

History Part - 12

12] North Indian Kingdoms

NOTES

North Indian Kingdoms – The Rajputs

The Ancient Indian history came to an end with the rule of Harsha and Pulakesi II. The Medieval period lies between the 8th and the 18th century A.D.

The medieval period can be divided into two stages:

- Early medieval period: 8th – 13th century A.D.
- Later Medieval period: 13th -18th century.

About Rajputs

- They are the descendants of Lord Rama (Surya vamsa) or Lord Krishna (Chandra vamsa) or the Hero who sprang from the sacrificial fire (Agni Kula theory).
- Rajputs belonged to the early medieval period.
- The Rajput Period (647A.D- 1200 A.D.)
- From the death of Harsha to the 12th century, the destiny of India was mostly in the hands of various Rajput dynasties.
- They belong to the ancient Kshatriya families.
- They are foreigners.

- The Rajputs were great warriors and chivalrous by nature.
- They believed in protecting the women and the weak.
- The Rajputs were staunch followers of Hinduism.
- They also patronized Buddhism and Jainism.
- During their period the Bhakti Cult started.

There were nearly 36 Rajput' clans. The major clans were:

1. The Pratiharas of Avanti
2. The Palas of Bengal
3. The Chauhans of Delhi and Ajmer
4. The Rathors of Kanauj
5. The Guhilas or Sisodiyas of Mewar
6. The Chandellas of Bundelkhand
7. The Paramaras of Malwa
8. The Senas of Bengal
9. The Solankis of Gujarat

The Pratiharas (8th to 11th Century)

- The Pratiharas were also called as Gurjara.
- They ruled between 8th and 11th century A.D. over northern and western India.

- **Pratiharas: A fortification-** The Pratiharas stood as a fortification of India's defence against the hostility of the Muslims from the days of Junaid of Sind (725.A.D.) to Mahmud of Ghazni.

Nagabhata I (725-740 A.D.)

- Founder of the Pratihara dynasty with Kanauj as its capital.

Vatsaraja and Nagabhata II

- Played a vital role in merging the empire.

Mihirabhoja

- The most powerful Pratihara king.
- During his period, the empire expanded from Kashmir to Narmada and from Kathiawar to Bihar.
- Prevented the Muslims invasion of Junaid of sind

Mahendrapala (885-908 A.D.)

- Son of Mihirabhoja, was also a powerful ruler.
- He extended his control over Magadha and North Bengal.

Decline of the Pratiharas

- Rajyapala was the last Pratihara king.
- Vast empire was reduced to Kanauj.

- The Pratihara power began to decline after Mahmud of Ghazni attacked the kingdom in 1018 A.D.
- After the decline of the Pratiharas their feudatories Palas, Tomars, Chauhans, Rathors, Chandellas.
- Guhilas and Paramaras became independent rulers.
- There was complete anarchism in Bengal between 750-760 A.D.

The Palas (8th to 11th Century)

Gopala (765-769 A.D.)

- Founder of Pala Dynasty and he also restored order.
- Ruled over Northern and Eastern India.
- He expanded the Pala dynasty and extended his power over Magadha.

Dharmapala (769-815 A.D.)

- He is the son of Gopala and succeeded his father.
- He brought Bengal, Bihar, and Kanauj under his control.
- He defeated the Pratiharas and became the master of Northern India.
- He was a steadfast Buddhist and founded the famous Vikramasila University and several monasteries.
- He also renovated the Nalanda University.

Devapala (815-855 A.D.)

- Devapala is the son of Dharmapala who succeeded his father.
- He kept the Pala territories intact.
- He captured Assam and Orissa.

Mahipala (998-1038 A.D.)

- The Palas became powerful during his reign.
- The Pala dynasty declined after the death of Mahipala.

Govinda Pala

- He is the last Pala King.

Tripartite struggle of Kanauj

- The Tripartite Struggle for Kanauj was between the Pratiharas of Central India, the Palas of Bengal and the Rashtrakutas of Deccan.
- As all these three dynasties wanted to establish their supremacy over Kanauj and the fertile Gangetic Valley.
- The Tripartite Struggle lasted for 200 years and weakened all of them which enabled the Turks to overthrow them.

The Tomars of Delhi

- The Tomars were the feudatories of the Pratiharas.
- They founded the city of Delhi in 736 A.D.

- Mahipala tomar captured Thaneshwar Hansi and Nagarkot in 1043 A.D.
- Chauhans captured delhi in middle of 12th century and the tomats became their feudatories.

