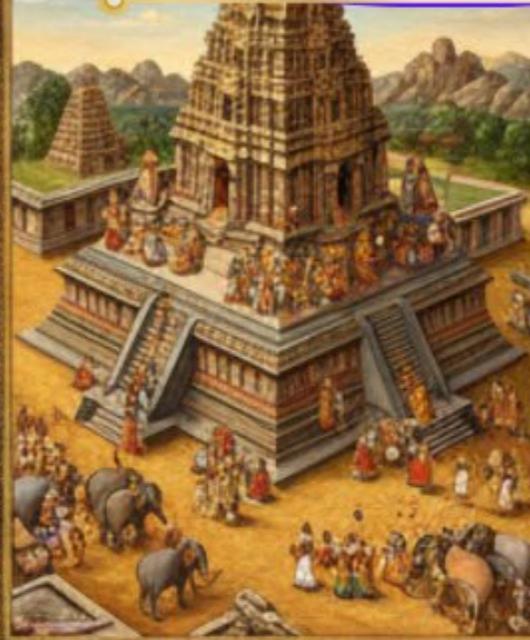
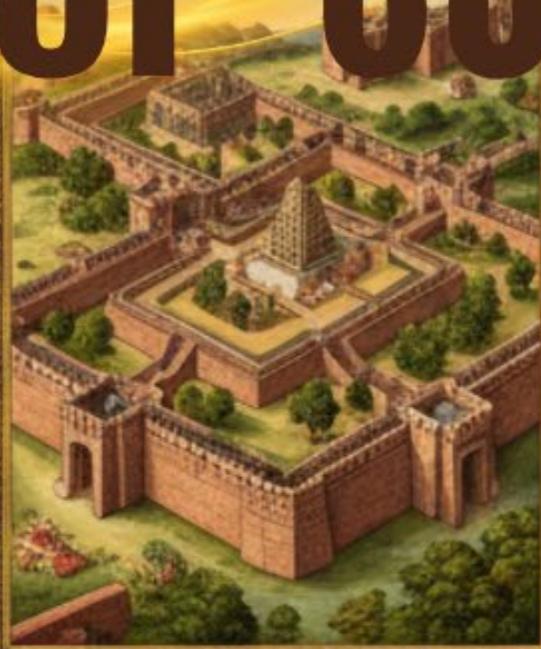


TOP 60

Part-11



HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CBSE EXAM 2025-26"

Ruins, Rituals & Royal Power

Prepared by: Mr. Bikrant
PGT-Hist.
PM SHRI KV DIPHU

VIJAYNAGAR-HAMPI

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSocietalSense>

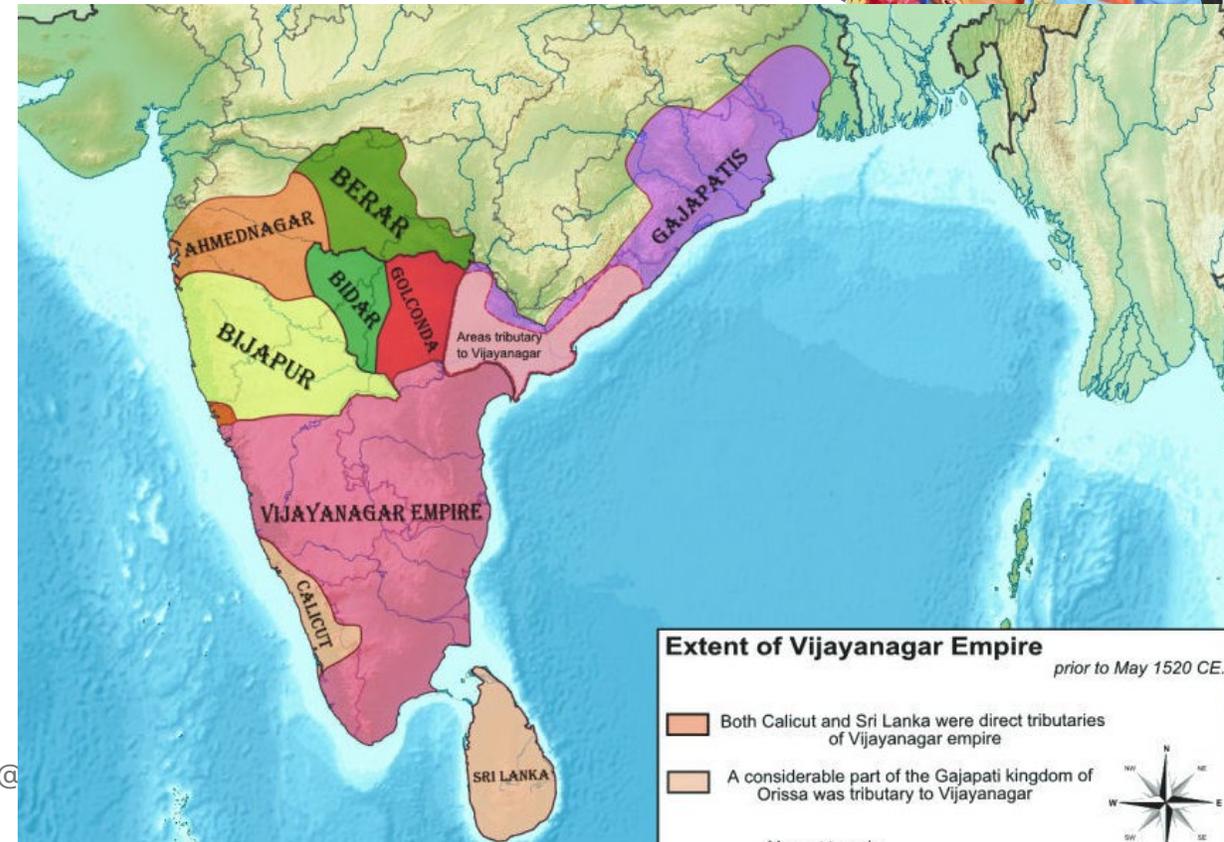
Chapter wise previous year paper

Q.43 Explain the reasons of apogee and fall of the Vijayanagara Empire. (8 Marks, 2023 Main)

Ans. The Vijayanagara Empire saw a great rise (apogee), especially under Krishnadeva Raya, but eventually declined and fell.

