

23 SEPT

1) Do you think that the reign of Krishnadevaraja inaugurated a new epoch in the history of Vijayanagar? (20 M).

Ans) Krishnadevaraja was a ruler of the Vijayanagar empire from 1509-1529. The new epoch brought by him in the Vijayanagar history could be decided by analysing his contributions to various aspects of Vijayanagar life:

SOCIETY: - Krishnadevaraja established a secular rule in his empire and anyone from any religion could come in his empire. He also received many foreign travellers as well. Besides, many North Indians also settled in Vijayanagar empire.

CULTURE: - The cultural development under Raja reached to its peak in Vijayanagar empire. He was himself a scholar and wrote Amukta Malayada, <sup>poetic work</sup> about the politico-administrative structure of the state. He also wrote 2 other books including Jambuvati Kalyanam etc.

- His contributions to the Telugu literature gave him the title of ~~Andhra~~ Andhra - Pitamah or Andhrabhoj. He also contributed to development of other regional languages like Tamil, Kannada and Sanskrit as well.

- Many great scholars wrote during his age such as Peddara, Sayana, Madhava etc.
- His Ashvadijjayas or 8 elephants were the famous scholars patronised under him.

POLITICS: - Raya regained all the territories lost by his predecessors for Vijayanagar empire. He fought several wars and remained undefeated in them.

- He defeated the alliance of Bijapur and Odisha, and captured the Krishna - Tungabhadra doab and Krishna - Godavari delta having economic importance. He erected his victory pillars after defeating rulers of Odisha.
- He also signed an alliance with Portuguese under ~~his~~ Albuquerque and safeguarded his import of horses and artiller saltpetre. He employed ~~the~~ Portuguese for training of Vijayanagar artillery.
- He was a successful and popular military commander and his forces were ready to throw themselves into war under his command.
- He established a new capital at Hampi and constructed many large monuments there. He ~~also~~ constructed

ECONOMICS - He constructed several embankments, dams, canals etc. for irrigation facilities.

- He also omitted the unpopular marriage tax.

Thus, due to these several achievements which happened under the rule of Krishnadevaraya, he is widely considered as the Greater ruler in the whole history of South India. Vijayanagar empire reached the peak of peace, order, prosperity and cultural development under his rule, which ~~can~~ can be marked as a new epoch under Vijayanagar history.

2) What was the most significant contribution of Kabir and Guru Nanakdev to Bhakti movement? (20M).

Ans) Kabir Das and Guru Nanakdev were 2 most prominent Bhakti saints of Nirguna school. They both preached the basic ideology of Bhakti ~~into~~ movement which was the complete devotion to the supreme being. Many of their teachings had similar elements and differed only with the unique elements presented by each of them:

Similar Elements:

- Montheism : (Mentioned in Previous Answers)

- Egalitarianism ; Humanism ; Communal harmony and assimilatory character ; Anti - idol worship ; Rationalism.

Some of their unique elements were:

KABIR :- He didn't believe in asceticism and held the view that a person should continue doing their work and strive for behavioural changes in their conduct. He himself kept on working as a weaver, his traditional occupation.

- He was against excessive materialism and pointed out the discrimination in society to the economic inequality between people.

NANAK :- Though he never wanted to start a new religion, but his teachings consisted of many seeds of an organised religion.

- He also gave the concept of an ideal state with the philosopher king as the ruler working on principles of morality, welfare etc.

Thus, ~~both~~ the teachings of both Kabir and Nanak proved timeless and ageless and still continues to inspire the people.