

History,  
Early  
period

In prehistoric times the great Dravidian race occupied the southern and eastern portions of the State together with the rest of Southern India. The Telugu-speaking division of this race constitutes the most numerous section even to the present day. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata contain traditions of Dakshinapatha (Deccan), which forms the central portion of the State. The visit of Rama to Kishkindha, indentified with the modern Vijayanagar and Anegundi, is familiar to all students of ancient literature.

Ashoka

It is uncertain when the invasion of the Deccan by the Aryans occurred, but the dominions of the Buddhist king Asoka(272-231 B.C) covered the whole of Berar and a considerable portion of the north-western and eastern tracts of the State. Among the list of conquered nations in Asoka's inscriptions occurs the name of the Pitenikas, who inhabited the city and country of Paithan, on the upper Godavari in Aurangabad District.

Andhras

The Andhras were the next kings who ruled the Deccan. They are mentioned in Asoka's inscriptions, but their rise to power dates from about 220 B.C. Gradually extending their sway from the Kistna delta, they soon possessed an empire reaching to Nasik; and towards the close of the first century of the Christian era were contending with the Sakas, Pallavas, and Yavanas of Malwa, Gujarat, and Kathiawar. Pulumayi II, who succeeded about A.D. 138, and married a daughter of Rudradaman the Western Satrap, is mentioned by Ptolemy. he was defeated by his father-in-law and thus lost the outlying portion of his dominions. About a hundred years later the dynasty came to an end, but little is known of the reasons for its collapse. It is possible that the Pallavas who ruled south of the Kistna then extended their power into Hyderabad.

**Chalukyas**

The next dynasty of importance is that of the Chalukyas, who rose to power in Bijapur District about 550, and founded a kingdom spreading east and west across the Peninsula with their capital at Kalyani. Pulikesin II (608-42) ruled practically the whole of India south of the Narbada, and even came into contact with Harshavardhana of Kanauj. Throughout their period of supremacy, however, the Chalukyas were at war with the Pallavas, and their fortunes and dominions varied, though they continued to rule a large portion of Southern India to the middle of the eighth century, when they were displaced by the Rashtrakutas of Malkhed in Gulbarga District. About 973, the Chalukyan dynasty was restored and for nearly 200 years maintained its position, in spite of fierce struggles with the Cholas and Hoysalas of Dorasamudra. The Chalukya power fell about 1189 to the Hoysalas and Yadavas, the latter of whom established themselves at Deogiri (Daulatabad). The Yadavas were the last great Hindu rulers of the Deccan, for the Vijayanagar kingdom, which was founded half a century after the advent of the Muhammadans, never acquired much sway in the Deccan proper.

**Muhammadian conquest**

Ala-ud-din Khilji led the first Muhammadian expedition into the Deccan, in 1294, against the Yadva ruler of Deogiri and coerced him into submission. In 1296 he assassinated his own uncle and seized the throne, and sent an expedition to Deogiri. His first expedition was dispatched in 1303 against the Kakatiyas of Warangal, who had been established there since the middle of the twelfth century. This having failed, he sent a second under Malik Kafur in 1309, which resulted in the submission of the Raja and a promise to pay tribute. Ulugh Khan, who afterwards ruled at Delhi as Muhammad bin Tughlak, conducted a later

campaign against Warangal and finally broke the Kakatiya power in 1321, though not without a prolonged struggle. In 1310 Malik Kafur was sent against the Hoysala Raja of Dorasamudra (Halebid in Mysore), who was made a prisoner and lost his capital, the spoils consisting of 600 elephants, 96,000 maunds of gold, quantities of jewels and pearls, and 20,000 horses. In 1318 Harpal, the Deogiri ruler, rebelled, but was taken prisoner and executed, and with his death ended the Yadava dynasty, after a rule of about 130 years. When Muhammad bin Tughlak ascended the throne of Delhi in 1325, the Muhammadans were masters of the Deccan from north to south, the chief Rajas of Telingana acknowledging their sway and paying tribute. He changed the name of Deogiri to Daulatabad and made it his capital. A few years later the imperial governors of the Deccan revolted. Their rebellion resulted in the alienation of the Deccan provinces and the establishment of the Bahmani dynasty.

