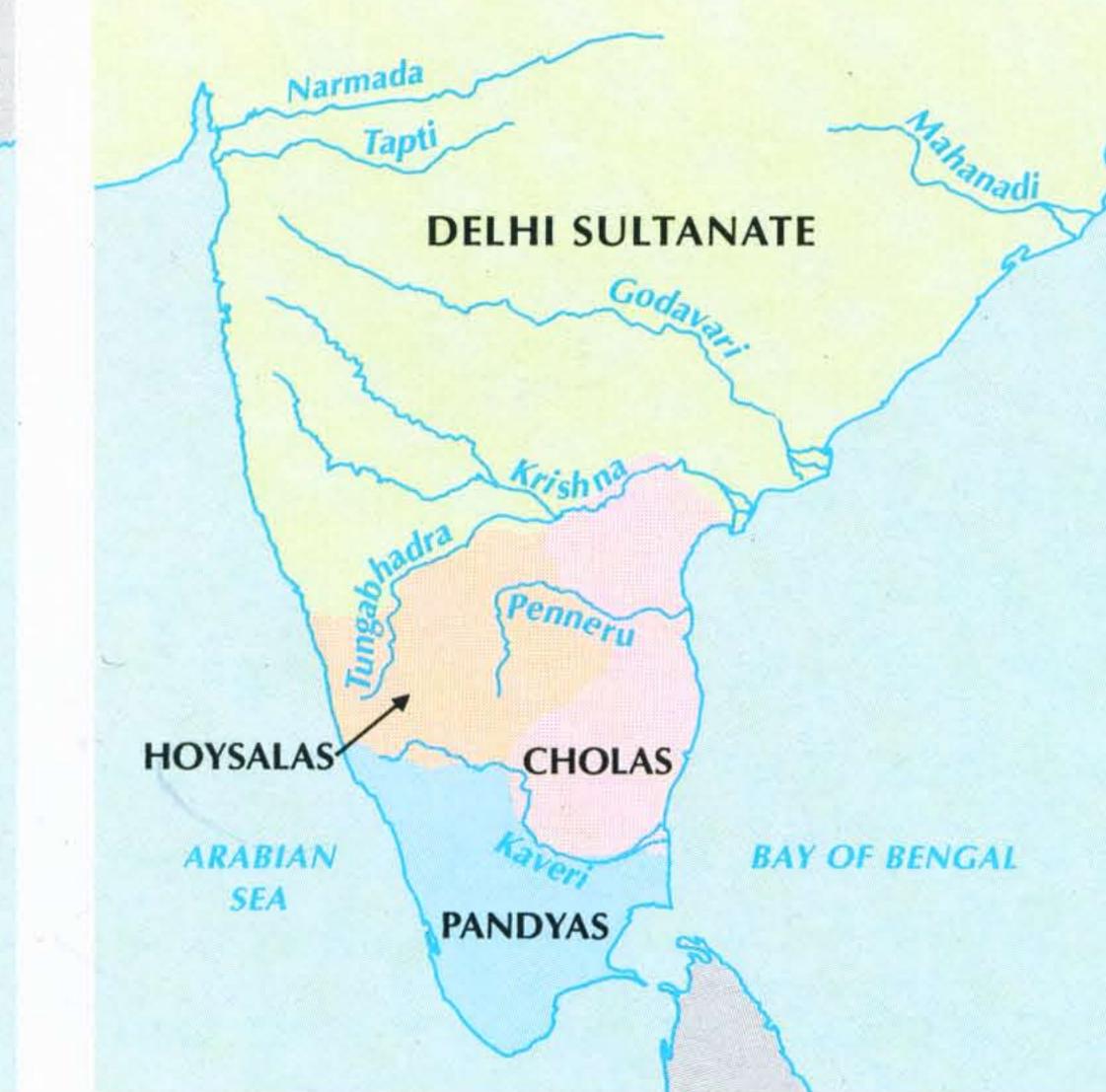


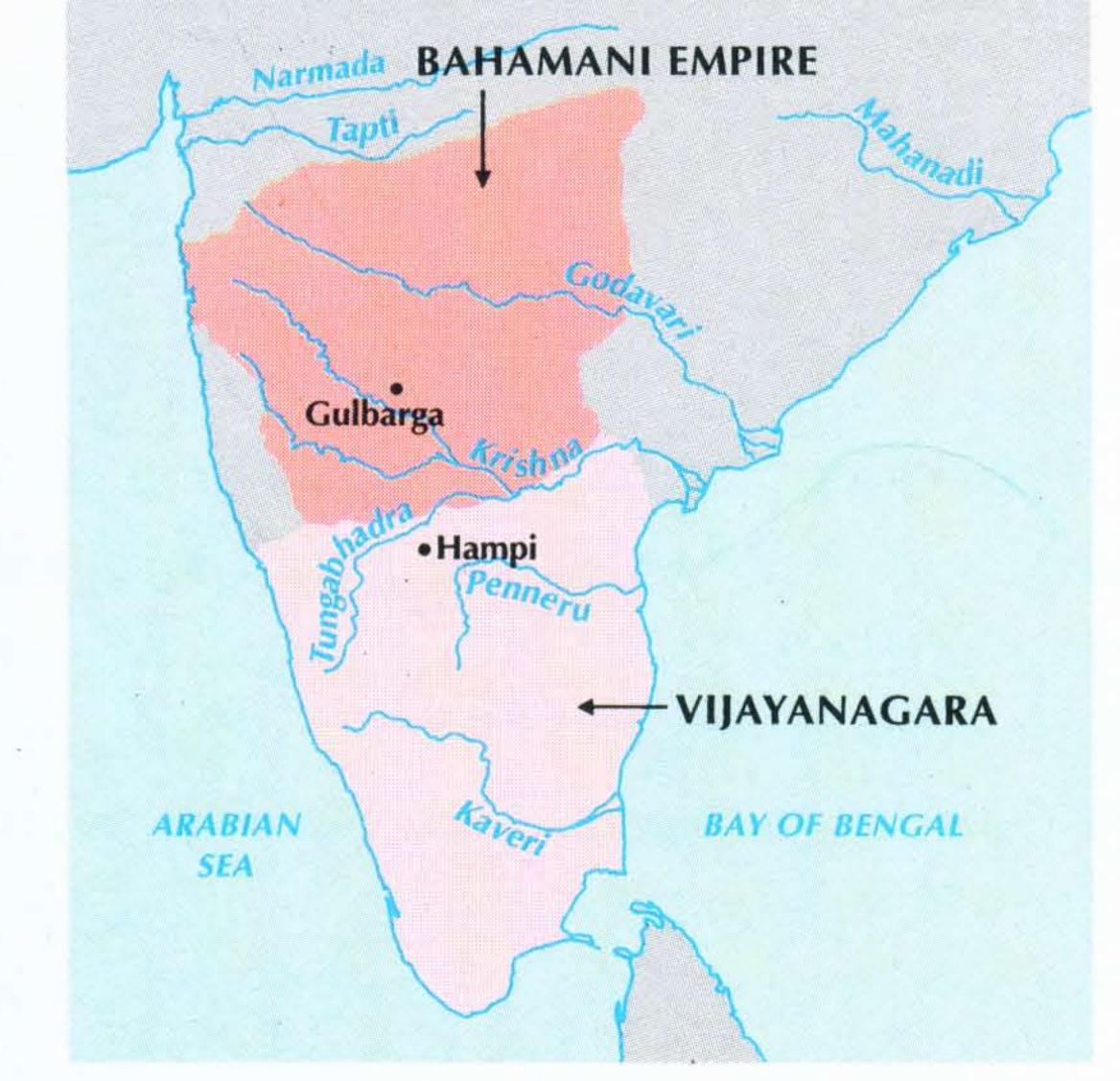
The Rise and Fall of the Vijayanagara Empire



13th Century South India, pre-Vijayanagara. 7 Hoysalas of Dorasamudra (Halebid) and the Yadavas of Devagiri, alongwith the Pandyas of Madhura and the Kakatiyas of Warangal, are the major powers in the south.



1303 to 1329. The Delhi Sultanate, first under the Khiljis and then under the Tughlags, conquer the Yadava Kingdom and most of northern Deccan. The entire south is on the verge of coming under the Delhi Sultanate.



1336. From the dying embers of the Hoysala Kingdom is born the Vijayanagara Empire. In 1345, Empire into five Sultanates — Bijapur, Bidar, the Gulbarga governor of the Delhi Sultanate revolts and the Bahamani Empire is born. For over two centuries the two empires dominate the peninsula and change the course of Indian history.



