

# IMPORTANT KINGDOMS OF NORTH & SOUTH INDIA

## NORTHERN INDIA: AGE OF THE THREE EMPIRES (800–1000CE)

- ▶ After the decline of Harsha's empire in the 7th century, a number of large states arose in north India, the Deccan and south India.
- ▶ Large states arose in north India and the Deccan between 750 and 1000 CE.
- ➤ These were the Pala empire, which dominated eastern India till the middle of the ninth century; the Pratihara empire, which dominated western India and the upper Gangetic valley till the middle of the tenth century, and the Rashtrakuta empire, which dominated the Deccan and also controlled territories in north and south India at various times.



#### **NAGABHATTA I (730-760 CE)**

- Defended Western India from invasion of Arabs.
- Defeated by Rashtrakuta king Dhruva.

#### **NAGABHATA II (805-833 CE)**

▶ He conquered Kannauj and the Indo-Gangetic Plain as far as Bihar from the Palas.

#### Bhoja I/ Mihir Bhoja (836-885)

- Greatest ruler of Pratiharas. Recovered Kanaui (aka Mahodaya) which remained the capital of the Pratihara empire for almost a century.
- Devotee of Vishnu, adopted title 'Adivaraha'.

#### **DANTIDURGA (753-756 CE)**

Founder, set up capital at Manyakhet.

#### **KRISHNA I (756-774 CE)**

▶ Built the Kailasanath temple at Ellora.

#### **DHRUVA (780-793 CE)**

▶ Kanauj expedition - defeated Pratihara king Vatsaraja and the Pala king Dharmapala.

#### **GOVINDA III (793-814 CE)**

- ▶ Defeated Nagabhata II and Dharmapala.
- Shattered the union of the Ganga, Chera, Pandya, and Pallava rulers in south India.

#### **AMOGHAVARSHA (814-878 CE)**

- ▶ Follower of Jainism.
- ▶ Wrote first Kannada book on poetics Kavirajamarga.
- Called "Ashoka of the South".

- ▶ Founder of the dynasty.
- ▶ Built Odantpuri University (in Bihar).

**GOPALA (AROUND 750 CE)** 

#### **DHARMAPALA (770-810 CE)**

- The Pratihara ruler was defeated by the Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva, and Dhruva then returned to the Deccan. It allowed Dharmapala to occupy Kanauj.
- ▶ Later Nagabhatta II defeated Dharmapala.
- ▶ Revived Nalanda University and founded the Vikramshila University.

#### **DEVAPALA (810-850 CE)**

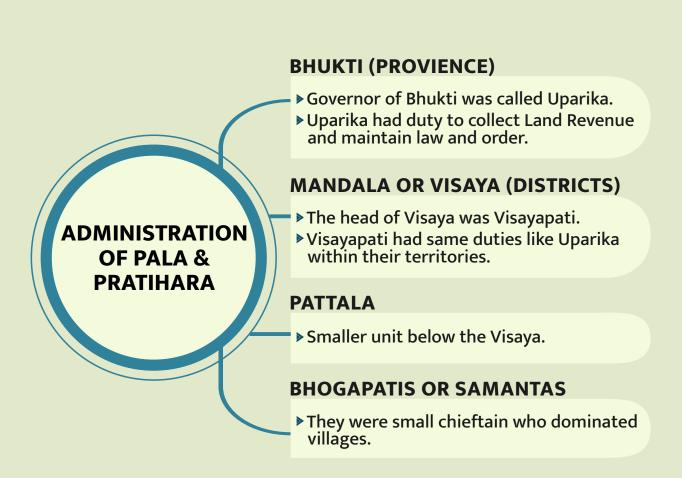
▶ Extended his control over Pragjyotishpur (Assam) and parts of Orissa.

