



মহাশিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)
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CHAPTER – 9
RISE OF SMALL KINGDOMS

Notes

- After the death of Harshvardhana, north India broke into a number of small kingdoms and there were conflicts and struggles for supremacy among small kingdoms.
- Harshvardhana made Kanauj its capital and all the rulers wanted to occupy it ,as theywanted to have control over the entire Gangetic plains .
- The tripartite struggle took place between the Pratiharas, the Rastrakutas and the Palas for the occupation of Kanauj.
- **THE PRATI HARAS**
- Nagabhata I in 725AD founded the kingdom of the Pratiharas, which is also known as Gujara-Pratiharas in the region of Avanti.
- They captured Kanauj and dominated the north India in the ninth and the tenth century. But the raids of Muhammad of Ghazni led to the end of their rule.
- **RASTRAKUTAS**
- The Rastrakuta kingdom was founded by Dantidurga and the most successful among the Rastrakuta rulers were Govind III(793-814AD)and Amogavarsha (814-882AD).
- The rock cut temples of Ellora and Elephanta caves were built by Rastrakuta kings.
- **PALAS**
- The Pala kingdom was founded by Gopala in 750 AD. And Devpala(810-850AD)was the most powerful and successful king, who also founded the Vikramshila University and also revived the Nalanda University.
- **CHAHAMANAS**
- The Chahamanas or the Chauhans were the Rajputs who became powerful in the region around Delhi and Ajmer.
- Prithviraj Chauhan was the famous Rajput ruler who defeated the Afghan ruler,Muhammad of Ghur in the first Battle of Tarrain(1191AD).But he was killed in the second Battle of Tarrain(1192AD).

➤ **GHAZNAVIDS**

- The Ghaznavids rose into prominence under Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni , Afghanistan and he ruled from 997 AD to 1030 AD .
- Mahmud was famous for his frequent raids and plunder including the Somnath temple in Gujarat.

➤ **THE CHOLAS: (A Case Study)**

- Vijayalaya, a feudatory of the Pallavas founded the Chola Empire and rose to power in the ninth century in the peninsular India.
- The greatest rulers of the Chola Kingdom were Rajaraja I (985-1014AD) and his son Rajendra I (1014-1044 AD).

➤ **Art and Architecture (During the reign of the Cholas)**

- The Cholas were famous for its splendid temples which were built to mark victories of the Chola kings .
- The Chola bronze images are among the finest in the world. The famous bronze statue of Nataraj belonged to the Cholas.

➤ **EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURE**

- Agriculture played a very important role for the achievements of the Cholas.
- Kaveri river and its tributaries made the land of Cholas very fertile for the cultivation of rice . Canals, wells were dug and huge rainwater tanks were built for irrigation to the fields.

➤ **ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHOLAS**

- The most remarkable feature of Chola administration was encouragement of the local self government all over the Empire.
 - A copper plate inscription, the Uttamerur (Tamil Nadu) dated 938- 94 AD mentions that Sabha,the assembly of prominent landlords performed different functions.
 - The Cholas contributed the most to the cultural development of South India.
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