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-: About this document:-

Deccan is sometimes refers to the India that is south of Narmada, but normally is considered to be the limited territory in which Malabar and Tamil Countries are not included. This region is occupied by the Telugu, Marathi and Kannada speaking people. Physically, this is a hot hilly table land watered by Godavari and Krishna.

Out of all the powers of the Deccan, the most dominant power up to some 250 AD was Andhra, the **Saatvahana Dynasty**. After some 3 centuries of the extinction of the Saatvahana, no specific information is available. During those times, the Maharashtra region was ruled by the Rastrakuta dynasty which up till mid of the 8th century became a powerhouse of Deccan.

Chalukyas of Badami

Mid of the 6th century marks the rise of a very strong power in Deccan and that is **Chalukyas of Vatapai or Chalukyas of Badami**. The Chalukyas seem to be a race of Rajputs from North who imposed their rule upon the Dravidian inhabitants of the Deccan tableland.

- ✓ The Royal Emblem of Chalukyas of Badami was "Varaha".
- ✓ The earliest reference in this dynasty is of one Jayasimha, who has also been referred to as Vallabha.
- ✓ The first independent king of this dynasty was Pulkesin I.

Pulkesin I

The real founder of Chalukyas of Badami was a chieftain **Pulkesin I**, who made himself master of a town called Vatapi, which is modern Badami in the Bijapur district of Karnataka in around 543 AD.

- ✓ He is said to have claimed a paramount position by performing the Ashwamedha Yajna.
- ✓ Pulkesin (in some books he is referred as Pulkesin)I and his descendants are called Chalukyas of Badami.
- ✓ **Pulkesin I** assumed the titles of *Satyashraya, Vallabaha and Dharmamaharaja*. He had overthrown the Kadamabas.
- ✓ The **Badami Cliff inscription** tells that Pulkesin I performed all of the 5 yajnas which make a king paramount and they are *Hiranyagarbha, Agnistoma, Vajapeya, Bahusuvana and Paundarika*.
- ✓ *Name of meaning of Pulkesin is "Hair of Lion"*

Kirtivarman I

The two sons of Pulkesin-I viz. **Kirtivarman I** and **Mangaldesa** extended the possessions of the family both eastward and westward. Kirtivarman-I completely subjugated the Kadambas and secured the extension of the Kingdom.

- ✍ **Goa which** was then known as **Revatidwipa** was annexed by **Kirtivarman I**.
 - ✓ His brother Mangaldesa assumed the responsibilities of the government after his death as his son Pulkesin II was too young at the time of his death.
 - ✓ Some scholars say that this succession was disputed and Pulkesin II overcame this rivalry.
 - ✓ He ascended the throne in 608 AD.
 - ✓ For two decades this able prince adopted a career of aggressive conquests in all directions and defeated the Kings of Lata (South Gujarat), Gurjara (Rajputana), Malwa and Kadamabas in the west and Pallavas of Vengi in the east.

-: About this document:-

Pulkesin II

- ✓ Pulkesin II is the most celebrated ruler of the Chalukyas of Badami.
- ✓ His birth name was **Ereya** and he was born to **Kirtivarman-I**. Since, he was too young when his father died, his paternal uncle Mangaldesa was made the king. Some sources say that his uncle denied him his right to get the throne when he grown up and he rebelled against his uncle.
- ✓ Ereya organized an army near modern Kolar in Karnataka and defeated and killed Mangaldesa (Peddavadangur inscription).
- ✓ He defeated the Kadamabas of the Banavasi, Alupas of modern Southern Karnataka, Maurya of Konkan and after a naval war captured Island of Elephanta from the Mauryas of Konkan. He also defeated the Kosala, Kalinga etc. in the east. In down south, he defeated Mahendravarman-I.
- ✓ This was the time when Harsha was a major power in Northern India. Pulkesin II and Harsha engaged in a battle at the banks of the Narmada. This was a decisive battle in which Harsha lost a big part of his elephant army and had to retreat. This is mentioned in the Aihole Inscription.

The same battle has been described by Huen Tsang too.

- ✓ The battle ended with a treaty in which Harsha was made to recognize river Narmada as his southern border.

After this victory, Pulkesin II assumed the titles of *Parmeshwara*, *Prithivivallabha*, *Satyashraya* etc. and became the paramount power in modern Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. He also assumed the title of *Dakshinpatheshwara* around the same time, on the lines of Harsha's title *Uttarpatheshwara*.

The fame of Pulkesin II spread beyond the geographical limits of India and reached the ears of Khusrau II the King of Persia. Khusrau II in 36th year of his reign i.e. 625 AD received a complementary embassy from Pulkesin II. He reciprocated the embassy with a Persian embassy which was welcomed with due honors in India. One of the large Frescoes of Ajanta Paintings in Cave Number 1 vividly represents the ceremonial attending the presentation of their credentials by the Persian Courts. This is a great record of India-Persia relations in those times.

The enmity of Pulkesin II with Pallavas of Kanchi finally took his life in 642 AD, when one of the Pallava Kings (Narsimhamvaraman) plundered his capital and probably put him to death.

For next 13 years Pallavas dominated in South India including the Vatapi.

Vikramaditya I

- ✓ In 655 AD, one of the five sons of Pulkesin II known as Vikramaditya I attempted to restore the unity of the Kingdom and was successful in throwing Pallavas out of Vatapi.
- ✓ The enmity of the Chalukyas continued by Vikramaditya I and he befriended with other enemies of Pallavas. He advanced to Kanchipuram but was defeated by the Pallavas.
- ✓ During the reign of Vikramaditya I, one branch of the Chalukyas was able to establish itself in Gujarat who in next 100 years offered vigorous oppositions to the Arabs.
- ✓ Vikramaditya I was succeeded by his son Vinayaditya, who continued the expeditions. The reign of Vinayaditya is assigned 680 AD to 696 AD. His reign was generally peaceful. During those times, Persia was politically unstable mostly due to the Arab Invasions.

End of Chalukyas of Badami

-: About this document:-

The successors of Vinayaditya continued to exist for next half century.



The last ruler was Kirtivarman II who was also known as **Rahappa**. His reign was a short period of 7 years from 746 AD to 753 AD. The Chalukyas of Badami were continuously disturbed by the growing powers of Rastrakuta and Pandyas and finally were destroyed by them. The blunder of Kirtivarman II was to undermine the rising power of Dantidurga, who established the Rastrakuta Empire.

Rastrakuta Empire

In the mid of the 8th century, Dantidurga, who was one of the chieftain of ancient Rastrakuta family fought his way to the front and overthrew **Kirtivarman II**, thus bringing an end to the main branch of Chalukyas. This was the beginning of the Rastrakuta Empire in Deccan.

Dantidurga:

Dantidurga's reign is from 735 AD to 756 AD. He is also known as Dantivarman or Dantidurga II. Just after occupying Vatapi, he also carried out several conquests but became unpopular very soon and was deposed by his uncle **Krishna I**.

- ✍ Dantidurga made Gulbarga his capital and defeated the *Karnatbala* of the Badami Chalukya (Kirtivarman II).
- ✍ He also defeated the kings of Lata (Gujarat), Malwa, Kalinga, Nagas and assumed the title of *Rajadhiraja*.

Krishna I

- ✓ Krishna I is known for completing the establishment of Rastrakuta supremacy over the dominions of Chalukyas.
- ✓ Last Badami Chalukya Kirtivarman II though defeated by Dantidurga, but remained in power till 757 AD when he was destroyed by Krishna I. This is mentioned in the copper plate grant of Govinda III.
- ✓ **Krishna I** is best known for execution of the most marvelous architectural work in India i.e. Kailas Temple at Ellora.
- ✓ Kailas Temple is the most extensive and most opulent example of rock cut architecture in India.

Govinda II

- ✓ Krishna I was succeeded by Govinda II, his eldest son.
- ✓ He became unpopular soon and was excessively indulged in the sensual pleasures. He left the administration to his younger brother Dhruva (Nirupama).

Dhruva

- ✓ Dhruva was an able prince who continued the wars with the neighbors and expanded the frontiers of Rastrakuta empire.
- ✓ This was the reign of Dhruva, when Rastrakuta emerged as one of the great powers in India.

Govinda III

- ✓ Dhruva's son Govinda III was also one of the most remarkable princes of this dynasty.

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- ✓ The capital of rastrakuta up till now was Nasik and it was shifted to Manyakheta (Malkhed) by Govinda III.
- ✓ Govinda III's conquests were up to Cape Camorin in south, Kannauj in North and Banaras in South. His rein was from 794 to 814 AD.

Amoghavarsha

- ✓ Govinda III was succeeded by his son Amoghavarsha or Amoghavarsha I or **Nrupathunga**.
- ✓ The reign of Amoghavarsha is from 800 to 878 AD (though some scholars says that his reign was 62 years), one of the longest reigns.
- ✓ He was the greatest ruler of the Rastrakuta Empire. He indulged in constant wars with the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi and remained successful.
- ✓ Amoghavarsha was a patron of the Jains and liberally patronized the **Digambara sect of Jains**.
- ✓ His contribution led to rapid progress made by the Digambara Jain sect in the 9th and 10 th century under **Jinasena and Gunabhadra**. (As evident from Mahapurana).
- ✓ Both of these Digambar Jain monks enjoyed favor of more than one monarchs and much responsible to eclipse Buddhism.
- ✓ The result was that Buddhism finally disappeared from Deccan in the early 12th century.
- ✓ Amoghavarsha deeply loved his subjects and **many historians have compared him with Asoka**.

Successors of Amoghavarsha

- ✓ Amoghavarsha was succeeded by Krishna II. Though his period is 878 AD to 914 AD but it seems that he started ruling during his father's reign.
- ✓ He was followed by **Indra II**, who was succeeded by **Amoghavarsha II**. Amoghavarsha II was assassinated by his **brother Govinda IV**, within one year of his rule. Govinda IV reigned till 935 AD.
- ✓ The feudatories of Govinda IV revolted and deposed him. He was succeeded by **Amoghavarsha III** (also known as Baddiga).
- ✓ These all rulers were less important and finally, the dynasty came to an end as the last ruler **Kakka II (Karaka)** was killed by **Taila II or Tailpa II** the scion of old Chalukya stock in 973 AD.
- ✓ Thus Taila II founded the dynasty of Chalukyas of Kalyani which lasted for 2 centuries.

Chalukyas of Kalyani and Chalukyas of Vengi

Western Chalukya Empire: Chalukyas of Kalyani

After the Chalukyas of Badami were destroyed by Dantidurga, they revived after two centuries in around 972-73AD. This was known as Chalukyas of Kalyani and is supposed to have the same genealogy as those of the previous mighty Chalukyas (though this is disputed).

This was established by **Tailapa-II** who was one of the feudatories of the Rastrakuta. For 200 years they remained in conflict with the Cholas and also the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi. They were finally destroyed by the Hoyasala Empire in 12th century. The empire of Chalukyas of Kalyani is also known as **Western Chalukya Empire**. This empire has a great contribution in the modern Kannada literature as well as Sanskrit literature.

Eastern Chalukya Empire: Chalukyas of Vengi

The origins of the Chalukyas of Vengi go back to the time of Pulkesin II when he had appointed his brother **Kubja Vushnu Vardhana** as a Viceroy of Vengi in around 620 AD. This developed as an independent kingdom for a short

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period and later remained under the control of first Rastrakuta and then Cholas. They contributed to the growth of the **Telugu literature**.

- ✍ Western Chalukya Empire : contributed to Kannada Literature
- ✍ Eastern Chalukya Empire: Contributed to Telugu literature.

Chalukyas of Kalyani

The last ruler of Rastrakuta Dynasty **Kakka II (Karaka)** was killed by **Taila II or Tailapa II** the scion of old Chalukya stock in 973 AD. Thus Taila II founded the dynasty of **Chalukyas of Kalyani** which lasted for 2 centuries. For 200 years they remained in conflict with the Cholas and also the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi. They were finally destroyed by the Hoyasala Empire in 12th century. The empire of Chalukyas of Kalyani is also known as **Western Chalukya Empire**. This empire has a great contribution in the modern Kannada literature as well as Sanskrit literature.

Tailapa II

Tailapa-II was one of the feudatories of the Rastrakutas. He restored the family of his ancestors to its former glory. Taila reigned for 24 years and during that time was able to recover the ancient territory of his race except the Gujarat region. We know about his reign from the **Gadag records**.

- ✓ He patronized a Kannada poet Ranna who was one the earliest poets of Kannada language.
- ✓ **Ranna, Adikavi Pampa and Sri Ponna** together are called **three gems of Kannada literature**.

