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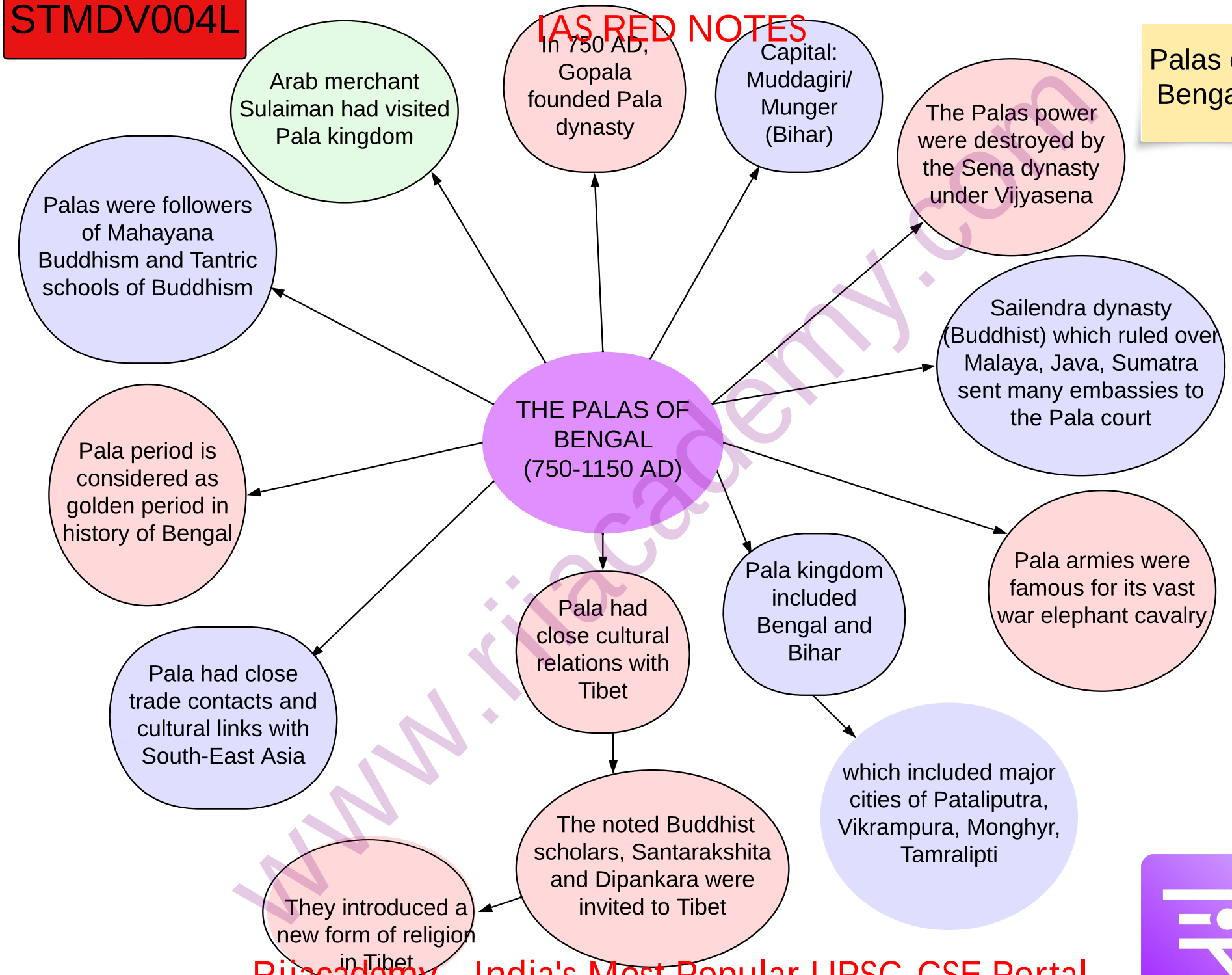
IAS RED NOTES

# Palas of Bengal

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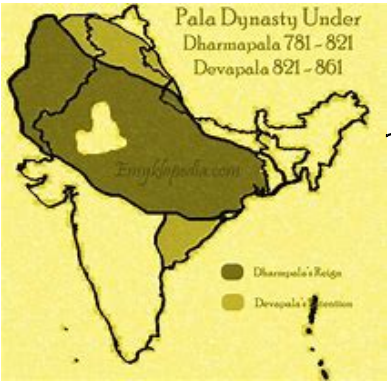


## THE PALAS OF BENGAL: 750-1150

later Guptas of Magadha and Khadga dynasty

replacing

he founded Pala dynasty

As per Khalimpur copper inscription of Dharampala

## Important Rulers of Palas

### IMPORTANT RULERS

#### Gopala (around 750 CE)

- author of Lokesvarasataka
- His Court poet was Buddhist scholar Vajradatta
- Expanded empire in the east included Assam
- His Inscriptions proclaims his victory over
  - Hunas
  - Gurjaras
  - Dravidas

#### Dharamapala (770-810)

- Revived Nalanda University
- Founded the Vikramshila University near Bhagalpur, Bihar
  - and
  - built Somapuri monastery (paharpur, Bihar)
- Defeated by Rashtrakuta king Dhruva and Pratihara king Nagabhatta II

#### Devapala (810-850)

- Built famous Odantpuri monastery at Bihar
  - 2nd largest after Nalanda university

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# The Pala Administration

- infrastructure created
  - **established** the riverways, land routes, trade and commerce, towns and ports for effective administration
- Some areas were not directly administered
  - **These areas were under control of Vassal chiefs.**
    - Vassals were autonomous
      - contributed toops and revenue to king
- The directly administered territories were divided
  - Bhogapatis or Samantas were small chieftain
    - dominated villages
  - into
    - Bhukti (province)
    - Mandala or Visaya (Divisions)
    - Smaller unit below the Visaya was Mandala (Districts)
      - **further into smaller units like Khandala, Bhaga, Avritti, Chaturaka, and Pattaka.**
- positions were hereditory
  - was aided by group of ministers
    - All power was concentrated on the king
- Was based on Gupta Set up
  - monarchical administrative structure
- **strong revenue collection arrangement was there**
  - land grants by Palas
    - granted to brahmans, priests, and temples
      - Buddhist monasteries were also given lands
    - These were long-term grants.
      - concessions came with financial and administrative benefits.

Pala Administration

- The head of Visaya was Visayapati
- &
- The governor of Bhukti was called Uparika
- and
- had duty to collect land revenue and maintain law and order
- had same duties like Uparika within their territories

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