

DAILY CLASS NOTES

Medieval History

Lecture - 03

**Pallavas and
Tripartite Struggle**



Pallavas and Tripartite Struggle

The Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi:

- ❖ In 624 CE **Pulakesin II** (c. 610-642 CE) appointed his brother Vishnuvardhana as the governor of the conquered **Vengi region**.
- ❖ Probably after the death of Pulkeshin II, Vishnuvardhana declared independence and established the Eastern Chalukyas kingdom.
- ❖ Initially, the capital of the Eastern Chalukyas was Vengi (near modern Eluru) but later it was moved to Rajamahendravaram (modern Rajamundry).
- ❖ **Strategic Location - Vengi:**
 - Throughout their history, the Eastern Chalukyas were the cause of many wars between the more powerful Cholas and Western Chalukyas since they controlled the strategic Vengi country.
- ❖ **Region of Arts:**
 - The Eastern Chalukyas nearly ruled the kingdom for five centuries.
 - They saw the efflorescence of Telugu culture, literature, poetry and art during the later half of their rule.
- ❖ **Decline:**
 - They continued ruling the region as feudatories of the Cholas until the end of 12th century; later their kingdom ultimately succumbed to the Hoysalas and the Yadavas.

The Eastern Chalukyas - Important Rulers:

Vishnuvardhana (around c. 624 CE):

- ❖ He was the brother of Badami Chalukyan ruler Pulakeshin II.
- ❖ He established an independent kingdom.

Vijayaditya II (c. 808-847 CE):

- ❖ He was one of the most **important rulers** of this dynasty,
- ❖ He led successful military **expeditions against the Rashtrakutas and the Gangas**.
- ❖ He also led campaigns into Gujarat.
- ❖ Even the Rashtrakuta inscriptions acknowledge their **defeat at the hands of Vijayaditya** and they admit that the glory of their kingdom was 'drowned in the ocean of the Chalukyas'.

Vijayaditya III (c. 848-892 CE):

- ❖ He claimed to have won over not only the Pallavas, the Pandyas, the Gangas, the Rashtrakutas, the Kalachuris and South Kosala, but also gave shelter to a Chola king.



Bhima I (c. 892-922 CE):

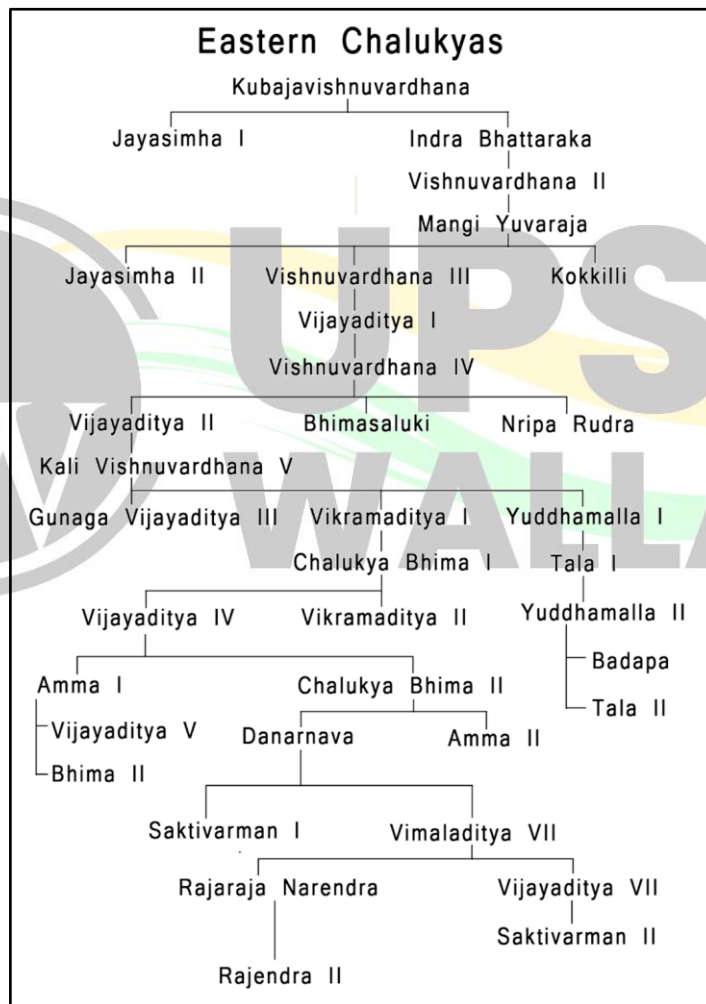
- ❖ He was captured by the Rashtrakuta king but was later released.

Vijayaditya IV (around c.922 CE, for a period of six months):

- ❖ From his reign, many succession disputes erupted. The Rashtrakutas openly interfered and backed one or the other contenders.
- ❖ The later rulers thus had very short reigns, from six months to a mere fortnight too.

Amma II (947 – 970 AD):

- ❖ Some political stability was restored during the reign of Amma II. But it did not last for a long time.



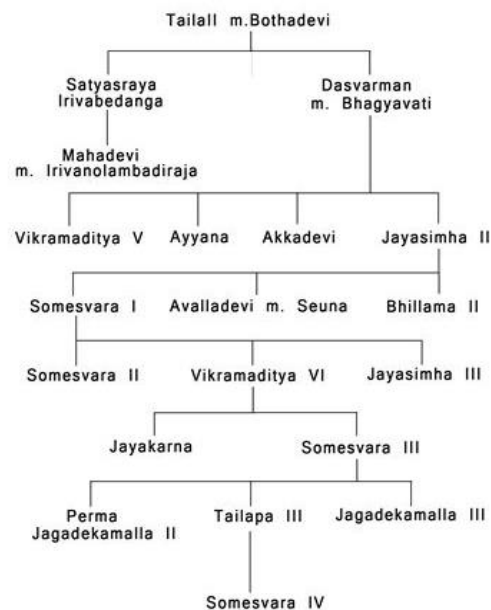
Vengi/Eastern Chalukya:

- ❖ **Kubja Vishnuvardhana: 624–641**
- ❖ Jayasimha I: 641–673
- ❖ Indra Bhattaraka: 673
- ❖ Vishnu Vardhana II: 673–682
- ❖ Mangi Yuvaraja: 682–706
- ❖ Jayasimha II: 706–718
- ❖ Kokkili: 719
- ❖ Vishnuvardhana III: 719–755
- ❖ Vijayaditya I: 755–772
- ❖ Vishnuvardhana IV: 772–808
- ❖ **Vijayaditya II: 808–847**
- ❖ Kali Vishnuvardhana V: 847–849
- ❖ **Vijayaditya III: 849–892**
- ❖ Chalukya Bhima I: 892–921
- ❖ Vijayaditya IV: 921
- ❖ Amma I: 921–927
- ❖ Beta Vijayaditya V: 927
- ❖ Tala I: 927
- ❖ Vikramaditya II: 927–928
- ❖ Bhima II: 928
- ❖ Yuddhamalla II: 928–935
- ❖ Chalukya Bhima II: 935–947
- ❖ Amma II: 947–970
- ❖ Tala I: 970
- ❖ Danarnava: 970–973
- ❖ Jata Choda Bhima: 973–999
- ❖ Shaktivarman I: 1000–1011
- ❖ Vimaladitya: 1011–1018
- ❖ Rajaraja Narendra: 1019–1061
- ❖ Vijayaditya VII
- ❖ In 999 CE, the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi were conquered by the **Chola king Rajaraja.**

Western Chalukya or Chalukya of Kalyani:

- ❖ Tailapa II (957-997)
- ❖ Satyashraya (997-1008)
- ❖ Vikramaditya V (1008-1015)
- ❖ Jayasimha II (1015-1042)
- ❖ Someshvara I (1042-1068)
- ❖ Someshvara II (1068-1076)
- ❖ Vikramaditya VI (1076-1126)
- ❖ Someshvara III (1126-1138)
- ❖ Jagadhekamalla II (1138-1151)
- ❖ Tailapa III (1151-1164)
- ❖ Jagadhekamalla III (1163-1183)
- ❖ Someshvara IV (1184-1200)

Western Chalukyas



Assignment/Self Study:

The Chalukyas of Lata:

- ❖ They were different from Chalukyas and started as **feudatories of the Western Chalukyas**.
- ❖ Gradually during the 10th and 11th centuries, they declared themselves as independent rulers.
- ❖ Their area of administration is the **Lata region of present-day Gujarat**. Lata is identified as the area between Mahi River in the north and Narmada or Tapi River in south.
- ❖ Bharuch is a major city in the region.
- ❖ They were later **defeated by the Chalukyas of Gujarat (Solankis)**.
- ❖ **Important Rulers:**
 - **Nimbarka:** Not much known about his reign.
 - **Barappa (c. 970-990 CE):** He is regarded as the first prominent ruler of the Chalukyas of Lata.
 - ✓ Earlier he worked as a general of the Western Chalukya King Tailapa II and was made the governor of the Lata region by Tailapa.
 - ✓ It is believed that a joint army of Barappa and the Shakambhari king defeated the Solanki ruler Mularaja.
 - ✓ According to **Hemachandra's Dvyashraya Kavya**, Mularaja's son Chamunda-rajya invaded Lata and killed Barappa.





- **Gogi-rajā (c. 990-1010 CE):** He is Barappa's son and probably revived the kingdom.
- **Kirti-rajā (c. 1010-1030 CE):** The copper plate inscription of Kirti-rajā discovered in Surat and it lists the names of his ancestors as Gogi, Barappa and Nimbarka.
- **Vatsa-rajā (c. 1030-1050 CE):** He was believed to have built a golden umbrella for the god Somanatha. He also established a free food canteen (sattra).
- **Trilochana-pala (c.1050-1070 CE):**
 - ✓ Two copper plate inscriptions (1050 CE Ekallahara and 1051 CE Surat) related to Trilochana-pala have been discovered.
 - ✓ He is titled **Maha-Mandaleshvara** in these inscriptions.
 - ✓ These inscriptions give an account of the mythical origin of the **Chalukyas**.
 - ✓ According to these inscriptions, the family's progenitor originated from the chuluka (a vessel or a folded palm to hold water) of the creator deity Virinchi. On the deity's advice, he married the Rashtrakuta princess of Kanyakubja.
 - ✓ The 1050 CE inscription records his donation of the Ekallahara village to a Brahmin named Taraditya.
- ❖ By 1074 CE, the dynasty appears to have been **vanquished by the Solankis**.

Kalabhra Revolt:

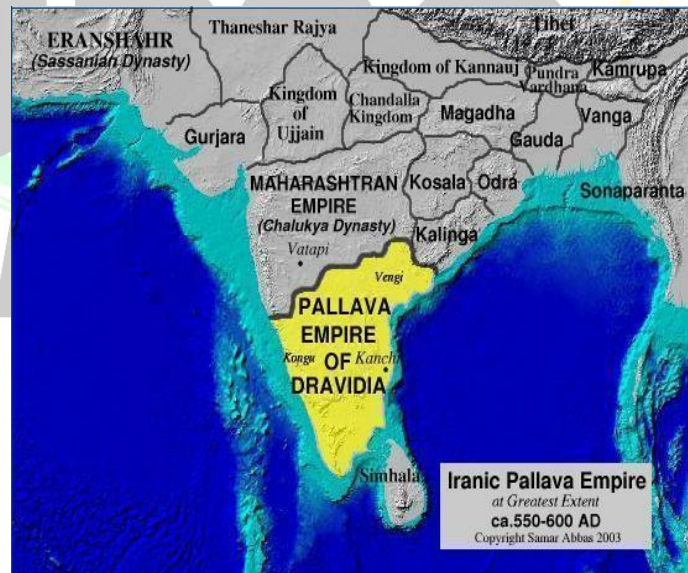
- ❖ During the 3rd - 6th century AD the Kalabhras came together in large numbers and revolted against the Chola, Pandya, Chera and Pallava kingdoms.
- ❖ This revolt was not seen in a positive light as they posed a serious challenge to Pandyas and Pallavas.
- ❖ Kalabhras put an **end to the 'Brahmadeya Rights'** (land grants to Brahmin) and mostly **patronized Buddhist monasteries**.
- ❖ Kalabhras' revolt was so widespread that it could be put down only through the joint efforts of the Pandyas, the Pallavas and the Chalukyas of Badami.
- ❖ King Simhavishnu of the Pallava dynasty defeated the Kalabhras.
- ❖ The Pandyan king Kadungon ended the Kalabhra rule in the southern Tamil region and he was credited for the triumph of Brahmanism over the evil Kalabhras.

