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INTEGRATED

SOCIAL SCIENCE

7

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2. Based upon Survey of India maps with the permission of the Surveyor General of India.
3. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.
4. The interstate boundaries amongst Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya shown on this map are as interpreted from the "North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971", but have yet to be verified.
5. The state boundaries between Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh have not been verified by the Governments concerned.
6. The administrative headquarters of Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab are at Chandigarh.
7. The administrative headquarters of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are at Hyderabad.
8. The external boundaries and coastlines of India on the maps agree with the Record/Master copy certified by the Surveyor General, Map Publication, Survey of India, vide their letter no.TB. 575/62-A-3/A, Dated 14/01/2020.
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Preface

PruQuest Integrated Social Science is an integrated social science series for classes 6 to 8. It conforms to the **CBSE** syllabus and adheres to the **National Curriculum Framework, 2005 (NCF)**. This series aims to provide facilitators and learners, an enriching teaching-learning experience.

Each book in the series includes sections on History, Geography, and Social and Political Life. The series focuses on the three building blocks of learning: **exploration, understanding and application**. The study of social studies equips young learners with the knowledge and understanding of the past that is necessary for coping with the present and planning for the future. It enables learners to understand the functioning of social, economic and political institutions around them, and participate effectively in their world as responsible citizens and builders of tomorrow. Furthermore, it offers learners a broad avenue to develop necessary skills for problem-solving and making informed decisions about social and environmental issues.

- The **History** section presents a journey across time, space and region as it traces the history of India from the beginning of civilisation to the modern period. In this series, effort has been made to inculcate the spirit of enquiry amongst young learners by referring to primary and secondary sources of history. Case studies given in this book enable learners to investigate historical, social and political aspects of different time periods.
- The **Geography** section helps learners to develop an understanding of and appreciation for the delicate relationship between humans and their natural world. Hands-on activities have been provided to help learners acquire better understanding of the concepts. Learners are encouraged to go beyond the textbook, collect data from the field, refer to atlases, encyclopedias, Internet, etc.
- The **Social and Political Life** section focuses on the themes of diversity and interdependence in our country. An attempt has been made to develop appreciation for socio-political structures, laws, customs, traditions and beliefs of different communities, amongst the young learners. The use of narratives and contemporary sources facilitates in the development of different perspectives.

Mapping with CBSE syllabus

History

History	
Syllabus	Chapter
Where, When and How (a) Terms used to describe the subcontinent and its regions with a map (b) An outlining of the time frame and major developments (c) A brief discussion on sources	Chapter 1: What, Where and How? • Cartographers and Indian History • Various Names of the Indian Subcontinent • Changing Trends • Sources of History
New Kings and Kingdoms (a) An outline of political developments c. 700–1200 (b) A case study of the Cholas, including agrarian expansion in the Tamil region	Chapter 2: New Kings and Kingdoms • Patterns of New Developments • Political and Economic Trends • Prashastis and Land Grants • Rise of a New Empire—the Cholas
The Sultans of Delhi (a) An overview (b) The significance of the court, nobility and land control (c) A case study of the Tughlaqs	Chapter 3: Delhi Sultanate • Foundation of the Delhi Sultanate • Slave Dynasty • Khilji Dynasty • Tughlaq Dynasty • Lodhi Dynasty • Life and Culture under Delhi Sultanate • Case study: Muhammad bin Tughlaq
The Creation of An Empire (a) An outline of the growth of the Mughal Empire (b) Relations with other rulers, administration, and the court (c) Agrarian relations (d) A case study of Akbar	Chapter 4: The Mughal Empire • Political Conditions in 16th Century • The Mughals • Akbar's Policies
Architecture as Power: Forts and Sacred Places (a) Varieties of monumental architecture in different parts of the country (b) A case study of Shah Jahan's patronage of architecture	Chapter 5: Architecture in Medieval India • Architecture in the Medieval Period
Towns, Traders and Craftsmen (a) Varieties of urban centres—court towns, pilgrimage centres, ports and trading towns (b) Case studies: Hampi, Masulipatnam, Surat	Chapter 6: Towns, Traders and Craftspersons • Growth of Towns • Trade and Industry • A Network of Small and Big Towns • Case study: Masulipatnam
Social Change: Mobile and settled communities (a) A discussion on tribes, nomads and itinerant groups (b) Changes in the caste structure (c) Case studies of state formation: Gonds, Ahoms	Chapter 7: Tribals, Nomads and Settled Communities • Tribals in the Medieval Era • The Ahoms • Emergence of New Castes • Case study: The Gonds
Popular Beliefs and Religious Debates (a) An overview of belief-systems, rituals, pilgrimages, and syncretic cults (b) Case Study: Kabir	Chapter 8: Bhakti And Sufi Movements • The Sufi Movement • The Bhakti Movement
The Flowering of Regional Cultures (a) An overview of the regional languages, literatures, painting, music (b) Case study: Bengal	Chapter 9: Flowering of Regional Cultures • Growth of Regional Languages and Literature • Tradition of Paintings • Flourishing Tradition of Performing Arts • Case study: Bengal
New Political Formations in the Eighteenth Century (a) An overview of the independent and autonomous states in the sub-continent (b) Case study: Marathas	Chapter 10: New Political Formations in the 18th Century • Rule of the Later Mughals • The Emergence of New States

Geography

Geography	
Syllabus	Chapter
Environment in its totality: natural and human environment	Chapter 1: Our Environment • Environment
Natural Environment: land – interior of the earth, rocks and minerals; earth movements and major landforms (One case study related with earthquake to be introduced)	Chapter 2: Structure of the Earth • Sources of Information About the Earth's Interior • Materials of the Earth's Crust—Rocks and Minerals • The Rock Cycle Chapter 3: Earth Movements and Major Landforms • Endogenic Forces • Exogenic Forces
Air – composition, structure of the atmosphere, elements of weather and climate – temperature, pressure, moisture and wind (One case study related with cyclones to be introduced)	Chapter 4: Our Atmosphere • Composition of Air • Importance of Atmosphere • Structure of the Atmosphere • Atmospheric Pressure
Water – fresh and saline, distribution of major waterbodies, ocean waters and their circulation (One case study related with tsunami to be introduced)	Chapter 5: Hydrosphere • The Hydrologic Cycle • Distribution of Freshwater and Saline Water • Circulation of Ocean Water • Conservation of Water
Natural vegetation and wildlife	Chapter 6: Natural Vegetation and Wildlife • Natural Vegetation and Their Types • Forests • Grasslands • Shrubs (Thorny and Scrubs) • Conservation of Wildlife and Vegetation
Human Environment: settlement, transport and communication	Chapter 7: Human Environment • Settlements • Transport • Communication
Human – Environment Interaction: Case Studies – life in desert regions – Sahara and Ladakh; life in tropical and sub-tropical regions – Amazon and Ganga-Brahmaputra; life in temperate regions – Prairies and Veldt	Chapter 8: Life in Desert Regions • Desert—Meaning and Types • Sahara • Ladakh Chapter 9: Life in Tropical and Sub-tropical Regions • Tropical and Subtropical Regions • The Amazon Basin • Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin Chapter 10: Life in Temperate Grasslands • The Prairies • The Velds

Social and Political Life

Syllabus	Chapter
<p>Unit 1: Diversity</p> <p><i>Section 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why Democracy Two main thrusts <p>Historical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were some of the key junctures and transformations in the emergence of democracy in modern societies. <p>Key Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The different systems of power that exist in the world today Significant Elements that continue to make Democracy popular in the contemporary world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal Equality Decision Making mechanisms Accommodation of differences Enhancing human dignity <p><i>Section 2: Institutional Representation of Democracy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Adult Franchise Elections Political parties Coalition Governments 	<p>Chapter 1: Democracy and Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality in the Constitution of India Challenges for Equality Struggle for Equality in other Democracies Equality and Indian Democracy
<p>Unit 2: State Government</p> <p><i>Section 1: Its working</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main functionaries-broad outline of the role of the Chief minister and the council of ministers <p><i>Section 2: Its functioning</i></p> <p>Through one example: land reform/irrigation/education/water/health discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of the role played by the government—regarding resources and services Factors involved in distribution of resources/services Access of localities and communities to resources/services 	<p>Chapter 3: How the State Government Works?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is the Government Formed? The Governor Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers State Legislature Relationship between Executive and Legislature <p>Chapter 2: Role of the State Government in Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaning of Health Distribution of Resources and Services Healthcare in India Healthcare and Equality
<p>Unit 3: Understanding Media</p> <p><i>Section 1: Media and Democracy</i></p> <p>Media's role in providing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing information providing forum for discussion/debate creating public opinion <p>Media ethics and accountability</p> <p>Relationship between Government and Information</p> <p>A case-study of the popular struggle that brought about the enactment of this legislation</p> <p><i>Section 2: On Advertising</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Advertising and consumerism Social advertising 	<p>Chapter 5: Democracy and Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Opinion and Media Freedom of Speech and Expression Ethics and Accountability <p>Chapter 6: Advertising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Advertising? Purpose of Advertising Types of Advertising Consumerism Consumer Awareness
<p>Unit 4: Unpacking Gender</p> <p><i>Section 1: Social Aspects</i></p> <p>Norms, values that determine roles expected from boys and girls in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> family community schools public spaces understanding inequality: The role of gender in creating unequal and hierarchical relations in society <p><i>Section 2: Economic Aspects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gender division of labour within family value placed on women's work within and outside the home the invisibilisation of women's labour 	<p>Chapter 4: Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Gender? Gender Inequality in Family Gender Inequality and Education Gender Inequality in Public Spaces Constitutional Provisions Women's Movement
<p>Unit 5: Markets Around Us</p> <p><i>Section 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On retail markets and our everyday needs On role and impact of wholesale markets, how are these linked to the above People's access to markets depends upon many factors such as availability, convenience, credit, quality, price, income cycle, etc. <p><i>Section 2:</i></p> <p>Examine the role of an observable wholesale market such as grain, fruit, or vegetable to understand the chain of activities, the role of intermediaries and its impact on farmer—producers</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Markets Around Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is a Market? Types of Markets The E-Choupal Movement

A WALKTHROUGH THE SERIES

LET US BEGIN section on the first page of the chapter serves as an ice-breaker or a warm-up session to help learners connect to the topic immediately.

1 WHAT, WHERE AND HOW?

Let Us Begin



This is the royal court order (or *firman*) issued by a south Indian king. List everything that you can notice in this document.

Cheeni's Question

Recently, I heard a song, 'Chhap tikak sab chehen li re moh se naina milaye ke...' The words sounded similar to that of Hindi. I was told that it was written by a 13th century Sufi poet, Amir Khusrau. He is regarded as the 'Father of ghazal'. Isn't it fascinating how he used a local dialect in the ghazal? I want to know more about how music styles developed in India.



Our life can be divided into different phases—childhood, teenage, youth, middle age and old age. As we move from one phase to another, many changes take place in our bodies, personalities, roles and responsibilities. For example, we grow taller, we gain a colour, we go to office to work and so on.

CHEENI'S QUESTION provides probing questions raised by Cheeni, the main character of the series, for discussion in the chapter. It also comprises interesting passages to introduce key concepts dealt in the chapter.

Shams-ud-din Iltutmish

Iltutmish is considered the real founder of the Slave or Mamluk Dynasty. Initially, his ascent to the throne was challenged by Aram Shah, Qutub-ud-din Aibak's son. Iltutmish was the son-in-law and slave of Aibak, and was therefore, set free. Iltutmish completed the construction of Qutub Minar by building the second, third and fourth floors. He organised a group of forty nobles—*Tarkhan-e-Chalughani* to administer his kingdom. He established a mint and introduced silver coins known as *tanika*. He declared Razia, his daughter, as the next ruler.



Shams-ud-din Iltutmish

Razia Sultan

Razia Sultan was the first woman ruler who sat on the throne of Delhi. She was a wise, prudent, generous and an efficient leader. After the death of his eldest son, Iltutmish did not find his other sons as efficient as his daughter, Razia. Before his death, he chose Razia as his successor, but the nobles were disappointed with this choice as it went against the male-dominated idea of not allowing a woman to rule. Hence, after the death of Iltutmish, they chose Rukn-ud-din Feroz Shah, Razia's brother, as the successor to the throne. Rukn-ud-din was an inefficient ruler who spent his time in exploiting and enjoying the fortune of the royal treasury. Razia faced many challenges, especially strong opposition from the *Chalughani*. She captured the throne with the support of her followers. Razia ruled for a short period of four years. Her close association with an Abyssinian slave, Yaqut, was used as an excuse for revolts against her. Razia's attempts



THINKING HAT provides an opportunity for introspection and reflection on important aspects related to the topic.

