

Vijayanagara Empire | Important PYQ Topics

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INTRODUCTION

- Vijayanagar kingdom was established by **Harihara and Bukka**, who were two brothers and **served in the army of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq**. Capital city **Vijayanagar** on the banks of river **Tungabhadra** in **1336**.
- Constant conflict between **Vijayanagar Empire and Bahamani kingdom** over:
 - **Raichur doab** (fertile region between Krishna and Tungabhadra)
 - **Tungabhadra doab** (fertile areas of Krishna-Godavari delta) & Marathwada.
- During the reign of **Rama Raya**, the combined forces of Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golkonda and Bidar defeated him at the **Battle of Talaikotta in 1565** which marked an end of the Vijayanagar Empire.
- The **Hampi ruins** of Vijayanagar provide information on the Vijayanagar rulers.

DYNASTIES

Sangam Dynasty (1336-1486)

- **Harihara Raya** was the first ruler. **Bukaraya** ascended the throne after harihara.
- **Devaraya 1** was the first important king. First to **construct a dam** across river Tungabhadra. Devaraya 1 was defeated by **Bahaman sultan Feroz shah 1**.
- The greatest ruler of the Sangama dynasty was **Deva Raya II**. First vijayanagara ruler to **collect tributes from cylon**.
- **Last king Virupaksharaya** was dethroned by his commander **Saluva Narsimharaya 1**, and he started **Saluva** dynastic rule.

Saluva Dynasty (1486-1506)

- **Narasimha raya 2** was the greatest in the Saluva dynasty. **Annamcharaya** lived during this time period.
- **Veeranarasimha** started the rule of the **Tuluva dynasty**.

Tuluva Dynasty (1506-1565)

- **Krishnadevaraya (1509-1529)** was the greatest in this dynasty. Great commander and an efficient administrator. Maintained law and order and dealt with the Portuguese influence.
 - Shattered the **Adil Shahi forces of Bijapur** first and attacked Gulbarga.
 - Helped Bahamani princes in recovering the throne of Gulbarga and Krishna Deva himself took the title of **Yavanarajya Sthapanacharya**.
 - Eight eminent scholars known as **Ashtadiggajas** were at his royal court. one of whom was the famous **Tenali Raman**.

- A great patron of literature and art, he was known as **Andhra Bhoja**.
- During the reign of Rama Raya, the **Bahaman confederacy** (combined forces of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golkonda and Bidar) defeated him at the **Battle of Talaikote in 1565**.

Aravidu Dynasty (1570-1647)

- **Thirumala, Sri Ranga and Venkata II** were the important rulers of this dynasty.
- After 1604, **Venkatapati** shifted the capital from Chandragiri to **Vellore Fort**.
- **Sri Ranga** was defeated by **Mir Jumla of Golconda** in the **battle of Vandavasi in 1647**. The Vijayanagara empire came to an end with this.

ADMINISTRATION

- **Traditional monarchy**. King was the ultimate authority and supreme commander.
- **Amaranayaka system**. This is similar to the iqta system of Delhi Sultanate.
 - Each nayaka was given an **area for administration**. Nayaka was responsible for **expanding agricultural activities** in his area.
 - **Collected taxes** in his area and maintained his army, elephants and weapons.
 - **Amara-nayakas** sent tribute to the king annually

SOCIETY

- **Silk and cotton clothes**. Perfumes, flowers and ornaments were used.
- **Devdasi** or temple dancer system became more popular.
- Practice of **sati** further strengthened.
- Existence of **four castes**- Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras.

RELIGION

- **Sangama rulers** were chiefly **Saivaites** and Virupaksha was their family deity. Other dynasties were **Vaishnavites**.
- **Muslims were employed** in the administration and **freely allowed to build mosques**.
- **Shunya sampadane**– a collection of vachanas produced in this age.

LITERATURE

- **Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu language** witnessed voluminous literature.
- Few **Sanskrit works** are:
 - Gangadevi wrote- Madhuravijayam
 - Krishnadevaraya wrote – usha parinayan, jambavanti kalyanam, madalasa charita etc.
- Literary works in **Kannada**:
 - Chamarasa wrote – prabhulinga leela

- Kanakadas wrote- Ramadhanacharite, nala charite, mohana tarangini etc.
- Literary works in **Telugu**:
 - Krishnadevaraya wrote – Amuktamalyada
 - Allasani pedanna wrote – Manucharita etc.

ARCHITECTURE

- Dravidian style of architecture later added some unique features to it and it came to be called as **Vijayanagara style**.
- Preferred for its durability, **local hard granite** was the building material.
- Temples are surrounded by **strong enclosures** and characterised by **ornate pillared kalyanamandapa** (marriage halls); tall **rayagopurams** (carved monumental towers at the entrance of the temple) built of wood, brick, and stucco in the Chola style.
 - Eg: Virupaksha Temple at Hampi and the Hazara Rama temple of Deva Raya I.
- Shows **secular styles** with Islamic-influenced arches, domes, and vaults.

PYQs

Q. Building 'Kalyana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

- a) Chalukya
- b) Chandela
- c) Rashtrakuta
- d) **Vijayanagara**

Q. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagara, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss.