



## Temple Discoveries Highlight Chalukya Expansion

**For Prelims:** [Badami Chalukyan](#), Mudimanikyam village, Gandalaranru, Jogulamba temples at Alampur, submerged sites of Yeleswaram, Architectural Design of Chalukya Period, Aihole Inscription of Pulikesin II.

**For Mains:** Key Features Related to the Chalukya Dynasty

[Source: TOI](#)

### Why in News?

Archaeologists from the **Public Research Institute of History, Archaeology, and Heritage (PRIHAH)** have unearthed two ancient temples dating back to the [Badami Chalukyan](#) period, along with a rare inscription, in **Mudimanikyam village** of Nalgonda district, **Telangana**.

### What are the Major Highlights of the Recent Excavation?

- **Temples:** Located at the end of the village, the two temples date back to between 543 AD and 750 AD, corresponding to the rule of the **Badami Chalukyas**.
  - They showcase unique architectural styles, blending **Badami Chalukyan and Kadamba Nagara** style in the Rekha nagara format.
  - In one temple, a **panavattam (base of a Shiva lingam)** in the sanctum sanctorum has been found.
  - In another, a **Vishnu idol** was recovered.
- **Inscription:** The discovery also includes an inscription, labeled as 'Gandaloranru', dating back to the **8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Century AD**.
- **Significance:** Previously, the **Jogulamba temples at Alampur** and the **submerged sites of Yeleswaram** were considered the farthest reaches of the **Badami Chalukya influence**.
  - The new discovery extends the known boundaries of the Chalukya kingdom significantly.

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## What are the Key Features Related to the Chalukya Dynasty?

- **About:** The Chalukya dynasty governed significant territories in southern and central India from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.
  - It comprised three distinct dynasties: the **Chalukyas of Badami, the Eastern Chalukyas, and the Western Chalukyas.**
  - The Chalukyas of Badami, originating in **Vatapi (modern Badami in Karnataka)**, ruled from the early 6<sup>th</sup> century until the mid-8<sup>th</sup> century, reaching their zenith **under Pulakeshin II.**
  - After Pulakeshin II's reign, the Eastern Chalukyas emerged as an independent kingdom in the eastern Deccan, centred around Vengi (in present-day Andhra Pradesh) until the 11<sup>th</sup> century.
  - The rise of the Rashtrakutas in the 8<sup>th</sup> century overshadowed the Chalukyas of Badami in the western Deccan.
    - However, their legacy was revived by their descendants, the Western Chalukyas, who ruled from **Kalyani (modern Basavakalyan in Karnataka)** until the late 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Foundation: Pulikesin I** (c. 535-566 CE) is credited with fortifying a hill near Badami, laying the foundation for the Chalukya dynasty's ascendancy.
  - The **city of Badami** was formally founded by **Kirtivarman (566-597)**, serving as the epicentre of Chalukya power and culture.
- **Polity and Administration:** The Chalukyas implemented a structured administrative system, dividing their realm into political units for effective governance.
  - These divisions included **Vishayam, Rastram, Nadu, and Grama.**
- **Religious Patronage:** The Chalukyas were notable patrons of both **Saivism and Vaishnavism.**
  - Beyond mainstream Hinduism, the Chalukyas also patronized heterodox sects, such as **Jainism and Buddhism**, exemplifying their commitment to religious diversity.
    - **Ravikirti**, the poet-laureate of Pulikesin II, was a Jain scholar.
    - According to the traveller Hiuen Tsang, there were many Buddhist centres in the Chalukya territory wherein more than 5000 followers of the **Hinayana** and **Mahayana** sects lived.
- **Architecture:** Historically, in Deccan, Chalukyas introduced the technique of building temples **using soft sandstones as medium.**
  - Their temples are grouped into two: **excavated cave temples and structural temples.**
    - Badami is known for both structural and excavated cave temples.
    - **Pattadakal and Aihole** are popular for structural temples.
- **Literary:** Chalukya rulers utilised **Sanskrit for official inscriptions**, showcasing their

commitment to classical literature and language.

- Despite Sanskrit's prominence, the Chalukyas also acknowledged the significance of regional languages like **Kannada**, recognizing them as the language of the people.