FACT BOX

Iltutmish would often say, 'This daughter of mine is better than many sons.'

Amir Khusrau wrote the following lines about Razia's courage and the way she broke the restrictions imposed on women: For several months, her face was veiled — her sword's ray flashed, lightning-like, from behind the screen. Since the sword remained in the sheath, many rebellions were left unchecked. With a royal blow, she tore away the veil; she showed her face's sun from behind the screen. The [nobles] showed so much force that brave men bent low before her.

Thinking HAT

The nobles did not want Razia to rule because she was a woman. Do you think women nowadays have more opportunities to become political leaders and the attitude towards them has changed over time?

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FACT BOX gives additional and interesting information to generate curiosity in the learners to explore beyond the text.

- Marco Polo was an Italian ambassador who visited the court of the Mongol Emperor, Kublai Khan. He wrote an interesting account on the social customs and traditions prevalent in south India.
- Abd-al-Razzaq was a Persian traveller who visited India and stayed at the court of the Zamorin of Calicut. He described the kingdom of Vijayanagara in a grave detail.
- Duarte Barbosa and Domingo Paes were Portuguese travellers who wrote about the Vijayanagara Kingdom during the reign of Krishnadeva Raya.



Marco Polo

It is important to note that these foreign travellers gave a distinctive account of the then existing social, political, economic and cultural conditions. Their accounts helped in a comparative analysis between their local cultures and what they saw in India.

Source Based Reading Excerpt

Read the given excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

An excerpt from *A Journal of First Voyage of Vasco da Gama, 1497-1499*

Portuguese Commander

The king (Zamorin) was in a small court, reclining upon a couch covered with a cloth of green velvet, above which was a good mattress, and upon this again a sheet of cotton stuff, very white and fine, more so than any linen. The cushions were after the same fashion. In his left hand, the king held a very large golden cup (tipitara), having a capacity of half an almude (eight pint). As its mouth this cup was two palmers (fifteen inches) wide, and apparently it was massive. Into this cup the king threw the heads of a certain herb which is chewed by the people of this country because of its soothing effects, and which they call *pinis*. On the right side of the king stood a basin of gold, so large that a man might just encircle it with his arms; this contained the herbs. There were likewise many silver jars. The canopy above the couch was all gilt.

The captain (Vasco da Gama), on entering, saluted in the manner of the country; by putting the hands together, then raising them toward heaven, as is done by the Christians when addressing God, and immediately afterwards sporting them and starting the fists quickly. The king beckoned to the captain with his right hand to come nearer, but the captain did not approach him, for it is the custom of the country for no man to approach the king except only the servant who hands him the herbs, and when any one addresses the king he holds his hands before the mouth, and remains at a distance.

When the king beckoned to the captain he looked at us others, and ordered us to be seated on a stone bench near him, where he could see us. He ordered that water for our hands should be given us, also some fruit, one kind of which resembled a melon, except that its outside was rough and the inside sweet, whilst another kind of fruit resembled a fig, and tasted very nice. There were men who prepared these fruits for us, and the king looked at us eating, and smiled.

Then, throwing his eyes on the captain (Vasco da Gama), who sat facing him, he invited him to address himself to the courtiers present, saying they were men of much distinction, that he could tell them whatever he desired to say, and they would repeat it to him (the Zamorin). The captain-major (Vasco da Gama) replied that he was the ambassador of the King of Portugal, and the bearer of a message which he could only deliver to him personally.

What information can you gather about the lifestyle of the King of Calicut and the customs of this place in the 15th century, from the above excerpt?

SOURCE BASED READING EXCERPT provides exposure to historical texts as important sources of history.

Feroz Shah Tughlaq abolished a number of unjust taxes. This resulted in the growth of trade and commerce. However, foreign invasions and internal revolts hampered the growth of trade and agriculture at times.

Art and Architecture

The Sultans of Delhi took a fair amount of interest in architecture. They founded new cities, built palaces, mosques, bridges, and tombs. Ala-ud-din Khilji built the city of Siri, Chah-ud-din Tughlaq built Ferozabad, Muhammad bin Tughlaq built the city of Jahanpanah and Feroz Shah Tughlaq built Ferozabad.

The Qutub-ul-Islam Mosque, built by Qutub-ud-din Aibak, is a fine example of the Indo-Islamic style of architecture. The Adhai-din-ka-Jhonpra Mosque in Ajmer was built by Qutub-ud-din Aibak also started enlarged by Iltutmish. Qutub-ud-din Aibak also started the construction of Qutub Minar in Delhi, but it was completed by Iltutmish. The most important monuments of Feroz Shah Tughlaq's reign are Feroz Shah Kotla, Kali Masjid, Khirki Masjid and his own mausoleum. The most important monument of the Lodhi Dynasty is the Mithi ki Masjid built by Sikandar Lodhi.



Mithi ki Masjid

Language and Literature

Persian was the court language of the Delhi Sultanate. Sanskrit was the classical language of India but was spoken only by well-kosmed Hindus, mostly Brahmins.

Many Sanskrit books were translated into regional languages. As Persian was the court language, it was important for both Muslims and Hindus to be well-versed in it. Both the communities contributed to the growth of Persian literature. Amir Khusrau, also known as the 'parrot of India', belonged to this age. He was a famous poet who wrote in Persian and also composed lyrics in the local dialects of his northern India. His use of Persian and Hindi in his poems are some of his many lyrical experiments. He is also known for his riddles that he wrote in Hindi. Many of his poems are still used in Hindi songs.

Besides, famous historians such as Minhaj-ul-Siraj and Zia-ud-din Barani wrote their accounts in Persian that talked about rulers, political events and the lives of the common people.

Urdu came to be known as a language during the Sultanate period. It was a simple language, comprehensible by both Turks and Indians. The origin of Punjabi literature can also be traced to this period. Baba Sheikh Farid, a Sufi saint, sang both in Punjabi and Persian. He was the first Sufi poet who used standard literary Punjabi. You will read about it further in Chapter 6.

The Delhi Sultanate rulers got many Sanskrit works translated into Persian and

TRY THIS provides hands-on activities for practical implementation of concepts learnt.

TRY THIS

- Find out some Hindi film songs which have Amir Khusrau's poetry as lyrics in them. Find out the meaning of the lyrics. Also find out some riddles written by him.

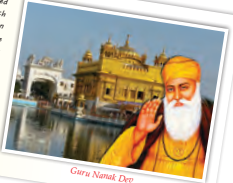
Enquire and Apply

Find out Amir Khusrau's contribution to Indian music. Write an article on the same.

ENQUIRE AND APPLY section encourages learners to enquire about important points and provides opportunities to think and apply social science concepts.

CASE STUDY provides in-depth understanding of certain concepts in the chapter.

His teachings in the form of verses are included in the *Adi Granth* (Guru Granth Sahib), which was compiled by his fourth successor (Guru Arjan Mahar, Guru Nanak Dev travelled to different places to preach his message. He visited the his followers in a common kitchen, known as langar, where anyone could not a meal irrespective of one's caste or religion.



Guru Nanak Dev

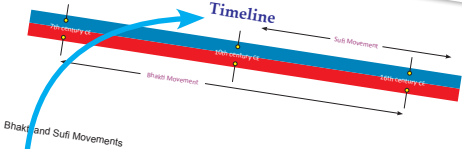
Elsewhere in the World

Martin Luther was a German professor, composer and monk, against the corruption and malpractices of the Roman Catholic Church, which went against the teachings of the Bible, the holy book of Christians. He questioned practices such as asking for forgiveness of sins by making donations to the church. He translated the Bible into German. Martin Luther started a movement called the Protestant Movement. Thereafter, the church was split into two, the Catholic and the Protestant.



Martin Luther

Timeline



TIMELINE helps learners to understand the chronology of historical events and helps in summing up the chapter.

earthquakes occur in lands bordering the Pacific Ocean, in mountain ranges and the mid-oceanic ridges. The Himalayan region is the most earthquake prone region of India. The point of origin of an earthquake, under the surface of the Earth, is known as the **focus** of an earthquake. From the focus, the earthquake waves travel in all directions. These vibrations are known as **seismic waves**. The intensity of the seismic waves depends on the intensity of the earthquake and the depth at which they originated. The point on the Earth's surface which lies vertically above the focus is known as the **epicentre**. When there is an earthquake, maximum damage to life and property occurs at the epicentre and the strength of the earthquake decreases as we move away from the epicentre. In Fig 3.5, damage at place A will be much greater than damage at place B.

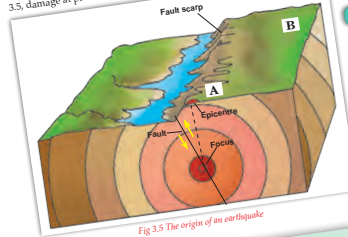


Fig 3.5 The origin of an earthquake

TO EXPLAIN FURTHER provides further explanation of concepts/terms for clarity and to build better understanding.

To Explain Further

The study of earthquakes and seismic waves is known as **seismology** and the scientists who study them are known as **seismologists**. The instrument used to detect and measure the magnitude of earthquakes is known as **seismometer** or **seismograph**. The magnitude of an earthquake is measured on the **Richter Scale**. This scale was developed by Charles Richter, an American seismologist. The Richter Scale ranges from 0 to 10. Earthquakes of the intensity of 6 and above cause extensive damage.



A seismograph

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD helps in comparing events happening in other parts of the world during the same time period.

MAP WORK/DIAGRAM BASED ACTIVITY enables learners to reinforce the concepts learnt in the chapter through map practice and diagrams.

Things I Do

I. Project

Log on to the Internet and collect information on 26 December, 2004 Sumatra-Indonesia tsunami, that caused devastation up to the southern part of India. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation of 12 to 15 slides covering the following points:

- Cause of the tsunami, the ocean and place of its origin
- Countries affected by the tsunami
- Devastation caused by the tsunami
- Give relevant pictures

II. Map/Diagram Based Activity

- Draw and label a neat diagram of the hydrologic cycle.
- Draw and label the diagram to show the structure of ocean wave.
- Draw and label two diagrams to explain how spring and neap tides are caused.
- On an outline map of the world, mark the warm and cold currents and label them correctly.

III. More Tasks

- Log on to the Internet and collect information on the famous Grand Banks fishing ground, off the coast of Newfoundland. Write an article for a geographic magazine, on the Grand Banks. Include relevant maps and pictures in the article.
- Organise a discussion in the class why we are unable to control pollution of rivers in India. Encourage students to suggest measures that can be taken to control pollution of rivers.

IV. Values in Life

During summer season, many parts of India face severe drought and scarcity of water while at the same time, wastage of water can be seen in other parts of the country. Read about the problems faced by the people in some parts of India during the drought. Then think and share in the class how you can save water during summer season. What can you do for people who are victims of drought or for those who face acute water scarcity?

V. Web Links

- http://www.ducksters.com/science/earth_science/ocean_waves_and_currents.php
- <http://ocean.si.edu/ocean-news/currents-stories-and-tides-ocean-motion>

Question Banks: Two Question Banks are provided at the end of the book.

- Across**
- A party that forms the government
 - A bill which can only be introduced in the legislative assembly
 - A political arrangement in which powers are divided between state and central government
 - An organ of the government which the council of ministers and the governor are a part of
- Down**
- Another name for the legislative council
 - A particular area or region in which people live and vote for a candidate
 - The presiding officer of the vidhan saba
 - The person who appoints the chief minister

III. Short Answer Questions

- What is federal system?
- Explain the term 'coalition government'.
- Differentiate between a unicameral legislature and bicameral legislature.
- What is the role of the Speaker of the vidhan saba?
- Name two different types of bills.

IV. Long Answer Questions

- What are the different levels of government we have in India?
- How do you think elections strengthen democracy?
- Write a short note on the governor of a state.
- Explain in brief the powers and functions of a chief minister.
- Discuss the different stages of the legislative process followed in India.

