


ADMINISTRATION OF CHOLAS

Chola dynasty





Despotic Rulers


- King: was the most important person in the Chola administration. All authority rested in his hands.
 - He often went on tours in order to keep better touch with the administration .
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Uttaramerur inscription regarding chola administration system






CHOLA ADMINISTRATION

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- Military Administration: The Cholas maintained a large army consisting of infantry, cavalry and elephants which were called the three limbs of the army.
 - The venetian traveler Marco Polo says that all the bodyguards of the king burnt themselves in the funeral pyre of the dead king.

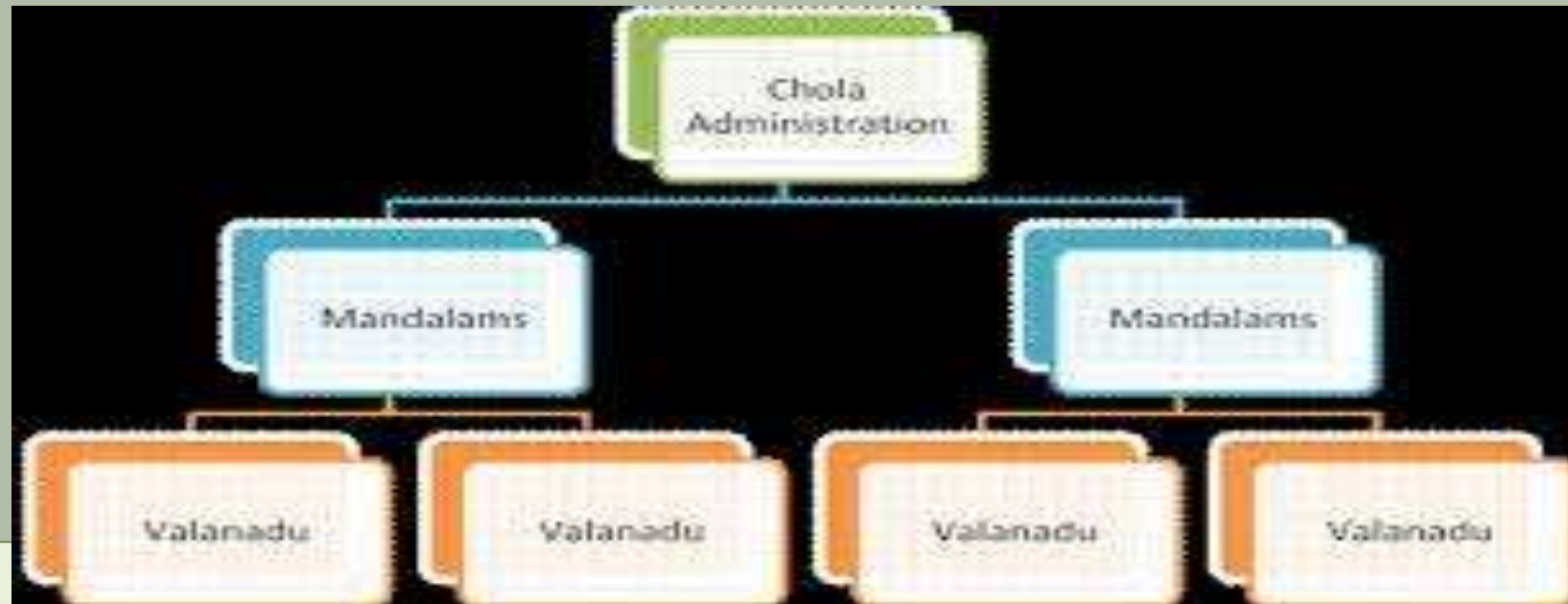


CHOLA ADMINISTRATION

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- Revenue Administration: The Cholas paid attention to irrigation and used river such as Kaveri for this purpose.
 - Raja Raja I conducted a land survey during his time in order to fix the governments' share of land revenue.


PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- Provincial Administration: The Chola empire was divided into 9 provinces called mandalam, each under a governor called Mandala mudalis who were paid salary in the form of lands



