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HISTORY - HISTORY OF EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA – DSC 151



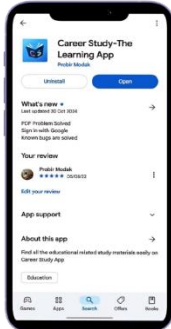
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ABOUT THE FOUNDER:

Probir Modak, the founder of Career Study, is an educator and entrepreneur from Silcoorie Camp and currently residing in Silchar, Kathal Road, Probir brings over 8 years of teaching experience and a deep passion for empowering students. His journey began at Assam University, Silchar.



Probir's achievements are deeply rooted in the unwavering support of his family, especially his mother (MAA), whose encouragement and guidance have been pivotal in his journey. Armed with a Master's degree in Economics from Assam University, Silchar.

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SEMESTER - II**HISDSC151T****HISTORY OF EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA****Contact Hours: 45****Full Marks = 100 [ESE (70)]**

Unit I: Dynasties of Deccan**1. Chalukyas:**

- a) Political achievements – Pulakesin II
- b) Cultural Achievements

2. Rashtrakutas:

- a) Political history
- b) Cultural Contribution.
- c) Administration

Unit II: Dynasties of South India**1. Pallavas:**

- a) Political History: Mahendravarman I, Narasimhavarman
- b) Administrative system,

2. Cholas:

- a) Political History: Rajaraja the Great, Rajendra Chola
- b) Administrative system

Unit III Bengal under the Palas and Senas

- 1. Political Achievements of Dharmapala & Deva Pala
- 2. Cultural Contribution of the Palas
- 3. Sena dynasty : Ballal Sen & Lakshman Sen
- 4. Significance of the Sena rule.

Unit IV Rise of the Rajputs

- 1. Origin of Rajput
- 2. Pratiharas : Mihirabhuja, Administration
- 3. Tripartite Struggle: Pratihara-Pala-Rashtrakuta
- 4. The Gahadavalas: political achievements.



Unit V: Arab Invasion

1. The Political Condition of Sind on the Eve of the Arab Invasion.
2. Arab invasion of Sind and its effects.
3. Indian invasion of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni,
4. Prithviraj Chauhan
5. Battles of Tarain.

UNIT – I

THEORY:

The Chalukyas

a) Political Achievements – Pulakesin II

The Chalukyas were one of the most powerful dynasties of early medieval India, ruling over the Deccan region. The most notable ruler of this dynasty was **Pulakesin II (610–642 CE)**, who expanded and strengthened the empire.

- Pulakesin II was a strong and ambitious ruler who consolidated the Chalukya kingdom by defeating several regional rulers.
- He fought against **Harsha (Harshavardhana)** of North India and successfully stopped his expansion in the south. This victory is mentioned in the **Aihole Inscription**, written by his court poet **Ravikirti**.
- He defeated the Kadambas of Banavasi, the Alupas of South Karnataka, and the Gangas of Talakad, expanding Chalukya influence.
- However, towards the end of his reign, Pulakesin II faced defeat against the **Pallavas under Narasimhavarman I**, who captured Vatapi (Chalukya capital).

b) Cultural Achievements of the Chalukyas

The Chalukyas contributed significantly to Indian culture, especially in art, architecture, and literature.

- **Architecture:**
 - The Chalukyas built impressive **rock-cut temples** at Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal in Karnataka.
 - **Aihole** is known as the "**Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture**" due to the large number of early Hindu and Jain temples found there.
 - The famous **Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal** was built during their rule.
 - The Badami cave temples represent a blend of **Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain art**.
- **Literature:**
 - Sanskrit and Kannada literature flourished under the Chalukyas.
 - Court poet **Ravikirti** wrote the **Aihole Inscription**, describing Pulakesin II's victories.
- **Religion:**
 - The Chalukyas patronized **Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism**.
 - They built many temples dedicated to Vishnu, Shiva, and Jain Tirthankaras.

2. The Rashtrakutas

a) Political History

The Rashtrakutas emerged as a powerful dynasty in the **8th century CE**, ruling over the Deccan from their capital at **Manyakheta**.

- The first important ruler was **Dantidurga (735–756 CE)**, who established Rashtrakuta power by defeating the Chalukyas.
- **Govinda III** and **Amoghavarsha I (814–878 CE)** were among the greatest Rashtrakuta rulers.
- **Amoghavarsha I** was not only a great king but also a patron of literature. He wrote "**Kavirajamarga**", the earliest known Kannada literary work.
- The Rashtrakutas frequently fought with the **Palas of Bengal and the Pratiharas of North India** for control over Kannauj in the **Tripartite Struggle**.

b) Cultural Contributions

The Rashtrakutas made immense contributions to Indian culture, especially in **art, architecture, and literature**.

- **Architecture:**
 - The Rashtrakutas are best known for the **Kailash Temple at Ellora**, a massive rock-cut temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
 - The temple was built by **Krishna I** and is considered a masterpiece of Indian rock-cut architecture.
- **Literature:**
 - Sanskrit and Kannada literature flourished under Rashtrakuta patronage.
 - Amoghavarsha I wrote "**Kavirajamarga**", which guided Kannada poets and scholars.
 - Other famous Sanskrit scholars of this period were **Jinasena and Gunabhadra**.
- **Religion:**
 - The Rashtrakutas were tolerant towards all religions.
 - They patronized Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism.

c) Administration of the Rashtrakutas

- The Rashtrakutas followed a **centralized administration** with the king at the top.
- The empire was divided into **provinces (Rashtras), districts (Vishayas), and villages (Gramas)** for better governance.
- The **village administration** was strong, with local bodies handling daily affairs.
- They maintained a powerful **army**, including elephants, cavalry, and infantry.
- The Rashtrakutas promoted **trade and commerce**, connecting India with foreign markets.