#### ▶ AL- MASUDI,

- a native of Baghdad, who visited Gujarat in 915–16, refers to the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom al-Juzr (a corrupt form of Gurjara), and the king Baura, probably a mispronunciation of Adivaraha.
- Sanskrit Poet & Dramatist Rajasekhara lived in the court of Mahendrapala I (son of Mihir bhoja). His famous work is Karpurmanjari.
- According to **Al-Masudi** who visited India at that time, the Rashtrakuta king, Balhara or Vallabharaja, was the greatest king of India and most of the Indian rulers accepted his suzerainty and respected his envoys.
- ➤ The great apabhramsha poet Svayambhu lived at the Rashtrakuta court.
- Kannada poet Ponna belonged to the court of Rahstrakuta king Krishna III. His famous creation is Shantipurana.

- Arab merchant Sulaiman, who visited India, refers to the Pala kingdom as Ruhma.
- ▶The Pala rulers had close cultural relations with Tibet. The Buddhist scholars, Santarakshita and Dipankara (called Atisa), were invited to Tibet.
- The Pala empire had close relations with the Shailendra dynasty and trade with Southeast Asia was very profitable.

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- ▶ The directly administered territories were divided into: Rashtra (provience) and Visaya Bhukti.
- ▶ The head of Rashtra was **Rashtrapati**, and similar functions as the Uparaika performed in Pala and Pratihara.
- ▶ Village was the smallest unit. The village headman carried out duties with the help of **Grama-Mahajana** or **Grama-Mahattara** (village elders).
- ▶ Village also had **committees** to manage schools, tanks, temples etc.
- Law and order in the towns and in areas in their vicinity was the responsibility of Koshtapala or Kotwal.
- ► Nad-gavundas or Desa-Gramakutas were the hereditary revenue officers.

ADMINISTRATION OF RASHTRAKUTAS

#### THE PALLAVAS

- ▶ Before the 7th Century, in South India, we observe, main powers as Satvahanas in Deccan and Tamil (Sangam) kingdoms Tamil Nadu region. By the beginning of the 7th Century, the Pallavas of Kanchi, the Chalukyas of Badami and the Pandyas of Madurai emerged to be the three major states.
- ▶ The Pallavas came to power by supplanting the Ikshvakus. The authority of Pallavas extended over both southern Andhra and northern Tamil Nadu. They setup their capital at Kanchi (modern Kanchipuram).



- ▶ Pallavas granted numerous villages free of taxes to the brahmanas.
- ▶ Land charters found earlier ones are on stone in Prakrit, later ones on copper plate in Sanskrit.
- ▶ Pallavas and their contemporaries i.e. Kadambas, Chalukyas of Badami were great champions of Vedic sacrifices like asvamedha and vajapeya.
- The main struggle of this time in the peninsular region was between Pallavas and Badami Chalukyas for the supremacy over the fertile doab between Krishna and Tungbhadra.

#### **IMPORTANT RULERS OF PALLAVAS**



- ▶ Chalukya King Pulkeshin II defeated him.
- ▶ He was a versatile genius.
- ► He had many titles i.e. Vichitrachitta, Gunabhara, Chettakari, Chitrakarapuli etc.
- ▶ He wrote Mattvilasa Prahsana (a satire in Sanskrit).

- ▶ Defeated Pulkeshin II.
- Captured Badami (or Vatapi), assumed the title 'Vatapikonda'.
- ▶ Took the title of 'Mamalla' and founded city of Mamallapuram.
- ▶ Hieun Tsang visited Kanchi during his reign.

