

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Hampi ‘ **the City carved in stone**’ is an outstanding location of Natural landscape and Archeological remains. Both the works of man and nature have harmoniously blended and it speaks volumes of human endeavour wherein the rugged landscape has been harnessed with utmost dexterity for the betterment of mankind. It is located in the central part of Karnataka, south India. The Hampi World Heritage site is located on the banks of River Tungabhadra spread in Hospet taluka of Bellary district and Gangavati Taluka of Koppal district. Hampi is located 353 kms. from Bangalore, 130 Kms. from Bijapur, 74 Kms. from Bellary, 38 Kms. from Koppal, 12 Kms. from Hospet and Gangavati.

Abdul Razzak the Persian envoy visited the ‘**Vijayanagar Empire**’ during 1443 A.D. and described it as ‘ **The City of Bidjnagar is such that the pupil of the eye has never seen place like it, and the ear of intelligence has never been informed that there existed anything to equal it in the world**’ and another **European traveler** called it as ‘**Splendid City**’ on Earth.

1. PHYSICAL LAND SCAPE:

The unique rocky appearance of the granite landscape was not created by earthquake and upheaval, but by countless millions of years of weathering, first underground before it was exposed by gradual uplift, then by the erosive forces of sun, wind and occasional rain. So even is the grain of the granite that the rock was worn away to create spherical shapes; hence the many rounded and detached boulders, some of which are perched precariously, as if about to roll over.

The Tungabhadra River traverses the Hampi landscape. Flowing in a northeasterly direction the river has cut its way through weaker, more fractured rocky terrain, creating a narrow gorge. For some distance, granite hills hem in the river, the highest of which are Matanga hill on the south bank, rising 115 meters above the river, and Anjanadri hill near the north bank, almost 140 meters high. Flooding has worn away the rocks that border the river, creating islands, lagoons and small pools. A parallel valley to the south marks an alternate course where the river overflowed during wet periods. Yet further south, the granite outcrops gradually disappear and the landscape opens out into a broad plain. This continues for more than 10 kilometers before ending at the rising slopes of the Sandur hills beyond the modern town of Hospet. These hills are rich in iron and manganese and are now subject to intensive strip mining.

Hampi (Hospet taluka, Bellary district) situated on the colourful sinuous hilly banks of the river Tungabhadra with green patches of plants and trees, is undoubtedly the most spectacular site of innumerable monuments of varieties and forms, simple and grand thickly spread over a vast area but virtually all in pensive state of ruins, a mute witness to an era of glories, triumphs and tragedies. The cultural heritage of once the most prosperous and flourishing royal capital of a mighty kingdom, are so majestic and imposing that they leave the visitor totally dumbfounded, awestruck and humbled, may even philosophically introspective. Yes, the famous capital of the kings of Vijayanagara has now become the focal point as it attracts attention and great admiration of architects, historians, and archaeologists, and of course the innumerable tourists from all over the world who visit these monuments.

2. CLIMATE:

Bellary district lies in the dry and arid climatic zone. The climate in the Hampi is dry, but due to irrigation activities, the area is humid hot. The summer is generally hot compared to other parts of the state. The **temperature** begins to rise steadily with commencement of summer from February to May. Generally March and April happens to be the hottest month

with **maximum temperature** reaching as high as **43°C and 44°C** and the **minimum temperature** is recorded during December with **12°C to 13°C**. The wind generally blows from south west to north east direction and north east to south west. Though the area comes under dry zone, due to Tungabhadra reservoir and irrigation the **humidity** is comparatively more with maximum humidity reaching 96% from July to November and the minimum humidity during March and April.

The area is generally classified as **moderate to low rainfall** receiving area. The average rainfall varies from 800 mm. to 900 mm. The rainfall for the last 12 years has shown that 1997 and 2002 have registered the **lowest rainfall** of 391 mm. and 389 mm. respectively. The **highest rainfall** is received during 2005 with 1150 mm. Generally the July and August months are receiving highest rainfall with 130 to 140 mm. and April and November are lowest rainfall receiving months with 3 mm. to 5 mm. The December, February and March are receiving no rainfall.

