CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

The Sultans of Golconda were able and efficient rulers of Deccan. They ruled for a period of 170 years between 1518-1687 A.D, in this period seven kings ruled the kingdom. The first king to came to throne was Sultan Quli Qutb Shah who ruled between 1518-1543 A.D., under Qutb Shahi’s Deccan prospered economically. They gave much importance to agriculture and constructed tanks wells and canals. As it was the main income generating source to commonmen.

More than 80% of population who depended on agriculture and other crafts were rural folk. The revenue from agriculture was also the main income source of the government. The government even collected the tax from crafts men under Qutb Shahis wide varieties of taxes were collected like road tax, sales tax, market tax, salt tax, import and export duties from the traders with this income they under took construction works.

Qutb Shahis along with agriculture encourage trade and commerce. The Sultans took keen interest in providing the irrigation at facilities to the people.

The kingdom of Golconda was a feudal in nature and was dominated by the hereditary landlords and village officers, the land cultivated by lower castes was sold
or purchased only under the super vision of the Zamindars and the revenue officers. The tanks that were excavated during this period by the Sultans under their nobles.

The Andhra state physically lies between 12° 41 and 20° Latitude, and 84°, 50 Longitude. From Madras in the South and Gopalapuram in the north, Andhra has a costal line of 600 miles Telang-Andhra is in the Northeast of the Indian peninsula and spread over an area of 1,05,132sq.miles. Andhra region is on the Deccan plateau. The Costal strip is in the East alone. This coastal strip extends from the sea to the Eastern Ghats varying from fifty to hundred miles in width. The Telang-Andhra region was ruled by Qutb Shahis for nearly one hundred and seventy years (A.D. 1518-1687). The area that they ruled was as same as much as the present Andhra Pradesh.

The State of Golconda was surrounded by Adil Shahi kingdom (Bijapur) in the South West, Nizam Shahi kingdom (Ahmed Nagar) in the West, Mughal empire on the North, Gajapati State (Orissa) on the North-East and the Bay of Bengal on the East. In this region, the majority of the people speak Telugu in addition to Oria, Hindu, Marathi, Kannada and Tamil in the bordering are as. Persian and Urdu became favourite languages among the royal and official families. Sanskrit, Arabic, Telugu and Urdu languages considered as classical languages in 17th century Andhradesa.
The soil of Telang-Andhra consists of black cotton soil in the Satmala range and Penganga River. The delta of the region between the rivers Krishna and Godavari had alluvium deposits, which make the soil fertile, due to the fertility of this soil, the rulers of Bahmani Kingdom and the Rayas of Vijayanagara had invaded and tried to occupy the regions of Andhradesa though political unity did not through out the history.

Andhradesa had more than 23 percent of the forest area. These are all tropical deciduous forests, also called monsoon forest. Tropical moist deciduous forests grow in areas with a moderate rainfall of 102.203 cm. These can be seen in the present Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Warangal and Adilabad districts and parts of Karimnagar and Khammam districts. Dry deciduous forests grow in the areas of less rainfall. These types of forests are seen in the present districts of Warangal, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool and Cuddapah. Tropical thorn forests are seen at the foothills of Rayalaseema region. The forests contained some of the special plants and trees which were used in medicines. Sandalwood, rosewood, aloe and mahua were used not only as drug substance, but also in the preparation of perfumes. The Andhradesa was very well known for Ayurvedic and Unani medical system with the availability of a variety of herbo-mineral drug substances. Ayurvedic medicine was highly developed during the Qutb Shahis period.
Andhradesa had many hillranges namely Palakondalu, Nilagiri and Anantagiri in Visakapatnam district. Guntur district is dotted with several hills, such as Ganikonda, Nagarjuna konda, Bellam konda, Kondavidu, Undavally, Kotappa konda, Mangalagiri and Vinukonda, etc. too the wet of the Nallamalai hills, are Yerramalai hills (Red hills), the valley between the two hills is known as the Nandyala-loya.

