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RUDRAMA DEVI: A LEGENDARY ADMINISTRATOR

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Abstract-

Rudrama Devi was a prominent ruler of the Kakatiya dynasty, who ruled from 1263 to 1289 CE. Her reign was characterized by innovative policies and effective governance that helped to promote the welfare of her people and ensure the security and territorial integrity of her kingdom. Rudrama Devi's policy and rule of governance were based on the principles of justice, fairness, and social welfare. She appointed capable officials and officers to various positions in her administration, who were responsible for different aspects of governance, law and order, and military affairs. Under her rule, Rudrama Devi introduced several key reforms, such as the Nayamkara system, a form of military organization that ensured the army was well-organized and prepared to defend the kingdom against any threats. She also established a sophisticated system of fortifications to protect her kingdom from external threats and invested in the development of weapons and military technology to give her army an edge in battle. Rudrama Devi's administration was also characterized by a focus on social welfare. She built several charitable institutions, such as hospitals and schools, and promoted arts and culture in her kingdom. She also introduced several policies that aimed to improve the living conditions of her people, such as the regulation of markets to prevent price fluctuations and the construction of irrigation systems to improve agricultural productivity. Overall, Rudrama Devi's policy and rule of governance were marked by innovation, efficiency, and a commitment to social welfare. Her legacy as a capable ruler and military strategist continues to inspire people today, and her contributions to the military system and governance of the Kakatiya dynasty have left a lasting impact on Indian history.

Keywords- Prominent, Kakatiya dynasty, Territorial integrity, Effective governance

Policy and Rule of Governance

Rudrama Devi's rule was characterized by a strong focus on governance, law and order, and the welfare of her people. She implemented several policies and initiatives to promote the welfare of her subjects and maintain peace and stability in her kingdom. One of Rudrama Devi's major policies was land reform. She introduced several measures to ensure that land was distributed fairly among her people and that farmers had access to the resources they needed to cultivate their crops. She also implemented irrigation projects to improve the productivity of agricultural land. Rudrama Devi was also known for her strong focus on justice and law and order. She established a sophisticated system of justice, which included courts and judges to settle disputes and administer justice. She was known for her impartiality and fairness in dispensing justice, and her reputation as a just ruler helped to maintain law and order in her kingdom.

In addition to her focus on governance and justice, Rudrama Devi was also committed to promoting art and culture in her kingdom. She built several forts and temples, including the famous Thousand Pillar Temple in Warangal. She was also a patron of literature and the arts and encouraged the development of music, dance, and literature in her kingdom. Overall, Rudrama Devi's policy and rule of governance were characterized by a strong focus on the welfare of her people and the maintenance of law and order. She was a just and fair ruler who was committed to promoting the arts and culture in her kingdom. Her policies and initiatives had a significant impact on the development of her kingdom and continue to inspire leaders today.

Military System and Nayamkara Arrangement-

Rudrama Devi was a skilled military strategist who made significant contributions to the military system of the Kakatiya dynasty. She expanded her kingdom's territory through a series of strategic military campaigns and diplomatic alliances. One of Rudrama Devi's key military reforms was the introduction of the Nayamkara system. This system was a form of military organization that divided the army into various units, each with its own commander. Each Nayamkara consisted of 1000 soldiers and was responsible for maintaining law and order in a specific area of the kingdom. This system helped to ensure that the army was well-organized and could respond quickly to any threats to the kingdom's security.

Rudrama Devi also established a sophisticated system of fortifications to protect her kingdom from external threats. She built several forts and strengthened the existing ones to make them more resistant to enemy attacks. She also invested in the development of weapons and military technology to give her army an edge in battle. Rudrama Devi's military reforms had a significant impact on the Kakatiya dynasty's military system and helped to maintain the kingdom's security and territorial integrity. The Nayamkara system, in particular, was an innovative military organization that ensured the army was well-organized and prepared to defend the kingdom against any threats. Overall, Rudrama Devi was a skilled military strategist who made significant contributions to the military system of the Kakatiya dynasty. Her military reforms, particularly the Nayamkara system, were innovative and effective and helped to maintain the security and territorial integrity of her kingdom.

