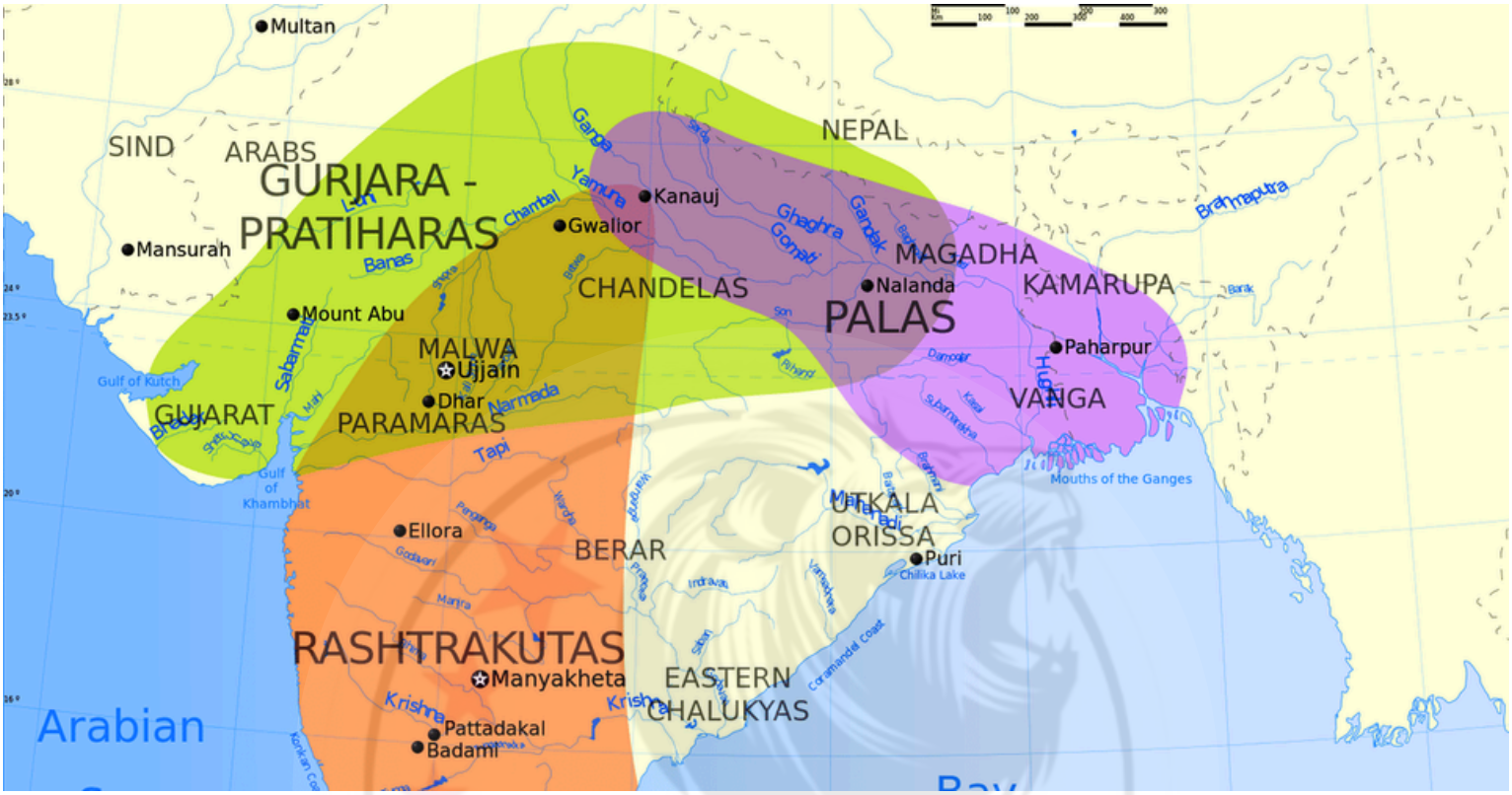
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Cholas & Tripartite Struggle



Tripartite Struggle



A prolonged political and military conflict between 8th - 10th CE to control Kannauj, a symbol of imperial legitimacy in North India

