

Hampi

July 16, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



Hampi Latest News

Recently, a mantapa at Virupaksha Temple collapsed due to heavy rain, sparking concerns over neglect.

About Hampi

- **Hampi** was the **capital city of the Vijayanagara Empire**, established in **1336 CE** by **Harihara I** and **Bukka Raya I** of the **Sangama Dynasty**.
- **Location:** Traditionally **known as Pampakshetra of Kishkindha**, Hampi is located in **central Karnataka** on the banks of the **Tungabhadra River**.
- Foreign travellers like **Domingo Paes** described Vijayanagara as **“as large and beautiful as Rome”**, highlighting its architectural grandeur and prosperity.
- The empire fell in **1565 CE** after the **Battle of Talikota**, where the **Deccan Sultanates defeated Rama Raya**, leading to mass destruction. The city reportedly **burned for six months**.
- **Hampi remained forgotten** until the **late 18th century** when British antiquarian **Colin Mackenzie** mapped it in **1799**, creating the first cartographic records.

- Early photographs and restoration attempts were made by British officials like **Alexander Greenlaw**, showcasing **colonial-era interest in Indian heritage**.
- The first major conservation initiative, the **Hampi National Project**, was launched in **1976**.
- Excavations revealed **key sites** such as the **Vitthala Temple bazaar**, **Pushkarini (stepped tank)**, and **Paan-supari bazaar**.
 - Prominent landmarks include the **Virupaksha Temple**, **Lotus Mahal**, **Queen's Bath**, and **Elephant Stables**.
- Hampi was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986**, recognising it as one of **India's largest archaeological zones**, covering **250 sq. km** and housing over **1,600 monuments**.

Hampi FAQs

Q1. Why is Hampi famous in Indian history?

Ans. Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its rich Dravidian architecture and historic significance.

Q2. Where is Hampi located?

Ans. Hampi is located in the Ballari district of Karnataka, India, along the banks of the Tungabhadra River.

Q3. Which dynasty is associated with Hampi?

Ans. The Vijayanagara dynasty ruled from Hampi, making it a key cultural and political center between the 14th and 16th centuries.

Source: **IE**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/key-facts-about-hampi/>

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