

Prelims Master Program (2023-24) – Ancient, Medieval, Art and Culture
Handout 22 / 4 : Vijayanagara, Bahmanis, Deccani Sultans

Vijayanagara Empire (1336-1565)

Both Vijayanagara and Bahmani were the products of the same political event - Rebellion against MBT. Vijayanagara came into existence in 1336 while Bahmani in 1347.

Dynasties	Founder	Other Kings
Sangama dynasty (1336-1485)	Harihara and Bukka	Devaraya I Devaraya II
Saluva dynasty (1485-1505)	Suluva Narasimha	
Tuluva dynasty (1505-1570)	Vir Narasimha	KDR Achyuta Raha
Aravidu dynasty (1570-1646)	Tirumala Rama Raya	



Founders - Harihara and Bukka
Two of five brothers (Panchasangama)

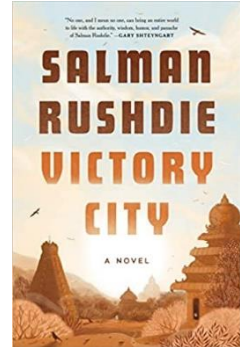
- They were feudatories of the **Kakatiyas** king Prataprudra at Warangal (AP) or **Hoysalas** at Kampili (Karnataka).

Harihara I – the founder (r. 1336-56)

- Initially controlled Tungabhadra valley and gradually expanded the control.
 - By that time, the Hoysala ruler Veera Ballala III had died fighting the Sultan of Madurai. Political vacuum thus created allowed Harihara to emerge as a sovereign power with all the Hoysala territories under his rule.
- In **1346**, all the five sons of Sangama (**pancha-sangama**) gathered in Sringeri to celebrate Harihara's dominance from east to west. This marked the inaugural moment for the formation of a new state – **Vijayanagara** with the principal deity of the dynasty/city would be **Virupaksha**, a form of Shiva.
- By the **mid-1340s** almost all of **Karnataka** had accepted the rule of the Sangamas.

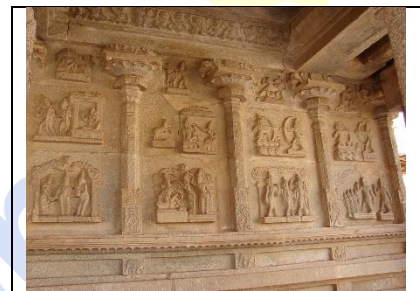
Bukka (r. 1356-77)

- **Towards South:**
 - He defeated the **Sultanate of Madurai** (est. 1335) in 1371 and extended his territory upto Rameswaram.
 - His son, **Kumara Kampana's** campaign actually liberated temple towns of Madurai and Srirangam. Worship in the temple of Ranganathaswamy which was stopped after Malik Kafur and MBT was resumed.
 - His achievement is celebrated in the Sanskrit work **Madura Vijayam** (Veera-kamparaya Charitram) written by his wife **Gangambika** or **Gangadevi**.
- **Towards North:**
 - By 1374 he had gained an **upper hand over the Bahmanis** for control of the **Tungabhadra-Krishna doab**.
- **Control of the coastal areas:**
 - He took control of **Goa**.
 - Forced Ceylon and the Zamorins of **Malabar** to pay tributes.
- **Literature:** Important works of **literature** were also written during his rule.
 - He appointed the famous **Telugu poet Nachana Soma** as his court poet.
 - **Vidyaranya Swami** is also known by the name **Madhavacharya**.
 - He was the Advaitin, (not Dvaita).
 - He was the Jagadguru of Shringeri Peetha.
 - Authored the famous book: **Sarva Darshana Sangraha**.
 - He also wrote **Shankara Digvijaya**.
 - **Sangitasara**
 - A great Vedic scholar **Sayanacharya** was the brother of Vidyaranya.
 - He wrote very influential commentaries of Hindu scriptures, including Vedas.
- **Architecture**
 - The power of the Vijayanagara rulers was manifest in the **enormous temple complexes** that they constructed. These complexes had chariot streets, tanks, pillared halls, and columns.
 - The most prominent was near the southern bank of the Tungabhadra and the principal deities were the goddess Pampa and Virupaksha.
 - By 1370, Vijayanagara conquered Tamil country which led to the assimilation of classical Dravidian architecture into the temples of Vijayanagara.



Devaraya I (1406-22)

- **Politico-Military**
 - **Firoze Shah Bahman**, one of the most powerful Bahmani, defeated Devaraya I and **a balance of power was in favour of Bahmani**. So, he had to cede a large amount of territory and marry his daughter to Sultan.
 - He **modernized the army**.
 - Improving the cavalry, imported Persian/Arabic horses.
 - Employed about 10,000 **skilled Muslim archers**. He even built a **mosque** at Hampi for their convenience.
 - Towards the end, Devaraya had the last laugh. He entered in alliance with Warangal and together they **defeated Firoz Shah Bahman**.
- **Irrigation**
 - He constructed a dam across **Tungabhadra** river to draw canal water into the city.
 - He also built a dam across **Haridra** river.
- **Architecture**
 - **Hazara Rama temple**, an excellent example of Deccan architecture was constructed during his rule.
- **Patronage**
 - **Mallinatha Suri** was in his court. He is famous for his commentary on the five Sanskrit Mahakavyas.
- **Visitor**: During his reign, **NICCOLO CONTI** (*Italian* traveler) visited Vijayanagara.
 - He has given a detailed account of the city of Vijayanagar as **the most well-provisioned** city in the world, which according to him, was **“as large and as beautiful as Rome”**.
 - He has also commented on the prevalence of **Sati**.



