

Below is the clearest, exam-oriented, logically connected and easy-to-remember explanation of how Ancient India ends and Medieval India begins, and then complete coverage of all major Medieval Indian dynasties BEFORE the Vijayanagara Empire (1336 CE).

I'll also give timeline flow, map-style mental diagrams, and logical transition—so you can connect everything from Harshavardhana → regional kingdoms → early Delhi Sultanate → Vijayanagara.

★ WHEN DOES MEDIEVAL INDIA START?

Ancient India Ends after:

- ✓ Death of Harshavardhana (647 CE) → North India fragments into small states
- ✓ Decline of Chalukyas & Pallavas (8th century) in Deccan → no single empire
- ✓ India breaks into many regional powers = start of Early Medieval Period

Medieval India is generally divided into:

1) Early Medieval India (600–1200 CE)

2) Late Medieval India (1206–1526 CE)

(1526 onwards = Modern Early — Mughals → later British)

You asked for Medieval dynasties BEFORE Vijayanagara, so we will cover:

- ONLY 600–1336 CE
-

★ MASTER TIMELINE MAP (BEFORE VIJAYANAGARA)

Harsha (till 647)

↓ Fragmentation

NORTH INDIA

- Rajputs (650–1200)
- Gurjara-Pratiharas (730–1036)
- Palas (750–1174)
- Rashtrakutas (753–973) — Deccan
- Cholas (850–1279) — South
- Paramaras (800–1305)
- Chauhans, Solankis, Chandelas
- Gahadavalas of Kannauj
- Kashmir (Lalitaditya–1028)

NORTH-WEST INVADERS

- Arabs (Sindh – 712)
- Ghaznavids (1001–1186)
- Ghurids (1175–1206)

DELHI SULTANATE

- Slave Dynasty (1206–90)
- Khaljis (1290–1320)
- Tughlaqs (1320–1414)

Vijayanagara rises during Muhammad bin Tughlaq's expansion in 1336)

SOUTH INDIA

- Pallavas (600–900)
 - Cholas (850–1279)
 - Pandyas (600–1345)
 - Hoysalas (1026–1343)
-

Now let's go **region-wise**, exactly like government exams.

★ 1. RAJPUT KINGDOMS (650–1200 CE)

After Harsha, **Rajput clans** dominated North and Central India.

◆ Main Rajput Dynasties

1. **Gurjara-Pratiharas** (North-West)
2. **Chauhans** (Ajmer-Delhi)
3. **Paramaras** (Malwa)

4. **Solankis (Chaulukyas)** (Gujarat)

5. **Chandelas** (Bundelkhand)

6. **Gahadavalas** (Kannauj)

❖ **Why important?**

- They **prevented Arab expansion** beyond Sindh
 - India became **politically fragmented**
 - Constant **Tripartite struggle** (Pratihara–Pala–Rashtrakuta)
-

★ 2. GURJARA–PRATIHARAS (730–1036 CE)

Capital: **Kannauj**

✓ **Key Rulers**

- **Nagabhata I**: defeated Arab governor of Sindh
- **Mihir Bhoja**: greatest ruler
- Fought: **Palas & Rashtrakutas** for Kannauj

✓ **Importance**

- Peak power in **9th century**
 - Contributed to **Rajput culture formation**
-

★ 3. PALAS (750–1174 CE)

Region: **Bengal, Bihar**

✓ Key Rulers

- **Gopala**: elected king
- **Dharampala**: revived Nalanda
- **Devapala**: expanded empire to Assam → Odisha

✓ Features

- Patrons of **Buddhism**
 - Spread Indian culture to **Tibet, Nepal, SE Asia**
-

★ 4. RASHTRAKUTAS (753–973 CE)

Region: **Deccan** (capital: **Malkhed**)

Founder: **Dantidurga**

✓ Key Rulers

- **Govinda III & Amoghavarsha I**
- Patronized literature (**Kavirajamarga**)
- Constructed **Kailasa Temple at Ellora**

✓ Importance

- One of the **three major powers** (Tripartite struggle)
 - Controlled **central India + Deccan**
-

★ 5. PARAMARAS OF MALWA (800–1305)

