



## 900-Year-Old Chalukyan Inscription

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, A **900-year-old Kannada inscription** belonging to the [Kalyani Chalukya dynasty](#) was discovered in a neglected state in Gangapuram, in **Telangana**.

- It was issued by Customs Officers under **Tailapa-III, son of Emperor 'Bhulokamalla' Someswara-III of the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty**.

### Who were the Chalukyas?

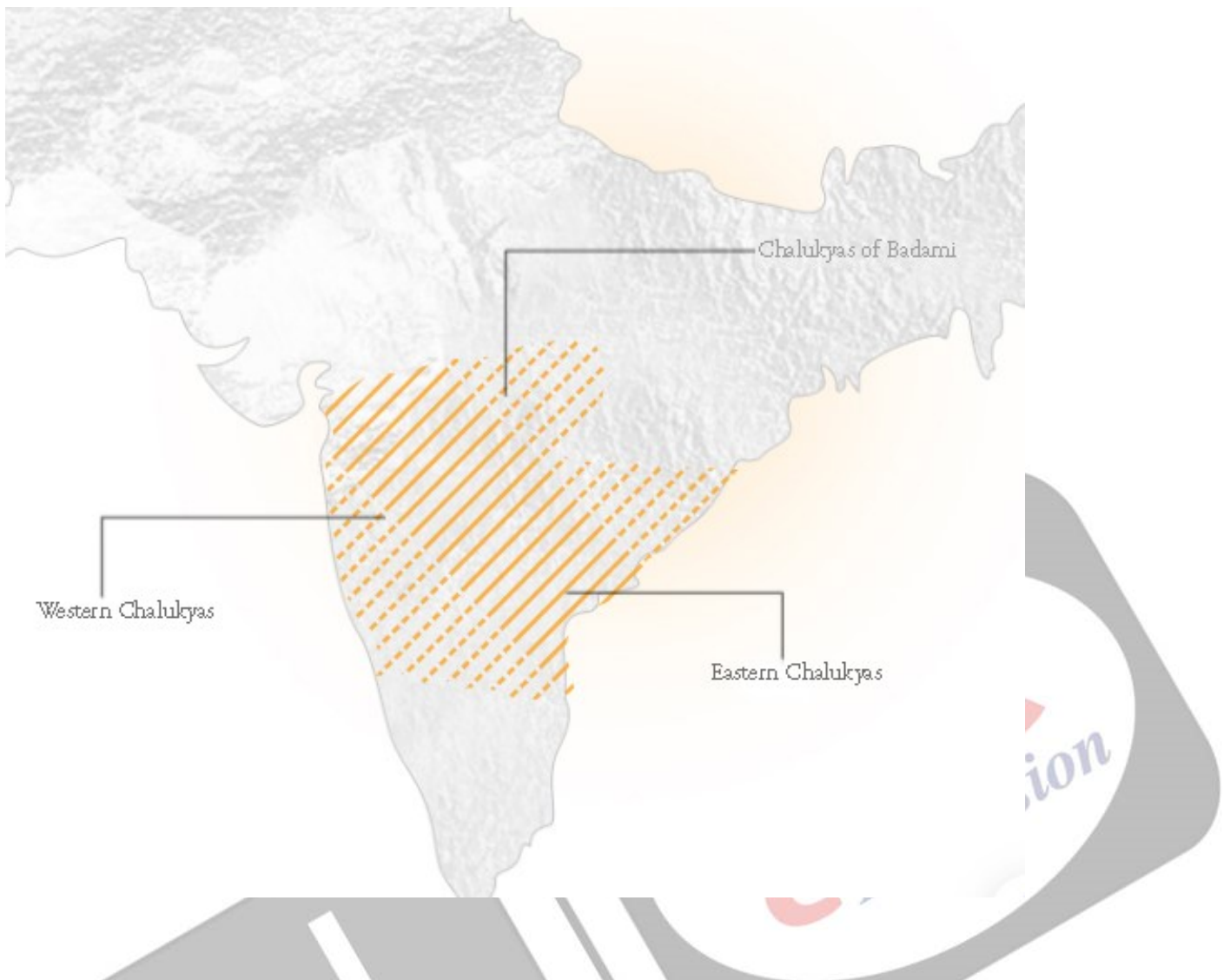
- **Overview:**
  - The Chalukyas ruled **parts of Southern and Central India** between the 6<sup>th</sup> century and the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
  - The kingdom of Chalukyas was centred around the **Raichur Doab, between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers**.
- **Three distinct but related Chalukya dynasties:**
  - **Badami Chalukyas:** They were the **earliest Chalukyas** with their **capital at Badami (Vatapi) in Karnataka**.
    - Their rule started in the 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 the **capital at Vengi**.
    - They **ruled till the 11<sup>th</sup> century**.
  - **Western Chalukyas:** They were the **descendants of the Badami Chalukyas**.
    - They **emerged in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century** and ruled from Kalyani.

### Note:

#### Pulakesin II: The Pinnacle of Chalukya Power -

- Conquered various kingdoms including Kadambas, Gangas of Mysore, Mauravas of North Konkan, Latas of Gujarat, Malavas, and Gurjars.
- Secured submissions from Chola, Chera, and Pandya kings.
- Defeated King Harsha of Kannauj and Pallava king Mahendravarman.

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▪ **Administration and Cultural Contributions:**

- **Robust Military:** Comprehensive army with infantry, cavalry, elephant unit, and a **strong navy**.
- **Religious Tolerance:** Despite being Hindu rulers, they **showed tolerance towards Buddhism and Jainism**.
- **Literary and Numismatic Contributions:** Advanced developments in Kannada and Telugu literature.
- Coins featured Nagari and Kannada inscriptions, temple cryptograms, and symbols like lions, boars, and lotuses.

▪ **Architectural Marvels:**

- **Cave Temples:** Built temples with both **religious and secular themes** adorned with beautiful **mural paintings**.
- **Notable Temples:**
  - **Aihole temples:** Lady Khan (Surya), Durga, Huchimalligudi.
  - **Badami temples.**
  - **Pattadakal Temples:** The UNESCO World Heritage site features 10 temples in both Nagar and Dravida styles, including the Virupaksha and Sangameshwara Temples.

▪ **Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II:**

- **Situated in the Megudi temple at Aihole, Karnataka,** the Aihole inscription provides invaluable insights into Chalukya history and achievements.
- Aihole is considered 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.

▪ **Decline:**

- After the decline of the Chalukya Kingdom of Kalyani at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> century, the new kingdoms which arose in South India were Yadavas of Devagiri and Kakatiyas of Warangal and Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra and Pandyas of Madurai.

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