

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School
9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092
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Class: VII

Subject: Social Science

History: New Kings and Kingdoms

Chapter No: 2

INTRODUCTION

1. The period between 700-1200 CE witnessed the rise of many regional Kingdoms in north and south India. Of these kingdoms that emerged the Pratiharas in western India, the Palas of Bengal, and the Rashtrakutas of Deccan were the most powerful.
2. The Pratiharas also known as Gurjara Pratiharas- dominated western India and the upper Gangetic Valley.
3. Pratiharas became prominent during the reign of Nagabhata I. He conquered Malwa and Bharuch.
4. The prominent ruler of the Pala dynasty included Devapala and Mahipala I. Ramapala was the last great ruler of the Pala dynasty.
5. The Rashtrakutas established their capital at Malkhed in the Gulbarga district of Karnataka.
6. Mahmud of Ghazni attacked India because he had heard about India's wealth and therefore, he wanted to conquer India.
7. The three main kingdoms Palas, Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas got engaged in a tripartite struggle to conquer the city of Kannauj. Kannauj was a flourishing city. It was situated near the bank of the Ganga River. Being in the vicinity of a river made it advantageous for trade and agriculture. The conquest of Kannauj was essential for political supremacy in north and central India and enabling the control of the fertile Gangetic Valley.
8. Rajendra I led the Chola Empire to achieve a strong and formidable position in the Tamilakam, he completed the task of conquering Sri Lanka that was started by his father Rajaraja I. He then took the title of Gangaikonda, or 'conqueror of the Ganga'. To commemorate his victory, he laid the foundation of a new city and called it Gangaikondacholapuram.
9. Land revenue was an important source of income for the Cholas and the state's share was fixed to be one-third of the produce. The practice of land surveys on regular intervals classified land on quality, after which the amount of revenue was revised. Agriculture was an important occupation and therefore special attention was given to maintaining and improving the irrigational facilities.

Question and Answers

D. Answer the questions in brief.

1. Name the territories conquered by Nagabhata I .

Ans: The territories conquered by Nagabhata I were Malwa and Bharuch.

2. What was the capital of Rashtrakutas ?

Ans: The Rashtrakutas established their capital at Malkhed in the Gulbarga district of Karnataka.

3. What do you understand by brahmadeya ?

Ans: The land grants to brahmanas and temples. This type of land grants was known as brahmadeyas.

4. Who were the vassals of Pratiharas ?

Ans: The Chahamanas were the vassals of the Pratiharas.

5. Why did Mahmud of Ghazni attack India ?

Ans: Mahmud of Ghazni attacked India because he had heard about India's wealth and therefore, he wanted to conquer India.

E. Answer the questions in detail.

1. Describe the main features of the Chola administration .

Ans : The main features of the Chola administration were as follows:

- i. The king was the head of the state who was assisted by a council of ministers.
- ii. Besides the council of ministers, there were numerous other officials such as penundaram, or the higher officials, and sirutaram, or the lower officials.
- iii. The Chola Empire was divided into mandalams, or provinces.
- iv. They were governed by the family members of the royal household.
- v. Mandalams were further divided into valanadus, or districts.
- vi. These valanadus were further divided into nadus.
- vii. Agriculture was the main occupation and a group of villages consisted of vellalas, or peasant families.

2. Why was a tripartite struggle occur between the Palas, Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas ?

Ans: The three main kingdoms Palas, Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas got engaged in a tripartite struggle to conquer the city of Kannauj.

- i. Kannauj was a flourishing city.
- ii. Kannauj was situated near the banks of the Ganga River.
- iii. Being in the vicinity of a river made it advantageous for trade and agriculture.
- iv. The conquest of Kannauj was essential for political supremacy in north and central India and enabling the control of the fertile Gangetic Valley.

3. Briefly describe the chola village assemblies.

- Ans:
- i. The Chola village assemblies were responsible for irrigational facilities.
 - ii. They were also responsible for constructing and maintaining large water tanks, which were used to collect rainwater.
 - iii. They also built canals, tanks, dams, and wells.

4. Discuss the main achievements of the Chola rulers Rajaraja I and Rajendra I.

Ans: Rajaraja I (985- 1016 CE)

- i. Rajaraja I was a strong and efficient Chola ruler.
- ii. Due to his military skills, he was able to conquer numerous territories.
- iii. Rajaraja I defeated the Cheras and conquered Madurai.
- iv. In the Deccan, the Chalukyans accepted his suzerainty.
- v. Under Rajaraja I's rule, the Chola Empire had a strong and efficient navy, which helped the Cholas annex the northern region of Sri Lanka.

Rajendra I (1016-1044 CE)

- i. Rajaraja I was succeeded by his son Rajendra I.
- ii. Through his military and administrative skills,
- iii. Rajendra I led the Chola Empire to achieve a strong and formidable position in the Tamilakam, he completed the task of conquering Sri Lanka that was started by his father Rajaraja I.
- iv. He then took the title of Gangaikonda, or 'conqueror of the Ganga'. To commemorate his victory, he laid the foundation of a new city and called it Gangaikondacholapuram.

5. Briefly explain the reasons for agriculture development during the Chola period. What factors contributed to its productivity ?

- Ans: i. Land revenue was an important source of income for the Cholas and the state's share was fixed to be one-third of the produce.
- ii. The practice of land surveys on regular intervals classified land on quality, after which the amount of revenue was revised.
 - iii. Agriculture was an important occupation and therefore special attention was given to maintaining and improving the irrigational facilities.
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