CHAPTER - II
THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE : THE MAJOR DYNASTIES OF KARNATAKA
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In this chapter we make a brief survey of the ancient and medieval history of Karnataka because one of the major elements in the Karnataka ideology was a specific conception and vision of that history.

Karnataka had a long and glorious history, which includes also the expansion of political sway and cultural impact of Karnataka in the regions outside and beyond her geographical boundaries. Such an expansion was the result of military expeditions, political supremacy and powerful cultural factors like trade activities, religious faiths, philosophy, literature

This Chapter is heavily based on the following general and specialised historical works on Karnataka.
1. T. Alur Venkat Rao:
   a) Karnataka Gathavibhava.
   b) Karnataka Veeraratnagalu.
7. M.V. Krishna Rao, (Ed), Glimpses of Karnataka, the Reception Committee of the 65th Session of Indian National Congress, Bangalore.
and art. The history of Karnataka, like that of other parts of India, stands on a firm footing from the 3rd century B.C., from which time a clear picture of the political horizon emerges. Karnataka occupies a very definite place in the history of ancient India, both political and cultural. The earliest reference to it as Karnataka are found in the great epic, Mahabharata, where more than once, the term Karnataka, stands for the kings of the Karnataka country. In the pre-historic period, Karnataka, is believed to have exported gold from the gold mines of this region. Of the two epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, only the latter contains references to Karnataka. From this it is clear that Karnataka stood as a territorial unit from a very early period. The Aryans entered India in successive waves of immigration and the people who lived in the great river-plains were driven out towards the east and the south. Those who remained became Dasyus, the lowest in the social scale. The Dravidians emigrated chiefly towards the south and occupied the fertile plain regions. The Aryans, after spreading over the whole of the northern plains, moved towards
the south also. Dravidians had developed a distinctive culture of their own, and the Aryan and Dravidian cultures met and coalesced on the Deccan plateau, and indeed the history of India as the home of a distinctive nation may be said to have begun in Karnataka.

Definite beginnings of the history of Karnataka can be traced to the period of the Mauryas, or precisely to the 3rd century B.C. when the Maurya king Devanampriya Priyadarsa Asoka was ruling almost all over India, including a major portion of Karnataka. The Nandas also held sway over Kuntala, that is, the territory which comprised most of Karnataka. About the 6th century, inscriptions found at Sravanabelagola, a Jain centre of antiquity, state that Chandragupta, the grand-father of Asoka, migrated to that place along with his preceptor, Bhadrabahu, and spent the last years of his life there. During the period of Asoka's rule a large part of Karnataka was included in his empire. Asoka's edicts were found in Karnataka, one at Maksi and two at Koppal, in the Raichur district, and three more, further south, at Siddapur, Brahmagiri
and Jatinga Ramesvara in the Chitradurga district, which indicate that these areas were within his empire. Not much is known about the political or social conditions of Karnataka in this period. Asokan edicts reveal that this area formed an administrative unit in the Mauryan empire, and that imperial officers were stationed in this region. In this period Buddhism, for the propagation of which Asoka was largely responsible, was introduced in Karnataka.

After the disintegration of the Mauryan empire, the Satavahanas rose to power in the Deccan and their rule extended to Karnataka also. The Satavahana kings are described as lords of Dakshinapatha. Satavahanas rose to power in the Western Deccan in the region around Pratishthana or modern Paithan, their first and foremost capital which constituted the northern boundary of ancient Karnataka and they moved from west to east and not the other way round. Simuka appears to be the founder and the first ruler of the Satavahana dynasty. He came to power supplanting the Kanvas who were preceded by the Sangas. The accession of Chandragupta
Maurya took place in 324 B.C. The Sangas, who rose to power 137 years after this event, and their successors, the Kanvans, are stated to have ruled for 112 and 45 years respectively. Thus on the basis of this calculation we can place the commencement of the Satavahana rule and Simuka's region about 30 B.C. Simuka was familiarly known by the epithet, Satavahana, which became the dynastic appellation. Another view is that Satavahana was Simuka's ancestor and the originator of the line, and that his name came to be applied to the members of the family. Simuka was succeeded by his brother Krishna who in turn was succeeded by his son Satakarni-I. These three rulers are given the reign periods of 23, 18 and 18 years respectively. Satakarni was a capable monarch to whom goes the credit of strengthening the Satavahana rule and of raising it to the status of sovereignty. His sway extended over the regions of the upper Deccan and portions of central and western India, including the Konkan. There was a break in the supremacy of the Satavahanas for about a century after the rule of Satakarni-I. The Satavahanas were the first and the earliest rulers hailing from the South
who established their sovereignty over large areas of central, western, eastern and southern India and rose to imperial eminence.

