

# Provincial Dynasty of Medieval India

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise the Provincial Dynasty of Medieval India history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

## The Delhi Sultanate & Its Offshoots

### A. The City of Jaunpur and the Sharqi Dynasty

- **Foundation and Early History**
  - Founded by **Firuz Shah Tughluq** of the Delhi Sultanate.
  - Named in memory of his cousin, **Muhammad-Bin-Tughluq** (also known as Jauna Khan).
  - Firuz Shah Tughluq appointed **Malik Sarwar** (a eunuch) as the governor of the region.
- **The Sharqi Dynasty**
  - Malik Sarwar declared independence from Delhi and established the **Sharqi dynasty**.
  - The dynasty ruled an independent Jaunpur Sultanate for **85 years**.
  - The last ruler was **Hussain Shah**.
  - The independent kingdom ended in **1479** when it was conquered by **Bahlul Lodi** of the Delhi Sultanate.

- **Cultural Peak & Architecture**

- Jaunpur reached its cultural peak under Sultan **Ibrahim Shah Sharqi** (r. 1402-1440 AD).
- It was known as the '**Shiraz of India**' or '**Shiraz-i-Hind**' due to its prosperity and architecture.
- A distinct **Sharqi style of architecture** developed, exemplified by:
  - Atala Masjid
  - Lal Darwaza Masjid
  - Jama Masjid

## **B. The Bahmani Kingdom**

- **Foundation**

- Founded in **1347 AD** by **Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah** (also known as **Hasan Gangu** or Zafar Khan) after rebelling against the Delhi Sultanate.
- Located in the **northern Deccan**.

- **Administration**

- The **first capital** was **Gulbarga** (renamed Ahsanabad).
- The kingdom was divided into **four administrative divisions (tarafs)**:
  1. Gulbarga
  2. Daulatabad
  3. Berar
  4. Bidar
- The founder **abolished the Jizya tax** on Hindus.

## **C. Successor States: The Deccan Sultanates**

- The Deccan was ruled by **five major Sultanates** after the breakup of the Bahmani Empire.
- **Major Dynasties and Their Capitals:**
  - **Adil Shahi** dynasty ruled from **Bijapur**.
    - Founder: **Yusuf Adil Shah**.

- **Qutb Shahi** dynasty ruled from **Golconda** (modern-day Hyderabad).
- **Nizam Shahi** dynasty ruled from **Ahmednagar**.
- **Notable Rulers and Culture:**
  - **Ibrahim Adil Shah II** of Bijapur was a tolerant, secular ruler hailed as '**Jagadguru Badshah**'.
  - He was a patron of art, a poet, and author of '**Kitab-i-Navras**' (Nauras) in the Deccani language.
  - He built a new musical city called **Navraspur** and a temple inside his palace.
- **Decline:**
  - The **Nizam Shahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar** was annexed by Mughal emperor **Shah Jahan** in **1632**.
  - The last ruler, **Hussain Shah**, was imprisoned for life in **Gwalior Fort**.

## Independent Regional Kingdoms

### A. Zain-ul-Abidin of Kashmir



- **Reign and Titles**
  - Real name: **Shahi Khan**.
  - Ruled **Kashmir** from **1420 to 1470 AD**.
  - Known as the '**Akbar of Kashmir**' for his tolerance and popularity.
- **Policies and Reforms**
  - Abolished the **Jizya tax** on Hindus.
  - Banned the practice of **cow slaughter**.
  - His reign was known for **religious tolerance and public welfare**.
- **Cultural and Architectural Contributions**
  - Commissioned the translation of Sanskrit texts (Mahabharata, Raj Tarangini) into Persian.
  - Built an **artificial island called Zaina Lanka** in Wular Lake.

- **Expanded the Jama Masjid** in Srinagar (originally built by Sikandar Butshikan). The architecture features **turrets**, resembles **Buddhist pagodas**, and has a **Persian style**.

## B. Southern Indian Dynasties and Capitals

- **Hoysala** dynasty capital: **Dwarasamudra** (modern name: **Halebid**; famous for Hoysaleswara and Chennakeshava temples).
- **Kakatiya** dynasty capital: **Warangal**
- **Yadava** dynasty capital: **Devgiri**
- **Pandya** dynasty capital: **Madurai**

## C. Medieval Himalayan States

- **Champaka** and **Kuluta**: medieval states in present-day **Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Durgara**: a medieval state in present-day **Jammu**.
- These states emerged from the tripartite struggle between the **Pal**, **Pratihara**, and **Rashtrakuta** dynasties.

## D. Mewar (Rajput)

- **Rana Kumbha's Court**
  - Scholars in his court included:
    - Muni Sunder Suri
    - Natha
    - Tilla Bhatt
  - **Muni Jin Vijay Suri** was **not** in his court; he was a scholar in the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar.

## Architecture and Monuments

### A. Distinctive Architectural Styles

- **Gol Gumbad, Bijapur**
  - Built by **Muhammad Adil Shah**.
  - Famous for its massive dome, one of the largest in the world.

- **Architectural Firsts in Tombs (Delhi Sultanate)**
  - **True Arch Tomb:** First example is the tomb of **Balban** in Delhi.
  - **Double Dome:** Introduced by **Sikandar Lodi**.
  - **Octagonal Tomb:** Built by **Sher Shah** (e.g., his tomb in Sasaram).
- **Gujari Mahal**
  - Built by **Raja Man Singh Tomar** of Gwalior in **1510 AD**.

## Administrative Structures

### A. The Polygars (Palayakarrars)

- They were **Territorial Administrative and Military Governors** in South India.
- Appointed by empires like the **Vijayanagara, Kakatiya, and Madurai Nayaks**.
- They held sway from the **16th to the 18th centuries**.

## Historical Geography



- **Golconda** was the capital of the Qutb Shahi kingdom.
- Its modern location is **Hyderabad** (it is located 7 miles west of the city center).

## Know More About Provincial Dynasty of Medieval India:

- [Provincial Dynasty of Medieval India– Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Provincial Dynasty of Medieval India One Liner Questions & Answers](#)