

Grade : VI

Subject : Social science

## Chapter: 10. New Empires and Kingdoms

### Objective Type Questions

#### I. Multiple choice questions

1. Harisena was the court poet of:  
a. Harshavardhana      b. Chandragupta I      c. Samudragupta      d. Rajraja II
2. 'Prashasti' is a word which language?  
a. Sanskrit      b. Hindi      c. Arabic      d. Urdu
3. Capital of the Pallavas was:  
a. Mysore      b. Thiruvananthapuram      c. Kanchipuram      d. Raichur Doab
4. Ravikirti was a  
a. Soldier      b. Samanta      c. king      d. Court poet
5. Nagaram was an organisation of:  
a. Middlemen      b. Merchants      c. Revolutionaries      d. Kings

1. (c)

2. (a)

3. (c)

4. (d)

5. (b)

#### I. Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is known for his plays depicting life in the king's court.
2. Around \_\_\_\_\_ years ago, Prophet Muhammad introduced a new religion, Islam in Arabia.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the capital of the Chalukyas, was an important trading centre.
4. The best-known Chalukya ruler was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Pulakeshin also attacked the \_\_\_\_\_ who took shelter behind the walls of Kanchipuram.
6. The inscriptions of the \_\_\_\_\_ mention a number of local assemblies.

7. The ngaram was an organisation of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The poet \_\_\_\_\_ was a maha-danda-nayaka, or chief judicial officer, like his father.
9. Harishena lived nearly 1700 years ago. This was inscribed on the Ashokan pillar at \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Harishena describes four different kinds of rulers, and tell us about \_\_\_\_\_ policies towards them.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ who ruled nearly 1400 years ago, was one such ruler.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ was not the eldest son of his father.

1. Kalidasa	2. 1400
3. Aihole	4. Pulakeshin II
5. Pallava king	6. Pallavas
7. Merchants	8. Harishena
9. Allahabad	10. Samudragupta's
11. Harshavardhana	12. Harsha

### I. Match the following

Column A	Column B
1. Kumara Devi	a. A renowned port
2. Xuan Zang	b. Samanta
3. Kalidasa	c. Court poet of pulakeshin-II
4. Ravikirti	d. Lichchhavi clan
5. Military leaders	e. Harsha's court

1. (d)	2. (e)	3. (a)	4. (c)	5. (b)
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

### I. State True or False

1. Prashasti is word from Hindi language.
2. Chalukya kingdom centered around Raichur Doab.
3. Pulakeshin II was a pallava ruler.

4. Sabha was an assembly of Kshatriyas.
5. Military leaders were paid huge salaries.

1. False	2. True	3. False	4. False	5. False
----------	---------	----------	----------	----------

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name the capital of the Chalukyas.

Aihole was the capital of Chalukyas.

2. What was Nagaram?

Nagaram was an organisation of merchants.

3. Who were Samantas?

Samantas were some military leaders who provided the king with troops whenever needed them.

4. What do you mean by Ayurveda?

Ayurveda is a system of medicine based on herbs and plants which cure many diseases. Ayurveda is a major system of medicine practised in India these days.

5. Mention the names of three authors who wrote about Harshavardhana.

Three Authors who wrote Harshavardhana are:

- (i) Ravikirti
- (ii) Xuan Zang
- (iii) Banabhatta

6. Name of two important dynasties that ruled Southern India.

The Pallavas and Chalukyas were the most important ruling dynasties in South India.

7. What was Sabha?

Sabha was an assembly of Brahmin land owners. This assembly functioned through sub-committees, which looked after irrigation, agricultural operations, making roads, local temples, etc.

8. How is Ur different from Nagaram?

Ur was a village assembly found in areas where the landowners were not Brahmins, whereas Nagaram was an organisation of merchants.

## Short Answer Type Questions

### 1. Who was Samudragupta?

Samudragupta was the son of Chandragupta I. He was the greatest ruler of his dynasty. Chandragupta was the first ruler of the Gupta dynasty to adopt the grand title of Maharajadhiraja.

### 2. What do you know about Prashasti?

The 'Prashasti' word comes from Sanskrit and it means 'in praise of'. Court poets often wrote accounts in which they listed the achievements of the king and praised him. They engraved such accounts on pillars so that the people could read them.

