

- Introduction to the 11th and 12th Centuries
- Turkic Invasions and the Ghaznavids
- Scholars and Scientists of the Period
- Political Dynasties and Kingdoms
- The Ghurids and the Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate
- Economy and Society
- Religious and Philosophical Thought
- Cultural Influence and Legacy
- Solved Examples
- Practice Set
- Answer Key
- Quick Reference
- Glossary

Introduction to the 11th and 12th Centuries

India in the 11th and 12th centuries was a land of resilience and transition. Despite centuries of foreign invasions and upheavals, the country maintained its native kingdoms, naval expeditions, and remarkable cultural achievements in art, architecture, literature, and science.



Fig. 4.1. A bas-relief sculpture from the Lakshmana Temple depicting soldiers and elephants preparing for war, illustrating the military organization of the time.

The Lakshmana Temple bas-relief depicts soldiers and elephants preparing for war, illustrating the military organization of the time.

Exam Questions

Q1: Why are the 11th and 12th centuries considered a period of transition in Indian history?

A1: Because of the deep invasions by Turkic powers, the rise and fall of native kingdoms, and significant cultural and political changes that shaped the period.

Q2: What were some of the key accomplishments in art and literature during this period?

A2: Construction of magnificent temples like the Lakshmana Temple, literary works by poets and scholars, and advancements in science and technology.

Turkic Invasions and the Ghaznavids

The Turkic peoples, originating from Central Asia, played a major role in shaping the history of northern India during this period. The Ghaznavids, led by Mahmud of Ghazni, conducted several invasions into the Indian subcontinent, capturing the wealthy city of Somnath and the region of Punjab.

Mahmud's invasions were marked by rapid cavalry attacks and plundering of wealthy temples such as those at Mathura, Kannauj, Gujarat, c

