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HISTORY - HISTORY OF EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA - DSC 151



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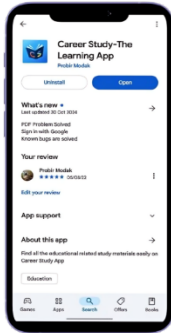
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ABOUT CAREER STUDY:

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At Career Study, we believe in creating opportunities, fostering growth, and inspiring success—one student at a time.

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.



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3. Indian invasion of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni,
4. Prithviraj Chauhan
5. Battles of Tarain.



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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:

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.



8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

13 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.

14 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.

15 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.

16 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.

17 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)**.

18 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.

19 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.

20 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.

21 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.

22 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.

23 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.

24 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.

25 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.

26 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.

27 What is the significance of the Ellora caves?

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

28 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.

29 What was the primary language used by the Rashtrakutas?

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



30 **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.



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



14. **Which Chola ruler led naval expeditions to Southeast Asia?**
 - o Rajendra Chola I
15. **Which local assembly was responsible for village administration in the Chola period?**
 - o Sabha
16. **What was the main source of revenue for the Chola administration?**
 - o Land tax
17. **What was the name of the district-level administration under the Cholas?**
 - o Valanadu
18. **Which Chola ruler had the title 'Gangaikonda Chola'?**
 - o Rajendra Chola I
19. **Which South Indian dynasty had the most powerful navy?**
 - o Chola dynasty
20. **Which two dynasties ruled South India before the Cholas?**
 - o 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

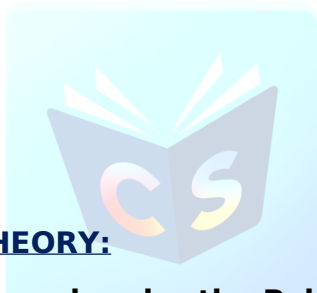
- **Rock-Cut Temples:** They introduced **rock-cut architecture**, seen in Mahabalipuram's **Five Rathas and cave temples**.
- **Shore Temple:** Built by Narasimhavarman II, it is one of the first **structural stone temples** in South India.
- **Sanskrit and Tamil Literature:** They patronized scholars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



THEORY:

Bengal under the Palas and Senas

1. Political Achievements of Dharmapala and Devapala

The **Pala dynasty** ruled Bengal from the **8th to the 12th century CE** and played a crucial role in shaping its political and cultural history. The two most significant rulers of this dynasty were **Dharmapala** and **Devapala**, who expanded the empire and strengthened its administration.

Dharmapala (770-810 CE)

Dharmapala was the **second ruler of the Pala dynasty** and is considered one of its greatest kings. His rule was marked by military expansion and political consolidation.

- **Expansion of Empire:** He expanded the Pala kingdom beyond Bengal, conquering parts of **Bihar, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Conflict with the Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas:** He fought against **Vatsaraja (Gurjara-Pratihara ruler)** and **Dhruva (Rashtrakuta ruler)** to maintain his dominance over northern India.
- **Kanikshka Assembly:** He established an **assembly of vassal kings** to solidify his control over conquered territories.



- **Revival of Buddhism:** Dharmapala was a great patron of Buddhism and **revived the Nalanda and Vikramashila universities**, making Bengal an important center of Buddhist learning.

Devapala (810-850 CE)

Devapala, the son of Dharmapala, further expanded and strengthened the Pala Empire.

- **Military Conquests:** He **extended the Pala rule** into Assam, Odisha, Nepal, and parts of southern India.
- **Naval Strength:** Under Devapala, the **Pala navy** grew strong, facilitating trade with Southeast Asia.
- **Patronage of Buddhism:** He **donated generously to Buddhist monasteries** and promoted the construction of temples and stupas in Bengal, Bihar, and beyond.

Under Dharmapala and Devapala, the Pala Empire became a dominant power in northern and eastern India.

2. Cultural Contributions of the Palas

The **Pala dynasty** made remarkable contributions to Indian culture, particularly in **art, architecture, education, and literature**. Their rule is often called the **Golden Age of Bengal** due to their patronage of Buddhism and intellectual activities.

Art and Architecture

- **Pala School of Art:** The Palas developed a distinct style of sculpture and painting known as the **Pala School of Art**, which influenced later Buddhist art in Nepal, Tibet, and Southeast Asia.
- **Bronze Sculptures:** They were famous for creating **exquisite bronze statues of Buddha and Bodhisattvas**, which are now preserved in museums worldwide.
- **Stupas and Monasteries:** The Palas built **magnificent Buddhist monasteries, stupas, and viharas**, including the **Somapura Mahavihara** (now in Bangladesh), one of the largest monasteries in South Asia.

Education and Learning

- The Palas were **great patrons of education** and played a key role in the revival of Buddhist learning.
- **Nalanda University:** They rebuilt and expanded **Nalanda**, making it one of the most prestigious centers of learning in Asia.
- **Vikramashila University:** Founded by Dharmapala, it became a major center for **Tantric Buddhism** and attracted students from Tibet, China, and Central Asia.



Religion and Literature

- **Buddhist Patronage:** The Palas were **staunch supporters of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism**, and their influence spread to Tibet and Southeast Asia.
- **Sanskrit and Bengali Literature:** Many Buddhist scholars, such as **Atisha Dipankara**, flourished under Pala rule and contributed to Buddhist philosophy and literature.

Thus, the Palas played a crucial role in preserving Indian culture and spreading Buddhism beyond India.

3. Sena Dynasty: Ballal Sen and Lakshman Sen

The **Sena dynasty** succeeded the Palas and ruled Bengal from the **12th to early 13th century CE**. The Senas were originally from the **Karnataka region** and were **Brahmin rulers** who followed **Hinduism**. The most notable kings of this dynasty were **Ballal Sen** and **Lakshman Sen**.

Ballal Sen (1158-1179 CE)

Ballal Sen was a powerful ruler known for his administrative and social reforms.

- **Social Reforms:** He introduced the **Kulinism system**, which classified Brahmins into different castes based on their social and religious status.
- **Military Strength:** He consolidated Sena rule in Bengal and resisted external invasions.
- **Cultural Development:** He patronized **Sanskrit literature** and encouraged scholars and poets.

Lakshman Sen (1179-1206 CE)

Lakshman Sen was the last significant ruler of the **Sena dynasty**.

- **Territorial Expansion:** He extended the Sena kingdom into **Bihar and Assam**.
- **Patronage of Literature:** He was a great patron of **Sanskrit and Bengali** literature. The famous poet **Jayadeva**, who wrote the **Gita Govinda**, was in his court.
- **Fall of the Sena Dynasty:** His rule ended with the invasion of Bengal by **Bakhtiyar Khilji (Turkish general of Qutb al-Din Aibak)** in 1206 CE. Khilji's conquest marked the beginning of Muslim rule in Bengal.

Despite their short rule, the Senas played a crucial role in shaping Bengal's Hindu cultural traditions.

4. Significance of the Sena Rule

The **Sena dynasty** made several lasting contributions to Bengal's society, culture, and administration.



1. Revival of Hinduism

- Unlike the Palas, who patronized Buddhism, the Senas strongly promoted **Hinduism**, especially **Shaivism and Vaishnavism**.
- They encouraged the **revival of Brahmanical traditions** and Sanskrit literature.

2. Caste System and Social Reforms

- Ballal Sen introduced **Kulinism**, a system that classified **Brahmins and Kayasthas** into different ranks based on purity and lineage.
- This system influenced Bengal's **social hierarchy** for centuries.

3. Literature and Education

- The Sena rulers encouraged the growth of **Sanskrit and early Bengali literature**.
- **Jayadeva**, the composer of the **Gita Govinda**, was an important poet in the court of Lakshman Sen.

4. Architecture and Temple Construction

- The Senas built **many Hindu temples**, including those dedicated to **Lord Shiva and Vishnu**.
- Unlike the Palas, who built Buddhist monasteries, the Senas focused on **Hindu temple architecture**, many of which were later modified by the Mughals.

5. Decline and Legacy

- The Sena dynasty declined after the **Turkish invasion of Bengal** by Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1206 CE.
- However, their influence remained strong in Bengal's **social and religious structure** for many centuries.

ONE MARK:

1 **Who was the founder of the Pala dynasty?**

Ans: Gopala was the founder of the Pala dynasty.

2 **Which Pala ruler revived Nalanda University?**

Ans: Dharmapala revived Nalanda University.

3 **Who was the greatest ruler of the Pala dynasty?**

Ans: Devapala was considered the greatest ruler of the Pala dynasty.

4 **Which Pala king established Vikramashila University?**

Ans: Dharmapala established Vikramashila University.

5 **Which religion was patronized by the Pala rulers?**

Ans: The Pala rulers patronized Buddhism.

6 What was the capital of the Pala dynasty?

Ans: The capital of the Pala dynasty was **Pataliputra** (modern-day Patna).

7 Which dynasty succeeded the Pala rule in Bengal?

Ans: The Sena dynasty succeeded the Pala rule in Bengal.

