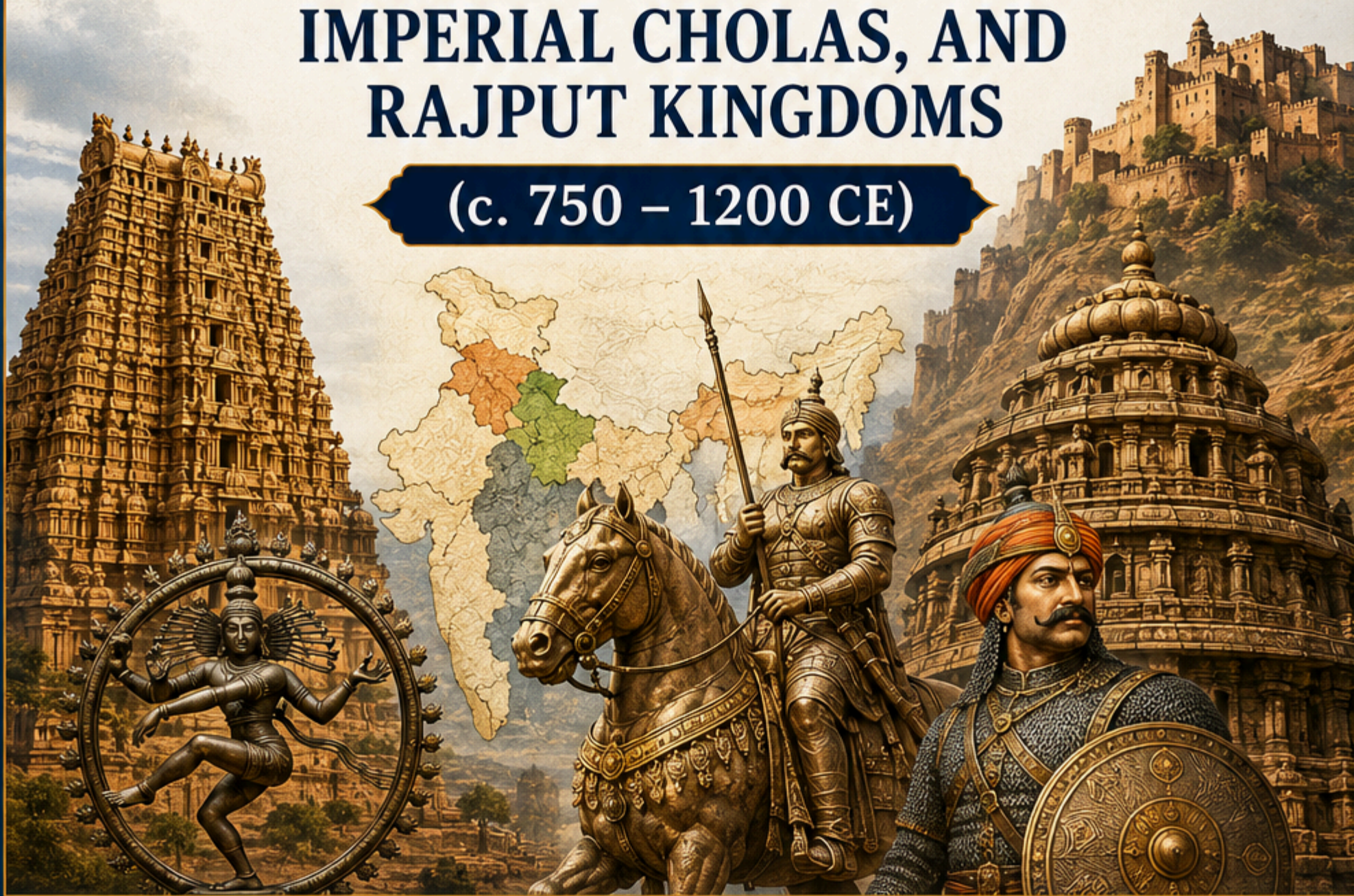


EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA:

TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE,
IMPERIAL CHOLAS, AND
RAJPUT KINGDOMS

(c. 750 – 1200 CE)



TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE

Rashtrakutas, Palas
and Gurjara-Pratiharas
contend for supremacy



IMPERIAL CHOLAS

Maritime power, efficient
administration and
temple architecture



RAJPUT KINGDOMS

Rise of Rajput clans,
regional kingdoms
and warrior traditions





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



INTRODUCTION

1. NATURE OF THE PERIOD

- This period is known as the **Early Medieval Period**.
- It witnessed the rise of powerful regional kingdoms after the decline of large empires.
- Political power was decentralized, but regional kingdoms became strong and prosperous.



2. POLITICAL SCENARIO

- The tripartite struggle among the **Rashtrakutas, Palas and Gurjara-Pratiharas** dominated North India.
- In South India, the **Cholas** emerged as a powerful imperial dynasty.
- Numerous **Rajput** kingdoms rose in North and Western India.

The period from c. 750 to 1200 CE is an important phase in Indian history, marking the transition from early medieval to high medieval India.

3. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Emergence of new dynasties and regional powers.
- Growth of feudalism and land grant system.
- Expansion of trade, agriculture and urban centers.
- Flourishing of temple architecture, art, literature and culture.

4. ECONOMIC LIFE

- Agriculture remained the backbone of the economy.
- Trade expanded through land and maritime routes.
- Guilds (shrenis) and merchant communities played an important role.
- Coins were used, but barter system also existed in rural areas.

5. SOCIETY AND RELIGION

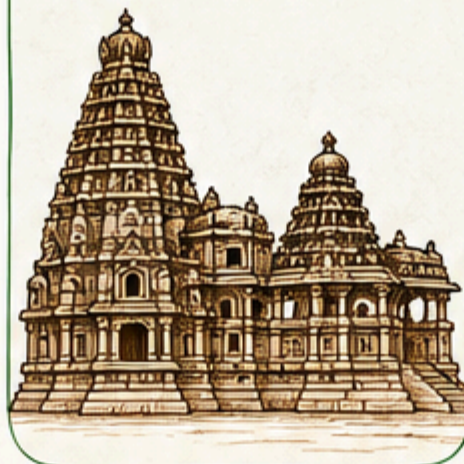
- Society was based on the caste system with growing influence of feudal lords.
- Religion was marked by the growth of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and the Bhakti movement.
- Temples and mathas became important centers of learning, religion and culture.

Rajput Kingdoms



6. CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Remarkable progress in literature, art, sculpture and architecture.
- Development of regional languages like Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Gujarati, etc.
- Magnificent temples like Brihadeeswarar Temple (Thanjavur) and Khajuraho group of temples were built.



7. SIGNIFICANCE

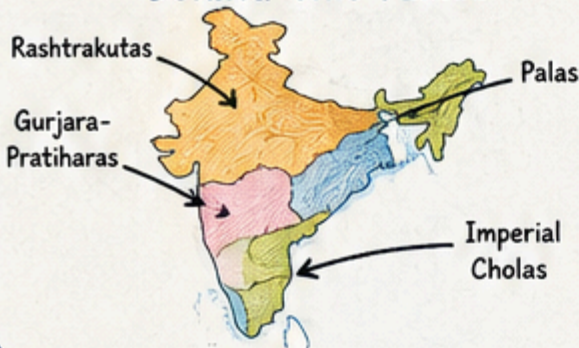
- Laid the foundation for the rise of strong regional kingdoms in India.
- Created conditions that paved the way for the Delhi Sultanate in the 13th century.
- The period left a rich legacy in Indian art, architecture, literature and culture.



TIME FRAME

c. 750 CE → 1200 CE
A dynamic era of regional power, cultural brilliance and political transformation.

MAJOR REGIONS DURING THIS PERIOD





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)

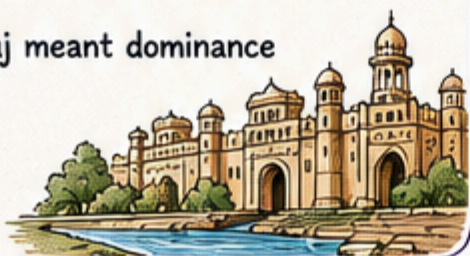


1. THE TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE FOR KANNAUJ (c. 8th – 10th CENTURY CE)

A prolonged conflict among the three major powers of North India – the **Gurjara-Pratiharas**, the **Palas** and the **Rashtrakutas** – for control over **Kannauj**, the prestigious imperial capital.

