



DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

1 Election Commission of India (Source: The Hindu)

Administration

- **Capital:** Tanjore
- **Symbol:** Tiger
- **Administrative Division:** Empire, Mandala, Valanadu, Ooru, Sabhas.
 - **Uttarameru Inscriptions:** Deal with local body elections
- **Administrative Structure:** The ruler was assisted in his task by a council of ministers. Higher-level officials were referred to as Peruntaram, and lower-level ones as Siruntaram.

Army

- The military consisted of infantry, cavalry, elephants and a powerful navy.

Economy

- **Mercent Guilds:** Manigram
- **Source of Income**
 - Economy was predominantly agrarian and taxation.
 - Overseas trade flourished with China, Java, Sumatra and Arabia.
 - Industries such as silk weaving at Kanchi and metal crafts prospered.
- **Taxation Terms**
 - **Kutimai:** Tax levied on cultivators
 - **Labour Dues:** Vetti/vettinai
 - **Natacci:** Taxes levied on residences and communal spaces.
 - **Cunkam:** Toll
 - **Tattar Pattam:** Tax on goldsmiths
 - **Kurai Kacu:** Tax on fabric
 - **Vettilai:** Tariff on betel leaf
 - **Vannar Parai:** Tax on washermen
 - **Paci Pattam:** Tax on fishing
- **Coins:** Gold, silver and copper coins circulated.
- **Coastal Towns:** Poompuhar, Nagapattinam, Mamallapuram



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Condition of Society

- The caste system was widely prevalent (2 major divisions among castes -valangai and idangai)
- Saivism and Vaishnavism continued to flourish
- At the elite brahmadeya settlements, Brahmin landholders known as brahmadeya-kilavars were established with tax exemptions, displacing the local peasants (kudi neekki). Like in Brahmadeyams, temples received land known as devadana, which was tax-free.
- The temples became the centre of a number of activities throughout this time. The vellanvagai communities' landowners occupied the next position in the social structure.
- Land ownership was not permitted for Ulukudi (tenants), and they were compelled to work the properties owned by Brahmins and vellanvagai village holders.
- Landowners retained melvaram, or the majority of the harvest, while the ulukudi received kizh varam, or the lesser part. The lowest socioeconomic classes continued to be those of workers (paniceymakkal) and slaves (adimaigal).

Art and Architecture

- **Temple:** Dravidian temple architecture reached its peak during Chola rule.
 - **Example:** Darasuram, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, and Brihadeshwara Temple.
- **Painting:** Chola paintings have wide-open eyes. The paintings are vibrant and alive with energy.
- **Sculptures:** The Cholas created magnificent bronze sculptures of dancing Shiva and Nataraja by using the lost-wax method.

Education and Literature

- **Associated Inscriptions:** Ennayiram, Thirumukkudal, and Thirubhuvanai
- **Subjects Thought:** Vedas, Epics, mathematics, and medicine.
- **Tamil Literature**
 - Thiruthakkadevar and Kundalakesi penned Sivakasintamani.
 - Ramayana by Kamban and the Periyapuram or Tiruttondarpuranam by Sekkilar.
 - The Kalinga war of Kulotunga I is described in Jayankondar's Kalingattupparani.
 - The Moovarula by Ottakuthar describes the lives of three Chola monarchs. The Nalavenba is written by Pugalendi.
 - Works on Tamil grammar include Kalladam by Kalladanar, Yapperungalam by Amirthasagarar, Jain, Nannul by Pavanandhi, and Virasoliyam by Buddhamitra were created during the Chola dynasty.