### 3. Who were the Pallavas?

The Pallavas ruled from Kanchi-puram or Kanchi near Chennai. Mahendravarman I and Narasimhavarman I were powerful kings. Continuous military conflicts weakened the Pallavas. In the ninth century, the Cholas ended their rule.

### 4. Name the famous ruler of the Gupta dynasty. How do we come to know about him?

Samudragupta was a famous ruler of the Gupta dynasty. We know about Samudragupta from a long inscription, actually a poem in Sanskrit composed by his court poet, Harishena nearly 1700 years ago. This was inscribed on the Ashokan pillar at Allahabad.

### 5. Who was Harshavardhana?

Harshavardhana was the king of Thanesar who ruled nearly 1400 years ago. We came to know about him through his court poet, Banabhatta who wrote his biography, the Harshacharita in Sanskrit.

### 6. Who was Chandragupta?

Chandragupta was the first ruler of the Gupta dynasty to adopt the grand title of Maharajadhiraja, a title that Samudragupta and his son, also used.

### 7. State the features of the plays written in the earlier times.

- (i) These plays provided occasional glimpse of the lives of ordinary people.
- (ii) In these plays, the king and most of the Brahmins are shown as speaking Sanskrit, while women and men other than the king and Brahmins use Prakrit.

## Long Answer Type Questions

### 1. Describe the life history of the dominant kings Harshavardhana.

- (i) **Establishment of Harsh-wardana Empire:** The breakup of the Gupta empire was followed by a period of disorder. Small kingdoms fought against one another. Finally, Harshvardhana conquered these kingdoms and established a powerful empire.
- (ii) **Military Campaigns:** The capital of Harsha's empire was Kannauj. He conquered Punjab, Eastern Rajasthan and the whole of the Ganga valley up to Assam. He attacked the Chalukyan King but was defeated. Harsha did not annex all the territories that he conquered. He allowed some kings whom he de defeated, to continue ruling. They accepted Harsha as their overlord and paid him an annual tribute.
- (iii) **Sources of Information:** Banabhatta, a learned man who wrote a biography on Harsha called Harshacharita gives us information about this period. Another source of information is Hieun Tsang, a Chinese Buddhist scholar who came from China via Central Asia to India. He stayed in India for 15 years. He gave an account of life in Harsha's period in a book called Si-Yu-Ki or records of the Western World.
- (iv) **Religion:** before embracing Buddhism, Harsha worshipped Shiva and Surya. Later on, he became a Buddhist like Ashoka, Manender and Kanishka. Like them, he was tolerant towards other religions. The Indian government practises this attitude of tolerance towards all religions even today.
- (v) **Administration:** Just like the Mauryas and Guptas, the king was assisted by a council of ministers. Unlike the Mauryas but similar to the Guptas, power was not centralised. Harsha's empire was also divided into provinces. These were headed by Governors.

### 2. Explain the features of the Prashastis written about Samudragupta.

- (i) The poet praised the king in glowing terms-as a warrior and as a king who won victories in battle.
- (ii) He is stated as a learned man and the best of poets.
- (iii) He is also described as equal to God.
- (iv) The Prashasti was composed in very long sentences.

**3. Who was Pulakeshin II? Explain about his expeditions his region.**

- (i) The Chalukyas were the most important ruling dynasties in South India. Aihole, the capital of the Chalukyas was an important trading centre.
- (ii) The best known Chalukya ruler was Pulakeshin II. We know about him from a Prashasti composed by his court poet, Ravikirti.
- (iii) According to Ravikirti, he led expedition along both the west and east coasts.
- (iv) Pulakeshin also attacked the Pallava King. But the Chalukya victory was short-lived.
- (v) Ultimately, both the Pallavas and Chalukyas gave way to new rulers belonging to the Rashtrakutta and Chola dynasties.

**4. Explain the administrative system adopted by the kings of the earlier time.**

- (i) Kings adopted a number of steps to win the support of men who were powerful either economically or socially or because of their important minister.
- (ii) Some important administrative posts were now hereditary.
- (iii) Sometimes, one person held many offices. For instance, besides being a Maha-Danda-Nayaka, harishena was a Kumar-Amatya, meaning an important minister.
- (iv) Besides, some important men had a say in local administration. These included chief bankers or merchant caravans, the chief craftsmen, and the head of the tribes.

