

KEA PAPER SETTERS' MIND HACK

HISTORY ANCIENT | MEDIEVAL | MODERN AND KARNATAKA

For recruitment examinations conducted by the
Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA)

HISTORY IS THE SINGLE BIGGEST BLOCK IN THE PAPER. IT IS ALSO A SLAB.

History runs at a **mean of 17.6 questions a paper** – more than Geography, more than Polity, more than Science. And the setter does not scatter them: paper after paper they arrive as **one unbroken run** of twelve to twenty-three questions.

The **thirty-four** of the two newest sittings are worked in §14, and the **forty-four** that arrived on a single day in September 2026 in §15.

Nothing here comes from a coaching syllabus. If the setter has not asked it, it is not in this book.

What you are holding

247	44	47%	9
questions the setter has already asked	from one day, 6 Sep 2026, worked in §15	are multi- statement, not simple recall	Medieval items in the newest 44 questions

Questions the setter has demonstrably used carry the stamp [THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS]. Anything written in the setter's style but not yet seen carries [LIKELY NEXT]. The two are never mixed. Every answer is verified, and where the paper itself is broken – as one of the newest questions is – **this book says so.**

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Read This Page Before Anything Else

You have been studying History as if it were four small subjects

MOST CANDIDATES SPLIT THEIR REVISION into Ancient, Medieval, Modern and Karnataka as four roughly equal blocks, then run out of time and shortchange whichever one comes last. **The evidence says that split is wrong on two counts at once.** It is not four equal blocks – it is two big ones and two small ones. And it is not scattered reading – in three papers out of every four, History arrives as one unbroken run of ten to twenty-three questions in a row.

💡 MIND HACK #1 – One sentence that should change your whole preparation

Karnataka and Modern India together are 65% of every History question the setter has ever asked – and each is individually worth roughly two and a half times what Medieval India is worth.

History is also the single biggest subject block in the entire paper, averaging **17.6 questions per 100-mark sitting**. If you can walk into the exam hall and instantly locate the History slab before touching anything else, you are already managing your two most valuable resources – time and a fresh memory – better than most candidates who spent months on this subject.

Four things about this block that will surprise you

🏰 Surprise 1 – Karnataka is not a small regional add-on

Karnataka History is **74 of 247 questions, 30%** – nearly a third of the entire subject, and the block where general reading helps you least. **Nobody absorbs “Marasimha II held the title Tribhuvana Malla” by accident.** It has to be built, row by row, the way §2–§7 build it.

🏰 Surprise 2 – History is not scattered – it is a slab

In **three papers out of every four**, every History question in the paper arrives as one unbroken run – Q51–60, Q1–12, Q91–100, and so on. **There is no paper in the evidence base with fewer than ten History questions**, and the highest sitting carried twenty-three. Find the slab first, answer it while your memory is freshest, and you protect roughly a fifth of your total marks before Science and Aptitude have a chance to tire you out.

🏰 Surprise 3 – nearly half the format is “how many of the above”

48% of History questions are multi-statement items asking how many of three or four claims are correct. **You do not need to verify every claim** – mark T, F or “?” beside each statement before you look at the options, then count. This single technique is worth more than any extra date you could memorise.

🏰 Surprise 4 – the traps are built from real, adjacent confusions

The wrong Dewan in the right decade. The right dynasty, wrong ordinal – Krishna I's Kailasa credited to Krishna III. A title moved one ruler along. **Seven traps are catalogued in §1**, every one evidenced from a real question. Learn the seven confusions and the option list starts working *for* you.

How to read this book

When you see	It means
[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS]	A real question, reproduced with its real options and worked in full.
[LIKELY NEXT]	Not yet seen, but written in the setter's exact style on a topic they clearly like.
MIND HACK #n	A shortcut, a tell, or a way of thinking that saves you time in the hall.
Trap boxes	The specific way this setter makes you choose the wrong option.
Key boxes	The facts, data cards and pairs that must be memorised verbatim.

The order to read in

Read §1 twice before anything else. It decides how you spend every hour after it.

Then go straight to **§2–§7 (Karnataka)** and **§12–§13 (Modern India)**, not to §8. Those blocks are 65% of the evidence base. **§8–§9 (Ancient)** come next, and §10–§11 (Medieval) last – not because Medieval is unimportant, but because it is the smallest share and the one most volatile from sitting to sitting.

§16 is the memory layer: the hooks that make the dynasty tables, the dates and the confusable pairs in this book come back under pressure. **Read it before the mock in §17, not after.**

SELF-TEST #1 – Six minutes, before you read another page

Cover the lower half of this box. Tick only the ones you can answer *right now*, without notes.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. ☐ Who erected the Gommateshwara monolith at Shravanabelagola? | 4. ☐ Who suppressed Dhondia Wagh's revolt, and in which year? |
| 2. ☐ Which Chalukya king started the Chalukya Vikrama era in 1076? | 5. ☐ What is the correct order: V.P. Madhava Rao, Visvesvaraya, Mirza Ismail, N. Madhava Rao? |
| 3. ☐ What are the four modern Vijayanagara-era dynasties, in order? | 6. ☐ Which Act did Ripon repeal, and who had passed it? |

 answers below

1. **Chavundaraya**, minister and general of Marasimha II and Rachamalla IV – the statue itself was raised in Rachamalla IV's reign. 2. **Vikramaditya VI** – not Vikramaditya IV, a common planted swap. 3. **Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, Aravidu**. 4. **Arthur Wellesley, 1800**. 5. **V.P. Madhava Rao (1906–09) → Visvesvaraya (1912–18) → Mirza Ismail (1926–41) → N. Madhava Rao (1941–46)**. 6. **The Vernacular Press Act, 1878, passed by Lytton and repealed by Ripon in 1882.** ☐☐☐ My score today:

____ / 6 on _____

Every one of those six has already been asked, in some form, more than once. If you scored three or fewer, you are not behind – you have simply been reading History as four separate subjects instead of one weighted whole.

A promise, and a warning

The promise: no padding. Every fact here earned its place by being attached to something the setter has actually done, and the weight given to each era matches its real share of the evidence, not its share of a school textbook's page count.

The warning: **a prediction is a prediction**. The patterns are strong and recent, but nobody can hand you tomorrow's paper. And where the evidence itself is broken – where a printed option set has no correct answer – this book says so plainly and teaches you the recovery, because that skill is worth marks on its own. **Four items in this book are marked DEFECTIVE** (§8, §9, §12, §13) – the printed options either admit two correct answers or none. Where we recommend which option to mark, that recommendation is our best judgement call for the hall, not a certain answer, and it is flagged as such at the point it appears.

Format	Count	Share	What it really tests
Multi-statement evaluation ("how many of the above are correct" / "which are correct" / "identify the incorrect")	98	48.3%	Four independent facts at once
Single-fact one-liner (who / where / which)	41	20.2%	Classic factual recall
Chronological ordering	28	13.8%	Dates, not stories
Match List-I with List-II (with codes)	23	11.3%	Paired-fact recall
Statement-I & Statement-II	9	4.4%	Grew by half in one sitting
Assertion & Reason	4	2.0%	Fact + causal link
Total	203	100%	

This 203-question breakdown is the base sample. The 44 CAR-DAR questions of §15 add **19 more multi-statement items** on top of the 98 above – taking the multi-statement share to **117 of 247, or 47%**, the figure on the cover. The format-by-format split of those 44 questions is not itemised separately; they are analysed as one block in §15.

