ANDHRA PRADESH — Complete GK Master Notes

For AP TET, AP DSC/Mega DSC & Special Educator | 5-Unit PYQ-Based Volume

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About This Volume

Exhaustive, PYQ-Oriented, Score 10/10.

This volume covers the entire State-GK syllabus in **five units** — History & National Movement; Geography & Environment; Polity, Constitution & Administration; Economy, Schemes & Education; and Art-Culture, Science, Static GK, Sports, Awards & Current Affairs (updated June 2026). Each unit integrates the **national core** with the **state-specific layer**, with dense comparison tables, schematic diagrams, charts and maps, 60+ MCQ-enrichment one-liners per unit, and solved practice MCQs.

Compiled June 2026 from official syllabi and verified sources. Tables and diagrams are black-and-white and photocopy-friendly. To populate the contents page in MS Word: right-click the Table of Contents, then Update Field, then Update entire table.

UNIT 1 — HISTORY & NATIONAL MOVEMENT (National Core + Andhra Pradesh)

AP GK Master Volume — Unit 1 of the series. Prepared for AP TET, AP DSC / Mega DSC, APPSC (Group I/II/III/IV), Special Educator and allied Andhra Pradesh teacher-recruitment examinations. **Reference date: 29 November 2026.** This is **post-2014-bifurcation Andhra Pradesh**: Telangana is a separate state (formed 2 June 2014). Shared-ancient items such as the Kakatiyas (Warangal), Qutb Shahis (Golconda) and the city of Hyderabad are covered because they belong to the common Telugu heritage, but every item now physically located in Telangana is **flagged "now in Telangana."**

How to use this Unit

This Unit is split across part-files (ap_unit1_a.md, ap_unit1_b.md, …). Part A and Part B carry the **National Core** (≈42% weight — this is what APPSC/UPSC-pattern prelims test and what the TET "History" micro-syllabus assumes). Parts C, D and E carry the **Andhra / Telugu-specific** history (≈58% weight — the decisive scoring zone for AP exams, because every other candidate memorises the national core but loses marks on Satavahana, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Potti Sreeramulu and the formation sequence). The final part carries **60+ one-liners, 15 solved MCQs and a Quick Revision Chart.**

Bold lead-ins used throughout: - **Fact:** a hard, testable statement. - **Exam Point:** how examiners twist or frame it. - **PYQ Trend:** the pattern seen in Previous Year Questions. - **Definition:** a term you must be able to define in one line. - **Trick:** a memory device / mnemonic.

PART A — NATIONAL CORE (1): ANCIENT & EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA

Fig 1.1 Historical Timeline of Andhra Pradesh

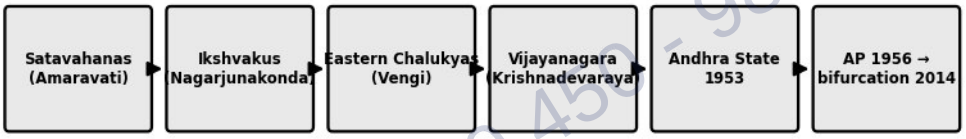

Fig 1.1 — Dynastic timeline.

1. Sources of Indian History

Definition: History is reconstructed from **archaeological sources** (material remains — monuments, coins, inscriptions, artefacts) and **literary sources** (texts — religious, secular, foreign accounts).

Source type	Examples	What it tells us
Inscriptions (epigraphy)	Ashoka's edicts, Aihole, Allahabad Pillar	Royal policy, dates, land grants
Coins (numismatics)	Punch-marked, Kushan gold, Gupta coins	Economy, kings, religion, art

Monuments	Stupas, temples, forts	Architecture, religion, technology
Foreign accounts	Megasthenes, Fa-Hien, Hiuen Tsang	Society, administration
Literature	Vedas, Epics, Puranas, Sangam texts	Religion, polity, society

Fact: The study of inscriptions is **epigraphy**; of coins, **numismatics**; of handwriting/old scripts, **palaeography**.
Exam Point: James Prinsep deciphered the **Brahmi** and **Kharosthi** scripts (1837), unlocking Ashoka's edicts. Brahmi reads left-to-right; Kharosthi reads right-to-left.
Fact: Megasthenes (Greek ambassador of Seleucus Nikator to Chandragupta Maurya) wrote **Indica**. **Fa-Hien** visited during Chandragupta II; **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang)**, the "Prince of Pilgrims," visited during **Harshavardhana**; **I-tsing** came later.

PYQ Trend: Match-the-column questions pairing foreign traveller ↔ contemporary king are a perennial favourite (Megasthenes–Chandragupta Maurya; Fa-Hien–Chandragupta II; Hiuen Tsang–Harsha).

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2. Prehistory and the Stone Age

Definition: Prehistory is the period before writing; **Proto-history** is a period with writing that is undeciphered (e.g., the Indus script); **History** is the period with deciphered written records.