Apogee (Glory) of the Empire:

- 1. Able Rulership:** The apogee was reached under Krishnadeva Raya (1509-29). He was an able ruler who expanded and consolidated the empire.
- 2. Military Success:** He subdued the rulers of Orissa and inflicted defeats on the Sultans of Bijapur, ensuring the kingdom remained in constant military preparedness.



3. **Peace and Prosperity:** His reign was marked by peace and prosperity, which allowed for a flourishing of trade.
4. **Patronage of Architecture:** He was a great builder, founding the suburban township of Nagalapuram. He also built and added to many important temples, including the grand *gopuram* of the Virupaksha temple.



Fall (Decline) of the Empire:

1. **Weak Successors:** His successors were troubled by rebellious *nayakas* (military chiefs), which weakened the central government.
2. **Shift in Power:** By 1542, central control shifted to the Aravidu lineage, led by the chief minister, Rama Raya.
3. **Conflict with Sultanates:** Rama Raya's policy of playing the Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda) against each other eventually backfired.
4. **Battle of Talikota (1565):** The Sultanates formed an alliance and decisively defeated Rama Raya's army at the Battle of Talikota (also known as Rakshasi-Tangadi).
5. **Sacking of the City:** The victorious armies ransacked and destroyed the city of Vijayanagara.

FALL OF THE VIJAYANGARA EMPIRE

1. WEAK SUCCESSORS



2. SHIFT IN POWER



3. CONFLICT WITH SULTANATES & BATTLE OF TALIKOTA (1565 CE.)



4. SACKING & DESTRUCTION OF VIJAYANAGARA (1565)

SARRYT SATE OF TALIKARA (1565)



- Weak successors and Rebebilu lineage) by 1942 CE.
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Simple version

- **Apogee (Glory) of the Empire:**
- **Able Rulership of Krishnadeva Raya (1509-29).**
- **Military Success by subdue Orissa and the Sultans of Bijapur**
- Great builder, founding the suburban township of Nagalapuram, building temples etc

Causes of Decline of Vijayanagara. (3 Marks)

- **Rebellious Nayakas** weakened the kingdom.
- Rama Raya's **arrogant policy** against Sultans.
- Defeat in **Battle of Talikota (1565).**

Follow up Questions

Q. Analyse the causes that led to the ruin of Vijayanagara empire. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)

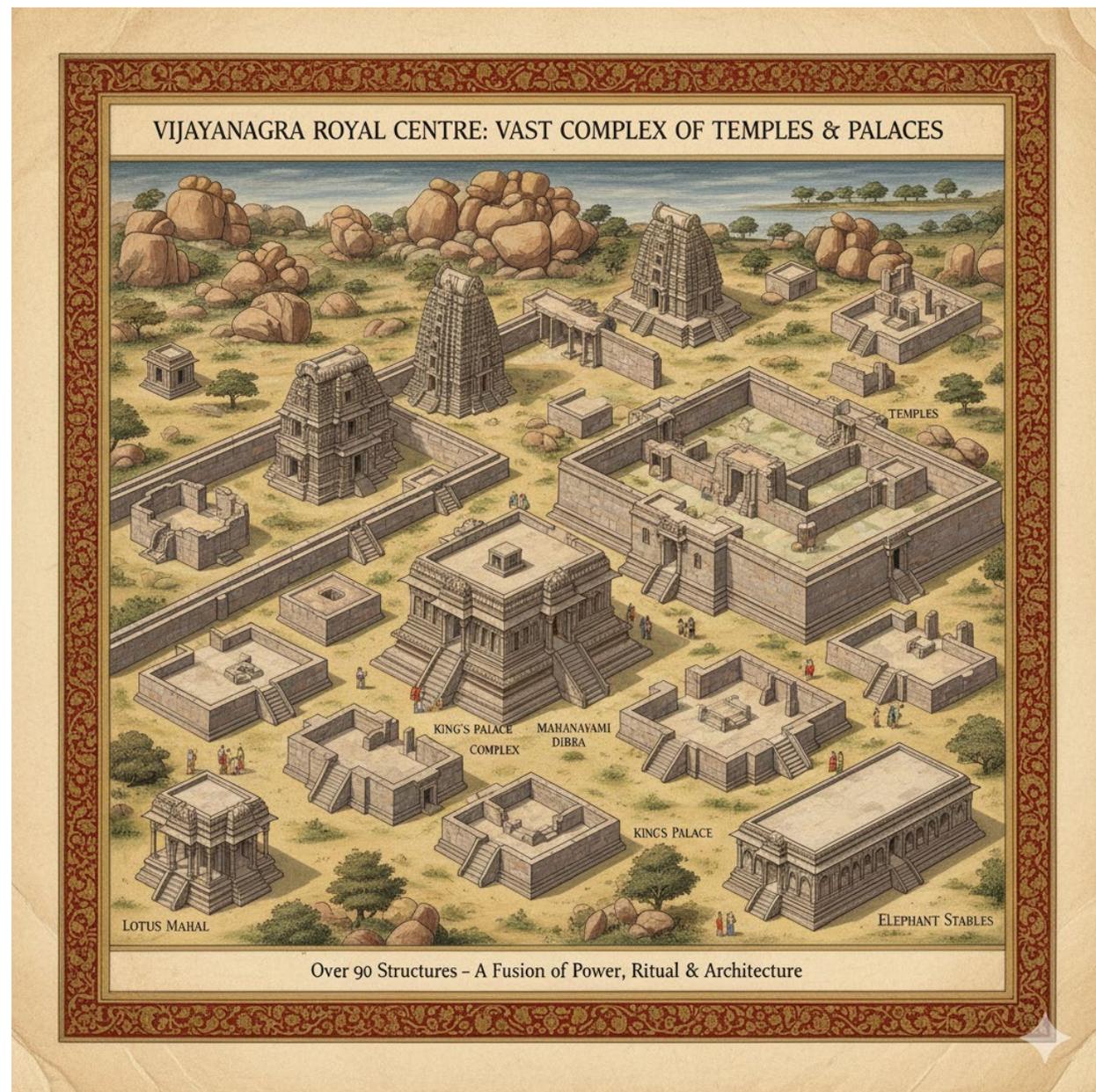
Ans.

