

An Imperial Capital Vijayanagara

Vijayanagara

Vijayanagara meaning city of victory was the name of both a city and an empire. It was founded in the 14th century and was ruined in the 17th-18th centuries. It stretched from the river Krishna in the North to the extreme South in the peninsula during its peak days. People remembered it as Hampi. The name is derived from a local mother goddess, Pampadevi. While historians use the term Vijayanagara empire, contemporaries described it as the *karnataka samrajyamu*.

The Discovery of Hampi

Colonel Colin Mackenzie, an engineer, antiquarian (the study of antiques), surveyor and cartographer (person who draws and produces maps) had discovered the ruins at Hampi in 1800 CE. He prepared the first survey map of the Hampi site. The initial information he collected was based on the memories of priests of the Virupaksha temple and the shrine of Pampadevi.

In 1836 CE, epigraphists (people who study and interpret ancient inscriptions) started collecting many inscriptions found in the temples at Hampi. Later from 1856, photographers started to record the monuments which helped scholars to study them.

Historians collected all the information from these sources along with travel accounts of foreign travellers and other literature written in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Sanskrit to reconstruct the history of city and the

CHAPTER CHECKLIST

- Vijayanagara
 - The Discovery of Hampi
 - Rayas, Nayakas and Sultans
 - Vijayanagara : The Capital and its Surroundings
 - The Royal Centre of Vijayanagara
 - The Sacred Centre of Vijayanagara
 - Plotting Palaces, Temples and Bazaars
 - Informations Acquired from Buildings
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Colin Mackenzie

Colin Mackenzie was born in 1754 CE and became a famous engineer, surveyor and cartographer. He was appointed as the **First Surveyor General of India** in 1815 CE and he held this post till his death in 1821 CE.

He started collecting local histories and surveying historic sites in order to better understand India's past and make governance of the India easier. He believed that South India has struggled a lot due to bad management, before the South came under the gentle and kind influence of the British Government.

He wanted to study Vijayanagara as, East India Company could gain much useful information on many of these institutions, laws and customs from it. The influence of all these was still widespread among the various tribes of natives who form the general mass of the population.

Rayas, Nayakas and Sultans

According to traditions and interpretation of ancient inscriptions, two brothers, Harihara and Bukka founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336. People of this empire spoke different languages and followed different religious traditions.

In the North, the Vijayanagara kings competed with contemporary rulers, like the Sultans of the Deccan and the Gajapati rulers of Orissa for control of the fertile river valleys and the resources generated by overseas trade.

In the popular traditions of Vijayanagara, the Deccan Sultans were termed as ashvapati or lord of horses. The interaction between these states also helped in sharing of ideas, especially in the field of architecture.

Vijayanagar rulers borrowed concepts and building techniques which they developed further. Some of the areas that were made part of the empire had witnessed the development of powerful states like the Cholas in Tamil Nadu and the Hoysalas in Karnataka. Rulers in these areas had provided support to elaborate the temples such as the Brihadishvara temple at Thanjavur and the Chennakeshvara temple at Belur.

The rulers of Vijayanagara who called themselves rayas are also called narapati or lord of men.



Kings and Traders

During this time, warfare depended upon effective cavalry, so the import of horses from Arabia and Central Asia was very important for rival kingdoms. This trade was initially controlled by Arab traders.

Local communities of merchants known as kudirai chetties or horse merchants also participated in these exchanges.

From 1498, Portuguese arrived on the West coast of the subcontinent and attempted to establish trading and military stations.

They had superior military technology, especially in the use of muskets, which helped them to become important players in the confused and chaotic politics of the period.

Vijayanagar Empire was known for its markets dealing in spices, textiles and precious stones. Trade was regarded as a status symbol in those cities who were proud of a wealthy population that demanded high value exotic goods, especially precious stones and jewellery. The revenue derived from trade helped in improving the prosperity of the state.

The Apogee and Decline of the Empire

The Sangama dynasty was the first dynasty that exercised the control till 1485. They were replaced by the Saluvas, who were military commanders and remained in power till 1503 when they were replaced by the Tuluvas. The most famous ruler of Tuluva dynasty was Krishnadeva Raya.

Krishnadeva Raya

Krishnadeva Raya's rule was known by expansion and strengthening the empire. During this time, the land between the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers (the Raichur doab) was acquired in 1512, the rulers of Orissa were brought under the control in 1514 and severe defeats were suffered by the Sultan of Bijapur in 1520.

Krishnadeva Raya was credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive

mother. He was also known for his literacy skills. He composed on statecraft in Telugu known as *Amuktamalyada*.

Nayakas

After the death of Krishnadeva Raya in 1529, his successors were troubled by rebellious nayakas or military chiefs. By 1542, control at the centre was shifted to another ruling family of the Aravidu, which remained in power till the end of seventeenth century.

During this period, the military ambitions of the rulers of Vijayanagara and of the Deccan Sultanates resulted in shifting alignments. This led to an alliance of the Sultanates against Vijayanagara.

In 1565, Rama Raya, the Chief Minister of Vijayanagara, led the army into battle at Rakshasi-Tangadi also known as Talikota. Here Rama Raya's forces were decisively defeated by the combined armies of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar and Golconda. The victorious armies looted and destroyed the city of Vijayanagara. Within a few years, this city was totally abandoned. Now the focus of the empire shifted to East where the Aravidu dynasty ruled from Penukonda and later from Chandragiri near Tirupathi.

Sultans

The armies of the Sultans were responsible for the destruction of the city of Vijayanagara. Relations between the Sultans and the rayas were also not always hostile despite their religious differences.

For instance, Krishnadeva Raya supported the people who claimed power in the Sultanates and took the title establisher of the Yavana kingdom. Similarly, the Sultan of Bijapur involved to resolve the succession disputes in Vijayanagara, following the death of Krishnadeva Raya.

The Vijayanagara kings were keen to ensure the stability of the Sultanates and vice versa. But was the adventurous policy of Rama Raya who tried to play off one Sultan against another that led the Sultans to combine together and decisively defeat him.

The Rayas and the Nayakas

Military chiefs who exercised power in the empire usually controlled forts and had armed supporters. These chiefs often moved from one place to another and in most cases they were accompanied by peasants looking

Vijayanagara but they often rebelled and had to be brought under control by military action.

The Amara-Nayaka System

The *amara-nayaka* system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. Most of its features were derived from the *iqta* system of the Delhi Sultanate. The features of this system are as follows:

- The *amara-nayakas* were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the *raya*. They collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftspersons and traders in the area.
- They kept part of the revenue for personal use and for maintaining a required group of horses and elephants. Some of the revenue was also used for the maintenance of temples and irrigation works.
- These military groups were an effective fighting force which provided Vijayanagara kings to bring the entire Southern peninsula under their control.
- The *amara-nayakas* sent tribute to the king annually and personally appeared in the royal court with gifts to express their loyalty. Kings occasionally asserted their control over them by transferring them from one place to another.

During the seventeenth century, many of these *nayakas* established independent kingdoms. This accelerated the collapse of the kingdom and its structure.

Check Point 01

1. When did Vijayanagara empire was found?
2. When did Hampi was discovered?
3. Who was appointed as the first Surveyor General of India?
4. Which language nayakas speaks?
5. From where amara-nayaka system was derived?

Vijayanagara : The Capital and its Surroundings

A large number of inscriptions of the kings of Vijayanagara and their nayakas recording donations to temples as well as describing important events have been recovered.

Several travellers such as, an Italian trader named Nicolo de Conti, an ambassador named Abdur Razaq

All these travellers accounts gave information about Vijayanagara. For instance, Domingo Paes's described Vijayanagara that it was very beautiful and large as Rome. He pointed out that the city had many trees, gardens and many water channels and some lakes.

Vijayanagara is known for its distinctive physical layout and building style.

Water Resources of Vijayanagara

The most important feature about the location of Vijayanagara is the natural basin formed by the river Tungabhadra which flows in North-Easterly direction.

Granite hills surround the city and a number of streams flow down to the river from these rocky mountains.

Embankments were built along these streams to create reservoirs of different sizes.

This region is among the most arid zones of the peninsula, so arrangements were made to store rainwater and transmit it to the city.

In the fifteenth century, the most important tank was built and known as Kamalapuram tank. The water from this tank was used both to irrigate fields and transmit to the royal centre through a channel.

One of the most important waterworks was the Hiriya canal. This was built by the kings of the Sangama dynasty. Water for the canal was drawn from a dam across the Tungabhadra and it irrigated the cultivated valley that separated the 'sacred centre' from the 'urban core'.

Fortifications and Roads

The great fortress walls enclosed the city. Abdur Razzaq, an ambassador sent by the ruler of Persia to Calicut in the fifteenth century, was impressed by the fortifications of Vijayanagara and mentioned about the seven lines of forts.

These fortifications not only surrounded the city but also remote agricultural areas and forests. The hills surrounding the city were linked with the outermost wall. The large construction was slightly reduced in thickness at one end. The mortar or cementing agent were not used in the construction. The stone blocks were wedge (thick at one end and thin at another end) shaped, which held them in place.

