

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES 18-12-2023

BAHAMANI KINGDOM



Context

The Karnataka High Court directed the Kalaburagi district authorities to remove encroachments from the historical fort of Bahmani Sultans in the city.

Details

The Bahmani Sultanate, also known as the Bahmani Empire, was a significant medieval Muslim state in the Deccan region of South India.

It was established by Ala-ud-Din Hasan Bahman Shah in 1347 and lasted until 1527 when it fragmented into five smaller states.

Foundation and Expansion

Establishment by Hasan Bahman Shah: The Bahmani Sultanate was founded by Hasan Bahman Shah, a governor appointed by the Delhi Sultanate. He declared independence and established his capital at Gulbarga.

Territorial Expansion: Under subsequent rulers, especially during the reigns of Muhammad Shah I and Firuz Shah, the Bahmani Sultanate expanded its

territories across the Deccan region, encompassing areas such as Gulbarga, Bidar, Bijapur, and Golconda (modern-day Hyderabad).

Administration and Governance

- **Feudal System:** The Sultanate was administratively divided into four provinces (Daulatabad, Bidar, Berar, and Gulbarga) with tarafdars or subedars governing each. The sultanate was governed through a decentralized feudal system. Provinces were ruled by governors known as walis or nayaks, who held considerable power in their respective regions.
- **Central Administration:** The sultanate had a centralized administrative structure with key departments handling revenue, justice, and military affairs.

Cultural and Socio-Economic Development

- **Patronage of Arts and Culture:** The Bahmani rulers were patrons of art, literature, and architecture. They encouraged the development of Deccani culture, which was a blend of Persian and Indian influences. Notable structures include Gulbarga's Jama Masjid, Bidar's Rangeen Mahal, and Bijapur's Gol Gumbaz. Urdu, Persian, and Arabic literature flourished during this period.
- **Promotion of Regional Languages:** The Bahmani court supported the use of local languages like Dakhni (early form of Urdu) and Kannada, contributing to their literary growth.
- **Economic Prosperity:** Trade and commerce flourished in the Bahmani Sultanate due to its strategic location. The region was a center for international trade, particularly in horses, textiles, and spices.

Religious Policies

- **Religious Tolerance:** The sultans followed a policy of religious tolerance, allowing diverse religious communities like Hindus, Muslims, Jains, and Christians to coexist peacefully.
- **Promotion of Syncretic Culture:** The sultanate's cultural milieu was marked by the syncretic blending of different religious traditions and practices.



Decline and Fragmentation

- **Internal Strife and Dynastic Conflicts:** As the Bahmani Sultanate expanded, internal conflicts and power struggles among the nobility weakened its unity.
- **Rise of Five Successor States:** In 1527, the sultanate disintegrated into five smaller states known as the Deccan Sultanates: Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golconda, Berar, and Bidar, each ruled by independent rulers.

Rulers

Founding Ruler:

Ala-ud-Din Hasan Bahman Shah (1347-1358):

Founder of the Bahmani Sultanate after declaring independence from the Delhi Sultanate.

Established Gulbarga as the capital and began the Sultanate's expansion in the Deccan region.

Early Rulers:

Muhammad Shah I (1358-1375):

Consolidated power and expanded Bahmani territories.

Shifted the capital to Bidar.

Promoted art, literature, and culture.

Firuz Shah (1397-1422):

Extended Bahmani rule further into the Deccan and introduced administrative reforms.

Encouraged trade and commerce, contributing to economic prosperity.

Golden Age Rulers:

Ahmad Shah I (1422-1436):

Notable for his patronage of art and culture, fostering a thriving cultural scene.

Facilitated the development of the Dakhni language (early form of Urdu).



Alauddin Ahmad Shah II (1436-1458):

Continued the cultural and literary advancements initiated by his predecessors.

Faced internal revolts and external threats during his reign.

