



H. K .E. SOCIETY'S

**SMT. CHINNAMMA BASAPPA PATIL ARTS AND
COMMERCE DEGREE COLLEGE CHINCHOLI**



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LECTURE NOTES

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Title of the Course: History of Medieval India (From 1206 to 1526 A.D.)

Unit-1

Chapter No 1.

Sources of medieval Indian history

Introduction:

Sources of medieval Indian history (8th–18th century) comprise a rich blend of literary works—chronicling royal courts and foreign travelogues—and archaeological evidence, including monuments and coins. Key sources include Persian chronicles, regional literature, and extensive inscriptions, offering detailed insights into the socio-economic and political landscape of the Sultanate and Mughal periods. Conclusion

Literary Sources (Persian, Sanskrit, and Regional Languages)

- **Chroniclers & Histories:** *Tarikh-i-Firozshahi* by Ziauddin Barani, *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri* by Minhaj-i-Siraj, and *Futuh-us-Salatin* by Isami provide detailed accounts of the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Biographies/Autobiographies:** *Baburnama* (Babur), *Humayun-nama* (Gulbadan Begum), and *Ain-i-Akbari* (Abul Fazl) are primary sources for the Mughal era.
- **Foreign Travelers' Accounts:** Ibn Battuta's *Rihla* (14th century), Marco Polo, and later European visitors like Bernier and Tavernier provide valuable outsider perspectives on social and economic conditions.
- **Non-Muslim/Regional Texts:** *Rajatarangini* by Kalhana, *Prithviraj Raso* by Chandbardai, *Vikramankadevacharita* by Bilhana, and Jain texts

like *PuratanPrabandh Sangrah* are crucial for early medieval regional histories.

Archaeological Sources

- **Monuments & Architecture:** Forts, palaces, tombs, and mosques like the Qutub Minar, Red Fort, and Taj Mahal illustrate artistic, cultural, and political power.
- **Inscriptions (Epigraphy):** Copper plate grants and stone inscriptions on buildings (e.g., Chola and Sultanate inscriptions) offer data on land grants, administration, and royal titles.
- **Coins (Numismatics):** Coins issued by the Sultans and Mughal emperors help in reconstructing chronological history, economic conditions, and the extent of empires.
- **Paintings & Art Objects:** Mughal and Rajput miniature paintings provide visual details of attire, customs, and court life.

Conclusion:

These diverse sources allow historians to reconstruct the complex administrative, social, and economic life of the period, from the regional kingdoms to the centralized empires.

Chapter No. 2.

Slave Dynasty

Introduction:

The Slave Dynasty (or Mamluk Dynasty), which ruled from 1206–1290, was the first dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate in India. Founded by [Qutb-ud-din Aibak](#), a former slave of Muhammad Ghori, the dynasty included prominent rulers like Iltutmish and Balban. They stabilized Muslim rule in India, established a robust administrative system, and repelled Mongol invasions.

Key Aspects of the Slave Dynasty (1206–1290):

- **Founder:** Qutb ud-Din Aibak, a trusted Turkish soldier, took control of Ghoris Indian territories after his death in 1206.
- **The Term "Mamluk":** Mamluk is an Arabic word for "slave" or "owned," referring to the origin of its rulers who were originally soldiers.
- **Key Rulers:**
 - **Qutb ud-Din Aibak (1206-1210):** Established the dynasty and began the Qutb Minar construction.
 - **Itutmish (1211-1236):** Considered the real consolidator of Turkish power, who organized the administrative, tax, and coin systems (Tanka).
 - **Razia Sultana (1236-1240):** The first and only female ruler of the Delhi Sultanate.
 - **Ghiyas-ud-din Balban (1266-1287):** Strengthened the military and administration, securing the state against internal rebellion and external threats.
- **Key Contributions:**
 - **Administration:** Divided the empire into provinces for better control.
 - **Military:** Developed a highly trained army.
 - **Architecture:** Initiated construction of early Indo-Islamic architecture, such as the Qutb Minar complex.
 - **The Forty:** A trusted group of Turkish slaves known as the *Chalisa* or "Corps of Forty" advised the Sultan, though they later became a source of instability.
- **Conclusion:**

The dynasty was succeeded by the Khalji dynasty after Jalal al-Din Fīruz Khalji staged a coup in 1290.

Qutb ud-Din Aibak (1150–1210)

Introduction:

Qutb ud-Din Aibak (1150–1210) was a Turkic slave-turned-general under Mu'izz ad-Din Muhammad Ghori who founded the Mamluk (Slave) Dynasty and established the Delhi Sultanate in 1206. Ruling from Lahore, he initiated the [Qutb Minar](#) construction and was known as "Lakh Baksh" for his generosity. He died in 1210 from a polo accident

Key Details and Biography

- **Early Life & Tribe:** Born in Turkestan (present-day Aybak, Afghanistan), Aibak belonged to a Turkic tribe. He was sold into slavery as a child and purchased by a Qazi in Nishapur, Persia, where he received training in archery and horsemanship.
- **Military Career:**

He was later purchased by Muhammad Ghori and rose to become a trusted general, overseeing Ghori's territories in northern India. Following Ghori's death in 1206, Aibak took control of the Indian territories.

- **Reign & Administration:** As the first Sultan of Delhi, he established the [Mamluk Dynasty](#) (or Slave Dynasty). He was noted for his, military prowess, fairness, and generosity, earning the title "Lakh Baksh" ("Giver of Lakhs").
- **Cultural Legacy:** Aibak initiated the construction of the **Qutb Minar** in Delhi and built the [Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque](#) in Delhi and the [Adhai Din Ka Jhopra](#) in Ajmer.
- **Death:** In 1210, Aibak died in Lahore after falling from his horse while playing polo (Chaugan). He was succeeded by Aram Shah
- **Conclusion:**

Aibak was succeeded by [Aram Shah](#), and then by his former slave and son-in-law [Iltutmish](#), who transformed the loosely-held Ghurid territories of India into the powerful Delhi Sultanate. Aibak is known for having commissioned the [Qutb Minar](#) in Delhi, and the [Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra](#) in Ajmer.

Iltutmish (1211–1236)

Introduction:

Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (reigned 1211–1236) was the third ruler of the [Mamluk dynasty](#) and is considered the real consolidator of the Delhi Sultanate. A former slave, he stabilized the kingdom by defeating rivals, protecting it from Mongol threats, establishing administrative systems like the Iqta, introducing currency, and securing recognition from the Abbasid Caliph.

Key Aspects of Iltutmish's Reign:

- **Ascension to Power (1211):** Originally a slave purchased by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish showed immense talent and was appointed governor of Badaun. He defeated Aibak's son, Aram Shah, in 1211 to seize the throne.
- **Consolidation and Conquests:** He established control over Bengal and Bihar, and defeated rivals like Taj al-Din Yildiz and Nasir-ud-din Qabacha. He reconquered areas lost after Aibak's death, including Gwalior, Ranthambore, and regions in the Indus valley, expanding his dominion significantly.
- **Mongol Threat:** He successfully protected the Delhi Sultanate from the threat of Genghis Khan by refusing to shelter the Khwarazmian prince Mingburnu in 1221, thus averting a direct Mongol invasion.
- **Administrative Reforms:**
 - **Iqtadari System:** He divided the empire into 'Iqtas' (land grants) assigned to nobles and officers in exchange for administrative and military services.
 - **Currency:** He introduced the standardized silver *tanka* and copper *jital*, which became the basis for the Delhi Sultanate's monetary system.
 - **Administrative Body:** He formed the "Turkan-i-Chahalgani" (Group of Forty), a group of elite Turkish slaves to advise and support his rule.
- **Cultural and Architectural Contributions:**

- He completed the construction of the Qutb Minar, which was initiated by Aibak.
- He transformed Delhi into a major political and cultural center, constructing mosques and waterworks.
- **Legacy and Succession:** Iltutmish shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi. Recognizing the incompetence of his sons, he appointed his daughter, [Razia Sultana](#), as his successor before his death in 1236.

