



Chapter

2

New Kingdoms



In this chapter you will learn about :

- ➊ New Kingdoms
- ➋ Kingdoms of the North India
- ➌ Turkish Invasions
- ➍ Tripartite Struggle
- ➎ Kingdoms of the South India



During the early medieval period, many kingdoms ruled India. All these kingdoms had the desire to build an empire and, therefore, there were frequent wars among the kingdoms of northern India and southern India. They fought, against each other to gain control over their neighbouring territories.

New Kingdoms

During the earlier phase of the medieval history, chieftains representing numerous clan identities rose in prominence in different parts of the subcontinent. Dantidurga defeated the Chalukyas and laid the foundation of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. The Gurjara-Pratiharas gave up their traditional occupation and successfully established their kingdom in Rajasthan.

A clan of warriors referred to as the Rajputs dominated the history of north and central India from about 750 CE to 1200 CE. Many historians trace their ancestry to tribes such as the Huns, Kushanas, Shakas, etc. They established their kingdoms throughout North India and guarded the land from Arab and Turk invaders. During the reign of Harshavardhana, Kannauj became the centre of all political developments in North India. All new kingdoms that sprang up after

the disintegration of Harshavardhana's empire were equally interested in acquiring control over Kannauj.

Tripartite Struggle

The beginning of medieval Indian history was marked by a long struggle involving the Gurjara-Pratiharas of Malwa, the Rashtrakutas of Deccan and the Palas of Bengal to establish their supremacy over Kannauj. Historians described it as the **Tripartite Struggle**. The constant struggle eventually weakened the three dynasties and resulted in their ultimate decline.

The Gurjara-Pratiharas

The Gurjara-Pratiharas were the dominant power in parts of western and central Rajasthan (Western India) and part of central India. Initially, they had been local officials who later succeeded in establishing independent principalities. They also resisted the Arab incursions. The powerful rulers of this dynasty are Nagabhata (750-780 CE), the founder of the dynasty, Vatsaraja and Mihir Bhoja. Mihir Bhoja (836-890 CE), the most prominent among them, established the largest empire in northern India, with Kannauj as his capital. He issued silver coins bearing the emblem of Varah. He also



assumed the title of **Adivarha**. He ruled for 46 years.

Mahendrapala expanded his empire further. His successor, however, were weak and could not defend the kingdom against invasions.

Al Masudi, a foreign traveller, wrote extensively about the power and prestige of the Gurjara-Pratihara rulers. They were great patrons of learning and literature. Rajasekhara, the famous Sanskrit poet, was patronised by the Partihar rulers. Mahmud of Ghazni defeated the Gurjara-Pratihara ruler in 1018 and thus, this dynasty came to an end.

The Palas

In the 8th century, Gopal established the Pala Empire. He was an elected king as the earlier king did not have any child. His kingdom extended over the states of present day Bengal, Bihar, parts of Orissa and Nepal. They fought many wars with the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas. They ruled for about 400 years. The Pala dynasty expanded their political boundaries under Dharmapala (Gopal's son) and Devapala (Dharamapala's son). Their empire included Kannauj (for a short period), Orissa, Bihar, Assam and northern India. The Palas were patrons of Buddhist learning, literature and education. Dharmapala established the famous **Vikramshila Buddhist University**. They had trade and cultural relations with the countries of South East



Nalanda University founded by the Palas was one of the most important educational institutions and centres of learning during this period

Asia. Mahipala one of the later rulers, was defeated by Rajendra Chola of the Chola dynasty in 1023 CE. Ramapala (1082-1124 CE) was the last known king of the dynasty. The Khalji invasions eventually dealt the final blow to the Pala dynasty.

The Rashtrakutas

Dantidurga (Dantivarman) founded the Rashtrakuta kingdom. The Rashtrakutas were the vassals of the Chalukyas in central India.



Kailashnath Temple

The capital of the Rashtrakutas was Malkhed (Manyakhhet) near modern Sholapur in Maharashtra. They fought many wars with the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Chalukyas of Vengi (modern Andhra Pradesh), the Pallavas of Kanchi and the Pandyas of Madurai. Gradually, large tracts of Maharashtra, Gujarat



Regional kingdoms in India



and Malwa came to be included in the Rashtrakuta Empire.

