



## NAVY SYSTEM UNDER CHOLAS

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### ABSTRACT

After the decrease of the Sangam time frame, the Cholas became feudatories in Uraiyur. They became prominent in the ninth century and set up a realm including the significant bit of South India. Their capital was Tanjore. They additionally broadened their influence in Sri Lanka and the Malay Peninsula. Accordingly, they are called as the Imperial Cholas. A great many engravings found in the sanctuaries give itemized data with respect to the organization, society, economy and culture of the Chola time frame. The author of the Imperial Chola line was Vijayalaya. He caught Tanjore from Muttaraiyars in 815 A.D. furthermore, fabricated a sanctuary for Durga. His child Aditya shut down the Pallava realm by overcoming Aparajita and attached Tondaimandalam. Parantaka I was one of the significant early Chola rulers. He vanquished the Pandyas and the leader of Ceylon. However, he endured a thrashing because of the Rashtrakutas in the popular clash of Takkolam. Parantaka I was a great developer of sanctuaries. He likewise gave the vimana of the celebrated Nataraja sanctuary at Chidambaram with a brilliant rooftop. The two renowned Uttiramerur engravings that give a nitty gritty record of the town organization under the Cholas have a place with his rule. Following a hole of thirty years, the Cholas recovered their matchless quality under Rajaraja I. Rajaraja I (985 – 1014 A.D.) It was under Rajaraja I and his child Rajendral that the Chola power arrived at its most noteworthy purpose of brilliance.



**KEY WORD:** Chola Navy, Kappalpadia, Blue water capability, RajaRaja I, Rajendra I, Amarbhangan (Commander), Karumaakaran(Admiral-General).

### INTRODUCTION

The Cholas were an antiquated race. By second century of the Christian period, a Chola lord named Karikalan rose to popularity as an incredible ruler. It is accepted that numerous Southern illustrious families guaranteed their beginning from the Cholas. They governed more than a few little domains in the Tamil land. The early capital of the fundamental Chola Kingdom was arranged at Uraiyur and the realm stretched out from the waterway Vaigai in the south to Tondaimandalam in the North. Had all the Chola realms joined together, the Cholas could have framed a greater realm in the south. In any case, the Chola race couldn't accomplish that solidarity. The wellsprings of data of the Cholas are gotten from engravings, landmarks, and writing. The Ashokan engravings likewise give us references of the Chola realm. The Chola realm of the ninth century was called Cholamandalam or Caromandala. It secured Chennai, a few areas of south, and Mysore. The Cholas vanquished Sri Lanka and Maldives Island also. With an incredible naval force the Cholas made their impact felt in the nations of south-east. They gave a solid and stable organization.

The engravings and writing contain ordered history of Cholas with holes and breaks. Ascending to control in the later aspect of the second century of the Christian period, the author of the Chola realm,

Karikalan (A.D. 190). Crushed the consolidated multitude of Pandyas and Cheras. He moved his capital from Uraiyur to Kaveripattanam. He attacked Sri Lanka and caught 1200 men. With his labor, he developed 160 Kilometer-long bank along the Kaveri to shield the farming area from flood. Nedumudikilli climbed the seat after Karikalan. During his rule, the Chola realm unexpectedly declined for normal attacks by the Cheras, the Pallavas and the Pandyas. A few centuries later, the Chola realm was resuscitated by Vijayala (A.D. 850-871) who was from the start a tribal leader under the Pallavas. Vijayalaya was prevailing by his child Aditya-I. He vanquished the Pallavas, Pandyas and Bana lords. The Cholas got a set back on account of the Rastrakutas in the front line of Takkolam.