Mahmud Gawan (1466 to 1481):

The Sultanate witnessed its zenith.

Gawan's military campaigns expanded the Sultanate's territory, including the reconquest of Goa from Vijayanagar.

Later Rulers:

Mahmud Shah I (1482-1518):

Ruled during a period of internal turmoil and external invasions.

Struggled to maintain unity among the nobility, leading to the weakening of the Sultanate.

Kalim Allah (1518-1527):

Last ruler of the unified Bahmani Sultanate.

His reign witnessed escalating conflicts and a fragmented administration.

Fragmentation and Successor States:

Krishnadeva Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire's military campaigns fractured the Bahmani Sultanate into five smaller states known as the Deccan Sultanates:

Ahmadnagar Sultanate: Founded by Ahmad Nizam Shah I.

Bijapur Sultanate: Established by Yusuf Adil Shah.

Golconda Sultanate: Founded by Quli Qutb Shah.

Berar Sultanate: Ruled by Fathullah Imad-ul-Mulk.

Bidar Sultanate: Established by Amir Barid.

Each of these successor states operated independently, contributing to the cultural, artistic, and political landscape of the Deccan region.

Battle of Talikota (1565): The conflict between the Deccan Sultanates and the Vijayanagar Empire culminated in the catastrophic Battle of Talikota, resulting in Vijayanagar's downfall.

Mughal Annexation: Subsequently, the Mughal Empire, notably under Akbar and later Aurangzeb, annexed the Deccan Sultanates into their dominion, marking the end of the Bahmani legacy.

The Bahmani Sultanate, despite its fragmentation, left a lasting legacy in South India, influencing the region's culture, architecture, and language, and shaping the course of history in the Deccan

UNIDROIT



India's Uma Sekhar was elected to the governing council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) in an election.

UNIDROIT

About

UNIDROIT is an intergovernmental organization whose objective is to harmonize private international law across countries through uniform rules, international conventions, and the production of model laws, sets of principles, guides and guidelines.

Origins

Established in 1926 as part of the League of Nations, it was re-established in 1940 following the League's dissolution through a multilateral agreement, the UNIDROIT Statute.

Members

- As of 2023 UNIDROIT has **65 member states**.



UNIDROIT's Convention

- UNIDROIT has prepared multiple conventions (treaties), but has also developed soft law. An example are the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts.
- Distinctly different from the Convention on the International Sale of Goods (CISG) adopted by UNCITRAL, the UNIDROIT Principles do not apply as a matter of law, but only when chosen by the parties as their contractual regime.

Seat

- The seat of UNIDROIT is in Rome, Italy.

Membership

Membership of UNIDROIT is restricted to States acceding to the UNIDROIT Statute.

UNIDROIT's 65 Member States are drawn from the five continents and represent a variety of different legal, economic and political systems as well as different cultural backgrounds.

Funding

The Institute is financed by annual contributions from its Member States which are fixed by the General Assembly.

Extra-budgetary contributions may be made to fund specific projects or activities

Structure

UNIDROIT has an essentially three-tiered structure, made up of a Secretariat, a Governing Council and a General Assembly. The Secretariat is the executive organ of UNIDROIT responsible for carrying out its Work Programme From day to day.

It is headed by a Secretary-General appointed by the Governing Council on the nomination of the President of the Institute.

The Secretary-General is assisted by a team of international civil servants and supporting staff.



Annual Reports on the activity of UNIDROIT

The Governing Council supervises all policy aspects of the means by which the Institute's statutory objectives are to be attained and in particular the way in which the Secretariat carries out the Work Programme drawn up by the Council. It is made up of one *ex officio* member, the President of the Institute, and 25 elected Members, mostly eminent judges, practitioners, academics and civil servants. The Governing Council is chaired by the President of the Institute who is a Member of the Council *ex officio*.

The General Assembly is the ultimate decision-making organ of UNIDROIT: it votes the Institute's Budget each year; it approves the Work Programme Every three years; it elects the Governing Council every five years.