1. The empire was weakened internally by rebellious *nayakas* (military chiefs) after the death of its greatest ruler, Krishnadeva Raya.
2. The central power shifted to the Aravidu dynasty, whose leader Rama Raya's aggressive policy against the Deccan Sultanates proved disastrous.
3. The combined armies of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda decisively defeated and killed Rama Raya at the **Battle of Talikota (1565)**.
4. The victorious armies then sacked and destroyed the capital city, leading to its eventual abandonment.

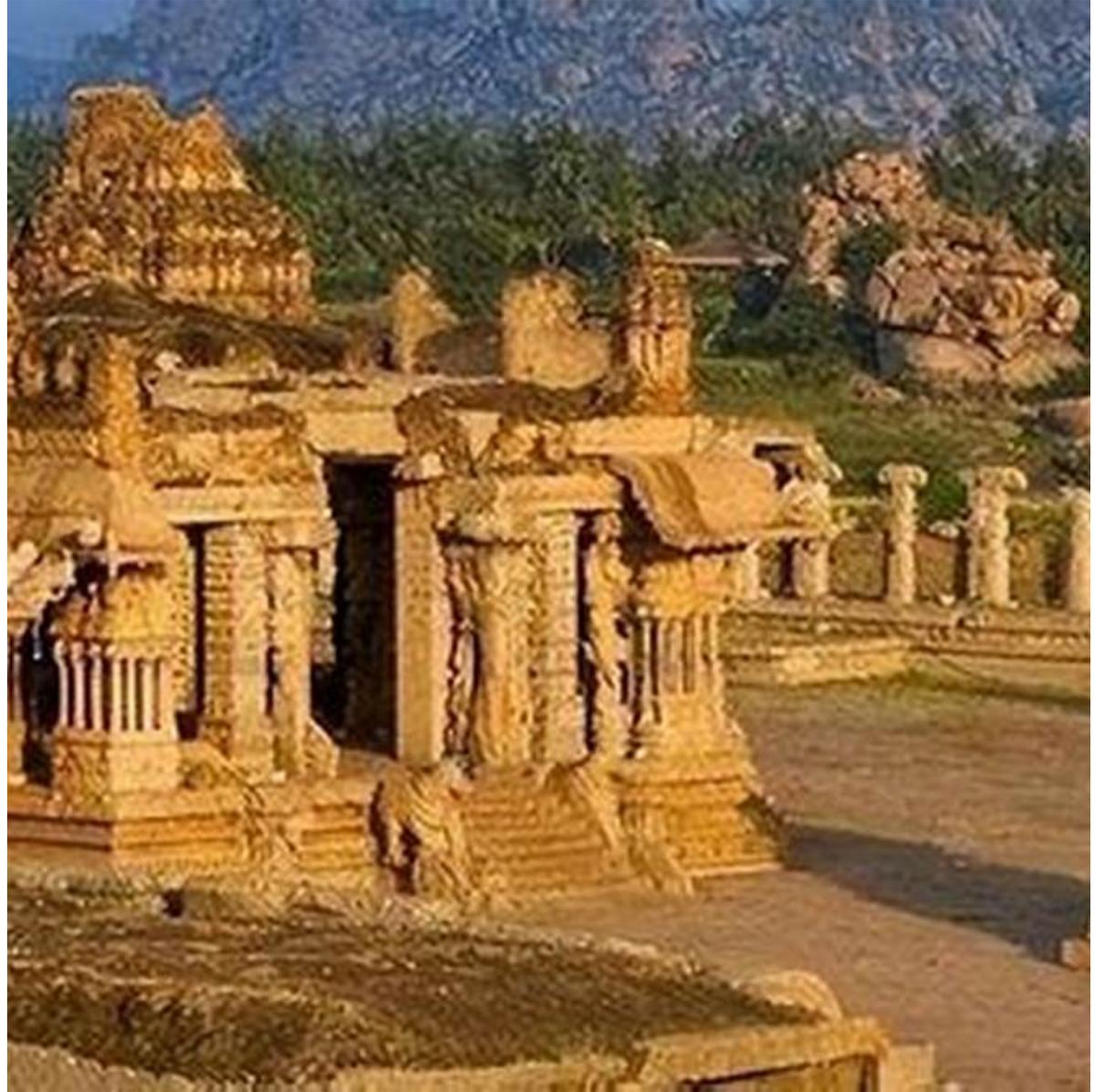
Q. 44 Explain the distinctive features of the Royal Centre of Vijayanagara Empire. (8 Marks, 2023 Main - OR)

Ans. The Royal Centre, located in the southwestern part of the settlement, was the administrative heart of the empire and had distinctive features:

- 1. Vast Complex:** It included over 60 temples and 30 building complexes identified as palaces or royal structures.
- 2. King's Palace:** This was the largest complex, though no definitive royal residence has been found. It included two key platforms.







- 3. The Audience Hall:** This was a high, two-storeyed platform with wooden pillars. The first floor was a high platform, and the second was a hall.

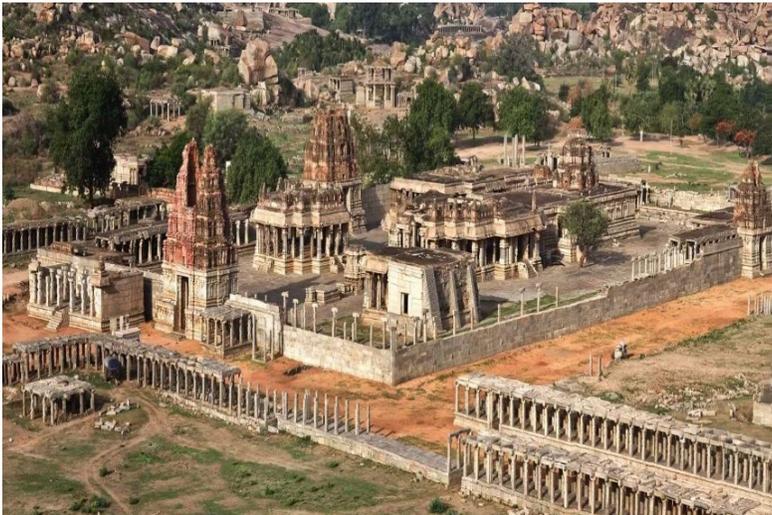


- 4. The Mahanavami Dibba:** This was a massive, 11,000 sq. ft. platform rising to 40 ft. It was the site of major royal rituals (worship, sacrifice) during the Mahanavami (Dussehra) festival, where the king displayed his power and received tribute from his *nayakas*.
- 5. The Lotus (or Chitrangini) Mahal:** A beautiful two-storeyed building with a distinctive design of arched gateways and domed chambers, it was likely a council chamber where the king met his advisers.



1. **The Hazara Rama Temple:** This was a magnificent temple within the Royal Centre, likely used only by the king and his family. Its inner walls are covered in sculpted panels depicting scenes from the Ramayana.
2. **Other Structures:** The area also included the Elephant Stables and other ceremonial buildings.

Hazara Ram Temple



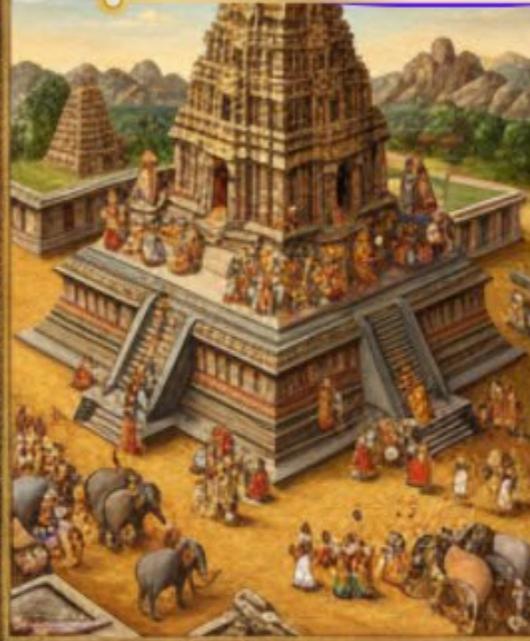
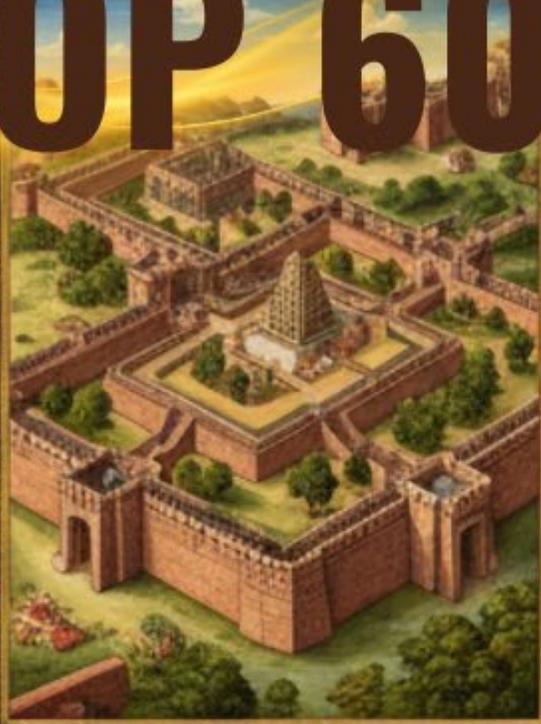
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TOP 60

Part-12



HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CBSE EXAM 2025-26"

