PART - I
The present work "Early Dynasties of Andhra Desa from the Fall of Satavahanas to the Rise of the Early Chalukyas" embodies in the main my Ph.D. thesis for approval by the Karnataka University. In this work, a sincere effort has been made to present a complete historical survey of the early dynasties of Andhra Desa during the post-Satavahana and pre-Chalukyan period with particular reference to the Vishnukundins who played an important part in the political, cultural and art history of the Andhra Desa. And in doing so both the literary and the archaeological sources, have as far as practicable, been thoroughly utilised.

This study is divided into two parts. The first part contains a brief account of the political history of the dynasties that ruled Andhra Desa from the fall of Satavahanas to the rise of Early Chalukyas and comprehensive study of the Vishnukundins including their genealogy and chronology, their capital, their contribution to language, literature and education, etc., based on literary, epigraphical and archaeological evidences. The second part consists of settlement and structural pattern, religious and secular architecture, art, religion, material culture including pottery, coinage etc., social and economic conditions during the period of Vishnukundins. Excavations carried out by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh at Keesaragutta has brought to light an extensive fortification now defunct, huge brick structures,
and rich array of antiquities including pottery, terracottas, stuccos, beads, etc., all datable to the VishnuKundin period. The above material besides the material from other excavated sites viz., Gollathagudi, Gummam in Mahaboobnagar district, Yeleswaram in Nalgonda district, Nelakondapalli in Khammam district, Rajahmundry in East Godavari district has been thoroughly utilised in this study.

In the preparation of this work I have been benefited much by many scholarly works. It would, therefore, be unfair not to record my deep sense of gratitude to the scholars whose works I have thoroughly utilised. I would be failing in my duty if I do not record my profound regards and indebtedness to my revered guide Dr. B.K. Guru Raja Rao, Reader, Ancient History and Archaeology, Mysore University, under whose scholarly shade this work was prepared. As a supervisor, he was always ready to discuss problems connected with my research work. I am ever grateful to him for this and encouragement, besides, valuable guidance, I received from him.

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Hyderabad (K. Ramamohan Rao)