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The Pala Empire (Bengali: পাল সাম্রাজ্য) was an imperial power during the Late Classical period on the Indian subcontinent, which originated in the region of Bengal.

Origins[edit] According to the Khalimpur copper plate inscription, the first Pala king Gopala was the son of a warrior named Vapyata. The ethnic origins of the dynasty are unknown, although the later records claim that Gopala was a Kshatriya belonging to the legendary Solar dynasty. The Ramacharitam also attests the fifteenth Pala emperor, Ramapala , as a Kshatriya. Claims of belonging to the legendary Solar dynasty are unreliable and clearly appear to be an attempt to cover up the humble origins of the dynasty. There are even accounts that claim Gopala may have been from a Brahmin lineage. There was no central authority, and there was constant struggle between petty chieftains. The contemporary writings describe this situation as matsya nyaya "fish justice" i. Gopala ascended the throne as the first Pala king during these times. The Khalimpur copper plate suggests that the prakriti people of the region made him the king. However, his account is in form of a legend, and is considered historically unreliable. The legend mentions that after a period of anarchy, the people elected several kings in succession, all of whom were consumed by the Naga queen of an earlier king on the night following their election. Gopal, however managed to kill the queen and remained on the throne. Such elections were quite common in contemporary societies of the region. Dharmapala was initially defeated by the Pratihara ruler Vatsaraja. Later, the Rashtrakuta king Dhruva defeated both Dharmapala and Vatsaraja. After Dhruva left for the Deccan region, Dharmapala built a mighty empire in the northern India. He defeated Indrayudha of Kannauj , and installed his own nominee Chakrayudha on the throne of Kannauj. Several other smaller states in North India also acknowledged his suzerainty. Nagabhata II then advanced up to Munger and defeated Dharmapala in a pitched battle. Dharmapala was forced to surrender and to seek alliance with the Rashtrakuta emperor Govinda III , who then intervened by invading northern India and defeating Nagabhata II. He adopted the title Paramesvara Paramabhattacharaka Maharajadhiraja. During his reign, the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha defeated the Palas. Encouraged by the Pala decline, the King Harjara of Assam assumed imperial titles and the Sailodbhavas established their power in Orissa. During his reign, the Pala empire disintegrated into smaller kingdoms like Gauda, Radha, Anga and Vanga. Kantideva of Harikela eastern and southern Bengal also assumed the title Maharajadhiraja, and established a separate kingdom, later ruled by the Chandra dynasty. The rulers of this dynasty also bore names ending in the suffix -pala e. Rajyapala , Narayanapala and Nayapala. However, their origin is uncertain, and the most plausible view is that they originated from a Pala official who usurped a major part of the Pala kingdom along with its capital. He also recovered the northern part of the present-day Burdwan division. During his reign, Rajendra Chola I of the Chola Empire frequently invaded Bengal from to CE to get Ganges water and in the process, succeeded to humble the rulers, acquiring considerable booty. He may have also conquered Varanasi and surrounding area, as his brothers Sthirapala and Vasantapala undertook construction and repairs of several sacred structures at Varanasi. Later, the Kalachuri king Gangeyadeva annexed Varanasi after defeating the ruler of Anga, which could have been Mahipala I. Subsequently, a series of invasions considerably reduced the power of the Palas. The Varmans occupied eastern Bengal during his reign. His reign is well-documented by Sandhyakar Nandi in Ramacharitam. Soon afterwards, he faced a rebellion of vassal chiefs from the Kaibarta fishermen. A chief named Divya or Divvoka killed him and occupied the Varendra region. The region remained under the control of his successors Rudak and Bhima. Surapala II escaped to Magadha and died after a short reign. He was supported by his maternal uncle Mathana of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, as well as several feudatory chiefs of south Bihar and south-west Bengal. Ramapala conclusively defeated Bhima, and killing him and his family in a cruel manner. Folios were probably from the Pala period under Ramapala , considered the last great ruler of the Pala dynasty. After gaining control of Varendra, Ramapala tried to revive the Pala empire with limited success. He reduced taxation, promoted cultivation and constructed public utilities. He brought Kamarupa and Rar under his control, and forced the Varman king of east Bengal to accept his suzerainty. He also struggled with the Ganga king for control of present-day Orissa; the Gangas managed to annexe the region only after his

