

## An Imperial Capital: Vijayanagara

### Introduction:

The Vijayanagara Empire was the most prestigious and magnificent kingdom in South India. Its capital is Hampi. Hampi was discovered in 1815 by Colin Mackenzie, India's first surveyor. Colin McKenzie's work has given new direction to all future researchers. Alexander Greenlaw's first detailed photograph of Hampi was taken in 1856, which is very useful to the scholar.

### 1. New Architecture: Hampi

The Vijayanagara Empire was the most prestigious and magnificent kingdom in South India. Its capital is Hampi. Hampi was discovered in 1815 by Colin Mackenzie, India's first surveyor.

His (Colin McKenzie) work has given new direction to all future researchers.

Alexander Greenlaw's first detailed photograph of Hampi was taken in 1856, which is very useful to the scholar.

J F Fleet began compiling and documenting inscriptions from the walls of temples in Hampi in 1876.

John Marshall began conservation of Hampi in 1902. In 1976, Hampi was declared a site of national importance and in 1986 it was declared a World Heritage Site.

The Vijayanagara Empire was founded in the 14th century by two brothers, Harihara and Bukka.

The rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire were known as the Rayas. Krishna Deva Raya was the most powerful ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire. During his tenure, the empire touched its glory.

The administration of the Vijayanagara Empire was very good and its people were very happy.

The Vijayanagara Empire began to decline by the 16th century and ended in the 17th century.

### Four dynasties ruled Vijayanagar:

- |                    |                    |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Sangam dynasty | (b) Saluva Dynasty | (c)                 |
|                    | Tuluva dynasty     | (d) Aravidu dynasty |

The Sangam dynasty established an empire, the Saluva expanded it, the Saluva brought it to the pinnacle of its glory, but it began to decline under Aravidu.

Many factors contributed to the downfall of the empire, including the weak central government, the weak descendants of Krishnadevaraya, the struggles of various dynasties against the Bahmani kingdom, and the weak empires.

Meeting its water needs from the natural warehouses built by the Tungabhadra River was the most important feature of the empire. The ruler of Vijayanagar also built huge forts. The archaeologist made a detailed study of the roads within the city and the roads leading out of the city. The Imperial Centers were located in the southwestern part of the settlement, with more than sixty bars. The shrine is located at the northern end of the rock on the banks of the Tungabhadra River. According to tradition,



the rock hill served as a refuge for the ape kingdoms of Bali and Sugriva mentioned in the Ramayana.

Vijayanagar or 'City of Victory' is home to both a city and an empire. It stretches from the Krishna River in the north to the far south of the peninsula. People remember that the name Hampi is derived from the local mother goddess 'Pampa Devi'.

### DO YOU KNOW?

**Empire of Karnataka:** Historians use the term Vijayanagara Empire, described by contemporaries Empire of Karnataka.

**Gajapati:** That means Lord of Elephants. It is the name of the most powerful ruling dynasty in Odisha in the fifteenth century.

**Ashvapati:** In the famous tradition of Vijayanagar, the Deccan sultans are known as the presidents of the horse lords. • **Narpati:** In the Vijayanagara Empire, Raya was known as Narpati or Lord of Men.

## 2. Emergence of Vijayanagara:

The two brothers Harihara and Bukka founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336. The Vijayanagara rulers called themselves 'Rayas'. Vijayanagar is famous for its markets for spices, textiles and precious stones. The importation of horses from Arabia and Central Asia was controlled by Arab and Portuguese traders and local traders (Kudirai Chetty). Trade is often considered a status symbol for the city. Instead, the revenue generated through trade contributed significantly to the well-being of the state.



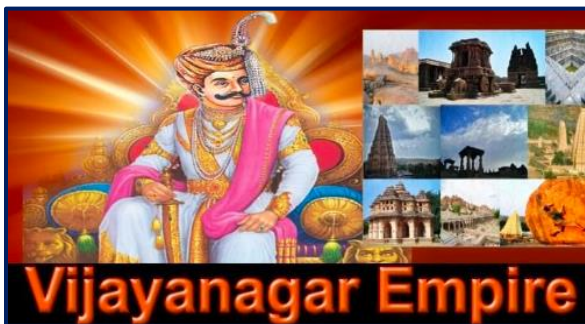
### DO YOU KNOW?

**Greek:** It is a Sanskrit word for Greeks and other peoples who entered the subcontinent from the north-west.

**Shikhara:** The top of a temple or the highest roof is called a shikhara. In general, visitors to temples can see it from a reasonable distance. At the bottom of the peak we see a statue of the main deity or goddess.

**Sanctuary:** This is the focal point of the main hall in the middle of the temple. Usually every devotee comes to the door of this room to pay homage and a sense of devotion towards his main duty.

## 3. Vijayanagara dynasties and rulers:



Vijayanagar was ruled by various dynasties like Sangam, Salva and Tuluva. Krishna Deva Raya belonged to the Tuluva dynasty, whose rule was characterized by the expansion and unification of Vijayanagara.

During the reign of Krishnadevaraya, Vijayanagar flourished under conditions of unparalleled peace and prosperity. The Krishna Deva Rayas established some of the best temples and gopurams and a suburban base called Nagalapuram. After his death in 1529, his successors were troubled by rebel 'leaders' or military officers.

By 1542, control of the center had been transferred to

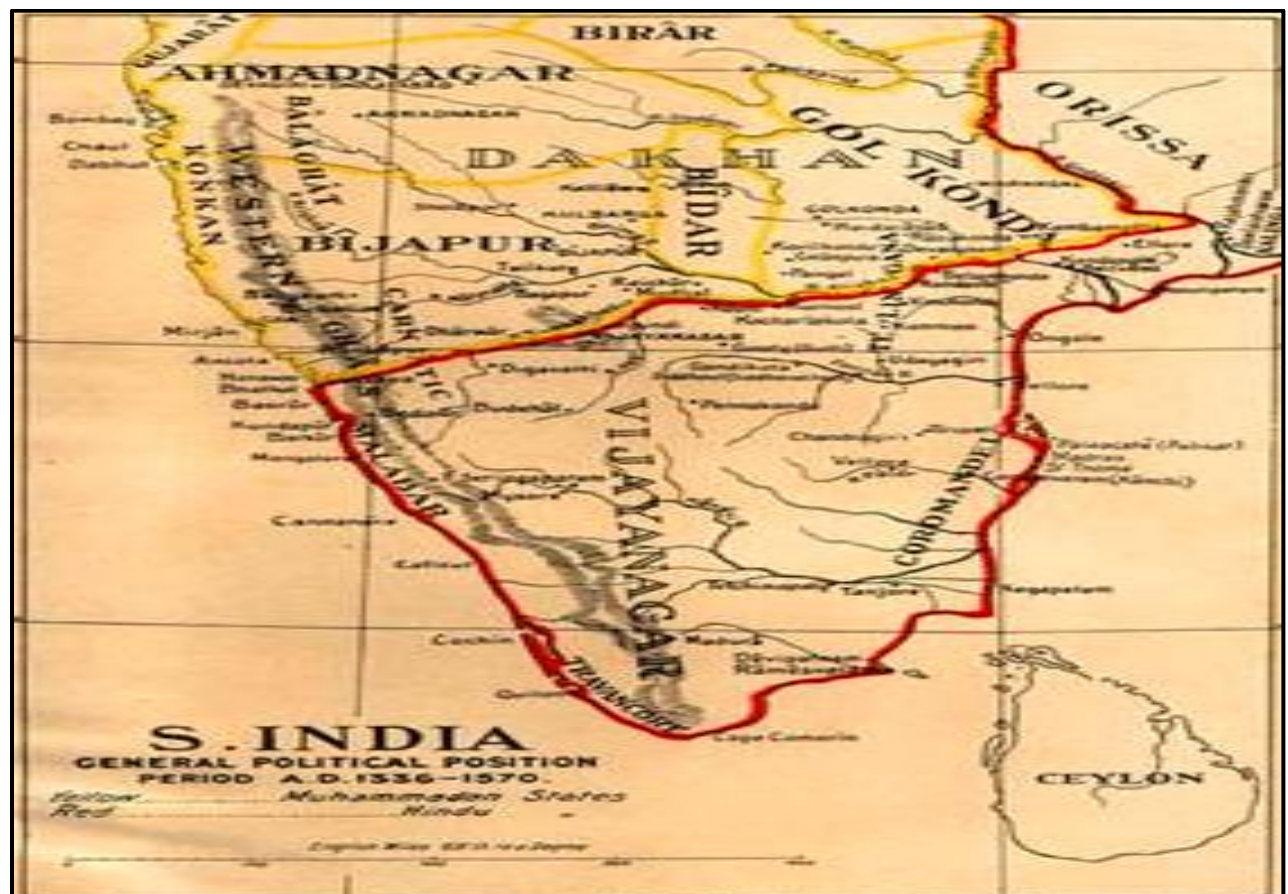
another ruling dynasty, with Aravidu in power until the end of the 17th century. Military chiefs or leaders often travel from region to region with farmers, mediating the settlement of fertile land. The Amar-Nayaka system, like the Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate, was a major political invention of the Vijayanagara Empire.