The inner portion of walls was earth packed with rubble and square or rectangular fortification was projected

Archaeologist's Study about Roads

Archaeologists have studied roads within the city and those leading out from it. These have been identified by following paths through gateways and also by identifying footpaths.

Roads generally turn around through the valleys (i.e. low area of land present between hills or mountains) and avoided rocky lands. Some of the most important roads extended from temple gateways and were bordered by bazaars.

Fortification of Agricultural Lands

The most important thing about this fortification was that it surrounded agricultural lands. Abdur Razzaq noted that between the first, second and the third walls there were cultivated fields, gardens and houses. But Domingo Paes noted different things about these three walls.

According to Paes from the first outer wall to the city entrance, there was a great distance in which fields are existed. In these fields rice was sown. It had many gardens and much water, which comes from two lakes.

There was an evidence of an agricultural land between the sacred centre and the urban core. This land was supplied water from a canal system which drew water from the river Tungabhadra.

Strategy behind Fortification

In the medieval period, the objective of the military operation was mostly to starve the defenders so that they will accept the defeat. These operations lasted for months and sometimes even years, so normally rulers were prepared for such situations by building large storage rooms for grains within the fortified areas.

However, the rulers of Vijayanagara adopted a more expensive and complicated strategy of protecting the agricultural belt itself.

The Inner Core of the Urban Complex

It was surrounded by second line of fortification and the royal centre was surrounded by a third line. Within this, there were major buildings present which were surrounded by their own high walls. The well-guarded gates which were linked to major roads of the city were used to enter the fort.

Gateways

These were distinctive architectural features which described the nature of building to which they controlled access. The arch on the gateway leading into the fortified settlement and dome over the gate were regarded as typical features of the architecture introduced by the Turkish Sultans.

This style is referred as Indo-Islamic by art historians, because it developed through the interaction with local building practices in different regions.

The Urban Core

Archaeologists found little archaeological evidence of the houses of ordinary people. They have found fine Chinese porcelain (Chinaware) in some areas in the North-Eastern corner of the urban core and this shows that these areas might have been occupied by rich traders.

This area was also the Muslim residential quarter. Tombs and mosques present here have different functions but their architecture resembles the *Mandapas* that were found in temples of Hampi.



Shards of Chinese porcelain

Sixteenth-century Portuguese traveller Duarte Barbosa described the houses of ordinary people. The houses had roofs made of straw, palm leaves, etc but were well built. They were arranged according to the occupations in long streets with many open places. Field surveys show that the entire area was scattered with number of shrines and small temples.

This shows that different cults were present there, which might be supported by different communities. The surveys also indicate that wells, rainwater tanks, temple tanks were used as sources of water by the

The Royal Centre of Vijayanagara

The royal centre was located in the South-Western part of the settlement. It had over 60 temples. It shows that support of temples and cults was important for rulers who tried to establish and get approved of their authority through association with the gods and goddesses housed in the shrines.

Around thirty building complexes were identified as palaces. There were relatively large structures that do not seem to be associated with ritual functions.

The difference between these structures and temples was that the temples were constructed by using stones, while the superstructure of the secular buildings were made of materials that would get decayed after some time.

The Buildings in Royal Centres

On the basis of the form of buildings and their functions, different structures were assigned their names. The king's palace was the largest of the buildings but there was no strong evidence that it was a royal residence. It had two impressive platforms, called the audience hall and the *mabanavami dibba*. The entire complex was surrounded by high double walls with a street running between them.



A part of the stone wall that was built around the city of

The Audience Hall

It was a high platform which had slots for wooden pillars to be placed at close and regular intervals. On these pillars, a staircase was present which went to the second



Interior of the audience hall at Madurai Note the arches

Mahanavami Dibba

It was located at one of the highest points in the city. It was a massive platform or stage rising from a base of about 11,000 sq ft to a height of 40 ft. There was evidence that it supported a wooden building. The base of the platform was covered with relief designs or carvings.

Rituals associated with the building probably coincided with Mahanavami. It is known as Dussehra in North India, Durga Puja in Bengal and Navaratri or Mahanavami in peninsular India. The Vijayanagara kings showed their prestige, power and control over the empire on this occasion.



The mahanavami dibba



Ceremonies on Occasion of Mahanavami

Various ceremonies were performed on this occasion like :

- Worship of image, worship of the state horse and the sacrifice of buffaloes and other animals.
- Dances, wrestling matches, procession of highly decorated horses, elephants and chariots and soldiers.
- Ritual presentations before the king and his guests by the chief Nayakas and subordinate kings.

The ceremonies had a deep symbolic meanings. On the last day of the festival, king's army and the armies of the *nayakas* were inspected by the king in a grand ceremony in an open field.

The *nayakas* brought rich gifts for the king on this occasion. Scholars have raised doubt that, the space surrounding the *mahanavami dibba* structure was not sufficient for big processions of armed men, women and large animals.

Other Buildings in the Royal Centre

The Lotus Mahal

The Lotus Mahal, named by British travellers in the nineteenth century was one of the most beautiful buildings in the royal centre. Historians are not sure about what the building was used for. A map drawn by Mackenzie suggested that it might have been a council chamber, a place where the king met his advisers.



A photograph of the Lotus Mahal

Hazara Rama Temple

It was one of the most spectacular temples. This might have been used only by the king and his family. Though images in the central shrine are missing, but sculpted

destroyed, many of the structures were destroyed. Later the practice of building large structures were continued by the *nayakas*.



Sculpture from the Hazara Rama temple

Check Point 02

1. Name some travellers whose account give information about Vijayanagara.
2. What is the most important feature about the location of Vijayanagara?
3. canal was built by the kings of Sangama dynasty.
4. Give one feature of the houses of ordinary people in Vijayanagara as described by Duarte Barbosa.

The Sacred Centre of Vijayanagara

The rocky Northern end of city was located on the banks of the Tungabhadra. As per the local traditions, these hills had the monkey kingdom of Vali and Sugriva mentioned in the Ramayana.

Some other traditions suggested that Pampadevi did penance (*tapasya*) in these hills in order to marry Virupaksha, the God who protected the kingdom and also recognised as a form of Shiva.

This marriage is celebrated even today every year in the Virupaksha temple.

In these hills, Jaina temples of the pre-Vijayanagara period are also found. It implies that this area was associated with different sacred traditions.

Tradition of Temple Building

The Pallavas, Chalukyas, Hoysalas and Cholas started building temples in Northern region. In order to associate themselves with divine, rulers encouraged to

Temples also acted as the centres of learning. Rulers and others often granted land and other resources for the maintenance of temples. This resulted in temples being developed as important religious, social, cultural and economic centres.

Rulers viewed constructing, repairing and maintaining temples as important means to win support and recognition of their power, wealth and being religious.

The rulers of Vijayanagara innovated and developed new traditions like, display of royal portrait sculpture in temples. The king's visits to temples were treated as important state occasions, and thus king was accompanied by the important *nayakas* of temple.

Gopurams and Mandaps

The temple architecture in this period has got new features. These were :

- The temples have structures of very large scale that must be symbolic of imperial authority. The best examples are *raya gopurams* or royal gateways that often made the towers on the central shrines look smaller, and indicated the presence of the temple from a great distance. They might also be the symbols of the power of kings, who have authority on the resources, techniques and skills needed to construct these extremely tall gateways.
- Other important features are *mandaps* or pavilions and long pillared corridors that often ran around the shrines within the temple complex. An important feature of the temple complexes was the chariot streets that extended from the temple *gopuram* in the straight line. These streets were paved with stone slabs and lined with pillared pavilions in which merchants set-up their shops.
- Local *nayakas* continued the traditions of fortification and temple building. Some of them constructed most spectacular gopurams.

The Virupaksha Temple

The Virupaksha temple was built over centuries but inscriptions suggested that the earliest shrine was dated to the ninth-tenth centuries and it was enlarged with the establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Krishnadeva Raya has built the hall in front of the shrine to indicate his accession to throne. This was

Krishnadeva also constructed the Eastern *gopuram*. Central shrine came to occupy a small part of the complex with these additions.

The halls in the temple were used for various purposes. Some spaces had images of Gods to witness special programmes of music, dance, drama, etc. Other spaces were used for marriages of deities, and some other were meant for the deities to swing in. On these occasions, special images which were different from those kept in the small central shrine were used.

Virupaksha Temple's Influence on Vijayanagara

The site of Vijayanagara was inspired by the existence of the shrines of Virupaksha and Pampadevi. Vijayanagara kings claimed that they ruled on behalf of the god Virupaksha.

The royal orders were signed Shri Virupaksha, in the Kannada script. Kings used titles like Hindu Suratrana to show their close links with the Gods. This title was the Sanskritisation of the Arabic term Sultan, meaning king, so it literally meant Hindu Sultan.

The Vitthala Temple

The Vitthala temple was another important shrine. The main deity was Vitthala, a form of Vishnu generally worshipped in Maharashtra.

The introduction of the worship of the deity in Karnataka shows that Vijayanagara rulers used different traditions to create an imperial culture. Like other temples, Vitthala temple also had several halls and a unique shrine designed as a chariot.

