

Welcome everyone, my name is Yogita Gauns and I'm teaching in Vidya Prabodhini College.. I'll be taking up a topic from S.Y.B class. My subject is History. The title of the paper is Political Development. The name of the module is Vijaynagar Empire. Now in this topic we will be studying about the foundation and consolidation of the Vijaynagar Empire and its administrative system. After the completion of this module, one will be able to understand and analyze the factors that led to the rise and decline of the Vijayanagar empire.

So let's start with today's topic. Vijayanagar Empire was a prominent Hindu Kingdom which emerged in South India. It was founded by two brothers, Harihara I and Bukka I, along the riverbanks of Tungabhadra, in 1336.

The entire Vijayanagar empire was ruled by four dynasties. First was Sangam dynasty followed by Saluva dynasty, then the Tuluva dynasty and Aravidu dynasty was the last dynasty to rule over the Vijayanagar Empire. Now let's have a look at the Sangam dynasty.

Harihara I became the first ruler of Vijayanagar empire and the Sangam dynasty. He named this dynasty after his father's name. He started an era of expansion and conquest, and in this he was assisted by his brother, Bukka I. He fought against the Hoysala kingdom and was able to acquire their territories. In 1347, In 1347, the Kadamba territories were also annexed to the Vijaynagar Empire. Harihara I was succeeded by his brother Bukka I, who continued his brother's policy of expansion.. He also conquered Goa. During his rule, the enmity between Vijayanagar Empire and the Bahmani Kingdom started on a large scale. He defeated the Bahmani ruler Muhammad Shah and forced him to conclude a peace treaty. His rule extended till South Rameshwaram. He also sent ambassadors to China.

Bukka I was succeeded by his son Harihara II. Under him Vijaynagar Empire followed the policy of eastern expansion. He invaded the Konkan and conquered northern Karnataka. He attacked the Reddi rulers, and annexed the Addanki and Srisailem areas. In 1398 he defeated the Velamas and the Bahamanis.

Harihara II was succeeded by Devraya I. The enmity between Bahmani and Vijayanagar Empire continued during his time period also. He was defeated by Bahmani Sultan Firoz Shah. Devraya I is known for his welfare schemes. In 1410 A.D. he had a barrage across the Tungabhadra constructed. In order to facilitate irrigation, he constructed a dam on the river Harihara. Nicolo Conti, the famous Italian traveler, visited the Vijaynagar empire during his time period.

Devraya I was succeeded by Devraya II. He is considered as one of the greatest rulers of the Sangam dynasty. In order to strengthen his army, he included Muslims. He crossed Tungabhadra river. He annexed Andhra Pradesh, defeated the Gajapati Kingdom of Orissa and invaded Srilanka several times. Except the Zamorin of Calicut, all the Chieftains of Kerala accepted his overlordship. He was a great scholar, and composed two works namely Mahanataka Sudhanidhi and a commentary on Brahma Sutra, of Badarayana.. He was called by his subject as 'Immadi Devaraya or Proudha Devaraya. Abdul Razaque of Persia visited his kingdom.

Virupaksha II, who was the last ruler of Sangam dynasty, was killed and assassinated by his own military commander, Saluva Narsimha. So with the assassination of the Viruksha II the Sangam Dynasty came to an end and we have the beginning of new dynasty which was called as Saluva dynasty.

The Saluva dynasty was founded by Saluva Narsimha. This dynasty ruled over Vijayanagar empire only for two decades. Its last ruler, Immadi Narsimha was killed by his own commander, Tuluva Vir Narsimha. Thus, it paved the way for the establishment of a new dynasty which was known as the Tuluva dynasty.

Vir Narsimha Tuluva, the founder of this dynasty was succeeded by his brother Krishnadevaraya. Krishnadevaraya is considered as the greatest monarch of Vijayanagar empire. He was a very good military commander, administrator and a diplomat. He defeated the Gajapati ruler Pratapa Rudra of Orissa and later married his daughter. He also defeated Sultan Adil Shah Bijapur in 1520 and captured Raichur Doab. He had a good friendly relationship with the Portuguese governor, Afonso de Albuquerque. He sent diplomatic cum trade missions to Vijayanagar. Relationship between Portuguese and Vijayanagar was motivated by two factors. First, their common enmity with the Bijapur kingdom and secondly, the Portuguese were supplying imported horses to the Vijayanagar empire.

Krishnadevaraya was also a great patron of art and literature, and he was a scholar himself. He composed the Telugu work 'Amuktamalyada' and one Sanskrit work 'Jambavati Kalyanam'. He was called Andhra Bhoja. His court was addressed by 'Ashta Diggajas'. He built gopurams, Hazara Ramaswamy temple and Vithal temple. He also set up a city which was called Nagala Puram. Domingo Paes, a Portuguese traveller also visited his court.

Krishnadevaraya was succeeded by weak rulers like Achutya Raya and Venkata Raya. Sadashiv Raya was the last ruler of this dynasty. But all the powers were controlled by his Prime Minister, whose name was Rama Raya. Rama Raya wanted to make Vijayanagar supreme authority in South India, and thus he started interfering in the interstate politics of the Bahmanis. Thus the conferences of Bahmanis which included Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Bidar and Golkonda launched a joint military expedition against the Vijayanagar empire. And in this battle, which is called the Battle of Talikota or Rakshasa Tangadi. Vijayanagar army, which was led by Rama Raya, was defeated in this battle. This battle marked the end of the glory of the Vijayanagar empire.

After the destruction at the Battle of Talikota Tirumala, the brother of Rama Raya tried to revive the Vijayanagar empire. The Vijayanagar government was shifted first to Penukonda and then to Chandragiri. Though the dynasty survived till the middle of the 17th century its former glory had vanished. The central administration had become very weak and as a result Nayakas also started declaring their independence. Marathas took advantage of this situation and slowly the Vijayanagar empire disappeared.

Now let us have a look at the Vijayanagar administration. The Vijayanagar empire had a very effective administrative system. The King was the fountainhead of all the authorities. He enjoyed absolute authority in executive, judicial, administrative and military matters. King was assisted by the Council of Ministers

who helped him in his day-to-day administration for smooth administration. The entire Kingdom was divided into different administrative units,so the entire.Empire was divided into *Mandalams*, or provinces. These *Mandalams* were further divided into nadus or their districts. These districts were further divided into *sthalas*,and *Sthalas* into *agarams*.

To conclude, Vision Empire was founded as a result of political and cultural movement against the Muslim authorities. It ruled over South India for more than 200 years and contributed towards the development of art and architecture in India.

This is the reference.

Thank you.