

Chapter: New Kings and Kingdoms

Subject: Social Science (History) | Class: 7th CBSE | Complete Solution Manual

SECTION I: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWERS (MCQS)

Q1. In the medieval times, when India was ruled by different kings, *samantas* were expected to take care of their states and bring gifts for the king. Who were the *samantas*?

- a. sons of the kings
- b. warrior-chiefs of the kings**
- c. rulers of the neighbouring kingdoms
- d. sons of other kings

Correct Answer: b. warrior-chiefs of the kings

Explanation: In medieval India, existing big landlords or **warrior-chiefs** were acknowledged as subordinates or **samantas** by ruling kings. They were expected to bring gifts for their kings or overlords, be present at their courts, and provide them with military support.

IMPORTANT KEYWORDS

Samantas: Subordinate warrior-chiefs or big landlords who acknowledged the supremacy of ruling kings and provided military assistance.

REMEMBER

When *samantas* gained power and wealth, they declared themselves as **Maha-samanta** or **Maha-mandaleshvara** (the great lord of a 'circle' or region).

Q2. Read the extract and answer: Why did Dantidurga perform the *hiranya-garbha* ritual?

"In the mid-eighth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed a ritual called hiranya-garbha (literally, 'the golden womb'). When this ritual was performed with the help of Brahmanas, it was thought to lead to the 'rebirth' of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya, even if he was not one by birth."

- a. He wanted to become a rich man.
- b. He wanted to become powerful.
- c. He wanted to become the ruler of the Rashtrakuta Dynasty.
- d. None of the above is correct.

Correct Answer: d. None of the above is correct.

Explanation: The primary religious and social purpose of performing the **hiranya-garbha** ritual was to achieve the **"rebirth" of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya** (royal warrior class), even if he was not born a Kshatriya. While Dantidurga sought political legitimacy as a king, none of options (a), (b), or (c) capture the specific ritual purpose stated in the text (attaining Kshatriya status through spiritual rebirth).

REMEMBER

Hiranya-garbha literally means "the golden womb". It was a major ritual performed with the help of Brahmanas to grant royal legitimacy and Kshatriya status to non-Kshatriya rulers.

Q3. Why did the foreign invaders target the Indian temples?

- a. They wanted to build new temples.
- b. They wanted to build their palaces in place of temples.
- c. They were against the values of Indian culture.
- d. The temples were a storehouse of enormous wealth.

Correct Answer: d. The temples were a storehouse of enormous wealth.

Explanation: In medieval India, rulers demonstrated their power, devotion, and resources by constructing grand temples. Consequently, these temples became centers of immense accumulated wealth, holding vast treasures of gold, jewels, and land grants. Foreign invaders, such as **Mahmud of Ghazni**, targeted these temples primarily to loot their tremendous wealth.

EXAM TIP

Always mention **Somnath Temple in Gujarat** as a prominent example when writing answers about temple raids by foreign invaders like Mahmud of Ghazni.

Q4. From which country did the foreign invaders come to India?

- a. Turkey
- b. Greece
- c. Russia
- d. Istanbul

Correct Answer: a. Turkey (Turkic Rulers / Central Asia)

Explanation: The major medieval foreign invaders who established their influence or raided Northern India during this period (such as Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori) were of **Turkic origin** coming from Ghazni and Ghor in Afghanistan/Central Asia. (Note: Modern school textbooks classify these early medieval invaders under Turkic/Central Asian origins).

Q5. Identify the correct order of village administration followed in the Chola Empire (from lowest/smallest unit to highest/largest unit).

- a. **nadu** → **valanadu** → **mandalam**
- b. valanadu → mandalam → nadu
- c. mandalam → valanadu → nadu
- d. nadu → mandalam → valanadu

Correct Answer: a. nadu → valanadu → mandalam

Explanation: In the Chola administrative system:

- **Ur:** Settlements of peasants.
- **Nadu:** Clusters of such villages formed a larger unit called *nadu*.
- **Valanadu:** Groups of *nadus* formed a district level division called *valanadu*.
- **Mandalam:** Provinces were known as *mandalams*.

Thus, the hierarchical order from smallest to largest administrative unit is **nadu** → **valanadu** → **mandalam**.

