CHAPTER II

POLITICAL HISTORY OF ANCIENT SOUTH INDIA

The political history of ancient South India has occupied its own significance and it helps us to reconstruct the history of South India with the help of inscriptions, coins, copper plates, engravings etc. The literary records also help us to better understand the political history, prevailing during the times of particular ruler. So in this regard some of the ancient South Indian dynasties and their political rule and their achievements are mentioned below.

The history of ancient South Indian throws a flash of light on various achievements and events recorded to study the situation and existing condition, the conquests, the treaties and their political stability to control and expand the regions from boundary to boundary.

The Sangam Dynasty

In ancient times, the region of peninsular India lying to the South of the Vindhy Mountains was known as Dakshinapatha. It consisted mainly of the kingdoms situated in two geographical regions. The Deccan Plateau lay between the river Narmada in the north and the Krishna and Tungabhadra in the South. The Tamil country included in the territory to the South of these rivers, Krishna and Tungabhadra extending to Cape Comorin. In this region
were the kingdoms of the Pandya, the Chera and the Chola. In ancient times
the whole region was inhabited by people of Dravidian origin.¹

**Historical Background**

The extreme South of India from Tirupati Hill (Vegadam) to Cape
Comorin (Kanyakumari), bounded by the sea on the east and west was
known as Tamilagam or Tamilham (The Tamilrealm). By fourth century B.C.,
it had becomes subject of strong Aryan or Northern influence, though the Pre-
Aryan (Tamil) culture and language continued to flourish here in much greater
strength then in the rest of India. Our knowledge of history of the country
before the Christian era is however, rather vague and indirect. A Scholium of
Katyayana on Panini which derives the word Pandya from Pandu, thus
relating the royal family of the extreme South with the Pandavas of the great
epic, and the references to the Pandyan country in Megasthenes and
Kautilya are among the earliest data now accessible to us.

The second and thirteenth rock edicts of Ashoka mention the Southern
kingdoms and Sri Lanka. The list in the second edict, which is longer,
comprises by name, the Cholas, Pandyas, Satiyapura and Keralyputra,
besides Tambraparni. The Tamils in fact believed, that the three monarchies
of the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas were of immortal antiquity, dating from
the time of creation.²

Of the three Tamil monarchies the Pandya country occupied the
extreme South and included the modern districts of Tirunelveli, Madurai and
Ramnad, besides South Travancore, often called Nanjinad, plough land. Its capital was Madurai, the city on the Vaigai river, and Korkai on the east coast at the mouth of the Tambraparni river was its main seaport, though we here of another port further north by name Saliyar. These must have been some port or ports on the west coast as well around about modern Trivendrum. The Chola country comprised the lower Kaveri Vally, the coastal plain between two rivers, both bearing the name Vellore, the north Vellore entering the sea near Porto Novo, and the smaller Southern stream passing through P.V.Dukkottai territory. The Chola kingdom though roughly corresponded to modern Tanjore and Tiruchirapalli districts, its inland capital and Uraiynr and Puhar or Kaveri-patanam (The Khaberis of Ptolemy) at the mouth of the Kaveri was its main port. The Chera of Kerala kingdom was the western coastal strip above the northern limit of the Pandyan kingdom. It had a number of good ports, Tondi and Musiri or Muziris being the best known. The capital of the Chera kingdom was called Vanji and its location has been subjected of an in conclusive debate, some identifying it with some place on the Periyar River or as its mouth, others locating it inland in Karur or Karuvur, the centre of the western most taluka of Tiruchirapalli.

**The Pandyan Dynasty**

The Pandyas ruled over an area consisting of the modern day Southern Tamil Nadu. Their capital was Madurai. They ruled the parts of the South India until 15th century A.D. they are mentioned in the Ashokan edicts in the
Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Pandyas are rightly most famous for patronising the poets and scholars of the Tamil Sangams. During the 13th century A.D, Marco Polo mentioned it as the richest empire in existence.\(^3\)

From the Maduraikkkanji of Mangudi, Marudan states about tree of Nedunjeliyan’s predecessors on the Pandyan throne. The first is an almost mythical figure called Nediyon. Te next is Palsalai Mudukudumi. The third ruler mentioned in the Maduraikkkanji was another Nedunjeliyan. The tragedy of Kodavan’s death at Madurai occurred in his region, which according to the Silappadigaram caused the king to die broken heart.

Nedunjeliyan of Talaiyalanganam came to the throne as a youth and soon after his accession he proved himself more then equal to a hostile combination of his two neighbouring monarchs and five minor chieftain’s. When his enemies invaded his kingdom, Nedunjeliyan inflicted a crushing defeat on them at Talaiyalanganan about eight miles north-west of Tiruvallur in the Tajore district. By this victory Nedunjeliyan not only made himself secured, but gained a primary over the entire state system of the Tamil country.

Then Madurai Kanji contains a full length description of Madurai and the Pandyan country under Nedunjeliyan’s rule. Its author also refers to the battle of Alanganam calls his patron lord of Korkai and the warlord of the Southern paradavar, hinting that the people of the pearl-fishing coast formed an important section of his army. The list of the pandyan kings are based on the
The Cholas

The cholas were one of the oldest ruling dynasties of the South. The Chola domain was known as Tondiamandalam or Cholamandalam, with the capital at Uraiyur in Tiruchirapalli district and subsequently at Kaveripattan or Purhar, founded by the Chola king Karikala (190 A.D) who was most famous among the Sangam. He was a contemporary of the Chera king Perunjeral Adani. Elara was the first important chola king (middle of the second century B.C). His important lies in his conquest of Sri Lanka.
Karikala means ‘the man with charred leg’ early in life he was deposed and imprisoned. The way in which he escaped and re-established himself on the throne is well portrayed by the author of Pattenappalai, a long poem on the Chola capital kaveripattanam in the Pattuppattu. One of his early achievement was the victory at Venni, 15 miles to the east of Tanjore. His victory meant breakup of the confederacy that had been formed against him. Another important battle he fought was at Vahaipparandali, where nine minor enemy chieftains had to submit Karikala’s wars, thus resulted in his establishing a sort or hegemony among the kings of the Tamil country and in some extension of the territory under his direct rule.

Karikala also promoted the reclamation and settlement of forest land and added to the prosperity of kingdom. As a fallower of the Vedic religion, he performed sacrifices. In later times Karikala become the centre of many legends found in the shilappadigaram. They attributed to him the construction, with the aid of his feudatories of the flood banks of Kaveri. Ilanjetcenni of Neyadalangandal captured two fortresses from the Cheras, Senganan, and the Chola monarch famed in legend for his devotion to Shiva, figures as the victor in battle of Por against the Chera Kanaikkal Irumporai. This monarch, who built 70 fine temples of Shiva lived in the fourth or fifth century A.D.⁵

Aditya I (871-907 A.D) son and successor of Vijayalaya, took part in the battle of Sri Puramibiyam in which the Pandyas were defeated by the
Pallavas. Aditya I conquered the Kongudesa (the district of Coimbatore and Selam) from the Pandyas and the westem Gangas. He also captured the capital of Gangas called Talakadu.

**Parantaka I**

Aditya I was succeeded by his son Parantaka who ruled for more than forty five years (907-953 A.D) he led many military campaigns against western Gangas, the Kerals ruler and the Kodumbalur chiefs. He ruled Madura and won the title of Madhurantaka (destroyer of Madura). In 915 A.D famous battle was fought where Parantaka I defeated the Pandya king, Rajasimha II and the Sinhalese. In 915 A.D Banas were up rooted by Parantaka. He also defeated Vaidumbas of the Renandu country who were the allies of the Banas Parantaka I defeated the Pallavas and conquered Nellore. He extended his kingdom from the North pennur to Cape Comorin and bounded on the west by the Chera and western Ganga kingdom. The Rastrakuta king Krishna II invaded Tondamandalam with the help of Butuga II, the western Ganga chief is stated in Atakur, inscription, several inscriptions of Krishna found in Tondamandalam described him as the Captor of Kanchi and Tanjire. The Rastrakuta interregnum in Tondamandalam and lasted for fifteen years from 953 to 968 A.D.

