



CONCEPT OF ADMINISTRATION IN VIJAYNAGAR EMPIRE

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ABSTRACT

South Indian empire based in the Deccan, Established in 1336 by Harihara I and his brother Bukka Raya, It lasted until 1646 although its power declined after a major military defeat in 1565 by the Deccan Sultanates. The empire named after its capital city of Vijayanagar, his impressive ruins surrounding modern Hampi declared a world Heritage site in Modern Karnataka India. The writings of medieval European travelers. Such as Domingo Peas, Fernao Nuriz and Niccolo Doconti and the literature in local Vernaculars provide crucial information about its history. Archaeological excavations at Vijayanagar have revealed the empire's power and wealth.



KEY WORDS : *Vijayanagar
*Shri Krishnadevaraya
*Kingdoms
*Administration
*Military administration
*Revenue administration
*Judicial administration
*Women administration
*Religion

INTRODUCTION:

The rule of Krishna Deva Raya marks a period of much military success in Vijayanagar history. On occasion. The king was known to change battle plans abruptly and turn losing battle into victory. The first decade of his rule was one of the long sieges, bloody conquests, and victories. His main enemies were. The Bahamani Sultans (who though divided into five small kingdoms remained a constant threat). The Gajapatis of Odisha, who had been involved in constant conflict since the rule of Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya and the Portuguese arising maritime power, which controlled much of the Sea, trade the feudal Chief's of Ummalutur and Kammas of Dharanikota, who rebelled against Vijayanagar rule were conquered and subdued.

The annual affair of raid and plunder of Vijayanagar towns and Villages by the Deccan Sultans came to an end during the Raja's rule. In 1509 Krishnadevaraya's armies clashed with the Sultan Mahmud who was severely injured and defeated, Yusuf Adil Khan was killed and the Raichur Doab was annexed, taking advantage of the victory and the disunity of the Bahamani Sultans, The Raja invaded Bidar, Gulbarga and Bijapur and earned the title "establisher of the Yavana Kingdom" when he released Sultan Mahmud and

made him de factor ruler. The sultan of Golconda ‘Sutana Quli Quth Shab’ was defeated by Timmarasu who was the prime minister.

ADMINISTRATION UNDER VIJAYNAGAR EMPIRE :

The kingdom was divided into provinces known as Mandalam, headed by “Mandaleshwar”. It was further divided into nadu, sthala and grams.

The army under Vijaynagar Kingdom was well organized and efficient. It consisted of cavalry, infantry, artillery and elephants. The highest grade officers in army were known as “Nayak or Polligars”, They were awarded land in lieu of their services.

The Nayakara System : Under this system the king was considered to be the owner of the soil and he distributed the lands to his nayakas.

- Nayakas had to pay a fixed annual financial contribution to the imperial exchequer, which according to the chronicle of Nuniz, was generally half their revenue.
- They were required to maintain a sufficient number of troops for the king and serve them in his war.
- The nayaka enjoyed greater freedom in his province. There was no system of transfer from one district to another.

MILITARY WHEELS IN MOTION :

Krishnadevraya was a member of the Tuluva Dynasty the third dynasty that ruled the Vijaynagar empire, a southern Indian empire based in the region of the Deccan plateau. He became the third ruler of this dynasty in 1509. Succeeding his order half brother Viranarsimharaya.

When Krishnadevaraya was crowned as emperor the Vijayanagara empire was not the dominant force in the region and had to defend itself from the attacks of hostile neighbors. Thus Krishnadevaraya's early reign was marked by numerous military campaigns. The emperor first set his sights on the Deccan Sultans, who had been conducting raids against the Vijayanagara empire on an annual basis.

Krishnadevaraya succeeded in defeating the sultan of Bijapur and Diwani in 1509 after which he invaded Bidar, Gulbarga and Bijapur. Krishnadevaraya just like other Vijayanagara emperors employed a pargana system. These parganas did good work in their respective kingdoms. They promoted the languages spoken inside their territories. For instance, Kempe Gowda, the founder of modern Bangalore, promoted Kannada. The Nayaks of Chitradurga, also promoted Kannada. The Chowta dynasty promoted, Tulu, and the Nayaks of Madurai promoted Tamil. So that meant someone had to promote Telugu and make sure that gems like the “Ashtadiggajas” were able to produce brilliant works. Also, The capital Hampi was on the Karnataka, Andhra border and a lot of people spoke Telugu, Even now, there is a significant presence of Telugu, speakers in Raichur and Bellari districts of Karnataka. So for their reasons Krishna devaraya despite being a non Telugu promoted Telugu. He was destined to do it and that is why he says that is why he says that lord Vishnu ordered him to do it in his great Telugu work “Amuktamalyada”.

He was proficient in 64 different arts, He had the entire southern part of India under his control and his empire extended all the way from Odisha to Wodeyars of Mysore. Nayaks, of Madurai, Gajapatis of Odisha, and others as allies. They all respected him and acknowledged him as their overlord. Even his enemies such as the Adil Shah of Bijapur and the Imad Shah of Bidar were extremely wary of the king.