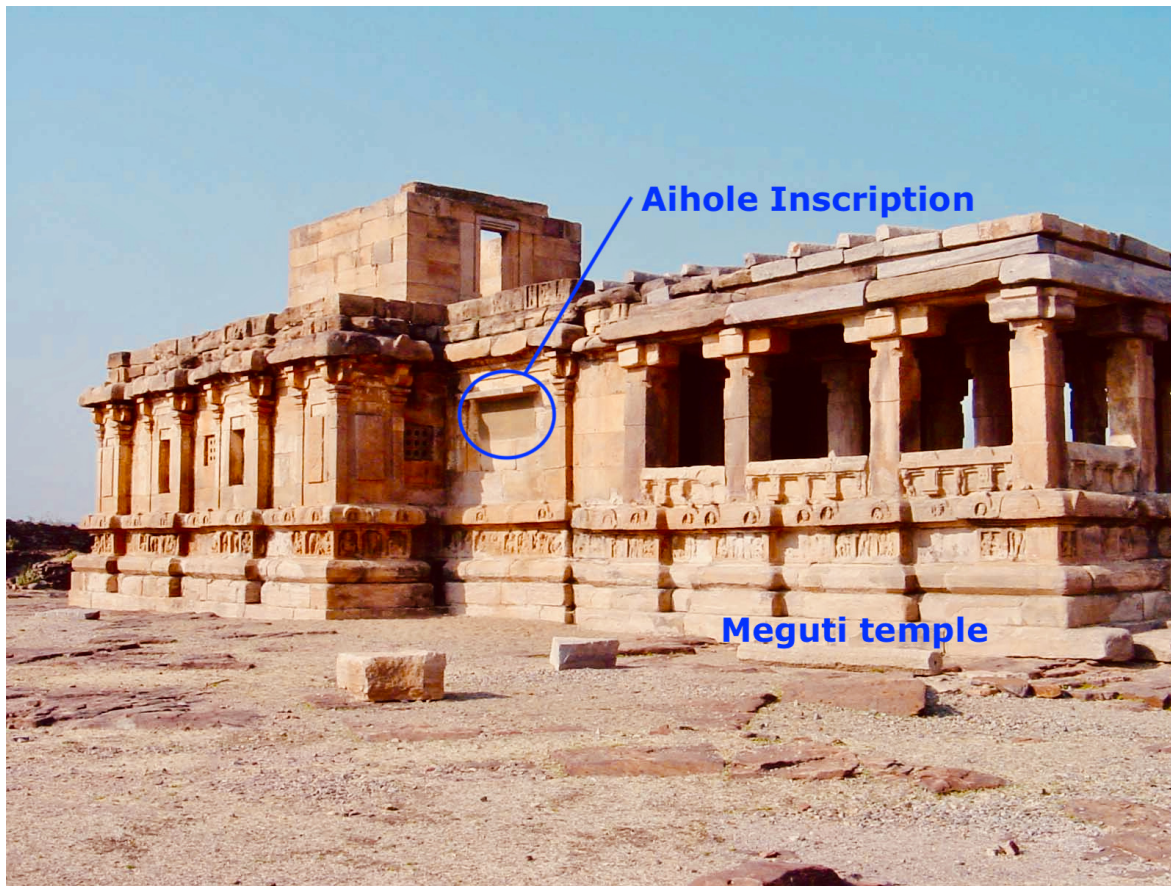
- **Painting:** Chalukyas adopted the **Vakataka style in painting**. Paintings are found in a cave temple dedicated to Vishnu in Badami.



### **Aihole Inscription of Pulikesin II:**

- Situated in the **Megudi temple at Aihole, Karnataka**, the Aihole inscription provides invaluable insights into Chalukya history and achievements.
  - Aihole is considered as the cradle of Indian temple architecture.
- Crafted by the renowned poet **Ravikriti**, the inscription is a lyrical tribute to the Chalukya dynasty, particularly **King Pulakesin II**, lauded as the embodiment of truth (Sathyasraya).
- The inscription chronicles the Chalukya dynasty's triumphs over adversaries, including the renowned defeat of **Harshavardhana**.





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