

THE PALLAVAS (PART-3)

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

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CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Administration:

- ⦿ The Pallavas had a well organized administrative system. Monarchy was the order of the day. The title '*Dharma-Maharaja*' assumed by the kings show that they exercised their rule righteously. The king was the head of the state, the fountain of honour, judge, and leader of the armed forces.
- ⦿ The Pallava state was divided into Kottams. The Kottam was administered by officers appointed by the king.

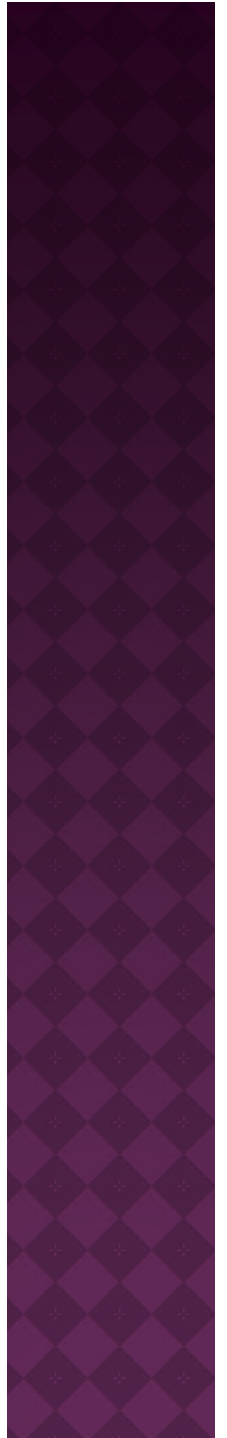
CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- The village is the basic unit of administration. Different types of villages like villages with inter caste population, *Brahmadeya* and *Devadana* existed during this period. The village administration was run by various local autonomous assemblies. Sabha, Urar etc., were the most popular assemblies of this period. Every village had got a court of justice, viz. Dharamasasana. Every village was provided with professional servants like potters, weavers, carpenters, smiths etc. It appears that the village acted like self sufficient miniature republics in the Pallava period. Entrusting the administration of a smaller territorial to an assembly or a local autonomous institution appears to be a very important feature of the Pallava polity.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Land revenue was the major source of income. The Pallavas also levied taxes on professions, marriages, manufacture of salt, sugar and textiles, draught cattle etc., It is evident from the testimony of *Hiuen Tsang* that the people were very hard working and the soil was very fertile, the labourers who did agricultural work were paid in kind.

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CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Religion :

- The heterodox religions viz. Buddhism and Jainism were still very active in the Pallava kingdom. It is evident from the testimony of *Hieun Tsang* that there were hundred Buddhist monasteries and 10,000 Buddhist monks and nuns belonging to the Mahayana schools of Buddhism at Kanchi. Jainism enjoyed popularity in the beginning. Most of the Pallava kings were the followers of both Vaishnavism and Saivism. The Pallava kings assumed not only the title “Dharma-Maharaja’ but also performed the Vedic sacrifices like *Agnisthoma, Vajapeya and Asvamedha* sacrifices,

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

which were in conformity with the Vedic sacrifices. Thus Buddhism and Jainism lost the royal patronage and mass support. This paved the way for the rise of Vedic religion. Besides the performance of Vedic sacrifices, the worship of gods Brahma, Vishnu and Siva became popular. From the 7th century onwards the *Nayanars and Alvars* contributed to the growth of Saivism and Vaishnavism. This is known Bhakti movement. The cult of Bhakti began to dominate the religious life of the South Indians, and the Alvars and Nayanars played a great part in propagating it.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- The Vedic tradition was further reinforced by a movement started by Sankaracharya. This movement was aimed at cleaning the Vedic philosophy of its obscurities and its inconsistencies thereby making it both comprehensible and acceptable to the people at large. Sankaracharya achieved fame by advocating Advaita philosophy.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Education and Literature:

- ◉ The Pallavas were great patrons of learning. The University of Kanchi became the nucleus of learning and intellectualism. It attracted students from different parts of India and abroad.
- ◉ The founder of the Kadamaba dynasty, *Mayurasarman*, studied Vedas at Kanchi. Dharmapala, who later became the Rector of Nalanda University, belonged to Kanchi. The Ghatikas and Mathas were the other Brahmanical educational institutions attached to the Temples. Sanskrit, the language of privileged, became

