

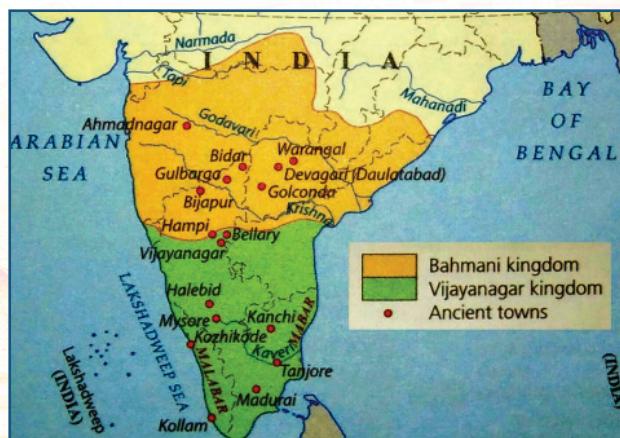
The Bahmani Kingdom

A Historical Overview

The Bahmani Kingdom, established in 1347 AD by Alauddin Bahman Shah, emerged as a dominant force in southern India, blending Persian, Indian, and Deccan influences. The kingdom fostered a rich cultural and artistic environment, making significant contributions to architecture, literature, and administration.

Founder of the Bahmani Kingdom

- ◆ The kingdom was founded by **Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (Hasan Gangu)** in 1347 AD.
- ◆ Originally a servant in the **Delhi Sultanate**, he declared independence from **Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq**.
- ◆ Established **Gulbarga** (present-day Kalaburagi, Karnataka) as the capital.
- ◆ His rule laid the foundation for a fusion of **Persian and Deccan cultures**, influencing art, administration, and architecture.



Expansion under Notable Rulers

Muhammad Shah I (1358-1375 AD)

- ◆ Son of **Hasan Gangu**, Muhammad Shah I waged wars against **Vijayanagara and Warangal**, emerging victorious.
- ◆ He defeated **Kapaya Nayaks of Warangal and Vijayanagar ruler Bukka-I**.



Muhammad Shah II (1378-1397 AD)

- ◆ Ascended the throne in **1378 AD**.
- ◆ Known for his **peaceful policies and diplomatic relations** with neighbouring states.
- ◆ Patronized education and healthcare by building **mosques, madrasas, and hospitals**.



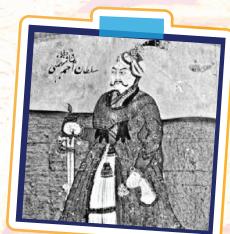
Firoz Shah Bahmani (1397-1422 AD)

- ◆ A patron of **arts and sciences**, particularly religious and natural sciences.
- ◆ Fluent in **Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Telugu, Kannada, and Marathi**.
- ◆ Encouraged the study of **astronomy** and built an **observatory near Daulatabad**.
- ◆ Integrated **Hindus into administration** on a large scale.
- ◆ Expanded the empire by **annexing Berar** after defeating **Gond Raja Narsing Rai of Kherla**.
- ◆ Won **two battles against Vijayanagara** but lost in **1420 AD**, leading to his decline.



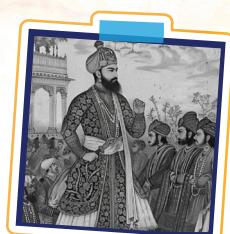
Ahmad Shah I (1422-1436 AD)

- ◆ Succeeded Firoz Shah Bahmani.
- ◆ Known as **Wali (the Saint)** due to his association with **Sufi saint Gesu Daraz**.
- ◆ Avenged Firoz Shah's defeat by attacking **Warangal**, annexing most of its territories.
- ◆ Shifted the capital from **Gulbarga to Bidar** to consolidate control.
- ◆ Known for **his harsh treatment of Hindus**.



Muhammad Shah III (1463-1482 AD)

- ◆ Became Sultan in **1463 AD** at the age of **nine**.
- ◆ **Mahmud Gawan** became his regent and led the administration.
- ◆ Expanded the Bahmani kingdom by defeating rulers of **Konkan, Orissa, Sangameshwar, and Vijayanagara**.



Mahmud Gawan (1463-1482 AD)

- ◆ Prime Minister of Muhammad Shah III and de facto ruler of the Bahmani Kingdom.
- ◆ Originally an **Iranian trader**, he rose to prominence and was given the title **Malik-ul-Tujjar**.
- ◆ Extended the Bahmani Kingdom by annexing territories in the **east and defeating the ruler of Orissa**.
- ◆ Invaded **Vijayanagara territories up to Kanchi** and captured **Dabhol and Goa**, expanding **overseas trade with Iran and Iraq**.
- ◆ Established **several madrasas for Islamic learning** in Bidar.
- ◆ His enemies at court **falsely accused him of treason**, leading to his execution in **1482 AD**.
- ◆ His death marked the beginning of the **decline of the Bahmani Kingdom**.