Parantaka I was succeeded by his second son Gandaraditya. Next Gandaraditya was succeeded by Arunjaya, he was active against the
Pandyas, who were independent under vira Pandya and the letter was defeated in spite of the Sinhalese aid he had secured. The Pandya was led to an expedition to Ceylon Tondamandalam was recovered from the Rastrakutas. Sudara Chola died at Kanchi and Vanavan Mahadevi, the mother of Rajaraja I committed sati. Later Aditya II was murdered at the instigation of Uttama Chola, who coveted the throne, as he belonged to the senior branch of the royal family. The history of early Cholas, there is very little authentic written evidence available. Historians during the past 150 years here gleaned a lot of knowledge on the subject from a variety of source such as ancient Tamil Sangam literature, oral traditions religions texts, temple and copper plate inscriptions. The main source available for the better understanding of Cholas is the early Tamil literature of the Sangam period. The geographer Ptolemy also gives detail note on towns, ports and commerce. The geographer Ptolemy also gives more details about Chola country, its ports and its inland cities Mahavarma, a Buddhist text written in 5th century A.D, recollects a number of conflicts between the inhabitants of Ceylon and Cholas in the 1st century A.D. Cholas are mentioned in the pillars of Ashoka inscribed 273 – 232 A.D.

The Cheras

The Cheras were one of the ruling dynasties of the Sangam age, who ruled over parts of Kerala and Tamilham. The earliest king was Udiyanjeral
(130 C.A.D) the titles Vanararamban and Perunjoran Udiyan are applied to him by the poet Mudinagarayar in Puram. He later was succeeded by his son Imayavaramabant. Nedunjeral Adan (155 C.A.D), who is said to have overthrown the rules of the Kadamba dynasty and destroyed his guardian tree. In another work, he is said to have captured several Yavanas, and not released them until he received a heavy ransom in the form of diamonds and many utensils of fine workmanship. But the greatest Chera king was Sanguttnvan or Red Chera, who was contemporary of the poet Paranar. Paranar describes a number of the conquest of Senaguttumvan, including a campaign to North India to get a Himalayan Stone to make an idol of Goddess Kannagi (the Goddess Chastity). According to Silappadikaram, the monarch was the founder of the famous Pattini cult related to the worship of the goddess of chastity, which after became common in South India and Sri Lanka.

Senaguttuvan was succeeded by his brother Perunjeral (180 A.D), who was a contemporary of the great Chola monarch Karikala. We learn from the poems Puram and Aham, the Cholas and Cheras fought many wars. The Chera dynasty declined at the beginning of the third century A.D, but its fame lies in liberal patronage to Tamil poets and promotion of trade with the Romans. The famous Chera port Muziris was a great centre of Indo-Roman trade.11
Mention has been made of an inscription on the Arnattamalai hill, pugalur, assignable to the first century of the Christian era, which refers to three generations of Chera rulers Ko-Adan-Cel-Irumpurai, his son perumkadungo, and his son llamkadungo.\textsuperscript{12}

The discovery of Chera inscriptions near Karur and of thousands of Roman coins in Karur and its neighbourhood and Ptolemy’s statement that the inland city of Korura was the Chera capital also point to the same conclusion. The recent archaeological excavations at this site, especially the find of Roman amphorae pieces conclusively prove the identity of modern Karur with the Vanji of the Sangam age.\textsuperscript{13}

**Etymology and Sources**

The word Chera meaning ‘hill country’ is derived from Cheral, meaning mountain slope in classical Tamil\textsuperscript{14}. The Chera kings were called Cheralatom (Lord of the Hills/slopes)\textsuperscript{15}. The word ‘Kerala’ was derived from “Cheralam”. But Ashoka’s edicts mention his tributary dynasty known by the name Kedalapitho (Keralaputra) who were outside Ashoka’s empire in 261 B.C. Kharavela, the kalinga king who ruled during the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century B.C, in his Hathigumpha inscriptions, claims to have destroyed a confederary of Tamil states which lasted 132 years.\textsuperscript{16} The only literary sources available regarding the early Chera kings are the anthologies of Sangam literature, now generally agreed to created in the first few centuries A.D.\textsuperscript{17} Sangam literature is full of
names of kings and princes along with the poets who extolled them but these are not worked into connected history so far and the chronology is not settled. Pathirruppaththu, the fourth book in the Ettuthokai anthology, mentions the order of the Chera kings. Each ruler is praised in ten songs sung by the court poet and they run as below,

Unknown ruler
↓
Nedum Cheralathan
↓
Palayane Chel Kezhu Kuttuvan
↓
Narmudi Chera – Kappiyarrak Kppiyanan
↓
Senguttuvan Chera
↓
Adu Kottu Pattu Cheratalhan
↓
Selvakadumko Valiathan
↓
Perum Chera Irumporai
↓
Ilam Cheral Irumporai
↓
Unknown ruler

Archaeology was found epigraphic evidence of the early cheras in recorded history of South India. Some inscriptions trace the dynasty even from the mythical puranic kings. Two identical inscriptions at Pugalur dated to 2nd century describe three generations of Chera rulers of the Irumporai clan. Inscriptions found at Edakkal caves as “Kadummipudha Chera”.19
The history of Pandya, Chola and Chera is not very clear due to inadequate of sources. To reconstruct the political history of the Sangams we have rely upon the Sangam literaturesome times even the Sangam literature fail to give vivid picture about the chronology and geneology of the Sangam rulers. But a fair attempt has been made to reach the root level of the Sangama polity by depending upon the contemporary records, inscriptions and secondary sources, which helps us to satisfy and understand the political history of Sangams.

**The Sangam Polity**

From the earliest times Tamilaham had known only three Major kings, the Pandya, Chola, Chera. The usual order in which the three Tamil kingdoms are mentioned in a single expression. The Pandyaa were known as Minawar, Kavuriyar, Panchawar, Tennar, seliyar, Marar, Valndi and So on. The Chola were known as Sennis, Sembiyas, Valwan and Killi. Senni means head and so the Chola was a Senni (meaning leader). The Cheras were known by many equivalent titles Varavar, Villawar, Kudnar, Kutttnvar, Poroiyar Malaiyar and so on.\(^{20}\)

It is almost impossible to formulate the political history of the three ruling dynasties of the period because first it was not the purpose of the Sangam poets to describe the history of their Patrons and secondly, whatever political events they have discussed are highly exaggerated, often even the chronology of the rulers of the three respective dynasties is not clear. On the
basis of the available sources. Within the reach the Sangam polity is tried to be an understood to the possible extent.

**The Shatavahana Dynasty**

In the Deccan, the Mauryan Empire was followed by the rule of the Shatavahanas, which lasted for four and a half centuries from about 230 B.C. The Shatavahanas kings were described as the lords of the Dakshinapatha. The extent of the Dakshinapatha however varied according to different authorities while some include in it the whole of trans vindhyan peninsular India others equate it with a major portion of the table land of South india below the Vindhyas comprising the present territories of Andhra, Maharasta and karnataka. Thus great dynasty which endured for more than four centuries had several distinguished rulers like Gautamiputra Satakarni, Vasistaputra Pulumayi and Yajnasri, their commercial trade was active between India and the western world. They encouraged Buddhist religion although they were the followers of the Brahmanism.

**Origin**

In epigraphical records rulers of this dynasty are described as belonging to Shatavahana – Kula while in the puranas they are referred to as Andhra and Andhra-Bhrityas (Andhra servants). Many imply that the ancestors of the royal Shatavahanas were employed in the service of the Mauryan empire and thus moved into the western Deccan where they set up an independent state when the empire declined after Ashoka kings in the
puranic lists figure also in inscriptions and on coins found in the western Deccan at Nasik, Kerala and Naneghat. Kharavela of Kalinga states clearly that the territories of the Shatavahana king Satakarni lay to the west of his kingdom. From these facts we may conclude that the Shatavahanas rose to power in the western Deccan, in the region round about Paithan (Pratishthana) traditionally associated with them and hence spread their empire in all directions.

