

- The king was assisted by number of ministers, generally from leading families and their position was hereditary.
- The empires consisted of areas administered directly and areas ruled by vassals. The latter had autonomy in internal affairs.
- The directly administered territories were divided into: **Rashtra** (province) and **Visaya** (Districts) and **Bhukti**.
- The head of Rashtra was **Rashtrapati**, and had similar functions as the **Uparika** performed in Pala and Pratihara.
- Village was the smallest unit. The village headman carried out duties with the help of **Grama-Mahajana or Grama-Mahattara (village elders)**.
- Villages also had **committees** to manage schools, tanks, temples etc.
- Law and order in the towns and in areas in their vicinity was the responsibility of **Koshtapala or Kotwal**.
- **Nad-gavundas or Desa-gramakutas** were the hereditary revenue officers.

**2. SOUTH INDIA:**

**THE CHOLAS (850 - 1279 AD)**

- Known as **Imperial Cholas of Tanjore**.
- The **founder** of Chola dynasty was **Vijayalaya** who was at first a **feudatory of Pallavas**.
- The greatest kings of Cholas were **Rajaraja & his son Rajendra I**.
- The use of **Agrahatta (Persian wheel)** also facilitated the already established smooth **irrigation networks** of tanks, canals, wells and sluices.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Rajaraja I<br/>(985- 1014 AD):</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greatest Chola Ruler</b>, who helped raise chola empire as largest dominion in South India.</li> <li>• He took titles – <b>Mummidi Chola, Jayankonda &amp; Shivpadshekhara</b>.</li> <li>• He defeated Chera, Pandya &amp; conquered Maldives Islands.</li> <li>• Naval expedition against the Sailendra Empire (Malaya Peninsula).</li> <li>• Expanded trade with china.</li> <li>• In 1010 CE, constructed the <b>Rajarajeshwara or Brihadeeswara</b> temple, dedicated to shiva at Thanjavur.</li> <li>• <b>Rajarajeshwara or Brihadeeswara</b> temple is a part of “<b>Greatest Living Chola Temples</b>”, &amp; entered the <b>UNESCO World Heritage site</b> list in 1987. This temple is the finest example of <b>Dravidian architecture</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Developed revenue system</b> where land was surveyed and then revenue was assessed. So, he was referred as <b>Ulakalanada Perumal</b> (the great who measured the earth).</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Rajendra I<br/>(1014- 1044 AD)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Son of Rajaraja I</b>, defeated &amp; conquered whole Sri Lanka.</li> <li>• <b>Made Chola navy</b> strongest in the area and ‘Bay of Bengal’ was converted into a ‘<b>Chola Lake</b>’.</li> <li>• He assumed the <b>title of “Gangaikondachola” &amp; built a city- “Gangaikondacholapuram”</b>.</li> <li>• He was great patron of learning and known as <b>Pandita - chola</b>.</li> <li>• Encouraged <b>local self-government</b>.</li> </ul>   |

Rajendra III was the last king. Later Pandya conquered Chola empire.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHOLAS:**