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NCERT Solutions

*Step-by-step answers for the 2026-27 NCERT
textbook*

Chapter 4: Turning Tides: 11th and 12th Centuries

This PDF solves the textbook questions from the chapter on the 11th and 12th centuries. It covers Turkic invasions, regional kingdoms, Chola sea power, temple architecture, learning centres and map-based activities.

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Complete Chapter Solutions

Q 4.1 Why is the period under consideration in this chapter regarded as a major transition in Indian history? Give two examples each of change and continuity

from this period.

SOLUTION

Concept used. A transition means a period when old patterns continue, but new political, military and cultural developments also begin to reshape society.

Answer Frame

Use both halves of the question. Write two changes and two continuities.

Step 1. The 11th and 12th centuries saw deeper Turkic invasions into north India, unlike the earlier Arab incursions described in the previous chapter.

Step 2. New military styles, such as fast cavalry attacks with horse archers, changed the pattern of warfare in many regions.

Step 3. New powers also rose in different parts of India, including the Cholas, Kkatyas, Hoysalas, Paramras and Chandellas.

Step 4. At the same time, many continuities remained. Regional kingdoms still fought, formed alliances and ruled through local administration.

Step 5. Trade, temple-building, literature, learning and links with Southeast Asia continued to flourish.

Step 6. So the period was transitional because India faced new external pressures while older political and cultural strengths continued.

Final Answer: The period is called a major transition because deeper Turkic invasions and new regional powers changed politics and warfare, while trade, temple architecture, literature and regional rule continued strongly.

EXPERT'S SOLUTION : *Ananya Sen, M.A History, University of Delhi*

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

Step 1. Read this period as a mixed picture, not as a sudden break.

Step 2. The new element was the intensity of invasions from the northwest and the long-term political pressure they created in north India.

Step 3. Another change was the rise of powerful regional states in both north and south India.

Step 4. But continuity is just as important. Indian rulers still built temples, supported literature, managed revenue and expanded trade.

Step 5. The chapter therefore uses transition to show change and survival together.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: Transition means both change and continuity. The 11th and 12th centuries show new invasions and powers, but also strong cultural and economic continuity.

Q 4.2 Observe Fig. 3.27 in the previous chapter and draw a similar star of dynasties gathering all or most of the dynasties that appear in this chapter.

SOLUTION

Concept used. A star of dynasties is a visual organiser. It places the time period at the centre and connects every important dynasty around it.

Answer Frame

Group dynasties by region so the diagram stays neat.

- Step 1.** Write 11th and 12th centuries in the centre of the page.
- Step 2.** Draw spokes from the centre and place north Indian powers on one side, such as the Ghaznavids, Ghurids, Paramras, Chandellas and Chhamnas.
- Step 3.** Place eastern and Deccan powers on another side, such as the Eastern Gangas and Kkatyas.
- Step 4.** Place southern dynasties on the lower side, such as the Cholas and Hoysalas.
- Step 5.** Add one clue below each name, such as capital, famous ruler, temple, military event or cultural achievement.
- Step 6.** Use arrows or colours to show contacts, conflicts or trade links where the chapter mentions them.

Final Answer: The star should place the 11th and 12th centuries at the centre and arrange dynasties such as Ghaznavids, Ghurids, Paramras, Chandellas, Chhamnas, Eastern Gangas, Kkatyas, Hoysalas and Cholas around it.

EXPERT'S SOLUTION : *Raghav Menon, M.A
Medieval History, JNU*

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

Step 1. The best star is not just decorative. It should help you revise the chapter quickly.

Step 2. Keep one region per cluster so that the map of power becomes clear.

Step 3. For example, the Cholas can be linked to naval power, the Hoysalas to temple architecture and the Paramras to King Bhoja.

Step 4. This makes each dynasty easier to remember than a plain list.

Step 5. A short label under each spoke turns the diagram into a study tool.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: Make the star regional and labelled. A dynasty name plus one memory clue is better than a crowded diagram.

Q 4.3 Taking a map of the Subcontinent, draw a geographical tour that covers all or most dynasties in this chapter (you may draw inspiration from some of the 'travels' the chapter's narration follows).

SOLUTION

Concept used. A geographical tour connects historical places in the order a traveller might move across the Subcontinent.

Answer Frame

Mark places first, then join them. Do not draw arrows before locating the dynasties.

Step 1. Start in the northwest near Ghazni,

Punjab and the Khyber Pass to show the Ghaznavid and Ghurid entry routes.

Step 2. Move to north and central India for powers such as the Chhamnas, Chandellas and Paramras.

Step 3. Then move east towards Odisha and Bengal for the Eastern Gangas and other eastern references.

Step 4. Shift south to Warangal for the Kkatyas and to Karnataka for the Hoysalas.

Step 5. End in the Tamil region with the Cholas, marking Thanjavur, Gangaikocholapuram and Kanchipuram.

Step 6. If space permits, extend a sea route across the Bay of Bengal towards Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

Final Answer: A good tour begins in the northwest, moves through north and central India, reaches the east, turns to the Deccan and south India, and finally follows Chola sea links towards Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

Step 1. A tour answer should show movement, not just scattered dots.