Most of the time, Tailapa II kept on fighting with **Munja**, a Paramara king of Dhara. **Munja** was finally captured and probably killed in captivity. This was in 995 AD. Two years later Taila died and his crown was passed on to his son Satyasraya

Satyasraya

The period of reign of Satyasraya was 997 to 1008 AD. Though, to start with, he adopted the aggressive policy of his father had enmity with the eastern Chalukyas and Cholas. His 11 years reign was disturbed and was finally faced the disastrous consequence of a war with the great Chola Rajaraja-I. Rajaraja-I overran the Chalukya country and looted and killed a large number of men, women and children. Satyasraya was followed by Vikramaditya V and Jaysimha II. The next important king was Someshwara I.

Someshwara I

- ✓ Someshwara I, who was also known as **Ahavamalla or Trilokamalla** reigned from 1042 AD to 1068 AD. The contemporary Chola King was **Rajadhiraja Chola I** who became Chola king in the same year i.e. 1042.
- ✓ **Someshwara I** had established Kalyani as its capital.
- ✓ He faced the attack of **Rajadhiraja Chola-I**, who overran initially the Chalukyan capital and demolished the forts and erected the pillars as a memorabilia of the victories, but the Chalukyan counter attack forced them out. Under Someshwara-I, the Chalukya army raided Chola capital Kanchipuram but it was repelled back.
- ✓ Finally **in the battle of Koppam, Rajadhiraja Chola was killed**. But his younger brother took the command and drove the Chalukyas back. In this attack, brother of Someshwara-I was killed. The reign of Someshwara I is known for numerous wars.

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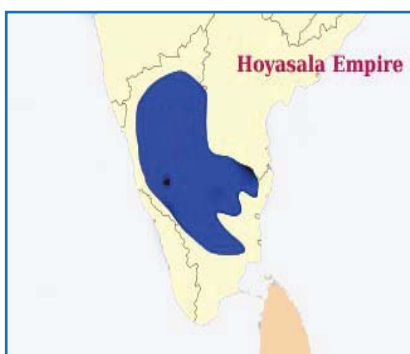
- ✓ This able king of the Western Chalukya Empire ended his life by drowning himself in the river Tungabhadra, due to his inability to endure a fever. 😞
- ✓ **Someshwara I** was succeeded by his elder son **Someshwara II**, but **Someshwara II** was soon deposed by his younger brother **Vikramaditya VI**, whose reign is from 1076 - 1126 AD.

Vikramaditya VI:

- ✓ Vikramaditya VI ascended the throne in **1076 AD** which marks the beginning of **Chalukya-Vikram era**.
- ✓ Vikramaditya VI was one of the ablest kings of the Western Chalukyan Empire.
- ✓ He left the maximum number of inscriptions, all in Kannada.
- ✓ He is the hero of a **historical poem (Vikramankadevacharita)** by **Bilhana**, a Kashmir poet and reigned for around half a century in tolerable peace.
- ✓ Vikramaditya VI captured Kanchi in late in his career and engaged with serious battles with a Hoyasala King of Dorsamudra known as Vishnu.
- ✓ In the capital Kalyani during the times of Vikramaditya VI, a **celebrated jurist** of the 12th century called **Vijñāneśvara** lived. **Vijñāneśvara** has written a treatise on inheritance which is among the most influential legal treatises in Hindu Law outside Bengal. The title of this work was **Mitākṣarā**.
- ✓ **Mitākṣarā** is considered to be an important commentary on Yajnavalkya Smriti. Another work by Vijñāneśvara is **Dayabhaga**, which is also related to Hindu law.
- ✓ Death of Vikramaditya VI was followed by a decline of Chalukya Empire. The Western Chalukya Dynasty ended in 1190, when most parts of its territory were absorbed by **Yadavas of Devagiri** and **Hoyasals of Dorsamudra**.
- ✓ The last King of Western Chalukyan Empire was **Someshwara IV**. After his death, the remaining territories of the Western Chalukyan Empire were absorbed by the **Great Hoyasala King Veera Ballala II**.

Hoyasala Empire

A family or clan named Hoyasala had attained considerable power in the present day Karnataka during the 12th and 13th century. This empire ruled almost all the present day Karnataka between the 11th to mid of the 14th



century. Their capital was Belur which was later shifted to Halebidu. This period was a very important era for the development of the art, architecture and religion in the Southern countries. The marvelous temple architecture, which is discussed in our later modules, is the best specimen of their love and favour for fine arts. The Hoyasala Empire contributed in the growth of both the Kannada and Sanskrit literature.

The earliest known king of this empire is **Nripa Kama II** who lived around 1026-1047 AD. He was probably a feudatory of the **Western Gang Dynasty** and is known to have indulged in futile wars against the Cholas.

However, another early Hoyasala ruler Vinayaditya was a feudatory of Chalukyas of Kalyani. Vinayaditya was having family ties with **Western Chalukyan King Someshwara I**. His son Ereyanaga tried to establish himself as an independent monarch but was not successful. He was succeeded by Veera Ballala-I who was also an unimportant ruler. The first notable great Hoyasala king was Vishnuvardhana, who was also known as **Bittiga**.

-: About this document:-

Vishnuvardhana

- ✓ The period assigned to reign of Vishnuvardhana or **Bittiga** is 1108-1152 AD. He is best known for taking steps to consolidate the Hoyasala Empire.
- ✓ He established his capital at Dorsamudra, which is modern Halebidu in Karnataka.
- ✓ Vishnuvardhana was younger brother of Veera Ballala-I. He assumed the title of Talakadagonda and Veera Ganga.
- ✓ In memory of these victories he built Nirtinarayana temple at Talakad and Chennakasava temple at Belur.
- ✓ He was originally a Jain and Jain religion enjoyed high favour under his minister Gangaraja's protection. He carried out numerous conquests and defeated the mighty kings of the Chola, Pandya and Chera kingdoms.
- ✓ It is said that under the influence of Ramanujacharya, Vishnuvardhana converted to Hinduism and became a Vashnavite. This is evident by a number of Vishnu temples, built during his reign. He died in 1152 and his son Narsimha I ascended the throne. Narsimha I killed the Western Chalukyan ruler Tailapa III. He was succeeded by Veera Ballala II.

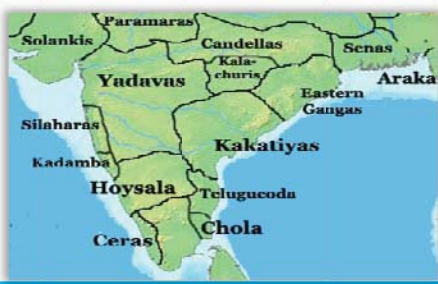
Veera Ballala II

- ✓ Veera Ballala II (1173–1220 AD) was another greatest monarch of the Hoyasala Empire.
- ✓ He put the Chalukyas of Kalyani to an end by defeating Someshwara IV.
- ✓ After this defeat Someshwara IV shifted his capital to Banavasi, and the Kalyani passed to the hands of Yadavas of Devagiri. With Cholas he had family relationships.
- ✓ The successors of Veera Ballala II were mostly unimportant rulers. The last great King was Veera Ballala III.

Veera Ballala III

- ✓ Veera Ballala III was the last great ruler of the Hoyasala Empire. His reign was from 1291 AD till 1343 AD. In 1310, the commanders of Sultan Alauddin Khilji had invaded the Deccan devastating most of the countries. By 1318 Devagiri was occupied by Sultan of Delhi and by 1336, almost all Hindu Kingdoms of the south except the Hoyasala Empire were annexed to the Delhi Sultanate. A muslim Madurai Sultanate was also formed in those years. Veera Ballala III campaigned against the muslims.
- ✓ He made Tiruvannamalai as his new capital and founded another capital at the banks of **River Tungabhadra at Hosapattana** where his able commanders **Harihara and Bukkaraya** (popularly known as Hakka and Bukka) founded the Vijayanagar Empire in 1336.
- ✓ Veera Ballala III was killed in one of the battles against the Delhi Sultan in 1343. He was succeeded by Harihara Raya I who founded the Sangama Dynasty of the Vijayanagar empire.
- ✓ The following picture shows the dynasties in the 12th century in India.

Yadavas of Devagiri



The **Yadavas of Devagiri** were the descendants of the **feudatory nobles of the Western Chalukyan Empire**.

- ✓ The most important territory which they had under them was between Devagiri (Modern Daultabad) and Nasik and was known as Sevana or Seuna, though they had influence in modern Maharashtra, North Karnataka and parts of Southern Madhya Pradesh.

-: About this document:-

- ✓ They are known as founders of Marathi Culture.
- ✓ The name Seuna has been used for them in the Hoysala and **Kakatiya inscriptions** and seems to be probably derived from the name of **Seunachandra**, second ruler of this dynasty.
- ✓ This dynasty was founded by Dridhaprahara. His son Seunachandra ruled an area of present **Khandesh** which was known as **Seundesha**.

Bhillama 1173-1191 AD

The first of Yadavas in this line to achieve importance was Bhillama or Bhillama V, who established the **sovereign Seuna Kingdom and founded Devagiri in 1187 AD**. His territory was bordered by Parmaras in North, Kaktiya in east, Hoysals in South and Solankis in west. The mighty Devagiri fort which was 184 meters was captured by Alauddin Khilji in 1294 and was later plundered by Malik Kafur again 1307, 1310 and 1318 was an important landmark of his reign. Bhillama was killed in a battle with a Hoysala Chief in 1191 AD. The second great ruler of this dynasty was **Singhana II**.

Singhana II

Singhana II (1200-1246 AD) was the most important ruler of the Yadavas Dynasty. He carried out several conquests and expanded the kingdom from the banks of Narmada to Tungabhadra. He invaded Gujarat and other countries and made the Yadavas Kingdom matching in extent the realms of the Chalukyas and the Rastrakutas. Singhana II was a great patron of fine arts and literature.

✍ **Sarangadeva**, the great author of **Sangita Ratnakar** was an accountant in the court of Singhana II. His work **Sangeet Ratnakara** is considered to be one of the most important works on Hindustani as well as Classical Music.

Raja Ramchandra

The Yadavas of Devagiri, akin to the Hoysals were destroyed by the Muslim invaders.

✍ Raja Ramchandra was the last sovereign Hindu Ruler of Deccan.

When Alauddin Khilji, sultan of Delhi crossed the Narmada River, the northern frontier of Yadavas in 1294, the Yadava Ruler **Raja Ramchandra (1291-1309 AD)** was obliged to surrender and was ransomed his life by a large treasure that included 600 maunds of pearls, two Maunds of Diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires. (One maund was around 40 Kilograms, though Maund was officially pegged at 37.3242 kilograms in British India/ independent India).

The Sultan's incursions were again repeated by **Malik Kafur** in 1309 and Ramchandra again submitted to the invader.

After his death, his son in law Harpala revolted against the Muslim Sultan in 1318 and was defeated, then flayed (skinned) alive and was decapitated. This was the miserable end of the Yadavas of Devagiri.

- ✓ Ramchandra like other Yadava rulers was a patron of art and literature. In his court the **celebrated Sanskrit author Hemadri or Hemadpant** served as a Chief Minister. **Chaturvarga Chintamani** was his encyclopedic Sanskrit work.
- ✓ **Hemadpant introduced Modi script for writing in Marathi** from Ceylon and has left some valuable historical sketch of Yadava dynasty.

-: About this document:-

3 Kingdoms of South

The ancient tradition recognizes 3 Kingdoms of South India viz. **Pandya, Chola and Chera**. Apart from that one more, **Pallava** rose to power (2nd century AD and later).

- ✓ Out of these the Pandya kingdom occupied the extremity of the Southern Peninsula, south of Pudukottai, Chola Kingdom extended northwards to Nellore and Chera Kingdom laid to the west which mainly included Malabar Coast.
- ✓ We know from the history of Mauryas that Chola and Pandya realms were well known to Asoka, but as far as Chera is concerned, Asoka specifies two kingdoms viz. **Keralaputra and Satyaputra**.
- ✓ Since all the kingdoms of South were occupied by races that spoke Dravidian language, they are generally known as Dravidians.

During the Vedic Civilization, this region was not penetrated by any of the Aryan languages and these kingdoms completely secluded from the Northern India. This region was in touch with the outer world only through the medium of maritime commerce and these Kingdoms were extremely successful in the maritime trade.

Tamil is the oldest among the spoken literary languages of South India. The development of Tamil was faster than Malayalam and it had therefore become a common language for intellectual expression. In Chera Kingdom, the prevalent language was Malayalam which developed later.

