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Volume 2

Medieval History of India



VOLUME - 2

MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF INDIA

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1 CHAPTER

Early Medieval India (750-1200AD)



Medieval Period

- **Between** the ancient period and the **modern period** of the Indian subcontinent
- Period starting from **8th Century AD to 16th Century AD**
- **2 phases:**
 - **Early medieval period:** 8th - 13th century
 - **Late medieval period:** 13th - 16th century
- Considered as the **beginning of Muslim domination to British India**



Early Medieval India (750-1200 AD)

- **After death of Harshavardhana** India witnessed significant **changes:**
 - **Pataliputra** lost its **prominence**
 - **Kannauj** became **symbol of sovereignty** of India
 - **3 dynasties fought for control over the region** (Palas, Gurjara-Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas) k/a **triangular warfare/tripartite war.**
 - A new ruling clan **RAJPUTS** emerged
- **India fragmented** amongst the **different regional kingdoms.**
- **Rulers demonstrated their power** by granting **land to the officers, Brahmins, and temples.**
- **Result:** Indian **feudalism.**
- **South India** - period of **segmentary statehood**- king acted more as a **ritual head**, and **did not have a firm revenue infrastructure or a standing army.**
- Added **new and rich cultural elements** in the fields of **art, literature, and language.**



Dark Phase of Indian History	Vibrant Phase of Indian History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● marked with the feudal establishments ● Rise of caste proliferation, ● Spread of Regionalism, rise of regional states and their supremacy struggle ● Emergence of closed economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India witnessed growth in culture, traditions, art, literature and language

Gurjara-Pratiharas (8th century CE - 11th century CE)

- Held their sway over **western and northern India.**
- Primarily **pastoralists and fighters.**
- **Capital - Bhinmal.**
- **Founder:** A Brahmana named **Harichandra.**
- **known for their patronage of art, sculpture and temple-building**
- Patrons of **learning and literature.**
- **Rajashekhar** (Sanskrit poet and dramatist) - **court of Mahipala**, grandson of Bhoja.
- Embellished **Kanauj** with many fine buildings and temples.



- Well-known for their **hostility to the Arab rulers of Sind.**
- **915 - 918 AD**, the **Rashtrakuta king, Indra III**, again **attacked Kanauj**, and devastated the city-**weakened the Pratihara empire**, and **Gujarat passed into the hands of the Rashtrakutas.**
- **Al-Masudi** - Pratiharas had **no access to the sea.**
- **Rashtrakuta ruler, Krishna III**, invaded north India in about **963 AD** and **defeated the Pratihara ruler.**
- Followed by the **rapid dissolution of the Pratihara empire.**

Political History

- Established a **series of principalities** in **central and eastern Rajasthan.**
- **Clashed with the Rashtrakutas** for the control of **Malwa and Gujarat**, and later for **Kanauj** which implied **control of the upper Ganga valley.**
- Kings **considered Lakshmana** as their **hero**, who served as the doorkeeper to his brother Rama.
- Pratiharas took on their title which **literally means 'door-keeper'**
- **Instrumental in containing Arab armies** moving east of the **Indus.**
- **Came to prominence** during the reign of **Nagabhata I (730–760 CE)** who successfully **defeated Arab invaders**
- **Bhoja or Mihira Bhoja** (c. 836-885 CE) was the **most well-known king** of this dynasty.
- Known for their **continuous warfare with** contemporary powers like the **Palas and the Rashtrakuta Dynasty.**



Important Kings

Nagabhata I (c. 730–760 CE)

- Known for **checking the invasion of the Arabs** and **defeating them** under Junaid and Tamin during the Caliphate campaigns in India.
- Exercised control over the areas of **Malwa, Rajputana, and Gujarat.**
- **Defeated by** the Rashtrakuta king, **Dhruva.**



Vatsaraja (780–800)

- Took the **title of Ranahastin** after his Kannauj campaign
- **Minted coins with legends Shri Rana Hasti.**
- **Controlled eastern Rajasthan and Malwa.**
- **defeated Bhandi or Bhatti clan**
- **Dhruva Rashtrakuta** dealt him a **serious blow**

Bhoja I / Mihir Bhoja (c.836–885 CE)

- **Long reign** of over 46 years - **most successful and popular ruler.**
- **Feudatories- Chedis and the Guhilas.**
- **Defeated the Palas and the Rashtrakutas.**
- **Capital- Kannauj**, which was also called **Mahodaya.**
- **Barah copper plate inscription** - mention of a **military camp** i.e., **skandhavara at Mahodaya.**
- Called **King Baura** by the Arab traveller, **Al-Masudi.**
- **Expansion checked by Sankarvarmen of Kashmir and Rashtrakuta Krishna II and Devapala**
- **Devotee of Vishnu** and adopted the **title of 'Adivaraha.'**