Q6. The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur was built by which of the following dynasties?

- a. Pala
- b. **Chola**
- c. Pratihara
- d. Chauhan

Correct Answer: b. Chola

Explanation: The grand **Brihadisvara Temple** at Thanjavur was built by the famous Chola king **Rajaraja I** in the early 11th century. It stands as an architectural and architectural masterpiece of Chola temple architecture.

Q7. Identify the wrong pair from the following:

- a. Tripartite struggle – Kannauj
- b. Dharmapala – Vikramshila University
- c. Chola Empire – banks of River Vaigai**
- d. Muhammad Ghori – Battle of Tarain

Correct Answer: c. Chola Empire – banks of River Vaigai

Explanation:

- *Chola Empire* developed primarily in the fertile delta of the **Kaveri River** (not Vaigai). The Pandya kingdom was centered around the Vaigai River (Madurai). Hence, option (c) is the incorrect pair.
- Options a, b, and d are correct statements: Kannauj was the center of the Tripartite Struggle; Pala ruler Dharmapala founded Vikramshila University; and Muhammad Ghori fought the Battles of Tarain against Prithviraj Chauhan.

Q8. Consider the following statements about the *sabha* of the Chola Empire:

- i. The *sabha* looked after the administration of villages.
- ii. The king chose the members of the *sabha*.

Which of these statements is true?

- a. only i**
- b. only ii
- c. both i and ii
- d. none of these

Correct Answer: a. only i

Explanation: Statement (i) is correct because the **sabha** (an assembly of prominent Brahmana landholders) looked after local village administrative affairs. Statement (ii) is incorrect because members of the *sabha* were **not chosen by the king**; instead, they were selected through a lottery/draw system using palm-leaf tickets drawn by a young boy from earthenware pots (as detailed in the Uttiramerur inscription).

Q9. The Chola kings were initially subordinates to the _____.

- a. Rashtrakutas
- b. Pratiharas
- c. Pallavas**
- d. Palas

Correct Answer: c. Pallavas

Explanation: Minor chieftains belonging to the Muttaraiyar family held power in the Kaveri delta as subordinates to the **Pallava kings of Kanchipuram**. Vijayalaya, who belonged to the ancient chief family of the Cholas from Uraiyur, captured the delta from Muttaraiyar in the mid-9th century and established the Chola dynasty.

Q10. Which of the following is an example of Chola art?

Option (a)

Greco-Roman Bust

Option (b)

Classical Sculpture

Option (c)

Trimurti / Shiva Bust

Option (d) ✓

Nataraja Bronze

Correct Answer: d. (Bronze image of Nataraja / Dancing Shiva)

Explanation: Image (d) represents the world-renowned **Chola Bronze Sculpture of Nataraja** (Lord Shiva in his cosmic dance posture). Chola bronze images are considered among the finest and most exquisite artistic creations in human history.

REMEMBER

While most Chola bronze images depicted deities, some images were also made of devotees.

SECTION II: TRUE OR FALSE

1. Vikramshila University was founded by Rajaraja Chola.

Answer: FALSE

Correct Statement: Vikramshila University was founded by the Pala king **Dharmapala** in Bihar.

2. The Palas, the Pratiharas and the Chauhans were involved in the Tripartite struggle.

Answer: FALSE

Correct Statement: The Tripartite Struggle for control over Kannauj was fought between the **Palas, the Gurjara-Pratiharas, and the Rashtrakutas** (not the Chauhans).

3. Muhammad Ghori and Prithviraj Chauhan fought the Battle of Tarain.

Answer: TRUE

Details: They fought two famous Battles of Tarain: the First Battle in 1191 (won by Prithviraj Chauhan) and the Second Battle in 1192 (won by Muhammad Ghori).

4. The brahmins received land grants which were known as brahmadeya.

Answer: TRUE

Details: Kings frequently rewarded Brahmanas with grants of land called **Brahmadeya**, which were recorded on copper plates.

5. Mahmud of Ghazni used the wealth raided from India to build a strong army and beautify the city of Ghazni.

Answer: TRUE

Details: Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni used much of the wealth he looted from temple towns in India to construct a splendid capital city at Ghazni.

SECTION III: SHORT ANSWER-TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. Who was Prithviraj Chauhan?

