

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THIRU CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO,  
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU**

**Felicitation function organized by Chennai Tamil Sangam at Thanjavur  
on 13.10.16 at 7.15 pm for Unveiling the Portrait of Emperor Rajendra  
Chola - I at Mazagon Dock at Mumbai.**

**Vanakkam**

Thiru A.Annadurai, IAS., District Collector, Thanjavur, Thiru K.Parasuraman, Member of Parliament, Thanjavur, Dr.G.Bhaskaran, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur, Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai, Dr.T.Elangovan, Chairman, Chennai Tamil Sangam, Thiru M.Ramu IAS. (Retd), Chairman, Advisory Board, Chennai Tamil Sangam, Dr.K.V.Kupusamy, Chairman, RVS Group of Institutions, Thiru V.Balasubramanian, Delhi Tamil Sangam, New Delhi, Dr.V.G.Santhosam, Chairman, VGP Group, Dr.K.K.Nidhi, Secretary and Members of Chennai Tamil Sangam,

It gives me immense pleasure to participate on the occasion of the Millennium Anniversary Celebration of the Coronation of Great Emperor Rajendra Chola - I. What makes this celebration special and unique is the place where celebrations are being organized is Thanjavur, the capital city of the Cholas.

I am happy to share few words about the great emperor standing at his own place where he controlled his vast empire and created a majestic naval base which showcased his prowess marking victories overseas.

I had the privilege of unveiling the Portrait of Emperor Rajendra Chola – I at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited at Mazagon Mumbai just three weeks ago.

When I read the history of the Chola kings I was amazed to know about their warrior skills, art, architecture and contribution to the promotion of Tamil language.

Indian Culture is rightly described as “unity in diversity”. These are not mere words but describe our cultural legacy and heritage across her length and breadth. Tamil Nadu’s rich culture and heritage stand as a glittering diamond in the crown of Mother India.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

If we look at the History of Tamil Nadu which was ruled by different dynasties, it carries an extraordinary cultural legacy inherited over the years. Tamil is considered to be most ancient and traditional language of the world. The earliest Tamil Grammar available today is Tolkappiyam. Tamil Language attained Classical Status because of its early texts, ancient literature and recorded history.

I am pleased to learn that Chennai Tamil Sangam is promoting greatness of Tamil Language, Literature, History and Culture. I congratulate Chennai Tamil Sangam for showcasing the greatness of emperor Raja Raja Chola, Rajendra Chola and the Temple architecture built during their period. The history of great kings like Chola and others must be included in the text books elaborately so that our children will be confident, bold and the inferiority complex can be vanished.

I commend the initiatives taken by Chennai Tamil Sangam to honour eminent Tamil personalities, scholars, outstanding artists, sculpturers, research scholars and award winners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am told that during the period of the Great Tamil King Rajendra Chola who occupied the western coastline the Bay of Bengal, the Bay was called "Chola Lake".

The vast Ocean connecting and separating nations have played an important role in shaping many countries, cultures and ideologies through the movement of goods, people, scientific discoveries and cultural exchanges. The rise of Chola Dynasty unfolded a new chapter conquering high seas through development of strong naval force. The Coronation of Rajendra Chola-I in 1014 AD was an epoch making event in the history of the Indian subcontinent. Cross cultural linkages between Indian and the erstwhile empires and contemporary nations of the South East Asia and East Asia can be traced back to the vast Chola Empire which touched the pinnacle of its glory during the reign of Emperor Rajendra Chola - I. The reign also witnessed a strong foundation for promotion of trade, commerce and cultural exchanges which brought enormous economic prosperity and expansion of Indian culture and heritage across the Indian Ocean to the land of South East Asia and other parts.

Three great temples of Great Chola reign including Brihadisvara Temple was declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. These three temple complexes form a unique group, demonstrating a progressive development of

high Chola architecture and art at its best and at the same time showcasing a very distinctive period of Chola history and Tamil culture.

India is fortunate in having a long coastline. Tamil Nadu has a coastline of about 1076 km which was part of ancient silk route. Making best use of it by modernizing its Major Ports, Harbours, waterways, fishing hubs and other allied activities and integrating them with economic zones is necessary. The ability to reap economic benefits will rest on the country's capacity to respond to the challenges in the maritime domain and I would like to recall what our Hon'ble Prime Minister said during the first Maritime Indian summit in Mumbai, "the maritime agenda will complement the ambitious infrastructure plan for the hinterland which is going on in parallel" .

I thank the Chennai Tamil Sangam for organizing this felicitation function.

Jai Hind ! Jai Tamil Nadu !

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