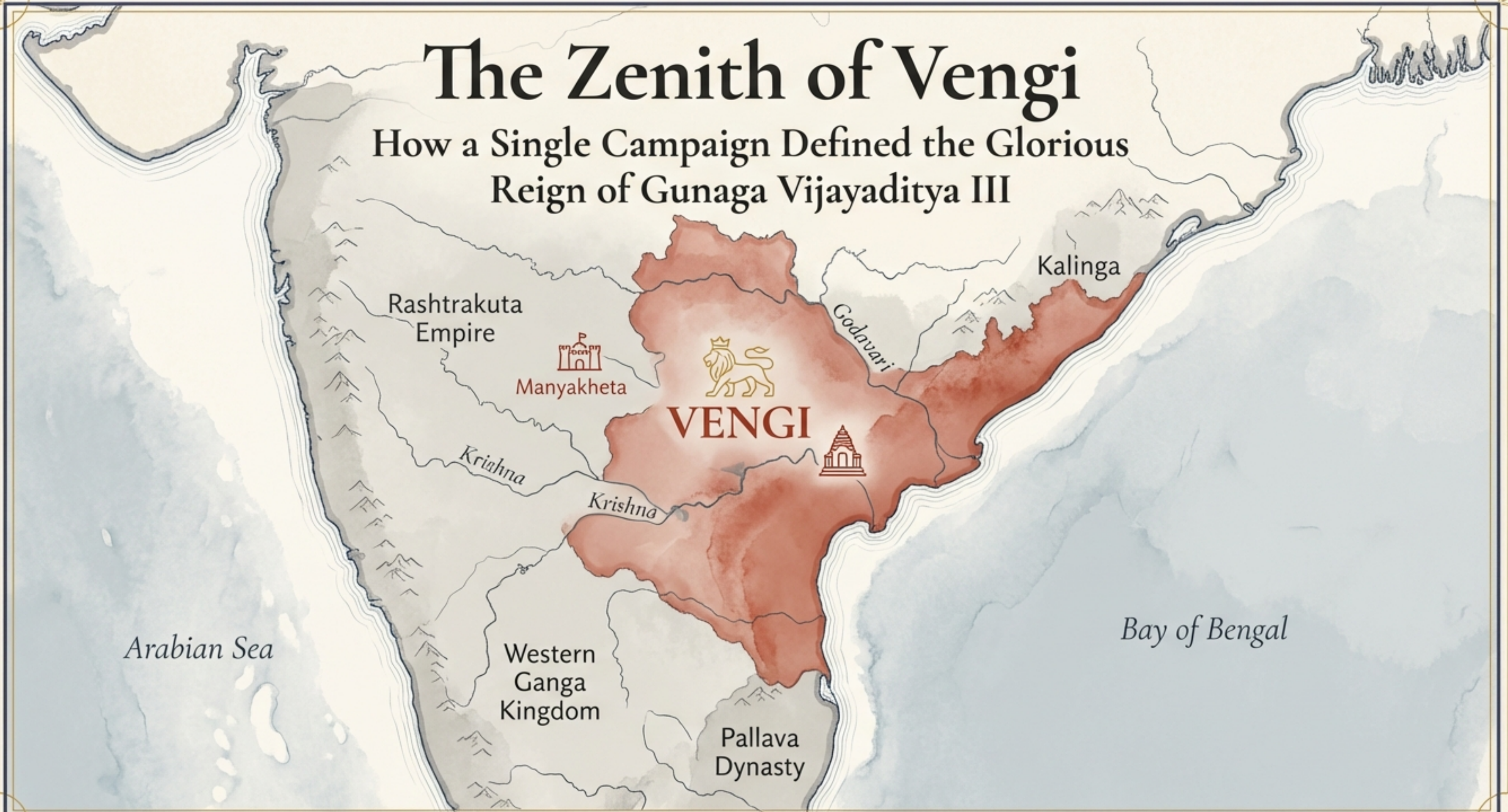


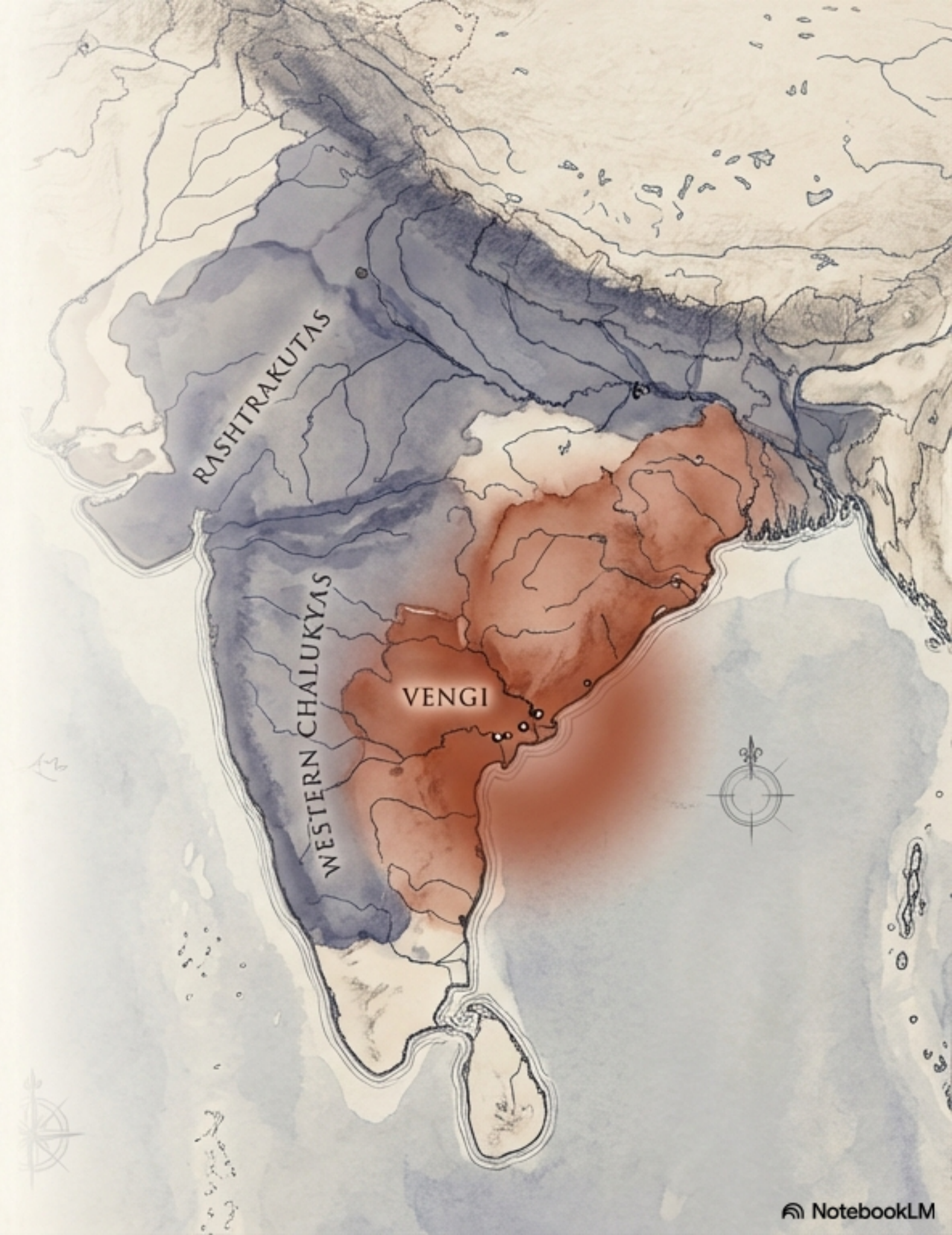
The Zenith of Vengi

How a Single Campaign Defined the Glorious
Reign of Gunaga Vijayaditya III



A Kingdom at its Apex: The Eastern Chalukyas in 849 A.D.

The long reign of Gunaga Vijayaditya III (849-893 A.D.) marked the moment the Eastern Chalukyan power of Vengi reached the 'zenith of its glory.' Over forty-four years, he expanded the kingdom to its widest-ever extent, an achievement built upon a foundation of strategic military expansion. This narrative examines his first and most formative campaign.



The King: A Rama Amid His Enemies

Historical records bestow upon Vijayaditya III a series of powerful titles that reveal his strategic and martial reputation.



Parachakrarama

“Rama amid the circle of enemies,” signifying his prowess in navigating a hostile geopolitical landscape.



Gunakenallata

“The lover of excellence or virtue,” suggesting a ruler concerned with more than just conquest.

