



Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II (Suvaran Maran)

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Why in News?

- The Prime Minister of India welcomed the release of a **commemorative postage stamp** honouring **Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II**, highlighting his **administrative excellence** and **patronage of Tamil culture**.

Who Was He?

- **Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II**, also known as:
- **Suvaran Maran**
- **Shatrubhayankar**
- Ruled during c. **705–745 CE**.
- A prominent ruler of the **Mutharaiyar dynasty**, an important early medieval Tamil lineage.

Dynastic & Political Background

- The **Mutharaiyars** were:
- Powerful regional rulers in **central Tamil Nadu**.
- **Feudatories of the Pallavas**, especially under **Pallava king Nandivarman II**.
- They played a crucial role in:
- Maintaining political stability during phases of **Pallava decline**.
- Acting as a bridge between Pallava rule and the **rise of the Cholas**.

Territorial Extent & Capital

- Controlled the **central Cauvery basin**, including:
- **Thanjavur**
- **Tiruchirappalli**
- **Pudukkottai**
- **Perambalur** and adjoining regions
- Ruled primarily from **Tiruchirappalli**.
- Exercised authority for nearly **four decades**, indicating political stability.

Key Contributions

1. Administrative & Military Achievements

- Recognised as:
- A **capable administrator** with long-term governance stability.
- A **military ally of the Pallavas**, participating in several campaigns.

- Helped:
- Maintain regional order.
- Check fragmentation during transitional political phases.

2. Temple Building & Architecture

- The **Mutharaiyars** were:
- Among the **earliest temple builders** in Tamil Nadu.
- Contributions included:
- **Rock-cut temples**
- Early **structural temples**
- Their architectural style:
- Laid the foundation for the **early Chola temple tradition**.
- Preceded the rise of **Vijayalaya Chola**, often considered the Chola founder.

3. Cultural & Religious Patronage

- A patron of **Shaivism**.
- Demonstrated **religious pluralism**:
- Hosted philosophical debates involving **Jain scholars**, notably **Acharya Vimalachandra**.
- Supported:
- Tamil language
- Religious institutions
- Scholarly traditions

4. Public Works & Economy

- Inscriptions reveal:
- **Temple endowments**
- Development of **irrigation systems**
- Strengthening of **agrarian infrastructure**
- These measures:
- Enhanced agricultural productivity.

Consolidated the **Cauvery delta economy**, later central to Chola prosperity