The Chola administration was one of the longest-administering lines throughout the entire existence of Southern India. The most punctual datable references to this Tamil tradition are in engravings from the third century BCE left by Ashoka of the Maurya Empire. As one of the Three Crowned Kings, the tradition kept on overseeing over a fluctuating area until the thirteenth century. The long guideline of Chola tradition uncovers its prevalence among individuals of South India. At the end of the day, the organization of Chola rulers was ideal and thusly, there was generally advancement in financial, social and such different conditions. The heartland of the Cholas was the rich valley of the Kaveri stream, however they managed an essentially bigger region at the stature of their influence from the later 50% of the ninth century till the start of the thirteenth century. The entire nation south of the Tungabhadra was joined together and held as one state for a time of two centuries and more<sup>1</sup>. Under Raja Chola-I and his replacements Rajendra Chola-I, Rajadhiraja Chola, Virarajendra Chola and Kulothunga Chola-I, the administration turned into a military, financial and social force in South Asia and South-East Asia. The intensity of the new realm was broadcasted toward the eastern world by the undertaking to the Ganges which Rajendra Chola-I embraced and by the control of urban areas of the sea domain of Srivijaya, just as by the rehashed international safe havens to China<sup>2</sup>. The organization was progression based, the subtleties of organization of Chola rulers at various levels are expressed as under.

### CHOLA ADMINISTRATION:

The ruler was alluded to as Chakravartiga (Emperor) and the master of the three universes (Tribhuvanachakravarti)<sup>3</sup>. The crown ruler started to partake in dynamic organization from the hour of Rajaraja and minor sovereigns were delegated as local lead representatives. The lord was the top of the organization of the Cholas and all forces were packed in his grasp. In that capacity, the lord was the incomparable authority and a kind despot. His offer in the organization comprised of giving oral orders to dependable officials when portrayals were made to him. Such requests were recorded in extraordinary detail in the engravings, normally on the dividers of sanctuaries. A unique sort of legitimate, names Tirumandira Olai Nayagam<sup>4</sup>, who recorded the oral requests promptly on palm leaf compositions were mindful of the exact records of them.

### CHOLA ADMINISTRATION CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Cholas had a fantastic arrangement of organization. The ruler or lord was at the head of the organization. The degree and assets of the Chola Empire expanded the force and notoriety of government. The huge capital urban areas like Tanjore and Gangaikondacholapuram, the huge regal courts and broad awards to the sanctuaries uncover the authority of the ruler. They attempted regal visits to build the effectiveness of the organization. There was detailed authoritative apparatus including different authorities called perundanam and sirudanam.

The type of the Chola government was innate government. The standard of primogeniture for the most part won. The lord commonly named his Yuvaraja (beneficiary) during his rule. The Chola rulers took high-sounding titles as Gangaikonda Cholapuram. The regal family likewise runs on a detailed scale. The illustrious cleric Rajguru turned into the nearby partner of the imperial family. The lord had committee of clergymen to help and helps him. There is no clear proof of the presence of a gathering to pastors or of different officials associated with the focal government, however the names of individual priests are found

in the engravings. A ground-breaking organization helped the ruler in the undertakings of organization and in executing his requests. Because of the absence of a lawmaking body or an authoritative framework in the advanced sense, the reasonableness of lord's requests reliant on the integrity of the man and in his faith in Dharma – feeling of decency and equity. The old society didn't expect anything over broad security from the legislature. Indeed, even issues of debates went to the officials of the court just if all else fails.

The Chola administration didn't contrast much from its peers. Be that as it may, what recognized it was its exceptionally sorted out nature. A cautious harmony between focal control and nearby freedom was kept up and non-obstruction in neighborhood government was holy. There was a positive progression of the organization and the residency of the authorities basically subject to the 'Crown's pleasure'. The authorities held different titles, for example, Marayan and Adigariga. Rank between a similar unit was shown by qualifying title, for example, Perundanam and Sirutanam6 . One of the significant such officials were the Revenue authorities answerable for the receipts and consumptions of the legislature. The authorities would in general shape a different class in the public arena. Perundaram were higher authorities while Sirutaram were lower authorities. Peruvallis (trunk streets) helped in illustrious visits. The overall propensity was to make the officials innate. The authorities were paid by tasks of land called jivitas as per their status.

