

Seminar on Jainism in Karnataka – Bangalore NIAS (24th – 25th, February

Topic: JAINISM IN VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE (1336-1565 C.E.)

ABSTRACT

Jainism in Karnataka had reached its zenith during the pre-Vijayanagar period. During the Vijayanagara period (1336-1565 C.E.), however, Jainism began to decline. While this decline was made visible in the seat of the empire and in its heartland – which are represented by present day interior Karnataka - Jainism, surprisingly, flourished well and continued to be a prominent religion in coastal Karnataka districts, which were the provincial periphery of the empire. This paper attempts to describe these changes in the fortunes of Jainism, and suggests reasons for them.

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