



# South Indian History- Vijayanagar Empire

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# Foundation

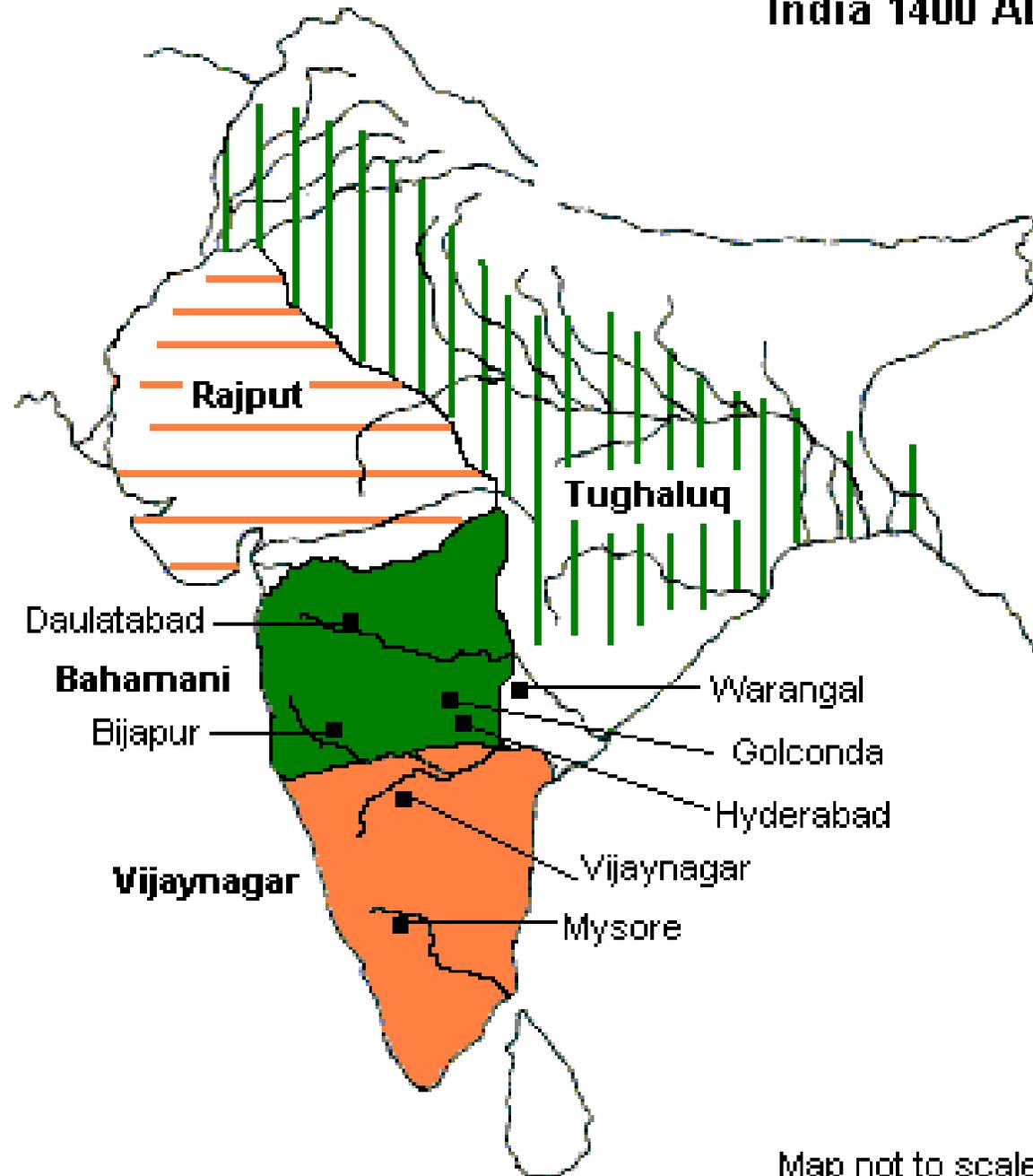
- ▶ The **Vijayanagara Empire** (1336–1646 CE) was one of the greatest South Indian empires, remembered for its political resilience, cultural brilliance, and architectural achievements.
- ▶ **Founded:** 1336 CE by brothers **Harihara I** and **Bukka Raya I**, under the guidance of sage Vidyanaranya.
- ▶ **Context:** Emerged in the wake of Delhi Sultanate expansion into the Deccan, as a Hindu bastion resisting northern invasions.
- ▶ **Capital:** Vijayanagara (modern Hampi, Karnataka). Later shifted to Penukonda, Chandragiri, and Vellore after 1565.



# Post Khilji Period

- After the the Collapse of the Khilji dynasty Thugluqs were unable to hold on to the South.
- By 1336 A.D. the two brothers Hari Hara and Bukka who were either captives or tributaries of Muhammad Bin Thugluq returned to Deccan and founded the Vijaynagar empire.
- The other parts of the Deccan were claimed by Hasan Kangu a nephew of Alauddin Khiljis soldier and he founded the Bahmani Kingdom ,under the name of Hasna Alauddin Bahman Shah.
- Later on this split into five kingdoms of Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, Bidar and Berar.