Pallavas:

- ❖ Pallavas On the ruins of the Satavahanas, in the eastern part of the peninsula arose the **Ikshvakus**. The Ikshvakus were supplanted by the Pallavas.
- ❖ They gained prominence after the eclipse of the Satavahana dynasty, whom the Pallavas served as feudatories.
- ❖ They had the authority over **south Andhra Pradesh** and **north Tamil Nadu** and their **capital was at Kanchi**.
- ❖ The term Pallava means '**creeper**', in Sanskrit it means tondi and in Tamil they are synonymous to robber.
- ❖ So, the Pallavas were probably a pastoral local tribe who established their authority in the land of creepers called Tondaimandalam (the land between the north Penner and north Vellar rivers.)
- ❖ The Pallava dynasty existed from 275 CE to 897 CE.
- ❖ There are several theories with regard to the origin of the Pallavas. Important among them are as follows:
 - There were the descendents of the Greek Parthians who came to India in the wake of Alexander's invasion.
 - They belong to a local clan.
 - They originated from Chola-Naga marriage.
 - They were Brahmins of the North.
 - They were originally robbers.

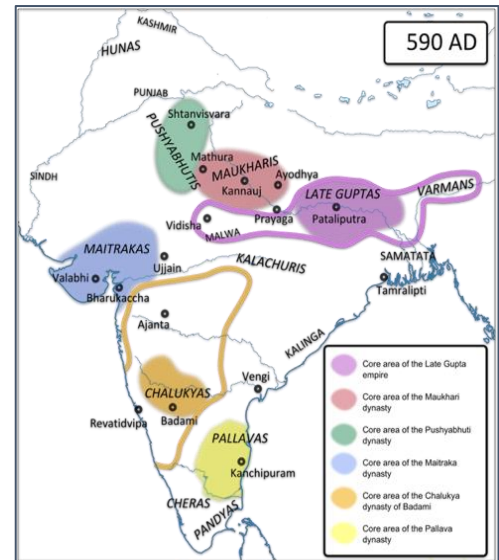
Important Rulers of Pallava Dynasty:

- ❖ Vishnugopa II
- ❖ Simhavarman III
- ❖ Simhavishnu: (560-590)
- ❖ Mahendravarman I: (600-630)
- ❖ Narasimhavarman I: (630-668)
- ❖ Mahendravarman II: (668-670)
- ❖ Paramesvaravarman I: (670-695)
- ❖ Narasimhavarman II: (700-728)
- ❖ Paramesvaravarman II: (728-731)
- ❖ Nandivarman II: (731-795)
- ❖ Dantivarman: (795-846)
- ❖ Nandivarman III: (846-869)
- ❖ Aparajitavarman: (880-897)
- ❖ Aditya I: (870-907)



During Samudragupta Period (335-380):

- ❖ A Pallava ruler **Vishnugopa** was mentioned in the **Allahabad Inscription of Samudragupta**.
- ❖ The Gupta ruler defeated Vishnugopa, however, restored him to the throne on payment of tribute.
- ❖ Pallavas became a major power during the reign of Mahendravarman I (590 – 630 CE) and Narasimhavarman I (630 – 668 CE) and dominated the Telugu and northern parts of the Tamil region for about 300 years until the end of the 9th century.
- ❖ Throughout their reign they were in constant conflict with **Chalukyas of Vatapi/Badami** in the north and the Tamil kingdoms of Cholas and Pandyas in the south and were **finally defeated by the Chola kings** in the 9th century CE.



Simhavishnu (556-590 CE):

- ❖ Some inscriptions refer to early kings such as **Shivaskandavarman** (probably ruled in the early 4th century CE). But in the last quarter of the 6th century, the ruler who played a crucial role in the Pallavas' rise to power was **Simhavishnu**.
- ❖ He laid a firm foundation for the Pallava empire. He supposedly defeated the Ikshvakus.
- ❖ Putting an end to the political disturbances caused by the Kalabhras, he conquered the land up to the Kaveri and set up a capital at Kanchi.
- ❖ He bore the title of '**Avanisimha**' (Lion of the Earth).

Mahendravarman I (c. 590-630 CE):

- ❖ During his reign, **conflict between the Chalukyas of Badami** and the **Pallavas** heightened.
- ❖ He was defeated by Pulakesin II near Kanchi and annexed the northern part of the Pallava kingdom.
- ❖ **As a patron of Arts:**
 - He was a great patron of the arts. He himself was a poet and musician.
 - He wrote the **Mattavilasa Prahasanna**.
 - He initiated the construction of the famous **cave temple at Mahabalipuram**.
 - He was earlier a **Jaina** but later took up **Shaivism** under the influence of **Appar** according to tradition.



Narasimhavarman I or Mamalla (630–668):

- ❖ He was the **greatest ruler** of Pallava Dynasty.
- ❖ He avenged his father's defeat and defeated Pulakeshin II and **occupied Vatapi** with the help of the **Sri Lankan prince, Manavarma**.
- ❖ He assumed the title of **Vatapikonda**.
- ❖ He defeated **Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas**.
- ❖ He founded Mamallapuram and built **monolithic rock temples**.
- ❖ **Hieun Tsang** visited Kanchi during his reign.
- ❖ **Dispatched two naval expeditions** to help his friend Manavarma, the Sri Lankan prince. But Manavarma was defeated and he had to seek political refuge at his court.
- ❖ **As a builder:**
 - He constructed the **port of Mamallapuram**.
 - He ordered the construction of the 'rathas' at Mahabalipuram.
 - He was also known as **Mahamalla or Mamalla (great wrestler)**.
 - It is in honor of Narasimhavarman I that **Mahabalipuram is called Mamallapuram**.

