

Chapter II

**A Brief Survey of Powers
in Andhra Pradesh
from the 6th to the 10th century CE.**

Chapter II

A Brief Survey of Powers in Andhra Pradesh from the 6th to the 10th century CE.

The political history of the regions comprising the present Andhra Pradesh (from the 6th to the 10th century CE.) revolved around some territorially large and small powers which can be differentiated according to their respective features. There were some whose core area was situated in the Andhra region and the part on which they exercised their control also located in Andhra. There were some others whose core area was in Andhra, and they extended their power to other regions outside Andhra. The third category comprised those who had core area outside Andhra and they extended their power to the Andhra region. In this chapter an attempt would be made to give an overview of the above categories of political authorities ruling in our study area.

The chart below shows the districts under the influence of different powers.

Powers	Findspots of the epigraphic materials	Time-period of the inscriptions
Pallavas of the Nellore-Guntur region	Nellore, Guntur, Cuddappan	6 th c.
Visnukundins	Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, Nalgonda, Guntur	6 th -7 th c.
Gangas of Kalinga	Srikakulam	6 th -10 th c.
Chālukyas of Vātāpi	Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Guntur, Nellore,	6 th -8 th c.

	Anantapur, Cuddappah, Kurnool	
Reṇāṭi Cholas	Anantapur, Cuddappah	6 th -10 th c.
Pallavas of Kāñchī	Nellore, Chittoor	7 th -10 th c.
Eastern Chālukyas of Veṅgi	Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasham, Nellore, Anantapur, Kurnool, Khammam	7 th -10 th c.
Rāṣṭrakūṭas of Mālkhed	Adilabad, Warangal, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Cuddappah, Chittoor	8 th -10 th c.
Chālukyas of Vemulavāḍa	Karimnagar	8 th -10 th c.
Bāṇas	Chittoor, Cuddappah, Kurnool	9 th -10 th c.
Nolambas	Chittoor, Cuddappah, Kurnool	9 th -10 th c.
Vaidumbas	Chittoor, Cuddappah	9 th -10 th c.
Western Chalukyas of Kalyāṇī	Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Medak	10 th c.

The Viṣṇukunḍins, the Pallavas of the Nellore-Guntur region and the Pallavas of Kāñchī

In the 6th century CE., the Viṣṇukunḍin rulers established their power in the Andhra territory. Their control was extended all over the Andhra coast from Vishakhapatnam to Nellore. An early king Mādhavarman I, claims to have advanced beyond the Godavari and subdued the capital city Trivara of the Pāṇḍuvamśī rulers of south Kośala.¹ Their Tummelagudem plates indicate their penetration in the Karimnagar region.² It also speaks about their patronage to the Buddhist *vihāra* and it is during their rule, that the Buddhist sites of the coastal Andhra region witnessed their last glory. The Chālukyas of Vātāpi put an end to the Viṣṇukunḍin supremacy in the Andhra coast in the first part of the 7th century CE. At about the same time, the Pallavas ruled in the Nellore-Guntur region and their Omgudu, Uruvalli,

Chura, Pikira and Mangudar grants were given in favour of the *brāhmaṇas*. The Pallavas of Kāñchī held a portion of the Nellore and Chittoor region as known from their Reyuru³ and Vunnaguravayapalem⁴ grants.

The Chālukyas of Vātāpi, the Eastern Chālukyas of Veṅgi and the Rāṣtrakūṭas

Pulakesī II, the Chālukyan ruler of Vātāpi, extended his rule in the area of present Anantapur. The Peddavaduguru inscription mentions about the grant of the village Nadanuru and also the income from the *ponna-tere* (tax collected in the form of gold, i.e., money) from the *agrahāras* situated in the Banaraja *viṣaya*. His Aihole epigraph proves his conquest of Kalinga and Piṣṭapura. And the Hyderabad plates records the donation of the village Makarappi to a *brāhmaṇa*. According to the Kopparam plates of c.631 CE., Pulakesī II appointed his younger brother Kubja Viṣṇuvardhana as his official viceroy or *Prthvī Yuvarāja* in the conquered Andhra territories. From the undated Timmapuram plates of Kubja Viṣṇuvardhana we learn that by this time he was raised to the rank of *Mahārāja*. Viṣṇuvardhana was given the title *Viṣamasiddhi* for his ability to capture impregnable fortresses, cross the water etc. In recognition of these victories, and because they helped stabilize the kingdom, Pulakesī II placed him as *Mahārāja* over the throne of Veṅgi.⁵ In the 21st regnal year Pulakesī II was in the *Karma-rāṣṭra* as known from the Kopparam plates, dated to 631 CE., which register the grant of land in the village of Irbuli (Guntur) in *Karma-rāṣṭra*.⁶ The executor of the grant was *Prthvi Duvarāja* (who was none other than the *Prthvī Yuvarāja* Viṣṇuvardhana), who by virtue of victories in many battles, had conquered enemy territory and obtained the same for his own and his

