

CHALUKYA DYNASTY: RISE AND FALL OF A POWERFUL KINGDOM IN KARNATAKA

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Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to study the Rise and Fall of Chalukya Dynasty in Karnataka. The Chalukya dynasty was a powerful and long-lasting dynasty that ruled over southern India for over six centuries, from the 6th to the 12th century. The dynasty had its origins in the 6th century with the Early Chalukyas, who were known for their patronage of art, literature, and architecture. The rock-cut temples at Badami, Aihole, and Pattadakal are excellent examples of the architectural style of the Early Chalukyas. The Rashtrakutas, who were a feudatory of the Chalukyas, overthrew the Chalukya dynasty in the 8th century and established their own dynasty. However, the Rashtrakutas continued to use the Chalukya name and ruled over the Chalukya empire for over two centuries.

The Western Chalukyas, also known as the Kalyani Chalukyas, were a branch of the Chalukya dynasty that ruled over the western Deccan region of India from the 10th to the 12th century. Their capital was Kalyani, present-day Basavakalyan in the state of Karnataka. The Western Chalukyas were known for their architectural achievements, including the Kailashnath temple in Ellora and the Mahadeva temple in Itagi. The Chalukya dynasty's decline began in the 12th century, and they were eventually defeated by the Hoysalas in 1183 CE. The defeat marked the end of the Chalukya dynasty, and the Hoysalas became the dominant power in southern India. The Chalukya dynasty's impact on southern India's culture and history is still evident today. Their architectural achievements, such as the rock-cut temples and other structures, continue to draw tourists from around the world. The Chalukya dynasty's legacy in art and literature also continues to influence contemporary Indian culture.

The rise and fall of the Chalukya dynasty is a reminder of the cyclical nature of history and the importance of preserving cultural heritage for future generations. The Chalukya dynasty's story is a fascinating one, and it provides a window into the rich and complex history of southern India.

Keywords: Rise, Fall, Chalukya Dynasty, Karnataka etc.

INTRODUCTION:

The Chalukya dynasty was a powerful dynasty that ruled over the Deccan Plateau in southern India from the 6th to the 12th century. The dynasty had its origins in the 6th century, with its capital located in the present-day state of Karnataka.

The Early Chalukya Dynasty (543-757 CE):

The Chalukyas of Badami, also known as the Early Chalukyas, were the first ruling dynasty of the Chalukya empire. Pulakeshin I, the founder of the dynasty, ascended the throne in 543 CE. The Early Chalukyas were known for their patronage of art, architecture, and literature. The rock-cut temples at Badami, Aihole, and Pattadakal are excellent examples of the architectural style of the Early Chalukyas.

The Rashtrakuta-Chalukya Dynasty (757-973 CE):

The Rashtrakutas, who were a feudatory of the Chalukyas, overthrew the Chalukya dynasty in the 8th century and established their own dynasty. However, the Rashtrakutas continued to use the Chalukya name and ruled over the Chalukya empire for over two centuries.

The Western Chalukya Dynasty (973-1190 CE):

The Western Chalukyas, also known as the Kalyani Chalukyas, were a branch of the Chalukya dynasty that ruled over the western Deccan region of India from the 10th to the 12th century. Their capital was Kalyani, present-day Basavakalyan in the state of Karnataka. The Western Chalukyas were known for their architectural achievements, including the Kailashnath temple in Ellora and the Mahadeva temple in Itagi.

The Chalukya dynasty began to decline in the 12th century, and in 1183 CE, the last Chalukya king, Someshwara IV, was defeated by the Hoysalas. The defeat marked the end of the Chalukya dynasty, and the Hoysalas became the dominant power in southern India. The Chalukya dynasty was a powerful kingdom that ruled over southern India for over six centuries. The dynasty left behind a rich legacy of art, architecture, and literature, and their influence can still be seen in the southern region of India today.

The Chalukyas were known for their patronage of art, architecture, literature, and religion. Their legacy can be seen in various aspects of Indian culture even today.

