

# **Class-VII**

## **PERIODIC I**

### **G.K. UPDATES**

#### **Warrior Queens of India 1200-1600 CE**

##### **Razia Sultan - first and only female ruler of the Delhi Sultanate 1205-1240 CE**

Razia"

- Razia Sultan, daughter of Iltutmish, ascended the throne of the Delhi Sultanate in 1236 CE in a sphere dominated by men. Her father chose Razia over her two half-brothers solely on her merit and intelligence.
- As Sultan of Delhi, Razia adopted a gender-neutral attire. She dropped the veil, shocking conservative Muslims. Her first act was to mint coins stamped "Pillar of Women, Queen of the Times, Sultana Razia". Razia Sultan led her forces to conquer new territories

##### **Rudrama Devi – monarch ruler of Kakatiya Dynasty, Deccan Plateau (1245-1289)**

Rudrama was formally designated as a son through the ancient Putrika ceremony because her father, King Ganapati, had no sons. He appointed Rudrama as his co-regent in her early teens. Rudrama's first challenge was to repel a Pandya invasion.

1500's.

##### **Chand Bibi of Bijapur**

In 1565, Chand Bibi, barely in her teens, was given in marriage to Bijapur's Sultan Ali Adil Shah. She was at best an instrument of politics but her mother had wielded considerable influence which shaped her personality. Chand Bibi joined her husband in his campaigns, his equal by all measures. At her husband's death in 1580, Chand Bibi navigated endless intrigue to retain her position but accepting the odds against her, she eventually returned to her homeland of Ahmednagar. There she was called upon to defend Ahmednagar against Mughal emperor Akbar -- thrice. She was killed in the third battle by her own companions as a rumour spread that she was joining hands with the Mughals.

### **Rani Durgavati of Gondwana**

Rani Durgavati's family descended from the Rajput Chandela kings of the Khajurao Temples fame. They had already repelled Mahmud of Ghazni but by the time Durgavati was born in 1524, the Gond indigenous kings had the upper hand. Durgavati was married off to one of the kings. At his death just five years later, she became regent for their five-year old son and heir. In effect, Durgavati ruled Gondwana for 16 years. She was known a moderate and skillful monarch and excelled at both diplomacy and conquest. During her reign, Gondwana fielded an army of 20,000 calvary and 1,000 war elephants. However, the Mughal Empire controlled access to the best horses imported from Central Asia and Gondwana was at a distinct disadvantage. Eventually, she was unable to defend her kingdom from the invasion of the Mughal forces. Rather than admit defeat, she killed herself on June 24, 1564. The Rani of Gondwana fits the emerging pattern of Indian queens of the day. Elite women increasingly claimed the right to rule and did so successfully.

During the last battle, the Rani rode her beloved elephant, Sarman, and died on his back.

### **Rani Abbakka Chowta of Tuluva**

The only woman in history to confront, fight, and repeatedly defeat the Portuguese, Rani Abbakka's unflagging courage and indomitable spirit are legendary.