

1. Trace the administrative evolution of the Kakatiyas by the mid-12th century. Highlight their major cultural, literary, and architectural contributions in the Telangana region.

Introduction

The Kakatiyas, who emerged from **feudatories of the Western Chalukyas**, established their sovereignty over Telangana by the **mid-12th century**, with **Warangal** as their capital. Under rulers like **Ganapati Deva** and **Rudrama Devi**, they laid a strong foundation for **administrative innovation** and made lasting contributions to the **cultural and artistic heritage** of the Deccan.

Administrative Evolution of the Kakatiyas

1. Decentralised Governance

- The Kakatiya polity evolved into a **decentralised segmentary state**, as described by scholars like **Romila Thapar** and **Bartenstein**.
- The **Rajyam Saptanga Samanvita** system divided the kingdom into **Naadu, Sthalam, and Grama** units, facilitating regional governance.

2. Mandalika System

- Local chieftains or **Mandalikas** were empowered to govern semi-autonomously under the suzerainty of the Kakatiyas, ensuring regional stability and military integration.

3. Ayagar System

- **Village-level administration** was handled by **12 hereditary officers (Ayagars)** such as the Karanam (record-keeper), Reddy (tax collector), and Talari (police).
- This system reflects deep **local participation** in governance and socio-economic life.

4. Niyoga System

- The central administration included **72 departments (Niyogas)**, supervised by the **Bahattara Niyogadhipathi**.
- Officials like **Gangaiah Sawhney**, **Tripurari**, and **Ponkamallaiah Pragada** were prominent figures during Ganapati Deva and Rudrama Devi's reigns.

5. Ministerial Hierarchy

- The Prime Minister (e.g., **Malyala Hemadri Reddy**) and specialized ministers such as **Sandhi Vigrahi** (Foreign Affairs), **Pradvivaha** (Law), and **Gaja Sahini** (Elephantry Chief) played key roles in maintaining state function.

Cultural Contributions

1. Literary Patronage

➤ Sanskrit Literature

- Inscriptions in **Kavya** style and works by poets like:

- ✓ **Vidyanatha** (Parataparudrayasobhushana)
- ✓ **Jayapasesanani** (Nrityaratnavali, Gitaratnavali)

➤ Telugu Literature

- Kakatiyas were instrumental in promoting early **Telugu literary tradition**:

- ✓ **Tikkanna Somayaji** – Nirvachananottarammayatn
- ✓ **Gona Budda Reddi** – Ranganatha Ramayanam
- ✓ **Palkuriki Somanatha** – Basavapuramam, Panditaradhyacharita
- ✓ **Baddena** – Sumati Satakam

Architectural and Artistic Contributions

1. Temple Architecture

- Developed a distinctive architectural style blending **Chalukyan elements** with local innovations.
- Used **granite and sandstone** for structural components; black granite for intricate carvings.

Key Monuments:

- Thousand Pillar Temple**, Warangal – celebrated for its geometric precision.
- Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple**, Palampet – a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2021).
- Temples at **Pillalamarri, Naguladu, Manthani**, showcasing their aesthetic legacy.

2. Sculpture

- Known for detailed **toranas, Kirtimukha motifs**, and highly decorated **Nandi idols**.
- Sculptures of **dancers and musicians** are common, reflecting courtly life and artistic tastes.

3. Painting

- Remnants of ceiling murals found in temples at **Palampet** and **Ghanapur**.
- Notable work includes Churning of the Milk Ocean mural at **Pillalamarri**, indicating refined narrative artistry.

Conclusion
By the mid-12th century, the Kakatiyas had evolved a well-structured administrative apparatus, balancing central authority with local autonomy. Their **promotion of Telugu and Sanskrit literature**, distinctive **temple architecture**, and **village-based governance** left an enduring impact on the **socio-cultural and political identity of Telangana**. The recognition of the **Ramappa Temple** by UNESCO is a modern testament to their rich legacy

2. The Qutb Shahi rulers are often referred to as the 'Telugu Sultans'. Analyze the basis of this title with reference to their literary patronage and promotion of regional culture.

Introduction

The **Qutb Shahi dynasty** (1518–1687), which ruled the **Golconda Sultanate**, is often hailed as the 'Telugu Sultans' for their **remarkable patronage of Telugu literature and culture**. Despite being of Persian-Turkmen origin, their deep engagement with **local language, traditions, and literary figures** helped bridge cultural gaps and establish a pluralistic identity in the Deccan.

Why Are They Called 'Telugu Sultans'?

1. Embrace of the Telugu Language

- Ibrahim Qutb Shah (1550–1580)**, popularly known as **Malkibharam** in Telugu literature, played a pivotal role in integrating Telugu into courtly life.
- He actively **patronized Telugu poets**, and inscriptions and literary works began appearing in Telugu alongside Persian.

2. Cultural Integration through Lineage and Practice

- Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah**, the founder of Hyderabad and a noted poet himself, was deeply influenced by Telugu culture—his **mother was a Telugu-speaking Hindu**.
- His court included Telugu poets like **Pattametta Somayajulu** and **Ganesa Pandita**, who received royal patronage.

3. Support for Local Intellectuals

- Ameen Khan of Patancheruvu** and other nobles under the Qutb Shahis supported poets like **Ponnekanti Telaganarya**, author of *Yayati Charitra* in pure Telugu.
- This demonstrates the dynasty's broader ecosystem of **literary encouragement beyond the royal court**.

Major Literary Contributions and Poets

Poet	Work/Contribution	Patron/Ruler
Addanki Gangadhara	Tapati Samvaranopakhyanamu – compared his patron to Lord Rama	Ibrahim Qutb Shah

Sarangutammayya	Vaijayanti Vilasamu, Vipra Narayana Charitra	Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah
Singaracharya	Dasaradharajanandana Charitra	Qutb Shahi period
Kancharla Gopanna	Dasarathi Satakamu (devotional)	Contemporary of last Qutb Shahis
Kshetrayya	4,500+ Sringara padas, blending romance with Bhakti	Court and temples patronage
Malla Reddy	Sivadarmottara, Padmapurana	Under guidance of Kami Reddy
Raja Madhava Rayalu	Chandrika – philosophical and poetic depth	Qutb Shahi era

Promotion of Regional Culture

- **Fusion of Traditions:** Muslim poets also wrote about **Hindu deities and epics**, creating a **syncretic literary tradition**.
- **Muharram Songs in Telugu:** The incorporation of Karbala narratives into Telugu poetic forms reflected the cultural integration of Islamic themes into regional consciousness.
- **Architectural and Artistic Patronage:** Their support extended to **local temple architecture, crafts, and public works**, reinforcing regional identity.

Contemporary Recognition

- In the **2017 World Telugu Conference**, **Ibrahim Qutb Shah IV** was formally honored with the title 'Malkibhara', highlighting his legacy in the Telugu literary world.

Conclusion

The **Qutb Shahis' deliberate cultivation of Telugu literature and local traditions**, despite their foreign origins, underscores their **vision of inclusive governance and cultural diplomacy**. Their **patronage empowered Telugu poets**, blended diverse traditions, and created a **composite Deccani identity**, earning them the enduring title of '**Telugu Sultans**' in both history and cultural memory.