8 Who was the most important ruler of the Sena dynasty?

Ans: Ballal Sen and Lakshman Sen were the most important rulers of the Sena dynasty.

9 Which social reform was introduced by Ballal Sen?

Ans: Ballal Sen introduced **Kulinism**, a caste-based social classification.

10 Which Sena ruler was defeated by Bakhtiyar Khilji?

Ans: Lakshman Sen was defeated by Bakhtiyar Khilji.

11 Which famous Sanskrit poet was present in the court of Lakshman Sen?

Ans: Jayadeva, the composer of **Gita Govinda**, was in the court of Lakshman Sen.

12 What was the main religion followed by the Sena rulers?

Ans: The Sena rulers followed **Hinduism**.

13 Which Pala ruler extended his empire to Assam and Odisha?

Ans: Devapala extended his empire to Assam and Odisha.

14 Which famous Buddhist scholar was associated with the Pala dynasty?

Ans: Atisha Dipankara was associated with the Pala dynasty.

15 Which architectural style flourished under the Pala rulers?

Ans: The **Pala School of Art** flourished under the Pala rulers.

16 Which dynasty is known for building the Somapura Mahavihara?

Ans: The Pala dynasty built the **Somapura Mahavihara** (now in Bangladesh).

17 Who was the last ruler of the Sena dynasty?

Ans: Lakshman Sen was the last ruler of the Sena dynasty.

18 Which dynasty ruled Bengal before the Palas?

Ans: The Gauda kings ruled Bengal before the Palas.

19 What was the main administrative language of the Pala dynasty?

Ans: Sanskrit was the main administrative language of the Pala dynasty.

20 Which Sena ruler expanded the kingdom to Bihar and Assam?

Ans: Lakshman Sen expanded the kingdom to Bihar and Assam.

TWO MARK:

1 Who was the founder of the Pala dynasty, and how did he come to power?

Ans: Gopala was the founder of the Pala dynasty. He was elected by the people of Bengal in the late 8th century to restore stability in the region, which was suffering from political chaos after the fall of the Gauda kings.



2 What were the major political achievements of Dharmapala?

Ans: Dharmapala expanded the Pala Empire, making Bengal a powerful kingdom. He established Vikramashila University, revived Nalanda, and extended his influence over North India by defeating the Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas.

3 Which regions did Devapala conquer during his rule?

Ans: Devapala, the most powerful Pala ruler, extended his empire to Assam, Odisha, and parts of modern-day Nepal. His empire reached its greatest territorial expansion under his rule.

4 What was the significance of Nalanda and Vikramashila universities?

Ans: Nalanda and Vikramashila were two major Buddhist learning centers established by the Palas. They attracted scholars from different countries and helped in the spread of Mahayana Buddhism.

5 How did the Palas contribute to the spread of Buddhism?

Ans: The Palas patronized Buddhism by supporting Buddhist monasteries and scholars. They also helped spread Buddhism to Tibet, China, and Southeast Asia.

6 Which famous Buddhist scholar was associated with the Pala dynasty?

Ans: Atisha Dipankara, a renowned Buddhist monk and philosopher, was associated with the Pala dynasty. He played a crucial role in spreading Buddhism to Tibet.

7 What was the architectural style of the Pala dynasty?

Ans: The Pala rulers developed the Pala School of Art, known for its terracotta temples, bronze statues, and the grand Somapura Mahavihara, one of the largest Buddhist monasteries.

8 What were the administrative policies of the Pala rulers?

Ans: The Pala rulers followed a decentralized administration, where local rulers (samantas) were given autonomy. They also maintained a strong army and encouraged trade with Southeast Asia.

9 Who was the founder of the Sena dynasty, and how did they rise to power?

Ans: Samantasena founded the Sena dynasty, but Ballal Sen established its dominance by overthrowing the Pala rule in Bengal.

10 What was Ballal Sen's major contribution to society?

Ans: Ballal Sen introduced Kulinism, a social classification system that ranked Brahmin and Kayastha families based on purity and social status.

11 What was the political significance of Lakshman Sen?

Ans: Lakshman Sen expanded the Sena Empire to Bihar and Assam. However, his rule ended after Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion of Bengal.

12 Who was Bakhtiyar Khilji, and how did he defeat the Sena dynasty?

Ans: Bakhtiyar Khilji was a Turkish general who defeated Lakshman Sen in 1204 CE by attacking the capital, Nabadwip, with a small but fast-moving army.

13 What was the main religion followed by the Palas and Senas?

Ans: The Palas followed Buddhism and supported Mahayana traditions, while the Senas were devout Hindus and promoted Brahmanical traditions.



14 Which literary works flourished during the Pala rule?

Ans: The Pala period saw the development of Buddhist texts like “Charyapada” and several Sanskrit works on philosophy, grammar, and medicine.

15 Which famous Sanskrit poet was present in Lakshman Sen’s court?

Ans: Jayadeva, the author of *Gita Govinda*, was one of the most famous poets in Lakshman Sen’s court.

16 How did the economy of Bengal develop under the Pala and Sena rulers?

Ans: Trade and agriculture flourished under both dynasties. The Palas traded with Southeast Asia, while the Senas promoted internal agriculture and irrigation.

17 What was the military strength of the Pala rulers?

Ans: The Pala rulers maintained a large cavalry and elephant force. They also had a strong navy, which helped them in controlling riverine trade routes.

18 What was the contribution of the Senas in temple architecture?

Ans: The Sena rulers built Hindu temples with intricate stone carvings. The Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka, Bangladesh, is an example of their architectural style.

19 What was the relationship between the Palas and Tibet?

Ans: The Pala rulers maintained close ties with Tibet. They sent Buddhist scholars like Atisha Dipankara to Tibet, which strengthened Buddhist teachings there.

20 Why is the Somapura Mahavihara important?

Ans: Somapura Mahavihara, built by Dharmapala, is one of the largest Buddhist monasteries in the world and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

21 What led to the decline of the Pala dynasty?

Ans: The Pala dynasty declined due to weak rulers, frequent invasions, and the rise of the Sena dynasty, which eventually overthrew them.

22 How did the administration of the Sena dynasty differ from that of the Palas?

Ans: The Senas followed a more centralized administration, while the Palas allowed more autonomy to regional rulers.

23 What was the impact of Bakhtiyar Khilji’s invasion of Bengal?

Ans: Bakhtiyar Khilji’s invasion marked the end of Hindu rule in Bengal and the beginning of Muslim rule under the Delhi Sultanate.

24 Which social class benefited the most under the Sena dynasty?

Ans: The Brahmins benefited the most under the Sena dynasty due to Kulinism, which strengthened their social and political power.

25 What was the cultural contribution of the Palas in sculpture and painting?

Ans: The Palas developed the unique Pala style of bronze sculptures and paintings, which influenced art in Tibet and Southeast Asia.

26 Which major river systems were crucial for the Pala and Sena economies?

Ans: The Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna river systems were crucial for trade, agriculture, and transportation.

27 How did trade flourish under the Palas?

Ans: The Palas engaged in maritime trade with Southeast Asia, exporting goods like textiles, ivory, and spices.

28 What was the significance of the Sena rule in Bengal?

Ans: The Sena rule reinforced Hindu traditions in Bengal and developed a stable administration before being overthrown by the Turks.

29 Which languages were used for administration under the Palas and Senas?

Ans: The Palas primarily used Sanskrit and Pali, while the Senas used Sanskrit for official purposes.

30 What was the lasting impact of the Palas and Senas on Bengal?

Ans: The Palas contributed to Buddhism and education, while the Senas strengthened Hindu traditions, influencing Bengal's religious and social structure.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. Discuss the political achievements of Dharmapala and Devapala.

Dharmapala, the second ruler of the Pala dynasty (770–810 CE), was a powerful and ambitious ruler who expanded the Pala Empire. He initially faced challenges from the Pratihara king Vatsaraja and the Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva. Although Dharmapala suffered some military defeats, he later regained power and expanded his empire into present-day Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and parts of Odisha. His greatest political achievement was establishing Pala dominance over North India. He also maintained good relations with neighboring regions and promoted Buddhist culture. Dharmapala's reign marked the beginning of Pala supremacy in Bengal and Bihar.

Devapala, the son of Dharmapala, ruled from around 810 to 850 CE and took the Pala Empire to its greatest territorial extent. He successfully campaigned against the Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas, strengthening his control over Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, and parts of Nepal. His military conquests ensured stability in the region. Devapala also maintained diplomatic relations with Southeast Asian countries like Java and Sumatra. His rule was a period of prosperity, military success, and cultural growth, solidifying the power of the Pala dynasty.

2. Describe the cultural contributions of the Pala dynasty.

The Pala dynasty played a significant role in the cultural and intellectual development of India. Their most important contribution was in the field of education. The Palas established renowned universities like Vikramashila, Nalanda, and Somapura Mahavihara, which became centers of Buddhist learning. These institutions attracted scholars from different parts of Asia and played a major role in the spread of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism.