These were the military commanders who were given territories to rule 'Roy'. The immortal-leaders paid an annual tribute to the king and personally presented gifts to express their allegiance to the royal court.





#### 4. Geography and structure of Vijayanagar:





Vijayanagar has a distinctive physical layout and architectural style. Vijayanagar is located in the natural catchment area of the Tungabhadra River which flows in a northeasterly direction.

Since it is one of the driest areas on the peninsula, many arrangements have been made to store rainwater in the city. For example, water from Kamala Puram Pond and Hiriya canal was used for irrigation and communication. Abdur Razak, the ambassador to Persia, was impressed by the city's forts and mentioned seven lines of forts. These surround the city as well as its agricultural hinterlands and forests.

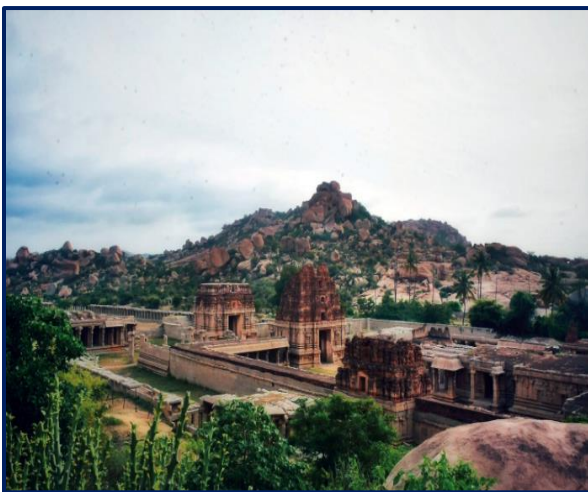
The arch at the entrance leading to the fort's settlement and the dome above the gate are an architecture introduced by the Turkish sultans and are known as the Indo-Islamic style. Archaeological evidence of ordinary people's houses is very limited. From the works of the Portuguese traveler Barbosa, we find details of the houses of the common people.

## 5. Hampi: Historic City:



The ruins of Hampi were unearthed in 1800 by Colonel Colin Mackenzie. For the reconstruction of the city's history, sources such as the Virupaksha Temple and the Pampa Devi Temple priests, numerous inscriptions and temples, accounts of foreign travelers and other literature have been written. It has played a very important role in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Sanskrit. In search of Hampi

### Imperial Center of Hampi:



The royal center is located in the southwestern part of the settlement, which has more than 60 temples. Thirty building complexes have been identified as palaces. The king's palace is the largest of the precincts and has two venues. 'Audience Hall'



and 'Mahanavami Dibba'.

'Mahanavami Dibba', one of the highest places in the city, is a huge platform from a base of about 11,000 square feet to a height of 40 feet. Various ceremonies such as Chitra Puja, State Horse Worship and Sacrifice of buffaloes and other animals in Vijayanagar. Some of the beautiful buildings in the Royal Center are the Kamal Mahal and the Hazara Rama Mandir.