Key Achievements:

- **True Founder:** Secured Delhi as the capital.
- **Monetary Stability:** Introduced *Tanka* and *Jital*.
- **Administrative Structure:** Implemented the *Iqta* system.
- **Foreign Recognition:** Got recognition from the Caliph.
- **Military Expansion:** Expanded to Bengal, Sindh, and Rajputana.
- **Conclusion:**

Iltutmish is regarded as an efficient administrator and a brave military leader, transforming the Sultanate from a fragile entity into a strong, stable empire.

Razia Sultana (1236–1240)

Introduction:

Razia Sultana (ruled 1236–1240) was the first and only female monarch of the Delhi Sultanate, known as a brave, just, and capable ruler. Daughter of Mamluk Sultan Iltutmish, she took power in 1236, ruling in male attire and leading armies, but was overthrown by a conspiracy of Turkish nobles.

Key Historical Facts About Razia Sultan:

- **Accession and Rule:** Born in 1205, she was appointed heir by her father, Shams-ud-din Iltutmish, who recognized her superiority over her brothers. She broke tradition by refusing to be called "Sultana" (wife of a sultan) and instead ruled as "Sultan".
- **Administration:**

During her reign, she established schools, academies, and public libraries, supporting the arts and science. She was an efficient administrator and a just ruler.

- **Military Leadership:** She is remembered for her direct leadership in battle, abandoning the veil, and leading her troops in traditional male military attire.
- **Rebellion and Death:** Her reliance on non-Turkish officials, particularly the Abyssinian slave Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut, angered the Turkic nobles (Chahalgani). She was imprisoned by the governor of Bhatinda, Malik Altunia. After marrying Altunia and attempting to regain her throne, she was defeated and killed by her brother's forces in 1240.

Significance:

Razia Sultan holds a unique place in history as the first woman to rule Delhi. Her short, turbulent reign is marked as a bold defiance of patriarchy and a shift towards merit-based leadership in the medieval period.

- **Conclusion:**

Razia Sultan, was the Sultan of the [Delhi Sultanate](#) from 1236 until her deposition in 1240. She was the first female Muslim ruler of the subcontinent, and the only female Muslim ruler of Delhi.

Ghiyasuddin Balban (1266–1287)

Introduction:

Ghiyasuddin Balban (r. 1266–1287) was the 9th Sultan of the Mamluk dynasty who transformed the Delhi Sultanate by consolidating power through a strict "blood and iron" policy, suppressing the "Corps of Forty" nobles, and strengthening the military against Mongol invasions. He restored the prestige of the crown, introduced Persian court etiquette like *Sijda* (prostration), and established a centralized, autocratic administration.

Early Life and Rise to Power

- **Origin:** Born into a Turkic tribe in Central Asia, he was captured by Mongols, sold into slavery, and eventually purchased by Sultan Iltutmish.
- **Rise:** He rose through the ranks from a water carrier to a powerful noble. He played a key role as a "kingmaker" in overthrowing Razia Sultana and serving under Nasiruddin Mahmud

- **Naib-i-Mamlakat:** In 1249, he became the de facto ruler with the title *Ulugh Khan* after marrying his daughter to Sultan Nasiruddin.

Key Administrative & Military Policies

- **Breaking the 'Forty' (Chahalgani):** Balban, himself a member, crushed the powerful Turkish noble group that had destabilized the throne.
- **Theory of Kingship:** He adopted the Persian concept of *Zil-i-Ilahi* (Shadow of God) and *Niyabat-i-Khudai* (Deputy of God), demanding absolute obedience.
- **Persian Court Rituals:** Introduced *Sijda* (prostration) and *Paibos* (kissing the Sultan's feet) to increase the awe of the crown.
- **Military Reform:** Established a specialized military department, **Diwan-i-Arz**, to manage the army, and strengthened it to confront the Mongol threat.
- **Spy System:** Created an efficient, independent, and high-paid intelligence network to monitor officials and maintain security.

Achievements and Legacy

- **Suppression of Rebels:** He brutally crushed rebellions in the Doab, Mewat, and Bengal to secure his reign.
- **Mongol Defense:** He successfully defended the Sultanate against several Mongol invasions.
- **Patronage:** A great patron of Persian literature, his court was graced by scholars like Amir Khusrau.
- **Architectural Legacy:** His tomb in Delhi's Mehrauli Archaeological Park is considered the first in India to feature a true arch.
- **Conclusion:**

Balban's death in 1287 led to a power struggle, and his weak successors were eventually replaced by the Khalji dynasty in 1290.

Chapter No.3.

Khilji Dynasty (1290–1320 CE)

Introduction:

The Khilji Dynasty (1290–1320 CE) was the second, shortest, and most dynamic ruling house of the Delhi Sultanate.

Founded by Jalaluddin Khilji, it marked a shift from ethnic Turkish to Turco-Afghan rule ("[Khilji Revolution](#)"). Its most powerful ruler, Alauddin Khilji, is renowned for massive military expansions into South India and successfully repelling numerous Mongol invasions.

Key Aspects of the Khilji Dynasty:

- **Rise to Power:** Jalaluddin Firuz Khilji founded the dynasty in 1290 after murdering the last Mamluk sultan, Muiz ud Din Qaiqabad.
- **Key Rulers:**
 - [Jalaluddin Khilji \(1290–1296\)](#): Known for his "benevolent" approach, but his reign saw few major expansions.
 - [Alauddin Khilji \(1296–1316\)](#): The most powerful ruler, he established an absolute monarchy, introduced strict market controls, and significantly built up his military.
 - [Qutbuddin Mubarak Shah \(1316–1320\)](#): The last ruler, considered ineffective, was killed, ending the dynasty.
- **Military Conquests:** Alauddin conquered Gujarat (1299), Ranthambore (1301), Chittor (1303), Malwa, and led major campaigns into the Deccan, including Devgiri, Arangal, and Dvarasamudra under his general Malik Kafur.
- **Administrative & Economic Reforms:** Alauddin introduced the "dagh" (branding horses) and "chehra" (descriptive rolls of soldiers) systems to strengthen the army. He implemented strict price controls on goods and introduced agrarian reforms to ensure maximum land revenue collection.
- **Decline:** Following Alauddin's death in 1316, the dynasty suffered from weak successors, resulting in internal instability and the final overthrow by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq in 1320.
- **Conclusion:**

The dynasty is significant for shifting the power structure of the Delhi Sultanate to be more inclusive and initiating the rapid expansion of Islamic rule in South India.

Jalaluddin Khilji (1290–1296)

Introduction:

Jalaluddin Khilji (1290–1296) was the first Sultan and founder of the [Khilji Dynasty](#), initiating the "Khilji Revolution" that marked the end of the Mamluk Dynasty. Ascending the throne at age 70, he adopted a policy of leniency and "saintly" tolerance, rather than the harshness of the Balban era. He was killed by his nephew Alauddin Khilji.

Key Aspects of Jalaluddin Khilji's Reign

- **Accession (1290):** Originally Malik Firuz, he was a Turko-Afghan official under the Mamluk Dynasty who took power after assassinating the last descendant of the Slave Dynasty (Kayumars) at 70 years old.
- **Capital and Administration:** He established his capital at Kilokhri (near Delhi), aiming to distance himself from the traditional Turkic nobles, notes [Prepp.in](#).
- **Policy of Tolerance:**

He was a benevolent ruler often called a "saintly" Sultan. He avoided shedding blood and believed that, due to the Hindu majority, the state cannot be a purely Islamic state, notes Vajiram & Ravi.