The Nallamalai hills extended to the South of the river Krishna which are 2000 to 3000 feet high other hills are Veli Kondalu in Cuddapah district, Shechachalam in Chittor district on which is situated the famous pilgrimage centre Tirupati. Sahyadri range begins from Eastern Telangana and passing through the Parbhani district of Maratwada extends up to Ajanta. Some of these hills have iron and precious stone deposits and which are highly useful for the development of industry during this period.

Most of the land surface in the Andhradesa slopes towards the Bay of Bengal. The Godavari, the Krishna the Penna are the major and important rivers in Andhradesa. Each river has its own tributaries. The two great rivers the Godavari and the Krishna divide the Deccan highland between them. The Godavari otherwise known as Dakshina Ganga is the largest river in the Deccan and the second largest in India flows for 1465 kms from its source in Nasik district on the East Coast. The rivers Manjeera, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga Pranahita, Indravathi and Sabhari are the important tributaries of the Godavari. The second biggest river in the state is the Krishna. It rises near Mahabaleshwar in the Western Ghats and flows Southeast
for 1400 kms to East Coast o Andhradesa. The Koya, Yerla, Verna, Panchganga, Dudhganga, Ghatprabha, Malaprabha, Bhima, Thungabhadra and Musi are the most important tributaries of the Krishna river.

There are many lakes in Andhradesa some of the important lakes are Pulicat lake at the Southern most end of the coastal region. Chiluka Lake in the Northern most area in the basin formed by the deltas of Godavari and Krishna. Several streams, in course of time, helped the formation of a huge fresh water lake know as the Kolleru Lake. This area has historical importance and was known as the Vengi region.

These rivers and lakes supplied water for irrigation and navigation due to which agriculture and trade were developed in the region of Andhradesa to large extent. This kind of geographical situation provided an opportunity to the people to adapt themselves easily to different professions and they played a key role in agricultural, horticulture, weaving, oil pressing, local trade etc.

Golconda was a vast kingdom with fertile land and rich mineral resources. Aurangazeb mentioned that no tract of land is left uncultivated and praised the fertile region of this kingdom. The foreign travelers also expressed their admiration for the productivity of the soil. In this region the soil yielded good harvest in almost all cereal and pulses, wheat, rice, bajra, grams etc. were also grown in abundance. The commercial crops viz., cotton tobacco were grown. Fruits available in many varieties
like mangoes, banana, orange, pineapple, pomegranate and guava were commonly grown. The forest also yielded good income to the state besides the agriculture lands and forests Golconda was particularly famous for diamonds all over the world and that is the reason why the Golconda was known a country of diamonds (Vajradesham). Tavernier gives a good account of the Golconda mines, there were nearly 23 famous diamond mines located in the kingdom some of them were situated in Telengana, Rayalaseema.¹

**POLITICAL HISTORY OF QUTB SHAHIS OF GOLCONDA:**

Disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom resulted in the emergence of five new constituent parts (States) in the Deccan. They were:

1. Berar, ruled by the Imad Shahi dynasty (A.D. 1490-1574)
2. AhmadNagar, ruled by the Nizam Shahi dynasty (A.D. 1490-1637)
3. Bidar, ruled by the Barid Shahi dynasty (A.D. 1512-1687)
4. Bijapur ruled by the Adilshahi dynasty (A.D. 1490-1686) and
5. Golconda, ruled by the Qutb Shahi dynasty (A.D. 1518-1687).

During this period, the Sultans of Golconda maintained peace and harmony and encouraged co-ordination between the Hindus and Muslims. They developed agriculture, industries trade and commerce in the kingdom, the Qutb Shahi rulers were also great administrators builders and patrons of learning. Though they
originally belonged to central Asia, they fully identified themselves with the people of the region where they settled down. They patronized Persian culture along with the regional culture especially the Telugu language and literature which is called Italian of the East by the Westerners. Eight kings of Qutb Shahi dynasty ruled over the Golconda kingdom and these kings have left a firm impression of their strong personalities on the land of Andhradesa and its people.