death. Ramapala maintained friendly relations with the Chola king Kulottunga to secure support against the common enemies: He kept the Senas in check, but lost Mithila to a Karnataka chief named Nanyuadeva. He also held back the aggressive design of the Gahadavala ruler Govindacharndra through a matrimonial alliance. Madanapala captured Munger from the Gahadavalas, but was defeated by Vijayasena, who gained control of southern and eastern Bengal. A ruler named Govindapala ruled over the Gaya district around CE, but there is no concrete evidence about his relationship to the imperial Palas. The Pala dynasty was replaced by the Sena dynasty. Though the Palas conquered a vast region in North India at one time, they could not retain it for long due to constant hostility from the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Rashtrakutas and other less powerful kings. Apart from Bengal, he directly ruled the present-day Bihar. The kingdom of Kannauj present-day Uttar Pradesh was a Pala dependency at times, ruled by his nominee Chakrayudha. The other rulers acknowledged the military and political supremacy of Dharmapala, but maintained their own territories. The Badal pillar inscription of his successor Narayana Pala states that by the wise counsel and policy of his Brahmin minister Darbhapani, Devapala became the suzerain monarch or Chakravarti of the whole tract of Northern India bounded by the Vindhyas and the Himalayas. It also states that his empire extended up to the two oceans presumably the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The identity of the Kamboja prince is also uncertain. Kamboja, in this inscription, could refer to the Kamboja tribe that had entered North India see Kamboja Pala dynasty. The Dravida king is usually identified with the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha. Some scholars believe that the Dravida king could have been the Pandya ruler Shri Mara Shri Vallabha, since "Dravida" usually refers to the territory south of the Krishna river. According to this theory, Devapala could have been helped in his southern expedition by the Chandela king Vijaya. Besides, the neighbouring kingdoms of Rashtrakutas and the Gurjara-Pratiharas were weak at the time, which might have helped him extend his empire. He also briefly lost control over Magadha and north Bengal. Gopala II lost control of Bengal, and ruled only from a part of Bihar. The Pala empire disintegrated into smaller kingdoms during the reign of Vigrahapala II. Mahipala recovered parts of Bengal and Bihar. His successors lost Bengal again. The king was the centre of all power. Pala kings would adopt imperial titles like Parameshwara, Paramvattaraka, Maharajadhiraja. Pala kings appointed Prime Ministers.