One of the important features was the chariot streets. It extended from the temple Gopuram in a straight line. These streets were paved with stone slabs and lined with pillared pavilions in which merchants set up their shops.



Plotting Palaces, Temples and Bazaars

Photographs, plans, designs of structures and sculpture, all provide lot of information on Vijayanagara. The information was combined together from travellers accounts and inscriptions after the initial surveys by Mackenzie.

The site was preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Karnataka Department of Archaeology and Museums in the twentieth century.

Hampi was recognised as a site of national importance in 1976. A project was launched in early 1980s to document and record the material remains at Vijayanagara in detail. Many scholars from all over the world worked to compile and preserve this information.

Contribution of Scholars

The scholars have recovered and documented traces of thousands of structures from tiny shrines and residences to large temples. They also recovered the traces of roads, paths, bazars, etc. John M Fritz, George Michell and MS Nagaraja Rao, who worked for years at the site, have written that they had to imagine a whole set of disappeared wooden parts, pillars, beams, ceilings, overhanging roofs, and towers decorated with plaster and painted brightly. These wooden structures are lost, and only stone structures have survived, but the descriptions of travellers allowed them to reconstruct some aspects of the energetic life of those times.

Contribution of Travellers

Some travellers like Paes has described the Vijayanagara city as the best provided city in the world and markets with supplies of rice, wheat, grains, India corn and some amount of barley and beans, moong, pulses and horse-gram. All these were available cheaply and in plenty. According to Fernao Nuniz, the Vijayanagara markets were overflowing with large quantities of fruits, grapes and oranges, limes, pomegranates, jackfruit and mangoes which are all very cheap. Meat was also sold in excess quantity in the marketplaces.

Mutton, pork, deer meat, partridges, hares, doves, quail and all kinds of birds, sparrows, rats, cats and lizards were sold in the market of Bisnaga (Vijayanagara).

Informations Acquired from Buildings

Buildings give information about the ways spaces were organised and used, the ways they were built and the materials and techniques used to build them. For example, the defence requirements and military preparedness of a city can be identified by studying its fortifications.

Buildings also give information about spread of ideas and cultural influences by comparing them with other places. They convey the ideas desired by the builders or their patron to projects. They are often have symbols which are a product of their cultural context.

However, architectural features do not give information about ordinary men, women and children, comprising the vast majority of the people who lived in the city and its outskirts.

Check Point 03

1. The Royal centre was located in
2. Who draw map of Lotus Mahal?
3. When did Virupaksha Temple was built?
4. How Barbosa described the houses of ordinary people?
5. Give one limitation of architectural features.

Timeline 1

Major Political Developments

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| c 1200 - 1300 | Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate in 1206. |
| c 1300 - 1400 | Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336; establishment of the Bahmani Kingdom in 1347
Sultanates in Jaunpur, Kashmir and Madurai. |
| c 1400 - 1500 | Establishment of the Gajapati kingdom of Orissa in 1435; establishment of the Sultanates of Gujarat and Malwa; emergence of the Sultanates of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Berar in 1490. |
| c 1500 - 1600 | Conquest of Goa by the Portuguese in 1510
collapse of the Bahmani Kingdom; emergence of the Sultanate of Golconda in 1518; establishment of the Mughal Empire by Babur in 1526. |

Timeline 2

Landmarks in the Discovery and Conservation of Vijayanagara

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1800 | Colin Mackenzie visits Vijayanagara. |
| 1856 | Alexander Greenlaw takes the first detailed photographs of archaeological remains at Hampi. |
| 1876 | J.F. Fleet begins documenting the inscriptions on the temple walls at the site. |
| 1902 | Conservation begins under John Marshall. |
| 1986 | Hampi declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO. |

TERMS TO KNOW (FROM NCERT)

- **Antiquarian** (pg. no. 170) A person who studies or collects antiquities i.e. objects belonging to past times.
- **Epigraphists** (pg. no. 170) The people who study and interpret ancient inscriptions.
- **Cartographer** (pg. no. 171) A person who draws and produces maps.
- **Gajapati** (pg. no. 171) It means lord of elephants.
- **Ashvapati** (pg. no. 172) It means lord of horses.
- **Narapati** (pg. no. 172) It means lord of men.
- **Yavana** (pg. no. 174) It is a sanskrit word used for the Greeks and other people who entered the subcontinent from the North-West.
- **Amara-Nayakas** (pg. no. 175) These were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the *royal king*.
- **Amara** (pg. no. 175) It is derived from the Sanskrit word *Samara*, meaning Battle or War. It also resembles the Persian term *Amir*, meaning a high noble.
- **Gopuram** (pg. no. 178) It is a big gateway tower, usually decorate with carvings, at the entrance of any temple, especially in Southern India.
- **Mandapa** (pg. no. 179) It is a pillared outdoor hall or pavilion for public rituals.

NCERT FOLDER

C Answer in 100-150 words.

1 What have been the methods used to study the ruins of Hampi over the last two centuries? In what way do you think they would have complemented the information provided by the priests of the Virupaksha temple?

or How and when were the ruins of Hampi brought to light? Explain briefly. Delhi 2012

or Describe the various efforts made by scholars to reconstruct the history of the city and the empire from the ruins of Hampi upto the century. Delhi 2008

Ans Colonel Colin Mackenzie had discovered the ruins at Hampi in 1800 CE. The methods used to study the ruins of Hampi were:

- Mackenzie prepared the first Survey Map of the Hampi site.
- In 1836 CE, epigraphists started collecting many inscriptions found at this and other temples at Hampi.
- From 1856, photographers started to record the monuments which helped scholars to study them.
- Historians collected all the information from these sources along with travel accounts of foreign travellers and other literature written in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Sanskrit to reconstruct the history of city and the empire.

These methods complemented the information given by the priests of Virupaksha temple because the information was based on the memories of priests.

2 How were the water requirements of Vijayanagara met?

Ans The water requirements of Vijayanagara met through the following ways :

- In Vijayanagara, the natural basin was formed by the river Tungabhadra which flows in North-Easterly direction. This natural basin met the water requirements of Vijayanagara.
- A number of streams flow down to the river from the rocky mountains. In many cases check-dams were built along these streams to create reservoirs of different sizes.
- This region was among the most arid zones of the peninsula, so arrangements were made to store rainwater and transmit to the city.
- In the fifteenth century, the most important tank

- One of the most important waterworks was the Hiriya canal. This was built by the kings of the Sangama dynasty. The canal got water from a dam across the Tungabhadra and irrigated the cultivated valley that separated the sacred centre from the urban core.

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

Ans The advantages of enclosing agricultural land within the fortified area of the city were :

- Since siege (military) operations sometimes lasts for many months, this kind of system enables farmers to do agriculture and produce grains even during the siege operation.
- Agricultural lands were often destroyed first during war, which were outside the forts. But in this case that was not possible because they were well protected inside the fortification.

The disadvantage of enclosing agricultural land within the fortified area of the city were :

- This was more expensive and complicated strategy of protecting the agricultural belt itself.
- Expansion of agriculture to other areas beyond the fortified area becomes difficult. Agriculture has to confined within this area.

4 What do you think was the significance of the rituals associated with the *mahanavami dibba*?

Ans *Mahanavami dibba* was located at one of the highest points in the city. It was a massive platform or stage rising from a base of about 11,000 sq ft. to a height of 40 ft. It supported a wooden building and the base of the platform was covered with relief designs or carvings.

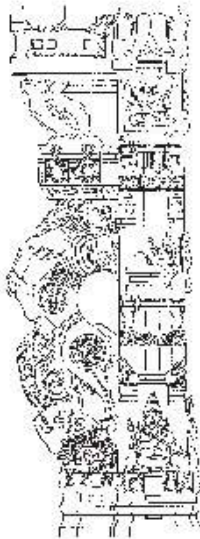
Rituals associated with the *mahanavami dibba* probably coincided with Mahanavami i.e. the ninth day of the ten-day Hindu festival during the autumn months of September and October. It is known as Dusehra in North India, Durga Puja in Bengal and Navaratri or Mahanavami in peninsular India. The Vijayanagara kings showed their prestige, power and control over the empire on this occasion. Various ceremonies were performed on this occasion like

Dances, wrestling matches, procession of highly decorated horses, elephants and chariots and soldiers were the main attractions of this occasion.

These rituals were presented before the king and his guests by the chief Nayakas and subordinate kings. Thus, the rituals associated with the *Mahanavami dibba* were significant.

- 5 The below figure is an illustration of another pillar from the Virupaksha temple. Do you notice any floral motifs? What are the animals shown? Why do you think they are depicted? Describe the human figures shown.

CBSE 2012



- Ans** The illustration of pillar from the Virupaksha temple contains floral motifs i.e. flower images which can be noticed on the pillars.

The animals shown include horse, peacock, duck etc. They were depicted to add more beauty to the pillars of the temple. Animals like horses are symbolic to royal power, because they were used in wars as cavalry.

The human figures is also depicted on the pillar. At the top, there is a human figure which looks like it was in kneeling position.

The middle human figure was praying to Shiva lingam, but he was using legs instead of hands.

- C** Write a short essay (about 250-300 words) on the following.