Answer:

Prithviraj III (1168–1192), popularly known as **Prithviraj Chauhan**, was a famous ruler of the Chahamanas (Chauhan) dynasty who ruled over the region around Delhi and Ajmer.

Key historical facts about Prithviraj Chauhan:

- **Defeat of Sultan Muhammad Ghori:** He defeated the Afghan ruler Sultan Muhammad Ghori in the **First Battle of Tarain** in 1191.
- **Second Battle of Tarain:** In the very next year, 1192, he was defeated by Muhammad Ghori in the **Second Battle of Tarain**, which marked a major turning point in Indian history.
- **Expansion:** He attempted to expand his control towards the west and the east, conflicting with the Chalukyas of Gujarat and the Chandelas of Bundelkhand.

IMPORTANT KEYWORDS

Chahamanas: The Rajput dynasty later known as Chauhans who ruled over Delhi and Ajmer.

Q2. Write a short note on the Rashtrakuta Dynasty.

Answer:

The **Rashtrakutas** were a powerful ruling dynasty in the Deccan region of India during the 8th to 10th centuries.

- **Rise to Power:** Initially, the Rashtrakutas were subordinate warrior chiefs to the Chalukyas of Karnataka. In the mid-8th century, a Rashtrakuta chief named **Dantidurga** overthrew his Chalukya overlord and established Rashtrakuta rule.
- **Legitimacy through Rituals:** Dantidurga performed the famous **Hiranya-garbha** ("golden womb") ritual with the help of Brahmanas to claim Kshatriya status.
- **Tripartite Struggle:** The Rashtrakutas actively fought against the Palas and Gurjara-Pratiharas for control over the prized city of **Kannauj** in North India.
- **Patronage to Art and Architecture:** They were great patrons of art, architecture, and literature. They built the magnificent rock-cut **Kailashnath Temple at Ellora** (Cave 16) and supported religious harmony.

REMEMBER

The **Ellora Caves (Cave 16 - Kailashnath Temple)** were built under the patronage of the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna I.

Q3. How did the regional kingdoms collect resources to administer their kingdoms?

Answer:

The regional medieval kingdoms required vast resources to maintain royal establishments, construct grand temples and forts, and fight wars. They collected resources through the following methods:

- **Taxes from Producers:** Resources were obtained from producers such as **peasants, cattle-keepers, and artisans**. They were often persuaded or compelled to surrender a part of what they produced as rent or tax.
- **Land Grants & Revenue:** Land revenue was a major source of income. Claiming ownership over land, kings collected regular agricultural revenue.
- **Taxes on Trade and Merchants:** Duties and taxes were levied on goods traded by merchants, market stalls, and revenue collected at trade posts.
- **Forced Labor (Vetti):** Taxes were also extracted in the form of forced labor, called **Vetti**, where peasants had to work for the king or local lords without cash payment.
- **Special Levies:** Inscriptions (e.g., Chola inscriptions) list over 400 terms for taxes, including taxes on matching the house, using a ladder to climb palm trees, tax on succession to family property, etc.

IMPORTANT KEYWORDS

Vetti: Tax taken in the form of forced labor.

Kadamai: Land revenue paid to the king or lords.

Q4. What advancements took place in the field of irrigation during the Chola period?

Answer:

Agriculture developed significantly in the Chola kingdom, especially in the Kaveri delta, thanks to organized state-level irrigation works and advancements:

- **Embankments and Canals:** Embankments (levees) were built in the delta region to prevent flooding, and artificial canals were constructed to carry water directly to agricultural fields.
- **Construction of Tanks and Reservoirs:** Huge rain-water storage tanks were dug out to collect rainwater for cultivation throughout the year.
- **Digging of Wells:** In many areas, deep wells were dug to secure groundwater for farming.
- **Sluice Gates:** Advanced sluice gates were built to regulate and control the flow of water from tanks into irrigation channels.
- **Organized Planning:** Irrigation work required detailed planning, labor management, allocation of water resources, and maintenance of canals, which was jointly supervised by village assemblies (*ur* and *sabha*).

REMEMBER

The opening up of new land for agriculture and effective irrigation allowed the Cholas to harvest **two crops a year** in many regions.