The exact date of the foundation of Shatavahana power cannot be determined, but the Puranic lists suggest that the first king, Simuka, probably began to sign about 230 B.C.  

The early Shatavahanas ruled Andhra and present Telangana region which was always their heartland. The Puranas list 30 Andhra rulers many are known from their coins and inscriptions as well. The early Shatavahanas rulers were Simuka (230-207 C. B.C) and Satakarni (180-124 C. B.C).  

According to K.A. Nilakantasastri, Simukha (230 BC) who ruled for 23 years and later succeeded by his brother Kanha (207-189 B.C) he saya that according to puranic lists suggests that the first king, Simukha began his regime about 230 B.C. the script of (Nasik inscription says Kanha (Krishna) the second king of the Shatavahanas, which has been assigned by “Buhler” to the times of the last Mauryas or the earlist sungas, in the beginning of the second century B.C. the third king was Sri Satakarni I, whose figure was sculptured in rilievo at Naneghat along with the figures of his father Simukha,
his queen Naganika, a Maharathi and three princes. He conquered western Malwa and an inscription of his queen records his performance of certain great sacrifices and the fees paid to the officiating priests, including teas of thousands of cows. Satakarni proclaimed his suzerainty by performing the horse-sacrifice and the victory thus celebrated must have been at the expense of the Sungas, the imperical power of the North. In the drama Malavikagnimetra, Kalidasa mentioned a victory of the Sungas over the Andhras, which was doubtless episode in the struggle which ended with the final victory of the Andharas.

Shatakarni II, the sixth king had the longest region of 56 years. He wrested Malva from the Sungas and established his sway over that region. He seems to have extended his empire to Madhya Pradesh. Hala, the seventeenth ruler, become famous in literature as the compiler of Sattasai a collection of 700 erotic gathas in the Arya metre in maharastri prakrit. According to Lilavati parinaya, Hala conquered Sri Lanka and married to princess of Sri Lanka at Sapta-Godavari, identified with Draksharama in the east Godaveri district.

**Gautamiputra Satakarni**

He was the greatest among the Shatavahanas. Gautamiputra Satakarni realised these ends by devastating the foreign hordes of the Scythions along with the Indo-Greeks and the Parthians who had joined
hands with them to encroach upon the territories of western and central India and had penetrated into the Deccan. Gautamiputra’s deadly enemy was Saka Nahapana of the Kshaharata family whom, he routed and killed on the battlefield. He is called the “Destroyer of the Saka”, “Yavanas” and “Pahalvas” extirpator of the Kshaharata dynasty and establisher of the glory of the Shatavahanas family. His events are recorded in glowing terms in an inscription at Nasik engraved after his death in the nineteenth year of his son and successor, Pulumi 26. Gautamiputra Satakarni ruled for twenty-five years from about A.D. 106-A.D. 130 however his region suffered defeat at the hands of Mahakshaharata Rudradaman of the Saka family. As a result some Northern parts conquered earlier were lost to Sakas.

**Vasishtaputra Pulumayi**

He succeeded his father Gautamiputra Satakarni and ruled for twenty-nine years from about 130 to 159 A.D. his kingdom extended to east in the region of the mouth of the Krishna. In the South the Bellary region seems to have been annexed to the Shatavahana Empire during his period.

**Yajnasri Satakarni** ruled from 174 to 203 A.D. he routed the power of the Sakas in the Northern and western parts of the India. His inscriptions found at Banavasi, Nasik, Kanheri, Kerala and Amaravati and coins obtained from the Saurashtra, Maharastra, northern Karnataka and coastal Andhra indicate the extent of his domenions. He was the last great ruler of this family.
Later the successor of Yajnasri Satakarni was weak. Thus the Shatavahanas were the earliest Southern rulers who established their sovereignty over large tracts of Central, Western, Eastern and Southern India and rose to imperial eminence.

The history of Shatavahanas is tried to reconstruct with the help of epigraphical records and coins recently discovered, besides literary works. The outline history of the Shatavahnas is been drawn out with the help of inscriptions coins and copper plates found in different parts of South India. The chronology of the dynasty varies from author to author. But however with the help of the little data available form information has been collected and presented in a unique way about the kings of this dynasty.

The Pallava Dynasty

The Pallava dynasty ruled northern Tamil Nadu and Southern Andhra Pradesh of present day India with their capital at kanchi. They established themselves as a notable rising power in the region in third-fourth century and by the beginningof the seventh A.D. the Pallavas along with the Chalukyas of Badami and the Pandyas of Madhurai, emerged to be the three Major states of Southern India.

The term Pallava means creeper and is a Sanskrit version of the Tamil word tondal. The Pallavas were a local tribe with their authority in the
Tondainadu. The Pallavas gained prominence after the eclipse of the Shatavahana dynasty, which the Pallavas served as feudatories.  

The political confusion that reigned in the Tamil country after the incursion of the Kalabharas was ended in the last quarter of the sixth century by the activities of two monarchs, the Pallava Simhavishnu and the Pandya Kadungon with their capitals at Kanchi and Madurai respectively. Simhavishnu was the son of Simhasharman one of whose copper plate grants dated in the sixth year of his region has turned up recently, it records a grant to Jain institution a contemporary Ganga copper plate records another gift to the jainas made by Simhavishnus mother and without giving any historical details of the reigning king, it details the achievements of his son who must have been Yuvaraja. So we may consider Simhavishnu the virtual founder of the Pallava power in this period. The new inscription states the he over threw another Simhavishnu, perhaps a Telugu Chola ruler and the Bhrajishnu-Vasma (literary shining family), perhaps meaning Oliyar). Further, Simhavishnu not only suppressed the kalabhras but conquered the whole country up to the Kaveri and even came into conflict with the Pandyas and the ruler of Ceylon. He was a worshipper of Vishnu and had the title Avanisimha (loin of the earth).

Herostones of the reign of simhavishnu and his father, shimhavishnu and his father, Simhavarman, have been found recently, the highest regnal year so far found for Simhavishnu in the thirty-third, so he may be taken to
have ruled from 555 to 590 AD. He was followed by Mahendravarman I. He had many titles such as Mathavilasa, Vicitra-Citta and Gunabhara. He professed Jainism for a time, but discarded it in favour of Saivism, possibly under the influence of Appar. At the beginning of his region (590-630 AD) as in that of his father Pallava rule extended in the north up to the river Krishna and bordered on the kingdom of the Kandaras and Vishnu Kundins.

The Pallavas captured Kanchi from the Chola as recorded in the Velurpalaiyan plates, around the reign of the fifth king of the Pallava the Kumaravishnu I. Thereafter Kanchi figures in inscriptions as the capital of the pallavas. The Cholas drove the Pallava away from Kanchi in the mid of 4th C.A.D, in the reign of Vishugopa, the Vishugopa was defeated and then liberated by Samudra Gupta of the Gupta empire. The Pallavas re-captured Kanchi in the mid of the 6th century, possible in the reign of Simhavishnu, the fourteenth king of the Pallava line whom the Kasakudi plates state as “the loin of the earth”. Thereafter the pallavas held on to Kanchi till the 9th century A.D, with the last king having been Vijaya Nrupatungavarma. 28

The Conflict between the Chalukyas and the Pallavas

Pulakeshi II sought to measure the strength against Mahendravarman I whose growing power rivalled his own. His force penetrated far into the Pallava territory and were not stopped until they reached pullallur. Only fifteen miles north of the Pallava capital. There a pitched battle was fought and although Mahendravarman was able to save his capital, he lost northern
provinces to his enemy. This was the beginning of the long drawn out conflict
between the Chalukyan and the Pallavas.

After his return (621 C.A.D) Pulakeshi sent Vishnuvardhana to rule
over the Andhra country as viceroy and complete the process of conquest.
Then with his brother’s approval, he founded a dynasty of rulers who held
sway in the Telugu country for over five centuries thereafter.