# India 1400 AD





# Foundation of Vijaynagar kingdom (1336 – 1646 )

- ▶ Vijaynagar kingdom was one of the important kingdoms in the medieval Indian history.
- ▶ Vijaynagar Dynasty rules over India for 3 centuries. It is a history full of wars with Bahamani and other rulers of northern Deccan, collectively said as Deccan sultanates.
- ▶ The Vijayanagar Empire was a South Indian empire based in the Deccan. Established in 1336 by Harihara I and his brother Bukka Raya I, it lasted until 1646.
- ▶ Hampi was its capital and is now a World Heritage Site in modern Karnataka.
- ▶ The writings of medieval European travelers such as Domingo Paes, Fernao Nuniz and Niccolò Da Conti and the literature in local languages provide crucial information about its history.
- ▶ Archaeological excavations at Vijayanagar have revealed the empire's power and wealth.





# Dynasties

- There were four dynasties ruled over Vijaynagar
  - **Sangama Dynasty, 1336 –1485)**
  - **Saluva Dynasty, (1485- 1505)**
  - **Tuluva Dynasty (1491 – 1570)**
  - **Aravidu Dynasty(1542 – 1586)**
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# Important Rulers

- **Harihara I** (1336–1356): Founder, consolidated territories.
- **Bukka Raya I** (1356–1377): Expanded empire, stabilized administration.
- **Deva Raya II** (1423–1446): Strengthened military, patronized literature.
- **Krishna Deva Raya** (1509–1529): Greatest ruler; expanded empire to its zenith, patronized Telugu, Kannada, and Sanskrit literature, built monumental temples.

# Time Line

Period	Capital	Key rulers	Features
1336–1356	Vijayanagara	Harihara I	Foundation
1356–1377	Vijayanagara	Bukka Raya I	Expansion
1423–1446	Vijayanagara	Deva Raya II	Military, literature
1509–1529	Vijayanagara	Krishna Deva Raya	Zenith, temples, trade
1565	Vijayanagara	Rama Raya	Defeat at Talikota
1565–1646	Penukonda, Chandragiri, Vellore	Successors	Decline



# Decline

- **Battle of Talikota (1565):** Confederacy of Deccan Sultanates defeated Vijayanagara.
  - **Aftermath:** Capital sacked, empire weakened, later shifted capitals until final disintegration in 1646.
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# Administration

- **Monarchy:** Emperor as supreme authority.
  - **Provincial divisions:** Empire divided into rajyas and sthalas.
  - **Military:** Strong cavalry and infantry; famous for war elephants and artillery.
  - **Revenue:** Land taxes, trade duties, and temple endowments.
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# Contributions

- **Architecture:**

- Virupaksha Temple, Vittala Temple (with iconic stone chariot), Hazara Rama Temple.
- Blend of Dravidian and Indo-Islamic styles.

- **Literature:** Flourishing of Telugu poets (Allasani Peddana), Kannada works, and Sanskrit texts.

- **Performing arts:** Patronized Carnatic music, dance, and temple-centered festivals.

- **Religion:** Primarily Hinduism, but also supported Jainism and Buddhism.

## **Economy**

- **Agriculture:** Irrigation tanks and canals supported agrarian wealth.

- **Trade:** Cosmopolitan hub—diamonds, spices, textiles exported to Persia, Arabia, and Europe.

- **Urban centers:** Hampi described by travelers like Domingo Paes as one of the richest cities of its time.

# Tuluva dynasty

- Sri Krishna Deva Raya was the most famous king of Vijayanagara Empire. He also earned the titles Kannada Rajya Rama Ramana, Mooru Rayara Ganda (meaning King of three kings) and Andhra Bhoja.
- Krishna Deva Raya was assisted in administration by the very able Prime Minister Timmarusu, who was revered by the king as a father figure and was responsible for his coronation.
- Krishna Deva Raya was the son of Nagala Devi and Tuluva Narasa Nayaka an army commander under Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya, who later took control of the reign of the empire to prevent it from disintegration.
- The king's coronation took place on the birthday of Lord Krishna and his earliest inscription is from July 26, 1509 CE. He built a beautiful suburb near Vijayanagara called Nagalapura in memory of his mother.



# The state

- ▶ Vijaynagar period provide evidence of expanded use of currency- gold, silver and bronze in state and economic transactions.
  - ▶ Taxes were increasingly collected in cash instead of goods.
  - ▶ Currency played an important role in temple donations, payment to military, artisans and other labourers.
  - ▶ Some of the raw materials and craft products were exchanged through market mechanisms.
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# urbanisation

- ▶ There was a trend of increased urbanization (Hampi, the capital city), growth of local and long distance trade (relations with the Portuguese).
  - ▶ There was a large array of power structures including the king, elites, religious elites and administrative personal.
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# Revenues

- ▶ The revenues remitted to the state were:
  1. Land revenue (substantial source).
  2. Commercial levies, duties and customs on the manufactured goods
  3. Industrial taxes.
  4. Special dues on marriages and other social occasions.



