

Lesson - 3

THE TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE – I

By Abhyudaya Kelkar

IN THIS LESSON :

- **Origin of the three powers**
- **Rashtrakutas**

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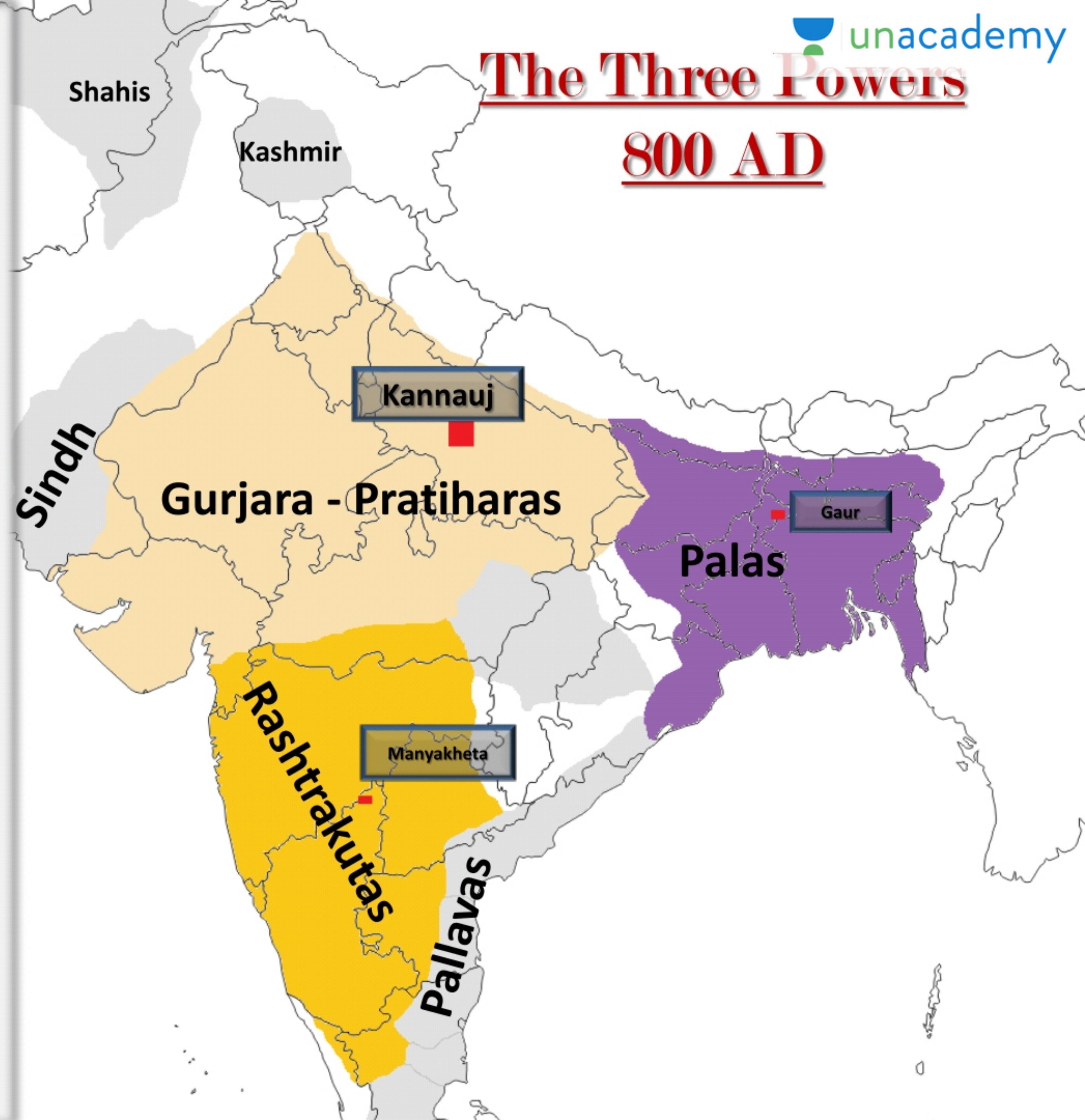
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The Three Powers

800 AD

- Dantidurga became the first Rashtrakuta Emperor in 753 AD by overthrowing the Chalukyas of Badami.
- Nagabhata I organized the Gurjara – Pratihara polity.
- Pala Empire, was founded by Gopala c.750 AD.