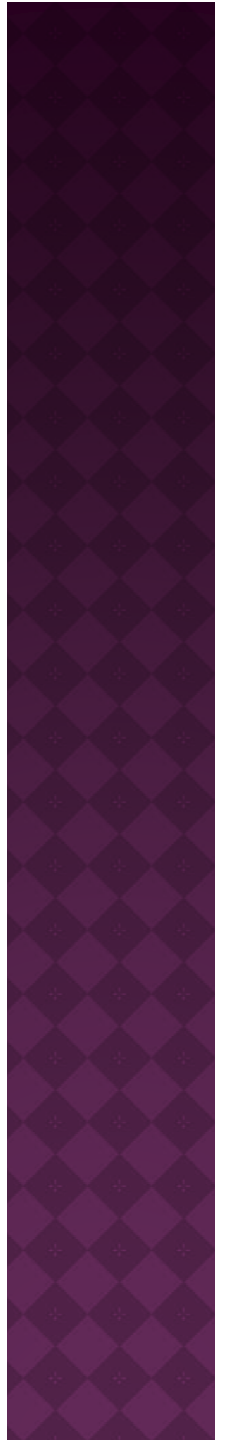
CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

the recognized medium in the Brahmanical institutions of the period.

- ◉ Several works in Sanskrit were produced during this period. The *Kiratarjuniyam* of Bharavi, *Dasakumaracharita* of Dandi and the *Mattavilasaprahasana* of Mahendravarman I were the best Sanskrit works of the period.
- ◉ The Tamil literature had also developed under the patronage of the Pallavas. Tiruvelluvar, the author of '*kural*' lived during this period. Perundevanar was patronized by Nandivarman II and he translated Mahabharata into Tamil. The '*Thevaram*' composed by the Nayanars and

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- ◉ *Nalayaradivya prabhandam*’ composed by the Alvars represent the religious literature of the period. The Tamil devotional saints exploited music and dance to realize the ‘concept of compassionate God’. The religious hymns were sung with the accompaniment of music and dance. This became a regular feature in the temple festivals.



CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Art and Architecture:

- The religious revival of the period gave an impetus to the architectural activity. The contribution of the Pallavas to the Indian Art and Architecture is immense. In fact the history of Dravidian style of Indian Architecture in the south began with the Pallavas. It was a gradual evolution starting from the cave temples to the monolithic Rathas and culminated in structural temples.
- The Five Rathas popularly called as the '*Pancha Pandava Rathas (Rock-cut Rathas)*' at Mamallapuram

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

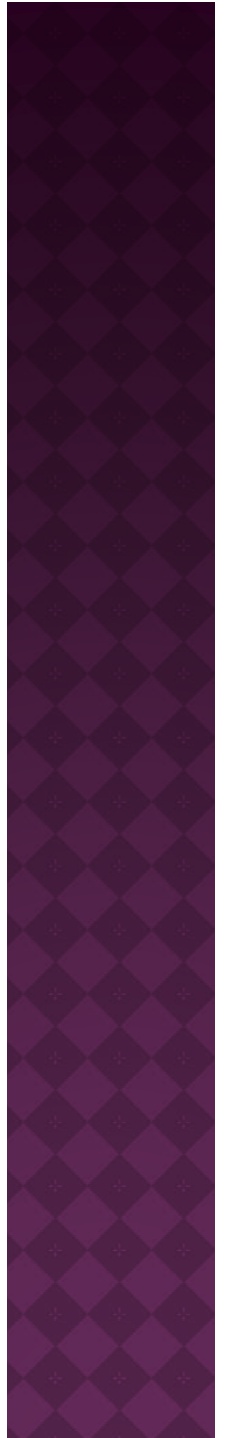
signifies five different styles of Architecture. The Kailasanatha temple at Kanchi and Shore temple at Mamallapuram remain the finest examples of early structural temples of the Pallavas. The Kailasanatha temple is the greatest Architectural master piece of Pallava Art.

- ◉ The Pallavas had also contributed to the development of sculpture. The Mandapas contain beautiful sculptures on its walls. The sculpture depicting the '*Descent of Ganges or the Penance of Arjuna*' at Mamallapuram is a master piece of classical art. Music, Dance and Painting had also developed under the patronage of the Pallavas. The Paintings at the caves of Sittannavasal belonged to the Pallava period.