Wall panel relief in Hazara Rama Temple at Hampi

Devaraya II (1425-46)

- During his reign, the *Persian* traveller **ABDUR RAZZAQ** visited India. He was a historian and scholar from Herat, sent to Vijayanagar as an ambassador of the ruler of Khurasan, Shah Rukh Mirza, to the court of Deva Raya II. He has described the time period of Deva Raya II in his travelogue, 'Matla-us-Sadain wa Majma-ul-Bahrain'.
 - He specially describes the **wealth and splendor** of the capital. He vouches that Vijayanagar's market was ten times the size of Herat's market.
 - He says Vijayanagar was the largest and the most **well-provisioned** city in the world.
 - According to him, traders of **precious metals and jewels** flocked its streets and bazaars, and the **market** sold every commodity imaginable.
 - He mentions that the Vijayanagara **treasury** was filled with molten gold nuggets.
 - According to him, Vijayanagara had **seven fortification walls** within which there were provisions of all year water supply and agriculture fields.
 - He mentions that the **Sati** system prevailed in Vijayanagara.

- According to him, state derived **taxation income** from prostitution and brothels.
- He pegs the strength of **Vijayanagara army** at 11 lakh and counts the number of **ports** at 300.

One of the earliest notes of pyrotechnical shows

Describing the events of the Mahanavami festival, **Razzaq** wrote, *"One cannot without entering into great detail mention all the various kinds of pyrotechny and squibs and various other arrangements which were exhibited"*.

Italian traveler Ludovico di **Varthema** who visited India in this period, made a similar observation while describing the city of Vijaynagar and its elephants: *"But if at any time they (elephants) are bent on flight it is impossible to restrain them; for this race of people are great masters of making fireworks and these animals have a great dread of fire..."*

• Cultural Patronage

- He himself wrote
 - Kannada books – **Sobagina Sone, Amaruka**
 - Sanskrit work – **Mahanatak Sudhanidhi**
- Kannada Works
 - Virshaiva author **Chamarasa** wrote Prabhu-linga-leele who covered life of Allama Prabhu and other Veerashaiva poets.
 - Virashaiva **Lakkana Dandesha** – Shivatatva Chintamani
 - **Kumara Vyasa** wrote Kannada Mahabharata called **Karnata Bharata Kathamanjari**.
- Sanskrit poet **Gunda Dimdima**
- Telugu language poet **Srinatha** (title Kavi-sarvabhauma) who popularized Prabandha style of poetry.
- Theoretical works in Music
 - Court Pandita Chatura **Kallinatha** → **Sangita Kalanidhi** (commentary of Sangit Ratnakara of Sharangadeva of Yadava period.)
- Mathematician **Parameshvara** from Kerala School of Astronomy and Mathematics (founded by Madhava). In astronomy, he corrected several parameters of Aryabhata.

• Architecture

- Lakkana Dandesha built **Virupaksha temple**.
- Features: Raya Gopuram, Kalyana Mandapa, Amman Shrine, clustered pillars, Yali Pillars, Horse Chariots.

Krishna Deva Raya (1509-1529) (Tuluva Dynasty)

- He is the most famous king of Vijayanagar. During his era, the Vijayanagara empire reached its peak of glory and prosperity. This is considered as the second golden age of Vijayanagar.
- Name of his advisor - **Timmarusu** (Appaji)
- **Diplomacy with Portuguese**
 - KDR negotiated with **Alphonse de Albuquerque**.
 - He helped the **Portuguese in capturing Goa** from Bijapur (1510) and secured a monopoly right on war horses
- **Military:**
 - He was a **great general**. His rule brought **unprecedented success** to the Vijayanagara armies – with the forces inflicting heavy **defeats on the five Deccan sultanates**, the **Reddys**, the **Velamas** and the **Gajapati** dynasty of Kalinga.
 - Territorial gains at the cost of **Bijapur (Battle of Raichur 1520)**.
 - Battle of Raichur was a very important battle. As a result, the Bijapur army was decisively defeated and pushed to the north of Krishna.
 - Title
 - **Yavana Rajya Prati-stapanacharya**
 - His repeated victories over the Deccan sultanates led to the poet Timmana admiring him as “the destroyer of the Turks”.
- **Culture:**
 - He was also a great patron of the arts. He himself was an accomplished poet, and wrote:
 - **‘Amukta Malyada’** - a great Telugu epic
 - Story of wedding of Vishnu and Andal
 - Valuable info on KDR campaigns
 - Scholarly views on statecraft (duties of king)
 - **‘Jambavati Kalyanam’** - a Sanskrit play.
 - Other works – Madalasa Charita, Satyavadu Parinaya, Rasamanjari
 - Another important contemporary/late text: **Rayavachakamu** (author unknown)
 - His court was adorned with 8 accomplished scholars and poets called the **Ashtadiggajas**
 - Tenali Rama
 - **Allasani Peddana**: He composed a great Telugu poem **Manu Charitramu**
 - **Nandi Timmanna**
 - During his period, **Telugu literature** emerged out of the shadow of Sanskrit literature. It is known as the *classical age of Telugu literature*. He also patronized **Tamil** and **Kannada** literature.
- **Religion: Vaishnavism**
 - Patronage to Venkateshwara Tirupati
 - **Madhva** saint **Vyasatirtha**, spread Dvaita philosophy, was in his court. He was the guru of KDR.
 - In his **Nyayamruta**, he countered systematically many of the Advaita assumptions of Shankaracharya. It created a lot of stir across all advaitins in India.



- He was also a philosopher and diplomat. He was also a patron of Haridasas, who contributed to Carnatic music: Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa were proteges of Vyasatirtha.

○ It was also an era of growth of **Haridasas** who **amplified the Dvaita view**:

Annamacharya (1408-1503)	Purandaradasa (1484-1565)	Kanakadasa (1509-1609)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andhra Pada Kavita Pitamaha • Lived near Tirupati. Composed entirely in the praise of Veknateshwara of Tirupati • Influenced Carnatic music. A lot of his compositions have survived and are sung today in concerts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnataka Sangit Pitamaha • Lived in Hampi • Belonged to Haridasi sect. • Composer of Dasa Sahitya. • Codified the beginners' lessons, systematized the Abhyasagana syllabus for learning which is in practice even today. • Ankitanama (pen name) "Purandara Vittala" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a Haridasa, a renowned composer of Carnatic music, poet, philosopher and musician. • Used simple Kannada language for his compositions. • His writing used life of common man and addressed social issues.