Chapter 2 : The Gupta Dynasty and Empire

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The Pala Empire originated from 8th to 12th century and was a dynasty which controlled Bihar and Bengal regions of South Asia. The name Pala is the synonym for "protector" and was used as an ending to the names of all Pala monarchs. The founder of the Pala Dynasty was Gopala. He came to power in AD and was the first independent Buddhist king of Bengal Gaur by democratic election. He ruled from and consolidated his position and extended his control over all of Bengal. The successor of King Gopala was Dharmapala. He made the Palas a dominant power of northern India. He defeated many kings to keep his supreme power. Dharmapala was an able administrator too. With his dominant power he extended his throne in the Kanauj. Devpala was the descendant the throne of Pala Empire after Dharmapala and ruled for about 40 years. During his reign Bengal rose to eminence in north Indian politics. His high diplomatic skills helped him to maintain his authority. He fought with Pratiharas and extended the Pala empires frontier up to the Himalayan region in the north, and the Vindhyas in the south. The immediate successors of Devpala were weak and because of which the dynasty disintegrated after him. The later Mahipala I, who is known as the founder of the second Pala kingdom and ruled from AD to , regained the lost glory to the kingdom. He succeeded in recapturing the lost territories in northern and western Bengal and brought Pala dynastic rule to a firmer footing. Mahipal I became a highly popular king by his public welfare activities. The Pala Dynasty very much patronized Buddhism at a time when it was in decline in the rest of India. Pala dynasty ruled for about four hundred years with the achievements of Bengal. It was a widespread empire, organized administrative system, ruling policy focusing on public welfare, also excellence in the field of arts and cultivation of knowledge and literature - all these contributed to the glory of the Pala rule. The Pala rulers had the capacity and courage to protect North India from the attack of Pratiharas and Rastrakutas. The dynasty had close trading relations with the countries of south-east Asia. General Facts about Pala dynasty The administration during Pala Period introduced feudal economy here trade declined and agro economy flourished. Also the minerals played a major role in uplifting the economy. Their basis of administration was monarchical and the social condition during the reign of this dynasty was very much peaceful. Pala rulers followed Buddhism as well as Hinduism. Art and architecture was also encouraged during this period which was identified by "Pala School of Sculptural Art". The language used by Palas was Proto-Bengal Language. The Pala dynasty rulers were very much interested in Buddhist art, literature and learning. Bengali art, literature and paintings flourished during the period of this dynasty. Pala administration Pala Dynasty administration was Monarchical and King or Monarch was the centre of all power. Pala rulers adopted Imperial titles like Parameshwar, Paramvattaraka, and Maharajadhiraja. Their Administration covered widespread area from the grass root level to the imperial court Palas Army was fourfold and the army consisted of: Vatsaraja Dharmapala had been mentioned as the owner of unlimited number of horses, elephants and chariots in the copperplates. It is amazing to know that Kings of Bengal still depended on Four-Horsed Heavy Chariots as when the use of chariots had been backdated in India and other parts of the world. Palas had to depend upon their vassal kings for war horses. As being a riverine land and swarthy climate Bengal region was not good enough for breeding quality war-horses. The Kamboja cavalry was the cream of the Pala Empires armed forces. The Kamboja forces of Pala Dynasty maintained smaller confederates Sanghas among themselves and obedient followers of their commander. Palas divided the army into following posts: Senapati or Mahasenapati General controlling foot soldiers, cavalry, soldiers riding elephants and camels, navy, and the various army posts like Kottapala Fort guards and Prantapala Border guards. Palas had a huge army and the legend of "Nava Lakkha Shainya" Nine lac soldiers were popular during the reigns of Dharmapala and Devapala.

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In India, during the rule of Palas, art and architecture witnessed a phenomenal development in the states of Bengal and Bihar. The matchless tradition of sculptural art had attained a new position under the reign of Palas. The characteristic of art and architecture of that period included lot of local phenomena of the Bengali society. Consequently, the most distinctive achievements during the age of the Palas were in the field of art and sculptures. Art and Architecture of Pala Dynasty furnished the accomplishment in the field of terracotta, sculpture and painting. One of the finest instances of architecture of the Pala period is a creation of Dhamapala, the Somapura Mahavihara at Paharpur. In addition to that several enormous structures of Vikramshila Vihar, Odantpuri Vihar, and Jagaddal Vihar proclaim to be the masterpieces of the Palas. The architectural style of the Pala Empire influenced the whole of the country and its neighbouring countries. Their approach was followed throughout south-eastern Asia, China, Japan, and Tibet. The matchless examples of the Art and Architecture of Pala Dynasty find their significance in the museums in Bangladesh and West Bengal as the remarkable display. The museums play abode to the innumerable beautiful sculptures on Rajmahal black basalt stone. The sculptures beautifully carved in the Pala period demonstrate the mastery of Pala dynasty. The age saw an upsurge of perfect carving and Bronze sculptures. Furthermore, it has been recognized by the historians that the specimens of bronzes influenced the art in south-east Asian countries. Art and Architecture of Pala Dynasty also involved the art of painting also excelled in that period. Though, no exact examples of paintings have been found of that period yet various illustrations of beautiful paintings of the Buddhist gods and goddesses, appearing in the Vajrayana and Tantrayana Buddhist manuscripts corroborate the subsistence of paintings in the Pala Empire. Moreover, with advanced stage of architectural expansion several Buddhist Viharas came originated. The plan of central shrine in the Buddhist Vihara evolved in Bengal during the Pala rule. Other instances demonstrating the brilliance of the art in the Pala period include the terracotta plaques. These plaques are used as the surface decoration of the walls and are recognised as unique creation of the Bengal artists.

Chapter 4 : Art and Architecture of Pala Dynasty

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It does not profess to deal with iconography or history. For such historical setting as is necessary I have gone to such recognized authorities as Mr. As regards the subject of this book, I must express my deep indebtedness to Mr. D, Banerji, who has placed his unrivalled knowledge at my disposal. I have also great pleasure in acknowledging the kind assistance of Sir John Marshall, C. Akhoy Kumar Maitra, C. As regards the illustrations I am indebted to Mr. The rest are my own photographs, some of them taken for the first time. The evidence for the dates assigned to particular sculptures is not confined to the photographs of dated images shown in the present work, though sufficient have been given for the purpose. From Chanddagram, 14 miles south of Comilla, district Tippera, Bengal. Stolen by thieves in , and present locality unknown. Bears an inscription that it was dedicated by Pravabati, Maharani of Devakhadga, eighth century. Found at Mahasthan, district Bogra, Bengal. Found at Nalanda, Bihar. Now in Nalanda Museum. DURGA slaying demon buffalo. In ruined temple at Boram, district Manbhum, Bihar. Outside temple at Barakar, district Burdwan, Bengal. Now in the Indian Museum in Calcutta. No record is available as to where this image was found, but the style of the art marks it with certainty as belonging to the eighth century of the Pal period. From Hilsa, district Patna, Bihar. Now in Patna Museum. Bears an inscription dated the 35 th year of Devapala. Found at Nalanda, district Patna, Bihar. Bears an inscription stating that it was made in the reign of Devapala. From Bhrikati, district Bogra, Bengal. Now in Indian Museum, Calcutta No. In the temple of Ekteswar, district Bankura, Bengal. Bears an inscription stating that it was made in the reign of Mahendrapala. On the summit of Gurpa Hills, district Gaya, Bihar. Same period as XX. Now in Indian Museum No. It was conveyed to the Museum from the gardens of Belvedere House, Calcutta. No record is available as to where this image was found. An illumination from a palm-leaf manuscript, Ashtasahasrika Prajna-paramita, dated the 15 th year of the reign of Gopala From Kurkihar, district Gaya, Bihar. In the wall outside a temple near Joypur, district Bankura, Bengal. From Mahi-santosh, district Dinajpur, Bengal. Found at Nalanda, district Patna, Bihar. In a temple at Bidyakuth, near Brahmanbaria, district Tippera. Bears an inscription dated the 3rd year of Mahipala. The figure of a man on the left indicates the height. This temple, which is partially ruined, is in the same style as the Barakar temples. Now in Indian Museum, Calcutta. Bears an inscription dated the 26th year of Dharmapala. From Uddandapura, district Patna, Bihar. Bears an inscription dated the 3rd year of Vigrahapala I alternative name Surapala I. From Uddandapura, district Patna, Bihar. Bears an inscription dated the 54th year of Narayana-pala. Bears an inscription dated the 4th year of Mahendrapala a. In wall of temple at Ramgaya, district Gaya, Bihar. Bears an inscription dated the 8th year of Mahendrapala. In temple at Guneriya, district Gaya, Bihar. Bears an inscription stating that it was made in the reign of Mahendrapala. Bears an inscription dated the 1st year of Gopala II early tenth century. In a temple at Bodhgaya, district Gaya, Bihar. Bears an inscription dated the 10th year of Mahipala. Bears an inscription dated the nth year of Mahipala. Now in Sarnath Museum. Bears an inscription dated Samvat a. Bears an inscription dated the 13th year of Vigrahapala III. Bears an inscription dated the 3rd year of Ramapala. From Chandiman Giryek, district Patna, Bihar. Bears an inscription dated the 42nd year of Ramapala. Found near Nalanda, district Patna, Bihar. Bears an inscription stating that it was made in the reign of Madanapala. In a temple at Dalbazar, Dacca, Bengal. Bears an inscription dated the 3rd year of Lakshman Sen. When it arose, Bengal was divided among a number of petty kinglets, and for three centuries had been ruled thus, ever since the days of the great Gupta Empire, that classical age in Indian art and literature which came to an end with the invasions of the White Huns from Central Asia. The rise of the Pal dynasty marks the resurgence of art in Bengal. A striking aspect of the Pal Age is the Tantrik system, one of the most startling and intricate elements of Hinduism. The rise of the Pal dynasty was preceded by a period of anarchy. Anarchy is said to be fishlike because the large fish prey at will on the smaller ones. Efforts to end this anarchy in Bengal were for a time futile. The Tibetan monk Taranath in his history of Buddhism gives the reason as follows: He eluded her efforts to poison him, and