The Pala rulers also contributed to art and architecture, developing the distinctive Pala School of Art. This style is characterized by intricate bronze

sculptures, stone carvings, and terracotta temple designs. Many Pala-era artifacts have been found in Bihar and Bengal, showing their artistic excellence. The Somapura Mahavihara, built by Dharmapala, is one of the largest Buddhist monasteries in the world and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Additionally, the Palas promoted literature and Sanskrit scholarship. The *Charyapada*, an early form of Bengali poetry, was composed during their reign. They also supported Buddhist scholars and translated important texts into Tibetan and Chinese, influencing Buddhism in Southeast Asia and Tibet.

3. Discuss the rise and significance of the Sena dynasty.

The Sena dynasty emerged in the late 11th century after overthrowing the Pala dynasty. The founder, Samantasena, was a military leader, but it was Ballal Sena who firmly established Sena rule in Bengal. Ballal Sena centralized administration and promoted Hindu traditions, marking a cultural shift from Buddhist dominance to Hindu revivalism.

Lakshman Sena, the most prominent Sena ruler, expanded the empire to Bihar and Assam. He was also a patron of literature and invited many Sanskrit scholars to his court, including the famous poet Jayadeva, who wrote *Gita Govinda*. The Sena dynasty promoted Brahminical traditions and social reforms. They introduced Kulinism, a system that ranked Brahmins and Kayasthas based on social status, which had long-lasting effects on Bengali society.

The significance of the Sena dynasty lies in its cultural and administrative contributions. The Senas built temples, patronized Sanskrit learning, and strengthened Hindu institutions. However, their rule was short-lived as they were overthrown by Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1204 CE.

4. What were the administrative features of the Pala and Sena dynasties?

The Pala dynasty had a decentralized administration. The empire was divided into provinces (*bhuktis*), which were further divided into districts (*visayas*). Local rulers (*samantas*) had autonomy but were required to remain loyal to the Pala kings. The Palas maintained a strong army, including cavalry and elephant forces, which helped them in military campaigns. They also encouraged trade with Southeast Asia, strengthening the economy.

The Sena dynasty followed a more centralized administrative system. The king had absolute power and was assisted by ministers in governance. The empire was divided into *bhuktis* (provinces), *mandalas* (districts), and *gramas* (villages), with officials appointed at each level. The Senas focused on strengthening Hindu traditions and social reforms, introducing Kulinism to organize Brahmins and Kayasthas into hierarchical groups. Their administration ensured internal stability and economic growth.

5. How did Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion lead to the decline of the Sena dynasty?

Bakhtiyar Khilji, a general of the Delhi Sultanate, invaded Bengal in 1204 CE. He led a small but highly mobile cavalry force and launched a surprise attack on the Sena capital, Nabadwip. The Sena ruler, Lakshman Sena, was unprepared for the

invasion and fled to East Bengal (present-day Bangladesh). This event marked the end of the Sena dynasty and the beginning of Muslim rule in Bengal.

The significance of Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion lies in the political and cultural changes it brought. Bengal was integrated into the Delhi Sultanate, and Islamic administration replaced the Hindu system of governance. Persian became the official language, and new architectural styles were introduced. The decline of the Sena dynasty also led to the decline of Sanskrit scholarship and temple construction in Bengal. The region saw major social and religious transformations, which influenced its future history.

6. What were the major achievements of Ballal Sena and Lakshman Sena?

Ballal Sena was an important ruler of the Sena dynasty who strengthened the administrative system and introduced significant social reforms. One of his major contributions was the introduction of **Kulinism**, a system that ranked Brahmins and Kayasthas based on their lineage and social status. This system had a lasting impact on Bengali society. Ballal Sena also encouraged Hindu traditions and shifted Bengal's religious focus from Buddhism to Brahmanism. Additionally, he was known for his scholarly interests and wrote *Dan-Sagara*, a text on religious donations.

Lakshman Sena, the son of Ballal Sena, was the last powerful ruler of the Sena dynasty. He expanded the empire into Bihar and Assam and maintained stability during his reign. Lakshman Sena was a great patron of literature and invited renowned poets and scholars to his court, including **Jayadeva**, the composer of *Gita Govinda*. His rule marked a golden period for Sanskrit and Bengali literature. However, towards the end of his reign, he faced the invasion of **Bakhtiyar Khilji**, which ultimately led to the fall of the Sena dynasty.

7. Explain the significance of the Sena rule in Bengal.

The Sena dynasty played a crucial role in shaping the history and culture of Bengal. One of their most significant contributions was the **revival of Hindu traditions**. After the long rule of the Buddhist Pala dynasty, the Senas re-established Brahmanical practices, promoted Sanskrit learning, and built Hindu temples. This shift had a lasting impact on Bengal's religious and social structure.

Administratively, the Sena rulers introduced a **more centralized system of governance**, ensuring strong control over their territories. They improved the revenue collection system and maintained law and order efficiently. Ballal Sena's **Kulinism reform** helped in structuring the social hierarchy among Brahmins and Kayasthas, though it also led to social rigidity.

In terms of cultural contributions, the Sena rulers were great patrons of literature and the arts. **Lakshman Sena's court attracted poets like Jayadeva, Dhoyi, and Govardhanacharya**, who enriched Bengali and Sanskrit literature.

Despite their achievements, the Sena dynasty declined due to internal weaknesses and external invasions. Their fall marked the beginning of Muslim



rule in Bengal under the **Delhi Sultanate**, bringing significant changes in administration, culture, and society. However, the legacy of the Sena dynasty remained influential in shaping the region's religious and literary traditions.

UNIT - IV

THEORY:

Rise of the Rajputs

1. Origin of the Rajputs

The **Rajputs** were a warrior class that emerged in northern and western India between the **7th and 12th centuries**. The term "Rajput" means "**son of a king**", and they are known for their **bravery, martial skills, and loyalty**.

The origin of the Rajputs is a subject of debate among historians. There are three main theories regarding their emergence:

1. **Foreign Origin Theory** – Some scholars believe that the Rajputs were descended from **foreign invaders** like the **Scythians, Huns, or Kushans**, who settled in India and later adopted Hindu customs.
2. **Agnikula Theory** – This theory, found in **prithviraj Raso**, states that the Rajputs were created by a **fire ritual (Agni Kunda) at Mount Abu** by the sage Vashistha. The four Agnikula Rajput clans were the **Parmaras, Chauhans, Solankis, and Pratiharas**.
3. **Kshatriya Origin Theory** – According to this theory, the Rajputs were the descendants of the ancient **Kshatriya (warrior) class** of Hindu society, who gained prominence after the decline of the Gupta Empire.

Regardless of their origin, the Rajputs played a significant role in Indian history by establishing powerful **kingdoms, resisting invasions, and shaping medieval Indian culture**.

2. Pratihara Dynasty: Mihir Bhoja and Administration

Mihir Bhoja and His Achievements

The **Pratihara dynasty** was one of the most powerful Rajput dynasties of early medieval India. Among its rulers, **Mihir Bhoja (836-885 CE)** was the greatest.

- Mihir Bhoja expanded his empire across **northern and central India**, defeating many rivals.
- He successfully **resisted Arab invasions**, preventing the spread of Islam into India during his time.
- His rule was marked by **economic prosperity, trade, and cultural advancements**.
- He was a great patron of **art and learning** and promoted Sanskrit literature.
- Mihir Bhoja took the title "**Adivaraha**", meaning "incarnation of Lord Vishnu." His coins featured the image of Vishnu's boar incarnation.

Administration of the Pratiharas

The **Pratihara rulers** had a well-organized **administrative system**:

- **King (Maharajadhiraja)**: Supreme ruler, controlling **military, justice, and administration**.
- **Council of Ministers**: Helped the king in governance.
- **Provincial Governors**: Managed different regions and reported to the king.
- **Village Administration**: Local leaders and village elders handled day-to-day affairs.
- **Military Strength**: The Pratiharas had a **strong army**, including elephants, cavalry, and archers.

The administrative system of the Pratiharas helped maintain stability and economic prosperity in their empire.

3. The Tripartite Struggle: Pratihara-Pala-Rashtrakuta Conflict

The **Tripartite Struggle** was a long conflict between three major powers:

1. **Pratiharas (North-West India)**
2. **Palas (Eastern India, Bengal)**
3. **Rashtrakutas (Deccan Region)**

Causes of the Conflict

- The main cause of the struggle was **control over Kannauj**, a rich and strategically important city.
- Kannauj was a major **trade and cultural center**, making it valuable for all three kingdoms.

Course of the Conflict



- The **Pratiharas** controlled Kannauj first but faced attacks from the **Palas**.
- The **Rashtrakutas** took advantage of this and **invaded northern India**, weakening both rivals.
- The city changed hands **multiple times**, causing instability.

