



S.P. MANDALI'S

R. A. Podar College
of Commerce & Economics (Autonomous)



YUVA TOURISM CLUB (YTC)

Annual Report

2024-25

Yuva Tourism club is established in our college in this academic year 2024-25, as per the guidelines received from Ministry of Tourism. Our club is now registered with Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. YUVA Tourism Club is launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with the strategic objective of creating interest, awareness and a sense of responsibility towards our country's natural and cultural heritage / tourism amongst children and youth. Participation in Tourism Clubs is also expected to facilitate development of soft skills like teamwork, management, leadership besides encouraging adoption of responsible tourism practices and concern for sustainable tourism.

Prof In-charge: Mr. Kapildeo Indurkar

Core Committee:

- 1. Srushti Patil - TYBCom (Secretary/Student Head)**
- 2. Bhoomi Kharat - TYBcom (Treasurer)**
- 3. Minal Jawale – TYBcom (Executive Member)**
- 4. Shraddha Kadam – TYBMS (Executive Member)**

THE HAMPI HERITAGE TOUR

Total no. of Participants: 40

Male: 11

Female: 29

Travel Plan:

The Yuva Tourism Club organized an educational tour to Hampi, Karnataka from 6th January, 2025 to 11th January, 2025 in order to explore the India's rich historical and cultural Heritage. We travelled to Hampi through CSMT-Hospete Express by AC Chair Car. The tour was of 3 Nights 4 days in Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stunning temples, monuments, and architecture which provide valuable insights into the Vijayanagar Empire.

Accommodation:

The base for our stay was PBS Grand Hotel in Hospete. We stayed there for 3 nights. All good facilities and best accommodation were provided by them.

Sightseeing:

Day 1: Cultural Promotion at Virupaksha Temple

On the first day we visited the renowned *Virupaksha Temple*. To celebrate our culture, we dressed in traditional Maharashtrian attire: *girls in vibrant sarees* and *boys in kurtas*, proudly representing Maharashtra's cultural heritage.

This temple is a living testament to Hampi's rich history and is the only one in the region where rituals and prayers are still conducted daily. The vibrant atmosphere, combined with the grandeur of the temple's architecture, offered a glimpse into the past.

Day 2: Exploring the Royal Enclosure

We began the day with an introduction to why Hampi was chosen as the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire. The rocky terrain and the presence of the Tungabhadra River provided natural defense and resources, making it an ideal location.

Kishkindha: The guide explained that Hampi was earlier identified as Kishkindha from the Mahabharata, the mythical monkey kingdom associated with Lord Hanuman.

Geopolitical Significance: Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire, which, at its zenith, was the second-largest city in the world after Beijing. The empire's influence extended over regions that are now Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Odisha.

Strategic Location: The city's selection as the capital was due to its fertile soil, proximity to the Tungabhadra River, and natural fortification by surrounding rocky hills.

- *Vijaya Vitthala Temple:*

Despite being partially demolished, the architecture still holds magnificent value of the rich heritage. It is specially known for its iconic stone chariot and musical pillars.

1. Stone Chariot:

The temple's highlight is the iconic stone chariot, resembling a miniature temple on wheels.

It is one of the three famous stone chariots in India and symbolizes artistic brilliance.

The wheels of the chariot were once movable.

2. Musical Pillars:

The Ranga Mantapa (main hall) contains 56 intricately carved musical pillars.

When tapped gently, each pillar produces a unique musical note, demonstrating advanced architectural and acoustic knowledge.

- *Lotus Mahal:*

A blend of Islamic and Indian architecture, showcasing a unique design.

- *Hazara Rama Temple:*

Renowned for its intricate carvings depicting scenes from the Ramayana.

- *Royal Enclosure:*

During our visit to Hampi, we spent some time exploring the **Royal Enclosure**, which lies just in front of the Hazara Rama Temple. This area was once the heart of royal life in the Vijayanagara Empire. We marveled at the **Mahanavami Dibba**, a grand stone platform where the king would have watched important ceremonies and celebrations. The **Pushkarini**, a beautiful stepwell, was another highlight, showing how the royals managed water resources. Walking among the ruins of the **king's audience hall** and **palaces**, we could imagine the grandeur of the royal court. The entire enclosure, with its carefully laid-out structures and intricate details, gave us a vivid sense of the luxurious and organized life during Krishnadevaraya's reign.

- *Lakshmi Narasimha:*

The Lakshmi Narasimha statue is a significant architectural and religious landmark in Hampi. The statue included a smaller figure of Goddess Lakshmi sitting on Narasimha's

lap. However, the statue of Lakshmi was damaged during invasions in the 16th century and is now missing.

- *Underground Shiva Temple:*

The Underground Shiva Temple, a hidden gem nestled beneath the ground level. This unique temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is known for its serene atmosphere and distinctive architecture. The temple is partially submerged, with water flowing around the sanctum, adding to its mystique. A radiant vision of the third eye appears open on the Shivling.