- **Military Campaigns & Foreign Policy:**
 - **Mongols:** He successfully repelled a major Mongol invasion in 1292. A group of Mongols who converted to Islam and settled in Delhi became known as 'New Muslims'.
 - **Ranthambore:** His attempts to conquer Ranthambore (1290-92) were unsuccessful.
- **Major Conflicts:** He faced a rebellion from Malik Chhajju (Balban's nephew) but pardoned him, a sign of his leniency. He also suppressed the revolt of Sidi Maula.
- **Death (1296):** His nephew and son-in-law, [Alauddin Khilji](#), returned from a successful raid on Devagiri (1294) with immense wealth. Alauddin treacherously murdered Jalaluddin at Kara.

- **Conclusion:**

Jalaluddin Khilji was the founder of the [Khilji Dynasty](#), ending the [Mamluk Dynasty](#) in the "[Khilji Revolution](#)". Ascending at age 70, he ruled with a policy of benevolence and mildness, resisting the harsh tyranny of earlier rulers. He was assassinated by his nephew and son-in-law, [Alauddin Khilji](#), who took over the throne.

Alauddin Khilji (1296–1316)

Introduction:

Alauddin Khilji (1296–1316) was a brilliant military strategist who expanded the Delhi Sultanate across India, repelled numerous Mongol invasions, and revolutionized the military through centralization and modernization. His major achievements included conquering northern kingdoms like Gujarat, Ranthambore, and Chittor, and sending Malik Kafur to conquer southern kingdoms, bringing unprecedented wealth to the treasury.

Major Military Conquests (North India)

- [Gujarat \(1299\)](#): Annexed the wealthy region, acquiring the port for trade and his future general, Malik Kafur.
- [Ranthambore \(1301\)](#): Defeated the Chauhan ruler Hamir Dev.
- [Chittor \(1303\)](#): Captured the fortress after a long siege, famously depicted in literature.
- [Malwa & Others \(1305–1311\)](#): Conquered Malwa, Siwana, and Jalore, consolidating control over Rajputana and central India.

Southern Campaigns (Under Malik Kafur)

- Alauddin sent his slave-general Malik Kafur to raid the south, forcing kings to pay tributes, which massively boosted the sultanate's wealth.
- [Devagiri \(1308\)](#), [Warangal \(1310\)](#), and [Dwarasamudra \(1311\)](#): Defeated the Yadava, Kakatiya, and Hoysala dynasties, respectively.

Defense Against Mongol Invasions

- Repelled several major Mongol attacks from the Chagatai Khanate (1297–1306) at places like Jaran-Manjur, Kili, Delhi, and Amroha, establishing a "no-go" boundary for the invaders.

- He modernized the frontier forts to prevent further incursions.

Military Reforms

- **Standing Army:** Established a massive, well-trained standing army paid in cash from the treasury, reducing dependence on feudal levies.
- **Dagh System:** Introduced the *Dagh* (branding horses) and *Chehra* (descriptive rolls of soldiers) to ensure, efficient organization and reduce fraud.
- **Centralization:** Improved weapon quality and built a robust central command system.
- **Conclusion:**

These achievements cemented Alauddin Khilji's reputation as one of the most powerful and effective military leaders in Indian history.

Unit-2

Chapter No. 4.

Tughlaq dynasty (1320–1413)

Introduction:

The Tughlaq dynasty (1320–1413) was a Muslim dynasty of Turkic origin that ruled the Delhi Sultanate during the medieval period. Founded by Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq after a successful coup, the dynasty reached its territorial peak under Muhammad bin Tughlaq. Despite ambitious reforms, including the failed shift of the capital to Daulatabad and the introduction of token currency, the dynasty was known for massive administrative experiments, ultimately weakening under Firoz Shah Tughlaq and collapsing after Timur's invasion in 1398.

Key Rulers and Events

- **[Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq \(1320–1325\)](#):** Founded the dynasty after defeating Khusrau Khan. He was a capable administrator who built Tughlaqabad, encouraged agriculture, and lowered taxes, according to the [World History Encyclopedia](#). He died in a pavilion collapse, allegedly orchestrated by his son, Jauna Khan.

- **[Muhammad bin Tughlaq \(1325–1351\)](#)**: Known as a brilliant scholar, his rule is remembered for radical, albeit failed, initiatives. His key experiments included:
 - **Shifting the Capital**: Moving the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad in 1327 to manage the Deccan, which proved costly and disastrous.
 - **Token Currency**: Introducing brass/copper coins, which led to mass forgery because the coins lacked security features,
 - **Agricultural Taxes**: Increasing taxes in the Doab region during a famine, causing widespread unrest.
- **[Firoz Shah Tughlaq \(1351–1388\)](#)**: Focused on welfare rather than expansion, constructing canals, hospitals, and cities like Firozabad. However, his lenient military policies weakened the sultanate's military strength.

Decline of the Dynasty

After Firoz Shah's death, the dynasty saw rapid succession disputes, with several rulers taking the throne in a few years. The final blow came when Amir Timur invaded in 1398, destroying the Sultanate's authority.

- **Conclusion:**

The Tughlaq dynasty (also known as the Tughluq or Tughluk dynasty; was the third dynasty to rule over the Delhi Sultanate in medieval India. Its reign **started in 1320 in Delhi when Ghazi Malik assumed the throne under the title of Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq and ended in 1413.**

Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320–1325)

Introduction:

Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (reigned 1320–1325) founded the [Tughlaq Dynasty](#), establishing the Delhi Sultanate's rule after overthrowing Khusrau Khan. Formerly known as Ghazi Malik, a governor under Alauddin Khilji, he was known for strengthening borders against Mongols, promoting agrarian reforms, and building the fortified city of Tughlaqabad.

Key Historical Aspects of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq:

- **Rise to Power:** Originally Ghazi Malik, a Turkish noble and experienced military commander under the Khilji dynasty, he took control of Delhi in 1320 after defeating the last Khilji ruler, Khusrau Khan.

- **Administration & Reforms:**

He established a stable, centralized government, focusing on restoring the administration after the chaos following Alauddin Khilji's death. He adopted a pragmatic approach to revenue, reducing land taxes to assist farmers while strengthening the bureaucratic structure.

- **Military Conquests:** He solidified the sultanate's territorial integrity by suppressing revolts in Bengal and launching successful campaigns to annex Warangal, Madurai, and parts of South Asia. He strongly fortified the north-western frontiers against repeated Mongol incursions.
- **Architecture & City Planning:** He built the massive, fortified city of **Tughlaqabad** near Delhi, showcasing his interest in defense and infrastructure.
- **Death:** He died in 1325 due to the collapse of a wooden pavilion, with some historical accounts suggesting a conspiracy by his son, Jauna Khan (later Muhammad bin Tughlaq).

- **Conclusion:**

He was succeeded by his son, Muhammad bin Tughlaq, who extended the empire further.

[Muhammad bin Tughlaq \(1325–1351\)](#)

Introduction:

[Muhammad bin Tughlaq](#) (reigned 1325–1351) was the 18th Sultan of Delhi and a controversial ruler known for his intellectual brilliance, ambitious administrative reforms, and disastrous policy failures. Though well-educated, his impractical projects—including shifting the capital to Daulatabad and introducing token currency—led to economic distress, rebellions, and the decline of his dynasty.