Age	Tools / features	Key sites
Palaeolithic (Old Stone)	Hunting-gathering, quartzite tools	Bhimbetka (MP), Hunsgi
Mesolithic (Middle Stone)	Microliths, early domestication	Bagor, Langhnaj
Neolithic (New Stone)	Agriculture, pottery, polished tools	Mehrgarh, Burzahom, Chirand
Chalcolithic (Copper-Stone)	First metal (copper) + stone	Ahar, Kayatha, Malwa

Fact: Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh) rock shelters, a UNESCO site, preserve the earliest Indian cave paintings. **Mehrgarh** (now in Pakistan, Balochistan) is the earliest Neolithic farming village on the subcontinent (c. 7000 BCE).
Exam Point (AP link): In Andhra Pradesh, significant Palaeolithic and Neolithic traces occur in the **Kurnool caves (Billasurgam)** and around **Nagarjunakonda** and the **Krishna–Tungabhadra** basins — a frequently asked "first" for state-GK twists.

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3. The Indus (Harappan) Civilisation (c. 2600–1900 BCE)

Definition: The **Indus Valley / Harappan Civilisation** was India's first urban civilisation — a Bronze Age culture spread across the north-west of the subcontinent, named "Harappan" after the first excavated site, **Harappa** (1921, by **Dayaram Sahni**).
Fact: Mohenjo-daro ("Mound of the Dead," Sindh) was excavated by **R. D. Banerji** (1922). Both Harappa and Mohenjo-daro are on the **Ravi** and **Indus** respectively, now in Pakistan.

Key sites and their rivers

Site	River	Notable find
Harappa	Ravi	Granaries, cemetery R-37
Mohenjo-daro	Indus	Great Bath, Great Granary, Pashupati seal, Dancing Girl (bronze)
Dholavira (Gujarat)	Luni area	Water reservoirs, signboard; largest Indian site
Lothal (Gujarat)	Bhogavo	Dockyard (world's earliest tidal dock)
Kalibangan (Rajasthan)	Ghaggar	Ploughed field, fire altars
Rakhigarhi (Haryana)	Drishadvati	Largest Harappan site overall

Fact: Town planning used the **grid pattern**; houses used **burnt bricks** in the ratio 4:2:1; a sophisticated **drainage system** ran under the streets. The **Great Bath** at Mohenjo-daro suggests ritual bathing.
Fact: The economy was based on agriculture + trade; they used **standardised weights** (binary and decimal), traded with **Mesopotamia** (called "Meluhha" in Sumerian texts). No definite temple or large royal palace has been identified.
Exam Point: The **Harappan script** is **pictographic and undeciphered**, written **boustrophedon** (right-to-left in the first line, then

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reversed). The **Pashupati seal** shows a figure often interpreted as "proto-Shiva" seated in yogic posture surrounded by animals.
Fact: Decline (c. 1900 BCE) is attributed to multiple causes — climate change/aridity, drying of the Saraswati-Ghaggar, floods, declining trade, and ecological degradation (the "Aryan invasion" explanation is now largely rejected by scholars).
Trick: "**HARP**" for the river-site anchors — **H**arappa–Ravi, **A** (Mohenjo-daro)–Indus; **R**akhigarhi largest in India, **D**holavira largest with water-management fame. Dockyard = **Lothal**.

PYQ Trend: Expect (a) site ↔ river matching, (b) "which site has the dockyard" (Lothal), (c) "largest Harappan site in India" (Rakhigarhi), and (d) brick ratio / drainage as a one-liner.

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4. The Vedic Age (c. 1500–600 BCE)

Definition: The **Vedic Age** is named after the **Vedas**, the oldest Sanskrit literary texts composed by the Indo-Aryans. It is divided into the **Early (Rig) Vedic** period and the **Later Vedic** period.

The four Vedas and Vedic literature

Text	Content
Rigveda	Oldest; hymns to gods (Agni, Indra, Varuna); Gayatri Mantra; Purusha Sukta (varna)
Samaveda	Melodies/songs; "book of chants"; root of Indian music
Yajurveda	Sacrificial formulae and rituals
Atharvaveda	Charms, spells, medicine, magic

Fact: Each Veda has four layers — **Samhitas** (hymns), **Brahmanas** (ritual prose), **Aranyakas** ("forest books"), and **Upanishads** (philosophy, the **Vedanta** — "end of the Vedas"). The **Upanishads** (108 in number) deal with **atman, brahman, karma and moksha**; the phrase **"Satyameva Jayate"** (India's motto) is from the **Mundaka Upanishad**.
Fact: Six schools of Indian philosophy (**Shad-darshanas**): Samkhya, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Mimamsa, Vedanta.

