

Class-IX

History, Chapter-7

A. Answer the following questions briefly:-

1. Who was the founder of the Chola Empire?

Ans.1 Vijayalaya Chola was the founder of the Chola Empire.

2. Who took the title 'Gangaikonda'?

Ans.2 Rajendra Chola 1 took the title Gangaikonda means the victor of Ganges.

3. Which Chola ruler conquered Sri Lanka?

Ans.3 Raja Raja Chola I conquered the northern half of Sri Lanka during his reign.

4. What information does the Uttaramerur inscription give us?

Ans.4 The Uttaramerur inscriptions give information about the kudavolai system of village administration, taxation and land revenue.

5. What types of temples were built during the Chola Empire?

Ans.5 Majority of the Chola temples were built in the Dravidian style.

6. Name two temple architecture style that developed in this is age.

Ans.6 Temples built in two styles i. Rock-cut:-Curved out of a single brock. ii. Structural:-Built with pieces put together.

7. What was the Bay of Bengal referred to as during the Middle Ages? Why?

Ans.7 All land around the Bay of Bengal belonged to the Cholas. Hence,during the rule ofRajendra Chola-I, the Bay of Bengal was called 'The Chola Lake'.

8. Name two important ruling Dynasties of Southern India, other than the Cholas.

Ans.8 Chera and Pandya were ruling the southern India, other than the Cholas.

9. Who defeated Rajadhiraja Chola?

Ans.9 Rajadhiraja Chola was defeated by the Chalukyas in 1052 CE.

10. Name one famous Rashtrakuta ruler.

Ans.10 Amoghavarsha was the most renowned amongst the Rashtrakuta kings.

11. Who ruled over Kerala?

Ans.11 King Rajaraja ruled over Kerala.

12. Who was a prominent ruler of the Chalukyas?

Ans.12 Pulakeshin II was a prominent ruler of the Chalukyas.

B. Answer the following is structured questions in detail:-

1. Temples were nerve centres of life in medieval South India. In this context, explain:

a. the plan and layout of the temple

Ans. Majority of the Chola temples were built in the Dravidian style. The Chola temples in the early period were simple structures but later, the temples became grander and bigger in size. The main shrine of the temple was called garbhagriha, where the images of gods and goddesses were kept and the gateway was known as gopuram. The images were mainly built of bronze or stone. In front of the main shrine was the audience hall or the mandapa, where people gathered for prayers. The main features of the Chola temples are the spacious courtyard, interconnected pillared halls, magnificent sculptures and the massive towers or vimanas.

b. temples as centres of learning

Ans. There were no separate schools, the priests of the temple were the local teachers and the school were held in the courtyard of temples. The students were taught in both Tamil and Sanskrit. Since texts like Vedas had to be studied, the religious teachings were in Sanskrit, while Tamil was taught to the students as it was the widely spoken language.

c. sculptures and inscription on temples

Ans. The Brihadeshwara or Rajarajeswara Temple at Thanjavur (formerly Tanjore) is the best example of Chola architecture. It was built in 1000 CE by the Chola king, Rajaraja I and was dedicated to Lord Shiva. The bronze image of Lord Shiva as Nataraja or 'Lord of Dance' displays grace and vigour. The entire temple structure is made of granite. It consists of an interconnected Nandi Mandapa, a pillared portico and an assembly hall. The 57 metre high tower or Vimana comprises thirteen storeys and its top is crowned with an 8.6 metres with magnificent sculptures and elaborate paintings.

The Chola inscriptions inform that the temples were the centres of social activity. During festival time, the wealthy gave large offerings and donations to the temples which were used for maintaining and decorating them. The lands donated to the temples were called *devadana* or *devadaya*. The temples were also considered the biggest employers after the State as they provided work and means of livelihood to a huge number of people. The temples looked after the welfare of its workers by providing food, housing facilities and clothing. They established hospitals for taking care of the disabled and sick employees.

2. The spread of Indian culture in South-east Asia was initiated by the Cholas. Discuss their:

a. conquests

Ans. Chola armies invaded Sri Lanka, the Maldives and parts of Southeast Asia like Malaysia, Indonesia and Southern Thailand.

b. use of the navy

Ans. The Chola Admirals commanded much respect and prestige in the society. The navy commanders also acted as diplomats in some instances. The powerful Navy developed under Chola dynasty. This helped to dominate the Arabian sea. According to the inscription of Brihadeshwara Temple, Rajaraja's army crossed the ocean by ships and burnt up the Lanka kingdom. Mahinda V was the king of Ceylon during this time.

3. Rajaraja 1st was a great Chola ruler. Discuss his:

a. conquests

Ans. Parantaka's son, Rajaraja I became the king in 985 VE. He annexed vast territories such as Travancore, Mysore and Coorg, defeating the Cheras, Pandyas and the Chalukyas. The greatness of Rajaraja brought glory not only to the Chola kingdom, but also to the Tamil country. He is regarded as the real founder of the Chola dynasty. His army crossed the ocean by ships and burnt up the Lanka kingdom.

b. activities as a ruler and builder

Ans. Rajaraja, an able administrator, also built the great Brihadisvara Temple at the Chola capital Thanjavur.[10] The temple is regarded as the foremost of all temples in the medieval south Indian architectural style. During his reign, the texts of the Tamil poets Appar, Sambandar and Sundarar were collected and edited into one compilation called Thirumurai.

4. Rajendra Chola furthered Chola domination in South India. Discuss his:

a. conquests

Ans. Rajendra's conquests included Sri Lanka, Maldives, and he successfully invaded the territories of Srivijaya in Malay Peninsula, Southern Thailand, Sumatra and Java in South East Asia. The Cholas exacted tribute from Thailand and the Khmer kingdom of Cambodia.

b. acts as ruler and patron of art and architecture

Ans. King Rajendra Chola added credit to the Chola art and architecture. King Kulothunga I built a temple for Sun God at Kumbakonam. This temple is first of its kind in the south Indian architecture.

5. The Cholas had set up excellent administration. Discuss their:

a. administrative set up

Ans. The Chola had a very efficient two-tier administrative system. At the centre, the king was the absolute authority. The king was assisted by a council of ministers and undertook royal tours to enhance the administrative machinery. The royal princes actively engaged in civil and military duties.

The empire was divided into mandalams, each under the charge of a member of the royal family. Mandalams were divided into *valanadus* or districts which were further divided into village called *nadus*. Sometimes, villages were grouped together to form kurrams-administered by members of the panchayat, elected by the people.

b. local self-governing bodies:

Ans. The most remarkable achievement of the cholas in the administrative sphere was the introduction of local self-government in villages. The villages were run with the help of various assemblies such as *ur* and *sabha* or *mahasabha*. *Ur* was an assembly of villagers who held some land. The *sabha* was an assembly of villagers of Brahmadeya villages (which comprised tax-free land grants). Various committees, enjoying a fair degree of autonomy even in judicial matters were formed to look after the welfare of the villages. They controlled revenue affairs, maintained roads and provided irrigation facilities. The government periodically supervise the working of the committees. There was a separate public works department which constructed roads, dams, temples and tanks.

c. role of king

Ans. The Chola kings were avid builders and envisioned the temples in their kingdoms not only as places of worship but also as centres of economic activity. They pioneered a centralised form of government and established a disciplined bureaucracy.

d. sources of revenue

Ans. One-sixth of the produce was collected as land revenue. Taxes were also imposed on water, mines, handlooms customs and trade. The tax collected was spent on various welfare measures sponsored by the government.

C. Photo study questions:-



1. Identify the structure in the picture.

Ans. Brihadeshwara Temple.

2. Name the dynasty that was famous for increasing the building of such elaborate temples in Southern India.

Ans. Chola dynasty.

3. Describe architectural details of this temple.

Ans. The outer walls of the temple are built like fort having a deep moat surrounding it. There are two entrances to the temple. The first is the five storey gopuram and the second is the free standing gopuram to which people reach through a quadrangle. Vimanam or the Shikhara of the temple is 60.96m high.