



# FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

SUBJECT CODE: BAL 102

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# Lecture-31



## MEDIEVAL INDIA

### Kings and their Courts

#### Chola Village Administration

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 heir apparent was called Yuvaraja. The *tiger* was the royal emblem of Chola kings. The king was assisted in his work by a council of ministers. The lower officials were called Siruntaram while higher officials were called Peruntaram.

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*.

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.

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.

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.

The village administration was carried on effectively by variyams who used to be the male members of the society. There were types of variyams. For example the justice was

administered by Niyaya varyiam while temples were looked after by the Dharma varyiam. The control of the finance was given to the pon varyiam.

### MCQ

**1. Who among the following Chola ruler built Solesvara temple of Narttamalai, Pudukkottai?**

- A. Vijayalaya Chola
- B. Aditya I
- C. Parantaka Chola I
- D. Gandaraditya Chola

**2. Who among the following had written Tamil hymn on Siva of the Chidambaram Temple?**

- A. Arinjaya Chola
- B. Sundara Chola
- C. Parantaka Chola I
- D. Gandaraditya Chola

**3. Who built the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur which is one of the largest Hindu temples?**

- A. Arinjaya Chola
- B. Sundara Chola
- C. Rajaraja Chola I
- D. Gandaraditya Chola

**4. Who was the last ruler of Chola Dynasty?**

- A. Rajaraja Chola III
- B. Rajendra Chola III
- C. Aditya Chola I
- D. Pulakeshin I

**5. The famous grammatical work in Tamil, Virasoliyam was written by Buddhmitra during which of the following reign of the Chola King?**

- A. Virarajendra Chola

B. Athirajendra Chola

C. Kulothunga Chola I

D. Vikrama Chola