Mahendrapala (c. 885–910 CE)

- **Successor of Bhoja**
- **Empire reached its peak** of prosperity and power.
- **Empire:** west to the border of Sindh, east to Bengal, north to the Himalayas, and south past the Narmada.
- **Battle with the king of Kashmir** but had to **yield to him** some of the **territories in Punjab won by Bhoja**.
- Took the **title Maharajadhiraja of Aryavarta** (Great King of Kings of Northern India).
- **Court** adorned by **Rajashekha- eminent Sanskrit poet**, dramatist and critic who **wrote**:
 - Karpuramanjari
 - Kavya Mimansa
 - Vidhasalabhanjika
 - Bhrinjika
 - Balaramayana
 - Prapanch Pandav
 - Balabharata

Administration

- **King** occupied the **highest position** in the state
- Kings adopted big **titles** such as '**Parmeshwara**', '**Maharajadhiraja**', '**Parambaterak**'.
- **Samantas** used to give **military help to their Kings**
- **No reference to mantriparishad** or ministers in the inscriptions of that period
- **8 types of different officers** in the administration of the Pratiharas
 - **Kottapala**; highest officer of the fort
 - **Tantrapala**; representative of the king in samanta states
 - **Dandapashika**: highest officer of the police
 - **Dandanayaka**: look after the military and justice department
 - **Dutaka**: carry order and grants of the king to specified persons
 - **Bhangika**: the officer who wrote order of charities and grants
 - **Vynaharina**: legal expert
 - **Baladhikrat**: the chief of army.
- **State** was **divided into** many **bhuktis**
- Many **mandals** in each bhukti
- Each **mandala** → **several cities** and many **villages** as well
- **Villages** were **locally administered**
- **Mahattar** - looked after the **administration of the village**



Social Condition

- **Caste system prevalent**
- **Brahmans** referred to as **Vipra** and several **Prakrit words** are **used for Kshatriyas**.
- Arab writer **Ibda Khurdadab** has referred to **seven castes** in the time of the Pratiharas.
- Writings of **Smriti Ghandrayana Vrat**, '**Biladuri**' and **Alberuni** - **Hindu society** had **allowed the purification of Hindus**
- **Inter-caste marriage** allowed.
- **Kings** and the **rich classes practised polygamy**
- **Sati pratha** was there though it was **not very much prevalent**.
- **No purdah system** among the **women of the royal families**

Economy

- Largely based on agriculture
- Major source of revenue - tax derived from bulk agricultural production
- Trade were highly localised and dispersed to the village level
- Barter system were prevalent

Religion

- Different sects of Brahmanism progressed during this period.
- Vaishnava, Shaiva, Sakta and Surya were prevalent during this period.
- Kings tolerant
- Besides idol worship, Yajanas and giving of charity at religious places were also prominent.
- Jainism and Buddhism were declining
- Followers of Islam coming to India and were making converts to their religion.

Art & Architecture

- great patrons of arts, architecture and literature
- Teli-ka-Mandir in Gwalior fort is the oldest surviving large-scale Pratihara work.
- Female figure named Sursundari exhibited in Gwalior Museum is one of the most charming sculptures
- Nataraj/Natesha murti, in “chatura pose with jatamakuta and trinetra” and almost four-feet-tall, is a rare depiction of Lord Shiva in the Pratihara style.
- Temples belonging to Nagara Style of temple Architecture.
- Started the Maru- Gujara style of architecture.
 - Eg- Bateshwar Hindu temples complex, Baroli temple complex.
- Greatest development - Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh

Visit of Al- Masudi

- a native of Baghdad, visited Gujarat in 915–16.
- Called Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom al-Juzr (a corrupt form of Gurjara), and the king Baura, probably a mispronunciation of Adivaraha the title used by Bhoja.
- As per him, the army of the Gurjara-Pratihara fought against the Rashtrakutas in the south and in the east against the Palas.

Decline

- Military power of the Pratiharas declined after Bhoja and the successive kings of Gurjara-Pratihara suffered defeat after defeat.
- Rashtrakutas king Indra III (915-928 CE) defeated Mahipala in the early 10th century and captured Kannauj in 916- regained it later.
- Krishna III (939-967 CE) ,Rashtrakutas king invaded the empire in 963 CE.
- Lost control of Rajasthan to their feudatories, and the Chandelas captured the strategic fortress of Gwalior in central India around 950.
- By the end of the 10th century, the Gurjara-Pratihara domains had dwindled to a small state centred on Kannauj.
- Mahmud of Ghazni captured Kannauj in 1018, and the Pratihara ruler Rajapala fled. He was subsequently captured and killed by the Chandela ruler Vidyadhara.
- The Chandela ruler then placed Rajapala's son Trilochanpala on the throne as a proxy.
- Last Gurjara-Pratihara ruler of Kannauj - Jasapala- died in 1036.

