



Hampi

Why in News

Recently, the Vice-president of India visited monuments at the [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) of [Hampi](#) in Vijayanagara district, Karnataka.

Key Points

- The site of Hampi **comprises mainly the remnants of the capital city of the Vijayanagara Empire (14th-16th century CE)**, the last great Hindu Kingdom.
- It **encompasses an area of 4187, 24 hectares**, located in the Tungabhadra basin in Bellary District, Central Karnataka.
- Hampi's **spectacular setting is dominated by river Tungabhadra, craggy hill ranges and open plains** with widespread physical remains.
- One of the unique features of temples at Hampi is the **wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas**.
- Its **Famous places include** Krishna temple complex, Narasimha, Ganesa, Hemakuta group of temples, Achyutaraya temple complex, [Vitthala temple complex](#), Pattabhirama temple complex, Lotus Mahal complex, etc.

▪ Background:

- Hampi **was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire** in the 14th century. The old city of Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy and grand city near the **Tungabhadra River**, with numerous temples, farms and trading markets.

- **By 1500 CE**, Hampi-Vijayanagara was the **world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing**, and probably India's richest at that time, attracting traders from Persia and Portugal.
- The **Vijayanagara Empire was defeated by a coalition of sultanates**; its capital was conquered, pillaged and destroyed by sultanate armies in 1565 (**Battle of Talikota**), **after which Hampi remained in ruins**.

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](#)

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