Key Aspects of His Reign:

- **Ascension (1325):** Born Jauna Khan, he succeeded his father Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq to the Delhi throne.

- **Failed Experiments:**
 - **Capital Transfer (1328–29):** Moved the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (Deogiri) to better control South India, forcing a mass migration that caused immense suffering and, ultimately, a return to Delhi.
 - **Token Currency (1329-30):** Introduced bronze/copper coins with the same value as silver coins to address a currency shortage. The initiative failed due to widespread forgery, forcing him to withdraw the tokens.
 - **Tax Increase (Doab):** Raised taxes in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab during a severe drought and famine, leading to peasant rebellions.
 - **Failed Military Campaigns:** The ambitious Khorasan and Qarachil expeditions resulted in massive losses of life and treasure.
- **Administration & Reforms:** Despite his failures, he was innovative, introducing agricultural reforms like crop rotation and establishing a, *Diwan-i-Kohi* (Department of Agriculture). He was known for his administrative, mathematical, and philosophical knowledge, yet was frequently described as a "wise fool".
- **Territorial Reach:** His reign marked the peak of the Delhi Sultanate's expansion, encompassing parts of modern-day Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, though these southern territories soon rebelled.
- **Death (1351):** He died in Sindh while campaigning against Taghi, a rebel leader, leaving a fractured empire.
- **Conclusion:**

His reign was marked by a blend of modernity and poor execution, making him a complex figure, sometimes considered a "mad king" by contemporary chroniclers and a visionary by others.

Chapter No. 5.

Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451)

Introduction:

The Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451) was the fourth ruling house of the Delhi Sultanate, founded by Khizr Khan after the Tughlaq dynasty's decline and Timur's invasion. Ruling for 37 years, the dynasty was characterized by political instability, a highly centralized but weak administration, and constant struggles

to maintain control over regional governors, eventually being displaced by the Lodi dynasty.

Key Rulers

- **Khizr Khan (1414–1421):** The founder, who was previously the Governor of Multan and a deputy for Timur. He did not take a royal title, instead calling himself *Rayat-i-Ala*.
- **Mubarak Shah (1421–1434):** The ablest ruler who issued his own coins, fought rebellions, and was killed by nobles.
- **Muhammad Shah (1434–1445):** Known for being incompetent; his reign saw increased internal power struggles.
- **Alauddin Alam Shah (1445–1451):** The last ruler who voluntarily gave up the throne to Bahlul Lodi and retired.

Key Aspects of the Sayyid Dynasty

- **Origin:** The rulers claimed to be Sayyids, or descendants of Prophet Muhammad.
- **Administration:** The administration of the Sayyid Dynasty was highly centralized, with the Sultan as the head of state. The state utilized Shariah for legal decisions.
- **Art and Architecture:** The dynasty focused on architecture, with notable, octagonal tombs built for rulers, including the Tomb of Mubarak Shah Sayyid.
- **Decline:** The dynasty fell due to the lack of strong leaders, loss of regional territories (like Bengal and Gujarat), and continuous threats from internal and external foes, resulting in its replacement by the Afghan-led Lodi Dynasty.

Conclusion:

The last ruler of the Sayyids, [Ala-ud-Din](#), voluntarily abdicated the throne of the Delhi Sultanate in favour of [Bahlul Khan Lodi](#) on 19 April 1451, and left for Badaun, where he died in 1478.

Lodi Dynasty (1451–1526)

Introduction:

The Lodi Dynasty (1451–1526) was the final ruling house of the Delhi Sultanate, established by Bahlul Lodi as the first Pashtun/Afghan dynasty to rule India. It was succeeded by the Mughal Empire following Ibrahim Lodi's defeat by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat. Key rulers included Bahlul Lodi, Sikandar Lodi (founder of Agra), and Ibrahim Lodi.

Key Aspects of the Lodi Dynasty:

- **Founder - [Bahlul Lodi \(1451–1489\)](#):** A strong soldier and capable leader who consolidated control over the region around Delhi, conquered Jaunpur, and treated Afghan nobles as equals.
- **[Sikandar Lodi \(1489–1517\)](#):** Regarded as the most powerful, he expanded the kingdom to include Bihar and parts of Bengal. He established Agra as a city in 1504 and acted as a strong, sometimes fanatical, ruler who reinstated Jizya.
- **[Ibrahim Lodi \(1517–1526\)](#):** The last ruler, whose harsh and centralizing policies led to significant rebellions from Afghan nobles.
- **Decline:** The dynasty fell when Afghan nobles, frustrated by Ibrahim Lodi, invited Babur to invade India. The First Battle of Panipat (1526) saw the end of the dynasty.
- **Legacy:** Known for their unique administrative style and architectural contributions, including the Tomb of Sikandar Lodi, they played a critical role in the political landscape of medieval India.

Conclusion:

The Lodi dynasty (1451–1526) was the last ruling family of the Delhi Sultanate, established by Bahlul Lodi, an Afghan leader who replaced the Sayyid dynasty. As the first Afghan dynasty in India, they governed for 75 years until Ibrahim Lodi was defeated by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat, marking the start of the Mughal Empire.

Ibrahim Lodi (reigned 1517–1526)

Introduction:

Ibrahim Lodi (reigned 1517–1526) was the final ruler of the [Lodi Dynasty](#) and the Delhi Sultanate, known for his authoritarian rule, constant conflicts with Afghan nobles, and defeat by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat. His, at

times, cruel policies sparked widespread rebellions, leading to the collapse of the dynasty and the start of the Mughal Empire in India.

Key Historical Aspects of Ibrahim Lodi:

- **Ascension to Power:** He took the throne in 1517 after his father, [Sikandar Lodi](#), passed away. Unlike his father, he was known for being a harsh ruler who sought absolute control over his nobles, causing significant unrest within his kingdom.
- **Conflicts and Discontent:** Ibrahim challenged the traditional power of Afghan nobles, alienating them by replacing senior commanders with younger, loyal subordinates.
 - . He even fought against his brother, Jalal Khan, over a split in the empire, leading to his brother's eventual execution.
- **Battle of Panipat (1526):** Rebellious nobles, including Daulat Khan Lodi, invited Babur, the ruler of Kabul, to invade India, as noted in On April 21, 1526, Ibrahim's large army was defeated by Babur's smaller, more modern army, which utilized artillery and superior tactics.
- **Death and Legacy:** Ibrahim Lodi was killed in the Battle of Panipat, making him the only Delhi Sultan to die on the battlefield, says His death marked the end of the Delhi Sultanate and initiated the Mughal Empire in India.

Conclusion:

Ibrahim Lodi was killed on the battlefield, ending the Lodi dynasty and the Delhi Sultanate's 300-year reign, marking the start of the Mughal Empire in India.

Fall of the Sultanate of Delhi.

Introduction:

The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526) declined due to weak successors, administrative inefficiency, and internal rebellions following the Tughlaq dynasty. Severe blows from Timur's invasion in 1398, economic decay, and powerful regional kingdoms weakened the central authority. It officially ended when Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in 1526.

Key Causes of the Fall:

- **Weak Successors and Internal Strife:** After Muhammad bin Tughlaq, rulers failed to control the sprawling empire, leading to noble rebellions and instability.
- **[Timur's Invasion \(1398\)](#):** The invasion by Timur (Tamerlane) was a critical blow, destroying the authority of the sultanate and looting Delhi, leading to the disintegration of the empire.
- **Rise of Regional Kingdoms:** Provincial governors and independent kingdoms (e.g., Jaunpur, Malwa) broke away, reducing the Sultanate's control to only the area around Delhi.
- **Economic Collapse:** Poor financial management, reduction of trade, and a depleted treasury made the state vulnerable.
- **[The Final Blow - 1526](#):** The last dynasty, the Lodis, faced internal disunity. Ibrahim Lodi's harsh policies led to his nobles inviting Babur, the Mughal emperor, to invade India. Babur's superior tactics (artillery) defeated Lodi at the **First Battle of Panipat** in 1526, ending the Sultanate.