Q5. State the significance of temples during the Chola period.

Answer:

During the Chola period, temples were not merely places of worship; they formed the center of social, economic, cultural, and political life:

- **Nucleus of Settlements:** Chola temples (such as those at Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram) became the hub around which whole craft and trade settlements grew.
- **Economic Hubs:** Kings and wealthy donors gifted vast tracts of land to temples (known as *Devadana*). The produce of this land maintained numerous specialists working at the temple—priests, garland makers, cooks, sweepers, musicians, and dancers.
- **Centers of Craft Production:** Temples were centers where specialized crafts flourished, most notably the creation of world-famous **Chola bronze sculptures**.
- **Cultural and Educational Centers:** Temples served as schools, performance centers for music and classical dance (Bharatanatyam), and gathering halls for administrative assemblies.

EXAM TIP

Summarize this concept in exams with 3 key pillars: **Religious Hub + Economic Engine + Cultural/Craft Center**.

SECTION IV: LONG ANSWER-TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. Write a short note on the Tripartite Struggle.

Answer:

The **Tripartite Struggle** refers to a century-long conflict between three major ruling dynasties of medieval India for control over the strategic and prosperous city of **Kannauj** in the Ganga valley.

1. The Three Contending Dynasties:

- **The Gurjara-Pratiharas:** Ruling over Western India and Rajasthan.
- **The Palas:** Ruling over Eastern India (Bengal and Bihar).
- **The Rashtrakutas:** Ruling over the Deccan region.

2. Significance of Kannauj:

- Kannauj was situated in the fertile Gangetic plain, making it a center of immense agricultural wealth and trade routes.
- Since the time of Emperor Harsha, holding control over Kannauj symbolized imperial power and sovereignty over Northern India.

3. Consequences of the Conflict:

- Because three dynasties ("tri-partite") were involved in this prolonged conflict, historians describe it as the 'Tripartite Struggle'.
- The continuous wars lasted for over a hundred years and severely drained the military strength, finances, and resources of all three dynasties.
- This mutual weakening left Northern India fragmented and vulnerable to foreign invasions from Central Asia (such as Mahmud of Ghazni).

REMEMBER

The Tripartite Struggle involved: **Gurjara-Pratiharas + Palas + Rashtrakutas** fighting for **Kannauj**.

Q2. Write a short note on the following regional kingdoms: (i) the Palas, (ii) the Gurjara-Pratiharas.

(i) The Pala Dynasty:

- **Founder and Region:** The Pala dynasty was founded by **Gopala** in the mid-8th century CE. They ruled over the regions of modern-day **Bengal and Bihar**.
- **Prominent Rulers:** **Dharmapala** and **Devapala** were the most powerful kings of this dynasty.
- **Patronage of Buddhism:** The Palas were ardent followers and patrons of Mahayana Buddhism. They built famous Buddhist monasteries (Viharas).
- **Educational Contributions:** Dharmapala established the famous **Vikramshila University** and restored the ancient **Nalanda University** by gifting revenues from several villages for their upkeep.
- **Trade & International Relations:** They maintained active commercial and cultural links with Southeast Asia (Srivijaya Empire) and Tibet.

(ii) The Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty:

- **Founder and Region:** Founded by **Nagabhata I** in the 8th century, the Gurjara-Pratiharas ruled over southwestern Rajasthan and Gujarat, later expanding into North-Western India.
- **Prominent Ruler:** The greatest and most famous ruler of this dynasty was **Mihira Bhoja** (or King Bhoja), who ruled in the 9th century. He was a devotee of Lord Vishnu and adopted the title of *Adivaraha*.
- **Defenders against Arab Invasions:** The Gurjara-Pratiharas played a vital role in standing as a strong barrier against early Arab military invasions coming from Sindh, protecting Western India.
- **Patronage of Culture:** They patronized Sanskrit literature, scholars, and built beautiful temples across Western and Central India (such as temples at Khajuraho and Kannauj).

Q3. Who were the important rulers of the Chola Empire? List their contributions.

Answer:

The Chola Empire reached the pinnacle of its glory under two exceptionally powerful rulers: **Rajaraja I** and his son **Rajendra I**.