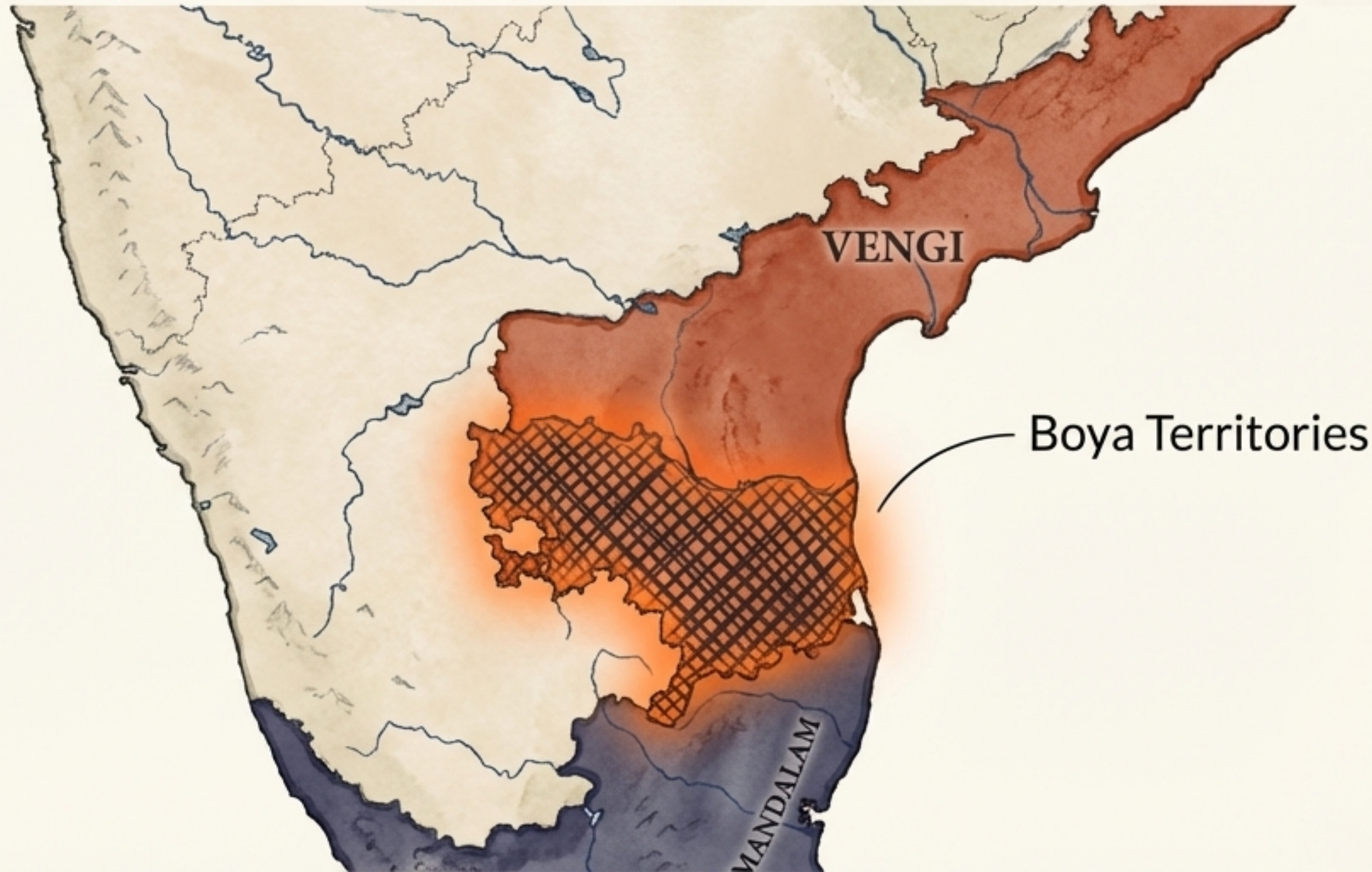


Tripura Martya Mahesvara

“The mortal Mahesvara to three cities,” a clear reference to his destructive military might.

The Southern Threat: A Frontier Aflame

At the beginning of his reign, Vijayaditya III faced an immediate challenge. The Boya chieftains, inhabiting the strategic border region between Vengi and the Pallava-controlled Tondaimandalam, asserted their independence. Taking advantage of the transition of power, they posed a direct threat to the stability and integrity of the kingdom's southern flank.



