



DAILY

CLASS NOTES

Medieval History

Lecture - 09

Age of Conflict - II
(1000 - 1200 CE)



Age of Conflict -II (1000 - 1200 CE)

THE GANGA/CHODGANGAS OF ORISSA 11th-15th CE

- ❖ Also known as ‘**Eastern Ganga**’, it was a **Hindu** dynasty.
 - ❖ It was founded by ‘**Anantavarman Chodaganga**’.
 - ❖ The region included the **present-day state of Odisha** and portions of **West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh**.
 - ❖ **Capital of the Dynasty:** Kalinganagar, contemporary Srimukhalingam in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam District, which borders Odisha.
 - ❖ The **Konark's Sun Temple of Odisha** was constructed by this dynasty and is a **UNESCO World Heritage site** presently.
 - ❖ **Relation with Chola Dynasty:**
 - **King Anantavarman Chodaganga, the Eastern Ganga Monarch**, claimed descent from both the Chola and Western Ganga dynasties.
 - **Matrilineal ties to both the Eastern Chalukyas and the Chola empire**, the Eastern Ganga monarchs brought South Indian culture to Odisha-clearly reflected in their coinage.
 - ❖ Through **trade and commerce**, this kingdom developed.
 - ❖ **Wealth** was primarily used to build temples.
- It is important to remember that the **Lingaraja temple in Bhubaneswar** was constructed by the Kesaris, who ruled Orissa before the Gangas

IMPORTANT RULERS OF THE DYNASTY

Chodaganga Anantavarman (c.1076-1150 CE)

- ❖ He was likely the **first monarch to preside over all three divisions of Kalinga** when he assumed the ‘**title of Trikalingadhipathi**’ in 1076 CE,
 - Kalinga proper (South).
 - Utkal (North)
 - Kosal (West)
- ❖ He was a **supporter of literature and art** as well as a devout person.
- ❖ He also built the renowned **Jagannath Temple of Puri**.

Narasimhadeva I (c.1238-1264 CE)

- ❖ He was another significant ruler of the dynasty who built **Konark's Sun Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ❖ He also **invaded southern Bengal in 1243**, defeated its Muslim ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, and captured the **capital (Gauda)**.

- ❖ He was also the first king to use the “**title of Gajapati**” or “**Lord of war elephants**” among the Odishan kings in the 1246 CE inscription at the **Kapilash Temple**.
- ❖ With his **death in 1264**, the **Eastern Gangas began to decline**.

Decline of the Dynasty

- ❖ Under the leadership of **King Bhanudeva IV** in the early 15th century, the dynasty's rule came to an end (c.1414-34 CE). The Chalukyas of Vengi seized power in the area after the early Eastern Gangas' rule ended.

IMPORTANT RULERS OF THE DYNASTY

Vijaya Sena (1095-1158 CE)

- ❖ Vijaya Sena was the **real founder of the 'Sena Dynasty'** as he laid the foundation of it.
- ❖ He ruled for **60 years and brought wealth and peace** to Bengal.
- ❖ During **Mahipala II's rule**, it is thought that he took advantage of the **Samanta Chakra** uprising in the Varendra region, solidifying his power in western Bengal over time.
- ❖ He overcame Vanga and defeated **Bhojavarman** of the Chandela dynasty.
- ❖ There were two Vijaya Sena capitals:
 - Vikrampura (near Dhaka)
 - Vijayapura
- ❖ In honor of Vijay Sena, the renowned poet **Sriharsha** wrote the **Vijay Prasasti** (Eulogy of Vijay).
- ❖ Court poet **Umapati Dhara** wrote the **Deopara Prashasti**, a stone inscription to praise the Sena kings, especially Vijaya Sen.
- ❖ He took title of Maharajadhiraja (**as per the Barrackpore copper-plate inscription**)

Ballal Sena (c.1158-1179 CE)

- ❖ He was also an important king of the Sena Dynasty, who **took control of Mithila and eastern Bihar**.
- ❖ **The five provinces:** Banga, Barendra, Rar, Bagri (perhaps a section of lower Bengal), and Mithila, designated Nabadwip the capital.
- ❖ He brought back orthodox Hindu rituals in Bengal, like regressive **Kulinism tradition**
- ❖ He married **Rajasundari** of the Chalukyan dynasty; this shows that the Sena kings kept close social ties to south India. This marriage helped foster a connection between the two dynasties.
- ❖ He wrote **Danasagara and Adbhut Sagar**.