#### Bahamani kings

Zafar Khan, who styled himself, according to some historians, Ala-ud-din Hasan Shah Gangu Bahmani, or, according to a contemporary inscription, Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah, founded this line; and having taken possession of the Deccan Provinces, including Bidar and Gulbarga, he made the latter place his capital and commenced to reign in 1347. The Bahmani kingdom extended from Berar in the north to the left bank of the Tungabhadra in the south, and from Dabal on the west coast to the Telingana tract in the east. Muhammad Shah, who succeeded his father Ala-ud-din in 1358, waged wars with Vijayanagar (1366) and Warangal (1371) and acquired great booty from both. It is said that 500,000 Hindus were slain during his reign. He died in 1375 and was followed by his son, Mujahid Shah, whose uncle, Daud Shah, three years later, murdered and

succeeded him, but was assassinated in the same year (1378). Muhammad<sup>1</sup>, the grandson of Hasan Gangu, was proclaimed king and ruled peacefully to the time of his death in 1397. His son, Ghiyas-ud-din, reigned only two months when he was blinded and deposed by Lalchin, a discontented slave, who proclaimed the king's brother, Shams-ud-din. Firoz Khan and Ahmad Khan, the grandsons of Bahman Shah, who had been married to Ghiyas-ud-din's two sisters, rose against Shams-ud-din, and, forcing their way into the *darbar*, made the king and Lalchin prisoners. Firoz was proclaimed king in 1397; Shamas-ud-din was blinded after a reign of five months, and Lalchin was put to death. Firoz marched against the Vijayanagar Raja, who had invaded the Raichur Doad in 1398 and defeated him, bringing back much plunder. In 1404 the Raja of Vijayanagar advanced to Mudgal and war broke out between the two kingdoms; the Raja was defeated and sued for peace, which was granted on the condition that he gave his daughter in marriage to the king, besides presenting a large sum of money, and pearls and elephants, and ceding the fort of Bankapur as the marriage portion of the princess. In 1417 the king invested the fortress of Pangal, and the Rajas of Vijayanagar and Warangal and other chiefs advanced to its relief at the head of a large force. Although Firoz's army had been decimated by a pestilence which broke out among his troops, the king gave battle, but suffered a severe defeat. The Musalmans were massacred, and Firoz was pursued into his own country, which was laid waste with fire and sword. These misfortunes preyed on his mind and he fell into a lingering disorder, which

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1- Wrongly styled Mahmud by Firishta, whose error has been unfortunately followed by many historians

affected both his spirits and intellect, so that he finally abdicated in 1422 in favour of his brother, Ahmad Shah. Ahmad Shah marched to the banks of the Tungabhadra and defeated the Raja of Vijayanagar; peace was, however, concluded on the latter agreeing to pay arrears of tribute. In 1422 Ahmad Shah sacked Warangal and obtained much plunder. He founded the city of Bidar in 1430, and died there in 1435. In 1443 there was again war between the Vijayanagar Raja and the Bahmani king Ala-id-din II, in which the latter was defeated. Ala-ud-din was succeeded in 1458 by his son

Humayun, 'the cruel.' Soon after his accession, he marched to Nalgonda to quell a rebellion which had broken out in his Telingana provinces. Hearing of an insurrection at Bidar, he left his minister to carry on the campaign and returned to Bidar, and, after putting to death thousands of innocent persons of both sexes, his cruelties ended only with his own death after a reign of three and a half years. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Nizam Shah, who died two years afterwards (1463), when his younger brother, Muhammad Shah III, was crowned. The reign of this prince is notorious for the execution of the great minister, Mahmud Gawan. The king died in 1482, and was succeeded by his son, Mahmud Shah, who gave himself up to pleasure and dissipation; and the governors of provinces, seeing this state of affairs, acted independently, so that only Telingana and adjacent districts of Bidar remained in the king's possession.