1. WHY KANNAUJ WAS IMPORTANT?

- Located in the fertile Ganga-Yamuna Doab.
- A prosperous city with great economic wealth.
- Symbol of imperial sovereignty and prestige.
- Control over Kannauj meant dominance over North India.



2. THE THREE CONTENDING POWERS



GURJARA-PRATI HARAS

- Ruled from Rajasthan and Malwa.
- Important rulers: Nagabhata I, Mihir Bhoja.
- Strong cavalry and administrative system.



PALAS

- Ruled from Bengal and Bihar.
- Important rulers: Gopala, Dharmapala, Devapala.
- Great patrons of Buddhism and learning.

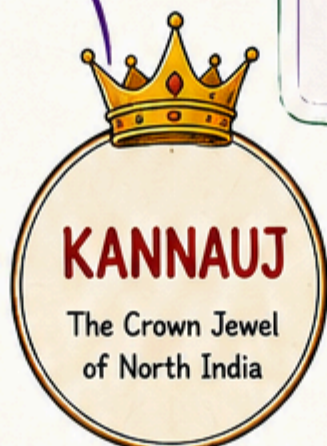


RASHTRAKUTAS

- Ruled from the Deccan (Manyakheta).
- Important rulers: Dantidurga, Dhruva, Govinda III.
- Powerful military and vast empire.

3. KEY PHASES OF THE STRUGGLE

- 1 Early Phase (c. 8th Century)**
 - Rashtrakutas under Dantidurga and Dhruva defeated the Pratiharas and Palas.
 - Dhruva captured Kannauj for some time.
- 2 Middle Phase (c. 9th Century)**
 - Palas under Dharmapala gained control of Kannauj.
 - Pratiharas under Nagabhata II and Mihir Bhoja challenged the Palas.
- 3 Later Phase (c. 10th Century)**
 - Mihir Bhoja of Pratiharas captured Kannauj and established their supremacy in North India.
 - Palas and Rashtrakutas continued to contest but could not maintain control.
- 4 End Result**
 - No single power could hold Kannauj permanently.
 - The struggle weakened the political unity of North India but strengthened regional kingdoms.



4. MAJOR RULERS INVOLVED

GURJARA-PRATI HARAS

- Nagabhata I
- Nagabhata II
- Mihir Bhoja (most famous)

PALAS

- Gopala
- Dharmapala
- Devapala

RASHTRAKUTAS

- Dantidurga
- Dhruva
- Govinda III

5. IMPACT OF THE TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE



Prevented the rise of a strong and united empire in North India.



Encouraged the rise of strong regional kingdoms in different parts of India.



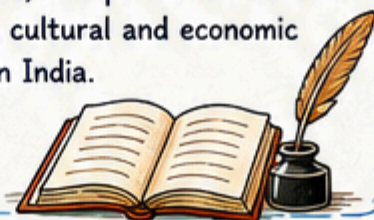
Promoted art, architecture, literature and religion due to royal patronage.



Laid the foundation for the later rise of regional powers like the Cholas, Rajputs, etc.

6. SUMMARY

The Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj was a prolonged contest for power, prestige and control of North India among the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas and Rashtrakutas. Though none could achieve permanent dominance, this period witnessed political, cultural and economic growth in India.



7. QUICK FACTS

- Period: c. 8th – 10th Century CE
- Place: Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh)
- Contending Powers: **Gurjara-Pratiharas**, **Palas**, **Rashtrakutas**
- Nature: Fight for imperial control and prestige
- Result: No permanent winner; rise of regional powers



→ ONE LINE MEMORY →



“Kannauj was the prize, power was the aim, and the Tripartite Struggle shaped North India.”





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



1. THE TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE FOR KANNAUJ (c. 8th – 10th Century CE)

A. THE PALA DYNASTY OF BENGAL (c. 750 – 1162 CE)

The Palas were one of the greatest dynasties of Early Medieval India. They ruled from Bengal and Bihar and played a vital role in politics, religion, education and art.

1. ORIGIN



- Founded by **Gopala** around 750 CE.
- He was elected by the people to end the chaos caused by the decline of the Gupta Empire.
- The dynasty derived its name from "Pala", a title meaning protector.

2. IMPORTANT RULERS

Gopala (c. 750 – 770 CE)	Founder of the dynasty.
Dharmapala (c. 770 – 810 CE)	- Greatest ruler of the Pala dynasty. - Extended his empire over Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. - Won the control of Kannauj for some time.
Devapala (c. 810 – 850 CE)	- Continued the expansion of the empire. - His inscriptions mention conquests in Assam, Orissa and the Deccan.
Mahipala I (c. 988 – 1038 CE)	- Revived the Pala power after a period of decline. - Reoccupied Bihar and parts of Bengal.

3. POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION

- The Palas had a well-organized administration.
- The king was the supreme authority.
- The empire was divided into bhuktis (provinces), vishayas (districts) and gram (villages).
- Officers like Uparikas, Vishayapatis and Dandapashikas were appointed for administration and justice.



4. EXTENT OF THE EMPIRE



5. RELIGION AND CULTURE



- The Palas were great patrons of Buddhism, especially Mahayana Buddhism.
- They supported Buddhism as well as Hinduism.
- Famous Buddhist universities were established during their rule.

Important Universities:

Nalanda University

Vikramashila University

Odantapuri University

6. ART AND ARCHITECTURE



- The Palas made significant contributions to art and architecture.
- Developed the **Pala School of Sculpture** – known for bronze and stone images of Buddha, Bodhisattvas and Hindu deities.
- Temples and monasteries were built in brick and stone.
- Fine examples of Pala art can be seen in **Nalanda, Somapura Mahavihara and Jagjivanpur.**

7. DECLINE



- After Mahipala I, the dynasty gradually declined.
- Weak successors, rise of the Senas in Bengal and attacks by the Turks led to their downfall.
- The last important ruler was Ramapala (c. 1077 – 1120 CE).

8. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Established a powerful empire in Bengal and Bihar.



Promoted Buddhism and Hinduism.



Patronized education and established famous universities.



Great contribution to art, sculpture and literature.



Played a key role in the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj.



QUICK FACTS

- Dynasty:** Pala Dynasty
- Founder:** Gopala
- Capital:** Pataliputra (earlier), Munger, later places in Bengal
- Religion:** Buddhism (Mahayana)
- Important Ruler:** Dharmapala
- Famous Universities:** Nalanda, Vikramashila, Odantapuri





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



1. THE TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE FOR KANNAUJ (c. 8th – 10th Century CE)

B. THE GURJARA-PRATIHARA DYNASTY (c. 730 – 1036 CE)

The Gurjara-Pratiharas were one of the most powerful dynasties of North India. They were the main rivals of the Palas and Rashtrakutas in the struggle for Kannauj.

1. ORIGIN



- The dynasty was founded by Nagabhata I around 730 CE.
- They were originally the vassals of the Rashtrakutas.
- The name "Pratihara" means "doorkeeper" or "protector".