# Guilds

- ▶ The artisans were divided into guilds and were accorded high status in the society
  - ▶ Importance of guilds continued and was manifested in their influence in the court.
  - ▶ The power of merchant guilds counter balanced that of the landowners and officials at the court.
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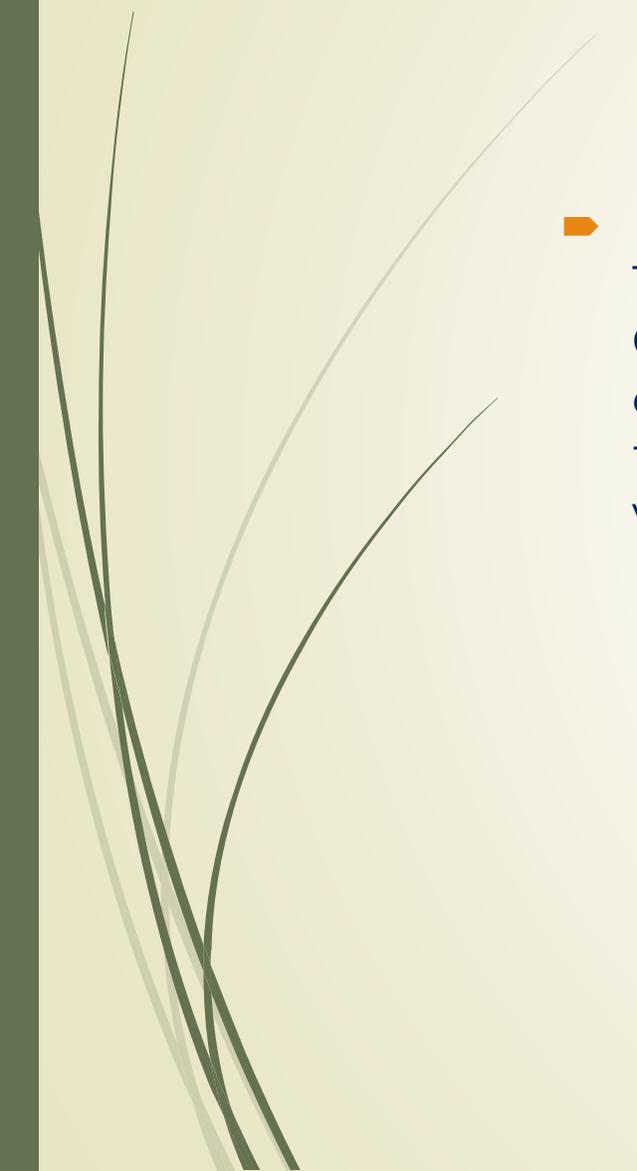


# Overseas trade

- ▶ Krishna Deva writes, “ A king should improve the harbours of his country and so encourage its commerce that horses, elephants, precious gems, sandalwood, pearls, and other articles are freely imported in his country Make the merchants of distant foreign Countries who import elephants and good horses be attached to yourself by providing them with daily audience and presents and by allowing decent profits. Those article should never go to your enemies...”
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# Economy of Vijayanagar Empire

- ▶ The economy of this empire was largely dependent upon agriculture. Coconut was the principal cash crop. Spices such as turmeric, pepper, cardamom and ginger grew in the remote Malnad hill region and were transported to the city for business. The main imports on the east coast were non-ferrous metals, camphor, porcelain, silk and luxury goods.
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## To sum up

- ▶ The kings of the Vijaynagar Empire conquered most of the regions of South India that included the territories of Mysore, Trichinopally, Kanara, Pondicherry, Chingalpet and Kanchivaram.

The Vijaynagar Empire gained prominence under the rule of the King Krishnadev Raya.

The economy of the region flourished and several coins were introduced, and there was extensive trade and commerce and a well laid taxation system.

- ▶ Asll this resulted in the development of art and culture and the region influenced a development in the streams of music, literature and architecture. There were many temples built in the territories that are representative of style of Vijaynagar Empire.



# Travelers on Vijaynagara

- ▶ The city of Bidjanagar is such that the pupil of the eye has never seen a place like it, and the ear of intelligence has never informed that there existed anything to equal it in the world. It is built in such a manner that seven citadel and the same number of walls enclosed each other'
- ▶ **Abdu'r Razzak**, the Persian Ambassador, who sojourned to the Vijayanagara in AD 1443



# Destruction of Hampi

- ▶ The sudden capture and killing of Aliya Rama Raya, successor to Krishnadevaraya in 1565, at the Battle of Talikota, created mayhem and confusion in the Vijayanagara.
  - ▶ The Sultanates' army later plundered Hampi and reduced it to the ruinous state in which it remains; it was never re-occupied.
  - ▶ Tirumala Raya, the sole surviving commander, left Vijayanagar for Penukonda with vast amounts of treasure on the back of 550 elephants.
  - ▶ The empire was finally conquered by the Sultanates of Bijapur and Golkonda.
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# Decline and after

- ▶ In 1565 when the Vijaynagara empire ended after being attacked and plundered, all remains of art and culture were destroyed.
- ▶ **Late 19th century** – Hampi received attention from the then British Indian Government. **1903** (Pre-independence) - the monuments were protected by the then Archaeological Survey of India under the Ancient Monuments Act (1903-04).
- ▶ **1956** (post independence)- Ancient Monuments Act; 56 'monuments' declared as nationally protected monuments and 700 protected by the Karnataka State Department of Archaeology under its Act.
- ▶ **1980**- Beginning of the International Documentation project

# Relevance of Hampi

- ▶ Hampi represents a unique artistic creation and a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- ▶ It bears a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.
- ▶ The city bears exceptional testimony to the vanished civilization of the kingdom of Vijayanagara, which reached its apogee in the reign of Krishnadeva Raya (1509-1530)
- ▶ It is an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history.
- ▶ This capital offers an outstanding example of a type structure, which illustrates a significant historical situation; that of the kingdoms of South India.