Fought among three powerful dynasties

1. **Palas** - East India (Bengal region)
2. **Pratiharas** - West and Central India (Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat)
3. **Rashtrakutas** - Deccan (Maharashtra and Karnataka)

Rashtrakuta Dynasty (753-982 CE)

- **Capital** - Monyakheta (Modern day Malkhed, Karnataka)
- Known for their military strength, patronage of literature, and support of Jainism and Shaivism



Dantidurga 1

- Founder of Rashtrakuta Dynasty
- Founded the Rashtrakuta dynasty by overthrowing the Chalukyas of Badami
- **Sanjan Plates** (Copper-plate inscription of Dantidurga): Records victories over Kalinga, Malawa, Lata, Tanka, Koshala, and the Gurjara king Nagabhata I.
- Performed the Hiranyagarbha (Golden Womb) Mahadana ritual at Ujjain to assert Kshatriya status.
- Assumed titles: Prithvivallabha.
- Their court was a major center of literature, religious discourse (especially Jainism), and patronage of the arts.
- Defeated Kirtivarman II, the last ruler of the Badami Chalukyas.
- Assumed title: Rajadhiraj
- Laid the foundation of independent Rashtrakuta rule in the Deccan.

Krishna I 2

- Successor of Dantidurga
- Belongs to the Rashtrakuta Dynasty
- Uncle or relative of Dantidurga
- Continued military campaigns against Chalukyas and Pallavas
- Constructed Kailasanatha Temple at Ellora, a monolithic marvel, UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Patron of Shaivism



Kailashnath Temple, Ellora

Govinda II 3

- Son of Krishna I
- His reign is considered weak and short; no significant conquests recorded

Dhruva Dharavarsha 4

- A strong and ambitious ruler
- Expanded Rashtrakuta influence into North India.
- Marked the entry of Rashtrakutas into the Tripartite Struggle

Dhruv Dharavarsha Defeated:

1. Vatsaraja (Gurjara-Pratihara ruler)
2. Dharmapala (Pala ruler)
3. Pallavas in the south

Govinda III 5

- Son of Dhruva Dharavarsha
- Considered the most aggressive Rashtrakuta ruler during the Tripartite Struggle
- Inscriptions claim victories over Gurjaras, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and even Lanka.
- Title Assumed : Sarvabhauma (Universal Monarch)

Govinda III Defeated:

- Nagabhata II of Pratihar Dynasty
- Dharmapala of **Pala Dynasty**

Amogvarsha I 6

- Son of Govinda III
- Real name: Sarva (before coronation)
- Assumed titles like "Nripatunga"
- Known more for peace and cultural pursuits than military campaigns
- Patron of Jainism
- Guru: Acharya Jinasena, author of Adi Purana
- Patron of literature and grammar
- Saktayana, a grammarian in his court, wrote Amoghavritti (Sanskrit grammar work)
- Authored "Kavirajamarga," the earliest known Kannada literary work
- Referred to as "Ashoka of the South" for his non-violent policies and Jain influence.

Govinda IV 9

- A weak ruler, lacked the authority of his predecessors
- Faced internal rebellions and growing feudal decentralization
- His reign marks the beginning of the decline of the Rashtrakuta empire

Amoghavarsha II 11

- Short and insignificant reign, overshadowed by internal conflicts
- Very little information available from inscriptions

Khottiga 12

- Also Known as Karka II
- Faced attack from the rising Paramara dynasty of Malwa
- Indra IV (Paramara) sacked Manyakheta, the Rashtrakuta capital
- This attack significantly weakened the dynasty
- Manyakheta was destroyed, marking a symbolic end of Rashtrakuta power

Krishna II 7

- Faced stiff resistance from Eastern Chalukyas and Cholas
- Could not expand the empire like his predecessors
- His reign saw stagnation in territorial expansion

Indra III 8

- Briefly restored Rashtrakuta supremacy
- Successfully occupied Kannauj, a key prize in the Tripartite War
- Defeated Mahipala (Pratihara ruler)
- Assumed titles: Ratta Kandarpa (meaning "Rashtrakuta Cupid") and Nityovarsha (symbolizing prosperity)
- Described by Arab traveler Al-Masudi in his book Muraj ul-Zuhab (Book of Golden Meadows)