**QULI QUTB-UL-MULK (A.D. 1518-1543):**

Ferishta says that the Qutb Shahis kingdom was founded by Sultan Quli Qutb-Ul-Mulk in the year A.D.1512 and he substituted his name in the Khutba and adopted the title of “Qutb Shah” and had drums beaten five times. But other historians mainly who belonged to Qutb Shahi court do not confirm this statement. The ascribed the event to the year A.D. 1518, when the death of the last ruler Bahmani kingdom Mohammad Shah had taken place. The Golconda histories are definite in their assertion that Sultan Quli declared his independence not during the life time of Sultan Mohammad of Bahmani but after this death i.e. in A.D. 1518. Hence the same date may be established to be that of Sultan Qulis declaration of independence. Another interesting thing about this is Taz-Ke-Raoul-Mulk by Kafi Khan makes no reference and he says that Sultan Quli remained loyal till the death of Sultan Mohammad in A.D.1518.
In addition to this there is an inscription on the cathedral mosque of Golconda known as the Masjid-e-Safa which throws light on the loyalty of Sultan Quli towards his master and also declaration of his independence in the year A.D.1518. Thus the kingdom established by Sultan Quli in the year A.D.1518 continued till A.D. 1687 and played an important role both inside and outside the Golconda.

Sultan Quli was a scion of the defence royal family of Hamdon and a survival of the Qara-Quyunlu tribe (black sheep) of Trans-Oxania. Because of the feuds between the black sheep and white sheep groups in central Asia, Sultan Quli and his uncle Allah Quli came to India and joined Bahmani service. Ferishta ascribes the arrival of Sultan Quli to the reign of Mohammad Shah-II to put it in his own words Mohammad Shah Laskeri, was founded of Turkey slaves and Sultan Quli was one whom the king had recruited. But the local QutbShahi histories such as Tariq-Qutb Shahi and Tuzki-Ratul-Mulk, Tariq-e-Qutbia re more reliable than Fershta are definite in their statement that Sultan Quli had come to the Deccan in the reign of Mohammad Shah after the death of the Mohammad Shah Lakeri.

Sultan Quli after joining the Bahmani service discharge his duties carefully and efficiently. Once he saved the life of Bahmani Sultan from the plot hatched against his life by the Deccan nobles. After this, Quli was honored with the title Amir-Ul-Umra in recognition of his gallantry. In the year A.D.1496, Sultan Mohammad Bahmani conferred Governor ship of Telangana on Sultan Quli, and Golconda was also assigned to him as a jagir, since then Golconda became the centre
of his activities. It was after Sultan Mohammad’Sultan death he renamed Golconda as Mohammadnagar and made it as his capital. The fort was sufficiently strengthened to serve as military fort and also as centre of defence. Golconda with the new capital attracted thousands of people according to Qutb Shahi histories, the new city became inevitable and also gave inputs for further progress. Within a very short time Golconda became one of the world famous trade centres.

When Sultan Quli declared independence his rule was extended only upto the area lying between the rivers Krishna and Godavari which were under the local chiefs like Shitab Khan, Reddies and Velams. He fortified many fortresses along with Golconda. He spent nearly 48 years to expand the territory in different capacities as Governor for 23 years and ruler for 25 years. His life was marked by frequent warfare.

It was by virtue of his qualities like bravery and courage he could raise his petty principality in to a full fledged kingdom Sultan Quli lived for 99 years. At an advanced age, he met his tragic death on Sunday September 4th A.D.1543 when he was offering his evening prayer, he was assassinated by the order of his son Jamsheed.

JAMSHED QUTB SHAH (4-9-1543 TO 22-1-1550):

Jamsheed Quli, the third son of Sultan Quli took over the reigns of the government with blood stained hand on Sunday 4th September, 1543 and ruled for
seven years. In the words of Prof. A.M. Siddiqui, Jamsheed waded to the throne through bloodshed but never ceased to rose general resentment and degrade him in the public eye. After coming to power, Jamsheed showed more interest in the affairs of the neighbouring states i.e., Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Bidar and took every opportunity in exploiting them and he was successful in his efforts. He was engaged in a number of wars with Bijapur, as a result of which, the very existence of the new state was threatened. However, he successfully handled the situation and ruled for seven years with his abilities and finally died of cancer on 22nd January 1550.

