

Expansion of Political Activities of Imperial Cholas in Kaveri Basins

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Abstract: *Paranataka was supported by Ganga prithivipati and the Rashtrakutas own the support of BanasParanataka own the war. Parnataka is credited to have overthrown the Banas and conferred their sovereignty on the western Ganga prince prithivipati called as Banadhiraja and Hastimall in about 921CE. This was the first great event which brought Imperial cholas in contact with Mysore. Parantaka occupied the Kolar, Mysore and Bangalore district though not permanently.*

Key words: *Paranataka, western Ganga prince prithivipati, Kempapur, Hanganuru, Bannur, Kaliyuru and Tadimalingi etc.*

Introduction

Aditya I (CE 871-907) defeated the pallava ruler Aparajita and married the daughter of the Rashtrakuta king Krishna II and had a son kannaradeva by her. On the death of Aditya Krishna wanted kannaradeva should ascend the throne but, paranatakasucceeded in 907 CE This led to the conflict between the Rashtrakutas and the cholas¹.Paranataka was supported by Ganga prithivipati and the Rashtrakutas own the support of BanasParanataka own the war. Parnataka is credited to have overthrown the Banas and conferred their sovereignty on the western Ganga prince prithivipati called as Banadhiraja and Hastimall in about 921CE. This was the first great event which brought Imperial cholas in contact with Mysore. Parantaka occupied the Kolar, Mysore and Bangalore district though not permanently.

The strength of the Rashtrakutas was strengthened by the support of Banas, the vaidumbas and the marriage of sister of Krishna III with the Ganga Butuga II. Therefore, the chola monarch had to take special precaution to protect his Northern and North western borders. Therefore, he sent his soneRajadiraja to garrison Tandaimandalam The Chola monarch Rajaditya on the one side and the Rastrakuta king KrishnaIII Akalawarsha along with his brother-in-law Bhutuga II on the other side met in a famous battle at Takkolam in 949CE. The Tamil inscription claim that Rajaditya won the battle but died. As long as Krishna was alive, parantaka did not make any attempt to raid the Karnataka, hence the chola rule suffered an eclipse for nearly 30 years.

The period between Parantaka I and Rajaraja was not marked with activity and the rulers confined themselves to the home country, until finally Rajaraja ascended the throne in 985CE. Meanwhile the Rashtrakutas were ousted in 972 CE and their place was being occupied by the western chalukyas of Kalyana. Hence onwards, thecholachalukya conflict continued for three generation for the mastery over south India².

Rajaraja I (C 985 to 1016CE) Rajarajachola was one of the greatest kings of the imperial cholas. His records are found in Kempanapura, Honganuru from Chamarajanagar taluk of Chamarajanagar district, Bannur, Kaliyuru and Tadimalingi from T.Narasipurataluk of Mysore district and Chinakurali in Pandavapurataluk of Mandya district. Nearly eight inscriptions are noticed. Five epigraphs are in Kannada and two are in Tamil and one record is in Bilingual.

Rajaraja conquered Gangappadi, Nolambappadi, Tadigaippadi and Kudamalinadu, which constitute the nuclear of Mysore dominions. During his reign Talakad was renamed as Rajarajapuram. Kempanapura record³ of 991CE is the earliest kannada inscription found in the Mysore region which refer to his title CholaNarayana and registers the grant of wet land for the food of ascetics and for promotion of education after washing the feet of somarasibhattaraka of Isvara Lineage. A record from Honganuru⁴, is in Tamil although, the script is in Kannada. This prasasti begins with eulogy of the king commencing with Tirumagalapola. It refers to his conquest of kandalur, venginad, Gangavadi, NolambavadiDadegaivali. Another prasasti also begins with Tirumagalapola registers a grant of lands to the subsidiary shrine (tirumurram) of its temple (srikoyil). Kaliyur inscription⁵ is in Kannada dated 1006CE, found in T.Narasipurataluk. Here the Chola general and viceroy Aprameya installed a Jayastamba in commenoration of the general's victory over several Hoysala chiefs and occupation of kaliyur near talakad (viz, Poysala, Goyiga, Butaga, Senavara, Nalambara, Chandiga, Poona, Nanniga, BrugaNagavarma, Naraga, Siriga and others). Malambi grant record in Kannada dated 1004-05 found in the coorg (malenadu) district, register the subjugation of Kudagunadu and suborination of the kongalvas. A royal title was conferred on the general Panchavanmarayan on his victory at the battle of Panasoge.