Tamilkam

Tamilkam, Tamilgam, Tamilham or Tamizhakam refers to the Tamil realm or the ancient Tamil Country. This refers to the territories under today's **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, South Andhra Pradesh**, parts of southern **Karnataka** and **Maldives**.

After the Vedic periods, this region saw emergence of clearly identifiable social formation .

- ✓ We know about these from the **Asokan Inscriptions** as well as **Indika** of Megasthenes.
- ✓ During the 3rd century BC to 3rd century AD, earliest extant ^(existing today) works of Tamil Literature was created and which is known as **Sangam Literature**.
- ✓ The period from the 3rd century BC to 3rd Century AD is named after the Tamil Sangams as Sangam period. Sangam refers to the assemblies or confluence.

Iraiyar Akapporul and Sangam legend

Iraiyar Akapporul which is also known as "Iraiyar's writing on love" is a work of Tamil literature which dates back to around 5-8th centuries AD. This work has 60 Nrupas or verses.

- ✓ **Iraiyar Akapporul** is the oldest work which gives reference to the Sangam Legend and gives the first mention of the Sangam Period.
- ✓ This reference is in a **commentary by Nakkirar** which describes 3 Sangams which span in thousands of years.

As per this legend

-: About this document:-

1. **First Sangam (Mudharchangam)** was held at **Madurai** and was submerged under the sea. It lasted for 4400 years and had 549 members and 4449 poets. This includes authors like Hindu gods such as Siva, Kubera and Murugan.
 - ✍ First Sangam was presided by Rishi Agasyta and was patronized by 89 Pandya Kings.
2. **The second Sangam (Idaichangam)** is described to have convened in **Kapatapuram** which lasted for 3700 years and had 59 members and 3700 poets. This also submerged under sea.
 - ✍ Second Sangam was presided by Tolakappiyar and was presided by 59 kings.
3. **The third Sangam (Kadaichamgam)** was held in Madurai and lasted 1850 years. It had 49 members and 449 poets.
 - ✍ Third Sangam was presided by Nakkirar and was presided by 49 Patron Kings.
4. The legend provided by Iraiyanar Akapporul says that 8598 poets contributed to these Sangams and all of them were patronized by **197 Pandya Kings** and they lasted for **9990 years**. The information is exaggerated and unrealistic and is now rejected by the Scholars.

What is Sangam?

- ✓ The above reference has only of indicative importance. The scientific analysis of the literature says that this work was composed in 120-150 years and most of the literature was composed from 100 AD to 250 AD.
- ✓ There are 2289 poems available under Sangam Literature now; many of them are very short having only 3-5 verses. 102 of them are anonymous.
- ✓ The number of poets estimated is 473.

Tolkāppiyam

- ✓ Tolkāppiyam is a work of Tamil Grammar which is said to be the earliest extant work of Tamil Literature.
- ✓ There are three books in Tolkāppiyam viz. **Ezhuttadikaram, Solladikaram and Poruladikaram**, and each of them is composed of 9 chapters.
- ✓ This work has divided the Tamil Language into two types viz. **Sentamil** (Classical Tamil) and **Kotuntamil** (Spoken Tamil). Sentamil is used in almost all literary works of the Tamil Language.

Agattiyam

- ✓ However, the first work on Tamil Grammar which is not extant and is lost irretrievably is **Agattiyam**. It was written by Rishi Agastya.
- ✓ Tolakappiar who wrote the above mentioned Tolkāppiyam is said to be a disciple of Rishi Agastya.
- ✓ As per the Tamil traditions Rishi Agasyta invented the Tamil Language and brought its syntax from the lord Shiva.

Themes of Sangam Literature:

On the basis of interpretation and context, the Sangam literature can be described into two types viz. **Agam** (inner) and **Puram** (outer). The topics of **Agam** are related to personal and human aspects such as love and sexual things. The topics of **Puram** are related to human experiences and emotions such as Heroism, Valor, Ethics and Philanthropy.

The poems have also been classified on nature themes which are known as **Thinai**. The themes are as follows:

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1. **Kurinji** (Mountainous Theme).
2. **Mullai** (Forests Theme)
3. **Marutham** (Agricultural Land Theme)
4. **Neithal** (Coastal Theme)
5. **Paalai** (Desert Theme)

Who brought Sangam literature in light?

The literature was lost and forgotten. It was brought into light by the Tamil Scholars **S V Damodaram Pillai** and **U V Swamitha Iyer**. They printed and published different works such as Tholkappiyam, Nachinarkiniyar urai , Tholkappiyam Senavariyar urai, Manimekalai , Cilappatikaram, Pattupattu , and Purananuru in different parts of the 19th century, all with commentaries.

Classification of Sangam Literature

Broadly we can divide the Sangam literature in 2 parts viz. **Patinenmēlkanakku** and **Patinenkīlkanakku**. Out of them, the **Patinenmēlkanakku** refers to the oldest surviving Tamil Poetry of the Sangam Age, dating back to 200 BC to 100 BC while the Patinenkīlkanakku refers to the collection of 18 poetic works which belongs to Post Sangam period and date back to 100 AD to 500 AD. This classification has been further summarized as follows:

Sangam Literature			
Oldest Extant work on Grammar : Tolkāppiyam		Oldest conceptual work on Grammar : Agattiyam	
Published Works			
<i>Patinenmēlkanakku</i> (Sangam Period)		<i>Patinenkīlkanakku</i> (Post Sangam Period)	
Total 18 Works		Total 18 Works	
Ettuttokai (The Eight Anthologies)	Pattuppāttu (The Ten Idylls)	1. Nalatiyar	1. Thinaimalai Nurru Aimpathu
1. Ainkurunūru	1. Tirumurukāruppatai	2. Nanmanikkatigai	2. Tirukkural
2. Akananūru	2. Kuriñcippāttu	3. Inna Narpathu	3. Thirikatukam
3. Puranānūru	3. Malaipatukatām	4. Iniyavai Narpathu	4. Acharakkovai
4. Kalittokai	4. Maturaikkāñci	5. Kar Narpathu	5. Pazhamozhi Nanuru
5. Kuruntokai	5. Mullaippāttu	6. Kalavazhi Narpathu	6. Siruppanchamulam
6. Narrinai	6. Netunalvātai	7. Ainthinai Aimpathu	7. Muthumozhikkanchi
7. Paripātal	7. Pattinappālai	8. Thinaimozhi Aimpathu	8. Elathi
8. Patirruppattu	8. Perumpānāruppatai	9. Ainthinai Ezhupathu	9. Kainnilai
	9. Porunarāruppatai		
	10. Cirupānāruppatai		

Patinenmēlkanakku

- Ettutokai is a large volume of the poems which is consisting of more than 2000 poems . These works which are called “The Eight Anthologies” are on deferent themes such as Narrinai on love, Kuruntokai on love, Aiankurunuru on erotic love etc. So most works of Ettukottai are of Agam style.
- Most works of Pattuppāttu are of Puram context and they have works on seasons and picturesque nature of Tamil Country. They are based upon the themes of the nature.

Patinenkīlkanakku

Patinenkīlkanakku is the post Sangam work which is of Agam as well as Puram context. The memorable points of these works is as follows:

-: About this document:-

1. **Naaladiyar** was composed by Jain monks and the theme is the transient nature of life and youth. It was work of **Nalatiyar**.
2. **Nanmanikkatiga** is the collection of 100 songs of Vilambi Naganaar and deals conditions / emotions of 4 types of people who cannot sleep in the night and they are thief, lovelorn, after money, and worrying about losing money.
3. **Inna Narpathu** describes the things which should be avoided by the people. It deals with the things that bring unhappiness such as beautiful but disloyal wife, wealth of a miser, life under a tyrant and a beautiful flower without fragrance.
4. **Iniyavai Narpathu** deals with the things which should not be avoided by a person and seek even in adverse situations such as learning even by begging, advice of learned persons, healthy children, and not coveting other's spouse.
5. **Kalavazhi Narpathu** deals with war and politics.
6. **Ainthinai Aimpathu** deals with human emotions, love, separation, lovers' quarrels.
7. **Thinaimozhi Aimpathu** also deals with the Agam subjects such as love, separation, lover fights etc.
8. Same is with **Ainthinai Ezhupathu**.
9. Same is with **Thinaimalai Nurru Aimpathu**.
10. **Thirukkural** is the first work in all of the Dravidian literature which deals with the ethics. It was authored by Thiruvalluvar. **It is also known as Kural** and is a collection of 1330 couplets.
11. **Thirikatukam** deals with herbal medicines.
12. **Acharakkovai** deals with the personal behavior and correct methods to follow.
13. **Pazhamozhi Nanuru** deals with the character of the person.
14. **Siruppanchamulam** deals with the nature and combines the benevolent humans with benevolent neighbors.
15. **Muthumozhikkanch** deals with the right behavior and chastity.
16. **Elathi** deals with human qualities and also narrates some herbal medicines.
17. **Kainnilai** deals with the agam concepts.

Impact of Sanskrit on Tamil Literature

The Tamil language and literature did not flourish in isolation and was influenced by Sanskrit. The Aryans had penetrated the whole of the Tamil Land by 6th century AD and Post Sangam literature contains some traces of Aryan Culture. Influence of Sanskrit is more on the **five epics** of Tamil Literature which were written between 1st century AD to 9th century AD. Out of them **Silappatikaram**, which was written by **Ilango Adigal**, brother of Senguvattan, a Chera King and who was a Jain monk is a highly regarded epic. The other 4 epics are

1. Manimegalai which is a Buddhist Religious Work
2. Civaka Chintamani which is a Jain Religious work
3. Valayapathi which is also a Jain work of 9th Century
4. Kundalkesi which is a Buddhist work of 5th century by Nagasena.

The Kingdoms of South

The ancient political history of Southern India is irretrievably lost and the sources to trace the development of a very high degree of civilization achieved by the Dravidians are scant. It is not possible to define when and how the Aryans penetrated the Southern countries. However, most historians take 500 BC as the mean date of Aryan penetration to the Southern India.

-: About this document:-

We know from the Maurya History, that Asoka had introduced Buddhism in South and his son Mahinda had built a monastery in the Chola Country, still it is impossible to define whether, Asoka and Mahinda saw any Brahminical influence on those people.

Jainism also had found a great favour in those countries. The history corroborated as well as documented of the Southern empires begins with the Maurya period, though the earliest Dynastic annals are available of the Pallavas beginning with 2nd century AD. However, Pallavas are not included in the three kingdoms of south mainly because of the reason that this dynasty was an intrusive foreign and Non Dravidian race.

Ancient Pandya Kingdom

Pandya Kingdom refers to the Pandyas of Mahabharata Period about whom, we only know from the traditional legends and epics. Of this ancient Pandya Kingdom was a king known as **Sarangdhvaj**, who took part in the epic war of Mahabharata.

This Pandya Kingdom and its landmarks such as Rishabha Mountain, Agastya and Varuna Tirthas, Kumari, Thamiraparni, Gokarni etc. find their place in Mahabharata. The other references which may or may not be historically correct, link them with the events of Mahabharata.

✓ In Mahabharata, the Pandya Kings were allies of the Pandavas.

Pandya Empire

Pandya Empire was a dynasty which finds its place in Sangam literature and later sources show their rule till 15th century AD. The territory was also known as **Pandya Country**.

Extent of Pandya Empire:

- The Pandya country, as per the traditions extended from the **Podukottai** district to Kanyakumari in south and Achankovil River in Kerala (west) to River Vegai (Madura) in East.
- The kingdom was ordinarily divided into 5 principalities which were known as "**Five Pandyas**". The early days capital of Pandyas is **Korkai**.

Capitals and Main Cities:

- ✓ **Korkai**, which is now an insignificant village in Tamil Nadu, was the commercial capital and important port of the Pandya Kingdom.
- ✓ Korkai has been a cradle of South Indian Civilization and as per traditions, it is considered to be the home of **3 brothers** who were supposed to have founded the Pandya, Chera and Chola Kingdoms.
- ✓ **Korkai was center of Pearl trade** and this trade was the chief source of wealth for the Pandya Kings.
- ✓ Today, **Korkai** is located 6 kilometers from the coast. The shift is because of the silting up of the delta, which rendered **Korkai** inaccessible to ships.
- ✓ After **Korkai**, the commercial capital of the Pandyas was shifted to a new port of at a town **Old Kayal**, which were about one and half kilometers from the mouth of river **Tambraparni** and located in present **Tinnevely district**.