Ruins, Rituals & Royal Power

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VIJAYNAGAR-HAMPI

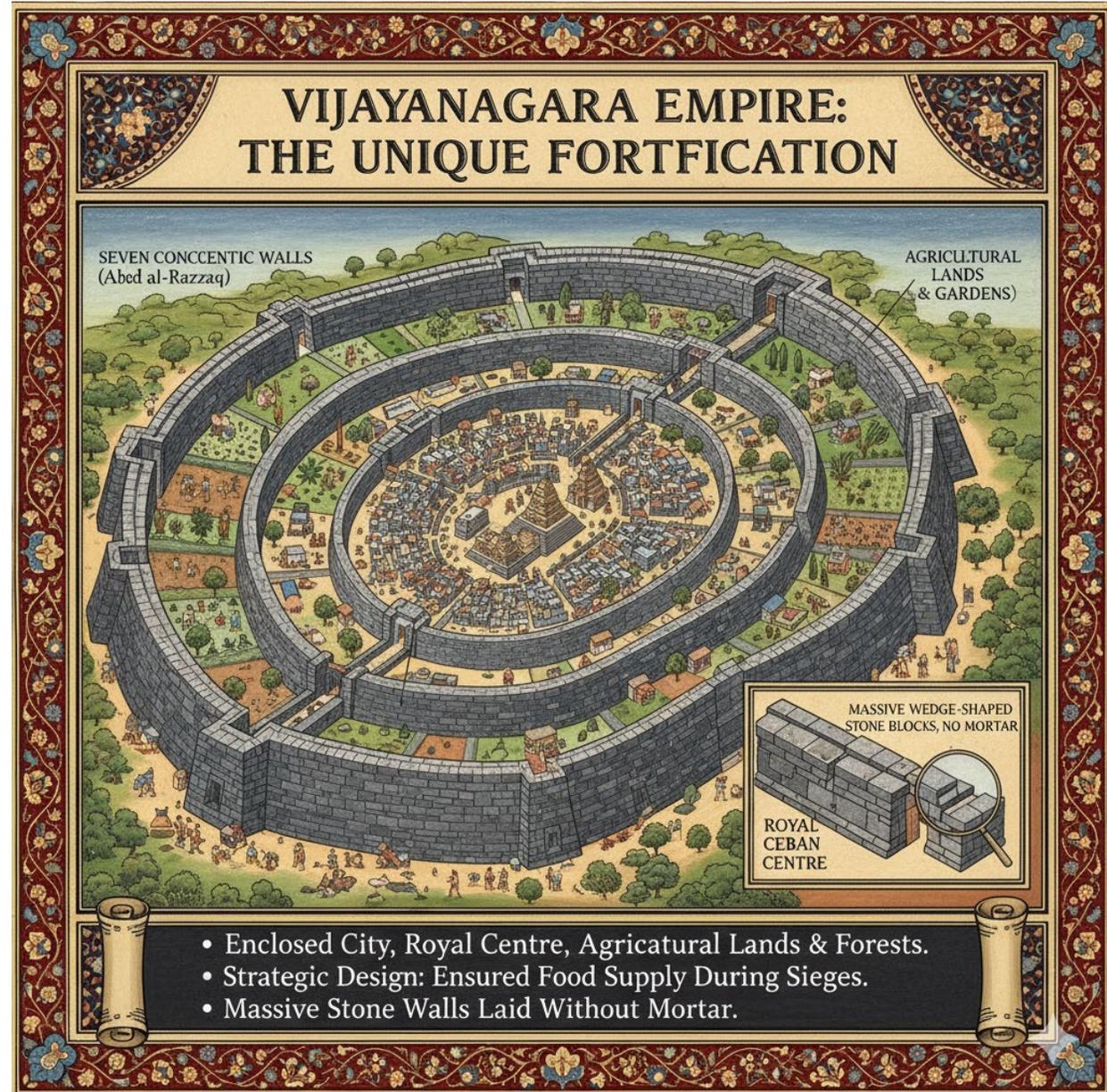
<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSocietalSense>

Chapter wise previous year paper

Q.45 Examine the uniqueness of the fortification of the Vijayanagar empire. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)

Ans.

1. The fortification was unique and impressive, **consisting of seven concentric lines of walls**, according to the Persian ambassador Abd al-Razzaq.
2. It enclosed not only the city and the Royal Centre but also **agricultural lands, gardens, and forests**.
3. This was a deliberate strategy **to ensure the city had its own food supply** and could withstand long sieges without starvation.
4. The walls were built of massive, wedge-shaped stone blocks laid without mortar.



Q.46 Analyse the contribution of Colin Mackenzie towards the history of Vijayanagar. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp - OR)

Ans.

1. Colin Mackenzie, an engineer and antiquarian (and later the first Surveyor General of India), brought the ruins of Hampi (Vijayanagara) to light.
2. He visited the site in 1800 and prepared the first survey map of the ruins.
3. His initial information was based on the oral traditions of the priests of the Virupaksha temple.
4. This information, along with his surveys and inscriptions, was crucial for historians to begin reconstructing the history of the forgotten empire.





Simple version

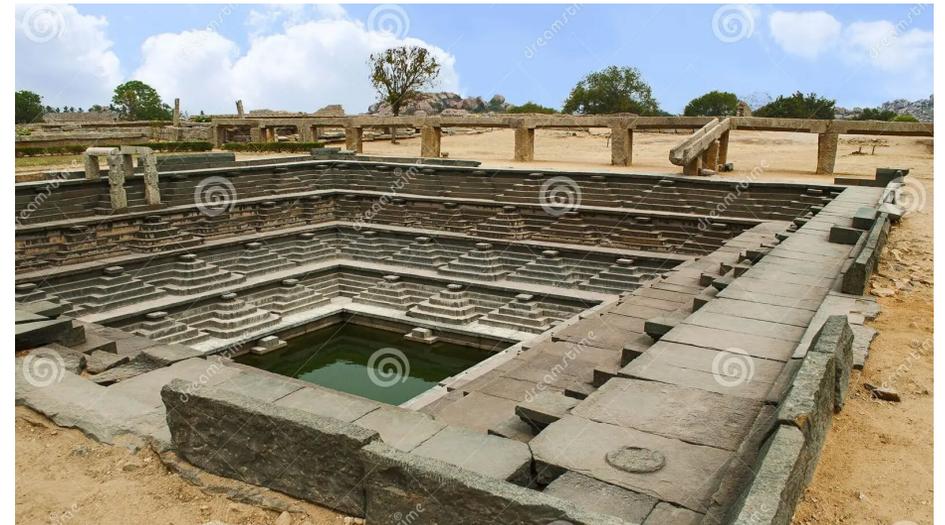
Colin Mackenzie. (3 Marks)

- He was the first **Surveyor General** of India.
- Prepared the first **map** of Hampi ruins.
- Collected **oral traditions** from priests.

