

SOUTH INDIAN ADMINISTRATION DURING CHOLA PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

Chola rulers ruled southern India for over 1,000 years. Since the emperor was supreme during his reign and the empire was vast, there was considerable emphasis on local administration. The local government was democratic, with members of parliament chosen by lottery by little boys. The Chola government is seen as the foundation of modern democracy.

Keywords: Chola, Southern, Local Government, Administration, Dynasty.

Introduction

One of the longest-reigning dynasties in the history of Southern India were the Chola dynasty. The oldest datable allusions to this Tamil dynasty may be founded in inscriptions from the Mauryan Empire's Ashoka, who lived in the third century BCE. The dynasty maintained their position as one of the Three Crowned Kings and ruled various lands up until the 13th century. The Chola dynasty's prolonged control demonstrates how well-liked it was in South India. In other words, Chola monarchs provided the best administration, which led to overall improvement in socio-economic, cultural, and other situations.

The heart of Cholas was the fertile valley of the Kaveri River, but it dominated a much larger area at the height of its power in the late 9th and early 13th centuries. All the lands south of Tung - abhadra were united and for two centuries he held one or more states. Raja Raja Chola I and his successors Rajendra Chola I, Rajadirajachola, Virarajendra Chola and Krotunga It has become a cultural force. The power of the new empire was proclaimed to the eastern world by the expedition to the Ganges carried out by Rajendra Chola-1, the capture of the city of the Srivijaya Sea Kingdom, and the repeated embassies of China. Management is based on a hierarchy and details of the management of Chola rulers at various levels are given below.

Chola Administration

The king was called Chakravartigal (Emperor) and Lord of the Three Worlds (Tribhuvanachakravarti). Since the time of Rajaraja, crown princes have taken an active part in the administration and lesser princes have been appointed as regional governors. The king was the head of the administration of Cholas, and all power was concentrated in his hands. His role in administration was to give verbal orders to the officer in charge when a performance was given to him. Such orders were recorded in great detail, usually in inscriptions on the walls of temples. A special official named ThirumandiraOrainayagam instantly recorded verbal orders in palm leaf manuscripts and was responsible for their accurate recording.

The Chola government was a hereditary monarchy. The rule of primogeniture generally prevailed. A king commonly appointed a Yuvaraja (successor) during his reign. The Chola ruler adopted the grand title as GangaikondaCholapuram. The royal family also operates on a sumptuous scale. The

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royal priest Rajgur became a close friend of the royal family. The king had a council of ministers to support and support him. The king gave verbal instructions (tiruvakya-kelvi), which were drafted by his private secretary and, after being confirmed by oraynayamak (chief secretary) and his perundaram, dispatched by vidaiyadhikari (sailors). They often advised him on important matters. A sophisticated and complex bureaucracy ran the government. There is no clear evidence that there was a Council of Ministers or any other official associated with the central government, although the names of individual ministers appear in the inscriptions. A powerful bureaucracy assisted in the execution of the king's administration and orders. In the absence of a legislative body or legislative system in the modern sense, the fairness of royal decrees depends on the belief in human goodness and dharma - a sense of fairness and justice. Ancient societies expected nothing more from government than general security. Even disputes went to court officials only as a last resort. The Chola bureaucracy was little different from that of its contemporaries. But what made it stand out was its highly organized nature. A careful balance was maintained between central control and local independence, and non-interference with local government was sacred. There was a clear hierarchy in the bureaucracy and tenure of officials, which simply depended on "royal favor". Seniority among the same cadres was indicated by qualifying titles such as Perundanam and Sirutanam. One of these key officials he was a financial officer responsible for government revenues and expenditures.

Officials tended to form their own class within society. Perundaram was a high-ranking official and Sirtaram was a low-ranking official. Peruvalis (Tribal Street) supported royal tours. The general trend was to make officers hereditary. Officials were paid according to their rank through land grants called givitas.

