

# Lesson – 21

## VIJAYNAGAR AND DECCAN SULTANATES

**By Abhyudaya Kelkar**

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# BAHMANI SULTANATE

# DECCAN SULTANATES



# Vijayanagara in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

- **Narasimha Raya II was assassinated in 1505 by Tuluva Vira Narasimha ending the Saluva Dynasty.**
- **Tuluva Vira Narasimha Raya defeated the Adilshahis of Bijapur.**
- **Expedition in coastal Karnataka and Kerala,**
- **He was helped by the Portuguese, through arms, ammunitions and horses.**
- **Vira Narsimha Raya died in 1509 and was succeeded by his half-brother, Krishnadeva Raya.**

# Krishnadeva Raya

- **Krishnadeva Raya was unarguably the greatest of all Vijayanagara emperors.**
- **He was an exceptional administrator, powerful ruler, political genius as well as a soldier, scholar, poet, playwright.**
- **He was a great patron of art, architecture and religion.**
- **He interfered in the internal politics of the declining Bahamani Sultanate effectively splitting the Sultanate into five 'Deccan Sultanates'**



# Krishnadeva Raya

- He went on a lengthy war with the Gajapatis of Odisha.
- The opponent Pratapa Rudra Deva of Odisha offered a stiff resistance but was defeated ceding the Krishna-Godavari Delta.
- The Gajapati Princess Annapurna Devi was also married to Krishnadeva Raya.
- He captured Raichur from the Adil Shah.
- He captured and destroyed Gulbarga.
- He also defeated the Qutubshahis of Golconda.



# Krishnadeva Raya

- He abolished the 'Marriage Tax'.
- He was a Vaishnava but was tolerant towards all the faiths.
- The details of his administration are mentioned in his own work in Telugu, Amuktamalyada.
- He was a disciple of Udupi Madhwa Guru, Vyasatirtha, his Kula-Guru.
- He is known as *Andhra Bhoja, Kannada Rajya Rama Ramana and Mooru Rayara Ganda (Master of three kings)*.



# Krishnadeva Raya

- His reign is called 'the Golden Age of Telugu Literature'.
- The recently found Krishna Deva Rayana Dinchari, a diary written in Kannada, is arguably credited to him.
- He also patronized the Tamil poet Haridasa, the great mathematician Nilkantha Somayaji and the popular jester Tenali Raman.
- The water supply system of the city.
- He founded the town of Nagalapur.



# Krishnadeva Raya

- **Krishnadeva Raya had a very capable and loyal minister Timmarusu but was suspected of poisoning the crown-prince.**
- **Timmarusu was blinded.**
- **Finally, before his death in 1529, Krishnadeva Raya nominated his brother, Achyuta Deva Raya, his successor.**





# Krishnadeva Raya

- **Krishnadeva Raya and his wives, Chinamma (Left) and Tiruamala (Right).**

# Mahmud Shah Bahmani II

- He ascended the throne of the declining Bahmani Sultanate in 1482.
- In 1490, the governors of Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Berar declared their independence giving rise to three independent sultanates.
- Meanwhile, an officer Qasim Barid became very powerful.
- Qasim Barid died in 1504 and was succeeded by Amir Barid I.
- All the later sultans were merely puppets under Baridshahs.

# Barid-Shahi of Bidar

- In 1518, another Amir, Quli Qutub Mulk, declared independence creating the Golconda Sultanate.
- Amir Barid I ended the Bahmani Sultanate, thus establishing Barid Shahi Dynasty of Bidar.

## BAHMANI SULTANATE

## DECCAN SULTANATES



# Nizam-Shahi of Ahmednagar

- Ahmad, the Bahamani governor of Daulatabad, declared independence in 1490 and became 'Malik Ahmad Nizam Shah' of 'Nizam-shahi Dynasty'.
- His capital was Ahmadnagar.
- His successor, Burhan Nizam Shah I had a long and stable reign of 43/45 years before he either died in 1553 or 1555.
- Throughout this time, the Sultanate fought the Adilshahis of Bijapur.

# Adil-Shahi of Bijapur

- **Bijapur was the most powerful among the five Deccan Sultanates.**
- **Yusuf Adil Shah the Bahamani governor of Vijayapur (Bijapur) by Bahmanis declared independence in 1490 thus founding the Adilshahi Dynasty of Bijapur.**
- **During his reign, in 1510, Portuguese snatched away Goa from him.**
- **He was a patron of arts.**
- **He was succeeded by Ismail in 1511.**
- **He died in 1534 and was succeeded by his minor son Mallu Adil**

# Adil-Shahi of Bijapur

- Throughout this period, the Maratha wife of Yusuf Adil Shah, Punji Khatun, remained a key political figure.
- Also, the Habshis/ African slaves (Afaqi) were important part of the fighting forces.
- He lost Solapur and Kalyani (Basavakalyan) to the Nizamshahs but defeated Baridshahs and the Qutubshahs of Golconda.
- He died in 1558 and was succeeded by Ali Adil Shah I.
- Ali was very close to Aliya Rama Raya, the de facto ruler of Vijayanagar.