Q.47 Explain the water resource management of Vijayanagara empire with examples. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)

Ans.

1. Vijayanagara was located in one of the most arid zones of the peninsula, near the natural basin of the Tungabhadra River.
2. The rulers built sophisticated water works.
3. Embankments were built along the river to create reservoirs of various sizes.
4. Examples include the **Kamalapuram tank** (built in the 15th century), which supplied water for irrigation and also, via a channel, to the Royal Centre.
5. The **Hiriya canal** drew water from a dam on the Tungabhadra to irrigate the cultivated valley.





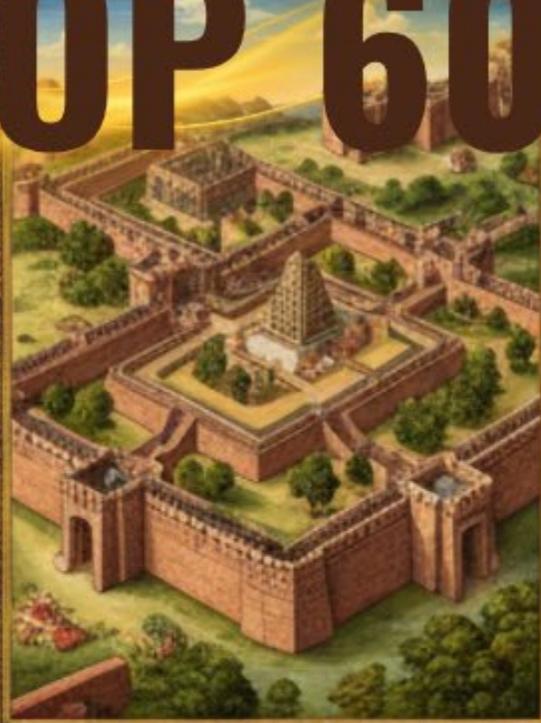
Simple version

Water Management in Vijayanagara. (3 Marks)

- Built **embankments** on Tungabhadra river.
- **Kamalapuram tank** supplied water to the Royal Centre.
- **Hiriya Canal** was used for irrigation.

TOP 60

Part-13



HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CBSE EXAM 2025-26"

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chapter wise previous year paper

Q.48 Examine the features of Vitthala Temple of Vijayanagara empire. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)

Ans. _____

1. The Vitthala temple is dedicated to Vitthala, a form of Vishnu worshipped in Maharashtra.
2. Its key features include several large pillared halls (*mandapas*) with intricately carved pillars (some of which were "singing pillars").
3. Its most famous feature is a unique **stone chariot** (*ratha*), located in the temple courtyard.
4. The temple complex is also known for its long "chariot streets" that extended from the main *gopuram*.



Q.49 Describe the religious architectural traditions of the Vijayanagara Empire. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp - OR)

Ans. The rulers of Vijayanagara built upon existing traditions to create a distinct and grand style of temple architecture:

- 1. Massive Gopurams:** The construction of enormous royal gateways, or *gopurams* often dwarfed the central shrine towers. (e.g., at Virupaksha temple)
- 2. Mandapas (Pillared Halls):** The empire expanded existing temples by adding elaborate pillared halls, or *mandapas*. These carved pillars, often featuring animals, deities, and royal figures.
- 3. Kalyana Mandapa:** The *kalyana mandapa*, a large, open-air hall with a raised platform in the centre, used for a variety of functions including the ceremonial marriages of the deities.
- 4. Virupaksha Temple:** This was the main cult centre, dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, the guardian deity. The rulers enlarged it significantly. Krishnadeva Raya built the large hall in front of the main shrine, which is decorated with carved pillars.
- 5. Vitthala Temple:** It is famous for its "singing pillars" and, most notably, a unique **stone chariot** (*ratha*) that stands as a shrine in the courtyard.
- 6. Chariot Streets:** The creation of long, wide "chariot streets" that extended from the temple *gopuram*. These streets, flanked by pillared halls, served as bazaars and were the focal point for grand festival processions.



Simple version

Features of Vijayanagara Temples. (8 Marks)

- Huge gateways called **Gopurams**.
- Large pillared halls called **Mandapas**.
- **Kalyana Mandapa** used for divine marriages.
- **Chariot streets** paved for festivals.
- **Stone Chariot** in Vitthala Temple.
- **Musical Pillars** in Vitthala Temple.
- **Virupaksha Temple** was the main shrine.
- Carvings showed **royal figures** and animals.

Follow up Questions

Q. Describe the significance of the Vijayanagara Empire in Indian history. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp)

