



Stones, Seals & Grants: Reweaving Chalukya Power in the Early Medieval Deccan

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Theme & Context



- The Chalukyas (6th–12th c.) were **key dynasty of the Deccan**, ruling both Western (Badami/Kalyani) and Eastern (Vengi) regions.
- Political strategies: **temple patronage, copper-plate grants, alliances with local elites.**
- Deccan power was **negotiated and networked**, not a simple centralized empire.
- Recent archaeological and epigraphic finds **new evidence of governance, religion, and society.**

Kodad Copper Plates & Pachakuta Temple

Kodad Copper Plate (c. 918 CE)

- Records a coronation grant of Vengi Chalukya king.
- Provides genealogy, land rewards and taxation clauses.
- *Earliest clear reference to the emerging Kakatiya chiefs.*



Mudimanikyam Panchakūta Temple (8th–9th c.)

- Unique five-shrine Chalukya-style complex in Telangana.
- Architectural blend of Kadamba and Nagara traditions.



Brick Temple & New Copper Plate Grants

Brick Temple Foundations (11th c., Maharashtra)

- Excavated remains show brick-based superstructures ; not all Chalukya temples were stone.
- Evidence of regional architectural experimentation and adaptation.

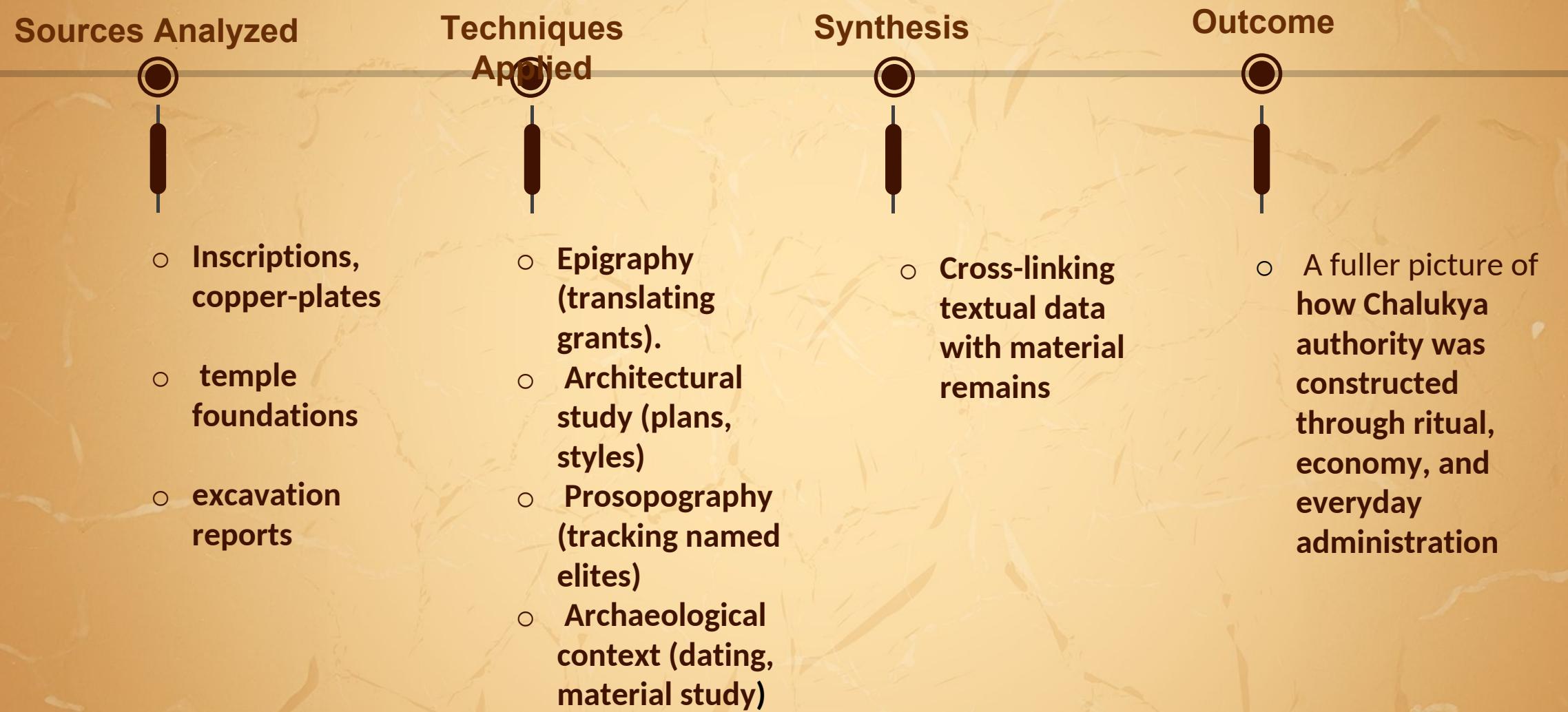


New Copper Plate Grants (Telangana)

- Boundary descriptions, tax divisions, and village allocations recorded in detail.
- Show agrarian management, redistribution of resources and the role of grants in building local loyalty.
- Plates demonstrate how land is equal to currency of political negotiation.



Methodology & Approach



Conclusion

- Recent discoveries show that Chalukya power depended on a web of practices such as inscriptions, temple building, and land grants rather than solely on royal conquest.
- The Kodad plates reveal how legal texts converted military service into lasting landed privileges and formalized regional genealogies.
- Mudimanikyam and the Nanded brick foundations demonstrate that both monumental and modest temple building were deliberate means of projecting political and cultural presence.
- Newly conserved copper plate grants from Telangana provide detailed evidence of agrarian administration and fiscal reallocations used to secure elite loyalty.
- Together these finds shift our focus from courtly chronicles to the everyday institutions that sustained Chalukya rule and invite targeted archival, architectural, and scientific research in the future.



THANK YOU