The Palas of Bengal (8th-12th century)

- Ruled in **Bihar and Bengal**
- **Founder: Gopala**- a local chieftain who rose to power in the **mid-8th century**.
- Supporters of **Buddhism**- Mahayana and Tantric schools.
- **Distinctive school of art** arose. .
- **Built** temples and monasteries, including the **Somapura Mahavihara**, and **patronised** the great universities of **Nalanda and Vikramashila**.
- **Abbasid coinage** found in Pala archaeological sites- **depicting trade contacts**.



Political History

- aka "**Ruhimi or Ruhma Dharma**" by the Arab merchant **Sulaiman**.
- **Pala records** are full of **eulogistic verses** portraying **Dharmapala and Devapala** as great conquerors.
- **Dominant power** in the **northern Indian subcontinent**.
- **Astute diplomats** and **military conquerors**.
- Known for their **elephant cavalry**.
- **Relations** with the **Srivijaya Empire**, the **Tibetan Empire** and the **Arab Abbasid Caliphate**.
- **Navy** performed both **mercantile and defensive roles** in the Bay of Bengal.



Important Kings

Gopala (around c.750 CE)

- **Khalimpur copper plate** - Gopala, in order to **rescue the people** from **matsya-nyaya** (a period of **anarchy**), **founded the Pala dynasty** when he was elected the king by notable men of the realm.
- An **ardent Buddhist**.
- **Taranatha**- **Gopala built** the famous **monastery at Odantapuri**.



Dharmapala (c.770–810 CE)

- **Most important event: Tripartite struggle** for **Madhyadesha** of northern India- **Palas v/s Rashtrakutas** of Deccan v/s **Gurjara-Pratiharas** of Malava and Rajasthan.
- Founded the **Vikramshila monastery** near Bhagalpur in **Bihar**
 - Buddhist scholar **Dipankara (called Atisa)**, who was greatly respected in Tibet.
- Founded the **Somapuri monastery (near Paharpur, Bihar)**.
- **Santarakshita**- 8th-century Buddhist scholar (abbot of Nalanda), **belonged to his reign**.
- **Founded** the philosophical school known as **Yogacara- Svatantrika-Madhyamika**, which united the **Madhyamaka tradition of Nagarjuna**, the **Yogacara tradition of Asanga** and the **logical and epistemological thought of Dharmakirti**.

Devapala (c. 810–850 CE)

- Covered **Pragyoytishpur/Kamarupa** (Assam), parts of Orissa (**Utkala**) and **modern Nepal**.
- **Badal Pillar Inscription** - paramount lord of northern India.
- **Conquered the Utkalas, Huns and the Gurjaras**.
- **Conquered the Dravidians** in South India and the **Pandya king Srimara Srivallabha**.
- **Court Poet: Vajradatta**, Buddhist scholar who wrote **Lokesvarasataka**.
- **Great patron of literature, education and culture**.
 - During his reign, **Bengal prospered**.
 - Very **benevolent** and **tolerant** towards other religious creeds
 - promoted the **growth of other religions** within his Empire.

Society and Religion

- Islam first appeared in Bengal during Pala rule.
- Great patrons of Mahayana Buddhism.
- Tolerant to Hinduism and the Brahmanical sect
- Buddhist philosopher Haribhadra was the spiritual preceptor of Dharmapala.
- Caste system prevailed & intercaste marriage not permissible.
- Society - divided mainly into Brahmins, Baidyas, Kayasthas and Sudras.

Literature

- Srikar - one of the great-est authors of Smriti Shastra of the period.
- Sena King Vallal Sen - wrote two books Dansagara and Adbhut Sagar.
- First literary work of Bengali language- Charyapada- collection of mystic Buddhist poems from the tantric tradition.
- Proto-Bengali language developed under Pala rule from Maithili.
- Writers of Charyapada k/a Mahasiddhas.

Economy

- Agriculture- basis of economic life of the people
- Small industries and cottage industries were developed.
- Land revenue and Trade was the major source of income for the state.
- Bengal used to export horns of rhinoceros to China.

Art and Architecture

- Odantapuri Vihara - by Gopala -excellent specimen of the architectural skill of the time
- Somapura mahavihara at Paharpur - Dharmapala is one of the largest Buddhist viharas in the Indian subcontinent.
- Various maha viharas, Stupas, chaityas, temples and forts were constructed.
- Deity figures became more rigid in posture, often heavily loaded with jewellery; have multiple arms, a convention allowing them to hold many attributes and display mudras.
- Vikramshila university
 - Founded by Pala king Dharmapala
 - Destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji
 - Buddhist textbooks belonging to both branches of Buddhism- Mahayanism and Hinyanism were taught.