2. IMPORTANT RULERS

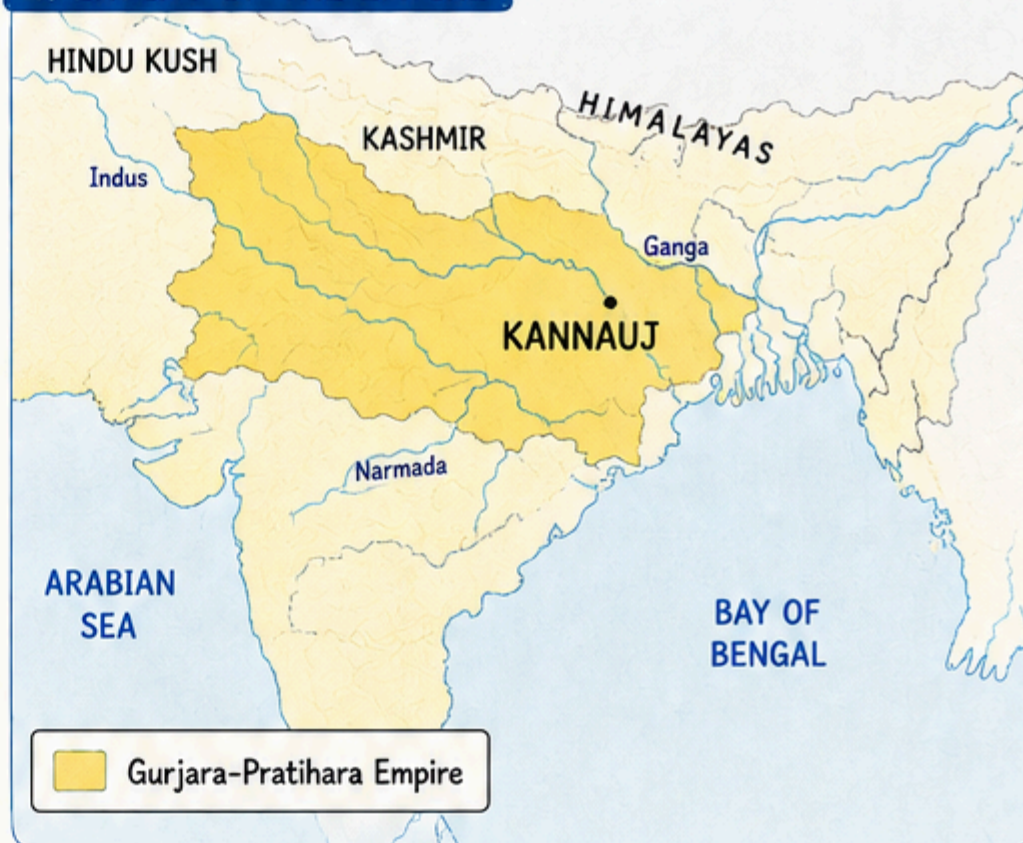
Nagabhata I (c. 730 – 760 CE)	- Founder of the dynasty. - Achieved independence from the Rashtrakutas. - Defeated the Arabs in Rajasthan.
Vatsaraja (c. 775 – 800 CE)	- Extended the empire. - Captured Kannauj for the first time.
Nagabhata II (c. 800 – 833 CE)	- Greatest ruler of the dynasty. - Defeated the Palas under Dharmapala and retained Kannauj. - Repelled the attacks of the Rashtrakutas.
Ramanbhadra (c. 833 – 836 CE)	A weak ruler.
Mihir Bhoja (c. 836 – 885 CE)	- One of the greatest rulers. - Empire extended from the Indus to the Ganga and from the Himalayas to the Narmada. - Promoted art, literature and culture.
Mahendrapala I (c. 885 – 910 CE)	Maintained the power of the empire.
Bhoja II (c. 910 – 936 CE)	Last powerful ruler.

3. POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION

- The king was the head of the administration.
- The empire was divided into bhuktis (provinces), mandalas (sub-provinces) and vishayas (districts).
- Officers like Uparika, Vishayapati and Dandapashika were appointed.
- A strong feudal system existed.



4. EXTENT OF THE EMPIRE



5. MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS



- Defeated the Arabs under Muhammad bin Qasim's successors.
- Defeated the Palas and captured Kannauj.
- Repelled the attacks of the Rashtrakutas.
- Maintained peace and stability in North India for a long time.

6. RELIGION AND CULTURE



- The dynasty followed Vaishnavism, but other religions like Shaivism, Buddhism and Jainism were also patronized.
- Kings like Mihir Bhoja were great patrons of learning and culture.
- Sanskrit was the court language.
- Temples were built in Nagara style.

7. DECLINE



- After Bhoja II, the dynasty weakened.
- Internal conflicts and weak successors led to decline.
- Invasion of Mahmud of Ghazni in the early 11th century further weakened the empire.
- Finally, the dynasty ended around 1036 CE.

8. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Defended India from Arab invasions.



Maintained political unity in North India.



Promoted art, literature and learning.



Built temples in Nagara style.



QUICK FACTS

• **Dynasty:** Gurjara-Pratihara

• **Founder:** Nagabhata I

• **Capital:** Kannauj (main)
Ujjain (earlier)

• **Famous Rulers:** Nagabhata I, Vatsaraja, Nagabhata II, Mihir Bhoja

• **Period:** c. 730 – 1036 CE

• **Contending Power in Tripartite Struggle:** Palas and Rashtrakutas





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



1. THE TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE FOR KANNAUJ (c. 8th – 10th Century CE)

C. THE RASHTRAKUTA DYNASTY (c. 753 – 973 CE)

The Rashtrakutas were a powerful dynasty of the Deccan region. They were one of the main contenders in the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj against the Palas and Gurjara-Pratiharas.

1. ORIGIN



- Founded by Dantidurga in 753 CE.
- Originally their capital was Manyakheta (modern Malkhed in Karnataka).
- The name "Rashtrakuta" means "ruler of the nation".

2. IMPORTANT RULERS

Dantidurga (c. 753 – 756 CE)	- Founder of the dynasty. - Overthrew the Chalukyas of Badami.
Krishna I (c. 756 – 774 CE)	- Extended the empire. - Defeated the Gangas, Kadambas and Chalukyas.
Govinda III (c. 793 – 814 CE)	- Greatest ruler of the Rashtrakutas. - Defeated the Palas, Pratiharas and Chalukyas. - Established Rashtrakuta supremacy in the Deccan and North India.
Amoghavarsha I (c. 814 – 878 CE)	- A great patron of literature, art and Jainism. - His court poet Jinasena wrote "Adipurana". - Maintained peace and prosperity.
Krishna III (c. 939 – 967 CE)	- Recaptured Tanjavur from the Cholas. - Extended the empire to Kanchi. - Defeated the Western Chalukyas.

3. EXTENT OF THE EMPIRE



4. ADMINISTRATION



- The king was the supreme authority.
- The empire was divided into rashtras (provinces), vishayas (districts) and gramas (villages).
- Officers like Dandanayakas, Mahasamantas and Mahapratiharas were appointed.
- A well-organized revenue system based on land tax.

5. MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS



- Defeated the Chalukyas of Badami and the Palas.
- Repelled the Gurjara-Pratiharas.
- Under Govinda III, the Rashtrakutas emerged as a great power in India.
- Under Krishna III, they extended their influence down to Kanchi.

7. ART AND ARCHITECTURE

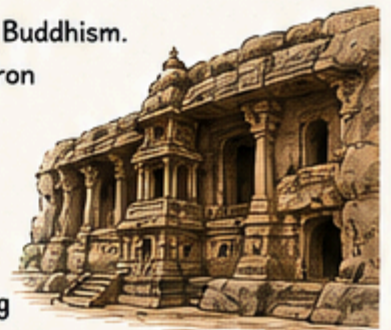


- Famous for rock-cut architecture.
- Built the Kailasa Temple at Ellora (one of the greatest monolithic temples in the world).
- Developed a blend of North Indian and South Indian architectural styles.
- Fine examples of sculpture and temple architecture.

6. RELIGION AND CULTURE



- Patronized Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.
- Amoghavarsha I was a great patron of Jainism.
- Famous Jain scholars: Jinasena, Gunabhadra.
- Developed literature in Sanskrit, Kannada and Prakrit.
- Kannada literature flourished during Amoghavarsha I's reign.



8. DECLINE



- After Krishna III, the dynasty declined.
- Successors were weak and unable to maintain the empire.
- Feudal lords became powerful.
- The dynasty ended in 973 CE with the rise of the Western Chalukyas.

9. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Established a powerful empire in the Deccan.



Played a major role in the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj.



Built magnificent rock-cut temples like Kailasa Temple at Ellora.



Patronized Jainism and literature in Kannada, Sanskrit and Prakrit.



Promoted art, architecture and learning.

Sold to Indl. CE



QUICK FACTS

• Dynasty: Rashtrakuta

• Founder: Dantidurga (753 CE)

• Capital: Manyakheta (Malkhed)

• Greatest Ruler: Govinda III

• Famous Temple: Kailasa Temple, Ellora

• End: 973 CE



Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



2. THE IMPERIAL CHOLAS OF TANJORE (c. 850 – 1279 CE)

The Cholas rose to imperial power from their base in Tanjore (Thanjavur) in Tamil Nadu. They built a vast empire, had a strong navy, efficient administration and left a rich legacy in art, architecture and culture.

1. ORIGIN AND RISE



- The Cholas were originally a minor dynasty in the Sangam age.
- They remained under the influence of the Pallavas and later the Pandyas.

Vijayalaya Chola (c. 850 CE) captured Tanjore and laid the foundation of Chola power.

