

Magadh Mahila College

Patna University

Department of History

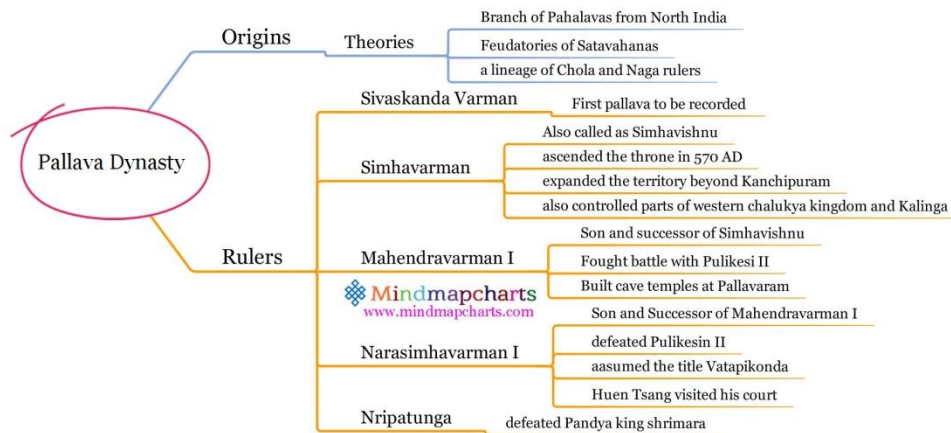
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Narsimhavarman I(630-668A.D)



Narsimhavarman was the successor of his father Mahendravarman. He was a skilled warrior thus, was entitled as 'Mahamalla'. He during his rule established the Pallava kingdom as the strongest and most widely spread territory of the time.

Victory of Narsimhavarman over the Chalukyas of Badami:

After defeating Mahendravarman the father of Narsimhavarman Pullakeshin II annexed the Northern territories of the Pallava kingdom. The Chalukyas stationed their army in the Pallava kingdom. As soon as Narsimhavarman ascended the throne of the Pallava dynasty the Chalukya ruler Pullakeshin II once again attacked the Pallava kingdom. As a result of it Narsimhavarman defeated him in three battles consecutively. The Kurram inscription mentions about these victories of

Narshimavarman. In 642A.D the Pallava army annexed the capital city of the Chalukyas named Vatapi or Badami and also Pullakeshin II died fighting the battle. In the Vallurpalyam inscription it is mentioned that Narsimhavarman built a pillar of victory at Badami after defeating the Chalukyas. The Pallavas annexed the Southern part of the Chalukya kingdom. As a result of this victory Narsimhavarman adopted the title of 'Vatapikonda' (usurper of Vatapi). Thus, with this victory he became the supreme most ruler of the Southern India.

Influence on Sri Lankan politics:

Narsimhavarman sought help from a Sinhalese prince named Manvarma against the Chalukyas. Thus, he sent a huge naval force to help the Manvarma in order to help him gain his throne as a result of which Manvarma became the ruler of Sri Lanka. But as soon as the Pallava army retreated Manvarma was again dethroned. Mahavamsa states that Narsimhavarman again sent a huge armed force to help Manvarma and also Narsimhavarman himself escorted the army till Mahabalipuram. This expedition was completely successful and Manvarma regained his lost throne and dignity. This was another great achievement of Narsimhavarman. Thus, in Kasakudi inscription he is compared to Lord Rama the conqueror of Srilanka.



Besides being a skilled warrior and a fearless conqueror Narsimhavarman also patronized art and culture. A few monolithic Rathas of Mahabalipuram were built during the time of Narsimhavarman. Mahabalipuram was also the famous port of his empire. During his rule Huen-tsang a Chinese traveler also visited his his capital city Kanchi. Thus, the rule of Narsimhavarman can be considered to be the period of Zenith of the Pallava rule. The Pallava dynasty during his rule became the supreme most power in South India.

Narsimhavarman in literature:

Kalki Krishnamurthy's work, Sivagamiyin Sabadham, is based on Narsimhavarman's early years and battles with Chalukyas. Kalki Krishnamurthy Parthiban Kanavu is based on the later years of Narsimhavarman's rule.



Coins of Narsimhavarman, with the name of Narsimhavarman with solar and lunar symbols around

Narsimhavarman was succeeded by numerous Pallava rulers named Mahebdravarman II, Parmeshvarvarman I, Narsimhavarman II, Parmeshwarvarman II, Nandivarman II, Dantivarman, Nandivarman III, Nriptungavarman, Aparajit, Nandivarman IV, Kampavarma, etc. This way the political history of Pallava dynasty continued till 980A.D.