

## CHAPTER-10

# THE CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI AND THE PALLAVAS OF KANCHI



### The Chalukyas of Badami (540 C.E. – 753 C.E.)

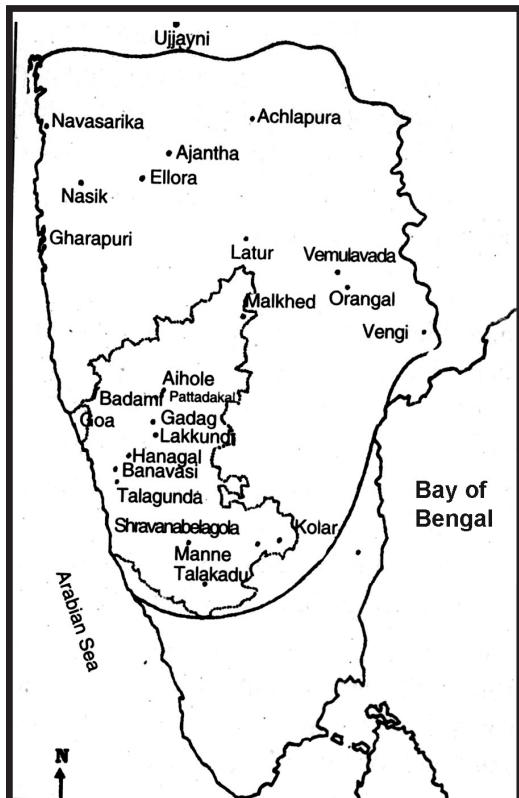
#### After studying this chapter you learn :

- The beginnings of Chalukyas of Badami, the expansion of the empire under its foremost king pulakeshi II.
- Religious, social, military and judicial system.
- The extent of empire under the Chalukyas of Badami with the help of a map.
- The contributions of Pallavas of Kanchi to the field of literature, religious, art, architecture and the field of education.

Many powerful kings ruled Karnataka in the 6<sup>th</sup> century C.E. They were the Chalukyas of Badami. They established their supremacy in Karnataka for over two centuries continuously, and ruled with immense glory. The Chalukya dynasty occupies an important position in the history of South India and is one of the powerful dynasties of India.

The rule of the Chalukyas began in the 6<sup>th</sup> century and ended in the middle part of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Raja Jayasimha is the founder of this dynasty. The most powerful and noteworthy emperor of this dynasty is Pulakeshi II. Overpowering the Gangas, Kadambas and Alupas, he extended his empire. The Pallavas were at the peak of glory in South Deccan. Since Mahendravarma did not accept the sovereignty of Pulakeshi, Pulakeshi defeated him. When Harshavardhana, who was ruling in North India, he advanced upto the banks of river Narmada, Pulakeshi stopped him and earned the titles of 'Dakshinapatheshwara' and 'Lord of the Peninsula' for his daring act.

Pulakeshi II could not rule the whole of his kingdom from one centre. He appointed his younger brother, Kubja Vishnuvardhana, as the provincial head of Vengi and Jayasimha as the head of Gujarat province. Later on, Chalukyas ruled the kingdom for around five centuries under the name of 'Chalukyas of Vengi'.



**Badami Chalukya Empire**

Hiuen Tsang visited the Chalukya capital. He has given a detailed description of Pulakeshi II and the Chalukyan kingdom. He has said that the king was just and kind. The army was disciplined and the soldiers were courageous warriors who were not afraid of death. The subjects were lovers of truth, contented, self-respecting, prosperous and loyal to the king. They respected the king very much, and the king loved his subjects.

Pulakeshi II was an optimistic emperor. He had friendly relations with foreign kings too. Arab historians report that he had diplomatic relations with the Persian king, Khusrui II.

After some years, the Pallava king, Narasimhavarman I took revenge on the Chalukyas for the defeat of his father Mahendravarman. He occupied the Chalukyan kingdom and captured Vatapi. During the time of the last Chalukya king, Kirtivarman, the Rashtrakutas captured this kingdom.

### The Contributions of the Chalukyas

The Chalukyas developed the Kannada land, language and culture, and protected its religion, literature, art and architecture. They were the ones who gave the name 'Karnataka' to this land. The reign of the Badami Chalukyas is a great and glorious period in the history of Karnataka. This age is noteworthy not only for its military exploits but also for its art and literature.

They ruled for around 200 years. The king was actively involved in administration. The kingdom was divided into districts called vishaya and the vishayadhipati used to look after it. The village was the smallest unit of the administration. The village leaders looked after the village accounts and administration.

The Chalukyas encouraged all traditions and sects like that of the Shaivas, Vaishnavas and the Jains. They supported the construction of Jain temples and Buddhist viharas too.

The Chalukyas of Badami patronized literature. Kannada and Sanskrit developed very well. Kannada was their state language. During this period, the tripadi form of poetry came into existence. Though there are no literary works produced in Kannada at this time, there are many inscriptions written in Kannada. One of the poem in the inscription of Kappe Arabhatta of Badami is in tripadi form.

### **Poem in the inscription of Kappe Arabhatta**

ಸಾಧುಂಗ ಸಾಧು  
ಮಾಧುಯರಂಗ ಮಾಧುಯರಂ  
ಬಾಧಿಪ್ಪ ಕಲಿಗ  
ಕಲಯಂಗ ಎಪರೀತನಾ:  
ಮಾಧವನೀತನಾ ಪರನಲ್ಲ ||

ಒಳ್ಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯವನು. ಮಧುರಗುಣ  
ಉಳ್ಳವರಿಗೆ ಮಧುರವಾಗಿ ವತ್ಸಸುವವನು.  
ತೊಂದರೆಪಡಿಸುವ ದುಷ್ಪರಿಗೆ ದುಷ್ಪರಂತೆ  
ಕಾಣಿಸುವವನು. ಈತನು ಅಸಾಮಾನ್ಯನಾದ  
ಮಾಧವನೇ ಆಗಿರುವನು.

The Sanskrit scholars of this time are Ravikirti, Vijiika and Akalanka. Kaumudi Mahotsav, was written by Pulakeshi II's daughter-in-law, poetess Vijiika, and Hara Parvatiya of Shivabhattaraka are important Sanskrit dramas.

The Chalukyas of Badami were great builders as well as art-lovers. They built beautiful temples at Badami, Aihole and Pattadakallu. They developed a special style of sculpture called 'The Chalukya Style' in Indian architecture. They built cave-temples in the rocks of Badami. They encouraged many artists and sculptors.

The best temples in the Chalukya style are in Aihole and Pattadkallu. Aihole was one of the cradles of temple architecture. Evolution of the series of temples architecture was first experimented here. This style found its full expression at Pattadakallu. Thus we see the famous temples of Lokeshwara (Virupaksha) and Trilokeshwara (Mallikarjuna) here. We get conclusive proof of the Chalukyas' artistic achievement in the towering sculptures of Vishnu, Varaha, Harihara and Ardhanarishwara in the caves of Badami. Even painting received encouragement. The Ajanta paintings of this period are world-famous.



**Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakallu**

### **The Pallavas of Kanchi (350 C.E. to 895 C.E.)**

The Pallavas are the first kings of Tamilnadu. They enjoyed a special place among the dynasties which ruled South India. They ruled from the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. In the beginning, they were the officials of the Shatavahanas. When the Shatavahana dynasty declined, the Pallavas declared themselves kings of the territory.

Shivaskandavarma was the first king of this dynasty. The Pallavas and the Kadambas harboured perpetual enmity towards each other. Subsequently, Pulakesh II of the Chalukya dynasty defeated Mahendravarma of the Pallava dynasty. Narasimhavarma I who came later, was the most famous of the Pallava kings. He took revenge on the Chalukyas by defeating Pulakeshi II and capturing Vatapi. These daring acts won him the titles of Mahamalla and Vatapikonda. Hiuen Tsang had visited Kanchi during his reign. Narasimhavarma built a city on the sea coast near Kanchi and named it Mahabalipuram. Many monolithic temples were built by him. During the reign of Aparajita Pallava, Aditya of the Chola dynasty put an end to the Pallava rule.

