

## CHAPTER - 9

### PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS

The strategic location of Hampi on the banks of River Tungabhadra and excellent natural landscape in the area has resulted into many immoral/illegal activities misusing the scenic River front. The problems in and around Hampi have been identified and analysed. The problems of the entire 'World Heritage site' are either: **Environmentally sensitive or Archeologically sensitive**. An attempt is being made to document the live and burning problems of the area in the form of photo presentation (Annexure). The problems in the Local Planning Area are as follows:

#### **1. BRIDGE ACROSS RIVER TUNGABHADRA AT TALARIGHAT:**

The construction of controversial suspension bridge near Talarighat has been responsible for inclusion of the entire site in endangered list. The bridge stands on a major and extremely sensitive natural setting of the site, in the heart of the core protected area and Increases heavy vehicular traffic and may affect the site environmentally and is very close to ancient Anegundi Gate and fort wall.

With opening of the bridge there will be a rapid socio-economic transformation of Anegundi Village on the lines of 'HampiVillage'

**PROPOSAL:** Since the bridge has already been completed (90%)there is no need to dismantle it, since it caters to the basic needs of the people. Experts like Archeologists/Conservation Architects/Environmentalists may be consulted to add Heritage look to the structure and transforming the bridge into classic structure. To protect the World Heritage site from heavy vehicular traffic strict traffic restrictions by adding physical barriers must be imposed banning heavy vehicles.

#### **2. ILLEGAL ENCROACHMENTS/OCCUPATION OFASHRAMS/MATH'S:**

Ratnakuta hill occupies very important place in the Sacred Center and Jain Ashram has come up there. It is surrounded by Virupaksha Bazar on the north,

Matanga hill on the east, Krishna Bazar on the south and Kadalekalu Ganesha temple and large gateway on the west. This hill originally had several temples, tirthan (sacred ponds) and inscriptions. The authorities of the Ashrama have destroyed many of these. Some archaeological features, recorded by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums after the declaration of entire Hampi area as protected, have been destroyed in recent years. Modern storeyed concrete building are very conspicuous. Gayathri-peetha Matha has come up on recent years to the west of the Hemakuta hill. This area contains several inscriptions and sculptures. New buildings have been constructed causing serious damage to the ancient environment of the site.

**PROPOSAL:** It is learnt that many Ashram's/Mathas have come up without proper owner titles. There, listing and comprehensive survey of all encroachments/illegal developments and verification of ownership details and documentation of the areas occupied is to be carried out to prevent further encroachments. The entire Ratnakuta and Matanga hill areas around Virupaksha Temple shall designated as 'Special Area of Control'.

**3. ILLEGAL TOURISM RELATED DEVELOPMENTS:** The entire Virupapura Gadda is characterized by illegal resorts/hotel/lodging activities. These developments are leading to immoral and anti-social activities and adversely affecting the World Heritage site.

**PROPOSAL:** Since Virupapura Gadda is an island surrounded by the River Tungabhadra, it is essentially an 'Environmentally sensitive Area' and all illegal resorts/ constructions shall be removed and the land may be restored to its original status of forest/plantation.

**4. Encroachments/Illegal Developments in Hampi:** The Developments in Hampi are posing great threat to the World Heritage Site. Hampi is now functioning as a '**Reception Center**' to the foreign tourists and nearly 50 % of the houses are running illegal guest houses. This has really changed the socio-economic fabric and life style of the people of this village. The Bazaar in front of

Virupaksha temple is about 740 m. long. And encroachments in Virupaksha Bazar are regular phenomena. People are residing in many mantapas in this bazaar. Among them only 38 people have ownership. 118 people are occupying the mantapas unauthorisedly. There are 10 lodgings, 15 hotels and more than 140 shops in the mantapas and 47 residents have been allotted houses by the Government under the Ashraya scheme. They are still residing in the mantapas.

Some of the residents extend their houses/shops/hotels in the front by erecting thatched portions or brick walls and cement or zinc sheets. 17 unauthorized huts on the bank of the river and in the protected area also, 'Hampi Utsav' and post Utsav festivities/public addressing in front of Virupaksha Temple may also pose serious threat to the Hampi and its environs.

**PROPOSAL:**All encroachments/illegal developments in Hampi Village will have to be removed particularly the illegal occupation of Mantapa's. 45.00 M. of River front shall be maintained and 100.00 meter zone from the Virupaksha temple/monuments shall be a prohibited area. The entire Ratnakuta and Hemakuta hillocks shall be a 'Special Control Area' or 'Prime Archeological Zone'. Residential areas within 45.00 m.of river front zone and 100.00 meter of prohibited area from archeological monuments shall be shifted to the nearest Kaddirampur village.

All Commercial activities shops/hotels/lodging etc., shall shifted to new '**Commercial Center**' The Center will accommodate shops (for Hampi Bazaar), internet shops, restaurants, Police Station, Panchayat office and HWHAMA office etc.,Virupaksha Bazaar shall be restored to its original condition and only few restricted shops may be allowed. One Mini Parking node (cycles, two wheelers and battery operated Rikshas only) and mobile trade zone is proposed in the existing parking area. '**Hampi Utsav**' in front of Virupaksha Temple shall be limited to '**Rath Yatra**' only and no post Rath Yatra festivities/functions/public addressing etc., shall be performed in front of the temple.

**5. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION:** Many of the present roads in the World Heritage site are not original roads. There was a very good network of ring, radial and linear roads during the Vijayanagara period. Most of the original roads are not in use now. The present asphalted roads do not merge with the monuments and stand out conspicuously. Heavy vehicular traffic in the 'Prime Archeological Zone' of the Site causing serious damage to important Archeological remains. The site is not having any terminal and parking facilities.

**PROPOSAL:** The entire 'Archeological Zone' shall be a 'Pedestrian Zone' or Non-motorized Zone' and heavy vehicular traffic will not be allowed to enter the 'Prime Archeological Zone'. And to materialize this proposal one main Terminal and Parking node with commercial facilities is proposed at controversial HUDCO Interpretation site. All Heavy and other vehicles shall be terminated here and visitors will opt for cycles/two wheelers/battery operated rikshas/heritage tonga's to enter the World Heritage Site. The site is an excellent area to introduce and promote Heritage tonga's It is also proposed to have mini parking nodes in Kamalapur and on either side of the bridge which will have parking space for cycles, two wheelers, batter operated riksha's and heritage tonga's with toilets, drinking water and eating houses.

**6. Electric Poles and Transformers:** Many Electric Poles and transformers are coming up in the site very rapidly and may project into skyline and obstruct views of monuments. These are seen in Virupaksha Bazaar, around Zenana enclosure and many other places. And many new lines are also drawn to electrify bore wells sunk illegally.

**PROPOSAL:** As far as possible the electrical lines especially within the 'Prime Archeological Zone' shall be made underground in consultation with ASI or State Archeology. Is also essential to promote non-conventional energy sources.

**7. ILLEGAL QUARRYING:** Since site is rich in granite boulders some stone quarrying activities are going on in the village limits of Kamalapura and some other villages.