The Chauhans of Delhi and Ajmer

- The Chauhans declared their independence in the 1101 century at Ajmer and they were the feudatories of the Pratiharas.
- They captured Ujjain from the Paramaras of Malwa and Delhi in the early part of the 12th century.
- They shifted their capital to Delhi.
- Prithvraj Chauhan was the most important ruler of this dynasty.

Rathors of Kanauj (1090 - 1194 A.D.)

- The Rathors established themselves on the throne of Kanauj from 1090 to 1194 A.D.
- Jaichand was the last great ruler of this dynasty.
- He was killed in the battle of Chandwar in 1194A.D. by Muhammad of Ghori.

The Chandellas of Bundelkhand

- Established them in the 9th century.

- Mahoba was the capital of Chandella during the period of Chief Yasovarman
- Kalinjar was their important fort.
- The Chandellas built the most famous Kandariya Mahadeva Temple in 1050 A.D. and a number of beautiful temples at Khajuraho.
- Paramal the last Chandella ruler was defeated by Qutb-ud-din Aibak in 1203A.D.

The Guhllas or Sisodiyas of Mewar

- The Rajput ruler Bapa Rawat was the founder of the Guhila or the Sisodiya dynasty and Chittor was its capital.
- During the period of Rana Ratan Singh of Mewar.
- In 1307 A.D. Ala-ud-din khilji invaded his territory and defeated him.
- Rana Sangha and Maharana Prata the Sisodiya rulers gave a tough fight to the Mughal rulers of India.

The Paramaras of Malwa

- The Paramaras were also the feudatories of Pratiharas. They declared their independence in the 10th century and Dhara was their capital.

Raja Bhoja (1018 - 1069)

- He was the most famous ruler of this period.
- He constructed a beautiful lake more than 250 sq. miles near Bhopal.

- He set up a college at Dhara for the study of Sanskrit Literature.

The reign of the Paramaras came to an end with the invasion of Ala-ud-din Khilji.

Government :

- The Rajput government was feudal in character.
- Each kingdom was divided into a large number of Jagirs held by the Jagirdars.
- The jagirdars collect the revenue from the villages and gave a share of it to the king.
- They also offered military assistance to the king.

Literature Works

- Kalhana's Rajatarangin
- Jayadeva's Gita Govindam
- Somadeva's Kathasaritasagar
- Chand Bardai, the court poet of Prithviraj Chauhan, wrote Prithviraj Raso written in rajasthani, in which he refers to the military exploits of Prithviraj Chauhan.
- Bhaskara Charya wrote Siddhanta Shinomani, a book on astronomy.

Rajasekhara

- The court poet of Mahendrapala and Mahipala.

- His best known works were Karpuramanjari, Bala and Ramayana which were written in Sanskrit.

Art and Architecture

- Mural paintings and Miniature paintings were popular.
- Temples at Khajuraho
- Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
- The Sun Temple at Konark
- The Dilwara Temple at Mount Abu
- The Rajputs built towers to celebrate the success in the war; the tower is called a stupa.

End of Rajputs

- There was no strong military power during the Rajput period to keep the warring princes in check and to co-ordinate their activities against foreign invasions.

Important terms

- **Jauhar:** A mass suicide of women in order to escape defilement at the hands of foreign victors.
- **Gita Govindam:** Song of the cowherd
- **Rajatarangini:** 'River of Kings'
- **Kathasaritasagara:** 'Ocean of tales'

Expected Questions

1) The medieval history period is

(A) From AD 18th century to AD 28th century

(B) From AD 8th century to D 18th century

(C) From AD 8th century to AD 10th century

(D) From AD 28th century to AD 30th century

2) Match the following

1. Early Medieval period - From 13th to 18th century

2. Post-medieval period - From 8th to 11th century

3. Rajputs period - From 8th to 13th century

4. Pratihara period - From 6th to 11th century

(A) 3 4 1 2

(B) 1 2 3 4

(C) 3 1 4 2

(D) 1 3 4 2

3) Match the following

1. Pratiharas - Bengal

2. Palas - Gujarat

3. Tomars - Kanauj

4. Chauhan - Delhi

5, Rathors - Avanti

6. Solanki - Ajmer

(A) 2 5 6 4 3 1

(B) 1 2 3 6 4 4

(C) 5 1 6 4 3 2

(D) 5 1 4 6 3 2

4) Which of the following statements is not related to the rajputs ?