Successive Dynasties:

1. **[Mamluk \(Slave\) Dynasty](#)** (1206–1290)
2. **[Khalji Dynasty](#)** (1290–1320)
3. **[Tughlaq Dynasty](#)** (1320–1414)
4. **[Sayyid Dynasty](#)** (1414–1451)
5. **[Lodi Dynasty](#)** (1451–1526)

Conclusion:

The last dynasty, the Lodi Dynasty, briefly restored some authority, but internal strife continued. Daulat Khan Lodi, a governor of Punjab, invited the Mughal ruler Babur to overthrow the last Sultan, Ibrahim Lodi. Babur's forces defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat in 1526, putting an end to the Delhi Sultanate and establishing the [Mughal Empire](#)

Chapter No. 6.

The polity, Society, Religion, Literature, Art and Architecture during the sultanate of Delhi.

Introduction:

The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526) established a centralized, Persianized Islamic state in India, fostering an Indo-Islamic culture characterized by a rigid social hierarchy, the rise of Bhakti/Sufi movements, and significant architectural innovation using arches and domes

. Key features included a Turkish-led administration, literature in Persian and early Hindi, and iconic structures like the Qutb Minar.

Polity & Administration

- **Centralized Autocracy:** The Sultan held supreme authority, focusing on military power, with the Wazir heading the revenue department (Diwan-i-Wizarat).
- **Administrative Structure:** The empire was divided into *Iqtas* (provinces) managed by *Iqtadars* (or *Muqtis*) who collected revenue and maintained troops.
- **Military Focus:** Power relied on a strong standing army (highly developed under the Khiljis) to manage internal revolts and external Mongol threats.

Society

- **Hierarchy:** Society was sharply divided between the ruling elite (Sultans, nobles, military commanders) and the common population (peasants, artisans).
- **Communal Structure:** The Muslim nobility, mostly foreigners (Turks, Persians), held power, while the vast majority remained Hindu.
- **Slaves:** A thriving slave system allowed talented slaves (like Iltutmish) to reach high positions of power.

Religion

- **Sunni Islam:** It was the state religion, with the *Ulama* (clergy) advising on religious law, including the imposition of *Jizya* on non-Muslims.
- **Sufism & Bhakti:** Religious life was marked by the popularity of Sufi saints (e.g., Nizamuddin Auliya) advocating love/harmony and the growth of the Bhakti movement emphasizing devotion, fostering a composite culture.

Literature

- **Persian Language:** Became the court language, resulting in vast administrative and historical literature.
- **Development of Urdu/Hindavi:** The interaction between Persian and local dialects gave rise to early Hindavi, later evolving into Urdu.
- **Prominent Authors:** Amir Khusrau (known as the "parrot of India") pioneered many forms of literature.

Art & Architecture

- **Indo-Islamic Style:** Combined Islamic features (domes, arches, minarets) with Indian traditional craftsmanship.
- **Materials & Design:** Extensive use of red sandstone and marble, with geometric and floral designs (arabesque) used instead of human/animal figures.
- **Key Monuments:** The Qutb Minar complex, Alai Darwaza (Khilji style), Tughlaqabad Fort (robust Tughlaq style), and Lodhi Gardens.

Conclusion:

These advancements profoundly influenced later Mughal architecture, setting the stage for more elaborate, large-scale structures in India.

Unit-3

Chapter No. 7.

The South Indian dynasties

Introduction:

South Indian history is defined by enduring dynasties—notably the Cholas, Pandyas, Cheras, Pallavas, Chalukyas, and Vijayanagara—which flourished between 300 BCE and 1600 CE. Known for maritime trade, architectural marvels like rock-cut temples, and strong centralized governance, these empires commanded the region between the Vindhyas and the southern peninsula.

Major Dynasties Summary

- **Sangam Age Dynasties (c. 300 BCE – 300 CE):** Cheras (Kerala), Cholas (Tanjore/Tiruchirappalli), and Pandyas (Madurai) controlled early Tamilakam, focused on trade with Rome.

- **Satavahanas (c. 200 BCE – 220 CE)**: Ruled the Deccan/Andhra region, acted as a bridge between North and South, and strongly promoted Buddhism.
- **Pallavas (c. 275 – 897 CE)**: Capital at Kanchipuram; famous for rock-cut architecture in Mahabalipuram and conflict with Badami Chalukyas.
- **Chalukyas of Badami (c. 543 – 757 CE)**: Led by Pulakeshin II (defeated Harshavardhana), developed Vesara style architecture at Aihole and Pattadakal.
- **Rashtrakutas (c. 753 – 982 CE)**: Overthrew the Chalukyas; built the Kailasa temple at Ellora.
- **Imperial Cholas (c. 850 – 1279 CE)**: Known for a powerful navy, maritime trade with Southeast Asia, and the Brihadeshwara Temple (Rajaraja I/Rajendra I).
- **Hoysalas (c. 1026 – 1343 CE)**: Famous for star-shaped temple architecture (Halebidu and Belur).
- **Kakatiyas (c. 1163 – 1323 CE)**: Ruled from Warangal, known for promoting trade and agriculture.
- **Vijayanagara Empire (1336 – 1646 CE)**: Capital Hampi; established to protect South India from Delhi Sultanate raids, fostering art, literature, and culture.

Key Contributions

- **Administration**: Advanced local self-government, particularly in the Chola period with a focus on village assemblies.
- **Art & Architecture**: Dravidian style temple architecture, rock-cut shrines (Mahabalipuram), and massive Gopurams (Vijayanagara).
- **Trade**: Extensive maritime trade networks, particularly under the Cholas, linking South India to China, Arabia, and Southeast Asia.

Conclusion:

The **history of southern India** covers a span of over four thousand years, during which the region saw the rise and fall of a number of dynasties and empires.

Vijayanagar Empire- Origin of the dynasty

Introduction:

The Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646) was a powerful South Indian empire founded by brothers [Harihara I](#) and [Bukka Raya I](#) of the Sangama dynasty on the Tungabhadra River banks (modern Hampi, Karnataka). Established to resist northern invasions, it dominated the Deccan region for over two centuries, peaking under Krishnadeva Raya.

Origin and Foundation

- **Founders:** The empire was established in 1336 by Harihara I and Bukka Raya I, likely chieftains in the Hoysala Kingdom, who had served as ministers in the state of Kampili.
- **Motivations:** It was formed to defend and rejuvenate Hindu culture in the south against expanding Delhi Sultanate control and the growing influence of the North.
- **Role of Saints:** The brothers were re-converted from Islam back to Hinduism under the guidance of Saint Vidyaranya, marking a strong revivalist tone.
- **The Capital:** They established their capital at Vijayanagara ("City of Victory") on the banks of the Tungabhadra River, later known as Hampi.

History and Dynasties

The Empire was governed by four distinct dynasties:

1. [Sangama Dynasty \(1336–1485\)](#): Founded by the brothers; established dominion over South India.
2. [Saluva Dynasty \(1485–1505\)](#): A short-lived dynasty founded by Saluva Narasimha.
3. [Tuluva Dynasty \(1505–1570\)](#): Included the greatest ruler, Krishnadevaraya (1509–1529), under whom the empire reached its pinnacle, renowned for art, literature (Ashtadiggajas), and architecture.
4. [Aravidu Dynasty \(1570–1646\)](#): The final dynasty following the decline of the empire.