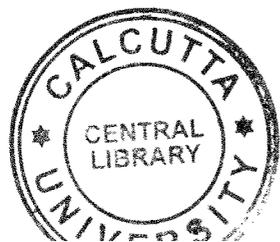
progeny. But, the Chālukya-Pallava rivalry led the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman I to advance into the Chālukyan territory and defeat Pulakesī II who died in battle and Vātāpi was captured. The next king Vikramāditya I retained his control over Kurnool and Mahabubnagar. His Amadalapadu plates of regnal year 5 confirms the donation of the village Marrura (Mahabubnagar district) to his *guru* Sudarśanāchārya.⁷ His Talamanchi plates of 659-60 CE. record the royal grant of the village Elasatti (Nellore district) to another *brāhmaṇa*.⁸ The Peddavolletti inscription and Alampur inscription also attest his control over Kurnool and Mahabubnagar. The earliest known record of Vinayāditya is the Paniyal grant dated in 682 CE. which records the royal grant of the village of Paniyal in Mahabubnagar district. During his 10th regnal year, he granted the gleaning rights of the villages in Kurnool to a *brāhmaṇa*.⁹ He donated village in Alampur and Kurnool also and the Bānarāja of Vanganur padu (Anantapur region) was his feudatory. The grants of Vijayāditya (696-733 CE.) are available from Kurnool,¹⁰ Cuddappah,¹¹ Mahabubnagar¹² and Anantapur.¹³ The next ruler Vikramāditya II (733/734-744/745 CE.) defeated the Pallava king Nandivarman II in the Pallava capital Kāñchī. His inscription has been found from Ramapuram in Cuddappah.¹⁴ The next ruler was Kīrtivarman II (744/745-754/755 CE.) whose inscriptions have been found from Anantapur,¹⁵ Kurnool¹⁶ and Cuddappah.¹⁷ During his rule, the feudal chiefs started defying the imperial throne. In the undated Peddapeta inscription from Anantapur, the name of the Chālukyan king was mentioned without any Chālukyan titles while the mention of the Bāṇa subordinate first and of the emperor next deserves attention.¹⁸ Ultimately, in 755 CE., Rāṣṭrakūṭa Dantidūrḡa occupied the throne of Vātāpi.

In the Eastern Deccan, certain occurrences which resulted into the establishment of the house of the Chālukyas of Veᅅgi. Pulakesī II, the Chālukya king of Vātāpi, seized Piᅅapura and occupied it in the first decade of the 7th century CE. which led to the Chālukyan hold over Veᅅgi area by Kubja Viᅅᅅuwardhana, the brother of Pulakesī II, who ruled in Eastern Deccan from from the second decade of the 7th century CE. Thus begun the collateral branch of Chālukya rule that lasted for six long centuries. In order to differentiate the rulers of this branch from that of the Chālukyas of Vātāpi, they were given the name of the 'Eastern Chalukyas of Veᅅgi'. At about the same time, Pulakesī II was killed in the hand of the Pallava king Narasiᅅhavarman who attacked Vātāpi as a reprisal of an earlier attack of the former on Kāñchī. The Chipurupalle grant of Viᅅᅅuwardhana I was given from the Vishakhapatnam territory in his 18th regnal year.¹⁹ Then the extent of the kingdom included the area of lower Kaᅅiᅅga. He was succeeded by Jayasiᅅha I who ruled over the area comprising Vishakhapatnam,²⁰ Godavari,²¹ Krishna²² and Guntur²³ region as borne out by his copper plate charters. In the second half of the 7th century Viᅅᅅuwardhana II came to the throne of Veᅅgi. He could maintain his control over Karma-*rāᅅtra* (Guntur-Nellore region),²⁴ Palli-*rāᅅtra* (Palnad taluka of Guntur region)²⁵ and Gudrahara *viᅅaya* (Krishna district).²⁶ His son and successor Maᅅgi Yuvarāja who ruled till the beginning of the 8th century CE., issued his inscriptions all over the kingdom extending from the lower Kaᅅiᅅga to down south to Karma-*rāᅅtra*. Viᅅᅅuwardhana III ruled throughout the first half of 8th century and remained on throne for 36-37 years. His grants given in the Prolanandu *viᅅaya* (Prolunandu near Pithapuram)²⁷ and Vīlanandu *viᅅaya* (Guntur)²⁸ indicates the uninterrupted rule of the Eastern Chalukyas in the coastal districts. Viᅅᅅuwardhana III was succeeded by Vijayāditya I, whose reign in

the second half of the 8th century CE. witnessed a change in the politics of Deccan.

