

## Lesson-7

### Vijayanagara Empire

Q.1:- Evaluate the importance of Amar Nayaka System in emergence of Vijayanagara Empire.

Ans. The amara-nayaka system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. It is likely that many features of this system were derived from the iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate.

There is an important role of this system to emerging the Vijayanagara empire. That shows in the following points :

- (i) The amara-nayakas were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the raya. They collected taxes and other dues from peasants.
- (ii) The amar nayak retained part of the revenue for personal use and for maintaining a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants.
- (iii) These contingents provided the Vijayanagara Kings with an effective fighting force with which they brought the entire southern peninsula under their control. Some of the revenue was also used for the maintenance of temples and irrigation works.

(iv) The amara-nayakas sent tribute to the King annually and personally appeared in the royal court with gifts to express their loyalty.

(v) Kings occasionally asserted their control over them by transferring them from one place to another.

Q2:- What do you think were the advantages and disadvantages of enclosing agricultural land within the fortified area of the city ?

Ans. There are many advantages and disadvantages of enclosing agricultural land within the fortified area of the Vijayanagara empire.

1. Abdur Razzaq noted that "between the first, second and third walls there are cultivated fields, gardens and houses.

2. The detailed statements have been corroborated by present day archaeologists, who have also found evidence of an agricultural tract between the sacred centre and the urban core.

3. We knew different sources that in Vijayanagara empire and other southern kingdom agricultural tracts were incorporated within the fortified areas. Often, the objective of medieval sieges was to strave the defenders into submission. These sieges could last four several months and sometimes even years.

4. Normally rulers tried to be prepared for adverse situations or natural calamities by building large granaries within fortified areas. The rulers of

Vijayanagara adopted a more expensive and elaborate strategy of protecting the agricultural belt itself.

5. Whenever, Kingdom was attacked by the enemies at the time of heaping harvest they could easily burn the dry crops of the farmers. But these fields were safe in ordinary situation from wild animals.

Q3:- What do you think was the significance of the rituals associated with the Mahanavami Dibba ?

Ans. The importance of the rituals associated with the Mahanavami Dibba.

Located on one of the highest points in the city, the "Mahanavami Dibba" is a massive platform rising from a base of about 11000 sq.ft. to a height of 40 H.

Rituals associated with the structure probably coincided with Mahanavami (Literally the great ninth day) of the ten-day Hindu festival during the autumn months of September and October, known variously as Dushehra (northern India), Durga Puja (in Bengal) and Navaratri or Mahanavami (in Peninsular India). The Vijayanagara kings displayed their prestige, power and suzerainty on this occasion.

- The ceremonies performed on the occasion included worship of the image, worship of the state house, and the sacrifice of buffaloes and other animals.

- Dancer, wrestling matches, and processions of caparisoned horses, elephants and chariots and soldiers, as well as ritual presentations before the king and his guests by the chief nayakas and subordinate kings marked the occasion.
- These ceremonies were imbued with deep symbolic meanings on the last day of the festival the king inspected his army and the armies of the nayakas in a grand ceremony in an open field. On this occasion the nayakas brought rich gifts for the king as well as the stipulated tribute.

Q4:- What impression of the lives of the ordinary people of Vijayanagara can you cull from the various descriptions in Vijayanagara empire.

Ans. Ordinary people of this empire spoke different languages and followed different religious tradition.

- There were small traders and local merchant used to live in cities, trade centres, port towns and villages.
- Peasants, workers, slaves etc. were included in ordinary people. These were ordinary Brahmans, traders and women also.
- The workers were called "Vipravinodin" this class consisted of Iron smiths, Gold smiths, carpenters, sculpture makers etc.
- In the society there were a few low class people, who were non-influential. They were Dombar, Mana, Jogi, Paraiyan, Boi, Kallar etc. Some low caste people