Key Historical Events

- **Expansion (1346)**: The brothers consolidated their power by conquering the Hoysala territories.
- **Battle of Talikota (1565)**: A devastating defeat for the Vijayanagara army against a coalition of Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur, Golconda,

Ahmednagar), resulting in the destruction of Hampi and the start of the empire's decline.

- **End of the Empire:** After 1565, the empire continued with reduced power until it was finally dissolved into smaller kingdoms in 1646.

Legacy and Culture

- **Architecture:** Known for the "[Vijayanagara Style](#)", characterized by grand temples (e.g., Virupaksha temple, Vitthala temple with stone chariot) and elaborate carvings.
- **Languages:** Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Sanskrit flourished, with extensive contributions to literature.
- **Administration:** Known for efficient administration, with land divided into provinces for effective control.
- **Trade:** A significant commercial hub that engaged in international trade, attracting traders from all over the world.

Conclusion:

The **origin of the Vijayanagara Empire** is a controversial topic in [South Indian](#) history, with regard to the linguistic affiliation of the founding dynasty, the [Sangama family](#). The [Vijayanagara Empire](#) rose to power in southern [India](#) in the 14th century CE.

Sangam dynasty-Harihara-I (1336–1356 CE)

Introduction:

Harihara I (1336–1356 CE), also known as Hakka, was the founder of the Sangama dynasty and the [Vijayanagara Empire](#) in South India, with his brother [Bukka Raya I](#). Originally Kakatiya feudatories, they established the empire on the Tungabhadra River, consolidating power from the declining Hoysala kingdom. He created a lasting, strong military and provincial administration (Nayankara system) that secured the region against Delhi Sultanate expansion.

Key Historical Details of Harihara I:

- **Rise to Power:** Eldest son of Bhavana Sangama, he was part of the Kuruba clan. He began as a commander, possibly serving the Kakatiyas,

before establishing independence with his brother Bukka Raya I around 1336.

- **Establishment of Vijayanagara:** He established his capital at Vidyanagara (later Vijayanagar) on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in Hampi, Karnataka.
- **Territorial Expansion:** He brought the northern parts of the Hoysala Empire under his control and expanded his dominion to the Konkan and Malabar coasts.
- **Titles:** He was known as *Karnataka Vidya Vilas* (Master of great knowledge), *Arirayavibhada* (Fire to enemy kings), and *Bhashegetappuvarayaraganda* (Punisher of faithless feudatories).
- **Administration:** He introduced the **Nayankara system**, a system where military chiefs (Nayakas) governed areas and maintained troops for the state.
- **Legacy:** He successfully defended his kingdom against attacks from the Delhi Sultanate and set the stage for one of South India's largest and most enduring empires.

Conclusion:

He was succeeded by his brother, Bukka I, who further expanded the empire.

[Bukka Raya I \(1356–1377 CE\)](#)

Introduction:

[Bukka Raya I](#) (1356–1377 CE) was a pivotal co-founder and emperor of the Sangama Dynasty in the Vijayanagara Empire, significantly expanding its territory across South India. He secured the kingdom against the Bahmani Sultanate and the Sultanate of Madurai, promoting cultural, literary, and religious harmony, notably by supporting Kannada and Telugu scholars like Vidyanagara.

Key Aspects of Bukka Raya I's Reign:

- **Establishment:** Along with his brother Harihara I, Bukka laid the foundation of the empire in 1336, initially establishing their capital at Anegundi before moving it to a more secure location.
- **Territorial Expansion:** By 1360, he conquered the Shambuvaraya Kingdom of Arcot and the Reddis of Kondavidu, annexing Penukonda. In

1371, he defeated the Sultanate of Madurai, extending the empire's boundaries to Rameswaram.

- **Wars with Bahmani:** His reign was marked by frequent conflicts with the Bahmani Sultanate (Mohammed Shah I and Mujahid Shah) for control of the strategic Tungabhadra-Krishna river region.
- **Diplomacy and Culture:** He sent a diplomatic mission to China and fostered a peaceful, tolerant environment, mediating disputes between Jain and Srivaishnava communities.
- **Literary Patronage:** He supported prominent figures such as Vidyanaraya and Sayana, who produced important Vedic commentaries during this period.
- **Succession:** He passed away in 1377 (some sources suggest 1379 or 1380) and was succeeded by his son, Harihara II.

Conclusion:

Together, the brothers laid the foundational strength that allowed the Vijayanagara Empire to flourish for over two centuries.

Chapter No. 8.

Saluva dynasty- Saluva Narasimha-(1485–1491)

Introduction:

Saluva Narasimha (1485–1491) founded the [Saluva Dynasty](#), the second dynasty of the [Vijayanagara Empire](#), by seizing power from the declining [Sangama dynasty](#). He stabilized the empire against invaders like the Bahmani Sultanate and the Gajapatis, revitalized the horse trade, and was a noted patron of literature.

Key Facts about Saluva Narasimha:

- **Rise to Power:** Formerly the governor of Chandragiri, he took control of the capital in 1485 to prevent the collapse of the empire.
- **Reign & Military:** Ruled from 1485 to 1491, focusing on regaining control over rebellious vassals. He was defeated by the Gajapati King Purushottama Deva in 1489, losing Udayagiri.

- **Military Action:** He successfully retook western ports (Mangalore, Honnavar) to strengthen the empire's trade.
- **Legacy:** He appointed his loyal general, [Tuluva Narasa Nayaka](#), as regent on his deathbed to look after his young sons, which paved the way for the subsequent Tuluva dynasty.
- **Patronage:** He was a patron of the Madhwa saint Sripadaraya and authored the Sanskrit work *Rama Bhyudayam*.

Conclusion:

Following his death in 1491, his sons were minor rulers, with the actual power residing in the hands of Tuluva Narasa Nayaka. The short-lived Saluva Dynasty (1485-1505) serves as a bridge between the Sangama and Tuluva dynasties.

Chapter No. 9.

Tuluva dynasty- Sri. Krishnadevaraya -(1509–1529)

1. Introduction

- * Sri Krishnadevaraya was one of the greatest rulers of South India.
- * He belonged to the Tuluva Dynasty of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- * His reign lasted from 1509 to 1529 CE.
- * Known for his administrative excellence, military strength, and patronage of arts and literature.

2. Early Life and Coronation

- * Born in 1471 CE.
- * Became king after the death of his brother, Vira Narasimha Raya.
- * Crowned in 1509 CE at the capital city of Hampi.

3. Military Achievements

- * Strengthened the empire through several successful campaigns:
- * Defeated the Bahmani Sultanate successors.
- * Conquered regions like Raichur Doab.
- * Maintained control over much of South India.
- * Known for his strong and well-organized army.

4. Administration

- * Efficient and just ruler.
- * Focused on:
 - * Law and order
 - * Revenue system
 - * Welfare of people
- * Promoted irrigation and agriculture, building tanks and canals.

5. Contribution to Literature and Culture

- * His reign is considered the Golden Age of Telugu literature.
- * Patronized a group of eight scholars known as the:
 - * Ashtadiggajas
- * He himself was a scholar and wrote:
 - * Amuktamalyada

6. Religious Policy

- * Followed Hinduism but was tolerant towards other religions.
- * Supported temples and religious institutions.
- * Famous temples were built and expanded during his reign.

7. Foreign Relations

- * Maintained friendly relations with the Portuguese Empire.
- * Encouraged trade, especially in horses and spices.

8. Legacy

- * Remembered as one of the greatest Indian rulers.
- * His reign marked:
 - * Political stability
 - * Economic prosperity
 - * Cultural development
- * Hampi remains a UNESCO World Heritage Site reflecting his grandeur.