During the 3rd century A.D., Karnataka saw the rule of the Chutus, who appear to have been feudatories of the Satavahanas and also connected with that family. With the rise of the Kadambas, Karnataka enters a brighter period of history and we get copious information about the land and dynasties that ruled there. Trilochana Kadamba was the originator of this family who is claimed to have three eyes and four hands. His name was Kadamba, because he was born out of the sweat of Siva, which had fallen under a Kadamba tree. His son was Mayuravarma, the founder of the Kadamba dynasty. But all these are mere legends which originated several centuries later by which time probably the real origin of the family had been forgotten and the later poets intended to glorify the dynasty either by associating it with God Siva or by giving it a supernatural character by ascribing a third eye to its founder. Mayuravarma was a Brahman of Manavya-gotra in the lineage of Hariti.
He went to Kanohi with his guru Virasarma to carry out Vedic studies. In Kanohi, owing to some misunderstanding between him and a mounted Pallava guard, a quarrel arose in which Mayuravarma was humiliated. This led to his discontinuance of studies and taking recourse to arms. He collected an army and defeated the Pallava officers guarding the frontiers and occupied the area upto Sripurvata. It may be noted that while this first king of the Kadamba dynasty is described as a dvijottama and had the name ending Sama, the names of the later members of the family end with Varma, thus leading to the suggestion that they were Kshatriyas. It follows therefore that originally Brahmans, the Kadambas started naming themselves like the Kshatriyas after acquiring the Kingdom.

Mayuravarma has been assigned a period of 20 years of rule from c.325-45 A.D. He was succeeded by his son Kangavarma. Kangavarma, Bhagiratha and Raghu, ruled between c. 345-405 A.D. Raghu was succeeded by his son Kakusthavarma about 405 A.D. The Kadamba Kingdom founded by Mayuravarma rose to prominence during the days of Kakusthavarma. He was involved in wars with the Pallavas.
He fostered friendship with the neighbouring Kings through matrimonial alliances. After Kakusthavarma, the Kadamba Kingdom came to be divided between his two sons, Santivarma and Krishnavarman-I. Both these princes commenced their independent rule simultaneously at Banavasi and Tripuravata respectively. Santivarman succeeded his father Kakusthavarma in 0.430 A.D. He ruled till 0.455 A.D. Mrigesavarman, son of Santivarman, succeeded him in 0.455 A.D. In 0.480 A.D. the Kingdom passed into the hands of Sivamandhatrivarman, brother of Mrigesavarman. Sivamandhatrivarman ruled for about 5 years between 0.480 and 485 A.D. Then Ravivarman succeeded his uncle about 485 A.D. His Kingdom extended up to Narmada. He ruled between 0.485 and 419 A.D. Ravivarman's son Harivarman was the last of the Kadamba Kings in Santivarman's line. A few years after the commencement of his rule, Krishnavarman-II of the Tripuravata line succeeded in defeating Harivarman and captured his capital Banavasi. Harivarman's record from Sangli, dated in his 8th regnal year corresponding to 526 A.D., speaks of him as ruling from Banavasi. There was no successor of Harivarman.
Krishnavarma-I ruled between C.430-460 A.D.

Because his brother Devavarma was Yuvaraja, Vishnusarma succeeded in securing the throne for himself. He ruled between C.460-490 A.D. Vishnusarma was succeeded by his son Simhavarma. No record of his has been found and no information regarding his career is available. Approximately the period, C.490-516 A.D., may be fixed as the period of his reign. Krishnavarma-II succeeded his father Simhavarma about 516 A.D. The two Kadamba families and consequently the partitioned Kingdom were united again during his period. He ruled up to 540 A.D., and with him the independent rule of the Kadambas came to a close. Krishnavarma had two sons, Ajavarma and Ravivarman. It is likely that they held some authority in the order of succession, but none of them could enjoy any independent status. Though the Kadamba rulers lost their entity as a political power after the rise of the Chalukyas, the Kadamba chiefs as such did not vanish from Karnataka.