### Hampi Temples:



The construction of the temple in this area has a long history. The Pallavas, Chalukyas, Hoysalas, Cholas and rulers all encouraged the construction of the temple. The temples developed into religious, social, cultural, economic and educational centers. Virupaksha and Pampa Devi temples are very important sacred centers. The Vijayanagara kings are said to have ruled on behalf of Lord Virupaksha. They indicated their close relationship by using the title 'Hindu Suratana' (Sanskritization of the Arabic word Sultan) which means 'Hindu Sultan'. In terms of temple architecture, 'Rayalu' domes or royal gates and pavilions or pavilions were developed by the Vijayanagara rulers.

Krishnadevaraya built a shrine in front of the main temple in the Virupaksha temple and also built the east tower. The temple pavilions were used for music, dance, drama and special functions for the welfare of the deities. The Vithal Temple was established by the Vijayanagara rulers. Vithal in the form of Vishnu is commonly worshiped in Maharashtra. Some magnificent towers were built by local leaders.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

- 1336:** Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire by Harihara Raya and Bukka Raya.
- 1483:** Emergence of the Saluva dynasty.
- 1509-1529:** Period of Krishnadevaraya.
- 1512:** Krishnadevaraya seizes the Reicher Deal.
- 1565:** Battle of Takata.
- 1570:** Establishment of the Aravidu dynasty.
- 1815:** Colonel McKenzie is appointed the first Surveyor General of India.

### 6. Hampi: A place of national importance:

In 1976, Hampi was recognized as a place of national importance. For almost twenty years, dozens of scholars from around the world have worked to reconstruct the history of Vijayanagar.

In the early 1980s, the Archaeological Survey of India conducted a detailed survey using various recording techniques, providing traces of roads, routes, markets, etc. John M. Fritz, George Nickel and MS Nagaraj Rao worked over the years to provide a critical overview of the site. The details left by the travelers allow us to reconstruct some aspects of the vibrant life of that time.



### DO YOU KNOW?

- 1856:** Alexander Greenland takes the first detailed photograph of archeological remains in Hampi.  
**1876:** J.F. Began documenting the inscriptions on the temple walls on the fleet site.  
**1902:** Conservation begins under John Marshall.  
**1986:** Hampi is declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### 8. Continuing research on Vijayanagar:

Surviving buildings express ideas about the materials and technologies, builders or patrons and cultural context of the Vijayanagara Empire. Thus, we can extract information from literature, inscriptions and popular traditions. But the research on architectural features did not tell us about the places where the common people lived, what wages were paid to the masons, masons, sculptors, how the building materials were transported and many other questions. Architectural examples Continuing research using other resources available may provide some more evidence about Vizianagaram.

### Activity

- Q1. Write a difference between the North India Rulers and South Indian Rulers?
- Q2. Make a short note on the Vijayanagara Empire?
- Q3. See the political Indian map and find out the territory of Vijayanagara?
- Q4. Write a note on the all dynasties of Vijayanagar?
- Q5. Notes on decline of Vijayanagar Empire?

## Questions For Practice

1. Vizianagaram is another name for the city?  
 (a) Fatehpur Sikri  
 (b) Hampi  
 (c) Hastinapur  
 (d) Nagalapuram
2. When was the Vijayanagara Empire founded?  
 (a) 1336 (b) 1340  
 (c) 1346 (d) 1350
3. Who founded the Vijayanagara Empire?  
 (a) Hasan Ganghu  
 (b) Parantaka-I  
 (c) Harihara Raya and Bukka Raya  
 (d) Krishna Deva Raya
4. The first dynasty to rule the Vijayanagara Empire?  
 (a) Saluva dynasty  
 (b) Sangam dynasty  
 (c) Tuluva dynasty  
 (d) Aravidu dynasty
5. Vijayanagara is a local deity?  
 (a) Parvati (b) Durga  
 (c) Pampa Devi (d) Lakshmi
6. Which of these rivers is the main source of water for Vijayanagar?  
 (a) Cauvery (b) Krishna  
 (c) Tungabhadra (d) Mahanadi
7. When was Hampi declared a place of national importance?  
 (a) 1976 (b) 1980  
 (c) 1982 (d) 1986
8. The Battle of Talikota was fought between the Deccan Sultanate and \_\_\_\_\_?  
 (a) Krishna Deva Raya  
 (b) Rama Roy  
 (c) Sadashiv Roy  
 (d) Ram Roy
9. Choose the right option:  
 Which of these dynasties ruled over Vijayanagar?  
 (a) Sangam dynasty  
 (b) Saluva dynasty  
 (c) Tuluva dynasty  
 (d) All of these
10. Find which of the following does not match exactly?  
 (a) Immortal-Leader System - Vijayanagara Empire  
 (b) Harihara and Bukka - Establishment of Vijayanagara  
 (c) Mahanavami Dibba - King's Palace  
 (d) Hazara Ram Temple - New Delhi
11. Which ruler wrote the Amuktamalyada?  
 (a) Krishna Deva Raya  
 (b) Bijapur Sultan  
 (c) Ram Roy  
 (d) Harihara Raya
12. Harihara and Bukka belonged to which dynasty?  
 (a) Tuluva (b) Sulava  
 (c) Arvind (d) Sangam
13. Which of the following is correct regarding Mahanavami mound?  
 (a) It is a high platform with slots for the hoop and wooden pillars at regular intervals.  
 (b) It is a huge stage located on one of the highest places in the city.  
 (c) This is the place where the king met his advisers.  
 (d) All of the above
14. Tungabhadra rivers is the main source of water for Vijayanagar is tributary of?  
 (a) Cauvery (b) Godavari  
 (c) Krishna (d) Mahanadi
15. When was Hampi declared a place of national importance?  
 (a) 1976 (b) 1980  
 (c) 1982 (d) 1986
16. The Battle of Talikota was fought between the Deccan Sultanate and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Krishna Deva Roy  
 (b) Rama Roy  
 (c) Sadashiv Roy  
 (d) Ram Roy
17. Choose the correct option:  
 Which of these dynasties ruled over Vijayanagar?  
 (a) Sangam dynasty  
 (b) Saluva dynasty  
 (c) Tuluva dynasty  
 (d) All of these
18. Find which of the following does not match exactly?  
 (a) Immortal-Leader System - Vijayanagara Empire  
 (b) Harihara and Bukka - Establishment of Vijayanagara  
 (c) Mahanavami Dibba - King's Palace  
 (d) Hazara Ram Temple - New Delhi
19. Which of the following is correct regarding the Amar-Nayak system?  
 (a) Amar-leaders were merchants.  
 (b) The main features of this system are taken from the Mansabdari system.  
 (c) Kings have no control over immortals.  
 (d) Immortal-leaders were military commanders, who were given territories to rule the royals.
20. Regarding the Virupaksha Temple, consider the following statements.  
 (i) Krishnadevaraya built the hall opposite the main temple to mark his entrance.  
 (ii) It has a special temple designed in the form of a chariot.  
 (iii) The main deity of this temple is commonly worshiped in Maharashtra.  
 (a) 'i' only (b) 'i' and 'iii'  
 (c) 'ii' and 'iii' (d) All of these
21. Which ruler wrote the Amuktamalyada?  
 (a) Krishna Deva Raya  
 (b) Bijapur Sultan  
 (c) Ram Roy  
 (d) Harihara Raya
22. Harihara Raya and Bukka Raya belonged to which dynasty?  
 (a) Pandya (b) Chera  
 (c) Chola (d) Sangam
23. Which of the following is correct regarding Mahanavami mound?  
 (a) It is a high platform with slots for the hoop and wooden pillars

- at regular intervals.
- (b) It is a huge stage located on one of the highest places in the city.
- (c) This is the place where the king met his advisers.
- (d) All of the above
- 24.** Which of these rivers is not the main source of water for Vijayanagar?
- (a) Tunga (b) Bhadra  
(c) Krishna (d) All
- 25.** When was Hampi declared a place of national importance?
- (a) 1976 (b) 1980  
(c) 1982 (d) 1986
- 26.** The Battle of Talikota was fought between the Deccan Sultanate in which year?
- (a) 1556  
(b) 1526  
(c) 1565  
(d) 1586
- 27.** Choose the correct option:  
Which of these dynasties ruled over Vijayanagar?
- (a) Chola Dynasty  
(b) Pandya Dynasty  
(c) Pallavas Dynasty  
(d) Sangam Dynasty
- 28.** Find which of the following does not match exactly?
- (a) Immortal-Leader System - Vijayanagara Empire  
(b) Harihara and Bukka - Establishment of Vijayanagara  
(c) Mahanavami Dibba - King's Palace  
(d) Hazara Ram Temple - New
- Delhi
- 29.** Which of the following is correct regarding the Amar-Nayak system?
- (a) Amar-leaders were merchants.  
(b) The main features of this system are taken from the Mansabdari system.  
(c) Kings have no control over immortals.  
(d) Immortal-leaders were military commanders, who were given territories to rule the royals.
- 30.** Regarding the Virupaksha Temple, consider the following statements.
- (i) Krishnadevaraya built the hall opposite the main temple to mark his entrance.  
(ii) It has a special temple designed in the form of a chariot.  
(iii) The main deity of this temple is commonly worshiped in Maharashtra.
- (a) 'I' only (b) 'i' and 'iii'  
(c) 'ii' and 'iii' (d) All of these
- 31.** Which Persian ambassador visited the Vijayanagara Empire?
- (a) Domingo peso  
(b) Nicole de Conti  
(c) Abdur Razak  
(d) Duarte Barbosa
- 32.** In which year was the Battle of Talikota fought between Vijayanagar and?
- (a) Delhi Sultans (b) Deccan Sultans  
(c) Bahmani Kingdom (d) All
- 33.** Which traveler called 'Mahanavami Dibba' the 'House of Victory'?
- (a) Duarte Barbosa  
(b) Fernando Nuniz  
(c) Domingo Pace  
(d) Abdur Razak
- 34.** On which of the following occasions was the celebration held at Mahanavami Dune?
- (a) Worship of the state horse  
(b) King's marriage  
(c) Victory over the enemy  
(d) All of the above
- 35.** Vizianagaram is another name of the city?
- (a) Fatehpur Sikri  
(b) Hampi  
(c) Hastinapur  
(d) Nagalapuram
- 36.** When was the Vijayanagara Empire established?
- (a) 1336 (b) 1340  
(c) 1346 (d) 1350
- 37.** Who founded the Vijayanagara Empire?
- (a) Hasan Ganghu  
(b) Parantaka-I  
(c) Harihara and Bukka  
(d) Krishna Deva Raya
- 38.** The first dynasty to rule the Vijayanagara Empire
- (a) Easy dynasty  
(b) Sangam dynasty  
(c) Tuluva dynasty  
(d) Aravidu dynasty
- 39.** Vijayanagara local deity?
- (a) Parvati (b) Durga  
(c) Pampa Devi (d) Lakshmi
- 40.** Krishnadevaraya belonged to which dynasty?
- (a) Sangam (b) Tuluva  
(c) Saluva (d) Arvind

## Solutions

- |        |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 5. (c) | 9. (d)  | 13. (b) | 17. (d) | 21. (a) | 25. (a) | 29. (d) | 33. (c) | 37. (c) |
| 2. (a) | 6. (c) | 10. (d) | 14. (c) | 18. (d) | 22. (d) | 26. (c) | 30. (a) | 34. (a) | 38. (b) |
| 3. (c) | 7. (a) | 11. (a) | 15. (a) | 19. (d) | 23. (b) | 27. (d) | 31. (c) | 35. (b) | 39. (c) |
| 4. (b) | 8. (c) | 12. (d) | 16. (c) | 20. (a) | 24. (c) | 28. (d) | 32. (b) | 36. (a) | 40. (b) |