Kasim Barid now became minister, and induced the king to make war against Yusuf Adil Khan, who had taken Bijapur and declared his independence. The Bahmani forces were defeated and the king returned to Bidar. In 1504 Kasim Barid died, and

his son, Amir Barid, becoming minister had the king completely in his power. About this time (1510) Yusuf Adil Khan died, and Amir Barid attempted to reduce Bijapur. After a reign of constant vicissitude and trouble, Mahmud Shah died in 1518. Though he was succeeded by his son, Ahmad Shah, Amir Barid remained all-powerful. Ahmad Shah died after a reign of two years, and his son, Ala-uddin, was assassinated by Amir Barid. Two other kings, Wali-ulflh Shah and Kalim-ullah Shah, followed one another in the course of five years, the latter dying in exile at Ahmadnagar in 1527; and with him ended the great Bahmani dynasty, which had reigned first at Gulbarga and then at Bidar for more than 180 years.

**The Barid Shahi Kingdom**

Amir Barid assumed sole charge of the affairs of the kingdom; and after many vicissitudes and constant wars with the rulers of Bijapur and Berar, he died at Daulatabad (1538), and was succeeded by his son, Ali Barid, who was the first to assume the title of Shah. In 1565 he, with the other Deccan kings, marched against the Vijayanagr Raja, and the memorable battle of Talikaota was fought, which sealed the fate of the kingdom of Vijanagar. Ali Barid died in 1582, and was succeeded by three other kings, the last of whom, Ali Barid II was expelled by a distant relation. Amir, who continued to rule for some time after 1609, but it is not known exactly when and how his reign ended.

**The Kutb Shahi Kingdom**

Kutb-ul-mulk, Sultan Kuli, a Turk of noble family, who was governor of the Golconda Province under the Bahamanis, took advantage of the distracted state of the kingdom under Mahmud Shan and declared his independence, establishing the Kutb Shahi dynasty, which reigned here from 1512 to 1687. Sultan Kuli waged wars with the Vijayanagar and Kammamett Rajas, and extended his kingdom

in the north to the banks of the Godavari. He defeated the Bijapur forces near Koilkonda, and later on took Medak, Kaulas and other forts from the Barid Shahi king of Bidar. He was assassinated in 1543 at the age of ninety, while kneeling in prayer in the chief mosque at Golconda, at the instigation of his son Jamshid Kuli, after ruling for sixteen years as Governor and Thirty-One as King. He was succeeded by Jamshid Kuli (1543), Subhan Kuli (1550), and Ibrahim Kuli (1550). The last of these allied himself with the Ahmadnagar king against the ruler of Bijapur, who had sought the alliance of Vijayanagar. In 1564 he proposed the alliance against the Vijayanagar kingdom, which led to the battle of Talikota. He died in 1581, and was succeeded by his son Muhammad Kuli. In 1603 Shah Abbas, the king of Persia, sent an ambassador to Hyderabad with valuable presents. Muhammad Kuli was succeeded in 1612 by his nephew and son-in-law Muhammad II, who died about 1635, and was succeeded by his son Abdullah.

**Mughal Invasions** When the Mughals invaded the Deccan, the local rulers formed an alliance against them; but after defeating the invaders, they fell out among themselves, thus enabling the imperial troops gradually to subdue the country. Shah Jahan, after rebelling against his father, fled from Burhanpur and was welcomed at Golconda by Abdullah Kutba Shah. In 1635 Shan Jahan, who had then become emperor, sent a *farman* to Golconda which was well received; the *Khutba* was read in the name of the emperor in the chief mosque, and coins were also struck in his name. Mir Jumla, the king's minister, appealed to Aurangzeb for help against his master in 1655, and this afforded a pretext for Aurangzeb to invade the territory. Hyderabad was plundered, but Abdullah sued for peace and paid arrears of tribute.

