

HISTORY

Chapter 2: New Kings and Kingdoms



Important Questions

➤ Multiple Choice Questions :

Question 1. Sultan Mahmud Ghazni was from:

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Iran
- (c) Tanzania
- (d) Iraq

Question 2. Who was the first emperor of the Cholas?

- (a) Vijayalaya Chola,
- (b) Rajendra Chola
- (c) Aditya Chola
- (d) Uttam Chola

Question 3. Cholas mainly ruled in the State:

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Kashmir
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Question 4. Who Built Thanjavur?

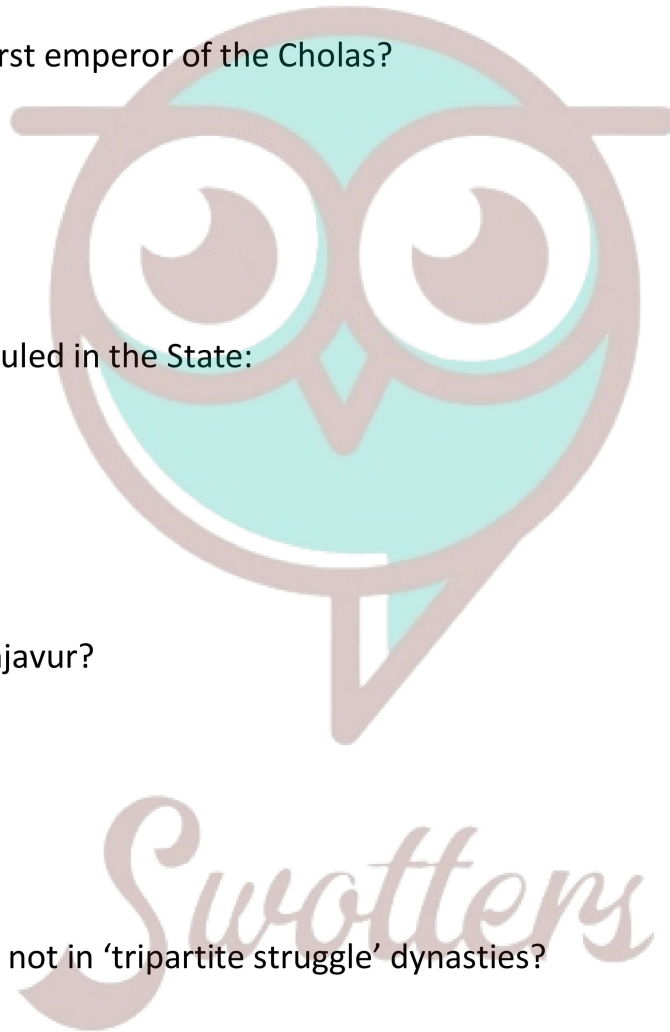
- (a) Vijayalaya Chola
- (b) Sultan Mahmud Ghazni
- (c) Rajendra
- (d) None of these

Question 5. Which one was not in 'tripartite struggle' dynasties?

- (a) Gurjara-Pratihara
- (b) Rashtrakuta and
- (c) Pala dynasties
- (d) The Cholas

Question 6. Chalukyas were concerned to the state:

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Tamil Nadu



- (c) Kashmir
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Question 7. Temple of Cholapuram 'Gangaikonda' was built in the year:

- (a) 1000 AD
- (b) 1035 AD
- (c) 1050 AD
- (d) 1100 AD

Question 8. Which river was used for the agriculture purpose by the Cholas?

- (a) Sindh
- (b) Ganga
- (c) Kaveri
- (d) Yamuna

Question 9. During the period temples were also hub of:

- (a) Economic life
- (b) Social life
- (c) Cultural life
- (d) All the above.

Question 10. What is 'brahmadeya'?