The early Cholas had Urayur and Puhar as their capitals. Urayur was as yet their capital during the interregnum before their restoration in the ninth century CE. Vijayalaya Chola vanquished the Pandya feudatories Muttarayars and caught the city of Thanjavur, and the city kept up its situation as the primary city during the rules of the Chola sovereigns up to Rajendra Chola-I. Rajendra Chola I set up the town of Gangaikonda Cholapuram and made it his capital remembering his fruitful undertaking to the Ganges in 1023 CE. This town, arranged south west of the sanctuary town of Chidambaram doesn't exist any longer. It was broadly sacked and obliterated by the Pandyas during the perishing days of the Chola domain. Notwithstanding, the incomparable Shiva sanctuary Gangaikonda Choleshwara still exists declaring the once incredible city.

an enormous town sufficiently large to be a Kurram without anyone else. Various Kurrams established a Valanadu. A few Valanadus made up one Mandalam, a region. At the stature of the Chola domain there were eight or nine of these territories including Sri Lanka. These divisions and names went through consistent changes all through the Chola time frame. An engraving of the eighth century CE, at Uttaramerur sanctuary portrays the constitution of the neighborhood gathering, qualification and exclusions for the up-and-comers, the technique for choice, their obligations and delimits their capacity. Apparently the organization of a typical town Ur or Oor was unique in relation to that of a town given to Brahmins. An efficient branch of land income, known as the Puravu-varitinaik – katam was in presence. Land income was gathered in real money or kind. Land was controlled by people and networks. The state under Rajaraja requested 1/3rd of the gross produce. Kadamai or Kudimai was the land income. There were charges on calling, mines, backwoods, saltpans, and so forth. Kulottung Chola-I nullified costs. Unpaid work was habitually utilized. Land charge established the single biggest wellspring of pay of the Chola state. It was by and large surveyed at 33% of the produce. The town gathering took land expense and neighborhood demands. Cows raising were an auxiliary occupation. Exchange with outside nations was a significant element of the Cholas commercial exercises. The rulers fabricated an organization of regal streets that were helpful for exchange just as for the development of the military. There were immense exchange societies that exchanged with Java and Sumatra. South India sent out materials, flavors, drugs, gems, ivory, horn, black and camphor to China. Exchange carried significant glory and fortune to the Cholas. Kalanju was the money pervasive in the Chola realm.

In the age of the Cholas, the entire of South India was, unexpectedly, brought under a solitary government. The Cholas' arrangement of government was monarchical, as in the Sangam age. Notwithstanding, there was little in like manner between the nearby chiefdoms of the prior period and the supreme like conditions of Rajaraja Chola and his replacements. The organization of the Imperial Chola Dynasty accepted a serious extent of intricacy. The request for the King was first imparted by the boss to the neighborhood specialists. A short time later the records of the exchange was drawn up and validated by

various observers who were either nearby magnates or government officials. The ruler was the focal position helped by his priests and different officials. The ruler visited different pieces of his realm and consistently set up to give help to the individuals. The Chola realm was isolated into a few territories called Mandalams. Every region was administered by the lead representatives. The territories were isolated into divisions called Kottams. The divisions were additionally separated into region called Nadus which were additionally isolated into Tehsil containing a gathering of towns

"The Indian writing doesn't specify numerous ocean fights. Thusly, we are amazed to peruse the depiction of an Indian armada in Tilakamanjari [11] of Dhanapala [12]. The story specifies that an Indian ruler, Samaraketu of Rangasala, drove this Indian armada. He drove this campaign to Indonesia in light of the fact that the feudatory bosses there would not pay the accolades and duties in time... .." Surprised by the nearby comparability between the portrayal about Cholas maritime undertaking and the Tilakamanjari story, he notes:

### The Navy of Cholas:

Under the caption "The Navy", K. A. Nilakanta Sastri [25] has given the following details and they split into points for interpretation as follows:

- The "numberless ship" which carried Rajendra's troops across the "rolling sea" to the conquest of Sri Vijaya and its dependencies could not have come up suddenly and must be accepted as proof of a steady naval policy pursued by the Cola monarchs of the period.
- The steady naval policy pursued by the Cola monarchs of the period could not have been without the knowledge of shipbuilding, ship-technology and shipping.
- The early Colas of the Sangam period had a good share in the maritime trade and activity of the Indian seas.
- So such "naval policy" had been continuous and not originated suddenly. Thus, the Colas of Sangam period must have had ruled like their contemporary Satavahanas, as otherwise, it is unimaginable or intriguing to note Satavahanas ruling states and the Colas without state reportedly leading "tribal state", as has already been suggested by some historians [26].
- The history of the Hindu colonies in the Malay Archipelago and Indo-China gives clear evidence of a steady increase, under the Pallavas, in the trade and culture contacts between these lands and the countries of South India.
- Thus, the Pallavas navigation technology goes before the Colas in the seafaring activities. Ch.Chabra [27] has pointed out as to how the Pallava inscriptions of non-Indian sources (available in SEA countries) are dating before the Indian Pallavas. Thus, the overseas trade and shipping of Pallavas cannot be ignored.
- The Tamil inscriptions of Takuapa<sup>53</sup> shows that an important mercantile corporation of South India, the manigramam, had established itself on the opposite coast of the Bay of Bengal in the ninth century A.D.
- Now, there have been many inscriptions found even up to Southern-China and they are discussed separately.
- The Colas only continued an ancient tradition in the attention they gave to developing their power on the sea. The conquest of Ceylon and the Maldives, and the evidence of the Chinese annals of the embassies that reached China in the period from the Cola country give us some measure of the success they attained in this direction.
- The literary evidences of Sangam literature and the conquest of Ceylon and Maldives had been prelude to their overseas expansion.
- And the overthrow of the Cera fleet at Kandalur salai may well be taken to mark the definite establishment of Cola naval power in this period in the territorial waters of Southern India. We have little direct evidence on the build of the ships employed.
- Though about the "overthrow of the Cera fleet at Kandalur salai" is interpreted differently, the fact being that not only Colas had maritime capabilities, the Ceras too possessed such capabilities with their unique shipbuilding and ship-academy.