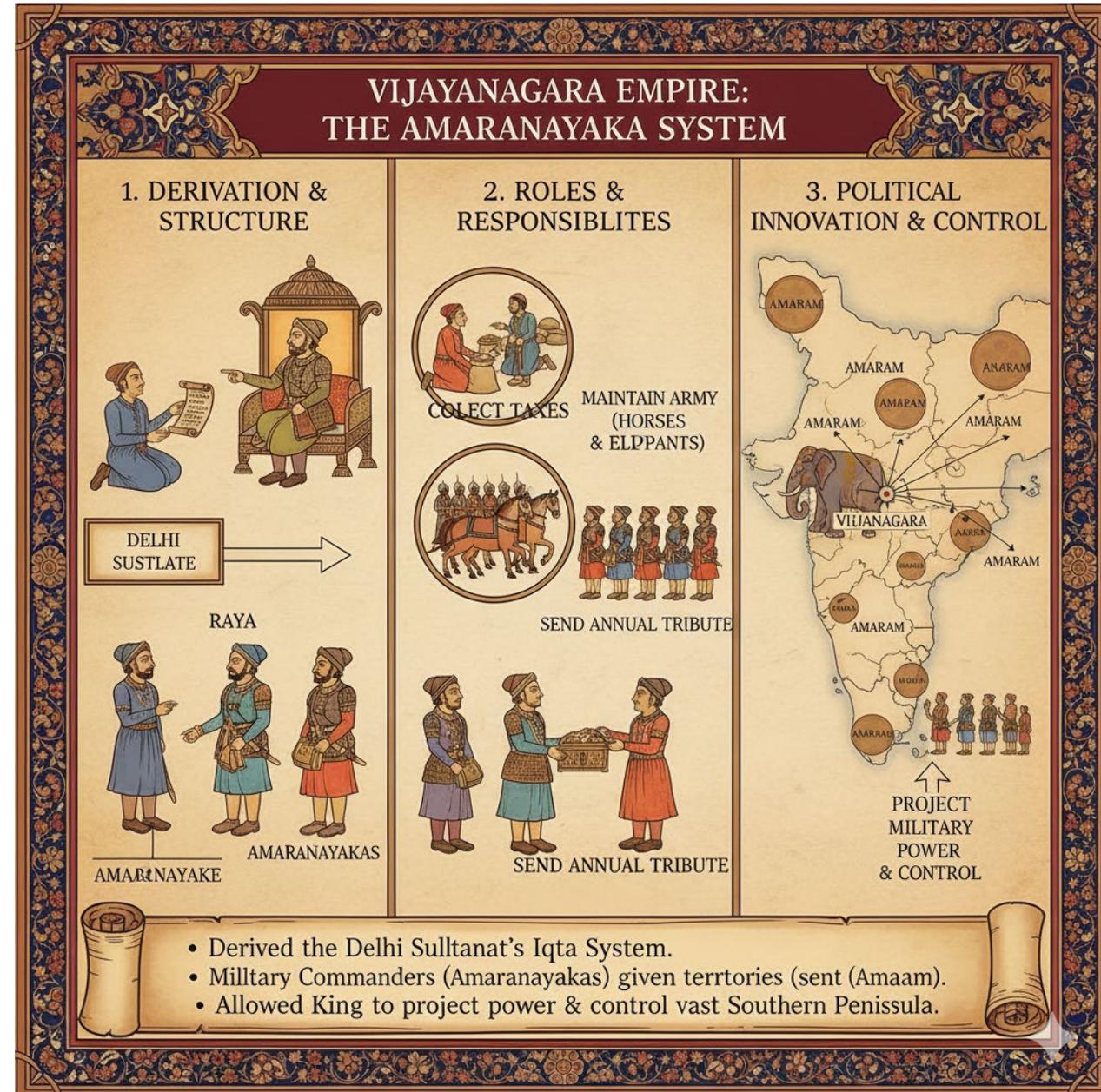
Ans. The Vijayanagara Empire holds great significance in Indian history:

- 1. Political Innovation:** It developed the **Amaranayaka system**, a unique political structure that allowed it to control a vast, diverse territory.
- 2. Engineering and Water Management:** In an arid region, the empire mastered hydraulic engineering, building tanks (Kamalapuram), canals (Hiriya), and embankments on the Tungabhadra River.
- 3. Unique Military Architecture:** Its system of fortification was unique. By enclosing agricultural lands within seven lines of walls, it created a capital that could withstand long sieges.
- 4. Patronage of Architecture:** The rulers developed a distinct architectural style. They built massive *gopurams* (gateways), intricate *mandapas* (halls), and unique structures like the stone chariot (Vitthala Temple) and the Mahanavami Dibba.
- 5. Cultural Synthesis:** The empire was a centre of culture. Rulers like Krishnadeva Raya were poets themselves (*Amuktamalyada*). The architecture of the "Lotus Mahal" shows a synthesis of Indian and Indo-Islamic styles.
- 6. Religious Role:** The kings ruled on behalf of **Lord Virupaksha** and used the title "Hindu Suratrana" (Hindu Sultan), signifying their unique position as protectors of Hindu traditions while interacting with Sultanates.
- 7. Historical Legacy:** The ruins at Hampi, brought to light by Colin Mackenzie, are now a UNESCO World Heritage site, providing a complete and unparalleled insight into a medieval Hindu capital.

Q.50 Analyse why was Amaranayaka system considered as a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara empire. (3 Marks, 2025 Main - OR)

Ans.

1. The Amaranayaka system was a major political innovation derived from the *iqta* system of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. The Amaranayakas were military commanders who were given territories (*amaram*) to govern by the *raya* (king).
3. In return, they collected taxes, maintained a fixed contingent of horses and elephants for the king, and sent an annual tribute.
4. This system allowed the king to project his military power and control over the vast and diverse southern peninsula.



Follow up Questions

Q. Describe the role of Nayakas and Amara-Nayakas in the administration of Vijayanagar. (8 Marks)

Ans. The *nayakas* and *amaranayakas* were powerful military chiefs who played a central role in the administration.

Nayakas:

1. *Nayakas* were military chiefs who usually controlled forts and had armed supporters.
2. They were often migratory, moving from place to place, sometimes with peasants, in search of fertile land.
3. They spoke Telugu or Kannada.
4. While many *nayakas* submitted to the authority of the Vijayanagara kings, they were also frequently rebellious and had to be suppressed by military action.