- **Architecture**

- **Rebuilt Virupaksha** Temple
- Commissioned **Vitthalaswami** Temple

- KDR also **established new cities**:

- Hospete (twin city of Vijayanagara)
- Nagalapura (AP)

- During his reign, 2 Portuguese travellers visited the empire:

- **DURATE BARBOSA**

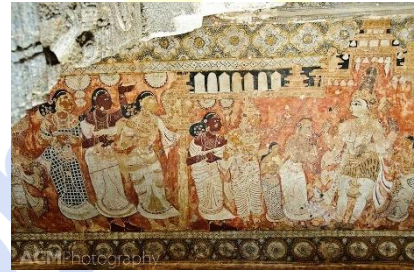
- He was a *Portuguese horse trader*.
- He describes the **ship building** industry of Vijayanagara and **sati system**.
- He mentions that **diamond** and precious stones were imported from Pegu and **silk** was imported from China, whereas, **black pepper** came from Malabar coast.

- **DOMINGO PAES**

- He met Krishnadeva Raya at his court.
- He has described the **beauty** of the city of **Vijayanagar**.
 - It was perhaps the second largest city in the world at that time, after Beijing. He estimated the number of houses in the city to be around 1 lakh (thus population of around 5L) which today can be corroborated by archaeological sources.
 - Details about **king's personal attributes** – his daily routine, arbitration of justice, likes/dislikes, relation with Portuguese etc. According to him, Krishna deva raya was a warrior king, whose body was covered in battle-scars. He gives a very glowing account of the person.

Achyuta Raya (r. 1529-42) (half-brother of KDR and succeeded him)

- KDR didn't have a son, so his half-brother succeeded him. But he was always in conflict with the son-in-law of KDR named Rama Raya.
- During his reign, the *Portuguese* horse trader, **FERNANDO NUNIZ**, visited the empire and spent 3 years in the court.
 - He has mainly described the social and cultural aspects of Vijayanagara in his travelogue. It is less of a travelogue and more of a detailed history of the Vijayanagara empire in its last phases.
 - He mentions a lot of details of KDR although he never saw him personally.
 - **Women scribes, wrestlers, astronomers, musicians and fortune tellers** in Vijayanagara.
 - He also mentions the **social evils like dowry, Sati and child marriage** which prevailed in the Vijayanagara society.
 - He praises the **Brahmins** of Vijayanagara as honest people who were good scribes.
 - According to Nuniz, the rulers of Quilon (Kollam), Sri Lanka, Pulicat, Pegu (lower Burma), Tennasserim (upper Burma) and Malaya paid **tribute** to the Vijayanagara King.
 - He also describes the **Nayankara** system and says that the rate of **land revenue** was 1/10th.
- **Cultural achievements**
 - Patronized **Purandaradasa**
 - **Achyutaraya Temple** at Hampi (Vaishnava temple)
 - **Lepakshi Temple** (1530) by brother Virupanna and Viranna (in AP)



Aliya Rama Raya (1542-65)

- Aliya = son-in-law of KDR.
- He imprisoned Achyuta Raya, installed a young king **Sadashiva Raya** and served as his PM.
- Culture
 - In his court, **Ramamatya**, the grandson of Kallinatha, wrote **Swaramela Kalanidhi**, the famous musicological work. It is an important work for classification of Ragas into Mela-s.
- In some ways, it was his **high-handedness** that brought the Deccani sultanates together.
- He was killed in the **battle of Talikota/Bannihatti/Rakshasatagari** (1565), defeated by the combined armies of 3 successor sultanates. (Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golconda).
- The city of Vijayanagara was totally destroyed and it became a ghost town.



Hussain Nizam Shah I (riding a horse) orders the decapitation of Aliya Rama Raya
(from the manuscript of **Tarif-i Husain Shahi**)



Mulukh-e-maidan

A cannon used by Bijapur against Vijayanagara in the battle of Talikota

Aravidu Dynasty

Cesare Frederici, an Italian traveller spent 7 months at Vijayanagara in 1567, two years after the city was sacked. He suggests that the capital was only partly destroyed and that Tirumala Deva Raya of the Aravidu dynasty intended to re-establish the Vijayanagara capital there. This attempt turned out to be unsuccessful and the city was eventually abandoned for good.

Later Rama Raya's **brother Tirumala Deva Raya** started **Aravidu dynasty**. It was the continuation of Rama Raya's line. Capital was shifted to **Penukonda** near Anantapur in AP, but it was no longer based in Vijayagara. Other nayakas continued to give lip service to it, for a century but it was only nominal. Most of the **Nayakas** ruled independently. Thus, many independent principalities soon emerged. Mysore Wodeyars, Nayakas in Madurai, Senji, Ikkeri, Tanjore etc.

Hampi was soon forgotten, only to be rediscovered by a Scottish botanist/surgeon **Francis Buchanan Hamilton** in the beginning of the 19th century.

List of Foreign travellers:

Monarch	Traveler	Country
Dev Raya I	Nicolo Conti	Italian
Dev Raya II	Abdur Razzak	Persian
KDR	Duarte Barbosa, Domingo Paes	Portuguese
Achyut Raya	Nuniz	Portuguese
Tirumala Deva Raya	Cesare Frederici	Italian
1799	Colin Mackenzie	Scottish (UK)

Kingship

- The emperor was the **absolute monarch**.
 - High sounding titles: 'Maharajadhiraja', 'Andhrabhoja', 'Hindu Suratana', etc.
- The element of **divine origin** of kingship was also a present. The kings ruled **in the name of Lord Virupaksha**.
 - Jambavati Kalyanam by King Krishnadevaraya, refers to Virupaksha as **Karnata Rajya Raksha Mani**
- Despite being an absolute monarchy, there were some **customary checks** on the kings which made their rule benevolent in nature.
- The empire had a **fixed rule of succession** (but not necessarily primogeniture)
 - The king would **nominate** his heir and successor during his own lifetime. It was usually his brother or eldest son.
 - The empire would be ruled by the **King and the Yuvraj simultaneously**, as such, the transition of power was usually smooth and peaceful.
 - Thus, unlike north India, it was able to escape the disastrous effects of frequent wars of succession.