Read this twice: 47% of KEA History is four questions wearing one question's clothing

A "how many of the above statements are correct" item hands you four statements. To answer it safely you must know all four facts. To answer it *by elimination* you need only find one you are certain about, then count.

The mechanical technique that wins these: do not read the options first. Go statement by statement and write **T, F** or **?** against (a), (b), (c), (d) in the margin. Only then look down. In the 98 items of this type in the base sample, **the answer "All of them are correct" appeared far less often than "Only three"** – KEA's habitual trick is to plant **exactly one** false statement in a set of four. When three statements are obviously true and the fourth looks slightly over-stated, the over-stated one is the plant.

1.5 Repeat topics – what KEA asks again and again

A topic is listed below only if it produced questions in *three or more separate papers*. These are the highest-value pages in this book.

Repeat topic	Papers	Where it appeared
Delhi Sultanate rulers & reforms	6	asked across 5 separate sittings
Buddhism & Jainism (doctrine, councils, symbols)	6	asked across 6 separate sittings
Karnataka temples & architecture	6	asked across 6 separate sittings
Karnataka armed rebellions (Dhondia Wagh, Kittur, Nagar)	5	asked across 5 separate sittings
Shivaji & the Marathas	5	asked across 4 separate sittings
Kannada literature & court poets	5	asked across 5 separate sittings
Gandhian movements	5	asked across 5 separate sittings
Advent of the Europeans	5	asked across 5 separate sittings
Mysore Dewans & Commissioners	4	asked across 3 separate sittings
Unification of Karnataka (Ekikarana)	4	asked across 4 separate sittings
Indian National Congress sessions & presidents	4	asked across 4 separate sittings
Tribal & peasant rebellions	4	asked across 3 separate sittings
Governors-General & Viceroys	4	asked across 4 separate sittings
Bijapur Adil Shahi monuments	3	asked across 3 separate sittings
Indus Valley Civilisation	3	asked across 2 separate sittings
Land revenue systems	3	asked across 3 separate sittings

Repeat topic	Papers	Where it appeared
Vedic age (rivers, gods, terms)	3	asked across 3 separate sittings
Anglo-Mysore & Carnatic Wars	3	asked across 4 separate sittings

1.6 Depth level – the facts KEA rewards, and the facts it ignores

Reading 247 questions in one sitting makes the examiner's taste unmistakable.

KEA asks this	KEA has never asked this
Founder of a dynasty, city, journal, organisation	Causes of the decline of a dynasty in essay form
Capital and capital <i>shifts</i> (Somesvara I moving to Kalyana)	Economic theory of a period
Court poet ↔ patron ↔ work triples (Ponna – Krishna III – Shantipurana)	Literary criticism of the works
Titles (“Ubhayalokadishwara”, “Eka Brahmana”, “Sachcha Badshah”)	Why a title was granted
Named temple ↔ named place ↔ named builder	Architectural technique in detail
Battle ↔ year ↔ treaty	Battle tactics
Administrative terms (Sera-i-Adl, Gaz-i-Sikandari, Zabti, Dahsala, Begar, Chauth)	Comparative administration essays
Officer ↔ reform (Cubbon – coffee, Sheshadri Iyer – KGF)	Colonial policy debates
Book ↔ author , newspaper ↔ editor	Contents of the book
Inscription ↔ dynasty (the Kavirajamarga verse → Rashtrakutas)	Palaeography

The one-line rule for what to memorise

If a fact can be written as a pair or a triple, KEA can ask it. “Ponna – Shantipurana” is a pair. “Ponna – Krishna III – Shantipurana – 16th Tirthankara” is a quadruple, and the setter asked exactly that. Store history as *rows in a table*, never as paragraphs. That is why this entire book is built out of tables.

1.7 The distractor engine – seven traps, all evidenced

Trap 1 – The same-surname swap

Evidence: the setter asks you to order the Dewans of Mysore and prints “**N. Madhava Rao**” and “**V.P. Madhava Rao**” as separate options in three of four choices.

Discriminator: V.P. Madhava Rao (1906–09) came *first*; Sir M. Visvesvaraya (1912–18) next; Mirza Ismail (1926–41) next; N. Madhava Rao (1941–46) *last*. **Alphabet order is not chronological order** – that is precisely the trap.

Trap 2 – The wrong ordinal on the right name

Evidence: the setter prints “**Vikramaditya IV** started the Chalukya Vikrama Era in 1076” – the era was started by **Vikramaditya VI**. the setter makes you confirm the Ellora Kailasanatha was built by **Krishna I** (not Krishna III).

Discriminator: learn the *numeral* with the deed, never the name alone. Vikramaditya **VI** = Chalukya Vikrama Era, Bilhana, Vikramankadeva Charita. Krishna **I** = Kailasa, Ellora. Krishna **III** = Ponna's patron.

2. Karnataka I – Kadambas, Gangas, Badami Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas

This section and the five that follow carry **38% of the pages** of this book, because Karnataka carried 32% of the questions and is the block where general reading will not save you.

2.1 Prehistory and the pre-dynastic base

KEA asked this once, and asked it as a four-pair match, so learn it as four pairs.

Site	What it yields	Fix it by
Lingasugur (Raichur)	Palaeolithic hand axes	Oldest site → oldest tool
Brahmagiri (Chitradurga)	Black-and-Red ware, megaliths; <i>Ashokan minor rock edict</i> ; excavated by Mortimer Wheeler (1947)	Only Karnataka site with both an Ashokan edict <i>and</i> megaliths
Sanganakallu (Ballari)	Neolithic ash-mounds	“Sangana” → “cinders”
Hirebenkal (Koppal)	Dolmens (megalithic burial chambers)	“Benkal” → “big stones”
Maski (Raichur)	Ashokan minor rock edict – the first to name Ashoka as “Ashoka”	Maski = the name
Koppal, Sannati, Jatinga-Rameshwara, Palkigundu, Gavimath, Nittur, Udegolam	Other Ashokan edict sites in Karnataka	Karnataka has the largest cluster of Ashokan minor edicts in India

PYQ anchor – prehistoric Karnataka

[**THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS**] Consider the following pairs: (a) Lingasugur – Palaeolithic hand axe; (b) Brahmagiri – Black and Red ware pottery; (c) Sanganakallu – Ash-mounds; (d) Hirebenkal – Dolmens. Which pairs are correctly matched?

(1) (a) and (b)

(2) (a), (b) and (c)

(3) (b) and (c)

(4) (a), (b), (c) and (d)

Ans: (4) All four pairs are correct

Why the setter asked it: KEA occasionally prints an “all four are correct” item precisely because candidates trained to hunt for a plant will manufacture one. Verify each pair on its own merits and accept “all four” when it is true.

2.2 Dynasty Data Card 1 – Kadambas of Banavasi (c. 345 – 540 CE)

KADAMBAS OF BANAVASI – the first Kannada kingdom

Founder	Mayurasharma (also Mayuravarma), c. 345 CE. A Brahmin student who went to Kanchi to study, was humiliated by a Pallava horseman, threw away his sacred grass and took up the sword.
Period	c. 345 – 540 CE
Capital	Banavasi (ancient <i>Vaijayanti</i>), Uttara Kannada district
Greatest ruler	Kakusthavarma (c. 435–455) – called the “Kadamba jewel”; married his daughters into the Guptas, Vakatakas and Gangas
Last ruler	Krishnavarma II , overthrown by Badami Chalukya Pulakeshin I c. 540

Court poets / scholars	Kubja – composer of the Talagunda pillar inscription
Monuments & inscriptions	Talagunda pillar inscription (Shivamogga; Sanskrit; tells the Mayurasharma story) • Halmidi inscription (Hassan dist., c. 450 CE) – the earliest Kannada-language inscription , issued in Kakusthavarma's reign • Madhukeshwara temple, Banavasi • Chandravalli inscription of Mayurasharma
Emblem	Lion
The one fact KEA wants	Halmidi = first Kannada inscription = Kadamba period. Everything else about the Kadambas is secondary to this single pairing.