During his lifetime Jamsheed also tried to enlist the support of the Hindus by involving them in the administration of the state.

SUBHAN QULI (22-1-1550 TO 27-7-1550):

Subhan Quli was minor boy, when he as ended the throne. After the death of Jamsheed, the administration was in the hands of Mustafa Khan Jagadevarao and other nobles. But Jamsheeds wife Bikizzaman invited Ainul-Mulk from Ahmadnagar to act as a regent. Ainul-Mulk supported Subhan Quli for seven months. However this arrangement was not accepted by the nobles at Golconda and invited Ibrahim to occupy the Golconda throne by that time he was in Vijayanagara.
Soon after ascending the throne, Ibrahim tried to enlist the support of the population by restoring law and order in the kingdom which was severely affected during the last one year due to political instability.

In the beginning, he tried to establish friendly relations with Rama Raya who allowed him to take refuge from the wrath of his brother Jamsheed. However, in course of time, these two i.e., Rama Raya and Ibrahim Qutb Shah became inveterate enemies as their interests lashed on a number of issues. Soon after ascending the throne Ibrahim Qutb Shah found that there was a conspiracy to replace him by his brother Daulat Quli. A number of conspirators were put to death but their leader Jagadeva Rao, one of the Naikaries, fled to Vijayanagara where he well received by Rama Raya. This action on the part Rama Raya angered Ibrahim Qutb Shah and he decided to review his relations with Vijayanagara. Further the developments in Bijapur hastened the shift in Golconda’s policy towards Vijayanagara. Ali Adil Shah ascended the throne of Bijapur in A.D.1558. In the beginning he was a friendly relation with Rama Raya with whose help he wanted to take back Solapur and Kalyani from Hussain Shah, the ruler of Ahmadnagar. In this contest Ibrahim Qutb Shah supported Hussain Shah. Mean while, Jagadeva Rao was able to induce the Qiladars of Kovilkonda, Pangal and Ghanapuram to hand over their forts to Vijayanagara army. The Vijayanagara forces occupied a number of other fortresses of Golconda. Ibrahim Qutb Shah urged for peace and sent Mustafakhan as his envoy.
to Rama Raya. Ibrahim Qutb Shah also agreed to cede to Vijayanagara the forts of Panagal, Kovilkonda and Ghanapuram. In return Rama Raya agreed to return to Golconda’s Sultan Kovilkonda, Pangal and Ghanapuram forts, which were occupied by his troops and feudatories. The treaty of A.D.1563 marked the Zenith of power of Rama Raya. He took possession of three important forts of Telengana, viz. Kovilkonda, Ghanapur and Panagal eliminated the power of Hussain Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar and dominated over his ally Ali Adil Shah of Bijapur.

Ibrahim Qutb Shah, in order to recover his lost territories from Vijayanagara and to strengthen his position he planned for matrimonial alliances with the fellow Muslim rulers. He married the daughter of Hussain Nizam Shah-I of Ahmadnagar, which had also suffered repeated humiliations at the hands of Rama Raya soon after the marriage preparations were made for the battle of Tallikata or Baniharri or Rakshi Tangadi (1565 A.D.) In his battle Vijayanagara was defeated and Rama Raya lost his life.

Prof. Mallampally Somashekar Sarma mentioned the causes responsible for the battle that the kingdoms of Deccan used to quarrel always for the domination over each other. Among these kingdoms, Golconda, Bijapur and Ahmadnagar were big and Berar and Bidar were small. Aliya Rama Raya the Defacto of Sadasiva Raya used to interfere in the politics of the Deccan Muslim kingdoms and enjoy the economic and political benefits, by successfully adopting he divide and rule policy. Thus the Deccan Sultans were forcibly obliged the terms and conditions of Aliya
Rama Raya. Thus, he behaved like a dictator for about three decades in the Deccan from 1530 to 1565. Prof. Khandawalli Laxmi ranjanam and Prof. Balender Shekaram also expressed their opinions on similar lines. After the battle of Tallikata dissentions broke out among the Muslim rulers.