# Qutb-Shahi of Golconda

- **Quli Qutb Shah declared his independence in 1518 and established the Qutubshahi Dynasty of Golconda.**
- **He was assassinated in 1543 by his son, Jamsheed Quli Qutub Shah and led to a succession crisis.**
- **In 1550 Quli Qutb Shah's younger son Ibrahim captured the throne with the help of Vijayanagar's Aliya Rama Raya.**

# Achyutadeva Raya

- He maintained the glory of the empire by fighting off the Adilshahis and Gajapatis.
- The Portuguese traveller Fernao Nuniz visited Vijayanagar and described the grandeur.
- Other Portuguese travellers who visited the empire and the metropolis during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, were Domingo Paes and Barbosa.
- The details of his reign and personal life are mentioned in *Achyutabhyudayam* and *Varadambikaparinayam*.

# Aliya Rama Raya

- He belonged to Aravidu family.
- He and his brother Tirumla Deva Raya were the sons-in-law (Aliya) of Krishna Deva Raya.
- Aliya Rama Raya consolidated his power during the thirteen years of the reign of Achyutadeva Raya.
- Rama Raya imprisoned Achyutadeva Raya and became the de facto ruler of the Empire in 1540.

# Sadashiv Raya

- **After the death of Achyutadeva Raya in 1542, the minor son of Achyutadeva Raya, Venkata Raya or Venkatadri, ascended the throne.**
- **Within few months, Venkata Raya was assassinated and replaced by his nephew Sadashiv Raya.**
- **Aliya Rama Raya meddled too much in the internal affairs of the Deccan Sultanates and enraged them.**
- **The Deccan Sultanates got united by 1565 to confront Rama Raya at Talikota.**

# The Two sides in the Battle of Talikota (1565)

## The Deccan Sultanates

- Hussain Nizamshah I of Ahmednagar
- Burhan Imad Shah of Berar
- Ali Barid Shah I of Bidar
- Ibrahim Quli Qutubshah of Golconda
- Ali Adil Shah I of Bijapur



## Vijayanagar Empire

Aliya Rama Raya and his brothers, Tirumala Raya and Venkatadri  
Vijayanagara Emperor : Sadashiva Raya

## The Battle of Talikota and Results

- **The Battle was fought on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1565.**
- **The battle was won by the Deccan Sultanates.**
- **Aliya Rama Raya was beheaded. His brother, Venkatadri, was also killed.**
- **The victorious Deccan Sultanate armies pillaged Vijayanagar.**
- **Much of the Vijayanagara Empire was shared among the Deccan Sultanates.**
- **The feudatories of Vijayanagar like Mysore Kingdom, etc., became independent instantly.**

# The Aftermaths

- **Many Nayak Kingdoms emerged as the result of collapse of Vijayanagara :**  
Keladi                      Chitradurga              Jinji (Gingee)  
Thanjavur                      Madurai
- **The brother of Rama Raya, Tirumala Raya, ran away with treasure to Penukonda and established the fourth dynasty of Vijayanagara, Aravidu.**

# Vijayanagara : The Legacies

- Telugu, Kannada and Tamil flourished throughout the period, Sanskrit remained the liturgical language.
- Temple and town architecture.
- The water supply system was really exemplary.
- The Carnatic Music too evolved during the period.
- Untouchability and Brahminism.
- The *Satikals* (Sati-stones) at Hampi.
- The kings were called Hindurayasuratrana, Gobrahmanapratipalanacharya.



# Vijayanagara : Administration

- The King was assisted by a Mahapradhana (Prime Minister).
- Mahapradhana headed the cabinet of Pradhanas (ministers)
- The documentation and other important official work was done by Rayaswami/ Karyakarta (Secretary).
- The Adhikaris (Officers) were under the above.
- Karanikas and Karanam were the accountants.
- Wealthy citizens and landlords were called 'Goudas'.

# Vijayanagara : The Legacies

- The empire was divided into five *Rajyas* (states).
- The states were divided into Kottam/ Vishaya Vente
- These were divided into Nadus/ Seema/ Seeme
- The lowest unit was Sthala/ Kampana i.e. municipality

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## JAHANGIR AND SHAHJAHAN

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