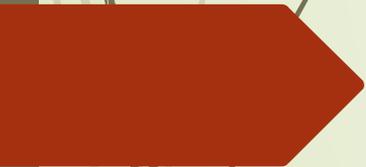


South Indian History- Cholas, Chalukyas and Kakatiyas



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South India-Geographic & Strategic Features

- ▶ South India's history reflects a set of enduring features that shaped its culture, politics, and society across centuries.
- ▶ Peninsular location: Surrounded by seas on three sides, South India was a hub for maritime trade with Southeast Asia, Arabia, and Europe.
- ▶ River systems: Rivers like the Krishna, Godavari, Kaveri, and Tungabhadra supported agriculture and temple-centered settlements.
- ▶ Fortified capitals: Cities like Warangal, Vijayanagara, and Madurai were strategically placed near rivers and hills.

Time Line

Period	Major Powers	Key features
Prehistoric–Iron Age	Megalithic cultures	Burial sites, early trade
300 BCE–300 CE	Chera, Chola, Pandya	Sangam literature, Roman trade
4th–9th c.	Pallavas, Chalukyas	Rock-cut temples, Kanchipuram
9th–13th c.	Cholas, Hoysalas, Pandyas	Temple architecture, overseas trade
12th–14th c.	Kakatiyas, Bahmani	Irrigation, Indo-Islamic culture

Time Line

Period	Major powers	Key features
14th–17th c.	Vijayanagara	Hindu bastion, Hampi
16th–17th c.	Deccan Sultanates	Diamonds, Indo-Islamic art
17th–18th c.	Mughals, Nizams, Marathas	Regional states
18th–20th c.	British colonial rule	Presidencies, resistance
20th–present	Indian Union	IT, cinema, cultural continuity



Political & Dynastic Features

- ▶ Regional kingdoms: Chera, Chola, Pandya, Pallava, Kakatiya, Vijayanagara, and later Sultanates/Nizams each left distinct legacies.
- ▶ • Resilience against northern invasions: South India often acted as a bastion of Hindu polities (e.g., Vijayanagara after Delhi Sultanate expansion).
- ▶ • Female rulers: Figures like Rudrama Devi (Kakatiya) and Velu Nachiyar (later resistance leader) highlight gendered agency in politics.



Cultural & Artistic Features

- ▶ Temple architecture: Dravidian style flourished—gopurams, mandapas, and intricate sculptures (e.g., Brihadeeswarar temple, Hampi).
 - ▶ Literary traditions: Tamil Sangam poetry, Telugu courtly literature, Kannada vachanas, and Malayalam chronicles enriched regional identities.
 - ▶ Performing arts: Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Yakshagana, and Carnatic music evolved in temple and courtly contexts.
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Social & Religious Features

- ▶ Caste and sacred labor: Temple women (devadasis), priests, and artisans played central roles in ritual economies.
- ▶ • Bhakti movements: Saints like Ramanuja, Basava, and Alvars/Nayanmars emphasized personal devotion, reshaping social hierarchies.
- ▶ • Syncretism: Islamic Sultanates and European traders introduced new cultural forms, blending Persianate, Indo-Islamic, and local traditions.