Decline of Palas

- Weakened by 11th century, with many areas engulfed in rebellion.
- Destroyed by the Senas.
 - Vijaysena - dethroned Pala Empire in the 12th century, ending the reign of the last major Buddhist imperial power in the subcontinent.

The Rashtrakutas (8th - 10th century CE)

- Founder: Dantidurga
- Capital: Manykhet or Malkhed near modern Sholapur.
- Region: South India.
 - dominated northern Maharashtra.
 - engaged with Pratiharas for the overlordship of Gujarat and Malwa
- Source: writings of Al-Masudi and Ibn Khordadbeh (10th century CE).



Political History

- b/w c.753 and 975 CE
- **Meaning:** Chief of a **Rashtra** (a division or kingdom, depending on the context).
- **Migrated from the Latur area to Ellichpur** (near the source of the Tapi, in modern MP) in c.625 CE
- **Kings' title:** **lattalura-puraveshvara** (lord of the great city of Lattalura/Latur of Maharashtra).
- **Military successes** in the north and south and in the **tripartite struggle they mostly defeated the Palas and the Pratiharas.**
- **Unable to extend to the Gangetic valley**, but plundered, and brought fame.
- **Fought against the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi** (Andhra Pradesh), the **Pallavas of Kanchi** and the **Pandyas of Madurai.**
- The **Arab accounts** testify to the **liberal attitude of the Rashtrakuta** kings as the **Arab traders were allowed to build mosques** and follow their religion without any hindrance.
- **No rigid rules about succession.**
 - **Eldest son often succeeded.**
 - **Instances when the eldest son had to fight his younger brothers**, and sometimes lost to them



Important Kings

Dantidurga (c. 733–756 CE)

- **Feudatory of the Chalukya king, Kirtivarman II**, who later **founded the Rashtrakuta kingdom** by taking control of the northern regions of the Chalukya Empire and **ascended to the throne in c.733 CE.**
- His **name** (meaning he whose elephant is his fortress) **signifies his military feats and accomplishments.**
- **Helped Pallava King Nandivarmana, to regain Kanchi** from the **Chalukyas.**
- **Defeated the Gurjaras of Malwa**, and the **rulers of Kalinga, Kosala and Srisailam.**



Krishna I (c.756–774 CE)

- **Extended the empire and brought major portions of present-day Karnataka and Konkan under his control.**
- Magnificent **rock-cut Monolithic Kailashnath Temple of Lord Shiva at Ellora** (near Aurangabad, Maharashtra) was built during his reign.

Govind III (c.793–814 CE)

- Emerged **victorious at the tripartite struggle.**
- **Defeated Pala king Dharmapala** and Pratihara king **Nagabhata II.**
- **Empire** - spread over the **areas from Cape Comorin to Kannauj** and from **Banaras to Bharuch.**
- **Military exploits compared to Alexander the Great and Arjuna** of Mahabharata.
- **Travelled south** and not only humbled the **Pallavas of Kanchi** but also installed a ruler of his choice in **Vengi.**
- **Received two statues** as an act of submission from the **king of Ceylon** (one statue of the king and another of his minister).

Amoghavarsha I (c.814–878 CE)

- **Built** a new capital city, **Manyakhet (modern Malkhed).**
- **a peace-loving ruler.**

- Preferred **friendly relations** with his feudatories over war and **used marriages** and other amiable gestures to secure their loyalty.
- **Scientists & artists prospered** under his rule and his kingdom was adorned with beautiful and intricate artworks and architecture all around.
- Equally **patronised Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism & Jainism.**
- **Patron of literature** and accomplished **scholar in Kannada and Sanskrit** himself.
 - wrote the **Kavirajamarga** – the **earliest Kannada work** on poetics
 - **Prashnottara Ratnamalika in Sanskrit**, later translated into the Tibetan language.
- **Compared to emperor Ashoka** ; aka “**Ashoka of the South**”,
- Also **compared to Gupta king Vikramaditya** in giving patronage to men of letters.

Administration, & Military

- Under the **direct rule of the monarch**
- **Empire:**
 - **Kingdom (Rashtra) → provinces (Vishyas) → districts (Bhuktis).**
(Head- Rashtrapathi) (Vishyapati) (Bhogpati)
- **Amoghavarsha** realm had **16 Rashtra.**
- **Most minimal division** - Grama or village under a **Gramapathi/ Prabhu Gavunda.**
- **Hierarchy** - **Chief Minister → cabinet of ministers** and different army personnel under him.
- All the **ministers had to undergo military training.**
- Had a **mighty army.**
- **3 units- infantry, cavalry, and elephants-** diligently trained.
- **Feudatory kingdoms** would **pay tributes.**
- **If warlike situation or a natural calamity**, the **administration** would also **exact some special taxes to meet the expenses**, but not at the cost of the happiness and well-being of its subjects.



