



## Provincial Kingdoms

The Bahmani and the Vijayanagara were the two great empires that arose in the Deccan after the end of the Sultanate. The control over Raichur Doab was the main issue which resulted in the long Bahmani Vijayanagara struggle.

### The Emergence of Provincial Kingdoms

- The attack by Timur Lane in AD 1398, on Delhi and flight of the Tughlaq king from his capital, exposed the weakness of the Delhi Sultanate and embedded a member of provincial Governors and autonomous principalities to declare their independence.

### Provincial Kingdoms

Kingdoms	Capitals	Founders/Most Important Rulers	Significances
Malwa	Dhar/ Mandu	Hushang Shah (AD 1406-35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He founded the city of Hoshangabad.</li> </ul>
Gujarat		Shihab-u-din Ahmed (AD 1411-42) Mahmud Begarha (AD 1458-1511)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founded the city of Ahmedabad. Imposed Jaziya for the first time in Gujarat on Hindus.</li> <li>Considered as the greatest Sultan of Gujarat. Italian traveller Barthema and Portuguese traveller Duarte Barbosa visited his court.</li> </ul>

<b>Kingdoms</b>	<b>Capitals</b>	<b>Founders/Most Important Rulers</b>	<b>Significances</b>
Mewar	Chittor	Rana Kumbha (AD 1433-68)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The greatest ruler of Malwa. Famous for his Javastambha or Kirtistambha after defeating Mahmud Khilji of Malwa. A great poet, a man of letters, an accomplished player of Veena.</li> <li>• Defeated Mahmud Khilji II of Malwa and Ibrahim Lodhi. He was defeated by Babur in the Battle of Khanwa in 1527.</li> </ul>
		Rana Sanga (AD 1509-28)	
Marwar		RaoJodha Bika (AD 1465)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built the fort of Jodhpur.</li> <li>• Founded Bikaner.</li> <li>• The most famous ruler of this</li> </ul>
Amber or Amer		Hammir Deva dynasty.	
Bengal		Ala-u-ddin Hussain  Shah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desecrated the Jagannath temple at Puri.</li> <li>• Chaitanya preached Vaishnavism in his reign.</li> </ul>
		Nusrat Shah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built Bara Sona and Qadama Rasul Mosque.</li> <li>• Celebrated poet, Maladhar Basu, compiler of Sri Krishna Vijaya was granted the title of Gunraja Khan.</li> </ul>
Orissa Ganga dynasty		Avantivarman Ganga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built the famous Jagannath temple.</li> </ul>
		Narasimhavarman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built the Konark temple.</li> </ul>
Gajapati dynasty		Kapilendra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fought successfully against the Bahmanis of Bidar and the rulers of Vijayanagara.</li> </ul>

<b>Kingdoms</b>	<b>Capitals</b>	<b>Founders/Most Important Rulers</b>	<b>Significances</b>
Assam		Sukapha (13th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extended his territory in the West at the cost of Kamarupa.</li> </ul>
Jaunpur Sharqi dynasty		Malik Mubarak  Shah Ibrahim Shah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First to assume royal titles issue coins.</li> <li>• Considered as the greatest ruler of Jaunpur.</li> <li>• Beautified Jaunpur and made it a centre of art, architecture learning known as Shiraj of the East.</li> </ul>

### **The Origin of Vijayanagara Empire**

- The Vijayanagara empire was founded in AD 1336 by Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty. The two Sangama brothers were in the service of the **Kakatiya** ruler of Warangal, **Prataparudra If**.
- After the Muslim conquest of the Kakatiya kingdom in AD 1323, they joined the kingdom of Kampili in modern Karnataka as ministers in the royal court.
- After establishing their sway over Kampili at first for the Sultan, the two Sangama brothers returned to the Hindu fold at the initiative of **Saint Vidyaranya**, proclaimed their independence and founded a new city on the South bank of the Tungabhadra, in AD 1336, which was called **Vijayanagara** (city of Victory) or **Vidyanagara** (city of Laming). The capital of the kingdom was Hastinavati (Ham pi).
- Vijayanagar's rival were **Bahmani Sultans** with whom they fought many battles. The areas of contention were **Tungabhadra doab** (between Krishna and Tungabhadra), **Krishna-Godavari Delta**, **Konkan areas of Marathwada**.