became King for life. The present Dalai Lama, the ruler of Tibet, is the first for some hundreds of years to reign for any considerable length of time. All his predecessors were poisoned. Like Gopala, the present Dalai Lama has eluded his poisoners. The throne which Gopala ascended was that of Gauda. This name is now applied to the ruins of a great city in the Malda district, but in ancient times it included the whole of Northern Bengal. Gopala, like all the rest of his line, was a Buddhist. It bears an inscription which gives its date as the eighth century. This image was found in the district of Tippera in Eastern Bengal, and was seen by the writer in a temple of Chandi, in the south-west extremity of the Lalmai Hills, a peculiar low range rising abruptly from marsh and ricefields. Now this image has disappeared, stolen by thieves. It was a gold-plated metal image, and doubtless it has been melted down for the fragments of gold on it. The photograph hardly does justice to the image, and the profile view was finer, but such as it is we must make the best of it as the only surviving record. The simplicity, dignity, and a certain impermanent sense of life and vitality need no emphasis. The archaic smile recalls the art of Greece of thirteen centuries earlier. The image of Vishnu III is of the same period. The elegance and strength of this figure, combined with the same mysterious sense of vitality which marks the first figure of the goddess Chandi, are characteristic of the early stages of Pal art. The style of the art resembles that of the first figure of the goddess Chandi. This image was found on the site of the ancient city of Mahasthan. All that remains of Mahasthan nowadays is a vast mound a mile square, surrounded by a huge moat. The mound supports an Indian village, with its rice and brilliant yellow mustard fields, and only a vast pillar or massive block of stone protruding from the earth recalls the memories of its vanished glories. This mound, which rises straight up from the swampy plain, is an enduring evidence of the power and greatness of the Pal Empire. All the country round Mahasthan for some miles is full of traces of ancient remains. It resembles Delhi, Patna, and Malda in containing ruins and remains of more than one period. If but one-hundredth part of the time and energy expended every year on excavations in Egypt were applied to this region, what interesting results might not be obtained?

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The player must attempt to destroy every opposing civilization on the map, thus conquering the world. The game itself contains many unique and innovative features, including a "morale" system, which directly affects individual units statistics. It also incorporates a "hero" system. Heroes can be built at the town center or capital. There are two types of heroes , Strategist heroes who heal surrounding units and can demoralize enemy units while Warrior heroes give morale to surrounding units and have a greater attack power. Finally, the player has the option of creating their own civilization with unique bonuses. Empire Earth has a map editor included. Multiplayer consists of online and network play with up to 8 people simultaneously. The game is a basic war between all sides, unless diplomacy is involved. Until November , multiplayer gameplay was played on the official Sierra servers, but these were shut down by Activision which had bought the company. However, players can still play online by connecting directly to the IP address of the game host, provided that the firewall of the host has ports forwarded. Epochs Edit Epochs are the ages of history a player passes through in Empire Earth. Each of these epochs represents an age within history. Each epoch brings new technologies and units. Epoch advancement requires additional buildings to be built and the costs of advancing increases as more epochs are attained, although the ability to gather the required resources greatly increases as well. With new epochs, some new units are available at the cost of having to abandon the ability to produce old units, though any old units still alive are kept. The game spans , years of human history, in 14 different epochs. The Space Age from Art of Conquest also fits in this category. Several different units are available in each epoch, each being produced in a different building. Some units such as infantry are available in every epoch and can be created at the Barracks. Other units such as archers are available from the Stone age to the Renaissance and are created at the Archery Range. Siege weapons such as Catapults are produced at Siege Factories , they are available starting from the Bronze Age until the Dark Ages and are later substituted by the Trebuchet in the Middle Ages throughout the Renaissance, finally being replaced by cannons in the Imperial Age. In the Atomic Age-WW1 epoch some new buildings are made available to the player, such as Airports , Tank Factories and Naval Yards where certain planes, tanks and submarines, etc. In the Digital age Cyber Factories and Laboratories are available and can produce many types of mechs, which are known as Cybers in Empire Earth. Technologies to improve farming can be researched at the granary. Health related technologies can be researched at a hospital. Education upgrades are found in the university , which can protect units from being converted. Economic upgrades are found in the town center or capitol. These upgrades will increase the rate at which resources are gathered. Civilizations are predetermined in scenarios, but chosen by the player shortly after the beginning of random map games. Also, civilizations may be created by the player through the main menu or in the map editor. Each civilization has several bonuses such as increased speed or decreased cost for a type of unit. Any civilization can be played in any epoch but will only be powerful in ages that use units that it has bonuses for. In scenarios, the player receives " civilization points " for completing various tasks. The following are the available civilizations, grouped into their recommended epochs. With the exception of the futuristic Novaya Russia and Rebel Forces , all civilizations in Empire Earth are based upon history.