Important Early Rulers

- Vijayalaya Chola – Founder of Chola power in Tanjore
- Aditya I – Expanded the kingdom
- Parantaka I – Strengthened the empire

2. GREATEST RULERS

Rajaraja Chola I
(985 – 1014 CE)

- Greatest ruler of the Cholas.
- Conquered Sri Lanka, Maldives and parts of Kerala.
- Built the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Tanjore.

Rajendra Chola I
(1012 – 1044 CE)

- Conquered the Gangetic plains up to the Himalayas.
- His navy conquered Srivijaya (SE Asia).
- Capital: Gangaikondacholapuram.

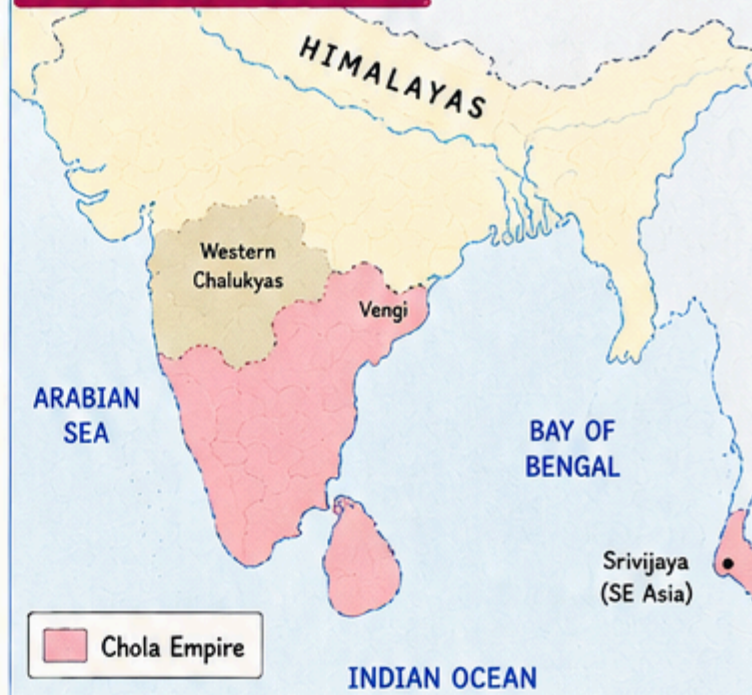
Kulottunga Chola I
(1070 – 1120 CE)

- Brought the Chola empire to its greatest extent.
- Maintained peace and prosperity.

Rajadhiraja, Rajendra II,
Kulottunga II, Rajaraja II,
Rajaraja III

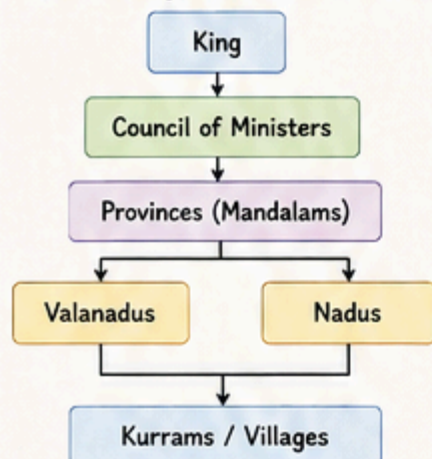
- Continued the Chola tradition.

3. EXTENT OF THE EMPIRE



4. ADMINISTRATION

- The Cholas had an efficient and well-organized administration.
- The king was the supreme authority.
- The kingdom was divided into mandalams (provinces), valanadus, nadus and kurrams.
- Local self-government was well developed.



Local Self-Government

- The Cholas had a well-developed village administration.
- The system was known as 'Uttaramerur Inscriptions'.
- Village assemblies (Sabha, Ur, Nagaram) looked after local affairs.



5. NAVY AND OVERSEAS CONQUESTS

- The Cholas had a powerful navy.
- Rajendra Chola I conquered Srivijaya (SE Asia) in 1025 CE.
- They had trade relations with China, Arab, Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka.



6. ECONOMY

- Agriculture was the main occupation.
- Construction of tanks, canals and embankments improved irrigation.
- Active maritime trade brought great wealth.
- Important ports: Nagapattinam, Kaveripattinam, Kadalur.



7. RELIGION AND CULTURE



- The Cholas were great patrons of Hinduism.
- They built magnificent temples.
- Shaivism was the dominant faith, but Vaishnavism also flourished.
- Temples were centers of religious, social, cultural and economic life.

8. ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- The Cholas excelled in temple architecture.
- The Brihadeeswarar Temple at Tanjore (built by Rajaraja Chola I) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Other temples: Gangaikondacholapuram, Airavatesvara Temple (Darasuram), Chidambaram Temple.



9. LITERATURE

- Tamil literature flourished.
- The Cholas patronized poets and scholars.
- Important works:
 - Tolkappiyam (earlier)
 - Silappadikaram
 - Manimekalai
- Inscriptions in Tamil are valuable sources.



10. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Built a vast and powerful empire.



Had a strong navy and overseas influence.



Built magnificent temples and promoted architecture.



Developed irrigation and improved agriculture.



Efficient administration and local self-government.



Promoted art, literature, religion and culture.



QUICK FACTS

• **Dynasty:**
Chola Dynasty

• **Capital:**
Tanjore (Thanjavur)
Later: Gangaikondacholapuram

• **Greatest Rulers:**
Rajaraja Chola I,
Rajendra Chola I

• **Important Temple:**
Brihadeeswarar Temple,
Tanjore

• **Period:**
c. 850 – 1279 CE



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KNOWLEDGE TODAY,
SUCCESS TOMORROW



Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



2. THE IMPERIAL CHOLAS OF TANJORE (c. 850 – 1279 CE)

A. GREAT RULERS OF THE CHOLA DYNASTY

The greatness of the Chola Empire was built by a series of able and visionary rulers who expanded their territory, strengthened administration, promoted culture and built a lasting legacy.

1

Vijayalaya Chola (c. 850 – 871 CE)



- The founder of Chola power in Tanjore.
- Captured Tanjore from the Mutharaiyars.
- Established the foundation of the Chola Empire.

Major Achievements



- Captured Tanjore (Thanjavur) and made it the capital.



- Laid the foundation for the expansion of Chola power.



- Promoted Saivism and temple construction.

Administration & Policies



- Established a strong administrative base.



- Granted land to Brahmins and temples.



- Encouraged agriculture and local self-government.

Legacy



- Real founder of the Chola Empire.



- His conquests paved the way for future Chola emperors.



- Remembered as the restorer of Chola glory.

2

Aditya I (871 – 907 CE)



- Expanded the kingdom and strengthened Chola rule.
- Defeated the Pallavas and captured Tondaimandalam.

Major Achievements



- Defeated the Pallavas and took control of Kanchipuram.



- Extended the Chola territory up to the Pennar River.



- Promoted temples and Saivism.

Administration & Policies



- Strengthened the revenue system.



- Encouraged irrigation and agriculture.



- Supported local bodies (sabha, ur, nagaram).

Legacy



- Brought Tondaimandalam under Chola rule.



- Strengthened the base for imperial expansion.



- Remembered as a great warrior and administrator.

3

Parantaka I (907 – 955 CE)



- One of the greatest Chola rulers.
- Fought many wars and expanded the empire.

Major Achievements



- Defeated the Pandyas and captured their territory.



- Fought against the Rashtrakutas; won initial victories.



- Conquered Sri Lanka (Northern part).

Administration & Policies



- Reorganized the administration.



- Conducted land surveys and assessed taxes.



- Encouraged temples, trade and education.

Legacy



- His reign marked the real rise of the Chola Empire.



- Set up the Chola administrative system that continued for centuries.



- Remembered as "Maduraikonda Chola".

4

Rajaraja Chola I (985 – 1014 CE)



- The greatest emperor of the Chola dynasty.
- Built a vast empire and left a rich cultural legacy.

Major Achievements



- Conquered Sri Lanka completely.



- Defeated the Cheras, Pandyas and Western Chalukyas.



- Expanded naval power and controlled trade routes.

Administration & Policies



- Highly centralized administration.



- Maintained detailed records and inscriptions.



- Promoted trade, arts and temple economy.

Legacy



- Built the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Tanjore (UNESCO World Heritage Site).



- Strengthened Chola Empire and navy.