Lakshamana Sena (c.1178-1207 CE)

- ❖ He expanded the Kingdom to **Assam, Odisha, Bihar, and likely Varanasi**- the first Bengali king to assert his dominance beyond Benaras. military prowess peak
- ❖ He **defeated the Gahadavalas dynasty's Jayachandra**.
- ❖ **As per the, seven copper-plate inscriptions:** He was a

- Renowned military leader.
- A patron of scholarship on that date to his reign.
- Triumphs over the kings of Gaur, Kamrupa, Kalinga, and Kashi
- ❖ It is reported that he built pillars in Puri, Benares, and Allahabad to honor his military accomplishments.
- ❖ He had dominance in the **Gaya region**.
- ❖ Title of **Adiraja-MadanaSankara** upon his ascension.
- ❖ Every official pronouncement began with Narayana.
- ❖ **Court poets were:**
 - Jayadeva (Vaishanava poet of Bengal, author of Geet Govinda) Rasleela theme
 - Dhoyi
 - Umapati Dhar
 - Halayudha, his prime minister and talented poet

Decline of the Sena Dynasty

- ❖ The kingdom started to **fall apart in the final years of his rule**.
- ❖ **Sena suzerainty** was rejected by **Kamrupa, Orissa, and South Bengal**.
- ❖ The dynasty was **invaded by Central Asian invaders of Turkish descent** -One of Muhammad Ghor's generals.
- ❖ **Muhammad Bin Bakhtiyar Khilji** conquered **Nabadwip (about 1203-1204 CE)**, invaded Bengal and Bihar, and annexed them to the Islamic kingdom.
- ❖ Although Sena continued to hold control of eastern Bengal, he took the northwest.
- ❖ The **Deva dynasty**, however, **overthrew the Sena by the middle of the 13th century**.

KALACHURIS DYNASTY

- ❖ The origin of the Kalachuris, also known as the **Haihayas**, is not very clear.
- ❖ They are mentioned as the **Kshatriya tribe**, in **Brahmanical epics and the Puranas**.
- ❖ The **early Kalachuris or the Kalachuris of Mahishmati** ruled in present-day **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.
 - **Important rulers of this dynasty were:** Krishnaraja, Shankaragana, and Buddharaja
 - **Ruled from 550-620 CE** could not flourish much
 - **Kalachuris vs Chalukyas** of Vatapi and the Maitrakas of Valabhi.
- ❖ By the 9th century **many collateral branches of the Kalachuris** rose to power
 - Kalachuris of Chedi Tripuri
 - Kalachuris of the Deccan

- Kalachuris of Ratanpur (Chattisgarh) (founded by the sum of Kokulla 1).
- Kalachuris of south Kosala
- Kalachuris of Gorakhpur o Kalachuris of Jaipur

The Chedis/Kalchuri of Tripuri

- ❖ It is located between the **Narmada and Godavari rivers**.
- ❖ Once under the Pratiharas- began to assert their independence in the middle of the 10th century CE.
- ❖ **Capital**-Tripuri, close to Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ They dominated the **historical Chedi region** (also known as Dahala-mandala).
 - Chedis Vs Chandellas of Jejakabhukti –subsequently matrimonial alliance
 - Chedis Vs coalition of the Cholas, Pallavas, and Pandyas.

Rulers of Kalchuri of Tripuri

- ❖ Vamaraja-deva (675-700 CE)
- ❖ Shankaragana (750-775 CE)
- ❖ Lakshmana-raja 1(825-850 CE)
- ❖ Voppa-raja, described as Kokalla's predecessor in the Gyaraspur inscription
- ❖ Kokalla (850-80 CE)
- ❖ Shankaragana (890-910 CE)
- ❖ Yuvaraja-deva (915-945 CE)
- ❖ Lakshmana-raja 1945-970 CE)
- ❖ Shankara Song 1970-80 CE)
- ❖ Yuvaraja-deva II (1980-990 CE)
- ❖ Kakalla 1990-1015 CE
- ❖ Gangeya-deva (1015-1041 CE)
- ❖ Lakshmi-karna (1041-1073 CE)
- ❖ Aishah-kama (1073-1123 CE)
- ❖ Gaya karna (1123-1153 CE)
- ❖ Narasimha (1153-1163 CE)
- ❖ Jaya-Simha (1163-1188 CE)
- ❖ Vijaya-simha (1188-1210 CE)
- ❖ Trailokya-maila (c. 1210-at least 1212 CE)

IMPORTANT RULERS OF KALACHURI DYNASTY

Kokalla I (845-885 CE)

- ❖ He was the **founder of the Kalachuri Dynasty**.