- 6 Discuss whether the term 'royal centre' is an appropriate description for the part of the city for which it is used.

Ans The royal centre is an appropriate description for the part of the city for which it is used due to its royal features which are as follows:

- The royal centre was located in the South-Western part of the settlement. It had over 60 temples. It shows that support of temples and cults was important for rulers who tried to establish and get approved of their authority through association with the gods and goddesses housed in the shrines.
- Around 30 building complexes were identified as palaces. There were relatively large structures that do not seem to be associated with ritual functions.
- The difference between these structures and temples was that the temples were constructed by using stones, while the superstructure of the secular buildings were made of materials that would get decayed after some time.
- The king's palace was the largest of the buildings but there is no strong evidence that it was a royal residence. It had two impressive platforms, called the audience hall and the *Mahanavami Dibba*.
- The Audience hall was a high platform which had slots for wooden pillars to be placed at close and regular intervals.
- *Mahanavami Dibba* was a massive platform or stage rising from a base of about 11,000 sq ft to a height of 40 ft.
- The Lotus Mahal, named by British travellers in the nineteenth century was one of the most beautiful buildings in the royal centre.
- Hazara temple was meant to be used by the king and his family. The sculpted panels which survive include scenes from the *Ramayana*.

Thus, all the buildings and the activities present in the royal centre shows that it is an appropriate description. Though there are many temples present in the royal centre, we

7 What does the architecture of buildings like the Lotus Mahal and elephant stables tell us about the rulers who commissioned them?

Ans The architecture of buildings like Lotus mahal and elephant stables show that Indian rulers tried to use native symbols and innovatively mix them with other cultures. Though, they were related to Hindu religion but it had features of other religions also.

Lotus Mahal

The Lotus Mahal, named by British travellers in the nineteenth century was one of the most beautiful buildings in the royal centre. But, historians are not sure about what the building was used for.

A map drawn by Mackenzie suggested that it might have been a council chamber, a place where the king met his advisors.

Lotus Mahal had arches, which might be inspired by Indo-Islamic techniques. It had nine towers, a high central one and eight along sides.

Elephant Stables

Elephant stable was constructed near the Lotus Mahal in which a number of rooms were lined. There were a large number of elephants in the army. To keep these elephants, stable was constructed.

8 What are the architectural traditions that inspired the architects of Vijayanagara? How did they transform these traditions?

Ans The rulers of Vijayanagara were known for their innovations and beautifully carved in the sphere of architectural traditions. The architectural traditions that inspired the architects of Vijayanagara were:

- Temple building had a long history in the Vijayanagara region. Rules very often encouraged temple building as a means of associating themselves with the divine. Often the deity was explicitly or implicitly identified with the king.
- The Vijayanagara kings claimed to rule on behalf of the God Virupaksha- the guardian royal orders were signed 'Shri Virupaksha'.
- Rulers also indicated their close links with God by using the title 'Hindu Suratana' which meant Hindu Sultan.

treated as Important state occasions on which he was accompanied by the Royal Nayakas of the Empire.

- In terms of temple architecture certain new features were added. These included 'the Gopurams' or the royal gateways. These gopurams were very tall structures which even dwarfed the towers on the central shrine. It signalled the presence of the temple from a great distance. They were probably a mark of Imperial Authority and power of the king. For example, Krishnadeva Raya built the eastern gopurams of the Virupaksha temple.
- Other distinctive textures that were added were the Mandapas or pavilions and long, pillared corridors that often ran around the shrines within the temple complex.
- Krishnadeva Raya, to mark his accession, also built a hall in front the main shrine. This hall was decorated with delicately carved pillars. These halls were used for a variety of deities.
- A characteristic complex is the 'Chariot Street' that extended from the temple Gopurams in a straight line. These streets were paved with stone slabs and lined with pillared pavilions in which the merchants set up their shops.

9 What impression on the lives of the ordinary people of Vijayanagara can you collect from the various descriptions in the chapter?

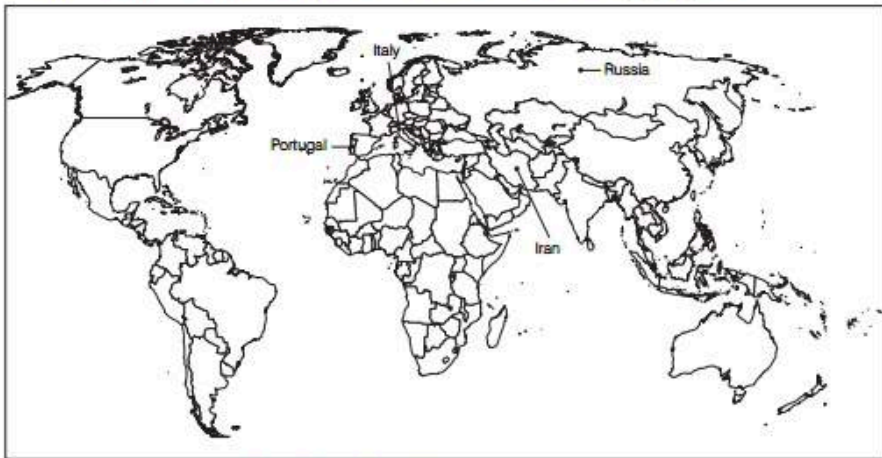
Ans The impression on the lives of the ordinary people of Vijayanagara can be explained through the following points:

- Sixteenth century Portuguese traveller Duarte Barbosa described that the houses of ordinary people had roofs made of straw, palm leaves, etc but were well built and were arranged according to the occupations, in long streets with many open places.
- Field surveys show that the entire area of Vijayanagara was scattered with number of shrines and small temples. This shows that different cults were present there, which might be supported by different communities.
- The surveys also indicate that wells,

- Archaeologists found little archaeological evidence of the houses of ordinary people. They have found fine Chinese porcelain (Chinaware) in some areas in the North-Eastern corner of the urban core and this shows that these areas might have been occupied by rich traders.
- This area was also the Muslim residential quarter. Tombs and mosques present here have different functions but their architecture resembles the *Mandapas* that were found in temples of Hampi.

10 On an outline map of the world, mark approximately Italy, Portugal, Iran and Russia. Trace the routes the travellers mentioned on p.176 would have taken to reach Vijayanagara.

Ans.



The routes the travellers would have taken to reach Vijayanagara were:

- The Italian travellers crossed the Arabian Sea and then Indian Ocean and through Malabar Coast they would have reached Vijayanagara.
- The Portugal travellers would have crossed Atlantic Ocean touching the Cape of Good Hope and then Indian Ocean to reach Malabar of India. From here, they took land route to reach Vijayanagara.
- The travellers from Iran via Afghanistan and modern Pakistan would have taken land route upto Karnataka, India.
- The Russian travellers would have come to India via Afghanistan. They would have crossed modern Punjab in Pakistan, central India crossing Vindhya, Satpura to Karnataka.

CHAPTER PRACTICE

OBJECTIVE TYPES QUESTIONS

Multiple Choice Questions

1 Vijayanagara city was situated between which of the following rivers?

- (a) Krishna in North and Tungabhadra in South.
- (b) Krishna in the South and Cauvery in North.
- (c) Tungabhadra in North and Krishna in South.
- (d) Cauvery in the North and Tungabhadra in South.

Ans (a) Krishna in North and Tungabhadra in South.

2 According to epigraphic evidence, who among the following founded the Vijayanagara empire?

- (a) Sultans of Deccan
- (b) Gajapati rulers of Orissa
- (c) Harihara and Bukka
- (d) Cholas of Tamil Nadu

Ans (c) Harihara and Bukka

3 Where Brihadishvara Temple is situated?

- (a) Madurai
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Thanjavur
- (d) Cochin

Ans (c) Thanjavur

4 'Amuktamalyada', a book on statecraft was written by

- (a) Rama Raya
- (b) Krishnadeva Raya
- (c) Harihara
- (d) Bukka

Ans (b) Krishnadeva Raya

5 Abdur Razzaq was an ambassador sent by the ruler of

- (a) Persia
- (b) Russia
- (c) Portugal
- (d) Italy

Ans (a) Persia

6 Gajapati rulers ruled which of the following state?

- (a) Orissa
- (b) Deccan states
- (c) Assam
- (d) West Bengal

Ans (a) Orissa

7 Where Chennakeshava Temple is situated?

- (a) Madurai
- (b) Thanjavur
- (c) Belur
- (d) Chennai

Ans (c) Belur

8 Which of the following statement is correct regarding Krishnadeva Raya?

(iii) He was characterised by expansion and consolidation.

(iv) He belonged to Saluva dynasty.

Codes

- (a) (i), (ii) and (iv)
- (b) (i) and (ii)
- (c) (i), (ii) and (iii)
- (d) All of these

Ans (c) (i), (ii) and (iii)

9 Which of the following statements are correct regarding Rama Raya?

- (i) He was a successor of Krishnadeva Raya.
- (ii) He was the Chief Minister of Vijayanagara.
- (iii) He never defeated in any battle.
- (iv) He had very tremendous military skills.