A record from Tadimalingi⁶ refers to temple got constructed for God Iruvikulavinnagar-Alvar of Mayilangai in Idai-nad for which wet land was made as gift by sabha of Marudur. Sister of Rajaraja also made grants from out of her own personal treasury. Chinakurali record⁷ speaks of cattle raid during his reign. Balamuri record⁸ is the earliest inscription relating to cholas found so far in the Mandya district. It refers to his general Panchavanmaharaya who was in charge of some important mandalas (Bengimandalam) in Karnataka and register grants to the God of Balamuri by the rulers and Mahajanas. It is indicated that Panchavanamalaraya had proceeded up to the Belavala country. There is no doubt that this Panchavanmaharaya was prince Rajendra-I⁹. Tadimalingi record¹⁰ states that this temple was named after king Rajaraja (i.e, present Janardhana temple) and most probably got constructed by him, which naturally induced the princes for the same to make donation out of her own treasury. In the Tamil records of the place the temple continued to be known by the same rule, It is probably later during the Hoysala regime over the region, that it come to be kown as the Janardana temple In Tamil records Tadimalingi is called Mayilangai alias Jananathapura.

Even though he called himself as CholaNarayana. We notice kalamukha pontiff Somrasi of Isvara lineage to whom grant was made after washing his feet¹¹. The same record speaks of charity given for educational purpose. The Naval power of the king is disclosed in Honganuru record¹² which says that the king was pleased to destroy the ships at Kandalursalai and conquered vengai-naduGangapadi, Nulambavadi, Dadigaivadi. Kollam, Kalingam, Kolagumbale-nadu and Ilam (Ceylon), by his armies, which was victorious in great battles. He deprived the saliyar of their splendor. Thus from this record it is clear that his strength was extended upto Ceylon.

RajendarChola I (C 1012-1049CE), Sutturu record¹³ dated (1056-16CE) belongs to this ruler. The record composed in Tamil and Kannada languages provides interesting information. It is quite possible that during official drafting on any central or regional matters, the Cholas adopted the two languages, i.e, Kannada and Tamil. The record deals with sale of land by members of sabha to tevanaduvellan and MunchadiAriyamchimma. The same was later endowed to God Durggayar in the temple of stavinnar. The record further mentions to achamayya, the odeva of Kereyur, nanadesis, Brahmasettis of Ayyapolal were given responsibility of protecting the gift and acting as financiers to the society. The local assembly (sabha) is actively engaged in business and other village transactions. Tevanduvelan figures as an officer (viragappadi) under Rajendrachola. Kirugothara record calls him as ParkeasariRajendracholadeva. A record from Vijayapura¹⁴ was a Tamil prasasti of king and registers the grant of land by Bidiyanna after purchase for raising flower garden.