- ❖ Kokalla I is known for his military exploits and contributions to the Chedi branch of the Kalachuri dynasty.
- ❖ He expanded his kingdom's territory through various military campaigns and is considered an important ruler in the history of the Kalachuri dynasty.
- ❖ He defeated Pratihara Emperor **Bhoja I** and **Rashtrakuta King Krishna II**. Additionally, he had matrimonial relations with the Kalachuri dynasty.
- ❖ He invaded the **Northern Konkan** and supported Krishna II of the Rashtrakuta vs Eastern Chalukyas and the Pratiharas married Chandella princess.
- ❖ The kingdom was split up and descendants established a new kingdom in **South Kosala with Tummana** as its capital.

Yujraja I (915-945 CE)

- ❖ The Kalachuri occasionally took part in **Rashtrakuta politics**, in the period of **Yuvaraja I**.
- ❖ Rashtrakuta king **Krishnapala II**, attacked **Yuvaraja** and **conquered a large portion of his kingdom** after defeating him.
- ❖ To celebrate this victory, Rajashekhar's drama '**Viddhshala-manjka**' was staged in the court of Krishna III.
- ❖ It is said that Yuvaraja had defeated **King Rajyapala of the Pala dynasty** and had also **attacked Kalinga**. He was **successful in this war**.
- ❖ **Kalachuri's inscription** shows that he raided Kashmir and the Himalayan region

Gangeya-deva (c.1019-40 CE)

- ❖ He was one of the most significant **kings of Chedis of Tripuri**.
- ❖ He adopted the prestigious **title of Trikalingadhipati** (the Lord of Trikalinga), win after defeating the king of south Koshala **Mahashivagupta Yayati** adopted name **Vikramaditya**.
- ❖ He also **defeated Pala emperor Mahipala** and **captured Banaras**
- ❖ **Gangeyadeva + Paramaras + Cholas vs Chalukya Jayasimha** on the other side but Jayasimha defeated their combined forces.
- ❖ Later, the **Paramara ruler as well as the Chandella king of Bundelkhand-sis** defeated him.
- ❖ Sultan Mahmud's attacks could not damage kingdom of **Gangeya-deva due to geographical proximity**.
- ❖ **Coins were found during his reign:** Coins in a variety of sizes, weights, and metals, including copper, silver, base gold, silver gold, and silvery copper (billion).
- ❖ During his rule, the **four-armed Lakshmi statue** was created. She is seated cross-legged on a lotus, holding a lotus in her top two hands, and has the inscription **Shrimad- Gangeyadeva** written in **Nagar Script** on the back.



Lakshmi-Karna (c.1041-73 CE)

- ❖ Also referred to as the **Karna**.
- ❖ Like his father, he was a **legendary general**.
- ❖ He outperformed his father in the south as well as the northwest and carried the banner of his triumph up the eastern coast all the way to Kanchi.
- ❖ He is credited with overthrowing a number of southern dynasties, including **Someshwara 1, the Pallavas, Kungas, and Muralas (South)**.

Yashkarna (c.1073-1125 CE)

- ❖ During his reign, his kingdom faced a series of invasions from different neighboring dynasties. The Deccan **Chalukyas** and the **Paramaras** were two prominent dynasties that launched invasions against Yashkarna's kingdom. These invasions resulted in significant conflicts and disturbances within his realm.
- ❖ At one point, the capital of Yashkarna's kingdom was ravaged, and the **invaders**, including the Deccan Chalukyas and the Paramaras, managed to set up a camp along the Narmada River. This likely had a significant impact on Yashkarna's authority and control over his territory.
- ❖ The **Chandella** dynasty, which ruled parts of North India, also defeated Yashkarna's forces.
- ❖ This defeat further weakened the Kalachuri dynasty's position and influence.

Vijayasimha (1177-1211 CE)

- ❖ During the reign of Vijayasimha of the Kalachuri dynasty, there was a significant threat to his kingdom from the **Chandella ruler Trailokyavarman**.
- ❖ Trailokyavarman's near-complete overthrow of the Kalachuri kingdom was a notable event during this period of Indian history.

The Chedi lands were also lost to emerging dynasties like the **Vaghela Rajputs**, the **Yadavas of Devagiri**, and the **Ganpatis of Warangal** during the start of the 12th century CE.