During this time, the Rāṣṭrakūṭas under Dantidūrga replaced the Chālukyas of Vātāpi. Their coming power in the Karnataka region kept an impact on the Eastern Chālukyan areas as well as those regions now included in the present Andhra Pradesh (and which were outside the realm of the Eastern Chālukyas). Rāṣṭrakūṭa king Kṛṣṇa I sent his son, crown-prince Govinda II on an expedition against Veṅgi in 768 CE. in which Veṅgi was defeated though the Rāṣṭrakūṭas refrained from entering into the Veṅgi country. However, the grants of Vijayāditya from Kammavaripalle²⁹ and Tirumalapuram³⁰ in Anantapur district shows his command over a portion of Rayalseema region. Now, the Eastern Chālukyas were involved in the struggle for succession between Rāṣṭrakūṭa Dhruva and Govinda II. Govinda secured the support of Veṅgi among other rulers but died in battle even before his allies could enter the kingdom. After Dhruva's accession to the Rāṣṭrakūṭa throne, he sent forces against Veṅgi, of which his ally, Vemulavāḍa Chālukya chief Arikeśārī ruling the Karimnagar region was a part. Viṣṇuvardhana IV was compelled to make peace and offered his daughter Śīlamahādevī in marriage to Dhruva.³¹ In fact the Mahabubnagar area of Telengana sector was occupied by Dhruva in the very first year of his reign (780 CE.) when he donated some land to the goddess Durgā bhattāraki of Alampura.³² At that time, the administrator of Alampura was Valavar Marasa. Dhruva also obtained the help of Veṅgi to in his expediton against the Pallavas of Kāñchī and emerged victorious in 782 CE.

Now, the Rāṣṭrakūṭas were involved in the dispute over succession among the sons of Eastern Chālukya Viṣṇuvardhana IV- Vijayāditya II, Bhīma Saluki



and Rudra. Bhīma Saluki's rebellion was backed by Rāṣṭrakūṭa Govinda III. And it was only after the death of Govinda III in 814 CE. that Vijayāditya II could strengthen his hold over the throne of Veṅgi.³³ Vijayāditya II, who ruled in the first half of the 9th century, was engaged in fight against the Gaṅgas and Rattas (Rāṣṭrakūṭas) and took the Chālukyan armies into the Rāṣṭrakūṭa kingdom.³⁴ His successor Kali Viṣṇuvardhana ruled for only an year-and-half (847-848 CE.). His reign is important in the history of trade and commerce. It is in his inscription that we know about some *mahānāvikas* and *mahāsārthavāhas* operating in the Andhra and Tamil territory for the first time.³⁵

After the rule of Kali Viṣṇuvardhana being over, the Eastern Chālukyas became entangled in wars inside and outside their country. Guṇaga Vijayāditya (849-892 CE.) conducted military operations against the Gaṅgavādi (Karnataka) and Dāhala kingdom (Chhattisgarh region).³⁶ As known from the Addanki stone inscription of Pāṇḍaraṅga, Guṇaga Vijayāditya sent an expedition against the Boya *kottams* spreading over the the hilly forest tracts between Kandukur (in Prakasham) and Narayanavanam (Chittoor district).³⁷ These served as a buffer zone between the Pallava kingdom and the Eastern Chalukyan kingdom. Having defeated the *kottams*, Pāṇḍaraṅga advanced southwards, penetrated into the Nellore region and took over the territory south of the river Manneru up to the frontier of Tondainadu. Chittoor region formed a part of Tondainadu.

After the death of Rāṣṭrakūṭa Amoghavarṣa in 880 CE., the lack of popularity of Kṛṣṇa II among the vassals and the attack of Pratihāra Bhoja on the Rāṣṭrakūṭa kingdom encouraged the Eastern Chālukyan king Guṇaga Vijayāditya (who ruled during the second half of the 9th century) to attack

Kṛṣṇa.³⁸ We come to know from the Dharmavaram epigraph of Paṇḍaraṅga about the confrontations between Kṛṣṇa II and Vijayāditya.³⁹ In Vemulavāḍa region too, the king Baḍḍega, an ally of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas, was defeated.⁴⁰ The rule of Gunaga Vijayāditya witnessed the expansion of the Veṅgi kingdom which lay between Mahendragiri in the north in Srikakulam and Pulikat lake and Arani river in the south, Cumbum at the foothills of the Nallamalai ranges in Prakasham and Khammam on the west.⁴¹ Probably, after the death of Gunaga, Kṛṣṇa could recover the territories around Telengana for his Velamjala inscription found in the Bhuvanāgiri taluka in Nalgonda district was dated in Śaka 829 (907 CE.).⁴²