Things I Do

I. Project

Find out the details about your state government. Your research must include details about the ruling and opposition parties, major achievements of the government in last one year, and areas where the government needs to work upon. After you have collected all the information, write a newspaper article on the same with a catchy headline. Submit the article to your class teacher.

II. Values in Life

A lot of people believe that politics is bad. One should keep away from it. Why do they say so? Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons.

III. Web Links

- <http://delhiassembly.nic.in/index.asp>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuEloAq_XU

VALUES IN LIFE has real-life situations and problem-solving questions for inculcating values and encouraging self-reflection.



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History

1

WHAT, WHERE AND HOW?

Let Us Begin



This is the royal court order (or *firman*) issued by a south Indian king. List everything that you can notice in this document.

Cheeni's Question

Recently, I heard a song, 'Chhap tilak sab chheen li re moh se naina milaye ke...' The words sounded similar to that of Hindi. I was told that it was written by a 13th century Sufi poet, Amir Khusrau. He is regarded as the 'Father of qawwali'. Isn't it fascinating how he used a local dialect in the qawwali? I want to know more about how music styles developed in India.



Our life can be divided into different phases—childhood, teenage, youth, middle age and old age. As we move from one phase to another, many changes take place in our bodies, personalities, roles and responsibilities. For example, we grow taller, we join a college to pursue higher studies, we go to office to work and so on.

When the society as a whole undergoes major changes, a new phase in history begins. Many historians divide history into three phases—**Ancient History**, **Medieval History** and **Modern History**. The span of these phases differs from one region to another, as the onset of the changes may vary from place to place.

In Grade 7, we will explore the medieval history of India. The medieval period of India extends from 8th up to the 18th century. Historians divide this period roughly into two sub-phases—**Early Medieval Period** (700–1200 CE) and **Late Medieval Period** (1200–1700 CE).

Cartographers and Indian History

Historians often refer to maps to gather information about history. Cartographers in the olden times made maps based on the accounts of travellers and sailors. Travellers wrote accounts of their journeys and the routes they followed. On the basis of this information, cartographers prepared maps of the Indian subcontinent and the surrounding regions.

Let us compare two medieval maps of the Indian subcontinent: one prepared by an Arab cartographer, Muhammad al-Idrisi and another by a French cartographer named Guillaume de L'Isle.

Map 1.1 shows a part of the world map prepared by Muhammad al-Idrisi in 1154 CE. He made the map on the basis of the information that was shared by the travellers and traders of his times, who had travelled to India through the Arabian Sea. The map appears 'upside down' as it is oriented towards the south, i.e. India is in the south and Sri Lanka is the island at the top.

In the 1720s, a French cartographer named Guillaume de L'Isle made a map of India and showed several places in the Indian subcontinent, particularly the coastline, with great accuracy. Refer to Map 1.2 to see the detailed information given in Guillaume's map.



Map 1.1 Map of the Indian subcontinent as visualised and prepared by Muhammad al-Idrisi



Map 1.2 Map of the Indian subcontinent as visualised and prepared by Guillaume de L'Isle

Thinking HAT

If you find an old map of your neighbourhood and see that the location of houses and places are different from the ones now. How would you study the old map based on the change in location of houses.

The two maps are quite different in appearance even though they represent the same geographical area. In a span of about 600 years, the information provided by the travellers to the cartographers improved, which we can observe from the difference between the two maps. Therefore, historians refer to ancient texts, documents and maps to know about the changes that took place between the two time-periods. For example, by referring to both the maps, historians can tell about the evolution of map-making and information about sea journeys that helped cartographers in their work.

Various Names of the Indian Subcontinent

Just as maps, the names of the Indian subcontinent have also changed over a period of time. In the ancient period, the Indian subcontinent was referred to by different names. The people who inhabited the northern part of the subcontinent called themselves Aryans, therefore, the region was named *Aryavarta*. The word *Bharatvarsha* was used for the region north of the ocean and south of the Himalayas. South Asia was also known as the 'land of wood apple tree' and, therefore, called *Jambudvīpa*. Another name for India was *Sapta Sindhu* meaning the 'land of seven rivers'. The ancient Greeks called it *Indoi* which meant 'people of the Indus.'

The Indus River or *Sindhu* and its five tributaries flowed through the north-western part of India. When the Iranians and Arabs came to India, they mispronounced it as '*Hindu*'. The term 'Hindustan' was popularised by the book, *Kitab-al-Hind*, written by an Arab traveller, Al-Biruni. However, during Biruni's period, the term was used mainly to refer to the territories situated in northernmost part of India. In *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*, a chronicler named Minhaj-i-Siraj used the term '*Hindustan*' for Punjab, Haryana and the region of Ganga-Yamuna Doab. Amir Khusro, a 13th century mystic Sufi poet, used the term '*Hind*', merely as an expression for geographical and cultural unity.

Enquire and Apply

Find out the ancient names of any five countries. On an outline map of the world, mark these five countries and write their ancient and modern names.

Changing Trends

There were major change in the political, social and economic spheres during the medieval period in India. Let us read more about them.

Political Trends

After the death of Harshavardhana in 647 CE, his empire broke into several independent kingdoms. This political **disintegration**¹ made the region very weak and disunited to face any foreign invasion. The time was ripe for a powerful invader to attack the country.

One of the groups that became prominent as warriors and rulers in this period was the **Rajputs**. The name was derived from the Sanskrit term known as '*Rajaputra*'. It was a designation often used for the elite cavalry soldier. Many new groups also emerged during this time which became politically important.

¹**disintegration:** the process of breaking into fragments

Religious and Cultural Trends

In this period, there existed three major religions in India—Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. However, many sub-sects started **sprouting**² in most of religions which gradually led to more social divisions. New castes also emerged and the caste system saw many changes, however, the ‘upper castes’ still retained power.

The position of women in the society deteriorated further as *sati*, child marriage and the **purda**³ system became prevalent.

Some of the important developments of this period were the **spread of Islam** and the rise of the **Bhakti Movement**. The intermingling of Hindu and Muslim cultures that we see today developed after the adoption of certain practices that were earlier characteristic of the two religions. For example, Sufism, a distinct branch of believers in Islam, adopted music, such as *qawwali*, and dance to connect with God. This period witnessed the emergence of an Indian culture which was a combination of Hindu and Islamic cultural traditions and customs. This **composite**⁴ culture is something that we are proud of even today.

Many regional languages and **dialect**⁵, spoken today in India, were developed during this period. In 1318, Amir Khusro noted that a number of languages were spoken in different regions of the country. It was during the medieval period that Urdu came to be recognised as a language.

Other changes included the use of new technologies such as the Persian wheel (in irrigation), the spinning wheel and firearms.

Global Trends

As travellers explored faraway lands, it made trade easier across different parts of the world. To begin with, India had trade links with the Arabs, the Chinese and the Turks. Later on, India’s wealth and, prosperity, and lack of unity tempted many tribes and rulers from different parts of the world to conquer its territory and establish their rule. First, the Turks and then, the Mughals invaded India and established their kingdoms. The mughal rule in India lasted for more than two centuries till the British finally colonised India.

²**sprout:** start to grow

³**purda:** a piece of cloth used by women to conceal their face

⁴**composite:** made of different parts or material

⁵**dialect:** a form of a language specific to a region



Sufi whirling dervishes



Persian wheel

In south India, the powerful Chola kings conquered a large part of the peninsula in the middle of the 9th century. The Chola Empire became rich partly because of its trade with China and southeast Asia. The southern part of India served as a zone for trans-shipment between the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and southeast Asia. Trade contacts further led to cultural contacts. As a result, India came into contact with varied people, cultures and languages.

Sources of History

In Grade 6, we have read about two sources of history — archaeological and literary. The sources of history are also categorised as **primary** and **secondary**. Primary sources provide first-hand evidence about an event or a personality. For example, autobiographies, chronicles and travelogues are primary sources. Secondary sources interpret, analyse and comment on primary sources.

Archaeological Sources

The archaeological sources buildings, coins, paintings and artefacts.

Monuments

Archaeological sources such as temples, mosques and a variety of other buildings built during this period provide a glimpse into the technology, religious beliefs and cultural history of the period. Some important archaeological sources of the medieval period are: temples such as Khajuraho Temples in Madhya Pradesh and the Rajarajeshwara Temple in Kerala; mosques such as Jama Masjid and the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque in Delhi; mausoleums such as Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh; and, forts such as the Red Fort in Delhi and the Agra Fort in Uttar Pradesh.



Jama Masjid, Delhi



Outer Wall of the Rajarajeshwara Temple, Kerala

Inscriptions

The inscriptions carved on stone and copper tablets, pillars, and walls of temples and tombs give us useful information about languages and scripts used, dates of historical events, land revenue system and religious beliefs popular in that period. The inscriptions were written in various languages and scripts. Later on, they were inscribed on copper plates. These inscriptions contain the details about temples or statues, or narrate long texts in the form of poems called *prashastis*, about which you have read in Grade 6. Several Rajput and Chola rulers got many inscriptions established during this period.

Coins

Coins provide extensive information about the rulers and their administration. These coins were made of different metals such as copper, silver, gold and lead. They reveal information about the languages used, the names of rulers, and the socio-economic conditions and religious beliefs of the period they belong to. The dates of issuing coins help the historians to clarify any doubt about the time period. The Cholas, the Delhi Sultans and the Mughals issued many coins during their respective reigns.



Coins issued during the medieval period

Paintings and Artefacts

There are several painting styles that emerged in the medieval period. One of the more prominent styles which was patronised by many rulers was the **miniature painting**. These were hand-made colourful paintings and were relatively smaller in size. There were different schools of miniature paintings—Mughal School, Rajasthani School, Pahari School, Pala School and so on. The court scenes depicted in the paintings reveal information about the architecture, clothing styles and lifestyle of a specific period.

Literary Sources

The number and variety of textual records increased in this period. Paper began to be used for writing manuscripts more than other types of surfaces. It became a popular material for writing chronicles, **petitions**⁶, judicial records, records of accounts and taxes, and for documenting the teachings of religions saints.

Biographies and Autobiographies

Biographies and autobiographies of rulers on nobles give us considerable amount of information about the economy, polity and society of the period in which they were written. However, there was no printing press in those times. Sometimes, valuable and original manuscripts were copied by other scribes. Therefore, a historian has to be careful while extracting information from handwritten sources. However, there are several authentic and largely **unadulterated**⁷ works. These include life accounts of Mughal emperors: Babur's autobiography *Tuzuk-i-Baburi* or *Babur Namah*; Jahangir's autobiography *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri*; Humayun's biography, written by his sister Gulbadan Begum, *Humayun Namah*. Also, there exist revenue and land records of some rulers which throw light on the administrative system during the medieval period.

⁶**petition**: an official document signed by people requesting a particular course of action

⁷**unadulterated**: not mixed with other substances, pure



A miniature painting depicting a battlefield scene from the Mughal era

FACT BOX

Different styles of calligraphy were used in texts written in Persian and Arabic languages. The *nastaliq* style was simpler and cursive, while the *shikaste* style was tougher to read and relatively more dense.



Nastaliq style



Shikaste style

Court Chronicles

Historians get to know valuable information from the detailed court chronicles. Among the famous literary sources in Sanskrit is *Rajatarangini* by Kalhana, written in the 12th century, which records the history of the rulers of Kashmir. Amir Khusro's *Nuh Sipihr* was written on the insistence of Mubarak Shah Khilji. A 14th-century chronicler, Zia-ud-din Barani completed his chronicle *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi* in 1356. Abul Fazl's *Ain-i-Akbari* tells us about the governance under the Mughal Emperor, Akbar.

Apart from this, royal **decrees**⁸ or *firman*s issued by rulers, and documents of treaties signed between several kingdoms also serve as important sources of information.

Accounts of Foreign Travellers

Foreign travellers, scholars and monks, who visited India during this period, left behind valuable accounts, which are useful in understanding the social, economic and political conditions of the period. Let us read about some well-known travellers who visited India during that time.

