

New Kings And Kingdoms (Easy notes for class 7th)

Introduction:

Get ready to travel back in time to ancient India, where brave kings and powerful kingdoms shaped the land. This chapter, called “New Kings and Kingdoms,” is like a time machine that takes us to a world of long-ago rulers. We’ll learn about kings who started new families and ruled over different areas. From exciting beginnings to stories of bravery and change, we’ll discover the history of these kings and the places they ruled. Join us on this adventure as we explore the world of ancient dynasties and kingdoms in India!

The Emergence of New Dynasties:

- **After 7th Century:**
 - New dynasties like Chalukyas, Pallavas, Rashtrakutas, Pratiharas, Rajputs, Ganga and Pala emerged in ancient India after the seventh century.
 - Map 1 shows where these dynasties ruled from the 7th to 12th centuries.
- **Powerful Landlords and Warriors:**
 - Landlords and warrior chiefs became strong in different parts of India.
 - Kings recognized them as “samantas,” helpers who gave gifts and military support.
 - Some samantas called themselves “maha-samanta” or “maha-mandaleshvara,” showing their power.
- **Rashtrakutas’ Example:**
 - Rashtrakutas (group of people) were first ruled by Chalukyas.
 - Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta leader, broke free and became more powerful through a ritual.
 - Ritual made him stronger, even though he wasn’t born a warrior.
- **Enterprising Families and Kingdoms:**
 - Families with skills made kingdoms.
 - Kadamba Mayurasharma and Gurjara-Pratihara Harichandra were Brahmanas who became rulers.
 - Mayurasharma in Karnataka, Harichandra in Rajasthan.

Administration in Kingdoms:

- Kings adopted grand titles like **maharaja-adhiraja** (king of kings) and **tribhuvana-chakravartin** (lord of the three worlds).
- They often shared power with **samantas** (subordinate rulers) and **associations of peasants, traders, and Brahmanas**.
- **Peasants, cattle-keepers, and artisans** gave part of their produce as **tax**.
- **Traders** also **paid taxes**, which supported the king’s rule and funded the building of temples and forts.
- **Wars** were fought to **gain wealth, land, and control over trade routes**.
- Revenue collectors and army officers were usually from powerful families, and their positions

were often hereditary.

Prashastis and Land Grants:

- *Prashastis* praised rulers, often exaggerating their qualities to show them as brave and victorious.
- These were written by *Brahmanas*, who sometimes also helped in administration.
- Kings rewarded Brahmanas with land grants, recorded on copper plates.
- In the **12th century**, a Sanskrit poem by Kalhana narrated the history of Kashmir's kings.
- *Kalhana* (author) used various sources, like inscriptions and documents, and unlike *prashasti* writers, he was often critical of the rulers and their policies.

Warfare for Wealth:

- Each ruling dynasty controlled its own region but tried to conquer others.
 - They especially wanted the city of Kanauj in the Ganga valley.
- The *Gurjara-Pratihara*, *Rashtrakuta*, and *Pala dynasties* fought for **Kanauj**. This led to the “**tripartite struggle**.”
- Rulers showed their power by building large temples. (imp. to note)
 - These temples often became targets during attacks because of their wealth.
- *Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni* (997-1030) raided rich temples, including Somnath in Gujarat.
- He used the plundered wealth (stolen goods) to build a grand capital in *Ghazni*.
- *Mahmud* also hired scholar *al-Biruni* to write about the subcontinent in **Kitab-al Hind**.
 - Al-Biruni consulted Sanskrit sources for this work.
- The *Chahamanas* (Chauhans) ruled around Delhi and Ajmer.
 - They fought to expand their territory.
 - They faced opposition from the *Chalukyas and Gahadavalas*.
- *Prithviraja III* (1168-1192) was the most famous Chahamanas ruler.
 - He defeated *Sultan Muhammad Ghori* in **1191** but lost to him in **1192**.

A Closer Look: The Cholas

From Uraiyur to Thanjavur

Uraiyur: It is the place near the modern city of **Tiruchirappalli**, Tamil Nadu. (one of the early capitals of the **Chola dynasty**)

Thanjavur: The place approximately 60 kilometers southwest of Uraiyur, Tamil Nadu.