Mahanavami Dibba for annual pompous royal celebration during Dasara.

Central Administration

- The central government was organized in the form of a **Mantri Parishad** (cabinet). The King was the chief executive and was advised by his top mantris (ministers).
- The mantri parishad was assisted by **Sachivalaya** (Secretariat).
 - It looked after the day-to-day administration and implementation of policy directives from the king and mantri parishad.
 - It consisted of representatives from the
 - Central government
 - Provincial governments
 - Amaranayakas (feudal lords)

Provincial Administration (Rajya system)

- The empire was divided into Several '**Rajyas/ Mandalams**' (provinces), headed by a **Rajayapala**, who usually belonged to the royal family.
 - **Rajyapals** enjoyed the following rights:
 - Could collect taxes + maintain army.
 - Could autonomously levy or abolish taxes and issue currency in their own name.
- Nadus were also known by another name **Kottan** in this era.
- Kottan was further divided into **Kurram/Sthala** during Vijyanagara era. Kurrams were groups of villages.

Nayankara System (military feudalism)

- With increasing feudalism, **Rajya system weakened** and **Nayankara** system became **prominent**.
- The Nayakas/Amarnayakas (top military officials) were paid in the form of Land grants known as '**Amarams**'. They enjoyed the following powers:
 - Could maintain their own **armies** and could collect **taxes**.
 - However, they had **no rights to abolish/levy taxes** or to issue their own **currency**.
- Gradually these grants became **hereditary** and Amarnayakas became participants in **sharing state power**.
- Subordinate landgrants by nayakas to **Palaigars/Palaikkars**.
 - These landgrants were called **Palayams**.
- Thus, the Vijayanagar administration was a **synthesis of centralised monarchy and feudalism**.

Ayagara System (local government)

During the Vijayangara era, the local institutions of Sabha/Ur of Chola era suffered some setbacks.

- **Each village** had **12 officials nominated by the state**, called Ayagaras. They were headmen (reddi or gauda, maiyam), accountants, and watchmen etc.
- **Functions:** Each Ayagar was responsible for a different **function** such as irrigation, maintenance of public spaces, organising fairs and festivals, setting prices of local goods, etc.
- **Payment:** They were chosen primarily from among local families and were paid in the form of **land grants**, which were **manya** (tax free).
- The position of Ayagars was **hereditary and saleable**

Taxation

- **Mahanavami** marked the **beginning of a financial year** from when the state treasury accounted.
- **Agricultural land** was divided into three categories:
 - **Bhandarvada** was a crown village.
 - **Manya** (tax-concessional land grants) – Income from the manya (tax-free) villages was used to maintain the Brahmans, temples, and mathas.
 - **Amaram** was granted to top ranking military officials known as Amaranayakas.
- **Land revenue** was the most important source of state income.
 - **Nuniz** says it was 1/10th but inscriptions give us more nuanced picture. It was collected at the **variable rate, from 1/6th to 1/4th**, of the produce, based on the quality of land.
 - Land tax was collected even from priests and temples, albeit at the **concessional rate**: Brahmadeya (1/20th), Devadana (1/30th).
- **Irrigation expansion** - important source of income
 - State was also **infrastructure builder**. If people wanted to take benefit of it - pay tax to the state.

- Thus, this sovereign right to dig wells, tanks, canals, reservoirs became lucrative and was shared with Amaranayakas by the state.
- Right to expand irrigation and derive income was known by different terms in different regions:
 - Tamil-speaking region - **Dasavanda**
 - Kannada/Telugu speaking region - **Kattu-kodage**
- Various economic activities such as trade, commerce, mining, forestry, gambling and even marriages were also taxed.
 - However, widow remarriages were exempted from marriage tax.
- Prostitution was legal and the state collected taxes from brothels.

Economic role of temples

Temples in South India were important centres of economic activity since the time of the imperial Cholas. During the Vijayanagar period, temples emerged as important **landholders**. **Hundreds of villages were granted** to the deities which were worshipped in the large temple. (**devadanam**)

- Temple created their **cadres of officers** to manage the affairs and to ensure proper utilization of resources.
- The income from devadana villages provided **sustenance to the ritual functionaries**. It was also utilised to provide **food offerings** or to **purchase ritual goods** (mostly aromatic substances and cloth).

Temples took up **irrigation work** also to enhance productivity and increase income:

- Large temples established **separate irrigation department** for properly channelising money grants made to the temples.
- **Cash endowments** made by the state to the Tirupati temple were ploughed back in irrigation.
- Donors also received a share of the food offering (**prasadam**) derived from the increased productivity.

Other economic functions:

- **Banking activities:** They gave loans to individuals and village assemblies for economic purposes.
 - At Srirangam Temple, cash grants given by the king were used to advance commercial loans to business firms in Trichnopoly.
- They **employed** several persons.
- Temples **purchased** local goods for performance of ritual services.

Thus, the temples functioned almost as an independent economic system encompassing persons and institutions that were bound together by economic links.

Society

The society was caste-based and hierarchical. However, unlike north India, there was not a four-fold Varna division, rather the society was divided among Brahmins and Non-Brahmins.