Officers Under Rudrama Devi's Rule-

Rudrama Devi's administration was characterized by a well-organized system of officers and officials who were responsible for various aspects of governance, law and order, and military affairs. One of the key officials in Rudrama Devi's administration was the Prime Minister, who was responsible for advising the queen on matters of governance and policy. The Prime Minister also oversaw the administration of the kingdom and was responsible for ensuring that the queen's orders were carried out. Another important official in Rudrama Devi's administration was the Commander-in-Chief of the army. This official was responsible for overseeing the military affairs of the kingdom and ensuring that the army was well-trained, equipped, and prepared to defend the kingdom against external threats. Other key officials in Rudrama Devi's administration included the revenue officers, who were responsible for collecting taxes and managing the kingdom's finances, and the judges, who were responsible for administering justice and settling disputes. Rudrama Devi also appointed several Nayakas, who were local chieftains responsible for maintaining law and order in their respective regions. The Nayakas were responsible for maintaining peace and order in their regions and reporting any threats or incidents to the Commander-in-Chief of the army. Overall, Rudrama Devi's administration was characterized by a well-organized system of officers and officials who were responsible for various aspects of governance, law and order, and military affairs. Her efficient administration and appointment of capable officials helped to maintain peace and stability in her kingdom and promote the welfare of her people.

The Last Battle-

Rudrama Devi's last battle was with Ambadeva, the Kayastha ruler of Devagiri. Ambadeva had been eyeing the Kakatiya kingdom for some time and had launched several unsuccessful campaigns to capture it. In 1289 CE, he once again launched an attack on the Kakatiya kingdom, this time with a large army. Rudrama Devi, who was in her sixties at the time, personally led her army to face Ambadeva's forces. Despite her age and frail health, she fought valiantly alongside her soldiers and inspired them with her leadership. The battle was intense, and both sides suffered heavy losses. However, Rudrama Devi's army was eventually able to gain the upper hand and push back Ambadeva's forces. In the chaos of the battle, Ambadeva was killed, and his army was defeated. Rudrama Devi emerged victorious from the battle, but she was severely wounded and exhausted. She was carried back to the capital, where she died a few days later due to her injuries.

Rudrama Devi's last battle with Ambadeva was a testament to her courage, leadership, and military skills. Despite her age and health, she was willing to lead her army into battle and put her life on the line for her kingdom. Her victory over Ambadeva's forces ensured the continued security and stability of the Kakatiya kingdom, and her legacy as a brave and capable ruler continues to inspire people today.

Conclusion-

Rudrama Devi's administration was marked by a strong focus on governance, social welfare, and military strategy. She introduced several key reforms that ensured the security and stability of her kingdom, such as the Nayamkara system and the fortification of key cities. She also focused on social welfare, building charitable institutions and promoting arts and culture. Her administration was based on the principles of justice, fairness, and efficiency, and she appointed capable officials and officers to various positions in her administration. Rudrama Devi's contributions to the Kakatiya dynasty's military system and governance have left a lasting impact on Indian history. Her legacy as a capable ruler and military strategist continues to inspire people today, and her reign serves as a testament to the importance of effective governance and leadership in ensuring the welfare and security of a kingdom.

References-

1. "Rudramadevi: A Biography" by Dr. J. A. V. N. Murthy - This book is considered to be one of the most authoritative works on Rudrama Devi's life and reign. It provides a detailed account of her upbringing, coronation, policies, and military achievements.
2. "Women Rulers in Indian History" edited by Vijaya Ramaswamy - This book contains a chapter on Rudrama Devi's rule and governance by historian Cynthia Talbot. It discusses her administrative policies, military strategies, and her legacy as a queen.
3. "The Kakatiyas: A Pocket Guide" by Nanditha Krishna - This book provides a concise overview of the Kakatiya dynasty, including Rudrama Devi's rule and achievements. It also discusses the cultural and architectural legacy of the Kakatiyas.
4. "The Book of All Kingdoms" by Friar Jordanus - This travelogue was written by a European traveler who visited South India during Rudrama Devi's reign. It provides an outsider's perspective on her rule and the social and cultural context of the time.
5. "The Kakatiya Heritage Trust" website - This website contains a wealth of information on the Kakatiya dynasty, including Rudrama Devi's reign. It includes articles, photographs, and videos on their cultural and architectural legacy.

