

## Successors of the Sātavāhanas

- In the declining phase of the main branch of the Sātavāhana dynasty, some collateral branches of the family carved out independent kingdoms for themselves.
- One such collateral branch seems to be ruling in the Kuntala region, and another, in Dakshiṇa Kosala.
- The Sātavāhanas of the Kuntala branch seem to have continued to rule, till they were displaced by the Kadambas, some time before the fourth century AD.
- Among the other successors of the Sātavāhanas in the *dakṣiṇāpatha*, mention may be made of :
  - ✓ The Ikshvākus
  - ✓ The Ābhīras
  - ✓ The Bodhis
  - ✓ The Bṛihatphalāyanas

### The Ikshvākus

- In the territories near the mouth of the rivers Krishna and Godavari, the Sātavāhanas seem to have been supplanted by the Ikshvākus, in the first half of the third century AD.
- Their relationship, if any, with the Ikshvākus of Ayodhyā, is not known.
- The family had its headquarters, perhaps at Vijayapurī in the Nagarjunikonda valley.
- The rule of this Ikshvāku ruling family was founded by Śāntamūla I, who is known to have performed several vedic sacrifices, including the *aśvamedha*.
- He was succeeded by his son, Māṭhrīputra Vīrapurushadatta, who ruled for about 20 years.
- His matrimonial alliances with the Kārddamakas and the rulers of Vanavāsī would have strengthened the political power and prestige of the Ikshvākus.
- The son and successor of Māṭhrīputra Vīrapurushadatta was Ehuṅvula Śāntamūla II, who is known to have ruled for at least 11 years.
- Another ruler, Rulupurushadatta, too, seems to be associated with Māṭhrīputra Vīrapurushadatta.
- Although the Pallavas of Kāñchī occupied the Andhra region around the end of the third century AD, the Ikshvākus continued to maintain their existence as a local power for many years afterwards.

### The Ābhīras

- The Ābhīras appears to be of some foreign stock.
- Their arrival into India almost coincides with the advent of the Śaka-Pahlavas.
- Ābhīra settlements are known from various parts of western, central, and southern India.

- But the purāṇas specifically refer to the Ābhīras of Aparānta as the successors of the Sātavāhanas in the *dakṣiṇāpatha*.
- The author of the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* and Ptolemy would locate the Aberia or Abiria, that is the country occupied by the Ābhīras, somewhere between the lower Indus valley and Saurashtra.
- Epigraphs reveal the existence of some Ābhīra generals, serving under the Kārddamaka Kshatrapas, like Bāpaka and his son, Rudrabhūti.
- The coins of one *Mahākshatrapa* Īśvaradatta, have been found in several hoards of Kārddamaka coins.
- These bear a close affinity to the coins of the Kārddama Kshatrapas.
- On this basis, it has been proposed that he was an interloper, who either usurped the Kārddamaka throne, or ruled simultaneously with some Kārddamaka ruler after wresting some of his territories from him.
- Nothing is known about any other Ābhīra, although the purāṇas refer to as many as 10 of them.
- Around the middle of the fourth century AD, the Ābhīras came into conflict with the Kadamba ruler, Mayūraśarman.
- Some Ābhīras are also referred to in the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta, as a people, who came within the sphere of political influence of that Imperial Gupta ruler.
- The Traikūṭakas supplanted the Ābhīras in northwestern *dakṣiṇāpatha*, perhaps some time in the latter half of the fourth century AD.

### The Bodhi dynasty

- In the third century AD, some parts of northwestern *dakṣiṇāpatha* appear to have passed from the Kārddamaka Kshatrapas to the **Bodhi** dynasty.
- The dynasty was, perhaps, founded by a ruler named Bodhi or Śrībodhi.
- Coins reveal the existence of three more rulers of this dynasty—Śivabodhi, Chandrabodhi or Śrīchandrabodhi, and Vīrabodhi or Vīrabodhidatta.
- Nothing definite is known about the achievements of any of these rulers.

### The Bṛihatphalāyana dynasty

- Ptolemy refers to a people called Maisoloi, who had their capital at Pitundra.
- The town, also mentioned in the Hathigumpha inscription of Khāravela, and in the Jaina *Uttarādhyayanāsūtra*, as Pithumṇḍa, has been located near Masulipatam.
- In the closing years of the third century AD, one Jayavarman of the Bṛihatphalāyana dynasty threw off the yoke of the Ikṣvākus in that area.
- He ruled for at least nine years, the date of his inscription.
- No other ruler of this dynasty is known so far.
- Shortly afterwards, the Pallavas of Kāñchī established their authority over that region.