THE KARKOTA EMPIRE OF KASHMIR

Lalitaditya and the Golden Age of Kashmir



1 THE KARKOTA DYNASTY

The Karkota dynasty was founded by Raja Durlabhavardhana in 625 CE. The dynasty ruled Kashmir for about 230 years, from 625 to 855 CE. Its influence extended across the Himalayan foothills and into parts of Central Asia.



2 LALITADITYA MUKTAPIDA

Lalitaditya came to power in 724 CE and ruled for 36 years, according to the textbook. His empire extended into regions corresponding to parts is present-day Uttar Pradesh, uuttarakhand and Bihar. He encouraged art and culture.



3 MARTANDA SUN TEMPLE

The Karkotas worshipped the Sun. The Martanda Sun Temple in Kashmir is an important architectural contribution of this dynasty.



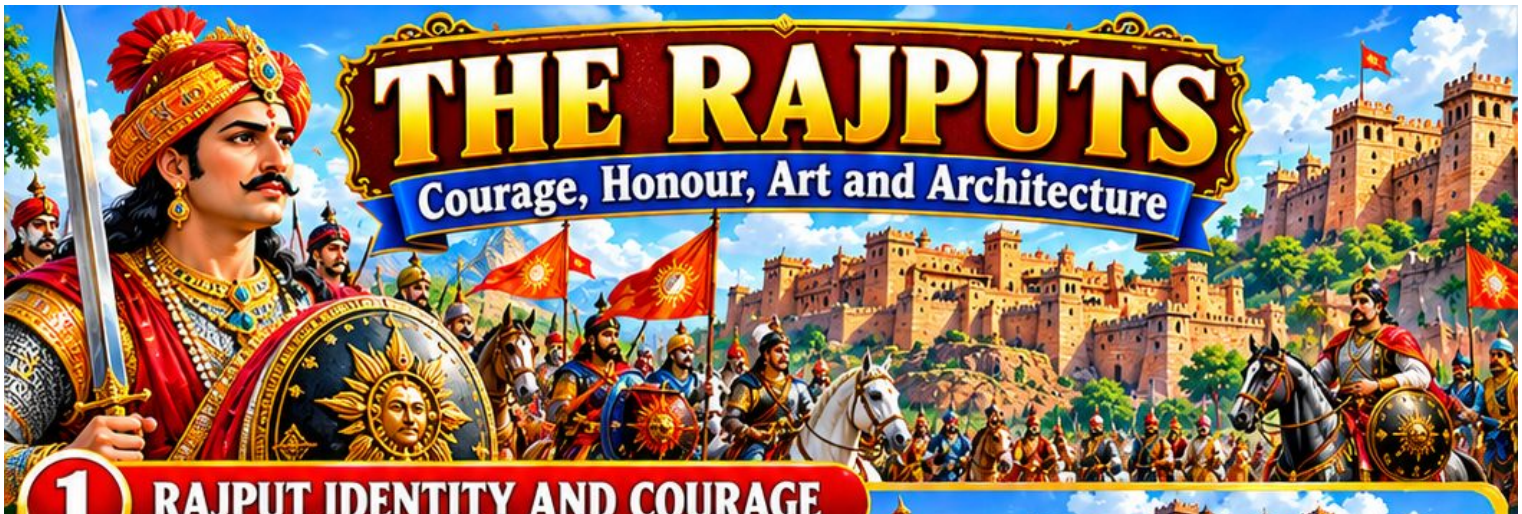
4 RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE

The Karkota period was important for Shaivism in Kashmir. **Vasugupta** was associated with the Shiva Sutras, **Abhinavagupta** was a famous philosopher and poet, and Kalhana was a renowned historian and poet associated with Lalitaditya's court in the textbook account.



THE RAJPUTS

Courage, Honour, Art and Architecture



1 RAJPUT IDENTITY AND COURAGE

Rajputs were known for their courage, adventure and military strength. The textbook describes their traditions of bravery and their role in protecting people who sought their help.



2 THE RAJPUT CHARACTER

Rajput traditions placed importance on honour, bravery and protection of the vulnerable. Heroic deeds of ancestors were remembered through songs and stories.



3 RAJPUT WOMEN

The textbook describes Rajput women as courageous and notes their participation in literary and artistic activities. It also discusses the historical practice of Jauhar in the context of warfare and extreme political crises.



4 ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Rajput rulers supported temples, palaces, forts, literature and painting. Many historic structures associated wiv Rajput-era traditions survive today.



RAJPUT-AGE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Temples, Forts, Palaces and Paintings

1 KHAJURAHO

The Kandariya Mahadeva Temple at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**, is a famous example of Indian temple architecture. The textbook notes that the area once had many temples.



Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Khajuraho



2 DILWARA TEMPLES

The Dilwara temples at **Mount Abu, Rajasthan**, are renowned for intricate marble carvings.



Dilwara Temples, Mount Abu



3 KONARK AND BHUBANESWAR

The Sun Temple at **Konark, Odisha**, is shaped like the chariot of the Sun God and features beautifully carved wheels. The Lingaraja Temple at **Bhubaneswar** is noted for its tall shikhara.



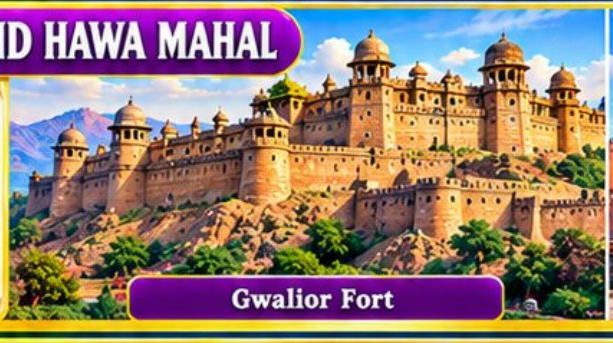
Sun Temple, Konark



Lingaraja Temple, Bhubaneswar

4 GWALIOR FORT AND HAWA MAHAL

Gwalior Fort is celebrated for its imposing fortifications and palaces. **Jaipur** is known as the **Pink City**, and the Hawa Mahal is one of its famous structures.



Gwalior Fort



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

5 UDAIPUR PALACE AND MINIATURE PAINTINGS

Udaipur is known for its palaces. Rajput rulers encouraged Chikani and miniature painting traditions, which decorated palace walls, temples, forts and manuscripts.



Udaipur Palace



Rajput Miniature Painting

IMPORTANT RAJPUT DYNASTIES

Regional Kingdoms of Medieval India

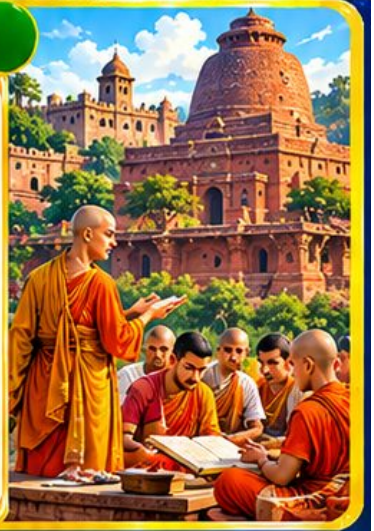
1 THE GURJARA-PRATIHARAS

The Gurjara-Pratiharas ruled from **Avanti**, associated with **Ujjain** in present-day Madhya Pradesh, according to the textbook. **Nagabhata** is remembered for resisting Arab invasions. **King Bhoja** was a powerful ruler and a writer who captured **Kannauj** and defeated the Palas.



2 THE PALAS

The Pala dynasty ruled for about four centuries. **Dharmapala** was one of its important rulers and extended Pala influence. The Palas supported Buddhist learning and educational centres including **Vikramashila** and **Uddandapura**.



3 THE CHAUHANS

Prithviraj III was a well-known Chauhan ruler, and **Delhi** was his capital according to the textbook. His conflict with **Muhammad Ghori** marked an important episode in North Indian history.

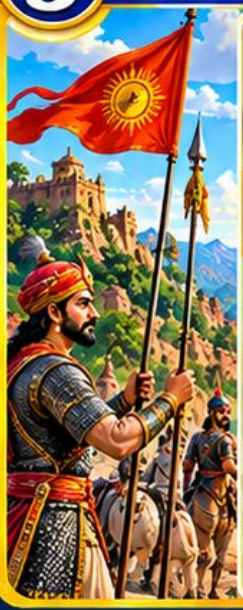


4 THE GUHILAS

The Guhilas were a Rajput lineage associated with Mewar. The textbook mentions **Bappa Rawal**, **Rana Kumbha** and **Rana Sanga** among their notable rulers.



5 MAP OF CONTEMPORARY KINGDOMS (975 – 1202 C.E.)







PRITHVIRAJ CHAUHAN

The Chauhan Ruler and the Battles with Muhammad Ghori

1 THE CHAUHAN RULER

Prithviraj III was a famous ruler of the Chauhan dynasty. The textbook identifies **Delhi** as his capital. He was remembered for bravery and military leadership.



