CHAPTER II
HISTORY OF BIDAR DISTRICT.

Archaeological excavations carried out in several parts of the Deccan have brought to light the settlements of pre-historic man in the Godavari, Bhima and Krishna Basins right from the hunting and fruit gathering stages. In the Bidar district, some Neolithic flakes, cores, artefacts, etc., have come to light in the north-west of Bidar and the fort and also near Chamkora, Papanash, Aliabad and behind the tomb of Bibi Bandagi. At Alwai about 6.5 kms from Chillargi on the opposite bank of the Manjra river in Bidar district, a few cairns were found in a megalithic site a few decades back. The Neolithic sites are considered to belong to the period from 2500 B.C. to 1000 B.C. More than a hundred years back, some prehistoric remains were investigated at Jewargi near Ferozabad situated on the Bhima in the adjoining district of Gulbarga. Some circle graves of the Iron Age, which are now thought to have begun about 1000 B.C.E, were found there. Sites of this type are found in large number in the Deccan. Later a hand-axe of limestone was discovered at Yedehalli in the same district.¹

BIDAR IN THE LEGENDS AND EPICS.

Ramayana and the Mahabharata allude to the Dakshinpatha. There is also reference to Kuntala, Karnata, Vanavasaka and Mahishaka in the latter epic. Names of several Janapadas of like Vatsagulma, Bhogavardhana, Moolaka, Asmaka (Assaka or Asaka) and Rishika (Asika) of the Deccan occur in the Puranas. Probably, the last named Janapada (Rishika) included the Bidar area. The Deccan territory was also known as Vikhyata Krishnavarna-
Vishaya (reputed region of black soil). It may also mean the famous region of the river Krishna. Bidar was a part of what was then alternatively known as Kuntala. (Incidentally, it may be mentioned here that the Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas who ruled in later periods have also been called Kuntaleshvaras, Lords of Kuntala). In the very early times, the Vindhyas were great barriers between North India and the Deccan. According to a legend, Agastya overcame the Vindhyas and took up residence, in the first instance, in the Godavari valley. There are several traditional tales about the sages and their hermitages in the region. Various places in the district are also said to have been associated with the heroes of the epics.²

**BIDAR UNDER THE NANDAS AND MAURYAS**

There are references that the Nandas of Pataliputra (Patna), who had established their sway over Kalinga also, had brought under their control parts of the Deccan. The ancient name of Nanded, the district of which is adjacent to Bidar, was called Nau-Nanda-Dehara, which appears to mean that, it was ruled by the Nandas. Kautilya in his *Arthashastra* speaks of the need to maintain commercial relations with the *Dakshinapatha* for obtaining gold, diamonds, pearls, etc. There is also some later inscriptional evidence which points to the probability that the Deccan was a part of the Nanda empire. The Mauryas, who succeeded the Nandas to the imperial throne at Pataliputra are not known to have annexed the Deccan by conquest. Hence, it can be inferred that they inherited the Deccan as one of their possessions from the Nandas. There is no doubt about the existence of Mauryan sovereignty over the Deccan in view of the facts that Chandragupta Maurya
migrated to Shravana-Belagola in southern Karnataka and Devanampriya Priyadarshi Ashoka set up his memorable edicts in the Kurnool, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bellary and Chitradurga districts which are to the south of Bidar. He had appointed his own mahamatras to administer these parts. There was a considerable following of Jainism and Buddhism in this region in those times. Prakrit was introduced as the official language in the Deccan during the period and it continued to hold that position for several centuries more.

THE SATAVAHANAS AND BIDAR.

As far as the Deccan is concerned, the Mauryan rule ended shortly after Ashoka’s demise. Even in the north, the Mauryan Empire fell to pieces sometime later. The Satavahana hegemony commenced about 230 BCE and continued up to about 220 CE i.e., for about four and a half centuries. Pratishthana (Paithan now in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra) was the capital of the Satavahanas for a considerable period. While many of the Satavahana kings were insignificant, some were powerful monarchs. Simuka, Satakarni I and Satakarni II, sovereigns, Kuntala, Pulumavi I Hala, Gautamiputra and Yajnasri were powerful and important.

Satakami I performed Ashvamedha and Rajasuya sacrifices and assumed the title of Dakshinapathadhipati. Satakarni II, who ascended the throne in 172 BCE, had a severe conflict with the king of Pataliputra. After this episode, there was a decline of the Satavahana power for about fifty years. Kuntala, who was a mighty ruler, re-established the authority of the Satavahanas over large regions. There are several references in Indian literary traditions to a branch of the Satavahana family ruling in Kuntala, which
included the Bidar area. Rajashekhara’s *Kavyamimamsa* refers to a ruler of Kuntala named Satavahana. The Puranas and the Kamasutra of Vatsayana mention a king called Kuntala Satakarni. Hala too is called the lord of Kuntala and his name is associated with the wellknown Prakrit anthology *Gathasarptashati*. Gautamiputra’s dominions extended from Vidarbha in the north to the Krishna in the south, to Konkan in the west and Andhra in the East. The Puranas seem to have called the Satavahanas as Andhras and Andhrabhrityas in the sense that they were rulers of Andhra or Andhras who were subordinates of the ruling dynasties of Pataliputra at sometime or other. After the fall of the Satavahanas, their empire was split up into several small kingdoms, such as those of the Abhiras, Traikutas, Nagas, Ikshvakus, Vakatakas, Chutus and Pallavas.

**BIDAR DURING THE VAKATAKAS.**

After the disintegration of the Satavahana Empire in about the 3rd century CE, the Vakatakas became a strong power and established their authority over large parts of the Deccan. It appears that they extended their sway from the Narmada to the Krishna including the Bidar area. Vindyashakti (255-275 CE.), a Brahmin of Vishnu-Vriddha *gotra*, was the founder of this dynasty and their main centres were in the Vidarbha region. Vindyashakti’s son Pravarasena I (275-335 CE.) has been called a *samrat* (emperor). He and other early Vakatakas styled themselves as *Hariti putras*. After Pravarasena I, the kingdom was divided into four sub states among his sons. About 380 C.E, Vakataka Rudrasena II married Prabhavati, a daughter of the Gupta emperor Chandragupta II Vikramaditya. Vindhyasena of the Basim
branch (Vatsagulma) of the Vakatakas is credited with having conquered some northern parts of what was known as Kuntala.  

Pravarasena II (410-440 CE) assumed the title of Kuntalesha and entered into a matrimonial alliance with the powerful Kadamba king Kakusthavarrna of Banavasi by conducting the marriage of his heir apparent Narendra with the latter’s daughter Ajitabhattarika. This son-in-law of the Kadambas ascended the throne in 440 C.E. of the main Vakataka family. From here, there was intimate relationship between the Vakatakas and the Kadambas as evidenced by the fact that Narendra’s son Prithvisena II mentions his Kadamba maternal grandfather in the Vakataka genealogy.

An epigraph of Ravivarma Kadamba (485-519 C.E) states that his kingdom extended upto the Narmada, which meant that the sphere of influence of the Kadambas had stretched forth to the Narmada. The last great Vakataka ruler was Harisena (475-510 C.E.). A few years later, the Vakatakas faded out of history, and then came the age of Chalukyas of Badami as the dominant power in the Deccan.

THE CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI

With the emergence of the Chalukyas of Badami (Vatapi) to imperial status, a brilliant chapter opens in the history of the Deccan and the whole of South India. It has been proved on the basis of many facts that they were an indigenous dynasty of Karnataka. According to N. Lakshminarayan Rao, they appear to belong to the same stock as the Kadambas. Pulakeshi I alias Ranavikrama (540-566 C.E.), the son of Ranaraga, was the first Chalukya ruler who assumed the title of Maharaja and performed the Ashvamedha
sacrifice. He founded the city of Vatapi, constructed its fortress and overthrew the Kadambas. His son Keertivarma I (also called Kattiyarasa) (566-596 C.E.) made conquests of wide stretches of territories including the Central Deccan, Konkan, Eastern Andhra, Talakad and Dakshina Kannada area. The next Chalukya monarch was Mangalesha (596-610 C.E.) who was the younger brother of Keertivarma I had an outstanding political achievement with victory over the Kalachuryas (Kalachuris or Katachuris also known as Haihayas) who ruled over a large region consisting of parts of Maharashtra, Konkan, Malwa and Gujarat. Mangalesha also took over Revatidweepa in Ratnagiri district of what is now known as Maharashtra. Pulikeshi II, the son of Keertivarma I, who was the rightful heir to the throne, had now to wage a fight against his uncle Mangalesha, who was the regent during the former's minority. Owing to the civil war, there was disorder and chaos in the vast kingdom and many feudatories had sought to rule independently.  

Pulakeshi II (616-642 C.E.), who was an indomitable warrior, subdued all the refractory chiefs effectively. An epigraph states that his prowess was such that several rulers became his vassals of their own wish. A most memorable event of his reign was that he inflicted a severe defeat on Harshavardhana, the great sovereign of Uttarapatha (North India), who was attempting to extend his sway to the Dakshinapatha (Deccan), whereupon the Chalukya monarch assumed the title of Parameshvara. Thenceforward, the Narmada became the frontier between the two great kingdoms of the north and the south. Pulikeshi II extended Chalukyan Empire from the western sea to the
eastern sea and from the Narmada in the north to the Kaveri in the south. It was claimed that the Chalukyan emperor was the master of 99,000 villages. Pulakeshi II led another Chalukyan campaign into the Pallava kingdom, in the course of which one of the battles was fought at Manimangala about 32 kms to the east of Kanchi. The glorious rule of this Chalukyan potentate was overtaken by a grave calamity about 642 C.E., when he was defeated and probably killed by the Pallavas who penetrated into the kingdom and led an attack on the Chalukyan capital itself, with the assistance of the Cholas, the Pandyas, the Cheras and the prince of Sri Lanka named Manavarma. Pallavas seized Badami for sometime. For about 13 years, the Chalukyan kingdom was in a state of crisis and disorder, when there was no Chalukyan emperor on the throne.¹⁰

Vikramaditya I (655-681 C.E), younger son of Pulakeshi II, retrieved the situation by his valiant endeavours and rescued the Chalukyan kingdom from the misfortune into which it had fallen. He regrouped the Chalukyan forces, recaptured Badami and re-established the Chalukyan sovereignty for which he had to fight many battles continuously with the assistance of his brothers and sons. He carried his arms right into the interior of the Pallava kingdom, occupied Kanchi for some time and camped near Tiruchirapalli in 674 C.E. after overpowering the Pallava forces. He also humbled the pride of Chola, Chera and Pandya rulers. Vikramaditya I was succeeded by his son Vinayaditya (681-696 C.E.) who was also a renowned warrior and was known as Yuddhamalla and had valorously assisted his father in his various exploits.
He is stated to have defeated the lord of *Uttarapatha* and captured Palidhvaja and he levied tributes from Parasika and Simhala. Vinayaditya thus appears to have completely restored the imperial honour and dignity of his forefathers.\(^{11}\)

The next king was Vijayaditya (697-733 C.E.) who was followed by Vikramaditya II (733-745 C.E.). During the latter’s period, the Arabs, who had captured and were ruling Sindh, invaded Gujarat in great force with the object of extending their power right into the Deccan. But, they were successfully repulsed by a Chalukyan prince Avanijanashraya Pulikesi son of Dharashraya Jayasimha Varma, who was governing Gujarat. Vikramaditya II captured Kanchi, Keertivarma II, who succeeded Vikramaditya II, was the last ruler of this family, which was overthrown by the Rashtrakutas.\(^{12}\)

From the above it appears that the Chalukyas organised the first great extensive kingdom of Karnataka, which unified and integrated various parts of the country south of the Narmada and bequeathed a rich cultural legacy. Their civil government and armed forces were highly well organised. The vast army that they organised won resounding fame as invincible *Karnatakabala*. The Chalukya princes, who had been deputed to govern Andhra and Gujarat were permitted to found their own dynasties and helped the blossoming of regional cultures in those provinces.