Krishna III 10

- Considered the last great Rashtrakuta ruler
- Successfully invaded the Chola territory and captured Tanjore (Thanjavur)
- Took the grand imperial title: Akhilakshtrakuta Chakravartin (Universal Emperor of all Rashtrakutas)
- Defeated Eastern Chalukyas, maintaining supremacy in the Deccan
- At the peak of his reign, controlled territory from Gujarat to Tanjore

Indra IV 13

- Last Rashtrakuta Ruler
- Committed Sallekhana, the Jain ritual of voluntary death by fasting
- His death marked the end of the Rashtrakuta dynasty
- Power passed to the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani, under Tailapa II
- Tailapa II was once a feudatory of the Rashtrakutas and founded a new dynasty

Gurjara Pratihara



- **Founder**: Nagabhatta I
- **Capital**: Kannauj/Bhinmal
- Agnikul Theory related to Gurjar Pratihars is written in Prithviraj Raso

Nagabhata I

- Founder of the dynasty
- Defeated Arab forces in Rajasthan (Battle near Broach) in the 8th century

Nagabhata II

- Recovered Kannauj
- Defeated Dharmapala, gained control
- Later suffered crushing defeat by Govinda III (Rashtrakuta king).
- Rebuilt the dynasty's power later.

Vatsaraja

- First Pratihara king to enter the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj
- Faced defeat by Dharmapala (Pala king)

Ramabhadra

- Son of Nagabhata II
- A weak ruler, short reign.

Mihira Bhoja (Bhoja I)

- Most powerful ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty.
- Empire extended from Gujarat to Bengal.
- Assured divine title: Adivaraha (Boar incarnation of Vishnu).
- Coins issued with Varaha Image (boar symbol).

Gwalior inscription:

- Records defeat of Govinda III's army at Sagar Tal (though Rashtrakutas claim the opposite).
- Proclaims Bhoja's power and victory in Madhya Bharat.
- Defeated Devapala (Pala ruler) in battle. Reasserted Pratihara supremacy in the Kannauj region.

He Was Described by Arab travelers (like Sulaiman) as:

- "Enemy of Islam" (due to military strength and Hindu revivalism)
- One of the four great kings of the world in their view

Mahendrapala I

- Son of Mihira Bhoja
- Successfully maintained the strength and prosperity of the Pratihara empire
- Ruled over a vast territory from Punjab to Bengal
- Launched a military campaign against Kashmir
- Fought with Shankaravarman (Karkota ruler of Kashmir)
- Was defeated in the campaign.
- His court was a center of Sanskrit learning and literature
- Patronized Rajashekhara, a celebrated Sanskrit poet and dramatist
- Known as the "Kalidasa of the Pratiharas"

Works of Rajashekhara (under Mahendrapala's patronage)

- **Karpuramanjari** - Prakrit play (only known Prakrit drama of that time)
- **Viddhasalabhanjika** - Sanskrit drama
- **Bal Ramayana**: A condensed version of the Ramayana
- **Bal Mahabharata**: A condensed Mahabharata
- **Harivilasa**: Epic work on Lord Krishna
- **Bhuvanakosha**: Descriptive geography of the known world
- **Kavyamimamsa**: Literary criticism and theory

Bhoja II

- A weak ruler
- Internal conflicts during his reign
- Possibly ruled only a portion of the empire

Mahipala I

- Defeated by Indra III (Rashtrakuta)
- Loss of Kannauj
- His defeat marked the start of the Pratihara decline

Vijayapala

- Ruled during the declining phase
- Lost many territories

Rajyapala

- Fleed from Mahmud of Ghaznis' attack
- Considered cowardly, he abandoned Kannauj without resistance.
- Criticized in historical records for his inaction.

