



2. India before the Times of Shivaji Maharaj

We shall learn about the various ruling powers in India before the times of Shivaji Maharaj in this lesson. Various ruling powers existed in India during that period.

‘Pal’ in the eighth century was a famous dynasty in Bengal. In Central India, the Gurjar-Pratihara power spread up to Andhra, Kalinga, Vidarbha, West Kathewad, Kanauj and Gujarat.

Among the Rajput dynasties in North India, the Gahadwal and the Parmar dynasties were the important ones. Among Rajputs, Prithviraj Chauhan belonging to the Chauhan dynasty was a valiant King. In the first war at Tarai, Prithviraj Chauhan had defeated Muhammad Ghuri. But Muhammad Ghuri defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the second war at Tarai.

Rajaraj I and Rajendra I belonging to the Chola dynasty in Tamil Nadu were eminent rulers. The Cholas conquered the Maldives and Sri Lanka using their naval strength. King Vishnuvardhan belonging to the Hoysala dynasty in Karnataka had conquered the whole of Karnataka.

During the reign of Govind III of the Rashtrakuta dynasty in Maharashtra, the Rashtrakuta power spread from Kanauj up to Rameshwara. Later, Krishna III conquered the region up to Allahabad.

Three dynasties of the Shilahars emerged in Western Maharashtra. One dynasty ruled over Thane and Raigad in North Konkan, the second in South Konkan, while the third dynasty ruled over some parts of the present day Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli and Belgaum districts.

The last prosperous power before the period of Shivaji Maharaj was that of the Yadavas. The capital of Bhillema V of the Yadava dynasty was at Deogiri near Aurangabad. He extended his rule beyond the river Krishna.

The Yadava period is considered to be the golden period of Marathi language and literature. It was in this period that the Mahanubhava *Panth* and the Varkari movement emerged.

Invasions from the North-West

Local dynasties like the Yadava and Rashtrakuta ruled in Maharashtra. But invaders from the north-west conquered the local dynasties there and established their own rule.

In the meanwhile, the Arab power had emerged in the Middle-east. Arab rulers turned towards India to expand their empire. The Arab General Muhammad-bin-Qasim, attacked the Sindh province in the eighth century. Notwithstanding the resistance of King Dahir, he conquered the province of Sindh. Due to this campaign, the Arabs came into political contact with India for the first time. In the period that followed, Turks, Afghans and Mughals from Central Asia came to India and established their power here.

In the eleventh century CE the Turks began to invade India. Expanding their territories they reached the north western frontier of India. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India many times. He plundered the rich temples at Mathura, Vrindavan, Kanauj and Somnath and carried away enormous wealth with him.

The world famous enriched library of the Nalanda University was burnt down by Bakhtyar Khalji.

Sultanate in the North

In 1175 CE and 1178 CE, Sultan Muhammad Ghuri of Ghur from Afghanistan invaded India. He appointed Qutubuddin Aibak to look after the governance of the conquered territories in India. Later, after the death of Muhammad Ghuri in 1206 CE, Aibak began to rule the Indian territories under his rule, independently. Aibak, who was initially a slave, became the ruler of Delhi. He died in 1210 CE.



Do you know?

After Qutubuddin Aibak, Iltutmish, Razia, Bulban, Alauddin Khalji, Muhammad-bin-Tughluque, Firuz Tughluque, Ibrahim Lodi and other Sultans ruled over India.

Ibrahim Lodi was the last Sultan. He made many enemies because of his peculiar temperament. Daulatkhan Lodi, Governor of Punjab, invited Babur, the ruler of Kabul to fight against Ibrahim Lodi. Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the battle and thus the Sultanate came to an end.

The Kingdom of Vijaynagar

During the reign of Sultan Muhammad-bin-Tughluque of Delhi, there were many revolts in the South against the central power of Delhi. From these revolts arose the formidable Vijaynagar and Bahamani kingdoms.