Economic Features

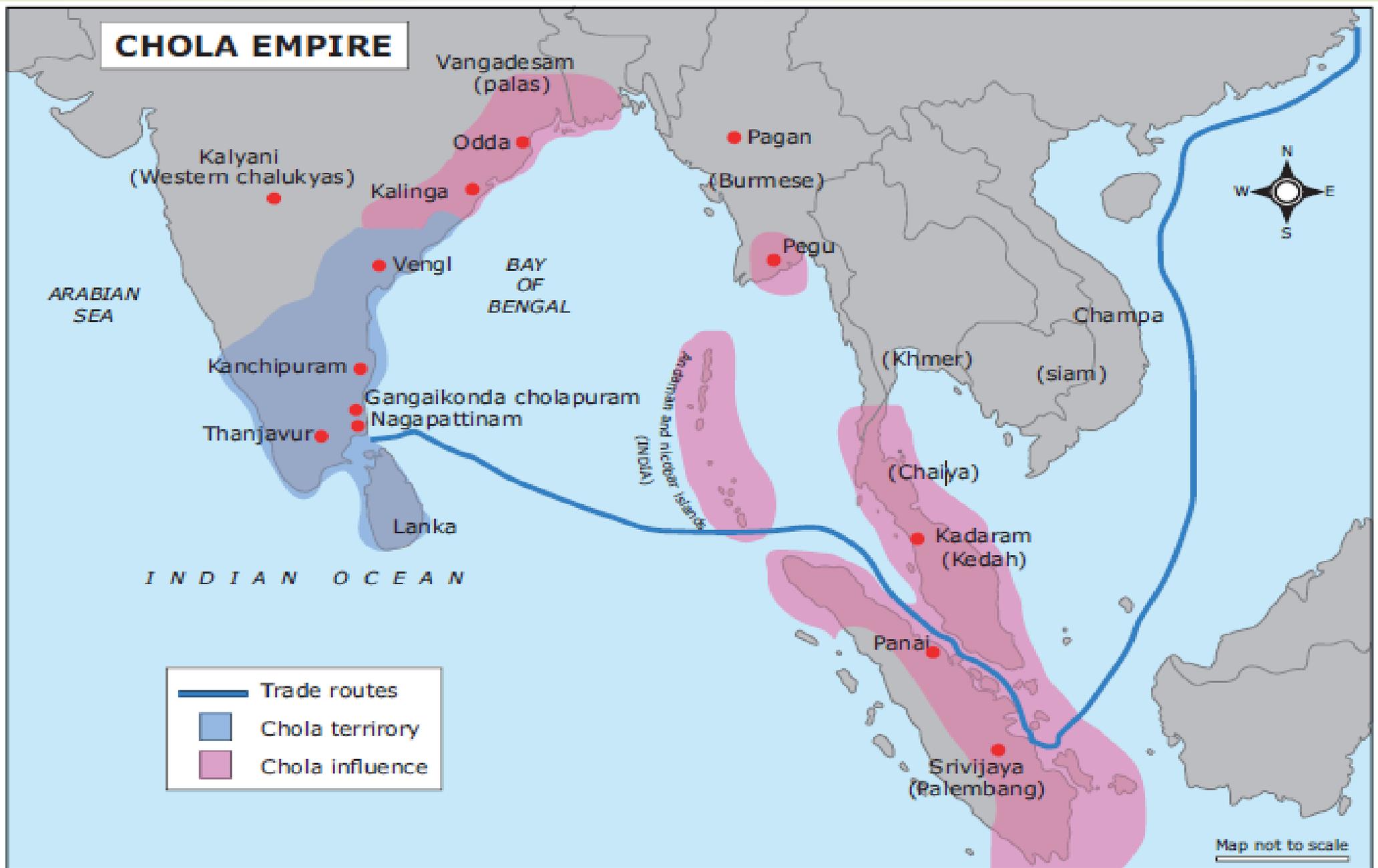
- Agriculture: Irrigation tanks and canals (especially under Kakatiyas and Cholas) sustained agrarian wealth.
- Trade: Diamonds of Golconda, spices of Kerala, textiles of Tamil Nadu, and ports like Masulipatnam connected South India globally.
- Urban centers: Vijayanagara, Madurai, and Hyderabad became cosmopolitan hubs of commerce and culture.



The Cholas- origin

- ▶ The Chola dynasty was one of the most influential powers in South Indian history, with a legacy that spanned over a millennium.
- ▶ Early mentions: The Cholas are referenced in Ashoka's edicts (3rd century BCE) as a neighboring kingdom.
- ▶ • Early Cholas: Ruled parts of Tamil Nadu from around the Sangam age (c. 300 BCE–300 CE).
- ▶ • Interregnum: After a decline, they resurged in the 9th century CE as the Medieval Cholas.

CHOLA EMPIRE





Imperial Cholas- 9th to 13th cen.