The succession of the next king Chālukya Bhīma I (892-921/22 CE.) was difficult as his claim to the throne was contested by his paternal uncle Yuddhamalla I who was again backed by Rāṣṭrakūṭa Kṛṣṇa. Responding quickly, the Rāṣṭrakūṭa army, supported by Baḍḍega, the Vemulavāḍa Chālukya king, invaded Veṅgi. Baḍḍega caught Bhīma, but the later managed to escape helped by Muḍigoṇḍa Chālukya Kusumāyudha, enlisted the support of his *sāmantas* and hereditary officials who ousted Kṛṣṇa. Bhīma's eldest son Vijayāditya IV succeeded him in 921/22 CE. and ruled for only six months.

The succession to the throne of Veṅgi, then, was contested by Vikramāditya against the proper claim of Vijayāditya's son Amma I. Though Vikramāditya secured the help of Rāṣṭrakūṭa king Indra and got the support of hereditary forces as well, Amma I ultimately emerged victorious.⁴³ His seven year rule (922-929 CE.) witnessed conflicts with the forces of his paternal uncle Vikramāditya. After his death, his son Kaṇṭhika Vijayāditya succeeded him to the throne, but he was deposed immediately. Tēla I, son of Yuddhamalla, with

the support of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas ascended to the throne and a month later Vikramāditya II seized Veṅgi and ruled for eleven months. Bhīma II, the son of Amma I, killed him and occupied the throne for six months. At last, Yuddhamalla II, son of Tāla I, overthrew him in the third decade of the 10th century CE. Chālukya Bhīma II became king at Veṅgi with the aid of the Rāṣṭrakūṭa forces sent by Govinda IV, along with the Chālukya chiefs of Muḍigoṇḍa and Vemulavāḍa. Ankidevī, the queen of Bhīma was the princess of Kaliṅga, and the mother of Dānārṇava, while another queen was Lokambā whose son was Amma II.⁴⁴

Amma II came to the throne superseding Dānārṇava, his older half-brother. Yuddhamalla's sons Bādapa and Tāla II, who took refuge in the Rāṣṭrakūṭa court, enlisted the support of Kṛṣṇa III to regain their control over Veṅgi. The Rāṣṭrakūṭa forces invaded Veṅgi, and Amma II fled to Kaliṅga. Bādapa and Tāla II succeeded to the throne one after another. Amma II's return was counteracted by Dānārṇava, backed by the Rāṣṭrakūṭa king Kṛṣṇa III. Amma II again fled to Kaliṅga. From here, he again captured the throne of Veṅgi and ruled till 970 CE. when Dānārṇava's attack with the support of Muḍigoṇḍa Chālukyas on Veṅgi resulted in his death.

Dānārṇava's success was shortlived either for Jaṭāchoda Bhīma, the Telugu Choda chief of Pedakallu (in Kurnool district) stormed Veṅgi and killed Dānārṇava in 973 CE. The Telugu Choda occupation of Veṅgi resulted in the interruption of the Veṅgi Chālukyan rule.

The year 973 CE. is very important in the history of Deccan for the Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa supplanted the Rāṣṭrakūṭas and the usurption of Veṅgi throne by the Telugu Chodas created new rivalries. Dānārṇava's son

Śaktivarman and Vimalāditya sought shelter in the Gaṅga court at Mukhalingam while in the south, the Chola king Rājārāja I was prepared for penetrating into the Raichur doab and the Krishna-Godavari valleys in Andhra.

Jaṭā Choḍa Bhīma was the grandson of Chālukya Bhīma II through his mother and his sister was the widow of Amma II. This factor inspired him usurp the throne in Vengi. This incident led to an attack on Vengi by Gaṅga king Kāmārṇava who was killed in battle. Kaliṅga went under the rule of Jaṭā Choḍa Bhīma who now invaded the Vaidumba territory in c. 990 CE. and with the defeat of Bhuvana Trinetra, he occupied entire Renāṇḍu. He assumed the title 'Choḍa Trinetra'.