**Bidar under the imperial Rashtrakutas.**

By the time of Keertivarma II, the resources and energies of the Chalukyas had been considerably diminished owing to the frequent wars they had to wage. It is still not definitely known as to which was the chief seat of
the Rashtrakutas during the early period. There are various inferences about it and regarding the beginnings and early career of the Rashtrakutas. It appears that Ellora (Aurangabad district), Mayurkhindi (Nasik district) or, Markandi (Chanda district), Kandhara (Nanded district) Paithan (Nasik district) and Morkhandi (or Mayurkhandi in Bidar District) were their earlier centres. In many of their epigraphs, the Rashtrakutas have described themselves as *Lattalura-Puravaraadheeshvaras*. From this, it is evident that the place of their origin was Lattalura (modern Latur) which was a part of Karnataka, from where they had gone to northern parts of the Deccan.

Dantidurga Rashtrakuta, who was the son of a princess of the Gujarat branch of the Chalukyas, became an eminent feudatory of the Chalukyas of Badami and was growing strong in the Ellora region. He had participated in the victorious Chalukyan expedition against the Arabs and the Pallavas and proved himself a fearless military leader and had assumed the title of "Khadgavaloka". He had carried his arms into parts of Gujarat, Malwa, Mahakosala (Chhattisgad), annexed those northern areas and had thus consolidated his position by about 750 C.E. There was armed conflict between Keertivarma II of Badami and Dantidurga from which the latter emerged successful. By this, Dantidurga became master of all the northern territories of the Chalukyan Empire. By about 755 C.E, when Keertivarma II was ruling the remaining parts of the Chalukyan dominions, Dantidurga breathed his last.
Dantidurga, who had no son, was succeeded by his uncle Krishna I. In 757 C.E., Keertivarma II, who marched against Krishna I in the Sholapur area, was completely defeated and was probably killed in the battlefield, thus ending the glorious epoch of supremacy of the Chalukyas of Badami. Thereafter the Rashtrakutas became supreme in the Deccan. Krishna I established his authority over Konkan and then advanced into southern Karnataka upto Manne in Bangalore district after breaking down the resistance of the Gangas. However, the Ganga king Sripurusha was permitted to continue his rule over the rest of his dominion as a vassal. Next, an expedition fitted out under the leadership of Govinda II inflicted a defeat on the Chalukya king of Vengi about 769 CE.15

Krishna I (774-778 CE.) a pleasure-loving king who succeeded Govinda-II, transferred the royal authority to his younger brother Dhruva. Dhruva, a capable and ambitious prince, ascended the throne in 778 CE. He carried out a brilliant military campaign deep into north India and vanquished the Gurjara Pratihara king Vatsaraja of Malwa and Rajasthan and king Dharmapala of Bengal, who were vying with each other for possessing Kanauj. Dhruva’s army on its way back, made incursions into the Vengi kingdom. After consolidating his power, Dhruva led a successful expedition against the Pallavas and by now, the Rashtrakutas emerged as the most dominant paramount power in all India. Dhruva chose his third son Govinda III as his successor superseding his two elder sons.16
Govinda III became the sovereign in (793-814 CE). Stambha released the Ganga ruler and claiming the throne for himself, revolted with the assistance of 13 chiefs including Pallava, Pandya, Chola and Ganga. However, there was reconciliation between the two brothers and the Ganga prince Shivamara was put back into prison and Stambha was reappointed as the governor of Gangavadi. Govinda III turned his attention to the north and he appointed his younger brother Indra as his governor in southern Gujarat and Malwa. The Rashtrakuta army marched into the northern region and overcame the resistance of Nagabhata II, the Gurjara-Pratihara king. Chakrayudha of Kanauj capitulated to the triumphant Rashtrakuta monarch. Dharmapala, the king of Bengal, and various other rulers of north India, who were reduced, acknowledged the Rashtrakuta suzerainty. Then the victorious Rashtrakuta troops reached out to the foot of the Himalayas. The northern campaign seems to have been concluded about 800 C.E. There was no other kingdom in India, which was so extensive and had such formidable strength as that of the Rashtrakutas. Now the Rashtrakutas were at their zenith and were the paramount power in all India. ¹⁷

Sharva, the minor son of Govinda III, succeeded to the throne in 814 CE. He is well known as Amoghavarsha I Nrupatunga. His cousin Karka was recalled from Gujarat where he had been the Rashtrakuta governor and was appointed as his regent. Now the kingdom was plunged in turmoil by the mutiny of several relatives and vassals. As a result of this, the boy king had to leave the capital for some time. However, Karka proved equal to the task by
quelling the revolts and made the position of Amoghavarsha secure by about 821 CE. Amoghavarsha developed the city of Manyakheta (modern Malkhed in Gulbarga district) and its fortifications and made it the famous capital. The recalcitrant elements in the Vengi, Ganga and Gujarat territories were put down and Amoghavarsha well managed to keep the empire intact. Amoghavarsha, who was a peace loving monarch given to cultural pursuits, adopted a policy of reconciliation and goodwill towards his various feudatories and the Pallavas. His records state that nothing was dearer to him than the welfare of his people. He was a great lover of literature and scholarship and extended patronage to savants like Shakatayana, Mahaveeracharya, Veerasena, Shrivijaya, Jinasena, Gunabhadra. He was the greatest patron of letters among the Rashtrakuta sovereigns. Amoghavarsha had two sons, Krishna II and Duddhayya the latter of whom was a governor as disclosed by an epigraph. After a long reign of 64 years, Amoghavarsha abdicated throne in favour of his son Krishna II and devoted himself to religion.  

Krishna II (Kannara), who came to the throne in 878 C.E., had to face serious threats to the integrity of his kingdom. Soon after his accession to power Bhoja, the Gurjara Pratihara king made an incursion into the Rashtrakuta dominion. But the march of his army was halted by the prince of the Gujarat branch of the Rashtrakutas, who repelled and pursued the Gurjara Pratihara forces back into Malwa and occupied Ujjayini. At this time, the Chalukyas of Vengi also encroached upon the Rashtrakuta territory and defeated the Nolambas and the Gangas who were vassals of the
Rashtrakutas. Krishna II overpowered the Chalukyan troops and took the Chalukyan ruler Bhima captive.19

Krishna II was followed by his grandson **Indra III** in 914 CE., the Paramara ruler, who raided the northern part of the Rashtrakuta kingdom was beaten back. Indra III now led an expedition into the north, crossed the Yamuna and captured Kanauj by defeating Mahipala who fled from the city, in this venture he was assisted by Chalukyan prince of Vemulavada. He was followed by Amoghavarsha II, Govinda IV and Amoghavarsha III whose reigns were only for short periods. Govinda IV, who was a lover of pleasure was repeatedly defeated by the Chalukyas of Vengi. He was deposed by his uncle Amoghavarsha III. 20

**Amoghavarsha III** was aged and had a religious bent of mind and left the affairs of the kingdom to the care of his capable son **Krishna III** (Kannara) who succeeded his father on the throne in 939 CE. Krishna III in collaboration with his brother-in-law Ganga Butuga led a campaign against the Chola king Parantaka, occupied Kanchi and Tanjavur and marched right up to Rameshvaram where he erected a pillar of victory and also assumed the title “**Kachchium-Tanjaiyum-Konda**”. For some years thereafter, the Chola kingdom was under the sway of the Rashtrakutas. He then subdued the Chalukyas of Vengi, seized Kalanjar and marched to Ujjayini where the Rashtrakuta banner was hoisted. Consequently, the Paramara ruler of Malwa acknowledged the Rashtrakuta paramountcy. A Kannada inscription found at Jura near Jabbalpur in Madhya Pradesh lauds the triumph of the Rashtrakuta
arms in northern India. This victorious adventure was also undertaken with the assistance of the Gangas. The Rashtrakuta power and prestige were again at the pinnacle during the reign of Krishna III who was an indomitable warrior. He bore the title of *Sakala-Dakshinadigadhipati* (the Lord of the whole of southern India).  

Since Krishna III had no issue living he was succeeded by his younger brother *Khottiga* in 967 C.E. The new ruler was already aged and had no initiative or capacity. During his reign, the Paramaras invaded his dominion and attacked Manyakheta which they sacked. The Ganga ruler Marasimha II, who was related to the Rashtrakuta family rushed his army to the rescue of Manyakheta and repelled the Paramara forces. He chased them to the Vindhyas. Khottiga, who felt disgraced, died of a broken heart soon thereafter in 972 C.E. Khottiga had a son named Kannaradeva (Krishna IV) who ruled only for a very short time as revealed by an inscription discovered recently at Harishi, dated 972 CE. Kannaradeva was followed by Khottiga’s nephew Karka II, who was overthrown by a feudatory Chalukya Taila II.  

Taila proclaimed his independence and occupied Manyakheta in 973 C.E., to mark his triumph he performed *Brahmanda-Kratu-Mahadana* during the first year of his reign. Karka II fled to the remote region of Banavasi in the west where he managed to survive as the chief of a small area right until about 991-992 C.E. In the meanwhile, Ganga Marasimha had made a futile attempt to restore the power of the Rashtrakutas by placing Indra IV who was
his own sister’s son and grandson of Krishna III. After the death of Ganga Marasimha in 975 C.E., Indra IV was helpless and faded out.  

This sounded the end of a resplendent period in the history of India. It is noteworthy that hitherto no other power based in the Deccan had played such a predominant part in all India. Verily it was the Age of the Rashtrakutas in India. In their heyday, they were the unchallenged paramount power in all-India.

**The Chalukyas of Kalyana.**

**Taila II** (Tailapa, Tailappa, Tailappayya or Tailaparasa), referred above, brushed aside the enfeebled Rashtrakutas and emerged as the new sovereign at Manyakheta. He was the founder of the third imperial power of Karnataka, which had been made the core of an extensive Chakravarti Kshetra for the first time by the Chalukyas of Vatapi (Badami) and under the Rashtrakutas. After occupying Manyakheta, Taila had to engage himself in continuous struggles against those who opposed the resurrection of the Chalukyan authority. The Gangas, who had matrimonial alliances with the Rashtrakutas, were hostile to the new Chalukyan sovereign. The Gangas acknowledged the suzerainty of the Chalukyas of Kalyana. By about 992 CE., Rajaraja Chola, who was intervening in Nolambavadi and in a succession struggle among the Chalukyas of Vengi, was also defeated by Taila II. The ambition of the new Chalukya ruler was to bring all those territories, which had been held by his forefathers under his control. He had to lead several expeditions to the north in the course of which he won victories over the Latas of southern Gujarat, Gurjaras of northern Gujarat and the Chedis and the
Paramaras of Malwa about 996 CE. Taila II, who had thus several martial achievements to his credit, assumed the titles of *Ranaranga Bheema, Nija-bhuja-chakravarti* (emperor by the might of his own arms) and *Ratta-gharatta* (grindmill to the Rattas). The period of his reign of 24 years was occupied by ceaseless warfare for consolidation and stabilization of the new line Chalukyan power. The Rashtrakuta princess Jakabbe had borne him two sons, Irivabedanga Satyashraya and Dasavarma alias Yashovarma.²⁴

**Irivabedanga Satyashraya** succeeded his father Taila II in 997 C.E. The Cholas now raided the southern borders of the Chalukya kingdom and killed Dasavarma in a battle. Then in 1004 C.E., the Cholas invaded Gangavadi in great force, captured Talakad and subjugated the Gangas. Rakkasaganga, however, ruled as a feudatory of the Cholas upto 1024 C.E. The Cholas then marched deep into the Chalukyan territory upto Donur in Bijapur district but they were soon repelled. Irivabedanga sent expeditionary forces against the Chalukyas of Vengi, the Silaharas of Konkan and the Paramaras of Malwa in order to secure the Chalukyan position in the east, west and north respectively.²⁵

