



CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

CSAP's SMART BOOK MEDIEVAL INDIA

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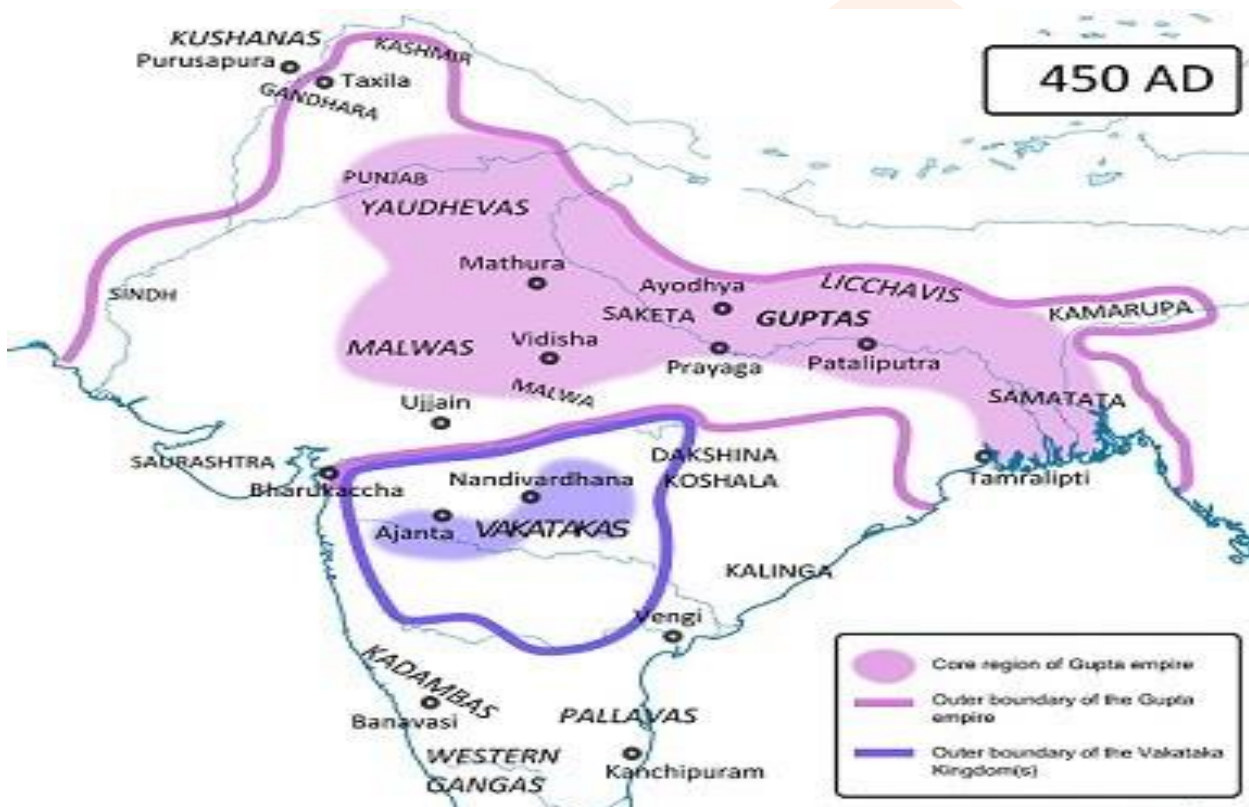
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VAKATAKA DYNASTY

King Vindhyashakti is believed to be the founder of the Vakataka Dynasty and he reigned between (250 – 270 AD)

- The Vakataka dynasty ruled parts of South-Central India from 250 AD to 500 AD.
- They were important rulers whose power was firmly established in the Deccan just like their contemporaries, the Guptas in the North. They were important successors of the Satavahanas.



IMPORTANT FACTS RELATED TO ORIGIN OF VAKATAKAS

- The Vakatakas were Brahmins.
- Their origins are not clear with some claiming they are a northern family while others claim they originated in southern India.
- They have Sanskrit and Prakrit inscriptions which are similar to those belonging to the southern Pallavas.
- Also, no records of the Vakatakas have been found north of the Narmada.

