

# THE RASHTRAKUTAS (PART-3)

B.A. (HISTORY) PART-2  
PAPER-3

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# POLITICAL HISTORY

## (6)Amoghavarsha

- ❖ Govinda III was succeeded by his minor son named Amoghavarsha.
- ❖ His reign started with trouble. Revolt of feudal chiefs. In the wake of disruption the Eastern Chalukya king Vijayditya of Vengi took a revenge for the past defeat by overthrowing Amoghavarsha from his ancestral throne.
- ❖ The *Sanjan plate* states that Vijayaditya II of Vengi joined with the Ganga ruler to overthrow

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him. But with the help of his cousin Karkaraja, the regent, Amoghavarsha slowly and steadily recovered his fortune by defeating Vijayaditya in 830 A.D.

- ❖ Possessed a number of royal emblems that included the three canopies captured earlier by his ancestor Govindaraja II.
- ❖ copper grants found in Baroda and Kavi in Broach that deal with Amoghavarsha's rule, mention the charitable generosity of the king and indicate that he put down another rebellion in Gujarat by a Rashtrakuta king.
- ❖ Inscriptions, dating from 843 A.D. onwards found at Kanheri in Thane district, at Konur, at Shirur, provide a great deal of information regarding

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Amoghavarsha's reign. It is known that Pulla Shakti of the Shilahara dynasty and the governor of Konkan was his chief feudatory; that Pulla Shakti was a Buddhist and succeeded by Kapardi II to the governorship; and that Amoghavarsha was a benevolent king.

- ❖ In one inscription it is mentioned that the Rashtrakutas were an off-shoot of the Yadavas and that they adopted a new title of Vira Narayana.
- ❖ Amoghavarsha ruled for a long period of 64 years. His rules was full of revolts and attack from neighbours.
- ❖ He had to wage many wars to crush these rebellions. First he defeated the eastern

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Chalukyas of Vengi, the eternal enemy of the Rashtrakuta revolted again in and about 850 A.D. At this time ruler of Vengi was Gunaga Vijayaditya. Gunaga was determined to assert the independence of Vengi and made an attack on Kurnool district, a part of Rashtrakuta kingdom. Amoghavarsha inflicted a crushing defeat.

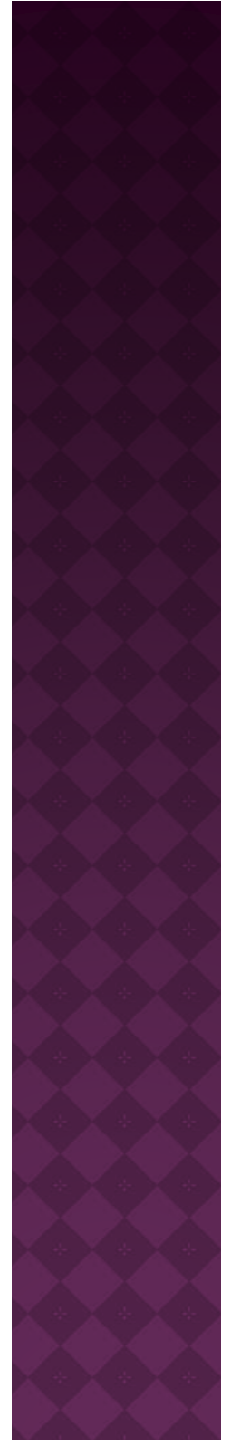
- ❖ Amoghavarsha had to cross his sword repeatedly with the Ganga king of Gangavadi. The Konnur inscription gives a faithful description of Amoghavarsha's wars against the Gangas.
- ❖ He mentions that the kings of Anga, Banga, Magadha and Malwa continued to accept Rashtrakuta superiority over themselves.

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- ❖ He shifted the capital of the Deccan Rashtrakutas from Nasik to *Manykheta* mentioned as Mankir in the Arab chronicles.
- ❖ Throughout his reign he was at odds with the Western Chalukyas over control of fertile lands, both the kingdoms regularly resorting to conflict.
- ❖ He was a great patron of Jainism. A Jain writer, Jinasena, mentions in one of his works that the king Amoghavarsha was an ardent follower of the Jain religion.

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- ❖ He handed over the governance of the kingdom to his son after 65 years of tumultuous but glorious rule, he opted to spend the rest of his life in religious meditation, while gradually starving himself to death-the epitome of Jain belief.



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## (7)Krishna-II

- ❖ He was the son of Amoghavarsha and ascended the throne around 875 while his father was still alive.
- ❖ Information regarding his rule comes from four inscriptions and two copper grants that have so far been discovered.
- ❖ In some places the king has been referred to as “*Krishnavallabha*”, confirming that the term Vallabha was a title used by Rashtrakuta kings to indicate status and power.



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- ❖ Krishnaraja II was married to Mahadevi, princess of Chedi and the daughter of king Kokkala of the Kalachuri, also called Haihaya, dynasty. She was also the daughter of Krishnaraja's maternal uncle. This system of marrying the maternal uncle's daughter was common in the Rashtrakuta dynasty and is a custom that is still prevalent in some South Indian communities.
- ❖ His reign witnessed the conflict with the Western Chalukyas.
- ❖ Legend has it that his son *Jagattunga* won many battles on behalf of his father and extended the

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territorial holding of the kingdom. There is a lack of firm evidence to confirm this.

