

# SOUTH INDIAN KINGDOM



## SOUTH INDIAN KINGDOMS

### Pallavas

- The Pallava capital was Kanchipuram
- Simhavishnu was the first ruler of this line

#### • Kings & Titles

| King               | Titles  |
|--------------------|---|
| Mahendravarman I   | Vichitrachitta, Mattavilasa, Chitrakkarapuli, Chettakari (builder of temples), Gunabhara, Satyasandha |
| Narasimhavarman I  | Mamalla ('great wrestler'), Vatapikonda   |
| Narasimhavarman II | Rajasimha, Sankarabhakta, Vadhyavidyadhara, Agamapriya  |

- After the cholas pallavas came into provience
- The first ruler was sinhvishnu
- He was succeeded by his son Mahendravarman I
- The first rock cut temple was built during his time.
- He composed Mahavilas Prahasanna and Vichitrachitta
- He died in a battle(Pullalur) against Pulkeshin II of chalukya
- Their capital Kanchipuram
- W.hole penisular region was dominated by them
- Greatest ruler was Narsimhvarma I
- He is considered as the greatest ruler of Pallava dynasty
- He attack and invaded the chalukya capital city vatapi conquered and killed Pulkeshin II
- He was also titled as Mamalla (Mahabali) and founded Mahabalipu



### **Mahendravarman:**

- Succeeded Simhavishnu who was his father.
- He was a poet and composed Vichitrachita and Mahavilasa Prahasana
- Saint Appar and scholar Bharavi was patronised by him.
- He introduced rock cut temple architecture.
- He was a great builder of cave temples
- The Mandagappattu inscription hails him as Vichitrachitta who constructed a temple for Brahma, Vishnu and Siva without the use of bricks, timber, metal .
- The music inscription at Kudumianmalai is ascribed to him.
- He was a Jain who converted to Saivism
- Had on-going rivalry and battles with Pulakesin II of Chalukya dynasty.
- Mahendravarman died in battle with the Chalukyas. He was an able and efficient ruler.

## **Narasimhavarma:**

- Son and successor of Mahendravarman.
- Considered the greatest of the Pallavas, also known as Narasimhavarman Mahamalla (Mamalla).
- Defeated and killed Pulakesin II in 642 AD, taking control of Vatapi and adopting the title 'Vatapikonda.'
- Victory at the Battle of Manimangalam near Kanchi, mentioned in Kuram copper plates.
- Vanquished the Cholas, Cheras, and the Pandyas.
- Sent a naval expedition to Sri Lanka, reinstating the Sinhalese Prince Manivarma.
- Founded Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) and its Monolithic Rathas.
- Hiuen Tsang's visit in 640 AD described a prosperous kingdom with happy people and abundant agricultural products.
- Succeeded by his son Mahendravarman II in 668 AD.

## **Narsimhavarman II (695-722 A.D)**

- Also known as Rajasimha
- Dandin was a court poet of Rajasimha
- He sent embassies to China

### **Important points**

- State divided into Kottams.
- Kottams administered by king-appointed officers.
- Land-grants to temples known as Devadhana.
- Land-grants to Brahmins known as Brahmadeya.
- Irrigation tanks at Mahendravadi and Mamandoor dug during Mahendravarman I's reign.
- Brahmadeya and Devadhana lands exempted from tax.
- Pallava inscriptions provide insights into village assemblies called sabhas.





- **Art & Architecture**

- The Dravidian style of architecture begins with the Pallava reign.
- The Temple Architecture under the Pallavas developed under four stages

- **Rock-Cut Temples:**

- Introduced by Mahendravarman I.
- Examples include Mandagappattu, Mahendravadi, Mamandur, Dalavanur, Vallam.

- **Monolithic Rathas and Mandapas:**

- Narasimhavarman I credited for these structures at Mamallapuram.
- Panchapanadava Rathas showcase diverse temple architecture styles.
- Mandapas feature intricate sculptures on walls.

- **Structural Temples (Rajasimha):**

- Rajasimha introduced structural temples.
- Constructed using soft sand rocks.
- Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram, built by Narasimhavarman II, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Kailasanatha temple at Kanchi is a significant Pallava architectural masterpiece.