As Prof.Nilakanta Shastry puts it, although the confederacy of A.D.1565 broke up immediately, its objective was gained and lacked the elements of permanence, as it was merely the result of the common threat of Vijayanagara.

Ibrahim Qutb Shah was on of the greatest kings of the QutbShahi dynasty and the first ruler to patronize Telugu literature and culture. During his reign, a close harmony was established between the Hindus and Muslims. This might be possible because of his stay at Vijayanagara for eight years. There, he learnt Telugu well and was so fluent in Telugu and Telugu was given due respect. He was mentioned in the contemporary Telugu literature as Malikibharamudu. During his reign, the kingdom was developed not only in political sphere but also in economic and cultural spheres. Golconda became an internationally renowned commercial centre Mohamma Qasim Ferista mentioned that merchants from Arabia, Persia and Turky visited Golconda to purchase luxury articles like diamonds, silks, etc, and named Golconda as second Egypt.
MOHAMMAD QULI QUTB SHAH (1580 - 1612 A.D.):

Ibrahim Qutb Shah was succeeded by his third son Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah. There is no reliable record to establish the truth as to why the elder princes who were quite competent to shoulder the burden of their father’s dominion were deprived of the right of succession.

Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah, who according to a tradition, was born to a Hindu lady known as Bhageerathi in A.D.1565 the historical year which had witnessed the memorable battle of Tallikota. The period of Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah attained a phenomenal growth and tremendous progress in all fields of activity. Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah was a learned person and a great poet of Deccan Urdu. During this period Persian, Arabic, Telugu were also equally given importance.

Several monuments were built during this period viz. the famous Charminar, Charkaman, Darushifa, Ashurkhanas and other buildings of public utility. Thus it is clear that Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah was not only an empire builder but also builder of several monuments. The new capital city Bhagyanagar or Hyderabad was built under the supervision of his able Prime Minister Mir Mumin. The cultural growth during Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah period reflects the economics and financial prosperity of the kingdom. Mohammad Quli was the ablest and most enlightened king o the Qutb Shah dynasty. It was he who had raised the Qutb Shah dynasty to the highest pinnacle of glory. The reign of Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah also noted for
the prominent part played by the eminent ministers like Mir Mimin and Ameeen-ul-Mulk, who held the highest posts of Prime Minister and Finance Minister respectively. The Hindu officers like Bale Rao Ranga Rao, discharged their duties as faithfully as the Muslims. They never wavered in their loyalty even in the most trying circumstances when they called upon fight the Hindu power.

The reign of Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah is also important for its foreign policies. During his period the relations between the Iran and Golconda improved, many Persian nobles, artisans, traders migrated and settled at Golconda. The period of Quli Qutb Shah witnessed both climax and anti climax. During this period, Golconda reached the highest development prosperity and economic growth. It was during this period only the Mughals started and knocked the doors of the Deccan.

It was during the reign of Mohammad Quli only, the European Trading companies settled in the Golconda kingdom for the first time Dutch East India Trading company explored the possibility of trade and established their factories at Masulipatnam on the basis of the farman issued by the Sultan. An agreement was signed between the officials of Golconda and the Dutch under which they established their factories at Masulipatnam and the neighbouring Nizampatnam with a condition of paying 4% tax on export and import to the state. The Sultan granted special privilege to the Dutch company to have access to the weaving artisans to indulge in direct trade this was a rare kind of feasibility which was not extended to any European company prior to A.D.1606.8
Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah after ruling for a long period of 33 years died in A.D.1616.

SULTAN MOHAMMAD QUTB SHAH (11-1-1612 to 30-1-1626):

Sultan Mohammad Qutb Shah came to power in 1612 A.D., after the death of his father in-law. He ruled 1612 to 1626. He was born in A.D.1593. He got special care and education from royal house during his early life.

Khazi Sanghami was appointed to import literary education and Hazrath Shah Yousuf to give military training. Due to these noble influences of learned teachers Sultan Mohammed emerged as an ideal king with the high degree of Scholarship and enlightenment. His period did not witness any expansion of the kingdom, however, his reign was significant for the development of the cultural growth. Persian language was encouraged and relations with Iran further improved. During his period only the foundation of Macca Masjid was laid.