The brothers Harihar and Bukka, from South India were *Sardars* in the service of the Delhi Sultanate. Taking advantage of the instability in the South during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughluque, they founded the kingdom of Vijaynagar in the South in 1336 CE. Hampi in today's Karnataka was the capital of this kingdom. Harihar was the first king of Vijaynagar.

Harihar was succeeded by his brother Bukka. Bukka brought the region up to Rameshwar under his control.

Krishnadevaraya : Krishnadevaraya ascended the throne of Vijaynagar in



1509 CE. He conquered Vijaywada and Rajmahendri and annexed the regions to his kingdom. He defeated the combined forces of the armies of the Sultans who had united under the leadership of the

Krishnadevaraya Bahamani Sultan Mahmud Shah. During Krishnadevaraya's reign, the kingdom of Vijaynagar extended from Cuttak in the east up to Goa in the west and from the Raichur Doab in the north up to the Indian Ocean in the south. He died in 1530 CE.

Krishnadevaraya was a scholar. He wrote 'Amuktamalyada', a Telugu compendium on polity. The Hazar Ram temple and Vitthal temple were built in Vijaynagar during his reign.

The decline of the Vijaynagar kingdom began with the death of Krishnadevaraya. In 1565 CE, at Talikot in the present State of Karnataka, there was a battle between Adilshahi, Nizamshahi, Qutubshahi, Baridshahi on one side and Vijaynagar on the other side. Vijaynagar was defeated. Thereafter, the dominance of Vijaynagar came to an end.

The Bahamani Kingdom

While Muhammad-bin-Tughluque was still reigning, some of his *Sardars* in the Deccan rose in rebellion against him. The leader of these *Sardars*, Hasan Gangu, defeated the army of the Sultan of Delhi. A new kingdom, known as the

Bahamani kingdom, came into existence in 1347 CE. Hasan Gangu became the first Sultan of the Bahamani kingdom. He made the city of Gulburga in Karnataka his capital.

Mahmud Gawan : Mahmud Gawan was the Chief Wazir of the Bahamani kingdom. He was a good administrator. He strengthened the Bahamani kingdom. He started paying the soldiers their salaries in cash instead of through land grants. He brought discipline in the army. He introduced many reforms in the land revenue system. He opened a *madarsa* at Bidar for Arabic and Persian studies.

After the death of Mahmud Gawan, factionism increased among the Bahamani *Sardars*. The conflict with the Vijaynagar kingdom had an adverse effect on the Bahamani kingdom. The provincial Governors began to act more independently. This led to the disintegration of the Bahamani kingdom into five small powers—Imadshahi of Varhad, Baridshahi of Bidar, Adilshahi of Bijapur, Nizamshahi of Ahmadnagar and Qutubshahi of Golconda.

Mughal Power

In 1526 CE, the Sultanate of Delhi came to an end. Mughal power was established there.

Babur : Babur was the founder of Mughal power. He was the king of Farghana in Central Asia in today's Uzbekistan. He had heard of the wealth in India. So he planned an invasion of India.

The reigning Sultan of Delhi at that time was Ibrahim Lodi. Daulatkhan Lodi was the Governor of Punjab under the Sultanate. The relationship between Ibrahim Lodi and Daulatkhan Lodi was strained. Daulatkhan Lodi invited Babur to march on India. Taking this opportunity, Babur invaded India. To repel Babur's invasion, Ibrahim Lodi started with his army. There was a battle between Ibrahim Lodi and

Babur on 21 April 1526 at Panipat. In this battle, Babur made use of an artillery effectively for the first time in India. He defeated Ibrahim Lodi's army. This is known as the First Battle of Panipat.

After the battle of Panipat, Rana Sanga of Mewad brought all Rajput kings together. There was a battle between Babur and Rana Sanga at Khanua. Babur's artillery and reserved force played a key role in this battle and Rana Sanga's army was defeated. Babur died in 1530 CE.



Do you know?

After Babur, Humayun (1530 CE to 1539 CE and from 1555 CE to 1556 CE) ascended the throne. He was defeated by Shershah. Shershah established the Sur dynasty on the throne of Delhi. After Humayun, Akbar (1556 CE to 1605 CE) ascended the throne. There was a battle between Akbar and Hemu at Panipat in 1556 CE. This is the Second Battle of Panipat. Akbar's ambition was to bring the whole of India under his one central authority. After Akbar, Jahangir (1605 CE to 1628 CE) became the Emperor. During his reign, his wife Nurjahan played an active role in the administration. Jahangir was followed by Shahajahan (1628 CE to 1658 CE) as the Emperor. The next Emperor after Shahajahan, Aurangzeb (1658 CE to 1707 CE) reigned for a very long time. After his death, the Mughal Empire became weak.

Akbar was the most powerful King of the Mughal dynasty. When he tried to bring India under his central authority, he had to face opposition. Maharana Pratap, Chandbibi, Rani Durgavati struggled against him. Their struggle is noteworthy.

Maharana Pratap : After the death of Udaysingh, Maharana Pratap ascended the throne of Mewad. He continued the struggle



Maharana Pratap for Mewad's existence. Till the very end, he struggled with Akbar to maintain his independence. He has become immortal in history due to his qualities of valour, courage, self-respect, sacrifice, etc.

Chandbibi : The Mughals attacked Ahmadnagar, the capital of Nizamshah's kingdom, in 1595 CE. The Mughal army put the fort of Ahmadnagar under siege. Chandbibi, the capable daughter of Husain Nizamshah of Ahmadnagar, bravely defended the fort. At this time, there was an internal strife among the factions of the *Sardars* in Nizamshahi's kingdom. This resulted in the murder of Chandbibi. Later, the Mughals captured the fort of Ahmadnagar. But, the Mughals could not bring the entire kingdom of Nizamshahi under their control.



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Rani Durgavati : Gondvana can broadly be said to comprise the eastern part of Vidarbha, part of Madhya Pradesh to its north, the western part of today's Chhattisgarh, northern part of Andhra Pradesh and the western part of Odisha.

Durgavati, born in the dynasty Chandel Rajput became the queen of Gondvana when she was married. She was an excellent administrator. The struggle of Gondvana queen Durgavati



Rani Durgavati

against the Mughals is important in medieval history. After her husband's death, Durgavati laid down her life while fighting against Akbar, but she did not surrender.

Akbar was well versed and vigilant ruler. His religious policy was liberal and tolerant. He gave equal treatment to people from all religions. He founded Din-i-Ilahi by incorporating noble principles from all religions, but never compelled anyone to adopt Din-i-Ilahi.

Aurangzeb : Aurangzeb won the war of succession amongst other sons of Shahjahan and became the Emperor by detaining his father in 1658 C.E. Dara Shukoh, the elder son of Shahjahan was famous for religious tolerance. He translated more than fifty Upanishadas in Persian language when Aurangzeb became the Emperor, at that time, the Mughal empire extended from Kashmir in the north up to Ahmadnagar in the south and from Kabul in the west up to Bengal in the east. To this Aurangzeb added Assam in the east, and the regions of Adilshahi of Bijapur in the south and Qutubshahi of Golconda after he ended these kingdoms.



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Conflict with the Ahoms : In the thirteenth century CE, the people of the Shaan community settled down in the valley of river Brahmaputra. They established their Kingdom there. They were locally known as Ahom people.

While Aurangzeb ruled, the Ahoms had a prolonged struggle with the Mughals. The Mughals attacked the Ahoms' region. The Ahoms united under the leadership

of Gadadharsinha. Commander Lachit Borphukan gave an intense battle against the Mughals. The Ahoms used the guerilla technique in the conflict against the Mughals. It became impossible for Mughals to create a strong base in Assam.

Conflict with the Sikhs : The ninth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Teghbahaddar, protested strongly against Aurangzeb's policy of religious intolerance. Aurangzeb imprisoned him and beheaded him in 1675 CE. After him, Guru Gobindsingh became the Guru of the Sikhs.



Guru Gobindsingh organised his followers and encouraged their martial spirit. He organised the Sikh youths into a fighting force called the 'Khalsa Dal'. Their headquarters were at Anandpur. Aurangzeb sent his army to fight the Sikhs. His army attacked Anandpur. Although the Sikhs fought fiercely, they did not succeed. After that, Guru Gobindsingh came to the Deccan in 1708 CE. There was an attempt on his life when he was at Nanded. Soon after, the Guru succumbed to his wounds.

Conflict with the Rajputs : Akbar had secured the cooperation of the Rajputs with his policy of amicable relations. Aurangzeb could not obtain the cooperation of Rajputs. After the death of Rana Jaswantsingh of Marwad, Aurangzeb annexed his kingdom to the Mughal empire. Durgadas Rathod crowned Jaswantsingh's minor son Ajitsingh as the King of Marwad. Durgadas Rathod fought hard against the Mughals. Aurangzeb sent Prince Akbar to Marwad to crush the resistance of Durgadas. Prince Akbar joined hands with Rajputs and rose in revolt against Aurangzeb. An effort was made to seek help from the Marathas in Maharashtra. In this revolt, Durgadas Rathod continued this struggle against the Mughals for the existence of Marwad.

Conflict with the Marathas : In Maharashtra, *Swaraj* was established under the leadership of Shivaji Maharaj. In his efforts to establish *Swaraj*, Shivaji Maharaj had to fight the Mughals too along with the other enemies. Aurangzeb came down to the Deccan after the death of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with the intention of conquering the whole of South India. But the Marathas offered stiff resistance to Aurangzeb and defended their independence. We shall study this struggle later on.



Exercise

1. Name the following.

- (1) The Queen of Gondvana –
- (2) The son of Udaysingh –
- (3) The founder of Mughal dynasty –
- (4) The first Sultan of the Bahamani kingdom –
- (5) The fighting force established by Guru Gobindsingh –

2. Find the odd one out.

- (1) Sultan Mahmud, Qutubuddin Aibak, Muhammad Ghuri, Babur

- (2) Adilshahi, Nizamshahi, Sultanate, Baridshahi
- (3) Akbar, Humayun, Shershah, Aurangzeb

3. Answer briefly.

- (1) How did the kingdoms of Vijaynagar and Bahamani emerge?
- (2) What reforms did Mahmud Gawan make?
- (3) Why did it become impossible for the Mughals to strengthen their base in Assam?

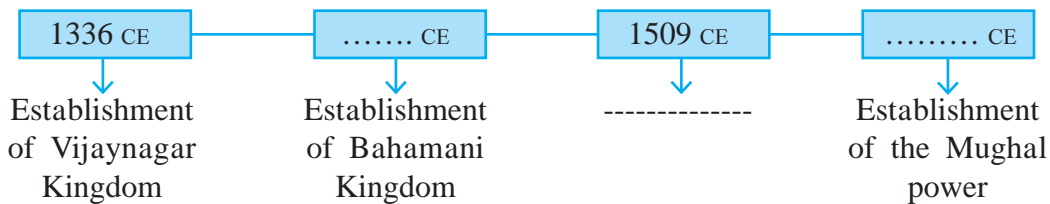
4. Write about them briefly in your own words.

- (1) Krishnadevaraya
- (2) Chandbibi
- (3) Rani Durgavati

5. Give reasons.

- (1) The Bahamani Kingdom disintegrated into five fragments.

6. Complete the timeline.



7. Using the internet, find out more about any one of the personalities you have studied here, and fill in the box below.

I know this :

- (2) Rana Sang's army was defeated.
- (3) Rana Pratap has become immortal in history.
- (4) Aurangzeb imprisoned Guru Teghbahaddar.
- (5) The Rajputs fought against the Mughals.

Activity

Obtain more information about the personalities mentioned in this chapter. Use reference books, the internet, newspapers, etc. Prepare a collage of the pictures information in your activity book and display it in the history cell.



Fort Deogiri