Pulakeshin’s ambition promoted him to undertake another expedition
against the pallavas in the hope of achieving more decisive results.
Mahendravarman I had quitted the stage and his son Narasimhavarman I
Mahamalla (630-668A.D) had began his rule. Pulakeshin made and attack on
Banas who were ruling in Rayalaseema as fendatories of the Pallavas. But
Narasimhavarman defeated the Chalukayas in several battles including one
at Manimangala about 20 miles to the east of kanchipuram. In these battle
Narasimha was ably assisted by a Ceylonese princes Manavarman
Pulakeshins expedition was thus a failure and was soon followed by terrible
moved towards the capital of Badami, the Chalukyas capital, made himself
the master of the city and fortress, Pulakeshi II must have fallen fighting. Here
Narasimhanvarman got title as “Vatapiconda” which is recorded in an
inscription engraved on a rock behind the temple of Mallikarjunadeva in
Badami and defeated in the thirteenth year of his reign. 29

The pallava monarch must have returned to his capital soon after 642
A.D, thereafter he sent two expeditions to Ceylon to aid Manavarman though
the second expedition was successful and Manavarman put the rival king to death and captured Anuradhpura, he was later once more driven into exile and he sought refuge in the Pallava court probable after the death of Narasimhavarman.

Narasimhavarman died about 668 A.D, and was succeeded by his son Mahendravarman II who in his short reign came into conflict with Vikramaditya I. Mahendaravaman was followed in his turn by his son Parameshvaravarman I, in whose reign Challukya Vikramaditya renewed his conflict. Having secured the alliances of the contemporary Pandya ruler Arikesari Parankusa Maravarman I (670-700 A.D).

There was a lull in the conflict between the Chalukyas and Pallavas during the generally peaceful and prosperous reign of Vikramaditya’s son Vinayadity (681-696 A.D). Vinayaditya led an expedition into Northern India, in which his son Vijayaditya greatly distinguished himself, but that is all Vijayaditya’s was the longest reign (969-733) of the Badami period and perhaps also the most prosperous and peaceful. He was followed by his sone Vikramaditya II (733-44) in the first years of whose reign the Arabs who had established themselves in Sind and conquered the neighbouring hands made a push into the deccan, but were stopped effectively by Pulakeshin a son of that Jayasimhavarma who had stood by his brother, Vikramaditya I. Vikramaditya II so appreciated the service of Avani janasraya, meaning, refuge of the people of the earth.³⁰
The chief interest of the reign Vikramaditya II lies in his wars with the Pallavas. He is said ‘to have over run Kanchi three times – which brings us back to the Pallavas’. After his victory against Vikramaditya I, Parameshvaravaraman I continued to rule in Kanchi until his death which occurred about 700 A D, and was succeeded by his son Narasimhavarman II Rajasimha (700-728 A D). He constructed large and beautiful temples like the shore temple at Mamallapuram and the Kailas Nath at Kanchipuram. It was also marked by literary activity, the great rhetorician Dandin spending of many years at his court. Rajasimha sent embassies to China and maritime trade flourished greatly in his time. His son mahendravarman III who took part in the construction of the Kailasnatha temple of the kanchi predeceased his father and many well have been the Pallava yuvaraja mentioned in west Ganga inscription of 713 A.D. 31

The history of the early Pallavas has not yet been satisfactorily settled. The earliest documentation on the Pallavas is the three copper plates grants,32 belonging to Skandavarman I and written in Prakrit 33, Skandavarman appears to have been the first great ruler of the early pallavas, though there are references to other early Pallavas who probably predecessors of Skandavarman.

In the reign of Simhavarman IV who ascended the throne in 436 A.D, the prestige of the Pallavas was restored. He recovered the territories lost to the Vishnukundin’s in the north up to the mouth of the Krishna. The early
Pallava history from this period onwards is furnished by a dozen or so copper plate grants in Sanskrit. They are all dated in the regnal years of the kings.

With the accession of Nandivarman I (480-500 A.D), the decline of the early Pallava family was seen. The Kadambas had their aggressions and attacked even the headquarters of the Pallavas with the Pallavas taking retaliatory measures by expelling and invading Kadamba territories in Karnataka. In coastal Andhra the Vishnukundin’s established their ascendancy. The Pallava authority was confined to Tondaimandalam, father of Mahendravarman I 575 A.D, the Pallava revival began in the South.

Later Pallavas

The incursion of the Kalabhras and the confusion in the Tamil country was broken by the Pandyan kadungon and the Pallava Simhavishnu. The king Mahendravarman I after re-established the Pallava kingdom after defeating the Kalabhras, some of the most ornate monuments were constructed by Mahendravarman at Mamallapuram. The Pallava kingdom gained influence over the 6th C.A.D, defeating the king of Ceylon and mainland Tamilakkam. The Pallavas exercised control over their Southern neighbours of Cholas and Pandyas. But their history is marked by the continuous conflict eith the Badami Chalukyas.

Narasimhavarman I and parameshvravarman I were the kings who stand out with glorious achievements in both military and architectureal spheres. Thus the pallavas occupied a prominent place in the history of
South India for their conquest, expansion and immense progress in the architectural field.

**The Chalukyan Dynasty**

In the sixth century A.D the Chalukyas brought about the political unification of the Deccan with Badami (Vatapi) as their capital. They held sway over the region for well over two centuries against formidable rivals like the Pallavas in the South and Harshavardhana in the North. At the same time the Chalukyas established semi-independent kingdoms ruled by their collaterals in Gujarat and Vengi. The eastern Chalukyas of the Vengi kingdom ruled continuously for four centuries and more, when their western Kinsmen and Badami lost their hold to the Rastrakutas, they remained independent with the help of the Chola. Towards the last quarter of the tenth century A.D the Chalukyas once again succeeded and coming back to power by setting aside the rule of the Rastrakutas, after remaining obscure for about than two centuries made Kalyana their capital and ruled over the Deccan for more than two centuries. The Chalukyas were not only shrewd in politics but also experts in warfare but also great builders and a dominant style of Indian architecture derives its name from these rulers. They were great patrons of language and literature religion and jurisprudence.
Origin

In epigraphis the name of this dynasty occurs differently like Chalke, Chulki, Chalikya, Chalukya, Chalukya etc. However Chalukya appears to have been the original form of the dynastic name which was later embellished into Chalukya. Inscriptions are the main source of information about the Badami Chalukay history. Among them, the Badami cave inscriptions of Mangalesa 578 A D, Kappe Arabhatta record of 700 A D and Peduvnaduguru inscription of Pulakesi II, the Kanchi Kailasnath temple inscription and Pattadakal Virupoksha Temple inscription of Vikramaditya II (all in Kannada Language) provide more evidence of the Chalukya language. The Badami cliff inscription of Pulakesi I (543 A D), the Mahakuta pillar inscription of Mangalesha (595 A D) and the Aihole inscription of Pulakesi II (634 AD) are examples of important Sanskrit inscriptions written in all kannada script. The reign of the Chalukyas saw the arrival of kannada as the predominant language of inscriptions along with Sanskrit in areas of the Indian peninsula outside what is known as Tamilaham (Tamil country) several coins of the Badami Chalukyas with Kannada legends have been found. All this indicates that Kannada language flourished during this period. 34

Periods in Chalukyan History

The Chalukya ruled over the Deccan plateau in India for over 600 years. During this period, they ruled as three closely related, but individual
dynasties. These are the Chalukyas of Badami, (also called Early Chalukyas who ruled between the 6th and 8th century) and the two sibling dynasties, the Chalukyas of Kalyani (also called western Chalukyas or Later Chalukyas) and the Chalukyas of Vengi (also called Eastern Chalukyas). 35

Some of the important kings of Badami Chalukya are Pulakeshi I was the first ruler and founder of the dynasty of the Chalukyas of Badami. He chose Badami as his capital for its strategic considerations and built a strong fort on the hill near the town. Pulakeshi I performed Hiranyagarbhadana, he adopted the titles (Birudas) Satyasraya, Sri-prityivallabha and Ranavikrama. He had three sons, Pugavarma, Kirtivarma and Mangalesha.