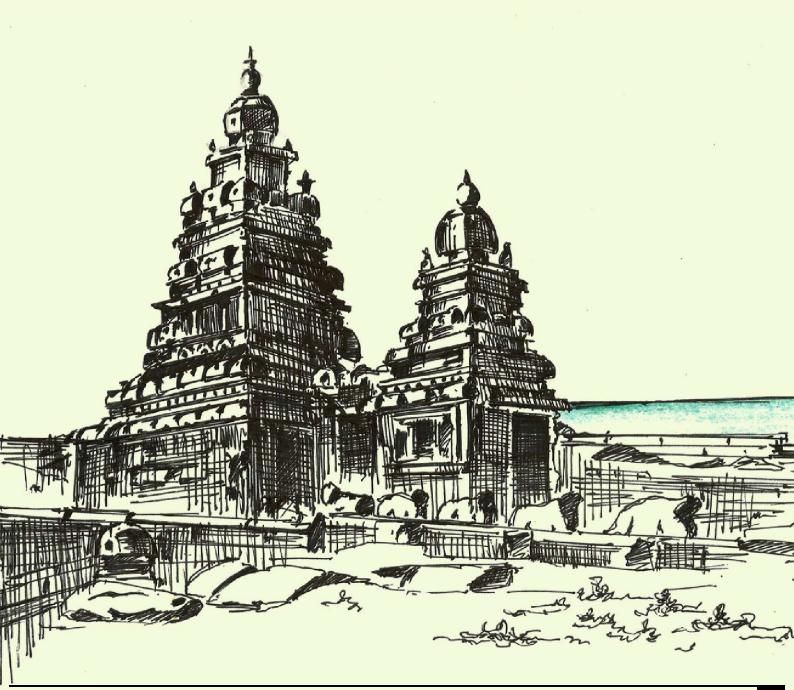




- Also known as Rajsimha.
- ▶ His rule is marked by peace and prosperity.
- ➤ Constructed temples like Shore temple (Mahabalipuram), Kailashnath temple (Kanchi).
- Sanskrit scholar Dandin lived in his court.
- ▶ Sent ambassadors to China.

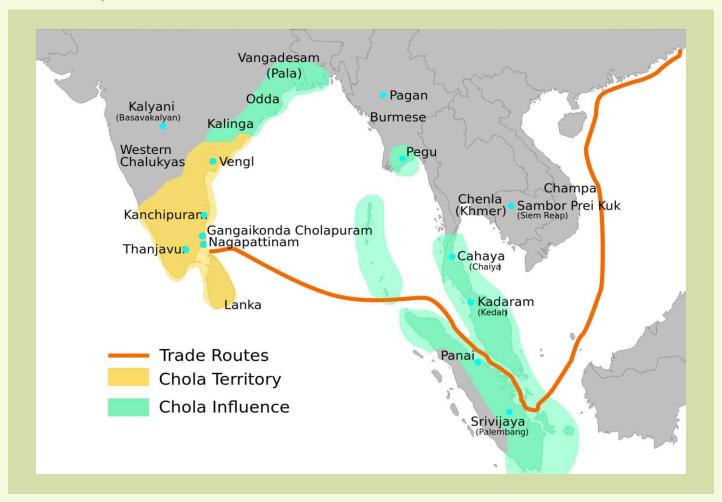
#### **ADMINISTRATION DURING PALLAVAS**

- ▶ Pallava kingdom administrative units Mandalam (rashtra) > Kottam (district) > Nadu (group of villages) > Ur (village).
- Land grants were given to Brahmans (Brahmadeya) and to temples Devadhana.
- ▶ Land charters found earlier ones are on stone in Prakrit, later ones on copper plate in Sanskrit.
- ▶ The village administration was run by various local autonomous assemblies i.e. Sabha, Ur etc.
- ▶ Villages had a court of justice, viz. **Dharamasasana.**



#### THE CHOLA KINGDOM (850 – 1279 CE)

The Chola empire which arose in the ninth century brought under its control a large part of the peninsula. It was founded by Vijayalaya in Tanjore. The Cholas developed a powerful navy which enabled them to conquer Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Its impact was felt even by the countries of Southeast Asia. The Chola empire may be said to mark a climax in south Indian history.



