BHIC 105: HISTORY OF INDIA-III (750-1206 CE)
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Course code: BHIC-105
Assignment Code: BHIC-105/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1. Discuss the importance of inscriptions and archaeological sources in the study of early medieval period. 20

2. Write an essay on the Chola kingship and local administration of Chola. 20

Assignment- II

Answer the following in about 250 words each.

3. Write a note on the Arab conquest of Sindh. 10

4. Describe the cultural contribution of Pala dynasty. 10

5. Discuss the Chola naval expedition of Southeast Asia. 10

Assignment -III

Answer the following in about 100 words each.

6. Kaivarta rebellion 6

7. Property rights of women 6

8. The trading organizations (guilds) of South India 6

9. Shankaracharya and *Advaita* philosophy 6

10. Kavya Literature 6

1. Discuss the importance of inscriptions and archaeological sources in the study of early medieval period. 20

Answer

The early medieval period in India, roughly from the eighth to the early thirteenth century, witnessed the growth of regional kingdoms, the extension of cultivation, changes in landholding, expanding religious institutions and varied forms of trade. Inscriptions and archaeological remains are particularly important for reconstructing this period because literary narratives often concentrate on rulers, religious ideals or exemplary events rather than everyday social arrangements. These two kinds of evidence allow historians to investigate institutions and practices at both regional and local levels.

Inscriptions as historical evidence

Inscriptions are texts engraved on stone, metal, temple walls, pillars, hero stones and copper plates. They often record transactions at or near the time they occurred. Copper-plate charters documenting grants of land or tax privileges identify the donor, beneficiary, village boundaries and fiscal rights. They help explain how kings rewarded Brahmanas, temples, monasteries and officials, and how agrarian settlement expanded into previously uncultivated areas. Records of this kind are especially useful in studying the relationship among political authority, religious patronage and control over resources.

Royal inscriptions also provide dynastic genealogies, titles, regnal years, victories and claims to legitimacy. The eulogistic language of a prashasti cannot simply be accepted as a factual account, but it reveals the ideals by which a king wished to be remembered. Pala and Rashtrakuta records, for example, illuminate claims to imperial authority and interactions with subordinate rulers. Chola inscriptions offer particularly rich evidence of taxation, irrigation works, temple endowments and village assemblies. The famous Uttaramerur inscriptions describe procedures for selecting members of certain local committees, although these should not be mistaken for universal democratic participation.

The choice of language and script is itself informative. Sanskrit continued to confer prestige in royal and religious records, while Tamil, Kannada and other regional languages increasingly appeared in local documentation. Such evidence reveals processes of regional cultural formation. Inscriptions naming donors, merchants, cultivators, artisans and women also show that political and religious activities involved groups beyond the royal court. Records of endowments made for lamps, feeding houses, repairs or festivals uncover the everyday economy of temples and settlements.