Capital: **Dhar**

Greatest ruler: **Bhoja**

- Scholar king → wrote **Samarangana Sutradhara**
 - Promoted learning in **Ujjain**
-

★ 6. CHAUHANS (700–1192 CE)

Region: **Ajmer–Delhi**

Famous ruler: **Prithviraj Chauhan**

- Defeated Ghori at Tarain-1 (1191)
 - Lost in Tarain-2 (1192) → **Delhi Sultanate begins**
-

★ 7. CHAMBA, CHANDELA, GAHADAVALA

✓ Chandelas (800–1200)

- Built **Khajuraho temples**

✓ Gahadavalas (1089–1194)

- King: **Jaichand** (killed by Ghori)
-

★ 8. ARAB INVASION OF SINDH (712 CE)

- **Muhammad bin Qasim** annexed Sindh
 - Impact limited to **Sindh region only** (due to Pratihara resistance)
-

★ 9. GHAZNAVIDS (1001–1186)

- Capital: Ghazni
 - **Mahmud Ghazni** invaded India 17 times
 - Looted temples (Somnath)
 - Did not establish rule in India
-

★ 10. GHURIDS (1175–1206)

- **Muhammad Ghori**
- Defeated Prithviraj (1192)
- Established Muslim rule → **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** in Delhi

This leads to...

★ 11. DELHI SULTANATE (1206–1526)

We stop at Vijayanagara in 1336, but here is **just before that**:

✓ Slave Dynasty (1206–1290)

- **Aibak** → Qutub Minar
- **Iltutmish** → Silver Tank; completed Qutub Minar

- **Razia Sultan**
- **Balban** → military reforms

✓ Khalji Dynasty (1290–1320)

- **Alauddin Khalji**
 - defeated Mongols
 - market reforms
 - expanded to South India (Malik Kafur's campaign)

✓ Tughlaq Dynasty (1320–1414)

- **Ghiyasuddin**
- **Muhammad bin Tughlaq**
 - token currency
 - capital shift to Daulatabad
 - South India rebellions → **Harihara & Bukka** establish **Vijayanagara (1336)**

★ SOUTH INDIA BEFORE VIJAYANAGARA

★ 12. PALLAVAS (600–900 CE)

Capital: **Kanchipuram**

Rulers:

- **Mahendravarman I**
- **Narasimhavarman I (Mamallapuram)**

Contribution:

- Rock-cut temples at **Mahabalipuram**
 - Defeated Chalukyas
-

★ 13. CHOLAS (850–1279 CE)

Capital: **Thanjavur**

Great Kings:

- **Vijayalaya (founder)**
- **Raja Raja I** → Brihadehwara temple (Tanjore)
- **Rajendra I** → naval expeditions up to SE Asia

Features:

- Strong navy
 - Efficient administration
 - Village self-government
-

★ 14. PANDYAS (600–1345)

Capital: **Madurai**

Developed **Tamil culture, Sangam revival**

Collapsed due to Khalji invasion (Malik Kafur)

★ 15. HOYSALAS (1026–1343)

Capital: **Dwarasamudra (Halebidu)**
Rulers: **Vishnuvardhana, Ballala kings**

- Built temples: **Belur & Halebidu**
 - Fell to Delhi Sultanate invasions
-

★ 16. KAKATIYAS (1050–1323)

Capital: **Warangal**
Rani Rudrama Devi & Prataparudra
Fell to **Tughlaq invasions**

★ 17. YADAVAS OF DEVAGIRI (850–1334)

Capital: **Devagiri (Daulatabad)**
Their fall → reason Tughlaq moved capital

★ 18. VAGHJADAVAS / WESTERN CHALUKYAS (973–1189)

Capital: **Kalyani**
Fought with Cholas

★ 19. BROADER MAP-LIKE DIAGRAM (MENTAL IMAGE)

NORTHWEST: Ghaznavids, Ghurids → Delhi Sultanate
NORTH: Rajputs (Chauhans, Gahadavalas, Chandelas)

WEST: Solankis (Gujarat), Pratiharas
EAST: Palas, Senas (Bengal)
CENTRAL: Paramaras (Malwa)
DECCAN: Rashtrakutas → Western Chalukyas → Yadavas → Kakatiyas
SOUTH: Pallavas → Cholas → Pandya → Hoysalas

South collapses under Khalji/Tughlaq invasions →
Harihara & Bukka form VIJAYANAGARA in 1336.

⭐ CONCLUSION: How Medieval India Leads to Vijayanagara

1. After Harsha (647) → **fragmentation**
 2. Rajputs dominate North; Cholas—Pallavas—Pandya rule South
 3. Ghazni, Ghori weaken Rajputs → Delhi Sultanate formed
 4. Sultanate expansion to South creates **power vacuum**
 5. Hoysalas, Kakatiyas, Yadavas fall
 6. **Harihara–Bukka resist Tughlaq rule → Vijayanagara Empire (1336)**
-

If you want, I can now give:

- ✓ A beautiful map-style infographic
- ✓ A complete comparison table of all dynasties
- ✓ A mnemonic to remember sequence
- ✓ A timeline PDF

Just tell me what you want next!

Absolutely, Asmi!

Here is **everything you requested** — in the most **exam-oriented, visual, story-based** format:



1. BEAUTIFUL MAP-STYLE INFOGRAPHIC (TEXT-BASED MAP)

(Designed exactly for remembering North–West–East–South dynasties before Vijayanagara)

NORTH-WEST INDIA (Gate of India) |

- Arabs (712)
- Ghaznavids (1001)
- Ghurids (1175)



Delhi Sultanate (1206)

| NORTH INDIA |

- Rajputs (Huge umbrella term)
 - Pratiharas (NW → Kannauj)
 - Chauhans (Ajmer–Delhi)
 - Paramaras (Malwa)
 - Solankis (Gujarat)
 - Chandellas (Bundelkhand)
 - Gahadavalas (Kannauj)

Tripartite Struggle Zone:

Pratiharas ↔ Palas ↔ Rashtrakutas

| EAST INDIA |

- Palas (Bihar, Bengal)
- Senas (later)

CENTRAL INDIA

- Paramaras (Malwa)
 - Kalachuris
 - Chandellas (Khajuraho)

DECCAN / MID-SOUTH INDIA

- Rashtrakutas (Deccan)
 - ↓ replaced by
 - Western Chalukyas (Kalyani)
 - ↓ alongside
 - Yadavas (Devagiri)
 - Kakatiyas (Warangal)

SOUTH INDIA

- Pallavas (Kanchi)
 - Cholas (Thanjavur)
 - Pandyas (Madurai)
 - Hoysalas (Halebidu)

↓ all weakened by Delhi Sultanate

→ VIJAYANAGARA (1336)

This gives the **geographical mental picture**:

North = Rajputs

East = Palas

Deccan = Rashtrakutas & successors

South = Pallavas → Cholas → Pandyas → Hoysalas → Vijayanagara



2. COMPLETE COMPARISON TABLE OF ALL DYNASTIES (BEFORE VIJAYANAGARA)

Region	Dynasty	Timeline	Capitals	Famous Rulers	Key Features
North-West	Ghaznavids	1001–1186	Ghazni	Mahmud Ghazni	17 raids, Somnath
	Ghurids	1175–1206	Ghor	Muhammad Ghori	Tarain wars
North	Pratiharas	730–1036	Kannauj	Nagabhata, Mihir Bhoja	Tripartite struggle
	Chauhans	700–1192	Ajmer	Prithviraj Chauhan	Tarain 1 & 2
	Paramaras	800–1305	Dhar	Bhoja	Scholar-king
	Solankis	942–1244	Anhilwara	Siddharaja, Kumarapala	Jain patronage
	Chandelas	800–1200	Khajuraho	Dhanga	Erotic temples
East	Gahadavalas	1090–1194	Kannauj	Jaichand	Killed by Ghori
	Palas	750–1174	Pataliputra	Dharmapala	Buddhism revival
	Senas	1070–1230	Nabadwip	Lakshmana Sena	Ended Nalanda
Central	Kalachuris	550–1250	Tripuri	Karna	Transitional dynasty
Deccan	Rashtrakutas	753–973	Malkhed	Amoghavarsha	Kailasa temple
	Western Chalukyas	973–1189	Kalyani	Vikramaditya VI	Rivalry with Cholas
	Yadavas	850–1334	Devagiri	Ramachandra	Fell to Tughlaq