Keetiverma I (566 to 596 A D) the expansion of the Chalukya power was affected largely at the expense of the Kadambas. The Chalukya ruler was successful against the Nalas, who were ruling over the territory known as the Mauryas, who were ruling in Konkan with their capital at puri and the Alupas of Dakshina Kannada tract. Thus under Kirtivarman I the sway of the Chalukya was extended in all directions. He fought many victorios battles performed the Agnishtoma and Bahu Suvarna sacrifiees and earned the title of Puru-rana-parakrama (Puissant in many battles).

Mangalesa (596 To 610 C. A. D)

Pulakeshi II the eldest son of Kirtivarman I was too young to shoulder the responsibilities of the growing kingdom at the time of his father’s death. Hence mangalesh, the younger brother of Kirtivarman I tool upon himself the
burden of administration. He commenced his rule in 596 C. A. D. Mangalesh was valion and ambitions Buddharaaja, the sone of Sankaraganga, in a decisive battle in about 601 C.A.D and gave a crusjing blow to the katachuri kingdom. Mangalesha continued his brother work with better results. Sivamiraja a viceroy of the Chalukyas governing the island of Revati turned hostile to the central authority . Pulakeshi II was in fact a ruler of great Versatility. Truly he was the refuge of the earth (Satyasraya) , the Supreme Lord (parameshvarya )kings of kings (Maharajadi raja) destroyer of miced (Nigrihitadust Jannah), patron of learned (Parigrihita – Vidvat), a great devotee of lord Vishnu (parama-bhagavatah) and lord of the Deccan (Dakshina patha prithivy swami).

Pulakeshi II, whose precornation name was Ereya, commended control over the entire Deccan and is perhaps the most well – known emperor of the Badami dynasty. Pulakeshi II extended the Chalukya Empire up to the northern extents of the Pallavas kingdom and halted the Southward march of Harsha by defeating him on the banks of the river Narmada. He then defeated the Vishnukundin’s in the South eastern Deccan.

The Badami Chalukya dynasty went intp a brief decline followg the death of Pulakshi II due to internal fends when Badami was occupied by the Pallavas for a period of thirteen years. It recovered during the reign of Vikramaditya I (655 to 681 C A D) who succeeded in pushing the Pallavas out of Badami and restoring order to the empire. Vikramaditya I tool the title
Rajamalla ("sovereign of the Mallas or Pallavas") Vikramaditya has faced the Chola, Kerala and PPandya kings who brought treat to Chalukyas. He also fought with three generations of the Pallava kings viz., Narasimhavarman, Mahendravarman III and Parameshvaravarman I who came to the Pallava throne in succession. In his bid to occupy Kanchi, the chalukya ruler went as far as Malliyur to the west of the capital city Vikramaditya I ruled till 681 C A D.

After Vikramaditya I, Vijaditya ruled from 696-733 C A D. Has rule was for longer period in the history of the chalukyas. He to face the challenges against the Pallavas.

Next Vikramaditya II (733-745 C A D) began against the Pallava rules of Kanchi, Nandivarma II Pallavamdla. He understand although three expeditions to Kanchi the first of which he led during his fathers time. The second expedition brought him completely success when he took possession of Kanchi. The disgrace of the Pallava occupation of Vatapi and the inscriptions left behind there by Narasimhavarma ranked in the mind of the Chalukya emperor and he paid his foe back in the same coin by putting upon inscription in Kannada, on of the pillars of the kailasanatha temple at Kanchi, states about his achievements.

Kirtvarma II (745-757 C.A.D): he was the last ruler of the early chalukyas his period witnessed the declined of his kingdom. Kirtivarama II could not face the Rastrakuta ruler Dantidurga. However, he continued to rule
757 C.A.D. thereafter he was defeated by Krishna I, the successor of Dantidurga with him came to an end the rule of the Chalukyas of Badami.

**The Chalukyas Of Kalyana**

It was in A D 973 that the Chalukya rule which had been set aside by the Rastrakutas was re-established by Taila II. The Chalukyas of Kalyana are also known as the easterns Chalukyas. A fragmentary inscription from Pattadakal in the characters of about 8th century seems to refer to Taila I of the Chalukya dynasty.

**Taila II (973-997 C. A. D)**

Taila II the son of Vikramaditya IV and Bonthadevi was a subordinate of Krishna III. The later inscription calles him as Mahasomantadhipati Ahavamalla Tailaparasa and describes him as Chalukya Rama and Satyasraya – Kula – Tilaka, Taila II had obtained from Krishna III the district of Taradavadi – 1000. Till 977 A D Taila II had struggle hard to assure his empirical position and establish his rule firmly. Two epigraphs from the Bellary district dated about 976 C A D give full regal titles to Taila II and indicate the complete subordination of the Nolamba – Pallavas to the Chalukya monarch. Taila II came to be accepted as their overlord by the Silaharas of north Konkan, and the Seunas of Devagiri. The Chalukya commender Barapa conquered the territory of Lata. Thus Taila become the master of the territory which had formed the Rastrakuta kingdom. Taila II won a victory over Mulnaraja of Gujarat. Taila II who ruled for a period of twenty
four years from 973 to 997 C A D. He was able to receive and also stabilize the Chalukya rule. He justifiably bore the title Ahavamalla.

**Satyasraya (997 to 1008 C.A.D)**

He was the eldest son of Taila II. He had titles like Ahavamalla, A Kalavarsha, Sahasa-Bheema and Irivabadanga. He assisted his father in subduing the Cholas and Paramaras. The Chola were the arch enemies of the Chalukyas, Chola king Rajaraja I defeated Satyasraya in a pitched battle and out of the booty gained in the war the temple in Tanjore was enriched is apparently a tall claim made by the Chola adversaries Rajaraja I first killed the younger brother of Satyasraya called Dasavarma. Satyasraya had to content with the silahara, Aparajita in the west and mularaja in the north.

**Vikramaditya V (1008 – 1015 AD)**

He was the nephew of Satyasraya and the son of Dasavarma succeeded to the chalukya throne. The Chola invasion was only the notable event of his reign. Rajendra Chola marched against him but could not achieve anything.

Ayyana (1014-1015 C.A.D): He probably ruled for a couple of months in the beginning of the year 1015 AD.

**Jayasimha II (1015-1044 C.A.D)**
He succeeded to the throne in 1015 C.A.D. A confederacy was formed against Jayasimha. He has to face Bhoja the Paramaras king, Gongeyadeva, the Kalachuri king and Rajendra, the Chola ruler. These three rulers invaded the Chalukya empire and terrible battle was fought on the banks of Godaveri when Jayasimha II was successful in putting to fight the confederacy of the Malvas, In 1024 AD Jayasimha re-captured Konkan from Bhoja. Jayasimha’s really formidable enemy was Chola Rajendra, who was identifying himself with the affairs of Vengi. The Chola records apparently exaggerate when they decide that the chola king conquered Rattapadi from Jayasimha II. Jayasimha II bore title Jagadekamalla and Mallikkamoda.

**Somesvara I (1044 – 1068 C.A.D)**

Someshvara I, the eldest son of Jayasimha II succeeded to the throne assumed title such as Ahavamalla and Trailokyamalla. Bilhana says Somesvara I capatil was Kalyana. During the period of his rule South India become a battle field as the conflict between the Chalukyas and Cholas become intense over the Tunga Bhadra doab and Vengi. The Chola ruler Rajendra I who died in 1024 A.D. Moreover Somesvara I could not pay attention on the Southern frontiers against the Chola as he was pre-occupied in the north which enable the Cholas to gain initial victories.

The battle of Koppam was fought in 1054 AD, Rajendra attacked the fort of Kummta in Bellary district a strong hold of the Hoysalas. In the north the Paramara king had been the hereditary enemies of the Chalukyas.
Somesvara I had also to fight against Karna the Kalachri ruler. During his period the Hoysalas also accepted his suzerainty and entered into a matrimonial alliance with the Chalukya rulers.