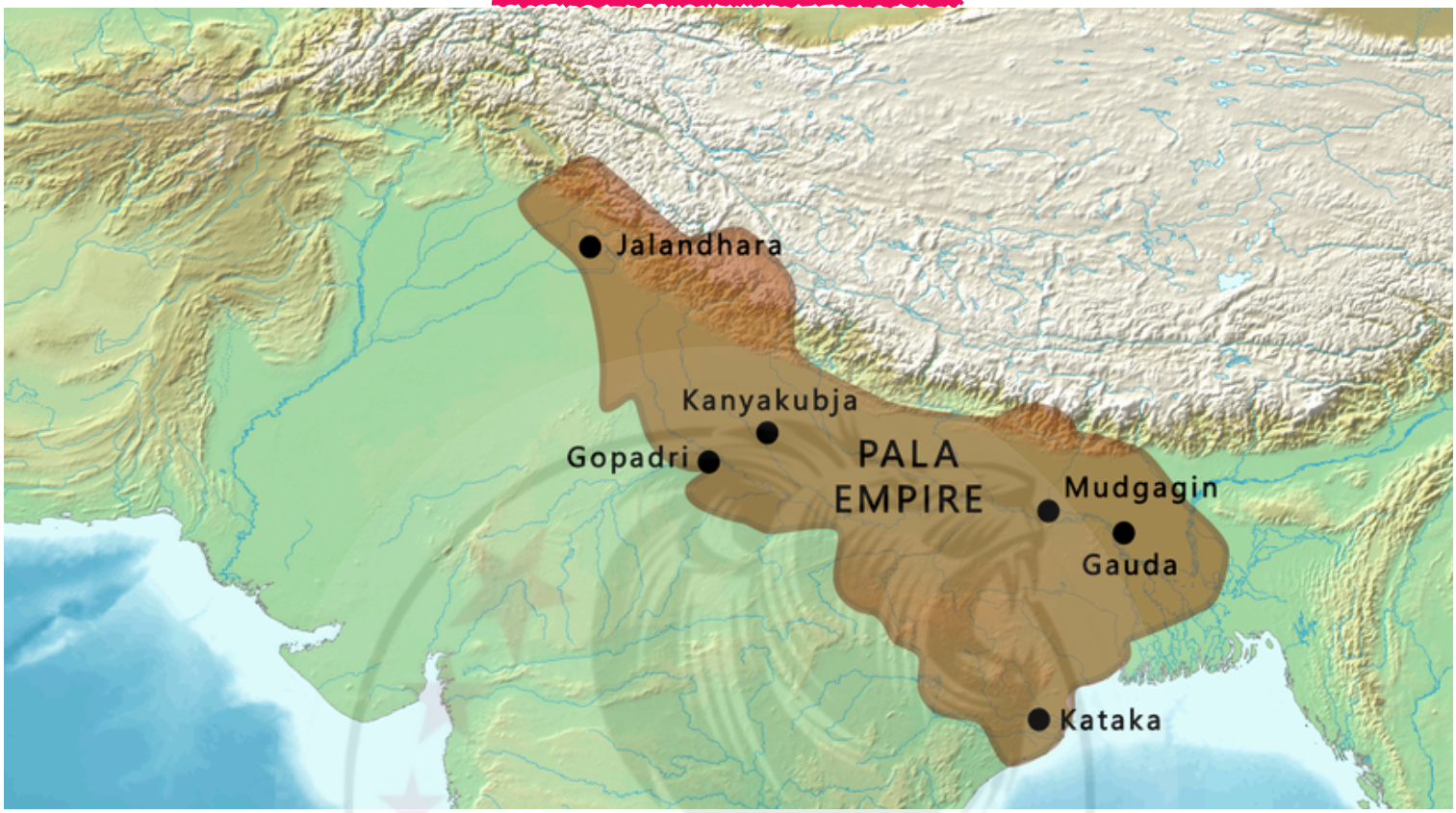
Trilochanapala

- Ruled during the collapse of the Pratihara state
- Little information is available about his administration

End of Gurjar Pratihara Dynasty

- The Pratiharas lost power due to external invasions (Ghaznavids) and internal fragmentation
- Their exit marked the end of the Tripartite Struggle

Palas



Rulers of Pala Dynasty

1. Gopala
2. Dharampala
3. Devapala
4. Mahipala
5. Ramapala

- Founder: Gopala (founder of Odantpuri)
- Son : Dharmapala (Founder of **Vikramshila** University famous for Vajrayan or Tantrik Buddhism studies (Bhagalpur, Bihar))
- Dharmapala Defeated Indrayudh
- Conquered Kannauj for a brief time from Indrayudh and established Chakrayudh as puppet ruler.
- Ruled over Bengal Region.
- Were the followers of Buddhist religion (Mahayana)