It is made up of one representative from each member of the Government. The Presidency of the General Assembly is held, on a rotating basis and for one year, by the Ambassador of one of the Organisation's member States.

Governing Council

The Governing Council consists of 25 positions which are held by distinguished legal experts.

Languages

The official languages of UNIDROIT are English, French, German, Italian and Spanish; its working languages are English and French.

VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA

The "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" is a nationwide campaign launched by the Government of India to promote the development and progress of the country.

About Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra



It is a government initiative aimed at raising awareness about and monitoring the implementation of various flagship central schemes across India. These schemes include Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima, PM SVANidhi, and others.

The program is a collaborative effort involving various Union ministries and state governments.

It was flagged off by the Prime Minister on December 16, with the initial launch in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Mizoram—states where recent Assembly polls were held.

The Yatra had started earlier in other states but was delayed in these five states due to the Model Code of Conduct being in place before the elections.

The Yatra began on November 15 from Khunti, Jharkhand. In just one month, it reached over 2.50 crore citizens across 68,000 Gram Panchayats in the country.

The program has four primary objectives:

Reaching out to the vulnerable: The Yatra aims to identify and connect with individuals who are eligible for various government schemes but have not yet availed of the benefits.

Dissemination of information and generating awareness: The initiative focuses on spreading information about government schemes and creating awareness among the public.

Interaction with beneficiaries through personal stories/experience sharing: The Yatra involves engaging with beneficiaries of government schemes, allowing them to share their personal stories and experiences with the implemented programs.

Enrollment of potential beneficiaries: During the Yatra, efforts are made to enrol potential beneficiaries by collecting details and information from participants.

Mount Vinson

Recently, Kerala government employee Shaikh Hassan Khan has climbed Mount Vinson.



About the Mount Vinson:

- It is the highest mountain in Antarctica.
- Mount Vinson rises 4,892 metres (16,050 feet) above sea level.
- It is part of the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains, near the Ronne Ice Shelf.
- There are five other tall mountains in the same area as Mount Vinson—the next five highest summits on the continent of Antarctica—which are collectively referred to as Vinson Massif.
- It is located about 1,200 kilometres from the South Pole, one of the coldest places on Earth.



Key facts about the Ellsworth Mountains:

- The Ellsworth Mountains are the mountain ranges in Antarctica.
- They are forming a 360 km (224 mi) long and 48 km (30 mi) wide chain of mountains in a **north to south configuration**.
- Also, they are bisected by Minnesota Glacier to form the Sentinel Range to the north and the Heritage Range to the south.
- The former is by far the higher and more spectacular with Mount Vinson (4,892 m) constituting the highest point on the continent.

The LEADS [Logistics Ease Across Different States] 2023 Report

As many as 11 States and two UTs have been named as ‘Achievers’ in the LEADS [Logistics Ease Across Different States] 2023 report released by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).

Logistics market in India:

Logistics is the process of planning and executing the efficient transportation and storage of goods from the point of origin to the point of consumption.

The goal of logistics is to meet customer requirements in a timely, cost-effective manner. The worth of the Indian logistics market is estimated at over USD 200 billion.

The sector provides livelihood to more than 22 million people.

Need for a wholistic logistics policy in India:

The need for a national logistics policy was felt since the logistics cost in India is high as compared to other developed economies.

It is imperative to reduce the logistics cost in India for improving the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export markets.

Reduced logistics cost improves efficiency cutting across various sectors of the economy, encouraging value addition and enterprise.

Steps taken by govt to improve logistics market

National Logistics Policy:



In order to facilitate a seamless flow of goods across India, the Indian government launched a National Logistics Policy in September 2022.

With the implementation of National Logistics Policy, there will be further boost to the development in an integrated logistics ecosystem, reduction in time, wastage & cost, and ensuring sustainability.