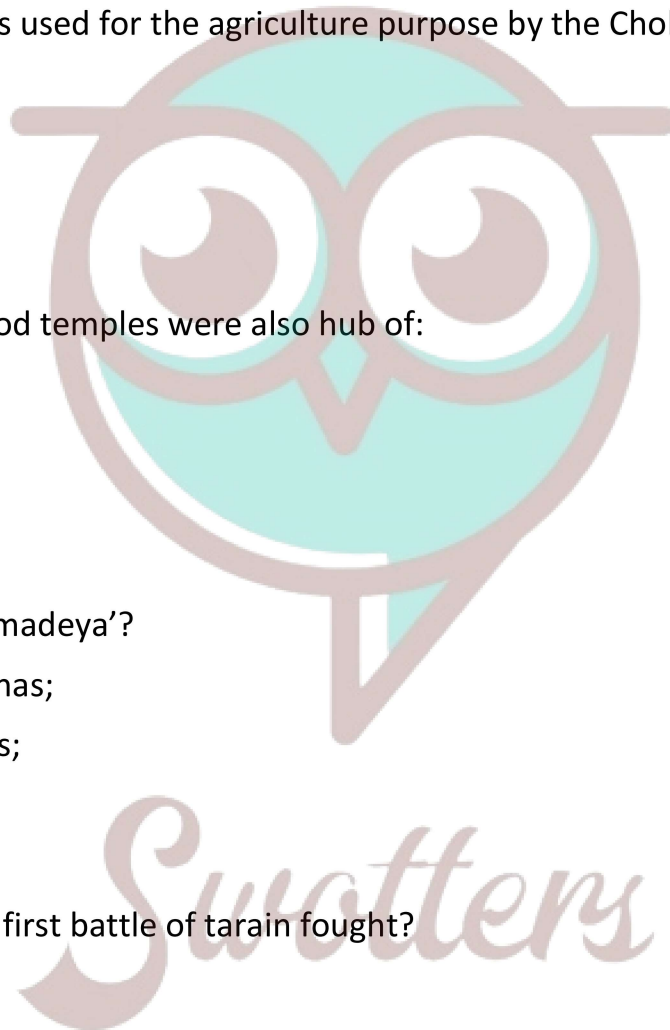
- (a) Lands grants to Brahmanas;
- (b) Lands grants to peasants;
- (c) Lands grant to warriors;
- (d) Lands grant to poets;

Question 11. When did the first battle of Tarain fought?

- (a) 1191
- (b) 1195
- (c) 1193
- (d) 1194

Question 12. Who was considered as the most powerful chola ruler?

- (a) Babur
- (b) Rajendra
- (c) Rajaraja



(d) Prithviraj Chauhan

Question 13. Land granted to Brahmans was recorded on what?

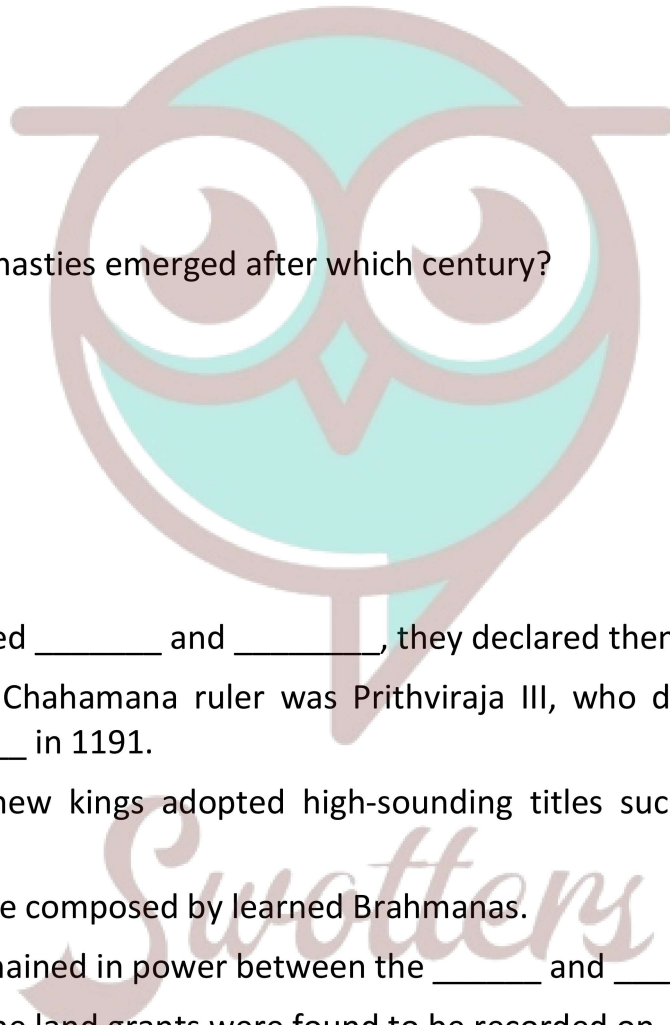
- (a) Silver plates
- (b) Betel leaves
- (c) Iron plates
- (d) Copper plates

Question 14. Rashtrakutas were subordinate to what?

- (a) Cheras
- (b) Cholas
- (c) Chalukyas
- (d) None of the

Question 15. Many new dynasties emerged after which century?