ONE MARK:



1. **Who was the most famous ruler of the Chalukya dynasty?**
→ Pulakesin II
2. **Which inscription records the victories of Pulakesin II?**
→ Aihole Inscription
3. **Who wrote the Aihole Inscription?**
→ Ravikirti
4. **Which North Indian ruler was defeated by Pulakesin II?**
→ Harshavardhana
5. **Which Pallava king defeated Pulakesin II?**
→ Narasimhavarman I
6. **What was the capital of the Chalukyas of Badami?**
→ Vatapi
7. **Which Chalukya ruler built the Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal?**
→ Vikramaditya II
8. **Which dynasty ruled the Deccan after the Chalukyas?**
→ Rashtrakutas
9. **Who was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty?**
→ Dantidurga
10. **Who was the greatest ruler of the Rashtrakuta dynasty?**
→ Amoghavarsha I
11. **What was the capital of the Rashtrakutas?**
→ Manyakheta
12. **Which famous temple was built by the Rashtrakutas at Ellora?**
→ Kailash Temple
13. **Which Rashtrakuta king built the Kailash Temple at Ellora?**
→ Krishna I
14. **Which Rashtrakuta ruler wrote *Kavirajamarga*, the earliest Kannada literary work?**
→ Amoghavarsha I
15. **What was the Tripartite Struggle?**
→ A conflict among the Rashtrakutas, Palas, and Pratiharas for control over Kannauj.
16. **Which Rashtrakuta king participated in the Tripartite Struggle?**
→ Govinda III
17. **Which religion was patronized by the Rashtrakutas?**
→ Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism
18. **What was the administrative division under the Rashtrakutas?**
→ Rashtras (Provinces), Vishayas (Districts), and Gramas (Villages)
19. **What is Aihole famous for?**
→ Early Chalukya temples and being called the "Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture."

20. Which Rashtrakuta king was known for his military campaigns and conquests?

→ Govinda III

TWO MARK:

❑ Who was Pulakesin II, and why is he significant?

Pulakesin II was the greatest ruler of the Chalukya dynasty (610–642 CE). He is known for defeating Harshavardhana and stopping his expansion into the Deccan. His victories and achievements are recorded in the Aihole Inscription, written by his court poet Ravikirti.

❑ What was the importance of the Aihole Inscription?

The Aihole Inscription, composed by Ravikirti, provides details about the military achievements of Pulakesin II. It mentions his victory over Harshavardhana and his successful expansion of the Chalukya Empire.

❑ Which Pallava king defeated Pulakesin II, and what was its impact?

Pallava king Narasimhavarman I defeated Pulakesin II and captured the Chalukya capital, Vatapi. This marked a temporary decline of Chalukya power until Vikramaditya I restored the dynasty's strength.

❑ Why is Aihole known as the "Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture"?

Aihole is famous for its early Chalukya temples, which represent the transition from rock-cut to structural temples. The site contains more than 100 temples that influenced later temple architecture in South India.

❑ What were the major contributions of the Chalukyas to temple architecture?

The Chalukyas built rock-cut and structural temples in Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal. The Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal and the Badami cave temples are some of their most famous architectural achievements.

❑ Who were the Rashtrakutas, and how did they rise to power?

The Rashtrakutas were a powerful dynasty that ruled the Deccan after the Chalukyas. Dantidurga established their rule in the mid-8th century by defeating the Chalukyas of Badami and expanding Rashtrakuta influence.

❑ What was the Tripartite Struggle, and who were the participants?

The Tripartite Struggle was a long conflict between the **Rashtrakutas, Palas, and Pratiharas** over control of Kannauj, a politically and economically important region in North India. The struggle continued for several generations without a decisive victor.

❑ Who was Amoghavarsha I, and what were his contributions?

Amoghavarsha I (814–878 CE) was one of the greatest Rashtrakuta rulers. He was known for his administrative efficiency, religious tolerance, and contributions to literature. He wrote *Kavirajamarga*, the earliest known Kannada literary work.

❑ What is the significance of the Kailash Temple at Ellora?

The Kailash Temple at Ellora, built by Rashtrakuta king Krishna I, is a massive rock-cut temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is one of the finest examples of Dravidian architecture and was carved from a single rock.

❑ What role did Govinda III play in Rashtrakuta history?

Govinda III was a powerful Rashtrakuta ruler known for his military conquests. He defeated the

Pratiharas and the Palas during the Tripartite Struggle and expanded Rashtrakuta control over large parts of North India.

❑ **How did the Rashtrakutas contribute to Kannada literature?**

The Rashtrakutas encouraged the growth of Kannada literature. Amoghavarsha I wrote *Kavirajamarga*, which set the foundation for Kannada poetry and grammar. Jain scholars like Jinasena and Gunabhadra also contributed to literary works.