1538. Internal conflicts break the Bahamani Berar, Golconda and Ahmadnagar.

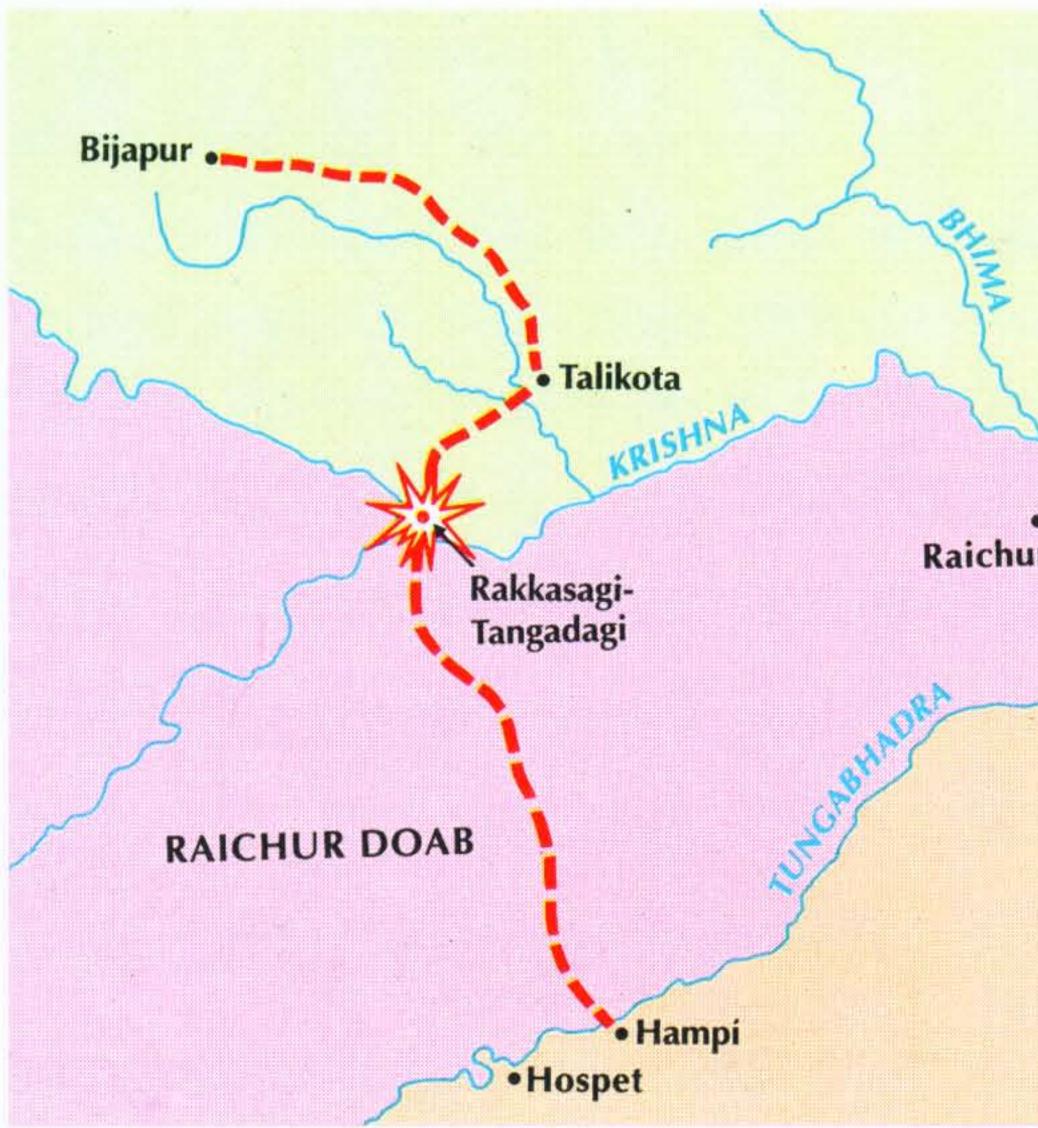
Four Dynasties

17 rulers belonging to four successive dynasties — Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu — sustained Vijayanagara's power and vigour for 230 years. Devaraya II (1424-1446) of the Sangama dynasty and Krishnadeva Raya (1509-1529) of the Tuluva dynasty were the greatest of them. After the fall of Hampi in 1565, seven more rulers, powerless and struggling, presided over a much reduced and tattered empire till its end in 1646.

Three lakh soldiers of the confederate army leave Bijapur for a decisive battle against Vijayanagara. They reach Talikota, 40 km north of the Krishna, and camp there for

25 December 1564.

23 January 1565. At Rakkasagi-Tangadagi, on the banks of the Krishna, the six-lakh strong Vijayanagara army suffers reverses including betrayal by a few commanders, and is annihilated.



1565. A confedaration of the five Sultans, led by the Bijapur Sultanate, defeats the Vijayanagara army and sacks Hampi. This marks the beginning of the end of the great empire.



17th Century. A truncated Vijayanagara Kingdom survives. The Mysore Wodeyars and the Keladi Nayaks grow in influence. The rest of the south is fragmented and ruled by local chieftains, and the Bijapur Sultanate. Eventually, the Mughal Sultanate of Delhi under Aurangazeb and the Marathas under Shivaji gain control of the entire Deccan.

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