**Department of History,**

**III BA ‘A’ Paper-VI**

**Ancient Karnataka History**

**KNMNC, Shivamogga.**

**Historical Sources:**

Introduction: There is no history without sources.But unfortunately the sources of India.History are not properly preserved.The reason for this was the negligent attitude of the Ancient Indians towards their history, Historical literature too is not wanting.The sources are diverse in nature and variety and they throw a flood of light on the political social economic and religious conditions of south india from time to time.

The sources of historyof karnataka can be divided into major groups.

**Sources**

**Literary sources Arachelogical sources**

 **I)Literary sources:-**

Karnataka is the home of rich literature in kannada,sanskrit and urdu as well as persian.They have all served as averge good source to write the history of karnataka.

**1.Indigeneus Literature:**

* Chavundararayana purana:This litreray work was written by Chavundaraya,a minister of Ganga kings of Talakad.This work gives details of the administration of the later Gangas.
* Kavirajamarga: This is a very famous work in kannada literature written by glorious Rashtrakuta king Amogavarsh Nrupatunga.Kavirajmarga is the first available work in kannada literature.This work has referred karnataka had extend from Godavari in the north toCauvery in the south.
* Pampa : Pampa has detalt with in detial about the history of the chalukya king arikesari & other kings in this work pampas adipurana & vikramarjunavijiaya written the 10th century A.D are the two immortal epics in kannada language.
* Works of Ranna : Ranna has written Ajitanatha purana & Gadayudda or sahasa Bhimavijaya. The former work gives us some infromation about Tailapa IInd . In Gadayudda ranna has compared his patron Irivabedanga satyasraya to bhima o f Mahabaratha.
* Bhilhana : He wrote vikramanka deva charita. He describes the achievements of vikramditya VI in this work & hence it has historical value
* Janna : He worte Ananthanathapurana and yashodharachorite during ballala II.
* Someshwara III: The chalukyan king someshwar III has been the author of a work entitled Manasollasa (Shobdartha Chintemani) which could easily be considered the oldest work on Karnataka music &Bharata music& Bharata natyam. But in manasallasa for the firtst time the prevalent musical tradition has been referred to as ‘Karnataka music.’ Jagadekamalla son of someshwar has writeen sangettha chudamani.
* Gangadevi wrote Madura Vijaya described the achivements of Kampana also depicts the life and polity of that time.
* Sri Krishnadevaraya himself wrote Amuktamalyada.In this work he was described Rajaneeti and Dandaneeti.
* Lingana wrote Keladi Nirupavijaya describes the rule of the Keladi chiefs.

**Religious work:**

* Ramanujacharya toured Karnataka when the Hoysala kings were ruling and this treatises are about vaishnava religion.
* Basaveshwara the chief minister of kalachuri king Bijjala has enriched Kannada language with his Vachanas or gospels.These religious works throw light on the social life of those times,
* The dwaita philosopher Madvacharyas critics are also of considerable importance in this context.

**Local records:**

* Kadathas of Black cloth
* The Bakhairs
* The kaifiyats

**2.Foreign Literature:**

The scholars,merchents,diplomats,preachers and pilgrims from abroad who toured India have recorded their experience in this country.

* The Greek astronomer Potlemy in his account has referred to Banavasi,Badami,Pattadakallu and punnata.
* The Peripuls of Erithraean sea by an unknown Greek author tells about the trade and commercial relation between south India and foreign lands.
* Pliny who hadvisited the western coast even before Ptolemy has also given an account of the same in this work.South India had trade relation with Greece,Egypt and Rome.
* Italian traveller Marco Polo gives as an account about south India,Cholas in particular.
* Huien Tsang work Si-Yu-ki referred to the battle between Pulikeshi and Harsha of Thaneshwara.
* Tabari an Arab scholar has also referredto the greatness of Pulakeshi II.
* Another sholar Suliaman referred to the Rashtrakutas.
* The account of foregin travellers is of great importance in knowing about the glory of vijayanagara empire. These writers seem to have depicted the picture of vijayanagara in an objective way on the basis of their experience. Among tHem Nicolo conti of vencie (italy), Abdul Razak the persian ambassador, Barbosa & Domingo paes of Protugal, Petro Dellavella of Italy were of great importance .