- **Sculpture during Pallava**

- At Mamallapuram, there is an Open Art Gallery where the 'descent of ganga' or 'Kirtarjunia'/ Penance of Arjuna (UNESCO World Heritage site) is depicted. This is also known as the 'Fresco Painting in Stone'

- **Fine Arts**

- The Mamandur inscription contains a note on the notation of vocal music.
- The Kudumianmalai inscription referred to musical notes and instruments.
- The Sittannavasal paintings belonged to this period.
- The commentary called Dakshinchitra was compiled during the reign of Mahendravarman I.

## CHALUKYA DYNASTY

- **Important Points on Chalukya Dynasty**

- There were three distinct but related Chalukya dynasties

- **Badami Chalukyas** : The earliest Chalukyas with their capital at Badami (Vatapi), Karnataka. They ruled from mid-6th century. They declined after the death of their greatest king, Pulakesin II, 642 AD.

- **Eastern Chalukyas** : Emerged after the death of Pulakesin II in Eastern Deccan with capital at Vengi. They ruled till the 11th century.

- **Western Chalukyas** : Descendants of the Badami Chalukyas, they emerged in the late 10th century and ruled from Kalyani (modern-day Basavakanlyan).

## Chalukya

- Founded by Jasimha
- The first great ruler was Pulkeshin I
- The greatest of all was Pulkeshin II
- His original name was Eraya
- He conquered most of the upper Deccan region and south of central India
- An Aihole inscription found from karnataka written by Ravikriti in sanskrit and kannada script mention Pulkeshin II defeated Sakaluttarpatheswar (referred to Harshavardhana)
- Fought battle on the bank of river Narmada
- He also defeated and killed Mahendravarman I of pallavas
- And battle Vapiti narasimhavarman killed Pulkeshin II



## Pulakesin II (609 AD – 642 AD)

The greatest of the Chalukya kings.

- Extended Chalukya rule across most of the Deccan.
- Birth name: Eraya; details from the 634 Aihole inscription.
- Inscription composed by court poet Ravikirti in Sanskrit using Kannada script.
- Ravikirti was a Jain.
- Hiuen Tsang praised Pulakesin II as a just and authoritative king during his visit.
- Tolerant of Buddhism and Jainism despite being a Hindu.
- Conquered almost all of south-central India.
- Halted Northern king Harshavardhana's southern expansion on the Narmada River.
- Received a Persian mission, maintained diplomatic ties with Persian King Khusru II.
- Ganga ruler Durvinita accepted Pulakesin II's overlordship and gave his daughter in marriage.
- Pulakesin II's death marked a decline in Chalukya power.

## **Administration and Socieity**

- The Chalukyas had great maritime power.
- Pulakesin II had 100 ships in his navy.
- They also had a well-organised army.
- Though the Chalukya kings were Hindus, they were tolerant of Buddhism and Jainism.
- Saw great developments in Kannada and Telugu literature.
- They imprinted coins were included Nagari and Kannada legends
- They minted coins with cryptograms of temples, lion or boar facing right and the lotus.

## **Art & Architecture**

- The temples under the Chalukyas are a good example of the Vesara style of architecture.
- This is also called the Deccan style or Karnataka Dravida or Chalukyan style.
- It is a combination of Dravida and Nagara styles
- The structural temples of the Chalukyas exist at Aihole, Badami and Pattadakal.
- Cave temple architecture was also famous under the Chalukyas. Their cave temples are found in Ajanta, Ellora and Nasik
- The reception given to a Persian embassy by Pulakesin II is depicted in a painting at Ajanta

**The Chalukya temples may be divided into two stages. The first stage is represented by the temples at Aihole and Badami**

- There are 70 temples in Aihole, four are important:
- Ladh Khan temple is a low, flat-roofed structure consisting of a pillared hall.
- Durga temple resembles a Buddha Chaitya.
- Huchimalligudi temple.
- The Jain temple at Meguti.

### **Temples at Badami**

- Muktheeswara temple
- Melagutti Sivalaya

### **Temples at Pattadakal**

- Virupaksha temple and Sangameshwara Temple are in Dravida style.
- Papanatha temple is in Nagara style.





# Rastrakutas

- The Rashtrakutas were of Kannada origin and Kannada language was their mother tongue.
- Dantidurga was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

## Important rulers of Rastrakuta Dynasty

### Dantivarman or Dantidurga (735 - 756):

- Founder of Rashtrakutas dynasty.
- Conquered Kalinga, Kosala, Kanchi, Srisril, Malava, Lata, and Maharashtra.
- Defeated Chalukya King Kirtivarma.