They also fought against the Pratiharas and Palas of the north to control Kannauj and the fertile Ganga plains.

The Rashtrakuta rule in the Deccan lasted till the end of the 10th century. The most famous rulers of this kingdom were Govinda III (793-814 CE), Amoghavarsha (814-878 CE) and Krishna III (934-963 CE). The rock cut cave temples at Ellora and Elephanta in modern day Maharashtra, now two of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India, were built by the Rashtrakuta rulers.

Finally in the tenth century, they were overthrown by the Chalukyas.

Decline of the Palas, Gurjara-Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas

The Palas, the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas weakened badly due to their constant campaigns and battles against each other. It resulted in the decline of all the three dynasties within a short span of one hundred years.

- ❑ The Palas were threatened by the Cholas and replaced by the Senas.
- ❑ The Pratihara kingdom broke into several parts and from there rose the Rajputs.
- ❑ The Rashtrakutas were replaced by the Chalukyas.

The late medieval period between the 13th and 18th century witnessed the arrival of the Mughal to India and their struggle with the regional powers. The struggle between the regional kingdoms confined to three regions—north India, the Deccan and southern India.

Kingdoms of the North India

The Chauhans (The Chahamanas)

The Chauhans were the last prominent Indian dynasty of North India. The Chauhan or Chahamanas dynasty of Ajmer was established

in the 11th century. Before coming to power, they were vassals of the Gurjara-Pratiharas. Vigraharaj was one of the famous rulers of the Chauhan dynasty. He captured Chittor around 1169 CE. The throne of Ajmer was ascended by Prithviraj Chauhan, the most outstanding Chauhan ruler. His most famous **expedition** was against the Chandellas of Bundelkhand.



You must know

The events of Prithviraj's reign have been described in Prithviraj Raso composed by his court poet and friend, Chand Bardai.

Prithviraj Chauhan was engaged in the First and Second Battles of Tarai against Muhammad Ghori in 1191 CE and 1192 CE, respectively. In the First Battle of Tarai, he defeated Ghori. However, in the second battle, he was defeated and executed.



Prithviraj Chauhan

The Kalachuris

Kalachuri is the dynastic name used by two kingdoms in Central India and parts of Karnataka. Kings bearing this dynastic name ruled from the tenth to twelfth centuries. Historians call them the northern and southern branches of Kalachuri dynasty. The northern Kalachuris ruled over the areas of the present day western Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. They were earlier called **Chedi** or **Haihaya**. The southern Kalachuris ruled over parts of the Karnataka. They are supposed to be offshoot of Abhira of Traikutaka dynasty. The northern Kalachuris, probably, rose to prominence earlier. Their origin could be traced to a royal line that dominated northern Maharashtra, Malwa and western Deccan in the sixth and early seventh centuries. Their capital was Mahismati. There were three prominent members of this ruling class including Krishnaraja, Shankaragana and Buddharaja. Subsequently, they shifted their base to Tripuri or Tewar in Central India. They



expanded significantly in the 11th century and declined in the twelfth to thirteenth centuries.

The Southern Kalachuris rose to power in the Deccan between 1156 and 1181 CE. They ruled parts of the Deccan extending over regions of present day North Karnataka and parts of Maharashtra. Bijjala, a ruler of this dynasty, wrested power from the Chalukya king Taila III and established his authority over Karnataka. A new religious sect called the Lingayat or Virashaiva was founded during their rule. Besides, a unique and purely native form of Kannada literature poetry called the **Vachanas** also came into existence during this time. The writers of Vachanas were called Vachanakaras (poets). Many other important works like Virupakasha Pandita's **Chennabasavapurana**, Dharani Pandita's **Bijjalarayacharite** and Chandrasagara Varni's **Bijjalarayapurana** were also written during the reign of the Southern Kalachuris.

▼ The Chandelas

The Chandelas were a powerful dynasty of North India during the early medieval period. They ruled over Central India from the ninth century to the thirteenth century. Their first capital was Khajuraho, the famous temple town. Later, the capital was shifted to Mahotsava Nagar or Mahoba.

