

New Kings and Kingdoms in India

Exercises

Long answer questions:

1. Why were temples important in the Chola Empire?
2. Discuss the administrative system of the Cholas.
3. Why is the Second Battle of Tarain regarded as a turning point in history?

Solutions

Long-answer questions:

1. Temples were very important in the Chola Empire because they were not only the place of worship, but also the centres of social life and economic activities. They used to collect revenue and get free land grants. Festivals were celebrated in the temples with great pomp and splendour. People met here to discuss social problems and solve issues they became centres of political power. Schools and even hospitals were attached to these temple complexes which were self-sufficient communities with priests, craftsmen, dancers, musicians, tailors, goldsmiths, accountants, cooks and many others.
2. The Cholas set up a three-tier administrative system. The king was the head of the administration. He was considered as God's representative and enjoyed enormous powers. He was assisted by ministers. His position was hereditary. The royal symbol was the tiger. The empire was divided into provinces called *mandalams*. These were usually headed by a member of the royal family. Each *mandalam* was divided into a number of *valanadus* which were further subdivided into *nadus*. The *nadus* were divided into *urs* or villages. The village was the smallest unit of administration. The most outstanding feature of the Chola administration was the village autonomy. The *nadu* was an important unit of administration. It had representative assemblies. The *ur* was a common assembly while the *sabha* consisted of learned men. Their functions included maintenance of law and order, public services, revenue collection, temples and education. They also helped people in times of need.
3. The Second Battle of Tarain is regarded as a turning point in the history of India as it resulted in Muslim conquest of India. Muhammad Ghori appointed Qutb-ud-din Aybakas his viceroy of his territories in India. Qutb-ud-din established the Delhi Sultanate and became the first Muslim Sultan of Delhi after the death of Muhammad of Ghor.