

Applicability And Impact Of Revenue Policy Of The Chalukya Empire

Prof. Dr. Md. Shahid Hussian

Md. Kamal Hossain

Tax collectors who were called Praja Gavundas were appointed by the State and these officials also doubled as the peoples' representatives in front of the ruler, especially in times of draught, flood etc. There were also the Prabhu Gavundas who were the lords of different groups of Gavundas, obviously a senior position. The peoples' representative also doubling as the collector of taxes is bound to have created conflicts of interest and encouraged the tendency of the junior officials towards corruption.

The Chalukya empire, at higher levels, was closely modelled after the Magadhan and Satavahana administrative machinery. The empire was divided into Maharashtrakas (provinces), then into small SashtraKas (Mandala), Vishaya (district). Bhoga (group of 10 villages) which is similar to the Dasagrama unit used by the Kadambas. At the lower levels of administration, the Kadamba style prevailed fully. The Sanjan plates of Vikramaditya I even mentions a land unit called Dasagrama. In addition to imperial provinces, there were autonomous regions ruled by feudatories such as the Alupas, the Gangas, the Banas and the Sendrakas. Local assemblies and guilds looked after local issues. Groups of mahajanas (learned brahmins) looked after agraharas (called ghatika of "place of higher learning") such as at Badami which was served by 2000 mahajans and Aihole which was served by 500 mahajanas.