Visit of Marcopolo:

-: About this document:-

- ✓ Marcopolo landed in Pandya Empire (at Kayal) in 13th century and impressed by the wealth and magnificence of the King, Prince as well as people, tagged it as **the richest kingdom in existence**.
- ✓ However, the same silting process in 14th century caused the abandonment of the Kayal too, and the Portuguese were compelled later to shift their business to a port of **Tuticorin**, which was free from silting of Delta.
- ✓ The capital of Pandyas was later shifted to Madura (now Madurai).

Madura, the Later Capital of Pandyas:

- ✓ Madura, the later capital of Pandyas was the **central seat of Tamil Sangam literature**. Today, Madurai is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities. Madura was located on the banks of **River Vaigai** in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ As early as 3rd Century BC, **Megasthenes** visited Madurai and quoted this city as "*Methora*" in his document **Indika**. In Sangam literature, Madura finds special place in **Mathuraikkanci**, a Pathinenmaelkanakku anthology. This work praises a Pandya King **Nedunchezhiyan**. Similarly Madura has been described by **Pliny, Ptolemy and Strabo** too.

Insignia of Pandyas: Fish



- ✓ The Pandya kings adopted the fish or a pair of Fishes as their family crest.

Reference of history:

- ✓ No continuous history of the Pandya Kings prior to 12th century AD has been clearly written. In Maurya Period, the Pandya Kingdom was independent. One of the Pandya Kings had sent an embassy to Augustus Caesar.
- ✓ Pandya Kingdom was well known to Greeks and Romans for its pearl trade. A lot of Roman coins have been found on many places in Pandya Empire which shows an existence of a well developed trade between the Romans and Pandyas in the early centuries AD.

First Pandya Empire: First King Kadungon

Post Sangam period, the first Pandyan empire was established by a King named **Kadungon**, who defeated **Kalabras** in 6th century AD. The successors of Kadungon indulged in fighting with the nearby Chera and Chola Kings.

- ✓ **Huen Tsang**, who visited in 6th century AD traveled up to Kanchi which was southernmost point of his itinerary.
- ✓ He has mentioned the people of this area as Malakottai.
- ✓ Malakottai may refer to the Pandyan kingdom. Huen Tsang mentions that the people in this region little cared for learning; there were Buddhist Monasteries which were almost in ruins.

First Pandya Empire : Last King: Maravarman Rajasimha II

- ✓ The last Pandya King of this first Pandyan Empire was **Maravarman Rajasimha II** who ruled from 900-920 AD. He was a contemporary of the Chola King **Parantaka Chola I**, who overran his kingdom and captured Madura.

-: About this document:-

- ✓ Parantaka Chola-I after this victory, earned the title of **Maduraikonda**. Rajsimha II fled to Ceylon after this defeat and returned to Kerala, where he lived in low profile under a Chera King.

The Chola hegemony & Pandyas

- ✓ The Pandya Empire, akin to the other kingdoms of South, was reduced to a tributary by the great Rajaraja Chola-I in 1000 AD, and after that it continued for a century or even long under the Cholas.
- ✓ The similar kinds of names of the Pandya Kings make it difficult to reconstruct a definite line of the Pandyan Kings.

Jatavarman Kulasekaran I

- ✓ In the turn of the 13th century, a vassal of Chola Empire named **Jatavarman Kulasekaran I** ascended to the Madura Throne in 1290, turned rebel to Cholas.
- ✓ The Cholas invaded him and sacked Madurai. Jatavarman Kulasekaran I surrendered to the Chola king Kulothunga with wife and son and acknowledging his surrender, he was returned his capital.
- ✓ But during this, the ancient coronation hall of Pandyas in Madurai was destroyed and it also destroyed the records if any of the previous Pandyas.

Revival of Pandyas under Maravarman Sundara Pandyan

- ✓ To take revenge of this assault, younger brother of Kulasekaran, named **Maravarman Sundara Pandyan**, who came into power in 1216 AD, invaded the Chola Kingdom.
- ✓ The armies of Sundara Pandyan sacked the cities of Thanjaur and Uraiyur of Chola Kings and drove the Chola kings out in exile.
- ✓ His armies marched up to Chidambaram and in memory of this victory, Sundar Pandyan conducted a **Thulabaram** at the Chidambaram temple and donated wealth equal to his weight.
- ✓ But, victory of Sundar Pandyan over Cholas was followed by a march of the Hoyasala army towards **Sri Rangapattam**.
- ✓ Kingdom of the Cholas was returned after interference of Hoyasala king Veera Ballala III, but now Cholas accepted suzerainty of the Sundar Pandyan. This was the revival of second Pandyan Empire.

Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan

After **Maravarman Sundara Pandyan**, we know about his successor **Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan** (1251-61). He was a mighty conqueror who invaded Ceylon and carried off the great booty.

- ↻ The famous tooth relic of Buddha was also included in this booty.
- ↻ With this victory **Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan was called "Second Rama"** for plundering the Island of Sri Lanka. He covered the Srirangam temple with Gold. He also conflicted with the Kakatiya Kings of Warangal.

Invasion of Malik Kafur

Early in the 14th century, a dispute arose about the succession of the Pandya throne and one of the claimants appealed to the Sultan of Delhi, Alauddin Khilji for help. This probably resulted in an invasion by the Sultan's forces in 1310 under **Malik Kafur**. Malik Kafur sacked, looted Madura and marched up to Rameshwaram, where he erected a mosque. After that invasion, the Pandya kings ruled sporadically at undefined territories and a sort of confusion was there. Malik Kafur was followed by two other expeditions from the Delhi Sultanate in 1314 AD led by Khusrav Khan and in 1323 AD by Ulugh Khan.

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What happened to Pandyas after that, very little is known. Later Muhammad Bin Tughlaq created a southern province and placed **Sayyid Jalal-ud-Din Ahsan** as its governor. In 1333 AD Sayyid declared his independence and created **Madurai Sultanate**. **Madurai Sultanate** was replaced by the **Nayak governors**, who kept on ruling till arrival of British.

The Chera Kingdom

Not many details are available about the pre-Christian era history of the Chera, Keralaputra and Satyaputra.

↳ "Satyaputra" was first mentioned by Asoka, in his inscriptions.

But it referred to which territory and which dynasty was mostly unknown. The historians have identified it with the portions of the Malaya Mountains of the Western Ghats and certain lowlands around those areas. Satyaputra are mentioned in the Puranas and Tamil Literature as well. In the Asoka's edicts, they find their place with Cholas, Pandyas and Keralaputra.

↳ The first historical evidence about **Kerala** is found in the inscriptions of Asoka who cited four kingdoms viz. Choda (Chola), Pada, (Pandya), Ketala Puto (Keralaputra), Satiya Puto (Satyaputra) in the south of his empire. Keralaputra and Satyaputra is mentioned in the **Rock Edict II** and Girnar Inscription.

This means that Satyaputra had rose to prominent power by the time of Asoka. However, after that, there are not many details available about this dynasty.

↳ The word "Kerala" is of Prakrat origin and is not available in Sangam texts.

The etymological identity of Kerala and Chera link them but it was not certain that whether the present Kerala was the Chera Kingdom.

However, **Pandyas, Cheras and the Cholas** were mentioned in surviving Tamil Literature (comprising of Chilappatikaram, Tirukkural etc), complementing their mention in the existing Sanskrit Literature viz. Puranas, Vedas, Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Few historians now believe that ancient Chera Kingdom included the today's Kerala but separated in 389 AD and the Chera Realm was restricted to Tamilnadu (around Coimbatore) and southern parts of Karnataka.

Insignia: Bow and Arrow



The Chera Kings adopted the "Bow and arrow" as a crest or cognizance of their dynasty. They released a few coins which were characterized by a **bow device** engraved on them.

Though the authentic list of the Rajas of Travancore and that of Cochin is from beginning of 13th century & 15th century onwards, yet the Chera Dynasty is considered to be the two dynasties that ruled in two different eras.

The First Chera dynasty ruled from 300 BC to 300 AD in the Sangam Era and another dynasty from the 9th century AD onwards. The only source of knowledge of the first Chera dynasty is Sangam Text. Cheras ruled in North Travancore, Cochin and Southern Malabar.

↳ Capital of the early Cheras was Vanchi Muthur in Kizhanthur-Kandallur and Karur Vanchi and the later Cheras was Mhodayapuram, Kulashekarapuram.

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First Cheras: Uthiyan Cheralathan

First recorded King of the Cheras is **Uthiyan Cheralathan**. The period assigned to Uthiyan Cheralathan is anytime between 1st to 3rd century AD. He fought numerous battles and in one such battle with Cholas, he was defeated and due to humiliation he committed suicide that was a common practice those days.

- ↳ The second king of the Chera Dynasty was Imayavaramban Nedum Cheralatan, who died in a battle with Chola Kings.

The next important ruler was **Senguttuvan**, who is hero of a **famous Tamil Epic Silapathikaram**. **Senguttuvan** is best known for sending the first embassy to China from South India. His capital was Karur. The navy of Senguttuvan was the best navy in the world.

Second Cheras (Later Cheras)

The second Chera Dynasty was founded by **Kulashekhar Alwar**, a Tamil King in 800 AD. He had united the parts of the Modern Kerala and ruled from his capital **Mahodayapuram** which is today's Kodungallur.

- ↳ Kulashekhar wrote *Perumal thirumozhi*, one of the most celebrated devotional works of the Tamil Bhakti cult.
- ↳ He renounced the crown to become a Vashnavite saint and lived in Srirangam.

After **Kulashekhar Alwar**, all kings are insignificant and some of them became saints. The last Chera King was **Rama Varma Kulashekhar** who ruled from 1090 to 1102 AD. His contemporary Chola ruler was **Kulothunga Chola-I** with whom he fought a war. His life is shrouded in mystery as after this war, he is supposed to have left India and embraced Islam. This brought an end to the Chera dynasty and the rulers were confined to the area around Travancore.

Chola Empire

As per the traditions, the Chola Country or **Cholamandalam** was the area bound on the North by the Pennar, South by the Vellaru River, at Eastern Coast of Bay of Bengal from Nellore and Pudukottai to west till Coorg.

- ↳ Its most ancient capital was **Uraiyur**, near the Trichurapalli in Tamil Nadu. So the heartland was the fertile valley of the river Cauvery.

The 1500 years of Chola Dynasty:

The Chola dynasty is one of the longest ruling dynasties of South India, and it existed from 300 BC till late 13th century AD, though the territorial limits kept varying from time to time. This period of around 1500 years can be divided into 4 parts as follows:

1. **Early Cholas:** The Early Cholas refer to the Chola Kingdom of the Sangam Age from 300 BC to 200 AD. Most of the information about this, we have in the form of Sangam Literature, legends and religious texts of Buddhism and Jainism.
2. **Dark Period:** After this early Chola Kingdom fell, there is a dark period, in which they existed but insignificantly.

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3. **Medieval Cholas:** The rise of the medieval Cholas is from 850 AD when **Vijayalaya Chola** of Thanjaur re-established the Chola Power in South India. These Chola Kings ruled till 1070 AD and the Cholamandalam flourished.
4. **Later Cholas:** From 1070 AD till 1279 AD, is the period assigned to the later Cholas. During this time, the Chola Empire reached its Zenith and became the "Most Powerful Country" of the world. These Cholas colonized the South East Asian Countries and had the most powerful army and navy of the world at that time.

Early Cholas

Not much authentic information is available about the Early Chola Kingdom. The main source of its knowledge is the **Sangam Literature**. The other sources are *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*, which is a work of an anonymous merchant of Alexandria, works of Ptolemy, Mahavamsa- the Buddhist Text of Ceylon, Pillars of Asoka, Hathigumpha description of Kharvela- the Kalinga King and other numerous stone inscriptions found at various parts in the Southern Peninsula.

Karikala Chola

The most significant Early Chola ruler is **Karikala Chola**, who ruled around 270 BC and is mentioned in the **Sangam Literature**. The meaning of his name "Kari + Kalan" refers to "Slayer of Elephants" but also means "the one with burnt limbs". This indicates a fire accident in his early age, which left his legs charred. This is testified by one of the Sangam Poems.

- ↳ Karikala Chola is best known for winning the famous "**Battle of Venni**" in which both the Pandyas and Cheras were crushed by him. The current location of Venni is near Thanjaur.
- ↳ The "Battle of Venni" was a turning point in his career and he was established as a firm power in the South. Some legends say that he won the whole of Ceylon Kingdom, after the Battle of Venni.
- ↳ World's **earliest water-regulator structure in stone** at Kallanai (Grand Anicut) on River Cauvery was built by Karikala Chola. It was constructed mainly to divert the water from Cauvery River for irrigation. This dam stands as a huge mass of 329 meters (1,080 feet) long and 20 meters (60 feet) wide, across the main stream of the Cauvery and is a major tourist attraction today.

