



Hampi

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Why in News

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is about to install a wooden barricade around the **stone chariot inside Vittala Temple complex** at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi to protect it from damage.

The Vittala Temple is among the **most-visited and the most photographed** protected monuments at Hampi.

- Hampi is the **14th century capital of the Vijayanagar Empire**, located in the **Tungabhadra basin in Bellary District, Central Karnataka.**
- Vittala Temple Complex is the finest example of **Vijaynagar Temple Architecture.**
A large number of royal buildings were raised by **Krishnadeva Raya (A.D. 1509-30)** and **Vittala Temple Complex is one of them.**
- Temples of Hampi are noted for their large dimensions, florid ornamentation, bold and delicate carvings and stately pillars which include **subjects from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.**
- Majority of these temples in Hampi were provided with widespread bazaars flanked on either side by storied Mandapas.
- The **Mahanavami Dibba, a variety of ponds and tanks, and the row of pillared Mandapas** are some of the important architectural remains of Hampi. In **1986**, Hampi was declared a **World Heritage site by UNESCO.**

Vijaynagar Empire

- Vijayanagara or “city of victory” was the name of both a city and an empire.
- The empire was founded in the fourteenth century (1336 AD) by Harihara and Bukka of Sangama dynasty. They made Hampi as the capital city.
- It stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula.

- Vijayanagar Empire was ruled by four important dynasties and they are:
 - Sangama
 - Saluva
 - Tuluva
 - Aravidu
- Krishnadevaraya (ruled 1509-29) of the Tuluva dynasty was the most famous ruler of Vijayanagar.
- He is credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams to many important south Indian temples.
- He composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the Amuktamalyada.

Source: TH