The King's General

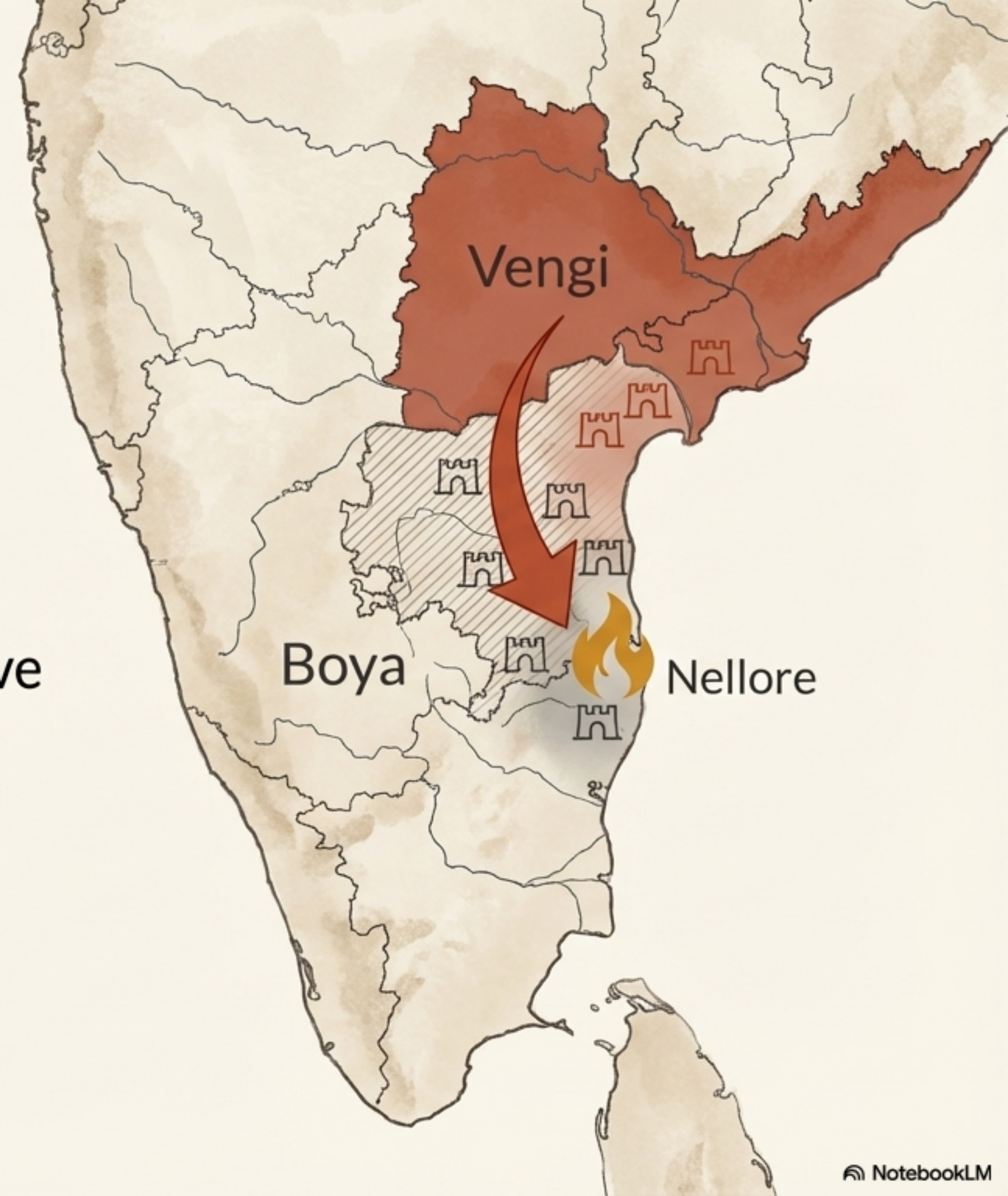


Pandranga

To subjugate the Boyas and secure the border, Gunaga Vijayaditya dispatched an army under the command of his trusted general, Pandranga, the son of the noble Kadeyaraja. The success of the king's first major strategic initiative rested on Pandranga's shoulders.