YADAVAS/SENUAS OD DEVAGIRI

- ❖ The **Yadavas, also known as the Seunas**, were a prominent dynasty that ruled the **region of Devagiri (present-day Daulatabad)** in central India during the medieval period.
- ❖ **Important rulers being:**
 - **Seunachadra (880-900 CE):** Seunachadra secured feudatory status from the Rashtrakuta dynasty, which indicates that the Yadavas initially served as vassals to the more powerful Rashtrakutas.
 - **Bhillama V (1187-1191 CE):** Bhillama V is credited with laying the foundation of the Yadava dynasty's prominence by overthrowing the Kalyani Chalukya supremacy. This suggests a shift in power dynamics in the region, with the Yadavas asserting their independence and authority.

- **Simbana (1210-1246 CE):** Simbana is considered one of the most powerful rulers of the Yadava dynasty.
 - ✓ His court was a center of **cultural patronage**, and the famous musical treatise "**Sangitaratnakara**" was written in his court by the scholar Sarangadeva.
 - ✓ This work is an **important treatise on music** and provides valuable insights into medieval Indian musical traditions.
- **Ramchandra (1271-1308 CE):** Ramchandra's reign saw a significant challenge when Alauddin Khilji, the ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, attacked Devagiri.
 - ✓ This event is an example of the interactions and conflicts between the northern sultanates and the southern Indian kingdoms during this period.
 - ✓ The attack by **Alauddin Khilji compelled Ramchandra** to sue for peace, highlighting the political pressures and realities of the time.

Languages used by Yadavas Dynasty

❖ **Kannada Language:**

- Kannada was used as the court language by the Yadavas, alongside Marathi, until the late Seuna period.
- **Kamala Bhavana**, a Jain scholar patronized by Bhillama V, wrote "Santhishwapurania."
- Achanna authored "**Vardhamanapurana**" in 1198.
- **Amugideva**, commissioned by Simhanal, wrote many achana or devotional hymns.
- Chaundarasa of Pandharpur authored "**Dashakumaracharita**" around 1300.

❖ **Sanskrit Language:**

- Shrangadeva wrote the influential Sanskrit book "**Sangita Ratnakara**," considered the first book on Indian music, during Simhana's reign.
- Hemadri Pandit, the prime minister during the reign of King Mahadev and King Ramachandra, compiled the encyclopedic work "Chaturvarga Chintamani" and promoted various aspects of knowledge, including medical science and agriculture.

❖ **Marathi Language:**

- The **Yadavas were the first major dynasty to adopt Marathi as an official language**, moving away from the earlier use of Sanskrit and Kannada in official inscriptions.
- **Hemadri**, a minister in the Yadava court, worked to formalize Marathi with Sanskrit expressions to elevate its status as a court language.
- Saint-poet **Dnyaneshwar** wrote "Dnyaneshwari," a Marathi commentary on the Bhagavad Gita.
- **Mukundaraja** wrote Marathi-language philosophical treatises "Paramamrita" and "Vivekasindhu."

- **Mahimabhata** authored "Lilacharita," a biography of the founder of the Mahanubhava religious sect.

BHAKTI MOVEMENT

Bhakti movement in Maharashtra

- ❖ The Bhakti form of worship in **Maharashtra and North Karnataka** emerged earlier than in **Northern and Eastern India**. The Hindu ritualistic practices were criticized by the Bhakti saints of Maharashtra.
- ❖ Also called **Pandharpur movement** which led to amazing cultural development including
 - Development of Marathi literature,
 - Improvement of the status of women
 - Breaking of the caste barriers
- ❖ They drew inspiration from **Bhagwata Puran and Shiva Nathopanthis**. They composed **Abhang**, poetry sung in the praise of Lord Vitthal.
- ❖ Bhakti culture is classified into two classes.
 - **Varkari Tradition:**
 - ✓ Varkaris are **followers of the Varkari sect**, which is a devotional movement in Maharashtra, India.
 - ✓ They **worship Vitthal (Vithoba)**, a form of Krishna and the presiding deity of Pandharpur.
 - ✓ Varkaris have an **emotional, theoretical, and abstract viewpoint** in their devotion.
 - ✓ They see God as the **Ultimate Truth** and emphasize social values while accepting ultimate equality among individuals.
 - ✓ Varkaris **bow to each other as a sign of recognizing the divine presence in all** and stress concepts like individual sacrifice, forgiveness, simplicity, peaceful co-existence, compassion, non-violence, love, and humility.
 - ✓ Varkari poet-saints are known for composing devotional lyrics called "**abhangs**" dedicated to Vithoba. These abhangs are composed in Marathi.
 - ✓ Other forms of devotional literature include **Kannada hymns of the Haridana and Marathi versions** of aarti songs associated with rituals.
 - ✓ Notable saints and gurus of the Varkari tradition include Jnanesvar, Namdev, Chokhamela, Eknath, and Tukaram.
 - **Dharkari Tradition:**
 - ✓ Dharkaris are followers of the cult of **Ramadan**, who are devotees of **Lord Rama**.
 - ✓ Dharkaris have a more **rational, practical, and concrete approach** to their beliefs and practices.