❑ **Describe the administration system of the Rashtrakutas.**

The Rashtrakuta administration was highly organized, with the empire divided into **Rashtras (provinces), Vishayas (districts), and Gramas (villages)**. The king had supreme authority, but local governance was strong, with village councils playing a key role.

❑ **How did the Rashtrakutas promote religious tolerance?**

The Rashtrakutas were known for their religious tolerance. They patronized Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism. Many Rashtrakuta rulers supported temple construction for multiple religions, including the famous Jain caves at Ellora.

❑ **What were the main features of Chalukya administration?**

The Chalukyas followed a centralized administration, with the king at the top. The empire was divided into **Vishayas (districts) and Nadus (villages)**. Local rulers had autonomy in governance, and taxes were collected efficiently for the empire's stability.

❑ **What was the significance of the Badami cave temples?**

The Badami cave temples, built by the Chalukyas, are a fine example of rock-cut architecture. They feature Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist sculptures, showcasing the religious diversity and artistic excellence of the period.

❑ **Who was Vikramaditya II, and what was his achievement?**

Vikramaditya II was a Chalukya ruler who defeated the Pallavas and captured Kanchipuram. He is also credited with constructing and renovating several temples, including the Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal.

❑ **What was the capital of the Chalukya and Rashtrakuta dynasties?**

The **Chalukyas ruled from Vatapi (Badami)**, while the **Rashtrakutas had their capital at Manyakheta (modern Malkhed in Karnataka)**.

❑ **What is the importance of Pattadakal in Chalukya history?**

Pattadakal was an important cultural and religious center of the Chalukyas. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its magnificent temples like the Virupaksha Temple, which displays a blend of North and South Indian architectural styles.

❑ **What were the military achievements of Dantidurga?**

Dantidurga was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. He defeated the Chalukyas of Badami and established Rashtrakuta rule in the Deccan. He also expanded the empire by conquering territories in Gujarat and Malwa.

❑ **How did the Rashtrakutas support trade and commerce?**

The Rashtrakutas encouraged trade with foreign countries. They had trade links with **Arab merchants**, and their coins have been found in regions like the Middle East. Their strategic location in the Deccan helped them control important trade routes.

❓ **Who was Krishna I, and what was his major achievement?**

Krishna I was a Rashtrakuta king known for commissioning the construction of the **Kailash Temple at Ellora**, one of the most magnificent rock-cut temples in India.

❓ **How did the Rashtrakutas influence South Indian politics?**

The Rashtrakutas frequently engaged in wars with the Cholas and Pallavas, influencing the political landscape of South India. Their conflicts with these dynasties shaped regional power struggles.

❓ **Which religious texts were composed during Rashtrakuta rule?**

Important Jain texts like *Adipurana* by Jinasena and *Mahapurana* by Gunabhadra were written during Rashtrakuta rule, showcasing their support for Jain scholars.

❓ **What were the economic activities of the Chalukyas?**

The Chalukyas encouraged agriculture, trade, and handicrafts. Their well-planned irrigation systems supported farming, while their trade routes connected them to North and South India.

❓ **What was the role of women in Rashtrakuta society?**

Women in Rashtrakuta society had limited political roles but actively participated in religious and social affairs. Queens and royal women contributed to temple construction and patronized scholars.

❓ **How did the Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas influence temple architecture?**

The Chalukyas pioneered temple architecture at Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal, while the Rashtrakutas built grand temples like the Kailash Temple at Ellora.

❓ **What is the significance of the Ellora caves?**

The Ellora caves house Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist monuments, reflecting Rashtrakuta religious tolerance and architectural excellence.

❓ **How did the Rashtrakuta rule come to an end?**

The Rashtrakutas declined in the 10th century due to internal conflicts and attacks by the **Chalukyas of Kalyani**, who overthrew them.

❓ **What was the primary language used by the Rashtrakutas?**

The Rashtrakutas used **Sanskrit and Kannada** for administration and literature.

❓ **What impact did the Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas have on Indian history?**

They enriched Indian history through their **military conquests, temple architecture, literature, and religious patronage**, shaping the Deccan's political and cultural landscape.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. Discuss the political achievements of Pulakesin II.

Introduction

Pulakesin II was the greatest ruler of the Chalukya dynasty, ruling from 610 to 642 CE. His reign marked a period of political expansion, military victories, and strong administration. He is best known for his successful defense of the Deccan against North Indian rulers like Harshavardhana.

Military Expansion

Pulakesin II expanded the Chalukya Empire in all directions. In the north, he defeated the Kadambas and the Mauryas of Konkana. He extended his rule into the Andhra region by defeating the

Vishnukundins. His most notable military success was his victory against Harshavardhana, the powerful emperor of North India. This battle is recorded in the Aihole Inscription by his court poet, Ravikirti.

Victory over Harshavardhana

Harshavardhana was a strong ruler who had expanded his empire up to the Narmada River. He wanted to extend his control into the Deccan. However, Pulakesin II stopped him at the Narmada River, ensuring that the Deccan remained independent from northern control. This victory increased Pulakesin's fame and established his dominance over the Deccan.