**Vikramaditya V** (1008-1014 C. E.), was the next Chalukyan monarch, he was son of the late Dasavarma. The Cholas, who had entrenched themselves in Gangavadi, now made a bid to extend their over lordship to the north of Gangavadi, but met with no success. According to a literary work entitled *Ayyanavamsha-charitakavyam*, Ayyana, a younger brother of Vikramaditya V ascended the Chalukyan throne, ruled for a short time and
renounced kingship. This appears to have happened between 1014 and 1015 C.E.\textsuperscript{26}

Jagadekamalla Jayasimha II, another younger brother of Vikramaditya V, was the monarch from 1015 to 1044 C.E. He had to face several catastrophes. Some sources indicate that there was an understanding among the Paramaras, Kalachuris, Chalukyas of Vengi and the Cholas to encircle the Chalukyan (Kalyana) kingdom and to launch simultaneously fierce actions against the Chalukyas of Manyakheta. The Paramara king made inroads into the northern and western regions of the Chalukyan kingdom and fought a severe battle on the banks of the Godavari, which ended in a victory to Jayasimha. The Paramara chief had occupied parts of Konkan from which he was dislodged after a tough fighting. From the south, the Cholas advanced through the Banavasi region and the Raichur Doab upto Kollipake (Kulpak) in the present Telangana, which was a subsidiary capital of the Chalukyas of Manyakheta. Eventually, the Chola forces were driven back, and to mark his success against the Chola invasion, Jayasimha II assumed the title of \textit{cholagra-kalanala}.\textsuperscript{27}

\textbf{Someshvara I}, the eldest son of Jayasimha II, was crowned king in 1044 C.E. About 1048 C.E, Kalyana (now Basavakalyan) was made the metropolis of the kingdom in place of Manyakheta. His reign was full of turmoil and conflicts. In 1045 C.E., the Cholas carried their arms into the coastal Andhra, forced their way into the Chalukyan dominion and pillaged Kollipake, the subsidiary capital of the Chalukyas. But, very soon
Someshvara-I was able to reassert the Chalukyan suzerainty over Vengi. He led expeditions against the Paramara king Bhoja and seized his capital Dhara. The Chedi (Kalachuri) chief Karna was also subdued in this campaign. The two Silahara families of Konkan and Karhad, and Sevuna Bhillama, who had become refractory, were suppressed. In these northern enterprises, Vikramaditya VI, the younger son of Someshvara I, distinguished himself as a doughty warrior. The Cholas resumed their incursions and advanced upto Koppam (Koppal in Raichur district) where a fierce battle was fought in 1054 C.E. Rajadhiraja, the Chola monarch, was killed in the battlefield and the Chola army was put to flight. About ten years later in 1064 C.E., there was another battle fought between Veerarajendra Chola and Someshvara I at Kudala-Sangama in which the Cholas were routed.28

**Bhuvanaikamalla Someshvara II**, the eldest son of Someshvara I, styled as *Vengipuravaveshvara* in several records dating from 1049 to 1054 C.E, became the next sovereign in 1068 C.E. Soon thereafter, Veerarajendra, the new Chola king (brother of Rajendra Chola) who laid siege to Gutti, was repulsed. Someshvara II made an unsuccessful attempt to intervene in a tug of war of succession to the throne of Malwa. This failure was a blow to his prestige. Vikramaditya VI, with the assistance of the Kadamba chief of Goa and his own younger brother Jayasimha, proceeded against Veerarajendra Chola. The latter now sought reconciliation with the Chalukyas and gave his daughter in marriage to Vikramaditya VI sometime thereafter. But, there was a rebellion in the Chola kingdom after the return of Vikramaditya VI.
Therefore, Vikramaditya VI rushed to Gangaikondacholapuram and helped his brother-in-law Adhirajendra, who was the rightful claimant to the Chola sovereignty to ascend the throne. But, Adhirajendra was assassinated after the return of Vikramaditya VI.  

**Vikramaditya VI**, who had earned a high reputation and was supported by many feudatories, put his elder brother Someshvara II under restraint and took over the kingly powers in 1076-77 C.E. Vikramaditya VI inaugurated a new era of reckoning known as Chalukya *Vikrama-Varsha* from the date of his coronation (26\textsuperscript{th} February 1076-77) in place of the Shaka era which was prevalent. His long reign of 50 years was relatively peaceful one as that of Amoghavarsha I Nrupatunga of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. Vikramaditya VI, as was usual with his forefathers, led military expeditions into Lata and Malwa thrice in order to secure the northern frontiers of the kingdom. Jagaddeva, a Paramara prince, gave up his claim to the Paramara throne, came to the court of Vikramaditya VI and became his trusted follower. The several feudatories of the Chalukyas had a wholesome fear of the prowess of Vikramaditya. He won over the loyalty of some of the chiefs who were subordinate to Vengi and extended his influence into the Vengi territory. He led an expedition to Kanchi and put Kulottunga I to flight and restored Chalukyan suzerainty over Vengi. He restored the Chalukyan authority over the Vengidesha and his suzerainty extended from the western sea to the eastern sea. His kingdom extended upto Nagpur in the North. In the south, the Hoysalas of Dorasamudra, who had risen to considerable power, were
now augmenting their strength under their capable prince Vishnuvardhana, who had seized Gangavadi by ousting the occupant Chola forces from Talakad. After this, Hoysala Vishnuvardhana inflicted a defeat on an expeditionary force of the Chalukyas at Kannegal about 1117-18 C.E., then advanced into Hangal, Bellary and Belvola areas and crossed the Tungabhadra. But by a flanking movement, Vikramaditya’s forces encircled Vishnuvardhana’s army, vanquished him at Halasuru and Hosavidu about 1122 CE. The Hoyasala chief continued to acknowledge the Chalukyan paramountcy.  

After Vittkramaditya VI, his son Someshvara III came to the throne in 1127 C.E. He had the epithets of Sarvajna-Bhupa and Bhulokamalla. The former appellation indicates that he was a man of deep learning. The authorship of a valuable encyclopaedic literary work entitled Manasollasa (also called Abhilashitartha Chintamatni) is attributed to him. There is evidence to show that being a peace loving ruler, he moved out of the capital only on a few occasions. In 1127 CE a Chola subordinate named Nambayya is found administering the Kollipake area. This means that now it had slipped out of the control of the Chalukyas. The same was the case with the southern part of Vengi about 1130 CE. In the southern parts of Karnataka, the Hoysalas were building up their strength. Someshvara III is found camping at Banavasi, Navileyakuppa, Hulluniya-teertha (modem Galaganath), etc., in the course of what is described as a digvijaya in the south. This was probably with a view to counteract the expansionist thrust of the Hoysalas. During the
early part of his reign, in the coastal Andhra his officers were exercising authority on his behalf. Later on, there was revolt in that region. To suppress it, Someshvara III appears to have personally led an expedition to that outlying area and fought an unsuccessful battle on the Godavari.\(^{31}\)

Someshvara III was followed by his son **Jagadekamalla II** on the throne about 1139 C.E. He was known also as *Perma* and *Tribhuvanamalla Permadideva*. The three important vassals of Chalukyas namely, the Hoysalas in the south, the Sevunas in the north and the Kakatiyas in the east, were restive and were pursuing their own expansionist policies. They were expanding their territories at the expense of the smaller feudatories, ignoring the Chalukyan suzerainty. The Kadambas of Goa were also acting independently. Hoysala Vishnuvardhana again ventured into the Banavasi and Hangal regions. But Barmadeva and Madhava the two generals who were brothers serving under Jagadekamalla effectively chastised the Hoysalas and the Kadambas. According to inscriptions, *Dandanayaka Kesiraja* played a heroic role in subduing the feudatories. He and Veerapandya of Nolambavadi led successful military expeditions to Gujarat, Malwa and Kalinga and restored the Chalukyan prestige. The loyalty and enterprise of these generals appear to have been responsible for holding the various parts of the empire together for the time being.\(^{32}\)

**Trailokyamalla Taila III** younger brother of Jagadekamalla II was his successor. It has been earlier observed that the process of decline of the Chalukyan empire had already set in. It was beyond the capacity of this ruler
to reverse the ominous trends and rejuvenate the strength of his patrimony. The needs of the time were martial qualities and statesmanship of a high order which he did not possess. All the peripheral vassals defied the authority of their suzerain and were ruling independently for all intents and purposes. To make this state of affairs worse, Kalachuri Bijjala II, had become very powerful by about 1153 C.E. He won over several of the feudatories to his side and established a firm hold on the region of the Chalukyan capital itself. Taila III is found camping at Annigeri in 1157 C.E. and then he fled to the Banavasi tract. The very next year, he proclaimed his son Tribhuvanamalla Someshvara IV as his successor. Nor this heir apparent could assert himself at this juncture, but had to flee with some other scions of the family and take shelter with the Pandyas of Uchchangi, the Santaras and the Cholas of Nidugal who were loyal feudatories. Nothing further is heard of Taila III after 1162 C.E. Finally in 1162 C.E., Bijjala declared himself as the independent monarch of the whole of the Chalukyan empire.  

The Kalachuris.  

The Kalachuryas (also called Kalachuris, Katachuris and Haihayas) were an ancient and distinguished family who first rose to power in Central India about the sixth century C.E. They had Mahishmati (modern Omkara-Mandhata) situated on the bank of the Narmada as their capital. They had brought under their sway parts of Malwa, Gujarat and Maharashtra. It has been already noticed that Kalachuri Buddharaja was one of the princes vanquished by Chalukya Mangalesha of Badami. Later, the Kalachuris captured the important fortress of Kalanjara in Bundelkhand and commenced
calling themselves as *Kalanjarapuravaradheeshvaras* and made Tripuri (modern Tewar) near Jabalpur as their capital. The region ruled by the Kalachuryas of Tripuri was known as Chedi and Dahala which lay in the present Madhya Pradesh. They attained considerable power and had matrimonial alliances with the Chalukyas of Badami, the Rashtrakutas of Malkhed, the Chalukyas of Kalyana, the Chalukyas of Vengi and various other royal families.  

With shrewdness and tenacity, the Kalachuryas survived political crises of the suzerain powers and were one of the long lived dynasties. Some of their branches which were under continuous pressure from the powerful Gurjara Pratiharas fanned out to other parts also like Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhattisgarh and Raipur (Madhya Pradesh). Another branch migrated to the Deccan about the early part of the ninth century and settled down at Mangalivada\(^3\) (Mangalavedhe, in the present sholapur district) which was not far from the main centres of powers in the Deccan. Uchita (925 C.E.) is the earliest known member of the Kalachuris of Mangalavedhe. After him, there were eight chiefs including Permadi \(^4\) (1118-1130 C. E.) who were all feudatories. Permadi, who was an ambitious *samanta*, made attempts to gain an upper hand in the empire and had matrimonial alliance with the Chalukyas.

Kalachuri Bijjala II, a nephew of king Someshvara III and cousin of Jagadekamalla II, was closely related to the Chalukyan royal family, being the daughter's son of the great Vikramaditya VI. Bijjala had grown up in the royal household at Kalyana in the company of the Chalukyan princes and had
intimate knowledge of royal circle and of the political affairs of the kingdom. Bijjala, who had a long illustrious family heritage, close bonds of kinship with the Chalukyas had taken a leading part in martial enterprises of the Chalukyan dominion and had the title of Rayasamuddharanam (uplifter or saviour of the monarch), dreamt of taking over the reins of government at Kalyana himself when he found that the kingdom was disintegrating. He occupied the imperial throne at Kalyana in 1162 C.E, probably soon after the demise of Taila III.37

Bijjala had continuous conflict with several of the feudatories like the Hoysalas, Pandyas of Uchchangi, Sindas and Nidugal chiefs who did not recognise Bijjala's suzerainty. Some of these vassals were championing the cause of Chalukya Someshvara IV and other scions of the Chalukya family to whom they had given protection. In 1162 C.E., Bijjala is found camping at Balligave having gone there in order to consolidate his hold over the region. In the south of Banavasi, the Hoysalas had by now made their position formidable. Being preoccupied with the problems nearer home, Bijjala does not appear to have made serious attempts to re-establish control over the Sevunas and the Kakatiyas who were now acting independently.38

The Sharana or Reform Movements.

