

## **CHAPTER - 6**

### **FROM THE LAND OF CHOLAS TO DELHI**

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- 1. "Analyse the role played by the agriculture sector in the economy of the Chola Kingdom."**

**Answer :**

- The Chola Kingdom was located in the Kaveri River Valley which made the area rich in resources.
- Most of the people lived in villages as agriculture was their main occupation.
- They cultivated cereals, fruits, pulses, sugarcane, betel leaf, arecanut, ginger, turmeric and different varieties of flowers.
- Rulers constructed different irrigation facilities including ponds, tanks, canals and wells. Bunds were constructed across the rivers and the water was distributed through canals.
- Huge ponds were built to collect rainwater during the rainy season. These reservoirs that were protected from going dry were called 'Erippatti.'
- Cultivators were given tax concessions for the development of agriculture and encouraged to bring barren land under cultivation.
- By donating land to temples and Brahmins, it became possible to expand agriculture to a larger area.

- 2. "The Chola period was characterized by significant developments in internal and overseas trade, supported by a strong industrial base." Substantiate this statement .**

**Answer :**

- Both internal and overseas trade were highly developed during the Chola period.
- Brisk trade was made possible by rich merchant guilds such as Nagarathar and Manigramam.
- Weaving was a prominent industry with specialized guilds of weavers. Metal work also developed, as evidenced by idols, vessels, and ornaments made of gold and silver.
- Quality textile items were exported to north India and other parts. Other important commercial products included sugarcane, iron tools, pearls, and coral.
- Important coastal trade centers included Nagapattinam, Mahabalipuram, Kaveripoompattinam, Shaliyur, and Korkai. The area where Visakhapatnam is now located was then known as Kulothungacholapattanam.

3. **"The temples of the Chola period were not merely places of worship but were the nerve centers of the socio-economic life of the kingdom." Evaluate this statement with reference to the general functions of Chola temples.**

**Answer :**

- The Brihadiswara Temple, built by Rajaraja Chola I, and the temple at Gangaikondacholapuram, built by Rajendra Chola I, represent the pinnacle of Chola architecture.
  - Temples were very rich, deriving wealth from land gifts, contributions from Grama Sabhas, taxes from specific lands, and economic transactions within the village.
  - A large number of people were employed for temple construction and maintenance. Artisans and craftsmen depended entirely on the temples for their livelihood.
  - Beyond rituals, temples acted as social institutions where educational institutions and hospitals functioned alongside them.
4. **"The Chola administration was highly organized, characterized by a well-structured division of the kingdom and an efficient system of village self-governance." Elaborate on this statement with reference to the administrative divisions and the functions of village assemblies.**

**Answer:**

- For administrative convenience, the Chola kingdom was divided into Mandalams, Valanadus, and Nadus.
  - The King was assisted by a Council of Ministers.
  - The Cholas maintained a strong army, including a navy. They built many roads for the movement of the army and development of trade.
  - The state collected various taxes, including land tax, tax on forests, mines, and salt. Professional tax and sale tax were also collected. Unpaid service known as 'Vetti' was considered equivalent to tax.
  - The Chola administration is famous for village self-governance. There were two types of autonomous councils:
    - **Ur:** The assembly of the common people.
    - **Sabha:** The assembly of elders in a Brahmin village.
    - These local bodies were responsible for the maintenance of ponds, wells, and roads.
5. **"The Chalukya dynasty made significant contributions to the political and architectural landscape of South India." Substantiate this statement based on their administrative system, geographical influence, and temple construction.**

**Answer :**

### **Administrative System:**

- The Chalukyas ruled from the sixth to the twelfth century CE, concentrating their power in places like Vatapi, Vengi, and Kalyani.
- There was no centralized monarchy like the Cholas. Instead, the monarchy was controlled by temples, Brahmins (owners of Brahmadeya land), and Samantas.
- While they had a centralized taxation system and organized bureaucracy, the rule was centered on military-powered lords. Unlike the Cholas, there was no Council of Ministers to assist the king.
- Pulakesi II was the most notable Chalukya ruler.