Results of the Tripartite Struggle

- The **Pratiharas** eventually emerged as the main rulers of Kannauj but were weakened.
- The long war **exhausted all three kingdoms**, making them vulnerable to **new invaders**, like the Turks.
- The struggle **delayed the political unification of North India**, making it easier for foreign invasions later.

4. The Gahadavalas: Political Achievements

The **Gahadavalas** were a Rajput dynasty that ruled **Kanauj and the Ganges Valley** from the **11th to 12th century**.

Important Rulers and Achievements

1. **Chandradeva (c. 1089-1103 CE):**
 - Founder of the Gahadavala dynasty.
 - Expanded the empire in North India and strengthened Kanauj.
2. **Govindachandra (c. 1114-1155 CE):**
 - Most powerful ruler of the dynasty.
 - Defended his kingdom from the **Ghori and Ghaznavid invasions**.
 - Promoted **trade, arts, and learning**.
3. **Jayachandra (c. 1170-1194 CE):**
 - The last great ruler of the Gahadavalas.
 - Fought against **Prithviraj Chauhan** and later faced defeat by **Muhammad Ghori** in the **Battle of Chandwar (1194 CE)**.
 - His defeat marked the decline of the Gahadavalas and the beginning of **Muslim rule in North India**.

ONE MARK:

1. **Who were the Rajputs?**
→ The Rajputs were a warrior class that emerged in northern and western India during the early medieval period.
2. **What does the term 'Rajput' mean?**
→ Rajput means "son of a king."



3. **Which dynasty did Mihir Bhoja belong to?**
→ Mihir Bhoja belonged to the **Pratihara Dynasty**.
4. **Which title was taken by Mihir Bhoja?**
→ Mihir Bhoja took the title "**Adivaraha**".
5. **Which city was the main center of the Tripartite Struggle?**
→ The city of **Kannauj** was the main center of the struggle.
6. **Which three dynasties fought in the Tripartite Struggle?**
→ The **Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas** fought in the struggle.
7. **Who founded the Gahadavala dynasty?**
→ **Chandradeva** founded the Gahadavala dynasty.
8. **Who was the most powerful ruler of the Gahadavalas?**
→ **Govindachandra** was the most powerful ruler of the Gahadavalas.
9. **Which Rajput ruler was defeated by Muhammad Ghori in 1194 CE?**
→ **Jayachandra of the Gahadavala dynasty** was defeated by Muhammad Ghori.
10. **Who was the last major ruler of the Gahadavala dynasty?**
→ **Jayachandra** was the last major ruler.
11. **Which Rajput dynasty ruled over Kanauj during the early medieval period?**
→ The **Gahadavala dynasty** ruled over Kanauj.
12. **Which Rajput dynasty successfully resisted Arab invasions?**
→ The **Pratiharas** successfully resisted Arab invasions.
13. **Where did the Agnikula Rajputs originate according to legend?**
→ The Agnikula Rajputs originated from **Mount Abu**.
14. **Which Rajput clan ruled Gujarat and Rajasthan?**
→ The **Solanki (Chaulukya) dynasty** ruled Gujarat and Rajasthan.
15. **Who was the founder of the Pala dynasty?**
→ **Gopala** was the founder of the Pala dynasty.
16. **Which Rajput ruler was known for his naval expeditions?**
→ **Rajendra Chola I** was known for his naval expeditions, though he was from the Chola dynasty, not a Rajput dynasty.
17. **Who was the greatest ruler of the Pratihara dynasty?**
→ **Mihir Bhoja** was the greatest ruler of the Pratihara dynasty.
18. **What was the main cause of the Tripartite Struggle?**
→ Control over **Kannauj** was the main cause of the struggle.
19. **Which Rajput ruler was defeated in the Battle of Chandwar (1194 CE)?**
→ **Jayachandra of the Gahadavalas** was defeated in the Battle of Chandwar.



20. **Who was the last major ruler of the Pratihara dynasty?**
→ **Mahipala I** was the last major ruler of the Pratihara dynasty.

TWO MARK:

1. **Who were the Rajputs, and how did they emerge?**
The Rajputs were a warrior class that emerged in India during the early medieval period. They were known for their bravery and strong martial traditions. Some historians believe they descended from Kshatriyas, while others suggest they were foreign invaders who assimilated into Indian society.
2. **What are the main theories regarding the origin of the Rajputs?**
There are three main theories about Rajput origin: (1) The **foreign origin theory** states that they were descendants of Central Asian tribes like the Scythians and Huns. (2) The **Agnikula theory** claims they originated from a fire sacrifice at Mount Abu. (3) The **Kshatriya descent theory** argues that they were successors of ancient Indian Kshatriyas.
3. **Which Rajput dynasty played a major role in resisting Arab invasions?**
The **Pratihara dynasty** played a crucial role in stopping Arab invasions from spreading into India. They successfully defended western India, especially under rulers like Nagabhata I and Mihir Bhoja.
4. **Who was Mihir Bhoja, and why is he significant?**
Mihir Bhoja was one of the greatest rulers of the **Pratihara dynasty**. He expanded his kingdom, strengthened the army, and promoted trade. He was a great patron of Hinduism and took the title **Adivaraha**, signifying his devotion to Lord Vishnu.
5. **What was the Tripartite Struggle?**
The Tripartite Struggle was a long conflict between the **Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas** over the control of **Kannauj**, a strategically important city in northern India. The struggle lasted for over two centuries, weakening all three dynasties.
6. **Why was Kannauj important during the medieval period?**
Kannauj was an important political and trade center in northern India. Controlling Kannauj meant dominance over the northern plains and significant economic advantages. This led to repeated battles between the Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas.
7. **Who were the main rulers involved in the Tripartite Struggle?**
The key rulers involved in the struggle were **Dharmapala** and **Devapala** of the Palas, **Mihir Bhoja** of the Pratiharas, and **Govinda III** of the Rashtrakutas. Each of them tried to establish supremacy over Kannauj.
8. **Who was the founder of the Gahadavala dynasty?**
Chandradeva founded the Gahadavala dynasty in the late 11th century. He established his rule in Kannauj and played a key role in defending northern India against Muslim invasions.



9. **Who was Jayachandra, and what was his role in history?**

Jayachandra was the last significant ruler of the **Gahadavala dynasty**. He was defeated by **Muhammad Ghori** in the **Battle of Chandwar (1194 CE)**, marking the decline of the Rajput rule in North India.

10. **What was the administrative system of the Pratiharas?**

The Pratiharas followed a feudal system where the empire was divided into **Bhuktis (provinces)**, further divided into **Vishayas (districts)**. Local chiefs had significant power and provided military support to the king.

11. **How did Mihir Bhoja strengthen the Pratihara Empire?**

Mihir Bhoja expanded the empire by defeating rivals and securing trade routes. He maintained a strong army, patronized learning, and improved administration, making the Pratiharas one of the most powerful dynasties of North India.

12. **Who was the last strong ruler of the Pratihara dynasty?**

Mahipala I was the last powerful ruler of the Pratihara dynasty. After his death, the empire weakened due to internal conflicts and external invasions.

13. **Which Rajput ruler was called 'Adivaraha'?**

Mihir Bhoja of the Pratihara dynasty was called 'Adivaraha' because of his devotion to **Lord Vishnu** and his adoption of this title on his coins and inscriptions.

14. **What were the contributions of the Gahadavalas to Indian history?**

The Gahadavalas ruled Kannauj and protected Hindu culture. They built temples, patronized Sanskrit scholars, and resisted the early invasions of Muslim rulers like Muhammad Ghori.

15. **Who was the founder of the Pratihara dynasty?**

Nagabhata I was the founder of the Pratihara dynasty in the 8th century. He successfully defended India against Arab invasions.

16. **Who was the greatest ruler of the Gahadavala dynasty?**

Govindachandra was the most powerful ruler of the Gahadavala dynasty. He expanded his kingdom, promoted Hindu culture, and strengthened his administration.

17. **What caused the decline of the Pratiharas?**

The Pratiharas declined due to internal weaknesses, continuous wars with the Rashtrakutas and Palas, and Muslim invasions that weakened their hold over North India.

18. **Which Rajput ruler resisted Mahmud of Ghazni's invasions?**

Raja Bhoja of the Paramara dynasty resisted Mahmud of Ghazni's invasions and played an important role in defending western India.

19. **Who was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty?**

Dantidurga founded the Rashtrakuta dynasty in the Deccan region during the 8th century.