This period was marked by an unprecedented socio-religious upheaval, which developed into a revolutionary mass movement seeking to bring about radical reforms and to reconstruct the society on the basis of certain new human values. This phenomenal upsurge was led by Basavanna (also known as Basava, Basaveshvara, Basavesha, Basavaraja and Basavadeva) and
other towering personages like saint Allama Prabhu, Channabasavanna, Akka-Mahadevi, Siddharama, Madivala Machayya.

It is generally believed that Basaveshvara was born in 1131 C.E and hailed from a highly cultured and distinguished Brahmin family of Bagewadi. His father Madarasa was chief of a large, important and renowned agrahara town. He declined to undergo the Brahmanical initiation (upanayana) and left home. He took up residence in the vicinity of the temple of Sangameshvara at Kudala-Sangama at the confluence of the Malaprabha and the Krishna. He stayed there for about ten years and studied various shastras. While perhaps Jataveda Muni was his deeksha-guru, Sthanapati Ishanya Yogi was his shiksha-guru.  

About this time Basaveshvara’s elder maternal uncle Baladeva, who was minister at Kalyana, gave his daughter Gangambike in marriage to Basaveshvara. About 1150-51 C.E., Basaveshvara went over to Mangalavedhe and joined service at the court of Bijjala who was ruling there as a powerful feudatory. Bijjala appointed Basaveshvara as his minister and chief treasurer, and gave Neelambike (whom he had looked upon as his adopted sister) in marriage to Basaveshvara. Shortly in about 1154 C.E., Basavanna shifted to the imperial capital of Kalyana where he was appointed as prime minister and chief treasurer of the realm.

Basaveshvara was actuated by lofty secular and spiritual ideals. His residence, which was called Mahamane (Great Abode), was the rendezvous of seekers of social and religious reforms and spiritual truths, and of serving
of consecrated food. His egalitarian views, saintliness, transparent concern for the enlightenment and welfare of the so-called low castes and outcastes, piety, charity and spiritual vision made him widely popular. Like-minded men and women (including some princes and other eminent personalities) even from distant parts like Kashmir, Bengal, Orissa, Gujarat, Kerala, etc., came to Kalyana attracted by his teachings. He established the *Anubhava-Mantapa* (Spiritual Parliament), hundreds of *Sharanas* (*i.e.*, those who had dedicated themselves to service of humanity and God), men and women, irrespective of their status in life, took part and carried on discussions there freely. Sage Allama Prabhu, who was renowned for his spiritual profundity was its president. Channabasavanna, was the vice-president of the *Anubhava Mantapa*. Sonnaligeya Siddharama, Akka-Mahadevi, Madivala Machayya, Moligeya Marayya, Haralayya, Madhuvarasa, Aydakki Marayya, Nuliya Chandayya, Muktyakka, Ghattivalayya, Shivalenka Manchanna, Musudiya Choudayya, Dohara Kakkayya, Kugina Maritande, Hadapada Rechayya, Hadapada Appanna, etc., were prominent among the *sharanas* who were participating in the deliberations of the *Anubhava Mantapa*.41

Basavanna and the galaxy of his companions denounced the compartmentalisation of the society into castes and sub-castes and its various connotations including ‘untouchability’ and threw open the portals of the treasury of wisdom to all the people by their *vachana* writings and preachings in the regional language and brought into actual practice what they taught. They used the term Shiva for the absolute Supreme Being and
not in the sense of one of the Trimurtis or gods. They described those who were immersed only in worldly affairs as bhavis (worldly) as distinguished from bhaktas (spiritual-minded). They were opposed to priestcraft and hypocrisy, exploitation and inequalities and steadfastly preached egalitarian values.42

Eradication of the sense of high and low based on birth and wealth was their aim. He declared that devoted work was real worship (Kayakave Kailasa.) dignity of labour was upheld and each one was required to do Satyashuddha Kayaka (true and pure, i.e. earnest and honest work) with dedicated spirit as a means of one’s living and salvation. Accumulation of wealth by individuals was looked down upon as unrighteous. Exploitation of others, Earnings through wrong means was condemned. Shareing of excess with the less fortunate, being considerate to others as much as one expects from others, fellow-feelings and compassion were deemed essential. Secondly, the tenet of Dasoha (which literally means, “I am at your service”) was expounded. Upright conduct in every walk of life was emphasized as imperative. Women were given equal rights and opportunities with men both in secular and religious fields. Violence was condemned as unethical. Intoxicants and unwholesome food were to be abjured. Elaborate ritualism, which was possible only for the rich, was rejected and a very simple form of worship of ishtalinga a six fold spiritual path shatsthala of sadhana through Bhakti Marga were recommended. God was one though He was called by
many names (*Devanobba, nama Halavu*). World was considered as real, as distinguished from the theory of illusion.  

These preachings pursued with vigour and zeal filled the people who came from various strata of the society with a new awareness and enlightenment and a host of profoundly transformed persons emerged from the neglected castes who could speak act and write freely and boldly like seers and sages. Their *vachana* compositions have been likened to the *Upanishads*. A number of fallen women and men were also rehabilitated and reformed. They assumed normal worthy life and began to earn their livelihood in a legitimate way, a few of them even wrote *vachanas*. The caste barriers were broken down, many people felt emancipated from the thralldom of superstitions, ignorance and inequalities. Education and knowledge ceased to be the close preserve of a few people. They found in Basaveshvara and his esteemed associates their benefactors and saviors.

Some of the other renowned *vachanakaras* were Ambigara Choudayya (fisherman), Okkalu Muddayya (agriculturist), Bahurupi Choudayya (actor), Soddala Bacharasa (store-keeper), Lingamma (barber’s wife), Adayya (trader), Urilingapeddi (ex-“untouchable”), Dakkeya Bommayya (drummer), Rayasada Manchanna (messenger), Rayamma (messenger’s wife), Shivanagamayya (ex-untouchable), Kurubara Gollala (shepherd), Telugesha Masanayya (cowherd), Aydakki Lakkamma (cleaner of rice), Kalavve (wife of an ex-untouchable) etc. Some of the wellknown other *sharanas* were Ajaganna (agriculturist), Varadaniyamma (a smith’s wife), Oleya Shantayya
(palm leaves-gatherer), Aggavanigeya Honnayya (water-carrier), Kalaketa Bommayya (actor), Amugideva (weaver), Madara Dulayya and Madara Channayya (shoemakers), Turugahi Ramanna (cowherd), Sujikayakada Ramitande (tailor.), Medara Ketayya (basket-maker), Bachikayakada Basappa (carpenter), Vaidya Sanganna (physician), Animisha (prince), Kinnari Bommanna (piper.), Jedar Madanna (soldier), Talavara Kamitande (village official), Ganada Kannappa (oil-miller), Kirata Sangayya (hunter), Malahara Kayakada Chikkadevayya (grass-rope maker), Sattige Kayakada Ramitande (umbrella-maker), Kannadi Kayakada Ammideva (mirror-manufacturer), Kadir Kayakada Remmavve (spinner woman), Kottanada Remmavve (paddy-pounder woman), Varadaniyamma (weaver's wife), Nannayya (ex-robber), Kottanada Somavve (paddy-pounder woman), Konde Manchanna (ex-spy), Hendada Marayya (toddy-tapper), etc. Kalyana became the centre of this unique protestant movement and the spiritual capital of the country. With the passage of time, the traditionalists began to view with increasing grave alarm the rapid and phenomenal growth of this mass reformist movement. 46

About this time, a marriage was solemnised by Basaveshvara between the daughter of Madhuvarasa, who was a minister and formerly a Brahmin, and the son of Haralayya (shoemaker) who was an ex-untouchable. Such frontal attacks on the roots of casteism upset the conventionalists. They carried tales to Bijjala that not only the age-old practices of varna and jati were in peril, but also his own future was at stake. They heightened his
prejudice, poisoned his mind against Basaveshvara and his associates and prevailed upon him to make use of his powers to suppress the Sharana (Veerashaiva or Lingayath) movement. Bijjala, who was pursuing his own political ambitions relentlessly, did not want such extraordinary events and the social *status quo* to be disturbed, ordered the massacre of Madhuvarasa, Haralayya and Sheelavanta the bridegroom. This atrocity caused widespread resentments and protests. Basaveshvara renounced his official positions and after making attempts to prevent tragic events, proceeded to Kudala-Sangama where he became “one with God”, about the end of 1167 C.E.\(^{47}\)

It appears that Bijjala abdicated the throne, nominated his younger son Rayamurari Sovideva as his successor and persuaded Channabasavanna to become prime minister in order to pacify the ruffled feelings of the followers of the sharana movement.\(^ {48}\) But, Bijjala’s actions against the Chalukyas and the *sharanas* had created a lot of animosity against him, as a result of which Jagadeva, who was assisted by Mallideva (also called Molleya) and Bommanna, put Bijjala to death.\(^ {49}\) This was about March 1168 C.E, i.e., about three months after the passing away of Basaveshvara. Bijjala’s successor let loose a reign of terror and launched violent persecutions. Confusion reigned supreme in the capital. Insurrections and street fights became common occurrences. Many of the insurgents and *sharanas* were pursued by the troops of Bijjala’s successor.\(^ {50}\)

Basaveshvara and his associates, who put forward a new philosophy of life based on democratic values which had a mass-appeal, were free thinkers,
humanists, radical reformers and men of action brought about a new epoch in
the history of India. Prof. P.B. Desai in his work, *Basaveshvara and his
Times* observes, “In the historical portrait of Basaveshvara revealed here, we
obtain glimpses of a child with extraordinary perception, a boy of uncommon
aptitude, an adult of revolutionary ideas and ideals, a youth of unswerving
faith and action, a high dignitary of state, adept in administration, a heroic
leader of a new religious movement, an unyielding advocate of social reforms,
a courageous fighter against orthodoxy, ignorance and vested interests, a
relentless crusader against shams and superstitions, an upholder of dignity of
man, a champion of equality of persons with faith and character, an
establisher of a new religious and social order, a literary genius, a mystic and
a saint who fulfilled his mission and left a trial of its flame for the
enlightenment of posterity”51.

One Bommana (Bommayya, Bommideva or Bommarasa) became
prominent later as a general of the Chalukyas and won fame as the restorer
of the Chalukyan power. His brother Narasimha killed another Kalachuri ruler
named Sankama II. These facts signify that supporters of the cause of the
Chalukyas, who were bidding for their time, brought about the end of Bijjala.
After the death of Bijjala, there was a scramble among several Kalachuri
claimants for the Chalukyan throne, which belonged to none of them. There
was a chain of internecine fights among Bijjala’s brother and sons. Sovideva,
a younger son of Bijjala (also called Someshvara and Rayamurari Sovideva)
assumed power at Kalyana in 1167 C.E as per the wishes of Bijjala who had
nominated him as his successor. However, this succession was contested hotly by Mailugi, a younger brother of Bijjala, and Karna, who was the son of Vajradeva who was the eldest son of Bijjala. These claimants commenced their own rule independently. But, Sovideva with the assistance of general Madhava, referred to earlier, triumphed over others for a time. He exercised Kalachuri control over some areas like Ballakunde, Madagihal and Balligave.52

Sovideva's younger brother Sankama II succeeded him and was in power for three years (1177-1180 C.E). He had a capable general named Kavana who extended the sway of the Kalachuris. Sankama II was killed by a Chalukya general named Narasimha, brother of Bammarasa. His successor was Rayanarayana Ahavamalla (1180-1183 C.E.), brother of Sankama II. In the meanwhile the sympathizers of the Chalukyas mounted pressure against the Kalachuris by regrouping their forces by winning over some feudatories to their cause. By 1181 C.E, they were able to recover some parts of the kingdom, but the Sevunas from the north, the Kakatiyas in the east and the Hoysalas in the south were relentlessly pushing forward and overrunning the regions contiguous to them. But Ahavamalla managed to keep under his control Banavasi and Belvola areas till 1183 C.E. when he was succeeded by another son of Bijjala named Singhana. In 1183-84, Singhana surrendered the Belvola and Banavasi tracts also to Chalukya Someshvara IV and acknowledged the Chalukyan supremacy thus, ended the Kalachuri interregnum of about 22 years (1162-1184 C.E). However, Veera Bijjala, son
of Rayamurari Sovideva, is found governing at Mangalavedhe till 1193 C.E, which had been their home town.\textsuperscript{53}

**Resurrection of Chalukyan Power.**

General Bammarasa (also called Brahmadeva) valiantly led the forces of the Chalukyas and took a pre-eminent part in the restoration of Someshvara IV to power. By about 1182-83 C.E the Chalukyan authority was restored over some area. General Narasimha, who has been already alluded to as the slayer of Kalachuri Sankama II, was a younger brother of general Bammarasa. It is curious to note that the father of these two brothers named Dandanatha Kavana, who has been also already referred to was a staunch supporter of the Kalachuris and has been described as *Kalachuryarajya-samuddharrana*. He and his son Bammarasa met on the same battlefield about 1183-1184 CE as leading generals of the two opposing forces in which the Chalukyas were successful\textsuperscript{54}.