Economic Life

- **South Indian** and the **Deccan region** was **not as fertile as the Ganges valley**, but the **Malabar coast** and other areas still **yielded enough agricultural produce** to take care of the food supplies.
- Due to the **incursion and expansion of the empire to Kannauj** and other central and North Indian plains, the **food supplies augmented** from time to time.
- **Unlimited export** of **Indian silk and cotton to Arabia, Persia, and other countries.**
- **Jewellery and ivory** were other important products of the empire while **imports included Arabian horses.**
- Issued **gold and silver coins.**

Social Life

- Number of social groups.
- **4 varnas** - **Brahmans** enjoyed a **superior** status.
- **Kshatriyas** enjoyed **equal privileges** like **Brahmanas.**
- **Status of Vaishyas degenerated** to a great extent.
- **Improvement in position of Sudras.**
- **Untouchables excluded** from the mainstream life.
- **Joint family system** prevalent.
- **Widows and daughters** - **heirs** to the property.
- **Sati system not popular** in the Deccan.
- **Child marriage** - **common** .

Religion & Language

- Made the **Kannada language** a tool of day-to-day communication.
- Also **patronised Sanskrit** which was actually a language of the elite.
- **Amoghavarsha I** wrote **Kavirajamarga** - an important milestone in **Kannada poetry**.
 - Said to have endorsed Jainism.
 - A lot of **Jain scholars flourished in his court**, including the Jain mathematician **Mahavirachariya**.
- **Brahmanas** were engaged to **perform yajnas and yagas**
- **Religious tolerance** towards all religions.
- **Patronised Jainism and Buddhism**.
- Gave **liberal grants and endowments to all religious institutions**.
- **Buddhist settlements** at places like **Kanheri, Sholapur and Dharwar**.

Kannada Literature

- Jain writers **Adikavi Pampa + Sri Ponna + Ranna = "three gems of Kannada literature"**
- **Pampa**
 - aka **Ādikavi**,
 - **Court poet** of the Chalukya king **Arikesari II**
 - Wrote in **Champu styles - Vikramārjuna Vijaya and the Ādi purāṇa**.
 - **Vikramarjuna Vijaya** was **Mahabharata in the Jain version** with **Arjuna** as a hero.
- **Ranna**
 - **Court poet** of Western Chalukya kings **Satyashraya and Tailapa II**.
 - Wrote **Ajitapuaran** and **Sahasa Bhima Vijaya**.
 - **Patronized by** Western Ganga minister **Chavundaraya**.
 - **Wrote Parashurama Charita**, in which he **compares his patron to Parashurama**.
- **Ponna**
 - Poet of the **Kannada language**.
 - **Court poet of** king **Krishna III** of the Rashtrakuta Dynasty.
 - Wrote **Santipurana**, a biography of the 16th Jain Tirthankar Shantinath.
 - Earned the **title Ubhaya Kavichakravathi** for his command of both Kannada and Sanskrit.
 - **Amoghvarsha - Kavirajamarga**, the first book on poetics in Kannada.
 - **Mahaveeracharya**, a mathematician- **Ganithasarasangraha** in Sanskrit.

