

An Imperial Capital: Vijayanagara

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- The Vijayanagara Empire was the most dignified and glorious empire of South India. Its Capital was Hampi.
 - Hampi was discovered by Colin Mackenzie, the first Surveyor General of India in 1815.
 - His (Colin Mackenzie's) arduous work, gave a new direction to all the future researcher.
 - Alexander Greenlaw took the first detailed photography of Hampi in 1856, which proved quite useful for the scholar.
 - J.F. Fleet in 1876, began compilation and documentation of the inscription from the walls of the walls of temples in Hampi.
 - John Marshall began the conservation of Hampi in 1902.
 - In 1976, Hampi was declared as a site of national importance and in 1986 it was declared as world Heritage centre.
 - Vijayanagara Empire was founded by the two brothers, Harihara and Bukka in 14th century.
 - The ruler of Vijayanagara empire were called Rayas.
 - The most powerful ruler of Vijayanagara empire was Krishnadeva Raya. During his tenure, the empire touched its glory.
 - Administration of the Vijayanagara Empire was very good and its people were very happy.
 - The Vijayanagara Empire began to decline by 16th century and this might empire ended in 17th century.
 - Four dynasties ruled over Vijayanagara:
 - The Sangama Dynasty
 - The Saluvas Dynasty
 - The Tuluva Dynasty
 - The Aravidu Dynasty
 - The Sangama Dynasty founded the empire, Saluva expanded it, Saluva took it to the pinnacle of its glory, but it begun declined under Aravidu.
 - Various causes such as weak central government, weak successors of Krishnadeva Raya, different dynasties struggles against the Bahamani Empire, weak empire, etc. contributed in the downfall of the empire.
 - The most striking feature of the empire was its water requirement were met from natural barn formed by the Tungabhadra river.
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- The ruler of Vijayanagara also had made vast fortification. The archaeologist made an elaborated study of roads within the city and the roads which led one out of the city.
 - The Royal centres were located in the south-western part of the settlement, which included over sixty times.
 - The sacred centre was situated on the rocky northern end on the bank of the river Tungabhadra. According to tradition rocky hill served as a shelter to the monkey Kingdom of Bali and Sugriva which were mentioned in the Ramayana.

Vijayanagara or 'City of Victory' was the home of both a city and an empire. It stretched from the river Krishna in the North to the extreme South of the Peninsula. People remembered it as Hampi, a name derived from that of the local mother Goddess, 'Pampadevi'.