



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 they wanted 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 PRATIHARAS**
- 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 993- 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.