

Although these chronicles helped in re-writing the Vijayanagar history for the first time, analysis of indigenous literature and art and architecture of this period gives a more detailed and diversified information about the Vijayanagar kingdom.

- **Indigenous Literature** -The literature written by court poets, scholars, religious figures and sometimes the king himself provided valuable information about the economic, social, religious and political life of the people in Vijayanagar along with the history of Vijayanagar Empire. For example, **KamparayaCharitam** and **Madura devi** by Ganga Devi give information about the origin of the Empire and its early expansion and **Amuktamalayada** by Krishna Deveraya himself is a great piece of political literature.

Even the **Tuzuk-i-Babri**, the autobiography of Babur mentions Vijayanagar as a Hindu Kingdom in South India.

- **Art and Architecture:** On one hand the presence of a large number of temples like Lepakshi Temple, Virupaksha Temple etc. suggest that Vijayanagar was a Hindu State and on the other, the presence of arches, domes and vaults show the cosmopolitan character of the architecture.

GIST OF THE ANSWER

- **Sources:** Accounts of Abdur Razzak, Nuniz, Ferista, Domingo Paes, Nicolo-Conti. Indegenous account: Amuktamalyada, Kamparaya Charitam.
- **Concept/Principle in Body:** Highlight the administrative system and economic life as illustrated in the foreign accounts. Also discuss the condition of Brahmans and women as described by Nuniz.
Also highlight the information on religious, political and economic practices of the people of Vijayanagar as illustrated in indegenoud sources.

Q6. "Mahmud Gawan occupies the first place in the history of Bahmani kingdom". Justify this statement in light of his administrative policies and socio-cultural reforms. (20 marks)

Ans: Introduction: Mahmud Gawan, who served as the Prime Minister of three Bahmani Sultans for about twenty three years from 1458-1481 A.D. was not only a great conqueror but also a good administrator, a far-sighted statesman and a great patron of art, literature and education.

Body: Administrative Reforms:

- For limiting the power of the nobles, he subdivided the old provinces (tarafs) from four into eight and also the governor of each fort was directly appointed by the Sultan, thus a centralized administrative system emerged.

Call / Whatsapp: 8882021289, 8527744083

Email: info@triversityias.com

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