#### **RAJARAJA I (985-1014 CE)**

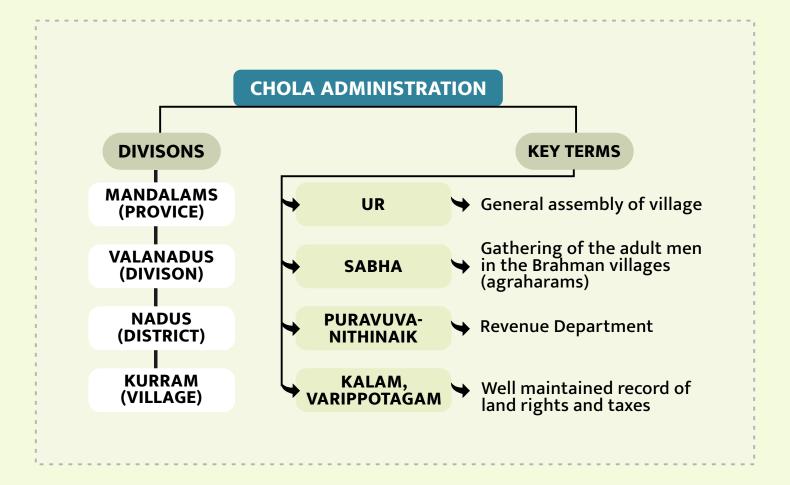
- ▶ Rajaraja destroyed the Chera navy at Trivandrum, and attacked Quilon. He then conquered Madurai and captured the Pandyan king. He also invaded Sri Lanka and annexed its northern part to his empire. These moves were partly motivated by his desire to bring the trade with the Southeast Asian countries under his control.
- ▶ One of his naval exploits was the conquest of the Maldives.
- Rajaraja, annexed the northwestern parts of the Ganga kingdom in Karnataka, and overran Vengi.
- ▶ In 1010 CE, he constructed the Rajarajeshwara or Brihadeswara temple in Tanjore.



#### **RAJENDRA I (1014-1044 CE)**

- ▶ He carried forward the annexationist policy of Rajaraja by completely overrunning the Pandya and Chera countries and including them in his empire.
- ▶ The conquest of Sri Lanka was also completed. Sri Lanka was not able to free herself from the Chola control for another 50 years.
- ▶ In a remarkable exploit he sent naval expeditions against the revived Sri Vijaya empire (SE Asia). The Chola navy was strongest in the area and for sometime the 'Bay of Bengal' was converted into a 'Chola Lake'.
- ▶ He undertook a march across Kalinga to Bengal in which the Chola armies crossed the river Ganga, and defeated two local kings. To commemorate this, he assumed the title of Gangaikondachola.
- ▶ He built a new capital near the mouth of the Kaveri river and called it Gangaikondacholapuram.





#### **KAKATIYA KINGDOM**

- Established by Rudradeva (Prataparudral) in 1158 CE.
- ▶ Warangal was the capital of Kakatiyas.
- ▶ They faced Islamic invasion from 1310 (by Alauddin Khilji) and ultimately came under control of Delhi Sultanate in 1323 (invasion by Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq).
- ▶ Ganapatideva's (longest reign, 1199-1262 CE) during which he expanded his kingdom from the coastal Bay of Bengal in the east to Kanchipuram in the south.
- ▶ Rani Rudrama Devi (1262-89 CE) was one of the few queens in Indian history who belonged to the Kakatiya dynasty.
- ▶ Motupalli was the famous trading seaport of the Kakatiyas.
- ▶ Marco Polo- the famous Venetian traveler visited Kakatiya kingdom through this port and wrote about the prosperity and power in Andhras in his travelogue.
- Kakatiya dynasties were famous for the construction of large tanks and used the sluiceweir device in it to boost crop production.
- ▶ The Koh-i-noor diamond was mined during Kakatiya rule from the Golconda mines
- ▶ Architecture Rudreswara Temple (also known as Thousand pillars temple), Rammappa Temple (Telangana), Warangal Fort - all three have been added to the tentative list of **UNESCO's World Heritage sites.**



### THE VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE (1336 -1646 CE)

It was founded in 1336 CE by Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty (at the instance of their Guru Vidyaranya).