20. **What was the main achievement of the Pratihara dynasty?**
The Pratihara dynasty successfully stopped Arab invasions and played a crucial role in medieval Indian politics. They also patronized art and architecture.
21. **How was Rajput society structured?**
Rajput society was feudal in nature, with a strong warrior tradition. They followed a strict caste system and emphasized honor, loyalty, and martial skills.
22. **What was the economic condition of the Pratihara empire?**
The economy was based on agriculture, trade, and taxation. Cities like Kannauj became major centers for trade and commerce.
23. **What role did feudalism play in Rajput kingdoms?**
Rajput kingdoms followed a feudal system where landowners controlled local regions and provided military support to the king in exchange for autonomy.
24. **How did the Rajputs contribute to Indian architecture?**
Rajputs built grand forts, temples, and palaces, including **Chittorgarh Fort** and **Ranakpur Jain Temple**, showcasing their unique architectural style.
25. **Why did the Rajputs fail against Muslim invaders?**
Rajputs lacked unity, had outdated war tactics, and engaged in internal rivalries. These weaknesses contributed to their defeat by Muslim rulers like Muhammad Ghori.
26. **Who was the first Rajput ruler to fight against the Ghaznavids?**
Bhimdev I of Gujarat (Solanki dynasty) was one of the first Rajput rulers to resist Mahmud of Ghazni.
27. **What was the military system of Rajput kingdoms?**
Rajputs had a strong cavalry, followed a warrior code of honor, and were experts in archery and sword fighting, but they lacked organized war strategies like the Turks.
28. **Which Rajput kingdom was the most powerful in western India?**
The **Solanki (Chaulukya) dynasty of Gujarat** was one of the most powerful Rajput kingdoms in western India.
29. **How did the Gahadavalas contribute to Hindu culture?**
They built Hindu temples, patronized scholars, and revived Vedic traditions, helping to preserve Hindu culture in medieval India.
30. **Who was the Rajput ruler at the time of Muhammad Ghori's invasion?**
Prithviraj Chauhan was the main Rajput ruler who fought against Muhammad Ghori in the **Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE)** but was ultimately defeated.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. **Discuss the origin of the Rajputs with reference to different theories.**

The origin of the Rajputs has been a subject of historical debate, with multiple theories proposed by historians. The **Kshatriya Origin Theory** suggests that Rajputs were the descendants of ancient Kshatriyas mentioned in Hindu texts. They belonged to the warrior class and played a crucial role in medieval Indian history. The **Foreign Origin Theory** states that Rajputs were originally **Central Asian tribes like the Huns, Scythians, or Kushans**, who settled in India and gradually adopted Hindu culture and traditions. Some historians argue that their martial traditions and physical features resemble those of Central Asian nomads.

Another significant explanation is the **Agnikula Theory**, which claims that the Rajputs were born from a sacred fire (Agni Kunda) at Mount Abu, Rajasthan, to protect India from invaders. According to legend, four Rajput clans—the **Parmaras, Pratiharas, Chahamanas (Chauhans), and Solankis (Chaulukyas)**—were created from this fire. Lastly, the **Mixed Origin Theory** suggests that the Rajputs emerged from a blend of various warrior tribes and castes, assimilating into a powerful ruling class through centuries of warfare and social transformation. Regardless of their origin, Rajputs became a dominant force in Indian history, known for their **military valor, code of honor, and feudal governance system**.

2. Explain the role and achievements of Mihir Bhoja of the Pratihara dynasty.

Mihir Bhoja was one of the greatest rulers of the **Pratihara dynasty**, ruling from **836 to 885 CE**. His reign marked the **golden age** of the Pratihara Empire, during which he significantly expanded its territory and strengthened its administration. He adopted the title **Adivaraha**, symbolizing his devotion to Lord Vishnu, and issued coins and inscriptions bearing this title. Mihir Bhoja successfully resisted the **Arab invasions** from the west, particularly the forces of the Abbasid Caliphate, preventing them from advancing further into India.

Mihir Bhoja also played a crucial role in the **Tripartite Struggle** involving the **Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas** over the control of Kannauj. He managed to hold Kannauj for a long time, making it the center of his empire. His administration was highly efficient, with well-organized taxation and revenue systems that promoted trade and agriculture. He encouraged the growth of **Sanskrit literature, Hindu temples, and art**, making significant contributions to Indian culture. Despite facing continuous conflicts with the Rashtrakutas and Palas, Mihir Bhoja maintained Pratihara dominance in northern India for several decades. His legacy as a powerful and capable ruler remains significant in medieval Indian history.

3. Describe the causes and consequences of the Tripartite Struggle.

The **Tripartite Struggle** was a prolonged conflict between the **Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas** over the control of **Kannauj**, a highly strategic city in northern India. This struggle lasted for nearly **two centuries (8th-10th century CE)** and had far-reaching political consequences. The primary cause of this conflict was the **strategic and economic importance of Kannauj**, which



was a center of trade and political power. Rulers believed that controlling Kannauj meant asserting dominance over northern India. The struggle started when the **Pala ruler Dharmapala captured Kannauj**, but he was soon challenged by the **Pratihara king Vatsaraja**. Later, the Rashtrakutas under **Govinda III** also intervened, leading to a prolonged three-way conflict.

The **consequences** of the Tripartite Struggle were significant. First, it **weakened all three dynasties**, as continuous warfare drained their resources and manpower. Second, it created political instability in North India, making the region vulnerable to external invasions, especially from **Turkish and Afghan invaders** in the later centuries. The Pratiharas eventually gained control over Kannauj, but their empire soon declined due to internal strife and external attacks. The Palas and Rashtrakutas also weakened over time, leading to the rise of new regional powers like the **Chauhans, Gahadavalas, and Chandellas**. The struggle demonstrated the highly fragmented nature of medieval Indian politics, where multiple powerful kingdoms vied for supremacy.

4. Who were the Gahadavalas? Discuss their political achievements.

The **Gahadavalas** were a Rajput dynasty that ruled over **Kannauj and parts of northern India** from the late **11th century to early 13th century CE**. They emerged as a dominant power after the decline of the Pratihara dynasty. The founder of the dynasty, **Chandradeva (1089-1103 CE)**, established his rule over the **Ganges-Yamuna region**, making Kannauj his capital. He strengthened the administration, encouraged Hinduism, and built several temples. His successor, **Govindachandra (1114-1154 CE)**, expanded the empire and maintained a powerful army.

One of the most notable rulers of the Gahadavalas was **Jayachandra (1170-1194 CE)**, who fought against the Turkish invader **Muhammad Ghori**. Unfortunately, Jayachandra was defeated in the **Battle of Chandwar (1194 CE)**, leading to the fall of the Gahadavalas and the expansion of Muslim rule in North India. Politically, the Gahadavalas played a crucial role in **resisting early Islamic invasions** and preserving Hindu traditions. They implemented **efficient revenue and administrative policies**, which helped in the economic growth of their kingdom. However, their failure to unite with other Rajput clans led to their downfall.

5. What were the main features of the Pratihara administration?

The **Pratihara administration** was highly structured, with a **monarchical system** where the king had supreme authority. However, it also followed a **feudal system**, where local rulers and landlords (Samantas) controlled different regions under the king's rule. The empire was divided into **Bhuktis (provinces), Vishayas (districts), and villages**, with officials responsible for governance at each level.

The Pratiharas had a strong **military system**, with an emphasis on **cavalry, elephant forces, and archery**. They maintained a large standing army and built forts for defense. **Revenue collection was efficient**, with taxes imposed

on agriculture, trade, and crafts. The administration also promoted **trade and commerce**, leading to economic prosperity. Culturally, the Pratiharas were patrons of **art, literature, and temple architecture**, contributing to the growth of Indian civilization.

6. Explain the factors leading to the decline of the Rajput kingdoms.

The Rajput kingdoms declined due to multiple factors. One of the primary reasons was **internal conflicts and lack of unity** among Rajput clans. Instead of uniting against common enemies like **Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori**, they often fought among themselves. The **feudal system** also weakened central authority, making Rajput rulers dependent on local chieftains, who often acted independently.

The **outdated military tactics** of the Rajputs also contributed to their decline. They followed traditional warfare strategies, whereas **Turkish invaders used superior cavalry, organized armies, and efficient administration**. Furthermore, the continuous invasions by **Mahmud of Ghazni, Muhammad Ghori, and later the Delhi Sultanate** weakened Rajput rule. The **economic decline** due to war and destruction further reduced their ability to resist foreign invaders.

Despite their decline, the Rajputs remained influential in Indian history, and many later rulers, such as the **Mewar and Marwar Rajputs**, continued their legacy in medieval India.

7. Describe the military strength and warfare tactics of the Rajputs.

The Rajputs were known for their **military strength, bravery, and chivalry**, which played a crucial role in their dominance over northern and western India. Their military system was largely **feudal**, where local chieftains provided soldiers and resources to their rulers during wars. The Rajput armies consisted mainly of **cavalry, infantry, and elephants**, with cavalry playing the most significant role. Their soldiers were highly skilled in **sword fighting, archery, and guerrilla warfare tactics**.

The Rajputs followed the **code of chivalry (Rajputana ethics)**, where they preferred **face-to-face battles** rather than deceitful strategies. Their warfare tactics included **fortification of cities, surprise attacks, and valorous last stands**. However, they lacked centralized leadership, which often led to **internal conflicts and disunity**. The **Turkish invaders**, on the other hand, used **swift cavalry, superior archery, and better coordination**, which gave them an advantage. Despite their bravery, Rajput military tactics became outdated over time, making them vulnerable to **foreign invasions by Mahmud of Ghazni, Muhammad Ghori, and later the Delhi Sultanate**.