Mahendravarman II (c. 668-670 CE) I:

- ❖ The Pallava-Chalukya conflict continued for subsequent decades and Mahendravarman II died fighting the Chalukyas.

Parameshvaraman I (c. 670-695 CE) I:

- ❖ He defeated the Chalukya king **Vikramaditya** and also the Gangas.
- ❖ He built temples at Kanchi.

Narsimhavarman II/ Rajasimha (c.700-728 CE):

- ❖ He Constructed **Kailashnatha Temple at Kanchi**. This temple is also known as Rajasimheshvara temple.
- ❖ He built **Shore temple at Mahabalipuram**.
- ❖ He also sent an **ambassador to China** to maintain good relations.

Nandivarman II (731–795):

- ❖ During his time Kanchi was again invaded and captured by Vikramaditya II.
- ❖ The construction of Vaikunteperumal temple at Kanchi took place.

Dantivarman (c.795-846 CE):

- ❖ During his reign, **Rashtrakuta king Govind III invaded Kanchi**.
- ❖ **Pandyans** also invaded the Pallava territory to areas in and around Kanchipuram.



Aparajita (c.880-893 CE):

- ❖ He was the **last known Pallava king**.
- ❖ With the help of Western Gangas and Cholas, defeated the Pandya king Varagunavarman II in a **battle at Thirupurambiyam** (near Kumbakonam).

Decline of Pallavas:

- ❖ In 893 CE, **Chola king Aditya I** completely liquidated the Pallavas.
- ❖ The area of Tondaimandalam passed under Cholas.

Pallava Art and Architecture:

- ❖ Culturally their reign is important for the growth of:
 - Tamil bhakti literature
 - Dravidian style of art and architecture in south India.
- ❖ It was under them that Mahabalipuram, South of Chennai, emerged as an important center of temple architecture.
- ❖ Pallavas are most noted for their patronage of architecture, the finest example being the **Shore Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site** in Mahabalipuram. The Pallavas, who left behind magnificent sculptures and temples, established the foundations of medieval South Indian architecture.
 - They developed the Pallava script which **Grantha** ultimately descended.
 - The Pallava script gave rise to several other southeast Asian scripts.
 - Chinese traveler **Hiuen Tsang visited Kanchipuram** during Pallava rule.
 - Kanchi under them became an important temple town and a center of trade and commerce.
 - Pallavas were followers of Hinduism and made gifts of land to gods and Brahmins.
 - In line with the prevalent customs, some of the rulers performed the Aswamedha and other Vedic sacrifices.
 - They were, however, **tolerant of other faiths**.
 - Their rule in south India was replaced by the imperial Cholas.

Language in Pallava Empire:

- ❖ All the early Pallava royal inscriptions are either in Sanskrit or in Prakrit language, considered the official languages of the dynasty.
- ❖ The phenomenon of using **Prakrit as official languages** in which rulers left their inscriptions and epigraphy continued till the 6th century.
- ❖ The Pallavas in their Tamil country used **Tamil and Sanskrit in their inscriptions**.
 - Tamil came to be the main language used by the Pallavas in their inscriptions, though a few records continued to be in Sanskrit.



- Almost all the copper plate records, viz., Kasakudi, Tandantottam, Pattattalmangalm, Udayendiram and Velurpalaiyam are composed both in Sanskrit and Tamil.

❖ Patronage to Sanskrit Literature:

- Pallavas patronized Sanskrit literature.
- Two distinguished Sanskrit poets lived during their reign.
- **Dandi:** Historians opined that he lived in the court of Narasimhavarma-II. He wrote a kavya namely Dasakumara Charita.
- **Bharavi:** He adorned the court of Nandivarma-II and authored a legendary book named Kiratarjuniyam.

❖ Patronage to Tamil Literature:

- The sacred Tamil literature also flourished during this period.
- **Perundevanar** wrote Mahabharata in Tamil.
- Nayanars, a group of 63 Tamil Shaiva poet-saints, composed **Tevaram or Tirumurai**. It is popularly known as the **Dravida Veda** and still being recited in the Shaiva temples of Tamil Nadu.
- Alwars, a group of 12 Tamil Vaishnava poet-saints, composed **Nalayira Divya Prabandham**. It is considered as a holy book for the Tamil Vaishnavites and is chanted in the Vaishnava temples of Tamil Nadu.

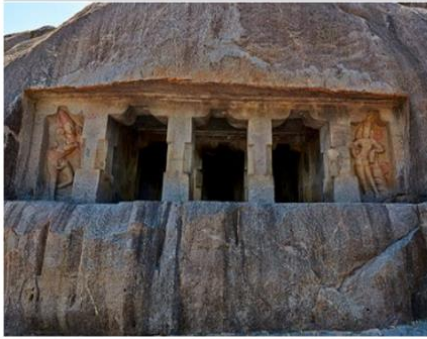
Architecture of Pallavas:

- ❖ They had introduced the stone architecture in the Tamil country. Their contributions are still extant because granite was used for building temples and carving sculptures. The Pallava architecture had evolved stage by stage from the period of Mahendravarman I.
- ❖ **Classification of the Pallava Architecture:**
 - Cave Temples and Rock-cut temples.
 - Monolithic Rathas and Sculptural Mandapas
 - Structural temples.
- ❖ Pallava sculpture has a distinctive style that is different from the Gupta period sculptures of north India. The faces of the human figures are oval with high cheekbones, and the bodies slender with tapering limbs.

Pallava Cave Shrines:

- ❖ They are smaller and less complex in plan than those at Ajanta and Ellora.
- ❖ Lakshitayatana temple at Mandgappattu, Lalitankuras cave at Tiruchirapalli, Varaha cave temple at Mamallapuram are some examples.
- ❖ The **massive pillars** in these caves are square at the bottom and top, and chamfered into an octagonal shape in between.
- ❖ The cave facade is generally plain, dvarapalas usually marking the two ends. The sanctum contains a **linga or images of Shiva, Vishnu, or Brahma**.