NAYAKAS: MILITARY CHIEFS & THEIR DYNAMICS

1. POWER & CONTROL



Power & Control



2. MIGRATION & REBELLION



Migratory: Search for Fertile Land



Rebelioies & Suppressed

- Controlled forts with armed supporters.
- Often migroary, with peasents, in search of land.
- Spoke Telugu or Kannada.
- Frequently rebeliolis, supressed by King's millitary

Amara-Nayakas:

1. The **Amaranayaka system** was a major political innovation of the empire, likely derived from the *iqta* system of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. The *amaranayakas* were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the *raya* (king).
3. **Key Duties:**
 - They collected taxes and other dues from peasants, traders, and craftspersons in their territory.
 - They were required to maintain a fixed contingent of horses and elephants for the king's army.
 - They sent an annual tribute (a portion of their revenue) to the king.
 - They appeared in the royal court personally with gifts to express their loyalty.
4. This system allowed the king to maintain a large military force and control a vast territory through these commanders. However, the kings would sometimes transfer them to assert their control, as these powerful chiefs could also become a threat.

Q.53 Describe the role of Nayakas and Amara-Nayakas in the administration of Vijayanagar. (8 Marks)

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Simple version

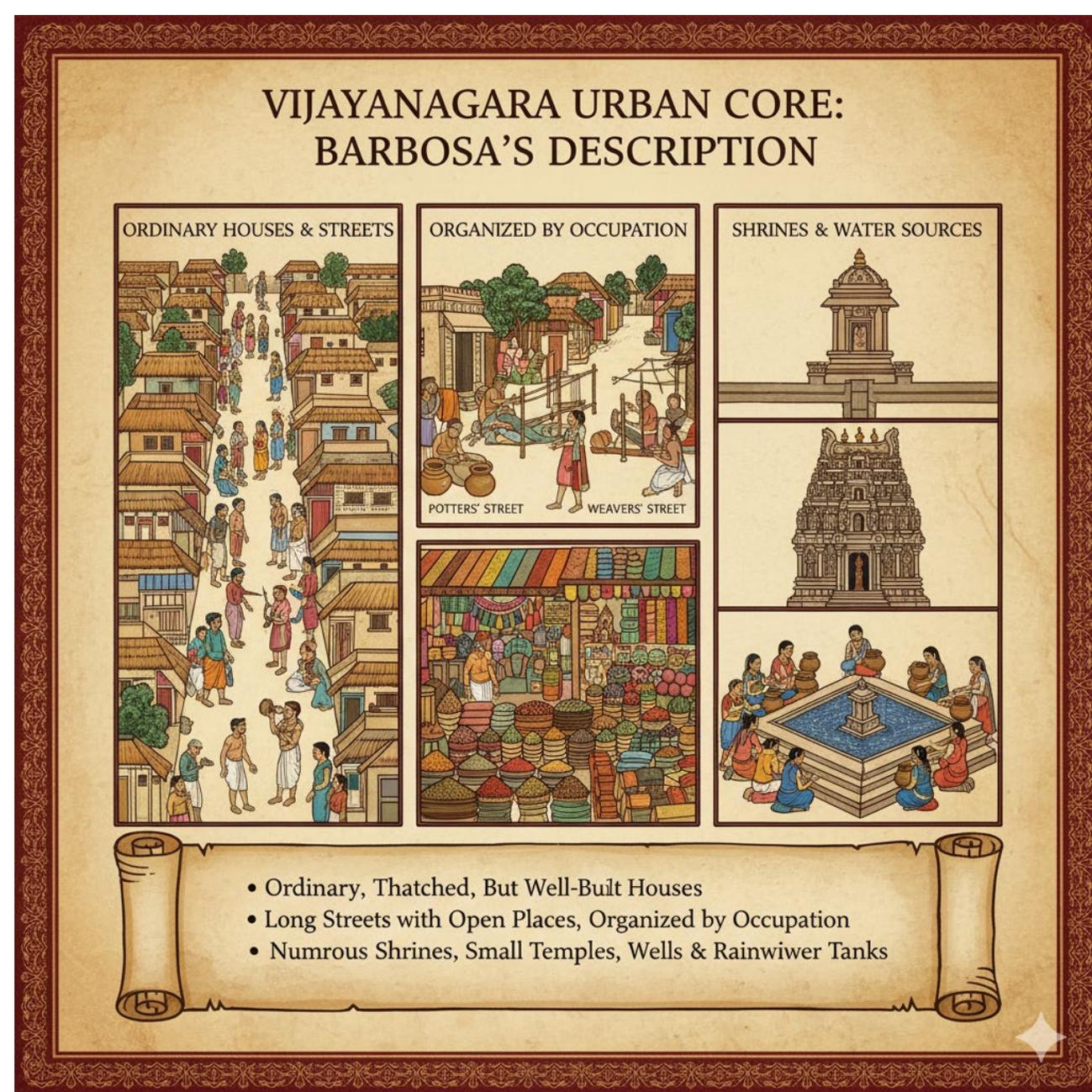
Role of Nayakas and Amara-Nayakas. (8 Marks)

- **Nayakas:** Military chiefs with forts.
- Often moved looking for **fertile land**.
- Sometimes **rebelled** against the King.
- **Amara-Nayakas:** Military commanders governing territories.
- Collected **taxes** from peasants.
- Maintained **horses and elephants** for the King.
- Sent **annual tribute** to the King.
- King **transferred** them to keep control.

Q.51 How did the Portuguese Traveller Barbosa describe the Urban Core of the Vijayanagara Empire? (3 Marks)

Ans.

1. The 16th-century Portuguese traveller Duarte Barbosa described the "Urban Core" as an area with ordinary houses.
2. He noted that the houses of the common people were **thatched, but well-built**.
3. They were **arranged in long streets with many open places**, and were often organized by occupation.
4. This area had numerous shrines, small temples, wells, and rainwater tanks, serving the needs of the general population.





Simple version

Barbosa on Urban Core. (3 Marks)

- Common houses were **thatched** but well-built.
- Arranged in long **streets** by occupation.
- Area had many **shrines and tanks**.