Decline and Formation of Deccan Sultanates

- ◆ After Mahmud Gawan's execution, weak rulers led to internal strife and fragmentation.
- ◆ By 1526 AD, the Bahmani Kingdom disintegrated **into five independent Deccan Sultanates**:



Sultanate	Dynasty	Founder & Year	Key Rulers	Notable Achievements	End of Rule
Bijapur Sultanate (1489-1686 AD)	Adil Shahi Dynasty	Yusuf Adil Shah (1489 AD)	Ibrahim Adil Shah I (1534-1558 AD): Replaced Persian with Hindvi (Dakhini Urdu) as the official language. Ibrahim Adil Shah II (1580-1627 AD): Known as Jagadguru for his religious tolerance and devotion to the arts; wrote "Kitab-e-Navras", blending Persian, Hindavi, and Sanskrit musical influences.	One of the most powerful Deccan Sultanates . - "Kitab-e-Navras" dedicated to Goddess Saraswati , promoting Hindu-Muslim unity. Flourished culturally and politically.	Annexed by Aurangzeb in 1686 AD.
Ahmednagar Sultanate (1490-1636 AD)	Nizam Shahi Dynasty	Ahmad Nizam Shah I (1490 AD)	Chand Bibi (1550-1599 AD): Defended Ahmednagar against Akbar's Mughal forces. Murtaza Nizam Shah I (1565-1588 AD): Annexed Berar in 1572 AD.	Founded Ahmednagar as the capital. Major rival of the Mughals , also fought Bijapur and Golconda.	Conquered by Shah Jahan in 1636 AD.
Golconda Sultanate (1518-1687 AD)	Qutb Shahi Dynasty	Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk (1518 AD)	Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah (1580-1612 AD): Founded Hyderabad in 1591 AD. Madanna and Akkanna (Hindu Prime Ministers): Influential administrators.	Major diamond trade hub (Golconda mines produced Koh-i-Noor, Hope Diamond, and Regent Diamond). Flourished under Hindu Prime Minister Madanna .	Annexed by Aurangzeb in 1687 AD.
Berar Sultanate (1490-1572 AD)	Imad Shahi Dynasty	Fathullah Imad-ul-Mulk (1490 AD)	Tughlaq Shah (Last ruler). Annexed by Ahmednagar in 1572 AD.	Shortest-lived Deccan Sultanate.	Merged with Ahmednagar in 1572 AD.
Bidar Sultanate (1492-1657 AD)	Barid Shahi Dynasty	Qasim Barid I (1492 AD)	Ali Barid Shah (1518 AD): Officially established the Barid Shahi dynasty.	Smallest and least powerful of the Deccan Sultanates.	Annexed by Bijapur , later taken by Aurangzeb in 1657 AD.

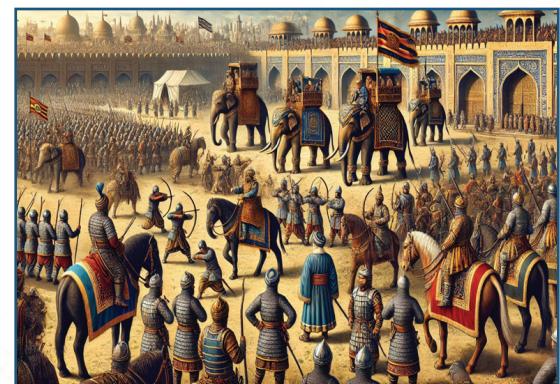
Polity and Administration

- ◆ The kingdom was divided into **eight provinces (tarafs)**, each governed by a Tarafdar.
- ◆ **Revenue System:** Salaries were paid in cash or assigned as **jagirs**.
- ◆ **Khalisa Lands:** A portion of land was reserved for the Sultan's personal expenses.