Medieval Cholas

From the Third century AD to 9th Century AD is the interregnum in the Chola History. The Chola hegemony over Pandyas and Cheras was lost after the close of the Sangam Era and south India was disturbed by the predatory activities of the Kalabhras.

Kalabhras was probably a tribal clan from the Deccan and they did not speak Tamil. They might be the ascendants of the Saatvahana, whose empire had demised by early 3rd century AD.

- ↳ Kalabhras were patrons of Buddhism and also Jainism.
- ↳ The demise of the Saatvahana dynasty in Deccan created a chaos and out of this chaos the Kalabhras tried to create a niche for themselves.
- ↳ They invaded the southern Tamil countries which were not in a position to counter attack.
- ↳ The Kalabhras were driven out by the Pallavas.

-: About this document:-

Later, most of the Chola territories were lost to Pandyas and Pallavas. In the medieval period, Chalukyas rose to power. The Cholas and Chalukyas kept fighting over control on **Vengi Kingdom** for a longer period of time.

Vijayalaya Chola

The first medieval Chola ruler was Vijayalaya who in 848 AD re-established the Chola rule. His capital was **Thanjaur**. The question, whether Vijayalaya was from the same Chola Dynasty, is not resolved.

Vijayalaya was able to get benefit from the Pandya-Pallava rivalry. He perhaps captured Thanjaur in 848 AD by removing the Mutharaiyars, a family which belonged to the Pandya Clan or was a feudatory of Pandyas. Vijayalaya was a Pallava feudatory. As a result of this victory, the Cholas became powerful and Vijayalaya wiped out both the Pandyas and Pallavas from the Thanjaur area.

- ↳ Thanjaur was renovated by Vijayalaya.
- ↳ Vijayalaya built solesvara temple at Padukottai.

The rise of the Chola power miffed both the Pallavas and Pandyas. The Pandya King **Varagunavarman II** and Pallava King **Nandivarman III** became allies to block the rising Chola Power. Nandivarman III died in 869 AD and a dispute arose between his son Nripatunga and Aparajita Pallava, step brother of Nriputunga. Aparajita came in the side of Cholas. The armies of Chola and the Pandya met at **Sripurambiyam**, near Kumbakonam. The Cholas were led by Aditya Chola I.

Aditya Chola I

Aditya Chola I was son of Vijayalaya and he succeeded him after his death. At **Sripurambiyam**, the Chola army was led by him as his father was ailing with age related problems. In this war, he defeated the Pandya forces. The victory was of Aparajita, but the real benefit was reaped by Aditya Chola. A few years later **Aditya Chola I** attacked the Pallavas and killed Aparajita. This was the end of Pallava Dynasty and whole territory of the Pallavas (Capital : Kanchi) was annexed to the Chola Kingdom.

Thus the power of Cholas was further consolidated by Aditya Chola I. he was a great Shiva devotee and built a number of Shiva Temples on the banks of river Cauvery. With Cheras he had friendly relations. He died in 907 AD and his son **Parantaka Chola I** succeeded him.

Parantaka Chola I

The foundation of the Chola Kingdom by Vijayalaya and Aditya Chola-I was further enhanced by **Parantaka Chola I**. His reign was from 907 AD to 955 AD. Just three years of ascending to the throne, he attacked the Pandyas and captured Madura, and assumed the title *Madurakonda*. The Pandya King was **Maravarman Rajsimha II**. Maravarman Rajsimha II prayed the King of Ceylon for help, who sent an army for aid to Maravarman Rajsimha II. But the combined army was defeated badly by **Parantaka Chola -I**. Maravarman Rajsimha II fled to Ceylon and whole of Madura and Pandya Territory was merged in Chola kingdom. This victory earned him the title of *Maduraiyum Elamum Konda Parakesarivarman* (The conqueror of Madura and Ceylon)

Apart from this major war, Parantaka-I also led some other minor wars. His 48 years reign was otherwise peaceful and prosperous. When he died in 955 AD, his second son **Gandaraditya Chola** succeeded him. This is because, Rajaditya, the son and successor of Parantaka, was killed in battle with Krishnaraja I, the Rashtrakuta king, in 949 A. D.

-: About this document:-

Gandaraditya Chola was insignificant ruler and 30 years from 955 AD i.e. 985 AD, the Chola Country was ruled by 5 Chola princes, all insignificant. Finally in 985 AD **Rajaraja Chola I** ascended the Throne.

Rajaraja Chola I

- ✍ Birth name was **Arulmozhi varman**.
- ✍ Rajaraja Chola-I was also known as Arunmozhi udayar Periya Udayar

The 30 year period of the Dynastic intrigue was put to an end by **Rajaraja Chola I**. He was such an able King that for the period of next 20 years, he achieved so many victories that when he died in 1014 AD, he was beyond dispute the **lord paramount of Southern India**. His territory included today's whole of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, parts of Andhra Pradesh, parts of Orissa, whole of Kerala and Sri Lanka. The following graphics shows the territories of Rajraja Chola I, in the year 1014 AD.



The first 8 years of his reign were utilized by **Rajaraja Chola I** for organizing and augmenting his army. Since ages, the Pandyas, Cheras and Sinhala were against the Cholas. The first attack was on Chera King Bhaskara Ravi Varman Thiruvadi and in this campaign in Kerala, **Rajaraja I** destroyed a fleet in the port of Kandalur. However, some sources say that the port was under Pandyas. This conquest led him to assume the title "**Mummudi Chola**" (the wearer of three crowns Chera, Chola and Pandya).

In Ceylon, Mahinda V was the King. In 991 AD, the army of Mahinda V mutinied against him and Mahinda fled to take refuge in Southern region of the Island. This was an opportunity used by Rajraja I, who attacked Ceylon in 993 AD. The army of

Rajraja I crossed the ocean by ships, burnt Ceylon and destroyed Anuradhapura, the capital of the Sinhala kings of Ceylon. Rajaraja could win half of (northern) island of Sri Lanka and rests of the territories in the island were won by his son Rajendra Chola I.

In 998-999 he captured parts of modern Karnataka from the Ganga Kings.

By the turn of the millennium, Western Chalukyan Dynasty had rose to prominent power in North of Cholas.

Rajaraja I was victorious against the Western Chalukyan King **Satyasraya**, son of Tailapa II. When the war with the Western Chalukyas concluded the Tungabhadra River became the northern frontier of the Chola Kingdom. He conquered Vengi and subsequently Kalinga. The last conquest was on Maldives most probably.

- ✍ The **Rajrajeshwaram temple** at Thanjavur, which is now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** was built by Rajraja Chola. It is known as Brihadeeswarar Temple or Peruvudaiyar Kovil, devoted to lord Shiva.

The temple was built by him on a command given by his lord Shiva in dream. The temple is a testimony to the Chola Power and wealth at the time of Rajraja Chola I. Stories of his victory have been engraved on the walls of this temple.

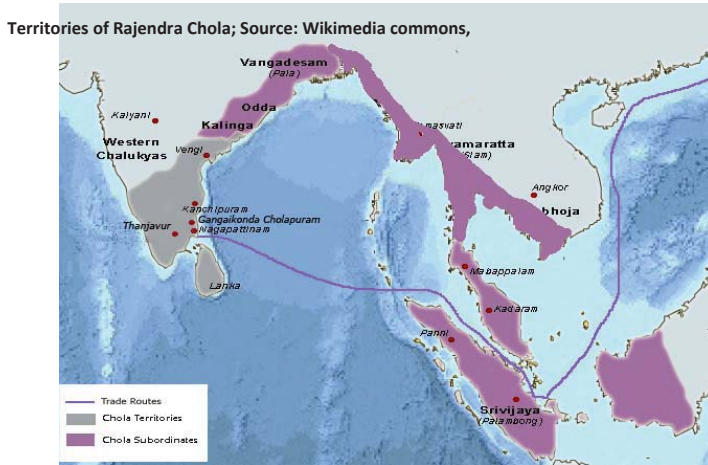
Rajaraja Chola I was a worshipper of Shiva.

-: About this document:-

↳ But he was a liberal minded king , who endowed a Burmese Buddhist Temple (Chudamani Vihara) at the port of Nagapatam, which survived till 19th century, when in 1867, it was pulled down and the Jesuit priests erected Christian Building over them.

Rajaraja Chola I died in 1014 AD and was succeeded by his son Rajendra Chola, who was declared crown prince in 1012 AD. The powerful standing army and a great navy organized under Rajaraja Chola I achieved even great successes under Rajendra Chola.

Rajendra Chola:

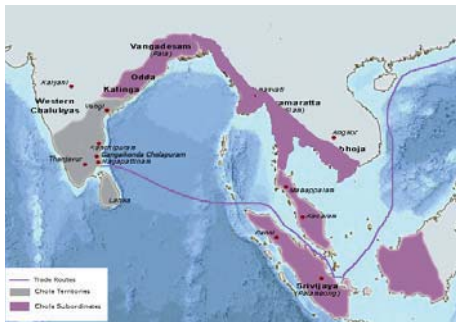


Rajendra Chola I succeeded his father Rajaraja Chola I in 1014 AD and reigned till 1044 AD. He was an able son and prince. He continued the ambitious career of his father and added more and more territories to the Chola Dominions.

(Image: Wikimedia Commons)

The powerful standing army and a great navy organized under **Rajaraja Chola I** achieved even great successes under Rajendra Chola.

Rajendra Chola –I (1012-1044 AD)



Rajendra Chola I succeeded his father Rajaraja Chola I in 1014 AD and reigned till 1044 AD. He was an able son and prince. He continued the ambitious career of his father and added more and more territories to the Chola Dominions.

Rajendra Chola I was declared crown prince in 1012 AD, but he was active with his father since 1002 AD, when he conquered the **Rastrakuta Country** on behalf of his father. He also led a campaign against the western Chalukyan King **Satyasraya** and his successor **Jayasimha II** crossing the Tungabhadra river and attacking them at the heart of their capital, ruining the Chalukyas.

Only 4 years after he became King, in 1018 he declared his eldest son **Rajadhiraja** as crown prince.

Conquest of Ceylon by Rajendra Chola

In 1018 AD, he led a campaign on **Illam** (Sri Lanka). The Powerful navy of Rajendra Chola I overran the Sri Lankan capital **Anuradhapura**. The Sinhala King **Mahinda V** was taken prisoner and was transported to the Chola

-: About this document:-

Country. He was held a prisoner for 12 years and died in captivity. The whole of Sri Lanka (*Iramandalam*) was conquered by Rajendra Chola-I.

Conquest of other empires:

In 1021, he turned his attention to the Western Chalukyan Empire and defeated **Jayasimha II** in the **Battle of Maski**. Jayasimha II was returned his territory and was made a tributary subordinate. He also subdued the Eastern Chalukyas. After that his forces marched to Kalinga and reached the Pala Kingdom, where they met with forces of **Mahipala** and defeated them. The weight of the Chola arms was felt by almost all the Northern Kingdoms in this two year campaign. Victory over the Chalukyas, Kalinga, Gangas and Palas etc. led him to assume the title "**Gangaikonda**".

Naval Conquests of Rajendra Chola:

In 1025 AD, the Naval forces of Rajendra Chola I crossed the ocean and attacked the Srivijaya Kingdom (Sumatra) of Sangrama Vijayatungavarman. The capital **Kadaram** (part of Malaya) was sacked and its king was made a prisoner. Along with Kadaram, the Sumatra and Malaiyur were attacked and sacked. Kedah in today's Malaysia was also attacked and occupied.

Relations with China:

Cholas had good relations with the contemporary Chinese Kingdoms. The contemporary Chinese rulers were from the **Song Dynasty** who sent a mission to Chola country in 1015 AD to Rajaraja Chola I (*Lo-ts'a-lo-ts'a*) and again in 1033 AD to Rajendra Chola I (*Shi-lo-cha Yin-to-loChu-lo* Sri Raja Indra Chola). The commercial trade was extensive between them, and today's South East Asian territories might have been the midway in the trade routes, which indicate a reason of enmity between Cholas and these countries.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram

Gangaikonda Cholapuram was constructed by **Rajendra Chola I** to commemorate his conquest over the Chalukyas and other feudatories, Kalinga, Gangas, Palas etc. . . . These victories led him to assume the title **Gangaikonda**.

