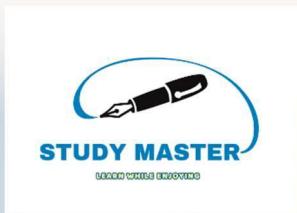


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1. EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD (c.600-1200 CE)

1. NORTH INDIA: RAJPUTANA PERIOD

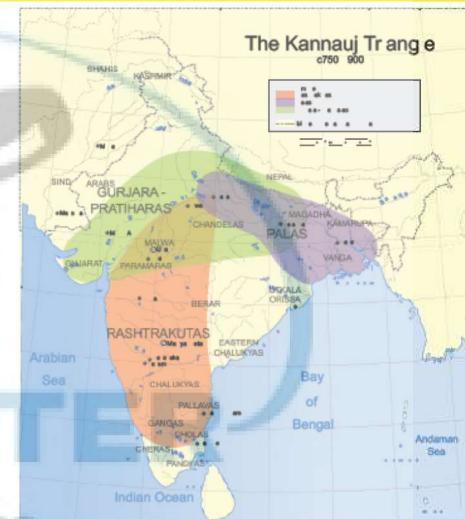
After Harshavardhana, the **Rajputas** emerged as a powerful force in North India and dominated the Indian political scene for **about 500 years** from 7th century.

TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE (750- 1000 CE):

- The period from 750 - 1000 CE saw the rise of three important empires: **Gurjara-Pratihara (Western India)**, **Palas (Eastern India)** and **Rashtrakutas (Deccan)**.
- The conflict among these three powers (basically for control over Kannauj area of Ganga valley) is often described as "tripartite struggle".
- Kannauj was strategically and commercially very important. It was located on the **Ganga trade route and was connected to the Silk route**. Previously, Kannauj was capital of Harshvardhan Empire.

GURJARA-PRATIHARA EMPIRE (WESTERN INDIA): 730-1036

- Known as Gurjara - Pratihara, as they originated from Gurjars, who were primarily **pastoralists and fighters**.
- Dynasty was **founded by Harichandra**, in and around jodhpur, south western Rajasthan.
- Pratihara were instrumental in containing Arab armies moving east of the Indus River.
- Gurjara-Pratihara are known for **their sculptures, carved panels and open pavilion style temples**. The greatest development of their style of temple building was at **Khajuraho**, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Sanskrit Poet & Dramatist **Rajasekhara** lived in the court of **Mahendrapala I** – son of Mihir bhoja.
- Mahipala is Pala king. It has to be replaced by Mahendrapala-I (885-910) was a ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty.
- Foreign traveller **Al-Masudi** had visited Pratihara empire.



IMPORTANT RULERS:

Nagabhata I (730-760)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most famous Pratiharas kings, known for containing Arab armies Defeated by Rashtrakuta king Dhruva.
Vatsaraja (780-800)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made Kannauj in western U.P as his capital. Expansionist policy brought him into conflict with Dharmapala, the Pala king and Rashtrakuta king Dhruv, thus began "tripartite struggle" and continued for about another 350 years. Vatsraja defeated the Pala ruler Dharmapala and Dantidurga, the Rashtrakuta king, for control of Kannauj.
Nagabhata II (805-833)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He conquered Kannauj and the Indo-Gangetic Plain as far as Bihar from the Palas, and again checked the Muslims in the west. He rebuilt the Shiva temple at Somnath in Gujarat, which had been demolished in an Arab raid from Sindh.

Bhoja I/ Mihir Bhoja (836-885)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greatest ruler of Pratiharas, got victories over Palas and Rashtrakutas. Capital at Kannauj, which also known as Mahodaya. Devotee of Vishnu, adopted title 'Adivaraha'.
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Pratiharas were wiped out from political scenario by Ghaznavids and their rule was succeeded Chauhan in Rajputana, Chalukyas or Solanki in Gujarat and Paramara in Malwa.

THE PALAS OF BENGAL: 750-1150

- In 750 AD, **Gopala** founded Pala dynasty.
- Capital:** Muddagiri/ Munger (Bihar)
- Pala kingdom included **Bengal and Bihar**, which included major cities of Pataliputra, Vikrampura, Monghyr, Tamralipti.
- Palas were followers of **Mahayana Buddhism** and **Tantric schools** of Buddhism.
- Pala had close **cultural relations** with **Tibet**. The noted Buddhist scholars, **Santarakshita** and **Dipankara** were invited to Tibet. They introduced a new form of religion there.
- They had close **trade contacts** and **cultural links** with South-East Asia.
- Sailendra dynasty (Buddhist) which ruled over Malaya, Java, Sumatra sent many embassies to the Pala court.
- Pala period is considered as **golden period in history of Bengal**.
- Pala armies were famous for its **vast war elephant cavalry**.
- Arab merchant **Sulaiman** had visited Pala kingdom.
- The Palas power were destroyed by the Sena dynasty under **Vijyasena**.

IMPORTANT RULERS:

Gopala (around 750 CE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Khalimpur copper inscription of Dharampala, he founded Pala dynasty, replacing later Guptas of Magadha and Khadga dynasty. Built famous Odantpuri monastery at Bihar, 2nd largest after Nalanda university.
Dharampala (770-810)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defeated by Rashtrakuta king Dhruva and Pratihara king Nahabhatta II. Founded the Vikramshila University near Bhagalpur, Bihar and built Somapuri monastery (paharpur, Bihar). Revived Nalanda University.
Devapala (810-850)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded empire in the east included Assam. His Inscriptions proclaims his victory over Hunas, Gurjaras and Dravidas. His Court poet was Buddhist scholar Vajradatta, author of Lokesvarasataka.
Pala & Pratihara's Administration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The directly administered territories were divided into Bhukti (province) and Mandala or Visaya (Districts) The governor of Bhukti was called Uparika & had duty to collect land revenue and maintain law and order. The head of Visaya was Visayapati and had same duties like Uparika within their territories. Smaller unit below the Visaya was pattala. Bhogapatis or Samantas were small chieftain, dominated villages.

