

## 6th Social Science Lesson 18 Notes in English

### 18] South Indian Kingdoms

#### Introduction:

- South Indian Kingdoms By the early 7th century, synchronising with the Harsha's reign in the north, the far south had come under the control of the Pallava kings of Kanchipuram.
- Pallava sovereignty included the domains of the Cholas and the Pandyas. The latter were then emerging as ruling dynasties in their respective river valley regions.
- Much of the central and eastern Deccan was under the **Chalukyas of Badami (Vatapi)**, who were then pushed away by the Rashtrakutas.
- The medieval period in India was marked by the emergence of regional centres of power.
- There was no single imperial power like Mauryas or Guptas who exercised control over the greater part of India in this period.

#### Pallavas:

- The Pallava kings ruled around the prosperous agrarian settlement and important trade centre of **Kanchipuram on the southeast coast of India.**
- Kanchipuram was well known to Chinese and Roman merchants.
- From the flourishing trade centre of Kanchipuram, the later Pallavas extended their sovereignty over all the **Tamil-speaking regions during the 7th and 8th centuries.**
- The central part of their kingdom, however, was **Thondaimandalam**, a large political region comprising northern parts of Tamil Nadu and the adjoining Andhra districts.

#### Pallava Genealogy:

There were early Pallava rulers who were **feudatories of Satavahanas.**

- **Simhavishnu**, son of Simhavarman II (around 550 AD (CE), created a strong Pallava kingdom after destroying the Kalabhras. He defeated many kings in the south including the Cholas and the Pandyas.
- His able son was **Mahendravarman I.**
- He was succeeded by his son **Narasimhavarman I.**
- The other prominent Pallava rulers were **Narasimhavarman II or Rajasimha** and **Nandivarman II.**

- The last Pallava ruler was **Aparajita**.
- **Mahendravarman ( c. 600–630AD (CE))** contributed to the greatness of the Pallava kingdom. Mahendravarman I was a follower of Jainism in the early part of his rule. He was converted to Saivism by the **Saivite saint Appar (Tirunavukkarasar)**.
- He was a great patron of art and architecture. He is known for introducing a new style to Dravidian architecture, which is referred to as **'Mahendra style'**. Mahendravarman also wrote plays, including **Mattavilasa Prahāsana**. (The Delight of the Drunkards ) in Sanskrit, which denigrates Buddhism.
- Mahendravarman's reign involved constant battles with the Western Chalukya kingdom of Badami under **Pulakesin II**.
- **Pulakesin seems to have defeated Mahendravarman** in one of the battles and taken over a large part of his territory (Vengi) in the north. His son **Narasimhavarman I (c. 630–668) avenged the defeat by capturing Vatapi**, the capital of Chalukyas. He set Vatapi on fire, killing Pulakesin in the process.
- **Narasimhavarman II (c. 695–722)**, also known as **Rajasimha**, was a great military strategist. He exchanged ambassadors with China. His reign was comparatively free from any political disturbance. Therefore, he could concentrate on temple-building activities. During his reign, the famous **Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram was built**.

#### Pallava's Contribution to Architecture:

- Pallava's Contribution to Architecture Pallava period is known for architectural splendour. The **Shore Temple** and various other temples carved from granite monoliths and **the Varaha cave (7th century) at Mamallapuram**, are illustrious examples of Pallava architecture.
- In **1984**, Mamallapuram was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Pallava architecture can be classified as

- Rock-Cut temples – Mahendravarman style
- Monolithic Rathas and Sculptural Mandapas – Mamallan style
- Structural Temples – Rajasimhan style and Nandivarman style
- Mahendra Style
- Mamalla Style
- Rajasimha Style
- Nandivarman Style

**Mahendra Style:**

The best example of MahendraVarma style monuments are cave temples at **Mandagapattu, Mahendravadi, Mamandur, Dalavanur, Tiruchirapalli, Vallam, Tirukazhukkundram and Siyamangalam.**