Art & Architecture

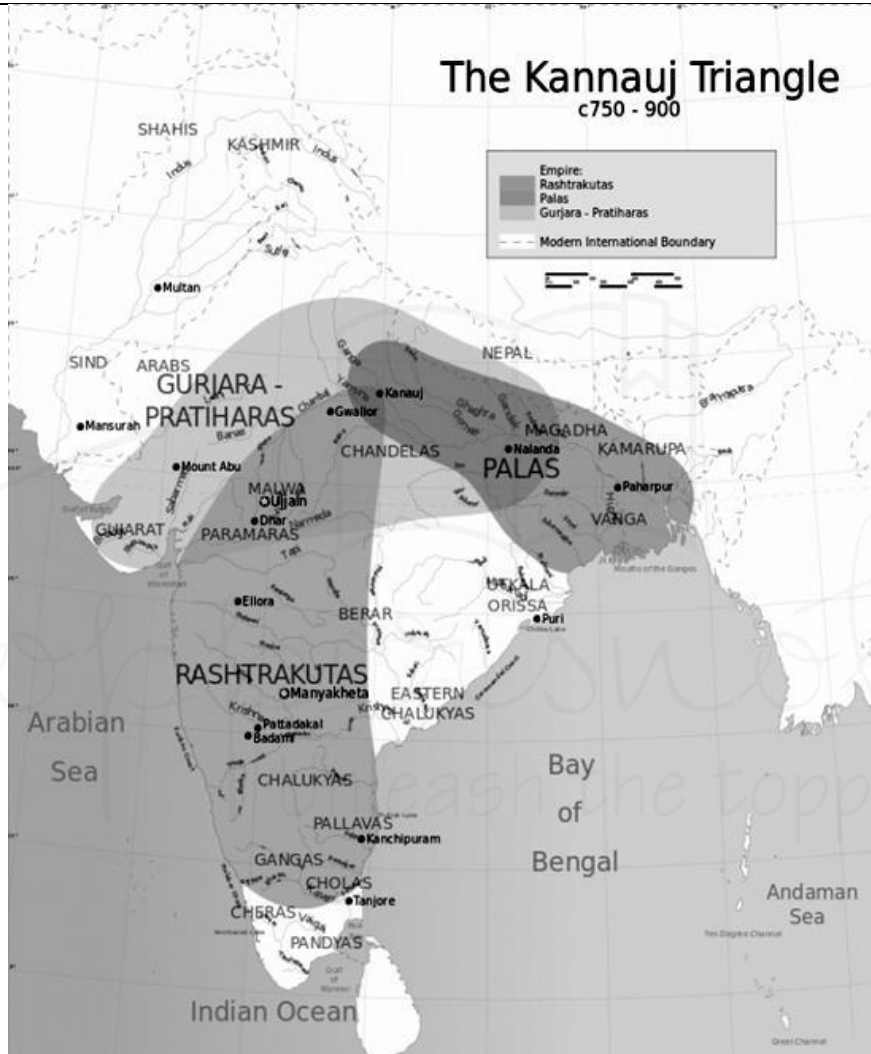
- **Established** an aesthetic architectural form now known as the **Karnata Dravida style**.
- **Ellora, Ajantha and Elephanta** - centres of their art.
- **Kailasa Temple of Ellora** (a rock-cut structure) is the **epitome of Rashtrakuta architectural achievement**.
- Many of the **caves of Ellora and Elephanta** (in present-day Maharashtra state) have also been **created and renovated under Rashtrakutas**.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site** - temples at **Pattadakal** also came under the sway of the **Rashtrakutas** after the defeat of the Chalukyas and were subsequently **renovated and expanded by the Rashtrakutas**.
- **Temples built** consisting of **Pradakshanapatha, Mukhamantapa, Sabhamantapa, Antarala, and Garbhagruha**
- **Jain Narayana Temple** - solely created **by the Rashtrakuta Dynasty**.
- The **Pallava (Dravidian) style of architecture** was adopted by the Rashtrakutas.

Decline

- Began from the reign of Khottiga Amoghavarsha - defeated and killed by the Paramara dynasty ruler in 972 CE.
- Last ruler - Indra IV took his own life in 982 CE by performing a Jaina ritual called Sallekhana.

Tripartite Struggle

Between Gurjara-Pratihara in North, Rashtrakuta in Deccan and Pala in East



Causes

- Control over Kanauj and Northern India.
- Rich resources of Ganga-Yamuna Doab region
- Access to Gujarat-Malwa port region; important for foreign trade
- Kannauj was situated on the Ganga Trading Route and linked to the Silk Route.

Result

- Pratiharas under King Nagabhata II emerged victorious.
- Kannauj became the capital of Gurjara-Pratiharas

The Senas of Bengal

- Ruled Bengal in the **11th and 12th centuries CE**.
- **Founder- Samanta Sena**.
- **Vijay Sena**, his grandson- **real founder**- united whole of Bengal under his rule and ruled for about 70 years.
- Also gave **patronage to art**.
- **Deopara Prasesti** composed by **Umapatidhar** during his time.



Society and Religion

- A marked **revival of orthodox Hinduism**.
- **Caste system** was re-established.
- **Bengali system of hypergamy**, the socially upward marriage of women, was reputedly founded by the Sena king Vallalasesna.

Art and Architecture

- A continuation of **the style of Palas**.
- Famous for building **hindu temples, monasteries**.
- Eg. **Dhakeshwari temple** in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Literature

- **Lakshmanasena** (reigned c. 1178– c. 1205) - a great patron of literature.
- **Poets Jayadeva and Dhoyi** wrote at his court at Nadia.
- **Jayadeva**, the famous **Sanskrit poet** and author of **Gita Govinda**, was one of the **Pancharatnas** (five gems) in the court of **Lakshmana Sena**.
- **Dhoyin**, an eminent **court poet of Sena dynasty** – mentions **nine gems** (ratna) in the court of Lakshmana Sena, among whom were: **Govardhana, Sarana, Jayadeva, Umapati, Dhoyi/Dhoy in Kaviraja**

Coins

- Various **currencies** regularly **mentioned**, such as **Purana, Dharan, Drama**.
- Used for a **silver coin weighing 32 ratis** (56.6 grains) or a karshapan weighing scale.
- **Kapardaka Purana** - medium of exchange in the writings of the Sena kings
- **Karpadak** means **cow**; and '**Purana**' is **definitely a kind of silver coin**.