## WORLD HERITAGE SITE

“The most magnificent extensive and varied ruins of a metropolis.

A richly constituted military, civil religious residential and secular remains amidst the most picturesque hills and river setting.

Architecture, sculpture, painting and stucco are all integrated in the remains” .



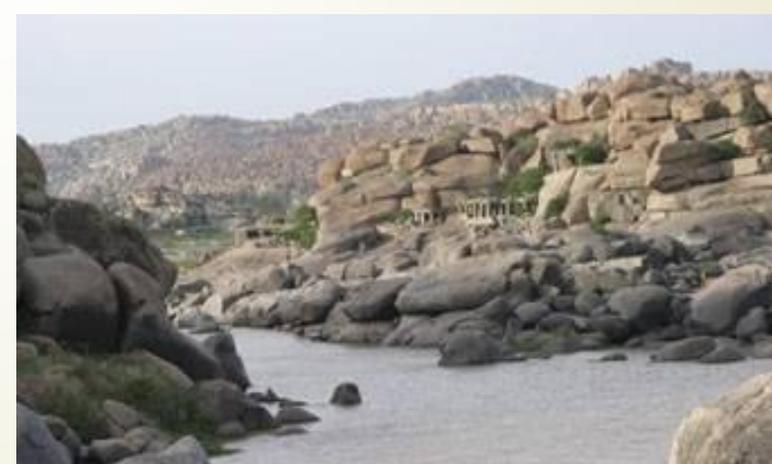
Heritage Components

**SETTING OF THE ANCIENT CAPITAL - HILLS**



## Heritage Components

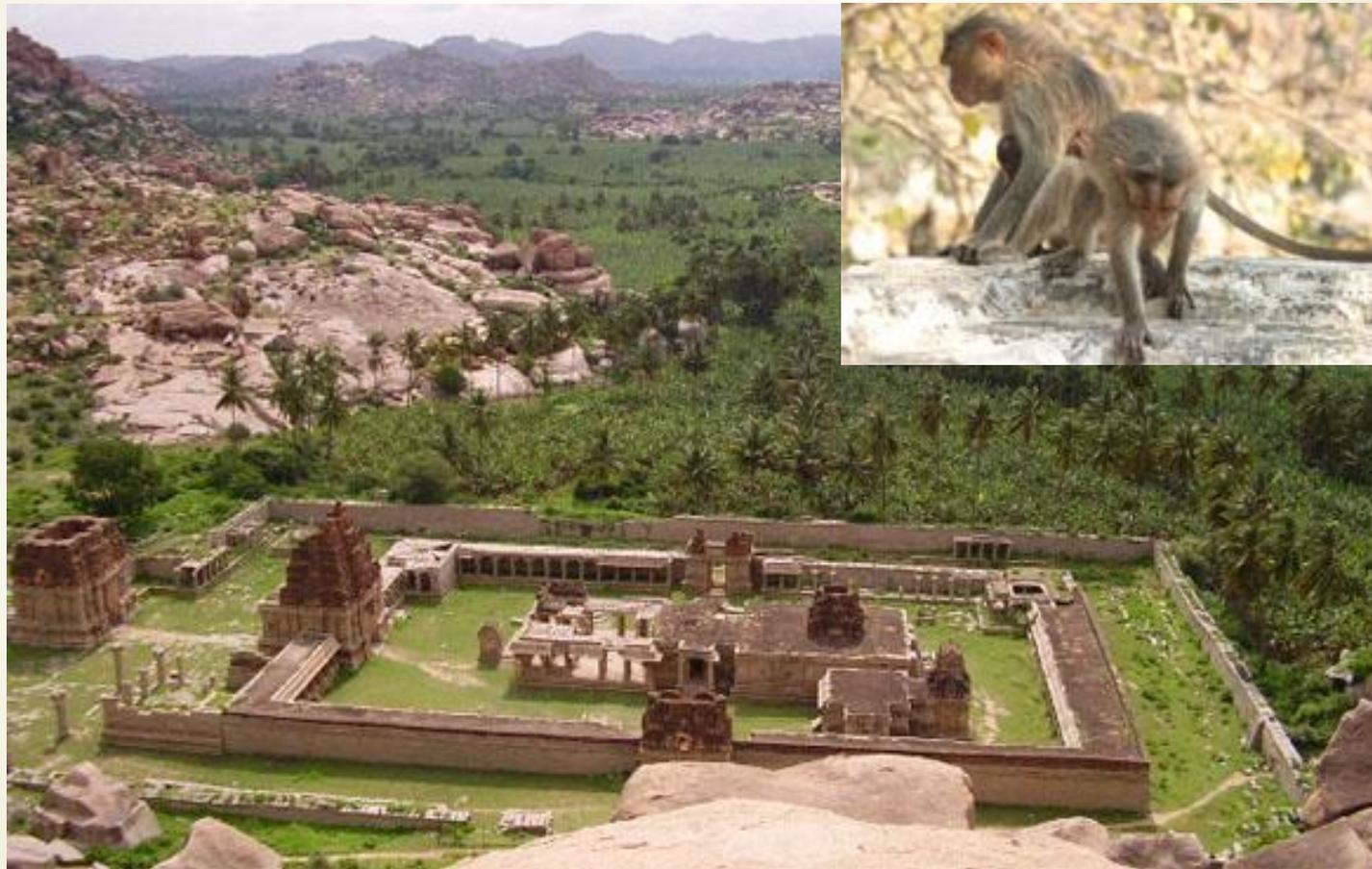
### **RIVER**



Heritage Components  
**THE GATEWAYS**



Heritage Components  
**THE SACRED STRUCTURES**

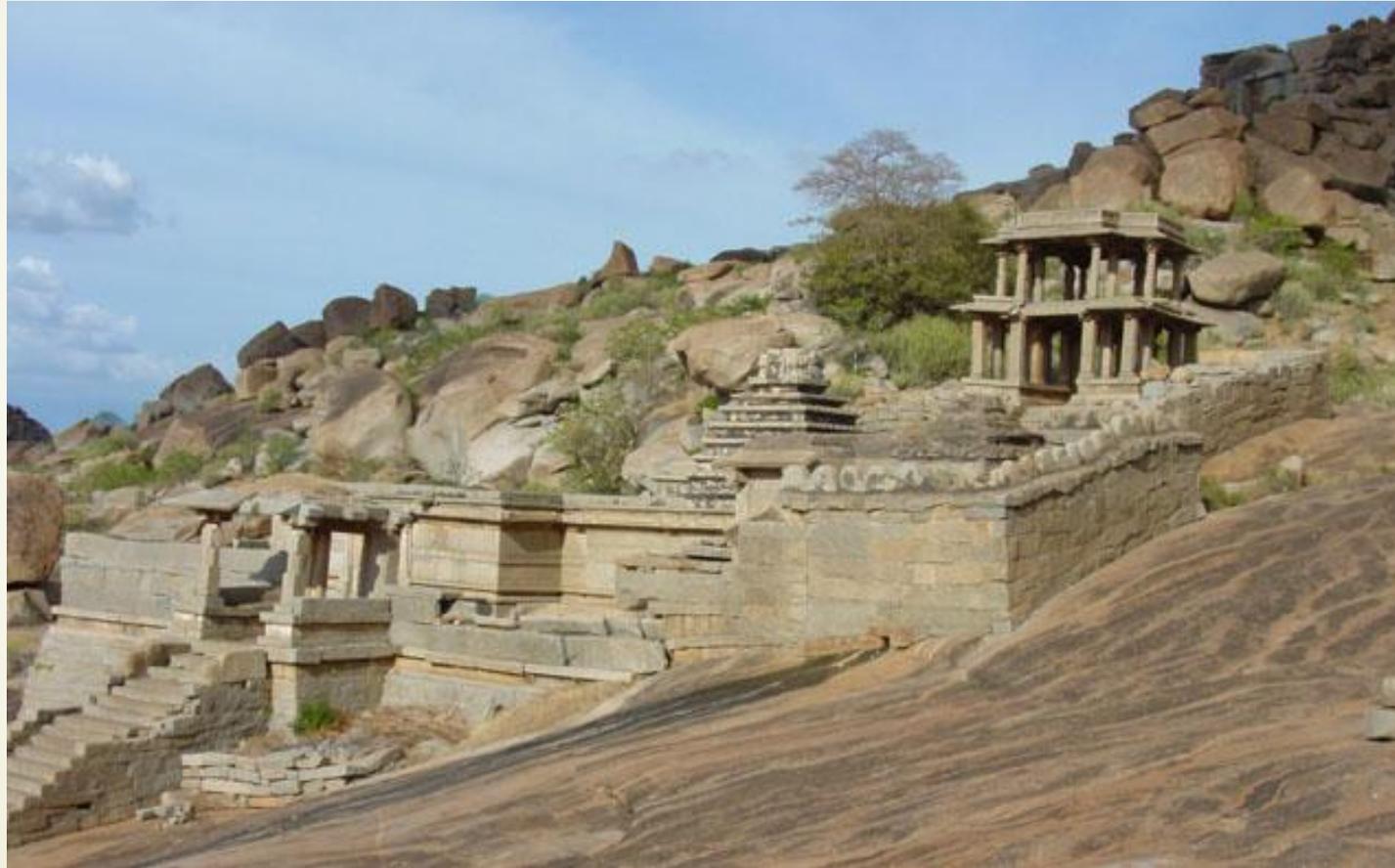


Heritage Components

## **THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF HAMPI**



Heritage Components  
**THE SACRED STRUCTURES**



Heritage Components  
**THE FESTIVAL STRUCTURES**



Source - Hampi: The Fabled Capital of the Vijaynagara Empire; Karnataka Archaeology



# Vijaynagara Styles

- Vijayanagara architecture can be broadly classified into religious, courtly and civic architecture, as can the associated sculptures and paintings.
  - The Vijayanagara style is a combination of the Chalukya, Hoysala, Pandya and Chola styles which evolved earlier in the centuries when these empires ruled and is characterized by a return to the simplistic and serene art of the past
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# Vijyanagara material

- ▶ For the approximately 400 years during the rule of the Western Chalukya and the Hoysala empires, the most popular material for temple construction was chloritic schist or soap stone. This was also true for sculpture as soapstone is soft and easily carved.
- ▶ During the Vijayanagar period the local hard granite was preferred in the Badami Chalukya style, although soapstone was used for a few reliefs and sculptures.
- ▶ While the use of granite reduced the density of sculptured works, granite was a more durable material for the temple structure.
- ▶ Because granite is prone to flaking, few pieces of individual sculptures reached the high levels of quality seen in previous centuries.
- ▶ In order to cover the unevenness of the stone used in sculptures, artists employed plaster to give the rough surface a smooth finish and then painted it with lively colours.