- ✓ Gangaikonda Cholapuram was erected as a new capital of the Cholas, which served as a Capital of the later Cholas until the Chola dynasty came to an end in 1280.
- ✓ It is now a small village in Tamil Nadu. There is a great Shiva Temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram. All the future princes of the Chola dynasty were coronated at the Gangaikonda Cholapuram after Rajendra Chola I.
- ✓ Now, only the temple at the Gangaikonda Cholapuram survives. A magnificent Royal Palace of burnt bricks was built over there, which was later turned to ruins most probably by the Pandyas.

When Rajendra Chola I died in 1044 AD, the extent of the Chola Empire was the widest in the world and naval prestige was highest. The benevolent imperialism of the Cholas was maintained by his successor Rajadhiraja Chola.

Rajadhiraja Chola 1018-1059 AD

Rajadhiraja Chola was declared crown prince / Co-regent as early as 1018 AD during time of his father **Rajendra Chola I**. He ruled with full regal status and was leader of the most of the military conquests of his father including that of Ceylon. He emphasized his claim to a paramount power by performing an Ashwamedha Yajna.

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✍ In 1059, he was killed in the **Battle of Koppam** near Mysore, while fighting with the Chalukyas. He was killed on the back of the elephant and this is why he came to be known as *Yanai-mel-thunjina Devar* (The king who died on elephant). His life was of a true warrior.

In the **Battle of Koppam**, Rajendra Chola II who was his younger brother, declared himself Monarch and immediately took the command of the army, changing the scenario and result of this important battle.

Battle of Koppam

We have read in the Western Chalukyan Kingdoms that **Someshwara I** ascended the throne in 1042 AD, and reigned till 1068 AD. This was one of the brilliant periods for the Chalukyas of Kalyani. But the reign of Someshwara-I was known for continuous conflicts with the Cholas. He replaced his capital from Manyakheta to Kalyani probably because of this pressure.

The major conflict was **over control over Vengi**.

- ✓ **Vengi** kept moving in the hands of Eastern Chalukyas, Western Chalukyas, Cholas, Pandyas through the history.

In 1044 Someshwara-I had launched a campaign to master Vengi, captured it and gained short term control. On this side, Chola King **Rajadhiraja Chola** was eager to restore Chola Power in Vengi.

Rajadhiraja Chola defeated the western Chalukyan forces in the **Battle of Dannanda** (in Guntur) and Chalukyan forces were wiped out from Vengi. The forces of Rajadhiraja Chola had been successful to sack Kollipakkai, Kampilli, Pundur, Yetagiri and the Chalukyan Capital Kalyani. But before 1050 AD, Someshwara was able to make a dramatic recovery. He was successful in driving out the Chola forces of his capital and he carried war in the heart of the Chola kingdom. In 1053-54 AD, Rajadhiraja and his younger brother Rajendra Chola II led a campaign against the Chalukyas.

The fierce battle was fought at Koppam on the river Krishna. Rajadhiraja Chola was wounded to death on the elephant and Rajendra Chola II crowned himself as next Chola Monarch. He was able to re-activate the Chola army which fought with the Chalukyas without getting demoralized. The result was that Chalukya army was defeated. But Rajendra Chola II was not able to annex any of the Chalukyan territory with this war.

The disgrace of Koppam gave sleepless nights to Someshwara -I. In 1059, another battle took place at Mudakkaru. In this battle, Someshwara got defeated.

Rajendra Chola-II (1051-1063 AD)

- ✓ Rajendra Chola II had declared himself the King in the **battlefield of Koppam in 1054 AD**. He, in 1051 AD was declared heir apparent by his elder brother **Rajadhiraja Chola**. He was a great patron of dance and poetry.
- ✓ He provided necessary support for a musical dance drama Rajarajeswara *Natakam* at the **Brihadeshwara Temple at Thanjaur**.
- ✓ In 1063, he was succeeded by **Virarajendra Chola**.

-: About this document:-

Virarajendra Chola (1063-1070 AD)

Virarajendra Chola was a significant Chola ruler who reigned from **1063-1070 AD**. He was younger brother of Rajendra Chola II and Rajadhiraja Chola.

We see that in a span of around 18-20 years, there was a rapid succession in the Chola Kings as three brothers ruled one after another. This gave an opportunity to **Someshwara-I** to launch a campaign against them. They conflicted in 1066 but the Chalukyas led by **Someshwara I** were again defeated.

In 1067, Someshwara wrote **Virarajendra Chola** to meet at a place called **Kudal Sangamam** for war. Virarajendra waited for him, but Someshwara -I did not turn up. Miffed by this Virarajendra overran Chalukya Kingdom and planted a **pillar of victory at Tungbhadra**. In 1067, he conquered Vengi. Virarajendra also carried out some successful conquests in Sri Lanka and Kadaram (Malaya).

We know from some sources that Someshwara-I drowned himself in River Tungabhadra due to a fever. After this there was a civil war in Western Chalukyas for succession.

After death of **Someshwara I**, his son **Someshwara II** succeeded him in 1068. But a dispute broke between him and his younger brother **Vikramaditya VI**. Vikramaditya VI approached **Virarajendra Chola** and begged him to be nominated for the Chalukya Throne. Virarajendra accepted his prayer and made him heir to the Chalukya throne. Thus Vikramaditya VI became a tributary subordinate to Virarajendra Chola. Virarajendra Chola gave his daughter in marriage to Vikramaditya VI and this was a significant marital alliance between the **Cholas and Chalukyas**.

In Virarajendra Chola we find a brave, able, wise and strong King who not only maintained the status of the Cholas but also was able to increase the in Chola strength. He died in 1070 AD. In his life he patronized arts and cared for temples of all deities specially Lord Vishnu. Virarajendra Chola was succeeded by **Athirajendra Chola** who reigned only for few months of 1070 AD. There was a civil unrest in the Chola kingdom and he was killed in this unrest.

With the death of Athirajendra Chola, the dynasty of the Vijayalaya Chola came to an end. The next Cholas (Later Cholas) were actually a fresh blood arising out of the Chola-Chalukya marital alliances.

Trouble in Chola Kingdom

The death of Virarajendra Chola in 1070 AD was followed by troubles in Chola Kingdom. Further, Vikramaditya VI , his son-in-law attained significant position and soon started taking the Chola alliance as a liability. When Virarajendra died, there was an uprising (probably religious) in Chola Kingdom. After hearing this, Vikramaditya VI went to the Chola Capital and destroyed the uprising. Vikramaditya VI remained at **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** for around a month and then returned to his capital. At **Gangaikonda Cholapuram**, he installed **Athirajendra** as new King. But within a few months, Athirajendra was killed in a fresh outbreak of rebellion. He was most probably killed by his own people.

Athirajendra had no male successor. When Athirajendra died, Chola throne was captured by Rajendra Chola or Rajendra Chalukya, who was later known as **Kulotthunga Chola I**. This was the beginning of a new line of Chola Kings who were offspring's of **Chola-Chalukya alliance**.

-: About this document:-

Kulotthunga Chola-I (1070 – 1120 AD)

Rajendra Chola I, the great **Gangaikonda** had a daughter named **Ammanaga Devi**. She had been given in marriage to the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi king **Rajaraja Narendra**. The offspring of this union was Rajendra Chola or Rajendra Chalukya who later became Kulotthunga-I. Kulotthunga literally means the "upraiser of fame of the (two) families".

A few years of **Kulotthunga Chola -I** were spent in suppressing the uprisings. In Sri Lanka also, some parts had declared their independence. The accession on Chola throne by Kulotthunga was not accepted by Vikramaditya VI and this was also a trouble to deal with.

Kulotthunga Chola I led two military campaigns in Kalinga and annexed some parts of the territories of Southern Kalinga into Chola Empire. The rivalry between Kulotthunga and Vikramaditya VI let Kulotthunga assume a title "*Viruduraja Bhayankara*" i.e. Frightning for the Vikramaditya, as his inscriptions say. A war was fought between the combined armies of Kulotthunga & Someshwara II and Vikramaditya VI. This battle ended in confusion.

Under Kulotthunga, the empire remained intact except Sri Lanka. Still the boundary between the Western Chalukya and Chola was Tungabhadra river. He was succeeded by his son Vikrama Chola in 1120 AD.

Vikrama Chola 1120-1135 AD

As a prince, **Vikrama Chola** was appointed by his father as **Viceroy of Vengi**. He was recalled in 1118 AD and was declared as Co-regent. He ruled with his father till Kulotthunga died in 1122 AD. The Western Chalukyas had become prominent and they annexed Vengi by attacking the Eastern Chalukyas. His period as a prince was more important for, he led the conquests to Kalinga. He was able to recover Vengi.

He assumed the title of "*tyagasamudra*" and was a great devotee of Shiva. He was succeeded by his son **Kulotthunga Chola II** in 1133 AD.

Kulotthunga Chola II 1133 AD – 1150 AD

Kulotthunga Chola II was son and successor of Vikrama Chola. There are no significant warfare in his account. He was a patron of the Chidambaram temples. His reign was generally peaceful. He was succeeded by **Rajaraja Chola II** in 1150 AD.

Rajaraja Chola II 1150 – 1173 AD

Kulotthunga Chola III had made Rajaraja Chola II his heir apparent and coregent in 1146 AD. The territories remained intact, but the weakness of the Kingdom administrations had started becoming apparent in his rule. He still had full control over the Vengi, Kalinga, Pandya, Chera etc. territories and also invaded Sri Lanka, but the closing years of his reign saw a civil Unrest in the kingdom, in the former Pandya Territories. Before he died, he made Rajadhiraja Chola II as his heir apparent and coregent in 1163 AD. During his reign the **Airavateswarar Temple at Darasuram** near Kumbakonam was built. It is a world heritage site today. He made grants to the temples at Tanjore, Chidambaram, Kanchi, Srirangam, Trichy and Madurai. He was succeeded by his son **Rajadhiraja Chola II**.

Rajadhiraja Chola II 1166 AD -1178 AD

Rajaraja Chola II was succeeded by Rajadhiraja Chola II, who was most probably not his son. His reign is known for further weakness in the Chola Kingdom and uprising, followed by independence of local feudatories particularly

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among the Pandyas. The Pandyas were allowed to rule as they wished during the reign of Kulothunga I, subjected to subordination to the Cholas. There was a civil war among the Pandyas, which required Chola's attention and intervention. But, the Pandyas started gaining prominence and the central Chola Kingdom got weakened day by day. Rajaraja Chola II was succeeded by Kulothunga Chola III in 1178 AD.

Kulothunga Chola III 1178- 1218 AD

Kulothunga Chola III was able to crush the Pandyas in Madurai, Cheras of Venad, Hoysalas of Mysore as well as the Sinhala Kings of Sri Lanka. The century took a turn and a Pandya vassal of Chola Empire named **Jatavarman Kulasekaran I** ascended to the Madura Throne in 1290, turned rebel to Cholas.

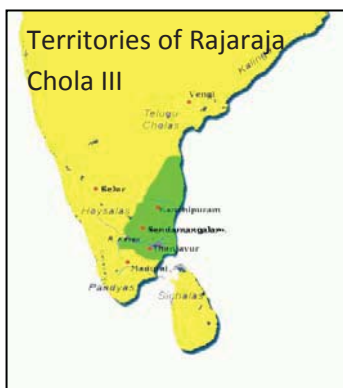
The Cholas invaded him and sacked Madurai. Jatavarman Kulasekaran I surrendered to the Chola king Kulothunga III with wife and son and acknowledging his surrender, he was returned his capital. But during this, the ancient coronation hall of Pandyas in Madurai was destroyed and it also destroyed the records if any of the previous Pandyas.

To take revenge of this assault, younger brother of Kulasekaran, named **Maravarman Sundara Pandyan**, who came into power in 1216 AD, invaded the Chola Kingdom. The armies of Sundara Pandyan sacked the cities of Thanjaur and Uraiyur of Chola Kings and drove the Chola kings out in exile. His armies marched up to Chidambaram and in memory of this victory, Sundar Pandyan conducted a Thulabaram at the Chidambaram temple and donated wealth equal to his weight.

But, victory of Sundar Pandyan over Cholas was followed by a march of the Hoyasala army towards Sri Rangapattam. Kingdom of the Cholas was returned after interference of Hoyasala king Veera Ballala III, but now Cholas accepted suzerainty of the Sundar Pandyan. This was the revival of second Pandyan Empire and decline of the mighty Chola Power.