The Gangas of Talkad

Several legends are told regarding the origin of
of the Ganges also. The forefathers of the family were
ruling in the North, first from Ayodhyapura and then
from Ahichhatrapura. Two princes of that family,
Dadiga and Madhava, migrated to Gangaperur in the South
and there they established a kingdom of 96000. The
early inscriptions of the family state that Kongunivarma
was the first ruler, who belonged to Jahnaveyakula,
hailing from the region of Ganga, and that he carved
out a kingdom for himself by his own strength of arms.
These sources further narrate that the Ganga Kingdom
was established with the help of the blessings of the
Jaina teacher, Simhanandi, and that Madhava was the
first ruler. As stated earlier, Kongunivarma was the
founder of the Kingdom. According to the legendary
account, this prince received a sword from the Jaina
preceptor Simhanandi-acharya and with it struck at a
stone pillar which broke into two; later he obtained a
Kingdom also, with the help of this preceptor. We do
not have any information regarding the events of this
period.

Kongunivarma's son Madhava-I succeeded his father
in about 350 A.D. Madhava-III who succeeded his father Vishnugopa ruled for about 30 years between 440 and 469 A.D. By then, the Ganges had come into conflict with the Kadambas. Avinita succeeded his father and took over charge of the administration by about 469 A.D. Durvinita succeeded his father Avinita who ruled for about 50 years from 529 A.D. to 579 A.D. Durvinita had three sons. The names of two of them were Mushkara and Polavira. The name of the third is not known. There are no records of Mushkara who ascended the throne in 0.579 A.D. Polavira was succeeded by his nephew Srivikrama in 0.629 A.D. after whom his son Bhavikrama (0.654-679 A.D.) ruled. He had to fight a great battle with the Pallavas at Nilende. Bhuvikrama was succeeded by his younger brother Sivamara. Not much is known about this King, excepting that his first year of rule was 679 A.D. Then Sripurusha ruled for a long period of over 60 years (0.725-80). The Chalukya King and the Pallava Kings were defeated by them in his own country. After succeeding to the Chalukya's empire, the Rashtrakutas tried to subdue the Ganges. Sripurusha was involved in a conflict with the Pandyas also. Till
his last days Sripurusha fought hard to maintain his sovereignty against the Rashtrakutas. When Sivavarma-II succeeded his father Sripurusha some time after 788 A.D., the Rashtrakuta, Dhruva, immediately attacked and defeated him in the battle of Mudugundur. Dhruva was succeeded by his son Govinda-III. But Sivavarma refused to be a subordinate of Govinda and as a consequence found himself once again in prison. His son, Yuvaraj Marusimha, was placed on the Ganga throne in about 796 A.D.

Govinda and Kamba resolved their differences, after the latter was defeated by his brother. A direct result of this was that Kamba was once again placed in charge of Gangamandala some time after 799 A.D. Marusimha ruled over his ancestral Kingdom at the time Kamba was governing the area. Thereafter, Chaturaja, became governor of Ganga country in 812 A.D. But soon after Amoghavarsha's accession to the Rashtrakuta throne, the Ganga country passed into the hands of Vijayaditya, younger brother of Sivavarma-II. Vijayaditya, however, did not accept the power and passed on the throne to his son Rachamalla-I who thus inherited the
the Ganga Kingdom, excluding the territory which was under the control of the Rashtrakuta General, Benkera. Mitimagra Ereganga succeeded him in 843 A.D. Rachamalla-II, elder son of Ereganga, succeeded his father in 870 A.D. At this time the Gangas were constantly at war with the Banas. Manniya Ganga, grandson of Sivavarma-II, rose in revolt against Rachamalla-II for the Ganga throne which had passed on to the latter's grandfather Rachamalla-I which by right belonged to him. Prithvipati-II, son of Manniya Ganga, received the title of Sambiya Mahabali Banarossa, along with the Bomba country, from the Chola King Paramatka. This was the last prince and with him the senior line of the Gangas came to a close.

