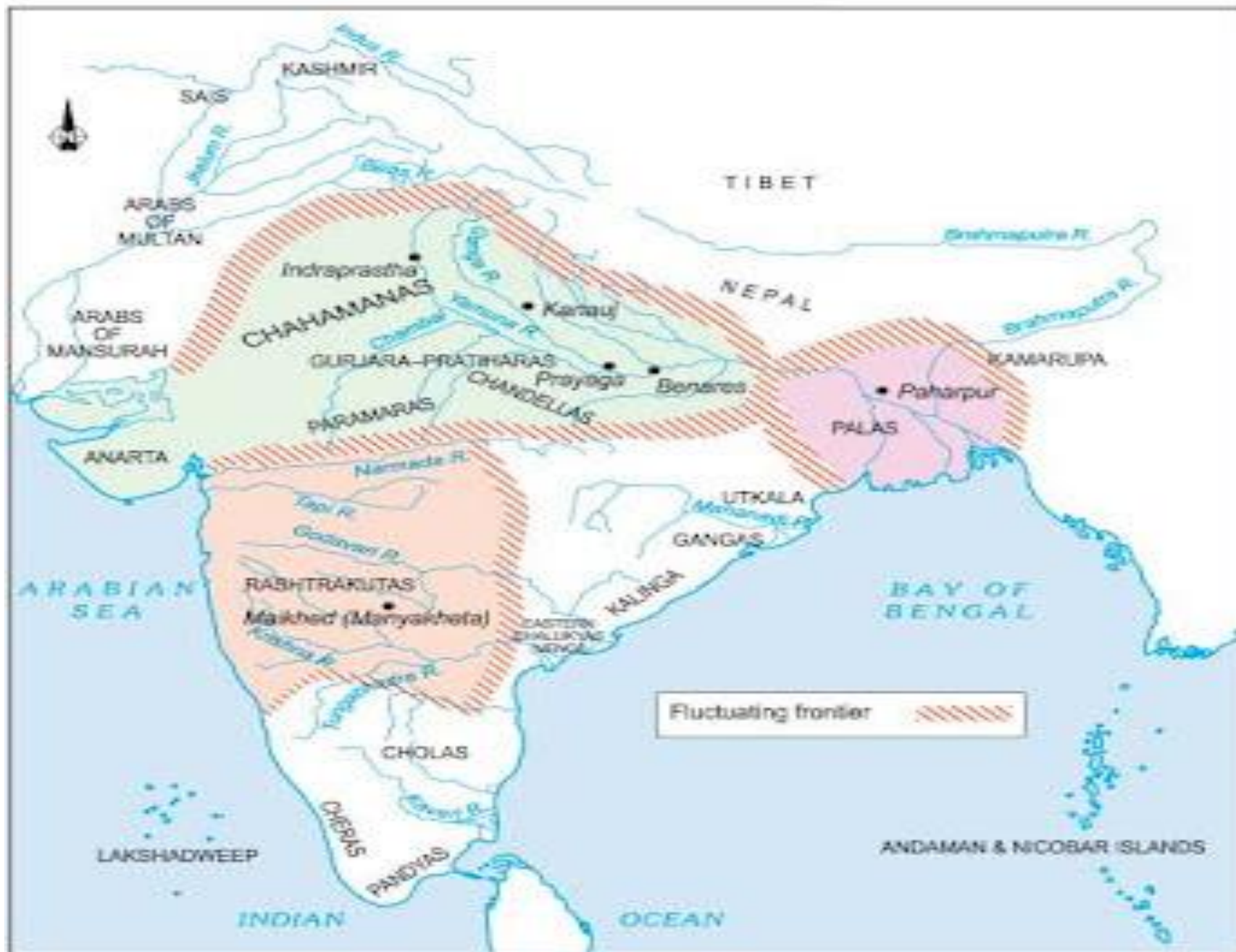


CHAPTER-2

NEW KINGS AND KINGDOMS



The emergence of new dynasties

- By the seventh century there were big landlords or warrior chiefs in different regions of the subcontinent.
- They were expected to bring gifts for their kings or overlords, be present at their courts and provide them with military support.
- maha-samanta, mahamandaleshvara (the great lord of a “circle” or region) and so on.
- In the mid-eighth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed a ritual called hiranya-garbha (literally, the golden womb).

Administration in the kingdoms

- Many of these new kings adopted high-sounding titles such as maharaja-adhiraja (great king, overlord of kings), tribhuvana-chakravartin (lord of the three worlds) and so on.
- In each of these states, resources were obtained from the producers.
- These resources were used to finance the king's establishment.
- The functionaries for collecting revenue were generally recruited from influential families.

Prashastis and land grants

- Prashastis contain details that may not be literally true.
- Kings often rewarded Brahmanas by grants of land.
- Unusual for the twelfth century was a long Sanskrit poem containing the history of kings who ruled over Kashmir. It was composed by an author named Kalhana.