TERRITORIAL EXTENT OF VAKATAKAS

- The Vakataka kingdom extended from the northern extremities of Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra River in the south; and from the Arabian Sea in the west to the edges of Chhattisgarh in the east.

IMPORTANT KINGS AND RELATED ASPECTS

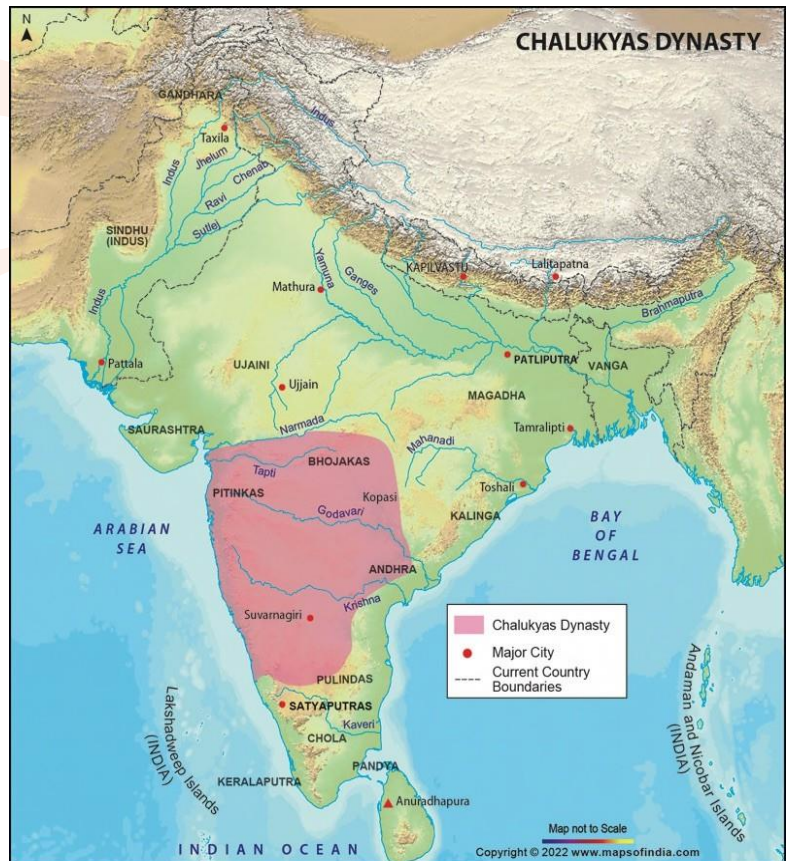
<p>Pravarasena I (270- 330 AD)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><u>Vatsagulma Branch</u></p> <p>This branch ruled over the territory between the Sahyadri Range and the Godavari River with its capital at Vatsagulma (present Washim, Maharashtra).</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son and successor of Vindhyashakti. • His other titles include Samrat, Dharmamaharaja and Haritiputra. • His empire included a good portion of northern India and the Deccan. • He conducted Vedic rituals like Ashwamedha, Vajapeya, etc. • He conducted wars with the Nagas • He had four sons as per the Puranas and it is possible that the empire split up among his sons. • His son Gautamiputra died before him and his grandson (son of Gautamiputra) Rudrasena I succeeded him to the throne. • After his death, there were two divisions of the Vakatakas. • Pravarapura- Nandivardhana Branch • Vatsagulma Branch <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><u>Pravarapura-Nandivardhana Branch</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This branch ruled over Pravarapura (in present Wardha, Maharashtra), Mansar and Nandivardhan in present Nagpur district. • Rudrasena I (Reign: 330 – 355 AD) • Grandson of Pravarasena I. • He was succeeded by his son Prithvishena I who reigned from 355 – 380 AD. </div>
<p>Rudrasena II (380-385 AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Prithvishena I. • Married Prabhavati Gupta, daughter of Chandragupta II. • Rudrasena II died leaving behind minor sons and during this time, the imperial Guptas of the north is said to have controlled the Vakatakas through Prabhavati Gupta who was the regent on behalf of her sons
<p>Pravarasena II (400 – 440 AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was named Damodarasena. • Second son of Rudrasena II. • He became the king after his elder brother Diwakarasena died. • Founded the city of Pravarapura • Also composed Setubandha in Maharashtri Prakrit