- ▶ Founder of imperial line: Vijayalaya Chola (c. 850 CE), who captured Thanjavur.
- ▶ Rajaraja I (985–1014): Expanded empire across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Sri Lanka. Built the Brihadeeswarar temple at Thanjavur.
- ▶ Rajendra I (1014–1044): Extended power to the Ganges, Southeast Asia (Kadaram in Malaysia, Srivijaya in Indonesia).
- ▶ Kulottunga I (1070–1120): Consolidated territories, promoted administration and trade.
- ▶ Extent: At its peak, the Chola Empire stretched from the Deccan to Sri Lanka and had influence in Southeast Asia



Administration

- Centralized monarchy: King as supreme authority.
- • Provincial divisions: Empire divided into mandalams (provinces), valanadus (districts), and villages.
- • Local self-government: Village assemblies (sabhas, urs) managed irrigation, temples, and justice.
- • Military: Strong navy, enabling overseas expeditions



Culture & Achievements

- ▶ Temple architecture: Brihadeeswarar (Thanjavur), Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Airavatesvara (Darasuram).
- ▶ • Literature: Flourishing of Tamil works, inscriptions in both Tamil and Sanskrit.
- ▶ • Art: Bronze sculptures of Nataraja and other deities are iconic.
- ▶ • Maritime trade: Connected South India to China, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.



Chola Architecture - Brihadeeswarar (Thanjavur)



Chola Architecture- Gangaikonda Cholapuram



Chola Architecture - Airavatesvara (Darasuram)





Decline

- **Later Cholas (13th century):** Faced challenges from Pandyas, Hoysalas, and internal strife.
- **Final ruler:** Rajendra III (d. 1279 CE).
- **Aftermath:** Territories absorbed by Pandyas and later by Vijayanagara.
- The Cholas stand out for their maritime power, temple architecture, and administrative innovations, leaving a legacy that shaped Tamil identity and South Indian culture.

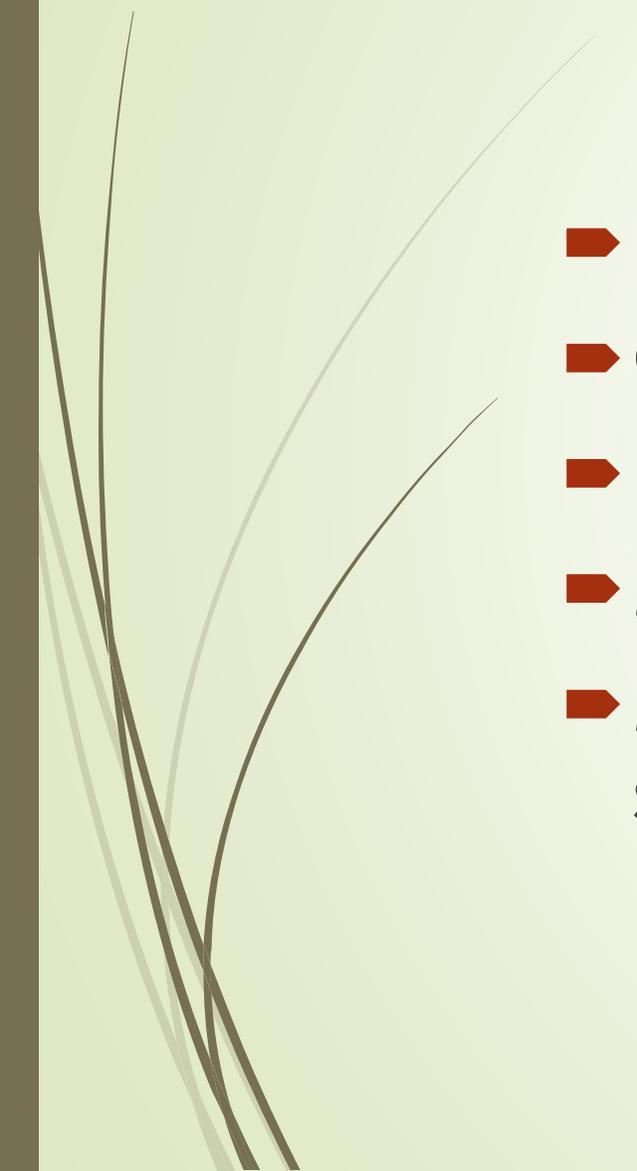


Chola Bronze

- The Chola dynasty (9th–13th century CE) is known for its remarkable bronze sculptures. These sculptures, primarily of Hindu deities, are known for their grace, symbolism, and spiritual depth.
 - Common depictions include Shiva as Nataraja, Vishnu, Parvati, and other deities. Notable features: intricate jewelry, realistic postures, and symbolic gestures (mudras).
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The wax Process