### Krishna I (756 - 774):

- Successor of Dantidurga.
- Conquered Chalukya territories and Konkan.
- Defeated Vishnuvardhana of Vengi and Ganga king of Mysore.
- Patron of art and architecture; built Kailash Temple at Ellora.

### Govinda III

- Defeated Palas and Pratiharas
- Conquered Kanauji



### **Amoghavarsha I (814-878):**

- Greatest king of Rashtrakutas; son of Govinda III.
- Established Manyakheta as the new capital.
- Patron of education and literature; authored **Kavirajamarga**.
- Converted to Jainism by Jinasena.
- Recognized as one of the four greatest kings globally.
- Assumed the title Viranarayana after defeating Eastern Chalukyas.
- Often referred to as the "Ashoka of South."
- Ruled for 63 years.

### **Krishna III (939 – 967):**

- Last powerful Rashtrakuta king.
- Expanded to Rameshwaram.
- Built Gandmartandamitya and Krishneshwara temple at Rameshwaram.
- During his reign, Kannada poet Ponna wrote Shantipurana.



## Art & Architecture

- The art and architecture of the Rashtrakutas can be found at Ellora and Elephanta.
- The most remarkable temple Kailasanatha temple at Ellora was built by Krishna.

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Rashtras | Provinces under the control of rashtrapatis                                 |
| Vishayas | Districts governed by vishayapatis  |
| Bhukti   | Subdivision consisting of 50 to 70 villages under the control of Bhogapatis |

# Imperial Cholas

- Their capital was Tanjore.
- Founder of the Imperial Chola line was **Vijayalaya** .

## Important Chola rulers

- **Aditya:**
- Defeated pallava king **Aparajita**

## Parantaka I:

- Defeated the **pandayas**
- Great builder of temples.
- Provided the Nataraja temple at Chidambaram with a golden roof.
- Krishna III of Rashtrakuta defeated him
- Uttiramerur inscriptions detailing village administration belong to his reign.

**Rajaraja I (985 - 1014 A.D.):**

Did a naval attack on cheras Bhaskara ravi Varman

Defeated the pandayas

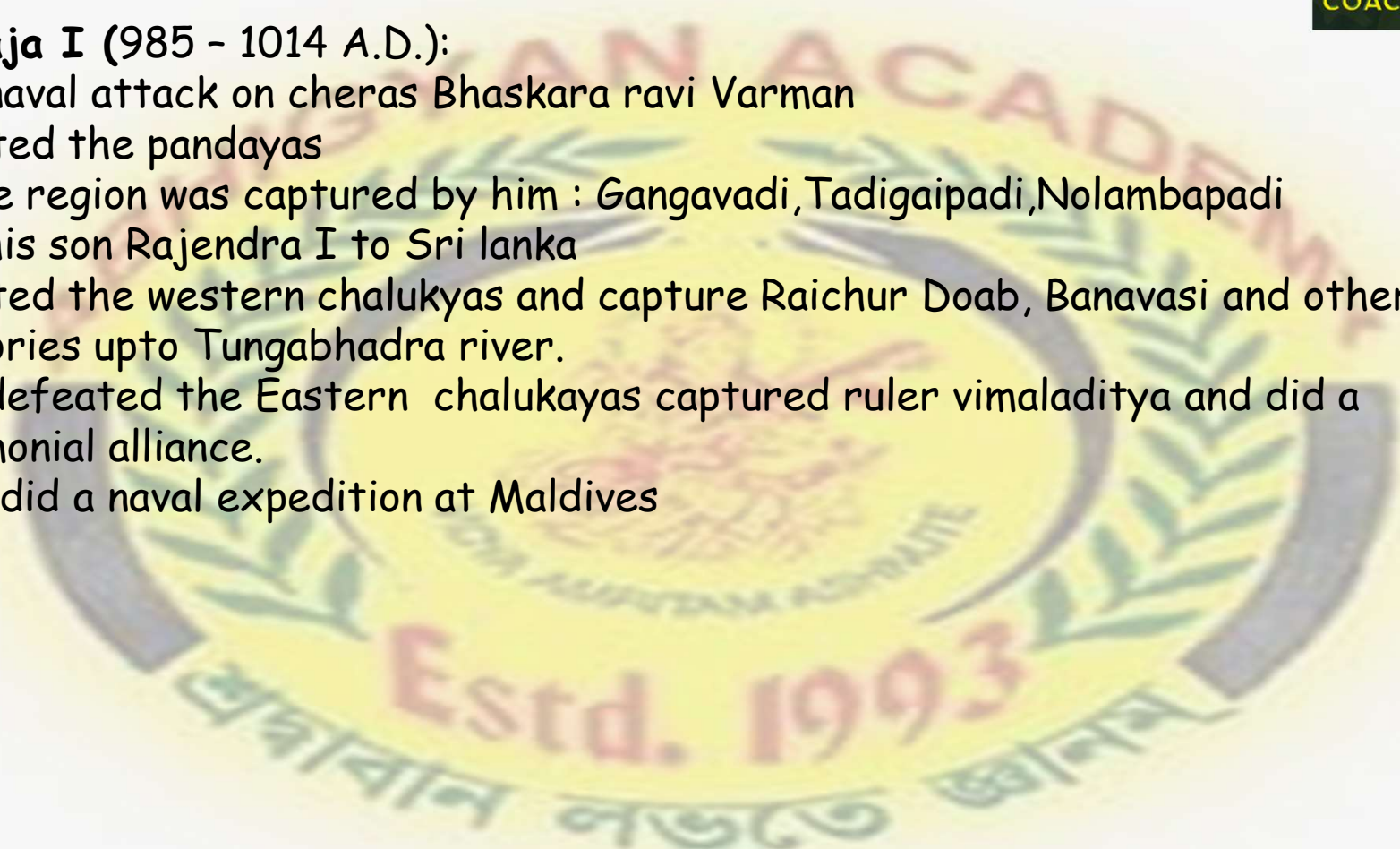
Mysore region was captured by him : Gangavadi, Tadigaipadi, Nolambapadi