Step 2. The chapter itself moves from invasions in the northwest to regional kingdoms across India and then to Chola maritime links.

Step 3. Following that order makes the map easy to explain.

Step 4. Use arrows, not thick lines, so the map remains readable.

Step 5. Add a small legend for land route, sea route and dynasty centre.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: Use the chapter's narration as your route: northwest, north, centre, east, Deccan, south, then the Bay of Bengal.

Q 4.4 With the help of a map of India and Southeast Asia, can you calculate the approximate distance that Rjendra I's fleet of ships had to navigate to reach their objective?

SOLUTION

Concept used. This is a map-scale question. The answer depends on the route measured, so an approximate range is acceptable.

Answer Frame

State the method, not only the number.
Mention the map scale or sea-route estimate.

- Step 1.** Locate the Chola coast near present-day Tamil Nadu on a map.
- Step 2.** Locate the region linked with the hrvijaya Empire near the Strait of Malacca and Sumatra.

- Step 3.** Use the map scale to measure the sea distance in straight segments across the Bay of Bengal.
- Step 4.** A straight-line estimate from the Tamil coast to the Malacca or Sumatra region is roughly 2,500 to 3,000 km.
- Step 5.** The actual sailing route could be longer because ships followed winds, currents, ports and safe coastal or island routes.
- Step 6.** So the answer should be written as an approximate navigational distance, not an exact modern road distance.

Final Answer: Rjendra I's fleet probably had to sail roughly 2,500 to 3,000 km from the Chola coast towards the hrvijaya region near the Strait of Malacca and Sumatra, depending on the route measured.

EXPERT'S SOLUTION : *Kabir Sethi, M.A History, Jamia Millia Islamia*

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

- Step 1.** The question tests map sense more than memorisation.
- Step 2.** Students should first decide the start and end points and then use the scale.
- Step 3.** A straight sea measurement gives a lower estimate.
- Step 4.** A practical medieval voyage could be longer because fleets used seasonal winds and stopping points.
- Step 5.** That is why a range is more honest than a single exact number.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: Use a range. About 2,500 to 3,000 km is a sensible map-based estimate for the Chola naval expedition.

Q 4.5 Match these two pairs: Eastern Gangas, Chandellas, Paramras, Hoysalas and Cholas with Belur, Bihadhvara temple, Konark Sun temple, Kandriy Mahdeva

temple and Bhojeshwar temple.

SOLUTION

Concept used. Matching questions ask you to connect a dynasty with its best-known monument or place mentioned in the chapter.

Answer Frame

Remember temple clues: Konark for Eastern Gangas, Khajuraho for Chandellas and Thanjavur for Cholas.

- Step 1.** The Eastern Gangas are linked with the Konark Sun temple.
- Step 2.** The Chandellas are linked with the Kandriy Mahdeva temple at Khajuraho.
- Step 3.** The Paramras are linked with the Bhojeshwar temple associated with King Bhoja.
- Step 4.** The Hoysalas are linked with Belur, one of their famous temple centres.
- Step 5.** The Cholas are linked with the Bihadhvara temple at Thanjavur.
- Step 6.** So the matched order is a with iii, b with iv, c with v, d with i and e with ii.

Final Answer: (a) Eastern Gangas: (iii) Konark Sun temple; (b) Chandellas: (iv) Kandriy Mahdeva temple; (c) Paramras: (v) Bhojeshwar temple; (d) Hoysalas: (i) Belur; (e) Cholas: (ii) Bihadhvara temple.

EXPERT'S SOLUTION : *Nandini Rao, M.Phil
History, University of Hyderabad*

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

Step 1. This matching set becomes easy if you attach one visual memory to each dynasty.

Step 2. Eastern Gangas point to the Sun temple at Konark.

Step 3. Chandellas point to the famous temples of Khajuraho.

Step 4. Paramras point to King Bhoja and Bhojeshwar.

Step 5. Hoysalas point to Belur and Halebidu, while Cholas point to the Bihadhvara temple.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the

chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: The correct matching is a-iii, b-iv, c-v, d-i and e-ii.

Q 4.6 Working in groups, compare the dynasties in this chapter and in the preceding one. Create a table to list the dynasties present in both, those that disappear from the preceding period, and those that appear in this chapter's period.

SOLUTION

Concept used. A comparison table shows historical change across two periods. It separates continuing powers from powers that fade or newly appear.

Answer Frame

Make three columns: present in both, disappear, newly appear.

Step 1. Read the dynasty list from the

preceding chapter and the present chapter.

- Step 2.** In the first column, write dynasties or powers that appear in both discussions.
- Step 3.** In the second column, write those that were important earlier but are not central in the 11th and 12th century chapter.
- Step 4.** In the third column, write new or newly prominent powers from this chapter, such as Ghaznavids, Ghurids, Kkatyas, Hoysalas and later Chola expansion.
- Step 5.** Add one note beside each entry, such as region, capital, famous ruler or important monument.
- Step 6.** Discuss differences in class because some entries may overlap by region rather than by exact dynasty.