- Wax model is crafted.
 - Clay mold is layered over the wax.
 - Mold is heated to melt the wax.
 - Molten metal is poured into the hollow mold.
 - Mold is broken to reveal the final bronze sculpture.
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Plaster and clay molding



Rough cleaning and chiselling



Fine detail cleaning and chiselling



**Shiva Nataraja. 12th century. Bronze, Chola style.
Tamil Nadu. Rijksmuseum. Amsterdam. Holland.**



Chola bronze sculpture

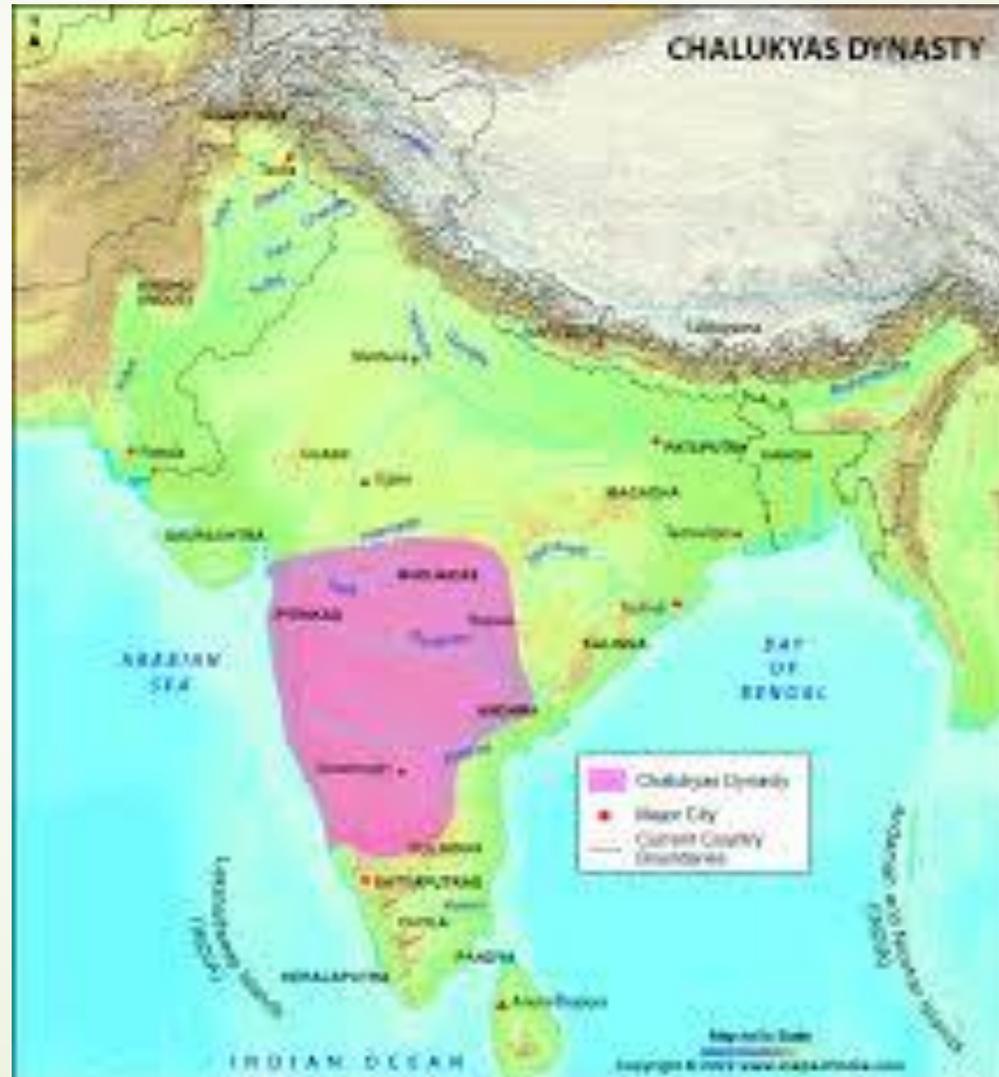




Communities and significance of their creations

- Swamimalai in Tamil Nadu is a prominent center for bronze casting.
 - The Vishwakarma community has traditionally been engaged in this art.
 - Chola bronzes are used in temple rituals and processions.
 - They serve both as objects of worship and as art representing divine presence.
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The Chalukyas