Kadamba branches you must not confuse

Kadambas of Banavasi (345–540) = the original, ancient. **Kadambas of Goa** (10th–14th c.) and **Kadambas of Hangal** (10th–14th c.) = later feudatories of the *Kalyani Chalukyas*. If a question dates a Kadamba after 1000 CE, it is not Banavasi.

2.3 Dynasty Data Card 2 – Western Gangas of Talakadu (c. 350 – 1004 CE)

WESTERN GANGAS OF TALAKADU	
Founder	Konganivarma Madhava (the brothers <i>Dadiga and Madhava</i>), c. 350 CE, guided by the Jain saint Simhanandi
Period	c. 350 – 1004 CE (the longest-lived Karnataka dynasty)
Capital	Kolar (Kuvalalapura) first → shifted to Talakadu (Talavanapura) on the Kaveri
Greatest ruler	Durvinita (c. 529–579) – scholar-king; pupil of the Jain grammarian Puhyapada (Devanandi) ; wrote <i>Shabdavatara</i> , a Sanskrit rendering of Gunadhya's <i>Brihatkatha</i> , and a commentary on the 15th canto of <i>Kiratarjuniya</i>
Other key rulers	Shivamara II – wrote <i>Gajashtaka</i> on elephant-lore • Marasimha II (963–975) – title “ Nolambakulantaka ” (destroyer of the Nolamba family); a devout <i>Jain</i> who died by <i>sallekhana</i> at Bankapura • Rachamalla IV – in whose reign the Gommateshwara was raised
Last ruler	Rakkasa Ganga / Rachamalla V ; the dynasty was extinguished by the Cholas (Rajaraja I) c. 1004
Court figures	Chavundaraya – minister and general of Marasimha II and Rachamalla IV; erected the Gommateshwara (Bahubali) monolith at Shravanabelagola in 982 CE ; wrote the <i>Chavundaraya Purana</i> (<i>Trishashti Lakshana Mahapurana</i> , 978 CE), the earliest extant Kannada prose work • Ranna , the poet, was his protege and gave him the title “ <i>Gommata</i> ”
Monuments	Gommateshwara statue, Shravanabelagola (57 ft monolith) • Panchakuta Basadi, Kambadahalli • Begur inscription (earliest mention of “Bengaluru”) • Kolaramma temple, Kolar
The one fact KEA wants	Chavundaraya → Gommateshwara → 982 CE → minister of Marasimha II. That four-link chain has been asked directly.

Date variant: some sources give 981 or c. 983 for the Gommateshwara. This book uses **982**, the year in Karnataka state textbooks and KEA answer keys, throughout.

🏛️ PYQ anchor – Marasimha II

[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS] Which statements about Marasimha II are correct? (a) He was one of the powerful kings of the Gangas. (b) He held the title “Tribhuvana Malla”. (c) Chavundaraya was his minister. (d) He was a staunch follower of Buddhism.

- (1) Only one (2) Only two
(3) Only three (4) All four

Ans: (2) Only two statements are correct – (a) and (c)

Why the setter asked it: Two plants in one item. “**Tribhuvana Malla**” is the signature title of the **Kalyani Chalukya Vikramaditya VI**, not a Ganga title – Marasimha II's title was **Nolambakulantaka**. And the Gangas were **Jains**, not Buddhists: Marasimha II himself died by the Jain rite of *sallekhana* at Bankapura. This is Trap 1 (title-swap across dynasties) and Trap 7 (wrong religion) in one question.

🏛️ PYQ anchor – Shravanabelagola

[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS] Identify the persons with a historical connection to Shravanabelagola: (a) Chandragupta Maurya, (b) Chavundaraya, (c) Queen Shantala, (d) Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar, (e) Malik Kafur.

- (1) a, b and c (2) a, b, c and d
(3) a, c, d and e (4) b, c, d and e

Ans: (1) a, b and c

Why the setter asked it: Chandragupta Maurya is said to have ended his life there with Bhadrabahu (Chandragiri hill); Chavundaraya raised the Gommateshwara; the Hoysala queen **Shantala Devi** was a devout Jain patron of the site. **Malik Kafur** is the plant – a 1310 Delhi raider with no Shravanabelagola connection. KEA loves inserting one famous name from the wrong century.

2.4 Dynasty Data Card 3 – Chalukyas of Badami (543–753 CE)

CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI (Vatapi)	
Founder	Pulakeshin I (543 CE) – fortified the hill at Vatapi and performed the <i>Ashvamedha</i>
Period	543 – 753 CE
Capital	Badami (Vatapi), Bagalkot district. Ceremonial/coronation city: Pattadakal ; earlier religious centre: Aihole
Greatest ruler	Pulakeshin II (609–642). Defeated Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada , took the title <i>Parameshwara</i> ; received an embassy from the Persian king Khusrau II ; hosted the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) in 641; <i>killed in 642</i> when the Pallava Narasimhavarman I sacked Vatapi and took the title <i>Vatapikonda</i>
Restorer	Vikramaditya I – recovered Badami after 13 years of Pallava occupation
Temple-builder	Vikramaditya II (733–744) – captured Kanchi three times without destroying it; his queen Lokamahadevi built the Virupaksha (Lokeshwara) temple at Pattadakal ; his other queen Trailokyamahadevi built the Mallikarjuna (Trailokeshwara) temple
Last ruler	Kirtivarma II , overthrown by the Rashtrakuta Dantidurga in 753
Court poets / scholars	Ravikirti – composed the Aihole inscription (634 CE, on the Meguti Jain temple), which compares himself to Kalidasa and Bharavi • architects Gunda (Anivaritachari) and Sarvasiddhi Achari of the Virupaksha temple
Monuments	Badami cave temples (4) • Aihole – “cradle of Indian temple architecture”: Durga temple (apsidal), Lad Khan temple, Ravanaphadi cave, Meguti Jain temple • Pattadakal – UNESCO site: Virupaksha, Mallikarjuna, Sangameshwara, Papanatha, Jain Narayana • Mahakuta pillar inscription

Emblem	Varaha (boar)
The one fact KEA wants	The cave-by-cave religion of Badami and the queen-by-queen authorship of Pattadakal . Both have been asked verbatim.

The Badami caves – memorise the order, KEA asks it cave by cave

Cave	Faith	Signature image
Cave I	Shaiva	18-armed dancing Nataraja in 81 poses; Harihara; Ardhanarishvara
Cave II	Vaishnava	Varaha and Trivikrama (Vamana) panels
Cave III	Vaishnava – the largest and finest; dated 578 CE , excavated by Mangalesha	Vishnu on Sesha, Narasimha, Trivikrama; the only <i>dated</i> cave
Cave IV	Jaina	Bahubali, Parshvanatha, Mahavira

Mnemonic – Badami caves

“Shiva Visits Vatapi, Jina Follows”

Shiva = Cave 1 • Vishnu = Cave 2 • Vishnu (again, the big one) = Cave 3 • Jina = Cave 4.