Decline

- **Lakshmanasena** was **expelled from Nadia in 1202** by the Turkish chief **Muhammad Bakhtyar Khalji** and died about three years later.
- **Sena kings continued to rule in eastern Bengal** for some decades, but the main **political power** in Bengal **passed to the Muslims**.

The Western Gangas

- Ruled in **Mysore state** (Gangavadi) from about **250 - 1004 CE**.
- **First ruler - Konganivarman**.



Political History

- **Madhava I and Harivarman, expanded their influence by marital and military alliances with the Pallavas, Chalukyas, and Kadambas.**
- **End of the 8th century - a dynastic dispute** weakened the Ganges.
- **Repeated Chola invasions** cut contact between Gangavadi and the imperial capital, and **Talakad fell into the hands** of the Chola ruler **Vishnuvardhana** in about **1004**.

Society and Religion

- Most of the **Western Ganges -Jainas**, but **some** patronized **Brahmanical Hinduism**.
- **Built some remarkable temples**, and encouraged deforestation, irrigation, farming, and cross-peninsular trade.
- **Women became active in local administration** because Ganga kings distributed territorial responsibility to their queens.
- **Devadasi system** in temples **prevailed**, modeled after structures in the royal palace.

Administration

- **Influenced by** principles stated in the ancient text **arthashastra**.
- **Empire**
 - **Rashtra** (district) → **Visaya** (consisting of possibly 1000 villages) → **Desa**.
- **8th century - Sanskrit term Visaya was replaced by the Kannada term Nadu**.

Economy

- **Siddhaya** was a **local tax** levied **on agriculture**.
- **Pottondi** was a **tax** levied **on merchandise** by the local feudal ruler.
- **Mannadare - land tax** .
- **Kirudere** (due to the landlords) and **samathadere** (raised by the army officers or samantha) were **minor tax**.
- **Bittuvatta or niravari taxes - some % of the produce** and was **collected for constructing irrigation tanks**.

Art and Architecture

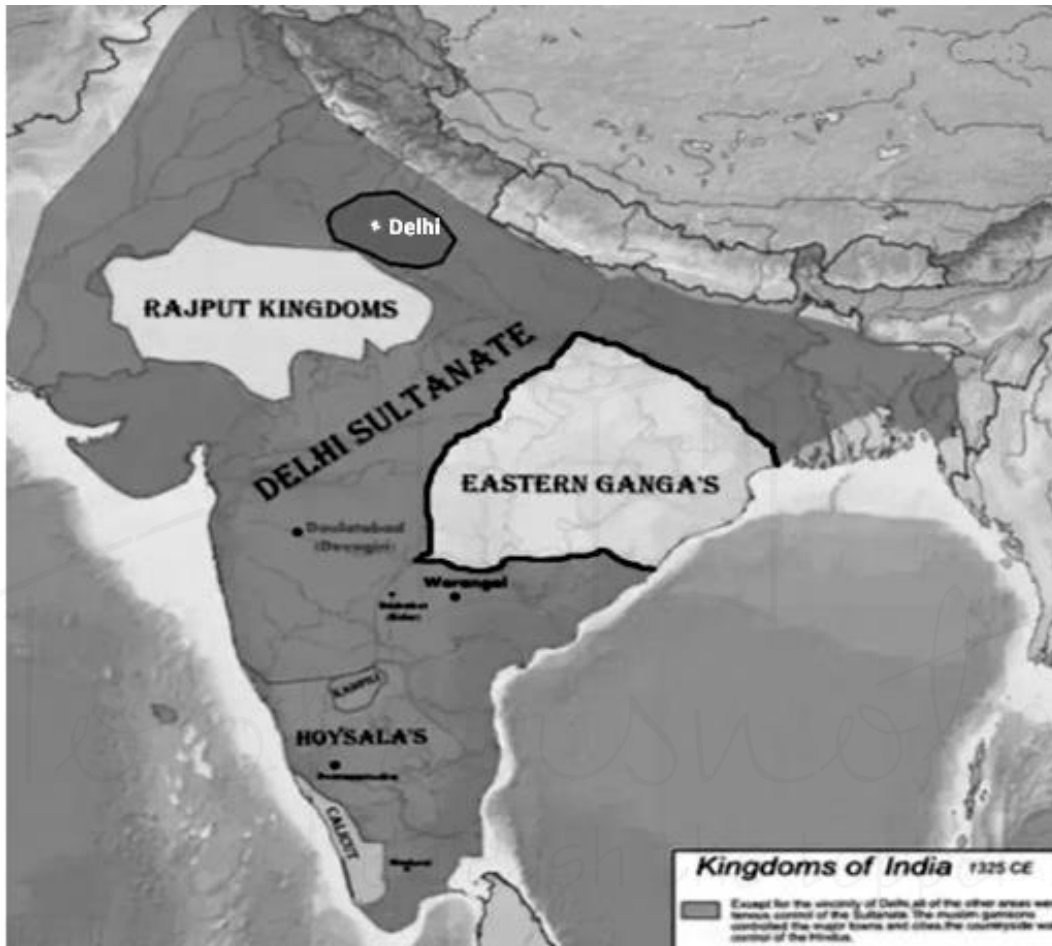
- **Influenced by the Pallava and Badami Chalukya architectural features**, in addition to indigenous Jain features.
- **Ganga pillars** with a **conventional lion** at the **base** and a **circular shaft** of the pillar on its head, the **stepped Vimana** of the shrine with horizontal mouldings and **square pillars** were features inherited **from the Pallavas**.
- Also found in structures built by their subordinates, the **Banas and Nolambas**.

