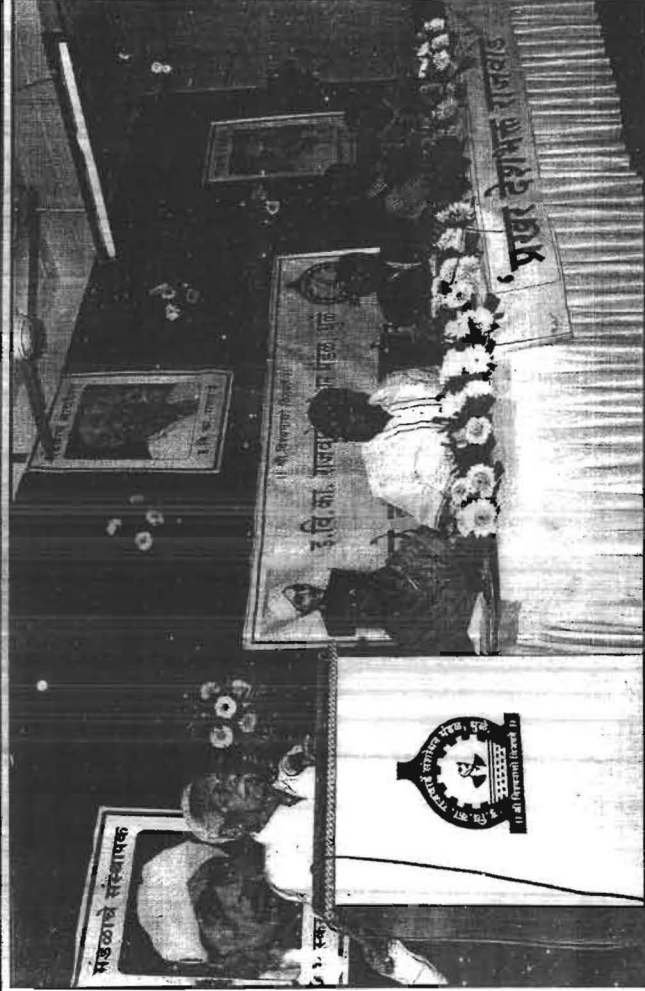


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इ. वि. का. राजवाडे यांच्या पुण्यतिथीनिमित्त प्रखर देशमत्त राजवाडे या विषयाच्या व्याख्यानावर मार्गदर्शन करताना मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष श्री. मदनलाल मिश्रा कार्यक्रमाले अध्यक्ष गिल्हाधिकारी श्री. डॉ. दिलीप पांडुरपट्टे, प्रांताधिकारी श्री. गणेश मिसाळ, कार्याध्यक्ष श्री. संजय मुंदडा, सौ. लता आगीवाल, प्रा. सर्जेराव भामरे उपस्थित होते.

संशोधक

वर्ष : ८४ • डिसेंबर २०१६ • अंक ४



इतिहासाचार्य वि. का. राजवाडे संशोधन मंडळ, धुळे

Bidar Through the Ages

Dr. Nalini Avinash Waghmare, Pune

Introduction :

Bidar district, which occupies a central position in Deccan plateau, is mixed with several racial strains, ethnic groups and socio-cultural clusters. Long after the fusion of Dravidian and Aryan elements, there was in the medieval times, a continuous influx of batches of various types like the Turks, Mughals, Iranians, Afghans, and Arabs who were welcomed and encouraged to settle down in the area. As a result of these admixtures there has been a cultural mosaic. Bidar town has made a unique contribution to the socio-cultural history of Karnataka in particular and of the Deccan History in general. It is a place of delight to poets, artists, and the archaeologists.

Origin of name : The name of Bidar appears to be derived from 'Bidiru' which means bamboo. The place seems to have been known for bamboo clusters in the past, came to be known as "Bidarooru" and then "Bidare", "Bidar". Though there are other versions of origin, the name "Bidarooru" seems to be more near one and authenticated by contemporary literary works.

Brief History of Bidar : Bidar is situated almost in the centre of Geographical "Deccan" and the eastern border of the historical "Deccan". It was the meeting place of several shades of culture from the very beginning.

Vidharbha of Mahabharata fame is the Bidar of today. The great epic relates how king Nala, of Malawa came to won Damayanti, the

beautiful, the daughter of Raja Bhim Sen of Vidharbha. Faizi Akbar's poet laureate, has rendered the romance in immortal Persian. The Mahabharata also sings of Shri Krishna and his love for the sister Raja Rukma, another king of Vidharbha. This prince renounced the world and followed Krishna to the forest of Bhatkuli. And as one glides down the stream of time one sees again the "sweet voiced" Chehreh of Bidar winning over prince Alauddin from his consort, Malikai-Jehan.

Bidar is the northern most district of Karnataka state located between 1735 and 1825 north latitude and 7642 and 7739 east longitudes.¹ Its length from east to west is 93.4 km and from northeast to south west is 115.2 km. Total area of the district is 5458 km.

Bidar is a tiny district comprising five talukas viz. Aurad, Basavakalyan, Bidar, Bhalki and Humanabad. The district founded on the east by Nizambad and Medak district of Andhra Pradesh, on the north and west Nanded and Osmanabad district of Maharashtra and on south by Gulbarga district of Karnataka.

Bidar in Ancient Period :

Bidar was controlled by rules of diverse dynasties. The Nandas and Mauraya, who held their sway over the Deccan, ruled the region of Bidar about 3rd century B.C.² The Satavahanas established their authority over the Deccan region comprising the Bidar area. The Chalukyas of Badami, a powerful ruling dynasty of Karnataka controlled a very large area up to the Southern bank of the Narmada.

About 8th century A.D. the Rashtrakutas rose to political prominence after the decline of the Chalukyas. The Rashtrakuta rule, especially under Amoghvarsha, witnessed a stupendous glory in several fields such as literature, art and religion.

Kalyana came to prominence during the rule of Jayasimha, who

enjoyed the little 'Chelagra Kalnala'. The glorious chapter of Bidar started when Vikramaditya VI the greatest monarch of the Kalyana Chalukyas came to power.³

Bijjala II, Kalachuri prince, was closely connected with the royal family of the Chalukyas of Kalyana.⁴ He was the defacto ruler during the region of Tailapa II, the last of the Kalyana Chalukyas. The chief event of his period was the Kalyana movement.

The Kalyana movement was also identified as the Virasaiva movement led by Basaveshwara, Allamaprabhu, Chennabasavanna, Akkamahadevi and other Shivasharanas, who belonged to different strata of society. It was chiefly a socio-religious reform movement to reorganize the caste ridden Hindu society on the basis of equality, dignity of labour, women and human values. A new type of literature 'Vachana Sahitya' in Kannada by Shivasharanas, was a unique contribution of Bidar to world literature.⁵

With the decline of the Kalachuris the Yadava kings of the Devagiri assumed control over the region of Kalyan. There after the Kakatiyas of Warangal established their supremacy over the region of Bidar.

Bidar in Medieval period :

Delhi rulers first headed by Aluddin Khilji and later in 1321-1322 A.D. Mohammad Tughlaq seized Bidar and Basavakalyan. Ferishta and Muhammad Salih both described Bidar as the seat of Government of races of the Deccan, but their information seems to have been based merely on tradition and probably what they mean is that Bidar was a flourishing provincial seat when it was besieged and captured by Muhammad Tughlaq, then prince Jauna Khan, 1322 A.D. Generally speaking, the history of Bidar begins with the Muslim conquest of the Deccan, and the lasts till it was finally captured by the hosts of Aurangazeb.⁶

Bahmani Kingdom : In 1345 the centurions of the Tughlaq's army raised the standard of revolt first in Gujarat and then in Deccan. While Kanhayya Naik declared himself independent in Warangal in 1346. Muhammad Tughlaq generals were unable to quell the rebellion in Daulatabad despite the changing fortunes of warfare and ultimately a centurion- Hasan entitled Zafar Khan, marched upon Daulatabad after reducing Bidar and set himself Abul Muzzafar Aluddin Bahman Shah Hasan Gangu.⁷

The Bahmani kingdom stretched roughly from Berar in the north to the Krishna river in the South and constituted the nucleus of the Muslim power in the Deccan. In produced eighteen sultans whose rule lasted 180 years from 1347 to 1527; some of them were capable rulers.⁸ They initially chose Daulatabad as their capital and subsequently moved to Gulbarga, where they remained till 1429 A.D. The first three Bahmani Kings consolidated their dynasty while during Firoz Shah's reign the Bahmani Empire grew to its full stature and blossomed out in all directions, more in educational and cultural fields.⁹

Northern India during the 13th and 14th centuries witnessed upheavals, one dynasty was succeeded by the other. There was no continuity of rule. While in the Deccan, the Bahmani dynasty provided a continuous rule which besides giving security to the people and stability to administration, helped all-round growth of the people in the Deccan. Unlike the Muslim Kings in the Northern India the Bahmanids adopted the Hindu system of succession which was neither challenged by the nobles nor the people any time.¹⁰

The Barid Shahis of Bidar (1487-1619 A.D.) :

In the fifteenth century A.D. the Bahmani kingdom disintegrated into five smaller Sultanates. Later, the successor states of Bijapur, Berar, Ahmednagar and Golkonda were created. The Barid Shahis, one among

the five kingdoms that came into existence after fall of the Bahmanis, ruled from Bidar in Karnataka for about one hundred and twenty years from 1487-1619 A.D.

