Naval prowess of Rajendra Chola I

Prelims **-** *Current events of national and international importance | History of India*

Why in news?

Recently, PM visited Gangaikonda cholapuram released a Commemorative coin marking 1000 years of Rajendra chola I's Gangetic expedition.

> ***The Cholas*** *(9^{th} and 13^{th} centuries CE) were one of the 3 major Tamil dynasties, along with the Cheras and Pandiyas.*

- **Rajendra chola I (1014 – 1044 AD)** – He was one of the most powerful Emperor of chola dynasty succeeded his father Rajaraja chola I.
- He pioneered India's first overseas military campaigns, spreading Chola dominance across South and Southeast Asia.
- **Art & Artichecture –** He Built a temple dedicated to lord shiva which named as ***Gangaikonda cholisvarar.***
    - He shifted his capital from Thanjavur to the newly founded city of Gangaikondacholapuram.
- Inscriptions bearing the title **Tirumanni Valara,** linked to Rajendra Chola, were discovered near Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka.
- The presence of temples built in Tamil Chola architectural style and dedicated to gods like Shiva, Vishnu further illustrates the strong Chola influence in the region.
- **Administration -** One of the defining features of the Chola dynasty during his reign was the *encouragement of Local self-governance.*
- **Military Expedition –** He had control over the Chera and Pandya territories.
- He defeated Jayasimha II of the Western Chalukyas, establishing the Tungabhadra River as the northern boundary of his empire.
- **Conquest of Pala Dynasty –** He defeated Mahipala of pala dynasty.
- In order to commemorate his victory over the pala king, he assumed the ***title of Gangaikonda*** and founded the city of Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- **Naval Expedition –** Rajendra chola has the existence of a well-organised fleet of ships and boats of various grades in Chola's navy, serving both commercial and military purposes.
- **Campaign against Elamandalam (Srilanka) –** Rajendra Chola launched a naval campaign against the Sinhalese ruler *Mahinda V* and emerged victorious in the year

1017.

- **Southeast Asia campaign –** He extended his influence over south and southeast Asia.
- In 1025 CE, he led a naval expedition against the kadaram (Srivijaya Empire) Sangrama Vijayottungavarman and securing control over trade through the Malacca Strait.
- Inscriptions on the *Tiruvalangadu copper plates* mentioned the conquest of Kadaram.

*The **Karandai copper plates** mention that the King of Kambhoja sent a victorious war chariot to Rajendra Chola as a gesture of friendship.*

- **Reign Extension** - Across India, Maldives, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia and Malaysia.
- **Titles – Mudikonda** chola (Crowned chola), Pandita cholan (Scholarly chola) Gangaikondan (conqueror of the Ganges), Kadaram kondan (Conqueror of kadaram).

Reference

The Hindu | Tracing the naval prowess of Rajendra Chola I

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering