Atomic Energy Central School No.3 Rawatbhata

Lesson Seven: New Architecture-Hampi

Class-12 Sub- History

Hand out- Module 1(1/2 of Lesson 7)

Topic: Discovering of Hampi -Vijayanagara

**Introduction-**

* Vijaynagara or “City of Victory” was the name of both city and an empire.
* The Empire was founded in the 14th century.
* Founder – Harihara I and Bukka I
* Capital of Vijayanagara Empire -Hampi
* It stretched from the river Krishna in the North to the extreme South of the peninsula.
* Rediscovery of Vijayanagara started with excavations at Hampi.
* Golden era of Vijayanagara Empire was under the rule of Krishnadeva Raya.

**The Discovery of Hampi:**

* Hampi is another name for Vijayanagara Empire.
* The name Hampi is derived from the local mother goddess, Pampadevi.
* The ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by an Engineer Colonel Colin Mackenzie.
* An employee of the East India Company, he prepared the first survey map of the site.
* As early as 1836, epigraphists began collecting several dozen inscriptions found at this and other temples at Hampi.

**Sources of Vijayanagara Empire-**

* The sources of Vijaynagara empire history include oral, inscriptions, manuscripts, accounts of foreign travelers, local vernacular literature, archaeological excavations etc.
* Other records helped historian to reconstruct the history of Vijayanagara Empire.
* A number of foreign travelers have left a vivid account of the glory of Vijaynagara.
* We come to know from these sources that Vijaynagara was one of the richest kingdoms of those times.
* Ibn Batuta has left account of Harihara-I and Bahamani kingdom in his work Rehla.
* Other foreign Persian traveller Abdul Razzak who left valuable accounts on the socio-economic conditions of the Vijaynagara Empire.
* Among local works, the Amuktamalyada of Krishna Deva Raya gives details of political ideas and the polity of Vijaynagara Empire.

**Origin-**

* Harihara I and Bukka I establishment the Vijaynagara empire on the bank of the river Tungabhadra in the year 1336.
* Four dynasties of Vijayanagara empire were

1. Sangam 2. Saluva 3. Tuluva 4. Aravidu

* The first Dynasty, known as the Sangama dynasty exercised control till 1485.
* They were replaced by the Saluvas, military commanders who remain in the power till 1503.
* Then they were replaced by the Tuluva.
* Tuluva were replaced by Aravidu which remained in power till the end of seventeenth century.

**Rayas, Nayakas and sultans-**

* According to the tradition and epigraphic evidence two brothers Harihara and Bukka, founded the Vijayanagara Empire1336.
* This empire included within its functioning Frontiers people who spoke different languages and followed different religious traditions.

**Kings and traders in Vijaynagara-**

* As warfare during this time depended upon the effective cavalry, the import of horses from Arabia and central Asia was very important for rival kingdom.
* Trade was initially controlled by Arab merchant.
* From 1498, others actors appeared on the scene.
* These were Portuguese, who arrived on the west coast of the subcontinent and attempted to establish trading and military stations.
* Vijaynagara was also noted for its markets, dealing in spices, textile and many precious stone.

**Vijayanagara under the rule of Krishnadeva raya –**

* Krishnadeva Raya’s rule (1509-1529) was characterized by full expansion and consolidation.
* He brought under his control the land between Tungabhadra and Krishna River called Raichur doabs in the year 1512.
* He defeated Pratap Rudra of Gajpati dynasty, the ruler of Orissa in 1514 and Sultan of Bijapur in 1520.
* Krishnadeva Raya is credited with building some fine temple and adding impressive Gopurams to many important South Indian temples.
* He also founded a suburban township near Vijayanagara called “Nagalapuram” after his mother.

**Decline of Vijaynagara Empire-**

* There were multiple factors that led to the decline and fall of the great Vijayanagara Empire.
* The conflicts over the succession of throne after Krishnadeva raya.
* Unity of the Deccan Sultanates.
* The critical mistakes made RamRaya.
* After the death of Krishnadeva Raya in 1529 his successors had to face the challenges of rebel Nayakas.
* By 1542, the controlled of the empire come under another ruling lineage, the Aravidu.
* This dynasty remained in power till 17th century.
* During this period alignment kept on shifting due to military ambitions.
* These ambitions led an alliance of Deccan Sultanate.
* In 1565 Rama Raya, the chief minister of Vijayanagara led the army into battle of Rakshsi-Tangdi (also known as Talikota), where his forces routed by the combine armies of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar and Golconda.
* The victories armies sacked the city of Vijayanagara.

**The rayas and the nayakas:**

* Military chiefs usually controlled forts and had armed supporters.
* These chiefs often moved from one area to another and in many cases were accompanied by peasants looking for fertile land on which to settle.
* These chiefs were known as nayakas and they usually spoke Telugu or Kannada.
* Many nayakas submitted to the authority of the kings of Vijayanagara, but they often rebelled and had to be subdued by the military action.

**Amara- nayakas:**

* The Amara-Nayakas system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire.
* It is likely that many features of this system were derived from the iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate.
* The Amara-nayakas were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the raya.
* They collected taxes and other dues from peasant, craftspersons and traders in the area.
* They retained part of revenue for personal use and for maintaing fixed numbers of horses and elephants.
* They used to submit the rest of the revenue in state treasury.
* The Amara-Nayakas sent tribute to the King annually and personally appeared in the royal court with gifts to express their loyalty.
* King occasionally asserted their control over them by transferring from one place to another place.
* However during the course of 17th century many of these Nayakas established independent kingdoms.