Western Chalukyas (c543–757 CE)

- ▶ The Chalukyas were one of the most important dynasties in South Indian history, ruling large parts of the Deccan between the 6th and 12th centuries. Their legacy is spread across three major branches:
- ▶ Badami (Western) Chalukyas (Founder: Pulakeshin I, who fortified Vatapi (modern Badami)).
- ▶ Key ruler: Pulakeshin II (610–642 CE), who defeated Harsha of North India and expanded across the Deccan.
- ▶ Capital: Badami.
- ▶ Achievements:
- ▶ Rock-cut cave temples at Badami.
- ▶ Structural temples at Aihole and Pattadakal (UNESCO site).
- ▶ Patronized Sanskrit and Kannada literature.
- ▶ Decline: Overthrown by the Rashtrakutas in the mid-8th century.



Eastern Chalukyas (c. 624–1070 CE)

- • Origin: Offshoot of Badami Chalukyas, ruling from Vengi (Andhra Pradesh).
- • Capital: Vengi.
- • Features:
 - • Played a crucial role in Andhra's cultural development.
 - • Patronized Telugu literature and temple building.
 - • Intermarried with Cholas, influencing later South Indian politics.
 - • Decline: Absorbed into the Chola Empire in the 11th century.

Later (Western) Chalukyas (c. 975–1189 CE)

- ▶ • Capital: Kalyani (near modern Basavakalyan, Karnataka).
- ▶ • Key rulers: Tailapa II (restored Chalukya power), Vikramaditya VI (greatest ruler, 1076–1126 CE).
- ▶ • Achievements:
- ▶ • Distinct architectural style (transition from early Chalukya to Hoysala).
- ▶ • Temples at Lakkundi, Gadag, and Itagi.
- ▶ • Patronized Kannada literature (e.g., poet Ranna).
- ▶ • Decline: Supplanted by Hoysalas and Kalachuris.



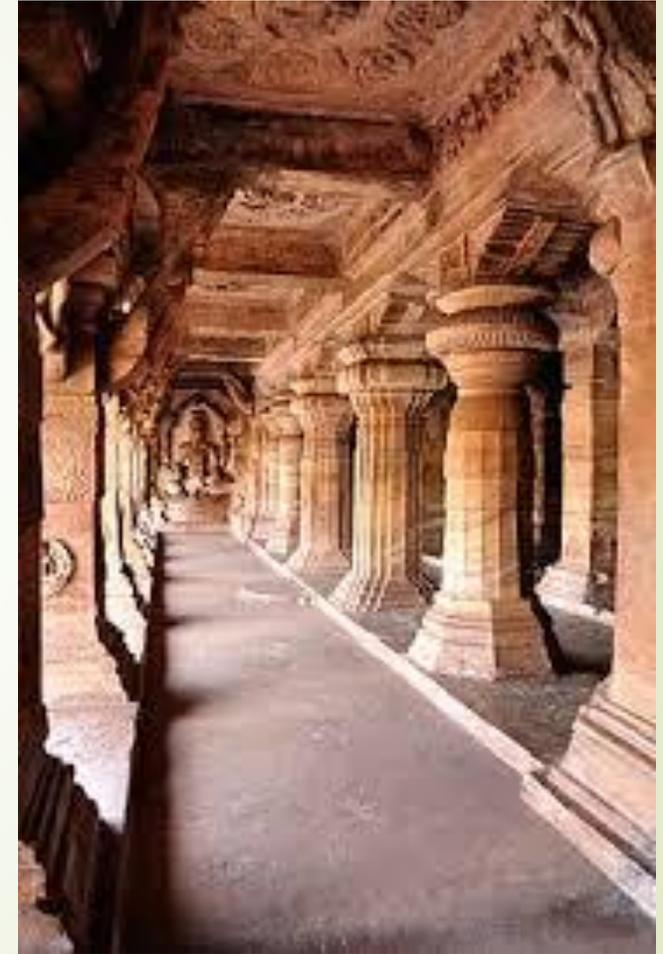
Cultural Contributions

- • Architecture: Aihole (experimental styles), Pattadakal (royal coronation temples), Badami caves.
 - • Religion: Supported Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism.
 - • Literature: Encouraged Sanskrit and Kannada works.
 - • Legacy: Their temple architecture influenced later dynasties like Hoysalas and Vijayanagara.
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Chalukya Architecture- Pattadakal