**Mamalla Style**

- The five rathas (chariots), popularly called Panchapandavar rathas, signify five different style of temple architecture. Each ratha has been carved out of a single rock. So they are called **monolithic**.
- The popular mandapams (pillared pavilions) they built are **Mahishasuramardhini mandapam, Thirumoorthi mandapam and Varaha mandapam.**
- The most important among the Mamalla style of architecture is the open art gallery. Several miniature sculptures such as the figure of **lice-picking monkey, elephants of huge size** and the figure of the ascetic cat have been sculpted beautifully on the wall of a huge rock.
- The fall of the River Ganga from the head of Lord Siva and the **Arjuna's penance** are notable among them. The Great Penance panel is considered to be the world's largest open-air bas relief.

**Rajasimha Style**

Narasimhavarma II, also known as Rajasimha, constructed structural temples using stone blocks. The best example for the structural temple is Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram. This temple was built by using sand stones. **Kailasanatha temple is called Rajasimheswaram.**

**Nandivarma Style**

The last stage of the Pallava architecture is also represented by structural temples built by the later Pallavas. The best example is **Vaikunda Perumal temple at Kanchipuram.**

**Society and Culture of Pallavasa:**

- The Pallavas supported Jainism, Buddhism and the Vedic faith. They were great patrons of music, painting and literature. Some of the Pallava kings patronised the Azhwars and Nayanmars. These exponents of Bhakti Cult preached a new form of **Vaishnavism and Saivism.**
- Among the **Saivites were Appar and Manikkavasakar. Among the Vaishnavites were Nammazhvar and Andal.**
- The Bhakti movement aimed at preaching a popular faith, in which prayers in **Tamil** were preferred to those in Sanskrit. Women were encouraged to participate in the religious congregations.
- The Tamil devotional cult was competitive with **Buddhism and Jainism.** Therefore the latter suffered a gradual decline in most parts of Tamil country.

### Education and Literature

- Gatika (monastery or centre of learning) at Kanchi was popular during the Pallava times and it attracted students from all parts of India and abroad. **Vatsyaya who wrote Nyaya Bhashya** was a teacher at Kanchi (Gatika).
- The treatise on Dakshin Chitram (Paintings of South India) was compiled during the reign of **Mahendravarma I**.
- The great Sanskrit scholar, Dandin, lived in the court of Narasimhavarma I. Dandin composed Dashakumara Charita.
- Bharavi, the great Sanskrit scholar, lived in the time of Simhavishnu. **Bharavi wrote Kiratarjuniya**, an epic in verses.
- Tamil literature had also flourished during the Pallava rule. **Thevaram composed by Nayanmars and Nalayradivyaprabantham composed by Azhwars**, which are still chanted by devout people.
- **Perundevanar, who was patronized by Nandivarman II**, translated the Mahabharata into Tamil as Bharathavenba.

### Pallava Art:

The Pallava kings had also patronised fine arts. The music inscriptions **in Kudumianmalai and Thirumayam temples** show Pallavas' interest in music. The sculptures of this period depict many images in dancing postures.

### Pallava Territories:



**Sources of Pallavas:****Sources**

<b>Inscriptions</b>	Mandagapattu Cave, Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II
<b>Copper Plates</b>	Kasakudi Plates
<b>Literature</b>	Mattavilasa Prahasana, Avanthi Sundarakatha, Kalingathu Parani, Periya Puranam, Nandi Kalambagam
<b>Foreign Notice</b>	Accounts of Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang

**Important Names of Kings and Titles:**

Name of the King	Title/s Adopted
Simhavishnu	Avanisimha
Mahendravarma I	Sankirajati Mattavilasa Gunabhara Chitrakarapuli Vichitra Chitta
Narasimhavarma I	Mamalla, Vatapi Kondan

**Chalukyas:**

- The Chalukyas ruled larger parts of west and centre of South India, consisting of Maratha country with **Vatapi (Badami)** as their capital.
- There were three distinct but closely related and independent Chalukya dynasties. They were Chalukyas of Badami
- Chalukyas of Vengi (Eastern Chalukyas)
- Chalukyas of Kalyani (Western Chalukyas). These Chalukyas held Harsha in the north, the Pallavas in the south and Kalinga (Odisha) in the east.