2 PRITHVIRAJ AND SAMYUKTA

A popular story describes Prithviraj Chauhan and **Samyukta**, the daughter of **Jayachandra of Kannauj**. The story has been narrated in later literary traditions.



3 BATTLES WITH MUHAMMAD GHORI

The textbook states that Prithviraj opposed **Muhammad Ghori**, defeated him in an earlier battle and later lost a subsequent battle. These conflicts contributed to the establishment of **Delhi Sultanate** rule.



4 PRITHVIRAJ RASO

Prithviraj's heroic deeds were celebrated in the Hindi literary work **Prithviraj Raso**, associated with **Chand Bardai**.



THE GUHILAS OF MEWAR

Warriors, Forts and the Victory Pillar

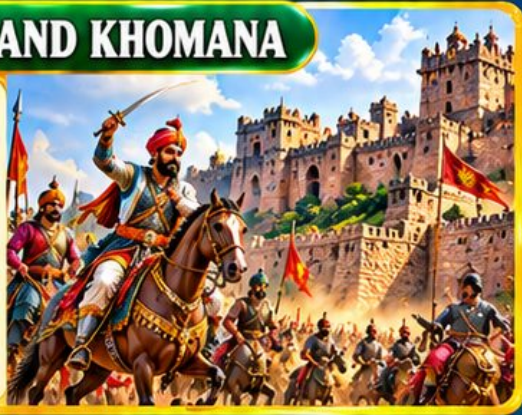
1 THE GUHILA DYNASTY

The Guhilas, also known as the Guhilots, belonged to a lineage of Rajput rulers associated with Mewar. The textbook mentions **Khomana, Bappa Rawal, Rana Kumbha** and **Rana Sanga** among notable figures.



2 BAPPA RAWAL AND KHOMANA

The textbook describes **Khomana** as a ruler who defended his kingdom from an Arab military expedition and identifies **Bappa Rawal** as an important warrior figure in the Guhila tradition.



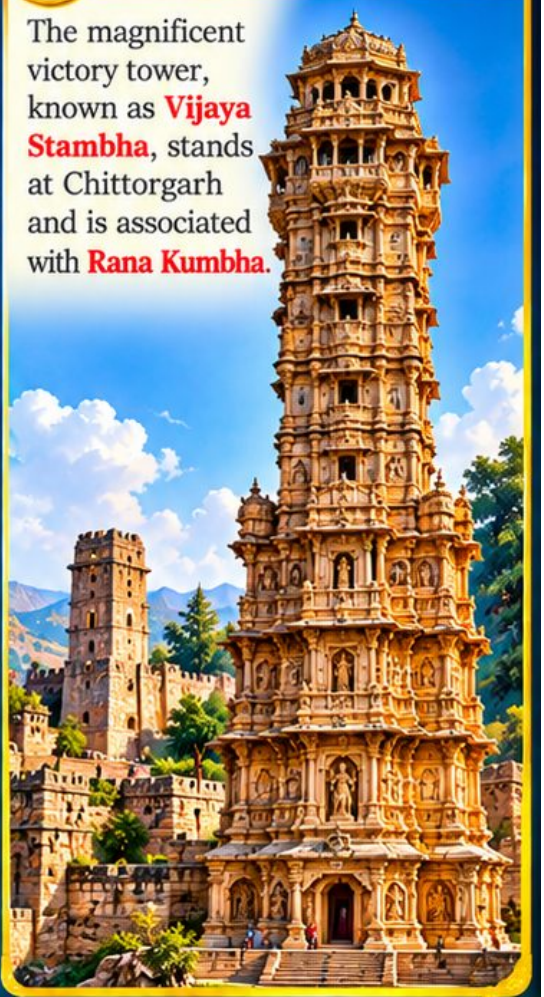
3 RANA KUMBHA

Rana Kumbha was a notable warrior of this dynasty. The textbook credits him with building **32 forts** for the security of the kingdom.



4 VIJAYA STAMBHA

The magnificent victory tower, known as **Vijaya Stambha**, stands at Chittorgarh and is associated with **Rana Kumbha**.



5 RANA SANGA

Rana Sanga, also known as **Rana Sangrama Simha**, was another famous ruler oof the Guhilas. The textbook describes him as a warrior who took part in many battles.



LIFE IN THE RAJPUT PERIOD

Economy, Society, Trade and Culture

1 AGRICULTURE AND LAND

During the period described in the textbook, land grants to people serving in government contributed to the growth of the **zamindari system**. The textbook notes that this system created difficulties for farmers.



2 TOWNS, CRAFTS AND BANKING

Towns had craftsmen and traders. **Vaishya merchants** participated in business and banking.



