

(now in Tajikistan) in the north of central Bharat in the south.

Chapter : 9

New Empires and Kingdoms

• Very short answer question:

Question: 1 Name the capital city of the Pallaves.

Answer: Pallavapura.

Question: 2 What is Aihole famous for?

Answer: The capital of the Chalukyas was Aihole was regarded as a flourishing city.

Question: 3 Who was the founder of the Gupta dynasty?

Answer: Chandragupta Ist was the founder of the Gupta dynasty. He adopted the title of 'Maharajadhiraja'.

Question: 4 By which name is the Allahabad Pillar Inscription also known?

Answer:

Answer: Prayag Prashasti.

Question: 1 Name the three Sanskrit plays that King Harshavardhana wrote.

Answer: Ratnavali, Priya Darshika and Nagananda.

• Short answer questions:

Question: 1 What is the importance of Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prashasti) in reconstructing the history of Samudragupta's times?

Answer: The Allahabad pillar inscription, also known as Prayag Prashasti, composed by his court poet Harisena is the main source of information about Samudragupta's conquests.

Question: 2 List out the sources of information of the Gupta period.

Answer: The Gupta period is rich in sources. The most important archaeology is the "Allahabad pillar Inscription". Temples, paintings and mostly coins are some other archaeological sources.

Question: 3 Write a short note on the Later Gupta.

Answer: Chandragupta II was succeeded by Kumar Gupta who in turn was succeeded by Skanda Gupta. Skanda Gupta was successful in controlling the attacks of Huns, a barbaric tribe of

central Asia. However later Gupta rulers were weak so, gradually the provinces under the Guptas became independent and some went under the control of the Huns. The Gupta Empire disintegrated by the mid sixth century CE.

Question: 4 What developments in art and architecture were witnessed under the Chalukyas?

Question:

Answer: The Chalukyan Kings were patrons of arts. They built beautiful stone temples dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva at Vatapi, Aihole and Pattadakal. A large number of Buddhist monasteries were also built. Painting also developed the art of painting in canvas (murals) was perfected under the Chalukyas. A majority of the Ajanta paintings were done during the rule of the Chalukyas.

Answer:

Question: 5 What do you know about the military organisation under the Pallavas?

Answer: A part of the Pallava State revenue was spent on maintaining an army. The army usually consisted of infantry, cavalry and elephants. The Pallavas maintained a navy, as did some of the Chalukyas such as Pulakeshin II. A defeated ruler was sometimes

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made a Samanta, that is, chief who held land on condition that he would supply soldiers to the king when required. When central rule weakened, Samantas often became independent.

Long answers questions:

Question: What do the sources of the Harsha period tell us?

Answer: We learn about Harsha and the developments during his reign through inscription and seals. A Harsha Inscription dated 631 CE has been found, it mentions the grant of Gomkunda village by Harsha. The Ache inscription of the Chalukya king Pulakesin II deals with the war between Harsha Vardana and pulkesin II. Banabhatta's Harshacharita, the biography of the king written in Sanskrit lists the military and cultural achievements of Harsha. Hiuen Tsang, a Chinese pilgrim visited India during Harsha reign. He came to study at Nalanda and to collect Buddhist texts. He spent about eight year in the Harsha's empire.

Question: 2 Describe the achievements of Samudragupta as mentioned in the Prayag Prashasti.

Answer: The Allahabad pillar inscription describes the conquest and glory of Samudragupta. As soon as he King become King, he proceeded on a long campaign which brought him many victories. First he defeated northern Indian Kingdoms. He fought against a number of Kings in the Deccan and southern India such as those of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. He set out against the forest tribes of south. He defeated many Kings of East India. He then triumphed over nine tribal republics of Rajasthan. He marched further west and North. The Gokarna and Kushan Kings also agreed to pay tribute. The power of Samudragupta extended beyond India. The King of Sri-Lanka and South-East Asia, regularly paid tribute to the Gupta emperor. The Gupta Empire was mainly confined to northern India.

Question: 3 Who was Hsien Tsang? Why did he come to India?

Answer: Hsien Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, visited India during Harsha's reign. He came to study at Nalanda and to collect

Buddhist texts; He spent about eight years in the Harsha's empire. He wrote a book named "Xi-qu-ki" which means "My experiences". It serves as the main source of information about Harsha's conquests, religion, administration and the condition of people.

Question: 4 Give an account of Harsha's empire.

Answer: Harshavardhan belonged to the pushyabhuti dynasty of Thanesar. He came to the throne in 606 CE and ruled till 647 CE. During forty one years of Harsha's rule, he established a strong empire which extended from Punjab, Kashmir and Nepal in the north to the river Narmada in the South. Harsha ruled from his capital at Kanauj. Which was located in the rich agricultural region of the western Gangetic plain. Kanauj was a cultural centre as well. Harsha Patronised Buddhism and built innumerable stupas, established many monasteries, and founded several state Hospitals. During His period, farmers paid $\frac{1}{6}$ th of their produce as taxes to the government. Good roads were constructed with the rest houses. King Harsha was generous

as he gave all his personal wealth and belongings in charity during the Prajagat assembly which was held once in 5 years. Caste system was rigid during Harsha's reign. The untouchables had to live outside the precincts of villages and cities. The influence of Brahmanism had declined due to the prevalence of Buddhism.