Early Cholas had Urayur and Puhar as capitals. Urayur was their capital until it was revived in the 9th century. The Vijayaraya Chola defeated the Pandya lords of Muttarayar and conquered the city of Thanjavur. The city maintained its status as the capital during the reign of Emperor Chola. To Rajendra Chola-I. Rajendra Chola I built Gangai Konda his city of Cholapuram and made it his capital in 1023 AD to commemorate his successful Ganges expedition. Located southwest of the temple city of Chidambaram, the city no longer exists. During the last days of the Chola Empire, it was massively plundered and destroyed by Pandias. However, the great Shiva temple GangaikondaKoreshwara still exists and heralds the once great city.

As NeelakanthaSastri pointed out, each village was a self-governing body. Many such villages formed kolams, nadus or kottams in different parts of the country. Tanyur was a large village, large enough to be a crumb in itself. A series of crumbs formed Baranadu. Several Valanadus formed mandalas, which are states. At the height of the Chola Empire, there were eight or nine states, including Sri Lanka. These subdivisions and names changed constantly throughout the Chola period. His 8th-century AD inscription in the Uttamerur Temple describes the composition of the parish council, the eligibility and exclusion of candidates, the selection process, duties, and limits of power. The administration of the communal villages of ur or oor seems to have differed from the administration of the villages given to the Brahmins.

Puravu-Varitinaik - There was a well-organized land revenue department known as Katam. Land income was collected in cash or in kind. Land was owned by individuals and communities. The state under Rajaraja demanded 1/3rd of the total proceeds. Kadamai or Kudimai was land income. Professions, mines, forests, salt pans, etc. were taxed. Kulottung Chola - Removed tolls. Unpaid workers were often used.

Property tax was the largest single source of income in Chola State. It was generally estimated at one-third of all agricultural products. Village councils collected property taxes and community fees. Raising livestock was a side business. Foreign trade was an important feature of Chola's commercial activities. The rulers built a network of royal roads that served both trade and the movement of armies. There was a huge trading guild trading with Java and Sumatra. South India exported textiles, spices, medicines, precious stones, ivory, horn, ebony and camphor to China. Trade brought considerable fame and wealth to the Cholas. Karanju was the main currency of the Chola kingdom.

Around 1089 AD, Chola King Kulottunga undertook a major resurvey, documenting the extent and valuation of land, village boundaries and common rights within villages, including communal pastures. Tax officers were responsible for collecting taxes. The Chola government was acutely aware of the need for fair and accurate tax collection to run state institutions. Income records were not blackmail handbooks, but carefully kept records of land titles based on exacting investigations demanded and kept up to date through regular investigations. The duties of financial authorities included many other areas of

responsibility. They also regulated temple income and expenses. They have also been observed buying land on behalf of the village council. They have certified and authenticated important documents produced by local government bodies such as village councils. They were also shown to act as judges.

The army consisted of infantry, cavalry and elephants, forming his three ranks of the great army named MunlukaiMahasenai. Kaikora was a soldier armed with mighty weapons, Sengander armed with spears, and his Velaikkarars, the most trusted troops in royal service, were the lord's bodyguards, defending him with their lives, He was willing to sacrifice himself at the king's funeral. Attention was paid to the training of the army and there were lodgings called Kadagam or Padawividu. Cholas paid special attention to the navy.

Entire empires were divided into mandalas or states. Sometimes, royal princes were appointed governors of states. It was also divided into varanadus (districts), nadus (districts) and crumbs (villages). The village was the basic unit of administration. The village mainly divided into three types. The first type consisted of an integrated population, land belonged to all classes of people, and taxes were paid to the king in the form of land income. It was the most common type. The second was the village of Brahmadeyaor Agrahara, which was given to the Brahmins and wholly inhabited by the Brahmins. They were tax exempt and wealthy. His third type of village was Devadhana, a God-given village. Income from these villages was donated to the temple. During the Cholas, Devadhana-type villages became more popular as temples became the center of life.

The Chola Navy consisted of the navy of the Chola Empire and several other naval forces in the country. The Chola navy played a key role in the expansion of the Chola Empire, including the conquest of the Ceylon Islands and the naval raids on Sri Vijaya (modern-day Indonesia). The navy grew in both size and status during the reign of Cholas in the Middle Ages. Admiral Chola enjoyed great respect and prestige in society. Naval commanders also served as diplomats on occasion. From 900 AD to his 1100 AD, the navy had grown from a small backward presence to a powerful projection of power and diplomatic symbol for all of Asia, but the Chola tribes to conquer the Chalukya tribes of Andorra its importance gradually declined as it led land battles. Kannada region in southern India.