Early (Rig) Vedic vs Later Vedic society

Feature	Early (Rig) Vedic	Later Vedic
Geography	Sapta Sindhu (Punjab region)	Ganga–Yamuna doab eastward
Economy	Pastoral, cattle-centric	Agriculture-dominant, iron use
Polity	Tribal (jana), rajan, sabha & samiti	Territorial kingdoms (janapada), weaker assemblies
Society	Flexible varna	Rigid caste; rise of priesthood
Religion	Nature gods, Indra/Agni	Prajapati, Vishnu, Rudra; elaborate yajnas

Fact: Gayatri Mantra is addressed to **Savitri** (the Sun). **"Aryan"** originally meant a cultural-linguistic group, not a race. Cattle (**gau**) were the chief measure of wealth; the term **"Gavishti"** (search for cattle) came to mean war.
Exam Point: The **four varnas** derive scripturally from the **Purusha Sukta** of the Rigveda — Brahmana (mouth), Kshatriya (arms), Vaishya (thighs), Shudra (feet). The **four ashramas** (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sanyasa) and **four purusharthas** (Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha) are Later-Vedic social ideals.
Trick: Vedas order of composition = **"Ri-Sa-Ya-A"** (Rig, Sama, Yajur, Atharva). Youngest (Atharva) carries medicine/magic.
PYQ Trend: "Which Veda deals with music?" (Sama); "Satyameva Jayate is from?" (Mundaka Upanishad); "Gayatri Mantra is dedicated to?" (Savitri/Sun) — all recurring one-liners.

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5. The Mahajanapadas and the Rise of Magadha (c. 600 BCE)

Definition: Mahajanapadas were the **16 great territorial states** (listed in Buddhist text **Anguttara Nikaya** and Jain **Bhagavati Sutra**) that emerged in the 6th century BCE across northern India — the backdrop to the Buddha and Mahavira.
Fact: Prominent among the sixteen were **Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avanti** — the four that contended for supremacy. Some were **monarchies**; some, like the **Vajji (Vrijji) confederacy** with capital **Vaishali**, were **republics (gana-sanghas)** — Vaishali is called the **world's first republic**.

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Why Magadha rose

- Fertile Gangetic plains and abundant **iron ore** (near Rajgir) for weapons and tools.
- Control of **river trade** on the Ganga.
- Use of **elephants** from eastern forests.
- Ambitious rulers and strong capitals (**Rajgir/Rajagriha**, later **Pataliputra**).

Dynasties of Magadha (in sequence)

Dynasty	Key ruler(s)	Note
Haryanka	**Bimbisara**, Ajatashatru	Bimbisara = contemporary of Buddha; founded Rajgir's greatness
Shishunaga	Shishunaga, Kalashoka	Shifted capital; Second Buddhist Council
Nanda	**Mahapadma Nanda**, Dhana Nanda	First great empire; huge army; overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya

Fact: Ajatashatru founded the fort that became **Pataliputra** (Patna); he used war-engines like the **rath-mushala** (scythed chariot) and **mahashilakantaka** (catapult).
Exam Point: Dhana Nanda was the ruler defeated by **Chandragupta Maurya** (guided by **Chanakya/Kautilya**), ending the Nanda line and founding the Mauryas.
PYQ Trend: "First republic of the world" (Vaishali/Vajji); "contemporary of Buddha among Magadha kings" (Bimbisara & Ajatashatru); "founder of Nanda dynasty" (Mahapadma Nanda).

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6. Jainism

Definition: Jainism is a heterodox (non-Vedic) religion emphasising **non-violence (ahimsa)** and asceticism, propagated by **24 Tirthankaras** ("ford-makers").
Fact: The **first Tirthankara** was **Rishabhanatha (Adinatha)**; the **23rd** was **Parshvanatha**; the **24th and last** was **Vardhamana Mahavira** (599–527 BCE), born at **Kundagrama** near Vaishali, who attained **Kaivalya** (omniscience) and is the historical founder of organised Jainism.
Fact: Three jewels (Triratna) of Jainism: **Right Faith, Right Knowledge, Right Conduct** (Samyak Darshana, Jnana, Charitra).
Five vows (Mahavratas): Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya (non-stealing), Aparigraha (non-possession), Brahmacharya (the 5th was added by Mahavira to Parshva's four).
Fact: Jainism split into **Digambara** ("sky-clad," nude) and **Svetambara** ("white-clad") sects. The **first Jain Council** at Pataliputra (under Sthulabhadra) and the **second at Valabhi** compiled the canon. Patrons: **Chandragupta Maurya** (who, by tradition, became a Jain monk and died at **Shravanabelagola**, Karnataka, with Bhadrabahu), and later **Kharavela** of Kalinga.
Exam Point: Syadvada / Anekantavada — the doctrine of "maybe"/manifold predication — is Jain philosophy's distinctive logic. Jains do **not** believe in a creator God but accept the soul and karma.
PYQ Trend: "Last/24th Tirthankara" (Mahavira); "first Tirthankara" (Rishabhanatha); "where did Mahavira attain Kaivalya" (Jrimbhikagrama, near river Rijupalika).

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7. Buddhism

Definition: Buddhism was founded by **Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha, 'the Enlightened One')**, c. 563–483 BCE, a Shakya prince of **Kapilavastu**, born at **Lumbini** (now in Nepal).