- *Queen's bath:*

The Queen's Bath is a royal bathing complex believed to have been used by the royal women of the Vijayanagar Empire.

- *Hemakuta Hills:*

As the day drew to a close, we made our way to Hemakuta Hill Station to witness a breathtaking sunset. The golden hues of the setting sun, combined with the ancient ruins, created a serene and unforgettable ambiance, marking the perfect end to a culturally enriching day. From the majestic Hemakuta Hills, the entire magnificent area of Virupaksha temple was visible.

Day 3: Exploring the Mythical, Spiritual, and Cultural Gems of Hampi

- *Anjaneya Hills:*

We climbed the 565 steps leading to **Anjaneya Hill**, believed to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman. The challenging ascent offered breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape, with panoramic vistas of Hampi's temples and ruins. At the summit, we visited the **Anjaneya Temple**, dedicated to Lord Hanuman, and were greeted with a sense of peace and devotion.

- *Shabri Mata Ashram:*

The day started with a visit to Shabri's place, a site filled with tranquility and devotion. Known for her unconditional love and service to Lord Ram and Lakshman, this spot beautifully reflects the essence of pure devotion. We spent some time soaking in the

calmness of the surroundings, reflecting on Shabri's timeless story from the Ramayana. In front of it was Pampasarovar which is listed in the five sacred lakes of India.

- *Bali Hill:*

Next, we ventured to the site of the legendary battle between Bali and Mayavi, the asura. Surrounded by rugged terrain, this place felt alive with the echoes of ancient heroism. It was fascinating to imagine the clash of power and determination that shaped this moment in mythology, with the setting itself adding to the dramatic feel.

- *Anegundi Village:*

Rishimukh Hill, located in Anegundi village, near Hampi, is believed to be the site where Bali and Sugreev fought, as described in the *Ramayana*. It was here that Sugreev sought refuge from his brother Bali, and with Lord Rama's help, Bali was eventually defeated.

- *Ganpati Temple Near Virupaksha Temple :*

From mythology to spirituality, we then moved on to the Ganpati temple near the Virupaksha temple. The temple's intricate carvings and serene idol of Lord Ganpati made it a memorable stop. The peaceful energy here offered a moment of stillness and devotion amidst the day's exploration.

- *Hampi Bazaar:*

After the morning of exploring mythical and spiritual landmarks, we strolled through the Hampi Bazaar. This vibrant market, set against the backdrop of ancient ruins, was a delightful mix of culture and history. We explored stalls selling handmade jewelry, traditional fabrics, and souvenirs, while soaking in the lively atmosphere. The bazaar also gave us a glimpse into the daily life and commerce of Hampi during its golden era.

- *Ram Mandir (Ram Without Weapons):*

The day ended on a serene note at the Ram Mandir, a unique temple where Lord Ram is depicted without weapons. This portrayal of Ram signifies peace, love, and the essence of dharma. The simplicity of the temple left a lasting impression, instilling a sense of calm and spiritual fulfillment.

- *Tungabhadra River:*

The Tungabhadra River, a lifeline for Hampi, provided moments of relaxation and wonder. A coracle ride across its gentle waters allowed me to soak in the views of the surrounding ruins and rocky formations. The river felt like a witness to centuries of history.