- (a) Fifteenth century
- (b) Seventh century
- (c) Twelfth century
- (d) Eleventh century



➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. As samantas gained _____ and _____, they declared themselves to be _____.
2. The best-known Chahamana ruler was Prithviraja III, who defeated an Afghan ruler named _____ in 1191.
3. Many of these new kings adopted high-sounding titles such as _____ and _____.
4. _____ were composed by learned Brahmanas.
5. Tang dynasty remained in power between the _____ and _____ century.
6. The evidence of the land grants were found to be recorded on _____ plate.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. Prashastis were composed by learned Brahmanas.
2. Initially Cholas were subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka.
3. Revenue was also collected from traders.
4. Prashastis contain details that may not be literally true.
5. One prashasti found in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, describes the exploits of Nagabhata, a

Pratihara king.

➤ **Very Short Questions :**

1. Who was Dantidurga?
2. What was called 'rent'?
3. Who paid revenue?
4. What were 'prashastis'?
5. Who were the writers of Prashastis?
6. Who was Kalhana?
7. What was 'tripartite struggle'?
8. Who wrote Kitab al-Hind?
9. Who was Prithviraja in?
10. Who destroyed the temple of Somnath?

➤ **Short Questions :**

1. Trace out the emergence of the new class of rulers.
2. Who was Dantidurga? How did he became a kshatriya?
3. How was the financial position controlled in these states?
4. Write a note on 'Prashastis'.
5. Who was Kalhana? Why was he famous for?

➤ **Long Questions :**

1. Write a note on Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni.
2. How did the Cholas rise to power? Trace out the role of Rajaraja I in this rise.
3. Why were the temples first targets of the conquerors?
4. What were the qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the sabha in the Chola Empire?
5. Trace out the emergence of new dynasties.

ANSWER KEY –

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer :**

1. (a) Afghanistan
2. (a) Vijayalaya Chola,
3. (c) Tamil Nadu

4. (a) Vijayalaya Chola
5. (d) The Cholas
6. (a) Karnataka
7. (b) 1035 AD
8. (c) Kaveri
9. (d) All the above.
10. (a) Lands grants to Brahmanas;
11. (a) 1191
12. (c) Rajaraja
13. (d) Copper plates
14. (c) Chalukyas
15. (b) Seventh century

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

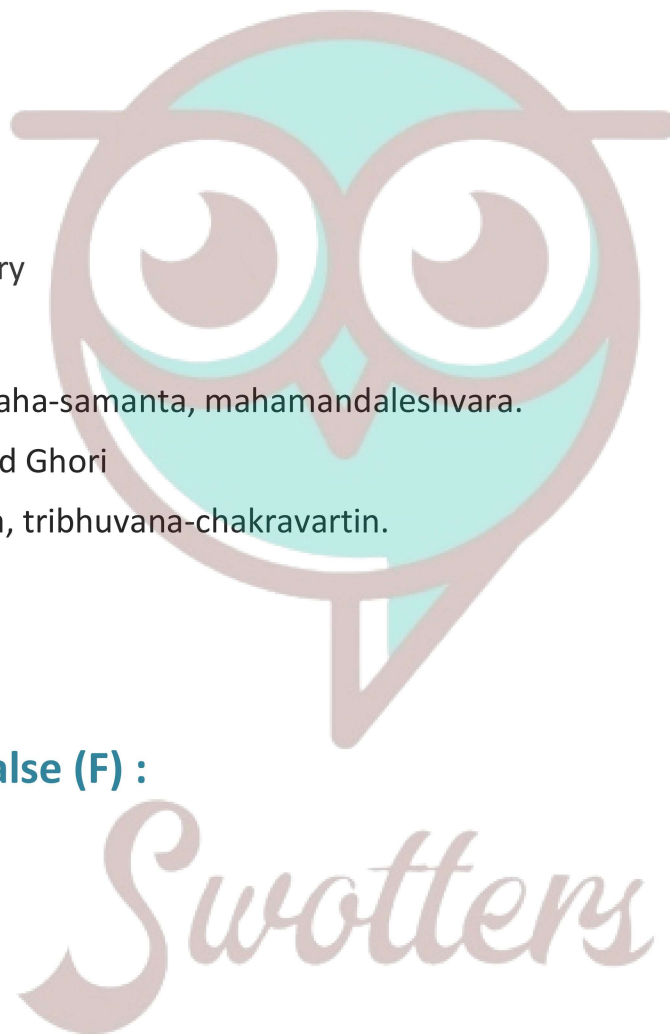
1. Power, wealth, maha-samanta, mahamandaleshvara.
2. Sultan Muhammad Ghori
3. maharaja-adhiraja, tribhuvana-chakravartin.
4. Prashastis
5. Seventh, tenth
6. copper

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. True

➤ **Very Short Answer :**

1. Dantidurga was a Rashtrakuta chief who turned to be a kshatriya after performing a ritual known as hiranya-garbha.
2. Resources obtained from the producers were called 'rent'.
3. The traders paid revenue.
4. Prashastis were the details depicting the rule and personality of the rulers.