Cave temples

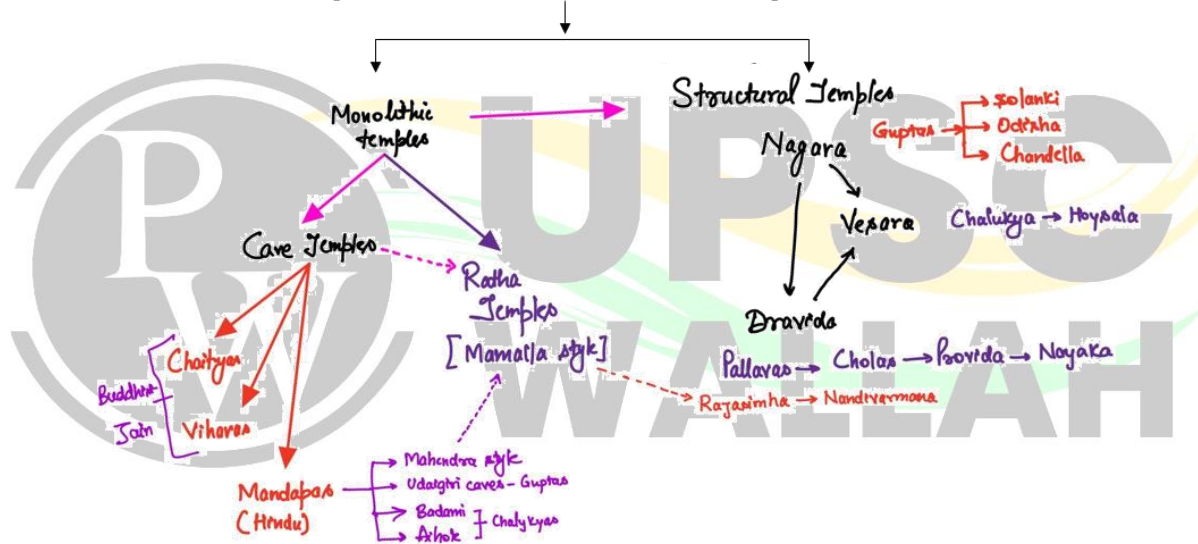


Mandagapattu temple dedicated to Brahma-Shiva-Vishnu.



Varaha Cave Temple at Mamallapuram.

Temple architecture in India (Vertical classification)



Rock-cut Temples:

- ❖ Pallava rock-cut temples also known as ‘Mahendrarvarman style’ as it had evolved during the period of Mahendrarvarman I.
- ❖ He carved temples out of the rocks and thus they were known as rock cut temples.
- ❖ It was really an innovation in the sphere of art because he did not use any other building materials.
- ❖ Therefore, he was hailed as ‘Vichitra Chitta’.
- ❖ In these rock cut temples, we find the sanctum sanctorum on the walls of its beautiful sculptures.
- ❖ The pillars are carved in such a way that they stand on the heads of lions. The rock cut temples of Mahendrarvarman I are found at various places of Tamil Nadu. The most important among them are Pallavaram, Mamandur, Mahendravadi, Vallam and Thalavanur.

Rock-cut temples



Mahendravadi rock-cut temple



Mamandur rock cut temple

Monolithic Rathas of Pallavas:

- ❖ The monolithic rathas and sculptural mandapas constitute the **Mamalla style of architecture**.
- ❖ The Pallava king, Narasimhavarman I was known as **Mamalla (630–668 CE)**.
- ❖ He had converted the port of Mamallapuram as a beautiful city of art and architecture.
- ❖ The Monolithic rathas at Mamallapuram are now called **Pancha Pandava Rathas**.
- ❖ Each ratha or chariot was carved out of single rock and hence the name monolithic.
- ❖ These rathas depict the five different forms of temple architecture.
- ❖ **Some Important Rathas are:**
 - **The Arjuna Ratha:** It contains artistically carved sculptures of Siva, Vishnu, mithuna and dwarapala.
 - **The Dharmaraja Ratha:** It is one of the most exquisite of the five rathas, has a three-storied vimana and a square base.
 - **The Bhima Ratha:** It is rectangular in plan and has beautiful sculptures of Harihara, Brahma, Vishnu, Skanda, Ardhanarisvara and Shiva as Gangadhara.



Pancha Rathas



Pallavas monolithic rathas and sculptural

Structural Temples:

- ❖ From the reign of Rajasimha (700-728 CE) (Narsimhavarman II) the construction of structural temples had started.
- ❖ These temple structures were built with the use of granite slabs. Hence, they are known as structural temples.
- ❖ **We can broadly classify the Pallava structural temples into:**
 1. Rajasimha Style
 2. Nandivarman Style
 - The earliest among the Pallava structural temples were the **Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram** and the **Shore Temple at Mamallapuram**.
 - These temples were built by using sandstones. The Vimana or tower of the Kailasanatha temple is shaped like a hilly comb.
 - This temple is considered as the **Crown of Pallava architecture**.
 - This temple is also called **Rajasimheswaram**. Beautiful sculptures are also found in this temple.
 - The sculptures depicting the scenes of the satirical drama Mattavilasa Prahasana have been engraved in this temple.
- ❖ The iconic Shore Temple was constructed during the **reign of Rajasimha** (c.700-728 CE) and comprises three shrines dedicated to **Shiva and Vishnu**.
- ❖ It is a five-storeyed rock-cut monolith.
- ❖ In fact, the monolithic vimanas are peculiar to Mamallapuram.
- ❖ Nandivarman II had built the **Vaikunda Perumal Temple** at Kanchipuram. The temples built by the later Pallava rulers are found at places like Kanchipuram, Panamalai, Kooram, Thiruthani and Gudimallam.