Literature

- Period of **literary activity in Sanskrit and Kannada**.
- **Chavundaraya Purana** an early existing work in **prose style in Kannada**
- **Gajashtaka** a hundred verses a **work on elephant management**, known to have been written by **King Shivamara II**

Decline

- Exposed to two very powerful threats, the **Chalukyas** on the **North** and the **Cholas** on the **South**.
- **Cholas** attacked the **Gangas** under **Rajaraja**.
 - **Annexed the whole Gangavadi area** which brought some areas of **Karnataka** under the **Chola** control.



The Eastern Gangas

- Ruled **Kalinga** from **1028 to 1434–35**.
- **Founder-** **Kamarnava**.
- **Chodaganga copper-plate grants** - branch of **Mysore's** ruling **Western Ganga** family.



Political History

- Arose to **intermarry with and challenge the Cholas and Chalukyas** in the period when the **Western Gangas** had been forced to abandon this role.
- Early dynasties **ruled in Orissa** from the **8th century**.
- **Vajrahasta III**, - assumed the **title of Trikalingadhipat** (ruler of the three Kalingas) in **1028**, was probably the **first to rule all three divisions of Kalinga**.

Art and Architecture

- **Anantavarman Chodagangadeva** - began construction of **Jagannatha temple at Puri** at the end of the **11th century**.

- **Narasimha I** built the **Sun Temple at Konarak**.
- **Odisha temple** - young and **charming creatures** with seductive smiles, luxurious hair full of jewellery etc
- **Anangabhima III** built the temple of **Megheshvara** at Bhubaneswar.

Coinage

- Consisted of **gold fanams**.
- May be the **earliest Hindu coins using decimal numbers for dating**.
- **Written using the symbols for the single digits**.

Administration

- **Ruled** the country in accordance with the **principles laid down in the Niti and Smriti texts**.
- **Looked after** the material **prosperity** and **spiritual well-being of their subjects**.
- **Divided** the **empire into** a number of **Mahamandalas** (greater provinces).
- **Administrator of a Mahamandala** - **Mahamandalika**
- **Mahamandala** → **Mandalas** under Mandalika (governor).
- Mandala consisted of **Vishayas or Bhogas** (districts).
- **Vishaya or Bhoga** was under a **Vishayapati or Bhaugika**
 - **Consisted of** a number of **gramas** and was **under** the charge of a **gramika**.

Economy

- A variety of **taxes like bheta, Voda, Paika, Ohour, Paridarsana etc.** were being collected.
- **Land revenue** - **major source of income**.
- **One-sixth of the production** of the land was collected as the **land revenue**.
- **Other sources** of income for the state - **duties on exports, imports and forest products and fines, court fees, salt tax etc.**

Literature

- Saw the **development of Sanskrit literature**
- **Murari's Anargharaghava Natakam**, was **performed in Puri during Lord Jagannath's Car festival**.
- **Sri Harsha's Naishad Charita Mahakavyam** - **use of cowrie shells as currency** in Odisha.
- **'Bhasvati' and 'Satananda Ratnamala', 'Satananda Samgraha'**, - **Satananda Acharya shed light on socio economic issues**.
- **Vidyadhara's Alankar work "Ekavali,"** - **Ganga Emperor Narasimhadeva's encounters with the Sultans of Delhi and Bengal**.
- **Visvanatha Kaviraja**, author of **'Sahitya Darpana,'** wrote **Chandrakala Nataka**.

Society and Religion

- **Traditional Varna system**(Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra) prevailed.
- **Women were held in esteem** in society **especially** in the case of **royal women**.
- **Smritis and Nitisastras** of the time **restricted women's freedom**.
- **Kings were polygamous**.
- **Devout Saivites** and **secular** in nature
- **Stone and copper plate inscriptions** indicate that **Odia language** and script took a **definite shape**

Decline

- **Narasimha IV, - last known king** of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, **ruled until 1425**.
 - **Bhanudeva IV**, who succeeded him, **left no inscriptions**.
 - His minister **Kapilendra usurped the throne** and **founded** the **Suryavamsha dynasty** in **1434–35**.
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