Chapter 6 : Pala Dynasty, Pala Empire, Pala empire in India, Pala School of Sculptures

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A shady technology company develops a process that turns innocent animals into giant killer monsters. Unfortunately, their serum infects the wrong animals, including the gorilla pal of zoologist Davis Okoye Dwayne Johnson , putting the entire world at risk. Two hundred and 60 pounds of oiled muscles and oil-free charisma, he can sell you things you thought you actively did not want: Rampage is a quintessential Johnson project. Based on a video game with no story or characters to speak of, from a time before many of his fans were born, it sounds like a dreadful basis for a movie. This very silly movie could actually have afforded to be a lot sillier. The original Rampage came out in , when games were simple you moved from side to side either punching things or shooting them or gorging on white dots and ghosts and repetitive. And we were glad of it. In Rampage, players controlled one of three giant monsters – a wolf, a lizard, or a gorilla – and tried to destroy cities before the military could shoot them down and turn them back into the humans they apparently once were. Sacrilegiously messing with the canon, the Rampage movie does not feature humans becoming monsters. To avoid the prying eyes of the government and others who might notice titanic hamsters devouring Downtown, these scientists have been carrying out their experiments in space. But things go awry, the space station blows up, and several canisters of monster juice are sent hurtling to Earth. Two land in the wilderness and another crashes into a San Diego zoo, where Davis Okoye Johnson works with gorillas. His favourite, an albino called George, is affected by the serum and grows colossal and violent. This is a movie about gorillas punching buildings. Because who cares how they did it? Logic is only going to slow things down. When it comes to the building-punching portion of the show, there could have been more of it. Johnson is mostly playing his gags with an eyebrow waggle, but not all of the film has his broad confidence. Those villains could be camper, the action sequences could use some more visual gags to enjoy the absurdity of the conceit, and is it greedy to wish the massive gorilla, wolf and lizard were even bigger? Rampage is big dumb fun, but not as big, dumb and fun as it could have been. Ridiculous, of course, but not as ridiculous as it might have been.

The art pieces are numbered and hand signed at the bottom, it is shipped with a certificate of authenticity hand signed by the artist. a perfect art piece for art collectors and interior design. Notice that all the art bottles have been approved by the high end brand LOEWE art foundation for the artcraft prize

