

MODULE-2
DELHI SULTANATE, VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE & BHAMINI
KINGDOM
TOPIC-BAHMANI KINGDOM

PRIYANKA.E.K
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
LITTLE FLOWER COLLEGE, GURUVAYOOR

- Bahmani kingdom had come in to existence in 1347
- Founder **Alauddin Hasan**, an Afghan adventurer
- He had risen in the service of a Brahman, named Gangu, & is therefore known as **Hasan Gangu**
- After coronation he assumed the title **Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah**
- Conflict b/w Vijayanagara rulers & the Bahmani sultans clashed in 3 separate & distinct areas- Tungabadra doab, in the Krishna-Godavari delta, in the Marathwada region

- Most remarkable ruler in this period was **Firuz Shah Bahmani-1397-1422**
- Well acquainted with religious sciences- fond of natural sciences like botany, geometry, logic etc
- He was a good calligraphist & a poet
- To Ferishta, he was well versed in Persian, Arabic & Turkish, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi
- He determined to make Deccan the cultural centre of India
- Decline of Delhi sultanat helped him for many learned men from Delhi migrated to Deccan
- Also encouraged learned men from Iran & Iraq

- Most remarkable step taken by Firuz Shah Bahmani was the induction of Hindus in the administration of large scale
- Deccani brahmins became dominant in administration, particularly revenue administration
- Encouraged astronomy & built an observatory near Daulatabad
- Paid much attention to the principal ports Chaul & Dabhol (Maharashtra) which attracted ships from Persian Gulf & Red sea
- He started the Bahmani expansion towards Berar by defeating the Narsing Rai of Kherla

- 1419- Bahmani kingdom received a set back when Firuz Shah was defeated by Deva Raya I
- It weakened the position of Firuz
- He was compelled to abdicate his throne in favour of his brother **Ahmad Shah I**
- Ahmad Shah continued the struggle for domination of the eastern seaboard of south India
- In 2 battles Bahmani sultan had been defeated, the ruler of warrangal had sided with Vijayanagara
- In order to wreak vengeance, he invaded Warrangal, defeated & killed the ruler & annexed most of his territories

- In order to consolidate rule over the newly acquired territories, he shifted the capital from **Gulbarga to Bidar**
- Then he turned his attention towards Malwa, Gondwana & Konkan
- The loss of Warrangal to Bahmani kingdom changed the balance of power in south India
- Bahmani kingdom gradually expanded & reached its height of power & territorial limits during the prime ministership of Mahmud Gawan
- Early life of Mahmud Gawan is obscure

- Iranian by birth & was at first a trader
- introduced to Sultan & became a favourite & was granted a title of 'Malik-ut-Tujjar
- Became prime minister or Peshwa
- He extended Bahmani kingdom by making further annexations in the east
- a deep raid in Vijayanagara territories up to Kanchi demonstrated the strength of Bahmani army
- His major military contribution was the over running of the western coastal areas including Dabhol & Goa

- Loss of these ports was a heavy blow to Vijayanagara
- Control of Goa & Dabhol led further expansion of Bahmani overseas trade with Iran, Iraq etc
- Internal trade & manufacture also grew
- Gawan tried to settle the northern frontiers of the kingdom
- Since the time of Ahmad Shah I, the kingdom of Malwa ruled by the Khalji rulers had been contending for the mastery of Godwana, Berar & Konkan
- In this struggle, the Bahmani sultans, had sought the help of the rulers of Gujarat
- After conflict, it had been agreed that Kherla in Gondwana would go to Malwa & Berar to Bahmani sultan

- However the rulers of Malwa were always on the lookout for seizing Berar
- Gawan waged series of battles against Mahmud Khalji of Malwa over Berar
- Gawan carried out many internal reforms also
- Divided kingdom into 8 provinces or tarafs
- Each taraf was governed by tarafdar
- Salary could be paid in cash or by assigning jagir
- In every province, a tract of land, khalisa was set apart for the expenses of the sultan

- One of the most difficult problems which faced the Bahmani kingdom was strife among the nobles.
- The nobles were divided into the long established the Deccanics and the newcomers, who were foreigners(afaqis/gharibs).
- As a new comer, Mahmud Gawan was put hard to win the confidence of Deccanics.
- Unfortunately, the hostile party carried to the Sultan Muhammad Shah many tales against Gawan.

- The result was that the innocent Gawan was executed in 1482.
- The party strife now even more intense and the governors became independent.
- Soon the Bahmani kingdom was divided into five principalities: **Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berer, Golkonda and Bidar.**
- Of these the kingdoms of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golkonda played a leading role in the Deccan politics till their absorption into the Mughal empire in 17th c