Shore temple at Mamallapuram



Vaikunda Perumal Temple

Mahendravarmana Group	Mahendravarmana I (600-630AD)	Temple at Bhairavkona (North Arcot Group (600-630 AD) Distt.), Ananteswar temple at Undavalli (Guntur Distt.)
Mammala Group	Narsimhavarmana I 'Mammala' (630-668 AD)	[Mammala Group] Mandapa temples and Ratha temples 'Mammala' (630-668 AD) (Sapt Pagodas) at Mammalapuram (Mahabalipuram)
Rajasimha Group	Narsimhavarmana II 'Rajasimha' (700-728 AD)	Kailashnatha Temple at Kanchi, Shore temple at Mammalapuram
Aparajit Group	Nandivarmana 'Aparajit' (880-897 AD)	Mukteswara, Matangeshwar temple and Vaikuntaperumal at Kanchi, Parshurameswar temple at Gudimallam. The most popular sculpture at Mahabalipuram, known as 'Arjuna's Penance' or 'Descent of Ganga', the marvelous piece of art belongs to this period.

Fine Arts:

- ❖ The Pallava kings had also patronized fine arts.
- ❖ The **Kudumiyanmalai and Thirumayam music inscriptions** show their interest in music.
- ❖ Yaazhi, Mridhangam and Murasu were some of the **musical instruments** of the Pallava period.
- ❖ Both Mahendravarman I and Narasimhavarman I had remained experts in music.
- ❖ The temple sculptures of the Pallava period reveal that the art of dance was popular in those days.
- ❖ The paintings at Chithannavasal illustrate the nature of Pallava painting.
- ❖ Mahendravarman I was known as **Chittirakkarapuli**.
 - He had also composed the **book - Thatchina Chitram**.
 - Thus, music, dance, paintings and drama were popular during the Pallava rule.

Assignment/Self Study:**Pandyas of Madurai:****❖ Early History:**

- The Pandyas were known to **Katyayana**, the Sanskrit grammarian, who flourished in the fourth century B.C.,
- **Megasthenes** also knew about the Pandyas
- **Ashoka** mentioned Pandyas in his **inscriptions**.
- In the time of **Pliny, Roman Writer**, (1st century AD) the capital of the country was at **Madurai**.
- The author of the **Periplus of the Erythraean Sea** and **Ptolemy** were well-informed about the Pandya country.

❖ Early Medieval Times:

- The Pandyas were involved in **internecine wars** with the other contemporary powers such as the **Pallavas**.
- They were in control of **Madurai and Tirunelveli district** of Tamil Nadu.

Some Important Early Medieval Rulers:**Kadungon (560–590 CE):**

- ❖ He was the contemporary of the **Pallava king Simhavishnu (556-590 CE)**.
- ❖ He fought with the **Kalabhra rule**.
- ❖ His capital was **Madurai**.

Maravarman Avani Chulamani (c. 590-620 CE):

- ❖ Kadungon was succeeded by his son Maravarman.
- ❖ He is credited with ending the Kalabhras' rule in the area and revived the Pandyas after Kalabhra interregnum.

Rajasimha (c. 735-765 CE):

- ❖ He defeated the Pallavas and had the epithet of **Pallava-bhanjana** (breaker of the Pallavas).
- ❖ He expanded the Pandya empire.

Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadaiyan (c.756-815 CE):

- ❖ He expanded the Pandyan empire further.

Shrimara Shrivallabha (c.815-862 CE):

- ❖ He continued the aggressive policy of his father.
- ❖ He invaded Ceylon.
- ❖ In order to check the Pandya power, a confederacy consisting of the Gangas, Cholas, Pallavas, Kalingas, Magadhas, etc., was formed under the leadership of the Pallava ruler. However, the Pandya ruler was able to defeat them all at Kumbhakonam.
- ❖ He constructed many tanks, canals and water reservoirs.

Decline and Rise:

- ❖ The Pandyas were completely overpowered by the Cholas in the 10th century. Later Pandyas overpowered Cholas and raised the prestige of the dynasty.
- ❖ Pandyas entered their "golden age" under Maravarman I and Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I in the 13th century.

Dynasty	Founder
The Chalukyas of Vatapi	Jayasimha
The Gang. of Talakad	Knnakanivarna
The Gupt. of Magadha	Shri Gupta
The kadambas of Vanavasi	Mayurasharman
The Kingdom of Gaud	Shashanka
The Kingdom of Thanesar	Pushyabhuti
The Later-Gupt. of Magadha-Malwa	Krishnagupta
The maitrakas of Vallabhi	Bhattarka
The Maukharis of Kannauj	Yajnavarm
The Pallavas of Kanchi	Simhavarman
The Pandyas of Madurai	Kodungon
The Vakatakas	Vindhyashakti

Society in this Period:

- ❖ In this period there existed three types of villages.
 1. Ur
 2. Sabha
 3. Nagaram
 - **Ur** was the type of village inhabited by the peasant castes who perhaps held their land in common. It was the responsibility of the village headman to collect and pay taxes on their behalf. These villages were located in Southern Tamil Nadu
 - **The Sabha** was the village granted to Brahmanas. They enjoyed individual rights in the land.
 - **The Nagaram** type of villages consisted of villages dominated by traders and merchants. This type of village was created because of the declining trade forcing the merchants to move to villages.
- ❖ **Note:** In the Chalukya areas, the village affairs were managed by elders called **Mahajana**.
- ❖ The society during this period was obviously dominated by princes and priests.
- ❖ The princes claimed the status of **Brahmins or Kshatriyas** though many of them were **local clan chiefs**.
- ❖ The priests reinvented local family trees for these chiefs and traced their descent from old age **solar and lunar dynasties**.
- ❖ In return the priests these rulers granted enormous lands to the priests which helped them to gain influence and authority.
- ❖ Most of the peasants were looked upon as **Shudras**.



- ❖ If the peasant and artisan failed to produce and render services, it was looked upon as a departure from **established Dharma or Norm**. Such a situation was described as **the age of Kali**. It was the duty of the King to put an end to such a state and **restore Dharma**.
- ❖ This is the reason Kings adopted the title of **Dharma-Maharaj**.