Belaturu¹⁵ epigraph dated 1020CE is in Kannada. The record refers to Rajendrachola as Mudigonda and registers renovation of temple of the Belaturu and consecration of linga by the chief of Nugu-nad. Rudrahoma was performed Bali was also offered and 1000 people were fed. Another Tamil prasasti commences with Tirumannivalara of Chola king Rajendra I noticed in Tadimalingi¹⁶ is dated 1021-22CE, deals with gift of 10 kalanju of gold weighed by dharmakanakkan was made by senapatikuravanUlagalandan alias RajendraJayamurnadalvan also known as RajarajaMaharajan, an officer under Rajaraja I. Ulagalandan referred to him, means one who measured the earth. The grant was entrusted to nagarattar who maintained the charity. The charity was protected bysrivaishnavas. Nandigunda inscription¹⁷ is interesting as it reveals the peaceful rules of RajendraChola I over Ededorenad. It states Ededorenad was kept properly (padinikki). Mallagavunada son of Eremma and Kumbayya got constructed Mallesvara of Nandigunda for which land, oil were made. During the reign of Rajendrachola I the local officers enjoyed full autonomy is revealed from HaleBogadi record¹⁸ where Gogge-gavunda of Nagavadi bestowed the title Goggiyachari to Buvachari. This was witnessed by several individuals like lappotiya of Bivari, washermanBima, Kerigovoaja, Poleyagoggi-valara, malega and Bijaga. Tadimalingi record¹⁹ dated 1025-26 once again refers to Rajendra I as Udiyarchola Ganga. Further it speaks of celebration of tiruvolakku festival. On the occasion of this festival an officer under RajendracholaPanchanvanManukunakesari alias PanchavanMarayan made a gift of two madais for burning a lamp and celebrating a festival. The gift was made to the temple of Iravikulamanikkavinnagaalvar in Jananathapuram. The endowed gift was received by nagarattar who undertook to supply daily three pidi of oil to the temple.

Nagarale²⁰ (Nanjanagudtq) was once known for matha of singa-parishe one of the branches of kalamukhasubsect is noticed in record dated CE 1027-28CE of Rajendrachola I Here the king is referred as Rajendradeva. The record further speaks of grant of 10 kolaga of paddy to bhalar who performs worship regularly by the settiguttaand Nadagavunda. Thus the kalamukhas enjoyed good status during reign of Rajendrachola I. The herostone²¹ noticed in Lakshmanapura, records the death of Binnandi while fighting with santayya the father in law of Tattala Echo-gavunda, who had seized cattle from cattle stall. Thus the cattle raid was also common during this period Sutturu record²² a prasasti of odevyarSri.Rajendracholadevaguru dated 1032 CE reveals king's interest to music. The record states that grant of five musical instruments

(Panchamahasabbdha) tivali I, datte-3, Khandike-3, Palm-6, Jayagante-1 Kole-3, It is said that musical instruments should be played thrice a day. The prasasti also speaks of grant for maintaining tank and for temples of IsanaIsvaramudaiyar and Mulasthanamudeiyar of srotiyur. The gift was made to sathanapatiBrammalingi-bhalara by pouring libation water by the king for his own merit.

Changalavs invasion during the reign of Rajendrachola is revealed from Hampapur record²³. The record states that death of an individual while fighting with changalavas. Another record from Belaturu inscription²⁴ praises the king at length. The record praises king as, having obtained 500 virasanas adorned with many good quality like virtuous, pure conduct, just, modest and wise of ViraBalanja-dharma shining with gudda flag. He has possessed unadminished power, broad in the chest, courageous in world, born of khandali-vasudeva and Mulbhadra, not lying speech, not fatigued by exertion, like great ocean not transgressing their bounds. In strength similar to Mahesvara, in skill similar to Vishnu and in wisdom similar to Brahma. He marched against yamavaruna, vayavya, the chera, the chola and thepandya. Kuruballi record²⁵ which states that changalvanayaka had gone to the kingdom of Rajendrachola and fought for changalava while coming to his padikbe of kaundigakula he fought with Binjavuniradeva and later was killed on whose memory stone was set up.