- Al-Biruni was a Persian traveller who came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni in the 11th century CE. The famous work written by him is *Kitab-al-Hind* that contains his observations on Indian culture, society and various other aspects.
- Ibn Battuta was a traveller from Morocco who wrote about Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq's rule in his book *Rihla*.
- Niccolo de' Conti was a Venetian traveller who gave a comprehensive account of the kingdom of Vijayanagara.

⁸decree: an official order from a ruler

TRY THIS

Imagine that you are a court officer of a king who ruled in medieval India. You have been asked to write a *firman* to warn the subjects against cutting trees. Write a royal decree for the same.



An imaginary rendition of Al-Biruni on a 1973 Soviet postal stamp

- Marco Polo was an Italian ambassador who visited the court of the Mongol Emperor, Kublai Khan. He wrote an interesting account on the social customs and traditions prevalent in south India.
- Abd-al-Razzaq was a Persian traveller who visited India and stayed at the court of the Zamorin of Calicut. He described the kingdom of Vijayanagara in grave detail.
- Duarte Barbosa and Domingo Paes were Portuguese travellers who wrote about the Vijayanagara Kingdom during the reign of Krishnadeva Raya.

It is important to note that these foreign travellers gave a distinctive account of the then existing social, political, economic and cultural conditions. Their accounts helped in a comparative analysis between their local cultures and what they saw in India.



Marco Polo

Source Based Reading Excerpt

Read the given excerpt and answer the questions that follows.

An excerpt from *A Journal of First Voyage of Vasco da Gama, 1497–1499*

Portuguese Commander

The king (Zamorin) was in a small court, reclining upon a couch covered with a cloth of green velvet, above which was a good mattress, and upon this again a sheet of cotton stuff, very white and fine, more so than any linen. The cushions were after the same fashion. In his left hand, the king held a very large golden cup (spittoon), having a capacity of half an almude (eight pints). At its mouth this cup was two palmas (sixteen inches) wide, and apparently it was massive. Into this cup the king threw the husks of a certain herb which is chewed by the people of this country because of its soothing effects, and which they call atambor (Arabic tambur, "betel-nut"). On the right side of the king stood a basin of gold, so large that a man might just encircle it with his arms: this contained the herbs. There were likewise many silver jugs. The canopy above the couch was all gilt.

The captain (Vasco da Gama), on entering, saluted in the manner of the country; by putting the hands together, then raising them toward heaven, as is done by the Christians when addressing God, and immediately afterwards opening them and shutting the fists quickly. The king beckoned to the captain with his right hand to come nearer, but the captain did not approach him, for it is the custom of the country for no man to approach the king except only the servant who hands him the herbs, and when any one addresses the king he holds his hands before the mouth, and remains at a distance.

When the king beckoned to the captain he looked at us others, and ordered us to be seated on a stone bench near him, where he could see us. He ordered that water for our hands should be given us, also some fruit, one kind of which resembled a melon, except that its outside was rough and the inside sweet, whilst another kind of fruit resembled a fig, and tasted very nice. There were men who prepared these fruits for us; and the king looked at us eating, and smiled; and talked to the servant who stood near him supplying him with the herbs referred to.

Then, throwing his eyes on the captain (Vasco da Gama), who sat facing him, he invited him to address himself to the courtiers present, saying they were men of much distinction, that he could tell them whatever he desired to say, and they would repeat it to him (the Zamorin). The captain-major (Vasco da Gama) replied that he was the ambassador of the King of Portugal, and the bearer of a message which he could only deliver to him personally.

What information can you gather about the lifestyle of the King of Calicut and the customs of this place in the 15th century, from the above excerpt?

Religious and Regional Literature

The Sanskrit dictionary, *Amarkosha* was compiled around the 8th century. The Sanskrit dance-drama, *Gita Govinda*, written in the 12th century by Jayadeva, had songs about Lord Krishna, Radha and the herdswomen (*gopis*). The religious literature of this period also includes the Bhakti and Sufi texts.

In this period, folk stories, tales of bravery and poems were also documented. Chand Bardai's *Prithviraj Raso* is a long poem written about the valour of the famous Rajput king, Prithviraj Chauhan. The tales of *Panchatantra* were moral stories written by

Vishnu Sharma. Local languages such as Bengali, Gujarati and Marathi became more prominent as their usage can be seen in inscriptions and literary fragments. Literature in Telugu can also be traced to the 11th century. However, Malayalam saw literary development around the 14th or 15th century. Sanskrit became the language of the priests and bureaucrats and replaced Prakrit as the language of literature, administration and law, until the 12th century, when Persian also became a court language under the rule of some kings.

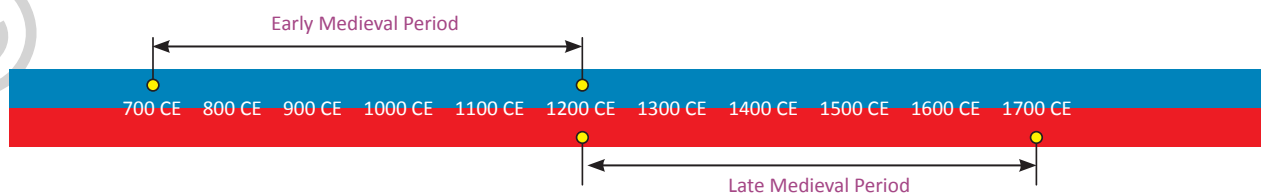


A scene depicting the meeting between Vasco da Gama and Zamorin, painted by Portuguese painter Velos Salgado

Elsewhere in the World

The medieval period or the Middle Ages in Europe began in 5th century CE, after the fall of the Roman Empire. It extended till the 14th–15th century. Even though this period is considered to be a phase of ignorance and superstition (often referred to as the Dark Ages), this is when the idea of Europe as a distinct cultural and geographical identity emerged.

Timeline



Summary

- Historians divide history into three phases— Ancient History, Medieval History and Modern History.
- The medieval period of India extends from 8th century to the 18th century.
- Historians divide this period into two sub-phases— Early Medieval Period (700–1200 CE) and Late Medieval Period (1200–1700 CE).
- During the medieval period, many political, religious and cultural changes took place in India.
- Historians refer to archaeological and literary sources of history to find about the medieval period of India.
- Accounts of travellers and maps prepared by cartographers are important evidences to find out the changes a particular region experienced.

Things I Know

I. Fill in the blanks.

- A _____ cartographer named Guillaume de L'Isle made a map of the Indian subcontinent with great accuracy.
- The Arabs referred to India as _____.
- Abu Fazl's *Ain-i-Akbari* is a court chronicle of the Mughal Emperor, _____.
- Chand Bardai's _____ is a long poem the valour of the famous Rajput ruler, Prithviraj Chauhan.
- Sanskrit was replaced by _____ as the court language by the end of the 12th century that describes.

II. Write True or False for the given statements.

- The medieval period in India lasted from 10th to 17th century.
- The ancient Greeks called India 'Indoi'.
- The death of Harshavardhana led to political instability in north India.
- Al-Biruni wrote *Kitab-al-Hind*.
- The introduction of the Persian wheel brought about changes in agriculture.

III. Guess the following.

- Another name for India which means the 'land of seven rivers' _____
- The group that became prominent as warriors in the medieval period _____
- The dynasty that ruled in south India and had trade relations with southeast Asia _____
- The author of *Tuzuk-i-Baburi* _____
- The Sanskrit composition by Kalhana which recounts the history of Kashmir _____

IV. Short Answer Questions

- Which period is known as the medieval period in India?
- How are old maps helpful in finding about the history of a region?
- List the literary sources of history.
- Why should historians be careful while extracting information from biographies and autobiographies? Name any two biographies of the medieval period.
- How did regional literature evolve in medieval India?

V. Long Answer Questions

- Write a note on the different names by which India was known in ancient and medieval times.
- What were the changing religious and cultural trends during the medieval period in India?
- Which global trends cast impact on medieval India?
- Highlight the importance of court chronicles as a source of history.
- How do accounts of foreign travellers help us in understanding the history of medieval India? Explain using examples of a few travellers.

Things I Do

I. Project

Browse the Internet and read at least two pages of a translation of the travelogue of any one foreign traveller mentioned in this chapter. Note down the following and share it with the class:

- The traveller's name and the country of origin
- The time-period in which he wrote
- What does his account reveal about medieval India?

II. Map Work

On a political map of the world, mark the countries from where the following came to India:

- Al-Biruni
- Ibn Battuta
- Marco Polo
- Duarte Barbosa

III. Values in Life

Your new classmate has come from another country. How will you make him/her feel comfortable in the class?

IV. Web Links

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/da_gama_vasco.shtml
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCDQEBlIBk8>

2

NEW KINGS AND KINGDOMS

Let Us Begin



Look at the given pictures closely. The picture at the top is a wall relief from one of the famous temples of Khajuraho, which was constructed in the medieval era. The picture at the bottom is a miniature painting depicting Lord Krishna and Arjun from the ancient epic *Mahabharata*, sitting on a chariot, going to the battlefield.



What is the difference in the way horses have been depicted in the two pictures from the ancient and the medieval times?

Cheeni's Question

I have just come back from a trip to Tamil Nadu. I was astonished to see the Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur. Our local guide told us that it was constructed by a great Chola ruler nearly one thousand years ago! I really want to know more about the Cholas.



The death of King Harshavardhana marked a sudden end to strong and stable political rule in India. Between 750 CE and 1200 CE, there was a rise of numerous small regional kingdoms in the Indian subcontinent. These newly-emerged kingdoms were constantly trying to conquer the other smaller kingdoms. Since Kanauj had already gained prominence during the reign of Harsha, it continued to remain a seat of power in north India. A number of rulers in this era engaged in constant battles with each other to capture Kanauj.

Patterns of New Developments

During this time, many prominent warriors and rich landlords known as *samantas* rose as a new powerful class who held great influence in the society. They were referred to as *maha-samantas* or *maha-mandaleshwaras* (great lords of the region), who gradually became independent rulers in some regions.

Like Harsha, the new rulers also granted lands to their chiefs in lieu of salaries. In due course of time, the number of land grants increased manifold. Most of the kingdoms now included the territories of **feudatories** who almost ruled as independent rulers. However, these feudatories were required to collect land revenue in their territories and maintain standing armies for the chief ruler.

This kind of arrangement proved advantageous in many ways. A king could distribute the burden of maintaining a huge and costly army, amongst the nobles and subordinates. This system also suited the nobles because it gave them **autonomy**¹, wealth, influence and as well as military power. The undesirable result of this development was that if a king's power declined, the nobles usually revolted since their lands and armies had already made them quite powerful. In many cases, certain powerful chiefs established new dynasties in the wake of weakened power of their rulers.

The Rashtrakutas

The Rashtrakutas were served as feudatories of the Chalukya rulers earlier. Dantidurga, the Rashtrakuta chief, declared his independence from Chalukya rule in the second half of the 8th century and made Manyakheta as his capital city (in present-day Gulbarga district of Karnataka). He was not a *kshatriya* by birth. As per the traditions followed by Brahmins, the *hiranya-garbha* sacrifice was considered to be the second birth of the person as a *kshatriya*. Thus, he performed the *hiranya-garbha* (or the golden womb) sacrifice in order to claim *kshatriya* status.

Amoghavarsha was the most notable ruler among the Rashtrakuta. He preferred the pursuit of religion and literature to fighting wars. He is credited as the writer of the first Kannada book on poetry. In two hundred years of their rule, the Rashtrakutas patronised art and literature. They promoted Sanskrit but also Prakrit and Apabhramsha. Apabhramsha is known to be the origin of many modern regional languages of India. It was during the reign of Krishna I, a Rashtrakuta king, that the famous Kailasa Temple at Ellora, Maharashtra was carved out.

The Gurjara-Pratiharas

The Gurjara-Pratiharas ruled in large parts of Gujarat and southwestern Rajasthan. They rose to power somewhere in the latter half of the 8th century. Nagabhata I and his successor, Bhoja I, were the most powerful rulers of this dynasty. It was a time of continuous struggle to acquire more territories, hence,

¹**autonomy**: freedom to govern independently



Many of the famous rock-cut temples at Ellora, Maharashtra, were carved out during the Rashtrakuta period. This is the Kailasa Temple at Ellora.

the Gurjara-Pratiharas were regularly at war with their contemporaries such as the Palas and the Rashtrakutas.