Relations with Pallavas

Pulakesin II also fought against the Pallavas in the south. Initially, he defeated the Pallava king Mahendravarman I and took control of Kanchipuram. However, later, Narasimhavarman I, the son of Mahendravarman, attacked the Chalukyas and defeated Pulakesin II. He captured Vatapi, the Chalukya capital, leading to a temporary decline in Chalukya power.

Foreign Relations

Pulakesin II maintained good diplomatic relations with foreign rulers. The Chinese traveler Xuanzang mentioned the prosperity and stability of Pulakesin's empire. He also had diplomatic contact with the Persian King Khusrau II, which shows his international reputation.

Conclusion

Pulakesin II was a great warrior and administrator. His military campaigns helped the Chalukyas become the dominant power in the Deccan. Despite his later defeat by the Pallavas, his rule left a lasting impact on Indian history.

2. Describe the cultural contributions of the Chalukyas.

Introduction

The Chalukyas made significant cultural contributions, especially in art, architecture, and literature. Their rule saw the development of temple architecture and sculpture, which influenced later dynasties.

Temple Architecture

The Chalukyas built beautiful temples in **Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal**. Aihole is called the "**Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture**" because it has over 100 early temples showing different architectural styles. The Lad Khan Temple and Durga Temple at Aihole are famous examples.

At Pattadakal, Chalukya rulers built a group of temples that combined **North Indian (Nagara) and South Indian (Dravidian) styles**. The most famous temple is the **Virupaksha Temple**, built by Queen Lokamahadevi to celebrate her husband Vikramaditya II's victory over the Pallavas.

Rock-Cut Caves

The Chalukyas also built rock-cut caves in Badami. The **Badami cave temples** have Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist carvings, showing their religious tolerance. The **sculptures of Vishnu, Shiva, and Jain Tirthankaras** in these caves are masterpieces of early Indian art.

Painting and Sculpture

Chalukya sculptures are detailed and lifelike. The statues of Nataraja (Shiva) in dancing poses and Vishnu reclining on Ananta (serpent) are famous. Some paintings from the Chalukya period are found in Ajanta Caves, showing scenes from Jataka tales.

Literature and Language

The Chalukyas supported Sanskrit and Kannada literature. Court poets wrote in Sanskrit, while local poets composed in Kannada. **Pulakesin II's court poet Ravikirti wrote the Aihole Inscription** in Sanskrit, describing the king's victories.

Conclusion

The Chalukyas played a major role in shaping Indian art and culture. Their temples, sculptures, and literary works influenced later dynasties like the Rashtrakutas and Vijayanagar rulers.

3. Explain the political history of the Rashtrakutas.

Introduction

The Rashtrakutas were a powerful dynasty that ruled the Deccan from the 8th to 10th century CE. They established their rule after defeating the Chalukyas and became dominant in South and Central India.

Rise of the Rashtrakutas

Dantidurga was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. He defeated the Chalukyas of Badami and expanded his empire. He also fought against the Pratiharas and Palas in the **Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj**.

Govinda III and Dhruva

Govinda III and Dhruva were powerful Rashtrakuta rulers. They expanded the empire into North India, defeating the Pratiharas and Palas. Their control over the northern territories made them one of the strongest dynasties of the time.

Amoghavarsha I – A Great Ruler

Amoghavarsha I was one of the greatest Rashtrakuta kings. He was more interested in **literature and administration** than war. He wrote *Kavirajamarga*, the first Kannada literary work. He maintained peace with the Pallavas and improved trade and economy.

Later Rulers and Decline

Krishna II and Indra III continued to rule but faced internal conflicts. The Chalukyas of Kalyani defeated the Rashtrakutas in the 10th century, leading to their decline.

Conclusion

The Rashtrakutas were a powerful dynasty known for their military conquests, administration, and cultural contributions. Their rule left a lasting impact on Indian history.

4. Discuss the administration of the Rashtrakutas.

Introduction

The Rashtrakutas had a well-organized administrative system that helped them rule a vast empire. Their administration was divided into different levels, and local governance played an important role.

King and Central Administration

The king was the **supreme ruler** and had absolute power. He was assisted by ministers who looked after different departments like revenue, war, and justice. The empire had a **well-structured bureaucracy** that ensured smooth governance.

Provincial Administration

The Rashtrakuta Empire was divided into **Rashtras (provinces), Vishayas (districts), and Gramas (villages)**. Each unit had officials responsible for administration, tax collection, and law enforcement.

Military Organization

The Rashtrakutas maintained a strong army, including **elephants, cavalry, and infantry**. They used war elephants in battles, which helped them win many victories. The army played a key role in protecting the empire.

Revenue System

Taxes were collected from farmers, traders, and artisans. Land revenue was the main source of income. Some taxes were paid in cash, while others were collected in the form of crops.

Justice System

The king was the highest judge. Local village councils (Grama Sabhas) handled small disputes. Punishments were based on the severity of the crime.

Conclusion

The Rashtrakuta administration was efficient and well-structured. Their strong governance helped them rule for nearly two centuries.

5. Describe the cultural contributions of the Rashtrakutas.

Introduction

The Rashtrakutas made significant cultural contributions in **architecture, literature, painting, and religion**. Their period (8th to 10th century CE) was a golden age of art and learning in India.

Architecture and Sculpture

The Rashtrakutas are best known for the **Kailasa Temple at Ellora**. Built by King Krishna I, it is a **rock-cut temple dedicated to Lord Shiva**. This temple is carved out of a single rock and is one of the largest monolithic structures in the world. The temple shows a blend of **Dravidian and Nagara architectural styles**.