3. 'HERITAGE AREA' OR LOCAL PLANNING AREA:

The '**Heritage Area**' defined under the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority Act, 2002 shall be a Local Planning Area declared under section 35-sub section (2) of this Act. As per Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority Act, 2002, the entire area as old Notification measures **135.00 SQKms. (Core, Buffer and Peripheral Zone)**. There are 30 villages, 15 from Hospet taluka and 15 from Gangavati taluka. (please see Map)

The Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority constituted (9-04-2003) under Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority Act 2002 shall be a Local Planning Authority for the Local Planning Area comprising the '**Heritage Area**' under section **81 D** and **81 E** of Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961. The **Local Planning Area** for '**Hampi World Heritage Area**' has been first declared on 1-12-2004. It was felt during many

deliberations/discussions with various experts including UNESCO that the present Local Planning Area boundary shall be revised by including entire revenue villages. And accordingly it was decided to extend the Local Planning Area by including entire revenue villages and excluding the Karignur village in HWHAMA's meeting held on 24-3-2006 and a proposal was sent to the Government for approval on 25-3-2006. According to the Government, the proposal has been approved and the Local Planning Area extended/revised onby including entire revenue villages vide G.O.No..... As per this notification, there are only 29 revenue villages within the Local Planning Area. As per **new notification** the Local Planning Area, (please see map) which measures 236.46 SQKMs., has **Core Zone, (41.8 SQKMs.)**

LIST OF VILLAGES COMING WITHIN THE LOCAL PLANNING AREA

HWHAMA

HOSPET TALUKA

Sl. No	Taluka	Name of the village	Area in Hectares	Population	Remarks
1	Hospet	Hampi	343.64	2134	Entire Revenue village
2	Hospet	Krishnapur	92.71	105	Entire Revenue village
3	Hospet	Singanathanahalli	162.91	23	Entire Revenue village
4	Hospet	Nimbapur	126.27	--	Entire Revenue village
5	Hospet	Kaddirampura	304.28	1280	Entire Revenue village
6	Hospet	Dhanapura	183.66	227	Entire Revenue village
7	Hospet	Mallappanagudi	1043.39	8255	Entire Revenue village
8	Hospet	Nagenahalli	413.40	3989	Entire Revenue village
9	Hospet	Gudiobalapura	475.30	1600	Entire Revenue village
10	Hospet	Kamalapura	8882.46	21,811	Entire Revenue village
11	Hospet	Bukkasagara	1403.75	3912	Entire Revenue village
12	Hospet	Venkatapura	2963.32	2431	Entire Revenue village
13	Hospet	Kalagatta	691.28	141	Entire Revenue village
14	Hospet	Kondanayakana halli	169.24	2216	Entire Revenue village
		Total	17,255.61	45,908	

LIST OF VILLAGES COMING WITHIN THE LOCAL PLANNING AREA

HWHAMA

GANGAVATHI TALUKA

Sl. No.	Taluka	Name of the village	Area in Hectares	Population	Remarks
15	Gangavathi	Anegundi	721.91	3497	Entire Revenue village
16	Gangavathi	Thirumalapura	283.51	273	Entire Revenue village
17	Gangavathi	Sanapura	664.82	1691	Entire Revenue village
18	Gangavathi	Virupapuragudda	331.69	261	Entire Revenue village
19	Gangavathi	Hanumanahalli	187.53	413	Entire Revenue village
20	Gangavathi	Anjanahalli	192.38	290	Entire Revenue village
21	Gangavathi	Chikkarampura	377.84	563	Entire Revenue village
22	Gangavathi	Lakshmipura	1010.65	76	Entire Revenue village
23	Gangavathi	Rampura	330.40	2041	Entire Revenue village
24	Gangavathi	Krishnapura	81.50	104	Entire Revenue village
25	Gangavathi	Ramadurga	158.36	660	Entire Revenue village
26	Gangavathi	Mallapura	954.28	2757	Entire Revenue village
27	Gangavathi	Basavanadurga	549.13	1012	Entire Revenue village
28	Gangavathi	Singanagunda	166.02	21	Entire Revenue village
29	Gangavathi	Rangapura	380.20	374	Entire Revenue village
TOTAL			6390.22	14,033	
Grand Total			23,645.86	59,941	

Buffer (53.00 SQKms) and Pheripheral Zones (141.66 SQKms). The details of villages that are coming within the 'Heritage Area or the Local Planning Area' of Hampi are given in the above table both for Hospet and Gangavathi talukas. The **Local Planning Area** measures **236.46 SQKMs.** and nearly 172 SQKms. of area lies to the south of the River and 64 SQKms. of area to the north of the river.

The **Core Zone** comprising 'World Heritage site' and 8 other settlements measures **41.8 SQKm.** and is surrounded and protected by **Buffer zone.** Out of 8 settlements 4 are having 5, 21, 55 and households and Nimbapur is uninhabited. Therefore, only 4 settlements like **Kamalpur, Anegundi, Hampi** and **Kaddirampur** are considered important and detailed studies and plans have been prepared after carrying out various survey's.