



## Southern Kingdoms in Medieval India - Part 1

### Western Chalukya Dynasty (973-1189 AD)

#### Overview

- › **Capital:** Manyakheta → Later shifted to Kalyani (Basavakalyan)
- › **Founder:** Tailapa II - Defeated Rashtrakuta ruler Kakka II or (Karka)
- › **Territorial Extent:** Western Deccan (Present-day Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana)
- › **Sources:**
  - Kannada literary works (Gada Yuddha, Vikramankadevacharita)
  - Numismatic evidence (coins and inscriptions)



## Important Rulers



### Tailapa II (975–997 AD)

- Defeated Paramara King Munja
- Patronized Kannada poet Ranna
- **Note:** (Ranna, Adikavi Pampa and Sri Ponna together are called **three gems** of Kannada literature).



### Satyashraya (997–1008 AD)

- Fought Eastern Chalukyas and Cholas
- Defeated by Rajendra Chola I



### Someshwara I (1042–1068 AD)

- **Titles:** Ahavamalla, Trilokamalla
- Shifted the capital to Kalyani
- **Battle of Koppam (1054 AD):**
  - Defeated Cholas, killed **Rajadhiraja Chola I**
  - However, Cholas later won under **Rajendra Chola II**



### Tailapa II (975–997 AD)

- Defeated **Someshwara II** (his elder brother) with **Chola support**
- **Titles:** Permadideva, Tribhuvanamalla
- **Military campaigns:**
  - Defeated the Cholas & captured Kanchi
  - Battled the Hoysalas (Vishnuvardhana)
- Introduced **Chalukya-Vikrama Era (1076 AD)**

### Decline (12th Century)

- Frequent wars with **Hoysalas and Seunas (Yadavas of Devagiri)**
- **Someshwara IV (last ruler)** was exiled in 1189 AD

## Administration

- **Decentralized Structure:**
  - **Mandalas** (Provinces) → **Nadu** (Districts) → **Kampanas** (Sub-divisions) → **Bada** (Villages)
- **Key Officials:**
  - **Maha Pradhan** – Chief Minister
  - **Sandhivigrahika** – Minister for War and Peace (Diplomat)
  - **Dandanayaka** – Commander of the Army
- **Women in Governance:** Managed **Nadus and Kampanas**



## Art & Architecture

- **Temple Architecture - Gadag Style** (Transition between Badami Chalukyan & Hoysala Architecture)



## Features:

- **Vesara style** – Fusion of Nagara & Dravidian elements
- **Lathe-turned pillars**, soapstone material, stepped wells (**Pushkarni**)

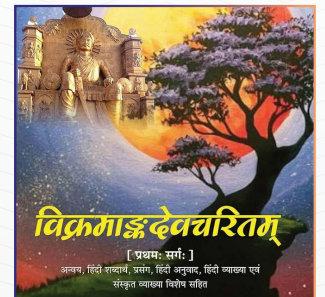
## Notable Temples:

- **Kashivishweshwara Temple, Lakkundi** – Dvikuta (two-shrine) structure, built in Late Chalukyan style.
- **Dodda Basappa Temple, Dambal** – Unique 24-pointed stellate plan, a prominent example of Vesara architecture.
- **Mahadeva Temple, Itagi** – Called the "Emperor among Temples", showcasing refined Dravidian articulation with a Nagara-style superstructure; built by Mahadeva, a commander under Vikramaditya VI.
- **Trikuteshwara Temple, Gadag** – Dedicated to Shiva, with shrines for Brahma, Vishnu, and Saraswati; expanded under Someshwara I.