The English East India Company established their first factory in the Golconda kingdom at Masulipatnam in A.D.1611 and in the same year at Nagapatnam and another factory at Pulicat in A.D. 1621. The Dutch and the English were carrying trade in the Golconda kingdom and they were paying 3000 Pagodas individually as customs duties in the state annually.
It is very sorrow that the Sultan Mohammad who was hardly lived 34 years and ruled for only 14 years. He died in the year 1626.

**ABDULLA QUTB SHAH (1-2-1626 to 21-4-1672):**

Abdulla Qutb Shah, the eldest son of Sultan Mohammed QutbShah ascended the throne after the death of his father at the age of 12. During his boyhood, his mother Hayath Bakshi Begum looked after the administration of the kingdom. When Abdullah Qutb Shah began to reign independently, the kingdom was extended physically and improved economically also.

Eastern Carnatic was famous for fertile lands, good mineral resources and coastal towns. This part of the appointment of Mir Mohammed Saeed as Commander-in-Chief of Golconda army, he occupied Udayagiri, Gandhikota, Madras, and Pulicat of eastern carnatic in the year A.D.1642. These newly occupied areas extended about 300 sq.miles, which yielded revenue of 40,00,000 of Pagodas per annum to the state.¹⁰

After the annexation of economically resourceful places including seaports of eastern carnatic and the introduction of economic reforms of Mir Mohammed Saeed the revenue of the state was increased enormously during the reign of Abdullah Qutb Shah.
During the reign of Abdullah Qutb Shah’s the kingdom of Golconda economically became the richest state India. Abdullah Qutb Shah gave important to agriculture and irrigation development of the Golconda kingdom.\textsuperscript{11}

\textbf{ABUL HASAN TANA SHAH (21-4-1672 to 17-9-1687):}

Abdullah had no sons but only three daughters. The elder was given in marriage to Prince Mohammad the son of Aurangzeb, who was imprisoned by his father at Aurangabad. The second daughter was given in marriage to Nizam-ud-din, an administrative officer in Golconda. The third daughter was given in marriage to Abul Hasan Tanashah. In the struggle for succession, Abul Hasan came out successful and ascended the throne on 21\textsuperscript{st} April 1672 with a treasury containing fifty crores and five lakhs of hons. He was not only an able administrator but also a great military general Abul Hasan Tanashah tried to defend the kingdom of Golconda from the incessant attacks of the Mughals.

During his period Hindus and Muslims lived together and Hindus were given the highest posts and he left the entire administration in the hands of Akkanna and Madanna, the sons of the soil. When he ascended the throne the kingdom of Golconda was in political crisis. He took as a challenge to bring back peace and harmony, to achieve these objectives strengthened the forts of Kondavidu, Kondapalli and Warangal to resist enemy attacks. After the death of Neknam Khan the Governor of Karnataka in A.D.1672, the European traders created troubles and were gaining
strength in this region. To set right the things in Karnataka, Abul Hasan Tanashah appointed Podili Linganna, a relative of Madanna, as the Governor of Karnataka. Podili Linganna is an able administrator and he successfully suppressed the European companies and contributed a lot for the development of trade and commerce in this region.

Another important development of Abul Hasan’s reign was an alliance with Shivaji and Adil Shahis of Bijapur in an attempt to save the kingdom. Abul Hasan Tanashah was successful in the beginning in checking the aggression of Mughals. In the history of Golconda the battle of Malked was one of the historic battles fought at Malked that proved the superiority of the Qutb Shah armed forces in A.D.1677. The combined armies of Mughals and Bijapur were defeated by the Golconda army. Again it was in A.D 1685 the Golconda army defeated the Mughals. The whole credit goes to Madanna the Prime Minister of Golconda who strengthened the Qutb Shahis army. However in the final and decisive battle between Mughals and QutbShahi in A.D.1687, which continued for six long months and finally with treachery the Mughals army annexed the Golconda kingdom. Abul Hasan Tanashah was imprisoned and sent to Daulatabad, where he died. Aurangazeb took Rs.68010000 and other valuables like diamonds and golden ornaments from the exchequer of Golconda.
ADMINISTRATIVE OF QUTB SHAHIS OF GOLCONDA:

The Administrative system of Qutb Shahis was very systematic and cleared. There was two types of administrative system under Qutb Shahis period one was central and another was provincial administrative system under Qutb Shahis period.