## Sources of Vijayanagara Empire

Literary Sources	Sources	Informations
Foreign Traveller's Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehlaor Tuhfat-un-Nuzzar by Ibn Battuta (Moroccan traveller) Auktamalayada by Krishna Deva Raya</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Account of the empire under Harihara I.</li> </ul>
Indigenous Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manucharitam by Allasani Peddan</li> <li>• Gangadasa Pratapa Vilasam by Gangadhara</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polity and political ideas of the rulers society and caste system.</li> </ul>
Archaeological Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salu vabhyudayam by Rajanatha Dindima</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A contemporary drama, deals with the siege of Vijayanagara city by the Bahmanis and the Gajapatis of Orissa after the death of Deva Raya II.</li> <li>• Historical ecology of the Saluva dynasty.</li> </ul>
Inscriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bagpelosi copper plate inscription.</li> <li>• Bitragunta grant of Sangama II.</li> <li>• Channa Raya Pateeka inscription of Harihara II.</li> <li>• Srirangam copper plates Raya II.</li> <li>• Devulapalli copper plates Immadi Narasimha. d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievements of Harihara I.</li> <li>• Genealogy of 5 Sangama brothers.</li> <li>• Successful invasions of Bukka I.</li> <li>• Achievements of of Deva Bukka I.</li> <li>• Genealogy of Saluva of ynasty.</li> </ul>

### The Vijayanagara Monarchs

#### **The Sangama Dynasty**

##### **Harihara I (AD 1336 -1356)**

- He was the founder of Sangama dynasty. He took part in 1344 in the confederacy organised by Krishna Nayak of Warangal to drive out the Muslims from the Deccan.

### **Bukka I** (AD 1356-1379)

- He is described in inscriptions as the master of the Eastern, Western and Southern oceans.
- He brought about reconciliation between the Jains and the Vaishnavas by asking them to worship in their own manner with equal freedom. He was succeeded by Harihara II.

### **Harihara II** (AD 1379-1404)

- Bukka I was succeeded by his son Harihara II. He was the first ruler to assume legal title of Raja Parmeshwara, Maharajadhiraja. He embarked upon a policy of expansion towards the Eastern sea coast, led the Vijayanagara empire into fresh conflicts.

### **Deva Raya I** (AD 1406 -1422)

- He was defeated by the Bahmani ruler Firoz Shah and had to pay a huge indemnity.
- In 1420, Nicolo de Conti Italian visited the city and had given its vivid description.

### **Deva Raya II** (AD 1422-1446)

- He employed a large number of Muslims in his service and gave them Jagirs.
- He allowed freedom of religion to Muslims and used to place a copy of Quran in front of his throne.
- Abdur Razzaq, the ambassador of Persian monarch Shahrukh (son of Timur) visited Vijayanagara.

### **The Saluva Dynasty** (AD 1486-1505)

- Saluva Narasimha was the founder of Saluva dynasty.
- Narasimha was succeeded by Tlrumal (1491) and Immadi Narasimha. Vasco Da Gama landed in Calicut during his reign in 1498.

### **The Tuluva Dynasty** (AD 1505 1570)

- Vira Narasimha was the founder of Tuluva dynasty.
- According to Nuniz, he was a pious king and distributed gifts at sacred places.

### **Krishna Deva Raya**

- He was the greatest ruler of Vijayanagara. He took titles like Andhra Bhoja, Andhra Pitamah, Abhinav Bhoja. Domingo Paes, a Portuguese traveller visited during his reign.
- He built the famous temples of Krishnaswamy, Hazara Ramaswamy and Vittalaswamy.

### **Sadashiva**

- He was a mere puppet in the hands of his minister Rama Raya. Deccani States joined together and formed a Quadruple alliance (Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar and Bidar against Vijayanagara).
- Ibrahim Qutab Shah of Golconda played an important part in bringing about this alliance. Resulted in the Battle of Talikota/Rakshasa Tangadi/Bannighati in which Vijayanagara was badly defeated.