Prominent Bhakti Saints

Jnaneshwar (Jnanadev) (1275-1296):

- ❖ Jnaneshwar is considered the **first Bhakti saint in Maharashtra**.
- ❖ He wrote "**Jnaneshwari**," a commentary on the **Bhagavad Gita**, where he explained the philosophical concepts of the Gita in a simple and accessible manner.
- ❖ He composed "**Amrutanubhav**," which is a work on yoga and philosophy based on Upanishads, and "**Haripatha**," a song praising Vishnu.
- ❖ His compositions are considered milestones in **Marathi literature** and have deeply influenced the cultural and spiritual landscape of the region.
- ❖ **Jnaneshwar** was a **contemporary of Namdev**.
- ❖ He **criticized caste distinctions** and emphasized that the path to attaining God was through **Bhakti**.
- ❖ He was a **devotee of Vithoba (Vitthala)**, who is considered a manifestation of Vishnu.
- ❖ Jnaneshwar **followed the Nath Yogi tradition** and drew inspiration from the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita.

Namdev (1270-1350 AD):

- ❖ Namdev was a **Vaishnavite Varkari saint** born in Maharashtra.
- ❖ His **verses have been included by Guru Nanak in the Adi Granth** (the holy scripture of Sikhism), highlighting his widespread influence.
- ❖ Namdev is considered **one of the five revered gurus of the Dadapanth tradition within Hinduism**, alongside **Dadu, Kabir, Ravidas, and Haridas**.
- ❖ His **Marathi poetry and community-driven bhajan songs** were characterized by intense love and dedication to God, attracting people from all classes and castes.
- ❖ Namdev's companions included individuals from various backgrounds, including **Kanhopatra (a dancing girl), Sena (a barber), Savta (a gardener), Chikhmela (an untouchable), Janabai (a maid), Gora (a potter), and Jnaneshwara (a Brahmin)**.

(Note: Both Jnaneshwar and Namdev contributed significantly to the Bhakti movement, emphasizing devotion, love, and equality in their teachings. They transcended social barriers and reached out to people from diverse backgrounds, leaving a lasting impact on the spiritual and literary heritage of India.)

Kakatiyas of Warangal

- ❖ The **Kakatiya of the Warangal dynasty, which ruled from 1163 to 1323** in the region of **Warangal, Telangana**, was a significant power that made a profound impact on South Indian history.

- ❖ The dynasty began with **Beta I**, who emerged as one of the **earliest known feudatories of the Western Chalukyas**, marking the initial steps of Kakatiya influence.
- ❖ **Important Rulers:**
 - **Prola II**, also known as **Rudra**, ascended to power **from 1158 to 1195**. He is credited with liberating the Kakatiyas from the overlordship of the Chalukyas, thereby establishing the dynasty's sovereignty and founding the Kakatiya rule.
 - **Rudradeva**, who **reigned from 1175 to 1240**, left an enduring legacy with his architectural feats, such as building the iconic Thousand Pillar Temple at Hanamkonda and establishing the city of Orugallu (now Warangal).
 - **Ganapatideva**, reigning from 1199 to 1262, played a pivotal role in shaping the city of Warangal. He completed the city and strategically shifted the capital there, contributing to its growth and prominence.
 - ✓ Ganapatideva's remarkable efforts also extended to the creation of the **Pakhal Lake in Warangal**, a testament to his commitment to enhancing the region's infrastructure and natural beauty.
 - **Rudramadevi**, the daughter of Ganapatideva, ascended the throne from 1262 to 1289. Widely regarded as one of the greatest rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty, she skillfully navigated the intricacies of governance and left an indelible mark on the region's history.
 - **Prataparudra**, the grandson of Rudramadevi, assumed the throne during a challenging phase marked by repeated Muslim invasions. His reign was a testament to his determination to uphold the Kakatiya legacy, even in the face of external pressures and adversities.
- ❖ The **series of Muslim invasions began with Malik Chajju's attack in 1303**, signaling the beginning of a tumultuous period that tested the resilience of the Kakatiya kingdom.
- ❖ The invasion by **Malik Kafur in 1309** was a turning point, as he not only subjugated the Kakatiya ruler but also carried away the illustrious **Koh-i-Noor diamond**, symbolizing a significant loss for the dynasty.
- ❖ Ultimately, the **Kakatiya kingdom faced its demise in 1323** when **Prince Jauna Khan**, also known as **Muhammad bin Tughlaq**, emerged victorious, leading to the annexation of their kingdom.
- ❖ This marked the end of an era that had witnessed the **Kakatiyas' enduring legacy in the Deccan**.