- Known as "Rajaraja the Great".

5

Rajendra Chola I (1012 – 1044 CE)



- Son of Rajaraja Chola I and a great conqueror.
- Took the Chola power to its greatest extent.

Major Achievements



- Conquered the Gangas, Kalinga and parts of North India.



- Conducted a successful naval expedition to Southeast Asia.



- Brought Ganga water to the Chola capital.

Administration & Policies



- Founded a new capital "Gangaikondacholapuram".



- Efficient revenue and military administration.



- Encouraged irrigation, agriculture and trade.

Legacy



- His empire stretched from the Himalayas to Southeast Asia.



- Strengthened India's maritime influence.



- Remembered as "Gangaikonda Chola".

THE GREAT CHOLA LEGACY



Built a vast and powerful empire



Developed a strong navy and overseas trade



Efficient administration and record keeping



Promoted art, architecture, literature and culture



Encouraged agriculture and irrigation



Left a rich and lasting legacy



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Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



2. THE IMPERIAL CHOLAS OF TANJORE (c. 850 – 1279 CE)

B. CHOLA ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

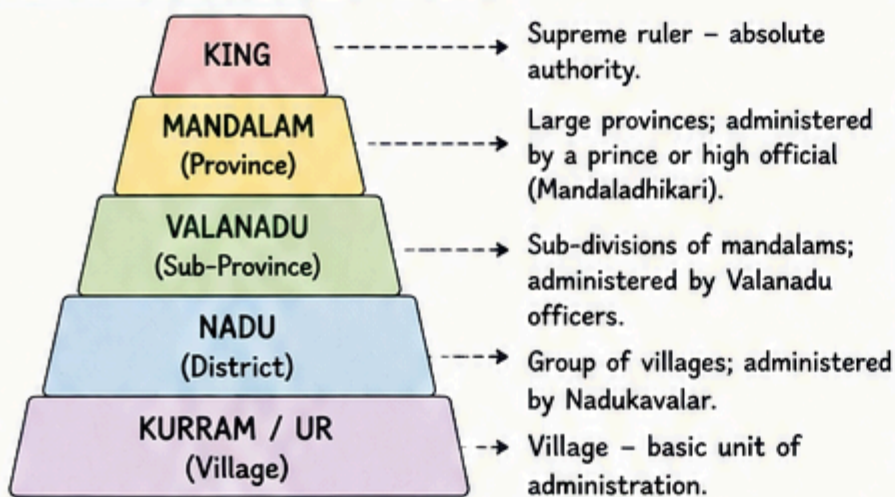
The Cholas had a highly efficient administrative system that combined strong central authority with well-organized local self-government, especially in the villages.

1. FEATURES OF CHOLA ADMINISTRATION

- ✓ The king was the supreme authority.
- ✓ The administration was well-organized and hierarchical.
- ✓ The empire was divided into provinces, mandalams, valanadus, nadus and kurrams.
- ✓ Officials were appointed for civil, military, judicial and revenue departments.
- ✓ Land revenue was the main source of income.
- ✓ Inscriptions provide detailed information about administration.



2. ADMINISTRATIVE HIERARCHY



3. IMPORTANT OFFICIALS

Official	Functions
 Perundaram (Chief Minister)	• Head of the council of ministers; assisted the king in administration.
 Senapati (Commander-in-Chief)	• Commanded the army.
 Dandanayaka (Military Officer)	• In charge of military districts and policing.
 Puravari Tindan (Revenue Officer)	• In charge of land revenue collection.
 Karanattar / Kanakku Pillai (Accountant)	• Maintained accounts and records.
 Nyayattar (Judicial Officer)	• Administered justice.
 Thanduvandagaar (Police Officer)	• Maintained law and order.

5. REVENUE SYSTEM



- Land revenue was the main source of income.
- Land was measured and classified.
- Taxes were collected in cash or kind.
- Other sources: customs, trade, fines, forest produce, etc.
- Irrigation facilities helped in higher agricultural productivity.

4. LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE: THE VILLAGE SYSTEM

- The Cholas had a well-developed system of village self-government.
- Villages were autonomous and managed their own affairs.



THE VILLAGE ASSEMBLY (SABHA)

- In Brahmadeya villages (grants to Brahmins), the assembly was called 'Sabha'.
- In non-Brahmin villages, it was called 'Ur'.

COMMITTEES (VARIYAMS)

The Sabha formed various committees (variyaams) to look after different functions.

Samvatsara Variyam General administration	Eri Variyam Irrigation tanks and water management	Thottam Variyam Garden, groves and plantations	Panchavara Variyam Judicial and law & order matters
Pon Variyam Gold, treasury and finance	Puravu Variyam Revenue collection	Kudimaramathu Variyam Village works and maintenance	Dharmam Variyam Charity and public welfare

These committees were elected annually. They were answerable to the Sabha.

6. QUALIFICATIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS

QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ Must be a Brahmin.
- ✓ Age between 35 and 70 years.
- ✓ Owned land in the village.
- ✓ Knowledge of Vedas and religious texts.
- ✓ Honest, good character and not defaulter.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- ✗ Government servants.
- ✗ Relatives of members of the committee.
- ✗ Those who had not settled accounts.
- ✗ Those who committed crimes or immoral acts.

7. SIGNIFICANCE



- The Chola administration was efficient and organized.
- The village self-government system was democratic and participatory.
- It promoted local development and public welfare.
- It is one of the earliest examples of local democracy in India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Strong central authority with local autonomy.



Well-organized administrative hierarchy.



Efficient revenue system.



Democratic village assemblies and committees.



Focus on irrigation, agriculture and public welfare.





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



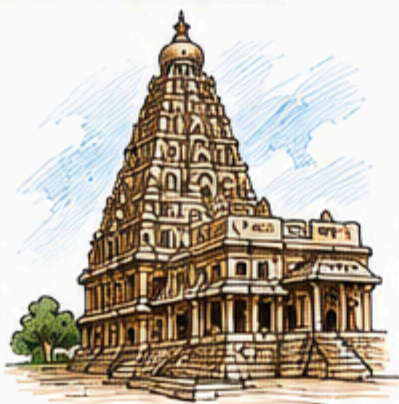
2. THE IMPERIAL CHOLAS OF TANJORE (c. 850 – 1279 CE)

C. CHOLA ART AND BRONZES

The Cholas were great patrons of art and architecture.
Their temples, sculptures and bronze icons are masterpieces of Indian art.

1. CHOLA ART AND ARCHITECTURE – AN OVERVIEW

- The Cholas developed a unique style of temple architecture.
- They built magnificent temples using stone on a large scale.
- Temples were not only places of worship but also centers of art, culture, education and economy.
- Their art reflects devotion, grandeur, technical skill and aesthetic beauty.



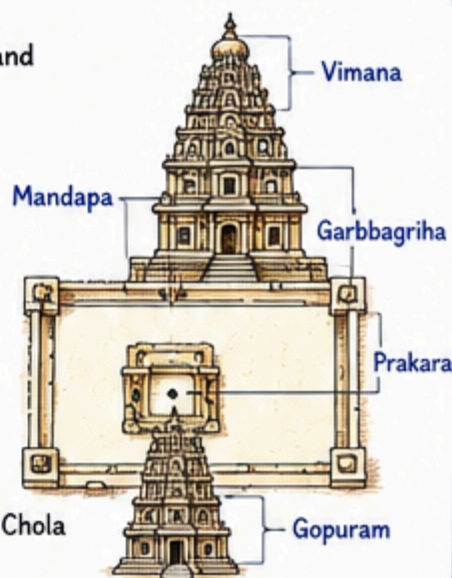
Brihadeeswara Temple,
Tanjore (Built by Rajaraja Chola I)

2. TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

- Chola temples are grand, symmetrical and built with granite.

Main features:

- Vimana** : Tall pyramidal tower above the sanctum.
- Garbhagriha** : Sanctum sanctorum (inner chamber).
- Mandapa** : Pillared halls for devotees.
- Prakara** : Enclosure wall around the temple.
- Gopuram** : Monumental gateway towers (prominent in later Chola period).