9. Conclusion

- * Sri Krishnadevaraya stands as a symbol of ideal kingship.
- * His contributions to governance, military power, and culture make him a significant figure in Indian history.

Unit-4

Chapter No. 10.

Aliya Rama Raya (1485–1565)

Introduction:

Aliya Rama Raya (c. 1485–1565) was a powerful 16th-century statesman and de facto ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire, married to Krishnadeva Raya's daughter. As leader of the [Aravidu dynasty](#), he dominated Vijayanagara politics from 1542 to 1565, expanding territories through shrewd diplomacy and military campaigns. He was killed in the 1565 Battle of Talikota.

Key Aspects of Aliya Rama Raya's History:

- **Rise to Power:** Known as "Aliya" (son-in-law in Kannada), he was the son-in-law of the famous Emperor [Krishnadeva Raya](#). After Achyuta Raya's death, he acted as regent for the young Sadasiva Raya, holding the real power as a *de-facto* ruler.
- **Military and Diplomacy:** Rama Raya was known as a brilliant commander who used the "divide and rule" strategy among the Deccan Sultanates. He initially helped one sultan against another, which allowed him to expand the Vijayanagara empire to its northern limits.
- **Battle of Talikota (1565):** His aggressive tactics against the Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur, Bidar, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda) caused them to unite against him. At age 80, he fought the Battle of Talikota, where his army was initially winning, but he was captured and immediately beheaded by Husain Nizam Shah, leading to the collapse of the empire.

Legacy: While his death led to the looting and eventual destruction of Hampi, he is remembered as a valiant but ambitious ruler whose policies kept the sultanates at bay for over two decades.

Conclusion:

He was succeeded by his brother Tirumala Deva Raya, who founded the official rule of the Aravidu dynasty.

Battle of Talikota (January 23, 1565)

Introduction:

The Battle of Talikota (January 23, 1565) was a decisive conflict in South Indian history where an alliance of Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur, Bidar, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda) defeated the Vijayanagara Empire. Fought near the Krishna River, the battle resulted in the death of King Rama Raya and the subsequent destruction of the capital city, Hampi, marking the end of Vijayanagara's supremacy.

Key Aspects of the Battle of Talikota:

- **Conflict & Date:** Fought on January 23, 1565, the battle was the culmination of rising tensions between the Vijayanagara Empire and the combined Deccan Sultanates.
- **The Combatants:** The allied forces of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golconda, and Bidar united against the Vijayanagara army led by Aliya Rama Raya.
- **Causes of Defeat:**
 - **Betrayal:** Key commanders, sometimes identified as the Gilani brothers, defected, severely weakening the Vijayanagara army.
 - **Artillery Superiority:** The Sultanates had superior, modern artillery and Turkish gunners, while Vijayanagara relied on older, slower weaponry.
 - **Cavalry Failure:** The Hindu army's over-reliance on war elephants proved ineffective against the fast-moving, horse-mounted cavalry of the sultanates.
 - **Leadership Crisis:** Despite having a larger army, the death of [Rama Raya](#) at a crucial moment led to panic and chaos within the ranks, causing the army to break formation.
- **Outcome & Consequences:**
 - **Downfall of the Empire:** The defeat was absolute, leading to the collapse of the mighty Vijayanagara Empire.
 - **Destruction of Hampi:** The victorious armies systematically looted and destroyed the capital city, Hampi, for months, turning it into a wasteland (often referred to as *Haalu Hampi* or ruined Hampi).
 - **Shift in Regional Power:** The battle ended the centralized power of Vijayanagara, allowing the Deccan Sultanates to dominate the region.

Conclusion:

The Battle of Talikota is often described as a watershed moment that altered the political landscape of South India.

Fall of Vijayanagara.

Introduction:

The Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646) fell primarily following a disastrous defeat at the **Battle of Talikota (1565)** against a confederacy of Deccan Sultanates. The capital, Hampi, was brutally sacked, razed, and looted for months, leading to a slow, irreversible decline. Internal disputes and shifting loyalties also contributed to its collapse.

Key Factors in the Fall of Vijayanagara

- **The Battle of Talikota (1565):** A coalition of Bijapur, Golkonda, Ahmednagar, and Bidar, known as the Deccan Sultanates, combined forces to defeat the Vijayanagara army, led by Regent Aliya Rama Raya, who was killed in the battle.
- **Betrayal & Leadership Failures:** The defeat is often attributed to the betrayal of two key Muslim generals in the Vijayanagara army who switched sides, though some scholars believe it was a failure to match the cavalry and artillery of the Sultanates.
- **Destruction of Hampi:** Following the victory, the armies of the Deccan Sultanates spent months destroying the capital, Hampi, burning, looting, and breaking monuments.
- **Internal Decay:** The empire was weakened by weak successors after Krishnadeva Raya, rampant corruption, and the excessive autonomy of local governors (Nayaks), who often acted independently.

Shifting Capital & Slow Decline: After the destruction of Hampi, the Aravidu dynasty, led by Tirumala, moved the capital to Penukonda, then Chandragiri, and finally Vellore, but never regained its former grandeur. The empire, which existed until 1646, lost its hold on the region.

Conclusion:

The fall of the empire, which was the last great Hindu power in South India, marked a major shift in the region's geopolitical landscape and left its capital city, Hampi, as ruins that still stand today.

Chapter No. 11.

Bhakti movement- origin, causes

Introduction:

The Bhakti movement was a medieval Hindu reform movement focusing on intense, personal devotion (Bhakti) to a single God as the primary path to salvation. Originating in South India (7th-9th Century) with Alvars (Vishnu) and Nayanars (Shiva), it spread across India, emphasizing equality, monotheism, and challenging caste hierarchies and rigid rituals.

Origin and Key Phases

- **Early Phase (7th-9th Century):** Started in Tamil Nadu (South India) under the Pallava dynasty, led by poet-saints like Nammazhwar and Appar, using local languages instead of Sanskrit.
- **Middle Phase (13th-16th Century):** Spread to North India, championed by Ramananda, Kabir, and Guru Nanak, emphasizing "Nirguna" (formless) or "Saguna" (with form) worship.
- **Late Phase (17th Century):** Consolidated with movements like Sikhism and spread into Bengal and Maharashtra with figures like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Causes for the Rise of the Bhakti Movement

- **Rebellion Against Ritualism:** Hinduism had become overly ceremonial, with complex rituals and excessive Brahmin influence, prompting a desire for simpler, direct worship.
- **Caste System Inequality:** Lower-caste groups and followers were marginalized by the rigid Brahmanical structure and sought equality in religion.
- **Impact of Islam and Turkish Conquests:** The arrival of Islam and the Turkish conquests caused a crisis in Hindu society by disrupting traditional temple patronage and exposing a new, egalitarian religious form.
- **Social-Economic Changes:** The decline of the Gupta empire and early medieval feudalism spurred a need for a more accessible, emotionally charged religion that appealed to urban artisans and the lower classes.
- **Influence of Sufism:** The egalitarian spirit and loving devotion of the [Sufi movement](#) influenced Hindu saints to adopt similar methods, focusing on a personal connection with God.

Conclusion:

The movement redefined Indian spirituality by making it accessible to all, irrespective of gender or caste.

Ramananda (14th–15th century)

Introduction:

Ramananda (14th–15th century) was a pioneering Vaishnava bhakti poet-saint who revolutionized North Indian Hinduism by initiating the Bhakti movement, rejecting caste distinctions, and teaching in the vernacular Hindi instead of Sanskrit. Founder of the [Ramanandi Sampradaya](#), he popularized Rama worship and welcomed disciples from all backgrounds.