Gopala

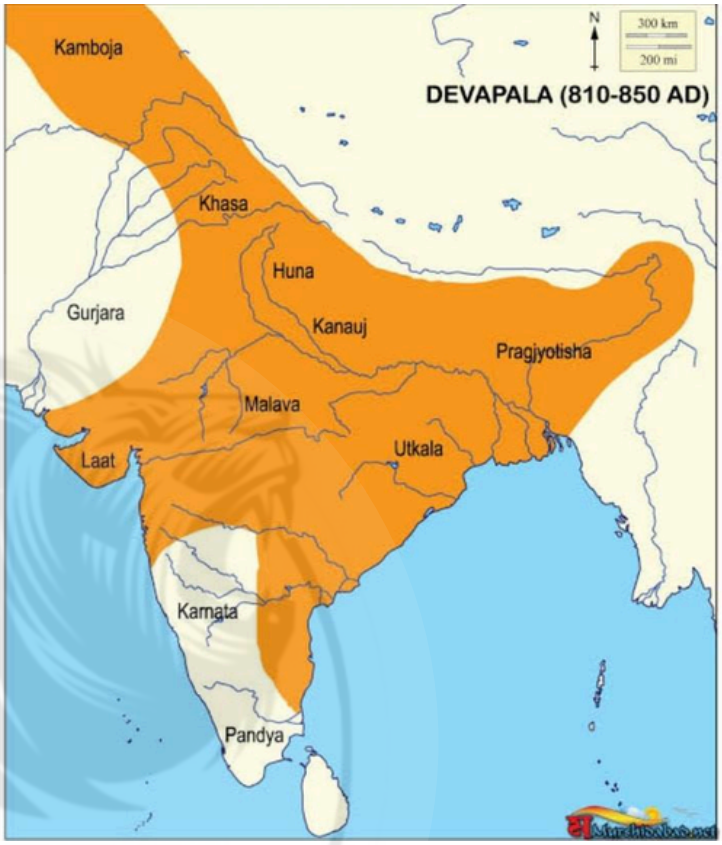
- Founder of the Pala Dynasty
- Elected by local leaders to end anarchy in Bengal
- Buddhist by religion (Mahayana Buddhism)
- Laid the foundation of Pala rule in Eastern India

Dharmapala

- Most expansionist Pala ruler
- Title: Paramsaugat
- Participated in the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj
- Fought against Vatsaraja (Pratihara) and Govinda III (Rashtrakuta)
- After winning Kannauj, he assumed the title "Uttarapath Swami" (Lord of the North)
- Founded Vikramashila University & Sompura University
- Patron of Mahayana Buddhism

Devapala

- Under his reign, the Pala Empire reached its greatest territorial extent
- Conquered: Assam, Odisha, and parts of the Deccan
- Sent Buddhist missions to Sri Lanka, Burma, and Java
- Continued patronage of Nalanda and Vikramashila universities
- Strengthened the Pala navy for overseas missions and coastal control
- The Shailendra king Balaputradeva (from Srivijaya, Southeast Asia) requested and received grants for a monastry at Nalanda from Devapala.
- Bought permission from Devapala to build a Buddhist monastery at Nalanda
- Devapala granted land revenue from 5 villages for this monastery
- Notable Buddhist monks during his reign:
- **Dipankar Atisha** came from Tibet, studied at Vikramashila and Nalanda
- **Dharmasvami** - Another respected monk active during this period



Nayapala, Vigrahapala III, Mahipala II, Ramapala

- Period of decline began
- Faced attacks from the Kalachuri and Sena dynasties
- Among them, Ramapala was the last notable ruler who tried to revive the empire

Mahipala I

- After a decline, the dynasty was revived.
- Recovered northern and eastern Bengal, and Bihar.
- Mentioned in Kalhana's Rajatarangini (about history of Kashmir) written in Sanskrit around 12th CE.