### **Krishnadeva Raya's Ashtadiggajas**

Krishnadeva Raya's court was adorned by the following Ashtadiggajas (the eight celebrated poets)

**Peddana** wrote Manucharitam and Harikathasaransamu;

**Timma** wrote Parijatapaharavam;

**Madaya** wrote RajaSekara charitam;

**Dhurjate** wrote Kalahasti Mahatyam;

**Surana wrote** Raghava Pandaviyam and Prabhavati Pradyuman;

**Tenali Ramalingam** wrote Panduranga Mahatyam;

**Ayyalaraju Ramabhadra** wrote Sakalamatasara Sangraharr;

**Rama Raja Bhushan** was the eighth diggaj, who wrote Kavyalankora Sangrahamu.

### **The Aravidu Dynasty (AD 1570-1652)**

#### **Venkata If**

- He was the last great ruler of Vijayanagara who kept the empire intact. The only exception was that in 1612 Raja wodeyar founded the State of Mysore.

### **Vijayanagara Administration**

- The King kingship was based on the principle of absolute monarchy, but of the benevolent type.
- He was the highest court of appeal and the supreme law-giver.

### **Central Administration**

- There was a Council of Ministers, headed by a Prime Minister, to assist and advise the king in administrative matters.

### **Provincial and Local Government**

- The empire was divided into different administrative units Manadalams or Rajyas (Provinces), Nadus (Districts), **Sthalas** (Sub-districts) and finally into Gramas (Villages). The number and size of the Manadalams varied from time-to-time. Each province was under a Governor, described as Madalesvara or Nayaka.

### **Revenue Administration**

- **Land revenue** from crown lands was the most important source of revenue. It was fixed on the basis of crop cultivation and the quantum of yield obtained. Generally, 1/6th of the gross produce was collected as revenue. But sometimes, it was raised to 50%.
- Prostitution was regulated and heavily taxed. Kaikkolas, a class of weavers and barbers were exempted from taxation. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

### **Some Important Revenue Terms**

<b>Economic Terms</b>	<b>Related With</b>
Fawazil	Surplus extracted from the area
Mahsul	Collected revenue
Kismat	Subsidiary tax
JBhandarawada	The crown village
M anyam	Tax free village
Devadana	Land granted to temple
Atnaram	Village granted to military chiefs (Nayaks)

### **Judicial Administration**

- King administered the justice impartially. He presided over the Sabha, the highest court of appeal.

- There were also village courts, caste panchayats and guild organisations to dispose of petty offences like violation of caste rules and rules of trade.
- Generally, Dharmasastras formed the basis on which cases were decided.

### **The Nayankara and Ayagar Systems**

Under the **Nayankara system**, military chiefs were assigned a piece of land called **Amaram**. These chiefs known as **Nayaks of Palaiyagars** had revenue and administrative rights on their lands. They were required to maintain elephant, horses and soldiers in certain numbers which were to be provided to king during wars. They also had to pay a particular sum of money to the central exchequer. The Nayaks were independent in their areas and were non-transferable.

The **Ayagar system** was an important feature of village administration. Under this system body of twelve functionaries, known as **Ayagars**, conducted every village affairs. They were granted tax free lands which they were to enjoy in perpetuity. An important feature of Ayagar system was that Ayagars were hereditary officials and there could be no sale or purchase of land, in the village, without their permission.

### **Military Administration**

- There was a well organised and efficient standing army. Some of the Nadaprabhu (Incharge of Nadus) like the Gaudas of Bangalore practically protected the boundaries from foreign invasions and even helped in suppressing the defiant provincial governors and vassals.
- Ordinary soldiers of the royal army were usually paid in cash, but big officers were granted territory (Amaram) with fixed revenue in lieu of their salaries.

### **Famous Travellers to Vijayanagara Kingdom**

<b>Travellers</b>	<b>Brief Descriptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ibn Battuta</li> </ul>	<p>He was a Moroccan traveller, who left an account of Harihara I's reign in his book Rehla also called <b>Tuhfat-un-Nuzzar</b> ft <b>Gharaibul-Amsar</b> Wa <b>Ajaib-ul-Assar</b>.</p>

- Nicolo de Conti                      An Italian traveller who visited during the time of Deva Raya I.
- Abdur Razzak                         Ambassador of Shahrukh of Samarqand at the court of the Zamorin of Calicut. He gave an account of the reign of Deva Raya II.
- Athanasius Nikitin                    A Russian merchant, who described the conditions of the Bahamani kingdom under Muhammed III in his Voyage to India.
- Duarte Barbosa                        A Portuguese who has given a vivid account of the Vijayanagara Government under Krishnadeva Raya in his famous book An Account of Countries Bordering the Indian Ocean and their Inhabitants.
- Dominigas Paes                        Portuguese traveller, who spent a number of years at Krishnadeva Raya's court and has given a glowing account of his personality.
- Marcopolo                                The only traveller who could rival, Ibn Battuta's tag of The greatest medieval traveller arrived at India's opposite extremity, a Tamil port, enroute from China in AD 1290. Marcopolo to his surprise found that in peninsular India, there were tailors.