Key Historical Aspects of Ramananda:

- **Background:** Born in a Kanyakubja Brahmin family, he lived most of his life in Varanasi. He was initially educated in the Visishtadvaita school of Vedanta.
- **Social Reformer:** He broke with orthodox traditions by allowing women and individuals from marginalized communities to join his sect. His famous saying was "जाती पाती पूछे न कोई हरी को भजे सो हरी का होई" (Let no one ask for caste; whoever worships God, belongs to God)

Bhakti Movement: Ramananda played a key role in making devotion (Bhakti) accessible to the common person by using vernacular languages.

- **Disciples:** His disciples included influential poet-saints like Kabir (often considered one of his 12 main disciples), Ravidas, Pipa, and Sena.
- **Philosophy:** He emphasized *Vishishtadvaita* (qualified monism) and focused on intense love and dedication for God, particularly in the form of Rama and Sita.

Legacy: The Ramanandi sect is one of the largest and most egalitarian Hindu sects, with a strong presence in the Ganges plains and Nepal.

Conclusion:

Ramananda's teachings shifted the focus of religion from complex rituals to personal faith and devotion, leaving a lasting impact on Indian society and literature.

Surdas (c. 1478–1581)

Introduction:

Surdas (c. 1478–1581) was a renowned 16th-century blind saint, poet, and musician from India, famous for his profound devotional songs dedicated to Lord Krishna in Braj Bhasha. A key figure in the Bhakti movement, he was a disciple of [Vallabhacharya](#) and produced monumental works like [Sur Sagar](#).

Key Historical Details:

- **Birth:** Likely born in 1478 or 1479 in Sihi (Haryana) or Runkta (near Agra).
- **Early Life & Blindness:** He was blind from birth (or lost sight later) and left home early to live by a lake, becoming a renouncer, [Nathdwara.in](#) reports.
- **Guru and Philosophy:**

He met his guru, [Shri Vallabhacharya](#), at Gau Ghat, who initiated him into the Pushtimarg (path of grace) and directed him to sing about Krishna's *lilas* (divine plays).

- **Works:** *Sur Sagar* (Ocean of Melody) is his most famous work, which originally contained thousands of poems focusing on Krishna's childhood and love for Radha. Other works include *Sur Saravali* and *Sahitya Lahiri*.
- **Legacy:** He was a resident singer at the Shrinathji temple in Govardhan. His songs elevated Braj Bhasha into a literary language. He is considered a "Sun" of Hindi literature and his compositions are included in the Guru Granth Sahib.

- **Conclusion:**

His works are widely read and sung across India, holding a major place in devotional literature.

Tulsidas (1497–1623)

Introduction:

Goswami Tulsidas (1497–1623) was a renowned 16th-century Indian poet, saint, and philosopher, celebrated as an ardent devotee of Lord Rama. He is best known for composing the epic *Ramcharitmanas* in Awadhi, along with the popular *Hanuman Chalisa*. He spent most of his life in Varanasi and Ayodhya.

Key Aspects of Tulsidas Ji:

- **Literary Masterpiece:** *Ramcharitmanas* is his most famous work, which made the story of Ramayana accessible to the common people in their vernacular language.
- **Other Works:** He composed several works in both Awadhi and Sanskrit, including *Vinaya Patrika*, *Kavitavali*, and *Dohavali*.
- **Bhakti Tradition:** He belonged to the Ramanandi Sampradaya and is considered a pioneer of the Saguna Bhakti tradition in North India.
- **Legacy:** Tulsidas is often considered an incarnation of Maharishi Valmiki. He is credited with popularizing the *Ramlila* plays, which are dramatic enactments of the life of Rama.

Life & Beliefs: He spent his life primarily at the Tulsi Ghat in Varanasi, which is named after him. He was a philosopher, and reformer whose work profoundly influenced Indian culture.

Conclusion:

He passed away in 1623 A.D. at Assi Ghat in Varanasi.

Sant Tukaram (1608–1649/1650)

Introduction:

Sant Tukaram (1608–1649/1650) was a prominent 17th-century Marathi poet-saint and key figure in the Bhakti movement's Varkari tradition, renowned for his devotional poetry (Abhangas) dedicated to Lord Vitthal. Born in Dehu, Maharashtra, he lived as a householder and merchant before transitioning to a life of devotion and social reform following personal tragedies.

Early Life and Background

- **Birth:** Born to Kanakai and Bolhoba More in a rural family of the Kunbi caste, in Dehu, near Pune.
- **Tragedy:** Experienced significant losses including the deaths of his parents and a devastating famine (1630–1632) that resulted in the starvation of his first wife (Rakhama Bai) and son
- **Transformation:** These hardships led him toward deep meditation on the Sahyadri hills, shifting his focus from business to deep spiritual devotion.
- **Spiritual Path:** Known as a Varkari saint, he was devoted to Lord Vitthal (Vishnu) in Pandharpur.

Spiritual Life and Teachings

- **Abhangas:** Tukaram wrote thousands of *Abhangas* (devotional poetry) known for their intense emotion, social commentary, and simple Marathi language, which profoundly influenced Marathi literature.
- **Spiritual Teacher:** His Guru is often cited as Babaji Chaitanya.
- **Social Reform:** He condemned superficial rituals, caste hypocrisy, and advocated for equality in God's devotion, influencing people across all social strata.

Later Life and Legacy

- **Family:** Married a second wife, Jija Bai (Avalai), and lived as a householder.
- **Departure:** He disappeared in 1649 or 1650; followers believe he was carried away by Vitthal, while historical perspectives vary
- **Legacy:** His teachings continue to be celebrated through the annual Pandharpur Wari pilgrimage. He is considered a, if not the most, vital influence in the Bhakti tradition in Maharashtra.

Conclusion:

His life was depicted in the critically acclaimed 1936 Marathi film [Sant Tukaram](#), which was the first Indian film to receive international recognition at the Venice Film Festival.

Mirabai (1498–1547)

Introduction:

Mirabai (1498–1547) was a 16th-century Rajput princess and mystic poet from Rajasthan who became a legendary saint in the Bhakti movement. Devoted entirely to Lord Krishna, she rejected traditional royal life, societal norms, and

patriarchal pressures to sing bhajans, defying her in-laws in Mewar to follow her spiritual path.

Key Historical Aspects of Mirabai:

- **Birth and Early Life:** Born into a royal family in Kudki (near Merta) in Rajasthan, she was the daughter of Ratan Singh. Legend holds that she was gifted a Krishna idol by a saint at a very young age, sparking her lifelong devotion.
- **Marriage and Conflict:** She was married to Bhoj Raj, the prince of Mewar (son of Rana Sanga), but she considered Lord Krishna her true husband. After her husband's early death, she was pressured to follow traditional customs, including Sati, but she refused.
- **Devotion and Persecution:** Her unconventional lifestyle—dancing and singing in public, interacting with saints, and ignoring royal etiquette—angered her in-laws, leading to several attempts on her life, including being sent a poisonous snake and a cup of poison, which legends say she survived through miracles.
- **Life in Vrindavan:** She eventually left the Mewar palace to travel to Vrindavan, where she was known as a mendicant and a disciple of Ravidas.

Literary Legacy: Though thousands of *padas* (songs/poems) are attributed to her, it is unclear how many were composed by her, as no original manuscripts exist from her lifetime. Her poetry, known for expressing intense love, longing, and devotion, remains popular across India today.

Conclusion:

Mirabai's life serves as a powerful symbol of spiritual freedom and devotion, often defying social structures of 16th-century India.