South India:

Change of Phase in South India:

The First Phase (200 BC - 300 AD)	The New Phase (300-750 AD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The appearance of numerous crafts became evident. ❖ Internal and external trade was prevalent. ❖ Wide spread use of coins and Number of towns. ❖ Extensive Buddhist monuments ❖ Existence of Jainism till the south of Tamil Nadu. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Trade, towns and coinage seem to be in a state of decline. ❖ Large number of land grants made to the brahmanas free of taxes. ❖ Many new areas were brought under cultivation and settlement. ❖ Performance of Vedic sacrifices by Kings was prevalent. ❖ The construction of stone temples for shiva and Vishnu took place during this phase.

Assignment/Self Study:

Social Crisis and Agrarian Changes - A transition from ancient to Medieval:

- ❖ The central factor that eventually transformed ancient Indian society into a medieval society was the practice of land grants.
- ❖ The Kings were regarded as the **'giver'** and wanted to acquire religious merit. On the other hand, the receivers (mainly monks and priests) needed the means to perform religious rites.
- ❖ This was enabled by the system of tax collection which enabled the kings to make generous grants.

Why the Social Crisis?

- ❖ By the 3rd and 4th century A.D, a deep social crisis, described as **Kaliyuga in the Puranas** began to develop.
- ❖ It was a situation in which the Varnas started discarding the functions assigned to them.
- ❖ The lower orders attempted to arrogate to themselves the status and functions of the higher orders. They refused to pay taxes and provide free labor. This led to **varna-samkara or an intermixture of social classes**.
- ❖ This happened because the producing masses were oppressed with heavy taxes and were denied protection by the Kings.
- ❖ One of the most important steps taken to address the crisis was the practice of land grants to priests and officials.
- ❖ **Benefits:**
 - This allowed the kings to throw the burden of collecting taxes and maintaining law and order in the denoted areas on the beneficiaries. Thus, the reluctant peasants could be dealt much effectively and on the spot.



- This practice also allowed to bring more lands under cultivation.
- By implanting the Brahmans in the tribal areas, the tribals could be taught the **Brahmanical way of life**, the need to pay taxes and obey the king.

The coming up of Landlords:

- ❖ After the 5th century A.D land grants became very frequent. Accordingly, the **Kings started granting tax-free villages to the Brahmanas.**
- ❖ Earlier, the beneficiaries were granted the right to govern people living in these areas.
- ❖ Government officials and royal retainers were not permitted to enter the gifted villages.
- ❖ In later times, the beneficiaries were authorized to punish all criminal offenders.
- ❖ Thus, the power of the king was heavily undermined from the end of the Gupta period onwards.
- ❖ Royal control was further eroded through the payment of government officials by land grants.
- ❖ The practice became so prevalent that even the law books of those centuries recommend that service should be rewarded in the land.
- ❖ Thus, by the seventh century, there was a distinct **evolution of landlordism** and a **devolution of the central state authority.**

Development of new Agrarian Economy:

- ❖ The Landed beneficiaries could neither cultivate land nor collect revenues on their own.
- ❖ The actual cultivation was entrusted to peasants or sharecroppers who were attached to the land but did not legally own it.
- ❖ The **Chinese pilgrim I-tsing** states that most Indian monasteries got their lands cultivated by servants and others.
- ❖ **Hsuan Tsang** describes the Shudras as agriculturists, which suggests that they no longer cultivated land just as slaves and agricultural laborers, but possibly occupied it temporarily.
- ❖ In north India, artisans and peasants were asked not to leave the villages granted to the beneficiaries, thus preventing them from moving from one village to another, greatly undermining mass mobility

Decline of Trade and Towns:

- ❖ From the sixth century onwards, a sharp decline of trade and towns began.
- ❖ Trade with the main part of the Roman empire ended in the 3rd century, and the silk trade with Iran and the Byzantium stopped in the mid-sixth century.
- ❖ India carried on some commerce with China and Southeast Asia, but its benefits were reaped by the Arabs who acted as middlemen.
- ❖ In the feudal set-up, **horse trade became more important** because of military needs
- ❖ The decline of trade led to the decay of towns.
- ❖ The decline of trade led to the decay of towns.



- ❖ On account of the decay of trade and towns, the villages had to meet their needs of oil, salt, spices, cloth, etc., on their own.
- ❖ This gave rise to smaller units of production, each unit meeting its own needs.

Changes in the Varna System:

- ❖ In the Gangetic plains in north India, the vaishyas were regarded as free peasants. But land grants created landlords between the peasants, on the one hand, and the king, on the other, so the vaishyas were reduced to the level of the Shudras.
- ❖ Thus, in the outlying areas, we may find largely two orders, **Brahmanas and Shudras**.
- ❖ Frequent seizures of power and land grants gave rise to several categories of landed people.
- ❖ When a person acquired land and power, he naturally sought a high position in society. He might belong to a lower varna, but he was favored with generous land grants by his master.
- ❖ This created difficulties because, though economically well off, socially and ritually he was low.
- ❖ The economic rights of a person were also determined by the varna to which he belonged. So, some changes had to be made in the written texts to recognize the position of the new landed classes
- ❖ Thus, formerly all things in society were graded according to varnas, but now they came to be determined according to the landed positions of a person.
- ❖ From the 7th century onwards, numerous castes were created.
- ❖ A purana of the 8th century mentions that thousands of mixed castes were created by the connection of Vaishya women with the men of lower castes.
- ❖ The number of castes increased on account of the nature of the economy in which people cannot move from one place to another.
- ❖ In addition to this, many tribal people were admitted into **Brahminical society** because of land grants given to the brahmanas in the tribal areas.

Every tribe or clan was now given the status of a separate caste in Brahminical society.

Tripartite Struggle: Pala, Rashtrakutas and Pratiharas (750 - 1000 CE):

- ❖ The **Tripartite Struggle** also known as ‘**The Kannauj Triangle Wars**’ for control of northern India took place in the ninth century, among the Pratihara Empire, the Pala Empire and the Rashtrakuta Empire.