One more prasasti in Tamil from Tadimalingi²⁶ refers to king as Tirumannivalara. The prasasti registers gift of 3 Mudigondasolan-madai, yielding an interest of $\frac{3}{4}$ pon and 3 manjadi at the rate of a one kunri, of gold per month by uttamasolavichcharaiyan the gift was made to God Iravikulamanikka-vinnagar-alvar and Goddess Nambiratti. The grant was made for food offering during panguni festival. During this festival several people were honoured (parisattam) by putting garland and earring. This charity was conducted by Nagarattar of the place

Mallegowdanakoppalu inscription²⁷ is a herostone which speaks of fighting took place between changalva and cholas. Tilugara-marichangalva with his younger brother carried off the cows, which were turned back by BagguliSiriya after fighting with changulva. He also defended that women in whose memory stone was erected by his younger brother. Another herostone²⁸ of same place refers to cattle raid by tilugaramarichangalvaPanchiyaMuddayya having fight with changalva defended the cows and women and died. Vuddabe and Mallayya caused the stone to be erected. Ankanathapur record²⁹ dated 1037 CE speaks one more major expedition by the changalvas to the kingdom of Rajendrachola. The record refers to an attack by Nigalankamallachangalva of kudalur in Nolenad. Several gavundas of Plinge fought and obtained Nagavangalam as a kalnad free of all imposts. PanchavamarayanMahamanadalesvara who bestowed the title upon some gavundas. Since the present record refers to an attack by the changalvas in 1037 CE It is obvious that even by that date the changalavs had remained unsubjected³⁰.

During the regin of Rajendracholavaour of heroes were appreciated by giving some gift. Maruru record³¹ states that gift of four khanugas of land below the cancalwa made to Ipagonda. In another prasasti³² the king is said to had given grant of land to God Suddamallisvaram-udaiyaMahadeva by nagarattar at Jananadapuram. This shows shaivainclination of the king.

Out of nearly 23 inscription giving wide information of king Rajendrachola I. 17 inscriptions are in kannada and 1 in Bilingual language and 5 are in Tamil languages and script.

Rajadhiraja I. (C1018-54CE) rajadhiraja's political activity might had started during the reign of his father Rajendra I. Out of nearly eleven inscriptions speak of this king, only two records are in Kannada and remaining are in Tamil language and script. Earliest record comes from Talakad³³ dated 1040-41 is in Tamil and refers to padinadu in Gangaikondasolavalanad of Mudigondsolamandalam and Rajadhiraja I was referred as Rajkesari. The govundas³⁴ of this period bore the names of their new sovereign, Rajendracholagamunda and pergadiRajarajantheirby claiming their legitimate authority.

Merchants played a significant role during his period, Kempanapura record³⁵ dated (1018-54) gives detail description of how village velur alias Rajaraja-chaturvedi - Mangalam in padindu in Gangaikondachola – valanad in Mudigondacholamandalam was converted into an erivirupattanam by the mercantile organization by Tisai – ayirattainnuruvar of Ayyapolili.e, Ayyavole. This order was stated to have been signed by karmavariyam-senapatipadi- andan. Nanadesiyuyakkondan.Rajadhiraja – padinenbhumiandan, annurrvandan and nanadesipervariyan. Also refers to the assistance rendered by these associations to the military carvans which accompanied them. The converted village velur was also known as Rajadhiraja – Chaturvedimangalam might be named after Rajadhiraja I. Not only village even Talakad was known as Rajarajapuram³⁶. Donations made to Brahmanas is noticed in the record of this king. The gift were both in land and gold form. Madhavamantridam inscription³⁷ reveals the gift of 4½ kalanju of gold for food offerings to Brahmanas and distribution of 4 ma of paddy annually to the Brahmana. The same record registers the provision for food offerings of god Rajarajavitankadeva. might be named after king Rajadhiraja-I During the reign of Rajadhiraja several temples were built kesavabata³⁸ son of AcharyaRachamma and Biyalaabbe, erected temple in memory of his ancestors. Thus practice of ancestors worship was also prevalent. Not only construction of temple but also setting up of god Gangesvara by uttamacholagauvnda is noticed in kalagala inscription³⁹. The same record mentions the land grant of this ruler. Sthanapatisomarasijiya was the recipient of this gift. Thus king also patronized kalamukhapointiff. Thus the shaiva inclination of the king is noticed.