Codes

- (a) (i) and (iii)
- (b) (iii) and (iv)
- (c) (ii) and (iii)
- (d) (i) and (ii)

Ans (d) (i) and (ii)

10 Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

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- (a) Shrine of Pampadevi - Bellur
- (b) Brihadeshwara Temple - Thanjavur
- (c) Chennakeshava Temple - Hampi
- (d) Lotus Mahal - Golconda

Ans (b) Brihadeshwara Temple - Thanjavur

11. Who among the following brought the ruins of Hampi to light in 1800?

- (a) Thomas Hickey
- (b) Colin Mackenzie
- (c) J.F. Fleet
- (d) Alexander Greenlaw

Ans (b) Colin Mackenzie

12 Who among the following were known as 'Kudirai Chettis'?

CBSE Term I 2021

- (a) A group of Portuguese who traded in military technology.
- (b) A local community of horse traders.
- (c) A group of Arab traders trading in horses.
- (d) A local community of traders trading in muskets.

Ans (b) A local community of horse traders.

13 Who among the following, as the tradition goes, rounded the empire of Vijayanagara?

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- (a) Sadasiva Raya
- (b) Ramadeva Raya
- (c) Harihara and Bukka
- (d) Krishnadeva Raya

14 Who among the following travelled in Vijayanagara Empire in the fifteenth century and was greatly impressed by the fortification of the empire?

- (a) Duarte Barbosa (b) Abdur Razzak
(c) Colin Mackenzie (d) Domingo Paes

Ans (b) Abdur Razzak

15. Which of the following buildings of Vijayanagara Empire was supposed to be a place where the king used to meet his advisers?

- (a) Hazara Rama Temple **CBSE Term I 2021**
(b) Lotus Mahal
(c) Virupaksha Temple
(d) Mahanavami Dibba

Ans (b) Lotus Mahal

16 Which of the following statements is correct regarding Mahnavami Dibba?

CBSE SQP Term I 2021

- (a) Mahnavami Dibba was part of 'The King's Palace Complex'.
(b) Mahnavami Dibba was a part of Sacred Centre.
(c) Mahnavami Dibba was a 'Counselling Hall'.
(d) Mahnavami Dibba was a 'Discussion Hall'.

Ans (a) Mahnavami Dibba was part of 'The King's Palace Complex'.

17 Which one of the following dynasties built 'Hiriyā Canal' in Vijayanagara ?

- (a) Tuluva (b) Sangama
(c) Aravidu (d) Saluva

Ans (b) Sangama

18 Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

CBSE Term I 2021

- (a) Vitthala Temple - Devoted to Pampadevi
(b) Virupaksha Temple - Chariot Temple
(c) Hazara Rama Temple - Temple of Krishnadeva Raya
(d) Nagalapuram - Sub-urban city

Ans (d) Nagalapuram - Sub-urban city

19 Read the following statements: **Delhi 2020**

- I. Krishnadeva Raya's rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation.
II. There was peace and prosperity in his empire.
III. He was credited with building some fine

Which of the above statements are related to Krishnadeva Raya?

- (a) Only I (b) I, II and III
(c) II, III and IV (d) I, III and IV

Ans (b) I, II and III

20 Read the following statements and identify.

- (i) The complex is surrounded by high double walls.
(ii) It is a high platform with slots for wooden pillars.
(iii) It had a staircase going up to the second floor.
(iv) The pillars are being closely spaced.

Ans Audience Hall

21 Read the following statements about Rama Raya carefully and choose the correct option **CBSE Term I 2021**

- (i) He led the army into battle at Talikota in 1565.
(ii) His army was routed by the combined armies of the Sultans.
(iii) Rama Raya was the Sultan of Vijayanagara.
(iv) The city was totally abandoned by him.

Codes

- (a) Only (i) and (ii) are correct
(b) Only (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct
(c) Only (i), (ii) and (iv) are correct
(d) Only (iii) is correct

Ans (c) Only (i), (ii) and (iv) are correct

22 Identify the name of the person from the information given below.

- (a) He lived in a large village in Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh.
(b) He belonged to a clan of Jat cultivators whose kinship ties extended over chaurasee des (eighty four villages).
(c) He mobilised the headmen and cultivators of chaurasee des, moving at night from village to village.
(d) He took over the bungalow of an English officer turned it into a hall of justice, settling disputes and dispensing judgements.

Ans Shah Mal

23 Identify the name of the person from the information given below:

- (a) He was one of the many maulvis who played an important part in the revolt of 1857.

- (c) He fought in the famous Battle of Chinhat in which the British forces under Henry Lawrence were defeated.
- (d) He was invincible, had magical powers, and could not be killed by the British.

Ans. Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah

24 Identify the name of the alliance or system from the information given below:

- (i) It was introduced by Wellesley in 1798.
 (ii) It has been imposed on Awadh in 1801.
 (iii) According to this alliance, the ally would have to provide the resources for maintaining this contingent.

Ans. Subsidiary Alliance

25 Arrange the following dynasties of Vijayanagara in chronological order:

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- (i) Aravidu (ii) Tuluva
 (iii) Sangama (iv) Saluva

Codes

- (a) (i), (ii), (iv) and (iii) (b) (ii), (iii), (i) and (iv)
 (c) (iii), (iv), (ii) and (i) (d) (iv), (i), (iii) and (ii)

Ans (c) (iii), (iv), (ii) and (i)

Fill in the Blanks

26 is a person who draws and produce maps.

Ans. Cartographer

27 A person who studies or collects antiquities or antiques is known as

Ans. Antiquarian

Assertion-Reason

28 Assertion (A) Sangama dynasty was the first dynasty, exercised control till 1400.

Reason (R) Krishnadeva Raya belonged to the Tuluva dynasty.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

Ans (d) A is false, but R is true

29 Assertion (A) Military chiefs were also

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

Ans (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

30 Assertion (A) Local communities of merchants known as Kudirai Chettis.

Reason (R) Kudirai Chettis were also known as horse merchants.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

31 Assertion (A) The Amara-nayaka system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Reason (R) Amara-nayakas were military commanders and were given territory to govern.

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Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

Ans (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

Correct and Rewrite

32 The ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by an engineer and antiquarian named sir Alexander Cunningham.

Ans. The ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by an engineer and antiquarian named Colonel Colin Mackenzie.

33 According to tradition and epigraphic evidence two brothers, Harihara and Bukka, founded the Vijayanagara empire in 1536.

Ans According to tradition and epigraphic evidence

34 The first dynasty of Vijayanagara empire was known as the Tuluva dynasty, exercised control till 1485. They were supplanted by the Sangama, military commanders, who remained in power till 1503 when they were replaced by the Tuluvas.

Ans. The first dynasty of Vijayanagara empire was known as the Sangama dynasty, exercised control till 1485. They were supplanted by the Saluvas, military commanders, who remained in power till 1503 when they were replaced by the Tuluvas.

35 The reign of Deva Raya was considered as the golden period in the history of Vijayanagara empire.

Ans. The reign of Krishnadeva Raya is considered as the golden period in the history of Vijayanagara empire.

36 Because of the religious difference and territorial disputes, the relation between the Bahamani Sultans and Raya of Vijayanagara Empire was always hostile.

Ans. Despite of the religious differences and territorial disputes, the relation between the Bahamani Sultans and Raya of Vijayanagara was not always hostile.

Match the Following

37

List I	List II
A. Gajapati Ruler	1. Karnataka
B. Sultans	2. Tamil Nadu
C. Chola	3. Orissa
D. Hoysalas	4. Deccan

Codes

A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D		
(a)	3	4	2	1	(b)	3	2	4	1
(c)	4	3	2	1	(d)	2	1	3	4

Ans (a)

38

List I	List II
A. Vitthala Temple	1. Karnataka
B. Virupaksha Temple	2. Maharashtra
C. Brihadishvara Temple	3. Belur
D. Chennakeshwara Temple	4. Thanjavur

Codes

A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

39

List I	List II
A. Lord of elephants	1. Narapati
B. Lord of horses	2. Gajapati
C. Lord of men	3. Ashvapati

Codes

A	B	C	A	B	C		
(a)	1	2	3	(b)	2	3	1
(c)	3	2	1	(d)	3	1	2

Ans (b)

40

List I	List II
A. Harihar and Bukka	1. Tuluva Dynasty
B. Krishna Deva Raya	2. Saluva Dynasty
C. Narsimha Deva Raya	3. Sangama Dynasty
D. Rama Deva Raya	4. Aravidu Dynasty

Codes

A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D		
(a)	1	2	3	4	(b)	2	1	4	3
(c)	3	1	2	4	(d)	1	3	4	2

Ans (c)

41

List I	List II
A. Colin Mackenzie	1. Ambassador of the ruler of Persia
B. Dominago Paes	2. First Surveyor General of India
C. Abdur Razzag	3. Reconstructed the Vijayanagara Empire
D. John M Fritz	4. Portuguese traveller to India

Codes

A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D		
(a)	1	2	3	4	(b)	2	4	1	3
(c)	3	1	2	4	(d)	1	3	4	2

Ans (b)

Picture Based Questions

42 Identify the picture given below.



- 43 Identify the picture given below.