Meanwhile some new occurrences had changed the political scenario of Andhra. First, the sons of Dānārṇava migrated to the Chola court after the death of Kāmārṇava, the Gaṅga king. The rise of the Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa also prompted the Chola king to control the Eastern sea-board and the hinterland which traded with south-east Asian countries and to prevent the Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa from entering into Vengi. So, Rājārāja I gave his daughter Kundavai in marriage to Vimalāditya, while Śaktivarman I was assured of restoration to his ancestral home throne of Vengi. Rājārāja I conquered Vengi in his 14th regnal year (999-1000 CE.)⁴⁵

Thus after a gap of nearly twenty-seven years, the Chālukyas of Vengi once more returned to the throne but with the difference that Vengi became virtually a protectorate of the Cholas.⁴⁶ The Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa, who replaced the Rāṣṭrakūṭas of Mālkheḍ, were not ready to accept Chola dominance in the eastern coast. Ultimately, the Eastern Chālukyas receded

into the background, leaving the Cholas and the Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa to contest between themselves for the next 135 years.

The small powers operating in the Andhra region

While analysing the history of the Chālukyan lineages of Telangana, Vemulavāḍa and Muḍigoṇḍa, K. Suryanarayana has commented- “Contemporaneous with the Chalukyas of Vengi, flourished two Chalukya families in Telangana with Vemulavada and Koravi as their headquarters. Occupying their shatter zone between the Vengi Chalukyas and the Rastrakutas, they had to depend upon either of those big powers for their security. Their military prowess and strategic location helped their overlords to become emperors; and on some occasions, it was practically their support that decided the fate of either Malkhed or Vengi. The kingdom of Vemulavada was aligned to the Rastrakutas, whereas the rulers of Koravi defended the rulers of Vengi in the Telangana front.”⁴⁷ The Chālukyas of Vemulavāḍa ruled the Sapādalakṣa country which comprised the region “between the Godavari river on the north, the Balaghat ranges on the north-west, and the Musi river on the east, and on the west probably the Krishna river...”.⁴⁸ On the other hand, the kingdom of the Chālukyas of Muḍigoṇḍa covered “much of the forest area along the river Godavari in the Khammam, Warangal and Krishna districts and commanded all the entry points into the Vengi kingdom”.⁴⁹ Arikesarin I (775-800 CE.), the ruler of Vemulavāḍa, was a subordinate to the house of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas and he helped Dhruva in his expedition against Vengi.⁵⁰ The next ruler Baddega (850-895 CE.) joined with Rāṣṭrakūṭa Kṛṣṇa II in his attempt to crush the power of Vengi while the Chālukya prince of Muḍigoṇḍa took the side of Chālukya Bhīma I, the ruler of Vengi.⁵¹ The alliance was further cemented by

Matrimonial relation. According to Vikramārjunavijayam, Jakavve, the mother of Arikesarin II, was the sister of Rāṣṭrakūṭa Indra III. During the rule of the Arikesarin II (930-941CE.), the Rāṣṭrakūṭa king Govinda IV sent forces against Bijayita, the Chālukyan ruler of Mudigonda. Vijayita's younger brother Niravadya, who was eager to occupy the throne of Koravi, joined Chālukya Bhīma of Veṅgi. Bijayita fled to the court of Vemulavada. Arikesarin II gave him protection and invited hostilities from Govinda IV. But he was fortunate to secure victory against the Rāṣṭrakūṭas. Encouraged by this development, the claimants of the Rāṣṭrakūṭa throne aligned with Arikesarin II who invited Chālukya Bhīma of Veṅgi this time to defeat Govinda IV who was ultimately killed in battle.⁵² Thus we can see how the house of the Chālukyas of Vemulavāda controlled the political situation of Deccan in the 10th century CE.

Another family which ruled in the southern part of Andhra was known as the Renāṇḍu Cholas. Renāṇḍu denoted the territory corresponding the area lying between the two tributaries of river Pennar, i.e. Chitravati in the north-west and Cheyyeru in the south-west. And Renāṇḍu comprises broadly of a major portion of Cuddappah and parts of Kurnool, Chittoor and Anantapur districts in Andhra Pradesh and Kolar district of Karnataka. It was a buffer state between the Pallava and Chālukyan kingdom.⁵³ The ruler Dhananjaya who came to the throne in the 585 CE., was a subordinate to the Pallava king.⁵⁴ The famous king of Renāṇḍu region was Punyakumāra (645-670 CE.). It has been suggested that when Pulakesī II conquered Renāṇḍu in 634 CE., an alliance could have been concluded between him and Punyakumāra.⁵⁵ During the rule of Vikramāditya II (720-745 CE.) the Bana ruler Tarunavasanta claimed himself as the ruler of Renāṇḍu as known from