<p>Sarvasena (330-355 AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Pravarasena I. • He authored Harivijaya in Prakrit.
<p>Harisena (475-500 AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifth-generation descendent of Sarvasena. • Patronised Buddhist art and architecture. • Many of the Buddhist caves, Viharas and Chaityas at Ajanta were executed under his reign. Ajanta is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983. • *The later caves at Ajanta show the high perfection and sophistication in art achieved under the Vakataka kings particularly Harishena. • * After his death, he was probably succeeded by a few rulers but not much is known about the end of dynasty.

CHALUKYA DYNASTY

CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI

- Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas in the Deccan constitute important political forces.
- Both these kingdoms had their rivals in the far south, namely the Pallavas and later the Cholas.
- Their period has also been important in the history of India for their cultural contributions.
- There were mainly 3 branches of Chalukyas
 - The Western Chalukyas of Badami
 - The Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi
 - The Chalukyas of Kalyani
- Among these, Chalukyas of Badami were the most prominent political powers in ancient India and we shall be emphasising more on them.



Foundation and important kings of early Chalukyas

Pulakeshin i - the founder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He established a small kingdom with Vatapi or Badami as its capital.
Kirtivarman i (566-597AD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Pulakeshin I conquered Konkan and northern Kerala
Mangalesha (597-609AD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brother of Kirtivarman I. • Conquered the Kadambas and the Gangas. <p>Was killed by his nephew and son of Kirtivarman, Pulakesin II</p>
Pulakeshin ii (608- 642AD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulakeshin II is considered to be the greatest king among the Chalukyas and there were several important incidents and events that took place during his reign • The Aihole inscription issued by him gives the details of his reign. • He fought with the Kadambas of Banavasi and the Gangas of Mysore and established his suzerainty. • Durvinita, the Ganga ruler accepted his overlordship and even gave his daughter in marriage to Pulakesin II.

DEFEATING HARSHA

- Another notable achievement of Pulakesin II was the defeat of Harshavardhana on the banks of the river Narmada.
- He put a check to the ambition of Harsha to conquer the south.

EXPEDITION AGAINST PALLAVAS

- In his first expedition against the Pallavas, Pulakesin II emerged victorious.
- But he suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Narasimhavarman I near Kanchi.
- Subsequently, the Chalukya capital Vatapi was captured and destroyed by the Pallavas

VISIT OF HIUEN TSANG

- The most important event in the reign of Pulakesin II was the visit of Hiuen Tsang to his kingdom.

SUCCESSORS OF PULAKESHIN II

- The successors of Pulakeshin II were weak and could not retain the greatness of the empire that they inherited

- The successor of Pulakesin II was Vikramaditya.(655- 680 AD)
- He once again consolidated the Chalukya kingdom and plundered the Pallava capital, Kanchi.
- Thus, he had avenged his father's defeat and death at the hands of the Pallavas.

KIRTIVARMAN II (746 AD – 753 AD)

- Kirtivarman II was the last of the rulers of the Chalukyas.
- He was defeated by Dantidurga, the founder of the Rashtrakuta

SOCIAL LIFE AND ADMINISTRATION UNDER CHALUKYAS

CENTRALISED ADMINISTRATION

- The Chalukya administration was highly centralized unlike that of the Pallavas and the

Cholas.

- Village autonomy was absent under the Chalukyas.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION

- The Chalukyas had a great maritime power.
- Pulakesin II had 100 ships in his navy They also had a small standing army.

