

INTRODUCTION

In the early part of 14th century the political condition paved the way for the establishment of Vijayanagara empire. In the year 1336 A.D. the kingdom of Vijayanagara was founded and it was an unique event in the history of India. The capital city of Vijayanagara favoured the cohesion of the crumbling states of South India to form a single empire.

The four dynasties namely Sangama, Saluva, Tulva and Aravidu ruled the vast Vijayanagara empire comprising the whole of South India. This empire stood for the Hindu Culture. The rulers stubbornly resisted the onslaughts of the Muslims of the north and the neighboring states. The neighboring Bahamanis and the rulers of Vijayanagara waged several battles to occupy the Tungabhadra, Krishna doabs and other territories. The rulers of Vijayanagara though busy with wars, they never neglected the religious and cultural activities. There was a tremendous encouragement for the promotion of Art and Culture, Social and Religious activities. Several magnificent Temples were built and many temples were renovated. In the field of literature many poetic works were written and other literary works were produced. Some of the Kings and Queens were themselves poets of high order, encouragement was also given for the development of fine arts. The rulers not only, bestowed titles on their subjects they also extended many concessions to them. For the maintenance of the temples matts and for the rituals, sufficient grants were given by the Kings and the affluent class of the society.

Hampi - Vijayanagara is located amidst the striking scenery with picturesque surroundings. The north of the city is equipped with unfordable Tungrabhadra river and the rest of the sides are surrounded by craggy granite hills. The hill range is patinated with brown and black boulders and thus has provided the natural defense to the city. The rulers of Vijayanagara utilised these rocky ridges for the fortification of the city at best.

The city has attracted many visitors both indigenous and of foreign origin. The foreign travellers particularly the Persian Abdur Razzak, Russian Nikatin, the Portuguese travellers, Durate Burbosa, Domingo Paes, Fernao Nuniz and the Italian Nicolo Conti have recorded the splendors of the Vijayanagara city and empire in their writings.

Abdur Razzak visited Vijayanagara during the rule of Devaraya II i.e. 1419-1444 A.D. He was amazed at the grandeur of the city and he recorded about the splendors of the city and its festivities. He has given the description of the city as... “The city of Bindjanagara is such that the pupil of the eye has never seen a place like it, and the ears of intelligence have never been informed that there existed anything to equal in the world.” The descriptions of the bazaars, sale of diamonds, rubies and emeralds in public at the bazaars are recorded. Other than this he gives a vivid description of the Darasa festivities, the congregation of elephants and the high structures ... “over the magnificent space were erected numerous pavillions, to the height of three, four or even five storeys covered form top to bottom with figures in relief”

Domingo Paes visited Vijayanagara in 1520 A.D. and narrated the richness of the city. While speaking about bazaars he says “you have a broad and beautiful street, full of rows of fine houses and streets of the sorts I have described and it is to be understood that the houses belong to men rich enough to afford such..... you will find rubies, diamonds, emeralds and pearls and seed-pearls and clothes and every sort of thing there is on earth that you may wish to buy”.

The city of Vijayanagara is extended to about 26 Sqm. K.m, covering many villages. The outer line of the fortification includes large area. Even today a number of monuments have been scattered in around the ancient city, now located by the surrounding villages. In the city especially at the urban core, there are temples, gateways, tanks, wells, most of them in ruins or buried under the earth.

After the great battle of Rakkasa Tangadi in 1565 A.D. the mighty and prosperous city is almost forgotten by the people. In the early 20th century the work of Robert Sewell- "A forgotten empire" has opened a new avenue for the South Indian scholars to know more about the Vijayanagara empire, which was the centre of activity during medieval period. Many articles and books published in the first and second quarters of nineteenth century are biased with regionalism. There the importance to the language and religion were emphasised to take the partisan view. After this period many aspects of Vijayanagara are published especially in the last quarter of nineteenth century. Recent excavations and explorations have brought to light many new things which were hidden under the earth. As the work is being continued, many new things will come to light, through which the social, religious and the political aspect of Vijayanagara will be known better.

The vast source materials like the foreign accounts, the enormous literature in different south Indian languages, the inscription, the coins, temples, the secular and defense structures, sculptures, paintings, the kaifiyats, the kaditas are available for the study. Many of these materials are to be verified and the historical information is to be evaluated. The indigenous writings in South Indian languages are referred and listed here, yet there is scope for addition. The available books and articles in university, libraries, reputed colleges and with individuals, Indian and foreign scholars are consulted while preparing this bibliography

The bibliography has many entries spreading over Archaeology, Art, Architecture, Folklore, Literature, History and Miscellaneous. Each of these is classified into Books and Articles, while the news papers and Magazines are listed as Daily, Weekly, Monthly and Annual. The Ph.D., and M.Phil., thesis available in the universities are also referred to, while preparing the list. Some of the books do not have the full publication details, like the year of publication, page number etc. In some cases the pages containing the details are missing . In such cases the available details are given like the title of the book or article. There is scope for updating the information in due

course. The books and articles and reviews of foreign scholars are explored and mentioned here. Many articles and books of the foreign authors with available publication details are mentioned, as the book / article is not available, the annotated version is not given and it is marked with - * * * symbol. Through this the published material on particulars aspect will be known. If these works are needed for reference, they can be availed from the source mentioned in the bibliographic list or else where.

In Kannada Literature some early works are available, but they are so fragile that they cannot be handle without damaging them. At times the title page and some pages are missing. An attempt is made to give the bibliographic details and annotations. In Epigraphy section, the books and articles are listed. Several inscriptions mention the name Hampi, Hampe, Pampakshetra. Baskara Kshetra, Vijayanagara, Vidyanagara, Virupashakapura, Harihara Kshetra,... etc., occurrence of these names are noted by their inscription number, with the taluk and district.

The entries in the bibliography are in the following order. In the case of books the name of the author or editor, the title of the book in italics, the name of publication, place of publication and ends with the year of publication. In the case of articles, the name of the author, title of the article is underlined. The name of the book or journal in which it is published and its editor, name of publication, place of publication, year of publication and page nos. of the article are given.