Chalukya Architecture- Badami



Chalukya Architecture- Aihole



Chalukya Sculptures





The Kakatiya dynasty (c. 1000–1323 CE)

- ▶ The Kakatiya dynasty (c. 1000–1323 CE) was a Telugu-speaking power that ruled much of present-day Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Their contributions left a lasting imprint on South Indian history and culture.
- ▶ Political & Administrative Contributions
 - ▶ • Capital: Orugallu (Warangal).
 - ▶ • Key rulers: Ganapati Deva, Rudrama Devi (one of the few female monarchs in medieval India), Prataparudra II.
 - ▶ • Administration:
 - ▶ • Decentralized governance with local chiefs integrated into the kingdom.
 - ▶ • Village assemblies managed irrigation and local affairs.
 - ▶ • Promoted agrarian expansion through tank irrigation.



Kingdoms of South India

-  Except for the vicinity of Dehli all of the territory covered by the Sultanate that may be considered the major areas and also the control of the Sultanate.
-  The area in and around Dehli would be the core of the Delhi Sultanate power.

Map not to scale

Rani Rudrama Devi (reigned c. 1262–1289)

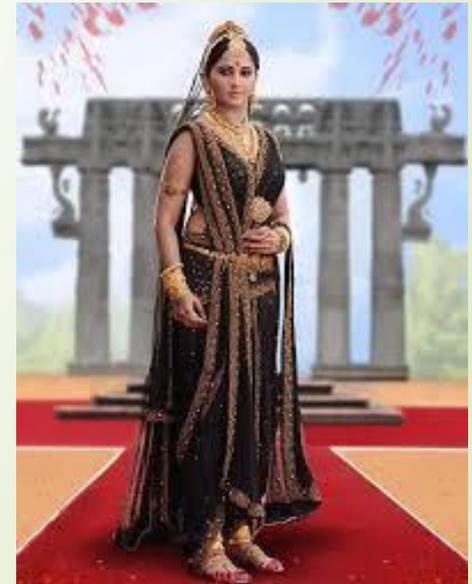
- Rani Rudrama Devi was a renowned 13th-century monarch of the Kakatiya dynasty in the Deccan Plateau, and one of the few female rulers in Indian history.
- Appointed by her father, Ganapatideva, she adopted a male persona (Rudradeva) to govern, successfully defending her kingdom against the Pandyas, Yadavas, and Gajapatis.
- She ruled from Orugallu (modern-day Warangal, Telangana) as part of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- As she had no brothers, her father Ganapatideva designated her as his successor, initially acting as co-regent before she assumed full power around 1269 CE.
- She was known for her administrative prowess, adopting a male image to command respect in a patriarchal society, and bolstering the military through the Nayamkara system.
- She strengthened the fortifications of Warangal Fort and was admired for her justice and administration.
- She likely died in 1289 while fighting a rebellion against the Kayastha chief Ambadeva.
- She is celebrated as a courageous, warrior queen, with her life and reign documented by, among others, the traveler Marco Polo, who visited India during that period.

Rudrama devi



Rudrama Devi film

- ▶ Her life inspired the 2015 Telugu 3D biographical film *Rudhramadevi in Telugu*.
- ▶ Now available on YouTube in different languages, including Hindi.
- ▶ Fearing that his people will not accept a female successor, a king raises his daughter, Rudrama Devi, like a boy. Years later, when a threat looms over the kingdom, she sets out to fight her foes.
- ▶ Anushka Shetty acts as Rudramadevi and Allu Arjun as Gona Gana Reddy and Rana Dugbbati as Chalukya Veerbhadra





Architectural Contributions

- **Warangal Fort:** Massive fortifications with gateways (toranas) symbolizing sovereignty.
- **Thousand Pillar Temple (Hanamkonda):** A masterpiece of Kakatiya architecture, blending Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and Shaktism.
- **Ramappa Temple (Palampet):** UNESCO World Heritage Site, noted for intricate carvings and floating bricks in its construction.
- **Style:** Distinctive use of granite and sandstone, ornate pillars, and sculptural detail.