- ❖ The kingdom under Krishnaraja II is supposed to have touched the River Ganges in the north and encompassed Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari) in the south. This claim may be a bit of an exaggeration. However, there is no doubt that the Rashtrakuta kingdom held a position of predominant power in the sub-continent during these times.
- ❖ He died around 911 A.D. and was followed on the throne by his grandson Indraraja III.

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## (8)Indraraja III

- ❖ Indraraja was the son of Jagattunga and Lakshmi the princess of the Kalachuri dynasty.
- ❖ His coronation was held at the village of *Kurundaka*, located at the confluence of the Rivers Krishna and Panchganga, and not in the kingdom's capital. It has not been possible to ascertain any reason for this break from tradition.
- ❖ According to a copper plate, Indraraja III laid waste Meru, ruled by Pratihara Mahipala. This could be a reference to Mahodaya which was

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- ❖ another name for Kanauj. It was also during his reign that the author Trivikrama Bhatta wrote the books Damayanti Katha and Madalasa Champu.
- ❖ Indraraja III died in 916 A.D. having ruled for only about six years. He had two sons and was succeeded by his elder son Amoghavarsha II who died within a year of accession.

## (9)Govindaraja IV

- ❖ He was the younger brother of Amoghavarsha and took over the reins of power on the untimely death of his brother.

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There is some speculation of foul play in Amoghavarsha's untimely death and Govindaraja's complicity in it although there is no evidence to prove it.

- ❖ Conflict with the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi broke out at this stage, although Govindaraja's attempt at attacking Chalukya territory did not meet with any notable success.
- ❖ He is also mentioned in copper grant as as *Yaduvanshi* of the lunar lineage. Govindaraja also did not rule for long, died at an early age.

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## (10)Baddiga

The death of Govindaraja brought on greater confusion in an already turbulent kingdom that was suffering from a deficit of governance. The feudatories of the Rashtrakutas, in order to stabilize the core kingdom, brought Amoghavarsha III commonly called Baddiga, to the throne around 935 A.D.

- ❖ He was the son of Jagattunga through another queen and therefore a stepbrother of Indraraja III.
- ❖ He proved to be an effective and wise king

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and managed to recover the kingdom from any further decline.

- ❖ He was married to Kundakadevi, the daughter of Yuvaraja I of the Kalachuri dynasty and his daughter was married to Satyavakya Bhutuga II of the Ganga dynasty.
- ⦿ Baddiga returned to these traditional alliances to re-establish relationships and to ensure stability. His rule too was short, may be since he himself had come to power at a late age. He had four sons who came to the throne after him sequentially.

## (11) Krishnaraja III

- ❖ Krishnaraja was the eldest son of Baddiga and came to power around 939A.D.

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- ❖ Even as a Crown Prince he exercised a powerful influence in ruling the kingdom during his father's short reign.
- ❖ On ascending the throne he went on to become an effective ruler. He successfully battled the Chola dynasty in 949-50 A.D. at a place called *Takkola*. An inscription to commemorate the victory mentions that during the battle Krishnaraja killed the Chola king Rajaditya. In actual fact this is wrong. Rajaditya was indeed killed, but through treacherous means by Stayavakya Bhutuga II, the husband of Krishnaraja's elder sister Revakanimmadi.



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- ❖ Information regarding Krishnaraja's rule is available from sixteen inscriptions and two copper grants.
- ❖ He was a successful and conquering king who was renowned for his personal bravery and at the same time was a patron of learning, art and literature.
- ❖ A military genius, led military campaigns in all directions.
  - (1) defeated Gurjara king
  - (2) defeated Dantiga of Kanchi
  - (3) Conquered Pandya territory
  - (4) Subjugated king of Ceylon
  - (5) defeated king Antiga of the Pallava dynasty

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- ❖ He assumed the title of Chakravarti around 949 A.D.
- ❖ He was a worshipper of Shiva and adopted the title *Parama Maheshvar*
- ❖ A patron of literature, supported a number of authors and poets like Somadeva, Ponna, Pushpadanta etc.
- ❖ He ruled till 966 A.D.

## (12)Khottiga

- ❖ He was brother of Krishnaraja III , inherited the throne

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- ❖ In 972 A.D., Malwa king Siyak II attacked, defeated and killed him. This fact is confirmed by Pushpadanta's book
- ❖ He died without male heirs, leaving the succession path clear for the son of his younger brother Nirupama to ascend the throne

## (13) Karakara II

- ❖ He succeeded his uncle around 972 A.D.
- ❖ In 973 A.D. Chalukyan king Tailapa II invaded the Rashtrakuta kingdom finishing the destruction that had been started by Siyaka II of Malwa. The Chalukyas regained lost power through this

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act and became the predominant dynasty of the Deccan with their capital at Kalyani. 973 A.D. can be considered the end of the primary Deccan branch of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. An inscription of Vijjaya of the Kalachuri dynasty and the primary feudatory of the Rashtrakutas for two centuries confirms that Karakraja II was killed by Tailapa during the Chalukya invasion. The complete defeat of the Rashtrakutas is corroborated by two copper plates dated to 997 and 1008 A.D. of Aparajita of the Shilara dynasty, which was a confirmed feudatory, indicating that he was now independent of the Rashtrakutas.

(To be continued)

