



The Vijayanagara and the Bahmanis - Deccan Sultanate; Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar and Ahmadnagar - Rise, Expansion and Disintegration; Eastern Gangas and Suryavamshi Gajapatis

VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE (1336-1646)

Founding:

- Founded by **Harihara I and Bukka I** of the **Sangama dynasty** in **1336**, under guidance of **Vidyaranya**, a saint from Sringeri Math.
- Purpose: **Defend Hindu dharma** and counter Muslim invasions in the Deccan.
- Capital: **Hampi**, on the banks of the **Tungabhadra River** (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Dynasties of Vijayanagara:

1. **Sangama (1336-1485)** - Founders
2. **Saluva (1485-1505)** - Usurped power due to decline
3. **Tuluva (1505-1570)** - Most powerful phase (Krishnadeva Raya)
4. **Aravidu (1570-1646)** - Decline and end

Notable Ruler: Krishnadeva Raya (1509-1529)

- Tuluva dynasty's greatest king.
- Defeated **Bahmanis, Gajapatis of Odisha**, and **Portuguese at Goa**.
- Patron of art and literature; wrote **Amuktamalyada** in Telugu.
- Empire extended from the Krishna River to Kanyakumari.
- Promoted irrigation, trade, and religious tolerance.



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Decline:

- **Battle of Talikota (1565):** Combined Deccan Sultanates defeated Vijayanagara.
 - Hampi was ransacked and never regained prominence.
 - Aravidu dynasty continued nominal rule from Penukonda and Chandragiri until 1646.
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BAHMANI SULTANATE (1347-1527)

Founding:

- Founded by **Ala-ud-din Hasan Bahman Shah** in **1347**, capital at **Gulbarga** (later **Bidar**).
- First **independent Muslim kingdom in South India**.

Administration:

- Divided into **Tarafs** (provinces).
- Promoted Persian culture.
- Patronized architecture (e.g., **Mahmud Gawan Madrasa** in Bidar).

Important Rulers:

- **Firuz Shah Bahmani:** Patron of arts, literature, and learning.
- **Mahmud Gawan:** Persian prime minister; reformed administration and education.



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Decline:

- Court factions: **Afaqis (foreigners)** vs **Deccanis (Indian Muslims)**.
 - Execution of Mahmud Gawan weakened the state.
 - Fragmented into **five Deccan Sultanates** by 1527.
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DECCAN SULTANATES (Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar, Ahmadnagar)

1. Bijapur (1490-1686)

- Founded by **Yusuf Adil Shah**, a Shia ruler.
- Patron of Persian art and Indo-Islamic architecture.
- Famous monument: **Gol Gumbaz** (largest dome in India).
- Annexed by **Aurangzeb** in 1686.

2. Golkonda (1518-1687)

- Founded by **Qutb Shahi dynasty**.
- Capital: Hyderabad.
- Known for **diamond trade** (Koh-i-Noor, Hope diamond).
- Architecture: **Charminar, Qutb Shahi tombs**.
- Conquered by Aurangzeb in 1687.



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3. Ahmadnagar (1490-1636)

- Founded by **Malik Ahmad Nizam Shah I**.
- Famous ruler: **Chand Bibi**, defended against Mughals.
- Merged into Mughal Empire in 1636 under Shah Jahan.

4. Berar (1490-1574)

- Ruled by **Imad Shahi dynasty**.
- Shortest-lived of the five.
- Annexed by Ahmadnagar and later by the Mughals.

5. Bidar (1528-1619)

- Ruled by **Barid Shahi dynasty**.
- Former Bahmani capital.
- Later annexed by Bijapur.

Common Features:

- Patronage of Persian and local art.
 - Rivalries among them (but briefly united against Vijayanagara at **Talikota**).
 - All eventually absorbed into the **Mughal Empire** or **Asaf Jahi rule (Hyderabad Nizam)**.
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EASTERN GANGAS (5th century - 15th century CE)

Geography:

- Ruled **Kalinga (modern-day Odisha)**.
- Capital: **Kalinganagara (Mukhalingam)** and later **Cuttack**.

Notable Kings:

- **Anantavarman Chodaganga** (11th century): Constructed **Jagannath Temple at Puri**.
- Combined **Hindu Shaivite** and **Vaishnavite** traditions.

Achievements:

- Strong naval power; traded with Southeast Asia.
- Art & architecture (Kalinga style).

Decline:

- Power declined by 15th century due to pressure from Gajapatis and Muslim rulers of Bengal.

SURYAVAMSHI GAJAPATIS (15th-16th



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centuries)

Founding:

- Founded by **Kapilendra Deva** after decline of Eastern Gangas (~1435).
- Claimed descent from **Surya (Sun)** dynasty.

Expansion:

- At peak, controlled **Odisha, Andhra coast, parts of Bengal and Tamil Nadu**.
- Capital: **Cuttack**.

Notable Ruler:

- **Kapilendra Deva** and his son **Purushottama Deva**.
- Faced conflict with **Vijayanagara and Bahmani Sultanate**.

Decline:

- Declined in early 16th century.
- Subdued by **Krishnadeva Raya** of Vijayanagara and later the **Qutb Shahis of Golkonda**.

Summary Points for Revision:

- **Vijayanagara**: Hindu bulwark in South; rich in culture and architecture.
- **Bahmani**: First Deccan Islamic kingdom; led to 5 Deccan Sultanates.



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- **Deccan Sultanates:** Bijapur & Golkonda were strongest; all absorbed by Mughals.
 - **Eastern Gangas:** Temple builders; precursor to Gajapatis.
 - **Gajapatis:** Regional Hindu power in Odisha; rivals of Vijayanagara and Bahmanis.
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