Ans. It is a carving on the Mahanavami dibba.

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- 1 What does Vijayanagara mean?

Ans It means 'City of Victory'.

- 2 When was Vijayanagara founded and destroyed?

Ans It was founded in the 14th century and destroyed in the 17th-18th centuries.

- 3 When did Portuguese enter into India?

Ans Portuguese enter into India in 1498 CE.

- 4 Name three different dynasties that ruled Vijayanagara Empire.

Ans Sangama dynasty, Saluvas and Tuluvas ruled Vijayanagara Empire.

- 5 Who were *Nayakas*?

Ans *Nayakas* were Military chiefs

- 6 What are the two important features of the temple complexes in Vijayanagara?

Ans The Important features of the temple complexes in Vijayanagara are Raya Gopurams and Mandapas.

- 7 What is the meaning of Amara?

Ans Amara means Battle or War.

- 8 Amara is believed to be derived from which language?

Ans Amara is believed to be derived from Sanskrit.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Ans After the death of Krishnadeva Raya in 1529 CE, the imperial power of Vijayanagara declined due to following reasons:

- The successors of Krishnadeva were troubled by rebellious *nayakas* or military chiefs. By 1542, control at the centre was shifted to another ruling family of the Aravidu, which remained in power till the end of the seventeenth century.
- During Aravidu rule there was shift in alliances due to shift in the military goals of the rulers of Vijayanagara and Deccan Sultanates. This led to an alliance of the Sultanates against Vijayanagara.
- In 1565 CE, Rama Raya, the Chief Minister of Vijayanagara, led the army into battle at Rakshasi-Tangadi also known as Talikota. Here Rama Raya's forces were decisively defeated by the combined armies of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar and Golconda. The victorious armies looted and destroyed the city of Vijayanagara.

- 2 Highlight the contribution of Krishnadeva Raya in the expansion of Vijayanagara Empire. All India 2016

Ans The contribution of Krishnadeva Raya was:

- Krishnadeva Raya is credited for building some fine temples and adding great looking *gopurams* to many important South Indian temples.
- Nagalapuram, a suburban township was founded near Vijayanagara by Krishnadeva which was named after his mother.
- He also composed a statecraft in telugu known as Amuktamalyada.

- 3 Discuss about the relation between Sultans and Vijayanagara kings.

Ans The relations between the Sultans and the *rayas* were not always of hatred, despite their religious differences.

For example, Krishnadeva Raya, supported the people who claimed power in the Sultanates and took pride in the title *establisher* of the Yavana kingdom. Similarly, the Sultan of Bijapur involved to resolve the succession disputes in Vijayanagara after the death of Krishnadeva Raya. Both Vijayanagara rulers and Sultanates wanted to ensure stability of

4 'The amara-nayaka system was the major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire.' Elaborate. All India 2012, Delhi 2015

or Analyse the main features of Amara-Nayaka system which was introduced in Vijayanagara Empire. Delhi 2019

or "The Amara-nayaka system was a political innovation of Vijayanagara Empire." Justify the statement with suitable arguments. Delhi 2020

Ans The *amara-nayaka* system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. This can be explained in following ways :

- The *amara-nayakas* were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the *raya*. Most of its features were derived from the *iqta* system of the Delhi Sultanate.
- They collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftsmen and traders in the area. They kept part of the revenue for personal use and for maintaining a required group of horses and elephants. Some of the revenue was also used for the maintenance of temples and irrigation works.
- The *amara-nayakas* sent tribute to the king annually and personally appeared in the royal court with gifts to show their loyalty. They were transferred from one place to another by kings to prove their control over *amara-nayakas*.

5 'The *mahanavami dibba* in the royal centre of Vijayanagara has been assigned name on the basis of its form of building as well as functions.' Elaborate. Delhi 2015

Ans It is true that *Mahanavami dibba* has been assigned name on the basis of building and functions.

Rituals associated with the building might have coincided with *Mahanavami* i.e. the ninth day of the ten-day Hindu festival during the autumn months of September and October, known as *Dussehra* in North India, *Durga Puja* in Bengal and *Navaratri* or *Mahanavami* in peninsular India. The Vijayanagara kings showed their prestige, power and control over the empire on this occasion. Various ceremonies are performed on this occasion like worship of image, worship of the state horse and the sacrifice of buffaloes and other animals.

6 Discuss about the Hazara Rama temple. What happened to different buildings after Vijayanagara kings?

Ans Hazara Rama temple was one of the most spectacular among the temples. This might have been used only by the king and his family. Images in the central shrine of this temple are missing, but sculpted panels on the walls are still present. These include scenes from the *Ramayana* sculpted on the inner walls of the shrine. When the Vijayanagara city was looted and destroyed, many of the structures or buildings were destroyed. Later, the practice of building large structures were continued by the *nayakas*. Now many of these buildings have survived.

7 Highlight any four aspects observed by the Portuguese traveller Duarte Barbosa on the urban core of the Vijayanagara Empire. Delhi 2016

Ans Sixteenth century Portuguese traveller Duarte Barbosa described following aspects on the urban core of the Vijayanagara Empire.

- (i) The houses had roofs made of straw, palm leaves, etc.
- (ii) They were well built and were arranged according to the occupations, in long streets.
- (iii) Field surveys show that the entire area was scattered with number of shrines and small temples. This shows that different cults were present there which might be supported by different communities.
- (iv) The field surveys also indicate that wells, rainwater tanks, temple tanks were used as sources of water by the ordinary town people.

8 Highlight the aspects observed by Domingo Paes on the *mahanavami dibba* of the Vijayanagara Empire. Delhi 2016

Ans Domingo Paes had made following observations on the *mahanavami dibba* of the Vijayanagara Empire:

- He called *mahanavami dibba* along with audience hall as the house of victory.
- These buildings have two platforms one above the other, which were beautifully sculpted.
- On the upper platform in this house of victory, the king had a room made of cloth, where the

9 Highlight any four aspects observed by Abdur Razzak on the fortification of the Vijayanagara Empire. **Delhi 2016**

Ans Abdur Razzaq, observed following aspects after looking at the fortifications of Vijayanagara Empire:

- (i) These fortifications not only surrounded the city but also remote agricultural areas and forests.
- (ii) The hills surrounding the city were linked with the outermost wall.
- (iii) The large construction was slightly reduced in thickness at one end.
- (iv) The mortar or cementing agent was not used in the construction. The stone blocks were wedge shaped, which held them in place. Square or rectangular fortification was projected outwards.

10 Describe the significance of temple building in the sacred centre of Vijayanagara.

All India 2010

Ans The temples were developed as significant religious, social, cultural and economic centres. Rulers viewed constructing, repairing and maintaining temples as important means to win support and recognition of their power, wealth and being religious. Vijayanagara rulers were inspired by the rulers of Cholas, Hoysalas in temple building, and took them to the new heights.

The rulers of Vijayanagara innovated and developed new traditions like, display of royal portrait sculpture in temples. The king's visits to temples were treated as important state occasions, and thus king was accompanied by the important *nayakas* of temple.

11 Discuss about the sacred centre briefly with respect to legends and other temples.

Ans The rocky Northern end of city which was located on the banks of the Tungabhadra was referred to as sacred centre. As per the local traditions, these hills had the monkey kingdom of Vali and Sugriva mentioned in the Ramayana. Some other traditions suggested that Pampadevi, the local mother Goddess, did penance (*tapasya*) in these hills in order to marry Virupaksha, the God who protected the kingdom and also recognised as a form of Shiva.

This marriage was celebrated even today every year in the Virupaksha temple.

In these hills, Jaina temples of the pre-Vijayanagara period were also found. It implies that this area was associated with different sacred traditions.

12 'Vijayanagara was characterised by a distinct building style'. Support this statement with the sacred architectural examples of Vijayanagara. **All India 2014**

or Describe briefly about the buildings that survive and tell us about the way, spaces were organised and used in Vijayanagara.

Delhi 2010

Ans Vijayanagara was characterised by a distinct building style as Vijayanagara rulers were known for their buildings and architecture. Some of the examples of their architecture were:

- (i) Krishnadeva Raya built some fine temples and add *gopurams* to many important South Indian temples. He found Nagalapuram, a suburban township named after his mother, near Vijayanagara.
- (ii) Other features like audience hall and *mahanavami dibba* were also built that are famous.
- (iii) *Mandapas* or pavilions and long pillared corridors that often ran around the shrines within the temple complex were built.

13 'The rulers of Vijayanagara innovated and developed new traditions in the Virupaksha temple'. Elaborate. **Delhi 2015**

Ans The rulers of Vijayanagara developed new traditions in Virupaksha temple. These new traditions were:

- Krishnadeva Raya to indicate his accession to throne has built the hall in front of the shrine. He also constructed the Eastern *gopuram*. Central shrine came to occupy a small part of the complex with these additions.
- The halls in the temple were started to be used for various purposes. Some spaces had images of Gods to witness special programmes of music, dance, drama, etc. Other spaces were used for marriages of deities and some other were meant for the deities to swing in.

14 What were the contributions of scholars in reconstructing the history of Vijayanagara Empire?

Ans Many scholars from all over the world worked to compile and preserve the information about Vijayanagara Empire.