Dantidurga

- **The Ellora inscriptions of Dantidurga mention his victory over the Badami Chalukyas in 753 AD, thus initiating the Rashtrakuta Empire.**
- **Their first capital was Mayurkhandi.**
- **He married the Pallava princess.**
- **Dantidurga defeated many rulers of central India and performed Yajnas**
- **Dantiduraga took titles like Rajadhiraja, Parameshwar, Maharaja, etc.**
- **Dantidurga died in 756 AD and was succeeded by his uncle, Krishna I.**

Krishna I

- He assumed titles like Shrivallabh, Prithvi-Vallabh, Akalavarsha, Shubhatunga, Parama Maheshwara, etc.
- He was a great patron of scholars and artists.
- The Kailashnatha Temple of Ellora.
- He was a Shaiva.
- He finished the Badami Chalukyas in 757 AD.
- He defeated the Western Gangas, Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi and Shilaharas of Konkan.
- He died in 774 and was succeeded by his son Govinda II who was dethroned by Dhruva in 780.



Dhruva Dharavarsha

- He assumed the titles of Kalivallabha and Dharavarsha, while continuing the titles of Krishna I, viz. Shrivallabha, Parameshwara, Maharajadhiraja, etc.
- He defeated :
 - The Pratihara Emperor, Vatsaraja, and wrested Kannauj from him.
 - The Pala emperor Dharmapala nwar Kannauj.
 - The Vengi Chalukyas, in 784 AD.
 - The Pallavas in 785 AD.
 - The Western Gangas in 788 AD.
- He married the Vengi princess, Shilabhatarika in 786 AD.
- Died in 793 and was succeeded by his third son Govinda III.

Govinda III

- **He defeated :**
 - **The Pratihara emperor, Nagabhata II ; took campaign to the Himalayas.**
 - **The Pala emperor, Dharmapala.**
 - **The Pallava emperor Dantivarman in 803 AD and other Tamilakam kings.**
 - **The Vengi Chalukyas**
- **The ruler of Sri Lanka started paying tribute to him.**
- **Assumed titles such as : Prabhutavarsha, Jagattunga, Anupama, Kirthinarayana, Prithvivallabha, Shrivallabha, Vimaladitya, Atishayadhavala, Tribhuvanadhavala.**
- **He died in 814 AD and was succeeded by his son Amoghavarsha.**

Amoghavarsha I

- He made peace with the Western Gangas and the Pallavas through matrimonial alliance.
- A long war with Vengi Chalukyas ended in 846 AD.
- He moved the capital from Mayurkhandi to Manyakhet.
- He assumed the titles : Nrupatunga, Rattamartanda, Atishadhavala, Shrivallabha, Veeranarayana.

Amoghavarsha I

- He was a great patron of art, Jainism and Kannada literature.
- Although he was tolerant, he was a follower of Jinasena, a Digambar Jain monk.
- Some temples at Pattadakal are attributed to him.
- Amoghavarsha himself probably wrote, Kavirajamarga, one of the earliest Kannada work.
- The Arab traveller Suleiman came to India during his reign.
- Amoghavarsha abdicated in favour of his son, Krishna II in 877 AD.

Krishna II

- **He defeated :**
 - **The Vengi Chalukyas.**
 - **The greatest Pratihara emperor, Mihir Bhoja or Bhoja I**
- **He made matrimonial alliances with the neighbours.**
- **He married Mahadevi, a Chedi princess, probably belonging to the Haihaya rulers of Kalachuri.**
- **His daughter was married to the Chola emperor Aditya I.**

Krishna II

- **Krishna II tried to interfere in the succession crisis of the Cholas after Aditya I but was defeated by Parantaka Chola at Vallala c. 907 AD.**
- **Krishna II died in 914 AD and was succeeded by his grandson Indra III.**
- **Amoghavarsha had a long reign of 63 years , followed by Krishna II with 37 years, therefore a total of 100 years, from 814 AD to 914 AD.**

Indra III

- He assumed the titles : Rattakandarapa, Rajamaratanda, Nityavarsha, Kirtinarayana.
- Matrimonial alliance with the Haihayas (Chedi).
- He defeated the Paramara feudatory of Pratiharas near Nasik.
- He sent an expedition to the north that overran Kannauj.
- Conquered many Vengi Chalukyan domains.
- Patronized the Sanskrit poet Trivikrama and a Kannada poet and military general, Shrivijay.