**5. Write a few lines on the army organised by the kings.**

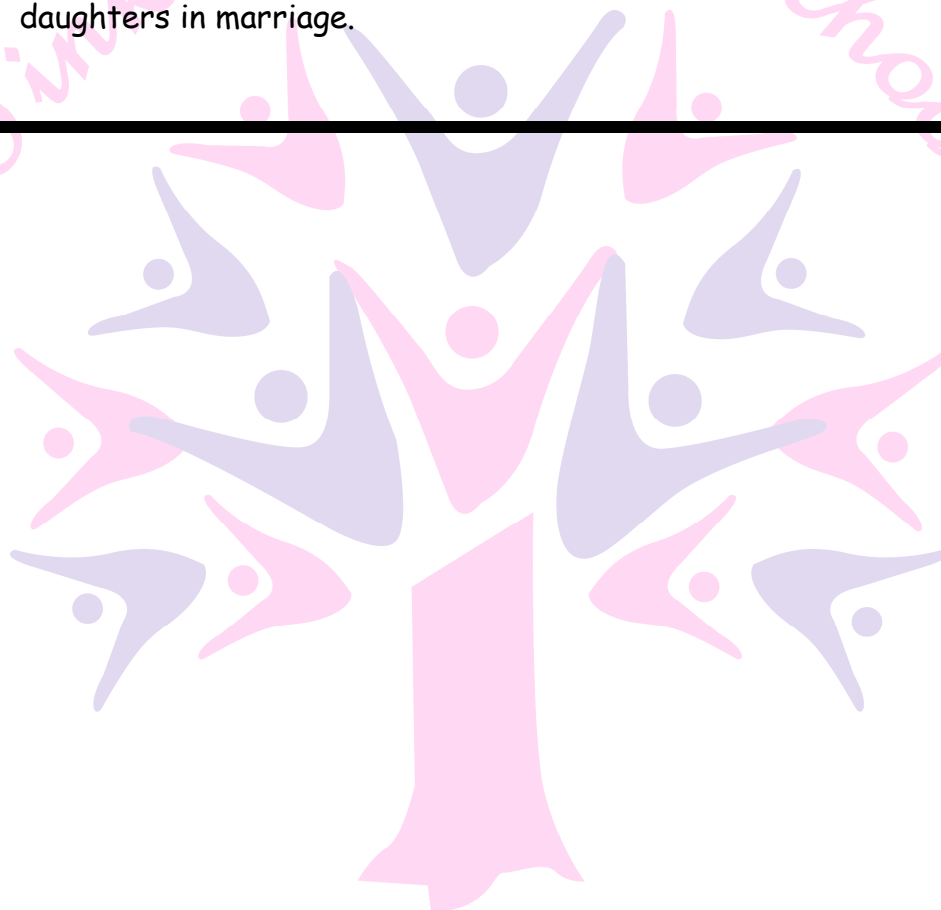
- (i) Some of the kings maintained a well-organised army with elephants, chariots, cavalry and foot soldiers.
- (ii) There were military leaders who provided the king with troops whenever he needed them.
- (iii) They were not paid regular salaries. Instead, some of them received grants of land.
- (iv) They collected revenue from land and used this to maintain soldiers and horses and provide equipments for warfare. These men were known as samantas.
- (v) Whenever the ruler was weak, samantas tried to become independent.

**6. Explain the policies adopted by Samudragupta regarding different rulers.**

Harishena, Samudragupta's court poet described four different kinds of rulers, and the polices followed by him towards them.

- (i) **The rulers of Aryavarta:** Here there were nine rulers who were uprooted and their kingdoms were made a part of Samudragupta's empire.

- (ii) **The ruler of Dakshinapatha:** There were twelve rulers and they surrendered to Samudragupta after being defeated and he then allowed them to rule again.
  - (iii) The inner circle of the neighbouring states, including Assam, coastal Bengal, Nepal, and a number of gana sanghas in the North-West, brought tribute, followed his orders, and attended his Court.
  - (iv) The rulers of the outlying areas, the descendants of the Kushanas and Shakas, and the ruler of Sri Lanka, who submitted to him and offered daughters in marriage.
- 



Next Generation School