

# Cultural Developments in Medieval Kingdoms

Chapter 15: Empires and Kingdoms: 6th to 10th Centuries · Topic 2

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## Key Concept

Temple architecture flourished, with distinct regional styles developing, like the Dravidian style in the south, featuring large gopurams (gateway towers).

Regional languages and literature developed alongside Sanskrit, with poets and writers producing works in languages like Tamil, Kannada, and Bengali.

Religious practices saw developments too, including the growth of Bhakti (devotional) movements, which emphasised personal devotion to a chosen deity over complex rituals.

These cultural developments during medieval kingdoms contributed to India's rich, diverse heritage, with many temples, texts, and traditions still celebrated today.

## Quick Revision Notes

- Temple architecture developed distinct regional styles.
- The Dravidian style features large gopurams (gateway towers).
- Regional languages and literature grew alongside Sanskrit.
- Tamil, Kannada and Bengali literature developed.
- The Bhakti movement emphasised personal devotion.
- Bhakti movement valued devotion over complex rituals.
- These developments enriched India's cultural heritage.
- Many medieval temples and texts are still celebrated today.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Research a temple built in the Dravidian style.
- 2 Find a poet or writer from this period in a regional language.
- 3 Discuss what the Bhakti movement emphasised.
- 4 Research a Bhakti saint or poet.
- 5 Compare Dravidian and Nagara temple styles.
- 6 Discuss why regional literature is valuable today.