



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

1. Introduction

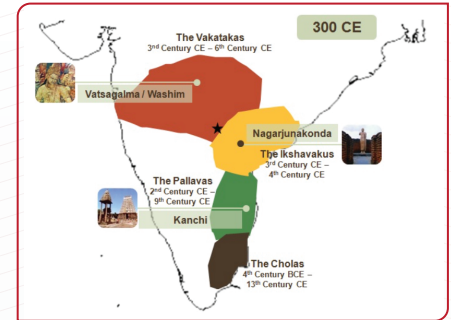
♦ The period between 4th – 7th century A.D. saw the emergence of **powerful dynasties in the Deccan and South India**, including:

- **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.



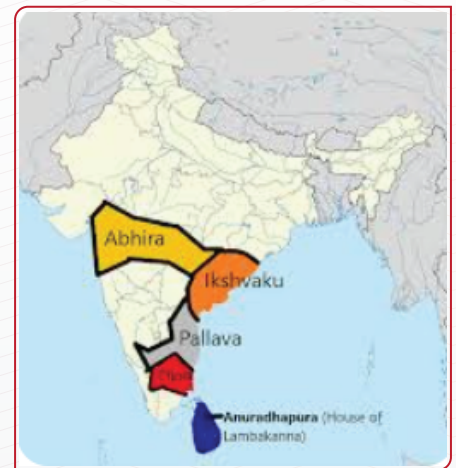
Ikshvaku Dynasty (225–340 CE)

- ◆ **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:** Vindhyashakti (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.



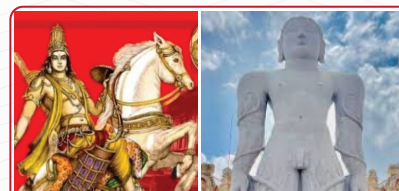
Kadamba Dynasty (c. 345 – 540 A.D.)

- ◆ **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 Gommateshvara 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.



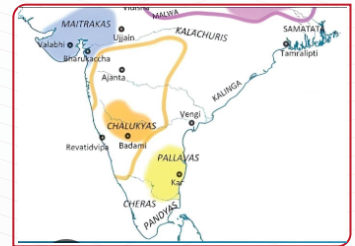
Kalabhra Interregnum (c. 300 – 600 A.D.)

- ◆ **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

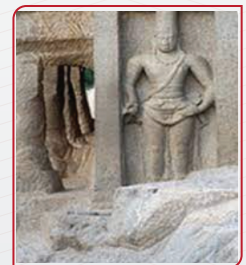


Early Pallavas (c. 275 – 575 A.D.)

- ◆ **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 **Daskshinapatheshwara**, similar to Harsha's Uttarpatheshwara.
 - **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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