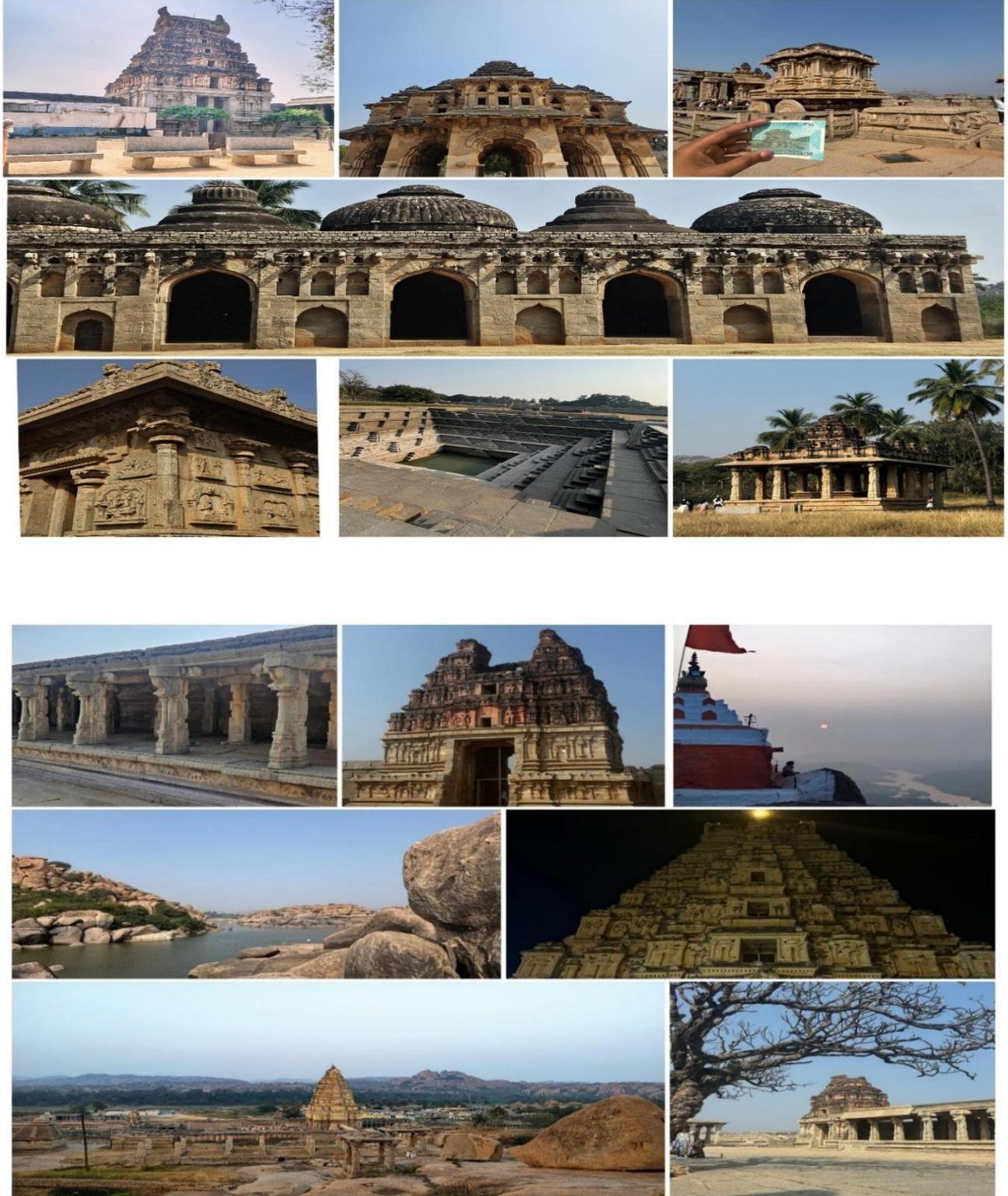
Learning Outcomes:

The Hampi Heritage Tour helped us to learn about Rich ancient Indian history and great architecture.

Visiting these places provided valuable learning experiences in various aspects. We gained insights into the history of the Vijayanagara Empire and its remarkable architectural marvels, while also understanding the cultural and religious significance of its temples and monuments. The intricate craftsmanship and unique styles of ancient Indian architecture left us in awe, and the natural landscape of Hampi, with its rocky terrain, boulder hills, and river systems, enhanced our appreciation for its geography and environment. Exploring sites like the Virupaksha Temple and Vittala Temple introduced us to fascinating myths, legends, and stories, enriching our storytelling knowledge. We also realized the importance of conserving historical sites and respecting their heritage. Additionally, interacting with the local community helped us learn about their lifestyle, traditions, and practices, making the experience even more meaningful.

As a group organizer of the Hampi trip, we the Core Committee learned how to plan and manage time effectively, lead and guide a team, and handle unexpected challenges calmly. Addressing challenges such as delays, last-minute changes, or managing group dynamics. Quick decision-making during unforeseen circumstances. No travel agency was involved in the planning process. Everything was planned and organized by us from scratch. We improved our teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills while staying within the planned budget. Exploring Hampi helped us understand its cultural and historical importance, and we also learned the value of listening to feedback to make future trips even better.

Photo Gallery:





Ballari, Karnataka, India
Water Pavilion, Karnataka 583239, India
Lat 15.320466° Long 76.470884°



Hampi, Karnataka, India
8fh5+pjg, Hampi, Krishnapura, Karnataka 583239, India
Lat 15.329119° Long 76.459113°
09/01/25 05:13 PM GMT +05:30



Ballari, Karnataka, India
Elephant's Stables, Karnataka 583239, India
Lat 15.320937° Long 76.472342°
09/01/25 04:17 PM GMT +05:30



Hanumanahalli, Karnataka, India
9f39+rvh, Hanumanahalli, Karnataka 583227, India
Lat 15.35493° Long 76.469648°
09/01/25 07:18 AM GMT +05:30



Hampi, Karnataka, India
8fa9+f6r, Hampi, Nimbapura, Karnataka 583239, India
Lat 15.336312° Long 76.467911°
09/01/25 03:25 PM GMT +05:30



Hampi, Karnataka, India
8fm6+4fq, Hampi, Karnataka 583239, India
Lat 15.332827° Long 76.461374°
09/01/25 05:14 PM GMT +05:30