# Features of Vijayanagara architecture

- ▶ Building a temple complex was a novel idea floated during this period. The complex constituted concentric series of rectangular enclosure walls with towers in the middle of each wall. Occasionally the main temple at the centre is surrounded by a number of smaller temples. This idea was used as a substitute for a single huge temple.
- ▶ Another notable feature of this period was the construction of a number of 'mantapa's in the premises of a temple. 'kalyanamandapa' is the most conspicuous among them. Mandapams were added to already existing temples also. These are vast halls with flat roofs supported by intricately carved pillars. The top of the mantapas contained Evakoshas made of brick and mortar.
- ▶ The temples of a male God are usually accompanied by another 'devi shrine' meant to keep a replica of the consort of the Lord.

# Temple architecture

- ▶ Vijayanagara temples are usually surrounded by a strong enclosure. Small shrines consist simply of a garbhagriha (sanctum) and a porch. Medium sized temples have a garbhagriha, shukanasi (antechamber), a navaranga (antrala) connecting the sanctum and outer mandapa (hall), and a rangamantapa (enclosed pillared hall).
- ▶ Large temples have tall Rayagopuram built with wood, brick and stucco in Chola style. The term Raya is added to indicate a gopura built by Vijayanagar Rayas.
- ▶ The top of the gopuram has a shalashikhara resembling a barrel made to rest on its side. Large life sized figures of men, woman, Gods and Goddesses adorn the gopuram.

# Temple at Virupaksha and Ornate Pillars



# Decorative aspects

- ▶ Decorative friezes are found horizontally on the plinth mouldings, caves and the pillars in the interior of a temple. They appear vertically on composite pillars. These friezes are also found on the walls and doorways.
- ▶ The pillars constitute a unique aspect of this style. The architects constructed round pillars, double pillars, lamp pillars and composite pillars. Chitra Khanda pillar is a shaft composed of a series of miniature shrines one over the other.
- ▶ The renowned musical pillars are constructed by having a central shaft surrounded by a cluster of miniature shafts.
- ▶ The brackets in the temples are as decorative as the pillars. Usually, they are terminated as an inverted lotus bud.



# Vittala Temple



- ▶ Temple pillars often have engravings of charging horses or hippogryphs (Yali) — horses standing on hind legs with their fore legs lifted and riders on their backs.
- ▶ The horses on some pillars stand seven to eight feet tall. On the other side of the pillar are usually carvings from Hindu mythology.