3. MAJOR TEMPLE BUILDINGS

Temple	Builder	Features
Brihadeeswara Temple, Tanjore	Rajaraja Chola I (1010 CE)	- Dedicated to Lord Shiva. - Built with granite; UNESCO World Heritage Site. 216 ft high Vimana. - Great example of Dravidian architecture.
Gangaikondacholapuram Temple	Rajendra Chola I (1035 CE)	- Built to commemorate his victory over the Ganga. - Similar style to Tanjore temple but more ornate.
Airavatesvara Temple, Darasuram	Rajendra Chola II (12th century)	- Dedicated to Lord Shiva. - Famous for its exquisite sculptures and carvings.
Chidambaram Nataraja Temple	Kulottunga Chola I (11th century)	- Dedicated to Lord Nataraja (Shiva as the cosmic dancer). - Important center of Saivism.

4. CHOLA BRONZES – THE PRIDE OF CHOLA ART

- The Cholas perfected the lost-wax (cire perdue) technique for making bronze images.
- Their bronze sculptures are known for their grace, beauty, proportion and spiritual expression.
- Major themes: Hindu deities, especially Shiva, Vishnu, Goddesses and saints (Nayanars & Alvars).

FAMOUS CHOLA BRONZES



Nataraja
(Shiva as the Cosmic Dancer)



Vishnu



Devi



Saint
(Nayanar / Alvar)

These bronzes were used in temples during festivals and processions.

5. FEATURES OF CHOLA ART



Grand scale and monumentality.



High level of technical skill.



Grace, rhythm and spiritual expression.



Integration of sculpture, painting and architecture.



Depiction of religious stories and daily life.

CHOLA PAINTINGS

- Wall paintings were found in temples like Brihadeeswara Temple, Tanjore.
- Themes include Saiva mythology, royal processions, dancers, musicians and everyday life.
- Rich use of natural colours and fine detailing.



6. IMPORTANCE AND LEGACY

- Chola art reached its highest level of excellence.
- Their temples and bronzes are masterpieces of Dravidian art.
- Influenced art and architecture in South India and Southeast Asia.
- Reflects the glory, devotion and cultural richness of the Chola Empire.

INFLUENCE ABROAD

Chola art and architecture influenced countries like:

- Cambodia (Angkor)
- Indonesia (Java, Sumatra)
- Thailand
- Vietnam



7. CHOLA ART AND BRONZES – KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Built magnificent stone temples.



Perfected bronze casting technique.



Created beautiful sculptures and paintings.



Promoted religion, culture, education and economy.



Left behind an immortal legacy of art and devotion.





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



3. THE RAJPUT KINGDOMS AND NORTHERN DYNASTIES (c. 10th – 12th Century)



After the decline of the Gurjara-Pratiharas, several Rajput clans established powerful kingdoms in North and North-West India. They were great patrons of art and culture, built magnificent forts and temples and followed the ideals of Kshatriya valor and dharma.



1. ORIGIN OF THE RAJPUTS

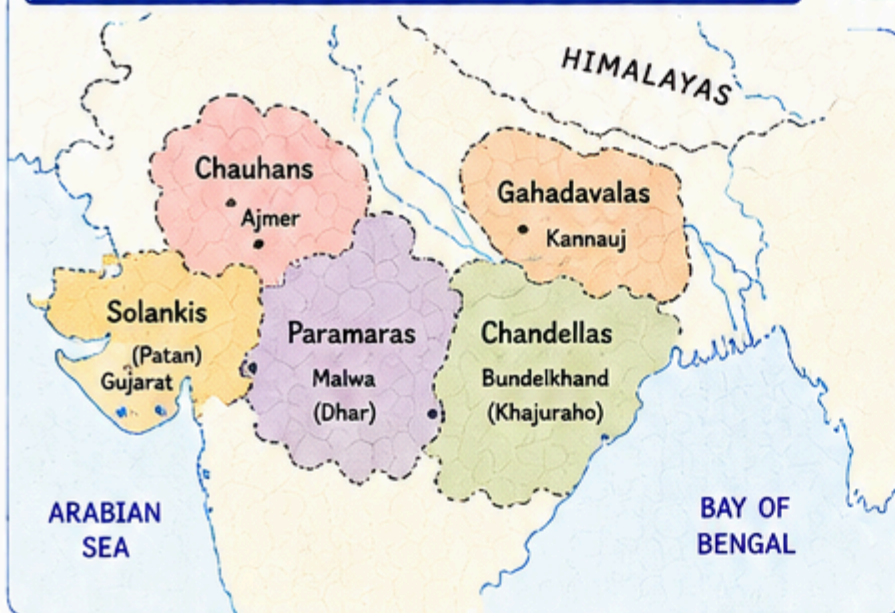
- The Rajputs were originally kshatriya clans and later formed a powerful warrior aristocracy.
- Agnikula theory: Rajputs were said to be born from the sacred fire of Mount Abu (Aravalli).
- They followed the ideals of bravery, honor, loyalty and protection of dharma.



2. MAJOR RAJPUT KINGDOMS (c. 10th – 12th Century)

Kingdom	Region	Important Rulers	Capital
Chauhans (Shakambhari)	Rajasthan (Ajmer, Delhi)	Vigraharaja IV, Prithviraj Chauhan III	Ajmer
Paramaras (Malwa)	Malwa (Madhya Pradesh)	Bhoja I	Dhar (later Ujjain)
Chandellas (Jejakabhukti)	Bundelkhand (U.P. – M.P.)	Yashovarman, Vidyadhara	Khajuraho
Solankis (Chaulukyas)	Gujarat	Mularaja I, Siddharaja Jayasimha	Anahilapataka (Patan)
Gahadavalas	Kannauj and Eastern U.P.	Govindachandra	Kannauj

3. RAJPUT KINGDOMS – MAP (c. 10th – 12th Century)



4. ACHIEVEMENTS OF RAJPUT KINGDOMS



Political

Established strong kingdoms and defended their territories against external invasions.



Military

Rajputs were courageous warriors, skilled in cavalry and warfare.



Administration

Efficient administrative system with divisions like mandala, vishaya and gram.



Economy

Agriculture was the main occupation. Trade and crafts also flourished.



Art & Culture

Built magnificent temples, forts and palaces. Sanskrit and local languages were patronized.



Society

Feudal system was prevalent. Society was divided into varnas and jatis.

5. IMPORTANT RULERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS



Prithviraj Chauhan III (Chauhan Dynasty)

- Defeated Muhammad Ghori in the First Battle of Tarain (1191 CE) but was defeated in the Second Battle (1192 CE).



Bhoja I (Paramara Dynasty)

- A great scholar-king, patron of literature, art and architecture.
- Wrote Samarangana Sutradhara on architecture.



Vidyadhara (Chandela Dynasty)

- Defeated Muhammad Ghori in 1022 CE.
- Built many temples at Khajuraho.



Siddharaja Jayasimha (Solanki Dynasty)

- Expanded his kingdom and improved administration.
- Built the Rudra Mahalaya (Siddhpur).



Govindachandra (Gahadavala Dynasty)

- Extended his rule over Kannauj and Varanasi.
- Patron of art, culture and religion.

6. ART, ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURE

Temples

- Khajuraho Temples (Chandela)
- Dilwara Temples (Solanki)
- Sun Temple at Modhera (Solanki)



Literature

- Sanskrit literature flourished.
- Works: Prithviraj Raso, Samarangana Sutradhara (Bhoja), Nitisara.
- Apabhramsha and early Hindi literature also developed.



Other Features

- Development of painting, sculpture and music.
- Patronage of Jainism, Shaivism and Vaishnavism.
- Construction of forts, step-wells (baolis) and tanks.



7. DECLINE OF RAJPUT KINGDOMS

- Constant warfare among Rajput clans.
- Feudal disunity and lack of central authority.
- Invasions by Muhammad Ghori and his successors.
- Defeat in the Second Battle of Tarain (1192 CE) weakened Rajput power in North India.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

- Rajput kingdoms preserved Indian culture and traditions during this period.
- Their art and architecture are a glorious heritage of India.
- They acted as a shield against foreign invasions for a long time.
- Their legacy of valor, honor and dedication is still remembered.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Rajputs established powerful kingdoms in North India.



They were brave warriors and patrons of art and culture.



Built magnificent temples, forts and palaces.



Strong administrative system and feudal organization.



Their decline paved the way for the Delhi Sultanate.





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



4. EARLY ISLAMIC INVASIONS



Between the 8th and 12th centuries, Central Asian Muslim rulers launched several invasions into the Indian subcontinent. These were mainly for plunder and not for permanent conquest (except later during the 12th century).