- **Brahmins** held the supreme position and enjoyed both political power and social prestige.
 - The top **officials, ministers, army commanders**, etc. were Brahmin.
 - Brahmin priests received lightly taxed **land grants**.
 - **Educational institutions** were manned by Brahmins.
 - **Religious life** was characterised by regimented **ritualism**
- The **Non-Brahmins** were divided into the **Valangai** and **Idangai** castes.
 - The **Valangai** (right-handed) group consisted of castes with an agricultural basis. They were considered pure castes.
 - The **Idangai** (left-handed) group consisted of castes which were involved in manufacturing, craft and trading etc. They were considered impure castes.
- The **condition of women** in the Vijayanagara society was poor in some respects. **Child Marriage** and **Polygamy** were common. However, the overall picture of women's condition is quite complex.
 - The earlier popular bhakti movements such as Lingayatism provided some flexibility in the social norms that helped the cause of women.
 - **Tippadiyal (Sati practice)** is evidenced in Vijayanagara ruins by several inscriptions known as Satikal (Sati stone) and commented by foreign travellers. At the same time, we also find evidence of male royal bodyguards jumping onto the funeral pyres of deceased kings.
 - **Widow remarriages** were considered taboo by society. However, the **rulers encouraged** it through **tax exemptions**.
 - In temples, **Devadasis** were sometimes exploited but the condition of Ganikas in harem was relatively better. Prostitution was not only legalized but brothels were also taxed.
 - Women had crossed many barriers and were actively involved in many male-dominated fields such as administration, business, trade and the fine arts.
 - **Tirumalamba Devi** wrote **Varadambika Parinayam** in Sanskrit
 - **Gangadevi** was the author of **Madhura-vijayam** in Sanskrit.
- Although the **Varnashrama Dharma** system was rigidly observed, the Vijayanagara kings were remarkably **liberal and practical** in their outlook.
 - They readily **patronized** skilled artisans, workmen, scholars and promoted able administrators and military commanders from all backgrounds, including Muslims.
 - They welcomed **Christian missionaries** from Portugal.
 - They even joined hands with the **Golconda Sultanate** against the Gajapati rulers.



Relief on the wall of Hazara Rama temple, depicting social life.

Haridasi Tradition during Vijyanagara and Carnatic Music

The Bhakti movement during this time involved Haridasas (devotee saints). Like the Virashaiva movement of the 12th century, Haridasi Movement, of the followers of Madhvacharya spreading the message of Vishnu and Dvaita philosophy, presented another strong current of devotion, pervading the lives of millions.

The Haridasas represented two groups:

- **Vyasakuta:** Proficient in the Vedas, Upanishads and other Darshanas.
 - Naraharitirtha, Jayatirtha, Sripadaraya, **Vyasatirtha**, Vadirajatirtha etc.
- **Dasakuta:** Preferred mostly Kannada language devotional songs
 - **Purandaradasa** and **Kanakadasa** earned the devotion of King Krishnadevaraya.
 - **Annamacharya**, a great composer of early Carnatic music composed hundreds of Kirtanas in Telugu at Tirupati.

Bahmani Sultanate (1347-1527)

Bahmanis were the Muslim power that emerged in upper Deccan after the retreat of MBT. Its **founder** was **Alauddin Hassan/Hassan Gangu** who took the title of Bahman Shah in 1347.

- He established a new kingdom with its capital at **Hasanabad/Gulbarga** (Karnataka).
- **Chishti Sufis** provided legitimacy to the planting of the Sultanate in Deccan. Influential North Indian Chishti Sufi Shaikhs bestowed upon him a robe allegedly worn by the Prophet.
 - **Burhanuddin Gharib** (d 1344)
 - **Zainuddin Shirazi**
- **Abdul Malik Isami**
 - He was a court historian and an eye-witness source of establishment of Bahmani dynasty.
 - He wrote **Futuh-us-Salatin** (Gift of Sultans) in Persian in around 1350s, which is a poetic story of conquest of India by Muslims.



Indo-Islamic monument of **Chand Minar** at Daulatabad. Erected in 1445 by Alauddin Bahman Shah to commemorate the capture of the fort.

The Bahmani sultanate's principal enemies were the Hindu rulers of Vijayanagar, Telangana, and Orissa and the Muslim rulers of Khandesh, Malwa, and Gujarat.

Two phases of the Bahmani Sultanate:

Gulbarga Period	1347-1425	Hasanabad/Gulbarga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder: Hasangu Gangu • Firuz Shah Bahmani
Bidar Period	1425-1527	Muhammadabad/Bidar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahmad Shah Wali • Mahmud Gawan (not sultan)

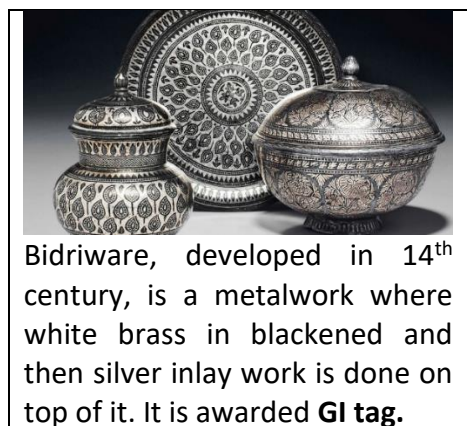
Firuz Shah Bahmani (1397-1422)

- **Conflict with Vijayanagara:**
 - Firuz Shah fought against the Vijayanagara Empire on many occasions and the rivalry between the two dynasties continued unabated throughout his reign.
 - He was victorious in 1398 and 1406.
 - After one of the victories, he married the daughter of Deva Raya.
 - Later, he was crushingly defeated in 1419 by Deva Raya I with the help of Vijayanagara-Warangal alliance.
- **Polymath and polyglot**
 - He was a learned ruler with vast knowledge of history, logic, religion, grammar, astronomy, mathematics and medicine. He built an observatory at Daulatabad.

- He was conversant in several languages such as Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Kannada and Telugu.
- He was tolerant of other religions and had personally read both the Old and New Testament.
- **Cosmopolitanism** → Bahmani Sultanate emerged as hub of Islamic culture in India.
 - During this time, there was a sharp decline of the Delhi Sultanate --> many learned Muslim men migrated from Delhi to the Gulbarga.
 - **Gesu Daraz Bande Nawaz** established his Khanqah at Gulbarga.
 - Firoz also invited scholars and nobles from Iraq and Iran.
 - Many of these West Asian migrants were Shiite.
 - Under their influence, Persian culture and Shiite doctrine grew within the Bahmani Sultanate.
 - He tried to establish a balance between **Dakhni** Muslims and newly immigrant foreigners called **Afaqis/Gharibs**.
 - He also inducted a large number of Hindus in administration.
- **Dakhani language**
 - Firose Shah Bahmani was the first author to write in the Dakhni dialect of Urdu.
 - Gesu Daraz wrote **Miraj-al Ashiqin** (a book on Prophet Muhammad) in Dakhni for masses.
- **Architecture**
 - **Haft Gumbaz**: group of seven royal tombs at Gulbarga (UNESCO Tentative List)

Ahmed Shah Wali (r. 1422-36)

- **Politico-Military**: His reign was marked by relentless military campaigns and expansionism.
 - He conquered Warangal, thus **broke the Vijayanagar-Warangal alliance**.
 - After that, he **shifted the capital to Bidar** to better control the newly conquered territory.
 - As a result, Vijayanagar was considerably weakened.
- **Culture**
 - Despite his political contributions, he is remembered more for his contribution as sufi saint than as a ruler. He was a close associate of Gesu Daraz and his Urs (death anniversary) is jointly celebrated by both Hindus and Muslims.
 - Invited metal-worker Abdulla-bin-Kaiser from Iran --> started the profession of zinc alloying and **Bidriware**.