1. Vijayalaya (Founder):

- Captured the Kaveri delta from the Muttaraiyar chieftains in 850 CE.
- Built the town of **Thanjavur** and constructed a temple for goddess Nishumbhasudini there.

2. Rajaraja I (895 – 1014 CE):

- Considered the most powerful Chola ruler. He expanded control over Southern India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives islands.
- Reorganized the administration and tax collection of the empire.
- Built the grand **Brihadisvara Temple (Rajarajesvaram) at Thanjavur**, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Developed a powerful naval fleet to control trade routes across the Indian Ocean.

3. Rajendra I (1014 – 1044 CE):

- Continued his father's expansionist policies and led military expeditions to northern India, reaching the River Ganga after defeating the Pala king.
- Assumed the prestigious title of **Gangaikondachola** ("the conqueror of the Ganga") and built a new capital city named **Gangaikondacholapuram**.
- Built a magnificent temple at Gangaikondacholapuram to rival the Brihadisvara Temple.
- Launched a successful naval expedition against the kingdom of **Srivijaya** (Southeast Asia - Indonesia and Malaysia) to protect Indian merchant trade routes.

IMPORTANT KEYWORDS

Gangaikondachola: Title assumed by Rajendra I, meaning "The Chola who conquered the Ganga".

Q4. How was the Chola Empire administered?

Answer:

The Chola Empire possessed a highly organized and systematic administration divided into central, provincial, and local self-governing levels:

1. Administrative Hierarchy (Divisions):

- **Mandalam:** The empire was divided into large provinces called *Mandalams*, usually governed by royal princes.
- **Valanadu:** Each *Mandalam* was subdivided into districts called *Valanadus*.
- **Nadu:** Each *Valanadu* consisted of clusters of villages known as *Nadu*. The *nadu* performed administrative functions like dispensing justice and collecting taxes.
- **Ur:** Peasant settlements forming basic village units.

2. Local Village Assemblies:

The most unique feature of Chola administration was local self-government through two distinct village assemblies:

- **Ur:** General assembly of non-Brahmana peasant landholders.
- **Sabha:** Assembly of prominent Brahmana landholders in villages gifted to Brahmanas (*Brahmadeya*). The *sabha* operated through specialized committees to manage irrigation, gardens, temples, law, and tax collection.

3. Democratic Election System (Uttiramerur Inscription):

- Members of *sabha* committees were selected democratically by drawing lots.
- Names of eligible candidates (who owned land, had educated background, and paid taxes) were written on palm-leaf tickets.
- Tickets were put into an earthenware pot, and a young boy was asked to pick tickets one by one to elect committee members.

EXAM TIP

Remember the democratic election process of Chola *Sabha* using palm-leaf tickets drawn from earthenware pots — a frequent favorite 3-mark / 5-mark exam question!

SECTION V: PROJECT-BASED ASSIGNMENT

Assignment Task: "Imagine you are living in medieval India. Choose any one particular dynasty from the medieval period that you have studied in this chapter and fill out the following profile."

--- MY MEDIEVAL PERSONA WORKSHEET ---

1. **Name of the Persona:** Ramanujam
2. **Dynasty Chosen:** The Chola Dynasty
3. **Role/Occupation in Society:** Master Sculptor (Bronze Craftsman & Artisan) at Thanjavur Temple

4. Time Period: 11th Century CE (During the reign of King Rajendra Chola I)

5. Description of Daily Life & Responsibilities:

"I live in a bustling artisan quarter attached to the great Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur. My primary responsibility is casting exquisite bronze images of Lord Shiva, particularly in the Nataraja form, using the lost-wax technique (*cire perdue*). My family's land is situated in a village governed by the local *sabha*, which ensures that water from the Kaveri River canals reaches our fields regularly. As artisans, our work is sponsored by royal grants, and we contribute to temple festivals and cultural celebrations."

6. Reflections on the Kingdom's Governance & Culture:

"Under the glorious rule of King Rajendra Chola, our kingdom is highly secure and prosperous. The king's powerful navy protects our merchant ships traveling across the sea to distant lands. Our villages are self-managed through democratic assemblies (*Sabhas*), where honest landholders supervise local administration. The grand temples are not just places of worship, but vibrant centers where music, dance, education, and artistic crafts thrive."