Send his son Rajendra I to Sri lanka

Defeated the western chalukyas and capture Raichur Doab, Banavasi and other territories upto Tungabhadra river.

Next defeated the Eastern chalukayas captured ruler vimaladitya and did a matrimonial alliance.

Lastly did a naval expedition at Maldives





### **Rajendra I (1012-1044 A.D.):**

- Defeated Sri Lanka king Mahinda, Western Chalukya king Jayasimha II; river Tungabhadra became the boundary.
- Reasserted the control over Cheras and Pandyas.
- Founded Gangaikondacholapuram and built the Rajesvaram temple.
- Excavated the irrigation tank Cholagangam.
- Devout Saiva; built a temple for Lord Nataraja at Gangaikondacholapuram.
- Titles include Kadaramkondan, Gangaikondan, Mudikondan, Kadaram Kondan, and Pandita Cholan.

### **Kulottunga I:**

- Sri Lanka became independent during his reign.
- Sent a large embassy to China and maintained relations with the kingdom of Sri Vijaya.
- Abolished tolls and earned the title "SungamTavirtta Cholan."

### **Chola Agriculture and Irrigation**

- They created or built embankment near rivers
- They could take river water to fields using canals and embankment
- Huge tanks were constructed to collect rainwater
- In many areas two crops grown in a year



## Art & Architecture

• The Dravidian style of art and architecture reached its perfection under the Cholas  
The chief feature of the Chola temple is the Vimana.

### • Important Chola Temples:

#### • Brihadeeswara Temple:

- Built to celebrate Rajaraja's achievements.
- 5 times larger than previous Chola temples; Vimana stands at 216 feet.
- Stupi, the crowning element, weighs 80 tonnes.
- Inscriptions mention 400 dancers from 91 temples across the empire performing in the complex.
- Architect: KunjaraMallan Rajaraja Perumthachan.
- Part of UNESCO World Heritage Site "Great Living Chola Temples."







**Gangaikondacholapuram Temple:**

Largest Shivalingam in Southern India.