Architecture:

- ❖ **Kakatiya Temple Constructions:** The trikuta model, a hallmark of Kakatiya architecture, is a testament to their devotion to deities like Shiva, Vishnu, and Surya. This innovative layout reflects their religious pluralism and architectural finesse.
- ❖ **Floating Bricks and Welcoming Archways:** The use of lightweight floating bricks allowed the Kakatiyas to create awe-inspiring structures characterized by intricate designs and grandeur. The

inclusion of welcoming archways added a touch of hospitality to their architectural marvels, creating a unique blend of aesthetics and functionality.

- ❖ **Pakhal Lake:** Ganapathi Deva's visionary creation of the Pakhal Lake not only addressed the practical need for water resources but also became a scenic reservoir that added to the region's natural beauty and serenity.
- ❖ **Thousand Pillar Temple:** This architectural wonder, built during the Kakatiya rule, stands as a testament to their exquisite craftsmanship and artistic prowess. Its intricate carvings and adorned pillars evoke a sense of wonder and reverence.
- ❖ **Kakatiya Tharanam:** The iconic Kakatiya Tharanam, often referred to as the "Gateway of Kakatiyas," is a visual representation of the dynasty's cultural and architectural heritage. Its resemblance to the Sanchi Stupa gateways speaks volumes about the dynasty's ability to infuse regional nuances into a broader artistic context.

Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa Temple), Telangana

- ❖ The **Ramappa Temple**, dedicated to **Lord Shiva**, exemplifies the distinctive **Vesara architectural style** that flourished during the Kakatiyan period. Constructed between **1213 and 1323 CE**, this temple stands as a testament to the Kakatiyas' commitment to sacred art and devotion.
- ❖ Its **star-shaped platform**, rising two meters high, serves as a pedestal for its awe-inspiring main structure, crafted primarily from red sandstone.
- ❖ **Decorative beams, pillars of carved granite and dolerite**, and a **unique pyramidal Vimana** distinguish the temple's architectural grandeur.
- ❖ The temple walls narrate scenes from the **Ramayana** and **Shiva Purana**, reflecting the dynasty's devotion to Hindu mythology and culture. Sculptures, marked by their high artistic quality, depict regional dance customs and offer insights into Kakatiyan society and traditions.
- ❖ Among the notable features is the presence of Madhanikas, shining black idols that lend a unique aura to the temple's sanctum. A musical pillar, adorned with a carving of Lord Krishna, further attests to the temple's multifaceted artistic expression.

Warangal Fort:

- ❖ The Warangal Fort, an imposing architectural edifice, was a testament to the Kakatiya dynasty's power and influence. Its colossal construction comprised three circular strongholds surrounded by a protective moat.
- ❖ The fort's design encompassed four cardinal gateways, each intricately decorated and strategically placed, leading to the center where a grand Shiva Temple once stood. While much of the temple is now in ruins, the fort's remnants stand as a tribute to the Kakatiya dynasty's legacy of grandeur and resilience.

- ❖ King Ganapathi's efforts initiated the fort's construction during the 13th century. His daughter, Rudrama Devi, played a pivotal role in completing this ambitious project, showcasing the dynasty's commitment to fortification and cultural preservation.

