

# BATTLE OF TALIKOTA (1565 AD)

The battle of Talikota was a decisive battle in the history of Vijayanagara empire. The battle was fought in a range of 40 kms. This battle was fought between the villages of Rakkasagi and Tangadagi, near Talikota. Hence it was called the battle of Talikota or Rakkasa-Tangadi. Some scholars believe that the decisive battle was fought at Krishna-Bannihatti. Hence it is called the battle of Bannihatti.

Krishna Deva Raya, king of the Vijaynagar empire at its zenith, stormed the Raichur Fort after a bloodily victorious battle against the forces of Ismail Adil Shah, ruler of the Bijapur Sultanate. The Battle of Raichur (1520), though celebrated widely through the streets of Vijayanagara, signalled the slow-yet-steady downfall of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Ultimately, the Battle of Talikota (1565) brought about the fated decline of a kingdom over two hundred years old. After this decisive battle, the Vijayanagara Empire could never reach the same heights of the past.

Ramaraya of the Aravidu family married the daughter of Krishnadevaraya and became famous as Aliya Ramaraya. Aliya Rama Raya was the regent and de facto ruler of the Vijaynagar Empire during the reign of Achyutaraya and Sadashivaraya. His scheming had allowed him to turn the legal heir, Sadasiva Raya, into a puppet emperor. Rama Raya was not a complete despot. He was an able statesman and administrator. At the time, the Deccan Sultanates were in constant fight, Rama Raya acted as an intermediary on multiple occasions. The sheer size and prowess of Vijayanagara's army made Rama Raya a formidable ally.

In 1549, Rama Raya joined forces with Nizam Shah of Ahmednagar in order to repel the combined armies of Adil Shah of Bijapur and Barid Shah of Bidar. Rama Raya helped the Sultan of Ahmednagar capture the fort of Kalyana. Eight years later, Rama Raya switched sides to team up with Ali Adil Shah of Bijapur and Barid Shah of Bidar, and invaded Ahmednagar at the appeal of the Sultan of Bijapur.

Rama Raya constantly shifted his allegiance depending on his empire's needs at the time. The Deccan Sultanates eventually realized the only way to vanquish their biggest foe was to come together and form a coalition that could withstand the might of the Vijayanagara Empire. This consolidation was achieved by marriages between the various Sultanate families, and putting aside inner political conflicts.

As the armies clashed at Talikota, the battle was still in favour of Rama Raya's forces. According to one account, the Vijayanagara army had an infantry numbering 140,000 soldiers compared to the 80,000 of the allied Deccan Sultanates. The turning point arrived when the Gilani brothers, commanders in Rama Raya's army, switched allegiance during the battle, severely weakening the

might of the Vijayanagara forces. This resulted in the capture and instant beheading of Rama Raya, sending his troops into complete disarray.

## Results

1. The Vijayanagara empire lost its glory. The successful Shahi army looted the city of Vijayanagara for many months.
2. The Portuguese were restricted to Goa region without the support of Vijayanagara. It was a setback to their trade.
3. Religious endowments to centres like Sringeri, Tirupati, Shrishaila and Kalahasti stopped. This was an obstacle to the development of the religion.
4. Aravidu dynasty, which started its rule from Penugonda and Chandragiri in Andhra Pradesh, was unable to gain control over the region of South India.
5. The feudatories of Vijayanagara empire like Palegars became independent. This led to the disintegration of Vijayanagara empire.