

HIS5B07 KERALA SOCIETY AND CULTURE: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL

MODULE-2

TOPIC-DISINTEGRATION OF PERUMAL KINGDOM

- ❑ Loosely knit centralized administration- disintegration started in 12th C
- ❑ Internal & external conflicts
- ❑ The Cholas- most powerful rulers of south India
- ❑ Cordial relations b/w Cholas & Cheras in 9th & 10th C
- ❑ It was essential for Cheras to get the support of Cholas- because Pandyans were trying to make inroads in to Chera territory
- ❑ Interpreting the 'Tillai sthanam Temple inscription- Gopinatha Rao argued that Sthanu Ravi & Aditya Chola were contemporaries

- ❑ K.A.N. Sastri- also opined that Aditya Chola & Sthanu Ravi- contemporaries
- ❑ Inscription refers- granting of certain privileges to Vikky Annan, army commander of Tanjore jointly by sthanu Ravi & Chola Rajasekhara Varman, identified as Aditya Chola by Gopinatha Rao & others
- ❑ T. V.Mahalingam- Chola king referred in Tillai Sthanam Inscription was Srikanta Chola & not Aditya Chola
- ❑ Chera- Chola alliance started from the period of Sthanu Ravi

- ❑ Marriage alliance b/w Chera princess with Parantaka Chola- strengthen cordial relations
- ❑ But cordial relation was short lived-struggle b/w two started from the time of Bhaskara Ravi
- ❑ Cordial relation strained at the time of Indu Kota, predecessor of Bhaskara Ravi- who helped Pandyans in their struggle against Cholas
- ❑ Another reason- greed for territorial expansion by Cholas

- ❑ Raja Raja Chola- aggressive policy towards Chera kingdom- raided certain places of Perumals in the beginning of 11th C
- ❑ Cholas attacked -Kantalur Sali- famous educational centre of Kerala
- ❑ Also raided places like Talakkulam, Karakandiswaram, Vizhinjam of South Travancore- 999 AD
- ❑ To strengthen attack against Kerala- Chola Navy - called back from Srilanka
- ❑ Suchindram inscription- Raja Raja Chola- southern parts of Venad had already become part of Chola province by 11th C

- ❑ Cholan dominance - Kanyakuari, Parthivapuram, Tirunandikara, Eramal, Kottal
- ❑ Title- 'KantalurSalai Arutha Raja Raja Tevar' - on the basis of capture of Kantalur Salai
- ❑ Also attacked & destroyed port town of Kollam & attacked Perumal capital, Mahodayapuram
- ❑ Contemporary Chola inscriptions- Cholas destroyed Udagi, identified as Mahodayapuram
- ❑ With the death of Rajaraja, Chola army retreated from Kerala temporarily

- ❑ Cholas once again attack Kerala- Rajendra Chola
- ❑ Came to Kerala through Palakkad pass & through southern side simultaneously
- ❑ After conquering Vizhinjam in 1020- renamed as RajendraChola pattanam
- ❑ Also attacked Chera capital Mahodayapuram
- ❑ But by this time Chola army was withdrawn from Kerala, so as to fight with other powers
- ❑ Perumals regained their powers- could not consolidate- as Cholas came back

- ❑ Chola army led- Rajadhiraja Chola
- ❑ Later by Kulothunga Chola
- ❑ Ramavarma Kulasekhara- Perumal ruler offered stiff resistance against Cholas
- ❑ As capital was under Chola attack- Ramavarma had to shift HQ to Nediya Tali, near Kodungallur- Perunna inscription
- ❑ New suicide squad-formed by Perumal- strongly resisted Chola army
- ❑ Cholappuram inscription- Chola army was forced to retreat by 1120CE

- ❑ Ramavarma- last Perumal-could force the Cholas to retreat-could not retain his kingdom & power- capital was burnt- entire administrative system was disrupted & the regional chieftains declared their independence
- ❑ Disintegration became a reality by 12th c