(a) CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION:

The King: As was the case not merely in India but in practically all parts of the world in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the pivot of the administration in Telang-Andhra was the king. He lived in grand style, and when, perhaps n rare occasions, he stepped out of his vas places he did so with a tremendous eclat. Thus when in 1636-37. He went to visit the Iranian Ambassador who was staying in the mansion formerly occupied by Mohammad Amin Mirjumla, he Was received by the envoy in right royal fashion, and the huge tank. Which still bears the name of Mir Jumla was illuminated by myriad coloured lamps during the king’s stay.

The king wore a crown which had a jewel about a foot long a rose of great diamond three or four inches in diameter on the top there was a palm branch like ornament with several springs each ending in a lovely pearl shaped like a pear.
MAJLIS-I- DIWAN DARI:

An interesting development in Tilang-Andhra was the evolution of Majlis or privy council. It appears that there were some Majlis or councilors even in the time of Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah, and from the beginning of the reign matters of import were decided after a full discussion among those in authority. This must have led to the formulation of a Majlis-i-Diwans or Majlis-i-Khas which was held regularly every day from the second regnal year of the reign of Abdullah Qutb Shah. Not only were nominations to this council made from among the persons who had made a mark in public service or belonged to the nobility but direct appointments of Majlis” were made to Ambassadorial and other responsible posts.

THE PESHWA:

In those far-off days there was no question of the collective responsibility of the ministers and it is difficult to say whether a Ministry proper existed. The head of the administration was the Peshwa

JUMAT-UL-MULK: or (MIR JUMLA):

Next to the Peshwa came Jumlat-ul-mulk or Mir Jumla. His main duty was keeper of the Royal records.
DABIR:

The office of the Dabir was called Diwan-i-Iysha, and one of the main duties of the Dabir was noting on the petitions and drafting the farmanas which, however had no value without the royal chhap or seal. It means that the Dabir had some judicial work to perform as well and the English Factors call him Lord Chief Justice.

KOTWAL:

One of the most important of central officers, Warangal the Kotwal or Commissioner of Police. He not merely kept law and order in the city but fulfilled many other responsibilities as well.

SARKHEL:

The Sarkhel was the Chief revenue officer at the capital and had a large jurisdiction over the districts and provinces.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The Qutb Shahi dynasty ruled Medieval Andhradesa for nearly one hundred and seventy years from 1518 to 1687 A.D. The Qutb Shahi rulers took lot of interest to encourage the agriculture and irrigation system and constructed good number of
Tanks and wells and provided other related facilities to the formers. The construction of erstwhile days are available by people even today. The sea of study is confined around Golconda kingdom that flourished under Qutb Shahis between 16th century and 17th century A.D.

The kingdom of Golconda formed in the Eastern port of Deccan with fertile lands, rich mineral resource. The fertility and productivity of land, the location of the kingdom and the subsequent expansion along with the coromandel coast of Bay of Bengal gave her a unique advantage to develop her agriculture, industry, occupations and their irrigation system.

Apart from these advantages the foresighted and prudent Qutb Shahi Sultans and their able and intellectual nobility protected and promoted agriculture irrigation by taking keen care to sound up the economy of the state.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The objective of the present study is an attempt to highlight the contribution of rulers and their nobles for the development of agriculture and irrigation under the Qutb Shahis.

1. To highlight agriculture and irrigation system development under the QutbShahis
2. To discuss overall contributions of Qutb Shahi Sultans for the prosperity of economy and stability of state both politically and economically.

3. To discuss the economic circumstances that existed at the time of establishment of Qutb Shahi kingdom and to discuss the political, economic, social and educational conditions of the people.