The kingdom of the Chandelas of Khajuraho was a part of the large empire of the Gurjara-Pratihars. Nannuk was the founder of the Chandela dynasty. He was the chief of his clan in the first quarter of the 9th century. He was succeeded by his son Vakapati.

Jaishakti and Vijayshakti, the two sons of Vakapati, succeeded him. Jaishakti, the elder brother who ruled first, was also called Jai Jak and from this name the regions ruled by the Chandelas acquired the name of Jaijikhukti. Rahil and Harshdev, the successors of Vijayshakti, further consolidated the Chandela kingdom.

Yashoverman, the son of Harshdev, the most powerful among the early Chandela kings, proclaimed himself as an independent king and annexed large areas of the Rashtrakuta kingdom. During his reign, Chandelas became a strong political power in north and central India. He is also credited with having constructed the magnificent Lakshmana Temple.

Yashoverman was succeeded by a line of other mighty rulers including Dhanga, Gand and Vidyadhar. During the reign of Dhanga, Kalinjar acquired great importance and was regarded as the second capital of the kingdom after Khajuraho. Dhanga assumed the title of the Maharajadhiraj Kalinjaradhipati (Lord of Kalinjar). He was also a great patron of art and learning. He built two of the more important temples—the Vishwanath and the Parshwanatha temples.

Parmardidev, the last important king of this dynasty, is known in history for his conflict with the Chauhan king, Prithviraj Chauhan. The battle between them ended in the defeat of Parmardidev. It marked the gradual decline of the Chandela power. In 1202, Kalinjar along with the territories ruled by the Chandelas was annexed by the Turkish ruler of Delhi.

The outstanding contribution of the Chandelas was to build the famous tempels (and town) of the Khajuraho between the mid-10th and mid - 11th centuries. The temples provide a rare and striking examples of north Indian temple architecture in this era. The Chandelas have left a number of other inscriptions. They are known to have endowed a large number of Jain and Hindu temples.

▼ The Gahadavalas

The Gahadavalas were among the many ruling families of North India on the eve of the Muslim conquests in the 12th-13th centuries.

The ruling family perhaps originated in the area of Benares (Varanasi) and Oudh (Ayodhya) in Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, it came to be



associated with Kannauj. The dynastic power became gradually consolidated in the period of the first three rulers namely, Yashovigraha, Mahichandra, and Chandradeva. The Gahadavalas had taken control of Varanasi, Ayodhya, Kannauj and Indrathaniyaka (modern Delhi) and had expanded throughout Uttar Pradesh. Despite the regularity of Muslim attacks, which were at least temporarily repulsed by Govindachandra (1113-15). The Gahadavalas endeavoured to spread eastward to the Patna and Munger areas in Bihar. In 1168-69, south western Bihar was under a feudatory of his son Vijaychandra (1155-69).

The weakness of the internal structure of the Gahadavala kingdom was exposed in the 12th century during the invasions of Muhammad Ghori. Jayachandra (1170-94), who ruled Uttar Pradesh and parts of Bihar, was an enemy of Prithviraj Chauhan. After defeating Prithviraj Chauhan, Muhammad Ghori also defeated Jayachandra in the battle of Chandawar. Although the Gahadavalas lingered in Harishchandra's reign in the Kannauj, Jaunpur and Mirzapur regions until 1197, the buildup of Muslim expansion in the areas was steady through the early 13th century. During this period, the Gahadavalas completely lost their power.

The Hindu Shahis

A long line of Hindu kings ruled one of the middle kingdoms of India which included portions of the Kabulistan and the old province of Gandhara (now in northern Pakistan), from the decline of the Kushan Empire in the 3rd century. The kingdom was known as Kabul Shahi between 565 and 879 CE when they had Kapisa and Kabul as their capital. Later, they became more popular as Hindu Shahis.

Jayapala, Anandpala, Trilochanpala and Bheempala were the prominent rulers of this dynasty.

During the reign of Anandpala, many rulers

were inflicted on his kingdom by the Ghaznavids. In the Battle of Kachacha, his force fought bravely against the forces of Mahmud Ghajnavi. However he lost the battle and suffered much financial and territorial loss. This was Anandapala's last stand against Mahmud Ghaznavi. He eventually signed a treaty with the Ghaznavi Empire in 1010 CE and passed away soon. Trilochanpala, the son of Anadapala, ascended the imperial throne in about 1011 CE. He rebelled against Sultan Mahmud and was later assassinated by some of his own mutinous troops in 1021-22 CE.

Prince Bhimapala, son of Tirlochanpala, succeeded his father in 1021-22 CE. Considering his kingdom was at its lower point, possibly only in control of Nandana, he admirably earned the title of fearless. He is known to have commanded at the Battle of Nandana personally and seriously wounded the commander of the Ghaznavid army Muhammad Bin Ibrahim. He ruled for five years. His death in 1026 CE marked the decline of this dynasty.

The Rajputs

The Rajputs dominated the history of north and central India from about 750-1200 CE. Nothing much is known about the Rajputs in the study of the ancient period. Historians and scholars have different opinions about the origin of the Rajputs. Most scholars agree that they are Kshatriyas. The Rajputs themselves say that they are Suryavanshi, belonging to the sun's family or Chandravanshi, belonging to the moon's family. Historians, though, agree that the Rajputs are the descendents of tribes such as the Sakas, the Kushanas, the Huns, the Gurjaras and the Gonds.

Tomars of Delhi

One of the Rajput clans, the Tomars rose to power in the eighth century when they built the city of Dhillika (Delhi). They were small rulers under the Pratiharas but declared their independence when the Pratiharas were



weakened by continuous fighting. Later, their territories were annexed by the Chauhans.

Solankis of Gujarat

The Chalukyas of Gujarat were also known as the Solankis. Siddharaja was their most powerful ruler.

The Dilwara Temple at Mount Abu and the Sun Temple at Modhera were built by the Solankis.

Paramaras of Malwa

The Malwa kings, the Paramaras were also known as Pawars. Bhoja Paramara was a powerful ruler of this clan. His capital was Dhar. The Nilakantheshwara Temple at Udaipur was built by the Paramaras.

Patterns of Administration during the Period

The king headed the administration. He was also the commander-in-chief of the army and the supreme judicial authority. The position of the king was hereditary although the rules of succession were not rigidly fixed. The king was assisted and advised by a council of ministers. The **mahamantri** (prime minister) was the head of the council of ministers. There were separate ministers in each department such as the **akshapatalika** (revenue minister), **sandhi vighraha** (foreign minister), **mahapratihara** (guard of the royal palace), **rajpurohita** (royal priest) and the **mahasenapati** (commander of the army).

The kingdoms consisted of areas which were directly administered and those ruled by vassal chiefs or Samanatas. The vassal chiefs were independent as far their internal affairs were concerned and has to pay a fixed tribute as well as supply a quota of troops to the overlord. However, the ambition to the independent led to frequent conflicts between the chiefs and rulers.

The directly administered territories were further divided into **bhuktis** (provinces) and

mandalas or **visayas** (districts). The governor of a province, known as **uparikas**, collected revenue and maintained law and order with the help of the army. The head of a district was called the **visayapati**. The smaller chieftains known as **bhogapatis** became powerful when the power of the king weakened. Gradually, they merged with the **vasaypatis** over a period of time.

Village and Town Administration

The villages served as the basic unit of the administration. The **gramapati** was the headman and accountant of the village.

To assist him, there were village committees. They looked after local schools, roads, water tanks, temples, etc. Such committees also existed in towns. Law and order issues in towns and neighbouring areas were looked after by the **kotwal**.

Military Organisation

The armed forces had crucial role to play in the expansion and maintenance of the empire. A strong infantry and cavalry, a large number of war elephants were maintained. According to the available literacy sources, the Pala rulers maintained the largest number of elephants while the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty had the finest cavalry in the country. The Rashtrakuta rulers owned a large number of forts garrisoned by special troops.

Social Life

The caste system was the basis of social life during this period. The Brahmins (priests) and the Rajputs (Kshatriyas) enjoyed the highest status in society, while the Vaishyas (traders and merchants) played a significant role in local administration. There was a decline in the position of women during this period. Sati and child marriage were practised.

Economy

Agriculture was the major occupation of people. Trade relations with China, south-east Asia and



the western world flourished during this period. Merchants operated through **guilds** known as **shrenis**. The chiefs of the guilds, called **shresthins** held important positions in city administration.

Kingdoms of the South India

In the south—the Pallavas, the Pandyas and the Cholas fought with each other to gain supremacy.

▼ The Pallavas

They ruled the areas around modern Kanchi (Kanchipuram). The Pallava kings had a taste for art and architecture. They built the rock cut temples at Mahabalipuram and the magnificent temple at Kanchipuram.

The Pallavas were constantly at war with the other south Indian dynasties of the Chalukyas, the Cheras, the Pandyas and the Cholas. Their dynasty came to an end when they were finally defeated in the ninth century by the Cholas.

▼ The Pandyas

The Pandyas ruled over the region around modern Madurai. It was their capital and an important centre of learning. The Pandya Dynasty declined in the fourteenth century.

▼ The Cholas

The Cholas ruled in South India between 800 and 1200 CE. Vijayalaya was the founder of the empire. He was initially a feudatory of the Pallavas. Vijayalaya built the capital town of Thanjavur, a beautiful city of temples.

He ruled over the regions north of the River Kaveri. His grandson Parantaka I conquered Madurai from the Pandyas. He also defeated the Pallavas of Kanchi and the ruler of Sri Lanka. He suffered a setback when he was defeated by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna III in the Battle of Takkolam in 949. Later Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola made the Cholas the greatest

power in South India and they came to be known as Imperial Cholas.

Rajaraja Chola (985-1014CE)

Rajaraja Chola I defeated the Cheras and the Pandyas. He invaded Sri Lanka and annexed its northern part to his empire. His kingdom was organised on the lines of efficiency, both economic and military. One of his naval exploits was the conquest of the Maldive islands. He also annexed the north-western parts of the Ganga region in Karnataka and overran Vengi.



Rajaraja Chola I

Rajendra Chola I (1014-44 CE)

Rajaraja Chola I was succeeded by his son, Rajendra. He defeated the western Chalukyas and the Pala rulers of Bengal and completed the conquest of Sri Lanka.



Rajendra Chola I

He marched across Kalinga to Bengal, crossing the Ganga and defeated the local rulers. To commemorate his victory, Rajendra I assumed the title of **Gangaikondachola** or the Chola conqueror of Ganga and built a new capital near the River Kavery called Gangaikondacholapuram or the city of the Chola conqueror of the Ganga. Rajendra I also defeated the ruler of the Sri Vijaya Empire, which extended over the Malaya peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring island, and controlled the overseas trade route with China. Sri Vijaya did not want the Indian merchants to trade with China. The Cholas led an expedition that resulted in the conquest of Kadaram (Kedah) and the Malaya peninsula and Sumatra. Thus, the Chola navy emerged as the strongest in the Bay of Bengal region.

▼ Chola Administration

The Cholas has a highly organised administrative structure headed by the king and



a council of ministers to aid and advice him. The Cholas maintained a large army comprising cavalry, infantry, elephants and a strong navy. The empire was divided into mandalams or provinces which were further divided into valanadu or districts and nadu or groups of villages. A large town was administered separately and called a Taniyur.

Village Administration

The Cholas had well-developed system of local self-government. The **ur** and the **sabha** or **mahasabha** were the two assemblies. The ur was a general assembly of all classes of people, who owned land within the village. The sabha was an assembly found in villages where Brahmins owned all the land as **brahmadeya** grants.

The sabha operated through committees. It had different committees to look after various aspects of local administration including temples, gardens, irrigations, assessment of land revenue, maintenance of law, etc. The **nagaram**, was an assembly found in towns and cities. Its members were mainly traders, merchants and sometimes artisans. The nagaram played an important role in urban administration.

Trade

The Cholas promoted both inland and overseas trade and commerce. The Coromandel and Malabar coasts served as the centres of India's trade with south east Asia. To fix the government's share of land revenue, an elaborate land survey was carried out. Taxes were also collected from tolls on trade, professions and from the plunder of neighbouring territories.

Temples

The Chola rulers built many large temples which were the centres of cultural life. They also served as places for other activities. The temple was a miniature city or palace with living rooms for priests. The temples usually enjoyed revenue

free grants and donations from the wealthy merchants. The style of temple architecture was known as **Dravida**. The building of storey upon storey above the chief deity room called **garbhagriha** was one of the main features of the Dravida style of temple building.

Chola Inscriptions

The copper plate inscriptions are actually long documents engraved or embossed on thin sheets of copper. They record grant of land and bear the royal seal to indicate their authenticity. They contain details about the land, wells, trees, canals, rivers, pastures, types of taxes and fines and all other rights enjoyed by the grantee. Inscriptions on stone, pillars and temple walls, such as the ones inside the Brihadeshwara Temple at Thanjavur are useful in reconstructing the history of the period. We get to know about local self-government in the Chola Empire primarily from the details provided in the Cholas king Parantaka I's Uttaramerur temple inscriptions of the 919 CE and 921 CE. These inscriptions describe the village assemblies in great detail.

These inscriptions shed light on the socio-economic life of the medieval period. Some of these also showed the royal seal of the dynasty. Marks of masons are sometimes found on these inscriptions. The inscription tells us about the conquests of King Rajaraja of the Chola dynasty and gifts made to the temple. Names of officers like those who collected revenue, managed the temple, aided and advised the king are also mentioned in the inscriptions.

Language and Literature

The Chola rulers patronised art and literature during the period of their reign. Popular saints called nayanars and alvars, who were devotees of Shiva and Vishnu respectively, flourished in the Tamil region between the 6th and 9th centuries. The age of **Kamban** is considered the



Kamban



golden age of Tamil literature and his Ramayana is considered a classic in Tamil literature.

Turkish Invasions

The period after 1000 AD saw many invaders like Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori. They entered India through the mountain passes in the north-west.

▼ The Ghaznavis

Mahmud of Ghazni (998-1030 CE), also called Mahmud Ghaznavi, was a Turkish conqueror who established his empire in Ghazni (present day Afghanistan). He raided India 17 times between 1001 and 1027 CE at places like Punjab, Mathura, Multan and Thaneshwar. His most daring raids were at Kannauj in 1018 CE and Somnath in 1025 CE.

He planned his attacks carefully and did not allow his enemies to combine against him. Ghazni did not wish to rule over India. He plundered India and carried away wealth, artisans and learned men. He was closely associated with the rebirth of Iranian culture. He decorated the palaces, mosques and tombs in Ghazni. Firdausi, the author of [Shahnama](#), was the most famous scholar at his court. Mahmud's attacks were devastating in nature as they showed the weakness of the existing kingdoms and paved the way for future invasions.

He died in 1030 CE at Ghazni.

▼ The Ghori

Muhammad Ghori Muizuddin Muhammad Bin

Sam, also known as Shihabuddin Muhammad Ghori, ascended the throne of Ghazni in 1173 CE. He conquered Multan and Uchch, a route to Delhi and the Gangetic Valley and made Punjab his base. Around this time, Prithviraj Chauhan ascended the throne of Ajmer, defeated the Chandelas and occupied Delhi. So, two powerful rulers, Prithviraj Chauhan and Muhammad Ghori, both desiring control of the Gangetic Valley and Punjab, came into conflict with each other. They fought the two battles of Tarain in 1191 CE and 1192 CE respectively.

The First Battle of Tarain resulted in Prithviraj Chauhan's victory. However, in the Second Battle of Tarain, the superior Turkish military and organisational abilities led to Muhammad Ghori's victory and his control over Delhi, Bihar, Bengal and the Ganga-Yamuna doab. After the Battles of Tarain, Muhammad Ghori returned to Ghazni leaving the control of his Indian territory in the hand of his trusted slave, Qutubuddin Aibak.

▼ Battle of Chandwar

During the Battle of Tarain, many Rajput rulers came to help Prithviraj Chauhan but the most powerful Rajput ruler, Raja Jaichand of Kannauj stayed away. However, Muhammad Ghori did not spare his kingdom either. He defeated Raja Jaichand in the Battle of Chandwar in 1194. Thereafter, he overran the entire Ganga-Yamuna doab. He left his trusted slave and general Qutub-ud-din Aibak in charge of the lands he had conquered and returned to his homeland.

Terminology

- vassal** : a person under the protection of his overlord to whom he owes allegiance.
- expedition** : a long journey undertaken for a specific purpose
- kotwal** : an official responsible for ensuring law and order issues in town
- garrison** : a group of soldiers residing inside a fort in order to defend it



Recap

- ❖ During the earliest phase of the medieval history chieftains representing numerous clan identities rose in prominence in different parts of the subcontinent.
- ❖ The Gurjara-Pratiharas of Malwa, the Rashtrakutas of Deccan and the Palas of Bengal, fought wars to establish their supermacy over Kannauj. This struggle was called Tripartite struggle.
- ❖ The Chauhans (Chanamanas) were the last prominent Indian dynasty of the North India.
- ❖ The Chandelas were a powerful dynasty of North India during the early medieval period.
- ❖ The king was the head of the administration, the commander-in-chief of the army and the supreme judicial authority.
- ❖ Trade relations with China, south-east Asia and the western world flourished during this period.
- ❖ The Cholas were the prominent rulers of South Asia and Rajaraja I and Rajendra I were the two famous Chola rulers.
- ❖ The Cholas had a well developed system of local-self government.

Evaluation Time

Objective Type Questions

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. Dantidurga defeated the :
(a) Chalukyas (b) Huns (c) Kushanas (d) Shakas
2. The Rajputs dominated the history of north and cultural India about :
(a) 700 CE (b) 750 CE (c) 800 CE (d) 850 CE
3. Mihir Bhoja issued coins of :
(a) silver (b) gold (c) bronze (d) iron
4. A powerful dynasty of North India was :
(a) The Chauhans (b) The Kalachuris
(c) The Plas (d) The Rurjara-Pratiharas
5. Nayanars were devotees of :
(a) Shiva (b) Vishnu (c) Rama (d) none of these

B. Fill in the blanks :

1. The _____ of Malwa, the _____ of _____ and the _____ of Bengal to established their supermacy over Kannauj.
2. The capital of the Rashtrakutas was _____ near modern Sholapur in Maharashtra.
3. The Kalachuris ruled over the area of the present day western _____ and _____.
4. The 1168-69 south western Bihar was under a feudatory of _____.



5. The Pala rulers maintained the largest number of _____ while the Gurjara-Pratihara had the finest _____ in the country.

C. State true or false :

1. All new kingdoms were interested in acquiring control over Kannauj.
2. The Rashtrakuta rule in the Deccan lasted till the end of the 9th century.
3. Dhanga assumed the titles of Maharajadhiraj, Kalinjardhipati.
4. The Cheras invaded Sri Lanka and annexed its northern parts of their empire.
5. The first battle of Tarain resulted in Prithviraj Chauhan's victory.

 **Subjective Type Questions**

D. Very short answer type questions :

1. Who was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty?
2. Name the important rulers of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.
3. How many times did Mahmud of Ghazni raid North India.
4. Who was the head of a district?
5. When was the Battle of Chandawar fought?

E. Short answer type questions :

1. What is the Tripartite struggle?
2. Write a note on the Rashtrakutas.
3. Who were the Chauhans? Explain in brief.
4. Describe the rule of the Gahadavalas.
5. Explain the social life in North India.

F. Long answer type questions :

1. Describe the Tripartite struggle in detail.
2. Give an account of the Chandels.
3. Explain the administration of North India.
4. What information did the Chola inscriptions give us?



To Do Hour

Make a group of five and make a project on the trade of the new kingdoms.



Net Check

Browse the internet and know more about the new kingdoms of the 7th century.

https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/middle_kingdoms_of_India.



Think and Answer

What was the difference in the raids of the two Muslim rulers who invaded during medieval period?