3 FOREIGN TRADE

Foreign trade flourished. The textbook describes trade in **spices, cotton and silk cloth**, **perfumes** and **diamonds**, while **horses** were imported from Central Asia and Arabia.



4 SOCIAL LIFE

Social classes were often associated with professions. The textbook describes women's participation in **literature, dance, music, painting and embroidery**.



5 PILGRIMAGE AND PUSHKAR

The textbook identifies **Pushkar** near Ajmer as an important pilgrimage centre and describes its camel fair.





THE AHOM DYNASTY

Assam, Administration, Naval Power and Resistance

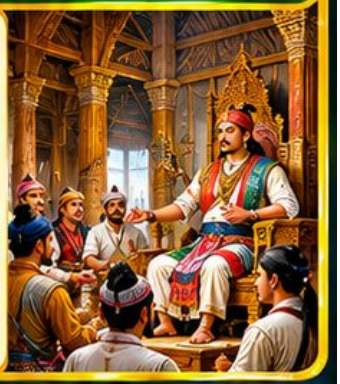
1 ORIGIN OF THE AHOMS

The Ahom dynasty ruled parts of present-day Assam from **1228 to 1826 CE**, according to the textbook. The dynasty was founded by **Sukapha**, a Shan prince whose ancestors crossed the **Patkai Mountains** and settled in Assam.



2 AHOM ADMINISTRATION

The Ahom king was called the **Asam Raja**. The textbook describes a council of important **Patra Mantris** and officials who advised the king and participated in the administration of the kingdom.

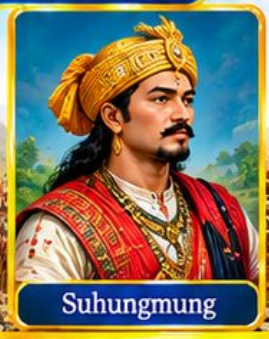


3 IMPORTANT RULERS AND QUEENS

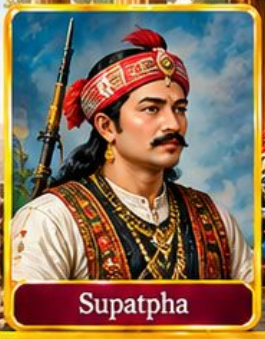
The textbook highlights **Sukapha**, **Suhungmung** and **Supatpha** among important rulers. Ahom queens also played important roles in the administration of the kingdom.



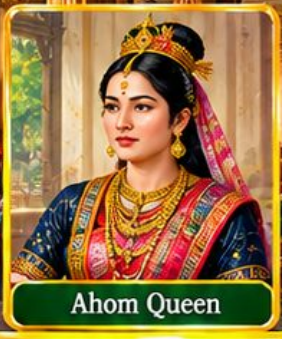
Sukapha



Suhungmung



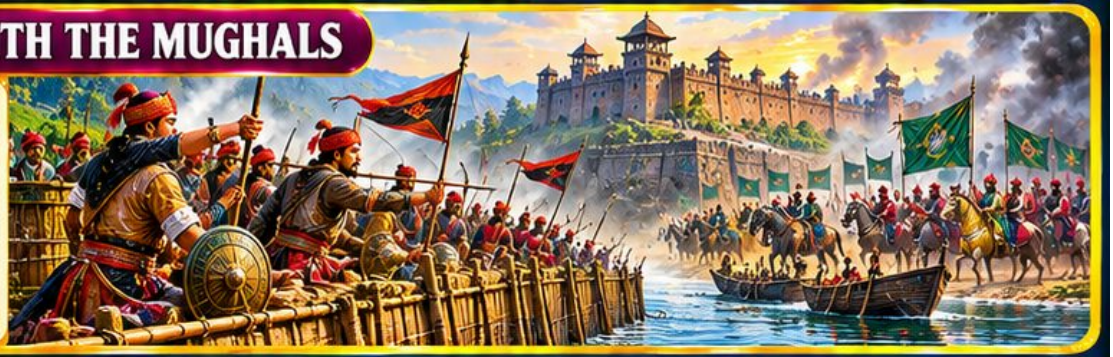
Supatpha



Ahom Queen

4 CONFLICT WITH THE MUGHALS

The Ahom kingdom resisted **Mughal expansion** into Northeast India. The textbook describes Ahom forces recovering territories and resisting repeated invasions.



5 NAVAL POWER

The Ahoms maintained a naval force on the **Brahmaputra River**. They were skilled in building boats, naval warfare and guerrilla tactics.



6 CHRONOLOGY

Karkota Dynasty
625 – 855 CE

Rajput period
650 – 1200 CE

Ahom Dynasty
1228 – 1826 CE