Rajendradeva-II (C1052-63CE) was the one more son of Rajendra-I Out of six inscriptions belonging to this ruler 4 are in Kannada language and 2 are in Tamil. In his prasasti, he is referred as parakesari. One of his records is a mastikal written in Kannada poem, coming from Belaturu⁴⁰ is very interesting one. The record was written by malla, distinguished among Brahmanas as Aditya described as kavirajabaadhava. The record states that, Dekabbe, after the hearing the report of excavation of her husband by the king. Jumped in to the fire pit much against the wishes of the assembled.Echa, the husband of Dekabbe was a good wrestler (Jettiga) who pierced with valour his dayiga a cognote kinsman, obviously this amounted to murder therefore, he was taken to talk where he was committed to death by the king. This shows, the king lacked sportsmanship and injustice was metted to Echa.

Rajendradeva's reign was not as peaceful as compare to earlier to chola rulers because, Gujjappanahundi record⁴¹ gives a detail description of skirmish taking between Naganna of Kereyur and sangaya of koligala. In this fight latter was killed by former and Naganna was inturn killed by Rachagavanda. Apart from this Ningahalli record⁴² refers to Bira who fought and driven out the thieves in the skimish of Bayanad. Thus thieves were also found. Merchants played an important role is known from Hale Aluru record⁴³ which refers to a merchant who purchased three khandugas land from gamundas of

komummanasolevichchadiranallur in padinad and endowed the same to God Tirumulasthaamudaiyar of Alur for food offering.

KulottungacholaI (C1070-1122 CE) Nearly 19 inscriptions belonging to this ruler are found. Out of which 13 records are in Tamil and remaining 6 are in Kannada. Records from Agara44, Nilasoge45 and Matakere give various titles bestowed to their ruler. If agararecord calls him as Pugalsulndapunari, nilasoge refer to him as kovirajakesarivaraman alias chakravartigalkulottungcholadeva. In Matakere record he is named along with his wife Bhvamani. During the reign of this king, Tippuru was attacked by the Hoysalas that was in 23rd regnal year of this king and some kind of action was taken by chologangan son of Rajendracholamarayan a soldier belonging to Rajendrachola-terinda-valangai-velanikkerar regiment.

Several developmental activities were made during his reign, Bommuru agrahara46 refers to mandalikapomanIraman alias Virudarabayankaramarayan of king kulottungachola repaired the beaches of lake at siriyakalasttappadi alias vanavanmadevi in idaiturainad which had fallen into despair for 200 years. Construction of temples were in progress Muttagamanda alias Satyavakyagavunda47 got constructed temple for Mulasthanamudaiyyar and a tank was also excavated. This, temple construction was followed by excavation of tank. Another epigraph from kannambadi48 refers to construction of two temples by Madiyanna and Lankanna sons of VadagavelekaraMutahadeyaraya. Velekara is equivalent to velevali. These were warriors who had pledged their lives for their lord. Thus the king had such warriors who also enjoyed autonomy to construct temples.

Gavundas made a grant of lands to kongajjiya a kalamukha pontiff. Kalamukhas were prominently noticed. They were not only receivers of various donations but also enjoyed right to sell their share to others. This is revealed in Echiganahalli49 inscription where Nagajjiya sold his share to Marajjiya for money. This was in the presence of several individuals like Nemisetti of karavra who was also adhipati of the of Edadore-1000. Nemisetti referred here must belong to merchant community, was also in charge of administrative division Edadore-1000. Another record from Agra, where sankara-nayakar the Mahapattaviyabari (the chief of merchants) made resettlement of village by excavating a big tank and a spring channel with a sluice (tumbu).renovated temples, set up institution for learning. By these two records it is clear that merchants enjoyed full autonomy in the reign of kulottungachola.