He died in 1674, and was succeeded by his nephew Abul Hassan, also called Tana Shah. After the fall of Bijapur in 1686. Aurangzeb turned his attention to Golconda, which was taken in the following year. Tana Shah was made prisoner and sent to Bidar, and thence to Daulatabad, where he died in 1704, and with him ended the line of the Kutb Shahi Kings.

### The Nizams

The house of the present Nizams was founded by Asaf Jah, a distinguished general of Aurangzeb, of Turkoman descent. After long service under the Delhi emperor, distinguished alike in war and political sagacity, he was appointed Subahdar or viceroy of the Deccan in 1713 with the title of Nizam-ul-mulk, which has since become the hereditary title of the family. The Mughal empire at this period was on the verge of decline, owing to internal dissension and attacks from without. Amid the general confusion, Asaf Jah had little difficulty in asserting his independence against the degenerate and weak occupants of the throne of Delhi, but he had to repel the inroads of the Marathas who were harassing the west of his newly acquired territory. His independence was the cause of much jealousy at Delhi, and the court party secretly instructed Mubariz Khan, the governor of Khandesh, to oppose him by force of arms. A battle was fought at Shakarkhelda (Fathkhelda) in the Buldana District of Berar in 1724, when Mubariz Khan was totally defeated and lost his life. This battle established the independence of Asaf Jah, who annexed Berar, and fixed his residence at Hyderabad. At the time of his death in 1748 he was fairly established as independent sovereign of a kingdom co-extensive with the present State, including the province of Berar.

**French and English** After his death, Nasir Jang, his second son, and Mazaffar Jang, his grandson by one of his daughters,



strove for the succession. At this time the English and the French were contending for supremacy in the East, and each of the claimants secured the support of one of these powers; Nasir Jang's cause was espoused by the English, while Muzaffar Jang, was supported by the French. The latter, however, fell a prisoner to his uncle, but, on the assassination of Nasir Jang, Muzaffar Jang was proclaimed the sovereign. Dupleix, the French governor, became the controller of the Nizam's authority. Muzaffar Jang was killed by some Pathan chiefs, and the French then selected Salabat Jang, a brother of Nasir Jang, as ruler. Ghazi-ud-din, the eldest son of Asaf Jah, who, it was alleged, had relinquished his claim at first, now appeared as a claimant, supported by the Marathas, but his sudden death put a stop to further struggles. The English and the French were now contesting power and influence in the Deccan; but the victories of Clive in the Carnatic caused the latter to turn their attention to their own possessions which were threatened, and to leave Salabat Jang to shift for himself. Nizam Ali Khan, the fourth son of Asaf Jah, at this juncture obtained the support of the English on the promise of dismissing the French from his service. Salabat Jang was dethroned in 1761, and Nizam Ali Khan was proclaimed ruler.

#### Cession of the Northern Circars

In 1766 the Northern Circars were ceded to the British, on condition that the Nizam was to be furnished with a subsidiary force in time of war and should receive 6 lakhs of rupees annually when no troops were required, the Nizam on his part promising to assist the British with his troops. This was followed by the treaty of 1768, by which the East India Company and the Nawab of the Carnatic engaged to assist the Nizam with troops whenever required by him, on payment. In 1790 war broke out between Tipu Sultan and the British, and a treaty of

## CEDED DISTRICTS

offensive and defensive alliance was concluded between the Nizam, the Maraths and the British. Tipu, however, concluded peace, and had to relinquish half of his dominions, which was divided among the allies. In 1798 a treaty was concluded between the Nizam and the British Government, by which a subsidiary force of 6,000 sepoys and a proportionate number of guns was assigned to the Nizam's service, who on his part agreed to pay a subsidy of 24 lakhs, for the support of the force. On the fall of Seringapatam and the death of Tipu Sultan, the Nizam participated largely under the Treaty of Mysore (1799) in the division of territory, and his share was increased because of the Peshwa's withdrawal from that treaty.