The Kakatiya architecture- Warangal Fort



Thousand Pillar Temple (Hanamkonda)



Ramappa Temple (Palampet)





Cultural Contributions

- **Language:** Promoted Telugu as a court and literary language, strengthening its cultural identity.
 - **Religion:** Shifted from Jainism to Shaivism, while also supporting Vaishnavism and Shaktism.
 - **Arts:** Patronized poetry, dance, and temple-centered performance traditions.
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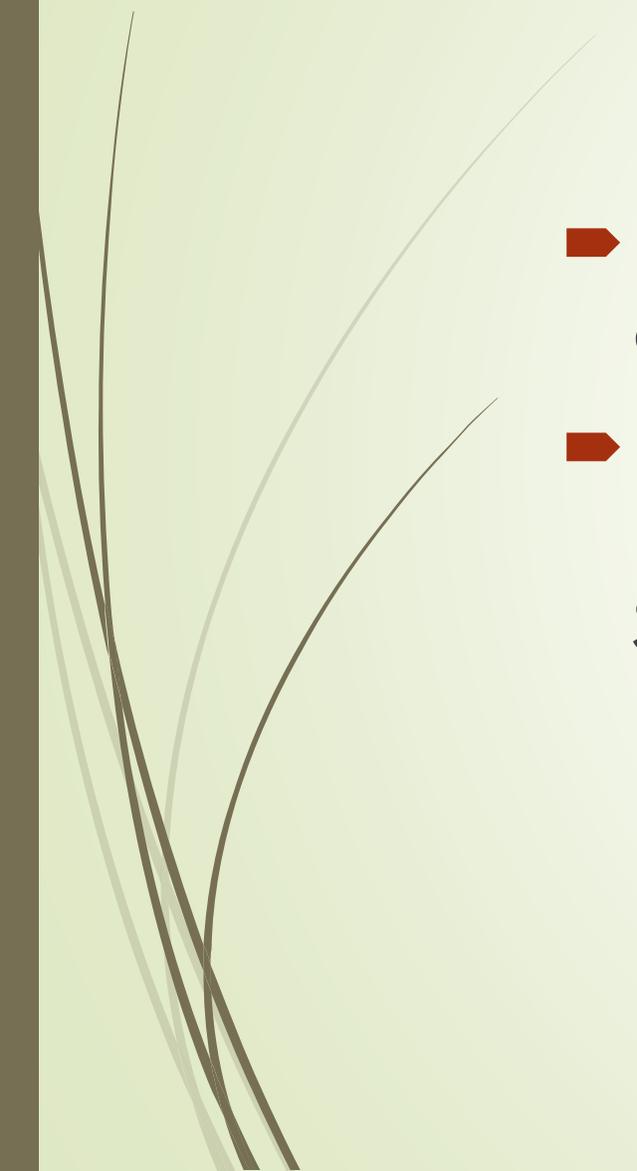


Economic Contributions

- **Irrigation tanks:** Large-scale tank building (cheruvu) transformed agriculture, ensuring prosperity in semi-arid Telangana.
 - **Trade:** Warangal became a hub for diamonds, textiles, and iron.
 - **Agrarian reforms:** Expanded cultivation and revenue systems.
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Military Contributions

- **Defensive strength:** Fortified cities and strong cavalry.
 - **Resistance:** Held off invasions from neighboring powers until eventually conquered by the Delhi Sultanate in 1323.
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Legacy

- **Regional identity:** Cemented Telangana's distinct cultural and political identity.
- **Female leadership:** Rudrama Devi's reign remains a landmark in South Asian history.
- **Architectural heritage:** Their temples and forts continue to symbolize South Indian artistry and resilience.
- The Kakatiyas are remembered not only for their political power but also for their architectural brilliance, irrigation innovations, and cultural patronage, which shaped the trajectory of South Indian history.