THE RASHTRAKUTAS (DECCAN) (752-973)

- Rashtrakutas meaning '**the chief of a rashtra**', they considered as the feudatory of the Chalukyas.

- Capital: **Manyakheta or Malkhed** near Solapur.
- Rashtrakuta fought constantly against the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi and Pallavas of Kanchi and Pandya of Madurai.
- **Krishna III was the last great ruler of Rashtrakutas.** In 972 CE, Capital city was burnt to ashes by the united opponents. This marks the end of Rashtrakutas.
- They were tolerant in their religious views and patronised **Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Jainism.**

IMPORTANT RULERS:

Dantidurga (753-756)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feudatory of the Chalukyan king, Kirtivarman II, • Founded Rashtrakutas kingdom in 753 CE.
Krishna I (756- 774)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended the empire, included present day Karnataka and Konkan under his control. • Gave final blow to Pallavas. • The rock-cut Kailasanath (Shiva) temple at Ellora caves was built during his reign.
Dhruva (780-793)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He led successful expeditions to Kannauj, defeated the Nagabhatta II (Pratiharas) and Dharmapala (Pala).
Amoghavarsha I (814-878)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called as "Ashoka of the South" and also compared to Gupta king Vikramaditya. • Built new capital city at Manyakheta (Modern Malkhed). • Defeated Eastern Chalukyas, maintained friendly relations with neighbours. • He wrote Kavirajamarga (Kannada) and the Prashnottara Ratnamalika (Sanskrit). • He was follower of Jainism.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE:

- Architecture reached a milestone in the Dravidian style, the finest example of which is seen in the **Kailasanatha (Shiva) Temple at Ellora** in modern Maharashtra.
- Other important contributions are the **Kashivishvanatha temple** and the **Jain Narayana temple** at Pattadakal in modern Karnataka, both of which are **UNESCO World Heritage Sites.**
- The great Apbhramsha poet **Svayambhu** and his son lived in Rashtrakuta court.

LITERATURE	
BOOK	WRITER
Kavirahasya	Halayudha
Parsvabhudya	Jinasena
Adipurana	Jinasena
Amogavritti	Sakatayana
Ganitasaram	Viracharya
Nalachampu	Trivikrama Bhatta
Vikramasenavijaya	Pampa
Santipurana	Ponna

ADMINISTRATION:

- The system of administration in these empires was **based upon the ideas and practices of Gupta empire.**
- King was head of administration and commander in chief of the armed forces. He also dispensed justice.

- The king was assisted by number of ministers, generally from leading families and their position was hereditary.
- The empires consisted of areas administered directly and areas ruled by vassals. The latter had autonomy in internal affairs.
- The directly administered territories were divided into: **Rashtra** (province) and **Visaya** (Districts) and **Bhukti**.
- The head of **Rashtra** was **Rashtrapati**, and had similar functions as the **Uparaka** performed in Pala and Pratihara.
- Village was the smallest unit. The village headman carried out duties with the help of **Grama-Mahajana** or **Grama-Mahattara** (village elders).
- Villages also had **commitees** to manage schools, tanks, temples etc.
- Law and order in the towns and in areas in their vicinity was the responsibility of **Koshtapala** or **Kotwal**.
- **Nad-gavundas** or **Desa-gramakutas** were the hereditary revenue officers.

2. SOUTH INDIA:

THE CHOLAS (850 - 1279 AD)

- Known as **Imperial Cholas** of Tanjore.
- The founder of Chola dynasty was Vijayalaya who was at first a feudatory of Pallavas.
- The greatest kings of Cholas were **Rajaraja I** & his son **Rajendra I**.
- The use of **Agrahatta** (Persian wheel) also facilitated the already established smooth irrigation networks of tanks, canals, wells and sluices.

Rajaraja I (985- 1014 AD):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greatest Chola Ruler, who helped raise chola empire as largest dominion in South India. • He took titles – Mummidi Chola, Jayankonda & Shivpadshekhar. • He defeated Chera, Pandya & conquered Maldives Islands. • Naval expedition against the Sailendra Empire (Malaya Peninsula). • Expanded trade with china. • In 1010 CE, constructed the Rajarajeshwara or Brihadeeswara temple, dedicated to shiva at Thanjavur. • Rajarajeshwara or Brihadeeswara temple is a part of “Greatest Living Chola Temples”, & entered the UNESCO World Heritage site list in 1987. This temple is the finest example of Dravidian architecture. • Developed revenue system where land was surveyed and then revenue was assessed. So, he was referred as Ulakalanada Perumal (the great who measured the earth).
Rajendra I (1014- 1044 AD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Rajaraja I, defeated & conquered whole Sri Lanka. • Made Chola navy strongest in the area and ‘Bay of Bengal’ was converted into a ‘Chola Lake’. • He assumed the title of “Gangaikondachola” & built a city- “Gangaikondacholapuram”. • He was great patron of learning and known as Pandita - chola. • Encouraged local self-government.

Rajendra III was the last king. Later Pandya conquered Chola empire.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHOLAS: