



## Political Developments in Deccan and South India (4th – 7th Century A.D.)

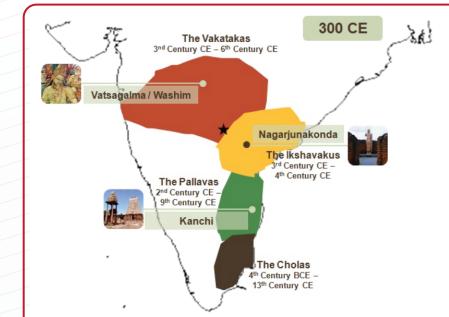
### 1. Introduction

- ♦ The period between 4th – 7th century A.D. saw the emergence of **powerful dynasties in the Deccan and South India**, including:
  - **Vakatakas, Kadambas, Vishnukundins, Pallavas, Kalabhras, Chalukyas, and Pandyas.**
- ♦ While the Guptas had limited influence in the South, North India saw the emergence of **Harsha (606–647 A.D.)** as a significant ruler.
- ♦ Among the dominant powers in South India, the **Chalukyas and Pallavas** frequently engaged in conflicts, shaping the political landscape of the region.



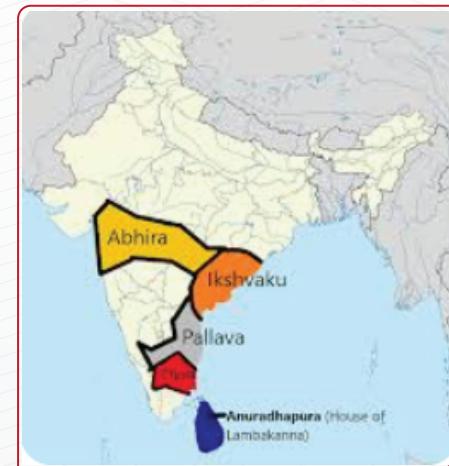
## Ikshvaku Dynasty (225–340 CE)

- ◆ **Region:** Andhra Pradesh (Nagarjunakonda, Amaravati)
- ◆ **Founder:** Vashishthiputra Santamula I
- ◆ **Significance:**
  - Ruled after the Satavahanas in the Krishna-Guntur region.
  - Promoted Buddhism and built stupas at Nagarjunakonda.
  - Patronized both Hinduism (Vedic rituals) and Buddhism.
- ◆ **Notable Rulers:**
  - Santamula I (performed Vedic sacrifices)
  - Rudrapurushadatta (supported Buddhism)
  - Santamula II (last known ruler)



## Abhira Dynasty (250–400 CE)

- ◆ **Region:** Western & Central India (Maharashtra, Gujarat)
- ◆ **Founder:** Abhira Ishwarsena
- ◆ **Significance:**
  - Emerged after the fall of the Satavahanas.
  - Controlled regions around Nasik, Gujarat, and parts of Malwa.
  - Abhiras were linked with pastoral communities and had a significant role in trade.
- ◆ **Notable Rulers:**
  - Ishwarsena (first known ruler, issued coins)
  - Successors ruled in fragmented regions under Gupta overlordship.



## Vakataka Dynasty (c. 250 – 500 A.D.)

- ◆ **Region:** Deccan (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh).
- ◆ **Capital:** Nandivardhana, later Vatsagulma.
- ◆ **Founder:** Vindhya Shakti (c. 250 A.D.).
- ◆ **Important Rulers:**
  - Pravarasena I (c. 270 – 330 A.D.) – Expanded the empire, assumed the title "Samrat".
  - Chandragupta II (Gupta ruler) married his daughter Prabhavati Gupta to Rudrasena II (c. 385 A.D.), strengthening Vakataka-Gupta relations.
  - Harishena (c. 475 – 500 A.D.) – Last powerful ruler, patron of Ajanta caves.
  - Replaced by Vishnukundins and Chalukyas.



## Kadamba Dynasty (c. 345 – 540 A.D.)

- ◆ **Region:** Karnataka.
- ◆ **Capital:** Banavasi.
- ◆ **Founder:** Mayurasharma (c. 345 A.D.), initially a Brahmin, later took up arms against Pallavas.
- ◆ First dynasty to use Kannada as an administrative language (as seen in the Halmidi inscription, c. 450 A.D.).
- ◆ **Important Ruler:**
  - Kakusthavarma (c. 435 – 455 A.D.) – Formed alliances with Guptas and Vakatakas.
  - Declined after 540 A.D., absorbed into Chalukya Empire.



## Western Ganga Dynasty (c. 350 – 1000 A.D.)

- ◆ **Region:** Southern Karnataka.
- ◆ Established **Gangavadi** (present-day Mysore, Chamarajanagar, Tumkur, Mandya, Bangalore).
- ◆ **Capital:** Initially Kolar, later moved to Talakad (near Mysore).
- ◆ **Founder:** Konganivarman (c. 350 A.D.)
- ◆ **Major rulers:**
  - Durvinita (c. 529 – 579 A.D.) – A scholar-king who contributed to Kannada literature.
  - Shivamara II – Patron of Jainism.
- ◆ Ruled as **feudatories of the Rashtrakutas and Chalukyas** until the 10th century A.D.
- ◆ **Chamundaraya**, a Ganga dynasty minister and commander, **built the Gommateshwar** statue in Shravanabelagola in 981 AD.



## Vishnukundin Dynasty (c. 420 – 624 A.D.)

- ◆ **Region:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana.
- ◆ **Capital:** Amaravati.
- ◆ **Founder:** Madhavavarma I (c. 420 A.D.).