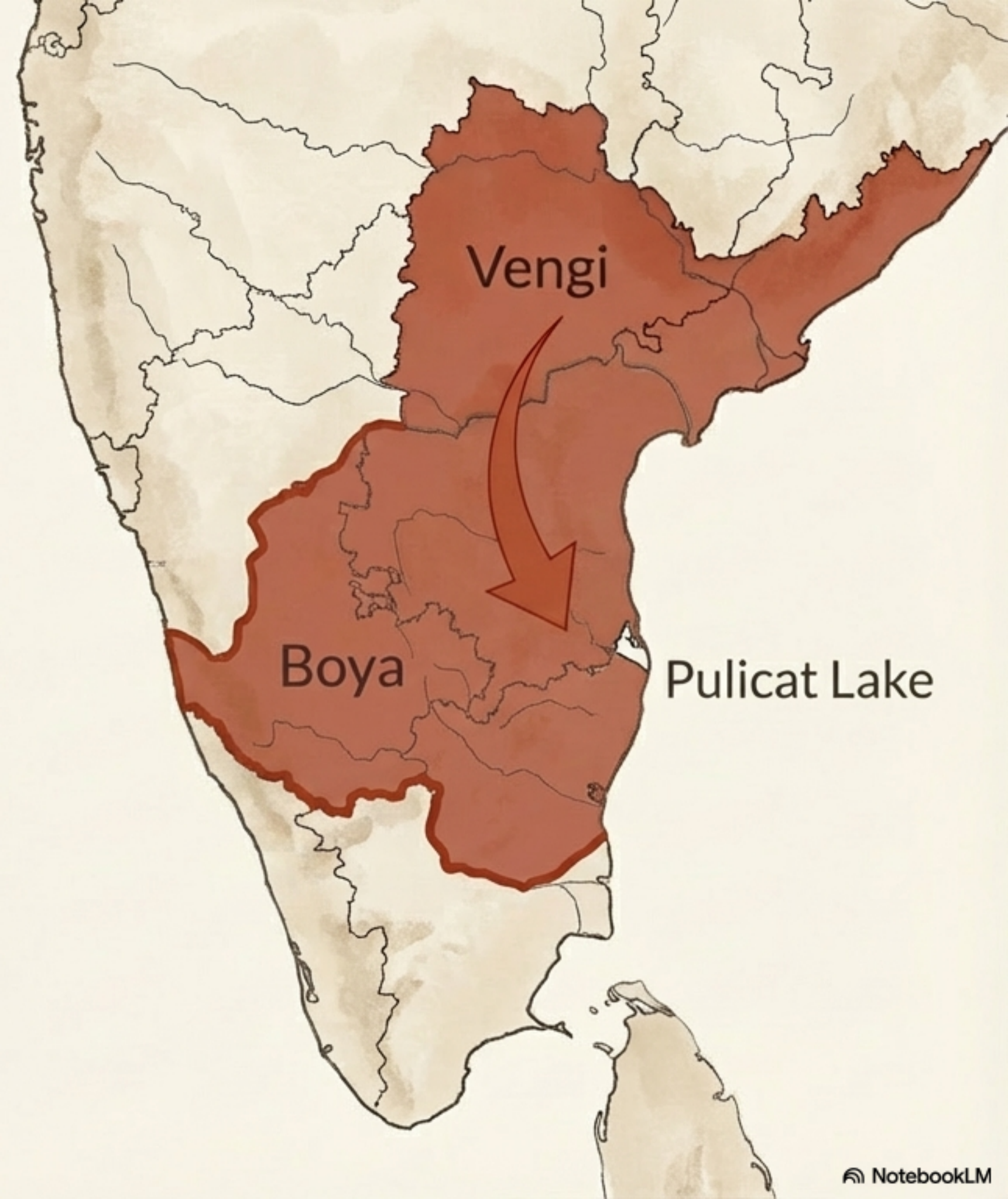
The Conquest of the Twelve Kottams

Pandranga's expedition was swift and decisive. The Addanki epigraph, a key historical record of the campaign, states that he systematically conquered the 'twelve Boya kottams' (fortified districts). Further inscriptions from Chalukya Bhima I record that as part of this subjugation, Pandranga set fire to three key places, one of which was the strategic city of Nellore.



Redrawing the Southern Border

The campaign did not end with the subjugation of the Boyas. To finalize his victory, Pandranga marched his army further south, annexing all territory down to the shore of Pulicat Lake. This bold move pushed the Vengi kingdom's frontier deep into what was once a buffer zone.