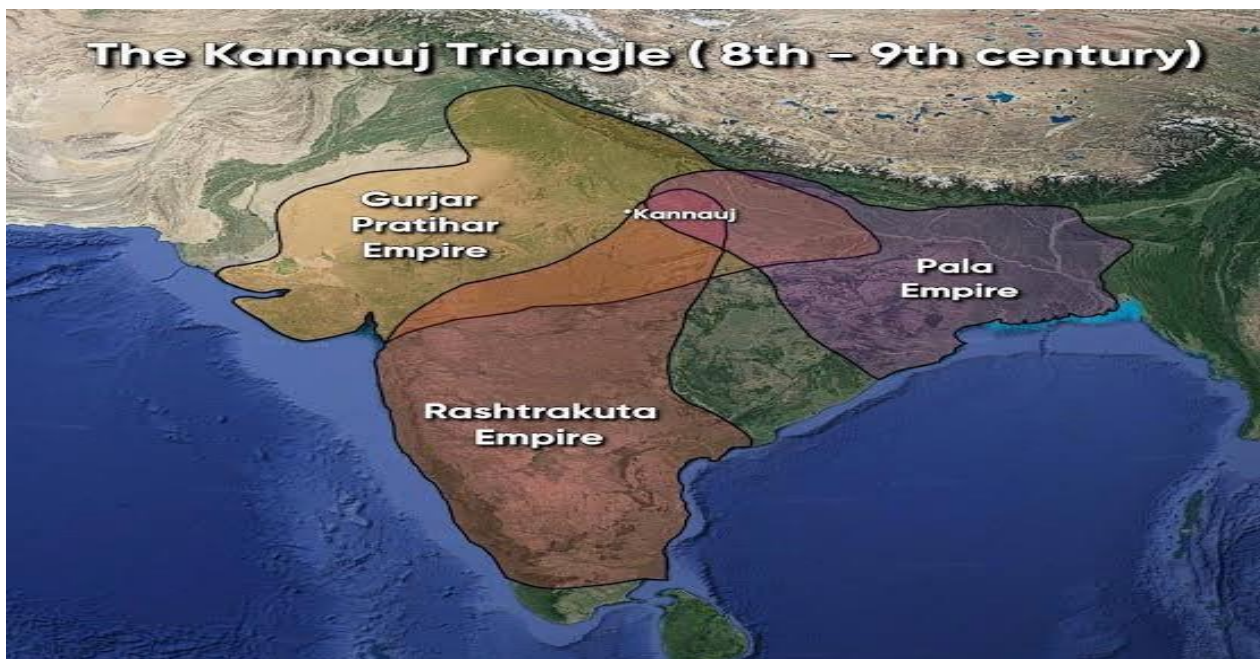
RELIGION UNDER CHALUKYAS

- The Badami Chalukyas were Brahmanical Hindus but they gave respect to other religions. Importance was given to Vedic rites and rituals. The founder of the dynasty Pulakesin I performed the asvamedha sacrifice.
- A number of temples in honour of Vishnu, Siva and other gods were also built during this period.

- Hiuen Tsang mentioned about the decline of Buddhism in western Deccan. But Jainism was steadily on the path of progress in this region.
- Ravikirti, the court poet of Pulakesin II who composed the Aihole inscription was a Jain.

- Temples under Chalukyas are a good example of a vesara style of architecture.
Yesara → Dravida + Nagara style
- Aihole temples – Lady Khan temple (Surya temple) , Durga temple

PALAS, PRATI HARAS, RASHTRAKUTAS



FIGHT FOR KANNAUJ

- Could control nearby areas anyone who ruled it -
- Ganga – rich resources in trade and agriculture Trade flourished
- Communication was easy
- Resources
- Harshvardhan's kingdom Unstable time period for two years.

Large states arose in north India between 750 AD and 1000 AD

- Pala empire dominated eastern India till middle of 9th century
- Pratihara empire dominated western India and upper Gangetic valley till middle of 10th century.

