SUMMARY

AND

CONCLUSION
CHAPTER-VIII
CONCLUSION AND
EPILOGUE

The present study of the copper coins in Marathawada region during the Bahmani Sultanate and its five Provinces vis. the Qutub Shahis of Golconda, the Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar, the Adil Shahis of Bijapur, the Barid Shahis of Bidar and Imad Shahis of Berar contains eight chapters in all. The study has begun by collecting copper coins available at different Museums, University libraries, private collections, etc. In addition, the concerned published and unpublished materials have been tapped. The concerned copper coins were subjected to metrological studies, and from which the detail information about metal, size, shape, etc. are sought. On the basis of the same the study explored a whole lot of knowledge of the copper coinage. The legends of the coins gave the details of the kings, chronology, extension of the territories, religious faiths, brisk trade among the ruling powers, prosperity of the people, language and script, artistic taste of the kings and people, science of metallurgy, etc. Further, the knowledge of copper coinage helped to corroborate the evidence gathered from other powers. It is noticed from the coins that some of the rulers made use of the coinage to exhibit their state policies, religious beliefs, and even used it to appease the people and their religious stalwarts.

Almost leading kings of the principal dynasties struck coins from their mints and that are found in Marathawada region. Through which they marked out their distinctions. The present study found out the unstudied and unpublished coins along with the published one. It identified and deciphered the coins, the legends and the dates, and

314
established the genealogy and chronology of the respective rulers. It ascertained the location of the mint towns, metrological details like weight, shapes, etc.

In all the chapters of the respective dynasties, in addition to the brief political history, the economic conditions, trade and commerce, etc. are discussed, with a view that all the Deccan states did not include the Marathawada region in their kingdoms. If any, their rule lasted for some decades or so. Hence on account of the movement of troops of other states and the brisk trade that flourished unhampered in the Deccan resulted in the in-flow of the copper coins of the various ruling dynasties of the medieval times.

The present research work begins from an introductory chapter first that bears objectives, significance, scope and source materials of the subject. After proper presentation of the above points the physical features, the erstwhile political, socio-religious, economic and cultural conditions of the Marathawada region are discussed at length. The chapter gives accurately information about the objects, methodology and all other aspects of the Marathawada region. Thus the chapter helps to the readers to understand the programme of research and its scope that restricted to the region under study.

The second chapter envisages the brief history, trade and commerce and copper coinage of the Bahmani period, right from the inception of the dynasty from 1347 to the end of the tutelage of its rulers under the Barid Shahi kings that ultimately led to the downfall of the throne. Almost Bahmani kings had copper issues of their own, which were used in the kingdom where the gold and silver currency were universally used. The coins helped to verify the statements, events and
dates mentioned in the contemporary chronicles like *Burhan-e-Maasir*, *Tarikh-e-Farishtah*, etc. Further, from the coins the accession titles of the kings, other than their original names have come to be known. In addition, the coins established the sainthood of Ahmad Shah-I. He was called *Wali* (saint). Though the coins bear no ornamental designs, but found excellent so far as the calligraphy of a high standard. The kings used to prefer the Arabic phrases that have been in use among the Muslims, in praise of God and Islamic stalwarts, and they always sought the help of Him in achieving success and welfare of the state.

In the third chapter the study of the copper coins of the Qutub Shahi dynasty of Golconda and Hyderabad is made. Though, the Qutub Shahi kings did not rule the Marathawada region directly. It was on account of the movements of Qutub Shahi troops in the region under study, commercial transaction of that existed between the people of the Marathawada and the Qutub Shahi kingdom there was flow of Qutub Shahi currency in the region. It is noted that the Qutub Shahi kings differ with their royal masters of Bahmani dynasty in regard to the framing of legends of the coins. They preferred very simple legends devoid of any high-sounding titles. Further, they opted. Persian legends than Arabic. The coins of the dynasty also help to understand the ongoing situation, events and achievements of the kings. The warning or curse legends, the valedictory statements, etc. are few examples in this regard. Lastly, the Qutub Shahi coins reveal the observation of Shia faith by the kings.

The fourth chapter covers the study of copper coins issued by the Nizam Shahi kings of Ahmadnagar, found in the Marathawada region. As the kingdom covered most of the parts of the Marathawada, series of
coins are noted in the area. It is not unlikely that the Nizam Shahi rulers continued the tradition of the Bahmani coinage. They issued coins from various mint towns that situated in the different directions of the kingdom. It was because of the reason that oftentimes there occurred civil strife, and Mughal attacks and thereby occupation of the capital city of Ahmadnagar. Hence that led to the kings to concentrate their political and other activities from temporarily raised capitals. In addition, they issued coins from various mint towns, from where they could peacefully manage the financial transactions. It is peculiar to note here that the Nizam Shahi coins are either anonymous, or bear the names of Burhan or Murtuza. As such the dates of their issue provide the sole testimony for their attribution. These dates are specified in the Shuhur era. As of other dynasties of the medieval Deccan the Nizam Shahi copper coins are very much helpful to reconstruct the history of Marathawada region in particular and Ahmadnagar in general.

In the fifth chapter copper coinage of the Adil Shahis of Bijapur is studied. After fall of the Barid Shahi dynasty in 1619, and later Nizam Shahi dynasty in 1635, the Adil Shahi kings extended their boundaries in the Marathawada region. As a result the copper coins of the Adil Shahi dynasty from the reign of Ali Adil Shah-I to the last king Sikandar Adil Shah are found in the region.

The Adil Shahi gold coins are rare; however the silver and copper issues are noted commonly. Through the universal currency of copper the Adil Shahi kings showed their greatness. The faith of the kings is also ascertained from the study of available coins. The availability of the coins of Bijapur dynasty reveals that the Adil Shahi dynasty enjoyed extensive sway and sphere of influence in this part of the Deccan.
The sixth chapter covered the copper coinage of the Barid Shahi rulers of Bidar. The Barid Shahi kingdom included major portion of Marathawada region. Only the copper coins of Ibrahim Barid Shah and Amir Barid Shah-III are noted in the region. These coins are imitative of the Bahmani legends in most particularly in the obverse side. In the reverse legend the act of kings i.e. issuance of the coins is mentioned. Due to short span of Barid Shahi dynasty, unstable political conditions in the kingdom and perpetual external dangers from the neighbouring sultanates, the Barid Shahi kings could not keep pace with the progressing situation along with the other states. Therefore very soon they lost the political authority and the state was submerged with Bijapur. Most probably due to the above causes the copper coins of the Barid Shahi kings have become rare, as of gold in the case of other dynasties of the Deccan.

In the seventh chapter the study of Imad Shahi copper coinage is made. Though larger area of the Marathawada remained as part and parcel of the kingdom from its establishment to the fall, but very lately even the copper coins of the dynasty have come forth. In the Marathawada region, no copper coins of the dynasty are found. With a view that Marathawada region was in the Imad Shahi kingdom, the study of the coins from the published material is made. This study furnished some information of the copper coinage of the dynasty.

Thus the above chapters represent true to the central idea and theme of the present research. It is anticipated that the study will help to know other than the numismatic knowledge the historical details like the political, social, economic and cultural aspects of the Marathawada region. It is humbly believed that the study unearthed a bulk of
knowledge concerning the region to the research scholars, students and
general readers at par.