

Chalukyas, Pallavas and Chola Dynasty

Chalukyas of Vatapi/Vadami: 543-755 AD

- The Vakataka power was followed by Chalukyas.
- Chalukyas established their capital at Vatapi/Badami in the district of Bijapur in Karnataka.
- **Pulakesin II** (609-42 AD) was able to check Harsha's design to conquer Deccan.
- **Aihole inscription** is a eulogy written by his court poet **Ravikirti**.
- He sent an ambassador to the Persian King Khusrau II in 625 AD and also received one from him.
- The Chinese pilgrim **Hiuen-Tsang** visited his kingdom.
- Pallava ruler **Narsimhavarman 'Mammala'** invaded the Chalukya kingdom, killed Pulakesin II and captured Vatapi. He adopted the title **Vatapikonda** i.e. the conqueror of Vatapi.
- In 757 AD Chalukyas were overthrown by their feudatories, the Rashtrakutas.

Specimens of Chalukyan Temples:

- **Vesar style:** Jinendra temple, Meguti temple – Aihole (Ravikirti); Vishnu temple – Aihloe Ladh Khan temple (attributed to god Surya) – Aihole, Durga temple – Aihole; Aihole is called a 'town of temples' because it contains about 70 temples.
- **Naraga style:** Papanatha temple – Pattadakal
- **Dravida style:** Virupaksha temple and Sangamesvara temple, Pattadakal.

Pallavas of Kanchi (575 – 897 AD)

- The Pallavas were a local tribe who established their authority in the Tondaimandalam or the land of creepers.
- Pallavas were orthodox Brahmanical Hindus and their capital was Kanchi.
- Chalukyas and Pallavas tried to establish their supremacy over land between Krishna and Tungabhadra.
- Pallava king **Narsimhavarman** (630-668 AD) occupied Chalukyan capital Vatapi in about 642 AD and assumed the title **Vatapikonda** or conqueror of Vatapi.
- Pallavas were instrumental in spreading Indian culture in South-East Asia. Till the 8th century AD Pallava influence was predominant in Cambodia. The Pallava type of Shikhara is to be found in the temples of Java, Cambodia and Annam.

Pallava Art

- They began the Dravida style of temple architecture, which reached culmination under the rule of Cholas.
- Pallavas temple architecture can be seen in four stages:



Mahendravarmana Group	Mahendravarmana I (600-630 AD)	Temple at Bhairavkona (North Arcot Distt.) Ananteswar temple at Undavalli (Guntur Distt.)
Mammala Group	Narishmavarmana I 'Mammala' (630 – 668 AD)	Mandapa temples and Ratha temples (Sapt Pagodas) at Mammalapuram (Mahabalipuram)
Rajasimha Group	Narsimhavarmana II 'Rajsimha' (680 – 720 AD)	Kailashnatha and Vaikunth Perumal Temple at Kanchi, Shore temple at Mammalapuram
Aparajit Group	Nandivarmana 'Aparajit' (879 – 897 AD)	Mukteshwar and Matangeshwar temple at Kanchi, Parshurameshwar temple at Gudimallam

- The Pallavas also contributed to the development of sculpture in South India. The sculpture of Pallava is indebted largely to the Buddhist tradition. It is monumental and linear in form and avoids the typical ornamentation of the Deccan sculpture. The Descent of the Ganges or Arjuna's Penance at Mammalapuram are its best example.

Gupta and Post-Gupta Dynasties and Their Founders

Dynasty	Founder
The Chalukyas of Vatapi	Jayasimha
The Gangas of Talakad	Konakanivarma
The Guptas of Magadha	Shri Gupta
The Kadambas of Vanavasi	Mayurasharman
The Kingdom of Gaud	Shashanka
The Kingdom of Thaneswar	Pushyabhuti
The Later-Guptas of Magadha-Malwa	Krishnagupta
The Maitrakas of Vallabhi	Bhattarka
The Maukharis of Kannauja	Yajnavarman
The Pallavas of Kanchi	Simhavarman

The Chola Empire: 850-1279AD

Capital : Tanjore, Gangaikondacholapuram

- Chola dynasty was founded by **Vijayalaya**, who was at first a feudatory of the Pallavas. He captured Tanjore in 850 AD.
- **Rajaraja** (985-1014AD) and his son **Rajendra I** (1014-1044AD) were the greatest Chola rulers.
- **Vrihadeshwar** or **Rajarajeshwar** temple (attributed to Shiva) were built by **Rajaraja** at Tanjore.
- Orissa, Bengal, Burma and Andaman and Nicobar island were conquered by **Rajendra I**.
- Rajendra I assumed the title of Gangaikondachola and built a city called Gangaikondacholapuram.

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- The last ruler of Chola dynasty was Rajendra III.
- The king was the head of central authority helped by a council of ministers, but the administration was democratic.
- The Chola empire was divided into **Mandalams** (Province) and these in turn were divided into **Valanadu** (Commissionary), **Nadu** (District) and **Kurram** (a group of villages).
- The arrangement of local self-government is regarded as the basic feature of the administration of Cholas.
- Land revenue and trade tax were the main sources of income.
- The style of architecture which came into vogue during this period is called Dravida e.g. **Kailashnath** temple of **Kanchipuram**.
- Another aspect was image-making which reached its climax in dancing figure of Shiva called **Nataraja**.
- **Kambana** who wrote **Ramavataram** was one of the greatest figures of Tamil poetry. His Ramayana is also known as **Kamba Ramayana**.
- **Kambana, Kuttana** and **Pugalendi** are considered as 'three gems of Tamil poetry'.
- In the temples, the **Vimana** or the tall pyramidal tower dominates the whole structure of the shrine and imparts an extraordinary dignity to it.
- **Gopuram** and **Garbhagriha** are the other two important structures.
- The best specimens are the temples of **Vijayalaya, Choleswara, the Nageshwara temple, the Koranganath temple and the Muvarakovitha temple.**

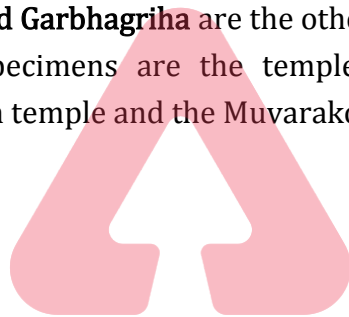
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