## The Contributions of Pallavas

They introduced systematic administration in Tamil Nadu. Their contributions are significant in literature, religion, art, architecture and education. When the Chalukyas reigned in Vatapi and the Pallavas in Kanchi, it was a heroic age in the South. Their kingdom was strong and organized. There were ministers and provincial officers. The kingdom had been divided into mandala, nadu and grama. The gramasabha dealt with the problems of the village. The gramabhojaka looked after the village administration.

The Pallavas encouraged both Sanskrit and Tamil. Kanchi was the center of Sanskrit literature. Bharavi (the author of Kiratarjuniya) and Dandi (the author of Dashakumar Charita) were the poets in the Pallava court. King Mahendravarma himself wrote a social drama, 'Matta Vilasa Prahasana' and a book Bhagavadujjuka. The Pallavas encouraged all religions.

The early Pallava kings were Buddhists. The great scholar of Nalanda University, Dharmapala, was born in Kanchi. Since Mahendravarma was a follower of Jainism, there were many Jains in the kingdom.



**Mahabalipuram Pancharatha**

*Shaiva and Vaishnava religious sects became popular during the 7<sup>th</sup> century. 63 Great saints called Nayanmars propogated the Shaiva faith. 12 Alwars saints propogated the Vaishnava faith.*

This age witnessed the rise of the Bhakti movement. It also supported the revival of the Vedic religion. Slokas were written in Tamil. These have become the treasure of Tamil literature.

The Pallavas were lovers of art and architecture. They built many temples in their kingdom, which are noteworthy for their artistic skill. The Pallava architecture can be classified into temples that have been carved out of stone, and temples with structural pattern.

Many temples carved in rocks can be seen in Mahabalipuram. Wonderful monolithic sculptures have been carved in these temples. They tell the stories from Mahabharata and Bhagavata. The Pancharathas are the famous monolithic temples. The carving of 'Arjuna's Meditation' has emerged as an excellent work of art.

The temples of Kailasanath, Ekambarnath and Vaikunta Perumal at Kanchi, and the coastal temple at Mahabalipuram are excellent examples of ancient Indian architecture.

The temples became centres of religious and artistic activities. The rural folk assembled in the courtyard of the temples in the evenings and discussed many issues. The people came here during their leisurely hours and listened to the Puranas or sang devotional songs. In this manner, the temples became cultural and educational centres.

The Pallavas had a good naval force. Merchants had trade relations with South Asian countries like Malaya, Indonesia and others. We can see the influence of Indian language, faiths, traditions and culture in those countries.

## **EXERCISES**

### **I Fill in the blanks :**

- 1 The Pallava king who was defeated by Pulakeshi is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 The dynasty which gave the name *Karnataka* is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The writer of the Sanskrit drama *Hara Parvatiya* is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The Pallava king who earned the title *Vatapikonda* is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 The painting *The Meditation of Arjuna* is in \_\_\_\_\_.

### **II Answer the following questions in brief :**

- 6 How did Pulakeshi II extend his empire?
- 7 Describe the administrative system of the Chalukyas.
- 8 The Chalukyas were lovers of literature. Explain with examples.
- 9 Name the Pallava kings who ruled from Kanchi.
- 10 How did the Pallavas encourage Sanskrit and Tamil?

### **III Activities :**

- 11 Discuss in groups the contributions of the Chalukyas to Kannada language.
- 12 Learn about *tripadis* from your Kannada teachers and by reading Kannada books.
- 13 Pay a visit to Kanchipuram and Mahabalipuram.

### **IV Projects :**

- 14 Pay a visit to a place of historical importance and collect information about it.
- 15 Draw pictures of temples, collect pictures and form an album.

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