### **Vijayanagara Society**

- **Allasani Peddana, in his Manucharitam, mentions the four castes that existed in the Vijayanagara society.**
  - **Viprulu or Brahmins** followed the traditional profession of teachers and priests.
  - **Rajulu or Rachavaru** were generally-associated with the Ruling dynasty
  - **Matikaratalu or Vaishyas** were the same as merchants who carried on trade and commerce.
  - **Nalavajativaru or Shudras** were mainly agriculturists, but some of them- carried on several other professions.
- **The practice of dancing girls attached to temples was also in vogue.**

## Women's Status

Women occupied an honourable position in the Vijayanagara society. Some of them were very learned and were eminent laureates.

Gangadevi, wife of Kampana (one of the son of Bukka I), wrote Maduravijayam. Hannamma was a prominent scholar in the court of Prauda Deva. Tirumalamma was a distinguished poetess in sanskrit in the reign of Achyuta Raya.

- The plight of widow was pitiable, but they could remarry. The state encouraged widow re-marriage by not levying any tax on it.
- An inscription dated AD 1534 gives evidence of one Malgaura committing sati. Krishnadeva Raya himself married a Ganika called **Chinnadevi**.

## Religion and Philosophy

- Early Vijayanagara rulers were followers of Saivism. **Virupaksha** was their family God. Later they came under the influence of Vaishnavism. But Siva continued to be worshipped.
- Vaishnavism was professed in various forms. Sri Vaishnavism of Ramanuja was highly popular.
- The Dvaita System of Madhava was also practiced.

## Economic Conditions

- **Agriculture** It was in a flourishing condition. It was the policy of rulers to encourage agriculture in the different parts of the empire and to increase agricultural production by a Wise Irrigation Policy. Nuniz, the Portuguese traveller, speaks of the construction of a dam and excavation of canals.
- **Industries** The agricultural wealth was supplemented by numerous industries, the most important of which were textiles, mining and metallurgy. Another important industry was perfumery.
- Industries and crafts were regulated by guilds.

## Trade

- The most important commercial area on the West coast was Malabar, with its important port of Cannanore.
- Among the exports, the main items were cloth, spice, rice, iron, saltpetre and sugar etc. The main imports consisted of horse, elephant, pearl, copper, coral, mercury, China silk and velvet.

### **Coinage**

- The Vijayanagara emperors issued a large number of gold coins, called **Varahas/Pagodas** (Varahas because the most common symbol was Varaha the Boar incarnation of Vishnu).
- Harihara I and Bukka I used the Hanuman symbol in their coins.
- Krishna Deva Raya's coins had the figures of Venkatesh and Balkrishna.
- Achyuta Raya used Garuda while Tirumala maintained the original Varaha.

### **The Cultural Contribution of Vijayanagara**

#### **Architecture**

- The temple building activity of the Vijayanagara rulers produced a new style, called the **Vijayanagara style**. Though, often characterised as **Dravida style**, it had its own distinct features.
- The large number of pillars and the complicated manner in which they were sculptured are some of its distinct features.
- The horse was the most common animal to be depicted on the pillars.
- The temples had a Mandapam or open pavilion with a raised platform, generally meant for seating the deity on special occasions.
- These temples also had a Kalyana Mandapam with elaborately carved pillars.
- The most magnificent of the temples in this style are in Hampi (Vijayanagara). Vittalaswami and the Hazara Ramaswami temples are the best examples.
- The Raya Gopurams, towers in commemoration of the visit of emperors in different corners of the empire, are also important examples of architecture of the period.
- In the Vijayanagara temples the central part was occupied by the Garbhagriha, the sanctum cell where the presiding deity was installed.

