

# **ORIGIN, CHRONOLOGY AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF KAKATIYAS**

# ORIGIN OF KAKATIYAS (1000-1323AD)

- In the history of medieval Andhra, the Kakatiyas played a very significant role. The credit of uniting all Telugu people goes to them.
- Even today the memory of the Kakatiya rule is green in the minds and hearts of the Andhrajati as the Kakatiyas shaped and moulded the identity of the Andhras by establishing a unified political and cultural over the entire Telugu-speaking region.

- The political power and structures were different opinion among historians regarding the origin and caste of the Kakatiyas.
- The literary text Prataparudrayasobhushana of Vidyanatha records that this family of rulers was called Kakatiyas as they were known to have worshipped the goddess Kakati. A temple was dedicated to goddess Kakati at Warangal, the capital of the Kakatiyas.

- The epigraphs of the Kakatiyas refer to them as the lords of Kakatipura. On the basis of these literary and epigraphical evidences, it can be suggested that Kakati was a Pura or town and the family name Kakatiya might have been based on the original connection of the family with that town.

- The Kakatiyas are said to have entered Andhradesa as generals of the Rashtrakutas. The earliest known member of the dynasty was Gundaya, who the Eastern Chalukyas. Later on, the early Kakatiyas ruled over Natavadi region (Khammam district) as the feudatories of the Chalukyas Of Kalyani.

- Kakatiya rulers Beta Raju I, Prola Raju I, Beta Raju II and Prola Raju II served the Western Chalukya rulers; Somesvara I, Vikramaditya VI, Somesvara III and Jagadekamalla II.

- After the fall of the Western Chalukyan power during the reign of Tailapa III, the Kakatiya ruler Rudradeva or prataparudra I declared independence in AD 1158. Rudradeva, who ruled from AD 1158 to 1195, was the son and successor of Prola II. He was the founder of the Kakatiya dynasty. In order to take revenge for his father's death, he defeated Velanati Chodas, and extended their kingdom.

- Rudradeva faced defeat in the conflict with the Yadavas of Devagiri. He is credited with laying foundation stone for a new fort near Warangal, which became the capital of the Kakatiyas. As Rudradeva had no children, he was succeeded to the throne by his brother Mahadeva, who ruled from AD 1195 to AD 1198-99.



- Mahadeva was defeated by the Yadava Jaitugi and he lost his life in the battle and his son Ganapatideva was captured as prisoner by the Yadavas. Political instability and disorder gripped the Kakatiyas because of the captivity of Ganapati Deva and the death of Mahadeva. At that juncture, Recharla Rudra, the loyal commander-in-chief of the Kakatiyas saved the kingdom. Ultimately, Ganapatideva was released by the Yadavas from prison and was sent to the Kakatiya kingdom. It is argued that political pressures experienced by the Yadavas from other quarters were responsible for this release of Ganapatideva.

- Ganapatideva ruled from AD 1199 to 1262. He expanded the Kakatiya territorial state by capturing coastal Andhra by defeating the Velanati kings and later he led an expedition to Nellore and placed Manumasiddhi on the throne of Nellore. But Ganapatideva's efforts to bring Kalinga under his sway were not successful.

- Ganapatideva successfully united the entire Telugu-speaking people under his time and shifted his capital from Hanumankonda to Warangal.

- As Ganapatideva had no male issue, his daughter Rudramadevi ruled from AD 1262 to 1289. Ganapatideva had two daughters; Rudrama and Ganapamba. The accession of Rudrama to the Kakatiya throne was a remarkable and memorable event of medieval South India as she was the first woman ruler of Andhra region.

- She successfully repulsed the Yadava attack and drove the Yadavas up to Devagiri as is known from the Bidar epigraph. We come to know from the Chandupatla epigraph that Rudrama and her general Mallikaijuna died in the battlefield while opposing Kayasta Ambadeva, who defeated her. Rudrama was followed by daughter Mummadamba's son, Prataparudradeva, who ruled from AD 1289 to AD 1323.

- Prataparudra defeated Kayashta Ambadeva and his allies and the Yadavas who supported Ambadeva. It was during his reign that the Delhi Sultans, first Allauddin Khilji and later Muhammad bin Tughlak turned their attention towards South India and began to invade the Kakatiya territories.

- Finally, the Kakatiya power came to an end in AD 1323, with the failure and defeat of Prataparudra by Muhammad bin Tuglak's armies. The Kakatiya rule came to an end with the defeat and death of Prataparudra.

# Administration

- The Kakatiya polity was based on monarchical system. The Kakatiya ruler was the pivot of the entire administrative structure, yet he was not an absolute autocrat. A woman coming to the throne was a remarkable exception.
- The Kakatiya rulers were assisted by a council of ministers and a host of officers at the centre as well as the provincial and local level.



- They took care to see that the territorial segments were properly divided and ruled effectively by loyal officials. Mandala, Nadu, Sthala, Seema and Bhumi were the names of the territorial divisions.
- The Kakatiya state was a military-state ready to face the threat of internal and external enemies. The number of soldiers, horses, and elephants that are to be maintained by the Nayak's.

- In the military organization, forts played crucial role and the epigraphs refer to Giridurgas, like Anumakonda, Raichur, Gandikota and the Vanadurgas, like Kandur and Narayanavanam, the Jaladurgas, like Divi and Kolanu and the Sthaladurgas, like Warangal and Dharanikota.

# Society and Religion

- The Andhra society during Kakatiya rule was organised into 18 castes, which were referred in the epigraphical records. The Kakatiyas were saivas, though the early rulers were the followers of Jainism, Vaishnavism also flourished.

# Culture and Literature

- The greatest Sanskrit poets of this age were Vidyanadha and Jayapasenani. Vidyanatha wrote Parataparudrayasobhushana. Jayapasenani was the author of Nrityaratnawali and Gitaratnavali.
- Coming to Telugu literature, the most important are Tikkanna Somayaji translated 15 parvas of Mahabharata in Telugu, Bhaskara who wrote Bhaskara Ramayana.

- Gona Budda Reddi who wrote Ranganatha Ramayanam, Nanne Choda, the author of Kumara Sambhavama, Baddena the author of Sumati Satakam and Palkuriki Somanadha, the author of Basavapuram, and Panditaradhyacharita.

- Their temple architecture reflects great sophistication and the 'Thousand-pillared temple' is a landmark in the evolution of the Kakatiyan architectural style. The great Rudresvara temple was built by Recharla Rudra, the commander in chief of Ganapati Deva. The Gomateswara temple at Manthani, Pillalamarri temple at Naguladu are the masterpieces of the Kakatiyan style of architecture.

- . Nandis are a special feature of the Kakatiya sculpture. The Nandi images at Palampet, Thousand-pillared temple, Sambhuni Gudi, Ghanapur, Kolanupalli are some of the best examples with profuse bell ornamentation.