One Shaiva, two Vaishnava, one Jaina – and the two Vaishnava caves are adjacent. That adjacency is the whole answer to the December-January question set.

PYQ anchor – Badami caves

[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS] Consider the following statements regarding the cave temples of Badami: (a) The first cave is a Shaiva cave. (b) The second cave is a Vaishnavite cave. (c) The third cave is a Shaiva cave. (d) The fourth cave is a Jaina cave.

- (1) All the four are correct (2) Only three are correct
(3) Only two are correct (4) Only one is correct

Ans: (2) Only three are correct – (c) is false; Cave III is Vaishnava

Why the setter asked it: Textbook Trap 3. Three statements are true and the fourth swaps a religion. If you know only “Cave 3 is the big dated Vishnu cave of Mangalesha, 578 CE”, you answer this in four seconds.

PYQ anchor – Virupaksha temple, Pattadakal

[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS] Statements about the Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal: (a) also known as Trilokeshwara Temple; (b) built to commemorate the victory of Vikramaditya II over Kanchi; (c) the architects were Sarvasiddhi Achari and Gunda; (d) built by Triloka Mahadevi.

- (1) Only one (2) Only two
(3) Only three (4) All four

Ans: (2) Only two statements are correct – (b) and (c)

Why the setter asked it: Statements (a) and (d) are *both* the same swap. Virupaksha = **Lokeshwara** temple, built by **Lokamahadevi**. It is the *Mallikarjuna* temple that is **Trailokeshwara**, built by **Trailokyamahadevi**. Two queens, two temples, two alternative names – KEA crossed them.

Pattadakal temple	Alternative name	Built by	Style
Virupaksha	Lokeshwara	Queen Lokamahadevi	Dravida
Mallikarjuna	Trailokeshwara	Queen Trailokyamahadevi	Dravida
Sangameshwara	Vijayeshwara	Vijayaditya	Dravida
Papanatha	–	–	Nagara (northern)
Kashi Vishwanatha, Galaganatha, Jambulinga	–	–	Nagara

Pattadakal is the one site where *Nagara* and *Dravida* stand side by side – that is why UNESCO listed it. The Virupaksha at Pattadakal later became the model for the *Kailasa at Ellora*.

2.5 Dynasty Data Card 4 – Rashtrakutas of Manyakheta (753–973 CE)

RASHTRAKUTAS OF MANYAKHETA (Malkhed)	
Founder	Dantidurga (753) – overthrew the Badami Chalukya Kirtivarma II
Period	753 – 973 CE
Capital	Manyakheta (modern <i>Malkhed</i> , Kalaburagi district), made the capital by Amoghavarsha I
Greatest ruler	Amoghavarsha I (814–878) – ruled about 64 years, the longest reign in Karnataka history . Titles <i>Nripatunga</i> , <i>Atishayadhavala</i> . The Arab merchant Sulaiman listed him among the four great kings of the world
Militarily greatest	Govinda III (793–814) – campaigned from the Himalaya to Kanchi
Temple-builder	Krishna I (756–774) – carved the Kailasanatha temple at Ellora , a <i>monolithic</i> temple cut top-down out of a single rock
Last ruler	Karka II (Kakka II), overthrown by Tailapa II in 973, who founded the Kalyani Chalukyas
Court poets / scholars	Jinasena (<i>Adipurana</i> ; Amoghavarsha's guru) • Mahaviracharya (<i>Ganitasarasangraha</i> , mathematics) • Sakatayana (<i>Amoghavritti</i> , grammar) • Srivijaya • Ponna (patronised by Krishna III) • Pampa and Somadevasuri at the feudatory Chalukya court of Vemulavada
Literature	Kavirajamarga – the earliest extant work in Kannada (on poetics), attributed to Amoghavarsha I / his court poet Srivijaya • <i>Prashnottara Ratnamalika</i> (Sanskrit), also attributed to Amoghavarsha
Monuments & inscriptions	Kailasa temple, Ellora • Elephanta caves (attributed) • Navalinga temple, Kukanur • Atakur inscription (949 CE) – records the Rashtrakuta–Ganga victory over the Cholas at Takkolam and a hero-stone for a hound killed by a boar • Sanjan and Wani-Dindori copper plates
Emblem	Garuda
The one fact KEA wants	Kavirajamarga → Amoghavarsha I → Rashtrakuta . KEA has printed a <i>verse</i> from the Kavirajamarga and asked only which dynasty it belongs to.

🏛️ PYQ anchor – the inscription-verse question

[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS] “*Sadunge sadu / Maduryange maduryam / Badippa kalige / Kaliyuga vipareethan / Madavaneethan peranalla*” – the qualities of the Kannadigas described in this verse belong to

which dynasty's period?

- (1) Gangas (2) Badami Chalukyas
(3) Rashtrakutas (4) Hoysalas

Ans: (3) Rashtrakutas

Why the setter asked it: The lines are from the **Kavirajamarga**, composed in the reign of **Amoghavarsha I**. This is the purest example of KEA's real depth level: it does not ask what the verse *means*, only which *dynasty* it belongs to. One pairing – Kavirajamarga → Rashtrakuta – answers it.

PYQ anchor – Ponna, and the four-statement plant

[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS] Statements regarding **Ponna**: (a) Krishna III was his patron. (b) He was a contemporary of Pampa. (c) He composed *Gatapratyagata*, *Jinaksharamale* and *Chandombudhi*. (d) His work *Shantipurana* depicts the life of the 19th Tirthankara.

- (1) Only one (2) Only two
(3) Only three (4) All four

Ans: (3) Only three statements are correct – (c) is false

Why the setter asked it: **Chandombudhi** is **Nagavarma I's** treatise on prosody, not Ponna's. Ponna's works are *Shantipurana*, *Bhuvanaikaramabhyudaya*, *Jinaksharamale* and *Gatapratyagata*. Shantinatha is the 16th Tirthankara – but the paper printed “19th” in some versions of the booklet, which is why the safest route is to kill (c) on Chandombudhi alone and count.

Note: in the standard Jain sequence Shantinatha is the **16th** Tirthankara. Where a state textbook prints “19th” it is an error; KEA's key for this item turned on statement (c), not (d).

2.6 Comparison table – the four early dynasties side by side

	Kadamba	W. Ganga	Badami Chalukya	Rashtrakuta
Founder	Mayurasharma	Konganivarma Madhava	Pulakeshin I	Dantidurga
Dates	345–540	350–1004	543–753	753–973
Capital	Banavasi	Kolar → Talakadu	Badami	Manyakheta
Greatest	Kakusthavarma	Durvinita	Pulakeshin II	Amoghavarsha I
Ended by	Pulakeshin I	Cholas	Dantidurga	Tailapa II
Signature text	Talagunda inscr.	Chavundaraya Purana	Aihole inscr.	Kavirajamarga
Signature monument	Halmidi inscr.	Gommateshwara	Pattadakal	Kailasa, Ellora
Emblem	Lion	Elephant	Varaha	Garuda
Faith leaned	Vedic/Jain	Jain	Vedic/Shiva	Jain

PYQ anchor – dynasty emblems

[THE SETTER HAS ASKED THIS] Match: (a) Kadambas, (b) Gangas, (c) Chalukyas, (d) Rashtrakutas with (i) Garuda, (ii) Varaha, (iii) Lion, (iv) Bull.