Rise of the Cholas

- The *Muttaraiyar* family ruled the **Kaveri delta**.
 - **Note:** Muttaraiyar family was a local ruling family under the Pallava kings from *Kanchipuram*.
- However, in the **9th century**, *Vijayalaya Chola*

captured the Kaveri delta.

- He built **Thanjavur** and a **temple** for **Nishumbhasudini** (a goddess in Hindu mythology) there.

Kingdom Expansion

- Vijayalaya's successors conquered nearby areas.
 - They took over parts of the **Pandyan** and **Pallava** kingdoms.
- **Rajaraja I** (the grandson of Vijayalaya Chola) became king in **985** and expanded the kingdom.

Rajendra I's Expeditions

- **Rajendra I**, Rajaraja's son, continued expansion.
- He raided the **Ganga valley**, **Sri Lanka**, and **Southeast Asia**.
- He also built a navy for these raids.

Splendid Temples and Bronze Sculpture

Temples were very important to the Chola kingdom.

- The great kings **Rajaraja** and **Rajendra** built huge temples in **Thanjavur** and **Gangaikondacholapuram**.
- These temples have **fantastic designs** and **eye-catching sculptures**.
 - You can see carvings of gods and other interesting shapes.
- People liked to **live near the temples**, so small villages grew around them.
 - Temples became busy places.
- Kings gave **land to the temples**.
 - The food from this land helped support temple workers.
- Many people **worked at temples**.
 - There were priests, cooks, musicians, and dancers.
- Temples were not just **for praying** but also **for gatherings** and **celebrations**.
- The Cholas made beautiful bronze images.
 - **Note:** These statues are some of the finest in the world.
- Most statues showed gods, but some showed loving devotees too.
 - **For Example:** The statue of a devotee named **Kalarikkal Puthan Purakkal Narayanan Namboodiri**, known for his devotion to **Lord Shiva**. And **Mirabai**, a famous devotee of **Lord Krishna**.

New Developments in Agriculture

- The Cholas made great progress in farming.
 - They used **irrigation techniques**, such as
 - *Digging wells, building tanks, constructing canals, and creating embankments*
 - It ensured their crops received enough water for healthy growth.
 - Cholas made **use of the fertile soil** of the Kaveri River to grow crops, especially rice.
 - **For Example:-** They utilized the river's channels, which overflowed and deposited

- rich soil, making agriculture successful in the region.
- Moreover, Farmers began practicing **crop rotation** and growing multiple crops in a year, increasing productivity.
- In order to bring more area under cultivation, they **cleared forests** and **leveled land** to make it suitable for agriculture.
- **Villagers and rulers actively took part** and worked together to plan irrigation.
 - They organized resources and shared water.

Chola Administration:

Administration: It means the way a group of people, like a government, organizes and manages things to make sure everything works properly. This can include *making rules*, *collecting money (taxes)*, and *helping people solve problems*.

- Villages became rich due to irrigation, and each village was called an “ur.”
- Groups of villages joined to form larger areas called “nadu.”
 - These helped in collecting taxes and providing justice.
- Wealthy farmers from the Vellala caste controlled the nadu.
 - They worked under the main Chola government.
- The Chola kings gave special titles, like *muvedavelan* and *araiyar*, to important landowners to help in running the empire.
- Brahmanas received land from kings.
 - These lands were managed by assemblies called “sabhas.”
 - Brahmana leaders in these sabhas made decisions about village life.
 - The **sabha** (a council of Brahmins) had different groups or committees to manage things like irrigation, gardens, and temples.
 - Names of people for these groups were written on palm leaves, and a young boy would pick them from a pot to choose the members. (**Note:** Source:- Inscriptions from Uttaramerur, Tamil Nadu)
 - They even wrote these decisions on temple walls.
- Traders also helped in managing towns and other work.
- In some places like Uttaramerur, leaders for sabha committees were picked by drawing names from a pot.

Category

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