Banavasi became the chief seat of Chalukya Someshvara IV and only a few parts north of the Varada was under his sway in 1183-84 CE. By about 1200 C.E, the Chalukyan power faded out in this region and Karnataka became an arena of struggle for power mainly between the Sevunas of Devagiri and the Hoysalas of Dorasamudra. The Chalukyas of Kalyana like their predecessors from the days of Pulikeshi II unified vast regions between the Narmada and the Cauvery with Karnataka as the core of their *chakravarti-kshetra*. At times, they extended the sway beyond these two great rivers and took effective interest in the affairs, of the regions of Madhya Pradesh and the remote south in order to secure their frontiers and maintain their lines of
defence. The vast Deccan region has inherited several common social and cultural characteristics from those times. In the words of N. Lakshminarayan Rao, the beneficent sway of about four hundred years of the glorious dynasty of the Chalukyas of Badami and Kalyana enriched Karnataka culture beyond measure, so much, so that to speak of the Chalukyas is to speak of cultural heritage of the Kannada people.\(^{55}\)

**Bidar and the Yadavas of Devagiri.**

After the downfall of the Chalukyas of Kalyana by about 1200 C.E, the Sevunas (Yadavas\(^{56}\)) of Devagiri launched upon a series of severe offensive actions for the possession of the territories of the Chalukyan Empire. The Sevunas overran all the western and central Deccan including the areas of Bidar and Gulbarga. The Bidar tract was under the control of the Sevunas during the period from 1200 to 1312 C.E. **Ramachandra**, the Sevuna ruler (1271-1312 C.E.), with the assistance of general Saluva Tikkama, mounted a fierce offensive against the Hoysalas in 1276 C.E and his army encamped at Belavadi, about eight kms to the north of the Hoysala capital. But, the Sevuna forces were beaten back and the invasion ended in an utter rout of the attacking forces. However, the Sevunas continued to hold large parts of the north Karnataka area.\(^{57}\)

**Singhana**, who was the most illustrious monarch of the Sevuna dynasty, ascended the throne in 1200 C.E and reigned for a long period of 47 years. At this time, the Krishna and the Malaprabha rivers had formed the boundaries between the Sevuna and the Hoysala powers. The ambition of the Sevuna monarch was to establish an empire in the Deccan. In the pursuit of this
objective, he had to contend with the Hoysalas in the south. He made several inroads into the Hoysala territory. By 1220 C.E., Singhana’s forces were in occupation of Gulbarga, Raichur, Tardavadi and Belgaum. His kingdom now thus extended from Khandesh in the north to the Chitradurga area in the south and from the west coast to Adoni in the east. The Sevuna power was at its zenith during this period.58

Singhana was succeeded by Krishna (1247-1261 C.E.) who continued Singhana’s policy which was to extend the Sevuna territory in all directions. He gained some success against the Silaharas of north Konkan, the Paramaras of Malwa and the Vaghelas of Gujarat. Krishna’s brother Mahadeva was the ruler from 1261 to 1271 C.E, who continued the hostilities with the Hoysalas, the Silaharas and the Paramaras. He was succeeded by Ramachandra (1271-1312 C.E), this Sevuna sovereign made fierce attempts to crush the power of the Hoysalas. It was during the reign of this Sevuna king Ramachandra that the Deccan experienced its first invasion by the Muslim forces from the north where the Sultanate of Delhi was well established. Allauddin Khalji, the nephew and son-in-law of Jalaluddin Khalji, had heard much of the wealth and prosperity of the Sevuna kingdom. He marched with a picked army at great speed from Kara in 1296 CE, attacked Devagiri and pillaged it. Ramachandra’s resistance proved futile and he was driven to conclude a treaty and pay a huge amount of gold. But his son Shankaradeva who was away from the capital hurriedly returned and made a counter attack on Allauddin’s forces. Allauddin overpowered him also and
compelled Ramachandra to agree to even more severe terms. This defeat shattered the political prestige of the Sevunas. Allauddin returned to Kara on in 1296 C.E. with fabulous booty.\(^\text{59}\)

Now the Kakatiyas in the east and the Hoysalas in the south began to press forward. Prataparudra Kakatiya extended his western borders and occupied Medak, Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur. Ballala III, the Hoysala monarch recovered Santalige, Banavasi and Kogali from the Sevunas. In 1307 C.E, Allauddin Khalji sent an expedition under Malik Kafur, who overran the Sevuna kingdom and took Ramachandra prisoner. However, he was released on agreeing to be a vassal of the Sultanate of Delhi. Then again, Malik Kafur was sent to the Deccan against the Kakatiyas in 1308 C.E, Malik exacted from Ramachandra for his aggressive actions. Shankaradeva referred to earlier succeeded Ramachandra in 1311 C.E Malik Kafur again led an expedition, vanquished and killed Shankaradeva. But the invader had to hurry back to Delhi owing to the illness of Allauddin Khalji, Haripala, the son-in-law of Ramachandra, led a revolt, but he was soon put down in 1317 C.E by Mubarak, the son and successor of Allauddin. In 1318 C.E, Haripala was suppressed and was flayed alive, and the Sevuna dominion was annexed to the Delhi Sultanate. This was the end of the Sevuna power.\(^\text{60}\)

**Seizure of Bidar by Muhammad bin- Tughluq.**

There was political turmoil at Delhi in which the Khalji dynasty was overthrown, and Ghiasud-din Tughluq came to power in 1321 C.E. This new Sultan of Delhi dispatched a military expedition under the leadership of his son prince Ulugh Khan (Muhammad-bin-Tughluq) against the Kakatiyas of
Warangal. Ulugh Khan laid siege during to the fort of Warangal 1321-22 C. E. and overcame the long resistance of Prataparudra who was taken prisoner. During this campaign, Ulugh Khan seized the Bidar town and the surrounding area which was at this time a part of the Kakatiya kingdom. An epigraph of Ghiasud-din Tughluq discovered at Basavakalyan, which is dated in the year 1323 C.E., has disclosed that Kalyana was also one of the places which were taken over, by Ulugh Khan. This lithic record refers to Kalyana as a *kasba* (a town).

This shows that by this time the importance of Kalyana had dwindled. Ulugh Khan captured Bidar and some other places of the area wherein he stationed military garrisons. From this, it is evident that the Bidar town had come to the fore as an important place of the region. Muhammad-bin-Tughluq succeeded his father in 1325 C.E. Soon thereafter, Bahaud-din Gurshasp, a cousin of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq, who was the governor of the Sagar province (Gulbarga area) rose in rebellion in 1326 C.E. But his revolt was crushed by the officers of the Sultan and Bahaud-din fled to Kampili. Another lithic record also found at Basavakalyan dated Shaka 1248 (1326 C.E) mentions Maharajadhiraja Shri Sultan Muhammad and Mahapradhana Mallika Kamadin. The latter is identified with Qivamud-din Qutlugh Khan who was the governor of the province in which this area was included.

The Sultan nominated Qutlugh Khan as his viceroy at Daulatabad. He also appointed Shihab-i-Sultani (entitled Nusrat Khan) as the governor at Bidar on the condition that he should send revenue of a lakh of tankas to the
imperial treasury, annually. But, Nusrat Khan did not fulfill this condition and also rebelled in 1345 C.E thereupon, the Sultan ordered Qutlugh Khan to chastise him. Qutlugh Khan captured Nusrat Khan and despatched him to Delhi as a prisoner. Amir Ali (Alishah) was deputed from Daulatabad to recover the revenue from the Bidar region. But this officer organised an army and occupied Bidar and Gulbarga on his own. Qutlugh Khan again marched upon Bidar, imprisoned Amir Ali and sent him to Delhi. 63

There were frequent revolts in several other provinces also. Malik Maqbil, the governor of Warangal was expelled from there by the local Hindus. Qutlugh Khan, who was unable to control the situation in the Deccan, was recalled to Delhi about 1345 C.E and the Sultan's own brother Alimul Mulk was appointed in his place. The Sultan issued stern orders for execution of all recalcitrant “centurions” called “Amir Sadahs” or Yuzbhashis who were revenue-cum-military officers in charge of groups of a hundred villages each. Following this, eightynine “centurions” were cruelly put to death. All these factors led to a general rebellion by the Amirs at Daulatabad under the leadership of an Afghan nobleman named Ismail Mukh. The rebels overpowered the loyalist forces and proclaimed independence of the Deccan. They chose Ismail Mukh as their new Sultan who assumed the title Nasiruddin Ismail Shah. The royal treasury at Daulatabad was seized and much money was distributed to the troops and the Deccan was divided into fiefs among the leading Amirs. Muhammad-bin-Tughluq set out to the Deccan in
person at the head of an army. He laid siege to the Daulatabad fort, the warfare continued for three months with no decisive result.\textsuperscript{64}

Taking advantage of this situation at Daulatabad, Hasan, one of the rebels, accompanied by a few “centurions” fled to Gulbarga and Sagar where he defeated Tughluq’s forces and occupied the tract. With the help of Kapaya Nayaka of Warangal he attacked Bidar and vanquished the royalists. He further strengthened his army and made it formidable by gathering all the rebels in the region, marched to Daulatabad and expelled the imperial forces from there. Hasan, who thus proved to be the most capable and successful military leader among the rebels, was now proclaimed as the sovereign of the Deccan and was honoured with the title of Zafar Khan by the rebels in place of Nasirud-din Shah an old man who volunteered to relinquish the kingship in favour of Hasan. Zafar Khan ascended the throne at Daulatabad on Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} August 1347 and assumed a new title and name as Sikandari-i-Sani Abul Muzaffar Sultan Alaud-din Hasan Shah al-Wali Al-Bahamani.\textsuperscript{65}

In the meanwhile, in 1336 C.E., a most momentous historical event took place in the Deccan. That was the founding of Vijayanagara kingdom, which played decisive role in the politics and culture in south India. It was organised and established by five Sangama brothers headed by Harihara with wide foresight and vision. It expanded rapidly and extended from sea to sea, and restored order where there was chaos and instilled hope where there was pessimism. But for the formidable barrier erected effectively by this mighty
kingdom, the power of the Bahamanis would have spread to farthest limits of South India.\textsuperscript{66}

**Bidar under the Bahamanis**

Hasan chose Gulbarga as his capital where he had first obtained his foothold and had connections from early life. For strategic reasons, he must have considered this place as safer, which was also at a greater distance than Daulatabad from Delhi, which had become a hot bed of intrigues of the old nobility and was nearer to Vijayanagara, the new Hindu independent kingdom against which he wanted to contend. The originator of this family was supposed to be a half mythical figure of Iran called Bahaman.