### Ceded Districts

In 1800 a fresh treaty was concluded between the Nizam and the British, by which the subsidiary troops were augmented by two battalions of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, for the payment of which the Nizam ceded all the territories which had accrued to him under the treaties of 1792 and 1799, known as the Ceded Districts of Madras. The Nizam on his part agreed to employ all this force (except two battalions reserved to guard his person), together with 6,000 foot and 9,000 horse of his own troops, against the enemy in time of war.

### Maratha War

About 1803 Nizam Ali Khan's health was in a precarious condition, and Sindhia and Holkar, disappointed by the reinforcement, by the British, of Baji Rao, the last of the Peshwas, prepared to resort to arms. To meet the preparations made by the Marathas, the subsidiary force, consisting of 6,000 infantry and two regiments of cavalry, accompanied by 15,000 of the Nizam's troops, took up a position at Parenda on the western frontier of the Nizam's Dominions. General Wellesley was ordered to co-operate with this force in aid of the

Peshwa, with 8,000 infantry and 1,700 cavalry. But before the arrival of General Wellesley at Poona, Holkar had left, and on his way to Malwa had plundered some of the Nizam's villages, and levied a contribution on Aurangabad. On hearing of this, Colonel Stevenson advanced towards the Godavari with the whole force under him, and was joined by General Wellesley near Jalna. The next day (September 23) the memorable battle of Assaye was fought by General Wellesley, followed shortly afterwards by the battle of Argaon, which completely crushed the Marathas, and secured the Nizam's territories.

#### Sikandar Jah

Nizam Ali Khandied in 1803, and was succeeded by his son, Sikandar Jah. In 1822 a treaty was concluded between the British and the Nizam, by which the latter was released from the obligation of paying the *chauth* to which the British had succeeded after the overthrow of the Peshwa in 1818.

#### Nasir - ud - dauala

On the death of Sikandar Jah in 1829, his son Nasir-ud-daula succeeded. In 1839 a Wahhabi conspiracy was discovered at Hyderabad, as in other parts of India. An inquiry showed that Mubariz-ud-daula and others were implicated in organizing the movement against the British Government and the Nizam. Mubariz-ud-daula was imprisoned at Golconda; where he subsequently died. Raja Chandu Lal, who had succeeded Munir -ul-mulk as minister, resigned in 1843 and Siraj-ul-mulk, the grandson of Mir Alam, succeeded him. In 1847 a serious riot took place between the Shias and the Sunnis, in which about fifty persons lost their lives. Siraj-ul-mulk, who had been removed in the same year, was reinstated as minister in 1851. As the pay of the Contingent troops had fallen into arrears, a fresh treaty was concluded in 1853 and districts yielding a gross revenue of 50 lakhs a year were assigned to

the British. The Districts thus ceded consisted, besides Berar, of Osmanabad (Naldrug) and the Raichur Doab. By this treaty the British agreed to Maintain an auxiliary force of 5,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry and four field batteries; and it was stipulated that after paying the Contingent and certain other charges and interest on the Company's debt, the surplus was to be made over to the Nizam. The Nizam, while retaining the full use of the subsidiary force and Contingent, was released from the unlimited obligation of service in time of war; and the Contingent ceased to be part of the Nizam's army, and became an auxiliary force kept by the British Government for the Nizam's use. A week after the conclusion of this treaty Siraj-ul-mulk died and Nawab Salar Jang, his nephew, was appointed minister.