8. Discuss the role of Rajput women in medieval Indian society.

Rajput women played a significant role in **medieval Indian society**, known for their **courage, sacrifice, and administrative abilities**. They were well-versed in **warfare, politics, and cultural traditions**, often serving as guardians of

Rajput honor. Rajput women were trained in **martial arts and horse riding**, and some even led armies in battles when needed. For instance, **Rani Padmini of Chittorgarh** and **Rani Karnavati of Mewar** are remembered for their valor in resisting enemy invasions.

A significant practice among Rajput women was **Jauhar**, a mass self-immolation performed when defeat in battle was inevitable, to protect their honor from foreign invaders. While this practice symbolized Rajput pride and resistance, it also reflected the harsh realities of constant warfare. Women also contributed to **administration and governance**, particularly as **regents** when kings were absent. Some Rajput queens actively participated in **diplomacy and policy-making**. Though their lives were largely confined to royal palaces, their influence in shaping **Rajput culture, tradition, and resistance** against external forces was immense.

9. Explain the impact of Rajput rule on Indian art and culture.

The Rajputs were great patrons of **art, architecture, and literature**, leaving behind a rich cultural legacy in India. They built **magnificent forts, temples, and palaces**, many of which still stand today as architectural marvels. Famous Rajput forts like **Chittorgarh, Mehrangarh, and Kumbhalgarh** showcase their **defensive and aesthetic architectural skills**. Their temples, such as **the Dilwara Temples (Mount Abu) and Khajuraho Temples**, reflect a blend of **Hindu and Jain artistic traditions**, featuring intricate carvings and sculptures.

Rajput kings also encouraged the **development of Sanskrit and regional literature**. Many Rajput courts became centers of **poetry and philosophy**, where scholars composed works in **Hindi, Rajasthani, and Sanskrit**. The **Rajput painting style**, particularly **Mewar, Marwar, and Bundi schools of painting**, flourished during their rule. These paintings depicted **scenes from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, as well as Rajput life and heroism**.

Additionally, the Rajputs played a crucial role in preserving **Hindu traditions and culture** during times of Islamic invasions. They continued patronizing **Hindu rituals, festivals, and classical arts**, ensuring that Indian culture thrived even in turbulent periods. Their contributions to **art, literature, and architecture** form an essential part of India's cultural heritage.



UNIT - V

THEORY:

Arab Invasion

1. The Political Condition of Sind on the Eve of the Arab Invasion

Before the Arab invasion, **Sind** (present-day southern Pakistan) was ruled by the **Brahman dynasty**, with **Raja Dahir** as the king. The political condition of Sind was weak due to **internal conflicts, inefficient administration, and lack of military strength**. The kingdom was divided into **small feudal states**, making it difficult to organize a united defense against foreign invasions.

The rulers of Sind followed **Hindu and Buddhist traditions**, and their administration was based on **traditional Indian principles**. However, corruption and inefficiency weakened the governance. The **local feudal lords (zamindars)** often had disputes among themselves, which further destabilized the region.

In contrast, the **Arabs had a strong and well-organized army**, advanced warfare tactics, and the ambition to expand their empire. The **Umayyad Caliphate**, under Caliph Al-Walid, aimed to spread **Islamic rule in India** and saw Sind as an entry point into the **Indian subcontinent**.

2. Arab Invasion of Sind and Its Effects

The **Arab invasion of Sind** was led by **Muhammad bin Qasim**, a young and ambitious general of the Umayyad Caliphate. In **712 CE**, he invaded Sind and defeated **Raja Dahir** in a decisive battle near **Aror** (now in Pakistan). Raja Dahir was killed, and his kingdom was annexed by the Arabs.



Effects of the Arab Invasion

1. **Establishment of Islamic Rule** – The conquest of Sind marked the first **permanent Islamic foothold in India**. The region was placed under **Muslim governors** appointed by the Caliphate.
2. **Spread of Islam** – The Arabs encouraged the spread of **Islamic culture, language, and religion** in Sind, although Hindu and Buddhist populations were allowed to practice their faiths.
3. **Introduction of New Administrative System** – The Arabs introduced a **centralized administration**, which was more structured than the feudal system of the Brahman dynasty.
4. **Trade and Cultural Exchange** – The invasion led to **increased trade and cultural interactions** between India and the Arab world. Indian **mathematics, medicine, and literature** influenced Arab scholars.
5. **Limited Expansion** – Despite their success in Sind, the Arabs could not expand further into India due to **strong Rajput resistance**, particularly from the **Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas**.

3. Indian Invasions of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni

Mahmud of Ghazni was the **first Muslim ruler** to launch multiple raids into **northern India**. He was the **ruler of Ghazni (modern-day Afghanistan)** and sought to expand his empire while also plundering the wealth of Indian temples and cities.

Major Invasions

- Mahmud launched **17 invasions** between **1000 CE and 1027 CE**.
- His most famous attack was on the **Somnath Temple (1025 CE)** in Gujarat, where he looted immense wealth.
- He also invaded **Kanauj, Mathura, and Punjab**, defeating local rulers like **Jaipal and Anandpal**.

Effects of Mahmud's Invasions

1. **Destruction of Temples and Cities** – Mahmud's raids resulted in the **destruction of Hindu temples** and looting of Indian wealth.
2. **Spread of Islamic Rule in Northern India** – His invasions weakened local kingdoms, paving the way for future **Turkish invasions**.
3. **Impact on Indian Economy** – The massive plundering of wealth **weakened Indian cities and temples**, which had been major centers of economic activity.
4. **Rise of Rajput Resistance** – The **Rajput rulers**, especially the **Chauhans and Gahadavalas**, began strengthening their military to resist future invasions.



4. Prithviraj Chauhan

Prithviraj Chauhan was one of the **most powerful Rajput rulers** of medieval India. He ruled over **Delhi and Ajmer** and became famous for his **bravery, military strength, and rivalry with Muhammad Ghori**.

- Prithviraj Chauhan was known for his **chivalrous leadership** and strong administration.
- He expanded his empire by defeating smaller rulers and **strengthened his kingdom against external threats**.
- His most famous battles were against **Muhammad Ghori, the ruler of the Ghurid dynasty**.

5. Battles of Tarain

The **Battles of Tarain** were two crucial battles fought between **Prithviraj Chauhan and Muhammad Ghori** in **1191 and 1192 CE**. These battles marked a significant turning point in **Indian history**.

First Battle of Tarain (1191 CE)

- Muhammad Ghori attacked Prithviraj Chauhan near **Tarain (modern-day Haryana)**.
- Prithviraj **defeated Ghori**, forcing him to retreat.
- This victory established **Rajput dominance**, but Prithviraj did not pursue Ghori, allowing him to return stronger.

Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE)

- Muhammad Ghori returned with a larger, better-prepared army.
- The **Rajput army was outnumbered**, and Prithviraj Chauhan was **defeated and captured**.
- This battle marked the beginning of **Muslim rule in northern India**, leading to the establishment of the **Delhi Sultanate**.

Impact of the Battles of Tarain

1. **End of Rajput Rule in Delhi** – After Prithviraj's defeat, the Rajputs lost control over **Delhi and Ajmer**.
2. **Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate** – The battle paved the way for the **Turkish conquest of India**, leading to Muslim dominance.
3. **Weakened Rajput Power** – The Rajputs **lost their influence**, and many small kingdoms fell under the control of Turkish rulers.

ONE MARK:

1. The Political Condition of Sind on the Eve of the Arab Invasion



1. **Who was the ruler of Sind during the Arab invasion?**
 - o Raja Dahir
 2. **Which dynasty ruled Sind before the Arab invasion?**
 - o The Brahman Dynasty
 3. **Who led the Arab invasion of Sind?**
 - o Muhammad bin Qasim
 4. **Under which Caliphate did the Arab invasion of Sind take place?**
 - o The Umayyad Caliphate
 5. **What was the capital of Sind under Raja Dahir?**
 - o Alor (Aror)
-

2. Arab Invasion of Sind and Its Effects

6. **In which year did the Arabs invade Sind?**
 - o 712 CE
 7. **Which river was crossed by Muhammad bin Qasim during his invasion of Sind?**
 - o The Indus River
 8. **What was the impact of the Arab invasion on trade?**
 - o Increased trade between India and the Arab world
 9. **Which religion spread in Sind after the Arab invasion?**
 - o Islam
 10. **Why did the Arab expansion in India stop after the conquest of Sind?**
 - Strong resistance from Rajput rulers like the Pratiharas
-

3. Indian Invasions of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni

11. **Who was the founder of the Ghazni dynasty?**
 - Alptegin
12. **Who was the most famous ruler of the Ghazni dynasty?**
 - Mahmud of Ghazni
13. **How many times did Mahmud of Ghazni invade India?**
 - 17 times



14. Which famous Hindu temple was plundered by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1025 CE?

- Somnath Temple

15. Which Rajput ruler fought against Mahmud of Ghazni?

- Anandpal

4. Prithviraj Chauhan

16. Which Rajput dynasty did Prithviraj Chauhan belong to?

- The Chauhan dynasty

17. Which city was the capital of Prithviraj Chauhan's kingdom?

- Ajmer

18. Who was the main rival of Prithviraj Chauhan?

- Muhammad Ghori

5. Battles of Tarain

19. In which year did the First Battle of Tarain take place?

- 1191 CE

20. What was the outcome of the Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE)?

- Prithviraj Chauhan was defeated and captured by Muhammad Ghori

TWO MARK:

1. The Political Condition of Sind on the Eve of the Arab Invasion

1. Who was the ruler of Sind before the Arab invasion, and what was his rule like?

- o Raja Dahir was the ruler of Sind before the Arab invasion. He was from the Brahman dynasty and ruled over a fragmented kingdom. His administration was weak due to constant internal conflicts and external threats, making Sind vulnerable to foreign invasions.