Literature:

- ❖ **Sanskrit and Telugu Flourish:** The Kakatiya era bore witness to a thriving literary landscape, where both Sanskrit and Telugu languages flourished as mediums of intellectual and artistic expression.
- ❖ **Jayapa Senani's Legacy:** Jayapa Senani's contributions enriched the literary canon with works such as "Geeta Ratnavali," "Nriya Ratnavali," and "Vadya Ratnavali." These compositions reflected the era's multifaceted artistic and cultural inclinations.
- ❖ **Dance Forms:** The Kakatiyan period saw the emergence of classical dance forms like Andhra Natyam and Perini Sivatanavam, which not only entertained but also conveyed cultural narratives and expressions.
- ❖ **Notable Authors and Works:** The literary landscape was adorned with works like "Prataparudra Bhushana" by Vidyanadha, "Bhaskara Ramayana" by Mantri Bhaskara, "Ranganatha Ramayanam" by Gona Budda Reddy, and "Basava Puranam" and "Panditaradhya Charitra" by Palkuriki Somanatha.
- ❖ **Cultural Preservation:** These literary endeavors served as guardians of cultural heritage, capturing the essence of the era, and echoing themes of devotion, morality, and societal norms.

Painting:

- ❖ **Artistic Patronage:** The Kakatiya dynasty's support for painting underscored their commitment to artistic expression, creating a visual legacy that resonated through time.
- ❖ **Temple Ceilings:** Traces of painting adorned the ceilings of temples such as Chanpur and Palumpet, serving as canvases for visual storytelling that brought sacred narratives to life.
- ❖ **Churning of the Milk Ocean:** A damaged painting depicting the mythological event of the "Churning of the Milk Ocean" on the ceiling of the Sabha Mandapa at Pillalamarri Temple offers a glimpse into the dynasty's artistic endeavors, capturing intricate tales through intricate brushstrokes.

Splendid art pavilion of Kakatiyas needs urgent restoration

- ❖ The **Trikuta Temple at Muppram village in Warangal district** is a significant heritage site showcasing beautiful paintings depicting episodes from the Ramayana.
- ❖ Sadly due to neglect by authorities and natural decay over the years, the paintings have faded and are on the verge of destruction.
- ❖ The **temple itself is in a state of disrepair.**
- ❖ The **temple's mural heritage dates back to the Kakatiya emperor Ganapati Deva's period,** and the artistry and beauty of the paintings are at risk of being lost forever.

- ❖ **Vandalism by locals** has also contributed to the deterioration of the temple. Currently, the shrine is inhabited by bats, and the entire complex emits a foul smell. The temple, once a testament to great architectural splendor, now faces crumbling destruction due to human apathy and destructive actions.

A fascinating fusion of rock art at Rudragiri hillock

- ❖ The **Rudragiri hillock in Andhra Pradesh**, located in the village of Orvakallu, Atchampet Mandal, Guntur district, holds a rich historical and artistic legacy.
- ❖ It features **prehistoric Mesolithic rock paintings (5000 BC) and Kakatiya murals** from the 13th c. A.D.
- ❖ The site has **five naturally formed rock shelters with Mesolithic artwork** and **two caves displaying** exquisite murals from the Kakatiya period.
- ❖ The Kakatiya paintings, though damaged over time, depict scenes from the Ramayana using various colors derived from white kaolin and pigments.
- ❖ Notably, the murals at Rudragiri bear resemblance to artworks in Telangana, suggesting possible inspiration

12th-century inscription sheds light on Kakatiya dynasty expansion:

- ❖ A **12th-century inscription and sculptures of a female warrior** were discovered in Polavasa village near Jagtial town.
- ❖ The inscription is written in Telugu characters and dates back to the 12th century.
- ❖ It reveals the **expansion of the Kakatiya dynasty in northern Telangana** under their ruler **Prataparudra 1**, also known as **Rudradeva**.
- ❖ Rudradeva achieved this expansion by defeating subordinate kings of the **Kalyani Chalukyas** during the early stages of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- ❖ The inscription mentions a **battle between Rudradeva and the chief of Polavasa** named Medaraju, along with an individual named Singana.
- ❖ **Polavasa and Kolanipaka** served as capitals for subordinate kings under the Kalyani Chalukyas.
- ❖ This discovery sheds light on how **Rudradeva established his empire in northern Telangana** by defeating these subordinate kings, marking the end of Kalyani Chalukyan rule in the region.
- ❖ The finding provides historical context for the **Kakatiya dynasty's expansion and consolidation of power** during the 12th century.

Pandya Dynasty:

- ❖ The Pandyan dynasty's history can be categorized into three distinct phases, each marked by significant political and cultural developments:
 - **Early Pandyas (3rd BCE - 3rd AD):** The initial phase of the dynasty's rule saw the establishment of Pandya Nadu with its base in Korkai, a prominent seaport. They demonstrated

proress in water management, agriculture, and maritime trade, fostering connections with the Roman Empire and beyond.