The Barid Shahis capital was Bidar. The domain of Barid Shahis was surrounded by the Imad Shahis of Berar and the Godhavari river in the north to the Krishna river. Raichur Doab and Vijaynagar kingdom in the south and from Qutub Shahis of Golkonda in Andhra Pradesh in the east up to Adil Shahis of Bijapur and Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar in the west.

The first ruler and the founder of Barid Shahis kingdom was Amir Kasim Barid. He ruled from 1487 A.D. to 1504 A.D. He clashed with Yusuf Adil Khan whose power he attempted to curb. They ruled over an area of Bidar, Basavakalyan and Bhalki etc.

Amir Kasim's son Amir Ali Barid was a second ruler of this kingdom. He ruled from 1504 A.D. to 1542 A.D. He formally declared his independence in 1527 A.D. His son Ali Barid Shah ruled from 1542 to 1579 A.D. He participated in the battles of Ahmednagar and Bijapur and joined the confederation against Vijayanagar. Ali Barid was followed by five kings and during this period the state has lost its strength and importance. Both Ahmednagar and Bijapur aimed for its capture and finally it was annexed. In 1619 A.D. Bidar was annexed by Bijapur.¹¹

Upto 1656 A.D. Bidar was part of the Adil Shahi Kingdom. On the conquest of Deccan by Aurangzeb in the mid 17th century, Bidar became part of Mughal Empire.¹²

Bidar under Nizam rule :

Asaf Jah, a Mughal general was appointed as the subedar of the Deccan in 1713 A.D. He had the title of "Nizam-ul-Mulk" and he founded the house of the Nizam of Hyderabad in 1724. The Hyderabad state ruled by this dynasty included Bidar area also and

its rule continued up to 1948.

The history of Bidar with lots of ups and downs and stories of treachery and bloodbath is also marked by good administration and development of art, architecture and literature.

Bidar Monuments : The historical monuments and sites in and around the Bidar city belong to different periods of history, Pre-Kakatiya, Tughlaq, Bahmini, Barid Shahi, Adil Shahi, Mughal and Nizam. As far the architecture is concerned there is a intermixture of Hindu, Turkish and Persian artisanship. Some of the designs and decorative patterns seen in the monuments of Bidar are unique in India.

In describing the monuments of Bidar the fort is dealt with first, as it contains some buildings which were the earliest to be erected when Ahmad Shah Wali Bahmani transferred the seat of government from Gulbarga to Bidar in 1424 A.D. The next group of monuments comprises the buildings of the town including the fortifications, a large number of which are coeval with the buildings of the fort. The third group embraces the tombs and shrines at Ashtur which were erected by the Bahmani kings from A.D. 1436-1535. The Baridi tombs and the mausolea in their vicinity constitute the fourth group, while the fifth, or last, group includes all monuments of historical, religious or architectural significance situated within a distance of six miles from Bidar.¹³

Present Bidar : Bidar is a tourist destination. Its climate is gracious. Some of the monuments are unique. Bidri art of Bidar is world famous.¹⁴ Famous institutions like Indian Air Force, Karnatak Veterinary and Fisheries University is situated at Bidar. Bidar represents 'Unity in Diversity'. People belonging to different religious and communities live together peacefully. Bidar district is also known for a unique Self Help Group movement.

Conclusion : Bidar is one of the 27 districts of Karnataka State.

Geographically, it resembles the crown of the State occupying its northeastern tip. The district had a glorious past. It was ruled by the Mauryas, Satavahnas, Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas, Kakatiyas, Khiljis, Bahamanis, Baridshahis, Mughals and the Hyderabad Nizam. The treasure of culture, fine arts and architecture nurtured by successive rulers has contributed to its richness. The great revolution by Shivasharanas in the 12th century, encompassing social, literacy and religious fields emerged on this land. The district provides many attractions to scholars, pilgrims, historians and others.

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