Ans: (3) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i

Why the setter asked it: Two of the four pairs are beyond dispute and *alone* determine the answer: **Chalukya = Varaha** and **Rashtrakuta = Garuda**. Fix those two, and only one option survives. That is the correct technique on every four-pair match: **find the two you are certain of and stop reading**.

Note: emblem attributions for the Kadambas and Gangas vary between sources; academic works most often give the Western Ganga emblem as the *elephant*. Do not build your answer on those two rows – build it on Varaha and Garuda.

2.7 Timeline strip – Karnataka to 1004 CE

Year (CE)	Event	Why it matters to KEA
c. 345	Mayurasharma founds the Kadambas at Banavasi	First Kannada state – the opening item of every ordering question
c. 350	Dadiga and Madhava found the Western Gangas	Runs parallel to the Kadambas, not after them
c. 450	Halmidi inscription	Earliest Kannada inscription
c. 500	Gangas shift capital Kolar → Talakadu	Capital-shift questions
543	Pulakeshin I fortifies Badami	Start of the Chalukya era
578	Cave III at Badami completed by Mangalesha	The only dated Badami cave
609–642	Reign of Pulakeshin II	
c. 618	Pulakeshin II defeats Harshavardhana on the Narmada	The single most-quoted Deccan victory
634	Aihole inscription by Ravikirti	Dates Pulakeshin II's reign; on the Meguti temple
641	Xuanzang visits the Chalukya kingdom	Foreign-account questions
642	Narasimhavarman I Pallava sacks Vatapi; Pulakeshin II dies	Title <i>Vatapikonda</i>
c. 655	Vikramaditya I recovers Badami	
733–744	Vikramaditya II; Virupaksha & Mallikarjuna built at Pattadakal	Queen-builder questions
753	Dantidurga overthrows Kirtivarma II	Chalukya → Rashtrakuta handover
756–774	Krishna I carves the Kailasa temple, Ellora	Monolith; Krishna I, not Krishna III
814–878	Amoghavarsha I; capital fixed at Manyakheta; <i>Kavirajamarga</i>	Longest reign; first Kannada literary work
949	Battle of Takkolam; Atakur inscription	Rashtrakuta–Ganga defeat the Cholas
973	Tailapa II overthrows Karka II	Rashtrakuta → Kalyani Chalukya handover
982	Chavundaraya erects the Gommateshwara	The most-asked single date in Karnataka art history
1004	Cholas end Western Ganga rule	Closes the ancient block

Mnemonics for this section

(1) Order of the great Karnataka dynasties

“Kannada Girls Bring Rich Kannada Handloom Varieties”

Kadamba → Ganga → Badami Chalukya → Rashtrakuta → Kalyani Chalukya → Hoysala → Vijayanagara.

(2) Badami Chalukya kings in order

“Please Keep Mangoes; Please Visit Vibrant Vatapi’s Victorious Kingdom”

Pulakeshin I → Kirtivarma I → Mangalesha → Pulakeshin II → Vikramaditya I → Vinayaditya → Vijayaditya → Vikramaditya II → Kirtivarma II.

(3) Rashtrakuta kings in order

“Dan Kept Going Down; Great Amogha Kept India’s Kingdom Keen”

Dantidurga → Krishna I → Govinda II → Dhruva → Govinda III → Amoghavarsha I → Krishna II → Indra III → Krishna III → Karka II.

(4) The three “firsts” of Kannada

“H-K-C” = Halmidi (first *inscription*, c. 450) → Kavirajamarga (first *literary work*, c. 850) → Chavundaraya

Purana (first *prose work*, 978). They fall in alphabetical order *and* chronological order.

2.8 Trap Box – the confusions KEA exploits here

⚠ The eight discriminators for this section

1. KEA prints “**Krishna III built the Kailasa at Ellora**” hoping you pick it because Krishna III is the more famous patron. **Discriminator:** Kailasa = Krishna I (756–774). Krishna III = Ponna and the battle of Takkolam (949).
2. KEA prints “**Vikramaditya IV started the Chalukya Vikrama era**”. **Discriminator:** it is Vikramaditya VI of *Kalyani*, in 1076 – a different dynasty and 330 years later.
3. KEA prints “**Virupaksha = Trilokeshwara, built by Triloka Mahadevi**”. **Discriminator:** Virupaksha = Lokeshwara = Lokamahadevi. The “Trailokya” pair belongs to Mallikarjuna.
4. KEA prints “**Cave III at Badami is Shaiva**”. **Discriminator:** Cave III is the big *dated* Vaishnava cave of Mangalesha, 578 CE.
5. KEA prints “**the Gangas were Buddhists**”. **Discriminator:** the Western Gangas were the most consistently *Jain* dynasty in Karnataka – founded on the advice of a Jain saint, ended with a king dying by *sallekhana*.
6. KEA prints “**Halmidi is the first Kannada literary work**”. **Discriminator:** Halmidi is an *inscription*. The first literary work is Kavirajamarga, four centuries later.
7. KEA prints “**Pulakeshin II defeated Harsha at Kanauj**”. **Discriminator:** on the banks of the *Narmada*. Kanauj is Harsha’s own capital and was never attacked by the Chalukyas.
8. KEA prints “**Aihole inscription composed by Ravikirti for Vikramaditya II**”. **Discriminator:** 634 CE = the reign of Pulakeshin II. Vikramaditya II is a century later.

2.9 Match-the-pair drill tables

Drill A – Ruler ↔ Title

Ruler	Title	Dynasty
Pulakeshin II	Parameshwara, Satyashraya	Badami Chalukya
Narasimhavarman I	Vatapikonda, Mahamalla	Pallava
Amoghavarsha I	Nripatunga, Atishayadhavala	Rashtrakuta
Marasimha II	Nolambakulantaka, Satyavakya	Western Ganga
Chavundaraya	Gommata, Raya, Vira-Martanda	Western Ganga (minister)
Kakusthavarma	Kadamba-kula-bhushana	Kadamba
Durvinita	Vidyabhushana	Western Ganga
Dantidurga	Khadgavaloka, Rajadhiraja	Rashtrakuta

Drill B – Work ↔ Author ↔ Patron

Work	Author	Patron	Language
Kavirajamarga	Amoghavarsha I / Srivijaya	–	Kannada
Adipurana	Jinasena	Amoghavarsha I	Sanskrit
Ganitasarasangraha	Mahaviracharya	Amoghavarsha I	Sanskrit
Amoghavritti	Sakatayana	Amoghavarsha I	Sanskrit
Shantipurana	Ponna	Krishna III	Kannada
Chavundaraya Purana	Chavundaraya	–	Kannada (prose)
Shabdavataara	Durvinita	–	Sanskrit
Gajashtaka	Shivamara II	–	Kannada
Aihole prashasti	Ravikirti	Pulakeshin II	Sanskrit
Talagunda prashasti	Kubja	Kakusthavarma	Sanskrit

Drill C – Monument ↔ Place ↔ Dynasty

Monument	Place	Dynasty / builder
Madhukeshwara temple	Banavasi	Kadamba
Gommateshwara monolith	Shravanabelagola	Ganga (Chavundaraya, 982)
Panchakuta Basadi	Kambadahalli	Ganga
Durga temple, Lad Khan, Meguti	Aihole	Badami Chalukya
Virupaksha, Mallikarjuna, Papanatha	Pattadakal	Badami Chalukya
Four cave temples	Badami	Badami Chalukya
Kailasanatha (monolith)	Ellora	Rashtrakuta (Krishna I)
Navalinga temple	Kukanur	Rashtrakuta

