

THE CHOLA DYNASTY (AD 850-1310)

This Tamil Dynasty ruled over TamilNadu and parts of Karnataka with Tanjore as their capital. The early Chola rulers were Karikala Cholas who ruled in the second century AD. But after them, the Chola Dynasty remained in the dark corners of the South Indian political scene for centuries before surfacing again when, in AD 850, Vijayalaya captured Tanjore during the Pandya-Pallava wars. To commemorate his accession, he built a temple at Tanjore. The King was the central head who was helped by a council of ministers, but the administration was democratic. Land revenue and trade tax were the main source of income. The society was divided into Brahmins and non-Brahmins. The temple was the cultural and social centre, where art and literature flourished. The Brihadeswara (Shiva) temple at Tanjore was built by Rajaraja I. The giant statue of Gomateswara at Shravanabelagola was built during this period. His son Aditya I (AD 871-901) succeeded him to the throne. Aditya died in AD 907 leaving the throne to his son Parantaka I (AD 907-955) who was the king for the next 48 years. But it was Rajaraja I (AD 985-1014) who was the founder of the newly organised Chola kingdom. He snatched back the lost territories from the Rashtrakutas to become the most powerful of the Chola rulers. Rajendra Chola (AD 1012-1044, son of Rajaraja I), was an important ruler of this dynasty who conquered Irrisa, Bengal, Burma, Ceylon, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Chola Dynasty was at its zenith during his reign. Other important rulers of this dynasty were Rajadhi Raja I (AD 1044-1052); Rajendra II (AD 1052-1064); Veera Rajendra (AD 1064-1069); Kulottunga I (AD 1069-1120); Vikramachola (AD 1118-1135); Kulottunga II (AD 1133-1150); Raja Raja II (AD 1146-1173); Rajadhiraja II (AD 1173-1178); Kulottunga III (AD 1178-1216) and Raja Raja III (AD 1216-1246). The last ruler of the Cholla Dynasty was Rajendra III (AD 1246-1279). He was a weak ruler who surrendered to the Pandya. Later, Malik Kafur invaded this Tamil state in AD 1310 and extinguished the Chola Empire.



MAP 1.11 The Expansion of Cholas

GK Study Materials [PDF Download](#)

All subject Study Materials [PDF Download](#)

2018 Current Affairs Download – [PDF Download](#)

Whatsapp Group



[Click Here](#)

Telegram Channel



[Click Here](#)

Join Us on FB : **English –** [Examsdaily](#)

Follow US on  **Twitter -** [Examsdaily](#)