One of the sources of information about Gurjara-Pratiharas is the account of a Central Asian traveller, Al-Masudi, who refers to Gurjara-Pratiharas as 'Al-Juzr'. He visited India in the 10th century and mentions that large armies were kept by the rulers of this dynasty.

The Palas

The Pala Dynasty was founded by Gopala somewhere around 750 CE in eastern India. Dharmapala, the son of Gopala, was the most powerful king of the dynasty. In his quest to control north India, he suffered defeat at the hands of one of the Rashtrakuta rulers, Dhruva and the Gurjara-Pratihara king, Nagabhata II. His son, Devapala was one of the last known rulers of the dynasty. The rule of the Palas came to an end around the middle of the 12th century.

The chief sources to know about the Palas are the accounts of an Arab merchant, Sulaiman and some Tibetan chronicles. The Palas had close trade relations with Tibet and southeast Asia. Their trade with southeast Asia brought great prosperity in the kingdom. The dynasty ruled for about four hundred years and brought peace and prosperity in the region of Bengal.

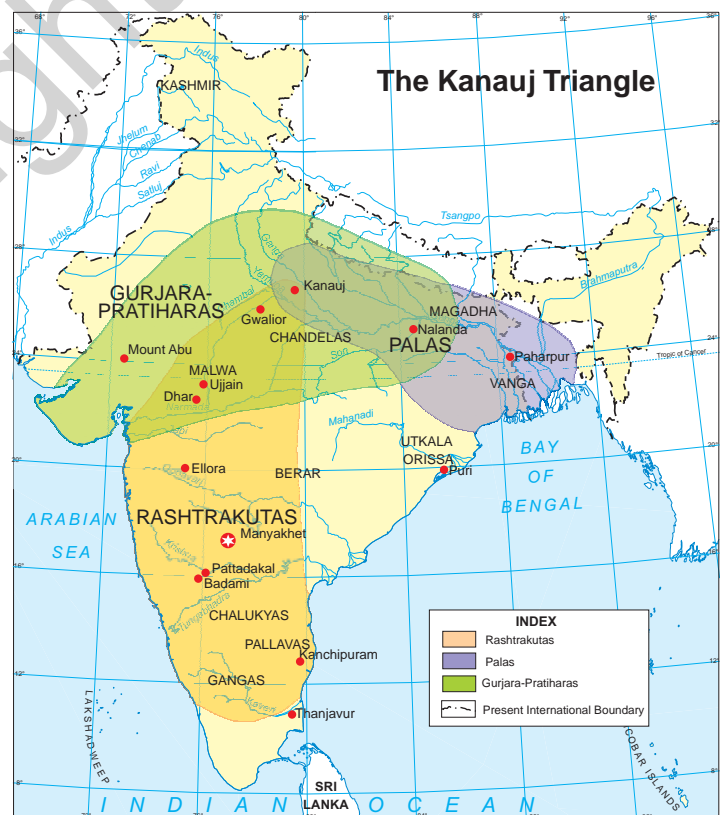
Tripartite Struggle

The term **tripartite** refers to anything that involves three parties. The struggle between the three ruling kingdoms (the Rashtrakutas, the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the Palas) to establish their control over Kanauj in the Ganga plains, the erstwhile capital of Harshavardhana, is often termed as the **tripartite struggle**.

The mutual conflicts and the prolonged struggle for power had exhausted the resources of the three contenders. Their kingdoms started declining and within three hundred years, all the three kingdoms collapsed and gave way to new powers. The Rashtrakutas was overthrown by the later Chalukyas; the Palas of Bengal were replaced by the Senas; and the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom broke up into small, unimportant states.

Emergence of the Rajputs

This period witnessed the emergence of one of the most significant warrior clans of the medieval era – the Rajputs. The Rajputs were initially divided into several principalities which had sprung up across northern and central parts of India after the death of Harsha. Each principality zealously defended



Map 2.1 The map depicting territories of three important kingdoms and the struggle for Kanauj



Thinking HAT

Why do you think control over Kanauj was so important for the three dynasties involved in the tripartite struggle? In what ways continuous wars could have affected the lives of common people?

its rule and refused to submit to another. Since it was a period of intensive wars, constant rivalry weakened them. When invaders from the northwest region appeared on the country's frontiers in the 11th and 12th century, they failed to present a united front and lost their independence one by one.

Among the Rajput rulers, the Chauhans ruled over the region around Delhi and Ajmer. Prithviraj Chauhan (from 1168–1192) was the greatest ruler of this dynasty. He was a courageous warrior. His achievements and exploits have been described by his court-poet, Chand Bardai, in an epic poem titled *Prithvirajraso*. He fought and defeated Sultan Muhammad Ghori, an Afghan invader, in 1191, but finally lost to him in 1192.

Thus, we can conclude that from 7th century up to the 12th century, north India remained divided into many small Rajput states. The Rajput rulers often quarrelled among themselves. However, as their territories were situated in close proximity to each other and many of them were allied through marriages, a common culture developed over this long period. The forts, temples and sculptures built by the local Rajput rulers in that period marks excellent artistic skill and craftsmanship.

Invasions from the Northwest

One of the earliest notable invasions from the northwestern frontiers in India was led by Mahmud of Ghazni (a ruler from present-day Afghanistan and parts of Iran). He is believed to have led as many as 17 expeditions between 1000 CE and 1027 CE against India to seize wealth. For many centuries, the temples in India were abodes of immense wealth besides being holy places of worship. His plunder of the famous Somnath Temple of Saurashtra brought him the most loot. India enjoyed a respite of about a century and a half from Turkish invasions after the death of Mahmud of Ghazni in 1030 CE.

Muhammad Ghori (1173–1206), a subordinate chief of Mahmud of Ghazni, declared himself independent after Ghazni's death. By 1191, he succeeded in annexing Punjab and encamped near Sirhind, a border-town of the Chauhan dominion. As a result, Prithviraj Chauhan attacked Muhammad Ghori. The **First Battle of Tarain** (area near Thanesar in present-day Haryana) was fought in 1191, between Prithviraj Chauhan and Muhammad Ghori. In this battle, Ghori was forced to flee from the battlefield. The following year, he returned better prepared to fight Prithviraj. The **Second Battle of Tarain**, fought in 1192, is regarded as a major turning-point in Indian history because from this point onwards no Rajput ruler could ever capture Delhi again.

Political and Economic Trends

The new kings ruled as the head of the state. They adopted many high-sounding titles such as *maharaj-adhiraja* and *tribhuvana-chakravartin*. The officials were mainly recruited from influential families and their positions were mostly hereditary. This was true for both the military as well as the revenue officials.

The noticeable changes of this era can be listed as follows:

- Revenue administration was decentralised.
- The rulers allocated regions to their subordinate chiefs to collect revenue on their behalf.
- Chiefs maintained regular standing armies out of the revenues collected by them.
- One part of the revenue was reserved as the king's share.
- Most of the officials were not paid their salaries in cash; rather they were paid through land grants.

The system of paying salaries by land grants for revenue collection expanded as the medieval period progressed. As the number of grantees increased, more and more land went into the hands of the grantees. This system made officials less dependent on the ruler. As a result, the ruler became weak to maintain a standing army. This explains why the kingdoms of the north could not defend themselves properly against foreign invasions. The feudatories were mostly jealous of each other. When a feudatory felt that he had become powerful enough, he would declare his independence from the central authority, or the reigning ruler. Often, the ruler was too weak to stop the feudatory from doing so. For instance, as we have read previously, the Rashtrakutas who began as feudatories of the Chalukyas declared their independence from their masters.

Prashastis and Land Grants

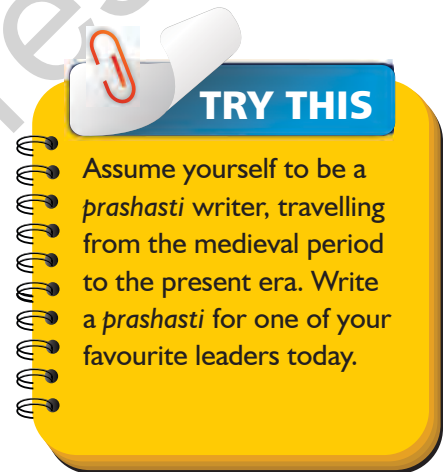
You have read about *prashastis* in the previous grade. A *prashasti* gives us information about the various activities of a ruler, such as land grants, administration, wars, victories and titles. Written on the behalf of a ruler, these *prashastis* were recorded on stone slabs, copper plates, walls of temples, etc. One *prashasti*, written in Sanskrit and found at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, describes the exploits of Nagabhata, the Gurjara-Pratihara king.

Rise of a New Empire – The Cholas

The Cholas were the feudatories of the Pallavas of Kanchipuram who ruled over the Kaveri Delta. In no time, they asserted their power and were able to replace the Pallavas. Vijayalaya belonged to the ancient chief family of Cholas from the Uraiyur region (in present-day Tamil Nadu). He founded the Chola Empire in the middle of 9th century and built the town of Thanjavur.

Rajaraja Chola and his illustrious son, Rajendra I, were the most powerful rulers of the Chola Dynasty. Rajaraja I ascended the throne in 985 CE. He was a brilliant general who soon acquired control over the territories of his contemporary rulers such as the Pandyas and the Pallavas.

Rajendra I succeeded his father, Rajaraja Chola, somewhere around 1014. He took the Chola Empire to the pinnacle of glory through his military power and administrative skills. He raided Sri Lanka and sent a naval fleet to annex parts of Sumatra and Malaya in southeast Asia. His army marched triumphantly up to the northern parts of India. To celebrate his victory, he founded a new capital called **Gangaikondacholapuram**. He was given the title '*Gangaikondachola*' (meaning 'one who defeated the kings of the Ganga plains'). Rajendra's most impressive achievement was the conquest of Java, Sumatra, Malaya along with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. His conquests demonstrate his prowess as a naval commander and the sheer magnitude of the Chola naval operations.



Government, Society, Art and Culture

You have studied in the previous grade how agricultural developments contributed to the success of many kingdoms and empires. Paddy cultivation in the areas around the Kaveri Delta witnessed sizeable growth in the 5th and 6th centuries. Several new methods of irrigation such as building water-tanks, digging of wells and ponds were adopted. This kind of planning was an integral part of village life under the Cholas.

Village Administration

A village of peasants was called *ur*. A group of villages were combined into a *nadu*. All the powers of administration in a village were given to the village assembly called *sabha*. It carried on its administrative work through various committees. It had the power to collect and spend the revenue of the village. It undertook works of public utility. The rich peasants of Vellala caste exercised great control over the village administration. The landlords were bestowed with many titles such as *muvendavelan* (a peasant serving three kings) and *araiyar* (chief) by Chola kings and were entrusted with important offices of the state at the centre.

Since the Brahmins were granted lands called *brahmadeya* by kings and chiefs, a number of *brahmadeya* villages grew in the areas around the Kaveri Delta. Our primary source to know about Chola administrative machinery of a village is the inscription on the walls of temples and records engraved on copper plates. The *sabha* or an assembly of elders looked after the administration of a village similarly, *nagaram*, a town inhabited by traders was administered by an association of traders.

Financial Administration

The main source of income of the state was land revenue. It was probably one-sixth of the total produce. The other sources of revenue were salt tax, custom duties, water cess, fines and so on. The income of the state was spent on the king and his court, salaries of officials, the army, religious institutions and construction works of public utility. The Chola inscriptions mention more than 400 terms for describing different kinds of taxes. The most frequently mentioned tax is *vetti* or forced labour, and *kadamai* or land revenue.

Art and Culture

The Chola period is often termed as the **golden age** of Tamil art, literature and culture. The Chola kings developed and perfected the Dravidian style of art and architecture. The craft of making bronze statues was the most distinct art-form of the Chola Period. A good example of this art is the bronze image of Nataraja or the dancing Shiva.

Enquire and Apply

Find out how villages under the Panchayati Raj System work in comparison to the village administration under the Cholas.



*Bronze figure of dancing Shiva
from the Chola Period*

The Chola Temples

The greatest of Chola monuments are the Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur and the Temple of Gangaikondacholapuram built by Rajraja and Rajendra I, respectively. These temples serve as a landmark in the evolution of the Dravidian style of temple architecture. The temples were not only places of worship but also rich centres of cultural interaction.



