

UNIT

7

State and Society In Medieval India

From the Cholas to the Mughals



Learning Objectives

To acquire knowledge of

- Successive dynasties and the resultant political outcomes from the times of the Cholas to the Mughals
- Influence of Islam and Islamic state on the socio-cultural life of the people
- Institutional and administrative changes during Chola, Pandya and Vijayanagara periods in the south
- Development of literature, art and architecture
- Transformation in agriculture and manufacturing sector
- Progress in maritime trade, commerce and urbanization



Introduction

The 'medieval' period from the 7th century A.D.(CE) till the beginning of Mughal rule in the 16th century. The Mughal era, from the 16th to 18th century is referred to as the early modern period.

The political scenario in all parts of India underwent momentous, definitive changes which transformed the social and economic fabric and development of the country.

Major Political Changes

- The expansion of the Chola empire from the time of Rajaraja I which eclipsed the Pandyan and Pallava kingdoms, extending north till Orissa.
- From the twelfth century, the beginning of several centuries of Muslim rule in Delhi, extending throughout north India and the spread of Islam to different parts of the country.