Madana Pala

- Defeated by Vijayasena of the Sena dynasty
- His defeat marked the end of Pala rule in Bengal

Sena Dynasty

- Revived Brahminism
- Built Dhakeshwari Temple (Bangladesh)
- Capital : Vijayapura
- Founder : Hemantsena
- Highly Centralised Monarchy
- Real Founder : Vijaysena
- Rulers : Balla Sena, Lakshman Sena
- Balla Sena introduced 'Kulinism'
- Book 'Geet Govind' written by Jaydeva during this period.
- In 1204 Bakhtiyar Khilji attacked Lakshman sena and ended Sena Dynasty.



Chola Dynasty



- **Region**: Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia
- **Religion**: Primarily Shaivism (Lord Shiva worship), but tolerant toward other faiths
- **Known For**: Strong naval power, magnificent temples architecture(Dravidian style), and an efficient local self-administrative system.
- Initial capital: Uraiyur
- **Most Powerful** ruler: Rajandra Chola

Vijayalaya Chola

- Founder of the Imperial Chola dynasty
- Captured Thanjavur from Muttaraiyars
- Established firm Chola rule in South India
- Title: Narkesari
- Built Temple of Goddess Nishumbhasudini

Aditya I

- Son of Vijayalaya
- Defeated the Pallavas king Aprajita
- Expanded Chola influence in the Kaveri Valley
- After conquering the Madurai and Tirunelveli (Pandya Mandalam) regions, he assumed the title "Maduraikonda" (Conqueror of Madurai)

Parantaka I

- Mentioned about Parantaka I in the Uttaramerur inscription, which also describes a well-organized village administration.
- Continued territorial expansion
- Won against Pandyas (Maravarman Rajsimha II) and temporarily occupied Sri Lanka
- Assumed the title: "Maduraiyum Elamum Konda" (Conqueror of Madurai and Lanka)
- Later defeated by Rashtrakutas in the Battle of Takkolam
- Issued coins called: Kasu (small denomination) and Kalanju (gold coin)

Village Administration

- Every village was divided into 30 yards (kudumbus)
- Each yard was governed by a local committee called "Variyam"
- Examples of such committees: Tattavariyam, Kalivariyam

Rajaraja I

- Time Period : 985 AD - 1014 AD
- Real founder of Chola imperialism
- Powerful king, great administrator
- Conquered Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Maldives, and parts of Kerala
- Introduced a land revenue system, organized departments like PWD
- Permitted the Shailendra king (from Srivijaya dynasty, Southeast Asia) to construct a Buddhist temple Monastery at Nagapattinam
  - This monastery was called Chudamani Vihara
  - Symbol of diplomatic and religious tolerance

Rajaraja I Built many temples, most famously:

- Rajarajeswara Temple (now called Brihadeshwara Temple) at Thanjavur
- Famous for being constructed using the interlocking stone method (stones were locked without mortar)
- An engineering marvel of its time

Rajendra I

- Time Period : 1014-1044 AD
- Son of Rajaraja I
- Completely Conquered Sri Lanka (Anuradhapur)
- He created a large artificial lake in the Indian Ocean region, called Lake Chola.
- Took the Chola empire to its peak
- Conquered Andhra, Odisha, and Bengal
- Sent an army to Ganga, brought Ganga water in golden pot.
- Also Known as Called Gangaikonda Chola
- Built Gangaikonda Cholapuram as the new capital
- Launched naval expeditions to Sri Lanka, Burma, the Andaman Islands, and Srivijaya (Southeast Asia)
- His contemporary was Mahmud Ghazni.

Mahmud of Ghazanavi was Contemporary of Rajaraja I or Rajendra I

Rajadhiraja I, Rajendra II, Virarajendra

- Continued imperial dominance
- Faced resistance from Western Chalukyas and Pandyas

Kulottunga I

- United Chola and Eastern Chalukya lineages
- Focused on administration, not expansion
- Promoted trade with Southeast Asia and China

Later Cholas (Kulottunga II - Rajendra III)

- Gradual decline of power
- Final blow came with defeat by Pandyas in the 13th century

- Chola fought against the Chalukyas of Kalyani
- The Chola empire declined during the early part of the 13th century
- The place of the Cholas was taken by the Pandyas and Hoysalas
- The place of the later Chalukyas was taken by the Yadavas and Kakatiyas

- The king held all authority
- He had a Council of Ministers to advise him
- The Chola Empire was divided into:
- Mandalams (provinces) which was further divided into Valanadu (District), Nadu(Sub district), Kurram(subdivision), Ur(village).