The contributions of these scholars were:

- Some scholars have recovered and documented traces of thousands of structures from tiny shrines and residences to large temples in the Vijayanagara site. They also recovered the traces of roads, paths, bazaars, etc.
- John M Fritz, George Michell and MS Nagaraja Rao, who worked for years at the site, have described that they had to imagine a whole set of disappeared wooden parts, pillars, beams, ceilings, overhanging roofs and towers decorated with plaster and painted brightly.
- Though these wooden structures are lost and only stone structures have survived, the descriptions of travellers allowed them to reconstruct some aspects of the energetic life of those times.

15 Study this, 'sculpture from the Hazara Rama temple' carefully and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the correct option.



- (i) The construction of temple dedicated to Lord Rama in the Vijayanagara empire suggests.
- (a) His emperors were descendants from North India.
 - (b) Worship of Lord Rama was part of Shaivism, which was very popular in Southern India.
 - (c) The rulers of Vijayanagara drew on different traditions to create an imperial culture.

(ii) The sculptures of this temple depicts scenes from which of the following ancient epic of India?

- (a) Ramayana
- (b) Mahabharata
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

(iii) The sculptures of this temple contains beautifully carved images of

- (a) Lion, Bull and Peacock.
- (b) Monkey, Elephant and Horse.
- (c) Elephant, Tiger and Horse.
- (d) None of the above

(iv) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the art of temple constructors in Vijayanagara empire?

- (a) Both inner and outer walls of temples were beautifully carved with sculptures depicting scenes from various epics.
- (b) Besides kings nayakas also patronised the construction of temples.
- (c) Architectural elements from various traditions were amalgamated in construction of temples.
- (d) All of the above.

Ans (i) (c) The rulers of Vijayanagara drew on different traditions to create an imperial culture.

(ii) (a) Ramayana

(iii) (b) Monkey, Elephant and Horse

(iv) (d) All of the above

16 Study this figure of Mahanavami dibba carefully and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the correct option.



- (i) The Mahanavami dibba was enclosed within
- (a) Royal Centre
 - (b) Sacred Centre
 - (c) Compound of Brihadishvara temple.
 - (d) Compound of the main fortification of capital

- (ii) The base of the platform of Mahanavami dibba is covered with
 (a) Gopuram (b) Arch
 (c) Relief carving (d) All of these
- (iii) Which of the following ceremonies(s) was/were performed at Mahanavami dibba?
 (a) Worship of state horse.
 (b) Ritual presentations before the king and his guest by the Chief nayakas and subordinate kings.
 (c) Dances, Wrestling matches and processions of comparisoned horses.
 (d) All of the above
- (iv) Mahanavami as celebrated in peninsular India is famous by the name of _____ in Northern India.
 (a) Dussehra (b) Durga Puja
 (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Diwali

Ans (i) (a) Royal Cente (ii) (c) Relief carving
 (iii) (d) All of the above (iv) (c) Both (a) and (b)

- 17** Read this passage regarding temple building in India, carefully and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the correct option.

Temple building in the region had a long history, going back to dynasties such as the Pallavas, Chalukyas, Hoysalas and Cholas. Rulers very often encouraged temple building as a means of associating themselves with the divine—often, the deity was explicitly or implicitly identified with the king. Temples also functioned as centres of learning. Besides, rulers and others often granted land and other resources for the maintenance of temples. Consequently, temples developed as significant religious, social, cultural and economic centres. From the point of view of the rulers, constructing, repairing and maintaining temples were important means of winning support and recognition for their power, wealth and piety.

- (i) Why did rulers of ancient India constructed temples on such a grandeur scale?
 (a) It helped in legitimizing their rule.
 (b) Temples were important centres of learning.
 (c) To showcase their power, wealth and piety.
 (d) All of the above

- (iii) Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) Through construction of temples in ancient India the rulers tried to legitimize their ruler over vast subjects.

Reason (R) In these temples, often the deity was explicitly or implicitly identified with the king.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true
- (iv) Temples in ancient India functioned as centres of
 (a) Social and cultural activities.
 (b) Economic activities.
 (c) Education and learning.
 (d) All of the above

Ans (i) (d) All of the above
 (ii) (c) Southern India
 (iii) (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (iv) (d) All of the above

- 18** Read the following excerpts from Amuktamalyada carefully and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the correct option.

A king should improve the harbours of his country and so encourage its commerce that horses, elephants, precious gems, sandalwood, pearls and other articles are freely imported ... He should arrange that the foreign sailors who land in his country on account of storms, illness and exhaustion are looked after in a suitable manner ... Make the merchants of distant foreign countries who import elephants and good horses be attached to yourself by providing them with daily audience, presents and allowing decent profits. Then those articles will never go to your enemies.

- (i) Which of the following is correct about 'Amuktamalyada'?

- (a) It was written in Sanskrit by Deva Raya II and dealt with spirituality.
 (b) It was written in Telugu by Krishnadeva Raya and dealt with statecraft.

- (ii) Which of the following group of items represents the chief imports of Vijayanagara empire?

- (a) Textile, spices and ivory products
- (b) Horses, precious gems, sandalwood and pearls
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

- (iii) Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) Amuktamalyada gave detailed suggestions regarding strengthening the position of Vijayanagara vis-a-vis with its Northern adversaries.

Reason (R) The kings were prescribed to develop close bonds with foreign traders to monopolise the import of strategic items.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 - (c) A is true, but R is false
 - (d) A is false, but R is true
- (d) Who among the following was/were foreign travellers who visited Vijayanagara empire?
- (a) Dominago paes
 - (b) Duarte Barbosa
 - (c) Abdur Razzaq
 - (d) All of these

- Ans** (i) (b) It was written in Telugu by Krishnadeva Raya and dealt with statecraft.
- (ii) (b) Horses, precious gems, sandalwood and pearls
- (iii) (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (iv) (d) All of the above

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did strain begin to show within the imperial structure after the death of Krishnadeva Raya in 1529? All India 2012

Ans Refer to text on pg. no. 180 and 181 under The Apogee and Decline of the Empire heading.

- 2 Why was the South-Western part of Vijayanagara settlement designated as royal centre? Explain. All India 2013

Ans The South-Western part of the Vijayanagara settlement was designated as royal centre due to its following features :

- It has over 60 temples. It shows that support

- It was designated as royal centre because most of the buildings belonged to the royal family and administration were present here.
- Around thirty building complexes were identified as palaces. There were relatively large structures that do not seem to be associated with ritual functions.
- On the basis of the form of the buildings and their functions, different structures were assigned names. The king's palace was the largest of the buildings. It had two impressive platforms, called the audience hall and the *Mahanavami dibba*.
- The entire complex was surrounded by high double walls with a street running between them.
- The audience hall was a high platform and it had slots for wooden pillars to be placed at close and regular intervals. On these pillars, a staircase was present which went to the second floor.
- At *Mahanavami dibba*, various ceremonies were performed on the occasion of Mahanavami, like worship of image, worship of the state horse and the sacrifice of buffaloes and other animals. Dances, wrestling matches, procession of highly decorated horses, elephants and chariots and soldiers, as well as ritual presentations before the king and his guests by the chief nayakas and subordinate kings were the main events that took place on this day.

- 3 Explain the striking features about the location of Vijayanagara, its water resources and fortifications. Delhi 2012

Ans For location of Vijayanagara and its water resources, refer to text on pg. no. 181 and 182 under the Vijayanagara : The Capital and its Surroundings and Water Resources of Vijayanagara headings.
For fortifications, refer to text on pg. no. 182 under Fortifications and Roads heading.

- 4 Explain why Abdur Razzak, a Persian ambassador, was greatly impressed by the fortification of Vijayanagara Empire during the 15th century. Delhi 2013

Ans Abdur Razzak, an ambassador sent by the ruler

- The fortifications not only surrounded the city but also remote agricultural areas and forests.
- The hills surrounding the city were linked with the outermost wall. The large construction was slightly reduced in thickness at one end.
- The mortar or cementing agent was not used in the construction. The stone blocks were wedge shaped, which held them in place.
- The inner portion of walls was packed with waste parts of earth like remains of stone, brick, etc and square or rectangular fortification was projected outwards.
- The most important thing about this fortification was that it surrounded agricultural lands. Between the first, second and the third walls, there were cultivated fields, gardens and houses.
- There is an evidence of an agricultural land between the sacred centre and the urban core, and this land was supplied water from a canal system which drew water from the river Tungabhadra.
- The inner core of the urban complex was surrounded by second line of fortification and the royal centre was surrounded by a third line. Within this, there were major buildings present which were surrounded by their own high walls.
- The well-guarded gates which were linked to major roads of the city were used to entered the fort.

5 Discuss about the sacred centre of the Vijayanagara empire. Discuss in detail about the significance of Virupaksha Temple and the Vitthala temple.

Ans Refer to text on pg. no. 185 and 186 under The Sacred Centre of Vijayanagara heading.

