

# NCERT Notes: Rashtrakuta Dynasty [Medieval History Of India For UPSC]

In this article, find NCERT notes on the Rashtrakutas. The Rashtrakuta Dynasty is an important topic for [Civil Services Exam](#) 2020 preparation.

To know more about [UPSC 2020](#), refer to the linked article.

## Origin

- The Rashtrakutas considered themselves descendants of Satyaki.
- Historians differ on the question of their origins.
- It is evident from a few Chalukya kings' inscriptions that they were vassals of the Chalukyas.
- Rashtrakutas were of Kannada origin and their mother tongue was Kannada.

## The Rashtrakuta Empire



## The Rashtrakuta Emperors

Rashtrakuta Emperors (753-982)	
Dantidurga	(735 – 756)
Krishna I	(756 – 774)
Govinda II	(774 – 780)

Dhruva Dharavarsha	(780 – 793)
Govinda III	(793 – 814)
Amoghavarsha	(814 – 878)
Krishna II	(878 – 914)
Indra III	(914 -929)
Amoghavarsha II	(929 – 930)
Govinda IV	(930 – 936)
Amoghavarsha III	(936 – 939)
Krishna III	(939 – 967)
Khottiga Amoghavarsha	(967 – 972)
Karka II	(972 – 973)
Indra IV	(973 – 982)

## Founder

### Dantivarman or Dantidurga (735 - 756)

Dantivarman or Dantidurga (735 – 756) was the founder of the Rashtrakutas dynasty.

Dantidurga occupied all territories between the Godavari and Vima.

He is said to have conquered Kalinga, Kosala, Kanchi, Srisril, Malava, Lata etc. and occupied Maharashtra by defeating Chalukya King Kirtivarma.

## Rulers

### Krishna I (756 - 774)

- **Krishna I** succeeded Dantidurga.
- He conquered the territories that were still under the Chalukyas
- He also occupied Konkan.
- Krishna I also defeated Vishnuvardhana of Vengi and the Ganga king of Mysore.
- He was a great patron of art and architecture.
- The Kailash Temple at Ellora was built by the Rashtrakuta King Krishna I.

#### **Govinda II (774 - 780)**

- **Govinda II** son of Krishna I succeeded.

#### **Dhruva (780 - 793)**

- He defeated Gurjara-Pratihara King Vatsyaraaja, the Pallavas of Kanchi and the Pala King Dharmapala of Bengal.

#### **Govinda III (793 - 814)**

- Dhruva son of Govinda III succeeded the throne.
- He defeated the great Gurjara King Nagabhatta II.
- Pala King Dharmapala and his protégé Charayudh sought the help of Govinda III.
- His kingdom spread up to the Vindhyas and Malava in the north and the river Tungabhadra to the south.

#### **Amoghavarsha I (814- 878 A.D.)**

- The greatest king of the Rashtrakuta dynasty was Amoghavarsha I son of Govinda III.
- Amoghavarsha I set up a new capital at Manyakheta (now Malkhed in Karnataka State) and Broach became the best port of the kingdom during his reign
- Amoghavarsha I was a great patron of education and literature.
- Amoghavarsha was converted into Jainism by Jinasena, a Jaina monk.
- Suleman, an Arab merchant, in his account called Amoghavarsha I as one of the four greatest kings of the world, the other three being the Caliph of Bagdad, the king of Constantinople and the emperor of China.
- Amoghavarsha ruled for 63 years.

#### **Krishna II (878 - 914)**

- Son of Amoghavarsha, succeeded the throne.

#### **Indra III (914 -929)**

- Indra III was a powerful king.
- He defeated and deposed Mahipala

### Krishna III (939 – 967)

- The last powerful and efficient king of the Rashtrakutas.
- He also succeeded in conquering Tanjore and Kanchi.
- He succeeded in defeating the Tamil kings of Chola kingdom.

### Karka (972 – 973)

- The Rashtrakuta King Karka was defeated and deposed by Taila or Tailapa, the Chalukya king of Kalyani.

### Rashtrakutas Administration

- *divided rashtras* (provinces) -controlled by *rashtrapatis*
- Rashtras divided into *vishayas* or districts governed by *vishayapatis*
- subdivision was *bhukti* consisting of 50 to 70 villages under the control of *bhogapatis*

Village headmen carried on village administration.

Village assemblies played a significant role in the village administration.

### Literature under Rashtrakutas

- Rashtrakutas widely patronized the Sanskrit literature.
- Trivikrama wrote Halayudha composed *Kavirahasya* during the reign of Krishna III.
- Jinasena composed *Parsvabhudaya*, a biography of Parsva in verses.
- Gunabhadra wrote the *Adipurana*, the life stories of various Jain saints.
- Sakatayana wrote *Amogavritti* a grammar work.
- Viracharya – a Great mathematician of this period wrote *Ganitasaram*.
- During the period of the Rashtrakutas, the Kannada literature saw its beginning.
- *Kavirajamarga* composed by Amogavarsha's was the first poetic work in the Kannada language.
- Pampa was the greatest of the Kannada poets and *Vikramasenavijaya* is his famous work.
- *Santipurana* was another great work wrote by Ponna another famous Kannada poet.

## Rashtrakutas Art and Architecture

### Art and 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.

## Kailasanatha Temple

- The temple is carved out of a massive block of rock measuring 200 feet long, and 100 feet in breadth and height.
- The central face of the plinth has imposing figures of elephants and lions which give an impression that the entire structure rests on their back
- It has three-tiered *sikhara* or tower which resembles the *sikhara* of the Mamallapuram *rathas*
- There is a pillared hall with 16 square pillars in the interior of the temple
- A sculpture of the Goddess Durga is engraved as slaying the Buffalo demon.
- In the interior of the temple there is a pillared hall which has sixteen square pillars.
- The sculpture of the **Goddess Durga** is shown as slaying the Buffalo demon.
- In another sculpture Ravana was making attempts to lift Mount Kailasa, the abode of Siva.

## Elephanta

- Originally called as Sripuri, Elephanta is an island near Bombay.
- The Portuguese named it as Elephanta after seeing the huge figure of an elephant.
- The sculptures in Ellora and Elephanta has close similarities
- There are huge figures of *dwara-palakas* at the entrance to the sanctum.
- **Trimurthi** is the most magnificent figure of this temple. The sculpture is six metres high and said to represent the three aspects of Shiva as Creator, Preserver and Destroyer.

## Other facts of Rashtrakutas

- Vaishnavism and Saivism flourished during their period.
- Active commerce witnessed between the Deccan and the Arabs.
- They stimulated the Arab trade by maintaining a friendship with them.