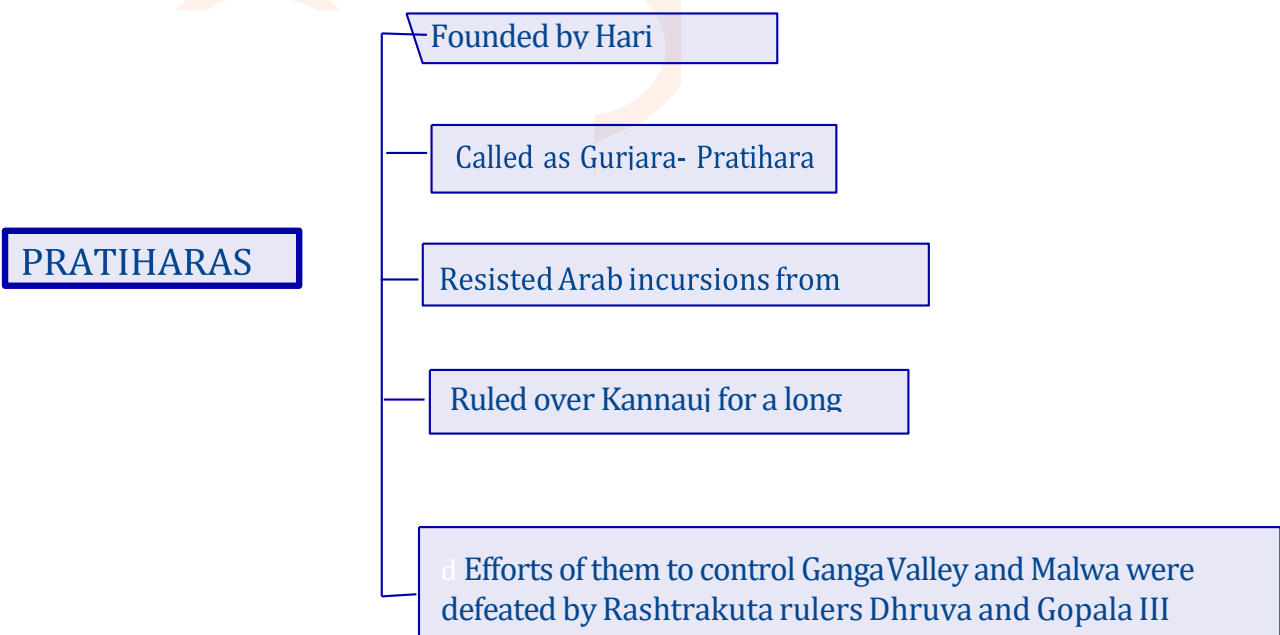
- Rashtrakuta dominated Deccan ; also controlled territories in north and south at different times
- Of the three Rashtrakuta lasted longest. Most powerful ; acted as a bridge between north and south in economic as well as in cultural matters.

PALAS

<p>Gopala (founded in 750 AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Vapyata, a warrior. • Was elected by a group of people. • At the time of his death, Pala kingdom included Bengal and most of Bihar. • He built the monastery at Odantapuri, Bihar. • Considered the first Buddhist king of Bengal. • Unified Bengal and brought Magadha (Bihar) under his control
<p>Dharampala (770-810AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pratihara ruler was defeated by Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva, but he soon returned to Deccan so Dharampala got chance to occupy Kannauj • Expanded the kingdom • *Was a pious Buddhist • Dharampala revived Nalanda university and founded Vikramasila University (both destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji military general of Mohammad Ghori) at Bhagalpur, Bihar. • The Palas became the most powerful kingdom in northern and eastern India during his rule • Frequent wars with the Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas • Pratihara revived under Nagabhata II who defeated Dharampala
<p>Devapala (810-850AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Dharmapala and Rannadevi, Rashtrakuta princess. • Extended the kingdom to Assam, Odisha and Kamarupa. • Was a staunch Buddhist and built many Monasteries and temples in Magadha. • Defeated the Rashtrakuta ruler Amoghavarsha. • Arab merchant – Sulaiman • Palas were in fight with neighbours – had much troops • Palas were supporters of Buddhism • They even extended patronage to Savism and Vaishnavism • Close cultural relations with Tibet – Buddhist Scholars Santarakshita and Dipankara (Atisa) were invited to Tibet • Extended trade and cultural contacts with Burma, Malaya, Java, Sumatra etc
<p>Ramapala</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * the last strong Pala king
<p>Madanapala (1144-1162AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • last pala king • after him , the Sena dynasty replaced the Palas in 12th AD
<p>Bhoja</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by 836 AD he recovered Kannauj which remained capital of Pratihara for almost a century • Bhoja tried to extend his sway in east but was defeated by Devapala