C SOURCE BASED QUESTIONS

1 Colin Mackenzie

Born in 1754 CE, Colin Mackenzie became famous as an engineer, surveyor and cartographer. In 1815, he was appointed the First Surveyor General of India, a post he held till his death in 1821. He embarked on collecting local histories and surveying

management... before the South came under the benign influence of the British government." By studying Vijayanagara, Mackenzie believed that the East India Company could gain "much useful information on many of these institutions, laws and customs whose influence still prevails among the various Tribes of Natives forming the general mass of the population to this day." **All India 2013**

- Who was Colin Mackenzie? Give his introduction.
- Mention what Mackenzie did to make governance of the colony easier.
- According to him what benefits would the East India Company gain after studying Vijayanagara? Explain in brief.

Ans (i) Colin Mackenzie was born in 1754 CE. He became famous as an engineer, surveyor and cartographer. In 1815, he was appointed the first Surveyor General of India, a post he held till his death in 1821.

(ii) Colin Mackenzie embarked on collecting local histories and surveying historic sites in order to better understand India's past and make governance of the colony easier.

(iii) By studying Vijayanagara, Mackenzie believed that the East India Company could gain much useful information on many of the institutions, laws and customs whose influence still prevails among the various Tribes of Natives forming the general mass of the population.

2 Kings and Traders

Krishnadeva Raya (ruled 1509-29), the most famous ruler of Vijayanagara, composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the *Amuktamalyada*. About traders he wrote:

A king should improve the harbours of his country and so encourage its commerce that horses, elephants, precious gems, sandalwood, pearls and other articles are freely imported... He should arrange that the foreign sailors who land in his country on account of storms, illness and exhaustion are looked after in a suitable manner... Make the merchants of distant foreign countries who import elephants and good horses be attached to yourself by

Then those articles will never go to your enemies. Delhi 2014, 13

- (i) Explain the responsibility of king mentioned by Krishnadeva Raya.
- (ii) In what ways had Krishnadeva Raya protected articles from going to his enemies?
- (iii) Explain the measures taken by the king to improve the conditions of his country.

or

- (i) Who was the most famous ruler of Vijayanagara and why?
- (ii) Mention the name and theme of the work compiled by him.
- (iii) Why do you think the king was interested in encouraging trade? Explain.

- Ans**
- (i) A king should have the responsibility to improve the harbours of his country and so encourage its commerce that horses, elephants, precious gems, sandalwood, pearls and other articles are freely imported.
 - (ii) Krishnadeva Raya protected articles by making the merchants of distant foreign countries who import elephants and goods, horses be attached by providing them with daily audience, presents and allowing decent profits.
 - (iii) The measures taken are:
 - Fortifications of city
 - Raising an efficient and effective army.
 - Importing good horses and elephants.
 - Improve trade and commerce and thus generating wealth.

or

- (i) Krishnadeva Raya of Tuluva dynasty was the famous ruler of Vijayanagara because during his rule, the land between the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers (the Raichur doab) was acquired in 1512 CE.
- (ii) Krishnadeva Raya composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the *Amuktamalyada*. He talked about trade and traders and the ways to improve them.
- (iii) The king was interested in encouraging trade to bring prosperity and improve the lives of the people in the kingdom. He improved harbours of the kingdom and encouraged trade and commerce. He

3 A Sprawling City

This is an excerpt from Domingo Paes's description of Vijayanagara:

The size of this city I do not write here, because it cannot all be seen from any spot, but I climbed a hill hence I could see a great part of it; I could not see it all because it lies between several ranges of hills. What I saw from thence seemed to me as large as Rome and very beautiful to the sight; there are many groves of trees within it, in the gardens of the houses, and many conduits of water which flow into the midst of it, and in places there are lakes; and the king has close to his palace a palm-grove and other rich fruit-bearing trees.

- (i) Who is the author of the passage? What is the theme of it? What did king had close to his palace?
- (ii) Why could Paes not describe the size of city in the first instance?
- (iii) What was the description of the city by Paes later?

- Ans**
- (i) Domingo Paes is the author of the passage. The theme is description of Vijayanagara. The king had a palm-grove and other rich fruit-bearing trees close to his palace.
 - (ii) Paes had not described the size of city because he could not see the whole of city from the point where he was studying. The city was lying between several ranges of hill.
 - (iii) Later, when Paes climbed a hill, he described a great part of the city. He described it as large as Rome and very beautiful to the sight. He saw many groups of trees in the gardens of the houses. He saw water conduits flowing in the middle of them. He also saw lakes in some places.

4 The Bazaar

Paes gives a vivid description of the bazaar:

Going forward, you have a broad and beautiful street... In this street many merchants live and there you will find all sorts of rubies diamonds, emeralds, pearls and seed-pearls and cloths and every other sort of thing there is on earth and that you may wish to buy. Then you have

grapes, and every other kind of garden stuff, and wood; you have all in this street.

More generally, he described the city as being "the best-provided city in the world" with the markets "stocked with provisions such as rice, wheat, grains, Indian corn and a certain amount of barley and beans, moong, pulses and horse-gram" all of which were cheaply and abundantly available.

According to Fernao Nuniz, the Vijayanagara markets were "overflowing with abundance of fruits, grapes and oranges, limes, pomegranates, jackfruit and mangoes are all very cheap." Meat too was sold in abundance in the marketplaces. Nuniz describes "mutton, pork, venison, partridges, hares, doves, quail and all kinds of birds, sparrows, rats and cats and lizards" as being sold in the market of Bisnaga (Vijayanagara).

- Who is the author of the passage? What is the theme? What all can you find in the market street?
- How did Paes describe the city?
- What did Fernao Nuniz tell about Vijayanagara markets?

Ans (i) The author of the passage is Domingo Paes.

The theme is about bazaar i.e. market street.

We can find in the market street all sorts of rubies diamonds, emeralds, pearls, seed-pearls, cloths and every other sort of thing that exist on earth and that you may wish to buy.

- Paes described the city as being the best-provided city in the world. It had markets stocked with provisions such as rice, wheat, grains, Indian corn and a certain amount of barley and beans, moong, pulses and horse-gram all of which were cheaply and abundantly available.

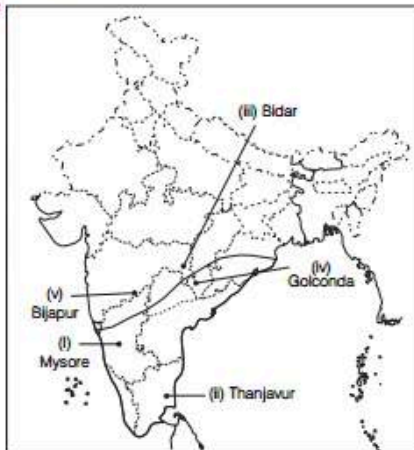
- According to Fernao Nuniz, the Vijayanagara markets have abundance of fruits, grapes oranges, limes, pomegranates, jackfruit and mangoes. Meat too was sold in abundance in the marketplaces. Mutton, pork, venison,

MAP BASED QUESTIONS

- On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbols.

- Mysore
- Thanjavur
- Bidar
- Golconda
- Bijapur

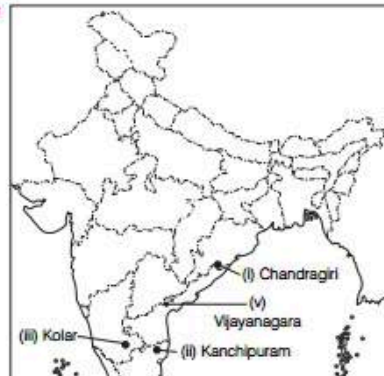
Ans



- On a political outline map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbols.

- Chandragiri
- Kanchipuram
- Kolar
- Tiruniveli
- Vijayanagara

Ans



SELF ASSESSMENT

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

- Which was the first dynasty of Vijayanagara empire?
(a) Tuluva dynasty (b) Saluva dynasty
(c) Rayas (d) Nayakas
- Correct the following statement.
The ruler of Vijayanagara empire, Achyuta Deva Raya supported some claimants to power in the Sultanates and took pride in the title 'establisher of the Yavana kingdom.
- Match the Following.

List I	List II
A. Hazara Rama Temple	1. Sacred centre
B. Virupaksha Temple	2. Chidambaram
C. Statue of Krishnadeva Raya	3. Thanjavur
D. Brihadishvara Temple	4. Royal Centre

Codes

- (a) A B C D A B C D A B C D A B C D
(a) 4 2 3 1 (b) 4 1 2 3 (c) 1 3 2 4 (d) 2 1 4 3

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Name two travellers who gave information about Vijayanagara Empire.
- Name the important water tank which was built in fifteenth century.
- What was amara-nayaka system?
- Who was Krishnadeva Raya.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Discuss about the Virupaksha and Vitthala temple.
- Discuss about few observations made by Abdur Razzak and Domingo Paes about Vijayanagara.
- What was the importance of temples in Vijayanagara Empire?
- How did scholars reconstruct the history of Vijayanagara Empire? Discuss.
- Was the relationship between Vijayanagara rulers and Sultans always hostile? If not, discuss about it.
- Discuss about Lotus Mahal.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Discuss about the Vijayanagara Empire under Sri Krishnadeva Raya rule. What happened to the empire