	Kakatiyas	1050–13 23	Warangal	Rudrama Devi	World-famous fort
South	Pallavas	600–900	Kanchi	Narasimhavarman	Mahabalipuram
	Cholas	850–127 9	Thanjavu r	Raja Raja, Rajendra	Navy, SE Asian expeditions
	Pandyas	600–134 5	Madurai	Sundara Pandya	Malik Kafur defeats
	Hoysalas	1026–13 43	Halebidu	Vishnuvardhana	Belur–Halebidu temples

🧠 3. MNEMONICS + STORY METHOD FOR REMEMBERING EVERYTHING

You will LOVE this.

We will build a **fun story** that moves geographically from **North → East → Deccan → South → Vijayanagara**.

📘 STORY: “THE LOST CROWN OF HARSHAVARDHANA”

Imagine Harshavardhana dies (647 CE) and drops a **magical crown** that controls India.

The crown rolls down India geographically.

⭐ PART-1: North India (Rajput Land)

Pratihara (the protector) catches the crown first → “I will guard Kannauj!”

But then:

- **Pala** from the East grabs it → “No, I will restore Nalanda!”
- **Rashtrakuta** jumps from the Deccan → “No, it belongs to the Kailasa temple builder!”

→ These three fight = **Tripartite Struggle**.

Then the crown slips...

★ PART–2: Rajput Kingdoms try to grab it

- **Chauhan Prithviraj** nearly catches it
- **Paramara Bhoja** writes books about it
- **Solankis** try to shine it
- **Chandelas** build temples around it (Khajuraho)
- **Gahadavalas** chase it last

But suddenly...

★ PART–3: North-West storms in

- **Mahmud Ghazni** rushes in, snatches crown, loots Somnath
- Then **Muhammad Ghori** comes, defeats Prithviraj → crown moves to Delhi
- **Qutub-ud-din Aibak** places it on Delhi's throne

Now crown rolls to the South because of:

- Alauddin Khalji's southern campaigns
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq's crazy capital shift

★ PART–4: Deccan Dynasties fight for it

The crown falls into Deccan:

- **Rashtrakutas** → “Mine!”
- **Western Chalukyas** → “No, ours!”
- **Yadavas of Devagiri** → “We need it!”
- **Kakatiyas** → “Warangal wants it!”

But Tughlaq crushes them all.

Then...

★ PART–5: South India prepares the final throne

Crown rolls farther:

- **Pallavas** carve temples for it
- **Cholas** polish it with their Navy and gold
- **Pandyas** revive Tamil culture around it
- **Hoysalas** decorate it with Hoysala architecture

But Sultanate invasions weaken them.

★ PART–6: Two Brothers Found Vijayanagara

Finally:

Harihara & Bukka find the crown in 1336

→ “Let us create a NEW empire based on Dharma:

VIJAYANAGARA”

THE END.

THIS story covers:

- Dynasties
- Regions
- Major events
- Chronology
ALL in one flow.

🧠 SUPER MNEMONIC (N–E–D–S sequence)

To remember the **MEDIEVAL** dynasties before Vijayanagara, memorize:

NEDS → North, East, Deccan, South

★ NORTH (Rajput Belt) → “Pretty Clever Princes Guard Kingdoms”

- Pratiharas
- Chauhans
- Paramaras
- Gahadavalas
- Kings (general Rajputs)

★ EAST → “Pala Sena Scholars”

- Palas
- Senas

★ DECCAN → “Ravi’s Cows Yield Kesar”

(Think Deccan = fertile plateau = cows + Kesar saffron)

- Rashtrakutas
- Chalukyas
- Yadavas
- Kakatiyas

★ SOUTH → “Please Cook Proper Halwa!”

- Pallavas
- Cholas

- Pandya
- Hoysala

This “Halwa” eventually becomes **Vijayanagara!**



If you want, I can give you:

- 👉 A printable PDF of everything
- 👉 A clean timeline chart
- 👉 A visual infographic (image)
- 👉 A quiz to test your memory

Just tell me **which format** you want next!