- ✓ Architecture: The Chalukyas were known for their architectural prowess, and their temples are a testament to this. The Chalukyan style of architecture was characterized by the use of intricate carvings, elaborate sculptures, and intricate detailing. Some of the most famous temples built by the Chalukyas include the Virupaksha Temple in Pattadakal, the Kailash Temple in Ellora, and the Mahadeva Temple in Itagi.
- ✓ Literature: The Chalukyas were great patrons of literature, and their court was known for its literary excellence. The most famous literary work from the Chalukyan period is the Kavirajamarga, a treatise

on poetry written by the court poet, Amoghavarsha I. The work is considered to be a milestone in the development of Kannada literature.

- ✓ Administration: The Chalukyas were known for their efficient administration. They divided their empire into smaller regions called vassal states, each of which was ruled by a vassal king. This system of administration allowed the Chalukyas to maintain a centralized power structure while also giving autonomy to the vassal states.
- ✓ Trade: The Chalukyas were great traders and had a flourishing trade relationship with other parts of the world. They traded in spices, silk, and precious stones, among other things. The Chalukyas also built roads and canals to facilitate trade.
- ✓ Religion: The Chalukyas were patrons of both Hinduism and Jainism. They built many temples and Jain basadis (shrines) across their empire. The Chalukyas also supported the construction of Buddhist monuments, such as the famous Aihole inscriptions.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY;

To study the Rise and Fall of Chalukya Dynasty in Karnataka.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study is based on secondary sources of data such as articles, research paper, books, journals and websites.

RISE AND FALL OF CHALUKYA DYNASTY:

The Chalukya Dynasty was a powerful Indian empire that emerged in the 6th century AD in Karnataka. The dynasty was known for its impressive architecture, including the construction of iconic temples such as the Virupaksha Temple and the Kailashnath Temple, as well as its military might and diplomatic skills. The Chalukya dynasty had a long and fascinating history, marked by periods of both great prosperity and decline.

Chalukya Rulers:

Jayasimha was the first ruler of the Chalukyas.

Pulakesin I (Reign: 543 AD – 566 AD)

- Founded the empire with his capital at Vatapi.
- Performed Ashwamedha.

Kirtivarman I (Reign: 566 AD – 597 AD)

- Son of Pulakesin I.
- Conquered Konkan and northern Kerala.

Mangalesha (Reign: 597 AD – 609 AD)

- Brother of Kirtivarman I.
- Conquered the Kadambas and the Gangas.
- Was killed by his nephew and son of Kirtivarman, Pulakesin II.

Pulakesin II (609 AD – 642 AD)

- The greatest of the Chalukya kings.
- Extended the Chalukya rule to most parts of the Deccan.
- His birth name was Eraya. Information about him is obtained from the Aihole inscription dated 634. This poetic inscription was written by his court poet Ravikirti in Sanskrit language using the Kannada script.
- Xuanzang visited his kingdom. He has praised Pulakesin II as a good and authoritative king.
- Though a Hindu, he was tolerant of Buddhism and Jainism.
- He conquered almost entire south-central India.
- He is famous for stopping Northern king Harsha in his tracks while he was trying to conquer southern parts of the country.
- He had defeated the Pallava king Mahendravarman I but was defeated and killed by Mahendravarman's son and successor Narasimhavarman I in a series of battles he had with the Pallavas.
- For the next 13 years, Badami remained under Pallava control.
- Pulakesin II received a Persian mission as depicted in an Ajanta cave painting. He maintained diplomatic relations with the King of Persia Khusru II.
- His death saw a lapse in Chalukya power.

Vikramaditya I (655 AD – 680 AD)

- Son of Pulakesin II who plundered Kanchi, the capital of the Pallavas.

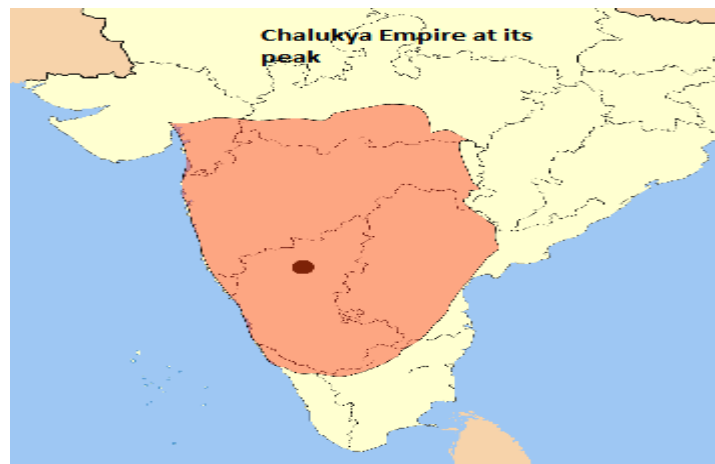
Kirtivarman II (746 AD – 753 AD)

- Great-great-grandson of Vikramaditya I.
- Last of the Chalukya rulers. Was defeated by the Rashtrakuta king, Dantidurga.

