



HISTORY

THEME -7
AN IMPERIAL CAPITAL Vijay Nagar
(C. Fourteenth to sixteenth Century)

Key concepts in nutshell

- Discovery of Hampi - In 1799 the first British antiquarian Coli, Mackenzie. First surveyor general of Indian visited the ruins of Hampi, collected some manuscripts, had some water colours painted on monuments and made the first map of the site.
- The Rayas, Nayakas and Sultans - Harihara and Bukka asserted their independence of the Delhi sultanate and established the kingdom of vijayanagar on AD 1336.
- Kings and trading class - The warfare depended mainly upon powerful cavalry. The Portuguese settled on the west coast of India in attempt to establish their trading and military stations.
- The climax and decline of Vijay Nagar Empire - Krishnadeva Raya was an able administrator. He built dams for irrigation. He built magnificent places and temples. Its ruler Rama Raya was miserably defeated on the battlefield of Rakshasi - Tangadi. Talikota in A.D. 1565. The victorious armies plundered and destroyed the city of Vijay nagar.
- Vijayanagar Hampi Architecture - The Vijayanagar architecture (Hampi Architecture) of the period (1336-1365) was unique building style evolved by the imperial vijayanagar empire.
- Hampi Bazar - Portuguese travellers Paes and Nuniz visited hampi in the mid 15th century. They give an account of Hampi Bazar thus "in this street lived many merchants and there you will find all sort of rubies, diamonds pearls and cloths that you may wish to buy".
- Building and palaces - we know today about the vijayanagar palaces and building is derived from the archeological excavations at Hampi as no royal palaces structures have survived.
- King royal enclosure - Another important building at Hampi is the king's royal enclosure. Paes tells against the gate there were two circles in which there were the dancing women richly arrayed with many jewels of gold and diamonds and many pearls.
- Mahanavami dibba - The Mahanavami dibba is located on one of the highest points in the city. It is a very large platform rising from a base of about 11000 feet to height of a 40 feet. It seems that it supported a wooden structure.
- Forts of Vijay nagar - in the constant struggle for power, fort and fortified settlements were a potent symbol of authority. The rulers of Vijaynagar empire created the cities with the main object of protection against invasions. The city itself was a fortress and designed as such in every manner.

V.S.A. (2-Marks)

1. Who was Colonel Colin Mackenzie?

Ans.a).An employee of the English East India Company.

b).Ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800

2. What is Amara - Nayaka System?

Ans.It was a major political innovation of the -



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- a) Vijayanagara Empire
 b) Many features of this system were derived from Delhi Sultanate.
3. Why do you think agricultural tracts were incorporated within the fortified area?
 Ans. To be prepared for their protection against the sieges.

Q.4 What do you know about Gopuram and Mandapam?

Ans:

1. Gopuram is a large pyramidal tower constructed over the entrance gate of a temple.
2. Mandapam were pillared outdoor the hall for public rituals

S.A (4 Marks)

1. Describe the main features of the temples in Vijayanagara Empire.
 Ans. 1. Architects were influenced by the Indo-Islamic architectural styles.
 2. Huge structure of temple.
 3. Gopuram and Mandapas.
 4. Temples were the symbol of Kings Power and resource.
 5. Building of story upon story above the "garbhagriha" called Vimana.
 6. Architecture was 'Dravida Style' but it had its own distinct features.
 7. Temples have a Kalyanamandapa, used to music, dance, drama etc.
2. How were the water requirements of Vijayanagara met?

- Ans. a. Water requirement of Vijayanagara were met by the river Tungabhadra.
 b. Tanks were made to overcome this problem.
 c. Kamalapuram tank was used for irrigation and needs of the royal centers.
 d. Hiriya canal was the most prominent water works.

Long Answer - (8 Marks)

1. Describe the main causes responsible for the downfall of Vijayanagara Empire.
 Ans. 1. Weakness of the Central Government.
 2. Weak successor.
 3. Rules of the different dynasties.
 4. Continuous struggles against Bahamani Empire.
 5. Role of Army.
 6. Battle of Talikota.
2. Describe the salient features of the administration of Vijayanagara Empire.

- Ans. 1. The King.
 2. Cabinet minister.
 3. Provincial Government.
 4. Local administration.
 5. Judicial administration.



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6. Financial administration.
7. Amar Nayak System.
3. Describe the contribution of Krishnadeva Raya the greatest King of the Vijayanagara.
Ans. 1. His period is characterized by expansion and consolidation.
 2. Broad toleration prevailed in his empire.
 3. After a series of battles Vijayanagara emerged as a strongest military power.
 4. Preach and Prosperity.
 5. Efficient administration under his sway.
 6. Productive agriculture.
 7. Flourished inland coastal and overseas trade.
 8. He was a great builder.
 9. He was a scholar of Telugu and Patron of Telugu, Kannada and Tamil poets.
 10. He was a man of justice.