4. To discuss and highlight the issues related to trade and commerce along with various taxes and duties under Qutb Shahis of Golconda.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE:

The sources in general are in English and Persian language. Persian was patronized and employed by Golconda rulers. Writings of Persian scholars of those days have the tone and diction of a professional historian on one hand, and that of a creative artist, on the other. The introductory portions to the chapters are usually ornate reflecting upon the profound capacity of the historian to write pure literary prose and manifest the glory of his style. Some of the historians decorate their chapters with brief glorific portions while others try to maintain the same throughout their writings. They go no quoting verses at short intervals. A brief study of some of the important sources of the period has been attempted below.
TARIKH-I-SULTAN MUHAMMAD QUTB SHAH:

It is popularly known as Tarikh-i-Qutb Shahi and it is written by an anonymous scholar. It is a history on the Qutb Shahis that narrates their history from beginning to the first five years of Muhammad Qutb Shah’s rule that is 1616 A.D. Tarikh-i-Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah as the primary source of an early history of Qutb Shahi dynasty. Burhan-i-Ma’asir. It is the first Indo-Persian chronicle bearing on Qutb Shahi history compiled in Deccan.

TARIKH-E-QUTB SHAHI:

This work is also written by an anonymous author and it was compiled during the reign of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah. The author in verse deals with the early Qutb Shahs in just 55 folios with 21 lines on each page.

A number of Telugu poems were written by the poets especially during the reign of Abdullah Qutb Shah. Addanki Gangadhar wrote Tapat Samavaranopakhyanam. Ponnikanti Telangana wrote Yayati Charitram. Asuri Maringanti Singarabarya appeared to have completed twenty works, though only two of them Dasaratha Rajanandana Charitra Suddhandraniroshhtuya Sitakalyana have been traced. Above all works deals with the Socio-economics conditions under Qutb Shahi period. They help in constructing comprehensive history of Qutb Shahis.
Kandukuri Rudraya likewise in this regard has written several poems but in his case also only two works *Sugriva Vijayamma*, a Yakshagna and *Nirankusopakhyanamu*, a Prabhandha are available. Another poet Mallaredy is known to have written several books, but only three books, *Shauteakrativorti Charitra*, *Sivadharmottaram* and *Padmapurana* are known available. The last important poet was the Karnam of Golconda composed *Vyjayanti Vilasamu*.

In regard to the history of Qutb Shahis of Golconda, very few scholars like H.K.Sherwani, A.M.Siddiqui, J.N.Sarkar, Richard and others have produced good works. These works deals with general history of the Qutb Shahi rulers and their political history. No good contribution has been made extensively till now that deals with the development of agriculture and irrigation system under the Qutb Shahis. So there is need to concentrate on this issue for constructing comprehensive history of Qutb Shahi rulers.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

The Methodology to be followed in carrying out this research work will mainly historical in nature. The contemporary literary and archaeological sources will be fully used. The monuments and the inscriptions will be utilized to extract information.
HYPOTHESIS:

Agriculture was the main source of the people in the QutbShahi period. The QutbShahi rulers though provided good irrigational facilities but have collected heavy taxes from the people and the Zamindari system squeezed the farmers. There are evidences of cultivators spending difficult time. Most of the agriculture depended on the monsoons. Overall both positive and negative aspects in relation to agricultural production, availing of irrigation facilities and imposition of taxation on them along with trade and commerce will be studied under this programme.

CHAPTERIZATION:

1. The first and introductory chapter deals with political and administrative system.
2. The second chapter deals with economic, social and cultural conditions of people of Golconda in 16th and 17th century A.D.
3. The third chapter contains information on the agriculture and its prosperity.
4. The fourth chapter deals with constructions of tanks and wells for the development of irrigation.
5. The fifth chapter deals with trade and commerce, exports, and imports.
6. The conclusion.
REFERENCES


7. Ferista, *Op.Cit.*, pp.268-269. Prof. K. Laxmiranjanam and Prof. B. Shekaram write that every ingredient which needed by the common and rich people of Golconda was available at marketing centres during the period of Ibrahim Qutb Shah. See their work, *Andhrula Charitra-Samskruti*, p.392.


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