Kulottunga I   | Battle against Someshvara II and Vikramaditya VI   | Western Chalukyas           | Subjugated Chalukyas                   | -             |
| Kulottunga I   | Victory over Kalachuri and Vengi                   | Kalachuri, Vengi            | Reasserted control                     | -             |
| Kulottunga I   | Second Campaign against Kalinga                    | Kalingas                    | Reestablished authority                | -             |
| Kulottunga III | Pandya Campaign                                    | Pandya and Sinhalese        | Defeated Pandya and Sinhalese alliance | -             |
| Kulottunga III | Various Campaigns Against Hoysalas, Banas, Cheras, | Various South Indian powers | Maintained Chola supremacy             | -             |

| King | Battle/Campaign          | Opponents/Allies | Outcome/Significance | Title Adopted |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
|      | Ganga, Kadava, Malayaman |                  |                      |               |

#### Important cities and port cities

| City/Port City                | Description  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Thanjavur</b>              | Capital city during the reign of Rajaraja I; known for the Brihadeeswarar Temple (Rajarajeswaram). It was a cultural and political center of the Chola Empire. |
| <b>Gangaikonda Cholapuram</b> | Founded by Rajendra I after his Ganges expedition; served as the capital city; known for the Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple and its grand architecture.         |
| <b>Kanchipuram</b>            | An important city for both political and religious activities; known for its temples and as a center of learning and culture.                                  |
| <b>Uraiyur</b>                | An ancient Chola capital before Thanjavur; significant for trade and politics.   |
| <b>Madurai</b>                | Conquered from the Pandyas; known for the Meenakshi Temple; served as an important administrative and religious center.  |
| <b>Chidambaram</b>            | Famous for the Nataraja Temple; a major religious center for Shaivism.   |
| <b>Nagapattinam</b>           | A major port city and center for trade with Southeast Asia; known for the Chudamani Vihara, a Buddhist monastery built by the Srivijaya king.                  |
| <b>Kaveripattinam (Puhar)</b> | An ancient port city; played a crucial role in maritime trade and commerce; featured in Tamil literature and Sangam poetry.                                    |

| City/Port City                      | Description   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)</b> | Known for its rock-cut temples and sculptures; an important port city for trade and religious activities. |
| <b>Kollam</b>                       | A significant port city on the western coast; known for trade with Arab and Chinese merchants.            |
| <b>Tiruchirappalli</b>              | Another important city in the Chola Empire; served as a political and administrative center.              |
| <b>Tharangambadi (Tranquebar)</b>   | An important port city for trade with European merchants; known for its fort and trade activities.        |
| <b>Velur (Vellore)</b>              | Known for its strategic location and fort; played a role in various military campaigns.                   |
| <b>Tiruvarur</b>                    | Famous for the Thyagaraja Temple; an important religious and cultural center.                             |
| <b>Kumbakonam</b>                   | Known for its temples and educational institutions; a significant center for learning and religion.       |

#### Rituals performed by Chola kings

| King        | Ritual                                   | Description and Significance   |
|-------------|--|--|
| Vijayalaya  | -  | -  |
| Aditya I    | -  | -  |
| Parantaka I | <b>Tulabhara</b>                         | A ritual where the king donates wealth equivalent to his own weight; symbolizes the king's generosity and piety.                 |
| Parantaka I | <b>Hemagarbha</b>                        | A ritual involving the consecration of gold in a sacrificial fire; represents the king's dedication to prosperity and abundance. |
| Rajaraja I  | <b>Ashtabandhana Mahakumbhabhishekam</b> | A major temple consecration ceremony; symbolizes the king's devotion to Shaivism and commitment to temple-building.              |

|                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Rajendra I     | <b>Tulabhara</b>                         | Performed the Tulabhara ritual like his predecessor, indicating continuity of royal generosity and religious commitment. |
| Rajendra I     | <b>Ganga Pooja</b>                       | Brought holy water from the Ganges and performed rituals, emphasizing his conquests and religious devotion.              |
| Virarajendra   | <b>Ashtabandhana Mahakumbhabhishekam</b> | Re-consecration of major temples, ensuring religious activities and temple maintenance.                                  |
| Rajadhiraja I  | <b>Asvamedha Yajna</b>                   | A horse sacrifice ritual symbolizing the king's supremacy and conquest over rival territories.                           |
| Kulottunga I   | <b>Tulabhara</b>                         | Continued the tradition of performing Tulabhara, demonstrating the king's piety and support for religious institutions.  |
| Kulottunga I   | <b>Vajapeya Yajna</b>                    | A Vedic sacrifice indicating royal power and prosperity; involved elaborate rituals and offerings.                       |
| Kulottunga III | <b>Asvamedha Yajna</b>                   | Re-performed the horse sacrifice to reassert dominance and divine sanction of his rule.                                  |
| Kulottunga III | <b>Tulabhara</b>                         | Reiterated the ritual of Tulabhara, reinforcing the king's image as a benefactor and pious ruler.                        |

### Numismatics during the Chola Empire

| Type of Coin                            | Description  | Notable Features   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Gold Coins (Kasu)</b>                | High-value coins used for large transactions and trade.                    | Often featured the image of the king, divine symbols, or deities.                      |
| <b>Silver Coins</b>                     | Used for medium to large transactions; less common than gold coins.        | Typically featured royal insignia and sometimes images of temples.                     |
| <b>Copper Coins</b>                     | Widely used for everyday transactions; most common type of Chola currency. | Often depicted a seated king or deity, with inscriptions on the reverse.               |
| <b>Lead Coins</b>                       | Rare, usually used for small transactions in local markets.                | Simple designs with minimal inscriptions.  |
| <b>Sri Rajaraja Kasu</b>                | Issued during the reign of Rajaraja I; gold coins.                         | Featured the image of a standing king on one side and the seated goddess on the other. |
| <b>Rajendra Chola Coins</b>             | Issued by Rajendra I; gold, silver, and copper coins.                      | Often depicted the king seated with a legend in Nagari script.                         |
| <b>Kulottunga I Coins</b>               | Gold and copper coins issued during his reign.                             | Featured the image of the king or symbols like the tiger emblem.                       |
| <b>Kulottunga III Coins</b>             | Continued the tradition of issuing gold and copper coins.                  | Featured detailed inscriptions and images of deities or the king.                      |
| <b>Udaiyar Sri Rajendra Chola Devar</b> | Issued by Rajendra I; gold coins.  | Featured the image of the king and inscriptions glorifying his reign.                  |
| <b>Nigarili Chola Coins</b>             | Issued by Rajaraja I; copper coins.  | Depicted a standing king on one side and a seated figure on the other.                 |
| <b>Standing King Type Coins</b>         | Common design featuring a king standing with a bow or spear.               | Often found in copper, used for everyday transactions.                                 |
| <b>Seated King Type Coins</b>           | Featured the king seated, often with legends around the image.             | Found in gold, silver, and copper; used for various transactions.                      |

|                            |  |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Elephant Type Coins</b> | Featured an elephant, symbolizing strength and royalty.                            | Typically issued in copper, used in local markets.    |
| <b>Tiger Emblem Coins</b>  | Featured the tiger emblem, representing the Chola dynasty.                         | Found in gold and copper, signifying royal authority. |
| <b>Fish Emblem Coins</b>   | Rare coins featuring the fish emblem, symbolizing the Pandya alliance or conquest. | Typically issued in copper.                           |

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