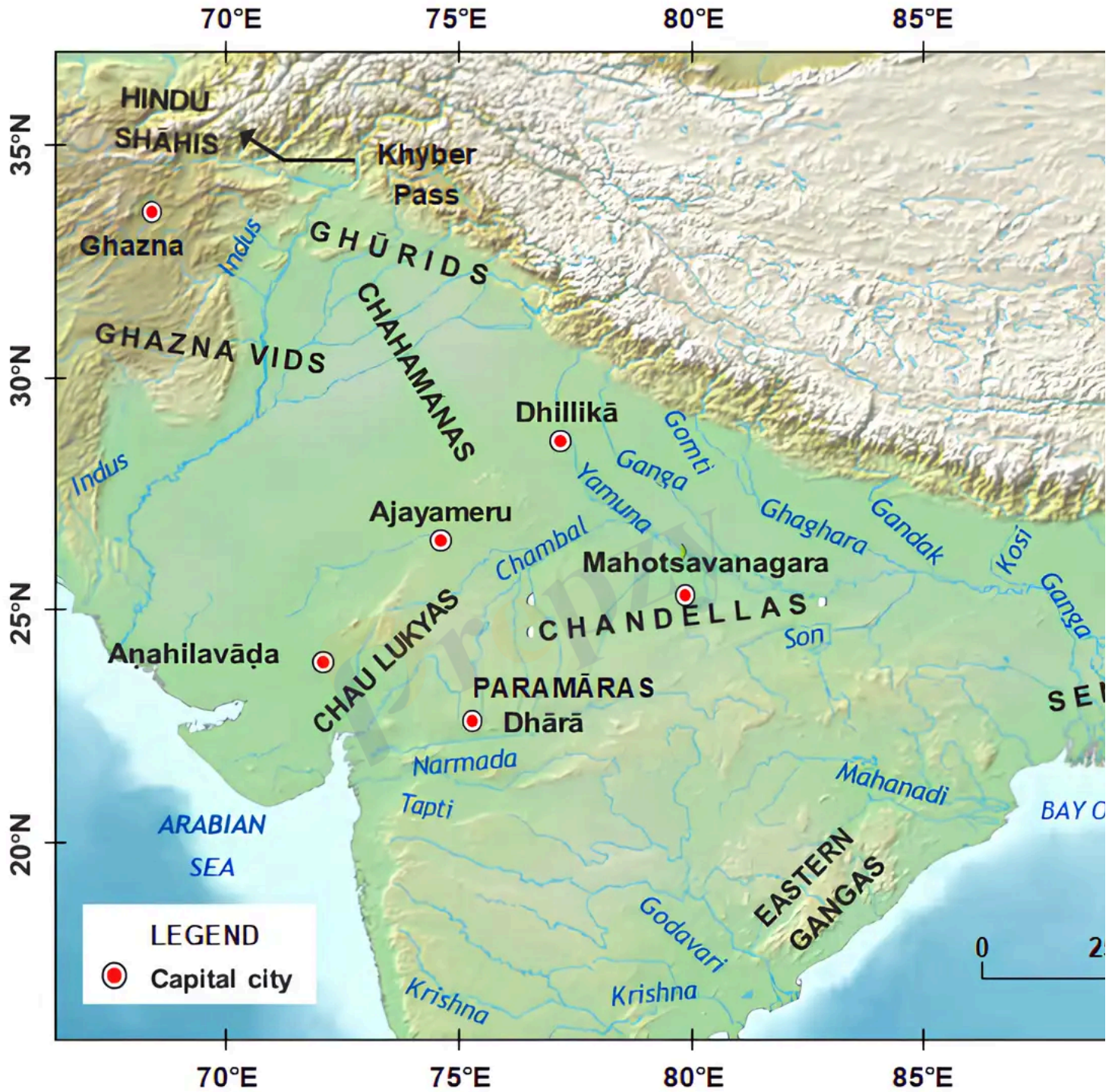


Fig. 4.4. A few dynasties in northern and central India in the 11th century.

Exam Questions

Q1: Who were the Ghaznavids and what was their significance?

A1: The Ghaznavids were a Turkic dynasty from Ghazni who invaded northern India, led by Mahmud of Ghazni, marking the beginning of deep

Q2: What impact did Mahmud of Ghazni's campaigns have on Indian society?

A2: His campaigns caused destruction of temples, plunder of wealth, loss of life, and disruption of cultural and religious institutions.

Scholars and Scientists of the Period

Despite the turmoil, this period saw remarkable contributions to knowledge and culture. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, a Persian scholar, accompani

Bhaskaracharya (Bhāskara II), born in 1114, was a great mathematician and astronomer whose works like Lilavati and Siddhantashiromani re

