



## Chalukyan Rulers

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Recently, graves of Chalukyan rulers have been unearthed in a village near Pattadakal, Karnataka.

- The findings are significant since there are no clear details available of the places where Chalukyan rulers lived.
- Neither they have left behind documents nor evidence of their graves. It is believed that they wanted their death to remain a secret and built their graves in a discreet manner.
- Chalukyan kings were famous for **building gigantic temples with intricate architecture** which could be found at places such as **Aihole, Badami and Pattadakal**.

## Historical Background

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- The Chalukyas ruled parts of **Southern and Central India** between the **6<sup>th</sup> century and the 12<sup>th</sup> century**.
- There were **three distinct but related Chalukya dynasties**.
  - **Badami Chalukyas:**
    - The **earliest Chalukyas** with their capital at **Badami (Vatapi)** in **Karnataka**.
    - They ruled from mid-6<sup>th</sup> century and declined after the death of their greatest king, Pulakesin II in 642 AD.
  - **Eastern Chalukyas:**
    - Emerged after the death of Pulakesin II in Eastern Deccan with capital at Vengi.
    - They ruled till the 11<sup>th</sup> century.
  - **Western Chalukyas:**
    - Descendants of the Badami Chalukyas, they emerged in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century and ruled from Kalyani.



- **The extent of empire:**

- The Chalukya dynasty reached its peak during the reign of **Pulakesin II**.
- Pulakesin II subjugated the Kadambas, the Gangas of Mysore, the Mauravas of North Konkan, the Latas of Gujarat, the Malavas and the Gurjars.
  - He also succeeded in getting a submission from the Chola, Chera and Pandya kings.
  - He had also defeated King Harsha of Kannauj and the Pallava king Mahendravarman.
  - He had maintained friendly relations with Khusru II, the king of Persia.

- **Administration and Society:**

- The Chalukyas had great army comprised of infantry, cavalry, elephant unit and a dominant navy.
- Though the **Chalukya kings were Hindus**, they were tolerant of Buddhism and Jainism.
- They contributed to great developments in **Kannada and Telugu literature**.
- They imprinted coins were included Nagari and Kannada legends.
  - They minted coins with cryptograms of temples, lion or boar facing right and the lotus.

- **Architecture:**

- They built cave temples **depicting both religious and secular themes**.
- The temples also had **beautiful mural paintings**.
- The temples under the Chalukyas are a good example of the **Vesara style of architecture**.

- **Vesara style** is a combination of **Dravida and Nagara styles**.
  - **Aihole temples:** Lady Khan temple (Surya Temple), Durga temple, Huchimalligudi temple etc.
  - **Badami temples**
  - **Pattadakal Temples:**
    - It is well known for **rock-cut temples**.
    - It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
    - There are ten temples here – 4 in Nagara style and 6 in Dravida style. Virupaksha temple and Sangameshwara Temple are in Dravida style.

**Source: TH**