Harsha, Pallavas vs Chalukyas:

Elsewhere:

Prophet Muhammad:

- ❖ Introduced Islam in 600 A.D.
- ❖ Laid stress on equality and unity of all before Allah.
- ❖ Spread to north Africa, Spain, Iran India.



- ❖ A number of powerful empires arose in north India and deccan between north and south India (between 750 and 1000AD).
- ❖ **Pala empire** (dominated eastern India) till 850 AD.
- ❖ **Pratihara empire** (dominated western India and the upper Gangetic valley) till 950s AD.
- ❖ **Rashtrakuta empire** (dominated the Deccan).
- ❖ They fought among themselves to provide a stable condition of life over large areas.
- ❖ **Tripartite Struggle:** Kannauj was considered the symbol of the sovereignty of north India. Control of Kanauj implied control of the upper Gangetic valley.

Brief understanding of the situation before the start of Pala Dynasty:

- ❖ Chaos after Shashank
- ❖ Various invasion:
 - Yashovarman of Kannauj
 - Lalitaditya of Kashmir
 - Bhaskarvarman (Assam ruler) conquered most of Bengal
 - West i.e., Bihar and Orissa went to Harsha
 - Also, a Chinese invasion took place.

Place	Bengal, East Indian Subcontinent
Period	750 - 1174 AD
Language	Pali, Sanskrit, Prakrit
Religion	Buddhism, Hinduism

Pala Empire (8th to 12th century):

- ❖ The Pala Empire (8th to 12th century) was a dynasty which controlled **Bihar and Bengal regions of South Asia**.
- ❖ The name Pala is the synonym for "**protector**" and was used as an ending to the names of all Pala monarchs.
- ❖ The **founder** of the Pala Dynasty was **Gopala**. He came to power in 750 AD and was the **first independent Buddhist king of Bengal** elected by notable people. He ruled from 750-770, ended anarchy in the area, consolidated his position and extended his control over all of Bengal.
- ❖ Empire included - Pataliputra, Vikrampur, Ramvati (Varendra), Monghyr (Munger), Tamralipti and Jaggaddala.
 - **Khalimpur Copper Plate Inscription** - Gopala ended matsya-nyaya (anarchy) and he was elected as king by the notable men.
 - They removed the later Guptas and Khadga dynasty of eastern Bengal.
 - He was an ardent Buddhist.
 - As per Taranatha (Buddhist scholar)
 - Built the monastery at Odantapuri.



Dharmapala (770 - 781 AD):

- ❖ He succeeded his father Gopala.
- ❖ He **revived the Nalanda** university (200 villages grant).
- ❖ He **founded Vikramashila University**, foreign students used to come here to study.
- ❖ Sanskrit text to Tibetan language
- ❖ Founded Somapura Monastery near Paharpur, Bihar)
- ❖ He made the Palas a dominant power of northern India. He defeated many kings to keep his supreme power. Dharmapala was an able administrator too. With his dominant power he extended his throne in the Kanauj.
- ❖ He was defeated by Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva but Dhruva returned to Deccan without occupying the Kanauj. He occupied Kannauj and held a **Grand Darbar and installed a puppet ruler Chakrayudha**
- ❖ He was again **defeated by Pratihara ruler Nagabhata II.**

Santaraksita:

- ❖ He was an 8th century Buddhist scholar was in his reign
- ❖ Considered as abbot of Nalanda.
- ❖ He defended a synthetic philosophy which combined Madhyamaka, Yogācāra and the logico-epistemology of Dharmakirti into a novel Madhyamaka philosophical system.
- ❖ This philosophical approach is known as **Yogācāra-Mādhyamika** or Yogācāra-Svatantrika-Mādhyamika in Tibetan Buddhism.

Devapala (810 AD- 850 AD):

- ❖ He was the **son of Dharmapala**, who extended control over Assam (Pragjyotishpur) and some parts of Orissa and Nepal.
- ❖ Proclaims **victory over Huns, Gurjaras and Dravidas.**
- ❖ Preferred his capital at Monghyr to Pataliputra.
- ❖ During his reign Bengal rose to prominence in north Indian politics. His high diplomatic skills helped him to maintain his authority.
- ❖ He fought with Pratiharas and extended the Pala empire's frontier up to the Himalayan region in the north, and the Vindhyas in the south.
- ❖ He was a **great patron of Buddhism.**
- ❖ **Vajradatta**, was a court poet and a Buddhist scholar, he wrote **Lokesvarasataka.**
- ❖ Relation with South East Asia during his reign:
 - **Sailendra Dynasty (Balaputradeva)** ruler requested him to grant 5 villages for the upkeep of Nalanda.
- ❖ The immediate successors of Devapala were weak and because of which the dynasty disintegrated after him.



Information about Palas:

- ❖ Arab merchant **Sulaiman**, wrote an account of Palas and called the **kingdom as Ruhmi or Ruhma Dharma** and talked about tripartite.
- ❖ **Tibetan chronicles** tell that Palas were great patrons of **buddhist learning and religion**. Shantarakshita and Dipankara (Atisa) invited.
- ❖ The Pala Dynasty very much patronized Buddhism (along with Hinduism) at a time when it was in decline in the rest of India.
- ❖ It was a widespread empire, organized administrative system, ruling policy focusing on public welfare, also excellence in the field of arts and cultivation of knowledge and literature - all these contributed to the glory of the Pala rule.

Mahipala I (988 to 1033 AD):

- ❖ The later Mahipala I, who is known as the **founder of the second Pala kingdom** and ruled from 988 to 1033 AD, regained the lost glory to the kingdom.
- ❖ He succeeded in recapturing the lost territories in northern and western Bengal and brought Pala dynastic rule to a firmer footing.
- ❖ Mahipala I became a **highly popular king** by his public welfare activities. He was defeated by Rajendra Chola.

Ramapala (1072 – 1126):

- ❖ He was the **last strong Pala ruler** and he gained control over Kamarupa and Kalinga. Mentioned in Sandhyakar Nandi's Ramcharita.



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