

**RASHTRAKUTAS (AD 753-973)**

The Rashtrakutas were descendants of the nobles governed under the Andhras. They were followers of Jainism. It is assumed that no other dynasty of Karnataka before or after, ruled over such a vast empire such as the Rashtrakutas. **Dantidurga** (AD 735-756) established this kingdom. His ancestors were subordinates of the Chalukyas. They overthrew the Chalukyas and ruled up to AD 973. Dantidurga was succeeded by his son **Krishna I** (AD 756-774). Krishna I is credited to have built the Kailasa temple at Ellora. He is also said to have totally eclipsed the contemporary Chalukya rulers. Other kings of this dynasty were **Govinda II** (AD 774-780), **Dhruva** (AD 780-790), **Govinda III** (AD 793-814) and **Amoghavarsha I** (AD 814-887). The extent of the Amoghavarsha's Empire can be calculated from the account of the Arabian traveller, Sulaiman, who visited his court in AD 851 and wrote in his book 'His kingdom was one of the four great empires of the world at that time'. (The other empires he mentioned were the Roman Empire, the Chinese Empire and the Empire of the Khalif of Baghdad). Later Rashtrakuta rulers included Krishna II (AD 880-914); Indra III (AD 914-929); Amoghavarsha II (AD 929-930); Govinda VI (AD 930-935); Krishna III (AD 939-967) and Kottiga (AD 967-972). The later Rashtrakutas could not keep pace with the rising Chalukyas of Vatapi. The Chalukyas under Tailapa II overthrew the last Rashtrakuta king Karka II in AD 973 and laid the foundations of the Chalukyas of Kalyani.

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