Bidriware, developed in 14th century, is a metalwork where white brass is blackened and then silver inlay work is done on top of it. It is awarded GI tag.

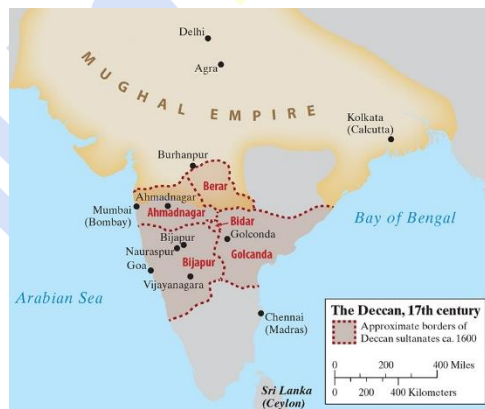
Mahmud Gawan (1411-81)

- He was a foreigner Afaqi (from Iran).
 - He was originally a trader (tujjar) before coming into the services of the state. Later he was known as **Mallik-e-Tujjar**.
 - Soon he rose to be the **Vazir** or Wakil-us Sultanat (Prime Minister) of the Bahmani Sultanate during the reign of Muhammad Shah III.
- During his time, the Bahmani sultanate **attained its peak of power**.

- Attempted to establish **royal supremacy** by weakening feudalism.
 - He carried out the **administrative reorganisation** of the Sultanate by dividing it into **8 provinces 'Tarf/Atrafs'**.
 - He also strengthened the military by including **local Marathas** in the army.
 - He introduced the system of **survey and measurement for land revenue**.
 - It helped centralization in the hands of royal tax officers.
- **He patronised arts and literature.**
 - He constructed the famous **madrasa** at Bidar in 1472. It was built in the traditional Persian Samarkand style called '**REGISTAN**'.
- **Internal Squabble**
 - During his tenure as Wakil, the factional struggle between the Deccanis and Aqafis/Gharibs for privileges, patronage, positions and power reached its peak.
 - Although Mahmud Gawan was Afaqi himself, he attempted to reconcile the factions.
 - Nonetheless, he found it difficult to win their confidence. As a result, he was executed by Muhammad Shah III.



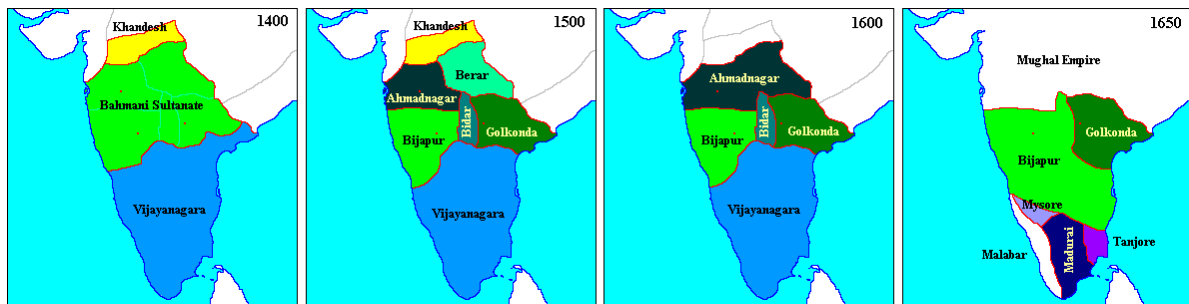
KDR finally defeated Bahmanis in the **Battle of Raichur** in 1520. Shortly afterwards, the sultanate disintegrated in 1527. From one it became five.



Afanasy Nikitin (contemporary to Mahmud Gawan)

- He was possibly the **first Russian traveller** to come to India. He has described both **Vijayanagar** and **Bahamani** kingdom in the 15th century.
- According to him, the **land** was very **populous** and the **common people** were very **poor**. But the **nobles** lived in great **luxury**.
 - Nikitin was amazed to see the king and the nobles ride on men and not horses/elephants. Perhaps he refers to palanquins.
 - He observed that in India, everyone goes naked. All were barefoot, walked fast and were strong.

Deccan Sultanates (1482-1687)



Sultanate, Capital	Dynasty	Important Personalities
Bidar	Barid Shahi	Absorbed by the Ahmednagar sultanate.
Gawilgarh (Berar)	Imad Shahi	Absorbed by the Ahamednagar sultanate.
Ahmadnagar	Nizam Shahi	Hussain Nizam Shah I Chand Bibi Malik Ambar
Bijapur	Adil Shahi	Ali Adil Shah Ibrahmi Adil Shah II
Golconda	Qutbshahi	Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah Quli Qutb Shah Abdulla Qutb Shah Abul Hasan Tana Shah
From the 17th century, Marathas emerged as powerful entity.		

Nizam Shahi of Ahmadnagar (1490-1636)

Ahmad Nizam Shah

- Founder of the dynasty
- Initial capital: **Shivneri** fort.
- Later on, Devgiri/**Daulatabad** was captured in 1499.
- He founded the city of **Ahmednagar** in 1494, midway between Shivneri and Daulatabad.

Hussain Nizam Shah I

- Leading role in the **battle of Talikota**, beheaded Rama Raya.
- Earliest Deccani paintings in **Tarif-e-Hussain Shai**.