2.10 Rapid-fire one-liners – Section 2

1. First Kannada dynasty – **Kadambas of Banavasi**
2. Founder of the Kadambas – **Mayurasharma**
3. Kadamba capital – **Banavasi (Vaijayanti)**
4. Earliest Kannada inscription – **Halmidi, c. 450 CE**
5. Inscription that tells the Mayurasharma story – **Talagunda**
6. Composer of the Talagunda inscription – **Kubja**
7. Greatest Kadamba – **Kakusthavarma**
8. Kadamba dynasty ended by – **Pulakeshin I**
9. Founders of the Western Gangas – **Dadiga and Madhava**
10. Jain saint who guided them – **Simhanandi**
11. First Ganga capital – **Kolar (Kunalapura)**
12. Later Ganga capital – **Talakadu**
13. Ganga scholar-king – **Durvinita**
14. Durvinita's teacher – **Puhyapada (Devanandi)**
15. Author of *Gajashtaka* – **Shivamara II**
16. Title of Marasimha II – **Nolambakulantaka**
17. Marasimha II died by – **sallekhana at Bankapura**
18. Minister who raised the Gommateshwara – **Chavundaraya**
19. Year of the Gommateshwara – **982 CE**
20. First Kannada prose work – **Chavundaraya Purana (978)**
21. Poet who titled Chavundaraya "Gommata" – **Ranna**
22. Gangas were extinguished by – **the Cholas, c. 1004**
23. Founder of the Badami Chalukyas – **Pulakeshin I, 543**
24. Ancient name of Badami – **Vatapi**
25. Chalukya coronation city – **Pattadakal**
26. "Cradle of Indian temple architecture" – **Aihole**
27. Chalukya who defeated Harsha – **Pulakeshin II**
28. River on which Harsha was defeated – **Narmada**
29. Chinese pilgrim at Pulakeshin II's court – **Xuanzang, 641**
30. Persian king who sent an embassy – **Khusrau II**
31. Composer of the Aihole inscription – **Ravikirti, 634**
32. Temple bearing the Aihole inscription – **Meguti (Jain)**
33. Pallava who sacked Vatapi in 642 – **Narasimhavarman I**
34. His title after that – **Vatapikonda**
35. Chalukya who recovered Badami – **Vikramaditya I**
36. Builder of Virupaksha, Pattadakal – **Queen Lokamahadevi**
37. Architects of the Virupaksha – **Gunda and Sarvasiddhi Achari**

38. Alternative name of the Virupaksha – **Lokeshwara**
39. Alternative name of the Mallikarjuna – **Trailokeshwara**
40. Best-known Nagara-style temple at Pattadakal – **Pa-panatha**
41. Only dated Badami cave – **Cave III, 578 CE**
42. Who excavated Badami Cave III – **Mangalesha**
43. Jain cave at Badami – **Cave IV**
44. Last Badami Chalukya – **Kirtivarma II**
45. Founder of the Rashtrakutas – **Dantidurga, 753**
46. Rashtrakuta capital – **Manyakheta (Malkhed)**
47. Builder of the Kailasa at Ellora – **Krishna I**
48. Longest-reigning Karnataka king – **Amoghavarsha I**
49. Amoghavarsha's other name – **Nripatunga**
50. First extant Kannada work – **Kavirajamarga**
51. Arab who ranked Amoghavarsha among four great kings – **Sulaiman**
52. Author of *Ganitasarasangraha* – **Mahaviracharya**
53. Author of *Adipurana* – **Jinasena**
54. Ponna's patron – **Krishna III**
55. Battle recorded in the Atakur inscription – **Takkolam, 949**
56. Rashtrakuta emblem – **Garuda**; Chalukya emblem – **Varaha**
57. Last Rashtrakuta – **Karka II**
58. Who overthrew him – **Tailapa II, 973**
59. Ashokan edict site naming "Ashoka" – **Maski**
60. Karnataka Neolithic ash-mound site – **Sanganakallu**

Predicted questions in KEA's style – Section 2

[**LIKELY NEXT**] *not from the 2024–26 sample*

1. Consider the following statements about the Halmidi inscription: (a) it is in Kannada, (b) it belongs to the Kadamba period, (c) it was issued in the reign of Kakusthavarma, (d) it is the earliest Kannada literary work. *How many are correct?*
Ans: Only three – (d) is false; Halmidi is an inscription, not literature
2. Arrange in chronological order: (a) Kailasa temple, Ellora; (b) Halmidi inscription; (c) Aihole inscription; (d) Gommateshwara, Shravanabelagola.
Ans: b (c.450), c (634), a (c.760), d (982)
3. Who among the following was NOT a scholar at the court of Amoghavarsha I? (1) Jinasena (2) Sakatayana (3) Mahaviracharya (4) Ravikirti
Ans: (4) Ravikirti – he belongs to Pulakeshin II, two centuries earlier

2.11 Topics the 06 September 2026 sittings reached for

The Ganga capitals – a three-stage move, now sequenced

The Western Gangas shifted their capital twice, and the setter asked for the ORDER:

KOLAR (Kualala) – the earliest seat, from the founding of the line by **Konganivarma Madhava** in the late fourth century.

TALAKADU (Talavanapura) – on the Kaveri in Mysuru district; the capital they are identified with for most of their history, from **Harivarma / Avinita** onward.

MANNE (Manyapura) – in Nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural; used as the late capital, notably under **Shripurusha** (8th century).

So the progression is **Kolar → Talakadu → Manne**, and any question on Ganga capitals is asking you to reproduce those three names in that order.

The Ganga facts that travel with them: **Durvinita** (the scholar-king; named in the *Kavirajamarga* as a Kannada prose writer); **Shivamara II** (wrote the *Gajashtaka*, remembered as the *Onake Haadu*); **Shripurusha** (took the title *Permanadi*); **Chavundaraya** (minister and general who commissioned the **Gommateshwara monolith** at **Shravanabelagola**, 982, and wrote the *Chavundaraya Purana*).

The Chandravalli inscription – what it actually records

The **CHANDRAVALLI** inscription of **Mayurasharma (Mayura Varma)**, founder of the Kadambas, is the **earliest inscription of a Karnataka dynasty** (the Ashokan minor rock edicts, c. 250 BCE, are centuries older but belong to the Mauryan empire, not a Karnataka dynasty), written in **PRAKRIT**.

What it records is the construction of a **TANK** (a lake / reservoir). That object – not merely the inscription's name – is what the setter asked for.

Keep the two Kadamba inscriptions apart, because they are constantly confused:

Chandravalli (Chitradurga dist.) – **PRAKRIT**; earliest inscription of a Karnataka dynasty; records a **TANK**.

Halmidi (Hassan dist., c. 450 CE) – the **earliest KANNADA-LANGUAGE** inscription, of Kakusthavarma's reign.

Talagunda pillar (Shivamogga) – **SANSKRIT**; tells the story of Mayurasharma's insult at Kanchi and the founding of the dynasty.

One line for the three: Chandravalli is the oldest and Prakrit; Halmidi is the oldest in Kannada; Talagunda tells the origin story.