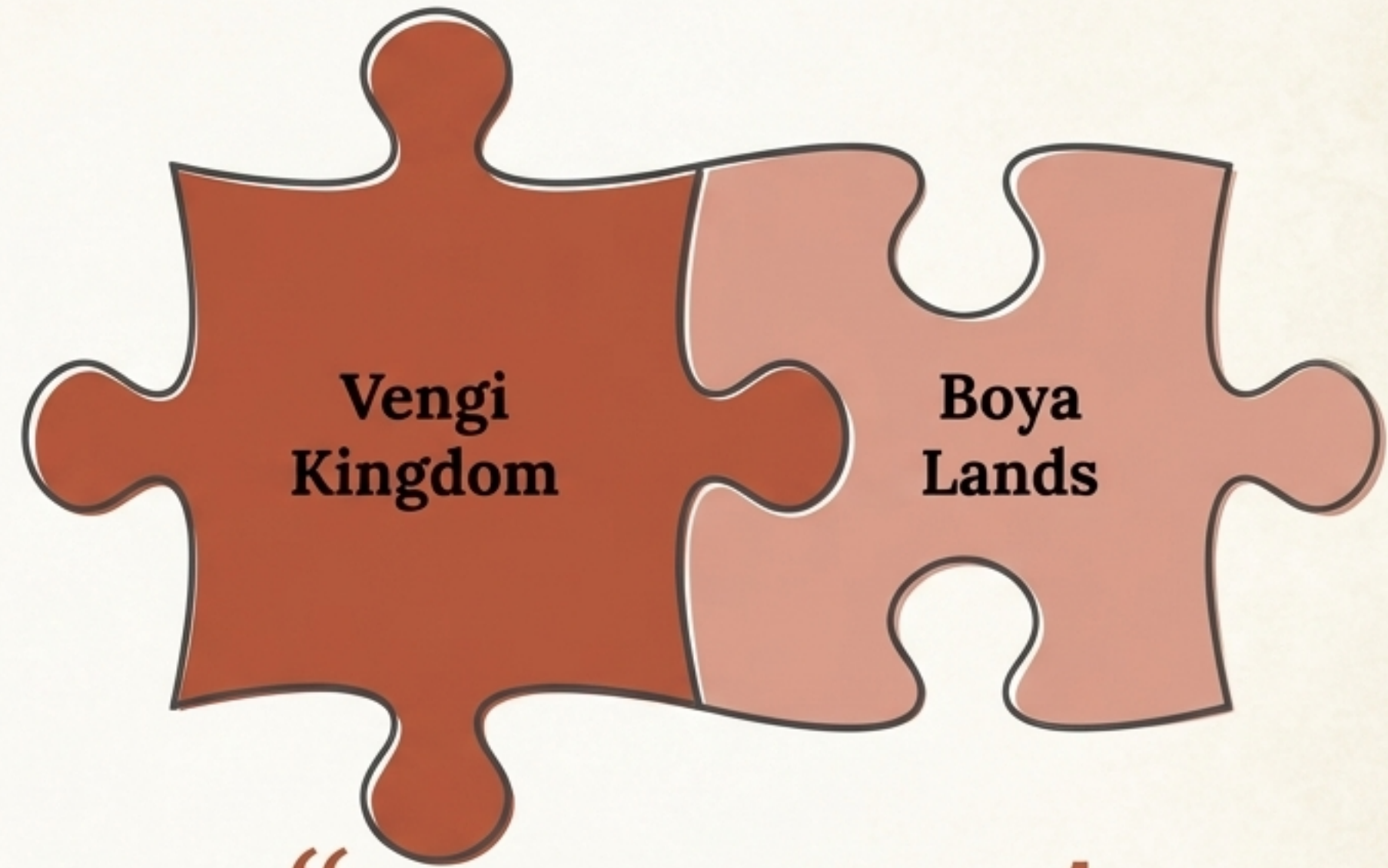


Not a Raid, But a Permanent Annexation

Pandranga's expedition was not a mere punitive raid to punish rebellious chiefs.