Question: Who was Pulakesin II? What does his Prashasti tell us about his reign?

Answer: The most famous ruler of the Chalukyas Dynasty was Pulakesin II. He lived at the same time as Harsha and defeated him in 620 CE. With this victory, he checked Harsha's advance into the Deccan. We know about him from a Prashasti which was composed by his court poet "Ravikirti". The capital of the Chalukyas was Aihole was regarded as a flourishing city. The Chalukyas had trade relations with Iran, Arabia and Red Sea ports in the west, and also with the Kingdoms of South-East Asia. The Chalukyan Kings were great Patrons of Art. We find fine specimens of sculpture at

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Ellora. The credit for these masterpiece of art goes to the Chalukyan Kings.

Question: 6 What benefit did Chandragupta gain by defeating the Shakas?

Answer: The most important events of Chandragupta II's reign was conquest of Shakas. He destroyed the Shaka Chieftain Rudrasena III and annexed his Kingdoms. His victory over Malwa helped in prosperity of the Malwa region and Ujjain became a commercial hub. Some scholars call Ujjain his second capital.

Chapter : 10

Culture and science

- Very short answers questions:

Question: 1 Name the four Vedas.

Answer: Rigveda Yajur Veda
Sama Veda Atharva Veda

Question: 2 What are the Purans?

Answer: The Puranas were another types of literature. Purana means 'old'. They deal with stories of Vishnu, Shiva, Durga also about the creation of the Earth.

Question: 3 Name the epics of sangam period.

Answer: The epics of the Sangam period were Silappadikaram and Mahimekalai.

Question: 4 What is Stupa?

Answer: Stupas were built of stones or bricks to mark important places associated with Buddhism and to keep important relics of the Buddha.

• Short answers questions:

Question: 1 What are Jataka Tales? What do they tell us?

Answer: The Jataka stories are about the previous births of Gautam Buddha, in which he appeared in different forms like that of a human being, bird animals or tree. In these forms he put up with many hardships to help others and teach moral values such as love, kindness, duty and generosity, to name a few.

Question: 2 Write about the foreign travellers and their accounts about Indian society.

Answer: The accounts of travellers such as Megasthenes, Fa-Hien and Hieun-Tsang give us details about the political, economic, social and religious life of the Kingdoms they visited.

Question: 3 What do you understand by the term garbagriha?

Answer: The Garbagriha was the room where the image of the chief deity was kept. The shikhara or vimana was a tower on top of the Garbagriha to mark it out as

a sacred place.

Question: 4 Write a short note on epics.

Answer: The other genre of literary works was the epics. An epic is a long story written in form of a poem.

• Long answers and questions;

Question: 5 What achievements did Bharat make in the field of literature?

Answer: A great deal of our knowledge of the ancient period comes through literature. These literary works were written in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit. Literature of this period can be divided into two parts religious and secular. It is believed that initially, the Vedas passed down from

Question: 6 one generation to the other through oral traditions. They were written and compiled much later. The Upanishads, the Brahmanas,

Answer: the Aranyakas, were the other religious literature they were mostly an extension of the Vedas. The Puranas were another type of literature. Literally, Purana means old the other genre of literature works was the epic. An epic is a long story

written in form of a poem. The Ramayana and Mahabharata were written in ancient period. The biography, purashastis, autobiographies and accounts of travellers form a part of the secular literature. Most famous of these were the Arthashastra of Kautilya, Harshacharita by Banbhhatta, the dramas of Kalidasa such as Abhijnanasakuntalam and the Meghadootam. Kalhan's Rajatarangini is another famous historical work - it describes the history of Kashmir till the twelfth century CE. The account of travellers such as Megasthenes, Fa-Hien and Huiyen Tsang give us details about the political, economic, social and cultural life of the Kingdoms they visited.

Question 2 Write a note on the progress made in the field of medicine during this period.

Answer: Charaka and Sushruta made important contribution in the field of medicine. Sushruta samhita is the oldest text on surgery. Charaka samhita tell us about the method of curing many diseases.

Question 3 Explain how temple architecture flourished in ancient India.

Answer: Many temples were also built. The cave temples at Deogarh (Hansi) the temple at Bhitargaon (Kanpur) and the temples at Sanchi are constructed of brick and stone and are very beautiful. In the south, the Chalukyas built stone temples dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva at Vatapi, Aihole and Pattadakal. The Ratha temples and the shore temple at Mahabalipuram and the Kailasnath temple at Kanchi were built by the Pallavas. The temples built during this period had some common structures. There were the garbagriha, the shikhara or Vimana and the Mandapa.

Question: 4 Describe the Sangam literature.

Answer: The 'Sangam Age' in Tamil literature is considered as the Golden Era of Tamil language. During this period were called the Sangam Poems. These give us a lot of information about the rulers and about the life in the southern Kingdoms. The epics of the Sangam period were Silappadikaram and Manimekalai in Tamil. Silappadikaram is an epic poem written by Ilango Adigal. It is considered as one of the greatest epics in the world.