Kailasanathar Temple , Kanchipuram A Sangam Period classic, Manimekalai , attributes the origin of the first Pallava King from a liaison between the daughter of a Naga king of Manipallava named Pilli Valai Pilivalai with a Chola king, Killivalavan, out of which union was born a prince, who was lost in ship wreck and found with a twig pallava of Cephalaria Indica Tondai around his ankle and hence named Tondai-man. Another version states that "Pallava" was born from the union of the Brahmin Ashvatthama with a Naga Princess also supposedly supported in the sixth verse of the Bahur plates which states "From Ashvatthama was born the king named Pallava". Instead, they credit the Naga liaison episode, and creation of the Pallava line, to a different Pallava king named Virakurcha, while preserving its legitimising significance: Thence, came into existence the race of Pallavas The word Tondai means a creeper and the term Pallava conveys a similar meaning. Subramanian says the Pallavas were originally a Telugu power rather than a Tamil one. Telugu sources know of a Trilochana Pallava as the earliest Telugu king and they are confirmed by later inscriptions. A Buddhist story describes Kala the Nagaraja, resembling the Pallava Kalabharta as a king of the region near Krishna district. The Pallava Bogga may be identified with the kingdom of Kala in Andhra which had close and early maritime and cultural relations with Ceylon. Nilakanta Sastri postulated that Pallavas were descendants of a North Indian dynasty who moved southwards, adopted local traditions to their own use, and named themselves as Tondaiyar after the land called Tondai. Jayaswal also proposed a North Indian origin, putting forward the theory that the Pallavas were a branch of the Vakatakas. Thereafter Kanchi figures in inscriptions as the capital of the Pallavas. The Cholas drove the Pallavas away from Kanchi in the mid-4th century, in the reign of Vishugopa, the tenth king of the Pallava line. The Pallavas re-captured Kanchi in the mid-6th century, possibly in the reign of Simhavishnu, the fourteenth king of the Pallava line, whom the Kasakudi plates state as "the lion of the earth". Thereafter the Pallavas held on to Kanchi until the 9th century, until the reign of their last king, Vijaya-Nripatungavarman. A contest for political supremacy existed between the early Pallavas and the Kadambas. Numerous Kadamba inscriptions provide details of Pallava-Kadamba hostilities. Towards the close of the 6th century, the Pallava Simhavishnu struck a blow against the Kalabhras. The Pandyas followed suit. Thereafter the Tamil country was divided between the Pallavas in the north with Kanchipuram as their capital, and Pandyas in the south with Madurai as their capital. The suffix "Malla" was used by the Pallava rulers. Pallava kings, presumably exalted ones, were known by the title Mahamalla "great wrestler". Obv Lion left Rev Name of Narasimhavarman with solar and lunar symbols around. All early Pallava royal inscriptions were either in Sanskrit or Prakrit, considered the official languages of the dynasty while the official scripts were Pallava and later Grantha. It would have been in the interest of the ruling elite to protect their privileges by perpetuating their hegemony of Prakrit in order to exclude the common people from sharing power Mahadevan a: The Pallavas in their Tamil country used Tamil and Sanskrit in their inscriptions. Almost all the copper plate records, viz. Pallava alphabet Under the Pallava dynasty, a unique form of Grantha script , a descendant of Pallava script which is a type of Brahmic script , was used. Around the 6th century, it was exported eastwards and influenced the genesis of almost all Southeast Asian scripts. Religion[edit] Pallavas were followers of Hinduism and made gifts of land to gods and Brahmins. In line with the prevalent customs, some of the rulers performed the Aswamedha and other Vedic sacrifices. The Chinese monk Xuanzang who visited Kanchipuram during the reign of Narasimhavarman I reported that there were Buddhist monasteries, and 80 temples in Kanchipuram. The earliest examples of Pallava constructions are rock-cut temples dating from 6th and structural temples between 6th and 7th A number of rock-cut cave temples bear the inscription of the Pallava king, Mahendravarman I and his successors. There are excavated pillared halls and monolithic shrines known as Rathas in Mahabalipuram. Early temples were mostly dedicated to Shiva. The Kailasanatha temple in Kanchipuram and the Shore Temple built by Narasimhavarman II , rock cut temple in

Mahendravadi by Mahendravarman are fine examples of the Pallava style temples. The famous Tondeswaram temple of Tenavarai and the ancient Koneswaram temple of Trincomalee were patronized and structurally developed by the Pallavas in the 7th century. He performed the Aswamedha and other Vedic sacrifices and bore the title of "Supreme King of Kings devoted to dharma". They are all dated in the regnal years of the kings.