## Literature & Learning

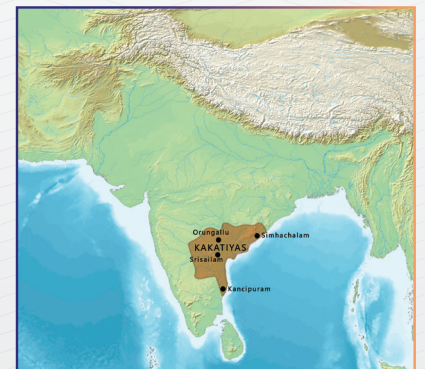
- During Vikramaditya VI's reign, **Vijñāneśvara** authored **Mitāksarā** (commentary on the Yajnavalkya Smriti), a key treatise on inheritance in Hindu law.
- **Sanskrit Works:**
  - *Vikramankadevacharita* – **Bilhana** (Biography of Vikramaditya VI)
- **Kannada Works:**
  - *Gada Yuddha* – **Ranna**
  - *Chandombudhi* – **Nagavarma I**
  - *Rannakanda* – **Ranna** (Poetry & grammar compilation)



## Kakatiya Dynasty (1163–1323 AD)

## Overview

- **Capital:** Hanumakonda → Later shifted to **Warangal (Orugallu)**
- **Founder:** **Prola Raja II** (*Declared independence from Western Chalukyas*)
- **Territorial Extent:** Present-day **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, eastern Karnataka, southern Odisha**



➤ Sources:

- Anumakonda inscription (mentions Kakatiya lineage also it described that Rudradeva I was the first independent ruler of the Kakatiya)
- Bayyaram inscriptions
- Gadyanam gold coins

## Important Rulers

### Prataparudra I (1158–1195 AD) – The First Sovereign



- Declared sovereignty in 1163 AD (ended Chalukya overlordship)
- Author of Nitisara (Sanskrit treatise on polity and ethics)

### Prataparudra II (1296–1323 AD) – Last Ruler



- Initially repelled Alauddin Khilji's invasion (1303 AD) but later defeated
- 1323 AD: Defeated and captured by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, marking the end of Kakatiya rule

### Ganapati Deva (1198–1262 AD) – Greatest Expansionist



- Title: Rayagajekesari ("Lion among kings")
- Major Contributions:
  - Expanded Kakatiya territory through military campaigns
  - Promoted agriculture & irrigation (Built Pakhal Lake for irrigation)
  - Issued Abhaya Sasanam at Motupalli port (Trade protection charter for merchants)
- Patronized Scholars:
  - Tikkana Somayaji (one of the three poets of Telugu Mahabharata)

### Rudrama Devi (1262–1296 AD) – First Woman Ruler



- Daughter & successor of Ganapati Deva (ruled as "Rudradeva Maharaja")
- Adopted male titles & led battles personally
- Reorganized administration: Strengthened feudal system with Nayankara policy
- Foreign Accounts: Marco Polo visited her court, praised her governance

## Administration & Economy

- Decentralized Feudal System – Nayankara system (military feudal lords called Nayakas)
- Trade Hub – Motupalli Port (thrived under Abhaya Sasanam)
- Key Exports – Textiles, diamonds, horses



## Art & Architecture

**Kakatiya Temple Architecture** (*Distinct blend of Dravidian & Nagara styles*)



### Notable Monuments

- **Rudreswara Temple (Thousand Pillar Temple), Hanamkonda** – Built in the 12th century (1163 AD), dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Surya, known for its intricately carved pillars.
- **Ramappa Temple, Warangal (1213 AD)** – Built by Recherla Rudra, a general of Ganapati Deva.
- **Unique features:**
  - Sandbox foundation (earthquake-resistant)
  - Floating bricks (lightweight, used in roofing)
  - UNESCO World Heritage Site (2021)
- **Warangal Fort** – Constructed by Ganapati Deva and expanded by Rudrama Devi.
- Features **Kakatiya Kala Thoranam** (iconic stone archway) and massive stone gateways with intricate carvings.




### Literature & Learning

- **Notable Works:**
  - Geeta Ratnavali – **Jayapa Senani** (on dance & music)
  - Nirvachanottara Ramayanamu – **Tikkana Somayaji** (Telugu Mahabharata poet)



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