The life — "four sights" and key events

Event	Place	Term
Birth	Lumbini	**Symbol**: lotus/bull
Great Renunciation	Left palace at 29	**Mahabhinishkramana (symbol**: horse)
Enlightenment	Bodh Gaya (under Bodhi tree)	**Nirvana/Bodhi (symbol**: Bodhi tree)
First Sermon	Sarnath (Deer Park)	**Dharmachakra-pravartana (symbol**: wheel)
Death	Kushinagar	**Mahaparinirvana (symbol**: stupa)

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Fact: The **Four Noble Truths (Arya Satya):** (1) the world is full of suffering (dukkha), (2) desire (trishna) is the cause, (3) suffering can end, (4) the **Eightfold Path (Ashtangika Marga)** is the way. The **Middle Path (Madhyama Pratipada)** avoids extremes of indulgence and austerity.

Fact: The **Triratna** of Buddhism: **Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha.** Buddhist canon = the **Tripitaka** (Vinaya, Sutta, Abhidhamma Pitakas) in **Pali**.

Buddhist Councils

Council	
First	
Second	
Third	
Fourth	

Fact: Mahayana ("greater vehicle") worships the Buddha as a god and uses **idol worship** and **bodhisattvas**; **Hinayana/Theravada** ("lesser vehicle") keeps the original austere path; **Vajrayana** (tantric) came later and flourished in Tibet. Kanishka patronised Mahayana; the **Gandhara** and **Mathura** schools gave the Buddha his first images.

Exam Point (strong AP link): Buddhism took deep root in **Andhra** — the **Amaravati stupa** (Krishna district), **Nagarjunakonda**, **Ghantasala**, **Bhattiprolu** (famous relic casket) and the **Amaravati school of art** are central to Andhra's Buddhist heritage. This is covered fully in Part C; keep it linked here because national-pattern papers and AP papers both exploit the overlap.

Trick: Buddha's life "**BELSD**" — **B**irth (Lumbini), **E**nlightenment (Bodh Gaya), **L**… first **S**ermon (Sarnath), **D**eath (Kushinagar). Councils: "**Raj-Vai-Pat-Kash**" under "**Aja-Kala-Asho-Kani**."

PYQ Trend: First Sermon site (Sarnath); 4th Council & Kanishka → Hinayana/Mahayana split; Tripitaka language (Pali) — these three appear in almost every cycle.

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8. The Mauryan Empire (c. 322–185 BCE)

Definition: The **Mauryan Empire**, founded by **Chandragupta Maurya** with the guidance of **Chanakya (Kautilya/Vishnugupta)**, was India's **first pan-Indian empire**, with capital at **Pataliputra**.

Rulers

Ruler	Highlights
Chandragupta Maurya (322–298 BCE)	Overthrew Nandas; defeated **Seleucus Nikator** (treaty gave him Afghan satrapies + married alliance); Megasthenes at court; became a Jain, died at Shravanabelagola
Bindusara (298–273 BCE)	"Amitraghata" (slayer of foes); contact with Greek Antiochus; Ajivika leanings
Ashoka (268–232 BCE)	Greatest Maurya; Kalinga War; embraced Buddhism; edicts

Fact: Kautilya's Arthashastra is the classic treatise on statecraft, economics and administration — the primary source for Mauryan polity. **Megasthenes' Indica** describes Pataliputra's administration (a city council of 30 in 6 committees).

Ashoka the Great

Fact: The **Kalinga War (261 BCE)**, fought in the **13th regnal year**, caused such carnage that Ashoka renounced war (**bherighosha → dhammaghosha**) and embraced **Buddhism**, propagating **Dhamma** (moral law). He sent his son **Mahendra** and daughter **Sanghamitra** to **Sri Lanka** to spread Buddhism.

Fact: Ashoka's edicts (rock, pillar and cave edicts) are India's earliest deciphered written records, mostly in **Prakrit–Brahmi** (some in Kharosthi, Greek, Aramaic in the north-west). The **Major Rock Edict XIII** describes the Kalinga War; the title **"Devanampiya Piyadasi"** ("Beloved of the Gods") was identified as Ashoka from the **Maski** and **Gujarra** edicts (Maski and Gujarra actually name "Ashoka").

Exam Point (AP link): Erragudi (Yerragudi) in **Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh**, and **Rajula-Mandagiri** have Ashokan rock edicts — a classic AP-GK "Ashoka in Andhra" question.

Fact: The **Lion Capital of Sarnath** — four lions back-to-back on an abacus with the Dharmachakra — is India's **State Emblem**; the wheel became the **Ashoka Chakra** on the national flag. The lions represent power, courage, confidence.

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Fact: Decline: weak successors, vast over-extended empire, financial strain, and the assassination of the last Maurya **Brihadratha** by his commander **Pushyamitra Shunga** (c. 185 BCE), who founded the **Shunga dynasty**.
Trick: Mauryan trio = "**Chandra–Bindu–Ashoka**." Ashoka's war = **Kalinga**, 261 BCE, 8th regnal-year accession + 13th-year war.
PYQ Trend: "Which edict describes the Kalinga war" (Rock Edict XIII); "edicts naming Ashoka" (Maski, Gujarra); "Arthashastra author" (Kautilya); and the AP twist "Ashokan edict site in AP" (Erragudi/Yerragudi, Kurnool).