## Yali pillars at Ranganatha temple



# The Musical Pillars

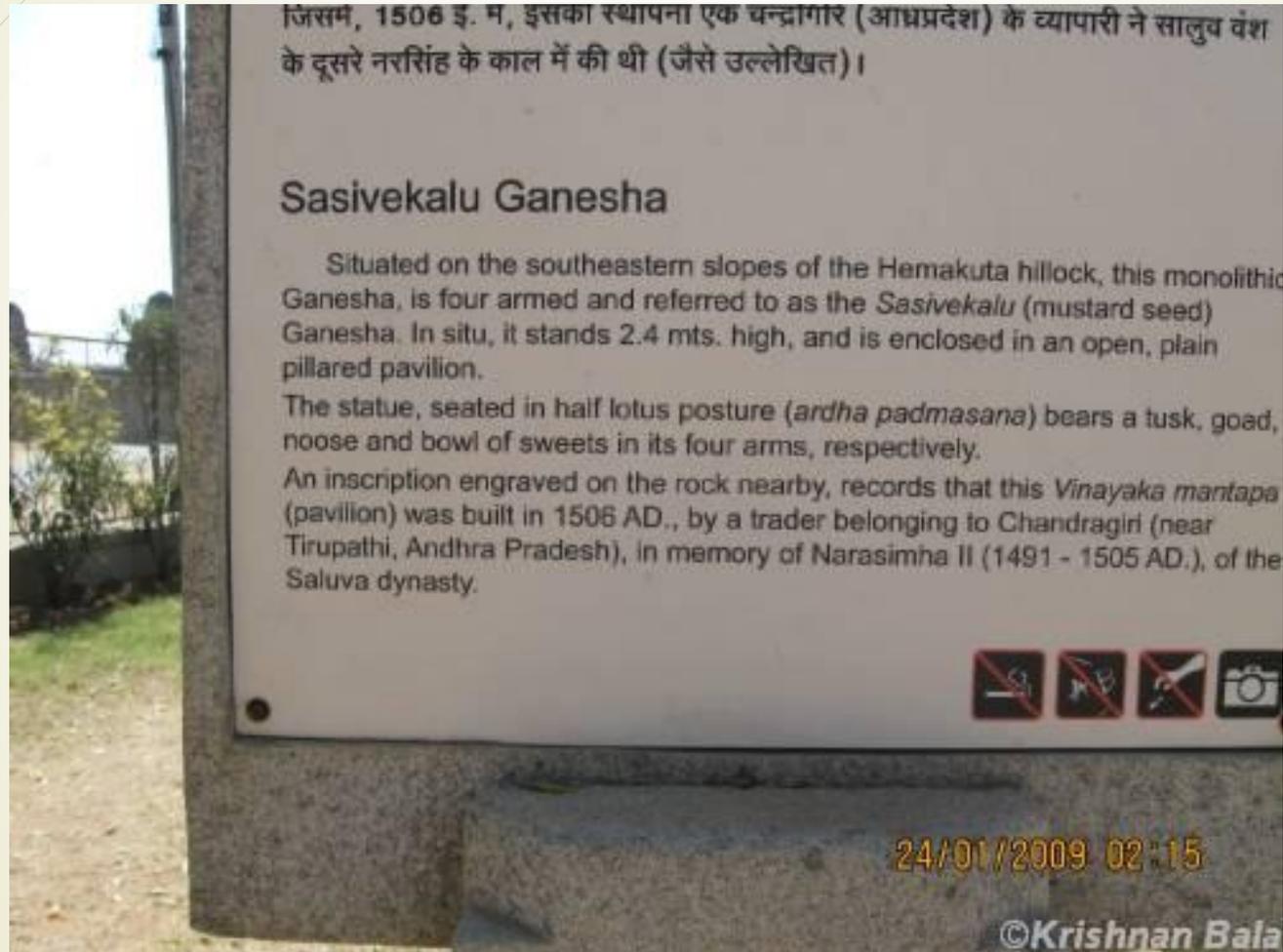


# Sasivekalu Ganesha

- ▶ Ganesha statue is locally called Sasivekalu (mustard seed) Ganesha. This is located on the southern foothill of the Hemakuta Hill.
- ▶ In Hindu mythology Lord Ganesha is notorious for his food habit. One day he ate so much of food that his tummy almost busted. He just caught a snake and tied it around his tummy as a belt to save his tummy from bursting.
- ▶ On this statue you can see the snake carved around his tummy. Also he holds the goad, pasha (noose), and his broken tusk. The hand which holds modak
- ▶ This monolithic statue carved out of a huge boulder measures about 2.4 meters (8 feet). An open pavilion is built around the statue. According to inscriptions found nearby this pavilion was built by a trader from Chandragiri (in present day Andhra Pradesh) in 1506 AD, in memory of one of the Vijayanagara king – Narasimha II (1491-1505 AD)



# Sasivekalu Ganesha



# The Pavilion



# THE STONE CHARIOT

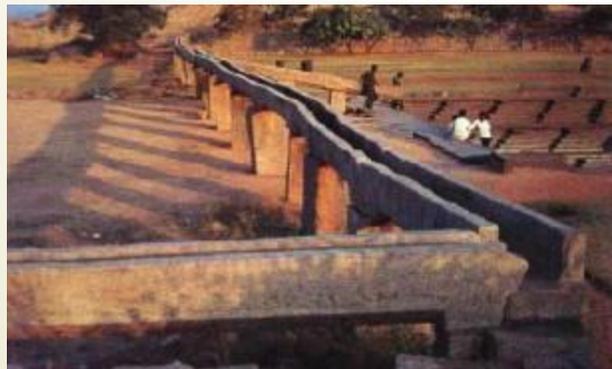




# Civil structures

- ▶ The civil structures of Vijayanagara are also well known. The streets, walls, ditches, guesthouses, bazaars, bathing ghats, irrigation devices, canals and aqua ducts are noted for their strength and durability.
  - ▶
  - ▶ For an empire which was constantly under the threat of invasions fortification was of utmost importance. The forts at Anegondi, Ikkeri, Penugonda, Chitradurga, Bhatkala and Chandragiri provide suitable examples for the military architecture of this period.
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Heritage Components  
**WATER SYSTEMS**



Heritage Components

**THE ROYAL CENTER, The Lotus Palace**



# ENTRANCE WAYS



## THE ORNAMENTAL FEATURES



# CARVINGS ON THE WALL AND INSCRIPTIONS IN KANNADA AT BASE



# CARVINGS OF RAMAYAN





# Palace architecture



- ▶ Much of what is known today of Vijayanagara palaces is drawn from archaeological excavations at Hampi as no royal palace structures have survived.<sup>[14]</sup> Most palaces stand within their own compound defined by high tapering walls made of stone or layered earth. Palaces are approached through a sequence of courts with passageways and doorways requiring multiple changes in direction. All palaces face east or north. The larger palaces have side extensions giving the complex a symmetrical shape. Palaces were built on raised platforms made of granite. The platforms have multiple tiers of mouldings with well decorated friezes.<sup>1</sup>The courtly architecture generally show secular styles with Islamic influences. Examples are the Lotus Mahal palace, Elephant stables, and watch towers.<sup>[17]</sup> Courtly buildings and domed structures were built with mortar mixed with stone rubble.<sup>[2]</sup>
- ▶ The impact of this style of architecture was seen well into the 17th century when the various successive Nayaka kingdoms continued to encourage pillars with Hippogryphs and granite became the main building material.