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained his control over parts of Malwa but he could not progress further in Deccan. He was a devotee of Vishnu and adopted title of Adivaraha – found in some coins
Mahendrapala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took throne after Bhoja and extended it over Magadha and north Bengal Defeated by a king of Kashmir

PALA AND PRATIHARA ADMINISTRATION	Provinces → Bhukti
	District → Mandala / Visaya
	Governor → Uparika (collected revenue and maintained law and order)
	Head of District → Vishayapati
	Samanta → Bhogpati



Al-Masudi

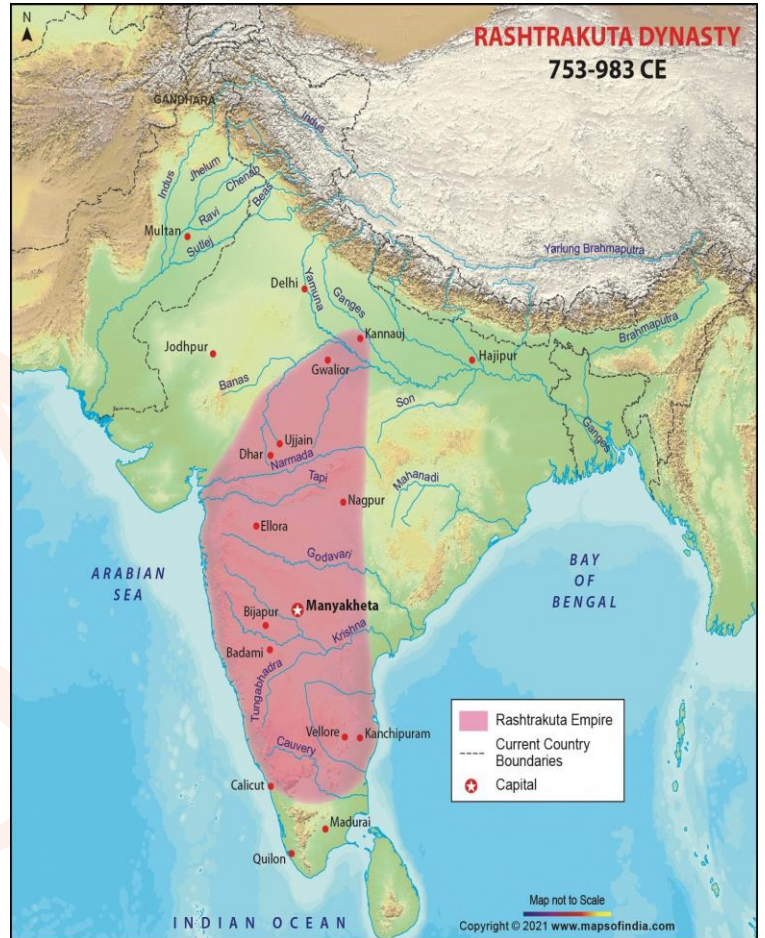
- Native of Baghdad –
- 915-16 – visited this empire
- Told about the great power and prestige and vastness Called this kingdom as al-Juzr (a corrupt form of Gurjara)

He defeated the Gurjaras and captured Malwa from them. Then he annexed the Chalukya kingdom by defeating Kirtivarman II

Thus, the Rashtrakutas became a paramount power in the Deccan
Rashtrakutas ruled for more than 200 years and had various kings in their dynasty.

Politics under Pala rule

- Land grants to Brahmanas, priests, temples – permanent grants.
- Villages under the Palas – grouped units – royal officials responsible for the administration.
- Land grants on Buddhist monasteries.
- Palas operated from several loci of power viz Pataliputra, Mudgagiri etc.



Art and Architecture	Terracotta, sculpture, painting
	Vikramshila vihar, Odantpuri Vihar
	Perfect carving and Bronze sculptures
	Treracotta plaques

RASHTRAKUTAS

The Rashtrakutas were of Kannada origin and Kannada language was their mother tongue

Founder – Dantidurga; capital at Manyakheta or Malkhed near modern Sholapur

Fought constantly against the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi (Andhra Pradesh) and in south against Pallavas of Kanchi and Pandyas of Madurai