**Chalukyas of Vatapi:**

- The Chalukyas of Vatapi Pulakesin I, a petty chieftain of **Pattadakal in the Bijapur district, took and fortified the hill fort of Vatapi around 543 AD (CE)**. He soon conquered the territory between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers and the Western Ghats.
- Pulakesin I son **Kirtivarman I (c. 566 to 597)** brought the Konkan coast under Chalukya control.
- Pulakesin II (c. 610 to 642) emerged as the most powerful ruler of the dynasty.
- The **Persian (Iran) king Khusru II sent an embassy** to the court of Pulakesin II.

- Pulakesin succeeded in seizing parts of Gujarat and Malwa.
- He defied the North Indian ruler Harsha and according to an agreed understanding Narmada river was fixed as the boundary between the two.

#### Eastern Chalukya:

- About **624**, **Pulakesin II** conquered the kingdom of **Vengi** and gave it to his brother **Vishnuvardhana**, the first Eastern Chalukya ruler.
- Kirtivarman II, the successor of **Vikramaditya II** was defeated by Dantidurga, the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

#### Western Chalukyas of Kalyani:

- They were the descendants of **Badami Chalukyas** ruled from Kalyani (modern day Basavakalyan).
- In 973, **Tailapa II**, a feudatory of the Rashtrakuta ruling from Bijapur region defeated Parmara of Malwa. Tailapa II occupied Kalyani and his dynasty quickly grew into an empire under Somesvara I. **Somesvara I** moved the capital from Manyakheta to Kalyani.

#### Contributions to Art and Architecture

- As supporters of both Saivism and Vaishnavism, the Chalukyas contributed richly to art and architecture.
- A new style of architecture known as Vesara was developed. **Vesara is a combination of south Indian (Dravida) and north Indian (Nagara) building styles.** They perfected the art of stone building without mortar.
- They used soft sandstones in construction. **They built a number of rock-cut cave-temples and structural temples dedicated to Siva, Vishnu and Brahma.** The structural temples of Chalukyas exist at Aihole, Badami and Pattadakal.
- The important stone temples are the Vishnu temples **at Badami and Aihole and the Virupaksha or Siva Temple at Pattadakal in Bijapur** district in present-day Karnataka. T
- The Vishnu temple **at Badami was built by Mangalesa of the Chalukya Dynasty and contains the Aihole inscription of Vikramaditya II.**
- Their cave temples are found at Ajanta, Ellora and Nasik.
- The cave temples at Badami contain fine sculptures of Vishnu reclining on Sesha Nag; Varaha, the Boar; Narasimha or the lion-faced man; and Vamana, the dwarf.

- The Kasi Vishweshvara Temple at Lakkundi, the **Mallikarjuna Temple at Kuruvatti**, the Kalleshwara Temple at Bagali and the Mahadeva Temple at Itagi represent wellknown examples of the architecture of Western Chalukyas of Kalyani.
- Chalukyas adopted the Vakataka style in paintings. Some of the frescoes of the caves of **Ajantha were created during the reign of Chalukyas**. The reception given to the Persian embassy by Pulakesin II is depicted in a painting at Ajanta.

#### Sources of Chalukyas:

<b>Inscriptions</b>	Badami Cave Inscription of Mangalesha Kanchi Kailasanatha Temple Inscription Pattadakal Virupaksha Temple Inscription Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin I
<b>Foreign Notice</b>	Accounts of Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang

#### Rashtrakutas:

- The Rashtrakutas ruled not only the Deccan but parts of the far south and the Ganges plain as well from **8th to 10th** century AD (CE). They were of **Kannada origin** and their mother tongue was Kannada.
- **Dantidurga** was the founder of Rashtrakuta dynasty. He was an official of high rank under the Chalukyas of Badami.
- Krishna I succeeded Dantidurga. He consolidated and extended the Rashtrakuta power. He was a great patron of art and architecture. **The Kailasanatha temple at Ellora was built by him.**
- Rashtrakuta Kings The greatest king of the Rashtrakuta dynasty was **Amogavarsha**. He built a new capital at **Manyakheta (now Malkhed in Karnataka)** and Broach became the port. Amogavarsha (c. 814–878) was converted to Jainism by Jinasena, a Jain monk.
- Krishna II, who succeeded his father Amogavarsha, suffered a defeat in the battle of Vallala (modern Tiruvallam, Vellore district) at the hands of Cholas under **Parantaka in c. 916.**
- **Krishna III (c. 939–967)** was the last able ruler of Rashtrakuta dynasty. He defeated the Cholas in the **battle of Takkolam** (presently in Vellore district) and captured Thanjavur.

- **Govinda III** was the last ruler to hold the empire intact. After his death, the Rashtrakuta power declined.
- Kannada language became more prominent. **Kavirajamarga** composed by Amogavarsha was the first poetic work in Kannada language.

#### Art And Architecture:

- The three gems of Kannada literature during the period were **Pampa, Sri Ponna and Ranna**. Adikavi Pampa was famous for his creative works Adipurana and Vikramarjunavijaya.
- The life of **Rishabadeva**, the first Jain **Tirthankara is depicted in Adipurana**.
- In **Vikramarjunavijaya Pampa's patron, Chalukya Arikesari**, is identified with Arjuna, epic hero of Mahabharatha.
- The Rashtrakutas made significant contribution to Indian Art. The **art and architecture of the Rashtrakutas can be found at Ellora and Elephanta**.
- Kailasanatha Temple – Ellora (near Aurangabad, Maharashtra) Kailasanatha Temple was one of the **30 temples** carved out of the hill at Ellora.
- It was built during the reign of Krishna I. The temple is known for its architectural **grandeur and sculptural splendour**.
- The temple covers an area of over **60,000 sq. feet and vimanam** (temple tower) rises to a **height of 90 feet**.
- This temple has resemblance to the shore temple at **Mamallapuram**. The Kailasanatha temple portrays typical Dravidian features.
- Elephanta Island Originally known as **Sripuri and called Gharapuri** by the local people, Elephanta is an island near Mumbai. The **Portuguese named it as Elephanta**, after seeing the huge image of an elephant.
- The **Trimurthi (three-faced) Siva icon** is an illustrative of the sculptural beauty portrayed in the Cave Temple of Elephanta. There are impressive images of **dwarapalakas** (entrance guards) at the entrance of the Temple.

#### Pattadakal:

- Pattadakal Rashtrakutas built temples in the complex of Pattadakal. **The Jain Narayana temple and the Kasi Vishwesvara temple were built by Rashtrakutas**.

- **Pattadakal** (UNESCO World Heritage Site) is a small village in Bagalkot district of Karnataka. It has ten temples. Out of them, **four were built in northern style (Nagara)**, while the **rest six** are in the **southern (Dravida) style**.

**More to Know:**

1. The famous musician **Rudracharya lived during Mahendravarma I**.
2. Narasimharman I's army general was **Paranjothi**. Popularly known as Siruthondar (one of the 63 Nayanmars), Paranjothi led the Pallava army during the invasion of Vatapi. After the victory he had a change of heart and devoted himself to Lord Siva – **PeriyaPuranam**

**3. Aihole Inscription:**

It is found at **Meguti Temple in Aihole** (Bagalkot district, Karnataka). It is written in Sanskrit by Ravikirti, a court poet of Chalukya king Pulakesin II. It makes a mention of the defeat of **Harsha Vardhana by Pulakesin II**.

4. **Virupaksha Temple and Sangameshwara** Temple are in Dravida Style and Papanatha temple is in Nagara style.
5. The Virupaksha temple is built on the **model of Kanchi Kailasanatha** temple. Sculptors brought from Kanchi were employed in its construction.