- Considering that the author of the Periplus distinguished three types of vessels several centuries earlier on the Coromandel coast and that naval expedition of Rajendra was a great achievement in itself, the existence of a well-ordered fleet comprising ships and boats of different grades must be admitted.
- Of course, the "civilized, progressed and advanced" Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs and others would not have been dealing with "mythical goods" of Indians and the latter sailing in "mythical ships".
- The Arab merchant Sulaiman made several voyages between China and the Persian Gulf in the ninth century A.D., at a time when this long distance trade was being carried on very briskly. In his curious account of Maldives, he says that the people of these islands "built ships and houses and executed all other works with a consummate art"<sup>54</sup>.
- The mention of Maldives is interesting as it was stronghold of Pallavas once and they were building ships and supplying to others.
- Sulaiman had no occasion to visit the Coromandal coast; and his voyages were made before the rise of Colas of the Vijayala line into prominence. Taking into account Sulaiman's testimony to the quality of the ships built in Maldives, and the conquest of these islands effected by Rajaraja's fleet, we may form some idea of the efficiency of Cola navy in this period.
- Rather, the Colas tried to imitate the Pallavas in dealing first with the "Pallavas" of Maldives and then Ceras (Kanthalur salai). In any case, the ship-connection (ship-building and ship-academy) is interesting.
- Abu Zaid Hasan, in the notes, which he added to Sulaiman's work about the beginning of the tenth century A.D., observes that the vessels of the Indian Ocean, especially those made at Saraf, differed in construction from those of the Mediterranean. "It is a fact that the type of ship built by pieces of wood sewn together is a specialty of the builders of Siraf, the ship builders of Syria and of Rum (Byzantium) nail, on the contrary, these pieces of wood and never sew them one to another"<sup>55</sup>.
- Zaid observation of "sewn Indian ships" must be general, in other words that the Indian ships were built in such a way that the joints could not be seen but appeared as if the wooden planks / parts were sewn together with wooden nails.
- Today we can see boats on the mara's coast with planks "sewn" together by threads of coconut fiber. But these are usually of a small size; and the observations of Abu Zaid based on what he saw and heard at Siraf about A.D., 916 on navigation in the Indian Ocean<sup>56</sup> should be no obstacle to a just estimate of the size and importance of the navy of the Cola Empire more than a century later. If the Arab writers are too early, Marco Polo comes unfortunately too late, and we are without a good contemporary account of shipbuilding on the Coromandal coast under the Colas.
- Again, this is generalized observation. What used on the Maras coast are boats, but what is discussed here are ships. Therefore, the shipbuilding technology varies accordingly.
- Ahmad-ibn Majid, an Arab writer of the fifteenth century and author of several nautical works, makes frequent allusion to the opinions of the Cholas, which he approves or modifies. He must have had before him a specialized nautical literature of Tamil (Cola) origin, which he compared with Arab documents of a like nature.
- He must be having Indian books on Shipbuilding etc., for example, Kappal Sattiram (the science of ships), Navai Sattram (The Technology of Shipbuilding). When he tried to write without mentioning the sources, naturally, opinion was bound to change because of borrowed ideas. Copying technology is different from understanding science behind it.
- This literature must have included geographical tables with indications of the latitudes of ports for use of the mariners of the Coromandal coast<sup>57</sup>.
- Yes, H. B. Sarkar [28] has proved from the sources that the Arabs freely used Indian tables, but circulated them as if they were authors. Baitul Hikmah of Harun-al-Rashid (785-809), and the works attributed to Abu Zayd al-Balkhi (919-921), al-Ishtkhri (934), Ibn Hawqal (c.980), al-Muqaddasi (985), Abdul Fida, Sidi Ali (d.1562) etc., prove the fact.
- Of this technical literature mentioned by these Arab writers, unfortunately no part seems to have survived.

- Naturally, as pointed out, the Arabs destroyed the Indian originals and circulated their version as their own without any acknowledgement to Indians. And there was no respect for intellectual honesty or intellectual property, rights and so on, which we talk about nowadays!

### CONCLUSION

After a gap of thirty years, the Cholas regained their supremacy under Rajaraja I. Rajaraja I It was under Rajaraja I and his son Rajendral that the Chola power reached its highest point of glory. Had all the Chola kingdoms united, the Cholas could have formed a bigger kingdom in the south. The heartland of the Cholas was the fertile valley of the Kaveri river, but they ruled a significantly larger area at the height of their power from the later half of the 9th century till the beginning of the 13th century. Under Raja Raja Chola-I and his successors Rajendra Chola-I, Rajadhiraja Chola, Virarajendra Chola and Kulothunga Chola-I, the dynasty became a military, economic and cultural power in South Asia and South-East Asia. Vijayalaya Chola defeated the Pandya feudatories Muttarayars and captured the city of Thanjavur, and the city maintained its position as the main city during the reigns of the Chola emperors up to Rajendra Chola-I.

### REFERENCES

- ❖ The age of Sangam is established through the correlation between the evidence on foreign trade found in the poems and the writings by ancient Greek and Romans such as Periplus
- ❖ The Ashokan inscriptions speak of the Cholas in plural, implying that, in his time, there were more than one Chola
- ❖ The direct line of Cholas of the Vijayalaya dynasty came to an end with the death of Virarajendra Chola and the assassination of his son Athirajendra Chola. Kulothunga Chola
- ❖ 12th century tells us of the Pandya king Nindrasirnedumaran, who had for his queen a Chola princess
- ❖ K. A. Nilakanta Sastri postulates that there was a live connection between the early Cholas and the Renandu Cholas of the Andhra country



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