CHOLA ADMINISTRATION
(AD 850-1280)

CHRONOLOGY

- Vijayala-AdityaI-Parantaka-I
- Parantaka-II
- Rajaraja
- Rajendhra chola
- Rajadhi Raju
- Rajendra-II
- Veera Rajendra
- Adhi Rajendra
- Kulottunga chola
- Rajendra III

POLITICAL HISTORY OF CHOLAS

- Chola dynasty was one of the ancient ruling dynasties of South India. They took advantage of the Pallava-Pandya struggle to estabilished a supreme of South India.

- Rise of Chola;Vijayalaya was the founder of Chola Kingdom.He took advantage of Pallava-Pandya struggle and enlarge his kingdom. He made Tanjore his capital.Rajaraja was one of the greatest rulers of South India.

- He defeated the Western Gangas, Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi,Pandyas,and Cheras.He built Brihadeeswara temple in Tanjore.

- RajendraI-He founded the city of Gangaikonda Cholapuram.Rajadhiraja-Rajendra II-Adhirajendra ruling the Dynasty.

- Now the Chola crown passed to Rajendra who united the Chalukya and Chola Kingdom.

- He assumed the title Kulottunga.He line came to be known as the Chalukya-Chola.After his death, Chola power steadily declined.

- RajendraIII was the able ruler of this line.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- King –(Udan Kuttum) Ministers – Mandalams – Valanadus – Nadus – Kurram & Kottams – Village assembly – Village Committees.
- According to Neelakanta Sastry there are 3 types of Village assembly in the Chola dynasty

1. Ur
2. Nagaram
3. Sabha

- The capital of the Cholas was Tanjore. The Chola Empire was divided into three major administrative units called Central Government, Provincial government and local government. Uttaramerur inscriptions throws light on the administration of the Cholas.

- The administration was headed by the king. The Chola kingship was hereditary in nature. As per the Chola royal family tradition, the eldest son succeeded the king to the Chola throne. The apparent was called *Yuvaraja*.

- The whole empire had been divided into nine provinces called *mandalams*. Each province was headed by a viceroy who received orders from the king.

- Each mandalam was divided into number of *Kottams or Valanadus* which was further sub-divided into *nadu*. Each nadu was further divided into villages called *Urs*.

- One of the most important administrative units of the Cholas was *Nadu*. Each nadu was headed by a *Nattar* while the council of nadu was named *nattavai*.

- The responsibility of the village administration was entrusted to the village assembly called *Grama Sabha*, the lowest unit of the Chola administration.

- It was involved in the maintenance of roads, tanks, temples and public ponds. The village assembly was also in charge of payment of taxes due from the villages to the King's treasure.

REVENUE

- Chola government depended mainly on the land revenue as the main source of income. *1/6 of the land produce* was collected as tax.

- Besides land revenue, customs and tolls were the other source of income for the empire. Moreover, taxes on ports, forests and mines contributed to the treasure of the king.

ARMY

- The Cholas possessed an efficient army and navy. The army was made of 70 regiments. Chola kings imported highly efficient Arabian horses at a very high price.

- The Chola king acted as the chief justice, as the trial in major cases were conducted by the king himself. The minor disputes at the village level were heard by the village assembly.