

Chapter 2

New Kings and Kingdoms

Let's recall

Q. 1 Match the following:

Gurjana-Pratiharas	Western Deccan
Rashtrakutas	Bengal
Palas	Gujrat and Rajasthan
Cholas	Tamil Nadu

Ans.:

Gurjana-Pratiharas	Gujrat and Rajasthan
Rashtrakutas	Western Deccan
Palas	Bengal
Cholas	Tamil Nadu

Q. 2 Who were the parties involved in the “tripartite struggle”?

Ans.: The tripartite struggle was fought for the control of north in ninth century. The parties involved in this were:

1. Gurjara-Pratiharas,
2. Rashtrakutas and
3. Palas.

Q.3 What were the qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the sabha in the Chola empire?

Ans.: Brahmanas often get land grants or brahmadeya. Each brahmadeya was managed by an assembly or sabha of eminent Brahmana landholders. The Sabha had separate committees to look after irrigation works,

gardens, temples, etc. Names of those qualified to be members of these committees were written on small tickets of palm leaf and kept in an earthenware pot, from which a young boy was asked to pick the tickets, one by one for each committee.

To become a member of a committee of the Sabha in the Chola Empire, the following qualifications were necessary –1. The member had to be an owner of land from which land revenue is collected.2. He had to possess his own home.3. He had to be between the age of 30 - 70 years.4. He should have good knowledge of Vedas.5. He should have been truthful and well accomplished in administrative matters.6. He should not have been a member of any committee in the last three years.7. He should submit his accounts as well as of relatives to contest the election.

Q.4 What were the two major cities under the control of the Chahamanas?

Ans.: The Chahamanas, later known as the Chauhans, ruled over the region around Delhi and Ajmer. The best-known Chahamanas ruler was Prithviraja III. They attempted to expand their control to the west and the east but opposed by the Chalukyas of Gujarat and the Gahadavalas of western Uttar Pradesh.

Two major cities in control of the Chahamanas were Delhi and Ajmer.

Let's understand

Q. 5 How did the Rashtrakutas become powerful?

Ans.: 1. By the seventh century, there were lots of big landlords and warrior chief, who were working as subordinates or samantas for their kings.

2. They were supposed to bring gifts, be presents in the court and support the king with their army.

3. But sometimes they asserted their independence from their kings. Rashtrakutas were one of them.

4. Rashtrakutas were initially subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka. In the mid-eighteenth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukya overlord and established his right to rule by performing the hiranya-garbha ritual.

5. Performing this ritual with the help of a brahmana was thought to lead to the rebirth of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya.

Q.6 What did the new dynasties do to gain acceptance?

Ans.: To gain acceptance the new dynasties did certain things like:

1. They took on new titles.

2. Many of these new Kings adopted high-sounding titles like; Maharaja-adhiraja, or Tribhuvana-chakravartin and so on.

3. Performed religious rituals which would make them part of the Kshatriyas .

4. They also shared their power with their samantas as well as with the association of peasants, traders and Brahmanas.

5. Engaged in warfare to assert their power and carve kingdoms for themselves.

Q.7 What kind of irrigation works were developed in the Tamil region?

Ans.: Around fifth or sixth century Cholas developed new methods of irrigation.

1. The irrigation works developed in the Tamil region with the help of artificial ways to water their crops via – wells, tanks to collect rainwater and river channels.
2. They cleared the forest and leveled the land for agriculture.
3. They built embankments to prevent flood and canals to carry water.

Q.8 What were the activities associated with Chola temples?

Ans.: A Chola temple was not only a place of worship but also the hub of economic, social and cultural life. These temples often became the centre for settlements which grew around them. Temples were centre of craft production. Thus apart from the priests we find a number of people, who engaged in various activities, were associated with a Chola temple. They were – garland makers, cooks, sweepers, musicians, dancers, crafts people etc.