Origin

- The Rashtrakutas considered themselves descendants of Satyaki.
- Historians differ on the question of their origins.
- It is evident from a few Chalukya kings' inscriptions that they were vassals of the Chalukyas.
- Rashtrakutas were of Kannada origin and their mother tongue was Kannada.

The Rashtrakuta Empire
# The Rashtrakuta Emperors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rashtrakuta Emperors (753-982)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dantidurga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krishna I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govinda II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhruva Dharavarsha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govinda III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amoghavarsha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krishna II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indra III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amoghavarsha II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govinda IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amoghavarsha III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krishna III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khottiga Amoghavarsha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karka II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indra IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Founder

**Dantivarman or Dantidurga (735 - 756)**

- Dantivarman or Dantidurga (735 – 756) was the founder of the Rashtrakutas dynasty.
- Dantidurga occupied all territories between the Godavari and Vima.
- He is said to have conquered Kalinga, Kosala, Kanchi, Srisril, Malava, Lata etc. and occupied Maharashtra by defeating Chalukya King Kirtivarman.

### Rulers

**Krishna I (756 - 774)**

- **Krishna I** succeeded Dantidurga.
- He conquered the territories that were still under the Chalukyas.
- He also occupied Konkan.
- Krishna I also defeated Vishnuvardhana of Veni and the Ganga king of Mysore.
- He was a great patron of art and architecture.
- The Kailash Temple at Ellora was built by the Rashtrakuta King Krishna I.

**Govinda II (774 - 780)**

- **Govinda II** son of Krishna I succeeded.

**Dhruva (780 - 793)**

- He defeated Gurjara-Pratihara King Vatsyaraja, the Pallavas of Kanchi and the Pala King Dharmapala of Bengal.

**Govinda III (793 - 814)**

- Dhruva son of Govinda III succeeded the throne.
- He defeated the great Gurjara King Nagabhatta II.
- Pala King Dharmapala and his protégé Charayudh sought the help of Govinda III.
- His kingdom spread up to the Vindhyas and Malava in the north and the river Tungabhadra to the south.
Amoghavarsha I (814- 878 A.D.)

- The greatest king of the Rashtrakuta dynasty was Amoghavarsha I son of Govinda III.
- Amoghavarsha I set up a new capital at Manyakheta (now Malkhed in Karnataka State) and Broach became the best port of the kingdom during his reign.
- Amoghavarsha I was a great patron of education and literature.
- Amoghavarsha was converted into Jainism by Jinasena, a Jaina monk.
- Suleman, an Arab merchant, in his account called Amoghavarsha I as one of the four greatest kings of the world, the other three being the Caliph of Bagdad, the king of Constantinople and the emperor of China.
- Amoghavarsha ruled for 63 years.

Krishna II (878 - 914)

- Son of Amoghavarsha, succeeded the throne.

Indra III (914 -929)

- Indra III was a powerful king.
- He defeated and deposed Mahipala

Krishna III (939 - 967)

- The last powerful and efficient king of the Rashtrakutas.
- He also succeeded in conquering Tanjore and Kanchi.
- He succeeded in defeating the Tamil kings of Chola kingdom.

Karka (972 - 973)

- The Rashtrakuta King Karka was defeated and deposed by Taila or Tailapa, the Chalukya king of Kalyani.
Rashtrakutas Administration

- divided rashtras (provinces) - controlled by rashtrapatis
- Rashtras divided into vishayas or districts governed by vishayapatis
- subdivision was bhukti consisting of 50 to 70 villages under the control of bhogapatis

- Village headmen carried on village administration.
- Village assemblies played a significant role in the village administration.

Literature under Rashtrakutas

- Rashtrakutas widely patronized the Sanskrit literature.
- Trivikrama wrote Halayudha and composed Kavirahasya during the reign of Krishna III.
- Jinasena composed Parsvabhudaya, a biography of Parsva in verses.
- Gunabhadra wrote the Adipurana, the life stories of various Jain saints.
- Sakatayana wrote Amogavritti a grammar work.
- Viracharya – a Great mathematician of this period wrote Ganitasaram.
- During the period of the Rashtrakutas, the Kannada literature saw its beginning.
- Kavirajamargacomposed by Amogavarsha's was the first poetic work in the Kannada language.
- Pampa was the greatest of the Kannada poets and Vikramasenavijaya is his famous work.
- Santipurana was another great work wrote by Ponna another famous Kannada poet.

Rashtrakutas Art and Architecture

Art and Architecture

- The art and architecture of the Rashtrakutas can be found at Ellora and Elephanta.
- The most remarkable temple Kailasanatha temple at Ellora was built by Krishna.

Kailasanatha Temple

- The temple is carved out of a massive block of rock measuring 200 feet long, and 100 feet in breadth and height.
- The central face of the plinth has imposing figures of elephants and lions which give an impression that the entire structure rests on their back
- It has three-tiered sikhara or tower which resembles the sikhara of the Mamallapuram rathas
- There is a pillared hall with 16 square pillars in the interior of the temple
- A sculpture of the Goddess Durga is engraved as slaying the Buffalo demon.
- In the interior of the temple there is a pillared hall which has sixteen square pillars.
• The sculpture of the **Goddess Durga** is shown as slaying the Buffalo demon.
• In another sculpture Ravana was making attempts to lift Mount Kailasa, the abode of Siva.

**Elephanta**

• Originally called as Sripuri, Elephanta is an island near Bombay.
• The Portuguese named it as Elephanta after seeing the huge figure of an elephant.
• The sculptures in Ellora and Elephanta has close similarities
• There are huge figures of dwara-palakas at the entrance to the sanctum.
• **Trimurthi** is the most magnificent figure of this temple. The sculpture is six metres high and said to represent the three aspects of Shiva as Creator, Preserver and Destroyer.

**Other facts of Rashtrakutas**

• Vaishnavism and Saivism flourished during their period.
• Active commerce witnessed between the Deccan and the Arabs.
• They stimulated the Arab trade by maintaining a friendship with them.