Bhanudatta composed **Ras-manjiri** in Shringara rasa. He was perhaps in the Nizam court.

- Along with Rasa-Tranagini, the two poems attracted an astonishing amount of scholarly attention from the 1600-1800. He became the most celebrated scholar.
- Later, it became a very important theme for **Basholi paintings** in the hills (17th c)

After Khandesh Sultanate (Farooqui dynasty 1382-1596) was annexed in 1596, Ahmadnagar was forced to accept the Mughal **suzerainty** by **Akbar** in 1601. Around this time arose Chand Bibi and Malik Ambar, who resisted the Mughal expansion towards South.

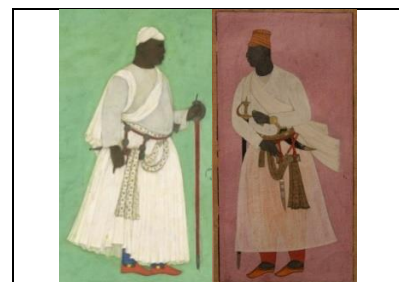
Chand Bibi

- She was the Regent of Bijapur Sultanate during the minority of Ibrahim Adil Shah II (1580-90), and regent of Ahmednagar Sultanate during the minority of her great nephew Bahadur Shah during (1595-1600).
- During this, she **valiantly defended Ahmednagar against Akbar**.



Malik Ambar (regent 1600-26)

- Originally a slave from **Ethiopia (siddi)**, sold into the service of Ahmednagar and gained administrative and military experience.
- **Mughal aggression** towards the Deccan allowed him to quickly rise in power. He became the **Prime Minister** and **de facto ruler**.
 - Young sultan: Murtaza Nizam Shah
- He joined hands with the **Marathas** to successfully resist Mughal encroachment. Shivaji's father **Shahji Bhosle** also lent support to Malik Ambar against the aggression of Mughals.
- Malik Ambar was the pioneer of **guerrilla warfare** in Deccan.
- Founded **Khirki city** (near Daulatabad/Devgiri) which was later made **Aurangabad** by Aurangzeb, with its **canal water supply**.



Jahangir shooting at head of Malik Ambar

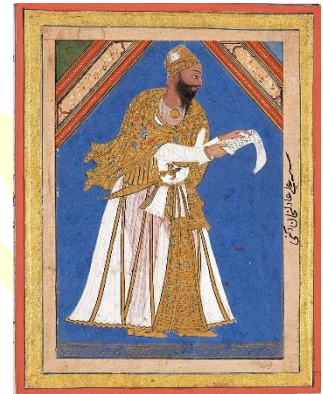
- On his death, emperor Jahangir's surrogate diarist, Mutamid Khan made an entry noting: *"He had no equal in warfare, in command, in sound judgment, and in administration. History records no other instance of an Abyssinian slave arriving at such eminence."*

It was annexed by Shah Jahan in 1636, overseen by Alamgir as Deccan governor.

Adil Shahi of Bijapur (1490-1686)

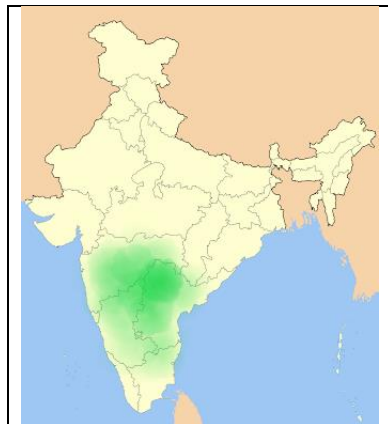
Ali Adil Shah (1558-79)

- Initially, he came very **close to the Vijayanagar empire diplomatically**. Personally paid a visit to Vijayanagar City, where **Ramaraya** received him with great pomp and honour.
- Later on**, successful formation of the confederacy of the Deccan Sultans against Vijayanagar and the victory over the latter at the **Battle of Talikota** in 1565.
- After that, Bijapur's southern boundary was extended as it opened the gates for future expansion.
- He **re-modelled Bijapur city**, providing the citadel and city walls, congregational mosque, core royal palaces and major water supply infrastructure.



Ibrahmi Adil Shah II (1580-1627)

- His regent was Chand Bibi.
- The greatest extension of the frontiers, as far south as Mysore.
- Technology**
 - Circa 1609 AD, he gave a lavish dowry in the wedding of his courtier's daughter to the son of Malik Ambar (Nizam Shahi general), *"with Rs. 80,000 being spent on fireworks alone."*
- Religion**
 - Reverted to the Sunni sect of Islam, but remained somewhat tolerant of other religions, including Christianity. However, he had continued the **anti-Shia tendency**.
 - He called himself **Adil Shah Sufi**.
 - By his time, Bijapur had become a famous Sufi place. Prominent sufi sites of **Shahpur hillock** and **Gogi**.
- Cultural aspect**
 - He was also known as **Jagadguru**.



The language at the Bijapur court was a mixture of Arabic and Persian, the north Indian Urdu of their past, the Sanskrit of the Brahmins, and the Marathi, Telugu and Kannada tongues of their subjects. This map shows **Deccani Urdu** speaking areas by concentration.

- Known for his love of music, master player of Tanpura, romantic poems dedicated to Chand Sultana (wife), Atish Khan and Moti Khan
- He was a worshipper of Saraswati.
- Wrote **Kitab-e-Nauras** and established **Naurasapur city** with Saraswati temple.
- Produced earliest series of **Ragmala paintings**. Some historians say that the very idea of depicting musical modes in painting originated in Bijapur.
- Attracted/lured to his court the greatest painters and poets of his day, from as far afield as Abyssinia, Turkey, and Central Asia.

Ferishta (1570-1620)

- He came from Turan (near Caspian Sea).
- He was a very well-known historian.
- He initially served in the court at **Ahmadnagar**. However, due to the persecution of Iranian Shia Muslims by the Deccani Sunni Muslims, he moved to **Bijapur** and served in the court of **Adil Shahis**.
- He wrote **Tarikh-e-Ferishta** and **Gulshan-e-Ibrahimi** and presented it to Ibrahim Adil Shah in 1610. It is a very important source of many of the Muslim sultanates in India, including Bahmanis.