1. BACKGROUND

- The Arab conquest of Sindh in 712 CE was the earliest Islamic penetration into India.
- After the decline of the Umayyads, independent Muslim rulers emerged in Central Asia.
- The weakening of the Rajput kingdoms and political disunity in India invited these invasions.
- The main aim of the early invaders was plunder of wealth and fame, not territorial expansion.



2. MAJOR INVADERS AND THEIR INVASIONS

Invader	Period	Route	Major Targets	Outcome
Mahmud of Ghazni	1000 – 1027 (17 invasions)	Khyber Pass	Punjab, Multan, Thaneswar, Mathura, Kanauj, Gujarat (Somnath)	Looted wealth, carried back huge treasure; did not establish permanent rule.
Muhammad Ghori	1175 – 1206	Khyber Pass	Punjab, Tarain, Ganga-Yamuna doab	Defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in 1192; laid the foundation of Delhi Sultanate.
Other Invaders	11 th – 12 th Century	Various Routes	Sindh, Punjab, Multan, Kashmir (Attempts)	Mostly unsuccessful; seasonal raids and plunder.

3. MAHMUD OF GHAZNI (1000–1027 CE)



- Son of Sabuktigin, founder of the Ghaznavid Dynasty.
- Made 17 invasions into India.
- Main aim: Plunder wealth to finance his empire and military campaigns.
- Major targets: Punjab, Multan, Thaneswar, Mathura, Kanauj and Somnath (1025 CE).
- He did not try to establish permanent rule in India.
- His invasions weakened the political and economic structure of North India.

☆ The temple of Somnath was looted of immense wealth.

4. MUHAMMAD GHORI (1175–1206 CE)



- Originally from Ghor (in present-day Afghanistan).
- Captured Multan (1175), Uch and parts of Punjab.
- Defeated the Chauhans in the First Battle of Tarain (1191) but was defeated.
- Won the Second Battle of Tarain (1192) and defeated Prithviraj Chauhan.
- Captured Ajmer, Delhi and the Ganga-Yamuna doab.
- His general Qutb-ud-din Aibak laid the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate.

Muhammad Ghori's victory in 1192 CE was a turning point in Indian history.

5. IMPACT OF EARLY ISLAMIC INVASIONS

Economic	Huge wealth was looted and taken back to Central Asia. Temples and cities were plundered.
Political	Rajput kingdoms became weak due to constant raids and lack of unity.
Social	Loss of lives and destruction of property created fear and insecurity among people.
Cultural	However, these invasions also brought new cultural elements which later influenced Indian society.

7. TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

- 712 CE Arab conquest of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim
- 1000 – 1027 CE Invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni (17 raids)
- 1025 CE Mahmud's raid and plunder of Somnath
- 1175 CE Muhammad Ghori captures Multan
- 1191 CE First Battle of Tarain – Prithviraj Chauhan wins
- 1192 CE Second Battle of Tarain – Muhammad Ghori wins
- 1206 CE Death of Muhammad Ghori; Delhi Sultanate established by his general Qutb-ud-din Aibak

6. WHY WERE THESE INVASIONS NOT PERMANENT?

- ☒ The invaders came for plunder, not for settlement.
- ☒ Distance from their homeland made it difficult to maintain control.
- ☒ Strong resistance from Rajput rulers.
- ☒ Lack of proper administrative machinery in India.
- ☒ They had to return to deal with problems in their own kingdoms.



8. KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Early Islamic invasions were mainly raids for plunder.
- Mahmud of Ghazni made 17 invasions but did not establish rule.
- Muhammad Ghori's victory in 1192 CE led to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.
- These invasions weakened Rajput kingdoms and changed the political scenario of North India.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Invaders came for plunder and wealth.	Mahmud of Ghazni made 17 raids.	Somnath temple was looted in 1025 CE.	Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj in 1192 CE.	Laid the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate.
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Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS



● Tripartite Struggle

Three powers – Palas (Bengal), Pratiharas (Rajasthan–Gujarat), Rashtrakutas (Deccan) fought for control of Kannauj.



● Palas (Bengal)

Founded by Gopala (c. 750 CE). Great rulers – Dharmapala, Devapala.



● Pratiharas (Rajasthan–Gujarat)

Founded by Nagabhata I (c. 730 CE). Great ruler – Mihir Bhoja.



● Rashtrakutas (Deccan)

Founded by Dantidurga (c. 753 CE). Great rulers – Krishna I, Govinda III.



● Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh)

The main prize of the Tripartite Struggle.



● Imperial Cholas

Rose to power under Vijayalaya Chola (c. 850 CE).



● Great Chola Rulers

Rajaraja I, Rajendra I, Kulottunga I.



● Chola Capital

Tanjore (Thanjavur).



● Chola Achievements

Built a vast empire in South India and overseas (Sri Lanka, Maldives, Southeast Asia).



● Chola Administration

Efficient administration and strong local self-governance (Uttaramerur inscriptions).



● Chola Art & Architecture

Brihadeeswara Temple (Thanjavur), Gangaikondacholapuram.



● Chola Bronzes

Famous Nataraja (Shiva as Lord of Dance).

● Rajput Kingdoms

Rajputs were Kshatriya clans who formed powerful kingdoms in North India.



● Major Rajput Kingdoms

Chauhans, Paramaras, Chandellas, Solankis, Gahadavalas.



● Rajput Values

Bravery, honor, loyalty and protection of dharma.



● Rajput Achievements

Built magnificent forts, temples and palaces.



● Rajput Art & Culture

Patronized art, literature and Sanskrit learning.



● Early Islamic Invasions

Began in the 8th century for plunder, not for permanent conquest.



● First Invasion

Muhammad bin Qasim (712 CE) conquered Sindh.



● Mahmud of Ghazni (1000 – 1027 CE)

17 raids for plunder.



● Muhammad Ghori (1175 – 1206 CE)

Defeated Rajputs; First Battle of Tarain (1191) – won; Second Battle (1192) – won; founded Delhi Sultanate.



● Impact of Early Islamic Invasions

Weakened Rajput kingdoms and changed the political scenario of North India.



● Economic Life

Agriculture main occupation; trade and commerce flourished; guilds (shrenis) active.



● Society & Culture

Caste system existed; temples centers of economy, culture and education.



ONE LINE MEMORY TRICKS



Tripartite Struggle

+



Imperial Cholas

+



Rajput Kingdoms

+



Early Islamic Invasions

=



Power Struggle

→



Rise of Kingdoms

→



Culture & Heritage

→



Remember for Exams!



Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



MCQs

Page 1

1 Which of the following was NOT one of the three major powers involved in the Tripartite Struggle in South India?

- A. Palas (Bengal)
- B. Pratiharas (Rajasthan–Gujarat)
- C. Rashtrakutas (Deccan)
- D. Chalukyas (Badami)

Answer: D. Chalukyas (Badami)

Explanation:

- The Tripartite Struggle was mainly between the Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas for control over Kannauj.
- The Chalukyas were an important dynasty in the Deccan earlier, but not part of this struggle.



2 Who founded the Imperial Chola dynasty?

- A. Vijayalaya Chola
- B. Rajaraja I
- C. Rajendra I
- D. Kulottunga I

Answer: A. Vijayalaya Chola

Explanation:

- Vijayalaya Chola captured Tanjore in the mid-9th century (c. 850 CE) and laid the foundation of the Imperial Chola rule.



3 Which Chola ruler is known for building the grand Brihadeeswara Temple at Tanjore?

- A. Vijayalaya Chola
- B. Rajaraja I
- C. Rajendra I
- D. Kulottunga I

Answer: B. Rajaraja I

Explanation:

- Rajaraja I (985–1014 CE) built the magnificent Brihadeeswara Temple at Tanjore, dedicated to Lord Shiva, showcasing Chola architecture and power.



4 Which of the following was the capital of the Rashtrakutas?

- A. Manyakheta
- B. Kanyakubja
- C. Ujjain
- D. Kannauj

Answer: A. Manyakheta

Explanation:

- Manyakheta (present-day Malkhed in Karnataka) was the capital of the Rashtrakutas.



5 Which Rajput dynasty built the famous temples of Khajuraho?

- A. Chahamanas (Chauhans)
- B. Chandellas
- C. Paramaras
- D. Solankis

Answer: B. Chandellas

Explanation:

- The Chandellas of Jejakabhukti (Bundelkhand) built the famous temples of Khajuraho between 10th and 11th centuries.
- These temples are renowned for their exquisite architecture and sculptures.