**Somesvara II (1068 – 1076 A.D)**

Bhuvanaikamalla Somesvara II succeeded his father on 11th April 1068 C.A.D. Somesvara II attacked Virarajendra the Chola ruler. During his period he strengthen his Southern frontier Vikramaditya VI was incharge of Gangavadi region, while Jasimha IV the governor of the Nolamba- Sindvadi, Bilhana says that Vikramaditya defeated the army of Cholas, Jayakesi I, the Kadamba Chief of Goa, Vikramaditya VI want to attack Virarajendra, but the Chola king sued for peace by maintaining matrimonial alliance.

**Vikramaditya VI (1077-112 C.A.D)**

His era is called as Chalukya Vikrama era. His coronation tool place in 1077 A D. His reign was full of peace. His contemporaries were the Chola rulers. Bilhana says his period witnessed peace and prosperity. Vikramaditya’s brother Jayasimha IV was made the governor of Tardavadi division. Kulottunga I, the Chola ruler was bitter enemy of the Chalukyas. Vikramaditya VI faces the Paramara ruler Udayadity and the malva ruler by capturing the city called Dhara. He succeeded up of till Narmada. During his last years of rule Vikramaditya VI was required to put down some fendation is in the sent west of his empire. He fought against Kulotunga. He also attacked
Chakrakanta, the famous fort of Bastar in Madhyapradesh, with the coming of Bellala I to power the relations between the Chalukyas and Hoysalas came to be strained. Vikramaditya VI died in 1127 AD.

**Somesvara III (1127 – 1139 C.A.D)**

The death of Vikramaditya VI gave rise to Vikrama Chola to rise in his ambition. Somesvara got title as Bhulokamalla and Sarvajna Chakravati, the Southern half of Vengi region went to the Cholas after the death of Vikramaditya VI. The Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana was humble to Vikramaditya VI, but later the situations changed Somesvara III captured the capital of Pandyas called Uchchangi. Someshvara III the author of Manasollasa or Abhilashitartha Chintamani. So he earned the name as Saravajna Chakravartthi.

**Jagadekamalla II (1139-1149 C A.D)**

Jagadekamalla II is known as Jagadekamalla and he is bestowed with the title Pratapa-Chakravati. During Somesvara III a great portion of Vengi was last. The Kakatiya fendatory prola II has become powerful and at the same time. The Kadambas of Goa declared themselves independent. The Chalukyan lost the territories of Konkan and Palasige. The death of Somesvara III pavedway for further rise of Vishnuvardhana. In 1139 A D Vishnuvardhana captured Hangal and Bankapura. But the generals of Chalukya Dandadayaka, Barmadeva his brother Dandanayaka Madhava and
others defeated Vishnuvardhana in a fierce battle and recovered these areas from the Hoysala Chieftian. The Chalukya Jagadekamalla II was thus able to restore the prestige of the family.

**Taila III (1149-1162 C.A.D)**

In 1149 A D jagadekamalla II was succeeded by his younger brother Tailapa III known more popularly by the title Trailokyamalla. During Taila II, the Hoyasalas, Kakatiyas and Seuvnas were waiting to become independent. Kalachuri Bijiala’s ambition to become independent of the Chalukya authority and establish his own rule Bijiala assumed all the empirical title of the Chalukyas by forcebale usurpation.

**Somesvara IV (1183-1198 C.A.D)**

Somesvara IV had sought shelter in the regions of royal fendatories like the Nidugal Cholas, the pandyas of Uchchangi and the Santaras. By about 1175 AD. The kalachuri generals were highly disappointed and some of them withdraw their support and also made strenuous efforts to restore the Chalukyaan power. During Somesvara IV the sovereignty was limited to the Southern parts of the kingdom. The Seunas began to acquire territories, Kalayana was captured by Chalukya general Dandanayaka Brahma himself. The last known date of Somesvar IV is 1198 A.D. with him the Chalukyas made an exit from the stage of history.
The Chalukyan of Vengi (the Eastern Chalukyas)

When Vijaditya I died after a rule of eighteen or nineteen years about 764 AD his son Vihnuvardhana IV become king and ruled the Vengi country for 36 years. Soon after 779 A.D there was a struggle for the Rastrakuta throne between Govinda II and his younger brother Dhruva, in which the former rulers of Malava, Kanchi, Gangavadi and Vengi all of whom had been subdued by the Rastakutas. An epigraph of 802 A.D supported by the Radhanpur grants of 808 A.D (40) says that at half a word from the month of Dhruvas letter bearer, the king of vengi, wherever he was constantly performed his service without intermission, by his own wish and built for him an outer wall, lofty as the sky, of marvellous splendour, with the constellations around its real like a garland of pearls.

Vishnuvardhana IV had several sons viz, Vijayaditya II, Bhima – Salukki (i.e., Bhima – Chalukya) and Nripurudra. About 799 A.D, Vijaditiya II became king and assumed the titles Narendramrigaraja, Chalukyarjuna and Tribhuvanankusa. “Fleet” (41) says Vijayaditya II ruled for 48 years and died about 847 A.D Vijayaditya II adopted the titles Paramabhattakara Maharajadhiraja and Paramesvara. His brother Bhima – Salukki deserted him and joined the Rashtrakutas. The king was utterly defeated by the Rastrakutas under Govinda III and their allies the Gangas and Bhima – Salukki was raised to the throne of Vengi. But Vijaditya II continued the
struggle and when after the death of Govinda III 814 A.D. his minor son Amoghavarsha I ascended the Rastrakutas throne and was facing a rebellion of his officials and fendatories the Chalukyan king succeeded in recovering his throne by over throwing Bhima-Salukki in spite of the assistance the latter received from the Rastrakutas and Gangas.

The eastern Chalukya army now over a considerable portions of the Rastrakuta empire and reached the city of Stambha (modern Cambay in Gujarat) 42. Vijayaditiya is said to have fought battle in a continuous struggle of 12 years with the Rastrakutas and Gangas, to have destroyed the Dakshina Ganga (the Southern Gangas) and to have taken possession of Vengi-mandala by extirpating his younger brother Bhima-salukki.

The records of the Rastrakuta of Navsari 43 grant of India III admit that in the early part of the reign of Amoghavarsha I the along of the Rastrakuta was drowned in the ocean of the Chalukyas who have destroyed the city of stambha. But the success of eastern Chalukyas was short lived, Amoghavarsh I received help from Karkka, the Rastrakuta viceroy of Gujarat, is said to have raised the glory of his kingdom. It is said that Amoghavarsha I has destroyed a large host of the Chalukyas at the battle field of Vingavalli.

The next king of Vengi was Vijayadityas son Vishnuvardhana V, also called Kali-Vishnuvardhana (Kali – Bittarasa), Sarvalokasraya and Vishamasiddhi. He ruled for twenty months and died about 848 A.D. Next Vijayaditya III, like his grandfather was bent upon Digvijaya in which he was
assisted by his able minister Vinayadisarman to conquer the city of Nellura (Nellore), from the Pallavas of Kanchi. He is further credited with a victory over the Pandyas. He defeated the Gangas in the west. Next in the North the Eastern Chalukya king defeated the combined force of the Rastrakuta king Sankila Vijayaditya III. Overran the Rastrakuta Empire and burnt Achalapura (Modern Ellichpur in Berar). He is further said to have burnt the city of Chakrakuta in the old Bastar state, captured the elephants of the king of Kosala.

"Fleet" Suggested that Chalukya-Bhima I ascended the throne in 888 A.D according to the Attili inscriptions. His coronation took place in 892 A.D. he had many titles to his credit. He ruled for 30 years and died about 922 A.D. Chalukya Bhima I had two sons viz, Vijayaditya IV and Vikramaditya of whom the former succeeded him about 922 A.D. Vijayaditya IV defeated the Rastrakuta forces. Vijaya IV has two sons viz, Amana I, alias Vishnuvardhana and Chalukya Bhima II. Bhima II ruled for 12 years (935-46 A.D) after extripated Yaddhamalla and other claimants to the throne, Chalukya Bhima II was also known as Bhima, Raja Bhima and Vishnuvardhana. Rajamahendri became the second capital of the later Eastern Chalukyas with a Chalukya king names Vijayadity Mahendra.