The Nalamba chief, Mahendra, who stood as an able ally of the Gangas in these battles himself gradually wrested independence. But he had underestimated the Ganga power.

The Chalukyas of Badami

The Chalukyas who belonged to Chandravamsa came down to the South after crossing the Narmada. Jeyasimha
was the first known chief who defeated Indra of the Rashtrakuta dynasty and proceeded further South to fight with Trilochana Pallava of Kanchi. The Chalukya Kings of Badami, nine in number, ruled the whole of Karnataka for over 200 years with pomp and glory. It is said that Satyashraya Pulakesi, Rama Vikrama and his predecessor Jayasimha were the founders of this dynasty, known as the Badami Chalukyas.

With the advent of the Chalukyas, a glorious chapter in the history of Karnataka begins. These Chalukyas are said to have been a branch of Gurjars. Pulikesi-I (599 A.D.) was the first prince of the family. He built a fort at Badami and made Vatapipura (Badami) his capital. He performed an Aswamedha sacrifice. Kirtivarma (506 – 597), his son, subjugated the Malas. The Mauryas were brought under subordination and the Kadambas of Banavasi were reduced by him. His brother Mangalisa (597-599 A.D.) vanquished the Kalacuris and Buddha, a Kalacuri prince. He conquered the Revatidvipa. He built the temple at Badami and placed the idol of Vishnu in it. Pulikesi-II
of Kirtivarma, in his early years, defeated Appayika Govinda; attacked Banavasi and reduced it; defeated the Gangas, and the head of the Alupa race, and sent his forces against the Mauryas of Konkan. With a fleet of hundred ships, he went to Puri, invaded the countries of Lata, Malava and Gurjara, and brought them under his subjugation. He fought the armies of Haresvardhana and assumed the title of Parameswara. Thus he became the lord of three Maharastrakas comprising 99,000 villages. Then he marched against Kanchi and invaded the country of the Colas, the Pandyas and the Kerals. The Colas, the Pandyas the Kerals and the Pallavas became his feudatories, whom he defeated time and again, and brought them under subjugation.

A branch of Chalukya family was founded in Lata during his reign and assigned to Jayasimhavarman Dharaeraya. Vineyaditya (680-966 A.D.) made all the surrounding rulers as his allies including those of Parasikas on the Malabar coast and Simhala. Vijayaditya (696-733 A.D.), during his reign, got the idols of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesvara installed in Vatapipura, Vikramaditya-II (733-744 A.D.) defeated Nandi Patavarman. He entered
Kanohi and granted immense wealth to temples and Brahmins. He marched against the Colas, the Kerals, the Pandyas and reduced them. During the reign of Kirtivarma-II (744-757 A.D.) Dantidurga wrested all the powers of the Chalukyas.

The Rastrakutas of Malkhed

From the eighth century to the eleventh century, the most powerful empire in India was that of the imperial Rastrakutas. No dynasty in Northern or Southern India could rival the Rastrakutas in those times. The Rastrakutas are said to have belonged to the Yadu race and to be the descendents of a prince named Ratta. The latter had a son named Rastrakuta, after whom the family was called. It is believed that the Rastra Kutas of Malkhed were the ancestors of the Maratha family, and Rattas of Saundatti were their descendents. Indra-I (722 A.D.) carried away the Chalukya princess Bhavanaga from the marriage pendal at Kaira. Dantidurga (745 - 758 A.D.) defeated the rulers of Kanchi, Lalings, Srisaila, Kosala, Lata, Tank and Sindh. He marched
against the eastern neighbours in Kosala, Udayana of Sirpur, Jayavardhana of Srivardham, King of Kutch, Gurjara of Bharoaeh, Chalukyas of the Gujrat Branch, and Kirtivarman-II. He probably occupied Khandesh, Nasik, Poona, Satara and Kolhapur. Govinda was appointed as Governor of Gujrat.

Krishna-I (758-772 A.D.) succeeded his nephew. He removed Karka-II from the Governorship of Gujarat. He defeated Habappa and overthrew the Chalukyas completely. Yuvaraja Govinda was sent against king Vishnuvardhana of Vengi (770 A.D.). He added Konkana to his kingdom and appointed Sannaphulla there. Govinda-II's (772-780 A.D.) throne was usurped by Dhruva in about 780 A.D. Dhruva (780-793 A.D.) gave a deathblow to Govind's reign with the help of the rulers of Kanchi, Gangavadi, Vengi and Malava. Later he defeated all refractory feudatories, that is, of Talkad, Kanchi, Vengi, Malava, and defeated and imprisoned the Ganga-king Sivamara. He marched against the latter's younger brothers Vijayaditya and appointed his elder brother Stambba in his place. The Pallava king surrendered to him. He further marched against the Gurjara Pratihara rulers, Vatsaraaja, and
defeated the Gauda king, Dharmapala. And the battle took place in the Ganges - Jumana Doab. He had four sons, Stambha, Karkasavarnavarsa, Govinda and Indra. After his return from the northern expedition he enthroned Govinda.

Govinda-III (793-94 to 813 A.D.) suppressed the conspiracy of his brother and appointed Indra over Gujrat. He defeated and imprisoned the Ganga King Muttarasa in about 798 A.D. and annexed Gangavadi. He defeated the Pallavas, and began a twelve-year war with Vijayaditya of Vengi. He marched against Nagabhata-II, the Gurjara-Pratinars ruler, and further against Dharmapala and Cakrayudha, pursued the latter right upto the Himalayas and brought them both under subjugation. Amoghavarsa was born in 808 A.D., during his stay at Sribhavan. Later he defeated the Gangas and also the rulers of Kerala, Pandya, Cola, and Kanchi.

Amoghavarsa-I (813-18-878 A.D.), Wripatunga, ruled for 64 years. He was dethroned for a while, but Karka subdued the rebellion and restored him to the throne in 821 A.D. The twelve year war with Vijayaditya continued
during his reign. He defeated Ganga Vijayaditya (860 A.D.) and crushed down the rebellion raised by his cousin of Gujrat, Krishna-II (880-912 A.D.). The battles of Miravadyapura and Peruvanguragrama took place during his reign. His son Jagattunga predeceased him. Indra-III (913-917 A.D.) conquered king Upendra, attached Ujjayini, crossed the Jumma and took Mahipala as fugitive. From Amoghavarsa-II (917 A.D.) and Govinda-IV (918-936 A.D.), Mahipala regained his power. During the reign of Amoghavarsa-III (936-939-40 A.D.), his son, Krishna, killed Dantiga, Vappuga and Rasamalla. Krishna further marched against the Cedis and occupied the forts of Kalanjara and Citrakuta. Some hitch between the Gangas and Rastrakutas developed during his reign. Krishna-III (939-938 A.D.) conquered Tanjapuri and Kanchi, defeated the Pandyas and Keralas. With the help of Marusimha, Krishna defeated Siyaka of Malava and Northern Gujarat. He lost Kalanjara and Citrakuta. Amoghavarsa-IV (968-772 A.D.) lost both to Siyaka and Harsadeva in battles at various places on the banks of the Tapti, the Vindhya forests, Manyakheta. The capital Manyakheta itself was sacked and destroyed. Karka-II (972-974 A.D.) was overthrown by Tula-II in about
974 A.D. Krishna-III was the last great ruler of the Rashtrakuta family, whose glory departed after his death in 968 A.D. After a vigorous career of almost two centuries and a quarter, the imperial Rashtrakutas passed into obscurity.

The Chalukyas of Kalyana

The Chalukyas of Kalyana came to prominence in the latter fifties of the 10th century A.D. when Tailapa-II put to rest Rashtrakuta king Karka in 973 A.D. and scored a victory over the Colas, Latas and Malwas. It may be assumed that this Tailapa was probably a descendent of the former Chalukyas, who had been smarting under the crushing blow dealt by the Rashtrakuta kings. Thus Tailapa had in his veins the blood of the Chalukyas of Badami. The dynasty ruled over a very wide territory from 10th to 12th century A.D. The dynasty begins with Tailapa-II (973-996). He defeated the Colas, king of Cedi, Mularaj of Gujrat and the king Munja of Malwa. Jayasimha-II(9018-1040 A.D.) defeated Bhoja. He later on encamped himself
at Kolhapur. He ceased to reign after 1040 A.D. Somesvara Ahavamalla (1040-1068 A.D.) captured Dhara. Afterwards he attacked Cedi and Dahala and marched against western Konkan. Later he proceeded to Kanchi and captured it. He defeated the king of Kanyakubja. He founded the city of Kalyani and made it his capital.

Vikramaditya-IV (1073-1126 A.D.) gave a tough fight to the armies of Somesvara and his brother Rajiga. A bloody battle ensued in which Vikramaditya proved victorious. The new king of the Dravidas fled, and Somesvara was taken prisoner. After these events Vikramaditya usurped the throne in 1076 A.D. He assigned the province of Banavasi to Jayasimha. He reigned peacefully for about 50 years. He started a new era in his own name called Chalukya Vikrama era. He defeated Hoysalas, and made the kings of Kalinga, Vanga, Maru, Gurjara, Malawa, Gera and Cola subject to his sovereign. His court was adorned by brilliant men like Bilhana and Vijanasavara. He was not only brave but also a writer. The work, Mansollasa, is ascribed to his authorship. Jagadekamalla-II attacked Jayavarman Paramar and wrested a portion of
Malava. Tailapa-III (1160-1161 A.D.) with the assistance of some disgruntled feudatories, later drove away his sovereign southward and himself usurped the throne in 1161 A.D.

The Hoysalas or the Yadavas of Dvarasamudra

The Hoysalas gradually emerged on the political scene, expelling the Cholas from power by 1116 A.D. Their birth place is identified with Angadi in Mudigeri Taluk. They claimed to be the Yadavas of the Lunar race. They were Jains and the progenitor of the family was Sala. The Hoysala inscriptions are found from Tanjore to Sholapur in the North and from Kodagu to South Arcot on the East coast. They acknowledged the supremacy of the Western Chalukyas, who were the enemies of the Cholas. They became independent along with the Sevmas and the Yadavas and brought the Chalukya empire to an end. Vinayaditya (1016-1022 A.D.) had many feudatories and governors under him. The inscriptions of his time are mostly found in Hassan district. He had
Belur as his capital. The Cholas took Talkad from the Ganges during the time of Nripa Kama (1022-1047 A.D.) and it came back to the Hoysalas only in 1116 during the regime of Bittideva. The Guru of king Vinayaditya-II (1047-1063 A.D.) was Santideva. Breyanga (1063-1100 A.D.) was one of the six ministers of his father. He took part in suppressing the Chola, Malawa and other chiefs. He never became a ruler because of his early death but according to some authorities he did rule. Ballala-I (1100-1106 A.D.) ruled for a short time. His territory was Konkan Nad, Alvakheds, Bayalnad, Talkad, and Savimalale. He shifted his capital from Somavar to Belur.

Vishnuvardhana Bittideva (1106-1141 A.D.) was converted to Vaishnavism by Ramanuja. He drove out the Cholas from Mysore, and defeated the Pandyas of Ucchandi at Dumma. He was against the Cholas, and his fight against them resulted in a bloody massacre near Talkad. After that he marched to Kolar, the capital of the Gangas. The Chantalvas were slain in battle and a Kadaba force was destroyed by Narasimha-I (1141-1163 A.D.). He was attacked by Jagadekamalla in 1143 A.D., but he soon
declared independence. The building operations of Hoysaleswara temple began in his reign. The Hoysalas became completely independent under him.

The glory of the empire reached its zenith during the reign of Ballala-II (1173-1224 A.D.). He captured Vochangi, the Pandya fortress, but restored to Kamadeva his original power, when the latter prayed for mercy. He won the battle of Soratur over the Sevmas. He crushed the army of Bhillama and cut off his head. He defeated the Kalacuri king, Sankamadeva. He became the sole master of seven and a half lacs country. His Queen Padmala and their son Narasimha were ruling together. At the close of his reign, the dynasty of the western Chalukyas and the Kalacuris had come to an end. Narasimha-II (1224-1234 A.D.) defeated the Sevmas and restored the Pallava king Pernjuga to the throne. The Ceras, Colas, and Pandyas accepted the sovereignty of Someswara (1234-1255 A.D.). He revisited Dvarasamudra in 1252 and the two Cangelva kings conducted him to Ramanathapur.
On the death of Somesvara in 1255 A.D., a partition took place in the Hoysala territories. The ancestral kingdom went to Narasimha-II (1255-1291 A.D.) while the Tamil district in the South and Kolar were taken up by Ramanatha, a Chalukya prince. But the two families again joined hands in the reign of Ballala-III. Frequent quarrels with the Sevna broke out. Ballala-III (1291-1341 A.D.) marched against the Sevna king in 1306 A.D. Malik Kafur, under orders from Allauddin Khilji, descended upon Dvarasamudra and sacked it and took Ballala prisoner and returned with a lot of gold in 1310 A.D. Though Ballala ruled for a while after he was liberated, yet the dynasty practically came to an end. Virupaksha (1342-1345 A.D.) was defeated at Beribi by the Turuskas in 1342 A.D., about which incident Ibn Batuta gives a graphic description. According to him, Virupaksha's skin was stuffed with straw and exposed by Ghiyas-Ud-din, Sultan of Mathura. Such was the end of a great monarch. Dvarasamudra was then no longer the Hoysala capital. The last Hoysalas had Vikramapura and Kannanur near Trichinapoly as their capitals. During their long rule the Hoysalas bestowed attention on rural works.
The Yadavas of Devagiri

To start with, the Yadavas were merely the feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyani. They became independent only during the time of Billama who was defeated by Veeraballala-II in the Battle of Soratur. The latter drove the Yadavas beyond the Malaprabha. The Yadavas are said to have descended from the race of Yadu, to which belonged the great Mahabharata hero, Krishna. By about 1189 A.D. Billama (1187-1191 A.D.) restored the northern and eastern portion of the Chalukya kingdom from Someshwara-Iv. But the Rattas of Saundatti, the Silaharas of Karnad and the Kadambas of Hangal and Goa did not yield to him. Later the Hoyasalas deprived him of the Southern province. From 1187 he was the chief of the land around the Krishna and made Devgiri his capital. From that time the Yadavas of the Hoyasala line and the Yadavas of Devgiri began to fight for the land near the Krishna river. In the great battle he fought, Ballala-II defeated Jaitrapala, (1191-1210 A.D.) son of Billama, at Lakkundi. Ballala was the master of Kuntala also. Singhana (1210-1247 A.D.) overthrew Ballala-II and restored all the lost dominions. He
subjugated the Silahara country, subdued Dhoja, and invaded the Gurjara country. His Dandanayaka, Vioana, reduced the Rattas of Saundatti and the Kadambas of Goa. Madeva (1260-1271 A.D.) defeated Visala but lost his possessions in Mysore. The Guttas were his feudatories. He won the Andhra, the Hoysala and the Konkan chiefs. Ramadevaraya (1271-1312 A.D.) was the first Yadava king. His kingdom extended as far as the Mysore district. Ramadevaraya and his son Sankara were routed in 1294 A.D. by the forces of Allauddin under the generalship of Malik Kafir. The dynasty very soon came to an inglorious end.

The Four Dynasties of Vijayanagara

Empire (1336-1688 A.D.)

The Vijayanagara empire, which was the direct result of the popular indignation at the disintegration of the South, came into being in 1336 A.D., under the spiritual guidance of Vijayaranya. The Sangama princes Harihara and Bukka achieved a remarkable feat in Karnataka history by their bravery, skill of organization
and high ideals of kingship. They were the founders of the Vijayanagara dynasty. The popular version goes that Vidyaranya, the head of the Sringeri Matha, assisted them in founding the empire. The origin of Vijayanagar is still an unsolved historical problem. The Sangama dynasty claimed descent from the Yadava race. A Saluva chief founded the Saluva dynasty. The Tuluva dynasty came from Tuluva. The last was the Aravidu dynasty which was Telugu in its origin.

I) Sangama Dynasty - (1336-1478 A.D.)

Harihara-I (1336-1379 A.D.) was succeeded by Bukka. Harihara and Bukka led their army against Ballala with the blessing of Vidyaranya. They defeated him in a battle and established their sovereignty over the Deccan. Then Harihara became the first king of Vijayanagara. He gave many grants to temples and consolidated the supremacy of his dynasty over all Southern India. Bukka's two brothers, Kampana and Marappa, ruled over a part in the East and West respectively. Bukka
subdued the Kadambas. The building of the new city and the transformation of its name into Vijayanagara, the city of victory, are said to have been the work of Bukkaraya. He patched up the religious quarrel between the Jains and the Hindus, which achievement brought him a deserved fame in history. Harihara-II (1379-1406 A.D.) carried on the struggle against the Sultans of Gulbarga. He reigned for about 20 years.

It is said that Timmayya Arasa, later Minister of Krishnaraya, warded off the conspiracy on the life of Devaraya-I (1406-1419 A.D.). In his later years he gave a crushing blow to the Sultans and laid waste the Bijapur city. But the Sultan's son, Ahmadshah, in retaliation, massacred thousands of Hindu men, women and children. Peace is said to have been restored during the later period. In 1489 A.D. the Bahamani kingdom was divided into five parts, Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golconda, Berar and Bidar. Devaraya-II (1420-1443 A.D.) an elephant hunter, possessed 10,000 Turuska horsemen in his services. The might and glory of the empire have been described by foreign travellers. The later kings, Mallikarjuna and Virupaksha, are not worth discussing.
II) The Saluva Dynasty - (1478-1496 A.D.)

This dynasty came from Saluva Naresimha (1478 - 1494 A.D.). He was the most powerful monarch in Karnataka and Telengana. He usurped the throne of Virupaksha in 1478 A.D., who fled away. Virupaksha captured and plundered Kanohi, when his capital Vijayanagara was attacked by the Bahamani Sultans. Immadi Naresimha was murdered by his general Narasa in 1496 A.D. and a new dynasty of the Tuluvas appeared in the history of Vijayanagara.

III) The Tuluva Dynasty - (1496-1567 A.D.)

Narasai bestowed gifts and donations at Kameswara and other places. Krishnadvaraya (1504-1530 A.D.) was the most famous personage among the Rayas of Vijayanagar. He inflicted a crushing blow on the Mohammedan armies. His empire reached Cuttack in the East and Salsette in the West. He invaded Kandaviti and took Virabhadra as prisoner. He was a patron of Sanskrit and Telugu literature. Aeyutaraya 1430 A.D. built the Aeyutaraya
temple at Vijayanagara. Venkata was crowned as king when still an infant. In 1565 A.D., a bloody battle ensued at Rakkasa-tangadgi, in which Ramaraya, the last of the line, was slain and the town was plundered and sacked for a period of over six months.

IV) The Aravidu Dynasty - (1567-1668 A.D.)

Immediately after the battle of Rakkasa-tangadi, the Aravidus, who were the ministers of the previous two emperors, occupied the throne. They traced their origin to the moon. The later chiefs of Anegundi whose descendants got the pension under the British government, were their descendants. The capital, Venkatadri, was moved to Candragir in 1585 and later to Chinglepet. The Golkonda forces captured these capitals in 1644 A.D. Rangaraya-II fled to Sivappa Nayaka, chief of Bidnur. The Vijayanagara empire came to a close with him. The great Tatacarya appointed Venkata-II (1584-1664 A.D.) to the throne. He pushed back all the Muslim raids and defeated Mahmad Shah, son of Malik Ibrahim, subdued the
Nayakas, and established the Rajas of Mysore in a firmer position. He was an ally of the Portugese and a great patron of literature and art.

At the battle of Rakkas-tangadi, the empire of Vijayanagara was completely shattered by the Muslim forces. That was the final historical fate of the 'Never to be forgotten empire'. It crumbled down so completely that it could never rise again. With the fall of Vijayanagar, fell the glory of the Deccan and of Karnataka. The torch of Vijayanagara was kept burning by the descendents of the Aravidu line for about a century. The history of Karnataka since then is a history of the spoliation of Karnataka by alien powers, struggle for supremacy, and efforts to extend their dominions. In the historical retrospect, the political life of Karnataka appears to have begun very early indeed and was brilliant, though unsteady, in its subsequent manifestations.

Karnataka was one of the foremost powers in India from the earliest period of history and maintained its
integrity till the advent of the British rule. It was conscious of its separate cultural unity till the fall of the Vijayanagara rule in 1565 A.D. Thus it may be concluded that Karnataka was one of the most powerful political and cultural centres in pre-British India and maintained its superiority until the decline of the Vijayanagara empire in the 16th Century A.D.