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9. Post-Mauryan Age (c. 200 BCE – 300 CE)

Definition: The post-Mauryan period saw regional dynasties — **Shungas, Kanvas** in the north; **Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Parthians, Kushanas** in the north-west; and the **Satavahanas** in the Deccan (treated in full in Part C, as they are the "Andhra dynasty").

Fact (north-west invaders in order): Indo-Greeks (Bactrian Greeks) → Shakas (Scythians) → Parthians (Pahlavas) → Kushanas (Yue-chi). The **Indo-Greek Menander (Milinda)** debated the monk Nagasena (**Milinda-panho**); Indo-Greeks issued the **first gold coins** and **portrait coins** in India.
Fact: The **Kushana** king **Kanishka** (accession c. 78 CE) is associated with the start of the **Shaka Era (Saka Samvat)** — India's national calendar. He patronised **Mahayana Buddhism** (Fourth Council), the **Gandhara school of art**, and poets like **Ashvaghosha** (Buddhacharita) and physician **Charaka**.
Exam Point: The **Gandhara school** blended Greek/Hellenistic + Indian forms (grey schist, wavy hair, realistic drapery); the **Mathura school** used **red sandstone** and was indigenous; the **Amaravati school** (Andhra) used **white marble/limestone** and narrative Buddhist panels. Remember this **three-school triad** — it is the single most profitable art question for AP aspirants.
PYQ Trend: "Shaka era founder" (Kanishka, 78 CE); "first gold coins in India" (Indo-Greeks, mass-issued later by Kushanas); "Amaravati art medium" (white marble/limestone).

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10. The Gupta Empire (c. 319–550 CE) — "Golden Age"

Definition: The **Gupta Empire** ushered in India's **"Classical / Golden Age"** of art, science, literature and Sanskrit learning, with capital at **Pataliputra** (and later Ujjain).

Rulers

Ruler	Highlights
Sri Gupta	Founder (title "Maharaja")
Chandragupta I (c. 319)	Started **Gupta Era (319–20 CE)**; married Lichchhavi princess Kumaradevi; title Maharajadhiraja
Samudragupta (c. 335–375)	"Napoleon of India" (V. A. Smith); **Allahabad Prashasti** by **Harishena**; great conqueror & patron of music (veena coins)
Chandragupta II "Vikramaditya" (c. 375–415)	Zenith; defeated Shakas; **Fa-Hien** visited; **Navaratnas** incl. **Kalidasa**
Kumaragupta I	Founded **Nalanda University**; first Huna threat
Skandagupta	Repelled the **Hunas**; empire began to decline

Fact: The **Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prashasti)**, composed by **Harishena**, glorifies **Samudragupta's** conquests — and crucially lists the **southern (Dakshinapatha)** kings he subdued, including several **Andhra/Deccan rulers** (a point examiners love for the Andhra crossover).
Fact: The **Navaratnas** ("nine gems") of Chandragupta II's court traditionally include **Kalidasa** (Abhijnana-Shakuntalam, Meghaduta, Raghuvamsha), **Amarasimha, Varahamihira** (Brihat Samhita), **Dhanvantari** (medicine), among others.

Science and culture

Fact: Aryabhata (Aryabhatiya) stated the **Earth rotates on its axis**, explained eclipses scientifically, and used the concept of **zero/decimal place-value**; **Varahamihira** wrote on astronomy; **Brahmagupta** advanced mathematics. The **iron pillar at Mehrauli (Delhi)** — rust-free for 1,600 years — testifies to Gupta metallurgy.
Fact: The **Nalanda Mahavihara** (founded by Kumaragupta I, Bihar) became the greatest Buddhist university; later visited by **Hiuen Tsang** and **I-tsing**. Gupta temple architecture (**Dashavatara temple, Deogarh**) marks the start of the **Nagara** style; **Ajanta** cave paintings reached their peak.
Fact: Gupta gold coins were called **dinaras**; the age saw **flourishing trade, land grants (agrahara), and a revival of Brahmanical**

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Hinduism (Vishnu/Bhagavatism) alongside tolerance of Buddhism and Jainism.

Fact: Decline: Huna invasions (Toramana, Mihirakula), weak later rulers, administrative decentralisation through land grants, and loss of trade revenue.

Trick: Gupta sequence = "**Sri–C1–Samudra–C2–Kuma–Skanda**." Samudragupta = "Napoleon of India"; Chandragupta II = "Vikramaditya" + Fa-Hien + Kalidasa.

PYQ Trend: "Napoleon of India" (Samudragupta); "who composed Allahabad Prashasti" (Harishena); "Fa-Hien visited during" (Chandragupta II); "founder of Nalanda" (Kumaragupta I); "Aryabhata's contribution" (zero/Earth's rotation).

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11. Harshavardhana and the Post-Gupta North (606–647 CE)

Definition: Harshavardhana of the **Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) dynasty**, ruling from **Kanauj (Kannauj)**, was the last great northern emperor of ancient India before the early medieval regional age.

Fact: Harsha's reign is reconstructed from **Banabhatta's "Harshacharita"** (his court poet) and the account of the Chinese pilgrim **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang)**. Harsha himself wrote the plays **Ratnavali, Priyadarshika and Nagananda**.

Fact: Harsha held grand assemblies at **Kanauj** (in honour of Hiuen Tsang) and the quinquennial **Prayag (Allahabad) assembly**, where he distributed his wealth in charity. He was defeated on the **Narmada** by the **Chalukya king Pulakeshin II** (a direct Deccan/south-India crossover — Pulakeshin's victory is recorded in the **Aihole inscription** by **Ravikirti**).

Exam Point: Harsha's defeat by **Pulakeshin II** fixed the **Narmada** as the north–south boundary — a favourite "who stopped Harsha's southern advance" question that doubles as a Deccan/Chalukya fact.

Fact: After Harsha's death the north fragmented. The next centuries saw the **Tripartite Struggle** for **Kanauj** among the **Palas (Bengal/Bihar), Pratiharas (Gurjara-Pratiharas, west), and Rashtrakutas (Deccan)** — the Rashtrakutas (capital **Manyakheta**) under **Krishna I** built the **Kailasa temple at Ellora**.

PYQ Trend: "Harsha's biography/author" (Harshacharita, Banabhatta); "Chinese pilgrim during Harsha" (Hiuen Tsang); "who defeated Harsha" (Pulakeshin II); "tripartite struggle for" (Kanauj).

Section PYQ Trend (Part A overall)

PYQ Trend: Across APPSC Group papers and AP TET social-studies sections, Part-A topics reliably yield: Harappan site–river matches; one Veda-content one-liner; one Buddhist/Jain "first/last" fact; one Ashoka edict or "edict in AP" item (Erragudi); and one Gupta "Golden Age" fact (Samudragupta / Aryabhata / Fa-Hien). Aim to lock all five — they are low-effort, high-return.

(End of Part A. Continue to ap_unit1_b.md for the National Core Part 2: Early Medieval South, Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, Marathas, British conquest, the Governor-General/Viceroy table, socio-religious reform, 1857, the INC era, integration and post-Independence India.)

UNIT 1 — HISTORY & NATIONAL MOVEMENT (National Core + Andhra Pradesh)

Fig 1.2 Andhra Pradesh — Freedom & Formation

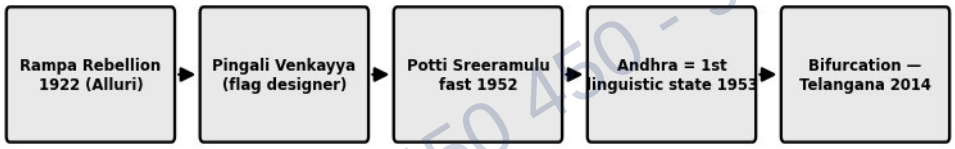

Fig 1.2 — Freedom movement & formation.

PART B — NATIONAL CORE (2): MEDIEVAL, BRITISH & MODERN INDIA

(Continues from ap_unit1_a.md. Reference date: 29 November 2026.)

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12. Early Medieval South India (overview — detail in Parts C/D)

Definition: "Early medieval South India" refers to the regional powers of the Deccan and the far south between the Guptas and the Delhi Sultanate — the **Chalukyas of Badami, Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas of Kalyani, Cholas, Pandyas, Cheras and Pallavas** — several of which overlap directly with Andhra history.

Dynasty

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Pallavas

Chalukyas of Badami

Rashtrakutas

Cholas

Pandyas

Fact: The **Cholas** (imperial, 9th–13th c.) are famed for **local self-government** (village assemblies — **ur, sabha/mahasabha**; the **Uttaramerur inscription** details election by lot), a powerful **navy** (Rajendra I's south-east Asian and Ganga expeditions, title **Gangaikonda Chola**), and the **Brihadeeswara (Rajarajeswara) temple at Thanjavur** (Rajaraja I) — Dravidian architecture's zenith.

Exam Point: The **Pallavas** and **Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi** interlock with Andhra history (Vengi = coastal Andhra). Keep these for Part C; nationally, remember Pallava **Narasimhavarman I "Mamalla"** founded **Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram)** and defeated Pulakeshin II.

PYQ Trend: "Chola local self-government inscription" (Uttaramerur); "Brihadeeswara temple builder" (Rajaraja I); "rock-cut rathas at Mahabalipuram" (Pallavas).

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13. The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526)

Definition: The **Delhi Sultanate** was the Turkish-Afghan Muslim rule over north India from 1206 (after Muhammad Ghori's conquests) to 1526 (Babur's victory at Panipat), comprising **five dynasties**.