Not only construction of temples, schools and excavation of tanks records also throw light on various donation made to several temples. Agara record50 dated 1104 CE reveals as the gift of village and some lands in three villages all together renamed as virudraja-bayankara-chaturvedimangalam and several taxes due from Brahmadeva lands were made over as sarvamanya and other taxes were exempted and granted to 4 bhattas on the occasion of pushapabhiseka of Tiruvegambam-udaiyar at kanchipuram. Another record dated 1110CE records51 the gift of 2000 kuli for God Tiruviramisvamudaiyamahadeva of Erumaikumba. Puravuvuri52 was the revenue officer under kulottungachola.

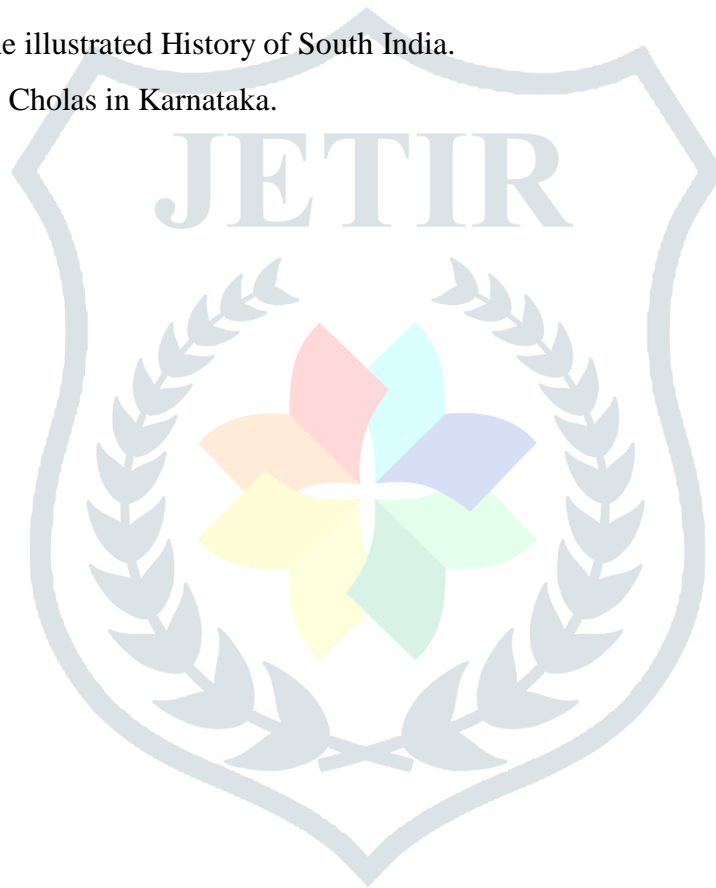
Rajendrachola III (C 1246-1276CE) He was the last ruler of our study. Out of nearly four inscriptions of this ruler all are in Tamil. Only two records from Kalaturu53 and kelasuru54 give some information about this king. The kalaturu record refers him as karikala and further states that royal grant of village kalatur and right of ownership to solandan, for the enjoyment during his lifetime. Later solandan was honoured with pariyattam.

Another record from kelasuru refers to grant of 12 khandugas to jainaBasadi by vikkiramacholaperumadigamundan of kellasuru55 in kudugur-nadu in Gangikondasolavalanadu. Thus it is clear that jaina religion was patronized by this ruler. Talakadu inscription56 is the last inscription which commenorates the death of kulokacharya disciple of MandalacharyaKamaladeva.

Thus it is evident from above records tht during the imperial chola activities in the region under study, all the subjects enjoyed full autonomy whether it is commonmangavundas, or eminent officers including sthanapatis for making grants, construction renovation of temples and excavating tanks. Almost all their records are in Tamil and Kannada and one or two in biungual. Every grant gives detail information about land value and its assessment, irrigational facilities provided in every region. Taxation policy, Society and culture of the region.

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