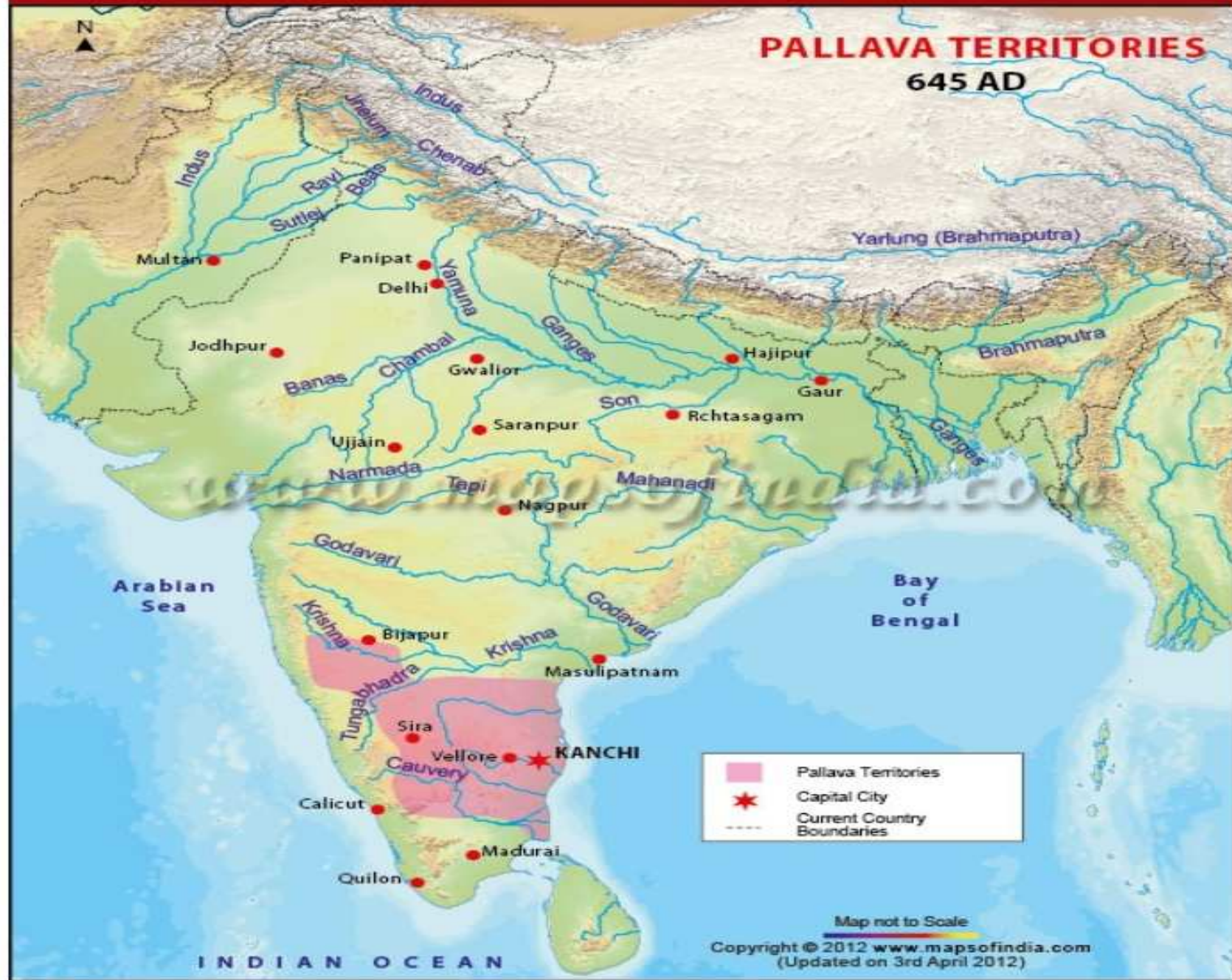
CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- ◉ ***Spread of Indian Culture:***

The crowning achievement of the Pallavas was that they became torch-bearers of Hindu culture in South-East Asia. This later on paved the way for the creation of Greater India.



Map of Pallava Dynasty



SHORE TEMPLE-MAHABALIPURAM



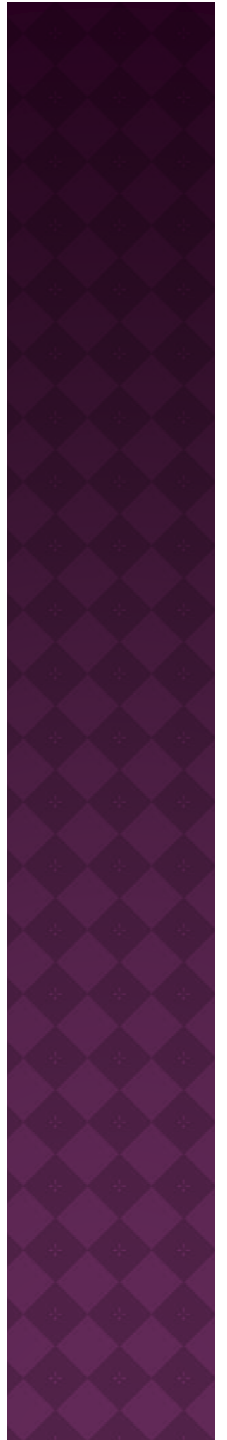
EKAMBARNATH TEMPLE



ROCK CARVING



Descent of the Ganges rock carvings at Mahabalipuram



VAIKUNTH PERUMAL-TEMPLE CARVING

