

CLASS-7
HISTORY
MODULE - 1
CHAPTER - 6


TOWNS, TRADERS AND
CRAFTSPERSONS

Administrative Centres



- ❑ **Thanjavur** was capital of the Cholas. It is situated on the banks of **Kaveri river**.
- ▶ **Rajarajeshvara temple** was built by king **Rajraja Chola**.
- ▶ **Kunjaramallan Rajaraja Perunthachchan** was an architect who has proudly carved his name on the temple wall.
- ▶ In Thanjavur, there were palaces with **mandapas** or pavilions. King hold court in these mandapas, issuing orders to their subordinates. There were also **barracks** for the army.
- ▶ Water supply for the town comes from wells and tanks.
- ▶ At **Svamimalai**, the **sthapatis** were making exquisite bronze idols and tall ornamental bell metal lamps.

Temple Towns and Pilgrimage Centres

- ▶ **Temple Towns** represent a very important pattern of **urbanisation**, the process by which cities develop.
 - ▶ Temples were often central to the economy and society.
 - ▶ Rulers built temples **to demonstrate** their devotion to various deities.
 - ▶ They also **endowed** temples with grants of land and money to carry out elaborate rituals, feed pilgrims and priests and celebrate festivals.
 - ▶ Pilgrims who flocked to the temples also made donations.
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Temple Towns and Pilgrimage Centres



CHOLA BRONZE SCULPTURE

- ▶ Chola bronze statues were made by using the “Lost wax” technique.



Temple Towns and Pilgrimage Centres

- ▶ Temple authority used their wealth to finance trade and banking.
- ▶ A large number of priest, workers, artisans, traders, etc. settled near temples to cater its needs and those of the pilgrims.
- ▶ Pilgrimage centres also slowly developed into **townships**.
- ▶ Important temple towns were **Bhillasvamin in Madhya Pradesh, Somnath in Gujarat, Kanchipuram and Madurai in Tamil Nadu and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.**
- ▶ Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti, the celebrated Sufi saint who settled in Ajmer in the twelfth century attracted devotees from all creeds.