5. The learned brahmanas were the writers of the Prashastis.
6. Kalhana was a great Sanskrit poet from Kashmir.
7. The tripartite struggle was a long drawn conflict among the rulers of Gurjara- Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties for control over Kanauj.
8. A great Arab poet al-Baruni wrote Kitab al-Hind.
9. Prithviraja III was a famous Chauhan ruler of Delhi and surrounding regions during 1168-1192.
10. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, a ruler of Afghanistan, destroyed the temple of Somnath.

➤ Short Answer :

1. During seventh century a new class of rulers emerged. They were the subordinates or samantas under the influence of big landlords or warriors. Later they themselves gained power and wealth and declared themselves to be maha- samantas, maha-mandaleshvara (the great lord of a circle or region).
2. Dantidurga was a Rashtrakuta chief in Deccan. Initially Rashtrakutas were the subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka. Dantidurga, in the mid-eighth century overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed a ritual known as 'hiranya-garbha'. It was thought to lead to the rebirth of the sacrificer as a kshatriya, even if he was not one by birth.
3. These states were closely associated with peasants, traders and Brahmanas. The resources were obtained from peasants, cattle-keepers, and artisans who were the producers. They were compelled to surrender part of what they produced. The traders had to pay revenue. The functionaries for collecting revenue were generally from influential families or from the close relatives of the kings.
4. Prashastis, often written by learned Brahmanas, were details of the functioning of a king. They may not be literally true. They tell us how rulers wanted to depict themselves—as valiant, victorious warriors etc. Brahmanas were rewarded by grants of land which were recorded on copper plates.
5. Kalhana was a great Sanskrit poet who wrote a long Sanskrit poem depicting the ruler of Kashmir. He used a variety of sources, including inscription, documents, eyewitness account. He was different from the writers of Prashastis for he was often critical about rulers and their policies.

➤ Long Answer :

1. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni was a ruler of Afghanistan from 997 to 1030. He was an ambitious king and so made all efforts to extend his control over far off regions. He extended his control over parts of Central Asia, Iran and north-western part of the subcontinent. Almost every year he raided the subcontinent targeting wealthy temples.

The temple of Somnath in Gujarat was the worst victim of his raids. Much of the wealth he carried away was used to create a splendid capital city at Ghazni. Ghazni was fond of knowing more about the people he conquered. He entrusted a scholar named al-Biruni to write an account of the subcontinent. The al-Biruni's account, an Arabic work titled as Kitab al-Hind, is still an important source for historians.

2. Cholas belonged to a minor chiefly family known as Muttaraiyar that held power in the Kaveri delta. They worked as subordinate to the Pallava kings of Kanchipuram. Vijayalaya, a member of the ancient chiefly family of the Cholas from Uraiyur, captured the delta from the Muttaraiyar in the middle of the ninth century. 'His town of Thanjavur and the temple for goddess Nishambhasudini are some of his great creations. Vijayalaya's successors conquered neighboring regions and the kingdom grew in size and power. The Pandyan and the Pallava territories to the south and north were made part of this kingdom.

Rajaraja I was the most powerful Chola ruler. He became king in 985 and expanded control over most of these areas. He was well known for the reorganization of the administration of his empire. His son Rajendra I continued his policies and even raided the Ganga valley, Sri Lanka and countries of Southeast Asia, developing a navy for these expeditions. The big temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikonda-cholapuram built by them are architectural marvels.

3. It was the trend to demonstrate power and resources by building large temples. The rulers often invested a lot in the decoration and maintenance of the temples. So the foreign conquerors made them target first. The most prominent example of it was the temple of Somnath in Gujarat looted several times by Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni who came from Afghanistan. Much of the wealth he carried away was used to create a splendid capital city at Ghazni.
4. **The qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the sabha in the Chola Empire were:**
 - i. They should be owners of land from which land revenue is collected.
 - ii. They should have their own homes.
 - iii. They should be between 35 and 70 years of age.
 - iv. They should have knowledge of the Vedas.
 - v. They should be well-versed in administrative matters and honest.
5. **Emergence of new dynasties:**
 - i. By the seventh century there were big landlords or warrior chiefs in different regions of the subcontinent. Existing kings often acknowledged them as their subordinates or samantas.

- ii. As samantas gained power and wealth, they declared themselves to be maha-samanta, mahamandaleshvara and so on. Sometimes they asserted their independence from their overlords.
- iii. In other cases, men from enterprising families used their military skills to carve out kingdoms.



Swotters