
Chapter-07

An Imperial Capital Vijayanagar

- The Rayas, Nayakas and Sultans - Harihara and Bukka asserted their independence of the Delhi sultanate and established the kingdom of vijaynagar on AD 1336.
- Kings and trading class - The warfare depended mainly upon powerful cavalry. The Portuguese settled on the west coast of India in attempted to establish their trading and military stations.
- The climax and decline of Vijay Nagar empire - Krishadeva Raya was unable administrator, He built dams for irrigation. He builds 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 Vijaynagar.
- Vijaynagar Hampi Architecture - The Vijaynagar architecture (Hampi Architecture) of the period (1336-1365) was unique building style evolved by the imperial vijaynagar empire.
- Hampi Bazar - Portuguese traveller's peas and nuntiz visited hampi in the mid 1500 century. They give an account of hampi Bazar thus "in this street lived many merchants and there you will find all sorts of rubies, diamonds pearls and cloths that you may wish to buy.
- Building and places - we know today about the vijaynagar palces and buildings are derived from the archeological excavations at Hampi as no royal palace structures have survived.
- Kings royal enclosure - Another important building at Hampi is the king's royal enclosure. Peas 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 is 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.
- Vijayanagara or "city of victory" was the name of the both a city and an empire. The empire was founded in the fourteenth century.
- In 1565 the city was sacked and subsequently deserted.
- One of the most prominent water work to be seen among the ruins in the Hiriya canal.
- In terms of temple architecture, by this period certain new features were in evidence.
- Best exemplified by the raya gopurams or royal gate ways that often dwarfed the towers on the central shrines, and signaled the presence of the temple from a great distance.
- The halls in the temple were used for a variety of purposes.
- Buildings that survive tell us about the way spaces were organized and used, how they were built, with what materials and techniques.

