

GURJARA-PRatihARA EMPIRE



WESTERN INDIA (730-1036)

- ✓ Known as Gurjara – Pratihara, as they originated from Gurjaras, who were primarily pastoralists and fighters.
- ✓ Dynasty was founded by Harichandra, in and around Jodhpur, south western Rajasthan.
- ✓ Pratihara were instrumental in containing Arab armies moving east of the Indus River.
- ✓ Gurjara-Pratihara are known for their sculptures, carved panels and open pavilion style temples. The greatest development of their style of temple building was at Khajuraho, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ✓ Sanskrit Poet & Dramatist Rajasekhara lived in the court of Mahipala—a grandson of Mihira Bhoja.
- ✓ Foreign traveller Al-Masudi had visited Pratihara empire.
- ✓ The UNESCO World Heritage Site at Khajuraho is famous for the development of the Gurjara-Pratihara style of temple building.

TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE (750- 1000 CE)

- ✓ The period from 750 – 1000 CE saw the rise of three important empires: Gurjara-Pratihara (Western India), Palas (Eastern India) and Rashtrakutas (Deccan).
- ✓ The conflict among these three powers (basically for control over Kannauj area of Ganga valley) is often described as “tripartite struggle”.
- ✓ Kannauj was strategically and commercially very important. It was located on the Ganga trade route and was connected to the Silk route. Previously, Kannauj was capital of Harshavardhana Empire.