RISE OF THE CHALUKYA DYNASTY:

The Chalukya dynasty was founded by Pulakeshin I in the 6th century AD. According to legend, Pulakeshin I defeated the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in battle, although this claim is disputed by some historians. Pulakeshin I was succeeded by his son Kirtivarman I, who expanded the empire and defeated the neighboring Kadamba dynasty. The real rise of the Chalukya dynasty, however, occurred under the reign of Pulakeshin II, who ruled from 610-642 AD. Pulakeshin II was a brilliant military commander who expanded the empire's territory to include most of modern-day Karnataka and parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. He also defeated the powerful Harsha dynasty in North India, making the Chalukya dynasty one of the most powerful empires in India at the time.

Pulakeshin II was also known for his patronage of the arts and architecture. He commissioned the construction of several impressive temples, including the Virupaksha Temple in Pattadakal and the Kailashnath Temple in Ellora. These temples are still considered to be among the most beautiful and well-preserved examples of Indian temple architecture.



GOLDEN AGE OF THE CHALUKYA DYNASTY:

Under the reign of Vikramaditya I (655-681 AD), the Chalukya dynasty entered a period of great prosperity and cultural advancement. Vikramaditya I was a skilled diplomat and formed alliances with other powerful kingdoms in India, including the Pallava dynasty in Tamil Nadu and the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty in North India. During this period, the Chalukya dynasty became known for its literary achievements. Vikramaditya I patronized several great poets and scholars, including the famous Kannada poet Ravikirti. The Chalukya kings also established a tradition of sponsoring large-scale literary conferences, which attracted scholars and intellectuals from all over India. The Chalukya dynasty continued to flourish under the reign of Vikramaditya's son, Vinayaditya (681-696 AD), and his grandson, Vijayaditya (696-733 AD). During this period, the Chalukya empire reached its zenith, with its territory stretching from the Narmada River in the north to the Kaveri River in the south.

DECLINE AND FALL OF THE CHALUKYA DYNASTY:

The decline of the Chalukya dynasty began in the early 8th century AD, during the reign of Vikramaditya II (733-746 AD). Vikramaditya II was a weak king who was unable to control his powerful nobles, who began to rebel against him. The rebellion was led by a noble named Dantidurga, who founded the Rashtrakuta dynasty in 753 AD. The Rashtrakutas were able to defeat the Chalukya army and capture the capital city of Badami in 757 AD, effectively ending the Chalukya dynasty.

CONCLUSION:

The Chalukya dynasty was a significant kingdom in the Deccan Plateau of southern India that ruled for over six centuries, from the 6th to the 12th century. The dynasty had its origins in the 6th century with the Early Chalukyas, followed by the Rashtrakuta-Chalukya Dynasty and the Western Chalukya Dynasty. The Chalukyas were known for their patronage of art, literature, and architecture, with examples of their architectural achievements still visible today. The rock-cut temples at Badami, Aihole, and Pattadakal are excellent examples of the architectural style of the Early Chalukyas, while the Kailashnath temple in Ellora and the Mahadeva temple in Itagi are significant achievements of the Western Chalukya Dynasty. The Chalukya dynasty played a significant role in shaping the cultural and architectural heritage of southern India. However, the decline of the Chalukya dynasty began in the 12th century, and they were eventually defeated by the Hoysalas in 1183 CE. Despite their decline, the Chalukya dynasty left a lasting impact on southern India's culture and history.

The Chalukya dynasty was an essential chapter in the history of southern India. The dynasty's legacy can still be felt through the cultural and architectural heritage they left behind. The Chalukya dynasty's rise and fall represent the cyclical nature of history, reminding us of the impermanence of power and the importance of preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

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