#### FOUR DYNASTIES THAT RULED VIJAYANAGAR HARIHARA I He was the first ruler of the Sangam dynasty. (1336-56) The struggle between the Vijayanagar and Bahamani kingdoms started in his reign for control over three **BUKKA I** (1356-77)areas-Krishna-Godavari Delta, Tungabhadra doab, and Marathwada region. **HARIHARA II** Assumed the title of Maharajadhiraja. (1377-1404) He was defeated by the Bahamani ruler Firoz Shah. **DEVA RAYA I SANGAMA** (1404-1422) (1336-1485) Italian Nicholas Conti (1420) visited Vijayanagar empire in his region Greatest ruler of Sangam dynasty Also know as Immadi Devaraya or Proudha Devaraya. Took the title of Gajabetekara (elecphant hunter), DEVA RAYA II Dakshinapathada Chakravarthi. (1425-1446) Wrote two Sanskriti books- Sudhanidhi & Commentary on Brahm Sutras. Persian ambassador Abdur Razzak (1442) visited during his reign. **SALUVA SALUVA** Only ruler of this dynasty. (1485-1505) NARSIMHA Best ruler of Tuluva dynasty. Babur mentions him as ruler of Vijayanagar in Baburnama. Also known as Andhra Bhoja, Abhinav Bhoj. He captured the whole of Raichur doab and invaded Gulbarga and Bidar. He freed Muhammad Shah and installed him on the throne of Bidar and assumed the title Yavanrajya Sthapanacharya. **TULUVA** KRISHNA DEVA (1505-1570) RAYA (1509-1530) He was contemporary of Portuguese Governor Albuquerque. Portuguese traveller **Domingo Paes** visited in his reign. Ashtadiggajas lived in his court. He wrote Amuktamalyada (Telugu) and Jambavati Kalyanam (Sanskrit). ARAVIDU **FOUNDED BY** Founded the city of Nagalapuram. (1570-1650) TIRUMLA He built Hazara Ramaswamy Temple, Vittalaswami temple.

#### **VIJAYANAGAR ADMINISTRATION**

- Administrative units: Mandalams (province), Nadus (district), Sthalas (sub-district) and finally into Gramas (village).
- ▶ Nayankar System The chiefs known as Nayaks/Poligars were given Amaram (territory with fixed revenue) in lieu of their services. They had to maintain an army of fixed size.
- ▶ Ayagar System A body of 12 functionaries known as Ayagars in each village, to conduct village affairs.
- ▶ Women occupied a high position and took an active part in the political, social and literary life of the empire. They even went to battles. It was the only empire in Medieval India which employed women in state services.
- ▶ Gold coins minted were called Varaha. Foreign travellers referred to it as panam or pardaos.
- ▶ Slavery and sale and purchase of human beings existed.

#### FOREIGN TRAVELLERS TO VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE

Ibn Batuta (Book-Rihla) from Morocco (Visited during Harihara I)

Nicolo de Conti from Italy (Visited during Devaraya II)

Abdur Razzaq from Persia (Visited during Devaraya II)

Athanasius Nikitin from Russia (Visited during Virupaksha Raya II)

Ludvico de Vorthema from Italy (Visited during Krishna Deva raya)

Duarte Barbosa from Portugal (Visited during Krishna Deva Raya)

Dominigo Paes from Portugal (Visited during Krishna Deva Raya)

Fernao Nuniz from Portugal (Visited during Achyuta Deva Raya)

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#### **BAHAMANI KINGDOMS (1347-1526 CE)**

#### Ala-ud-Din Bahman Shah (aka Hasan Gangu) (1347-58 CE)

- ▶ Founded the Bahmani kingdom in 1347 CE with Gulbarga as its capital.
- Divided the kingdom into 4 Tarafs (provinces) Gulbarga, Daulatabad, Berar and Bidar (each under one Tarafdar).

#### Muhammad Shah I (1358-71 CE)

- ▶ He was an able general and administrator.
- ▶ He entered into deadly conflict with the Hindu rulers of Warangal and Vijayanagar.

#### Taj ud-Din Firuz Shah (1397–1422 CE)

- ▶ The most remarkable figure in the Bahmani kingdom.
- ▶ He was well-acquainted with the religious sciences, that is, commentaries on the Quran, jurisprudence, etc., and was particularly fond of the natural sciences such as botany, geometry, logic, etc.
- ▶ He inducted Hindus into the administration on a large scale.
- Astronomy Built an observatory near Daulatabad.
- ▶ He developed the principal ports of his kingdom, Chaul and Dabhol, for trade with the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.
- ▶ He founded Firozabad, near Gulbarga.
- In early stages he defeated Vijayanagar but later he was defeated by Deva Raya I. After this his brother Ahmad Shah succeeded him.