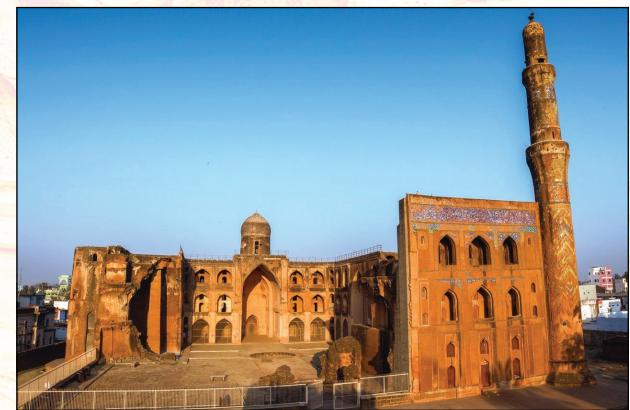
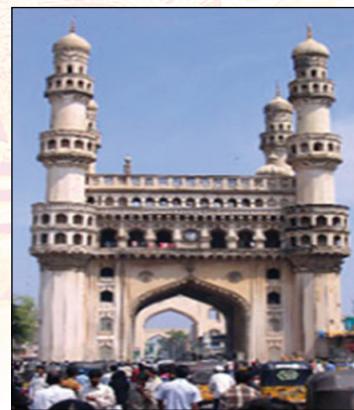
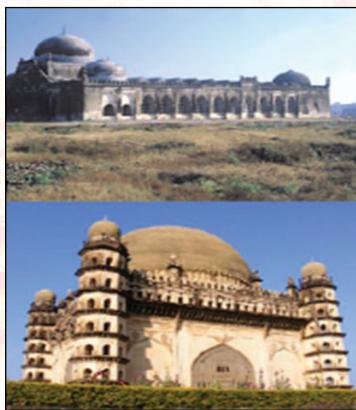


Military Organization

- ◆ Depended on a strong military led by amirs.
- ◆ Two major factions in the nobility:
 - 1. Deccanis** – Long-established Muslim elites of the region.
 - 2. Afaqis (Pardesis)** – Newcomers from Central Asia, Iran, and Iraq.
- ◆ Bahmanis were among the early users of **gunpowder in warfare**.



Art & Architecture of the Bahmani & Deccan Sultanates



The Bahmani and Deccan Sultanates developed a distinct **Indo-Islamic architectural style**, influenced by **Persian and regional Deccan elements**. Their monuments featured:

- ◆ **Tall minarets, massive domes, strong arches, and spacious Haziras.**
- ◆ A **crescent moon motif** atop many structures.

Notable Architectural Achievements

Monument	Country	Observations
Gol Gumbaz	Bijapur	Mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah (1656 AD) with Asia's largest dome (53.4m high) and whispering gallery .
Charminar	Hyderabad	Built by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah ; a landmark of Deccan architecture.
Golconda Fort	Hyderabad	Built by Qutb Shahis , known for advanced acoustic engineering .
Jama Masjid	Gulbarga	A grand mosque with unique domes and minarets .
Madarsa of Mahmud Gawan	Bidar	A three-storeyed institution, accommodating 1,000 students, attracting scholars from Iran and Iraq.
Ibrahim Roza	Bijapur	A tomb with intricate Persian-style architecture , said to inspire the Taj Mahal .
Sola Khamba Mosque	Bidar	A 16-column mosque showcasing Persian architectural influence .

Literature & Paintings of the Bahmani & Deccan Sultanates

Literature:

- ♦ **Languages Used:** Persian, Arabic, and Dakhni Urdu.

Notable Works:

- **Futuh-us-Salatin (Shahnama of medieval India)** Futuh-us-Salatin – A 14th-century Persian **poetic history of the Muslim conquest of India by Isami**, patronized by **Ala-ud-Din Bahman Shah**.
- **Mohammad Gawan**, a Bahmani vizier, wrote **Riyaz-ul-Insha** and **Manazir-ul-Insha** in Persian.
- ♦ **Rise of Dakhni Urdu with Sufi influences** (**Gesu Daraz**, a Sufi saint of **Gulbarga**, wrote in **Dakhini Urdu**), later shaping Urdu literature.



Deccan School of Painting

- ♦ **Flourished in:** Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Hyderabad.
- ♦ **Key Features:** Rich colors (gold, lapis lazuli), elongated figures, **Persian-style backgrounds**, Indo-Persian & Vijayanagara influences, dreamlike compositions, **dramatic lighting, intricate floral motifs**.



Notable Paintings:



- ♦ **"Sultan Ibrahim Adil Shah II Enthroned" (Bijapur, c. 1590s)** – Divine and musical symbolism.



- ♦ **"Lady with a Myna Bird" (Golconda, c. 1605-1610)** – Persian influence, richly dressed woman with a myna.

- ◆ "Ragini Series" (Ahmednagar, late 16th century) – Musical themes with expressive female figures.
- ◆ "Portrait of Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah" (Golconda, 17th century) – Royal portrait with an elaborate background.
- ◆ "Hyderabad Court Scenes" (Qutb Shahi, late 17th century) – Fusion of Persian, Mughal, and Deccani styles.

Conclusion

The Bahmani Kingdom's legacy endures through its **architectural marvels, cultural advancements, and administrative innovations**. Despite its fragmentation, it shaped Deccan's **art, governance, and religious tolerance**. However, **constant wars, internal strife, and Mughal expansion** led to its decline, culminating in **Aurangzeb's conquest by 1687 AD**. Its **monuments and literary contributions** remain a testament to its rich heritage.



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