The next king was Amma II who was known both as Vijayaditya and Rajamahendra. He is described as lord of Vengi and Kalinga. The king granted a village in favour of the Jain temple of Sarvalokasraya Jinavallabha.
He is also known to have made gifts to the Jain temples at Vijayavatika (Bezwada). After Amma II had ruled for eleven years, he was driven out of the Vengi country by Badapa son of king Yuddhamalla. Badapa became the king Karna or Krishna III. So Amma II fought against Krishna III, shortly Amma III regained his kingdom from the Rastrakutas. 46

**The Kadamba Dynasty**

With the rise of the Kadamba’s to power, Karnataka entered into bright period of history. They played a prominent part from fourth C.A.D to the middle of sixth century A.D. they were inheritors of power and glory of the Shatavahana. When the Kadamba’s came to power their contemporaries and Gangas in the South and the Vakatakas in the north were on friendly terms with them. The antiquity of Banavasi also called Vajayanti, it is mentioned as Vanavasa in the Mahabharata. In the second C.A.D Vajayanti was called by the Greeks as Byzantion, mentioned by Ptolemy in his work Geography. The Prakrit inscription of the third and fourth centuries A.D 47 at Nagarjunakonda reveals that pilgrims from Vanavasa, visited the Buddhist monasteries built by the Ikshavaku rulers there. The Talagunda Inscription of the Santivarma and the Gudnapur lithic record of Ravivarma bring out the historical details of the beginning of the Kadambas. The Kadambas belong to a family of Brahmin’s of the Manavyagotra in the linage of Hariti. The early member of this family was Virasarima who was a Brahmin. The Talagunda
inscription says that Virasarma was guru of Mayurasarma who accompanied him to Kanchi for higher studies where Mayurasarma was enraged by the treatment meted out to him by the mounted guard and decided to discontinue studies in preference to arms.

Mayuravarma (325-345 C.A.D) the son of Bandhusena, he subdued the Pallavas and Brihad-Bana and other kings. Mayuravarma’s Chandhravalli inscription names the kings he defeated those are Traikutakas, Abhiras, Pallavas, Pariyatrika, Sakasthrana Mokari, Punnata and Sayindakas. 48

Kangavarma, the son and successor of Mayuravarma. He was defeated by Vakataka ruler. Later he was succeeded by his son Bhagiratha, he retrieved the losses his family had suffered in the earlier reign and restored the kingdom. He maintain matrimonial alliance with the Guptas to secure peace in the kingdom.

Kakusthavarma (405-430 A.D) was a powerful ruler and even the kings of Gupta dynasty of Northern India cultivated martial relationships with his family, giving a fair indication of the sovereign nature of their kingdom. He fought against the Pallavas in the South and maintained friendly relations with the Gupta. He gave his daughters to Vakataka kings in order to secure peace and harmony in his kingdom. Later Kakusthavarma was succeeded by Shantivarma (430-455 A.D) who has to face the Pallavas, who were his rivals 49.
The Kadambas were contemporarise of the western Ganga Dynasty and together they formed the earliest native kingdoms to rule the land with absolute autonomy. Mrigesavarma (455-480 C.A.D) who pursued a policy of territorial expansion came in conflict with the Gangas and Pallavas. During his period Halsi in Khanapur taluka of the Belgaum district, become a second capital of the Kadamba dominions. Mrigesavarma was a wise administer. He took interest in the welfare of his subjects. His literary achievements were remarkable and his knowledge of various sciences was extensive.

Historians are divided on the issue of the caste of the Kadamba family, whether the founders of the kingdom belonged to the Brahmin caste as claimed by the Talagunda inscription or were of tribal origin. A claim has been made that the Kadambas were none other than a tribe called the Kadambu, who were in conflict with the Chera kingdom (of Modern Tamil Nadu, Kerala region). The ‘Kadambu’s’ find mention in the Tamil Sangam literature as totemic worshipper of the kadambu tree and the Hindu God Subramanya, while some historians says that they being of Brahmin descent made Mayuarasharma’s ancestors natives of Northern India. Being native Kannadigas, the Kadambas promptly gave administrative and political importance to their language Kannada after coming to power. The Naga descent of the Kadambas has been stated in early inscriptions of king Krishna Varma I too, which confirms the family was from present day Karnataka. 50.
Inscriptions in Sanskrit and Kannada are the main source of the Kadamba history. The Talagunda, Gundanur, Chandhravalli, Halasi and Halmidi inscription are some of the important inscriptions that thrown light on this ancient ruling family of Karnataka. The Kadambas minted coins with Nagari, Kannada and Grantha legends which provide additional numismatic evidence of their history. Several early Kadamba dynasty coins bearing the Kannada inscription Vira and Skandha was found in Satara collect orate. A gold coin of king Bhagiratha bearing the old Kannada legends Sri and Bhagi also exists. Recent discovery of 5th century Kadamba copper coin in Banavasi with Kannada script inscription Srimanaragi on it proves the usage of Kannada at the administrative level.

During the times of Ravivarma also the Pallava continued their conflict, but Ravivarma with the help of Vishnuvarma defeated and killed Chandadandesa, who probably belong to a minor family of the Pallavas. During this period Uchchangi in Bellary district also became yet another capital beside as Halasi. Harivarma, son of Ravivarma was the last of the Kadamba king belonging to Santivarma’s line. Harivarma defeated by Krishna Varma II, Triparvata ruler he also captured his capital Banavasi.

Krishnavarma I (430-460 C.A.D) ruled about 430-460 A.D. his reign was marked by two events. One was the conquest of the Nagas and the other was the fight with the Pallavas. The Nagas seems to have been the Sendraka feudatories the Pallava chief with whom Krishnavarma I fought was
Nanakkasa Pallava. Krishnavarma performed the horse sacrifice which indicated his political status\textsuperscript{56}.

Later Vishnuvarma (460-490 C.A.D) and Simhavarma (490-516 C.A.D), succeed to the throne after Krishnavarma I death. In about 516 A.D, Krishnavarma II succeeded his father Simhavarma. The two collateral Kadamba families were united again during this period when Krishnavarma defeated Harivarma his contemporary of the main line and established in the latter’s capital, Banavasi. Thus Krishnavarma became the sole master of the Kadamba territories. The political situation in the kingdom became fluid which provided an opportunity to the ambitious Chalukya prince Pulakeshi I, he defeated Krishnavarma II and established himself as an independent ruler. He built a fort at Badami, also known Vatapi. Thus Kadamba dynasty was reduced to a feudatory status by the Chalukyas.

The Kadambas though they ruled in ancient Karnataka their influence was high with the South Indian dynasties, like the Pallava and the Chalukyas of Badami. The Kadambas were the contemporary rulers of the Gangas. Here the Kadamba political history has been studied to known how they faced the opposition from the Southern dynasty and how they faced the political situation beyond their reach and sustained the growth.
The Ganga Dynasty

The Gangas (350-1050 A D) rose to power almost at the same time when the Kadambas gained ascendancy and ruled over the Southern parts of the Karnataka. They did not rule independent rulers for long but, certainly they acted as powerful feudatories of the imperial dynasties of Karnataka. In a record of tenth century A.D, state that the fore fathers of this family were ruling in the north, first from Ayodha and then from Ahichchatrapura. Later two princes of that family Dadiga and Madhava, migrated to Gangaperur in the South and the latter established a kingdom there with Nandigiri as the stronghold and Kuvalala (Kolar) as the capital, Gangaperur referred to here is now a village of the same name in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh. The western Ganga dynasty was an important ruling dynasty of ancient Karnataka in India. They are known as western Gangas to distinguish them from the Eastern Gangas who in later centuries ruled over modern Orissa. The general belief in the western Gangas began their rule during a time when multiple native clans asserted their freedom due to the weakening of their overlords, the Pallavas Empire in South India a Geo-political event sometimes attributed to the Southern conquest of Samudra Gupta. The western Ganga sovereignty lasted from about 350-550 A.D. initially a ruling from Kolar and later moving their capital to Talakadu on the banks of Kaveri river in modern Mysore district 57.
After the rise of imperial Chalukya of Badami, the Gangas accepted Chalukya over lordship and fought for the cause of their overlords against the Pallavas of Kanchi. The Chalukyas were defeated by the Rastrakutas of Manyaketa in 753 A.D as the dominant power in the Deccan. After a struggle for autonomy, the Western Gangas finally accepted Rastrakutas overlordship and successfully fought alongside then against their foes, the Chola dynasty of Tanjavur. In the late tenth century, north of Tungabhadra, the Rastrakutas were replaced by the emerging Western Chalukya Empire and the Chola dynasty saw renewed power South of the Kaveri river. The defeat of the Western Gangas by Cholas around 1000 resulted in the end of the Ganga influences over the region 58.