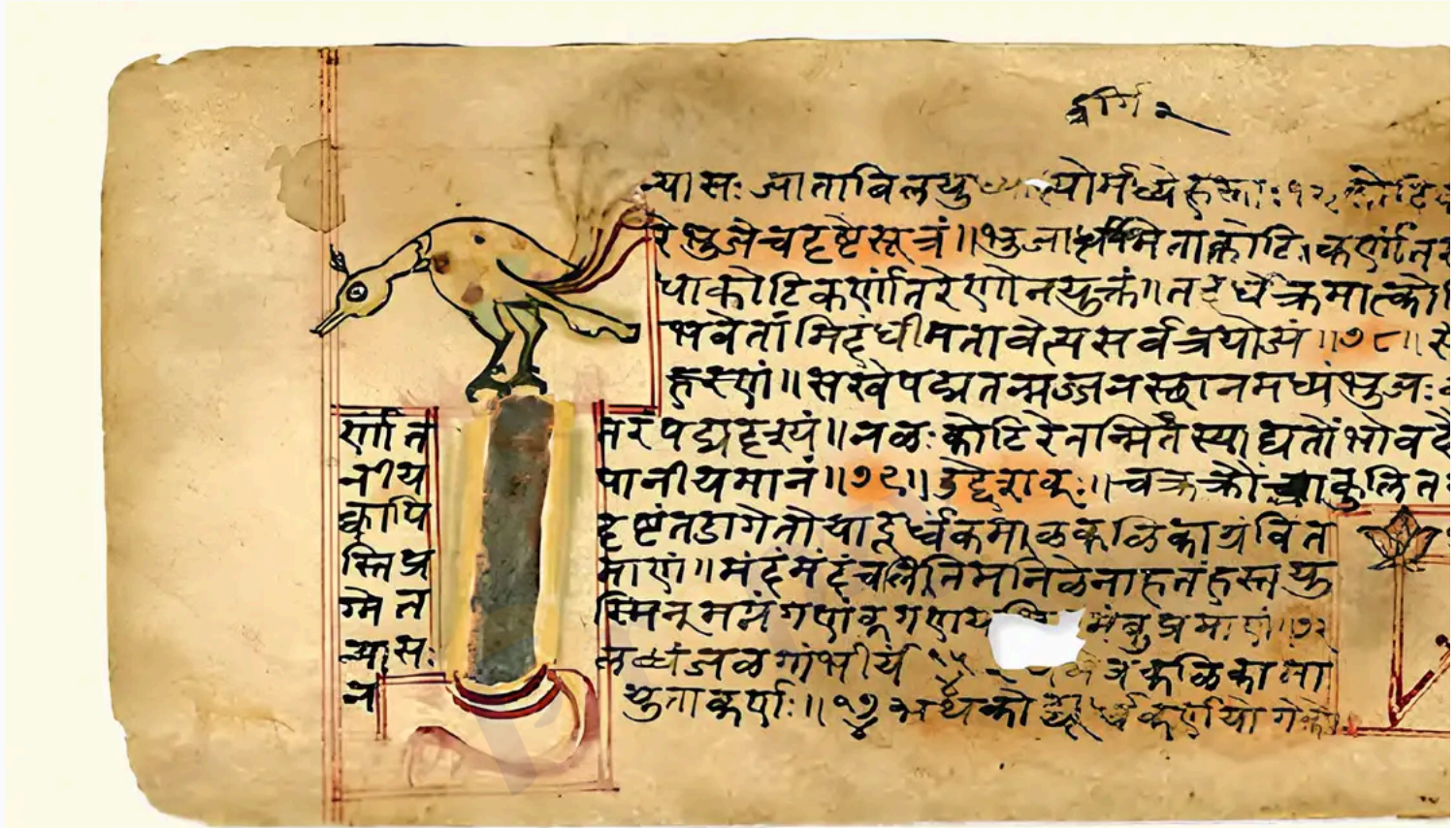


Fig. 4.7. A 17th-century manuscript illustrating another problem from the Lilavati, with a peacock perched on top of a pillar and a snake coiled around it.

Exam Questions

Q1: Who was al-Biruni and what was his contribution?

A1: Al-Biruni was a Persian scholar who studied Indian culture and sciences, producing an encyclopaedic survey that highlighted Indian intel

Q2: What are some key works of Bhaskaracharya?

A2: Lilavati (mathematics), Bijaganita (algebra), and Siddhantashiromani (astronomy).

Political Dynasties and Kingdoms

During the 11th and 12th centuries, several dynasties ruled different parts of India:

- **Hindu Shahis:** Controlled the Khyber Pass region and resisted invasions until defeated by the Ghaznavids.
- **Sena Dynasty:** Dominated Bengal, promoting Hindu literature and culture.
- **Eastern Gangas:** Ruled Kalinga, built the Jagannatha temple at Puri and the Sun temple at Konark.

- **Western and Eastern Chalukyas:** Major powers in the Deccan region.
- **Kakatiyas:** Ruled Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, known for fortifications and temple architecture.
- **Hoysalas:** Originated in Karnataka, famous for unique temple architecture.
- **Cholas:** Powerful South Indian dynasty with naval expeditions and extensive conquests.
- **Paramaras:** Ruled Malwa, known for King Bhoja, a scholar-king.
- **Chalukyas (Solankis):** Ruled Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- **Chahamanas (Chauhans):** Rajput dynasty in Rajasthan, known for battles against invaders.