Entrance of the Temple of Gangaikondacholapuram, Tamil Nadu

FACT BOX

The Brihadeeswara Temple, the Temple of Gangaikondacholapuram and the Airavatesvara Temple in Tamil Nadu have been declared as World Heritage Sites by the UNESCO.

Source Based Reading Excerpt

One prashasti, written in Sanskrit and found in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, describing the exploits of Nagabhata, a Gurjara-Pratihara king, reads as follows:

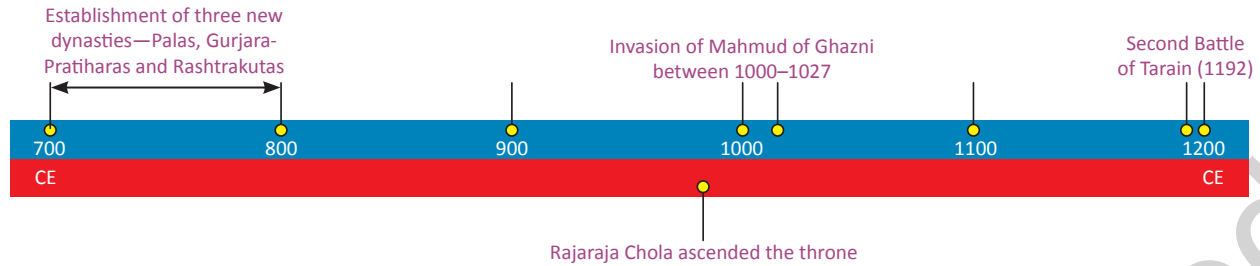
The kings of Andhra, Saindhava (Sind), Vidarbha (part of Maharashtra) and Kalinga (part of Odisha) fell before him even as he was a prince ... He won a victory over Chakrayudha (the ruler of Kanauj) ... He defeated the king of Vanga (part of Bengal), Anarta (part of Gujarat), Malava (part of Madhya Pradesh), Kirata (forest peoples), Turushka (Turks), Vatsa, Matsya (both kingdoms in north India) ...

Make a list of the rulers whom Nagabhata, the Gurjara-Pratihara king, defeated. What does it suggest about the ruler?

Elsewhere in the World

The year 1206 was a turning-point in the world history. Mongolia, a landlocked east Asian country, witnessed the rise of one of its greatest rulers, Genghis Khan (or Chengiz Khan) Earlier, Mongolia was divided into several nomadic tribes which quarrelled among each other. Genghis Khan organised all these tribes under one rule and set out to conquer the world. Starting from China, he led campaigns as far as the Caspian Sea. In a few years, with the help of catapults (a weapon through which the stones could be hurled at enemies), horses and burning oil, he captured cities after cities.

Timeline



Summary

- Between 750 CE and 1200 CE, a number of small, regional kingdoms emerged.
- The rulers in this era granted lands instead of salaries to their chiefs.
- The three important kingdoms of this era were the Rashtrakutas, the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the Palas.
- Struggle between the three ruling kingdoms to establish their control over Kanauj in the Ganga plains is known as the tripartite struggle.
- This period witnessed the emergence of one of the important warrior clans of the medieval era—the Rajputs.
- Among the Rajput rulers, the Chauhans ruled over the area around Delhi and Ajmer.
- Prithviraj Chauhan (1168–1192) was the greatest ruler of this dynasty. He fought with Muhammad Ghori in the First and Second Battles of Tarain in 1192. His defeat changed the pattern of distribution of power in northern India.
- The rise of the Cholas in the areas around the Kaveri Delta at this time was a significant event. Their capital was at Thanjavur. Rajaraja and Rajendra I were its most famous rulers.

Things I Know

I. Write True or False for the given statements.

- The death of Harsha led to political stability in north India.
- Kanauj was considered an important place, therefore, many rulers tried to establish control over this region.
- The subordinates of the kings were paid in cash in the medieval era.
- Hiranya-garbha* was a religious sacrifice done to claim the status of a Brahmin.
- The Kailasa Temple at Ellora was commissioned by the Rashtrakuta rulers.

II. Give one word answers.

- Rich landlords were known as _____
- Al-Masudi, a Central Asian traveller, referred to Gurjara-Pratiharas as _____
- Region in which the Palas brought peace and prosperity _____
- Struggle between three north Indian kingdoms is known as _____
- An epic poem by Chand Bardai _____

III. Short Answer Questions

- Who were *maha-mandaleshwaras*?
- In what ways did the king benefit from the system of providing land grants to his subordinates instead of paying salaries in cash?
- Write a short note on the rise of a new warrior community in north India between 8th and 12th centuries.
- Who were the two influential invaders in the medieval period? What were the intentions of Mahmud of Ghazni behind attacks on India?
- What does the term 'Gangaikondachola' mean? In what reference was it used?

IV. Long Answer Questions

- Discuss the political conditions of north India in the early phase of the medieval era.
- Describe in detail the rise of Rajputs in the medieval period.
- Briefly explain the major political and economic trends between 750 CE to 1200 CE.
- Explain the pattern of village administration under the Cholas.
- Write a short note on the contribution of the Cholas in the field of art and architecture.

Things I Do

I. Project

One of the most valuable contributions of the Cholas in the field of metallurgy was the carving of bronze statues. The technique used in making the bronze statues still remains the same. Browse the Internet and find out how it is done. Prepare a MS PowerPoint presentation on the same. You must include relevant pictures if available.

II. Map Work

On an outline map of India, shade the territories of the Rashtrakutas, the Palas and the Gurjara-Pratiharas between 9th and 10th centuries.

III. Values in Life

One of the important reasons why we still remember the Chola kings is because of their immense contribution to art and culture. As a member of the future generation, how can you contribute to preserving the art and heritage of our country?

IV. Web Links

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6fyPpACKP4&list=PLMCOAW8-qS8Y0HzbcNrFJ9ppfGsYnP_yP
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qAkHGN62mk>

3

DELHI SULTANATE

Let Us Begin

Do you know how many rulers were involved in the construction of the Qutub Minar? Can you name them?



Cheeni's Question

Last birthday, I received a book titled 'The Seven Cities of Delhi' as a gift. I wonder how can a city have seven cities in it?



Delhi has a glorious past. The region in and around it was inhabited by hominids nearly 100,000 years ago. Several Stone Age sites have been discovered in the city; hunter-gatherers roamed in the forests and hills here. A number of sites from the late Harappan Period have also been discovered in the adjoining areas. Delhi also holds an important place in the *Mahabharata* where it is referred to as 'Indraprastha', the capital of the Pandavas. The city was also a part of the Kuru *Mahajanapada*. According to Buddhist literature, the capital of this *mahajanapada* was Indapatta, which sounds like Indraprastha. In the 8th century, the

Tomar Rajput Kings of Rajasthan made Delhi as their southern outpost. Anangpal Tomar I built the first city of Delhi called **Lal Kot**, located in the present-day Mehrauli area. The Tomars were succeeded by Chauhan Rajputs, their most prominent ruler being Prithviraj Chauhan. Let us read about the remaining cities of Delhi and the rulers who founded them.

Foundation of the Delhi Sultanate

As we have read before, Prithviraj Chauhan was a Rajput ruler whose capital was Ajmer, but Delhi was an important city in his kingdom. The Turkish Empire was trying to extend its influence in India and Muhammad Ghori attacked Prithviraj Chauhan in the **Second Battle of Tarain** (1192). The defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan in the battle gave the Turkish rulers an opportunity to establish their control over Delhi. Muhammad Ghori along with his military generals was able to extend Turkish rule to other parts of India.

The rulers of the Delhi Sultanate reigned during the period 1206–1526 CE. During this period, that spanned more than three hundred years, five ruling dynasties dominated the political scene of the Indian subcontinent. These dynasties were:

- i. Slave/Mamluk Dynasty (1206–1290 CE)
- ii. Khiljis (1290–1320 CE)
- iii. Tughlaqs (1320–1414 CE)
- iv. Sayyids (1414–1451 CE)
- v. Lodhis (1451–1526 CE)

The second, third, fourth and fifth cities of Delhi were constructed under the Delhi Sultanate.

Slave Dynasty

The Turkish rulers had exclusively chosen slaves who were trained to excel finally both in military and intellectual spheres. These slaves often rose to higher political and military ranks to finally become rulers. '*Mamluk*' means a slave whose parents were not slaves. Three Delhi Sultans—Qutub-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish and Balban—were once slaves.

As Muhammad Ghori did not have an heir, his territories were occupied by his governors. Ghori's Indian territories were administered by Qutub-ud-din Aibak. Qutub-ud-din Aibak was a slave of Muhammad Ghori, hence, the dynasty founded by him is known as the Slave or Mamluk Dynasty. With the establishment of the Slave Dynasty in Delhi, the Turkish rule began in India. As Delhi was the centre of the political, cultural, economic and social changes in the Indian subcontinent, this period is identified as the rule of the **Delhi Sultanate**.

Qutub-ud-din Aibak

As mentioned before, Qutub-ud-din-Aibak founded the Slave Dynasty in 1206. He initially ruled from Lahore and later shifted to Delhi. He was a kind-hearted ruler and was fondly known as *Lakhabaksh* or the 'giver of lakhs'. He initiated the construction of Qutub Minar in Delhi and constructed the Adhai-din-ka-Jhonpra Mosque in Ajmer. Qutub-ud-din Aibak died while playing polo.



Qutub-ud-din Aibak

Shams-ud-din Iltutmish

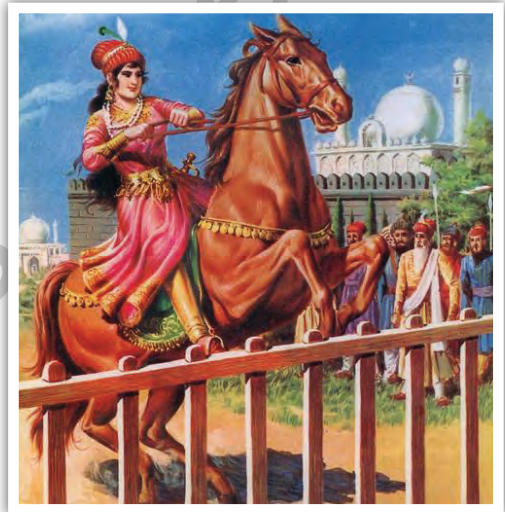
Iltutmish is considered the real founder of the Slave or Mamluk Dynasty. Initially, his ascent to the throne was challenged by Aram Shah, Qutub-ud-din Aibak's son. Iltutmish was the son-in-law and slave of Aibak. Qutub-ud-din Aibak was impressed by Iltutmish's administrative abilities and was therefore, set free. Iltutmish completed the construction of Qutub Minar by building the second, third and fourth floors. He organised a group of forty nobles—*Turkaan-e-Chahalgani* to administer his kingdom. He established a mint and introduced silver coins known as *tanka*. He declared Razia, his daughter, as the next ruler.



Shams-ud-din Iltutmish

Razia Sultan

Razia Sultan was the first woman ruler who sat on the throne of Delhi. She was a wise, prudent, generous and an efficient leader. After the death of his eldest son, Iltutmish did not find his other sons as efficient as his daughter, Razia. Before his death, he chose Razia as his successor, but the nobles were disappointed with this choice as it went against the male-dominated idea of not allowing a woman to rule. Hence, after the death of Iltutmish, they chose Rukn-ud-din Firoz Shah, Razia's brother, as the successor to the throne. Rukn-ud-din was an inefficient ruler who spent his time in exploiting and enjoying the fortune of the royal treasury. Razia faced many challenges, especially strong opposition from the *Chahalgani*. She captured the throne with the support of her followers. Razia ruled for a short period of four years. Her close association with an Abyssinian slave, Yaqut, was used as an excuse for revolts against her. Razia's attempts



A painting of Razia Sultan riding a horse

FACT BOX

Iltutmish would often say, 'This daughter of mine is better than many sons.'