#### Afzal-ud-daul

Nasir-ud-daula died in May, 1857 and was succeeded by his son, Afzal-ud-daula. This was a critical period for Hyderabad, as the Mutiny which convulsed Northern India affected this State also, It was feared that, if Hyderabad joined the revolt, the whole of Southern India as well as Bombay would rebel. But though His Highness was urged by some of his reckless advisers to raise the standard of revolt, he listened to the good counsels of his faithful minister, Salar Jang and cast in his lot with the British with unshaken loyalty. After the storm of the Mutiny had subsided, the British Government, in recognition of the services rendered by the Nizam, modified the treaty of 1853. By a treaty made in 1860 Osmanabad (Naldrug) and the Raichur Doab, yielding a revenue of 21 lakhs, were restored and a debt of 50 lakhs was cancelled, while certain tracts on the left bank of the Godavari were ceded and the Assigned Districts of Berar, yielding a revenue of 32 lakhs, were taken in trust by the British for the

purposes specified in the treaty of 1853. Presents to the value of £ 10,000 were bestowed upon. His Highness, and his minister and other noble men were also rewarded. Afzal-ud-daula was made a G.C.S.I in 1861.

### Mir Mahbab Ali Khan

The present Nizam, Mir Mahbub Ali Khan Bahadur, succeeded on his father's death in 1869. Being only three years old, a regency was constituted for the administration of the country, with Sir Salar Jang I as regent and Nawab Shams-ul-Umara as co-regent, the Resident being consulted on all important matters concerning the welfare of the State. On the death of the co-regent in 1877, his half-brother Nawab Vikar-ul-Umara was appointed co-administrator; but he also died in 1881, Sir Salar Jang remaining sole administrator and regent till his death in 1883.

### Reforms in administration

Not being fettered in any way, the great minister pursued his reforms with untiring effort. The four Sadr-ul-Mahams or departmental ministers, who had been appointed in 1868, managed the Judicial, Revenue, Police, and Miscellaneous departments under the guidance of the minister, who, besides instructing them in their work, had direct control over the Military, *Mansab*, Finance, Treasuray, Post, Mint, Currency and State Railway departments. Transactions with the British Government, His Highness's education, and the management of the *Sarf-i-khas* domains also received his personal attention. A revenue survey and settlement were taken in hand and completed in the Maratha Districts, civil and criminal courts were established, stamps were introduced, the Postal department was placed on a sound basis, and the Municipal, Public Works, Education, and Medical departments received their due share of attention. Thus almost every department of the British administration was

represented in the State, and worked with creditable efficiency under the guiding spirit of the great minister. In particular, the finances of the State, which had become greatly involved, were much improved.

**Instalment of the present Nizams**

In 1884 His Highness Mir Mahbub Ali Khan, having attained his majority, was installed by Lord Ripon. Sir Salar Jang II was appointed minister, and was followed in 1888 by Sir Asman Jah. In 1892 a code, known as the *Kanuncha-i-mubarak* ('the auspicious code'), was issued for the guidance of the minister, and this was followed by the establishment of a Council composed of all the ministers of the State. In the following year Sir Vikar-ul-Umara became minister, and several changes were effected in various departments of the administration. Maharaja Sir Kishen Prasad Bahadur, the Peshkar, was appointed minister in 1901, and still holds that office.

**Berar**

In November, 1902, the Assigned Districts of Berar were leased in perpetuity to the British Government at an annual rental of 25 lakhs, a most important event in the history of the State.

**Archaeology**

Many objects and places of historical and archaeological interest are found scattered throughout the State. Among the most noteworthy are the caves of ELLORA, AJANTA, AURANGABAD and OSMANABAD (Dharaseo). Of the numerous forts may be mentioned those at GOLCONDA, GULBARGA, WARANGAL, RAICHUR, MUDGAL, PARENDA and NALDRUG. Besides these, Hindu temples of various descriptions are found in every part of the State, some of them of great antiquity, such as the 'Thousand Pillars' temple at HANAMKONDA, and the temples at TULJAPUR and AMBAJOGAL.