# PUSHKARANI - PART OF THE PALACE EXCAVATED IN 1990



# ELEPHANTS STABLE- 11 ENCLOSURES AND BAND ON TOP OF DOME



# GUARDS' QUARTERS - NOW MUSEUM FOR SCULPTURES





# Sculptural styles

- ▶ There are many chiseled images out of solid granite boulders. This explains the long established experience with rock cut techniques.
- ▶ Many nandi monoliths are also common.
- ▶ There is also a development of narrative art , with panels assembled in rows to illustrate popular myths and legends. Processions of animals also dominates many of the blocks. These includes elephants with their trunks wrapped around trees even camels, mythical beasts, especially yalis.
- ▶ There are frequent display of martial strengths with mounted warriors, footmen with shields, swords and spears and men carrying clubs and staffs.
- ▶ Hunting activities are indicated with courtly figures with bows and arrows, shooting deer and boar or spearing lions and tigers and they are accompanied by dogs on leashes or carry animals on their shoulders.

# Bas relief of Vijaynagar lion



## THE STONE SCULPTURES



# Seated Nandi



- Seated bull portrayed with ceremonial trappings, decked with bells, clappers, sashes and tassels.
- It is more than 8 meters long and 1664 carvings carved out of a rock on the flanks of Chamundeshwari hills.

# Wall panels



# Scenes from every day life



*A dance scene, Siva Temple, Srisailam.*



*A wrestling bout, referee watching, performance before a noble, Mahanavami Dibba, Hampi.*

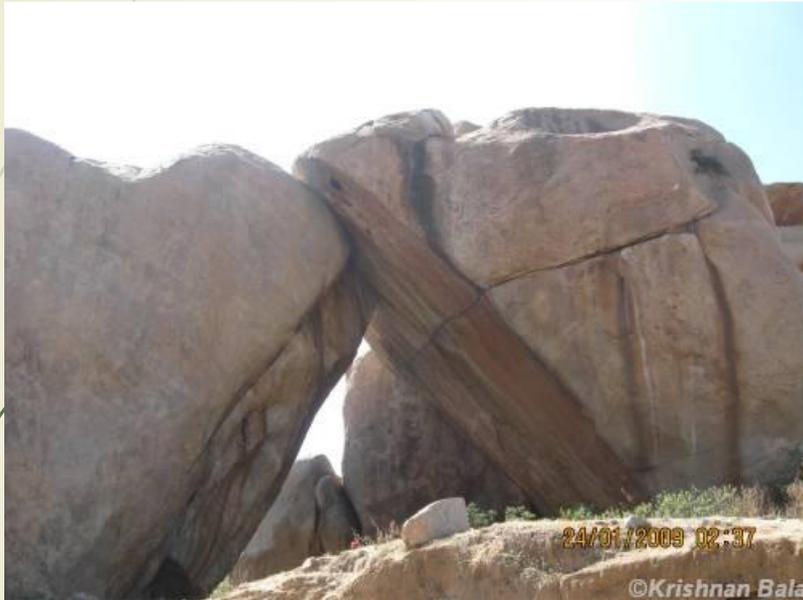


*A hunting scene, Mahanavami Dibba, Hampi.*



*A solo dance performance accompanied by three musical instrument players, Siva Temple, Srisailam.*

# Sister rocks, who carry the curse



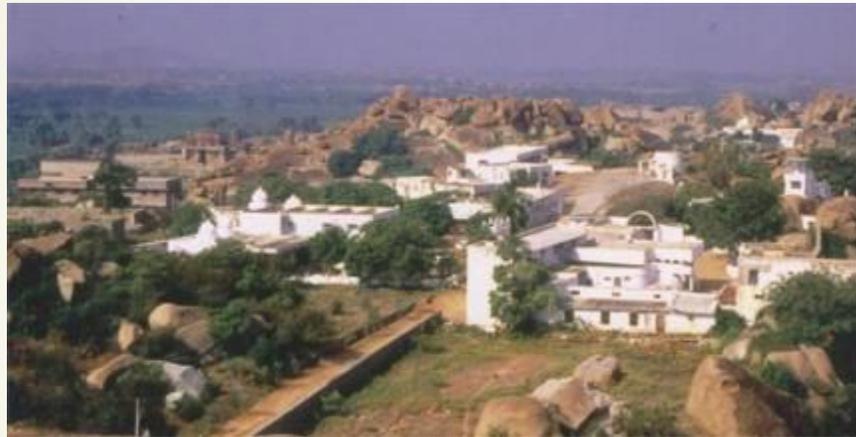
- ▶ The famous Akka Thangi Gudda (Sister Boulders) at Hampi have suffered damage. Sister rocks are the two giant rocks standing shoulder to shoulder and hence the name sister rocks

These rocks at Hampi were not connected with any cementing materials like the cement when the ancient temples and related structures were constructed.

- ▶ According to legend, the goddess of Hampi cursed two sisters visiting the city and turned them into stones for talking ill about Hampi.
- ▶ A huge chunk of one of the boulders fell off during thundershower, the two rocks, which form a natural arch, have gone weak due to blasting for mining.

# THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE, The living villages today





The encroachments on the cultural landscape



The urban growth in the historical villages

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