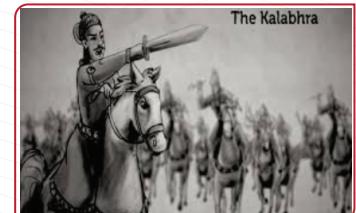
### Key Rulers:

- ◆ **Madhavavarma II (c. 460 – 500 A.D.)**
  - Expanded territory into Odisha and Karnataka.
  - Defeated the Vakatakas and became a major power in Deccan.
- ◆ **Indravarma (c. 500 – 520 A.D.)**
  - Defeated by Chalukyas and Pallavas.
- ◆ **Decline:** Chalukyas of Badami defeated them (c. 624 A.D.), absorbing their territory.



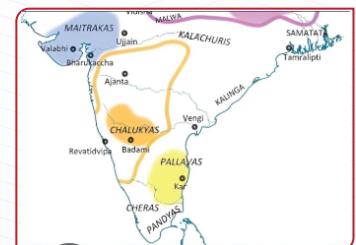
## Kalabhra Interregnum (c. 300 – 600 A.D.)

- ♦ Kalabhras overthrew the Pandyas, Cholas, and Cheras and ruled Tamil Nadu.
- ♦ Referred to as the "Dark Age" in Tamil history due to lack of inscriptions.
- ♦ They were eventually displaced by Pallavas and Pandyas in the 6th century A.D.



## Pallava Dynasty (c. 275 – 897 A.D.)

- ♦ Region: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh
- ♦ Capital: Kanchipuram

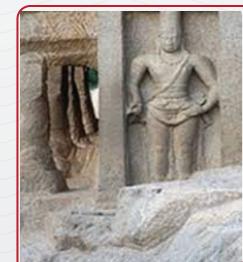


## Early Pallavas (c. 275 – 575 A.D.)

- ♦ Vishnugopa (c. 350 A.D.):
  - Defeated by Samudragupta during his South Indian campaign (Allahabad Pillar Inscription).

## Imperial Pallavas (c. 575 – 897 A.D.)

- ♦ Simhavishnu (c. 575 – 600 A.D.)
  - Founder of later Pallava power.
  - Defeated Kalabhras and Cholas, expanded into Tamil Nadu.
- ♦ Mahendravarman I (c. 600 – 630 A.D.)
  - Introduced Pallava architecture: Rock-cut temples at Mahabalipuram.
  - Conflict with Chalukya ruler Pulakeshin II (Battle of 620 A.D.).
  - Converted from Jainism to Shaivism.
  - Wrote Mattavilasa Prahasana, a Sanskrit drama.
- ♦ Narasimhavarman I (c. 630 – 668 A.D.)
  - Most powerful Pallava ruler, also called "Mamalla" (Great Wrestler).
  - Defeated Pulakeshin II (Chalukya) in 642 A.D. and sacked Badami.
  - Sent an embassy to China (as mentioned by Xuanzang).



- Built the famous monolithic Rathas at Mahabalipuram.
- ◆ **Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha) (c. 695 – 722 A.D.)**
- Built the Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram and Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram.
- Decline: The Pallavas lost territory to the Pandyas and Chalukyas in the 9th century A.D.

## Chalukyas of Badami (c. 543–753 A.D.)

◆ **Founder: Pulakeshin I (543 A.D.)** established the Chalukya rule in Badami (Karnataka).

◆ **Region:** Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh.

◆ **Capital: Badami (Vatapi).**

◆ **Kirtivarman I (c. 566 – 597 A.D.)** defeated Vishnukundins and Kadambas, expanding Chalukya power.

◆ **Pulakeshin II (610–642 A.D.)** was the most notable ruler:



- He took the titles of Parmeshwara, Prithivivallabha, and Satyashraya.
- Pulakeshin II defeated Harsha in the **Battle of Narmada (618 CE)**, halting his southward expansion. This victory is recorded in the **Aihole inscription**, written by the court poet **Ravikirti**.

• He also took on the title **Dashkshinapatheshwara**, similar to Harsha's **Uttarapatheshwara**.

• **Subjugated Kadambas, Gangas, Mauryas of Konkana, and Latas of Gujarat.**

• **Sent an embassy to Persia** during the reign of Khusrau II.

• **Defeated by Pallava King Narasimhavarman I in 642 A.D.**, leading to the sack of Badami.



◆ **Vikramaditya I (655–680 A.D.)** restored Chalukya power and defeated Pallavas.

◆ The dynasty faced repeated conflicts with **Pallavas**, leading to shifting territorial control.

## Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi (c. 624 – 1200 A.D.)

◆ **Region:** Coastal Andhra Pradesh (Capital – Vengi).

◆ **Founder: Kubja Vishnuvardhana (c. 624 A.D.)**, brother of Pulakeshin II.

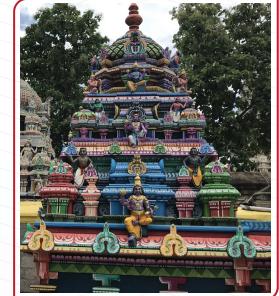
◆ Ruled as **an independent dynasty for over 500 years**.

◆ Eventually became **allies of the Cholas**.



## Pandyas of Madurai (6th – 9th Century A.D.)

- ◆ **Kadungon** (6th century A.D.) revived Pandya rule by defeating Kalabhras.
- ◆ **Arikesari Maravarman** expanded Pandya control and patronized Tamil literature.
- ◆ The Pandyas were frequently engaged in conflicts with **Pallavas** and **Cholas**.
- ◆ **With the** rise of the Cholas in the 9th century A.D., **the Pandyas lost political dominance**.
- ◆ **Faced challenges from** Hoysalas and Muslim invasions from the Delhi Sultanate (13th–14th century A.D.).
- ◆ **Eventually overthrown, leading to the establishment of the Madurai Sultanate** (14th century A.D.).



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