2. Why was Sind politically weak before the Arab invasion?

- o Sind was divided into several small states and lacked a strong central authority. The ruling Brahman dynasty faced opposition from local chiefs and rebellions, which weakened its military strength and made it easier for foreign invaders to attack.

3. What was the religious condition of Sind before the Arab invasion?

- o Before the Arab invasion, Sind was a mix of Hinduism and Buddhism. Hindu rulers like Raja Dahir promoted Vedic traditions,



while Buddhism had a significant following, especially in urban centers.

4. Which foreign powers tried to control Sind before the Arabs?

- o Before the Arabs, the region of Sind was influenced by the Persian and Kushan empires. The area was also briefly ruled by the Mauryas and the Guptas. However, by the 7th century, local rulers controlled the region.

2. Arab Invasion of Sind and Its Effects

5. Who led the Arab invasion of Sind, and under which caliphate?

- o The Arab invasion of Sind was led by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 CE under the Umayyad Caliphate. He was a young general who launched a military campaign on the orders of Caliph Al-Walid.

6. What was the main reason for the Arab invasion of Sind?

- o The Arab invasion of Sind was primarily due to piracy issues. Arab ships carrying gifts from the King of Sri Lanka to the Caliph were attacked by pirates near Sind, prompting Caliph Al-Walid to order an attack.

7. What strategy did Muhammad bin Qasim use to conquer Sind?

- o Muhammad bin Qasim used advanced military tactics such as swift cavalry movements and siege warfare. He also used diplomacy, offering protection to local people in exchange for loyalty and taxes.

8. How did Muhammad bin Qasim treat the local people of Sind?

- o Muhammad bin Qasim adopted a policy of religious tolerance. Hindus and Buddhists were allowed to practice their faith but had to pay the jizya tax. This helped him gain the support of local traders and administrators.

9. What was the impact of the Arab invasion on trade?

- o The Arab conquest of Sind opened new trade routes between India and the Middle East. Sind became an important commercial hub, facilitating cultural and economic exchanges between Arabs and Indians.

10. Why did Arab rule in Sind decline?

- After Muhammad bin Qasim's death, the Arab administration in Sind weakened due to internal conflicts in the Umayyad Caliphate and resistance from local rulers. Over time, Rajput clans regained control of the region.

3. Indian Invasions of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni



11. Who was Mahmud of Ghazni, and why did he invade India?

- Mahmud of Ghazni was the ruler of the Ghaznavid Empire (997–1030 CE). He invaded India 17 times primarily to loot its wealth, particularly from temples, and to expand his empire's influence.

12. Which Indian ruler opposed Mahmud of Ghazni?

- Anandpal, a ruler of the Hindu Shahi dynasty, fought against Mahmud of Ghazni. Despite fierce resistance, Anandpal was defeated in battle.

13. Which famous Indian temple did Mahmud of Ghazni destroy?

- Mahmud of Ghazni attacked and plundered the Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1025 CE. He looted enormous wealth and destroyed the temple, which was one of the richest in India at the time.

14. What was the impact of Mahmud's invasions on India?

- Mahmud's invasions weakened Indian kingdoms, especially in the northwest. His raids also led to the destruction of several temples and economic centers. However, they did not result in permanent Muslim rule in India.

15. Why did Mahmud of Ghazni not establish a kingdom in India?

- Mahmud was more interested in plundering wealth rather than establishing a stable empire in India. His focus remained on strengthening Ghazni as a powerful Islamic state rather than ruling over Indian territories.

4. Prithviraj Chauhan and Battles of Tarain

16. Who was Prithviraj Chauhan, and which dynasty did he belong to?

- Prithviraj Chauhan was a powerful Rajput ruler of the Chauhan dynasty. He ruled Ajmer and Delhi and was one of the last major Hindu kings to resist Islamic invasions.

17. Who was Prithviraj Chauhan's main rival?

- Prithviraj Chauhan's main rival was Muhammad Ghori, the ruler of the Ghurid dynasty. Their rivalry led to the two famous Battles of Tarain.

18. What was the result of the First Battle of Tarain (1191 CE)?

- In the First Battle of Tarain, Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Muhammad Ghori with the help of a large Rajput army. However, he failed to follow up on his victory, allowing Ghori to return with a stronger army.

19. What was the result of the Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE)?

- In the Second Battle of Tarain, Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan. Prithviraj was captured and later executed, leading to the beginning of Muslim rule in northern India.

20. Why is the Battle of Tarain important in Indian history?



- The Battle of Tarain marked the beginning of Muslim dominance in northern India. It paved the way for the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate and changed the course of Indian history.

5. Effects of Arab and Turkish Invasions

21. How did the Arab and Turkish invasions affect Indian society?

- These invasions introduced Persian and Islamic influences into Indian culture. They also led to the decline of many Hindu kingdoms and the rise of new Muslim dynasties.

22. What was the role of Rajputs in resisting Muslim invasions?

- The Rajputs fiercely resisted Muslim invasions, especially during the 11th and 12th centuries. However, their lack of unity and reliance on traditional warfare strategies led to their eventual defeat.

23. How did Muhammad Ghori's conquest differ from Mahmud of Ghazni's?

- Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India mainly for plundering wealth, while Muhammad Ghori aimed to establish permanent rule in India. His victory at Tarain led to the foundation of Muslim rule in India.

24. Which new administrative system was introduced after the Muslim invasions?

- The Islamic administrative system, including the Iqta system (land grants to military officers), was introduced, replacing the traditional Indian feudal system.

25. How did trade develop after the Muslim invasions?

- The Muslim rulers encouraged trade with Central Asia and the Middle East. Indian ports flourished, and new markets were established.

26. Why was Prithviraj Chauhan unable to stop Muhammad Ghori's invasion?

- Prithviraj underestimated Ghori's strength and lacked a well-organized army. His failure to consolidate his victory in the First Battle of Tarain led to his downfall.

27. How did the Delhi Sultanate emerge?

- After the defeat of Rajput rulers, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, a general of Muhammad Ghori, established the Delhi Sultanate in 1206 CE, marking the beginning of Muslim rule in India.

28. What was the long-term impact of the Battles of Tarain?

- The battles marked the beginning of Islamic rule in India, leading to political and cultural changes that shaped medieval Indian history.

29. Which region of India was first affected by the Arab invasion?



- The Sindh region was the first to be affected, followed by parts of Punjab and Gujarat.

30. What happened to Raja Dahir after the Arab invasion?

- Raja Dahir was defeated and killed by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 CE. His family was taken prisoner, and Sind came under Arab rule.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. The Political Condition of Sind on the Eve of the Arab Invasion

Before the Arab invasion, Sind was ruled by **Raja Dahir**, a Brahmin king of the **Rai dynasty**. The political condition of Sind was weak due to internal divisions and constant conflicts among local rulers. The kingdom of Sind was not a centralized power; rather, it was made up of many small principalities. The local chiefs and feudal lords enjoyed considerable autonomy, which made the region politically unstable.

Another major problem was the frequent invasions from external forces, including **Persians, Turks, and other Central Asian groups**. These invasions weakened the unity of Sind, making it vulnerable to further attacks. Additionally, the ruling elite faced opposition from the Buddhist and Jat communities, who were dissatisfied with the Brahmanical rule of Raja Dahir. The lack of a well-organized military system and the absence of strong alliances further contributed to the political instability of Sind.

Furthermore, the **administrative inefficiency** of Raja Dahir played a crucial role in weakening Sind's defense system. His inability to maintain order and his failure to resist external pressures created a situation where the **Arab conquest became inevitable**. Thus, the weak political condition of Sind became one of the main reasons for its downfall when the Arabs, under **Muhammad bin Qasim**, launched their invasion in **712 CE**.

2. Arab Invasion of Sind and Its Effects

The Arab invasion of Sind was a major historical event that took place in **712 CE** under the leadership of **Muhammad bin Qasim**. The **immediate cause** of the invasion was the attack by Sindhi pirates on Arab trading ships. These ships carried valuable gifts from the King of Sri Lanka to the **Umayyad Caliph Al-Walid**. When the Arab traders were looted and enslaved by Sindhi pirates near **Debal (a port city in Sindh)**, the Caliph ordered an attack on Sind.