Other measures to improve logistics:

The government had introduced the PM GATI Shakti Master Plan in 2021.

Under the plan, a digital platform is created to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

The government has also approved the development of 35 New Multi-Modal Logistics Parks under BharatMala Pariyojana to reduce logistics cost.

For promoting export, 40 air cargo terminals have been constructed. 30 airports have been provided cold-storage facilities.

About the LEADS:

LEADS was conceived on the lines of the Logistics Performance Index of World Bank in 2018 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), MoC&I.

While the LPI relies entirely on perception-based surveys, LEADS incorporates both perception as well as objectivity thereby enhancing the robustness and comprehensiveness of this exercise.

The LEADS highlights shift in States' performance across the key pillars -

Logistics Infrastructure,

Logistics Services and

Operating and Regulatory Environment

The 5th edition of the LEADS annual exercise - LEADS 2023 report, provides insights into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level.

It highlights an enhanced overall stakeholder perception and impact of various reforms, across States and UTs.



This report, signalling a positive shift in States' performance across the key pillars, empowers the State/UT Governments by providing region specific insights for informed decision making and comprehensive growth.

Significance of the LEADS Initiative:

The report would play a pivotal role in instilling healthy competition among States/UTs to enhance logistics performance.

23 States/UTs have also notified their State Logistics Policies to align with the National Logistics Policy.

Further, 16 States/UTs have given industry status to logistics.

It helps to enhance the overall competitiveness of Indian logistics eco-system and global positioning.

Improvement of India's LPI rank by 6 places to 38th position in 2023 is a reflection of the same.

Digital reforms such as PM GatiShakti, Logistics Data Bank, Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), and GST were propelling India's improved ranking at global level.

The report developed in a collaborative and consultative manner has brought objectivity in assessment of infrastructure development and process-related reforms.

Future Prospects of India's Logistics Sector - From the Perspective of China-Plus-One Strategy:

Coined way back in 2013, China-Plus-One is a global business strategy in which companies avoid investing only in China and diversify their businesses to alternative destinations.

For the last 30 years, Western companies have invested heavily in China, attracted by its low labour and production costs, as well as the considerable and growing size of its domestic consumer market.

Leading to an overconcentration of their business interests in China.

Therefore economies (including India) have unveiled a roadmap for establishing collective supply chains that would be resilient in the long term.



The roadmap also included steps to counter supply chain dependencies and vulnerabilities.

For India, the Logistics sector will be a cornerstone in the endeavour to take India to a tenfold growth from \$3.5 trillion to \$35 trillion by 2047

Akash Surface-To-Air Missile (SAM) Defence System

India has effectively showcased the capabilities of its indigenous Akash surface-to-air (SAM) weapon system as part of its plans to export these systems.

In the recent Exercise Astra Shakti 2023, a single unit of the Akash weapon system successfully engaged and obliterated four unmanned targets simultaneously.

This demonstration established India as the first country to exhibit the ability to engage four targets at such distances simultaneously using command guidance from a single firing unit.

About Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) Defence System:

It is a Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (SRSAM) Defence System to protect vulnerable areas and points from air attacks.

It was indigenously designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Features:

It can simultaneously engage multiple targets and destroy manoeuvring targets, including unmanned aerial vehicles, fighter aircraft, cruise missiles, and missiles launched from helicopters.

It has built-in Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) features.

The entire weapon system has been configured to be launched from static or mobile platforms such as battle tanks and wheeled trucks, providing flexible deployment.

It is road and rail transportable, with quick mobilisation and deployment capabilities.

It can engage aerial targets up to a range of approximately 25 km.



RV Educational Institutions®
RV Training Academy®

Altitude of Operation: 100 m up to 20 km

Weight: 710 kg

Guidance System: Command Guidance

It is fully automatic, with a quick response time from target detection to kill.

It has an open-system architecture that ensures adaptability to existing and futuristic air defence environments.