his Ramapuram inscription.⁵⁶ The Bāṇa ruler's claim on Renandu indicates the unstable conditions in that part. Gradually, the Renāṇḍu Cholas could not resist the attacks of the Bāṇas and was forced to move northwards as far as Jammalamadugu.⁵⁷ While the Bāṇas annexed the region north of Pennar river, the southern parts of Renāṇḍu were controlled by the Vaidumbas.⁵⁸ The Bāṇas were earlier the subordinate chiefs of the Pallavas of Kāñchī, but after Pulakesī II's victory against the Pallavas, they had changed their loyalty to the Chālukyas.⁵⁹ And, since the reign of Pulakesī II, we get continuous records of the Bana rulers in the Anantapur and Cuddappah districts along the Pennar river.⁶⁰ In the Vaidumba inscriptions, the Bāṇa chieftains are mentioned as the heroes who fell in battles on behalf of their overlords, the Vaidumbas.⁶¹ In the 9th century CE., the struggle for succession for the Gaṅga throne of Karnataka involved the small powers in mutual enmity. Gaṅga Prīthivīpati I took sides with the Vaidumbas and Bāṇas while the Telugu Chodas and Nolambas were joined by Gaṅga Rachamalla I. Finally, the Vaidumbas captured Soremadi near Penukonda in the Anantapur district, and also occupied a major part of Renāṇḍu, while the Bāṇas captured Chippili. The Vaidumba king Gaṇḍa Trinetra claimed Pennar as the northern boundary of his kingdom and was entitled the lord of Renandu 7000.⁶² In the second half of the 9th century, the Bāṇas switched their loyalty to the Rāṣṭrakūṭas. In the beginning of the 10th century CE., the Chola king Parāntaka I occupied the Bāṇa territory and the Bāṇas took shelter in the court of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas. It was only after thirty-four years when Rāṣṭrakūṭa Kṛṣṇa III led his forces into Tondaimandalam and won the battle of Takkolam against the Chola king in 949-50 CE. that the Bāṇas could get back their kingdom.⁶³ The Vaidumbas ruled in the Kurnool, Chittoor and Cuddappah districts of Andhra and the Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu.⁶⁴

The Nolambas, or Nolamba-Pallavas, who ruled over the south-eastern part of Karnataka and south-western parts of Andhra Pradesh between the middle of the 8th century and the middle of the 11th century, played a significant role in the history of Karnataka. Their capital was Hemavati in Anantapur district. The Chalukyas did not try to oust them for they became vassals and for they acted as a buffer state on the boundary of both the Chālukya and Pallava territories.⁶⁵ Later, it lay between the Rāṣṭrakūṭa and Gaṅga kingdoms. With the rise of Kalyāṇa Chālukya power, the Nolambas became their vassals. They affixed the Chālukyan imperial titles to their names and entered into matrimonial alliances with them.⁶⁶ They had enmity with the Eastern Chālukyas of Veṅgi and during the rule of the Nolambādhirāja Mahendra (875-897 CE.), the Nolamba rule had already extended to the Chittoor region.⁶⁷ Later in the 11th century, Rājarāja Chola supplanted them and the Nolamba king took refuge under the Kalyāṇa Chālukyas.

The Gaṅga rulers of Kalinga

In the 6th and 7th centuries, the power of Kalinga was shared between the Eastern Gaṅgas whose core area lay in the Ganjam and Srikakulam districts, and the Chālukya rulers of Vātāpi. The Eastern Gaṅgas had their capital at Mukhalingam with a secondary centre at Dantavruktanagara near Srikakulam. They also ruled the Ganjam region. A minor branch of the Eastern Gaṅgas ruled from Śvetaka which is identified with Chikati of the Ganjam district.⁶⁸ The authority of the Eastern Chālukyas of Veṅgi over the southern and middle part of Kalinga limited the expansion of the Gaṅga power in southern direction. However, the Gaṅgas always maintained their control over the region around Srikakulam while Vizianagaram and Vishakhapatnam also formed part of their territory. Part of Vishakhapatnam was also occupied by

the Eastern Chālukyas of Veᅅgi. By 753 CE., the Chālukyas of Vātāpi was displaced by the Rāᅅtrakūᅇas of Malkhed. This was a setback to the Chālukyas of Veᅅgi who had inimical relations with the Rāᅅtrakūᅇas throughout the period of the latter's rule. This was to some extent turned into an advantage by the Gaᅅgas of Kaliᅅga.