#### Ahmad Shah (1422-1435 CE)

- Also called a saint (wali) on account of his association with the famous sufi saint, Gesu Daraz.
- ▶ He defeated Warangal, and to consolidate new territory, shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.

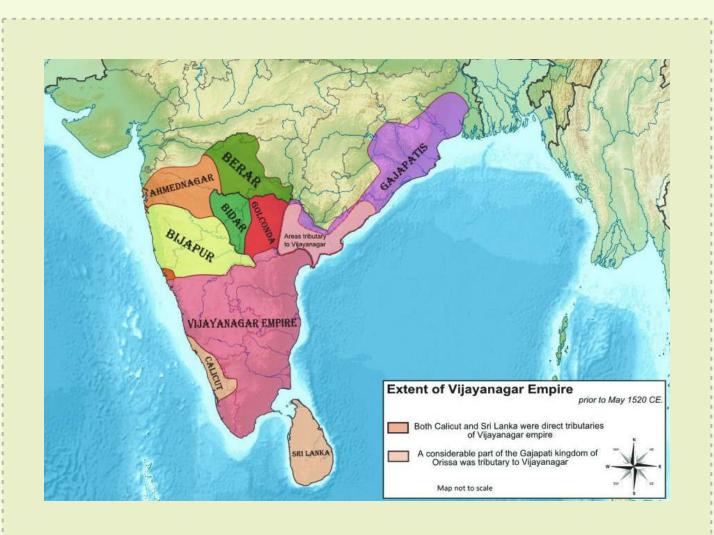
#### Mahmud Gawan

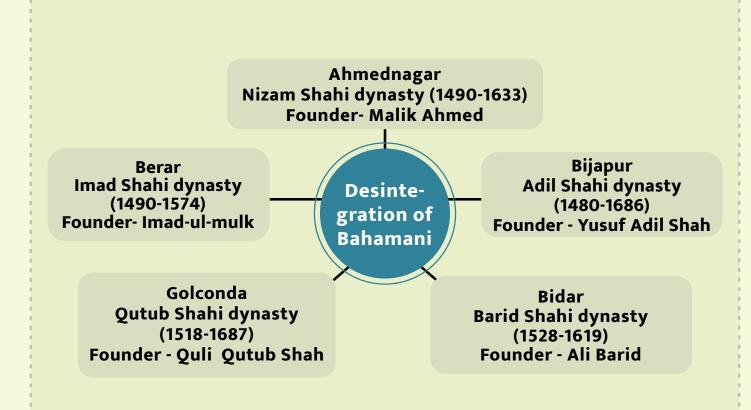
- ▶ He was Iranian by birth and was a trader. He was granted the title of Malik-ut-Tujjar (Chiefs of Merchants) by the Sultan.
- ▶ He was an able administrator. His military conquests included Konkan, Goa and the Krishna-Godavari delta.
- ▶ He divided the kingdom into 8 provinces called Tarafs. Each Taraf was governed by the Tarafdar. The salary was paid in cash or by assigning a Jagir.
- A tract of land called Khalisa was set apart for expenses of the Sultan.
- ▶ The nobles in Bahmani kingdom were divided into the longestablished Deccanis and the new-comers who were foreigners (afagis, also called gharibs).
- Since Gawan was an Afaqi, the Deccanis hatched a conspiracy against him and he was executed.



### DECCAN STATES: AHMADNAGER, BIJAPUR, GOLCONDA, BERAR AND BIDAR

Mahmud Gawan's execution started the process of disintegration of Bahamani empire. Kalimullah was the last king of the Bahmani dynasty. He was deposed by his Wazir Amir Ali Barid in 1526 CE who laid the foundation of the Barid Shahi dynasty of Bidar





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