Warfare for wealth

- You may have noticed that each of these ruling dynasties was based in a specific region. At the same time, they tried to control other areas.
- For centuries, rulers belonging to the Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties fought for control over Kanauj.
- Rulers also tried to demonstrate their power and resources by building large temples.
- One of the best known of such rulers is Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, Afghanistan. He ruled from 997 to 1030.
- He entrusted a scholar named al-biruni to write an account known as the Kitab-al-Hind.
- Other kings who engaged in warfare include the Chahamanas, later known as the Chauhans.
- The best-known Chahamanas ruler was Prithviraja III (1168-1192), who defeated an Afghan ruler named Sultan Muhammad Ghori in 1191, but lost to him the very next year, in 1192.

A closer look–The Cholas



A closer look–The Cholas

- Vijayalaya, who belonged to the ancient chiefly family of the Cholas from Uraiyur, captured the delta from the Muttaraiyar in the middle of the ninth century. He built the town of Thanjavur and a temple for goddess Nishumbhasudini there.
- Rajaraja I, considered the most powerful Chola ruler, became king in 985 and expanded control over most of these areas.

Splendid temples and bronze sculpture

- The big temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram, built by Rajaraja and Rajendra, are architectural and sculptural marvels.
- Chola temples often became the nuclei of settlements which grew around them.
- Amongst the crafts associated with temples, the making of bronze images was the most distinctive.

Agriculture and irrigation

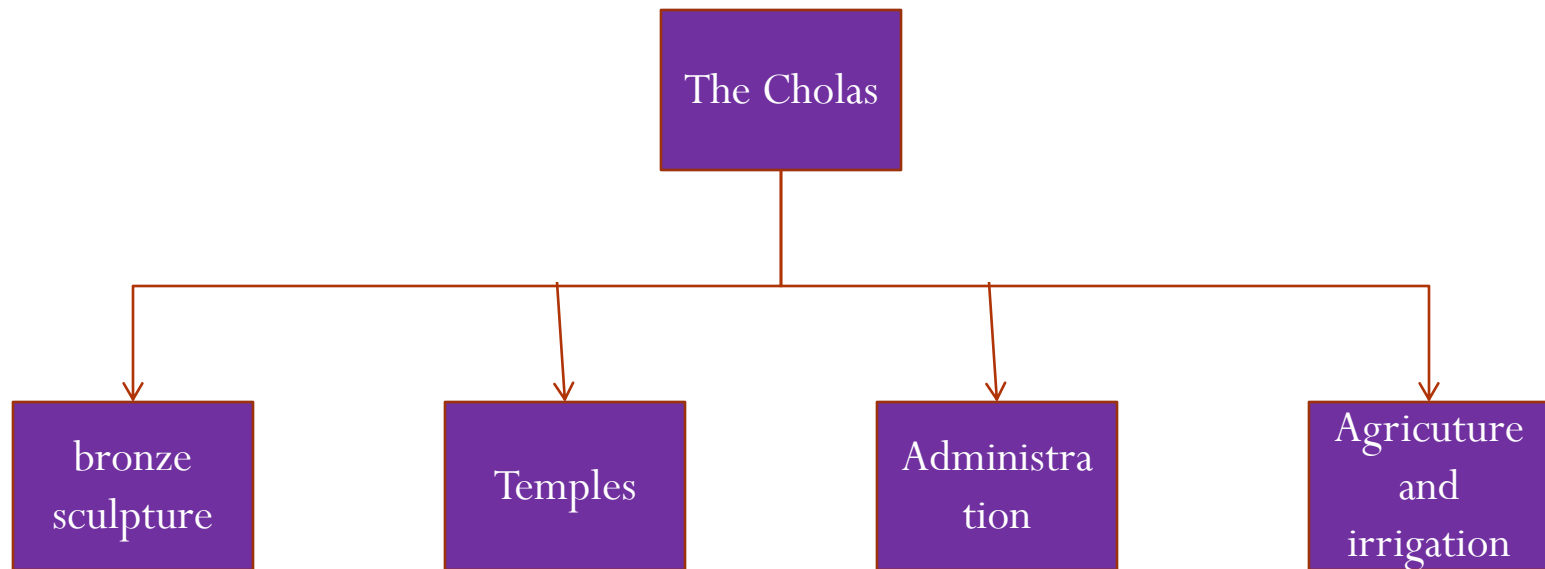
- Many of the achievements of the Cholas were made possible through new developments in agriculture.
- Although agriculture had developed earlier in other parts of Tamil Nadu, it was only from the fifth or sixth century that this area was opened up for large-scale cultivation.
- In many cases it was necessary to water crops artificially.
- Most of the new rulers, as well as people living in villages, took an active interest in these activities.

The administration of the empire

- Settlements of peasants, known as ur, became prosperous with the spread of irrigation agriculture. Groups of such villages formed larger units called nadu.
- We have seen that Brahmanas often received land grants or brahmadeya. As a result, a large number of Brahmana settlements emerged in the Kaveri valley as in other parts of south India.
- Each brahmadeya was looked after by an assembly or sabha of prominent Brahmana landholders. These assemblies worked very efficiently.
- Associations of traders known as nagarams also occasionally performed administrative functions in towns.

Summary

- The emergence of new dynasties.
- Administration in the kingdoms
- Prashastis and land grants.
- Warfare for wealth



THANK YOU