Alauddin Bahaman Shah waged several wars and conducted negotiations calculated to extend his territory. He sent expeditions to various parts of the Deccan such as Kalyana, Akkalkot, Kandhar, Kotgir and Miraj in order to subdue the factions, which were opposed to the new regime. The important fort of Kalyana was reduced after a siege of five months by Qir Khan. One of the trusted generals named Sikandar negotiated with Kapaya Nayaka of Warangal and made him to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Bahamani Sultan. The area lying between the Krishna and the Ghataprabha which was at this time under a Hindu chief named Narayana, who had owed allegiance to the Tughluqs, was also subjugated by Bahamani forces. In 1349 Alauddin invaded the dominion of Vijayanagara and plundered its northern parts. Five years later, as a result of an understanding with the Sultan of Madurai, he again attacked Vijayanagara. Whereas Muslim accounts claim for him the conquest of all the area upto the Tungabhadra, the Vijayanagara
sources assert that Harihara I (1336-57 C.E) inflicted a defeat on him. It is evident that the Raichur Doab had by this time already become a bone of contention between the two kingdoms. It appears that the Raichur Doab was in possession of the first Bahamani king before the close of his reign in 1358. Bahaman Shah consolidated his rule in the Bijapur area also and he exercised control over the Konkan coast road and passes leading to them. 67

At the time of his demise, Alaud-din had become the master of an extensive kingdom, which extended to the sea on the west and as far as Bhongir on the east and bounded by the Penganga and the Krishna (or the Tungabhadra) on the north and the south. He divided his kingdom into four provinces called tarafs, each under a governor. Bidar was one of them and its governor received the title of Azam-i-Humayun (the auspicious chief). The Bidar town began to flourish as a provincial headquarters and it figures as one of the great cities of the Deccan. The Sultan adorned the capital city of Gulbarga with several fine buildings. 68

After Alaud-din I, his eldest son Muhammad I ascended the throne in 1358 C.E with the help of his father-in-law Malik Saifud-din Ghori who was appointed prime minister. A series of battles were fought which ended in the disastrous defeat of the Nayaka of Warangal who was forced to pay heavy ransom and to cede the Golconda area. Azam-i-Humayun of Bidar was appointed as the governor of Golconda. 69

The Raya of Vijayanagara who had brought the Goa tract under his control in 1366 C.E., was insisting upon the return of the Raichur Doab and
threatened to join the Sultan of Delhi against him. Muhammad issued a draft on Vijayanagara treasury for making payments to three hundred musicians and dancers from Delhi being pleased by their performance when he was in a drunken state. Enraged by this affront, the ruler of Vijayanagara crossed the Tungabhadra and captured the important Mudgal fort. Muhammad marched to Adoni, a fierce battle took place at Adoni. The Vijayanagara army resorted to guerilla warfare for sometime. Muhammad took to indiscriminate slaughter of the inhabitants of the area and declared that he would not stop the same until the Raya honoured the draft. Moved by this, the king of Vijayanagara consented to the demand and ended the war. The new monarch consolidated the power of the kingdom, it is stated that gunpowder was “freely used in the siege of Adoni” against the Vijayanagara army by this Sultan in 1365 C.E. Because of use of gunpowder as a means of warfare, the military architecture began to undergo changes to suit the requirements. 70

Mujahid, succeeded Muhammad I in 1375 C.E, the main event of his reign of was that he demanded from Vijayanagara the fort of Bankapur, a busy commercial town. When the Raya issued a counter demand, Mujahid led a campaign against Vijayanagara. He was assassinated by his cousin Dawud Khan who proclaimed himself as Sultan in 1378 CE. This usurper was killed within a month and Muhammad II, grandson of Alaud-din I, became the king. His reign of 19 years was relatively peaceful. On his death in 1397 CE his son Ghiasud-din, who was only 17 years of age, became the Sultan. Within two months he was dethroned by an unscrupulous Turkish adventurer
Taghalchin, who crowned **Shamsud-din Dawud**, Ghiasud-din’s half-brother and became himself the regent. But soon Taghalchin was slain Shamsud-din Dawud was captured and deposed by Firoz Khan (Shah).  

**Firoz Khan** (Shah) who ascended the throne in 1397 C.E, was a man of vigour and scholarship ruled for 25 years. He gathered many learned men from the overseas and patronized them. He constructed a new city on the bank of the Bhima, named it as Firozabad and occasionally used it as his capital. Firoz carried out three military campaigns against Vijayanagara in 1399, 1407 and 1417 CE, but it cannot be said with certainty whether they were much successful. But he reoccupied the Raichur Doab and separated it from the Gulbarga province and appointed one Fulad Khan as its first military governor.

Sultan’s brother **Ahmad Khan**, besieged the capital, routed the royal forces and became the new Sultan at Gulbarga in September 1422 C.E. This was a few days before the death of Firoz. Immediately after his accession, Ahmad Shah campaigned against Vijayanagara and Telangana. A battle fought on the bank of the Tungabhadra with Vijayanagara, which was followed by devastation, slaughter and enslavement in the Vijayanagara territory, which were stopped only when Vijayanagara paid a heavy ransom. Ahmad Shah led a march into Gondwana and entered into an alliance with Khandesh. On his way back, he stayed at Bidar for some time and was struck by its elevated location on the brink of a plateau and by its fine climate.
Then he removed the chief seat of the kingdom from Gulbarga to Bidar, which was already a well-protected stronghold of the Bahamanis. Perhaps he also wanted to extricate himself from Gulbarga where there had been many conspiracies against reigning monarchs as also regicides. Bidar was more centrally situated in the extended Bahamani kingdom and was strategically stronger. It was also farther away from Vijayanagara with which there was frequent warfare. The old Hindu fortress was renovated and expanded and was made suitable for mounting cannon and a lofty palace was constructed. Soon, a resplendent city arose with magnificent buildings and strong fortifications. The Sultan renamed the city as Muhammadabad.\textsuperscript{74}

Ahmad Shah carried his arms also into Malwa and Gujarat in the north where inconclusive battles were fought. A peace treaty was made with the Sultan of Gujarat. The princess of Khandesh was married to Alauddin, son of Ahmad Shah. The independent Sultanate of Khandesh was situated between the Deccan on the one hand, Malwa and Gujarat on the other. Another large-scale military expedition was organised against the principalities in Telangana and most parts of that region were subjugated. The king nominated Alauddin, his eldest son, as his successor and appointed his other sons as governors. He had a sense of chivalry and was also regarded as \textit{Wali} (saint). He had love for music and extended liberal patronage to men of learning and encouraged athletics. He lies buried at Ashtoor near Bidar.\textsuperscript{75}

\textbf{Alaud-din II}, who succeeded to the throne in 1436 C.E., surrounded himself with a number of Afaqis (foreigners) whose number further increased
during the period. He appointed a foreigner named Dilawar Khan Afghani as his prime minister. An epigraph dated 1436 C.E discloses that a Vijayanagara officer was administering the Mudgal-Nadu in the Raichur Doab. Military operations were launched against Vijayanagara under the leadership of the Sultan’s brother, Muhammad Khan, who met with some success. But, on his way back from the Raichur Doab, he raised the banner of revolt against the Sultan and claimed half of the kingdom. He captured some forts. However, he was chased and subdued and was given a *jagir*.\textsuperscript{76}

He explicitly gave precedence to the Afaqis over the Dakhnis and the Habashis (Abyssinians). This widened the cleavage between the two factions. A mixed force of Dakhnis and Afaqis sent under Khalaf Hasan to suppress refractory chiefs like the Raja of Sangameshvar in the western part met with a military disaster and Khalaf Hasan was killed. The Raya of Vijayanagara in order to recover the Raichur Doab mounted an attack on Mudgal about 1442-1443 C.E and pushed up to the bank of the Krishna. This caused much anxiety to the Sultan who had to mobilize the forces of all his governors to beat back the Vijayanagara army. The eldest son of the Vijayanagara king Devaraya II was slain by the Bahamanis. The Vijayanagara force captured two chief officers and some troops of the Sultan. When the Bahamani Sultan threatened that the lives of two lakh common men would be the price of his two officers, the Vijayanagara king released the prisoners.\textsuperscript{77}

There was an insurrection in the Telangana area caused by the Sultan’s brother-in-law Jalal Khan who declared himself the Sultan in 1454-55 C.E. He
obtained help from the Sultan of Malwa. Mahmud Gawan, an Afaqi (who was to rise to a great stature later) was commissioned to quell this rebellion. He was successful in this mission. Alaud-din was a pleasure-loving monarch and he had the gift of the gab, he could be easily misled by crafty nobles. As he was unable to handle the Afaqi-Dakhni problem tactfully, it further aggravated during his regime. While the majority of the Afaqis were Shias, most of the Dakhnis were Sunnis.  

Alaud-din II, who died in 1458 CE, had designated his eldest son Humayun as the next Sultan, the savagery of this new ruler, who was of volcanic temper, earned for him the title of Zalim (tyrant). He smashed the conspiracy to enthrone his younger brother Hasan Khan and appointed Mahmud Gawan as prime minister, commander-in-chief and governor of Bijapur. The Sultan’s brother Hasan Khan, who had been imprisoned escaped and declared himself the Sultan. He was captured and by the order of Humayun was served as food to hungry tigers and his followers were thrown into boiling cauldrons and fed to wild beasts. An army of the Gajapati ruler of Orissa, who annexed a large part of Telangana, penetrated into the interior of the Bahamani kingdom right upto Gulbarga and had camped within 16 kms of Bidar, but the intruding force was made to retreat. Humayun was murdered while asleep by a maid servant in 1461 C.E at an young age.

Since Humayun’s son Nizamud-din Ahmad III (Nizam Shah) was only eight years old, his mother, who was a shrewd lady, was managing the affairs of the kingdom with the help of Mahmud Gawan and Khwaja-i-Jahan Turk.
Now there were invasions on the kingdom by the Gajapati ruler of Orissa and the Sultan of Malwa. There was a fierce battle between the forces of Malwa and the Bahamanis in which the boy king led the army himself with the help of Mahmud Gawan and Khwaja-i-Jahan, but it ended in the rout of the Bahamani army. Mahmud Khalji, the Sultan of Malwa, now advanced to Bidar itself and invested its citadel. This caused much panic in the city and the court was removed to Firozabad. The fortress of Bidar was defended by Mallu Khan Dakhni. At this crucial stage, the regency summoned the help of the Sultan of Gujarat. A Bahamani force led by Mahmud Gawan joined the Gujarat army at Bir, marched to Bidar in unison and expelled the invader (1461-62 C.E). But the next year witnessed another attack of the Deccan by the Sultan of Malwa. This time also, the ruler of Gujarat came to the rescue of the Bahamanis as a result of which the invasion was warded off.81

The young Sultan Nizamud-din Ahmad III died suddenly in 1463 C.E and was succeeded by his younger brother Muhammad III who was only nine years of age. Therefore, the same regency council carried on the government of the kingdom for sometime. There were differences between the queen mother and Khwaja-i-Jahan who had also lost the sympathy of many of the nobles by his rash actions. He was murdered in 1466 C.E. Mahmud Gawan, who had proved his mettle as a capable administrator and military leader, was now appointed the prime minister. Gawan spent three years in subjugating the Telangana area. Mahmud Gawan embarked on military operations against the Konkan region, and wrested, after much fighting, the Goa area
from Vijayanagara and established a garrison there. An understanding was entered into with Vijayanagara in respect of operations against Orissa. These successful campaigns enhanced the prestige of Gawan further in the kingdom. He had realised that the cleavage between the Afaqis and Dakhnis was harmful and made efforts to hold the balance between them. The Hindu chief of Belgaum who was restive was conciliated and made an Amir of the kingdom. Bankapur was annexed to the Bahamani kingdom. Now the Bahamani kingdom extended from the western sea to the eastern sea.  