During the Chola dynasty, all of South India was put under a single government for the first time. The system of government of the Cholas was a monarchy, as in the Sangam period. However, the early regional emirates and the imperial states of the Rajaraja Chola and its successors had little in common. The administration of the Chola dynasty assumed a high degree of complexity. The king's orders were first communicated to the local authorities by bailiffs. A record of the transaction was then made and authenticated by a number of witnesses who were either local or government officials. The king was the central authority, supported by ministers and other officials. The king visited different parts of the kingdom and was always ready to help people. The Chola kingdom was divided into several states called Mandalams. Each state was governed by a governor. The province was divided into divisions called Cottams. The plot was further subdivided into districts called nadus, which in turn were subdivided into tesils, which made up groups of villages.

Thanjavur and later Gangai Konda Cholapuram were the capitals of the empire. However, both Kanchipuram and Madurai were considered regional capitals with occasional courts. The king was a supreme leader and a benevolent authoritarian. His administrative role was to give verbal orders to the officers in charge when they were given explanations. Lacking a legislative body or legislative system in the modern sense, the impartiality of a royal order depends on its belief in morality and dharma. The Chola King built a temple and gave him great wealth. The temple served not only as a place of worship, but also as a centre of economic activity that benefited the entire community. A portion of the proceeds from villages across the kingdom were donated to the temple, which reinvested some of the accumulated wealth as loans to the settlements. The temple served as a centre of wealth redistribution and contributed to the integrity of the kingdom. The Chola government was of high standard and well organized.

In the words of Dr. V.A. Smith, "the administration of the Chola kingdom was highly organized, apparently from ancient times." The king himself is rarely mentioned in Chola period inscriptions. In some records, pious donors instituted ceremonies to promote the happiness and success of the king.

The uniqueness of the administration of Cholas lies in its autonomy and self-sufficiency in the administrative field of the village. His two inscriptions from Uttaramerulu (Chingalpet district of Tamil Nadu), issued by Chola lord Palantaka I, constitute major milestones in the history of the local government at the time. Inscriptions were issued at various times by Palantaka. Namely, 919 AD and 921 AD, his 12th year and his 14th year of his reign. These are carved on the walls of Vaikuntha Temple in Uttarameruru.

There was significant autonomy at the village level. Chola officials participated in village government as observers rather than administrators. Cholas are best known for their local autonomy at the village level. There were three assemblies called Ur, Sabha, or Mahasabha, and Nagram. Ur was the village assembly. It consisted of although tax paying residents of an ordinary village. Alunganattar was Ur's executive board and governing group. Ur was open to all adult men, but was dominated by older members. Sabha was apparently a congregation of only Brahmins in Brahmadeya villages. Sabha had a more complex mechanism, mainly operated through a committee called Variyams.

The ur was apparently the more common form of ordinary village assembly, where land belonged to people of all ranks eligible to be members of the local council. The ur consisted of ordinary village taxpayers. It was done. We are not as well informed of the composition and functioning of the Primitive Assembly as the House of Representatives. However, we can speculate that Ur's role in local administration was similar to that of Sabha. In large communities like Uttaramerul, where Ur and Sabha coexisted, a natural tendency arose for Sabha to direct and control Ur's activities and for Ur to readily submit to such leadership. Ur had its own executive committee, called the ruling group, 'Arunganathar'. Therefore, the Chola government was based on democratic principles. Important official activities took place through sabah (meetings). Members of the House of Representatives were elected from among the people. The election of the Ur and Sabha executive bodies and other committees appears to have been done by lottery among those entitled to vote. Nagaram was a collection of merchants, more commonly found in trading centers.

Conclusion

Although the Chola kings had the upper hand in all matters, administrative power during the Chola period was more decentralized. Taxation was efficient through local development through state-wide development. The territories administered by Chola rulers showed that these rulers were ambitious and good administrators. Since they had invaded and controlled many areas, they may have thought that they could not directly control villages or talukas. So, they formed local governments. Chola rulers should be remembered for their significant contributions to hierarchical local administration based on democratic principles.

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