#### **Literature**

##### **Authors**

Krishnadeva Raya

Allasani Peddana

(Andhrakavi

##### **Books**

Amuktamalyada (a book on polity) Jambavati  
Kalyana

Manucharitam

Harikatha Sarammsama Pitamaha)

Tenali ramakrishna	Pandura Ngamahatyam
Tirumala	Commented on Jayadev's Gitagovinda
Dikshitar	Commentary on Vedas
Vemana	Vemasatakas
Elugandi Peddana	Translated Leelavati, a book on Mathematics
Chamarasa	Prabhulinglai
Virupaksha Pandit	Chennabasva Purana
Kumara Vyasa	Composed Mahabharata in Kannada
Bhimakavi	Basava Purana
Dharajati	Kalahastimahatyam
Madayya	Rajasekhara charitam
Ramabhadra	Sakaramatasara Sangraham

### **Vijayanagara Art**

#### **Music**

- Vijayanagara period is known for origin of Carnatic music under Purandhar Das period known for origin of Rudraveenas.

#### **Dance**

- Bharatanatyam was promoted.

#### **Drama**

- Yakshagana was a popular dance and drama closely associated with temple walls.

#### **Paintings**

- Themes of Ramayana and Mahabharata on temple walls.

#### **Sculpture**

- Largest number of portrait sculptures in this period. Portrait sculpture of Krishnadeva Raya and his queen is seen at Tirumala.

### **The Bahmani Kingdom**

- The Bahmani kingdom was founded in 1347, by Hasan Gangu.
- **Hasan Gangu** He assumed the title of Ala u d din Hasan. Bahman Shah had founded the Bahmani kingdom with Gulbarga as its capital.

- **Mahmud Shah I** (1358-75) son of Bahman Shah assumed power in Bahmani after him. He fought with Vijayanagara.
- **Firoz Shah (1397-1422)** was the most remarkable figure in the Bahmani kingdom. He was determined to make Deccan the cultural centre of India.
- He inducted Hindus in his administration to large extent. He built an observatory at Daulatabad. He founded city of **Firozabad** on the bank of river Bhima. Firoz defeated Deva Raya I.
- **Ahmed Shah Wali** (AD 1422-35) transferred the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar and his reign marked the end of the Gulbarga Phase of Bahmani kingdom and the beginning of the Second Phase, called the **Bidar Phase**. Ahmed Shah was known as Wali due to his association with a Sufi, Gesu Daraz.
- Nikitin a Russian merchant, visited Bidar during his reign.

### **Mahmud Gawan**

He was the Prime Minister of Mohammed Shah III between 1463-81. The Bahmani kingdom saw a resurgence under his guidance. His military conquests included Konkan, Goa and the Krishna-Godavari delta. Mahmud Gawan expanded the Bahmani kingdom as never before. He was a persian by birth, hence an Afaqī or Gharīb. Afaqīs or Gharībīs were the nobles, who were of foreign origins and had migrated from Arab or elsewhere.

### **Administration of Bahmani Kingdom**

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Roles</b>
Vakil-us-Sultana	Equivalent to the Naib Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate, served as regent also
Peshwa	Attached to the Vakil
Wazir-i-Kul	Prime Minister; supervised the work of all other ministers
Amir-i-Jumla	Head of the Finance Department
Wazir	Deputy Head of the Finance Department
Waziri	A shraf Foreign affairs and royal court

Sadr-i-Jahan	Head of the Judicial, ecclesiastical and Charities Department
Kotwal	Head of the Police Department
Tarifs	Provinces
Tarafdari	Provincial Governors

### **Independent Kingdoms of Deccan**

Various kingdoms emerged after the decline of Bahmani kingdom are as follows-

#### **Bijapur**

- It was established in 1489-90 by Yusuf Adil Shah with Adil Shahi dynasty. It was annexed to Mughal empire by Aurangzeb in 1686.

#### **Ahmednagar**

- It was established by Malik Ahmed with Nizam Shahi dynasty. It was annexed to Mughal Empire by Shah Jahan in 1637.

#### **Berar**

- It was established in 1490 by Fath Ullah Imad Shah with Imad Shahi dynasty. It was annexed by Ahmednagar in 1574.

#### **Golconda**

- It was established by Qutub Shah in 1512 with Qutub Shahi dynasty. It was annexed to Mughal empire by Aurangzeb in 1687.

#### **Bidar**

- It was established in 1526 by Amir Ali Barid with Barid Shahi dynasty. Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur annexed Bidar to Bijapur in 1618-19.