Mahmud Gawan was a distinguished lover of learning and founded the great Madrasa (an institution of higher learning) at Bidar in 1472 C.E., which attracted teachers and students from various parts of the east. (see Chapter on Muslim Historical Monuments for detailed description) Mahmud Gawan initiated and maintained cordial relations between the Bahamani Sultanate and various foreign Muslim kingdoms like those of Gilan, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey. Many of the nobles did not like the great prestige enjoyed by Khwaja Mahmud Gawan, and they resorted to plots in order to undermine the high regard that the Sultan had for him. Malik Hasan, who was a leader of the Dakhni party, conspired with Zarif ul-Mulk Dakhni and Miftah Habashi against Gawan. The Sultan who was in a drunken state at Kondapalli where he had camped on his way back from an expedition in the east, summoned Gawan and without listening to his remonstration that he was innocent, immediately ordered the execution of the veteran statesman. Gawan, who was an old man of 73, knelt in prayer when he heard this order and was beheaded.
instantaneously on 5th April 1481. Soon thereafter, when the Sultan learnt the truth about the whole episode, he was stricken with repentance and sent the late prime minister's coffin to Bidar with royal honours. This tragic end of Mahmud Gawan was a grievous blow to the Bahamani kingdom. Sultan Muhammad III died in 1482 C.E when he was only 29 years of age.\textsuperscript{83}

Muhammad III had nominated his son Shihabud-din Mahmud as the next Sultan. The new ruler being a boy of only 12 years, a regency council was formed with the dowager queen as its chief. Malik Hasan (Nizamul-Mulk), who was the leader of the Dakhni group of nobles, became the prime minister of the new sovereign. He caused a cold-blooded massacre of the Turks in the capital. There was a revolt in Telangana, Malik Hasan led an expedition to quell it. In his absence, there were machinations to do away with him. He returned to Bidar and getting scent of the plot, plundered the royal treasury. But, his friend Dilpasand Khan betrayed him, strangled him to death and presented the latter's head to the Sultan in 1486 CE. Thus ended, the career of Malik Hasan (Nizamul-Mulk) who had brought about the murder of Mahmud Gawan. In 1487, the Dakhni party made an attempt to put an end to the life of the Sultan, but it was foiled by the intervention of the foreign troops. Qasim Barid Turk, who held Kalyana, Udgir etc., as his fiefs and a leader of the Afaqis, was appointed the prime minister (vakil-e-sultanat) of the king. This new prime minister was an unscrupulous opportunist who had sided with whichever group was in good books of the king.\textsuperscript{84}
Malik Ahmad, son of Malik Hasan (Nizamul-Mulk) now took advantage of the situation, occupied several forts in Maharashtra and defeated the royal forces near Jevur Ghat in 1490 A.D. In order to humiliate and dislodge Yusuf Adil Khan, the governor of Bijapur who was responsible for exercising control of the Bahamanis on the Raichur Doab, Qasim Barid is said to have sided himself with Vijayanagara which now again seized the forts of Raichur and Mudgal. But Yusuf Adil again invaded the Raichur Doab and recovered the forts. Bahadur Gilani, who was the police chief of Goa, occupied many forts in the Konkan and southern Maharashtra and hoisted the banner of revolt against the Sultan. Now the king sought and obtained the help of his tarafdars and the royal forces led by the king himself inflicted defeats on the rebel and killed him in 1494 C.E. Qutbul Mulk, a capable noble, was appointed as tarafdar (governor) in 1495 C.E and he consolidated his own position there. The Vijayanagara army inflicted a defeat on the Bahamani garrison at Kandukur. The Bahamani king led an expedition to Raichur with the assistance of Qutbul Mulk, the governor of Telangana, for reasserting the Bahamani authority there. In 1505, Qasim Barid died and his son Amir Ali Barid was appointed as the prime minister. The new Vakil-e-sultanat (Prime minister) also could not rise to the occasion and was disliked and ignored by the governors.85

Krishnadeva Raya, who ascended the throne of Vijayanagara in 1509 carried out victorious campaigns in several directions. He occupied Raichur and Mudgal after fighting severe battles and seized Udayagiri, Kondavidu,
Venukonda, Rajamahendry, Nalgonda, Khammamet, etc. Owing to his brilliant military operations, the Bahamanis lost control of the east coast and also parts of Telangana. The Bahamani territory shrunk to a considerable extent. The central authority was tottering and there was a state of disorder when Shihabud-din died in 1518 C.E. 86

The next four Sultans, who were on the throne from 1518-1538 C.E., were puppets and virtual prisoners in the hands of the Baridis. The *tarafdars* of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar and Thelangana were now practically independent though, however, they occasionally expressed their loyalty to the Bahamani throne. *Ahmad Shah IV*, who was the nominal ruler from 1518-1520 C.E., finding that the privy purse allowed to him was inadequate, he even cut up the crown and sold away its parts. He complained to Ismail Adil Shah of Bijapur about the ill-treatment meted out to him by his prime minister, but was in vain. The next Sultan was *Alaud-din Shah* (1520-1523 C.E), who was dethroned by Amir Barid as he was venturing to assert himself. 87

When Krishnadeva Raya was engaged in his Orissa campaign, Ismail Adil Shah of Bijapur had again taken over Raichur. Therefore, the Raya besieged the fortress of Raichur in 1520 C.E. and seized the camp of Adil Shah who barely escaped with his life on his elephant. Later in 1523 C.E, Ismail Adil Shah of Bijapur was demanding restoration of the tracts seized from him by Krishnadeva Raya. It was agreed that Ismail Adil Shah and Krishnadeva Raya should meet at Mudgal parleys, but Ismail did not turn up while Krishnadeva Raya kept up his promise. The Raya marched forward
deep into the Bahamani territory and attacked Firozabad on the Bhima and Sagar and thence to Gulbarga and the capital city of Bidar itself where he liberated the three surviving sons of the late Sultan Mahmud Shah Bahamani, who had been imprisoned by prime minister Amir Barid and put the eldest of them on the throne. He brought the other two sons to Vijayanagara, where they were treated with honour and given protection. In token of this, Krishnadeva Raya assumed the title of Yavana-RajyaStnapanacharya (establishe of Muslim kingship). The Bahamani prince whom Krishnadeva Raya enthroned appears to be Wali-ullah who ruled for three years. This new Sultan, who defied Amir Barid, was poisoned and his brother Kalimullah was crowned in 1526 C.E. 88

This was a momentous year in the history of India when Babur after his resounding victory at Panipat in 1526 C.E. founded the Mughul kingdom. The titular Bahamani Sultan Kalimullah sent a secret message to Babur offering him the possession of Berar and Daulatabad regions. When this became known to Amir Barid he fled in panic to Bijapur and then to Ahmadnagar where he died. In 1527 C.E, the Adil Shah of Bijapur attacked Bidar and humbled Amir Barid and he was forced to cede Kalyana and Kandhar to Bijapur. Kalimullah's son Ilhamullah, realising that he had no hope of reviving the power of his forefathers, went away to Mecca on pilgrimage and nothing more was heard of him. Thus, the Bahamani dynasty faded out of history in about 1538 C.E. Their kingdom disintegrated into five smaller independent Sultanates, Barid Shahi of Bidar, Adil Shahi of Bijapur, Nizam Shahi of
Ahmadnagar, Imad Shahi of Berar (with Elichpur as its capital) and Qutb Shahi of Golconda by declarations of independence by respective governors of the regions. While the Barid Shah held sway over the capital city of Bidar and a small area round about it, Adil Shah of Bijapur controlled most parts of northern Karnataka. The Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar and Imad Shah of Berar ruled over various parts of Maharashtra and the Qutb Shah of Golconda possessed Telangana.89

**Bidar and the Barid Shahi Dynasty.**

Amir Ali Barid, who was the prime minister, was the *de facto* ruler of Bidar and the crowned Bahamani Sultan was the king only in name. After the disappearance of Kalimullah, Amir Barid started functioning as an independent Sultan. In 1542 C.E, the Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar entered into an agreement with Amir Barid and invaded the territory of Adil Shah of Bijapur. Amir Ali Barid assisted him in the capture of Parenda, Sholapur and Belgaum and in pillaging Bijapur. But, soon the allied forces of Ahmadnagar and Bidar met with severe reverses and they were vanquished at Gulbarga and Daulatabad. Amir Ali Barid died in 1543 and was succeeded by his son Ali Barid (1543-1579 C.E.). The latter was the first to assume royal appellation of Shah. 90

In 1545 CE, the Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar seized Udgir, Ausa and Kandhar from Ali Barid of Bidar. Now Ali Barid joined hands with Adil Shah of Bijapur and assisted him in besieging Ahmadnagar. The Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar marched on Kalyana with the assistance of a contingent sought and obtained from Aliya Ramaraya of Vijayanagara. The Adil Shah of Bijapur
made a futile effort to bar the advance of the Vijayanagara troops. He led his army in person for defense of the fortress of Kalyana. The combined forces of Ahmadnagar and Vijayanagara inflicted a crushing defeat on Adil Shah's army.\textsuperscript{91}

Sadashiva Nayaka of Keladi, who headed the Vijayanagara army, stormed and seized the fort of Kalyana and captured Ali Barid alive and produced him along with the seven constituents of royalty before the Vijayanagara ruler. Now Aliya Ramaraya reoccupied the Raichur Doab, while Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar captured Sholapur from Adil Shah of Bijapur in 1552 C.E. The Nizam Shah was making inroads into the Adil Shahi territory with the help of Imad Shah of Berar and he even besieged the fortress of Gulbarga in 1558 C.E. Now the Adil Shah solicited and secured the help of Aliya Ramaraya to put down a rebellion in his kingdom and in his wars against Ahmadnagar for recovering of lost areas of Kalyana and Sholapur during the years from 1559 to 1561 C.E. The allied forces of Bijapur and Vijayanagara continuously defeated the Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar. In 1561 C.E, the Nizam Shah made overtures to Ramaraya and asked for his help. In 1562, Nizam Shah with the help of Qutb Shah of Golconda invested the fortress of Kalyana, on the other hand the Adil Shah of Bijapur was assisted by Vijayanagara and Ali Barid Shah of Bidar. Sholapur and Kalyana were captured for Bijapur. The forces of Nizam Shah were put to flight and pursued upto Ahmadnagar itself which suffered losses.\textsuperscript{92}
The Adil Shah of Bijapur and Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar decided to give up their dissensions to protect their mutual interests against Vijayanagara and entered into matrimonial alliances. The Qutb Shah of Golconda was also brought into this axis. Ali Barid Shah also joined hands with the three other Sultans. Thus, a formidable confederacy of the four Deccan Sultanates was formed for launching a concerted onslaught on Vijayanagara. The four monarchs led their armies in person and then marched against Vijayanagara in 1565 C.E. On the north bank of the Krishna in Bijapur district pitched battles were fought near the villages of Rakkasagi and Tangadgi. Since the tide of war was going against them, they were forced to retreat and Vijayanagara had proved too strong, the Sultans pretended to petition Ramaraya for cessation of hostilities and peace. When the Sultans found that their ruse had the desired effect, they broke their plighted word and treacherously and suddenly delivered concerted attacks. Although thus taken unawares, Ramaraya faced them undauntedly, and his army fought so fiercely that victory stemed to be in sight for him. But, at the nick of time, the two Muslim generals of Ramaraya betrayed and deserted his camp along with their divisions and joined the ranks of the Sultans and created great disorder among the Vijayanagara forces. This finally decided the crucial issue and resulted in disastrous rout of Vijayanagara. Ramaraya was captured in the battlefield, beheaded by Husain Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar and his head was raised on a spear for striking terror into the hearts of the Vijayanagara
troops. Near about a lakh of persons were killed in the battles and in the pursuit that followed.  

