

Virupaksha Temple

June 4, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Virupaksha Temple Latest News

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recently removed the walls built inside the main gopuram of Virupaksha Temple, where a mantapa was converted into an office.

About Virupaksha Temple

- The Virupaksha, also known as the **Pampapathi temple**, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, a form of **Lord Shiva**.
- It is located in **Hampi**, within the Vijayanagara district of **Karnataka**.
- Situated on the **southern bank of the Tungabhadra River**, it is **part of the Group of Monuments at Hampi**, designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 1986.
- Considered the most renowned and significant temple in Hampi, Virupaksha Temple has been operational without interruption since its **establishment in the 7th century AD**, making it **one of the oldest functioning temples in India**.
- **Development:**

- Initially a modest shrine, it was later **expanded during the Chalukyas and Hoysala periods**.
- The temple experienced **considerable growth** and enhancement during the **Vijayanagara Empire (14th-16th centuries)**, evolving into a prominent religious and cultural hub.
- The rulers of Vijayanagara, especially **King Deva Raya II and King Krishnadevaraya**, played a crucial role in the **temple's expansion, contributing** structures such as the **eastern gopuram and the central pillared hall**.

Virupaksha Temple Architecture

- The temple is built in the **Dravidian architectural style**, featuring towering **gopurams, detailed carvings, pillared halls**, and expansive **courtyards**.
- The design of the temple includes **repeating patterns**, showcasing the architectural and **mathematical expertise** of the era.
- The **triangular form** of the temple and the manner in which patterns are divided and repeated are particularly remarkable.
- The temple complex includes a **sanctum sanctorum, multiple pillared halls** (the most elaborate being a hall with 100 pillars), antechambers, and **grand gopurams** (gateway towers).
- The temple has **three prominent gopurams**, with the **eastern gopuram** being the **largest**, reaching a height of 160 feet and consisting of nine tiers.
- The **gopurams** are **adorned with beautiful sculptures** of various Hindu deities.
- The temple's design incorporates **principles of physics**, such as the Rectilinear Light Theory and the pinhole camera effect.
- Notably, the temple features an **inverted pinhole image of its tower on the inner wall**, a remarkable example of ancient engineering.

Source: **TOI**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/virupaksha-temple/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.