

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-I]

Topic: Bahmani Kingdom [NCERT Notes for Medieval History of India for UPSC]

The Bahmani Kingdom (1347-1526 A.D.)

The Bahmani Kingdom was one of the most powerful Muslim kingdoms in India.

Bahmani Kingdom Political History

- Hasan Gangu Bahmani was the founder of the Bahmani Kingdom.
- He was a Turkish officer of Devagiri.
- In 1347 A.D. he established the independent Bahmani kingdom.
- His kingdom stretched from the Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal, included the whole of Deccan up to the river Krishna with its capital at Gulbarga.

Rulers of the Bahmani Kingdom

The details about the different rulers of the Bahmani kingdom are given below:

Muhammad Shah-I (1358-1377.A.D.)

- He was the next ruler of the Bahmani Kingdom.
- He was an able general and administrator.
- He defeated Kapaya Nayaks of Warangal and the Vijayanagar ruler Bukka-I.

Muhammad Shah-II (1378-1397.A.D.)

- In 1378 A.D. **Muhammad Shah-II** ascended the throne.
- He was a peace lover and developed friendly relations with his neighbours.
- He built many mosques, madrasas (a place of learning) and hospitals.

Feroz Shah Bahmani (1397-1422 A.D.)

- He was a great general
- He defeated the Vijayanagar ruler Deva Raya I.

Ahmad Shah (1422-1435 A.D.)

- Ahmad Shah succeeded Feroz Shah Bahmani
- He was an unkind and heartless ruler.
- He conquered the kingdom of Warangal.
- He changed his capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.
- He died in 1435A.D.

Muhammad Shah-III (1463-1482 A.D.)

- In 1463A.D. **Muhammad Shah III** became the Sultan at the age of nine
- Muhammad Gawan became the regent of the infant ruler.
- Under Muhammad Gawan's able leadership the Bahmani kingdom became very powerful.
- Muhammad Gawan defeated the rulers of Konkan, Orissa, Sangameshwar, and Vijayanagar.

Muhammad Gawan

- He was a very wise scholar and an able administrator.
- He improved the administration, systematized finances, encouraged public education, reformed the revenue system, disciplined the army and eliminated corruption.
- In 1481 Muhammad Gawan persecuted by the Deccan Muslims who were jealous of him and sentenced to death by Muhammad Shah.

The Five Muslim Dynasties

- Muhammad Shah-III died in 1482
- His successors were weak and the Bahmani Kingdom disintegrated into five kingdoms namely:
 1. Bijapur
 2. Ahmednagar
 3. Bera
 4. Golconda
 5. Bidar

Administration

- The Sultans followed a Feudal type of administration.
- Tarafs – The kingdom was divided into many provinces called Tarafs
- Tarafdardar or Amir – Governor who controlled the Taraf.

Golgumbaz

- Golgumbaz in Bijapur is called the whispering gallery because when one whispers, the lingering echo of the whisper is heard in the opposite corner.
- This is so because when one whispers in one corner, a lingering echo is heard in the opposite corner.

Contribution to Education

- The Bahmani Sultans gave great attention to education.
- They encouraged Arabic and Persian learning.
- Urdu also flourished during this period

Art and Architecture

Numerous mosques, madrassas and libraries were built.

- The Juma Masjid at Gulbarga The Golconda Fort
- The Golgumbaz at Bijapur
- The Madrasas of Muhammad Gawan

Decline of Bahmani Kingdom

- There was a constant war between the Bahmani and Vijayanagar rulers.
- Inefficient and weak successors after Muhammad Shah III.
- The rivalry between the Bahmani rulers and foreign nobles