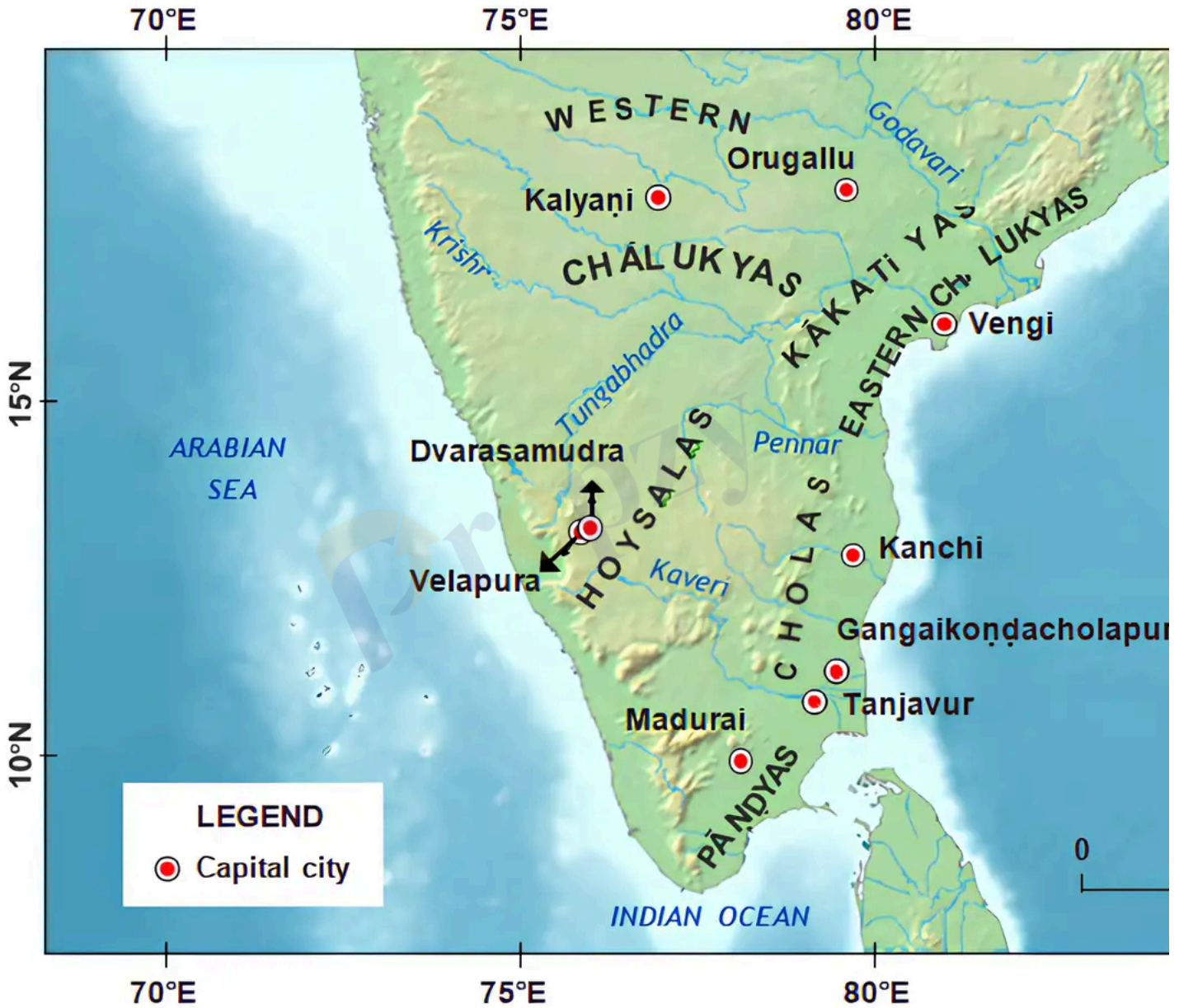


Fig. 4.10. A few dynasties of south India in the 11th an

Exam Questions

Q1: Name two important dynasties of South India during this period.

A1: The Cholas and the Hoysalas.

Q2: Who was King Bhoja and why is he significant?

A2: King Bhoja was a Paramara ruler known for his scholarship, public works, and patronage of arts and sciences.

The Ghurids and the Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate

Following the Ghaznavids, the Ghurids from present-day Afghanistan expanded into northern India. Muhammad Ghuri defeated Prithviraja II

Bakhtiyar Khilji, another general, conquered Bihar and Bengal, destroying Buddhist universities like Nalanda and Vikramashila, which contribu



Fig. 4.19. A partial view of Nalanda Mahavihara

Exam Questions

Q1: What was the significance of the Second Battle of Tarain?

A1: It marked the defeat of Prithviraja III by Muhammad Ghuri, leading to the establishment of Muslim rule in northern India.

Q2: How did Bakhtiyar Khilji's campaigns affect Buddhism in India?

A2: His destruction of major Buddhist universities led to the decline of Buddhism as a major religion in India.