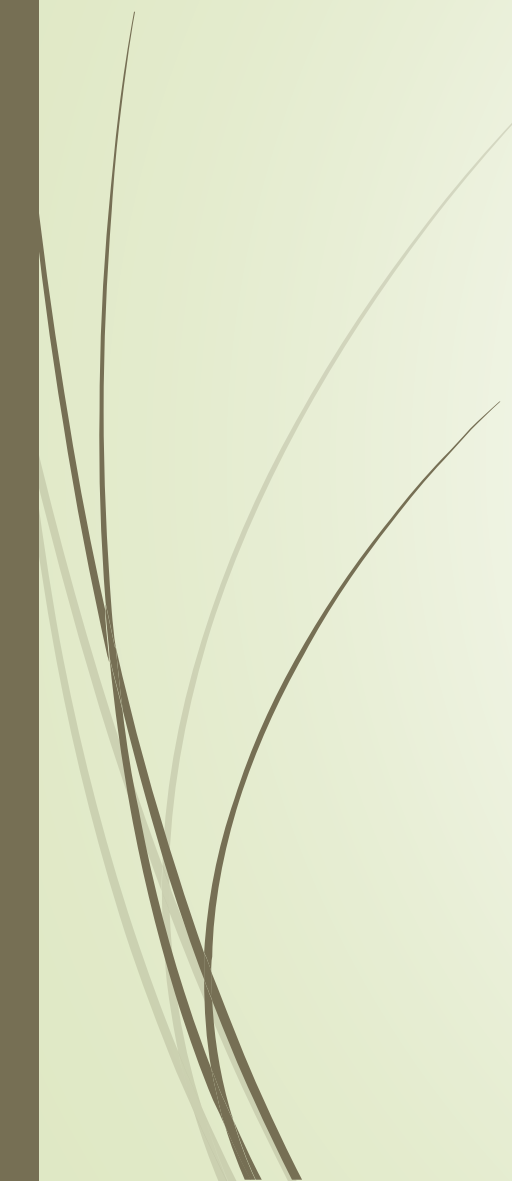


CHOLA ADMINISTRATION

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- ▶ there were two types of villages at the local in the Chola empire. One type of village consisted of people from different caste and the assembly which ran this type of village was called 'ur'.
 - ▶ The second type of village was 'agrahara' types of village which were settled by Brahmins in which most of the land was rent-free.



LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

- District Administration: The provinces were in turn divided into districts called Nadus which were about 500 in number and were run by an autonomous assembly called Nattar.
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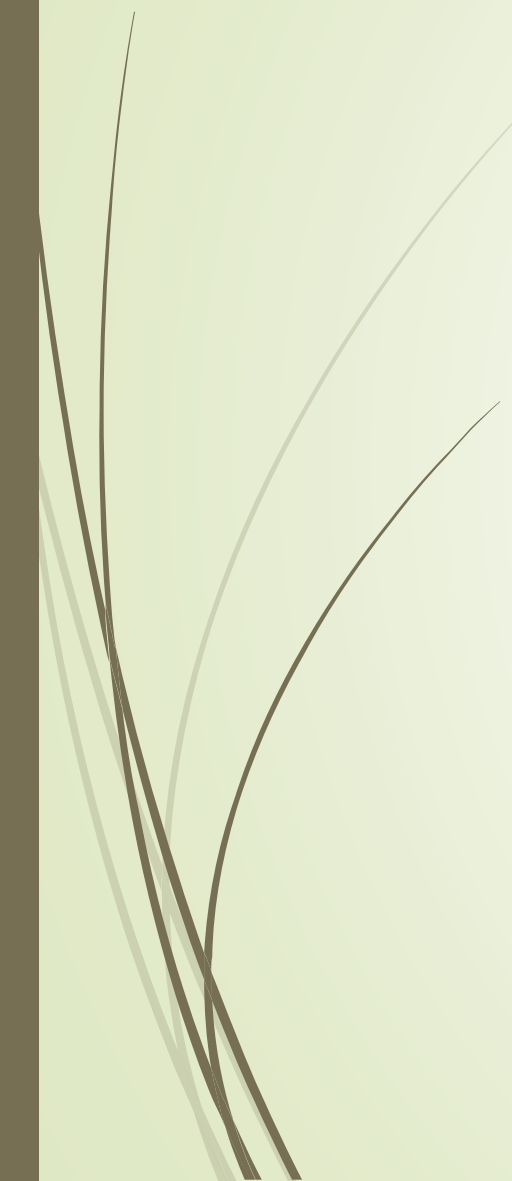


Village Assemblies of Cholas

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| (A) Ur | (I) Chola village assembly restricted to the Brahmanas of the village. |
| (B) Sabha | (II) A Chola village assembly found more commonly in trade centres. |
| (C) Nagaram | (III) Chola general assembly consisted of tax-paying residents of an ordinary village. |




REQUIREMENTS TO CONTEST THE ELECTION IN VILLAGE LEVEL

- 1) Must own a plot of land
 - 2) His own house on his own land
 - 3) Minimum age: 35. Max: 70
 - 4) Must be well versed in the vedas, and other knowledges. Should be able to explain it competently
 - 5) Must be pious
 - 6) Should not have occupied the same post in the preceeding 3 years
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TRADE AND COMMERCE

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- Trade and commerce flourished under the patronage of Chola emperors. The Cholas developed links all over south India. They then brought Srilanka, South- East Asia and even China under the network of trade.
 - There are references to 72 nagarams and many trade guilds. Most important of these were manigramam, Ayyavolu-500 (Five hundred Lords of Aihole) also called as Ainnuruvar, Nanadesi, Vira Valanjiyar, Vira Balanju and Anjuvannan. Mahablipuram were also known as nagarattars.