- **First Pandyan Dynasty (6th - 10th c):** During this period, the Pandyan dynasty consolidated its influence and shifted its capital to Madurai. The Pandyas emerged as skilled sailors and sea traders, boasting both diplomatic and trade ties with foreign powers.
- **Second Pandyan Dynasty (10th - 14th c):** The dynasty's later phase witnessed interactions with neighboring powers such as the Pallavas, Cholas, and Hoysalas. Additionally, they underwent a transformation in religious affiliation, transitioning from Jainism to Shaivism.
- ❖ **Conflict and Decline:** The Pandyas often found themselves entangled in conflicts with powerful neighbors, including the Pallavas, Cholas, and Hoysalas. Their resilience and diplomatic efforts to forge alliances, such as with the Cheras and the Kings of Lanka, showcased their determination to assert their autonomy despite challenges.
- ❖ **Islamic Invasion and Decline:** The emergence of the Delhi Sultanate marked a turning point for the Pandyan dynasty. The invasion by Malik Kafur in 1311 under the Khilji Sultanate, followed by Muhammad bin Tughluq's actions in 1323, led to the decline and eventual fragmentation of the once-mighty Pandyan Empire.

Imperial Cholas and Pandyan Interaction:

- ❖ **Chola Supremacy:** The rise of the Imperial Cholas, particularly after Vijayalaya Chola's conquest of Thanjavur, brought the Pandyas into a period of decline. The Cholas gradually extended their control over Pandyan territories and suppressed their attempts to break free from Chola's overlordship.
- ❖ **Pandyas' Resistance:** Despite their diminished power, the Pandyas remained defiant against Chola's dominance. Their attempts to form alliances with other regional powers and engage in strategic conflicts with the Cholas illustrated their persistent struggle to regain independence.

Later Pandyas

- ❖ **13th Century Prosperity:** The 13th century emerged as a significant era for the Pandyan Empire, marked by a period of relative peace and prosperity. During this time, seven notable Lord Emperors governed the kingdom in tandem with Pandyan princes, collectively contributing to the dynasty's growth and stability.
- ❖ **Sadayavarman Shrivallabhan's Rule:** The reign of Sadayavarman Shrivallabhan in 1190, influenced by Chola ruler Kulottunga I, marked a significant phase. His actions included transforming a peasant settlement into a tax-exempt village for Brahmins, known as Sundara Chola Chaturvedi Mangalam.

- ❖ **Prosperity Under Kulasekara:** Maravarman Kulasekara's rule (1268-1312) brought an era of peace and prosperity to the Pandyan Empire. His reign saw advancements in various aspects of governance and society.
- ❖ **Succession Conflict:** The dynasty's fortunes took a different turn with a succession conflict between two sons, Sundara Pandya III and Veer Pandyan. Veer Pandyan's ascendancy to the throne was marred by the killing of his father, setting the stage for subsequent events.

Islamic Invasions and End of Pandyan Supremacy:

- ❖ **Malik Kafur's Invasion:** The year 1311 witnessed a significant event when the Khilji Sultanate, led by Malik Kafur, launched an invasion against the Pandyas. This invasion marked a critical turning point in the dynasty's decline.
- ❖ **Veer Pandyan's Flee:** Malik Kafur's conquest led Veer Pandyan to flee, leaving the city empty and facing unprecedented devastation. Amir Khusrau's accounts of the loot and treasures seized provide a glimpse into the scale of the invasion.
- ❖ **Muhammad bin Tughluq's Impact:** The final blow to the Pandyan Empire came in 1323 when Muhammad bin Tughluq annexed the territory, bringing an end to the dynasty's reign. The once-thriving Pandyan realm was shattered beyond recovery.

Aftermath and Fragmentation:

- ❖ **Hoysala and Vijayanagara Influence:** In the aftermath of the Islamic invasions, the remnants of the Pandyan Empire were absorbed by the Hoysala rulers and the emerging Vijayanagara Empire. These successors played a role in shaping the fate of the former Pandyan territories.
- ❖ **Nayaka Chieftains:** The Vijayanagara rulers appointed Nayaka chieftains to govern the region, further contributing to the decentralization of power and governance in the once-proud Pandyan heartland.
- ❖ The Pandyan dynasty's journey is a testament to its **resilience, diplomacy, and contributions to South Indian history**, leaving behind a legacy that continues to resonate in the region's cultural and historical narratives.

