

Naval prowess of Rajendra Chola I

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Why in news?

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

The Cholas (9th and 13th 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 *Tiruvallangadu 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](#)