The Ellora Caves also include Buddhist and Jain caves, showing the Rashtrakutas' religious tolerance. The **Dashavatara Cave** at Ellora has sculptures of Lord Vishnu's ten avatars.

Painting and Art



The Rashtrakutas encouraged painting, and some of their finest paintings are found in the **Ajanta Caves**. These paintings depict stories from the Jataka tales, which tell about Buddha's previous births. The paintings are detailed and show the high level of artistic skill during this period.

Literature and Language

The Rashtrakutas supported both **Sanskrit and regional languages like Kannada and Prakrit**. Amoghavarsha I, one of the greatest Rashtrakuta rulers, wrote **Kavirajamarga**, the first known Kannada literary work. Sanskrit scholars like Jinasena wrote important religious and philosophical texts.

Religion and Philosophy

The Rashtrakutas followed **Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism**. Many Rashtrakuta kings were **devotees of Lord Shiva and Vishnu**, but they also supported Jain scholars. King Amoghavarsha I was a great supporter of Jainism, and many Jain temples were built during his reign.

Music and Dance

The Rashtrakutas also contributed to **music and dance**. They patronized musicians and dancers in their courts. The sculptures in the Kailasa Temple and Ellora Caves show various dance poses, proving the importance of dance in their culture.

Conclusion

The Rashtrakutas were great patrons of art, architecture, and literature. Their contributions, especially the **Kailasa Temple, Ajanta paintings, and Kannada literature**, had a long-lasting impact on Indian culture.

UNIT – 2

THEORY:

Dynasties of South India

1. Pallavas

Political History

The **Pallavas** were one of the most powerful dynasties of South India, ruling from **the 3rd century CE to the 9th century CE**. They were known for their military conquests, administrative skills, and great contributions to art and architecture.

Mahendravarman I (600–630 CE)

Mahendravarman I was one of the most notable rulers of the Pallava dynasty. His reign was marked by:

- **Conflict with the Chalukyas:** He fought against Pulakesin II of the Chalukya dynasty but was eventually defeated.
- **Religious Tolerance:** He was initially a follower of Jainism but later converted to Shaivism.
- **Architectural Contributions:** He introduced rock-cut temples, such as the temples at Mahabalipuram. He also promoted Sanskrit and Prakrit literature.

Narasimhavarman I (630–668 CE)

Narasimhavarman I, also known as **Mamalla**, was the son of Mahendravarman I and is considered the greatest Pallava ruler. His reign is known for:

- **Victory over the Chalukyas:** He defeated Pulakesin II and captured the Chalukyan capital, Vatapi.
- **Construction of Mahabalipuram Temples:** He built the famous rock-cut temples at Mahabalipuram, including the Shore Temple and the Five Rathas.
- **Strong Naval Power:** He sent naval expeditions to Sri Lanka and helped reinstate a Sinhalese king on the throne.

Administrative System

The Pallavas had a well-organized **administrative system** with efficient governance at different levels:

- **King:** The king was the supreme authority and was assisted by ministers.
- **Council of Ministers:** Advised the king on administrative matters.
- **Provincial Administration:** The kingdom was divided into **provinces (Rashtras), districts (Vishayas), and villages (Gramas)**. Each level had officials for governance.
- **Village Administration:** Villages had a high degree of self-governance, with local councils managing village affairs.
- **Revenue System:** Taxes were collected on land, trade, and agriculture. Land revenue was the primary source of income.



- **Military Administration:** The Pallavas maintained a strong army, including infantry, cavalry, and elephant forces. They also had a powerful navy.
-

2. Cholas

Political History

The **Chola dynasty** was one of the greatest dynasties in South India, ruling from the **9th century CE to the 13th century CE**. They expanded their empire through military conquests and maintained a strong administrative system.

Rajaraja the Great (985–1014 CE)

Rajaraja Chola I was one of the most powerful rulers of the Chola dynasty. His reign is significant for:

- **Military Expansion:** He conquered large parts of South India, including Kerala, Karnataka, and parts of Sri Lanka.
- **Naval Strength:** He built a strong navy and controlled important trade routes in the Indian Ocean.
- **Construction of Temples:** He built the **Brihadeshwara Temple** at Thanjavur, a masterpiece of Chola architecture.
- **Efficient Administration:** He introduced reforms in revenue collection and local governance.

Rajendra Chola I (1014–1044 CE)

Rajendra Chola I was the son of Rajaraja Chola and expanded the Chola Empire even further. His major achievements include:

- **Victory over the Pala Dynasty:** He defeated the Palas of Bengal and extended Chola rule to northern India.
- **Naval Conquests:** He led successful naval campaigns in Southeast Asia, including present-day Malaysia and Indonesia.
- **Capital at Gangaikonda Cholapuram:** To celebrate his victory in North India, he built a new capital called **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** and a massive Shiva temple.

Administrative System

The Cholas had a highly organized **administrative system**, which played a key role in their long and stable rule.

- **Central Administration:** The king was the supreme authority and was assisted by ministers and advisors.
- **Provincial Administration:** The empire was divided into **mandalams (provinces), valanadus (districts), nadus (sub-districts), and villages**.
- **Village Administration:** The Cholas had a highly developed system of local self-government. Villages had **autonomous councils (Sabhas or Ur)**, which managed land, taxation, and justice.



- **Revenue System:** Land tax was the main source of income. The land was classified into **fertile, dry, and waste land**, and taxes were collected accordingly.
 - **Military Administration:** The Cholas maintained a large and disciplined army. Their navy was one of the most powerful in the Indian Ocean.
 - **Justice System:** Local assemblies and courts resolved disputes, ensuring fair governance.
-

Conclusion

The Pallavas and Cholas were two of the most influential dynasties in South Indian history. The **Pallavas** were known for their **rock-cut temples and strong administration**, while the **Cholas** were famous for their **military conquests, temple architecture, and efficient governance**. Their contributions in art, literature, and administration had a lasting impact on Indian history.

ONE MARK:

(Dynasties of South India – Pallavas and Cholas)

1. **Who was the founder of the Pallava dynasty?**
 - Simhavarman I
2. **Which Pallava king introduced rock-cut architecture in South India?**
 - Mahendravarman I
3. **Who was the most famous Pallava ruler?**
 - Narasimhavarman I
4. **Which Pallava king defeated Pulakesin II of the Chalukya dynasty?**
 - Narasimhavarman I
5. **Which city was the capital of the Pallavas?**
 - Kanchipuram
6. **Which famous temple was built by Narasimhavarman I?**
 - Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram
7. **Which Pallava king was initially a Jain but later converted to Shaivism?**
 - Mahendravarman I
8. **What was the main source of revenue for the Pallavas?**
 - Land tax
9. **Who was the greatest ruler of the Chola dynasty?**
 - Rajaraja Chola I
10. **Which temple was built by Rajaraja Chola I?**



- Brihadeshwara Temple at Thanjavur
- 11. **Who was the son and successor of Rajaraja Chola I?**
 - Rajendra Chola I
- 12. **Which Chola king defeated the Palas of Bengal?**
 - Rajendra Chola I
- 13. **Which new capital was built by Rajendra Chola I?**
 - Gangaikonda Cholapuram
- 14. **Which Chola ruler led naval expeditions to Southeast Asia?**
 - Rajendra Chola I
- 15. **Which local assembly was responsible for village administration in the Chola period?**
 - Sabha
- 16. **What was the main source of revenue for the Chola administration?**
 - Land tax
- 17. **What was the name of the district-level administration under the Cholas?**
 - Valanadu
- 18. **Which Chola ruler had the title 'Gangaikonda Chola'?**
 - Rajendra Chola I
- 19. **Which South Indian dynasty had the most powerful navy?**
 - Chola dynasty
- 20. **Which two dynasties ruled South India before the Cholas?**
 - Pallavas and Pandyas

TWO MARK:

(Dynasties of South India – Pallavas and Cholas)

1. **Who was Mahendravarman I, and what were his contributions?**

Mahendravarman I was a Pallava king (600–630 CE) known for introducing **rock-cut architecture** in South India. Initially a Jain, he later converted to **Shaivism**. He was also a patron of Sanskrit literature and art.
2. **Who was Narasimhavarman I, and why was he called 'Mamalla'?**

Narasimhavarman I (630–668 CE) was a great Pallava ruler who defeated **Pulakesin II of the Chalukyas** and captured Vatapi. He was called '**Mamalla**', meaning 'great wrestler', due to his strength and military skills.



3. **What was the significance of Mahabalipuram during the Pallava period?**
Mahabalipuram was an important **port city** of the Pallavas and became a center for temple architecture. Narasimhavarman I built the famous **rock-cut temples**, including the Shore Temple and the Five Rathas.
4. **How was the Pallava administration organized?**
The Pallava kingdom was divided into **provinces (Rashtras)**, **districts (Vishayas)**, and **villages (Gramas)**. The king was the supreme authority, assisted by ministers, local assemblies, and military commanders.
5. **Who built the Shore Temple, and why is it famous?**
The **Shore Temple** at Mahabalipuram was built by Narasimhavarman II **Rajasimha**. It is famous for being one of the earliest **structural stone temples** in South India and a UNESCO World Heritage site.
6. **How did the Pallavas contribute to art and architecture?**
The Pallavas developed **rock-cut and structural temples**, introducing **Dravidian architecture**. Their most famous contributions include **Mahabalipuram's cave temples, monolithic Rathas, and the Shore Temple**.
7. **Who was the founder of the Chola dynasty?**
The Chola dynasty was founded by **Vijayalaya Chola** in the 9th century CE after defeating the Pallavas. He established **Thanjavur** as the Chola capital.
8. **What were the military achievements of Rajaraja Chola I?**
Rajaraja Chola I expanded the Chola empire by conquering **Sri Lanka, Kerala, Karnataka, and parts of Andhra Pradesh**. He also established a powerful **navy** to control trade routes.
9. **What was the importance of the Brihadeshwara Temple?**
The **Brihadeshwara Temple** in Thanjavur, built by **Rajaraja Chola I**, is a masterpiece of **Dravidian architecture**. It has a massive Shiva Lingam and is one of the tallest temples in India.
10. **Who was Rajendra Chola I, and what were his conquests?**
Rajendra Chola I, son of Rajaraja Chola I, expanded the empire to **Bengal, Odisha, and Southeast Asia**. He also defeated the **Pala dynasty** and built the capital **Gangaikonda Cholapuram**.
11. **Why did Rajendra Chola I build Gangaikonda Cholapuram?**
Rajendra Chola I built **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** to commemorate his victory over the **Pala rulers of Bengal**. The city had a grand Shiva temple similar to the Brihadeshwara Temple.
12. **How was the Chola administration organized?**
The Cholas had a well-structured administration with **mandalams (provinces)**, **valanadus (districts)**, **nadus (sub-districts)**, and **villages**. Local self-government was a key feature.
13. **What role did local assemblies play in the Chola administration?**
The Cholas encouraged **village self-government** through **Sabhas (Brahmin assemblies)** and **Urs (common village assemblies)**. These councils managed land, taxes, and justice.
14. **What were the features of the Chola navy?**
The Cholas had a powerful navy that controlled **trade routes in the Indian Ocean**. They



launched naval expeditions to **Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Southeast Asia**, expanding their influence.

15. What were the main sources of revenue for the Cholas?

The main source of revenue was **land tax**, collected based on land fertility. Other sources included **trade tax, customs duties, and tolls on merchants**.

16. What was the Chola contribution to temple architecture?

The Cholas built **massive Dravidian-style temples** with tall vimanas (towers), intricate carvings, and grand sculptures. Examples include the **Brihadeshwara Temple and Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple**.

17. What was the significance of the temple economy under the Cholas?

Temples were not just religious centers but also **economic hubs**, providing employment, running schools, and maintaining land grants for priests and artisans.

18. What were the main occupations of the people under the Cholas?

Agriculture was the main occupation, with **paddy being the staple crop**. Other occupations included **weaving, metalwork, trading, and temple construction**.

19. How did the Cholas encourage trade?

The Cholas established **trade links with China, Arabia, and Southeast Asia**. They built strong ports like **Nagapattinam** and encouraged both **inland and maritime trade**.

20. What was the role of Rajaraja Chola I in the expansion of the Chola Empire?

Rajaraja Chola I expanded the Chola Empire by conquering **Sri Lanka, Kerala, and parts of Karnataka**. He also established a strong navy and encouraged trade.

21. How did the Pallavas and Cholas differ in administration?

The Pallavas had a centralized administration with direct **royal control**, whereas the Cholas introduced **village self-government**, making administration more efficient.

22. What were the literary contributions of the Cholas?

Chola kings patronized Tamil literature, including **Thevaram and Thiruvachagam** (devotional hymns). Many Sanskrit and Tamil inscriptions were also created.

23. Who was the first Chola ruler to launch a naval expedition?

Rajaraja Chola I was the first to launch naval expeditions, attacking **Sri Lanka and the Maldives** to expand the Chola Empire.

24. What was the significance of the Kaveri River in the Chola Empire?

The **Kaveri River** was the lifeline of the Chola economy, supporting **agriculture, irrigation, and trade**. Many temples and cities developed along its banks.

25. How did the Chola rulers promote irrigation?

The Cholas built **large reservoirs, canals, and dams** like the **Grand Anicut (Kallanai Dam)** to support agriculture.

26. What was the impact of the Chola Empire on Southeast Asia?

The Cholas established **trade and cultural ties** with Southeast Asian countries like **Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand** through naval expeditions.

27. Which Chola ruler was called 'Gangaikonda Chola'?

Rajendra Chola I was given the title 'Gangaikonda Chola' after his victory in Bengal.



28. What were the contributions of Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)?

Narasimhavarman II built **the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram** and encouraged Sanskrit and Tamil literature.

29. What was the role of temples in Chola society?

Temples served as **religious, educational, and economic centers**, supporting local craftsmen, priests, and artists.

30. What were the key factors behind the decline of the Chola Empire?

The Chola Empire declined due to **constant wars, weak successors, and invasions by the Pandyas and Hoysalas**, leading to their downfall in the 13th century.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. Discuss the political achievements of Mahendravarman I and Narasimhavarman I of the Pallava dynasty.

The Pallavas were one of the most powerful dynasties in South India, and two of their greatest rulers were **Mahendravarman I** and **Narasimhavarman I**. They played a crucial role in shaping the political and cultural history of South India.

Mahendravarman I (600–630 CE)

Mahendravarman I was a skilled ruler who expanded the Pallava kingdom. Initially, he followed **Jainism**, but later, he became a **devotee of Lord Shiva**. His rule was marked by his **conflicts with the Chalukyas**, especially **Pulakeshin II**, the ruler of the Chalukya dynasty. Mahendravarman lost some battles against Pulakeshin II, but he managed to maintain his kingdom's strength. He was also known for his contributions to **art and literature**, particularly rock-cut temples and inscriptions.

Narasimhavarman I (630–668 CE)

Narasimhavarman I, the son of Mahendravarman I, was one of the most successful Pallava rulers. He **defeated Pulakeshin II** and captured his capital, **Vatapi (Badami)**, earning the title "**Vatapikonda**" (**Conqueror of Vatapi**). He was also known as **Mamalla**, meaning "great wrestler," because of his military strength. Under his rule, the Pallavas expanded their empire and became dominant in South India. Narasimhavarman I was also a great patron of art and built the famous **rock-cut temples at Mahabalipuram**, which are now UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Thus, both Mahendravarman I and Narasimhavarman I played a vital role in strengthening the Pallava dynasty politically and culturally.

2. Describe the administrative system of the Pallavas.

The Pallavas had a well-organized administrative system. The king was the **supreme authority**, and the administration was divided into different levels to ensure smooth governance.

1. King and Central Administration

The **Pallava king** was considered divine and was the most powerful person in the kingdom. He was responsible for maintaining **law and order, protecting the state, and expanding the empire**. The king

was assisted by a **council of ministers**, who advised him on important matters related to the army, trade, and governance.

2. Provincial Administration

The Pallava kingdom was divided into different administrative units:

- **Rashtras (Provinces)** – These were the largest divisions, ruled by governors appointed by the king.
- **Vishayas (Districts)** – These were smaller units within a province, controlled by officials who collected taxes and managed the local economy.
- **Gramas (Villages)** – Villages were the smallest units of administration. They were governed by village councils, which included elders and local leaders.

3. Revenue and Taxation

The main source of revenue for the Pallavas was **land tax**. Farmers had to pay a portion of their agricultural produce to the government. Other taxes included **trade tax, irrigation tax, and customs duties**.

4. Military and Defense

The Pallavas maintained a **strong army** consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephants, and a navy. The army played a key role in defending the kingdom and expanding its territories.

5. Judicial System

The **king was the highest judge**, and he handled major legal disputes. Village assemblies also played a role in settling local conflicts and maintaining justice.

The Pallava administrative system was well-structured and helped them rule efficiently for several centuries.

3. Explain the political achievements of Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I.

The Chola dynasty reached its peak under **Rajaraja Chola I** and his son **Rajendra Chola I**. They expanded the Chola empire, strengthened its military, and promoted trade and culture.

Rajaraja Chola I (985–1014 CE)

Rajaraja Chola I was one of the greatest rulers of South India. His major achievements include:

- **Military Expansion:** He conquered **Sri Lanka, Kerala, Karnataka, and parts of Andhra Pradesh**, making the Chola Empire one of the strongest in South India.
- **Naval Power:** He developed a powerful **navy**, which helped control trade routes in the Indian Ocean.
- **Temple Construction:** He built the **Brihadeshwara Temple in Thanjavur**, a masterpiece of Dravidian architecture.
- **Efficient Administration:** He improved the administrative system by strengthening village self-governance and revenue collection.

Rajendra Chola I (1014–1044 CE)

Rajendra Chola I, the son of Rajaraja Chola I, expanded the empire further. His key achievements include:

- **Victory in North India:** He defeated the **Pala dynasty of Bengal** and brought the Ganges water to South India, earning him the title “**Gangaikonda Chola**”.
- **Southeast Asian Conquests:** He launched naval expeditions and conquered **parts of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka**, making the Cholas a global power.
- **New Capital:** He built **Gangaikonda Cholapuram**, a magnificent city with a grand Shiva temple.

Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I made the Chola dynasty one of the most powerful empires in Indian history.

4. Describe the administrative system of the Cholas.

The Chola dynasty had a well-organized administrative system that allowed them to rule efficiently.

1. Central Administration

The king was the **supreme ruler** and was considered divine. He had a **council of ministers** to advise him on governance, law, and military affairs.

2. Provincial and Local Administration

The Chola empire was divided into:

- **Mandalams (Provinces)** – Ruled by royal officials.
- **Valanadus (Districts)** – Managed trade, taxes, and security.
- **Nadus (Sub-districts)** – Smaller units within districts.
- **Villages (Gramas)** – The basic administrative unit, governed by local assemblies.

3. Village Administration (Local Self-Government)

The Cholas had a unique system of **local self-government**. Important village councils were:

- **Sabha** – A council of Brahmins that managed land and temples.
- **Ur** – A general village assembly for common people.
- **Nagaram** – A council for merchants and traders.

4. Revenue and Economy

The main source of income was **land tax**, collected based on land fertility. Other sources included **trade tax and customs duties**.

5. Military and Navy

The Cholas had a **strong army** and one of the most powerful **navies** in Indian history. Their naval strength helped them expand into Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

The Chola administration was highly efficient, allowing them to rule for centuries and maintain a prosperous empire.

5. What were the contributions of the Pallavas and Cholas to Indian culture and architecture?

Both the **Pallavas and Cholas** made remarkable contributions to Indian culture, especially in **architecture, literature, and temple-building**.

Pallava Contributions

- **Rock-Cut Temples:** They introduced **rock-cut architecture**, seen in Mahabalipuram's **Five Rathas and cave temples**.
- **Shore Temple:** Built by Narasimhavarman II, it is one of the first **structural stone temples** in South India.
- **Sanskrit and Tamil Literature:** They patronized scholars and poets, encouraging the growth of Sanskrit and Tamil texts.

Chola Contributions

- **Massive Temples:** The Cholas built grand temples like **Brihadeshwara Temple and Gangaikonda Cholapuram**, known for their towering vimanas.
- **Bronze Sculptures:** The famous **Chola bronze statues**, especially of **Lord Nataraja**, are considered masterpieces.
- **Trade and Maritime Culture:** The Cholas encouraged **international trade** with China and Southeast Asia.



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