Amir Khusro wrote the following lines about Razia's courage and the way she broke the restrictions imposed on women:

*For several months, her face was veiled
— her sword's ray flashed, lightning-like, from behind the screen.
Since the sword remained in the sheath,
many rebellions were left unchecked.
With a royal blow, she tore away the veil;
she showed her face's sun from behind the screen.
The [lioness] showed so much force
that brave men bent low before her.*

Thinking HAT

The nobles did not want Razia to rule because she was a woman. Do you think women nowadays have more opportunities to become political leaders and the attitude towards them has changed over time?

to curb the rebellion failed and she was captured at Bhatinda by Altunia, the governor of Bhatinda. She married Altunia and freed herself but, a few months later, both were killed in their effort to regain her throne.

Razia's death was followed by political chaos and uncertainty. Bahram and Masud, the successors of Iltutmish, occupied the throne in quick succession, but were removed or killed by the nobility. Eventually, Nasir-ud-din Mahmud, the younger son of Iltutmish, ascended the throne. He totally surrendered to the nobility. One of his nobles, Balban became the Prime Minister. Over a period of time, Balban became all-powerful in the state.

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban

After Nasir-ud-din died, Balban became the undisputed Sultan of Delhi. He adopted the policy of '**blood and iron**' to suppress the internal and external opposition against him. This policy implied a harsh and strict approach to crush his enemies and effectively administer his kingdom. There was no hesitation in shedding blood in order to establish the Sultan's supremacy. He established an efficient spy system and awarded severe punishments even for petty crimes. He banned social meetings and matrimonial alliances among the nobles. He introduced several Persian practices such as *sijda* and *paibosi* to elevate the position of Sultan. *Sijda* was the practice of kneeling down before the Sultan and *paibosi* was the practice of kissing his feet. He cleared forests around Delhi to curb the Mewatis, who often plundered Delhi. He broke the power of the *Chahalgani* nobles. He also constructed new forts on the western borders to save Delhi from frequent Mongol raids.

Khilji Dynasty

After Balban, his successors proved to be weak and incompetent. Balban's grandson was put to death by his own nobles, one of whom was from the Khilji tribe—Firoz Shah. The Khiljis were **primarily** of Turkish origin but they were mostly settled in Afghanistan. Firoz Shah took the name of Jalal-ud-din on ascending the throne of Delhi.

Jalal-ud-din Khilji

After killing the last ruler of the Slave Dynasty, Jalal-ud-din Khilji founded the Khilji Dynasty. Jalal-ud-din averted an invasion of the Mongols in 1291. It was during his reign that Alauddin Khilji, his nephew, defeated the ruler of Devagiri. It was the first successful expedition of any Sultanate ruler in the Deccan. He was murdered by his nephew later.

Ala-ud-din Khilji

Ala-ud-din Khilji ascended the throne in 1296. His reign is known for expansion and consolidation of the Sultanate. He introduced the market control policy to check the rise in prices of goods and maintain a large army without increasing the financial burden of the people. He increased the land revenue in the Doab region by 50 per cent. He repaired the forts which stood on the routes of the Mongols and also built new forts at strategic places. He constructed the second city of Delhi—the city of **Siri**. The Mongols attacked



Coins minted during the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khilji



A sketch of Alauddin Khilji

the city and were defeated. It is believed that the arrested Mongols' heads were crushed by elephants inside his fort, at the orders of Ala-ud-din Khilji. Since a 'head' is called 'sir' in the local language, his fort came to be known as the Siri Fort. He also commissioned the Alai Darwaza, the gateway of Qutub Minar.

Mubarak Shah Khilji

Mubarak Shah succeeded Ala-ud-din Khilji and declared himself as the 'Caliph'. Khusrau Shah, his slave, killed him and occupied the throne.

Tughlaq Dynasty

With the end of Khilji Dynasty, a new ruler, Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq rose to power and established the Tughlaq Dynasty in 1320.

Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq

Ghazi Malik was a general in Mubarak Shah Khilji's army. He avenged the death of his master by killing Khusrau Shah and became the Sultan. He adopted the name Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq and founded the Tughlaq Dynasty. He annexed and integrated Warangal into the Delhi Sultanate.

In his short reign of five years, he not only expanded Delhi Sultanate but also consolidated it. He built the third city of Delhi called **Tughlaqabad**. Ghias-ud-din was a capable commander. He strengthened the defenses of the northwest frontier against the Mongol invaders. He invaded Bengal and occupied a large part of it. He ended corruption in the administration and increased the area under cultivation. It is alleged that he was killed at the **behest**¹ of his son, Muhammad bin Tughlaq, in 1324.



A view of the Tughlaqabad Fort

Muhammad bin Tughlaq

He was a learned and an accomplished lover of fine arts. He is known for his various experiments which were ahead of his time and, therefore, he was criticised for his policies. He is often called 'a mixture

¹**behest**: someone's order or command

FACT BOX

Alauddin Khilji was an ambitious ruler. He wanted to build a minar, double the height of the Qutub Minar. He wished to name it Alai Minar. But he died before the minar could be built. You can still see the remnants of the first level of the minar in the Qutub Minar Complex.

of opposites' by some historians, about which you will read later in the chapter. He died in 1351 after nominating his cousin Feroz Shah as the next ruler. Muhammad bin Tughlaq built the fourth city of Delhi, **Jahanpanah**.

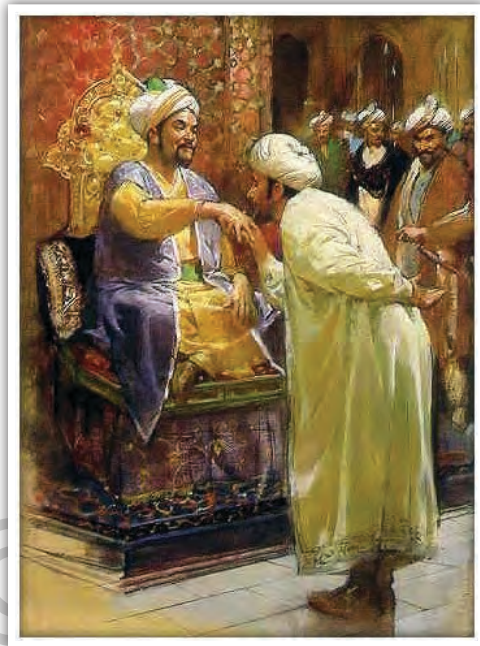
Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan traveller, visited Delhi during the rule of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. He described how a person who wanted to visit the Sultan had to pass through three huge, heavily-guarded gates. He would then enter the '**court of thousand pillars**' which was a huge hall and decorated with expensive materials. This was the place where the Sultan held his public court. The Sultan's birthday and Navroz (the Persian New Year) were both celebrated with great pomp and splendour.

Source Based Reading Excerpt

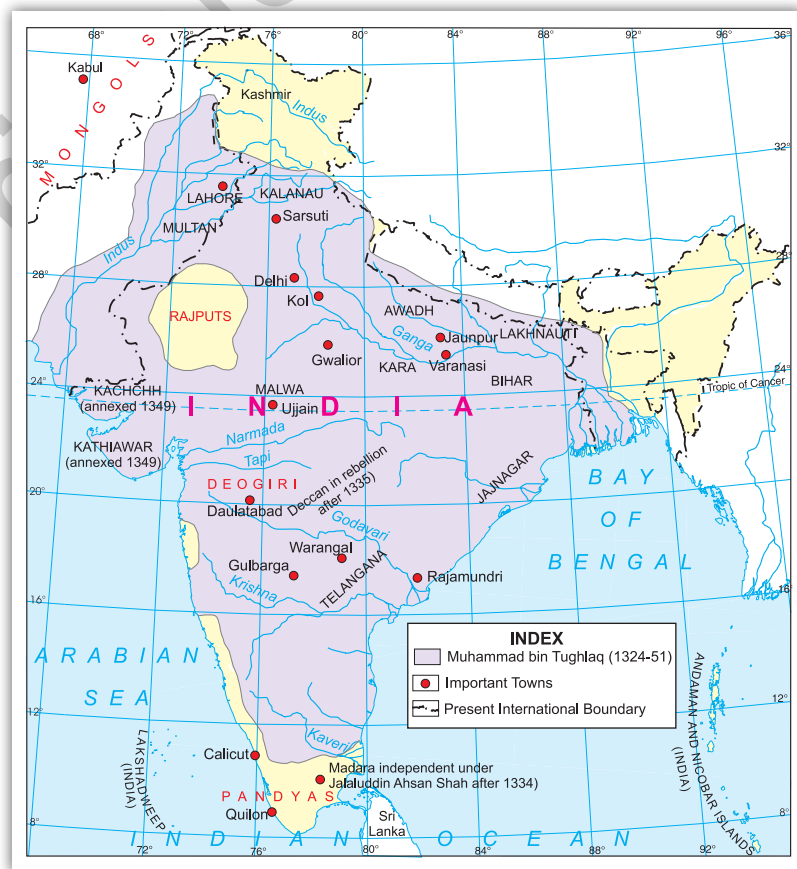
The following is a translation of Ibn Battuta's observations about the Sultan's palace:

'...We arrived at the royal residence of Dilhi (Delhi), the metropolis of the land of Al-Hind, a vast and magnificent city, uniting beauty and strength. It is surrounded by a wall whose equal is not known in any country in the world, and is the largest city in India, nay rather the largest of all the cities of Islam in the East.'

What does this extract suggest about the city of Delhi?



A painting which depicts Ibn Battuta greeting Muhammad bin Tughlaq in his court



Map 3.1 Sultanate rule under Muhammad bin Tughlaq

Feroz Shah Tughlaq

Feroz Shah Tughlaq abolished many taxes. He opened hospitals called *dar-ul-shafa* and developed many orchards. He was very fond of slaves and kept about 1,80,000 slaves. He opened a department, *Diwan-e-Bandgan*, to look after the slaves. He was one of the first conservationists of India. He got the fourth floor of the Qutub Minar repaired and added the fifth one. He restored a water tank at Hauz Khas in Delhi which was built for the city of Siri. He got several canals built. He became the first Sultanate ruler to build a city near the Yamuna River. It was the fifth city of Delhi which was called **Ferozabad**. The famous fort, Feroz Shah Kotla, was built by him.

He died in 1388, and his successors proved to be extremely incompetent. They faced many internal and external revolts. Soon, the rule of the Tughlas came to an end.

Sayyid Dynasty

Timur, who was the strongest ruler of Persia and Central Asia in the latter half of 14th century, had appointed Khizr Khan as the governor of Punjab. In 1414, Khizr Khan marched to Delhi and occupied the throne of the Delhi Sultanate. He laid the foundation of a new dynasty known as the Sayyid Sultans of Delhi. The Sayyid Dynasty saw the rule of four Sultans.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| i. Khizr Khan | ii. Mubarak Shah |
| iii. Muhammad Shah | iv. Alam Shah |

During the reign of the Sayyids, Punjab was in turmoil and there were frequent revolts at various places.

Lodhi Dynasty

Bahlul Lodhi

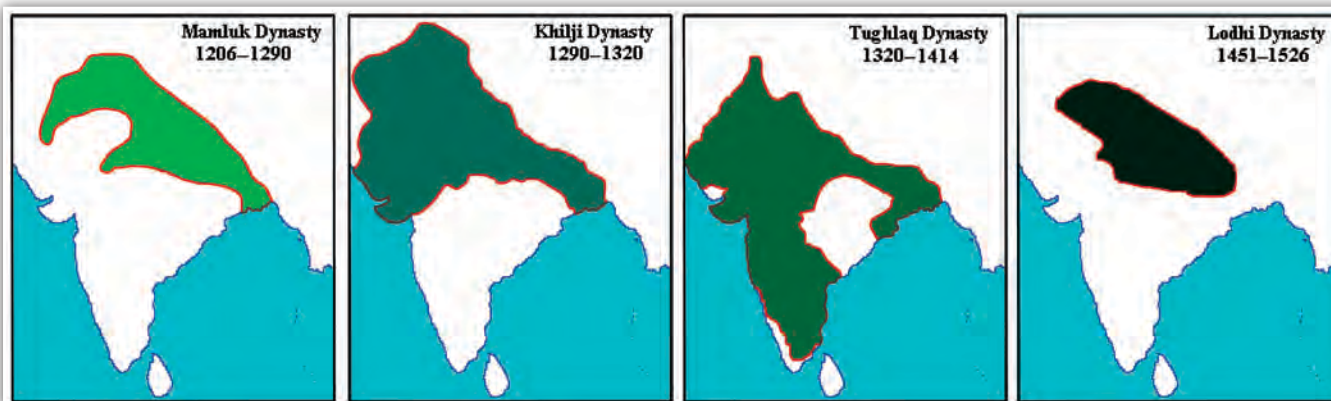
The last ruler of the Sayyid Dynasty, Alam Shah was overthrown by Bahlul Lodhi, who was the Governor of Lahore and Sirhind. Bahlul Lodhi occupied Delhi and founded the Lodhi Dynasty. He ruled Delhi from 1451 to 1489.