Sultan Adil Shah II playing Tambura by Farrukh Beg, National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic

Later History:

- After Ibrahim Adil Shah II, the state progressively weakened. There was increasing weakness Mughal encroachment. Bijapur was forced to accept the Mughal suzerainty by the **Shah Jahan in 1636** and was allowed to expand towards south.
- Simultaneously, there was a revolt of the Maratha king **Shivaji**, who killed the Bijapur general Afzal Khan.
- As the **coromandal coast became important in 17th c** with rise of British and Dutch, Mughals wanted to annex it. It was accomplished by **Aurangzeb in 1686**.

Qutub Shahi of Golconda (1519-1687)

Capital: Golconda (1519-1591), Hyderabad (1591-1687)

Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah (r. 1550-1580)

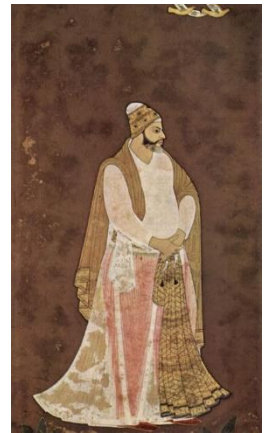
- Fourth monarch of Golconda but first one to have the title of 'Sultan'.
- Spent 7 years in Vijayangara in exile, as a guest of Rama Raya.
- Known for being a genuine patron of Telugu language.
 - Adopted a new name for himself, "Malki BhaRama"
- Later, he became a part of the alliance which defeated Vijayanagara and destroyed it after the battle of Talikota (1565).



Hussain Sagar was built across a tributary of the Musi river in 1563 by Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah. The lake was named after Hussain Shah Wali, who was the Master of Architecture in the Kingdom. The Buddha statue here was installed in 1992.

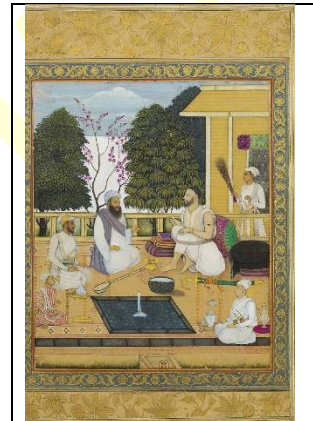
Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah (r. 1580-1611)

- Built the city of Hyderabad on Musi river in 1591.
 - Called architects from all around the world, built on a grid plan, modelled on the lines of the legendary Isfahan in Iran
 - He constructed **Char Minar** and **Macca Masjid**.
- Thrust to literary activity.
 - Known as '**Saheb-e-saif-o-qalam**', he was proficient both with sword and pen. A scholar of Arabic, Persian and Telugu languages. Himself a poet of great repute, wrote poetry in Urdu, Persian, and Telugu.
 - **Poetry**
 - Many of his poems speak glowingly of beauty and attributes of his girlfriends.
 - He wrote on Hindu festivals and rituals. One can find poems eulogising the Basant festival and aarti.
 - Even flowers, fruits and vegetables are mentioned in his verses.
 - **Kulliyat-e-Quli Qutub Shah**
 - The **first Saheb-e-dewan** Urdu poet (50,000 + verses)
 - He is the first poet to turn to **Ghazal genre** at a time when Masnavi was ruling the roost in Deccan.
 - Quli Qutb Shah's reign is significant for the development of **Deccani language**.
 - Eminent Persian and Telugu poets graced his court.



Abdulla Qutb Shah (1626-1672)

- His reign was **full of sorrow and trouble**.
 - Aurangzeb, under the command from Shah Jahan, took over Hyderabad by surprise and restricted Abdullah within the Golconda fort.
- His army **invaded the city of Tirupati**.
- **Culture**
 - He was liberal in attitude, a polyglot, and a lover of poetry and music.
 - He invited to his court and respected **Kshetravyya** (1600-1680)
 - He was a famous poet of Krishna (Gopala) and a composer of Carnatic music. He was the poet of Madhura-bhakti with focus on Sringara rasa. His mudra was Muvva Gopala. His padams are sung in dance (Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi) and music recitals.
 - **Koka Shastra** (aka Rati Rahasya), a Sanskrit sex manual of 12th century, was translated into Persian as **Lazzat-un-Nisa** in 1634.

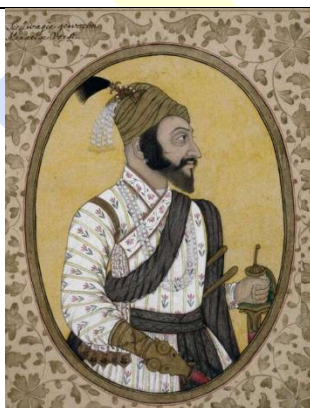


Abul Hasan Qutb Shah with Sufi singers

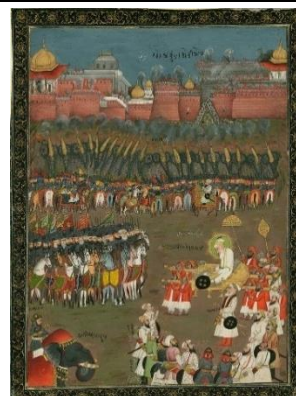
Abul Hasan Qutb Shah (last ruler, also known as Tana Shah)

- A popular statesman who did not discriminate on religion. He hired Brahmins as his ministers and generals. For example, **Madanna and Akkanna**.
- **Bhadrachala Ramadasu** (nephew of Madanna) was a tehsildar in his reign.
 - Also known as Kancherla Gopanna, he was a famous saint-poet of the Bhakti movement.
 - He constructed the renowned Sita Ramachandraswamy Temple on the banks of river Godavari at Bhadrachalam.

The sultanate suffered the same fate as Bijapur. Shah Jahan established Mughal overlordship over it in 1636 and Aurangzeb annexed it in 1687.



Portrait of Shivaji, Golconda style (London Museum)



Aurangzeb during the siege of Golconda, 1687, Painting c 1750s