The Weakening of the Rashtrakutas

- **Indra III died in 929 AD and there was a succession crisis.**
- **Indra III was succeeded by Amoghavarsha II.**
- **Amoghavarsha II was assassinated by his brother Govinda IV in 930 AD.**
- **Govinda IV was a weak ruler.**
- **He lost the control over Kannauj and weakened the grip over central India.**
- **He lost much territory to the Vengi Chalukyas.**

- **Govinda IV was overthrown in 936 AD by his uncle Amoghavarsha III (Baddiga).**
- **Govinda IV took refuge into Chola territory, availing his matrimonial alliance.**

- **Amoghavarsha III died in 939 AD and was succeeded by Krishna III.**

Krishna III : The last important ruler

- He was the last noteworthy Rashtrakuta emperor.
- He assumed the titles : Maharajadhiraja, Shri Prithvivallabha, Akalavarsha, Parameshvara, Paramamaheshvara, etc.
- Maintained matrimonial alliances with the Chedis and Western Gangas.
- Defeated :
 - Gurjara – Pratihara feudatory Siyaka Parmara of Malwa and sacked Ujjain.
 - The Cholas in the Battle of Takkolam in 949 AD, killing their emperor Rajaditya.
 - The Vengi Chalukyas and made them vassals.

Krishna III : The last important ruler

- **Later, lost the friendship of the Kalachuris (Chedis).**
- **Gave feudatory status to :**
 - **Seunas or Yadavas of the Devagiri**
 - **Tailapa II the governor of Tardavadi**
- **Krishna III died in 967 AD.**
- **Kottiga Amoghavarsha succeeded him.**

The End of the Rashtrakutas

- The Parmara ruler of Ujjain, Siyaka II sacked Manyakheta in 972 AD and Khottiga Amoghavarsha was killed.
- His successor Kharka II was overthrown by Tailapa II in 973 AD who established the Western Chalukya Empire in 973 AD, with Manyakheta as capital.
- The capital was shifted in the next century to Kalyani (Basavakalyan) and they came to be known as the 'Kalyani Chalukyas'.
- The last one who could claim the throne, Indra IV, did Sallekhana (fast unto death) at Shravanabelagola in 982 AD ending the empire.

The Legacies of the Rashtrakutas

- **Much of the Ellora Caves**
- **Some temples of Pattadakal like Jain Narayana and Kashi Vishwanath were built by the Rashtrakutas.**
- **The Gommateshwar monolith of Bahubali at Shravanabelagola.**



The Legacies of the Rashtrakutas

- **The Rashtrakutas were great patrons of Jainism, Shaivism and Buddhism.**
- **Shantipurana of Sri Ponna was centred around Shantinath, the sixteenth one.**
- **Similarly, Chandraprabha Purana too was written by Shri Vijay.**
- **Vardhamana Purana was written by Asaga (Ashoka).**
- **Jain monk Pushpadanta wrote Jasaurachariyu and Nayakumarachariyu in Prakrit.**
- **A great mathematician, Mahaviracharya, wrote Ganitasarasangraha c. 850 AD and Chhattis Ganita, Shatrinshika and Jyotish Patal.**
- **He is often credited with separating Astrology from Mathematics.**
- **Ugraditya wrote about medicine and health in Kalyanakarak.**

The Legacies of the Rashtrakutas

- **Kannada literature flourished.**
- **Kavirajamarga was written around 850 AD by , or under the patronage of, Amoghavarsha, which is the earliest Kannada work on poetics.**
- **Asaga (fl.c. 850 AD) wrote wrote Vardhamana Charitra in Sanskrit and Karnataka Kumarasambhava Kavya in Kannada.**
- **Shuvakotiacharya wrote Vaddaradhane in Kannada c. 900 AD.**
- **During 930s and 940s, Adikavi Pampa wrote Adipurana, the epic on Rishabhadeva and Vikramarjuna Vijaya (an Arjun centric version of Mahabharata)**

Lesson - 4

THE TRIPARTITE STRUGGLE – II

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