Though territorially a small kingdom, the western Ganga contribution to the polity, culture and literature of the modern South Karnataka region is considered important. The western Ganga kings showed benevolent tolerance to all faiths but are most famous for their patronage towards Jainism resulting in the construction of monuments in places such as Shravanabelagola and Kambadahalli. The king of this dynasty encouraged the fine arts due to which literature in Kannada and Sanskrit flourished. Chavundaraya Purana of 978 A.D is an important work in Kannada prose. Many classics were written on various subjects ranging from religion to Elephant management 59.
Multiple theories have been regarding the ancestry of the founders of the western Ganga (prior to the fourth century A.D) while a number of Jaina inscriptions point to a northern origin, some theories based on assumptions suggest a Southern origin. The other set of historians has put forth their opinion whether the early members of the clan were natives of the Southern districts of modern Karnataka, the Kongu region in Modern Tamil Nadu or of the Southern districts of Modern Andhra Pradesh. Some facts like the mention of the Kongani pattern only from the 6th century inscriptions, after a conquest, rule out their Kongu Nadu origin, these regions encompass on area of the Southern Deccan where the three modern states merge geographically. It is theorised that the Gangas may have taken advantage of the confusion caused by the invasion of Southern India by the northern king Samudragupta prior to 350 A.D and carried out a kingdom for themselves. Their capital was called Gangavadi and included regions of the modern districts of Mysore, Hassan, Chamarajnagar, Tumkur, Kolar, Mandya and Bangalore in Karnataka state. At times, they also controlled some areas in modern Tamil Nadu (Kongu region starting from the sixth century rule of king Avinita) and Andhra Pradesh (Anantapur region starting from middle of 5th century 200 A.D. the founding king of the dynasty was Konganivarman Madhava who made Kolar his capital round 350 A.D and ruled about twenty years.
By the time of Harivarman in 390 A.D the Gangas had consolidated their kingdom with Talakad as their capital. Their move from the early capital Kolar may have been strategic one with the intention of containing the growing Kadamba power. By 430 A.D, they had consolidated their eastern territories comprising modern Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur districts and by 470 A.D, they had gained control over Kongu region in modern Tamil Nadu, sendraka (modern Chikkamangaluru and Belur), Punnata and Pannada regions (comprising modern Heggadedevanakote and Nanjanagudu) in modern Karnataka. In 529 A.D, king Durvinta ascended the throne after waging a war with his younger brother who was favoured by his father, king Avinita. Some accounts suggest that in this power struggle, the Pallavas of Kanchi supported Avinita choice of their and the Badami Chalukya king Vijayaditya supported his father in law, Durvinita. From the inscriptions it is known that these battles were fought in Tondaimandalam and Kongu regions (Northern Tamil Nadu) prompting historians to suggest that Durvinita fought the Pallavas successfully. Durvinita the most successful of the Gangas was well versed in arts, music, dance, and Ayurveda and taming wild Elephants.

Politically, the Gangas were feudatories and closed allies who also shared matrimonial relations with the Chalukyas, this is attested by the inscriptions which describe their joint campaigns against their arch enemy, the Pallavas of Kanchi. From the year 725 A.D onwards the Gangavadi territories came to be called as the Gangavadi 96000 (Shannavati Sahasra
Vishaya) comprising the eastern and western provinces of Modern South Karnataka. King Sri Purusha fought the Pallava king Nandivarman pallavamalla successfully, bringing Penkulikottal in the north Arcot under the control temporarily for which he earned title Permanadi. A contest with the Pandyas of Madhurai over control of Kongu region ended in a Ganga defeated, but a matrimonial alliances between Ganga princess and Rajasimha Pandyas son brought peace helping the Gangas retain control over the contested region.

In 753 A.D, when the Rastrakutas replaced the Badami Chalukyas as the dominant force in the Deccan, the Gangas offered stiff resistance for about a century. King Shivamara II is mostly known for his wars with the Rastrakuta Dhruva Dharavarsha, his subsequent defeat and imprisonment, his release from prison and eventually his death on the battle field. The Ganga resistance continued through the region of Rastrakuta Govinda III and by 819 A.D. A Ganga resurgence gained them partial control over Gangavadi under king Rachamalla, seeing the futility of waging war with the western Ganga, Rastrakuta, and Amoghavarsha I gave his daughter in marriage to Ganga prince Butuga I, son of King Ereganga Neetimarga. The Gangas were the staunch allies of the Rastrakutas. After a uneventful period, Butuga II ascended the throne in 938 A.D with the help of Rastrakuta Amoghavarsha III, he helped the Rastrakutas to win victories in Tamilakam in the battle of Takkulam against the Chola dynasty), with this victory, the
Rastrkutas took control of modern northern Tamil Nadu. In return for their Valour, the Gangas were awarded extensive territories in the Tungabhadra river valley. King Marasimha II who came to power in 963 A.D aided the Rastrakutas in victories against the Gujara Pratihara king Lalla and the Paramara 67. Kings of Malwa in central India Chavundaraya, a minister in the western Ganga court was a valiant commander, able administer and an accomplished poet in Kannada and Sanskrit. He served king Marasimha II and his successors ably and helped king Rachamalla IV; suppress a civil war in 975 A.D. towards the end of the 10th century the Rastrakutas had been supplanted by the western Chalukya empire in Manyakheta. In the South, the Chola dynasty who were seeing a resurgence of power under Rajaraja Chola I conquered Gangavadi around the year 1000, bringing the western Ganga dynasty to an end thereafter, large areas of South Karnataka region came under Chola control for about a century.

The Gangas through the feudatory rulers were well established in their power. They forced the Pallavas, the Badami Chalukyas and even the Cholas in the South fought with the Gangas. The Ganga rulers were all-rounder without any doubt; in the history of Karnataka they have left remarkable foot prints in various fields.

The Sangamas played a very important role in the history of South India and their literary works are the important achievements which help us to know the history and the conditions during the Pandyas, Cholas and Cheras.
Next the Shatavahanas played a vital role in the Deccan and the great rulers contributed towards the expansion of the kingdom. The Pallavas and the Later Pallava rulers made enormous contribution to enrich their kingdom. The Pallava rulers are known for their valour and political stability and their continuous conflict with the early Chalukyas. And the Pallavas have left a remarkable foot print in the field of art and architecture. The early Chalukyan or the Badami Chalukyas also established their rule in the South and brought political unification in the South. They sway was over Harshavardhana in the north and Pallavas in the South. The western Chalukyas and Eastern Chalukyas also established their political stability over the Rastrakutas, Cholas and the Pandyas. Overall it is interesting to know these dynasties have made extreme growth and reached the zenith of success. The Kadambas and Gangas they ruled in ancient Karnataka, but their’s way political control was over the Southern dynasties viz., Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami, Cholas, Rastrakutas and the many feudatories of the imperial dynasties of Karnataka so here the usage was felt to study about the Kadamba and the Gangas and their contemporary rulers and their relations and conquest with the South Indian dynasties.

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