Sikandar Lodhi

The most capable ruler of this dynasty, Sikandar Lodhi ascended the throne in 1489. He tried to consolidate his power by bringing the provincial governors and chieftains under his control. He suppressed the prevailing disorder and attempted to restore the dignity of the court in Delhi.

Ibrahim Lodhi

Sikandar Lodhi was succeeded by Ibrahim Lodhi in 1517. He was known as an arrogant ruler, who treated the Afghan nobles badly and made them severe enemies. Daulat Khan Lodhi, the governor of Punjab, turned against him and declared himself independent. He invited Zahiruddin Muhammad, also known as 'Babur', the ruler of Afghanistan, to invade India. In the First Battle of Panipat fought in 1526, Babur defeated and killed Ibrahim Lodhi. This ended the rule of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire was founded.



Map 3.2 Delhi Sultanate under different dynasties

Life and Culture under Delhi Sultanate

The rule of the Delhi Sultanate, spanning a period of three centuries, had a great impact on the social, economic, religious and cultural life of the people of India. This period of medieval Indian history can be identified with many features which were quite different from those of ancient India.

Social Life

Indian society was broadly divided into four major classes or groups in the medieval period; the aristocracy, the priests, the people living in towns and the people living in villages or peasantry. The upper class or aristocracy comprised the ruling class. It included the Sultan, the nobles, the landlords and the Hindu princes. The second section included the priests or the *ulema*, the *maulvis*, the *qazis*, the Brahmins or the *pandits*. This class advised the rulers on matters of administration in accordance with the sacred laws. This priestly class received land grants from the rulers for their living. Common people also offered gifts and donations to this class. The people in towns included shop-keepers, merchants, traders and so on. Most of the farmers and peasants were placed lower in the social hierarchy. They mostly paid land revenue and other taxes but led difficult lives.

Economic Life

Agriculture was the main occupation of the masses in medieval India. Feroz Shah Tughlaq took some measures to promote agriculture. He built five canals and dug a large number of wells. His efforts for improving irrigation proved to be a boon for the peasants. The state also gave loans to the peasants in times of droughts and famines.

Traders and merchants in India conducted overland trade with central and western Asia. India also maintained trade relations with the Srivijaya Empire (in the Malay Archipelago on the island of Sumatra), China, East Africa and Arabia. Ships from Chinese towns arrived on Malabar ports, especially for buying pepper. Iranian traders maintained close commercial contacts with the Indian merchants. These commercial contacts led to many technological advancements. Paper manufacturing in India was introduced in this era.



Coins from the Sultanate Period

Feroz Shah Tughlaq abolished a number of unjust taxes. This resulted in the growth of trade and commerce. However, foreign invasions and internal revolts hampered the growth of trade and agriculture at times.

Art and Architecture

The Sultans of Delhi took a fair amount of interest in architecture. They founded new cities, built palaces, rest-houses, bridges, mosques and tombs. Ala-ud-din Khilji built the city of Siri, Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq built Tughlaqabad, Muhammad bin Tughlaq built the city of Jahanpanah and Feroz Shah Tughlaq built Ferozabad.

The Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, built by Qutub-ud-din Aibak, is a fine example of the **Indo-Islamic style of architecture**. The Adhai-din-ka-Jhonpra Mosque in Ajmer was built by Qutub-ud-din Aibak, but was enlarged by Iltutmish. Qutub-ud-din Aibak also started the construction of Qutub Minar in Delhi, but it was completed by Iltutmish. The most important monuments of Feroz Shah Tughlaq's reign are Feroz Shah Kotla, Kali Masjid, Khirki Masjid and his own mausoleum. The most important monument of the Lodhi Dynasty is the Moth ki Masjid built by Sikandar Lodhi.



Moth ki Masjid

Language and Literature

Persian was the court language of the Delhi Sultanate. Sanskrit was the classical language of India but was spoken only by well-learned Hindus, mostly Brahmins.

Many Sanskrit books were translated into regional languages. As Persian was the court language, it was important for both Muslims and Hindus to be well-versed in it. Both the communities contributed to the growth of Persian literature. Amir Khusro, also known as the 'parrot of India', belonged to this age. He was a famous poet who wrote in Persian and also composed lyrics in the local dialects of northern India. His use of Persian and *khari boli* in the same poem are some of his many lyrical experiments. He is also known for his riddles that he wrote in *khari boli*. Many of his poems are still used in Hindi songs.

Besides, famous historians such as Minhaj-ul-Siraj and Zia-ud-din Barani wrote their accounts in Persian that talked about rulers, political events and the lives of the common people.

Urdu came to be known as a language during the Sultanate period. It was a simple language, comprehensible by both Turks and Indians. The origin of Punjabi literature can also be traced to this period. Baba Sheikh Farid, a Sufi saint, sang both in Punjabi and Persian. He was the first Sufi poet who used standard literary Punjabi. You will read about it further in Chapter 8.

The Delhi Sultanate rulers got many Sanskrit works translated into Persian and Arabic.

TRY THIS

Find out some Hindi film songs which have Amir Khusro's poetry as lyrics in them. Find out the meaning of the lyrics. Also find out some riddles written by him.

Enquire and Apply

Find out Amir Khusro's contribution to Indian music. Write an article on the same.

Administration of the Delhi Sultanate

The Sultans of Delhi wielded vast powers. The word of the Sultan became the law. He governed with the help of some advisors and ministers. However, he was also expected to follow the law based on the Quran and the Islamic traditions. The *qazi* and the *ulema* exercised great influence on the policies of the ruler.

The Sultans and nobles enjoyed a high standard of living. Most of these nobles came from the Turkish and Afghan families that settled in India. The nobles were very powerful during the Sultanate period. Sometimes, they even influenced state policies. During the Tughlaq period, a number of nobles were able to amass large fortunes. The Sultans and the nobles built several gardens, orchards and markets.

The *kotwal* was the head of the police department of the town. Criminals were given extremely severe punishments during the rule of the Delhi Sultans.

Iqta System

The term '*iqta*' means the land or land revenue assigned by the ruler to an individual on certain conditions. The Sultans divided the empire into a number of tracts called *iqtas* (or provinces), which were assigned to the military leaders. The holder of an *iqta* was called the *iqtadar*, but he was not the owner of the land. He maintained law and order in the *iqta* and collected the land revenue on the behalf of the state. Out of the land revenue collected, the *iqtadar* met the cost of administration. He was allowed to keep a part of the income for his own expenses. He sent the balance, if any, to the state treasury. There were three important taxes—first, on cultivation called *kharaj* (usually half of the produce), the second on cattle, and the third on houses.



Muhammad bin Tughlaq

Muhammad bin Tughlaq ruled from 1324 to 1351. He was one of the most remarkable rulers of his age. However, he was hasty and impatient. He is famous in the history of India for his experiments which usually failed. He was a brilliant scholar. Therefore, he is often referred to as 'a mixture of opposites' by the historians.

He was a lover of art, a scholar of philosophy, mathematics, astronomy and physical sciences. He was an efficient administrator and an excellent commander. He was extremely innovative but many of his strategies failed because he implemented them without giving much thought.

Some policies adopted by him that resulted in failure are discussed as follows:

- 1. Raising Taxes in the Doab Region:** *To execute his various plans, Muhammad bin Tughlaq required money. Hence, he doubled the tax in the fertile area of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab. However, the whole region was experiencing a famine at that time. Therefore, the farmers reacted strongly by fleeing from their homes and setting their crops on fire. Eventually, the Sultan was forced to withdraw his order.*
- 2. Shifting the Capital from Delhi to Daulatabad:** *In 1327, Muhammad bin Tughlaq decided to transfer his capital from Delhi to Devagiri or Daulatabad, which was situated 1400 km from Delhi. The reason behind this shift was that Daulatabad was at the centre of his vast empire. However, this movement was a complete failure because of two reasons:*
 - The entire population was ordered to shift from Delhi to Daulatabad which caused hardships for the people.*
 - The northwestern boundary was exposed to attacks from the Mongols and it became difficult to control Delhi from Daulatabad rather than control the Deccan from Delhi.*

Realising this, he again ordered the people to shift from Daulatabad to Delhi which was a disaster as many people lost their lives on the way.

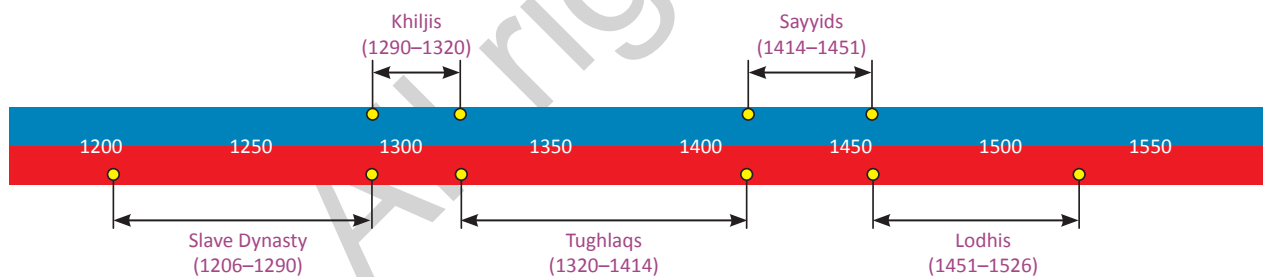
3. **Introduction of New Currency:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq committed another blunder by introducing copper coins in 1329, in place of silver coins called tanka. He did so because of the shortage of silver. These new coins had the same value as pure silver coins. The king also ordered that they could be easily exchanged from the royal treasury. This proved to be a major failure as copper was a cheaper material. So, people started minting coins in their homes and the Sultanate was flooded with forged coins. As a result, the foreign merchants refused to take these coins and the royal treasury was depleted.

Although Muhammad bin Tughlaq was a capable administrator, yet he was criticised for his absurd policies. The ulemas and the nobles lost their trust in him and withdrew their support. This crippled him and he became weak and inefficient. He started losing control of his vast empire. The Mongols were consistently trying to invade India. There were revolts in various parts of his kingdom. In order to suppress one such revolt in Sind, he died in 1351.

Elsewhere in the World

Between 1337 and 1453, the kingdoms of France and England were involved in a long conflict over the succession of the French Crown. This conflict is referred to as the Hundred Years' War. A young French peasant girl, Joan of Arc, turned the tide against England in the War and sacrificed her life. This was also the era of wide peasant rebellion and the outbreak of the Black Plague.

Timeline



Summary

- Delhi has a glorious past. A number of cities were built by different rulers in and around Delhi.
- The defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain gave the Turkish rulers an opportunity to establish their control over Delhi.
- The rulers of the Delhi Sultanate reigned during the period 1206–1526 CE. These included the Mamluks, the Khiljis, the Tughlaqs, the Sayyids and the Lodhis.
- The rule of the Delhi Sultanate had a great impact on the social, economic, religious and cultural life of the people of India.
- Art, architecture, literature and culture flourished under the Delhi Sultanate.
- Many administrative reforms took place during this period.

Things I Do

I. Project

Imagine that you are Muhammad bin Tughlaq. How will you justify the visionary plans introduced by him? Prepare a MS PowerPoint presentation on how Muhammad bin Tughlaq's policies could have succeeded.

II. Map Work

On an outline map of India, show the region under the Tughlaq Dynasty.

III. Values in Life

Your elder sister wants to become the Chief Minister of your state when she grows up. However, she is regularly discouraged by a family friend who says that politics is not meant for women. How will you explain your family friend that women can be able rulers too?

IV. Web Links

- <http://m.indianetzone.com>
- <http://www.monumentsofdelhi.com/history>