Final Answer: The table should have three groups: dynasties present in both chapters, dynasties that fade from the preceding period and dynasties that newly appear or become prominent in the 11th and 12th centuries.

EXPERT'S SOLUTION : *Arjun Iyer, M.A History Education, Azim Premji University*

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

Step 1. This is an activity question, so the method matters.

Step 2. A strong answer explains how the group will compare, not just what the final table may contain.

Step 3. Some dynasties continue across chapter boundaries, while others lose importance or disappear from the narrative.

Step 4. New powers then help explain why the period is transitional.

Step 5. Adding regions and monuments keeps the table historical, not just

alphabetical.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: Use a three-column comparison table and add region clues. The aim is to show continuity, disappearance and new political powers.

Q 4.7 Using the chapter and any additional reading, prepare a short note explaining why centres of learning like Nland were important and how their destruction may have affected education and culture in India.

SOLUTION

Concept used. Centres of learning were places where teachers, students, manuscripts and knowledge traditions came together.

Answer Frame

Explain both importance and impact. Do not write only about destruction.

- Step 1.** Centres such as Nland attracted scholars, monks and students from India and other parts of Asia.
- Step 2.** They preserved manuscripts, supported debate and taught subjects such as philosophy, grammar, logic, medicine and Buddhist learning.
- Step 3.** They also connected India with wider Asian cultural networks through travelling students and teachers.
- Step 4.** Their destruction damaged buildings, libraries, manuscripts and teaching communities.
- Step 5.** This could break lines of learning and reduce the movement of scholars between regions.
- Step 6.** Even so, learning did not end in India. Other centres, local schools, temples, monasteries and scholars continued many traditions.

Final Answer: Nland and similar centres were important because they stored knowledge, trained scholars and connected India with Asia. Their destruction damaged libraries, teachers and networks of learning, though education continued in other places.

EXPERT'S SOLUTION : *Farah Khan, M.A South Asian Studies, Jadavpur University*

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

- Step 1.** The safest answer avoids both exaggeration and minimising the damage.
- Step 2.** Nland was important because it was a living academic community, not just a building.
- Step 3.** Destroying such a centre meant losing manuscripts, teachers, students and the rhythm of study.
- Step 4.** Culture was affected because ideas travel through institutions and people.
- Step 5.** At the same time, India had many

other knowledge spaces, so learning survived in different forms.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: The loss of Nland hurt education and manuscript culture, but it did not erase all learning traditions in India.

Q 4.8 Why do you think Mahmd of Ghazni carried out repeated raids from Afghanistan into India, while Muhammad Ghr sought territorial expansion into India and long-term control? Write a short note on how their motives shaped the outcomes of their campaigns.

SOLUTION

Concept used. Motives shape campaigns. Raids aim at quick plunder, while territorial expansion aims at control, administration and

future rule.

Answer Frame

Contrast motive and outcome for both rulers in separate sentences.

- Step 1.** Mahmd of Ghazni carried out repeated campaigns and usually returned to Ghazni with booty.
- Step 2.** His motive was mainly plunder, prestige and strengthening his power base outside India.
- Step 3.** This meant his raids caused destruction and fear, but did not create a long-lasting Indian kingdom under his direct rule.
- Step 4.** Muhammad Ghr, by contrast, looked for territorial expansion and lasting political control in north India.
- Step 5.** His campaigns led to military footholds and prepared the ground for later sultanate rule.
- Step 6.** So Mahmd's outcome was repeated extraction, while Ghr's outcome was more connected with state-building in India.

Final Answer: Mahmd's raids were mainly for booty and prestige, so he returned to Ghazni after campaigns. Muhammad Ghr sought territory and control, so his victories created a political foothold for later rule in north India.

EXPERT'S SOLUTION : *Devika Nair, M.A Ancient and Medieval History, Madras University*

Strategic angle. Read the question for the historical skill it asks: comparison, mapping, matching, or explanation.

Step 1. The key contrast is between raiding and ruling.

Step 2. Mahmd's pattern was to strike, loot and return, which enriched Ghazni but did not build a stable Indian administration.

Step 3. Ghr's campaigns were different because he wanted control over territory.

Step 4. That aim needed forts, commanders, revenue and political presence after the battle.

Step 5. The outcomes followed the motives: wealth for Mahmd, a route to lasting rule for Ghr.

This expert route keeps the answer tied to the chapter's evidence. It also shows how to turn a long history prompt into clear points a teacher can mark: identify the theme, cite the dynasty or event, and close with the result.

Final Answer: Mahmd's campaigns were raid-centred. Ghr's campaigns were control-centred, so they had longer political consequences.

Key Takeaways

- The 11th and 12th centuries were a transition because new invasions and powers appeared while older cultural strengths continued.
- Mahmd of Ghazni mainly raided for booty, while Muhammad Ghr aimed at territorial control.
- The Cholas show India's maritime strength and links with Southeast Asia.
- Temples, literature, science and centres of learning remained important parts of Indian civilisation.