Chola Government

Cholas are known for local/village government (Decentralized)

2 Assemblies during Chola eriod was :

1. **Ur** : Assembly of common people
2. **Sabha** : Assembly of learned Brahmins

Agrahars : Land of Brahmins

Village affairs were managed by an executive committee.

Election held

- People with property or land were privileged to take part in elections
- Every member of the committee was appointed for 3 years.

Land Donations during the Chola period

1. **Brahmadeya**: Land donated to Brahmins
2. **Vellanvagai**: Land donated to non-Brahmins/peasants
3. **Devadana**: Land donated to temples
4. **Pallichchhandam**: Land donated to the Jain community
5. **Shalabhoga**: Land donated for school maintenance

Two types of Tax during the Chola Empire

- Vetti: Forced labor
- Kadamai: Land revenue



Uttaramerur inscription:
Related to the Chola Dynasty

Committees (Variyam)

Each asssembly functioned through committees such as :

1. **Eri Variyam** :- Tank & Irrigation managment
2. **Tottavariyam** : Gardens
3. **Pon Variyam** : Gold and Finance
4. **Nyaya Variyam** : Justice

Members were selected through the Kudavolal System (Lottery method), Famously described in the Uttaramerur Inscriptions located at Chinglepur district of Karnataka.

Great Living Cholas Temples



Brihadeshwara temple

- Also Known as Rajarajeshwara temple

At Tanjore

- Built by : Raja Raja I
- UNESCO Heritage site : 1987

At Gangaikondacholapuram

- Built By : Rajendra I
- UNESCO Heritage site : 2004

Dravidian temples consist of large water reservoirs, or temple tanks, enclosed within the temple complex.



Shiva Temple at Gangaikondacholapuram

In South Indian temples, Nandi is placed outside



Airavatesvara Temple

Built by Raja Raja II

- UNESCO Heritage site : 2004



- In the early 11th century, the Chola king Rajendra I built a Shiva temple and filled it with a sun-pedestal seized from the Chalukyas
- A pedestal from the Chalukyas, a Ganesha statue and several statues of Durga, a Nandi statue from the eastern Chalukyas, an image of Bhairava (a form of Shiva) and Bhairavi from the Kalinga of Orrisa, and a Kali Statue from the Palas of Bengal (Brihadeshwara temple)

Airavateshwara Temple at Kumbakonam

- In Chariot Form





Kandariya Mahadeva Temple at Madhya Pradesh

- A part of Khajuraho temples
- Built by: Chandela dynasty rulers

Somnath Temple of Gujarat



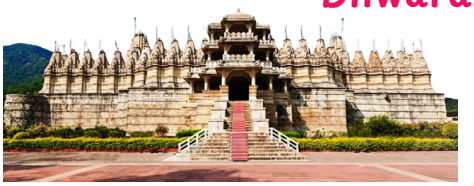
Built in Maru Gurjara style

Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal, Karnataka

- Built by Chalukya Dynasty Queen Lokamahadevi
- Vesara style (Nagara-Dravida)



Dilwara Jain Temple by Vastupala brothers



- It is Maru Gurjara style (developed by the Solankis Feudatories of the Chalukyas)
- Place: Mount Abu, Rajasthan



Modhera Sun Temple

- Maru Gurjara style
- Place: Modhera, Gujarat
- Built by : Bhiima I (Solanki Ruler)



Dakshinmurti Shiva Portrait was found at Brihadeshwar Temple. The person under Shiva's feet is "Apasmara" known as Demon of Ignorance and Ego.



Dancing Figure of Shiva (The King of Dance)

- Natraj Performing Tandava, a Cosmic Dance.
- Made of Bronz
- Using the lost-wax casting technique
- Cholas were known for their splendid bronze sculptures
- Standing on right leg.