The source material is clear: it resulted in the **“permanent annexation of the south-eastern Telugu country.”**

This was a calculated act of **state-building, designed to absorb a troublesome region and integrate it fully into the Vengi kingdom.**



**“permanent
annexation”**

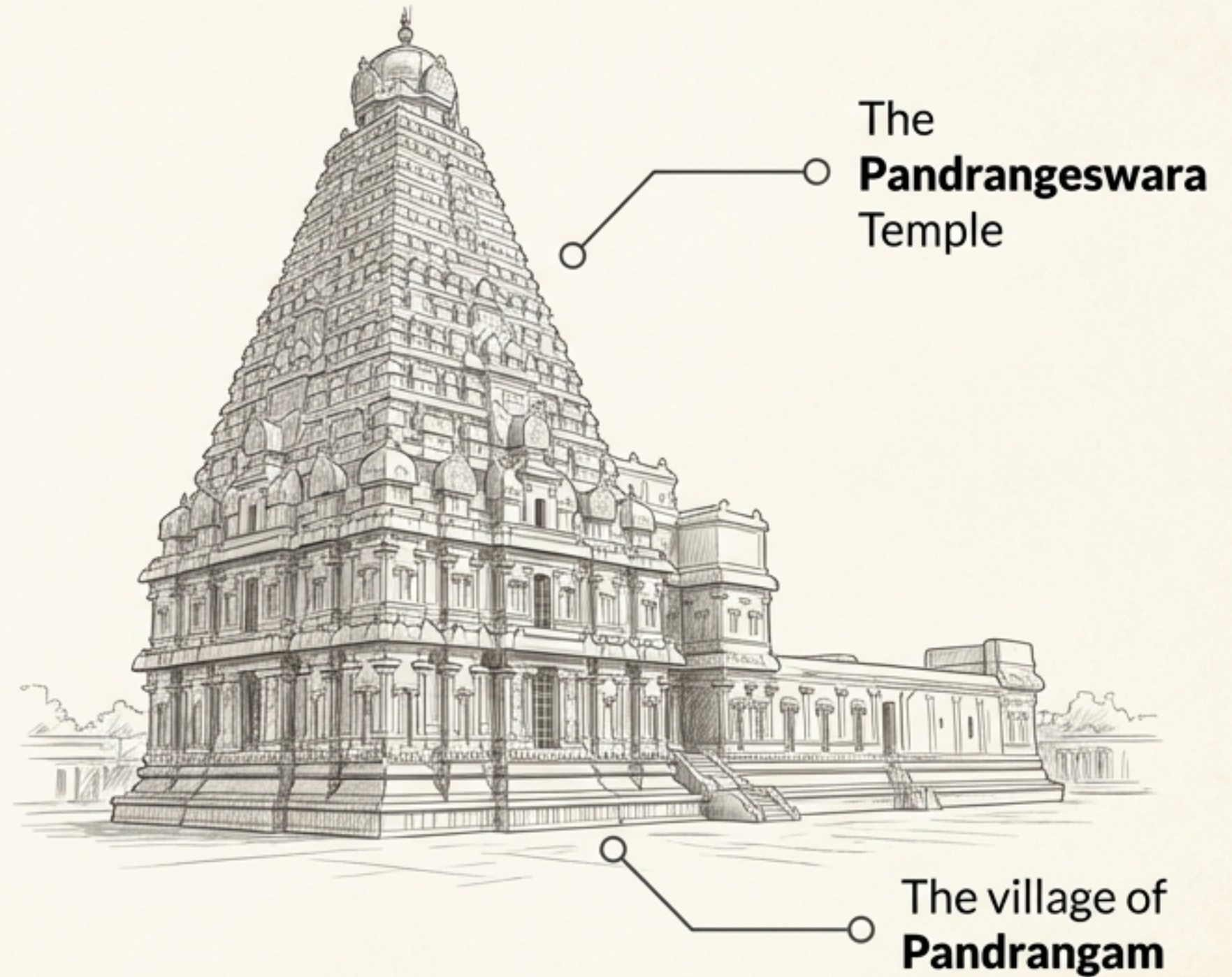
A Decisive Blow to a Rival Power

The strategic importance of the annexation is immense. The newly acquired territory “had until that time been a fief of the Pallavas.” By conquering it, Gunaga Vijayaditya was not just securing his border; he was seizing land directly from a major geopolitical rival. This single campaign signaled a significant power shift in South India.



A Legacy Cast in Stone

The memory of the campaign is physically commemorated in the landscape. Near the island of Sriharikota, the village of Pandrangam and its temple, Pandrangeswara, were founded by the Chalukyan general himself to celebrate his victory. The existence of these sites, referenced in later Chola inscriptions, provides enduring proof of this foundational conquest.



The Foundation of the Zenith

The successful subjugation and annexation of the Boya lands was the first and most critical act of Gunaga Vijayaditya III's reign. It secured his southern flank, expanded his resource base, diminished a key rival, and set the precedent for forty-four years of military and political dominance. It was on this foundation that the Vengi kingdom reached its glorious apex.

