



STATEMENT

I have been astounded to read statements saying that great emperor Rajaraj Chola was not a Hindu king. This is absolutely ridiculous. Shiva is the primordial Hindu deity, focus of intense devotion for millions over the millenia from Srinagar down to Rameshwaram. The emperor built one of the greatest Shiva temples which are marvels of architecture, specially the great Brihadishwara Temple in Thanjavur, where I have worshipped many times. To say that he was a Shaivite not a Hindu, is like saying *someone is a Catholic but not a Christian*. These semantic gymnastics in a way denigrate and confuse our great religion, and are not acceptable.

The word Hindu may have gained traction later, but Shiva and Vishnu, Hanuman and Ganesha, Mahalakshmi and Mahakali, have all been part of what we call *Sanatan Dharma* for millennia. Let us not again try and create a division between Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Shaktism, the three main streams of the great Hindu religion which has a billion followers around the world

Karan Singh
Oct.7, 2022