Muhammad bin Qasim led a well-organized army with **cavalry, siege equipment, and naval support**. He first attacked **Debal** and captured the city by using advanced military techniques. Then, he moved towards **Nerun, Sehwan, and Brahmanabad**, ultimately defeating **Raja Dahir** in the battle near the Indus River. Raja Dahir was killed, and his family was taken captive. With this victory, Sind fell under Arab rule.

The effects of the Arab invasion were far-reaching. **Islamic rule** was established in Sind, introducing new **administrative and taxation systems**. The Arabs

encouraged **trade and commerce**, leading to economic growth. Arabic became a prominent language in the administration, and **Persian and Islamic influences** entered Indian society. However, the invasion also led to cultural conflicts, as **local Hindu and Buddhist populations were forced to pay the jizya tax**. Over time, the Arab rule in Sind weakened due to internal conflicts within the **Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates**, allowing local rulers to regain control.

3. Indian Invasions of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni

Sultan **Mahmud of Ghazni (971-1030 CE)** was one of the most powerful rulers of the **Ghaznavid dynasty**. He launched **17 invasions** into India between **1000 and 1025 CE**. Unlike the Arab invaders, Mahmud's main aim was not to establish a permanent empire but to **plunder India's wealth** and spread **Islamic influence**. His invasions targeted wealthy kingdoms, particularly **temples and cities with immense treasures**.

One of Mahmud's earliest invasions was against the **Shahi kingdom in Punjab**, which he successfully conquered. He later launched attacks on **Kannauj, Mathura, and Kalinjar**, defeating Hindu rulers with his strong military tactics. His **most famous raid** was on the **Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1025 CE**. This temple was one of the richest Hindu temples, and Mahmud plundered vast amounts of gold and jewels from it.

Mahmud's invasions had a lasting impact on India. First, they weakened Indian **Rajput and Hindu** kingdoms, creating political instability. Second, they led to the **spread of Persian culture** and the influence of **Islamic architecture and administration** in India. Finally, Mahmud's successful attacks inspired future invaders like **Muhammad Ghori**, who later established **permanent Muslim rule** in northern India.

4. Prithviraj Chauhan

Prithviraj Chauhan was a famous **Rajput king** from the **Chauhan dynasty**, ruling from **1177 to 1192 CE**. He was one of the last Hindu kings to resist the expansion of Muslim rule in India. His kingdom included **Delhi, Ajmer, and parts of Rajasthan**. He is best known for his conflicts with **Muhammad Ghori**, the ruler of the **Ghurid dynasty**.

Prithviraj Chauhan was known for his bravery and **warrior skills**. He first faced **Muhammad Ghori in the First Battle of Tarain (1191 CE)**, where he defeated the **Ghurid army**. However, he made the mistake of **not following up on his victory**, allowing Ghori to regroup and attack again. The **Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE)** proved disastrous for Prithviraj. He was defeated, captured, and later executed by Muhammad Ghori.

His defeat marked the **end of Rajput dominance** and the **beginning of Muslim rule in northern India**. However, Prithviraj Chauhan remains a legendary figure in Indian history, remembered for his courage, warrior spirit, and resistance against foreign invaders.



5. Battles of Tarain

The **Battles of Tarain** were two decisive battles fought between **Prithviraj Chauhan and Muhammad Ghori** in **1191 and 1192 CE**. These battles played a crucial role in the **establishment of Muslim rule in India**.

The **First Battle of Tarain (1191 CE)** took place when **Muhammad Ghori attacked Prithviraj Chauhan's territory**. The Rajput army, under Prithviraj's leadership, used traditional cavalry and elephant forces to defeat the Ghurid forces. Ghori was **wounded and forced to retreat**. However, Prithviraj **failed to consolidate his victory**, allowing Ghori to **regroup and return with a stronger army**.

The **Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE)** was a turning point. Ghori **changed his tactics**, using **fast-moving cavalry** to defeat Prithviraj's **slower Rajput forces**. Prithviraj Chauhan was **captured and executed**, leading to the **fall of Delhi and Ajmer**. This battle paved the way for the **establishment of the Delhi Sultanate in 1206 CE**.

6. Impact of Muslim Invasions on India

The **Arab and Turkish invasions** had a profound impact on Indian history. These invasions led to the **introduction of Islamic administration, Persian culture, and new trade routes**. Economically, these invasions opened **India to the Middle Eastern trade networks**, increasing commercial exchanges.

Politically, the Rajput kingdoms **declined**, leading to the **rise of Muslim rule**. The **Delhi Sultanate** was later established, bringing in **Turkish and Persian governance systems**. Culturally, **Islamic art, literature, and architecture** were introduced, influencing Indian traditions.

However, these invasions also led to **social and religious conflicts**, as **Hindu temples were destroyed**, and people were forced to pay the **jizya tax**. The political fragmentation of Indian kingdoms made them **more vulnerable to future invasions**, especially by the **Mughals in the 16th century**.

7. The Role of Muhammad bin Qasim in the Arab Invasion of Sind

Muhammad bin Qasim was the **commander of the Umayyad Caliphate's army** and played a crucial role in the **Arab invasion of Sind** in **712 CE**. He was a young and ambitious general, known for his strategic skills and military expertise. His invasion of Sind was ordered by **Al-Hajjaj, the governor of Iraq**, after Sindhi pirates attacked Arab merchant ships.

Muhammad bin Qasim led a **well-organized army**, which included **camels, cavalry, infantry, and a powerful navy**. His first major target was **Debal (modern Karachi)**, a fortified port city. Using advanced siege techniques, he **captured Debal** and moved towards **Nerun, Sehwan, and Brahmanabad**. His most decisive victory came when he **defeated Raja Dahir in the Battle of Aror**, leading to the **fall of Sind** under Arab rule.

As a ruler, Muhammad bin Qasim introduced **Islamic administration and taxation policies** in Sind. He treated the local Hindu and Buddhist populations with relative tolerance, allowing them to practice their religions in exchange for paying **jizya (a tax on non-Muslims)**. However, his rule was short-lived, as he was recalled and executed due to political rivalries in the **Umayyad court**. Despite this, his invasion **laid the foundation for Islamic influence** in India, shaping its future history.

8. The Causes and Consequences of the Battle of Somnath (1025 CE)

The **Battle of Somnath (1025 CE)** was one of the most infamous **raids** carried out by **Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni**. The **Somnath Temple in Gujarat** was one of the **richest Hindu temples**, making it an attractive target for plunder. The main **cause** of the attack was Mahmud's ambition to gain **wealth and religious supremacy**. He justified the attack as a **holy war (Jihad) against idol worship**, but his primary aim was economic—he wanted to finance his empire with the riches of Indian temples.

Mahmud's army, consisting of **Turkish cavalry and archers**, marched into Gujarat and launched a **surprise attack** on Somnath. Despite resistance from **local Hindu warriors**, the temple was sacked, and **thousands of worshippers were killed**. The **Shiva Lingam inside the temple was destroyed**, and **vast treasures, including gold, silver, and precious stones, were looted**.

The **consequences of the attack were significant**. The destruction of Somnath caused **deep resentment among Hindus**, leading to a **long-lasting religious and cultural conflict**. It also weakened local rulers and **exposed India's vulnerability** to future invasions. However, the attack also showed Mahmud's military strength and further motivated **Turkish and Afghan rulers like Muhammad Ghori and Babur** to invade India in later centuries.

9. The Importance of Rajput Resistance Against Muslim Invasions

The **Rajputs** were one of the **most powerful warrior groups** in medieval India. They played a crucial role in **resisting Muslim invasions**, especially during the **11th and 12th centuries**. Rajput kings like **Prithviraj Chauhan, Rana Sanga, and Rana Pratap** fought bravely against foreign invaders to protect their kingdoms.

One of the earliest Rajput resistances was against **Mahmud of Ghazni**, who faced local Rajput rulers while plundering Indian cities. However, the most famous resistance was led by **Prithviraj Chauhan** against **Muhammad Ghori** in the **Battles of Tarain (1191 and 1192 CE)**. Prithviraj **defeated Ghori in the first battle**, but his failure to secure his victory led to his defeat in the **second battle**, resulting in the **establishment of Muslim rule in North India**.

Despite their defeats, the **Rajputs continued to resist the expansion of Islamic rule**. Kingdoms like **Mewar, Marwar, and Bundelkhand** became



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centers of Rajput power. Leaders like **Rana Sanga** and **Rana Pratap** kept fighting against **Delhi Sultans and the Mughals**. Their resistance **preserved Hindu traditions, culture, and warrior ethics**, playing an essential role in shaping Indian history. Even though the Rajputs were not always victorious, their courage and determination **inspired later resistance movements against Mughal and British rule**.



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