Economy and Society

The economy during this period was primarily agrarian, supported by irrigation works and trade. Internal and external trade flourished, with r

Despite political conflicts, arts, literature, and sciences thrived. Notable works include Someshvara III's *Manasollasa*, an encyclopaedia on roy



Fig. 4.20. Kandariya Mahadeva Tem

Exam Questions

Q1: What was the mainstay of the economy during the 11th and 12th centuries?

A1: Agriculture was the mainstay, supported by irrigation and trade.

Q2: Name a significant literary work from this period.

A2: Manasollasa by Someshvara III.

Religious and Philosophical Thought

This period saw the rise of important religious thinkers and reformers. Ramanujacharya developed the Vishishtadvaita Vedanta philosophy,



Fig. 4.21 huge modern statues: Ramanujacharya (in Hyderabad)



Fig 4.22 huge modern statues: Basaveshvara (in Basavakalyana)

Exam Questions

Q1: What was the main teaching of Ramanujacharya?

A1: He taught Vishishtadvaita Vedanta, emphasizing devotion and the reality of the world and individual souls.

Q2: What social reforms did Basaveshvara promote?

A2: He promoted equality, rejected caste distinctions, and emphasized personal devotion and dedicated work.

Cultural Influence and Legacy

Despite invasions and conflicts, Indian culture influenced Southeast Asia, as seen in the construction of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, a temple c



Fig. 4.23. The Angkor Wat temple in

The period teaches resilience in the face of conflict and the enduring power of knowledge, learning, and creativity.

Solved Examples

Example 1: Calculating the Number of Elephants in Bhaskaracharya's Problem

Problem: Of a herd of elephants, half and one-third of the half went into a cave, one-sixth and one-seventh of one-sixth were drinking water

Solution: Let the total number of elephants be x .

- Half went into the cave: $x/2$
- One-third of the half went into the cave: $(1/3)*(x/2) = x/6$
- One-sixth were drinking water: $x/6$
- One-seventh of one-sixth were drinking water: $(1/7)*(x/6) = x/42$
- One-eighth were sporting in the pond: $x/8$
- One-ninth of one-eighth were sporting in the pond: $(1/9)*(x/8) = x/72$
- The king and three female elephants: 4

Sum of all elephants: $x/2 + x/6 + x/6 + x/42 + x/8 + x/72 + 4 = x$

Find common denominator and solve for x to find the total number of elephants.

Practice Set

Easy

- Who was Mahmud of Ghazni?
- Name two important temples built during the 11th and 12th centuries.

Moderate

- Explain the significance of the Khyber Pass in medieval Indian history.
- Describe the contributions of Bhaskaracharya to mathematics.

Challenging

- Discuss the impact of Turkic invasions on Indian political and cultural life in the 11th and 12th centuries.
- Analyze the role of the Chola dynasty in expanding Indian influence overseas.

Answer Key

- **Mahmud of Ghazni:** A Turkic ruler who invaded northern India multiple times in the 11th century.
- **Temples:** Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Lakshmana Temple.
- **Khyber Pass:** A strategic mountain pass used by invaders and traders connecting Central Asia and India.
- **Bhaskaracharya:** Mathematician and astronomer known for works like Lilavati and Siddhantashiromani.
- **Turkic invasions:** Led to political changes, destruction of temples and universities, and spread of Islam.
- **Chola dynasty:** Conducted naval expeditions, expanded territory, and influenced Southeast Asia culturally.

Quick Reference

- **Mahmud of Ghazni:** 17 campaigns into India, plundered temples.
- **Bhaskaracharya:** 1114–1185, mathematician and astronomer.
- **Cholas:** South Indian dynasty, naval power, built Brihadishvara temple.
- **Ghurids:** Established Delhi Sultanate after defeating Prithviraja III.

- **Basaveshvara:** Social reformer, founded Lingayat movement.
- **Angkor Wat:** 12th-century temple in Cambodia influenced by Indian architecture.

Glossary

Bas-relief

A type of sculpture where figures are slightly raised from the background.

Ghaznavids

A Turkic dynasty that invaded northern India in the 11th century.

Lingayat

A religious movement founded by Basaveshvara promoting equality and devotion.

Paramara

A dynasty that ruled Malwa, known for King Bhoja.

Sultan

A Muslim sovereign or king.

Vihara

A Buddhist monastery or place of learning.

Prepzy