**II) Archaelogical Sources:-**

The information dervied from archeological sources are as important as that of literary sources in reconstructing the history of a country. Some history of a particular period has to be reconstructed with the help of archaeological sources only study of ruinshouses,graves,weapons,tools,potteries,inscription, coins,monuments, art and architecture,a good deal of historical information can be derived.

**Exacavations:**

The department of archaeological various excavations have been undertaken by the historians in different parts of karnataka.

* In the excavation conducted at chandravalli by K.Paddiah, Dr Sheshadri,M.H.krishna throw light and ancient karnataka.
* The Sanganakallu excavation conducted by Dr.Subba Rao throw light on the middle stone age culture.
* Copper plates and untensils are excavated in the areas of Maski and Brahmagiri.
* Indian history and Epigrapy, Karnataka univercity, Dharwad and Mysore univercity conducted excavations at Hemmagi, Hallur, Therdal, Banavasi,Wadagas Madhavapura, T.Narsipura and other places.

**Inscriptions:**

The ancient writings on the stone and rocks are called the inscriptions.It has classified into inscriptions and copper plates. Usually these inscriptions were issued by the rulers under their seal.

* The oldest inscriptions of India are the inscriptions of the Maurya emperor Ashoka.Edicts and inscriptions of Ashoka are found in many parts of karnataka.Particularly in Siddapura, Maski, Brahmagiri and Jatinga Rameshwara,Nitturu, Udayagola etc are in Bramhi script..These edicts suggest boundaries of the Southern parts of Ashokan empire.
* After the shatavahanas, Kadambas, Rashrakutas, Hoysalas, sevanus and the emperers of vijayanagara have issued many inscriptions.
* Chandravalli inscription was described the achivements of Mayuravarma.
* The Talagunda inscription of shantivarma.It belongs to 5th century A.D.
* The Ihole Inscription composed by Ravikeerthi throws light on the Badami chalukyas.This inscription gives us information about Pulikeshi II and his victory over Harsha and also about his successors.
* The Kappe Arabhatta Prashasti of 7th century A.D inscribed on a rock at Tattikhote near Badami
* Dr.Fleet and Rice laid the foundation for the study of karnataka.

**Numismatics:**

Since the early times.the kings issued various types of coins have helped us to trace the history of who ruled over karnataka.

* Kadamba coins were known as padmatanka. These coins contain the pictures of loin, elephant. Lotus, hanuman etc.
* The gold coins of Vijayanagara were called pagoda. Gadyana, pratapa, pana, Haga, Kata etc.
* The coins of Hyder Ali were called pagoda and phenam. They had the parsi letter on the one side and picture of Shiva-Parvati on other side .Hy inscribed on them.
* The British time saw along with the gold rupee coins, annas of nickel. ½ anna of copper, duddu and pai. Paise came into circulation since 1957. The qualities of the coin help us to decide economic condition of state.

**Paintings:**

The paintings of Ajanta, Hampi, Lepakshi, gutti. Bijapur, Hyderabad, Mysore, Sira etc have helped in the compilation of the history of India. There are roof paintings, half paintings, miniature paintings and book illustration of Puranas, Ramayanas, Rangamalas and Kavyas. These paintings throw light on the dress manners. Hair styles, jewels, social, religious and other aspects of human life.

**Monuments:**

Karnataka abound in many historical monuments in the form of temples, basadis and mosques, viharas, public buildings, helps us in knowing the day to day life in those days.The great dynasties that ruled in karnataka, viz,. The kadambas. Gangas, Chalukyas, Rastrakutas, Hoysala and Vijayanagara kings had built pictresque temples and big palaces. The role of these are of paramount importance in the study of culture history.

**Sculpture:**

The magnificient sculptures of Ellora, Badami, caves. The stone statue of Nandi and statue of wodeyars in Mysore and Nandi, Nagalinga of Lepakshi and Nandi at Halebeedu the Shilabalikas or Madanika vigrahas of Belur and Halebeeduetc,throw light on remarkable talent of the sculptors. Bahubali statue at Shravanabelagola, Karkala, Mudabidri and Dharmastala in south canara district throws light on jainism.