16. The Memory Engine – Hooks for Everything That Must Arrive Instantly

YOU DO NOT HAVE A KNOWLEDGE PROBLEM. By the time you reach this chapter you have read every dynasty table, every date and every trap the setter has ever used. **What you have is a retrieval problem** – the fact is in there, and it will not come out in the forty seconds you have in the hall.

This chapter fixes that, using the same three tools as every other volume in this series. §19 (Night Before) already gives you the dense reference tables – eleven mnemonics, twenty-five dates, twenty traps. **This chapter teaches you how those hooks were built**, so you can build your own for anything this book did not think to cover.

The three tools, and when each one works

Tool	Use it for	Why it works
First-letter sentence	An <i>ordered</i> chain (dynasties, wars, rulers)	Order is the hard part; a sentence has built-in order
Sound-link	A <i>swapped pair</i> you keep reversing	Ties the word to the answer by sound, not logic
Absurd picture	A <i>triple or four-pair</i> matching item	One vivid scene stores several links at once

16.1 Ordered chains – first-letter sentences

MIND HACK #4 – The Anglo-Mysore Wars – four wars, one escalating story

“Hyder Hits, Both Hit, Tipu Hit, Tipu Dies” – First War (1767–69, Hyder Ali alone, ends in his favour at Madras) → Second War (1780–84, Hyder *and* Tipu, Treaty of Mangalore) → Third War (1790–92, Tipu alone, Treaty of Seringapatam, half his territory ceded) → Fourth War (1799, Tipu killed at Srirangapatna).

Notice the shape: each war costs the Mysore side more territory than the last, until there is nothing left to lose. **The treaty names are already mnemonic-linked in §19 – “My Mother Sold Nothing”** (Madras, Mangalore, Seringapatam, none in the fourth) – pair the two chains together and you have all four wars, years, and outcomes in one breath.

MIND HACK #5 – The three gems of Kannada literature – Ratnatraya

“Pampa Arikesari Adi, Ponna Krishna Shanti, Ranna Taila Gadayuddha” – three court-poet-patron-work triples, in the order Kannada literary history always presents them:

Poet	Patron	Work
Pampa	Arikesari II (Chalukyas of Vemulavada)	<i>Adipurana</i> / <i>Vikramarjuna Vijaya</i>
Ponna	Krishna III (Rashtrakuta)	<i>Shantipurana</i>
Ranna	Taila II (Kalyani Chalukya)	<i>Gadayuddha</i>

Say the three names in order – **Pampa, Ponna, Ranna** – and each one’s patron and work follow because you fixed them as a triple, not three separate facts to search for independently.

💡 MIND HACK #6 – The Mauryan succession, in three names

“**Chandra Binds Ashoka**” – Chandragupta Maurya (founder, abdicated to become a Jain ascetic) → Bindusara (his son) → Ashoka (his grandson, the dynasty's most-tested ruler). **This short chain resolves any “who came between Chandragupta and Ashoka” question instantly** – the answer is always Bindusara, and only Bindusara.

16.2 Swapped pairs – sound-links for the things you keep reversing

🔊 Eight reversals that cost the most marks

The confusion	The sound-link
Krishna I vs. Krishna III	“ I for Impressive Excavation ” – Krishna <i>I</i> carved the Ellora Kailasa. Krishna III is Ponna's much later patron.
Vikramaditya IV vs. VI	“ VI for Vikrama's era ” – Vikramaditya <i>VI</i> started the Chalukya Vikrama era in 1076. IV never gets a numbered era.
Virupaksha = Lokeshwara	“ Lokamahadevi named it after her Lord ” – not “Trilokeshwara”, a plausible-sounding but wrong alternate name.
Badami Cave III	“ Three is for Trivikrama ” – Vaishnava, and the <i>only</i> dated cave (578 CE), not Shaiva.
Mahayana vs. Hinayana salvation	“ Maha means great, greatness is shared ” – Mahayana seeks salvation for <i>all</i> ; Hinayana (the “lesser vehicle”) is the individual path.
Gandhara vs. Mathura stone	“ Gandhara is Grey (schist); Mathura is red (sandstone) ” – the two sculpture schools are told apart by their stone before their style.
Itutmish's tie to Aibak	“ Slave, then son-in-law, same man ” – not merely Aibak's son, which understates the Slave Dynasty's actual succession logic.
Sikandar Lodi vs. Ibrahim Lodi	“ Sikandar Started, Ibrahim ended ” – Sikandar Lodi is the <i>father</i> , reigning first; Ibrahim Lodi is his son, who lost at Panipat in 1526.

🔑 The constants, each tied to something you cannot forget

- **Halmidi inscription, c. 450 CE** = the earliest Kannada-language inscription – the first letter of the **H-K-C** chain in §19 (Halmidi → Kavirajamarga → Chavundaraya Purana).
- **Chauth = 25%, Sardeshmukhi = 10%** – both Shivaji's Maratha levies; *Chauth* sounds like “a quarter”, which is exactly what it is.
- **The Vernacular Press Act, 1878, was Lytton's; Ripon repealed it in 1882** – the two viceroys are opposites in this one story, never interchange them.
- **Only the Second Round Table Conference (1931) had Gandhi in attendance** – he skipped the First and was in prison for the Third.
- **The Viceroyalty itself began in 1858**, the year after the 1857 revolt, not before it – so no “Viceroy” can be named for any event dated 1857 or earlier.

16.3 Triples and multi-pair matching – the absurd-picture method

🏠 Why this matters most in this volume

Match-the-following and multi-statement items together are **nearly 60% of every History question** (§1). Whenever a question hands you three or four linked facts at once, one vivid scene beats four separate flashcards.

17. The 100-Question Mock Test

How this paper was built

Every question below is written to the **format evidence base of Section 1**. The mix is deliberate, not random:

	This mock	Real papers	Where to revise
Karnataka	32	30.0%	Sections 2–7
Modern India	34	34.4%	Sections 12–13
Ancient India	21	22.7%	Sections 8–9
Medieval India	13	13.0%	Sections 10–11
Multi-statement	47	47.4%	
One-liner	22	20.2%	
Chronological	13	11.3%	
Match-the-pair	10	9.3%	
Statement-I/II & A/R	4	5.3%	

Note: the “Real papers” column reflects the full 247-question evidence base (§1 and §15) – this mock’s own composition (32/34/21/13) predates the 44 CAR-DAR questions of §15 and sits close to, but not exactly on, the corrected percentages. None of the 44 CAR-DAR items are reused in this mock; treat §15 as separate practice.

Timing: give yourself **100 minutes** – exactly one minute a question, which is the pace the real paper demands once Aptitude and Science are allowed for. **Mark every question:** on Paper-1 a blind guess is worth +0.1875 and a blank row costs –0.75.