### **Architecture and Temple Construction:**

- In the beginning, they constructed rock-cut temples but later shifted to structured temples. Eg:- The rock-cut temple at Vatapi (Badami) in Karnataka.
- Even though they evolved out of the Dravidian style (local traditional style of south India), the main feature was the use of rock-cut stone. Beautiful sculptures were carved out of natural rocks.

### **Economic and Geographical Factors:**

- Rocks for construction were obtained from the Western Ghats and Deccan Plateau.
- They produced surplus through agriculture in the Krishna-Godavari Valleys, which provided the resources, labourers, and wealth required for temple building.
- This surplus made it possible to bring and employ the required workforce from outside.

6. **"The period between the 8th and 12th centuries CE in South and North India was marked by remarkable progress in administration, economy, and culture."**  
**Substantiate this statement by analyzing the contributions of the Pala, Pratihara, and Rashtrakuta dynasties.**

**Answer :**

- **The Palas (Eastern India):** They were great patrons of learning; King Dharmapala rebuilt Nalanda University and founded Vikramashila University. They maintained strong relations with Tibet and Southeast Asia, spreading Indian culture.
- **The Pratiharas (North India):** They promoted Sanskrit literature and art, housing scholars like Rajasekharan in their palaces. Indian science and mathematics reached the Arab world through their diplomatic exchanges with the Caliph of Baghdad.

- **The Rashtrakutas (Deccan):** They built the magnificent rock-cut Kailasa Temple at Ellora and the Malkhed Fort. King Amoghavarshan authored the notable Kannada work Kavirajamargam.
  - **Religious Tolerance:** The Rashtrakutas promoted Jainism alongside Shaivism and Vaishnavism and encouraged foreign trade by providing facilities for Muslim traders to settle.
  - **Social Dynamics:** While the caste system (Chaturvarnya) existed, the growth of agriculture allowed Sudras to improve their status by joining the army and administration. Women also participated in religious and administrative areas.
7. **Explain the market reforms introduced by Alauddin Khalji and the reasons behind them.**

**Answer :**

- **Objective:** To control the prices of all products, especially essential foodstuff.
  - **Reason:** Khalji needed to maintain a large standing army to defend against frequent Mongol invasions.
  - **Salary Management:** Since the state could only afford a low salary for soldiers, it was necessary to keep the price of products low so soldiers could afford them.
  - **Regulations:** He established government warehouses for grain storage.
  - **Strict Enforcement:** He severely punished those who charged high prices or hoarded goods.
8. **Analyze the socio-economic life during the Sultanate period based on the accounts of Ibn Batuta.**

**Answer :**

- **Agriculture:** Ibn Batuta noted that the soil was very fertile and suitable for growing various crops like wheat, rice, indigo, and sugarcane.
  - **Irrigation:** Advanced systems like the **Rahat Irrigation system** (water wheel) were used to draw water from bodies of water.
  - **Monetary System:** Economic growth was supported by new coins like the **Tanka (Silver)** and **Jittal (Copper)**.
  - **Trade Growth:** The period saw the rise of major cities like Delhi and Daulatabad, which became centers of world trade.
  - **New Industries:** Technologies like paper making and advanced spinning wheels led to the development of new textiles and crafts.
9. **Substantiate the cultural contributions of the Sultanate period in the fields of language and architecture.**

**Answer :**

- **Urdu Language:** Urdu evolved as a unique blend of 'Hindavi', Arabic, and Persian. **Amir Khusru** was a prominent figure in its development.
- **Literature:** Many Indian scientific and astronomical works were translated into Arabic and Persian.
- **Architecture:** The Indo-Islamic style emerged, blending traditional Indian styles with Arabic features. **Eg:** Notable structures include the **Qutb Minar**, Tughlaqabad Fort, and the Lodi Gardens.
- **Music:** New musical instruments and styles were introduced, leading to a long-term mutual interaction between Indian and Islamic cultures.

**10. Describe the 'Iqta System' and its role in the administrative structure of the Delhi Sultanate.**

**Answer :**

- Introduced by Sultan Iltutmish.
  - The empire was divided into parts called 'Iqtas' which were allotted to military nobles.
  - The holders of Iqtas collected land revenue from these regions.
  - Part of the collected revenue was given to the Sultan.
  - The remaining revenue was used to pay soldiers, bureaucrats, and the nobles themselves.
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