Rajaraja Chola III 1216-1256 AD

When Rajaraja Chola III, son of Kulothunga Chola III came into power in July 1216, the Chola Kingdom had reduced to a very small territory compared to the earlier Cholas. In the graphic, the green shaded area shows the territories of Rajaraja Chola III in 1246 AD, 10 years prior to his demise. His reign was of continuous troubles. The Pandyas had become the important power in South and Vengi and other areas were now under the Hoysalas. Since Rajaraja III was now a vassal of Pandyas, he did not pay tributes to the Pandyan overlord. The Pandyan army entered his Chola Capital and Rajaraja III fled. He was captured at Sendamangalam. The Hoyasala King Narsimha interfered and then only the Chola King was released. The Hoysalas attacked the Pandya army and defeated them on the banks of river Cauvery. For rest of his life Chola King



Rajaraja III was dependent upon the Hoysals for aid and help. He recognized his son Rajendra Chola III as heir apparent in 1246 AD.

Rajendra Chola III 1246 – 1280 AD

Rajendra Chola III came to power in 1246 AD, when his father was alive. He tried to stop the rapid decline of the Chola Kingdom, but at this time, the Hoysalas turned hostile and Pandyas became powerful. The sudden tide of the Sundar Pandyan and his able successors swept out the Chola Kingdom. Rajendra III faced a war and defeat in

-: About this document:-

that war in the hands of Pandyas. The remaining territories of the Cholas were annexed to Pandya Territory and the new king was Kulasekara Pandyan I, who was in reign since 1268, but got the Chola territories in 1280. The Chola Kingdom ended thus with Rajendra Chola III. Whether Rajendra Chola III died in the war or else, is a question, which has not been resolved.

The Pallava Confederacy

Pallava literally means a Branch. The Pallavas were a prominent power in India for more than 4 centuries but there are no records about them in the vernacular legends. They were forgotten until discovery of a copper plate grant in 1840. The name "Pallava" appears to be identical to **Pahalva**, the foreign clan which is frequently mentioned in the Inscriptions and Sanskrit literature. This led to development of a theory that the Pallavas who became a ruling dynasty of the South India might have come from the North Western Frontier of India. This theory has been supported on the basis of the fact that the Pahalavas were prominent in the 2nd century AD and were classified with the **Sakas and Yavanas** by the local historians.

The other theories say that Pallavas were earlier Feudatories of the Saatvahana. Some other historians say that they are offspring of **Cholas in one side and Naga Rulers of Ilam (Sri Lanka)** on the other. The Allahabad Pillar inscription mentions the name of a king Vishnugopa whose realm was in Kanchi. Several members of the Pallavas bear the same name.

- ✓ The terms **Tondaiyar and Tondaman** (i.e. people of **Tondamandalam**) have also been used for the Pallavas.

Sivaskanda Varman

- ✓ The first Pallava about whom we hear is **Sivaskanda Varman** of second century AD. He was lord of many subordinate chiefs and was able to perform Ashwamedha, which was permissible to only the paramount sovereigns.
- ✓ Then, we know about **Hastivarman**, who was defeated by Samudragupta. The territories of the Pallavas initially were not very extensive and it was more or less taken as a predatory tribe like the Kalabhras.

Simhavishnu

- ✓ The picture about the Pallava dynasty starts getting cleared from **Simhavarman**, who ascended the throne in sometimes around 570 AD. He was a great military man and is known to have defeated the Tamil Countries and kings of Ceylon. His son **Simhavishnu** was the first Pallava monarch whose domain is believed to have extended beyond Kanchipuram.
- ✓ **Simhavishnu** was patron of **Bharavi**, the great poet who wrote the famous **Kiratrjuniya**, the dialogue between Arjuna and Shiva and in which Shiva blessed Arjuna with the Pasupata Shastra.
- ✓ In the early 7th century, the Pallavas succeeded in imposing their rule for a few years upon the whole of the Western Chalukya Kingdom and at an unspecified date, they levied tribute even from the Kalinga territories.

Mahendravarman-I

We know about a Pallava Monarch **Mahendravarman-I**, son of Simhavishnu who encountered with the ambitious Chalukya Monarch Pulkesin II. He was a great patron of art and architecture and 5 celled cave temples at Pallavaram were built during his reign.

- ✓ Mahendravarman-I wrote **Mattavilasa Prahasana** or 'The Farce of Drunken Sport'. Its a one act play.

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- ✓ The celebrated rock cut temples at Mahabalipuram which are commonly called "Seven Pagodas" was excavated by the Pallavas most probably under Mahendravarman I.

Narsimhvarman-I

Mahendravarman I was succeeded by **Narsimhvarman-I** in 630 AD, who was equally brave and able prince.

- ✓ He defeated his Chalukyan counterpart Pulkesin II in 642 AD and thus took the revenge of his father's defeat. Pulkesin II was killed fighting him.
- ✓ He assumed the title "**Vatapikonda**" after defeating the Chalukyan Monarch and sacking the capital Vatapi (Badami).
- ✓ Nayanmar saints like Appar and Tirugnanasambandar lived during his reign.
- ✓ Huen Tsang visited the Pallava kingdom during the reign of Narsimhavarman-I.

Among the successors the important ones were Nripatunga who defeated a Pandya King Shrimara.

Temple Architecture of Deccan and South

The contribution of South India to the composite Indian cultural heritage is vast. One important reason is that South did not suffer from foreign invasions to the extent that the other parts of the country did. The unified culture of India, which was common to all parts of the country prior to the Muslim invasions, was preserved untouched in the South longer than in the other regions of India. When Muslims reached south, they were already influenced by the culture of this country. This is evident from the fact that the Bahamani Kings were great patrons of the Human art.

In these modules we have to pay attention to some objective facts about the contribution of the Kingdoms of South on some of the aspects of Indian Heritage.

Temple Architecture of the Early Chalukyas (Chalukyas of Badami)

The Chalukyas rose to power in the mid-6th century and made their capital at Badami, in today's Karnataka. The earliest monument of their rule is the **Ravana Phadi Cave** at Aihole, not far from Badami. It was probably made around A.D. 550 and is dedicated to Siva.

Difference between Nagara style and Dravida Style

A typical Hindu temple consists of an inner Sanctum called *Garbha griha*, where the idol is placed, which has a circumambulation, a congregation hall and a porch. The temples can be distinguished with the Shikhara or Vimana. On this basis, there are two types of temple viz. Nagara which is North Indian and Dravida which is South India.

- ✍ The northern-style (Nagara) Shikhara is shaped like a beehive and is made up of layer upon layer of architectural elements called **kapotas and gavakshas**.
- ✍ The temple also has a very unusual, open ambulatory around the sanctum, with pillars and no wall on the outside.
- ✍ In Dravida style, tower consists of progressively smaller storey's of pavilions.
- ✍ The **Vesara style has characters of both**.
- ✍ The Gadag style is a feature of the Western Chalukya temples and it is characterized by **ornate columns**.
- ✍ The Kalinga architecture is different. It has Rekha Deula, Pidha Deula and Khakhara Deula types of temples. Out of them the Khakhara Deula is essentially of a female deity such as Durga or Chamunda.
- ✍ Konark Sun temple is a Pidha Deula.

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Ravana Phadi Cave



Ravana Phadi Cave is one of the Earliest Rock Cut Temple located at Aihole which was the first capital of the early Chalukyas. At Aihole they built more than 70 Hindu Temples.

Badami Cave Temples:

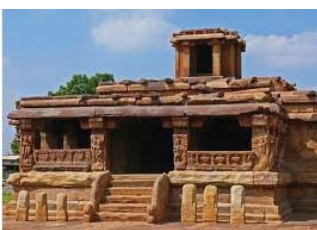
Badami cave temples are located at Badami. The red sandstone cliffs of Badami offered a spectacular setting for the excavation of four caves, **three Brahmanical and one Jaina (Parshwavanath)**. The largest and most impressive of these is Cave 3, dedicated to Vishnu. An inscription next to a Varaha depiction states that the cave was dedicated in A.D. 578 by **Mangalesa, a brother of King Kirtivarman**. Many Chalukyan monuments were patronized by members of the royal family of Chalukyas. All of them were created in 6th and 7th century. The architecture is a mixture of the Nagara style and Dravida style. Apart from the above 4, there is a fifth natural Buddhist cave in Badami.

Virupaksha Temple, Hampi



Virupaksha Temple is located in Hampi in Karnataka on the banks of the Tungabhadra river. Virupaksha Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and was created by the Chalukyas of Badami initially in 8th century. The temple was improvised in Vijaynagar Empire. It is in the Virupaksha temple at Hampi that full glory of the Early Chalukyan art can be seen. This temple was built in 735 AD by a queen of Vikramaditya II. To celebrate the victory over the Pallavas of Kanchipuram.

Lad Khan Temple



The Lad Khan temple is the earliest temple of Aihole which dates back to 5th century AD. An inscription on this temple says that it was dedicated to Durga. There is a Shiva ling out there. The temple is known as Lad Khan after its owner (in most recent times) at a place used as cattle sheds or houses. This temple has a large porch and is made in a Panchayat hall kind of design with 12 pillars. This was earliest experiment for a pillar based structures in the temple architecture.

Navabramha Group of Temples, Alampur



The **Navabramha Group of temples** is located at Alampur in Andhra Pradesh. There are total 9 temples and present a marvelous piece of art of the Chalukyas of Badami outside Karnataka. These temple are based upon the Nagara style and don't reflect the Dravidian style of temple architecture (8 out of 9 are clearly Nagara style). The Alampur temples are the finest example of the Chalukyas of Badami Art.

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The Nava Bhramma temples are Taraka Bhramma, Swarga Bhramma, Padma Bhramma, Bala Bhramma, Garuda Bhramma, Kumara Bhramma, Arka Bhramma, Vira Bhramma and the Vishwa Bhramma. These temples are all enclosed in a courtyard on the left bank of the river Tungabhadra.

Temples at Pattadakal:

Numerous temples at Pattadakal on the bank of river Malprabha, some kilometers from Aihole mark the return of the Chalukya patronage to Karnataka after several years of activity in the Andhra Pradesh. The first temple is Galagnatha Temple which is in Nagara style similar to the Alampur temple.

Important Features of the temples of Badami Chalukyas:

- These temples are a mixture of Northern and Dravida style of temple and represent a transition as well as experimentation in the temple architecture.
- The temples are located on the banks of River Tungabhadra and Malprabaha in Karnataka and Alampur in Andhra Pradesh, which is near Kurnool.
- The largest temple of Chalukyas of Badami is Virupaksha Temple, whose complex encloses 30 sub shrines and a large Nandi mandapa. This was also earliest example of Shiva temples which have a Nandi pavilion in front of the temple.

Temple Architecture of the Western Chalukyas

While the buildings of the Chalukyas of the Badami are centered in and around Pattadakal, Aihole, Badami & Alampur, the buildings of the Western Chalukyas are widely dispersed, which reflect the system of the local government and decentralization in the Western Chalukyan Administration.

The major improvement over the previous Badami Chalukya temple was the "Architectural Articulation" or **ornamentation on the outer walls of the shrine**. The presence of Figure sculpture such as Heroes of Ramayana and Mahabharata and loving couples (Mithuna) was additional structure of these temples at the earliest period. The Western Chalukyan Temples are either **Ekakuta** (one mandapa of one shrine) or **Dvikuta** (a common hall attached to two shrines).

The style has characters of both the Northern as well as Dravidian temple architecture. This combination of **both of these style is known as Vesara Style**, also **Central Indian Style**.

☺ All Hoyasala Temples are excellent examples of Vesara style.

Most of the temples of the Western Chalukyas are dedicated to Shiva, some of them dedicated to Vishnu and Jain Tirthankars also. The Hoysalas architecture was clearly influenced by the Western Chalukyan Architecture.

Trukteshwara Temple, Gadag



Gadag Style: The Gadag Style refers to **the ornate columns** in the temples. This style originated in the period of the Western Chalukya King Someshwara I. The finest example of Gadag style is **Trikuteshwara Temple** at Gadag.

The hall mark of the Gadag Style of Ornate pillars is visible in the **Trukuteshwara Temple complex**

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located at Gadag. This temple was created during the reign of Someshwara I in the 11th century. The temple is dedicated to Shiva and has three lingams mounted on a single stone. The ornate pillars are located in an exclusive Saraswati Shrine in the temple complex.

Temples of Lakkundi

Lakkundi is a tiny village in Gadag District of Karnataka. Here, we find 50 temples of the Western Chalukyan Empire, most important of which are **Mahadeva Temple and Kahi Visheveshwar Temple**. The place is also a source of around 30 inscriptions of the Chalukyas, Kalachuris, Seunas, Kadambas and Hoysalas.

Kasivisvesvara Temple, Lakkundi



Kasivisvesvara Temple, Lakkundi is one of the most ornate temples in Karnataka. This temple was initially built in the Western Chalukyan Empire and later additions were done by Vereva Ballala II, the great Hoysala King. It's a Dvikuta Temple.

Mahadeva Temple, Itagi



About 20 kilometers from Nakkundi is located the Mahadeva Temple of Itagi. It was built by one of the **commanders of the Western Chalukya King Vikramaditya VI** in 1112 AD. This temple is one of the finest example of "Dravida Articulation" in Nagara style. This is evident from the picture of the Shikhara of the main shrine shown here.

Doddabasappa Temple, Dambal



Doddabasappa Temple located at Dambal in Karnataka is one more example of fine Western Chalukyan Art. This temple is a variant of **Dravida style** called the **karnatadravida Temple style**. The temple is built on uninterrupted 24 pointed star shaped floor plan, which is different from the pre existing 6-12 and 24 interrupted star shaped temples.

Other Western Chalukya Temples are located at Kuknur, Lakmeshwar, Bankarupa etc.

Important features of the Temples of the Western Chalukyas:

- ↳ The western Chalukya temples show an improvement over the previous experiments. These temples are show a transition from the Nagara to Dravida style and create a new style Karnatadravida.
- ↳ The ornate columns are seen as one of the most important features and that is why some of the temples such as "Mahadeva Temple" are called finest in Karnataka after Halebid.
- ↳ The Temple plan in most of the plans is star shaped. Most temples are dedicated to Shiva and Nandi at the entrance of the shrine appears as a main feature.

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Temple architecture of the Pallavas

While the early Chalukyan ruled in the Karnataka, the early Pallavas ruled in the Andhra Pradesh. Under the ablest kings such as Mahendravarman, they extended their territories to the Tamil Nadu. From the time of great Mahendravarman, finest examples of Pallava art were created in Tamil Nadu such as **Shore Temple** and **7 pagodas of Mahabalipuram**.

Today's Mahabalipuram was known as **Mamalai** (Green Hill) in ancient times. Pallava King Mahendravarman successor Narsimhamvaraman was known as "**Mamalla**" or "The warrior". This port city was named "Mamallapuram" after Narsimhamvaraman. This was one of the greatest ports of ancient times and here was a "cosmopolitan" culture where people rubbed their shoulders with the Romans. This is evident from the Roman coins found here and traces of a Roman colony located here.

Most important Features of the Pallava Architecture:

- ↻ The Pallava architecture **shows the transition from** the Rock Cut Architecture to the Stone built temples.
- ↻ The earliest examples of the Pallava art are the rock cut temples of the 7th century AD, while the later examples are of structural temples built in 8th and 9th century.
- ↻ The rock cut reliefs of the Pallavas are the earliest surviving royal portraits after the Kushana images.

At the end of 6th century, King Harsha ruled in the North and he patronized the Buddhist Institutions. In South, Pallavas expanded themselves from the much of the Andhra Pradesh of today to much of Tamil Nadu. The Pallava Kings are known to be one of the greatest patrons of the art, music, architecture, dance and literature. King Mahendravarman was a poet and a playwright who wrote a satire on contemporary life titled "Mattavilasa Prahasana". Another King of Pallava Dynasty named Rajsimha (Narsimhamvaraman) was such a great lover of art that he used the title "**Kalasangraha**" for himself.

Mandagapattu rock cut temple



The earliest monument of Mahendravarman was Mandagapattu rock cut temple which was a single rock cut temple built without any wood, brick or metal. It is located near Villupuram in Tamil Nadu. This temple has the icons of large *Dwarapalas* which later became a characteristic of almost all South Indian temples.

However, one of the most marvelous chapters opened with the reign of successor of Mahendravarman i.e. Narsimharman "Mamalla" or Rajsimha. During his reign at Mahabalipuram, massive boulders were transformed into a world of divine. These are earliest styles of temples in South India. Kanchipuram was the capital of the Pallavas from 4th to 9th century. Huen Tsang visited this city and wrote it a glorious city. Here, Buddhaghosa lived in 6th century.

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Kailasanathar Temple, Kanchipuram

Kailasanathar Temple is the best building created during the reign of Pallava King Narsimhamvaraman. This temple is one of the most beautiful temples in India which has well balanced sculptures like a jewel box. This temple is important for historic point of view because:



1. This temple inspired Rajraja Chola I to build another great beauty Brihadeshwar Temple at Tanjore.
2. The direct & close intervention of the rulers started after creation of this temple.

Thus, the Kailasanathar temple began a new tradition in India where the kings took deep interest in building the temples with great structural design and antiquity.

This temple has the Lion Sculptors everywhere. **Lion was the insignia of the Pallavas.**

Vaikuntha Perumal temple, Kanchipuram

Vaikuntha Perumal temple is located at Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu. It was built by Nandivarman. It is one of the 108 Divya Desams (108 holiest Shrines of Vishnu). The temple was named "Parameshwara Vishnugriham" after the original name Parmeshwara of Nandivarman.

Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram



Shore Temple is a granite made temple at Mahabalipuram built during the reign of Narsimhavarman. This group of temples is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the oldest structural temple (in contrast with rock cut temples) in India. It is a beautiful 5 storied temple, which is a combined complex of 3 shrines; 2 dedicated to Shiva and one to Vishnu.

Importance of Shore Temple:

↳ The Shore Temple marks the culmination of the architectural efforts that began with the cave temples and monolithic rathas.

The mystery of 7 Pagodas

7 Pagodas is a term associated with **the Shore Temple of Mahabalipuram**. It is said that 6 more temples were associated with it, all now submerged in water. The legend is that prior to Narsimhamvaraman, the construction of the cave temples had started in the time of Mahendravarman. But later the order for free standing structures was given and **7 rathas (free standing temples) were created**. After the 2004 Tsunami, the sand deposits of around 500 meters from the Shore temples were gulped by the sea and a clear arrangement of manmade structures was seen (TOI, February 26, 2005). The ASI started the excavations and it was said that sonar system indicated man made structures under the sea.

Temple Architecture of Rastrakutas

The reign of Rastrakutas of Manyakheta was from 753 AD to 982 AD. The Rastrakutas were great patrons of architecture.

Important features of Rastrakuta Architecture:

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↳ The Rastrakuta architecture was a splendid form of Rock cut architecture. Most of the shrines were Buddhist caves such as Ellora and Elephants at Maharashtra.

Kailasanatha temple at Ellora

- ✓ Ellora caves, located 30 km northwest of Aurangabad, make up one of the major cave temple groups in India, belonging to the Rastrakuta period. In Ellora there are Buddhist, Hindu as well as Jain cave temples, spread over a stretch of 2 km.
- ✓ These are not just cave temples but also temples sculpted out of rock and are much richer in style and detail. Caves 1-12 are Buddhist, 13-29 are Hindu and 30-34 are Jain, excavated in that order. Most extensive and sumptuous of them all is the Kailasanatha temple.
- ✓ It was carved out of single solid granite about 100 feet high and the temple measures 150' X 100'. There are four main parts of the temple, and those are the main shrine, the entrance gateway to the west, a Nandi pavilion and cloisters all round the courtyard.
- ✓ The architecture style used in Kailasanatha temple was Dravida.

Temple Architecture of Cholas

We have read above that in the beginning of the medieval period, the Kings did not directly patronize the religious shrines and gave only indirect support. Most of the artworks were produced by the guilds of the artists who were actually funded by the villages and monks.

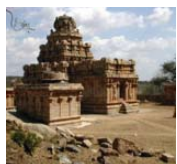
✍ **The tradition of direct patronization of the temples began with the Pallavas.**

The Chola period saw the culmination of this tradition, which resulted in the most sophisticated buildings of that era. The Tamil Nadu temples were fully evolved in their style and design by the 8th century.

Special Features of the Chola Architecture:

- ✍ The dvarapalas, or guardian figures, at the entrance to the mandapa, or hall which started from the Palava period became a unique feature of the Chola Temples.
- ✍ The Dravidian Style got fully developed after a transition from the rock cut structures of the Pallava Period.
- ✍ Early Chola temples at the Bank of river Kaveri were smaller and brick made, in comparison to the colossus buildings of the Imperial Cholas.
- ✍ The temples of the Imperial Cholas are covered with exquisite well composed sculptures and frescoes.
- ✍ Largest and tallest of all Indian temples i.e. Siva Temple of Thanjore was built in Chola Period.
- ✍ Ganas, among the sculptures at the temple, are the most memorable figures made in Chola temples

Vijayalaya Cholisvara Temple, Thanjore



Under Pallavas, some of the finest temples had been created at Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram. However, the largest and most impressive buildings were created under the Cholas post 850 AD, when Vijayalaya Chola took the control of Thanjore. The earliest Chola Temple we find at Nartthamalai, where Vijayalaya Chola commissioned a temple named "**Vijayalaya Cholisvara**" temple, dedicated to lord Shiva.

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Koranganatha Temple, Srinivasanallur



Koranganatha Temple is located at Srinivasanallur, in Tiruchirapalli District, on the banks of river Cauvery. This temple was built by Parantaka Chola -I .

- ✍ The base of this temple has the sculpted mythical animals ‘Yazhi’ .
- ✍ Yazhi is a recurring pattern and unique feature of Chola architecture.

Muvarkovil, Pudukkottai



"Muvarkovil" literally means temple of three. It was commissioned by Parantaka Chola -II or one of his feudatories. It has three shrines standing side by side, however, only two are extant now.

Tiruvallisvaram temple, Tirunelveli

Tiruvallisvaram temple is the first example where all features of the Chola temple architecture are seen. It is covered with well composed sculptures and friezes. Entire cornice of the temple has been ornated with creepers and foliage.

Brihadeeswarar Temple of Tanjore



Brihadeeswarar Temple or Peruvudaiyar Kovil or Rajrajeshwaram temple at Thanjavur is the world's first complete "granite" temple. It was built by Rajaraja Chola-I and is a part of UNESCO's world Heritage sites. The Vimana or the temple tower (known as Raja Gopuram) is 216 Feet in height and is one of the tallest buildings of its kind. The Nandi is carved out of a single rock. This temple has completed 1 millennium in 2010. It was dictated by lord Shiva to Rajaraja Chola I, when he triumphed **Ilam** (Sri Lanka) Island.

Brihadisvara temple, Gangaikondacholapuram



Brihadisvara temple at Gangaikondacholapuram was made by King Rajaraja's son Rajendra I, who assumed the title "Gangaikonda".

Hoyasala Temple Architecture

By the 13th century, the power of the Cholas had declined. Now this was the time for a great and sophisticated culture when marvelous temples were built in Karnataka and parts of Tamil Nadu.

- ✍ Hoyasala influence was at its zenith during the 13th century and the artists of this empire freely borrowed from the Chalukya and Chola traditions and created a style unique in many ways.

Hoyasala history is clear from the time of King Vishnuvardhana, who ruled from A.D. 1108 to A.D. 1142. Inscriptions show that the king, his wife and his ministers were generous patrons of temples.

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Chennakesava Temple, Belur

Vishnuvardhana, who defeated the imperial Cholas in A.D. 1116, in the memory of establishment of his dynasty and this victory, built a temple for Kesava, or Chennakesava, at Belur, and named it the Vijayanarayana temple. The temple is a classic example of the ornate style of temple art under the Hoysalas. They inherited a rich tradition of temple building from the Chalukyas and the Cholas.

Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebid

Hoysaleswara Temple was built between A.D. 1121 and A.D. 1160 in the area of Halebid, known then as Dorsamudra, which was the capital of the Hoysalas. It was also built during the reign of Vishnuvardhana. The temple is Dvikuta, means two shrines which are called "Hoysaleswara" and "Shantaleswara". Shantala was queen of Vishnuvardhana. The temple is best known for sculptures on the outerwalls.

Chennakesava Temple, Somanathapura

Chennakesava Temple, Somanathapura was built by Soma, a commander of the Narsimha III. It is also one of the finest structures of the Hoysala architecture.

Important Features of the Hoysala Temples:

- ✓ The Hoysala built around 1500 temples at 958 centers between 1000 AD to 1346 AD. The finest temples were commissioned during the times of Vishnuvardhana.
- ✓ He was a subordinate to the Western Chalukyas and probably after declaring independence wanted to excel in this art also. This is evident from one of his inscriptions which says "built it from the wealth which he amassed from the sword".
- ✓ The Hoysala temple architecture was heavily influenced by the Western Chalukyas, Cholas as well as Pallavas, though there was a departure from the Chalukyan style.
- ✓ This is evident from the fact that in the beginning, the temples were not over decorated, but the later temples have this feature in almost of its totality.

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