Thus it can be gleaned from the above overview that in keeping with the general trend of the period, multiple powers were visible in Andhradesa. Along with the dominating powers, the smaller rulers played a major role in the politics of the region. The pattern of rivalries among regional powers cut across dynastic shifts. In fact the period between 500-900CE, the political history of the Deccan and further south was represented by long years of conflict between two geographical regions, the western Deccan and Tamilaham. Romila Thapar opines that this period in the Indian peninsula can be called a period of emerging regional kingdoms. As most of the rivers in the region rise in the west and flow into the Bay of Bengal, both of the plateau kingdoms on the west and the coastal kingdoms on the east aspired to control the entire waterways, particularly the Godavari and Krishna rivers. So, Veᅅgi, lying between the Godavari and Krishna deltas, were frequently a bone of contention, together with the fertile Raichur doab further inland. She noticed that "In the absence of vast areas of fertile plains, large agrarian-based kingdoms were less effective as polities, and the formation of smaller, regional kingdoms was an early and consistent feature. Thus, the kingdoms of the peninsula were probably oriented to regional loyalties earlier than in the north."⁶⁹The subsequent period (900-1300 CE.) in the peninsula has been marked by Thapar as one of establishing

authorities and structures when the regional states, earlier seeking recognition were taking shapes and imprint of their identities were becoming clearer.⁷⁰

Our study in the succeeding pages would reveal that the period from the 6th to the 10th century CE served as a formative stage in the emergence of Andhra as a region behind which the role of multiple powers and the contestation between the hills, plains and forest cannot be denied.

¹E.Hultzsch (ed.), 'Ipur Plates of Govindavarman's son Madhavavarman', *EI* XVII (1923-24), New Delhi, 1983, pp.334-337.

²S.Sankaranarayanan (ed.), 'Two Vishnukundi Charters from Tummelagudem', *EA* II, Hyderabad, 1974, pp. 4-20

³P.B.Desai (ed.), 'Reyuru Grant of Pallava Narasimhavarman, Year 12', *EI* XXIX (1951-52), New Delhi, 1987, pp. 89-97

⁴D.C.Sircar (ed.), 'Vunna Guravayapalem Plates of Paramesvaravarman I, Year 19', *EI* XXXII (1957-58), New Delhi, 1987, pp. 91-98

⁵S.S.Ramachandra Murthy, 'The Chalukyas of Vatapi/Badami', *Comprehensive History and Culture of Andhra Pradesh*, vol. III, New Delhi, 2009, pp. 18-20

⁶E.Hultzsch (ed.), 'Koppam plates of Pulakesin II', *EI* XVIII (1925-26), New Delhi, 1983, pp. 253-261

⁷D.C.Sircar (ed.), 'Amudalapadu Plates of Vikramaditya I, Year 5', *EI* XXXII (1957-58), New Delhi, 1987, pp.175-184

⁸E.Hultzsch (ed.), 'Talamanchi plates of Vikramaditya I', *EI* IX (1907-08), New Delhi, 1981, pp. 98-102

⁹S.S.Ramachandra Murthy, *op.cit.*, pp. 24-25

-
- ¹⁰ G.S.Gai (ed.), 'Mayalur Plates of Chalukya Vijayaditya, Saka 622', *EI* XXXIII (1959-60), New Delhi, 1987, pp. 311-314
- ¹¹ P.V.Parabrahma Sastry (ed.), 'Sunkesula inscription', no. 38, *Inscriptions Of Andhra Pradesh, Cuddappah District*, part I, Hyderabad, 1977, pp. 40-41
- ¹² M.S.Nagaraja Rao (ed.), Alampur inscription, *IAR* 1983-84, New Delhi, 1986, p. 119
- ¹³ A.Ghosh (ed.), Chandana inscription (1), *IAR* 1958-59, New Delhi, 1960, p. 57
- ¹⁴ P.V.Parabrahma Sastry (ed.), 'Ramapuram inscription', no. 37, *Inscriptions Of Andhra Pradesh, Cuddappah District*, part I, Hyderabad, 1977, pp. 38-40
- ¹⁵ A.Ghosh (ed.), Chandana inscription (2), *IAR* 1958-59, New Delhi, 1960, p. 57
- ¹⁶ B.K.Thapar (ed.), Kurnuru inscription, *IAR* 1976-77, New Delhi, 1980, p. 57
- ¹⁷ M.D.Sampath (ed.), 'Two inscriptions from Korrapādu', *EI* XLII 1977-78, New Delhi, 1992, pp. 97-100
- ¹⁸ S.S.Ramachandra Murthy, *op.cit.*, pp.31
- ¹⁹ J.F.Fleet (ed.), 'Chīpurupalle Copper-Plate Grant of Vishṇuvaradhana I, dated in his eighteenth year', *IA* XX 1891, Delhi, 1985, pp. 15-18
- ²⁰ M.Somasekhara Sarma (ed.), 'Three Grants of Chalukya Jayasimha I', *EI* XXXI 1955-56, New Delhi, 1987, pp. 129-138
- ²¹ V.Rangacharya (ed.), 'The Pedda-Vegi Plates of the Eastern Chalukya King Jayasimha I (C. 632-663 A.D.)', *EI* XIX 1927-28, New Delhi, 1983, pp. 258-261
- ²² V.Rangacharya (ed.), 'The Pulibumra Plates of the Eastern Chalukya King Jayasimha I (C. 632-663 A.D.)', *EI* XIX 1927-28, New Delhi, 1983, pp. 254-258
- ²³ E.Hultzsch (ed.), 'Niduparu grant of Jayasimha I', *EI* XVIII 1925-26, New Delhi, 1983, pp. 55-58
- ²⁴ J.F.Fleet (ed.), 'Eastern Chalukya Grant of Vishṇuvaradhana II', *IA* VII 1878, Delhi, 1984, pp. 185-191