The five dynasties

Dynasty	Period	Founder / key sultan	Highlight
Slave (Mamluk)	1206–1290	**Qutb-ud-din Aibak**; **Iltutmish**; **Razia Sultana**; **Balban**	Qutb Minar begun; Razia = first woman ruler of Delhi
Khilji	1290–1320	**Alauddin Khilji**	Market/price control; Deccan raids (Malik Kafur)
Tughlaq	1320–1414	**Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq**; **Firoz Shah Tughlaq**	Capital shift to Daulatabad; token currency
Sayyid	1414–1451	Khizr Khan	Timur's nominees
Lodi	1451–1526	Bahlol, Sikandar, **Ibrahim Lodi**	Afghan; fell at Panipat 1526

Fact: Qutb-ud-din Aibak founded the Slave dynasty and began the **Qutb Minar** (completed by **Iltutmish**). **Iltutmish** introduced the silver **tanka** and copper **jital** and organised the nobility (**Chahalgani/Chalisa** — group of forty). **Razia Sultana** (1236–40) was the only woman sultan. **Balban** asserted royal despotism (theory of kingship — "**Zill-i-Ilahi**," shadow of God; sijda & paibos).

Fact: Alauddin Khilji imposed **market/price control**, maintained a large standing army, introduced **dagh (branding of horses)** and **chehra (muster roll)**, and sent **Malik Kafur** to raid the Deccan and south (reaching the Pandya country) — these **Deccan raids touched the Kakatiyas (Warangal)** and Hoysalas (directly relevant to Andhra/Telangana history in Part C).

Fact: Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq ("the wisest fool") is remembered for failed experiments: **transfer of capital to Daulatabad (Devagiri)** in the Deccan, **token (brass/copper) currency**, and the Khorasan/Qarachil projects. **Firoz Shah Tughlaq** levied the **jizya** more rigidly, built canals, and set up the **Diwan-i-Khairat** (charity) and **Diwan-i-Bandagan**.

Exam Point: The **transfer of capital to Daulatabad** places the Sultanate directly in the Deccan — examiners pair this with Kakatiya **Warangal (now in Telangana)** falling to the Delhi forces (Prataparudra's capture, 1323). Flag Warangal as **now in Telangana**.

Fact: Sultanate administration: **Iqtadari** (land-revenue assignment), the **Diwan-i-Wizarat** (finance), **Diwan-i-Arz** (military), **Diwan-i-Insha** (correspondence). The **Bhakti and Sufi movements** flourished; poet **Amir Khusrau** ("Parrot of India") served several sultans and is credited in tradition with developments in Hindustani music and the sitar/tabla lore.

Trick: Sultanate dynasties = "**Slave–Khilji–Tughlaq–Sayyid–Lodi**" → mnemonic "**SKTSL**." Only woman sultan = Razia.

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PYQ Trend: "First woman ruler of Delhi" (Razia); "token currency" (Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq); "market control" (Alauddin Khilji); "Qutb Minar begun by" (Aibak, completed Iltutmish).

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14. Vijayanagara and the Bahmanis (1336 onward)

Definition: The **Vijayanagara Empire** (founded 1336 by **Harihara and Bukka** of the **Sangama** dynasty) and the **Bahmani Sultanate** (founded 1347 by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah) were the two great rival Deccan powers that rose as the Delhi Sultanate receded from the south.

Fact: Vijayanagara, with capital at **Hampi (Vijayanagara)** on the Tungabhadra, is central to **Telugu/Andhra history** — its greatest ruler **Krishnadevaraya** (Tuluva dynasty) patronised Telugu literature and wrote **Amuktamalyada** in Telugu. Full treatment is in **Part D**; nationally, remember the **Battle of Talikota (Rakshasi-Tangadi), 1565**, when a confederacy of Deccan sultanates destroyed Vijayanagara's army.

Fact: The **Bahmani kingdom** later splintered into **five Deccan Sultanates** — **Golconda (Qutb Shahi), Bijapur (Adil Shahi), Ahmadnagar (Nizam Shahi), Bidar (Barid Shahi), Berar (Imad Shahi)**. **Golconda/Qutb Shahi**, with capital later at **Hyderabad** (founded 1591 by **Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah**), is a shared-ancient Telugu-region power — flag **Hyderabad and Golconda as now in Telangana** (detail in Part D).

PYQ Trend: "Vijayanagara founders" (Harihara & Bukka); "Battle of Talikota year" (1565); "Bahmani split into five sultanates" — classic Deccan matchers.

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15. The Mughal Empire (1526–1857)

Definition: The **Mughal Empire**, founded by **Babur** after the **First Battle of Panipat (1526)**, was the last great pre-colonial empire of India, reaching its zenith in the 17th century.

The Great Mughals

Emperor	Reign	Key facts
Babur	1526–1530	First Panipat (1526, defeated Ibrahim Lodi, used artillery/tulughma); Khanwa (1527, Rana Sanga); memoir **Baburnama**
Humayun	1530–40, 1555–56	Lost to **Sher Shah Suri** (Chausa 1539, Kanauj 1540); regained throne 1555; **Humayun-nama** by Gulbadan Begum
Akbar	1556–1605	**Second Panipat (1556)** vs Hemu; **Din-i-Ilahi**, **Mansabdari**, **Todar Mal's revenue (zabti/dahsala)**; abolished **jizya**; **Fatehpur Sikri**, **Ibadat Khana**
Jahangir	1605–1627	Nur Jahan; chain of justice; painting zenith; captured Kandahar lost
Shah Jahan	1628–1658	**Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Jama Masjid**; "Golden Age" of architecture
Aurangzeb	1658–1707	"Alamgir"; reimposed **jizya (1679)**; Deccan wars; empire over-extended; last Great Mughal

Fact: The **Sur interregnum (1540–1555)** under **Sher Shah Suri** gave India outstanding administrative reforms — the **rupiya** (silver rupee), the revamped **Grand Trunk Road (Sadak-e-Azam)**, the **sarai** (rest houses), **dak (postal) system** and a sound land-revenue system that Akbar later built upon.