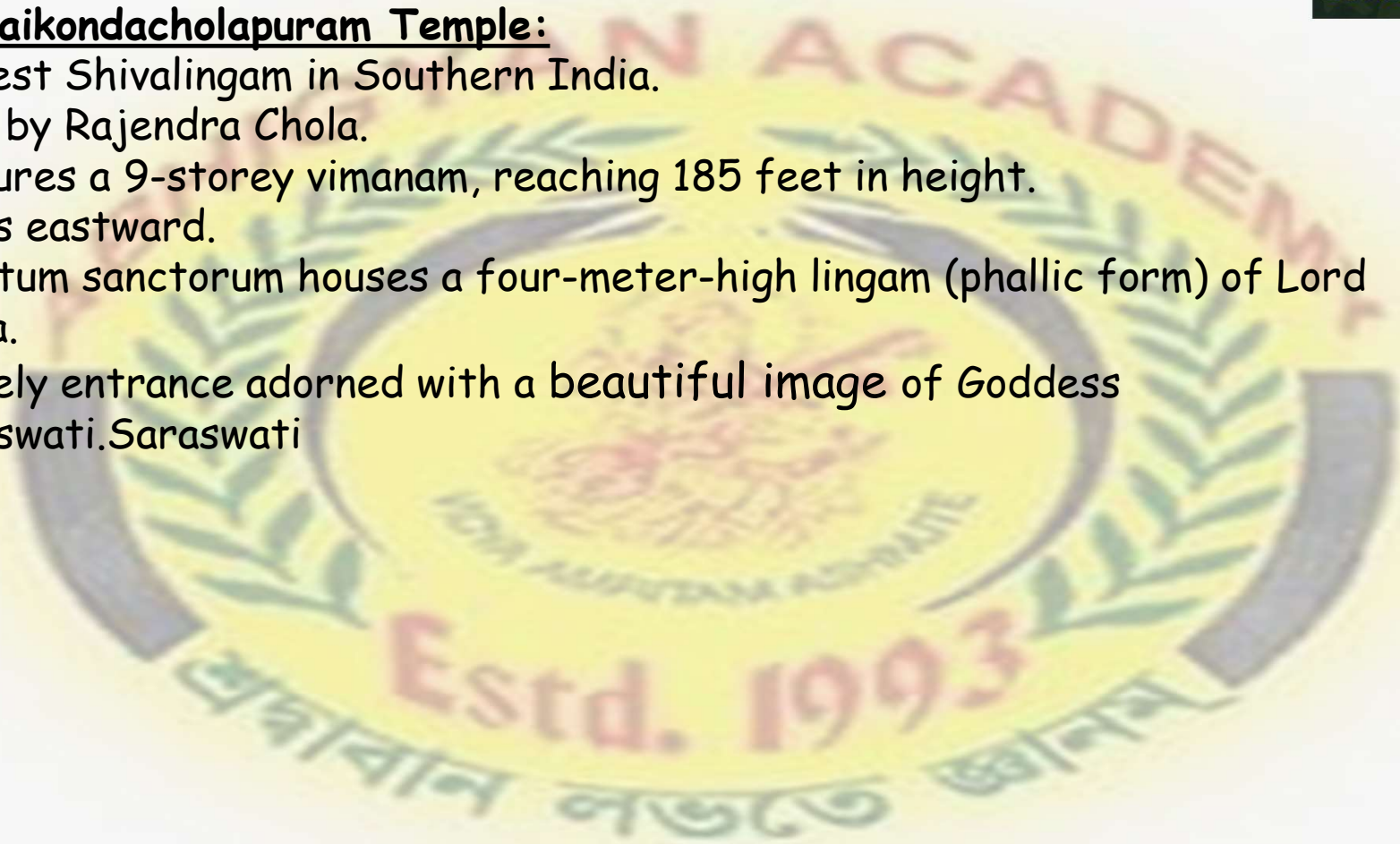
Built by Rajendra Chola.

Features a 9-storey vimanam, reaching 185 feet in height.

Faces eastward.

Sanctum sanctorum houses a four-meter-high lingam (phallic form) of Lord Shiva.

Stately entrance adorned with a beautiful image of Goddess Saraswati. Saraswati







## Important Temple terms:

| Term                                 | Description  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Gopuram                              | Gateway of the temple.   |
| Mandapa                              | Audience Hall.   |
| Garbhagriha                          | Deity room.  |
| Shikhara (North India)               | Tower or spire typically found in North Indian temples.          |
| Vimana (South India)                 | Tower or spire typically found in South Indian temples.          |
| Pyramid-like Storey Above Deity Room | Architectural feature resembling a pyramid above the deity room. |
| Amalaka                              | Stone-like disc seen at the top of the temple.                   |
| Kalasha                              | The crowning element – vase.                                     |