-
- ²⁵ H.K.Narasimhaswami (ed.), 'Koneki Grant of Visnuvardhana II', *EI* XXXI (1955-56), New Delhi, 1987, pp. 74-80
- ²⁶ J.F.Fleet (ed.), 'Eastern Chalukya Grant of Vishnuvardhana II', *IA* VII 1878, Delhi, 1984, pp.191-192
- ²⁷ E.Hultzsch (ed.), 'Ipur plates of Vishnuvardhana III', *EI* XVIII (1925-26), New Delhi, pp. 58-60
- ²⁸ B.K.Thapar (ed.), 2nd Aluru inscription, *IAR* 1978-79, New Delhi, 1981, p. 76
- ²⁹ A.Ghosh (ed.), Kammavaripalle inscription, *IAR* 1964-65, New Delhi, p. 54
- ³⁰ M.N.Deshpande (ed.), Tirumalapuram inscription, *IAR* 1970-71, New Delhi, 1974, p. 46
- ³¹ J.Durga Prasad, 'The Chalukyas of Vengi', *Comprehensive History and Culture of Andhra Pradesh*, vol. III, New Delhi, 2009, p. 35
- ³² A.Ghosh (ed.), Alampur inscription, *IAR* 1959-60, New Delhi, 1960, p. 54
- ³³ J.Durga Prasad, *op.cit.*, p. 35
- ³⁴ J.Durga Prasad, *op.cit.*, p. 36
- ³⁵ K.V.Ramesh & S.S. Ramachandra Murthy (ed.), 'The Ahadanakaram Plates: A Critical Study', *Studies in Indian Epigraphy, JESI*, vol. I, Mysore, 2008, pp. 124-132
- ³⁶ J.Durga Prasad, *op.cit.*, p. 37
- ³⁷ K.V.Lakshmana Rao (ed.), 'The Addanki Stone Inscription of Pandaranga', *EI* XIX 1927-28, New Delhi, 1983, pp. 271-275
- ³⁸ J.Durga Prasad, *op.cit.*, p. 37
- ³⁹ J.Durga Prasad, *op.cit.*, p. 37
- ⁴⁰ J.Durga Prasad, *op.cit.*, p. 37
- ⁴¹ *Ibid*, p. 38

⁴² P.V.Parabrahma Satry (ed.), Velmajala inscription, *Inscriptions Of Andhra Pradesh, Nalgonda District*, Part I, Hyderabad, 1992, p. 1

⁴³ J.Durga Prasad, *op.cit.*, p. 39

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 40

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 40-41

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 42

⁴⁷ K.Suryanarayana, 'The Chalukyan Lineages of Telangana, Vemulavada and Mudigonda', *Comprehensive History and Culture of Andhra Pradesh*, vol. III, New Delhi, 2009, p. 69

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 73

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 80

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 74

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 75

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 78

⁵³ P.Bhaskara Reddy, 'The Renadu Cholas', *Comprehensive History and Culture of Andhra Pradesh*, vol. III, New Delhi, 2009, p. 89

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 91

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 91-92

⁵⁶ P.V.Parabrahma Sastry (ed.), 'Ramapuram inscription', no. 37, *op.cit.*, 1977, pp. 38-40

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 93

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 94

⁵⁹ N.Krishna Reddy, D. Kiran Kranth Choudary, 'The Banas and Vaidumbas' *Comprehensive*

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 96

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 97

⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 98

⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 99

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 100

⁶⁵ M.S.Krishna Murthy, 'The Nolambas', *Comprehensive History and Culture of Andhra Pradesh*, vol. III, New Delhi, 2009, p. 107

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 109

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 114

⁶⁸ Dilip K. Chakrabarti, *The Geopolitical Orbits of Ancient India The Geographical Frames of the Ancient Indian Dynasties*, New Delhi, 2010, p. 83

⁶⁹ Romila Thapar, *The Penguin History of Early India From the Origins to AD 1300*, New Delhi, 2003, p. 327

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 363