Fact: Akbar's governance: the **Mansabdari** system (ranked **zat** and **sawar**), **Todar Mal's bandobast** (dahsala/zabti), religious policy of **Sulh-i-kul** (universal peace), the **Din-i-Ilahi** (1582), and abolition of the pilgrim tax and **jizya**. His court had the **Navaratnas** (Birbal, Todar Mal, Tansen, Abul Fazl, etc.). **Abul Fazl** wrote the **Akbarnama / Ain-i-Akbari**.

Fact: Aurangzeb's long Deccan wars against the **Marathas (Shivaji)** and annexation of **Bijapur (1686)** and **Golconda (1687)** exhausted the treasury. The annexation of **Golconda/Qutb Shahi (1687)** brought the Telugu Deccan under Mughal control — the

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thread that leads to the **Asaf Jahi Nizams of Hyderabad** (Part D).

Fact: Mughal decline: weak successors after 1707, the **War of Succession** culture, **Nadir Shah's invasion (1739, sack of Delhi, took the Peacock Throne & Kohinoor)**, **Ahmad Shah Abdali** (Third Battle of Panipat, 1761, defeated the Marathas), the rise of regional states (Hyderabad, Bengal, Awadh, Marathas, Sikhs), and finally British dominance. The last Mughal, **Bahadur Shah II (Zafar)**, was deposed after **1857** and exiled to **Rangoon**.

Trick: Mughal order = "**Babur Humayun Akbar Jahangir Shah Jahan Aurangzeb**" → "**BHAJSA**." Three Panipats: **1526 (Babur), 1556 (Akbar), 1761 (Marathas vs Abdali).**

PYQ Trend: "First battle of Panipat year/combatants" (1526, Babur vs Ibrahim Lodi); "who introduced the rupee" (Sher Shah); "Din-i-Ilahi founder" (Akbar); "Third Panipat" (1761); "last Mughal" (Bahadur Shah II).

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16. The Marathas (1674–1818)

Definition: The **Maratha power**, founded by **Chhatrapati Shivaji** (coronation 1674 at Raigad), became the chief indigenous challenger to the Mughals and later contested the British for supremacy over India.

Fact: Shivaji's administration had the **Ashtapradhan** (council of eight ministers, headed by the **Peshwa**), revenue levies **chauth** and **sardeshmukhi**, and a strong navy and hill-forts. After his son **Sambhaji**, real power passed to the **Peshwas** (Pune), especially **Baji Rao I** (expansion) and the **Maratha Confederacy** (Scindia–Gwalior, Holkar–Indore, Gaekwad–Baroda, Bhonsle–Nagpur).

Fact: The **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)**, against **Ahmad Shah Abdali**, was a disastrous Maratha defeat that halted their northern expansion. The **three Anglo-Maratha Wars** (1775–82, 1803–05, 1817–18) ended Maratha power; the Peshwaship was abolished in **1818**.

PYQ Trend: "Shivaji's council of ministers" (Ashtapradhan); "Maratha revenue taxes" (chauth & sardeshmukhi); "Third Panipat combatants" (Marathas vs Abdali, 1761).

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17. The European Companies and the British Conquest of India

Definition: European trading companies — **Portuguese, Dutch, English, Danish, French** — came for the spice and textile trade; the **English East India Company (1600)** eventually became the paramount political power through conquest and diplomacy.

Company	Year	First factory / stronghold
Portuguese	1498 (Vasco da Gama, Calicut)	Goa (1510, Albuquerque)
English (EIC)	1600	Surat (1613), **Masulipatnam (1611, Andhra)**, Madras (1639)
Dutch (VOC)	1602	Pulicat, Masulipatnam (Coromandel)
Danish	1616	Tranquebar, Serampore
French	1664	Pondicherry, **Yanam (Andhra)**, Chandernagore

Exam Point (strong AP link): The **Coromandel coast of Andhra** — **Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam)** — hosted one of the **earliest English factories in India (1611)** and a major Dutch settlement; the **French** held **Yanam**. These are high-value AP-GK facts, developed in Part D.

Key battles of conquest

Battle/Event	Year	Significance
Battle of Plassey	**1757**	Robert Clive vs Siraj-ud-Daula (Bengal); treachery of Mir Jafar; start of British political power
Battle of Buxar	**1764**	British vs Mir Qasim+Shuja-ud-Daula+Shah Alam II; **Diwani of Bengal (1765)**
Anglo-Mysore Wars (4)	1767–99	Haidar Ali & **Tipu Sultan**; Tipu died at Srirangapatnam 1799

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