

Creating History

once again with **Shankara Agraharam**

Emperor Ashoka tells us that there was no **country** where
Brahmanas did not **Exists**



Western Ganga was an important ruling dynasty of ancient Karnataka in India which lasted from about 350 to 1000 AD. They are known as Western Gangas to distinguish them from the Eastern Gangas who in later centuries ruled over Kalinga (modern Odisha). The general belief is that the Western Gangas began their rule during a time when multiple native clans asserted their freedom due to the weakening of the Pallava Empire in South India, a geo-political event sometimes attributed to the southern conquests of Samudra Gupta. The Western Ganga sovereignty lasted from about 350 to 550 AD, initially ruling from Kolar and later, moving their capital to Talakad on the banks of the Kaveri River in modern Mysore district.

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It is theorised that the Gangas may have taken advantage of the confusion caused by the invasion of southern India by the northern king Samudra Gupta prior to 350, and carved out a kingdom for them. The area they controlled was called Gangavadi and included regions of the modern districts of Mysore, Hassan Chamarajanagar, Tumkur, Kolar, Mandya and Bangalore in Karnataka state. At times, they also controlled some areas in modern Tamil Nadu (Kongu region starting from the 6th century rule of King Avinita) and Andhra Pradesh (Ananthpur region starting from middle of 5th century). The founding king of the dynasty was Konganivarma Madhava who made Kolar his capital around 350 and ruled for about twenty years.



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The Western Gangas gave patronage to all the major religions of the time namely Shaivism, Vedic Brahminism and Vaishnavism. Vedic Brahminism was popular in the 6th and 7th centuries when inscriptions refer to grants made to Srotriya Brahmins. These inscriptions also describe the gotra (lineage) affiliation to royal families and their adherence of such Vedic rituals as asvamedha (horse sacrifice) and hiranyagarbha. Brahmins and kings enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship; rituals performed by the brahmins gave legitimacy to kings and the land grants made by kings to brahmins elevated them in society to the level of wealthy landowners.



Some temples were built by the Gangas such as the Narayanaswami temples at Nanjangud, Sattur and Hangala in modern Mysore district, Nandi Hills, Avani and Hebbata in modern Kolar district.

Brahmins enjoyed an influential position in society and were exempt from certain taxes and customs due on land. In turn they managed public affairs such as teaching, local judiciary, functioned as trustees and bankers, managed schools, temples, irrigation tanks, rest houses, collected taxes due from villages and raised money from public subscriptions.

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Before his 14th year c. 998-999 CE, Rajaraja conquered Gangapadi (Gangawadi) and Nurambapadi (Nolambawadi), which formed part of the present Karnataka State. This conquest was facilitated by the fact the Cholas never lost their hold of the Ganga country from the efforts of Sundara Chola. Nolambas who were the feudatories of Ganga could have turned against their overlords and aided the Cholas to conquer the Gangas, who were the chief bulwark against the Chola armies in the northwest. The invasion of the Ganga country was a success and the entire Ganga country was under the Chola rule for the next century.

The Cholas built more than 100 agrahara's in the South part of the country. In states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. As per the available evidences, the last Chola King Rajendra Chola III's rule did not end due to any defeat in the war field. But devastations are available underneath, which proves that some major catastrophe

happened around Gangaikondacholapuram, which brought the Chola's Rule to an end. After about six/eight decades, the Chola region was taken over by Pallava from whom it was Hoysala and then to Vijaya Nagar Rule. During Vijaya Nagar Rule, lots of settlements by Telugu, Telugu Brahmins, and Kannada etc. happened. It is also evident that while the farmers tried to dig wells for farming around Gangaikondacholapuram, it was revealed to the world that the Palace buildings and other constructions are underneath about 50 - 80 feet depth.

