PREFACE

In this thesis an effort is made to glean information afforded by epigraphical and literary sources bearing on the organization of government, nature of State and sovereignty of kings under the Chalukyas of Badami and show how they developed the political traditions of their predecessors, the Kadambas.

Karnataka, since the historic times has been known for rich traditions in polity as in the other fields of human achievement like in art, architecture, economy, philosophy and religion. Karnataka really held an eminent position in world culture. The history of the region from the Mauryas and the Satavahana bears ample testimony to the above point.

This thesis is an attempt to make comprehensive and critical study of the Government and Administration based on a detailed study of the original sources—published and unpublished epigraphical records—foreign writings, Indian literary works on administration and polity and works of modern scholars—foreign and Indian—relating to the original works and also the various aspects of the history of the Chalukyas of Badami, a list of which is given in the Bibliography, appended to the thesis.
This thesis attempts to emphasize that notwithstanding several political changes in the history of Karnataka, the government and administrative organisation had common elements - common to the Indian traditions and thought - and that the political traditions were inherited from the Kadambas and improved upon by the Chalukyas of Badami and that they were thereafter adopted by the Rashtrakutas in the tenth century A.D.

The thesis relates to the working of central government and administration in the dominions of the Chalukyas of Badami, covering a period of study from the middle of the sixth century A.D. to the last quarter of the eighth century A.D. The area covered by it is the territory of the Kannada speaking people of southern India which extended from Gujarat in the north to Banavasi in the south and the coastal region in the west to the western frontier of the Pallava dominions in the east, with the off-shoots of their dynasty in Vengi and Gujarat.

In this direction, it is felt that apart from sectional treatment of the history of the Chalukyas of Badami, in Indian history volumes, such an attempt on the government and administration of the Chalukyas of Badami in minute details has not been made so far. While deducing certain conclusions on this aspect, I am to admit that they are not entirely categorical.
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