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Trade continued, with more being sold to the Roman Empire than was being imported. In India, Roman coins were piling up. The Kushan invaders were absorbed by India, Kushan kings adopting the manners and language of the Indians and intermarrying with Indian royal families. The southern kingdom of Andhra conquered Magadha in 27 BCE, ending the Sunga dynasty in Magadha, and Andhra extended its power in the Ganges Valley, creating a new bridge between the north and the south. But this came to an end as Andhra and two other southern kingdoms weakened themselves by warring against each other. By the early 1st CE, power in India was returning to the Magadha region, and India was entering what would be called its classical age. A Magadha raja named Chandra Gupta unrelated to the Chandragupta of six centuries before controlled rich veins of iron from the nearby Barabara Hills. In 320 CE, Chandra Gupta created for himself the title King of Kings Maharajadhiraja, and he extended his rule westward to Prayaga, in north-central India. The Gupta Empire Ten years into his rule, Chandra Gupta lay dying, and he told his son, Samudra, to rule the whole world. He waged war along the Ganges plain, overwhelming nine kings and incorporating their subjects and lands into the Gupta Empire. He absorbed Bengal, and kingdoms in Nepal and Assam paid him tribute. He expanded his empire westward, conquering Malava and the Saka kingdom of Ujjayini. He gave various tribal states autonomy under his protection. He raided Pallava and humbled eleven kings in southern India. He made a vassal of the king of Lanka, and he compelled five kings on the outskirts of his empire to pay him tribute. The powerful kingdom of Vakataka in central India, he preferred to leave independent and friendly. While Rome was being overrun and the western half of the Roman Empire was disintegrating, Gupta rule was at the apex of its grandeur, prospering in agriculture, crafts and trade. Unlike the Maurya Dynasty with its state control of trade and industry, the Guptas let people free to pursue wealth and business, and prosperity exceeded that of the Mauryan era. But largely many Indians were pursuing pleasure and enjoying life. In the cities were wealthy and middle class people who enjoyed their gardens, music, dancing, plays and various other entertainment. They enjoyed a daily bath, artistic and social activities and a variety of food, including rice, bread, fish, milk, fruits and juices. And despite religious prohibitions, the Indians especially the aristocrats drank wine and stronger alcoholic beverages. The middle class prospered. Greater wealth accrued to those who already had wealth. Big estates grew with the help of dependent labor and slave labor. The poor stayed poor, but apparently there was little dire want. The caste system still existed. So too did the inferior status of women. The Gupta kings were autocrats who liked to think of themselves as servants to all their subjects. Hospitals offered care free of charge to everyone, rich and poor. With the increase in prosperity came a greater liberality. The cruel punishments during the Mauryan Dynasty had been abolished. The government operated without the system of espionage often practiced by Roman emperors and by Mauryan rulers. Law breaking was punished without death sentences mainly by fines. Among civilians, the avoidance of killing that had been a part of Buddhism and Jainism was widely observed. Across India most people had become vegetarians, except for fish which was widely consumed in Bengal and places to its south. And unlike parts of the Roman Empire, a traveler in India had little reason to fear robbery. A visitor from China, Fa-hien Faxian, traveled about in India for eleven years and recorded that he was never molested or robbed. With the good times came an intellectual revival. Literature flourished, and Indians exercised their proficiency in art, architecture and mathematics. He and other writers acquired fame expressing the values of the rich and powerful. During his forty-year reign the Gupta Empire remained undiminished. Then, as did the Roman Empire around this time, India suffered more invasions. Prince Skanda was a hero, and women and children sang praises to him. He succeeded his father in 493 CE. Then the Hephthalites returned, and he spent much of his reign of twenty-five years combating them, which drained his treasury and weakened his empire. Perhaps people accustomed to wealth and pleasure should have been more willing to contribute to a stronger military force. At any rate, Skanda Gupta died in 520 CE, and dissension arose within the royal family. Benefiting from this dissension, governors of

provinces and feudal chieftains revolted against Gupta rule. For a while the Gupta Empire had two centers: Seeing weakness, the Hephthalites invaded India again in greater number. Just before the year , the Hephthalites took control of the Punjab. After , they absorbed the Kashmir, and they advanced into the Ganges Valley, the heart of India, raping, burning, massacring, blotting out entire cities and reducing fine buildings to rubble. Provinces and feudal territories declared their independence, and the whole of north India became divided among numerous independent kingdoms. And with this fragmentation India was again torn by numerous small wars between local rulers. Sources Ancient India and Ancient China: A History of Ancient India, by L.

Chapter 9 : Full text of "The Art Of The Pal Empire Of Bengal"

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