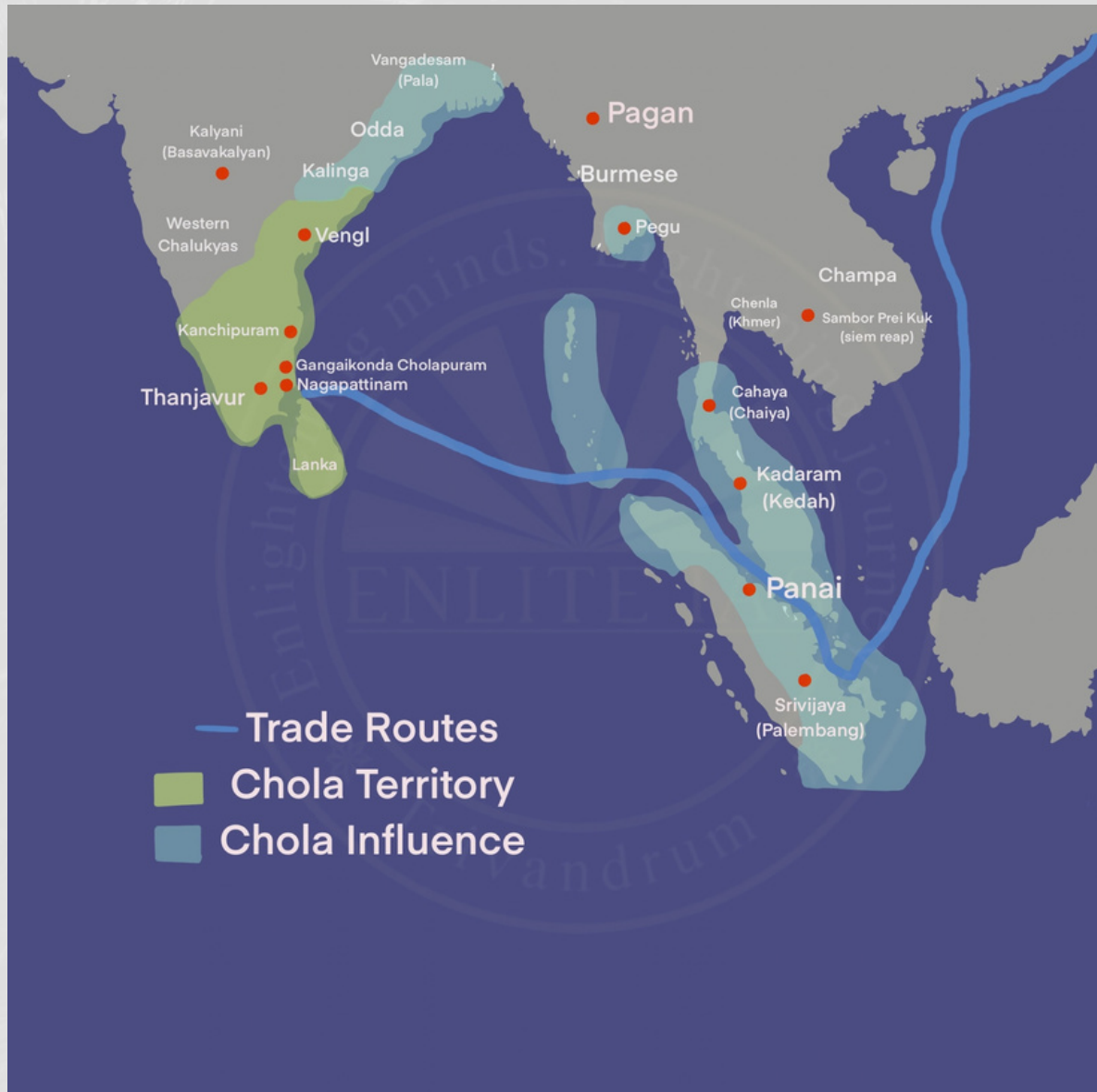


Charalana Margga

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2 Brahmaputra River System (Source: The Indian Express)

- **Origin:** Chemayungdung glacier in Tibet, China.
- **Course**
 - It flows as the Yarlung Tsangpo River across southern Tibet to break through the Himalayas in great gorges and into Arunachal Pradesh where it is known as Dihang.
 - The first major tributary is the Raga Tsangpo meeting the Tsangpo near Lhatse Dzong.
 - West of the town of Sadiya, the Dihang turns to the southwest and is joined by two mountain streams, the Lohit, and the Dibang, and below the confluence, the river is known as the Brahmaputra.
 - It flows through Bangladesh as the Jamuna where it merges with the Ganga (Padma) to form a vast delta, the Sunderbans.
- **Facts**
 - The biggest and the smallest riverine islands in the world, Majuli, and Umananda respectively, are situated in the river in the state of Assam.



Brahmaputra River System



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Left Bank Tributaries

- **Dhansiri River**
 - It originates from the Naga Hills in Nagaland.
- **Lohit River**
 - The Lohit River originates in eastern Tibet.
 - The river flows through the Mishmi hills to meet the Siang at the head of the Brahmaputra valley.
 - The Lohit Valley is densely forested and features a mix of alpine and subtropical vegetation.
- **Dibang River**
 - Originates close to the Tibetan border at an altitude of more than 5000 m.
 - The Mishmi hills are found along the upper course of the Dibang River.

Right Bank Tributaries

- **Subansiri River**
 - Also called the Gold River as it is famous for its gold dust.
 - Flows through Arunachal Pradesh and is ideal for kayaking.
- **Kameng River**
 - Kameng River in the eastern Himalayan mountains originates in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary and the Kaziranga National Park are located near the Kameng River.
- **Manas River**
 - Manas River is a transboundary river in the Himalayan foothills between southern Bhutan and India.
 - It flows through Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan and its contiguous Manas Wildlife Sanctuary in India.



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3 Exercise Tarang Shakt 2026 (Source: The Hindu)

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 is the second edition of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest multinational air exercise at Air Force Station, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and adjoining air bases.

- **Participating Countries:** India, United States of America, France, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **Objectives**
 - Enhance interoperability among diverse air forces.
 - Conduct joint planning & execution of complex air operations in a realistic battlespace.
 - Share tactics, techniques, procedures (TTPs) and best practices.
 - Integrate 5th-gen (F-35) with 4th/4.5-gen fighters and Indian platforms.
 - Showcase India's aerospace capabilities and role as a net security provider.