During the Cholas reign the Brahmin agraharas flourished with more than 25 Agraharas only in Karnataka. Out of which the following are the Agraharas in Kolar district which are now presently under Chikabalapur District,

Chintamani

① *Malur*

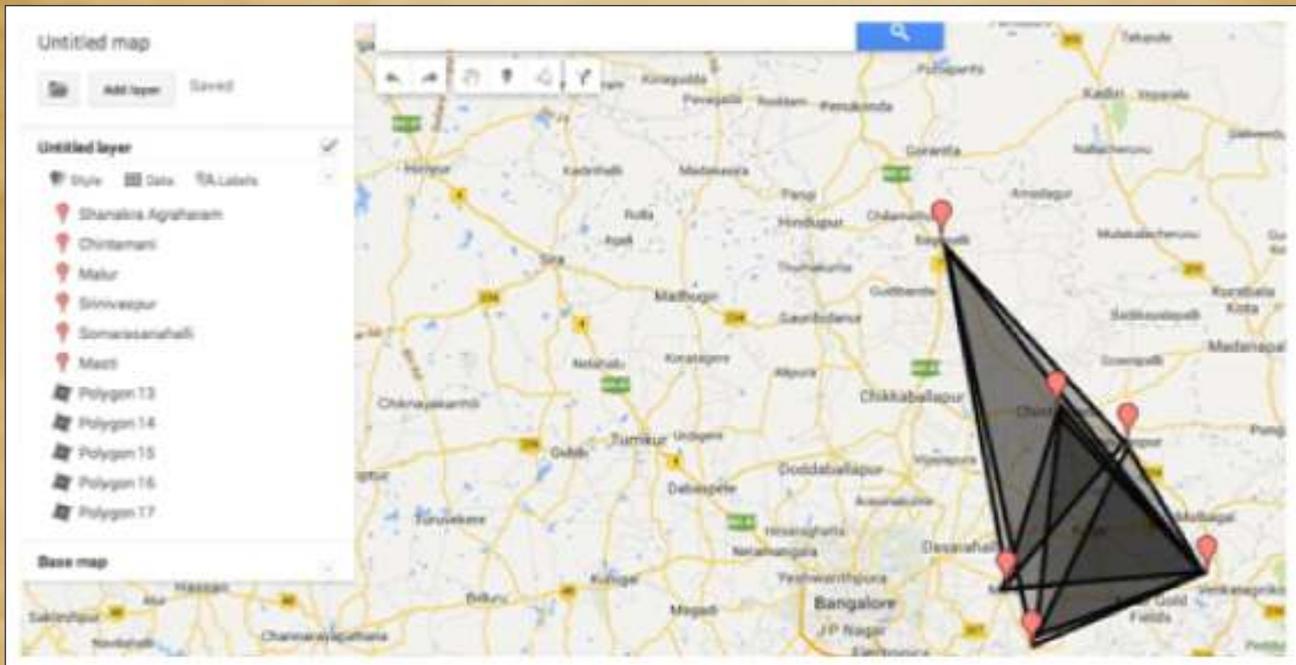
① *Srinivaspur*

① *Somarasahalli*

① *Masthi*

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The Best thing about these Agrahara is they form a polygon or A Pyramid when joined with each other and Shankara Agrharam takes the tip of the pyramid.



After several centuries in the early 17th century 8 Brahmins presented themselves in the court of Balaji Baji Rao II, Pradhan, Pune and were, at the time, gifted 8 villages by him. These Brahmins are believed to come from areas such as Trichy, North Arcot and the Tanjavur districts of Tamil Nadu. These Brahmins soon transformed this land from a once poor community, into a well-educated and prosperous one. Ashtagrama now consists of more than the original 8 villages. The 10 villages, which are located in the Valley of the Palar River, which flows through the Kolar district into Tamil Nadu. These 10 villages are on the North side of the river are Chologunte, Doddiganahalli, Devarayasamudra, Gangigunte, Honnagaanahalli, Kothamangala, Minijenahalli, Thattangunte, Vijalapura and Yelagundanahalli. The remainder of the

villages, Aralakunte, Chamarahalli, Gangapura, Hunkunda and Shillangeri are on the southern side of the river. Though the Iyers form the majority of the population all these villages show communal diversity. Devarayasamudram is a hamlet some 90 km outside of Bangalore in Karnataka, India. It lies between Kolar and Mulbagal on the Old Madras Highway. Chamarahally, Gangapura, Haralakunte, Shillangere are also some of the other Agrahars that existed in Kolar District of Karnataka and hence there is high chance that Shankara Agraharam is being constructed above these once existed sunken Agrharams after more than 3000 years as all these Agraharams co-existed in the vicinity of 50- 60kms.