

## Chola Gangam Lake

July 24, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



### Chola Gangam Lake Latest News

In view of the birth anniversary of the legendary Tamil king Rajendra Chola I Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that the 'Chola Gangam' lake would be developed.

### About Chola Gangam Lake

- **Location:** It is a prominent water body situated within the vicinity of **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** in the Ariyalur District of **Tamil Nadu, India**.
- It is locally known as **Ponneri lake**.

### Historical Background

- This historic lake owes its existence to **Rajendra Chola I**, a famous **ruler of the Chola Dynasty**
- It was dug by **King Rajendra Chola I** to **celebrate his northern campaign**, according to **Tiruvalangadu Copper Plates**.

- To ensure a continuous water supply to Cholagangam Lake, a meticulously planned canal was constructed at a distance of sixty stones` throw from the **Kollidam River**.
- This canal served as a vital waterway, connecting the Kollidam River to Cholagangam Lake, ensuring the consistent replenishment of the reservoir.
- The lake depends on surface water collected during the rains.
- According to some records the tank once irrigated 1,564 acres of land, its primary purpose being to **supply drinking water to Gangaikonda Cholapuram**.

## Who was Rajendra Chola I?

- He is often described as **Rajendra the Great**, was a **Chola emperor** who ruled between 1014 and 1044 CE.
- Rajendra succeeded his father, **Rajaraja I, in 1014 CE**.
- He was also known as **Gangaikonda Cholan**, meaning “**Bringer of the Ganges River**”. Another title was Kadaram Kondan, which means “Conqueror of Kedah”.
- In order to commemorate his victory to the Ganges and over the northern kings, Rajendra Chola I assumed the title of ‘**Gangaikondachola**’ and had a temple dedicated to **Lord Shiva** built, which he **named ‘Gangaikondacholeshwaram Mahadev’**.
- He also **founded the city of ‘Gangaikondacholapuram’** and shifted his capital there from Thanjavur

Source: **TH**

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