During the next few years, Ali Barid Shah was aligning himself sometimes with Bijapur and other times with Ahmadnagar who engaged themselves in mutual struggle for possession of the former Bahamani territory in north Karnataka and Maharashtra. In 1579 CE, Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar attempted to seize Bidar but it was foiled by Adil Shah of Bijapur. Since Bijapur and Ahmadnagar during this period had their own internal troubles, Bidar had some respite. After Ibrahim Barid Shah, his younger brother Qasim Barid II came to the throne in 1587 C.E. The latter ruled for only three years and died in 1590 CE. A relative of the late Sultan became the ruler under the title of Amir Barid II by ignoring the claim of the infant son of Qasim Barid II. After about ten years Mirza Ali Barid, another scion of the royal family who seized power and declared himself the Sultan, dethroned this Sultan.  

Malik Ambar Habashi, leader of the Abyssinian group at Ahmadnagar, who had become a powerful general, now led an assault on Bidar. After some fighting, Mirza Ali Barid paid him war indemnity and saved the situation. Amir Barid III succeeded Mirza Ali Barid in 1609 C.E. The Adil Shah of Bijapur sent an expedition against Bidar and took it over in 1619 C.E. Amir Barid and his sons were made captives and taken to Bijapur, they were given a jagir for the maintenance of their family. This annexation of Bidar to Bijapur territory
meant the end of the career of Bidar as an independent kingdom. Thenceforward, Bidar formed a part of other kingdoms.\textsuperscript{95}

**Bidar under Adil Shahis and the Mughals.**

Yusuf Adil Khan, who had migrated from Constantinople and joined service in the Bahamani kingdom, rose to high positions. He was appointed as governor of Bijapur by Mahmud Gawan. Later, he became an independent ruler of Bijapur region after the disintegration of the Bahamani kingdom. He married a daughter of Mukunda Rao Maratha. It was during the sixth ruler of this dynasty, namely, Ibrahim Adil Shah II (1580-1627 CE.) that the Bidar area was annexed to the Adil Shahi kingdom. The Mughals by now were making inroads into the Ahmadnagar territory and had seized its northern parts. Their further advance was stemmed by Malik Ambar, the chief of Habashis at Ahmadnagar. He sought alliance with Ibrahim Adil Shah II who readily extended his help since it was in the interest of the Bijapur kingdom to see that the Mughals were warded off from the northern parts of the Deccan. Malik Ambar obtained assistance from Qutb Shah of Golconda also and put up a heroic resistance against the heavy odds of the Mughal advance into the Deccan. But the Mughal envoys were also making diplomatic moves offering their friendship and help to the Sultans of the Deccan and were shrewdly trying to drive a wedge among its rulers. As a result, now there was hostility between Bijapur and Malik Ambar. The latter, having entered into an agreement of neutrality with Qutb Shah of Golconda, attacked Bidar and pillaged it. He then marched to Bijapur and invested it. Now, the Mughal troops came to the rescue of Bijapur.\textsuperscript{96}
In 1624 C.E Malik Ambar marched back and inflicted a defeat on the combined Mughal and Adil Shahi forces at Bhatvadi at a short distance from Ahmadnagar. Thereafter, he led another expedition into the Bijapur territory and made an unsuccessful bid to capture Bijapur. Ibrahim Adil Shah died in 1627 CE and was succeeded by Muhammad Adil Shah. In 1631 C.E, a Mughal army led by Asaf Khan occupied Bhalki and Gulbarga and laid siege to Bijapur, but it was repulsed. However, the Mughal raids continued and proved a menace to Bijapur. Hence, Muhammad Adil Shah agreed to pay a tribute of 20 lakhs of rupees to the Mughul emperor and acknowledged his overlordship in 1636 C.E. In return, Adil Shah’s sway over the border tracts of Kalyana, Bidar, Chitaguppa and Bhalki was confirmed and some parts of the Ahmadnagar kingdom were also ceded to Bijapur. Thus, the Mughals were well entrenched in the Deccan by this time.97

Prince Aurangzeb was now viceroy of the Deccan, by this time, Muhammad Adil Shah was succeeded by his son Ali Adil Shah II (1656-1672 CE.) at Bijapur. Aurangzeb captured Bidar and Kalyana after a long siege in 1656 CE. He obtained from Bidar a booty of twelve lakhs of rupees, ammunitions of the value of eight lakhs of rupees and 230 guns. He got the khutba read in the name of his father in the mosque of the fort. He renamed Bidar as Zafarabad and Shahjahani coins were issued bearing the mint name as Zafarabad. Iftikhar Khan, a Mughal commander was appointed its governor. Mukhtar Khan was a distinguished Mughal governor at Bidar about 1671-72 CE. He strengthened the defenses of Bidar, and won the
appreciation of Aurangzeb. He fixed inscriptive tablets to the gates of the city and the fort.\textsuperscript{98}

Shivaji was now acquiring by his brilliant military operations tracts after tracts of the Bijapur kingdom. Mulla Ahmad, the Adil Shahi governor of Kalyana, who was dislodged by Shivaji, joined the Mughals. There were several such defections to the Mughal camp. When Ali Adil Shah II died in 1672 CE, his kingdom was in a state of disorder. His son Sikandar Adil Shah (1672-1686 CE.), who was a boy of five years of age, succeeded to the throne. During his minority, a regency headed by Khavas Khan was administering the kingdom. There were dissensions among the nobles. Khavas Khan, who opened negotiations with the Mughals was murdered in 1675 CE by Bahlul Khan, the leader of the Afghan party, who became the chief of the regency.\textsuperscript{99}

Mughal commander Diler Khan besieged Bijapur in 1679 CE who devastated the area. But his campaign was foiled owing to the intervention by the Maratha troops. Aurangzeb, the Mughal emperor, led in person with a vast army to the Deccan and marched to Bijapur and the Adil Shahi army capitulated to him in 1686 CE and thus the Bijapur region, which included the Bidar area, became one of the Mughal provinces. Aurangzeb continued to stay in the Deccan personally directing ceaseless operations against the Marathas who by their guerrilla tactics were harassing and exhausting the Mughal forces.\textsuperscript{100}
In 1707 C.E Aurangzeb passed away at Ahmadnagar without fulfilling his ambition of destroying the Maratha power. Bahadur Shah, who became the Mughul emperor, nominated Dhul-fiqar-Khan who was wazir and the most influential noble of the empire as his viceroy in the Deccan and the latter's associate Dawud Khan was appointed his deputy. He was permitted to remain at Delhi and exercise his authority in the Deccan through his deputy. The next emperor Farrukh Siyar appointed Mir Kamruddin Chin-Qilich Khan, who was the leader of the Turani (Turkish) party at Delhi as against the Irani party, as his viceroy in the Deccan and conferred upon him the title of Nizam-ul-Mulk Fath-Jang in 1713 C.E. with Shukrullah Khan as his deputy. Chin-Qilich Khan was a distinguished general of Aurangzeb and was noted for his political sagacity. One Mansur Khan was made the governor of Bidar, which was one of the six divisions of the Deccan under the Mughals. Bhalki of this district was given as a jagir to Chandrasen Jadhav. The new viceroy improved the finances of the region and re-organized the revenue system. Two years later in 1715 C.E., the Nizam-ul-Mulk was called back to Delhi and Sayyid Husain Ali Khan, one of the Sayyid brothers, who were very powerful at the Delhi court, was appointed as the new viceroy of the Deccan.101

The Sayyid brothers were overthrown by the new emperor Muhammad Shah in 1720 CE and again appointed Chin-Qilich Khan Nizam-ul-Mulk as viceroy of the Deccan. Then in 1722 CE, the Nizam-ul-Mulk was nominated as the wazir of the Mughal empire, while Mubariz Khan was appointed as a Subedar of the Deccan. But Nizam-ul-Mulk being wary of the intrigues at the
imperial court returned to the Deccan and fought a battle against Mubariz Khan at Shakar-kheda ( Fateh Kharda) in 1724 CE, vanquished and killed him with the help of Peshva Baji Rao-I and took possession of Hyderabad and settled down as the Subedar of the Deccan.  

An imperial Farman was issued appointing him as the Subedar of the Deccan and granting him another title of Asaf Jah Chin-Qilich Khan. Nizam-ul-Mulk became 'the founder of the Asaf Jahi dynasty of Hyderabad. The vast Mughal Deccan consisted of six subahs namely Hyderabad, Muhammadabad-Bidar, Bijapur, Khandesh, Aurangabad and. He granted the area of Kalyana (now called Basavakalyan) as a jagir to his son-in-law named Nawab Mir Kaland Khan. Wasil Khan, the junior, who was the governor of Bidar at this time, extended the Bidar city in the west. He and his successors owed allegiance to the Mughul emperor.  

Mughal Subehdar of the Deccan province, became independent and assumed the title Nizam-ul-mulk, with the whole of the province under the Nizam's sovereign control. This status remained unchanged until Operation Polo, when the Nizam's territory was merged to the Republic of India. With the reorganization of states in 1956 along linguistic lines, Bidar was deemed a Kannada speaking area, and became a part of unified Mysore state which later was renamed Karnataka. Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir, Raichur and Koppal are collectively referred to as Hyderabad Karnataka. Bellary, though ceded to the British in 1800 AD, is also grouped together with these areas.
References
3. Ibid., pp. 24-25.
4. Ibid., p.25.
6. Ibid., pp. 158-64.
7. Ibid., 178-179
8. Ibid., pp. 180-88
11. Sircar, D. C., The Chalukyas, Chapter XII in Majumdar, R. C (Ed)., The Classical Age, Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, p. 245.
15. Ibid., pp. 258-60
16. Ibid., pp. 261-64.
17. Ibid., pp. 265-73.
19. Ibid., pp. 280-86.
20. G. Yazdani History of early Deccan pp. 286-93
22. Ibid., pp. 297-300.
25. Ibid., pp. 323-25
26. Ibid., pp. 325-26
27. G. Yazdani History of early Deccan, pp. 326-30
28. Ibid., pp. 330-49
29. Ibid., pp. 349-55
30. Ibid., pp.355-70.
31. Ibid., pp.370-72.
32. Ibid., pp.372-74.
33. Ibid., pp.374-78.
34. Suryanath U. Kamath, Karnataka State Gazetteer, Bidar District. pp. 46-47.
36. Desai, P. B., Basaveshvarra and His Times, Dharwad, 1968, pp. 20-21
38. Ibid., p.48.
41. Ibid.,
42. Ibid., p. 51
43. Ibid.,
44. Ibid., pp. 51-52.
45. Ibid., p.50.
46. Ibid., p. 52.
48. Ibid., pp. 103-04.
49. Ibid, p. 341
50. Suryanath U. Kamath, Karnataka State Gazetteer, Bidar District, p.53.
53. Ibid., pp.53-55.
55. Lakshminarayan Rao, N. The Chalukyas, in Hukkerikar, R. S and others (Ed), Karnataka Darshana, p. 41.
58. Ibid., p.59.
59. Ibid., pp.59-60.
60. Ibid., p.60.
62. Sreenivasachar, P and Desai, P.B Ibid.
64. Ibid., p.62.
65. Ibid., p.63.
66. Ibid., p.63.
68. Ibid., pp. 45-52.
69. Ibid., p.53
72. Ibid., pp.97-120.
73. Suryanath U. Kamath, Karnataka State Gazetteer, Bidar District, p.67.
76. Ibid., pp.158-59.
79. Yazdani, G., Bidar, Its History and Monuments, p.7
82. Ibid., pp.197-99.
83. Ibid., pp199-241.
84. Ibid., p.244-51
85. Ibid., pp. 251-64
86. Ibid., pp. 260-66.
87. Ibid., pp. 279-82.
88. Suryanath U. Kamath, Karnataka State Gazetteer, Bidar District, p.75
89. Ibid., pp.75-76.
90. Ibid., p.76
91. Ibid.
92. Ibid., pp.76-77.
93. Ibid., pp.77-78.
94. Ibid., p.78.
95. Ibid.
96. Suryanath U. Kamath, Karnataka State Gazetteer, Bidar District, p.79.
97. Ibid., p.80.
98. Ibid., pp.80-81.
99. Ibid., p.81.
100. Ibid.
101. Ibid., p.82.
102. Ibid., 82-83.