(A) Belong to the ancient kshatriya family

(B) Belongs to agni kula

(C) Descendants of lord Krishna and lord Rama

(D) They are from the Arab tradition

5) Who are regarded as a significant legacy during the Rajput clan?

(A) Pratiharas, Palas

(B) Chauhan and tomars

(C) Chandellas and paramaras

(D) All of these

6) Which of these rajput is known as Gujara – Pratiharas ?

(A) Palas

(B) Tomars

(C) Pratiharas

(D) Rathors

7) Who is the founder of pratihara clan?

(A) Nagabhata I

(B) Mihirabhoja

(C) Nagabhata II

(D) Vatsaraja

8) Who was the most powerful king of the Pratihara?

(A) Nagabhata I

(B) Mihirabhoja

(C) Nagabhata II

(D) Vatsaraja

9) Who has completely prevented the Muslims invasion of Junaid of sind?

(A) Nagabhata I

(B) Mihirabhoja

(C) Nagabhata II

(D) Vatsaraja

10) Who was the last king of the Pratihara?

(A) Mahendrapala

(B) Rajyapala

(C) Nagabhata II

(D) Ghajini

11) Who was the founder of the palas clan?

(A) Dharmapala

(B) Gopala

(C) Devapala

(D) Govindapala

12) Who was the last king of palas clan?

(A) Dharmapala

(B) Gopala

(C) Devapala

(D) Govindapala

13) Who is the founder of the University of Vickramasila?

(A) Gopala

(B) Dharmapala

(C) Devapala

(D) Govindapala

14) Who ruled the Bengal after the fall of palas?

(A) Pratihara

(B) Senas

(C) Tomar

(D) Chauhan

15) Which of the following statements is not correct?

1) The central part of India, is ruled by pratihara and the Palas ruled Bengal and the ruled Deccan by Rashtrakutas were strong enough to capture the Gangetic valley and Kanauj.

2) The struggle of these three was the cause of the Indian victory over the Turks invasion.

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of the above

16) In which year tomar rose to power in delhi ?

(A) AD 786

(B) AD 736

(C) AD 740

(D) AD 785

17) In which year chauhans captured delhi ?

(A) AD 10th century

(B) AD 12th century

(C) AD 8th century

(D) AD 15th century

18) Who were the feudatories of pratihara declared their independence in 11th century in Ajmer and captured Ujjain from the paramaras and delhi from the Tomars ?

(A) Senas

(B) Chauhans

(C) Rathors

(D) Chandellas

19) In 12th century which was the capital of Chauhans?

(A) Ajmer

(B) Delhi

(C) Kanauj

(D) Mahoba

20) In AD 1194 the war with whom the last king of the Rathor dynasty Jaichand was killed?

(A) Ghajini Mohammed

(B) Muhammad Gori

(C) Alaududdin Khilji

(D) Paramal

21) Which was the capital of chandella who established Bundelkhand in 9th century ?

(A) Ajmer

(B) Delhi

(C) Kanauj

(D) Mahoba

22) Who is the last king of the Chandellas?

(A) Prithviraj Chauhan

(B) Paramal

(C) Yasovarman

(D) Baba Rawal

23) Who built the Kandariya Mahadeva temple?

(A) Rathors

(B) Paramaras

(C) Guhilas

(D) Chandellas

24) Which was the capital city of the Sisodiyas the rulers of Mewar?

(A) Dhara

(B) Chittor

(C) Bhopal

(D) Kanauj

25) Who started the Sisodiya dynasty?

(A) Rana ratan singh

(B) Rana Sangha

(C) Maharana Pratap

(D) Baba Rawal

26) The capital of paramaras is

(A) Dhara

(B) Chittor

(C) Bhopal

(D) Kanauj

27) Which of the following statements is correct?

1) Raja bhoaj is the famous ruler of the Paramaras.

2) Raja bhoja set up a beautiful lake near the city of Dhara.

3) The rule of the paramaras came to the end due to the invasion of Ala-ud-din
Khilji

(A) I only

(B) II and III only

(C) I and III only

(D) All of these

28) Which religion is followed by rajputs ?

(A) Jainism

(B) Buddhism

(C) **Hinduism**

(D) Islam

29) Dharmapala was very religious to which religion?

(A) Jainism

(B) **Buddhism**

(C) Hinduism

(D) Islam

30) Who renovated the University of Nalanda?