He regularly made trips to all parts of his empire and interacted with his subjects. He listened to their concerns and grievances and tried his best to solve them. Although he was a follower of Vaishnavism, he showed utmost respect towards other faiths and religions. Hindus, Muslims and Christians were all treated with respect by the great king, not just poets but even the likes of Nuniz and Barbosa have spoken very highly of the king.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION :

- 1) There was well organized and efficient standing army.

- 2) It consisted of the cavalry, infantry, artillery and elephants.
- 3) There were also high-breed horses which were procured from foreign merchants.
- 4) Different grades of officers were there in the army. The top grades being the Nayakas of palegars.
- 5) In addition to the regular standing army, armies of vassal kings. Governors and feudal levies assisted the king whenever necessary.

Judicial Administration in Vijay Nagar Empire.

- 1) King administrated justice impartially.
- 2) He presided over the sabha which was the highest court of appeal.
- 3) There were also village courts, caste Panchayats and guild organizations to dispose of petty offences like violation of caste rules and rules of trade.
- 4) Dharmasastras generally formed the basis on which cases were decided Harsh Punishments were inflicted.

Revenue Administration :

Land revenue from crown lands was the most important source. Tributes and gifts from vassals and feudal chiefs, customs collected at the parts, and tolls on inland commerce: taxes on various professions, houses, markets and licences : fines inflicted by courts etc, were also important sources of income.

Collection of Land Revenue :

It was collected on the basis of assessment, fixed after careful survey, Generally 1/6th of the gross produce was collected as revenue. But sometimes it was raised to fifty percent.

Items of Expenditure :

As suggested in the Amuktamalyadu, the expenditure of the state was divided into four parts charities and personal expenditure of the king, maintenance of horses, military conquests and security of the empire.

Caste System :

- Allansai peddana in his manuchuritam mentions the four castes that existed in the vijayanagar society.
- Viprulu or Brahmins followed the traditional profession of teachers and priests, Rajula or rachavaru, were generally associated with ruling dynasty, assisting them in matters of state and warfare. The rulers as well as generals were actually sudras, but called rachavaru on account of their position.
- Kshatriya vama seems to be absent here.
- Malikaratalu or vaishyas were the same as merchants who carried on trade and commerce.
- Nalavajativaru or sudras were mainly agriculturists, but some of them carried on several other professions.
- Polygamy was practiced by them and their woman observed sati.
- Brahmins were priests in charge of temple worship.

Position of women

- Education and learning – Gangadevi wife of Kampana, wrote Madurvijayam, Hannamma was a prominent scholar in the court of prouda Deva. Tirumalamma was distinguished poetess in Sanskrit.
- Employment : According to Nuniz, a large number of women were employee in royal palaces as danders, domestic servants and palanquin bearers. There were also wrestlers among them. Some women were also appointed as accorntants, judges, bailifts, and watch women.
- Custom of Devadasis : The practice of dancing girls attached to temples was also in vogue.

Religion :

- Early Vijay nagar rulers were followers of saivison.
- Virupaksha was their family god.
- Later they came under the influence of vaishnavism of
- Srivaishnavism of Ramanjua was highly popular.
- The Dvaita system of Madhava was also practiced.
- Epics and puranas were popular among the masses especially since they served as a means of education among women.

Powers of the King :

The king of Vijaynagar Kingdom was at the top of the administration. He had unlimited power. He was responsible for the overall administration of the state. He was the commander-in-Chief of the army. The highest administrator and the Chief Justice, yet he was not a tyrant. Rather, he was a benevolent despot.

Council of Ministers :

To assist the king in the affairs of administration of Vijaynagar empire, there was council of ministers which consisted of possibly six or eight ministers. They were appointed by the king who could dismiss them also and they held office during the pleasure of the king.

The ministers were chosen from all the three castes of the society:

*Brahmis *Kshariyas and *Vishayas.

The office of the ministers was here ditany though it was not followed always, A part from posts of the ministers there were other officials like chief treasurer, officer-in-charge of jewels. Office-in-charge of commerce, the prefect of the police and the master of the horse and soon. The household department the king of Vijaynagar was also well organized, the nobles, priest's astrologers, musicians, scholars and poets used to throng the royal court, the rulers used to spend a huge sum on the splendor of the court. It was so gorgeous that the foreign diplomats and travelers considered it an object of wonder.

CONCLUSION :

The Vijaynagar administration system was centralized, elaborate and just. The history of the rise and fall of Vijaynagar empire is primarily a history of constant wars and conflicts. It was natural that the administration of such a state would essentially be guided by military purposes and systems, surprisingly the rulers of vijaynagar empire could not only keep the administration free from this military impact but also made it a liberal perfect tolerant and benevolent one.

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