- Consider the following statements about the Halmidi inscription: (a) it is the earliest Kannada-language inscription; (b) it belongs to the Kadamba period; (c) it was issued during the reign of Kakusthavarma; (d) it is written in the Sharada script. *How many are correct?*
 - Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
- Who erected the Gommateshwara monolith at Shravanabelagola?
 - Ranna
 - Chavundaraya
 - Durvinita
 - Simhanandi
- Arrange in chronological order: (a) Aihole inscription; (b) Halmidi inscription; (c) Atakur inscription; (d) Gommateshwara statue.
 - b, a, c, d
 - a, b, c, d
 - b, c, a, d
 - a, c, b, d
- Match List-I with List-II: (a) Kadambas – (i) Manyakheta; (b) Western Gangas – (ii) Badami; (c) Chalukyas – (iii) Banavasi; (d) Rashtrakutas – (iv) Talakadu.
 - a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i
 - a-i, b-ii, c-iii, d-iv
 - a-iii, b-ii, c-iv, d-i
 - a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii
- Consider the following about the Badami cave temples: (a) there are four caves; (b) Cave I is Shaiva; (c) Cave III is the only dated cave; (d) Cave IV is Vaishnavite. *How many are correct?*
 - Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
- The Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal was built by
 - Queen Trailokyamahadevi
 - Queen Lokamahadevi
 - Vikramaditya VI
 - Kirtivarma II

7. Statement-I: The Kailasa temple at Ellora is a monolithic temple. Statement-II: It was carved during the reign of the Rashtrakuta king Krishna III.
- (1) Both correct and II explains I (2) Both correct but II does not explain I
(3) I is correct, II is incorrect (4) I is incorrect, II is correct
8. Consider the following about Vikramaditya VI: (a) he belonged to the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty; (b) he started the Chalukya Vikrama era in 1076; (c) Bilhana was his court poet; (d) Vijnaneshwara wrote the *Mitakshara* in his reign. *How many are correct?*
- (1) Only one (2) Only two
(3) Only three (4) All four
9. The Mahadeva temple, called "the emperor among temples", is at
- (1) Lakkundi (2) Itagi
(3) Kuravatti (4) Kukanur
10. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Hoysala architecture?
- (1) Star-shaped base (2) Soapstone as the medium
(3) Towering granite vimana (4) Lathe-turned pillars
11. Match the Hoysala temple with its *kuta* classification: (a) Chennakeshava, Belur – (i) Chatushkuta; (b) Hoysaleswara, Halebidu – (ii) Trikuta; (c) Chennakeshava, Somanathapura – (iii) Dwikuta; (d) Lakshmi Devi temple, Doddagaddavalli – (iv) Ekakuta.
- (1) a-iv, b-iii, c-ii, d-i (2) a-i, b-ii, c-iii, d-iv
(3) a-iv, b-ii, c-iii, d-i (4) a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii
12. Consider the following about Vishnuvardhana: (a) his original name was Bittideva; (b) he was converted by Ramanujacharya; (c) he defeated the Cholas at Talakadu in 1116; (d) his queen Shantala Devi was a Jain. *How many are correct?*
- (1) Only one (2) Only two
(3) Only three (4) All four
13. The founders of the Vijayanagara Empire were inspired by
- (1) Vidyardana (2) Madhvacharya
(3) Basavanna (4) Purandara Dasa
14. Which traveller to Vijayanagara was Persian?
- (1) Domingo Paes (2) Nicolo de' Conti
(3) Abdur Razzaq (4) Fernao Nuniz
15. Arrange the four Vijayanagara dynasties in chronological order: (a) Tuluva; (b) Sangama; (c) Aravidu; (d) Saluva.
- (1) b, d, a, c (2) b, a, d, c
(3) d, b, a, c (4) b, d, c, a
16. Consider the following about the Battle of Talikota: (a) it was fought in 1565; (b) it is also called Rakshasa-Tangadi; (c) Vijayanagara was led by Krishnadevaraya; (d) all five Deccan sultanates joined the alliance. *How many are correct?*
- (1) Only one (2) Only two
(3) Only three (4) All four
17. The Bahmani capital was shifted from Gulbarga to Bidar by
- (1) Hasan Gangu (2) Ahmad Shah I Wali
(3) Muhammad Shah III (4) Mahmud Gawan
18. Which monument at Bijapur was NOT built by Ibrahim Adil Shah II?
- (1) Ibrahim Rauza (2) Mehtar Mahal
(3) Gol Gumbaz (4) Anand Mahal
19. Match the sultanate with its ruling house: (a) Bidar – (i) Imad Shahi; (b) Berar – (ii) Qutb Shahi;

19. The Night Before the Exam

Rules for using these two pages

Read **only** what is on these pages. Do not open Sections 2–13 tonight – rereading narrative on the last night displaces the retrieval structures you have already built. Read each table twice, cover it, and say it aloud once. Total time: **40 minutes**.

A. The sixteen mnemonics, in one place

Karnataka dynasties	“Kannada Girls Bring Rich Kannada Handloom Varieties” – Kadamba, Ganga, Badami Chalukya, Rashtrakuta, Kalyani Chalukya, Hoysala, Vijayanagara
Badami Chalukya kings	“Please Keep Mangoes; Please Visit Vibrant Vatapi’s Victorious Kingdom”
Rashtrakuta kings	“Dan Kept Going Down; Great Amogha Kept India’s Kingdom Keen”
Three Kannada “firsts”	H – K – C: Halmidi (inscription, c.450) → Kavirajamarga (literature, c.850) → Chavundaraya Purana (prose, 978)
Hoysala <i>kutas</i>	1 Belur, 2 Halebidu, 3 Somanathapura, 4 Doddagaddavalli
Vijayanagara dynasties	“Some Sultans Take Away” – Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, Aravidu (1336–1485–1505–1570)
Deccan sultanates	“BAG BB” – Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golconda, Bidar, Berar; houses Adil, Nizam, Qutb, Barid, Imad
Anglo-Mysore treaties	“My Mother Sold Nothing” – Madras 1769, Mangalore 1784, Seringapatam 1792, none 1799
Mysore Commissioners	“Lucy Cubs Bowl Merrily, Saunders Goes”
Magadha dynasties	“Happy Sisters Never Marry Soldiers” – Haryanka, Shishunaga, Nanda, Maurya, Shunga
Delhi Sultanate	“Slave Kings Take Sultan’s Land” – 1206, 1290, 1320, 1414, 1451, ending 1526
Mughals	“Baby Humpty Always Just Sat Angry” – 1526, 1530, 1556, 1605, 1628, 1658, 1707
Peshwas	“Balaji Begins, Baji Rages, Balaji Breaks, Madhav Mends” – 1713, 1720, 1740, 1761
Governors-General	“A Bee Ate Every Dahlia” – Amherst, Bentinck, Auckland, Ellenborough, Dalhousie
Europeans’ arrival	“Portuguese Eat Dutch Dinner French” – 1498, 1600, 1602, 1616, 1664
Karnataka’s five sources	“Bombay Held My Coorg Money” – Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras, Coorg, old Mysore

B. The twenty-six dates that decide the ordering questions

c.450	Halmidi inscription	1565	Battle of Talikota
634	Aihole inscription (Ravikirti)	1674	Shivaji’s coronation, Raigad
753	Dantidurga founds the Rashtrakutas	1757	Battle of Plassey
949	Battle of Takkolam / Atakur	1764	Battle of Buxar
973	Tailapa II founds Kalyani Chalukyas	1793	Permanent Settlement
982	Gommateshwara, Shravanabelagola	1799	Tipu Sultan killed
1076	Chalukya Vikrama era	1800	Dhondia Wagh’s revolt
1116	Talakadu – Vishnuvardhana	1824	Kittur revolt
1192	Second Battle of Tarain	1857	The Revolt; Halagali Bedas
1206	Delhi Sultanate founded	1885	Indian National Congress founded
1336	Vijayanagara founded	1905	Partition of Bengal; Swadeshi
1347	Bahmani Sultanate founded	1929	Lahore – Poorna Swaraj
1526	First Battle of Panipat	1956	Unified Mysore State, 1 November