(A) **Dharma pala**

(B) Deva pala

(C) Mahi pala

(D) Govinda pala

31) Which of the following statements is correct?

(A) During the rule of Rajputs the child marriage and only one time marriage were in practice.

(B) The soliders were in the practice of Jauhar which means suicide instead of getting captured by the enemy .

(C) **Women were educated and treated with good value in society.**

(D) All the above

32) Match the following statements correctly

- 1) Kalhana - Siddhanta Shiromani
- 2) Somadeva - Gitak Govindam
- 3) Jayadeva - Katha Saritasagar
- 4) Chandr Bardai - Rajatarangini
- 5) Bhaskara Charya - Prithviraj Raso

(A) 2 3 1 5 4

(B) 4 3 2 5 1

(C) 4 3 5 2 1

(D) 1 2 3 5 4

33) Who was the court poet of Mahendra Pala and Mahipala?

- (A) Chand Bardai
- (B) Baskhara Chara
- (C) Rajasekhara**
- (D) Kalhana

34) Who built the Khajuraho temples?

- (A) Chandellas**
- (B) Sisodiyas
- (C) Tomars
- (D) Rathors

35) Who defeated Rana ratan Singh in 1307?

- (A) Qutb- al-din aibak
- (B) Ala-ud-din Khilji**
- (C) Padmini
- (D) Muhmad of Gori

36) The Siddhanta shiromani is an excellent _____ book.

- (A) Science
- (B) Astronomy**
- (C) Math
- (D) Religious

37) Who is the author of the Karpuramanjari and Bala Ramayana?

- (A) Raja sekhara**
- (B) Mahendrapala
- (C) Mani pala
- (D) Dharma pala

38) The rajputs government was based on

- (A) Astronomical method
- (B) Feudal method**
- (C) Timeline method
- (D) None of these

39) Which of the following sentences is wrong?

(A) The Rajputs divided their country into several Jagirs and appointed the Jagirdas as its leaders.

(B) Jagirda's main task was to collect the taxes and paing it to the king.

(C) Jagirda's helped by giving the the army to the king

(D) During the Rajputs, languages like Marathi, Gujarati and Sanskrit developed well.

40) Match the following

1) Lingaraja Temple - Konark

2) Sun Temple - Bhubaneshwar

3) Kalinjar Fort - Mount Abu

4) Dilwara Temple - Dhara

5) Sanskrit College - Chandela

(A) 1 3 5 2 4

(B) 2 1 3 4 5

(C) 2 1 5 3 4

(D) 5 4 1 3 2

41) How much did Gopalar expand the border of his country?

(A) Bangladesh

(B) Bihar

(C) Magadha

(D) Orissa

42) Who came to rule in India after the end of the Rajput rule?

(A) Turks

(B) Mughals

(C) Cholas

(D) Qutb- al-din aibak

43) Which of the following sentences is wrong?

(A) During the Rajputs there was a habit of climbing the body.

(B) The Bhakti literature began to blossom during the Rajputs.

(C) Guhilas were ruling the state of Gujarat

(D) All of the above

44) Match the following

1) Gopala - AD 815 - 855

2) Dharmapala - AD 885 - 908

3) Devapala - AD 1018 - 1069

4) Mahipala - AD 765 - 769

5) Rajabhoja - AD 769-815

6) Mahendra pala - AD 998 - 1038

(A) 4 5 1 6 3 2

(B) 4 5 6 1 3 2

(C) 1 2 3 6 4 5

(D) 2 3 1 5 4 6

45) In which language did the Mahendra pala court poet Rajasekhar wrote the books Bala bharatham, Bala ramayana?

(A) Sanskrit

(B) Gujarati

(C) Greek

(D) Prakrit

46) Who is the founder of paramaras clan?

(A) Munja Raja

(B) Upendrar

(C) Raja Bhoja

(D) Paramal

47) In which language did prithviraj chauhan wrote chand bardai ?

(A) Kannada

(B) Arab

(C) Rajasthani

(D) Prakrit

48) Who is the author of the book Vikramankadevacharita?

(A) Bhadrhari

(B) Kalhana

(C) Bhavabhuti

(D) Krishnamishra

49) Where is Jaisalmer?

(A) Bhubaneswar

(B) Konarak

(C) Puri

(D) Rajasthan

50) The Rajputs built a tower to celebrate the success in the war. The tower is called as

(A) Chittor

(B) Stupa

(C) Khajuraho

(D) Jauhar