

**Vakatakas**

- The Vakataka tradition managed portions of South-Central India from 250 AD to 500 AD.
- They were significant rulers whose power was settled in the Deccan simply like their fellow rulers, the Guptas in the north.
- They were significant successors of the Satavahanas.

**The Origin of Vakatakas**

- The Vakatakas were Brahmins.
- Their origins are not satisfactory with some guaranteeing they are a northern family while others say they began in southern India.
- They have Sanskrit and Prakrit engravings which are like those having a place with the southern Pallavas.
- Likewise, no records of the Vakatakas have been discovered north of Narmada.
- They are additionally referenced in the Puranas.

**Vakataka Rulers****Vindhyashakti (Reign: 250 – 270 AD)**

- Vindhyashakti was the founder of Vakataka Dynasty.
- Not a lot is known about him aside from data collected from an Ajanta cavern engraving expressing that he is the head of the Vakataka family and that he is a Dvija (Brahmin).

**Pravarasena I (Reign: 270 – 330 AD)**

- Child and successor of Vindhyashakti.
- His different titles incorporate Samrat, Dharmamaharaja, and Haritiputra.
- His realm incorporated parts of northern India and the Deccan.
- He directed Vedic customs like Ashwamedha, Vajapeya, and so on.
- He directed battles with the Nagas.
- He had four children according to the Puranas and it is believed that the realm split up among his children.

- His child Gautamiputra died before him and his grandson (child of Gautamiputra) Rudrasena 1 succeeded him to the throne.
- After his demise, there were two divisions of the Vakatakas.

#### **Pravarapura-Nandivardhana Branch**

- This branch controlled Pravarapura (in present Wardha, Maharashtra), Mansar, and Nandivardhan in the present Nagpur locale.

#### **Rudrasena 1 (Reign: 330 – 355 AD)**

- Grandson of Pravarasena I.
- He was preceded by his child Prithvishena I who ruled from 355 – 380 AD.

#### **Rudrasena 2 (Reign: 380 – 385 AD)**

- Child of Prithvishena I.
- Got married to Prabhavatigupta, the daughter of Chandragupta 2.
- Rudrasena 2 died and during this time, the royal Guptas of the north are said to have controlled the Vakatakas through Prabhavatigupta.

#### **Pravarasena 3 (Reign: 400 – 440 AD)**

- Was named Damodarasena.
- The second child of Rudrasena 2.
- He turned into the ruler after his senior sibling Diwakarasena died.
- Established the city of Pravarapura.
- Likewise made Setubandha in Maharashtri Prakrit.

#### **Vatsagulma Branch**

- This branch controlled the area between the Sahyadri Range and the Godavari River with its capital at Vatsagulma (present Washim, Maharashtra).

#### **Sarvasena (Reign: 330 – 355 AD)**

- Child of Pravarasena I.
- He created Harivijaya in Prakrit.

#### **Harishena (Reign: 475 – 500 AD)**

- Fifth-age descendent of Sarvasena.
- Disparaged Buddhist craftsmanship and engineering.
- A significant number of the Buddhist caverns, Viharas and Chaityas at Ajanta were executed under his rule.

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- Ajanta has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.
- The letters at Ajanta show the high flawlessness and complexity in workmanship accomplished under the Vakataka rulers especially Harishena.
- After his demise, he was likely prevailing by a couple of rulers yet very little is thought about the finish of the administration.