Quick Revision Points

★ Tripartite Struggle was for control over Kannauj and political supremacy in North India.

★ Cholas built a vast empire in South India and excelled in administration and art.

★ Rajputs established many regional kingdoms and promoted art, culture and valor.

★ Early Islamic invasions from the 8th century changed the political scenario of India.





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



MCQs

Page 2

6 Which of the following was the administrative system of the Imperial Cholas known for?

- A. Centralized bureaucracy
- B. Village self-government
- C. Feudal system
- D. Tribal confederacy

Answer: B. Village self-government

Explanation:

- The Cholas had a well-organized local self-government system.
- Institutions like 'Ur', 'Sabha' and 'Nagaram' managed village administration efficiently.



7 The Chola bronze sculptures are especially famous for which deity?

- A. Vishnu
- B. Shiva
- C. Buddha
- D. Devi

Answer: B. Shiva

Explanation:

- The Cholas were great patrons of art and bronze sculptures.
- The Nataraja (dancing Shiva) bronze is the most famous example.



8 Who among the following defeated the Rajputs in the First Battle of Tarain (1191)?

- A. Muhammad bin Qasim
- B. Mahmud of Ghazni
- C. Muhammad Ghori
- D. Qutb-ud-din Aibak

Answer: C. Muhammad Ghori

Explanation:

- Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the First Battle of Tarain in 1191.
- He established his influence in North India through this victory.



9 Which of the following kingdoms was ruled by Paramaras?

- A. Kannauj
- B. Malwa
- C. Gujarat
- D. Bengal

Answer: B. Malwa

Explanation:

- The Paramaras ruled over Malwa with their capital at Dhar.
- They were great patrons of art, literature and architecture.



10 Which of the following factors weakened the Rajput kingdoms during the 12th century?

- A. Strong central administration
- B. Unity among Rajput clans
- C. Political disunity and mutual rivalries
- D. Development of navy

Answer: C. Political disunity and mutual rivalries

Explanation:

- Rajput kingdoms were divided into many small states.
- Constant rivalries among them weakened their resistance against external invasions.



Quick Revision Points

- ★ Tripartite Struggle was for control over Kannauj.
- ★ Palas – Bengal, Pratiharas – Rajasthan & Gujarat, Rashtrakutas – Deccan.

- ★ Cholas built a maritime empire and promoted art, architecture and local self-government.

- ★ Rajputs valued bravery, honor and protection of Dharma.
- ★ Major Rajput dynasties – Chauhans, Paramaras, Chandellas, Solankis.

- ★ Early Islamic invasions by Arab and Turks changed the political scenario of India.





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



Page 3

MCQs

11 Which Arab general led the first Islamic invasion of Sindh in 712 CE?

- A. Mahmud of Ghazni
- B. Muhammad bin Qasim
- C. Muhammad Ghori
- D. Qutb-ud-din Aibak

Answer: B. Muhammad bin Qasim

Explanation:

- Muhammad bin Qasim, an Arab general, invaded Sindh in 712 CE during the Umayyad Caliphate.
- He defeated Raja Dahir and established Arab rule in Sindh.



12 The Cholas extended their influence overseas to Southeast Asia mainly during the reign of which ruler?

- A. Rajaraja I
- B. Rajendra I
- C. Kulottunga I
- D. Vijayalaya Chola

Answer: B. Rajendra I

Explanation:

- Rajendra I (1012–1044 CE) launched naval expeditions to Southeast Asia.
- He conquered Srivijaya (Kedah) and established Chola influence in the region.



13 Which of the following was NOT a major kingdom among the Rajput kingdoms?

- A. Chauhans
- B. Pandyas
- C. Chandelas
- D. Paramaras

Answer: B. Pandyas

Explanation:

- Pandyas were a major South Indian dynasty.
- Chauhans, Chandelas and Paramaras were important Rajput kingdoms of North India.



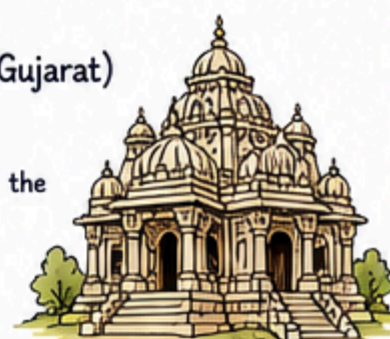
14 Which dynasty is known for the construction of the grand Dilwara Temples at Mount Abu?

- A. Paramaras
- B. Solankis (Chaulukyas of Gujarat)
- C. Chandelas
- D. Rashtrakutas

Answer: B. Solankis (Chaulukyas of Gujarat)

Explanation:

- The Solankis (Chaulukyas) of Gujarat built the famous Dilwara Temples at Mount Abu.
- These temples are masterpieces of Jain architecture (11th–13th centuries).



15 Which battle in 1192 CE led to the establishment of Delhi Sultanate in North India?

- A. First Battle of Tarain
- B. Second Battle of Tarain
- C. Battle of Chandawar
- D. Battle of Gujarat

Answer: B. Second Battle of Tarain

Explanation:

- Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain in 1192 CE.
- This victory paved the way for the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.



Quick Revision Points



- ★ Tripartite Struggle was for control over Kannauj.
- ★ Imperial Cholas built a powerful empire with strong navy.

- ★ Rajaraja I & Rajendra I were the greatest Chola rulers.
- ★ Rajputs were brave warriors and patrons of art & culture.

- ★ Major Rajput kingdoms: Chauhans, Paramaras, Chandelas, Solankis, Gahadavalas.
- ★ Early Islamic invasions changed the political scenario of India.

- ★ Muhammad bin Qasim invaded Sindh in 712 CE.
- ★ Muhammad Ghori's victory in 1192 CE led to the Delhi Sultanate.





Early Medieval India:

Tripartite Struggle, Imperial Cholas, and Rajput Kingdoms (c. 750 – 1200 CE)



Page 4

MCQs

16 Who among the following wrote 'Rajatarangini', an important historical source for Kashmir?

- A. Kalhana
- B. Bilhana
- C. Hemachandra
- D. Bana

Answer: A. Kalhana

Explanation:

- Kalhana, a 12th century scholar, wrote Rajatarangini in Sanskrit.
- It is a valuable source of Kashmir's history.



17 Which of the following was a characteristic feature of the Rajput polity?

- A. Centralized bureaucracy
- B. Feudal system based on land grants
- C. Democratic administration
- D. Tribal confederacy

Answer: B. Feudal system based on land grants

Explanation:

- Rajput kingdoms followed a feudal system where land grants were given to vassals (Samantas/Thakurs).
- In return, they provided military service and loyalty.



18 Which of the following temples is associated with the Chola architecture?

- A. Dilwara Temple
- B. Brihadeeswara Temple
- C. Sun Temple, Konark
- D. Kandariya Mahadeva Temple

Answer: B. Brihadeeswara Temple

Explanation:

- Built by Raja Raja I in 1010 CE at Thanjavur.
- It is a masterpiece of Chola architecture dedicated to Lord Shiva.



19 The Cholas were great patrons of literature. Which language flourished under their patronage?

- A. Prakrit
- B. Tamil
- C. Sanskrit
- D. Pali

Answer: B. Tamil

Explanation:

- Chola rulers patronized Tamil literature and scholars.
- Important works like Kambaramayana flourished during this period.



20 Which of the following best describes the impact of early Islamic invasions in the 8th–12th centuries?

- A. They permanently established Islamic rule in North India.
- B. They had no impact on the political structure of North India.
- C. They weakened the Rajput kingdoms and changed the political scenario.
- D. They led to the decline of the Chola Empire.

Answer: C. They weakened the Rajput kingdoms and changed the political scenario.

Explanation:

- Invasions by Muhammad bin Qasim, Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori weakened Rajput kingdoms.
- They paved the way for the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate in North India.



Quick Revision Points

- ★ Tripartite Struggle was for control over Kannauj.
- ★ Imperial Cholas created a powerful empire in South India.

- ★ Rajputs established many kingdoms in North India based on bravery and honor.

- ★ Early Islamic invasions by Arab and Turks changed the political scenario of North India.

- ★ This period saw political contests, cultural growth and economic progress.





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