



Restoration of Virupaksha Temple Pavilion

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

The [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) is set to begin restoration work on the collapsed **saalu mantapa or pavilion** (a type of Mandapa) at the iconic **Virupaksha temple** a**Prauda Deva Raya** part of the **Group of Monuments at Hampi**, designated as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).

What are the Key Facts About Virupaksha Temple Hampi?

- Virupaksha Temple is the 7th-century Shiva temple in Hampi, Central Karnataka.
- Lord Virupaksha, also referred to as **Pampapathi** is the main deity in Virupaksha Temple.
- The Virupaksha Temple was built in the **Vijayanagara style of architecture and was built by Lakkan Dandasha**, a nayaka under the **ruler Deva Raya II**, also known as **of the Vijayanagara Empire**.



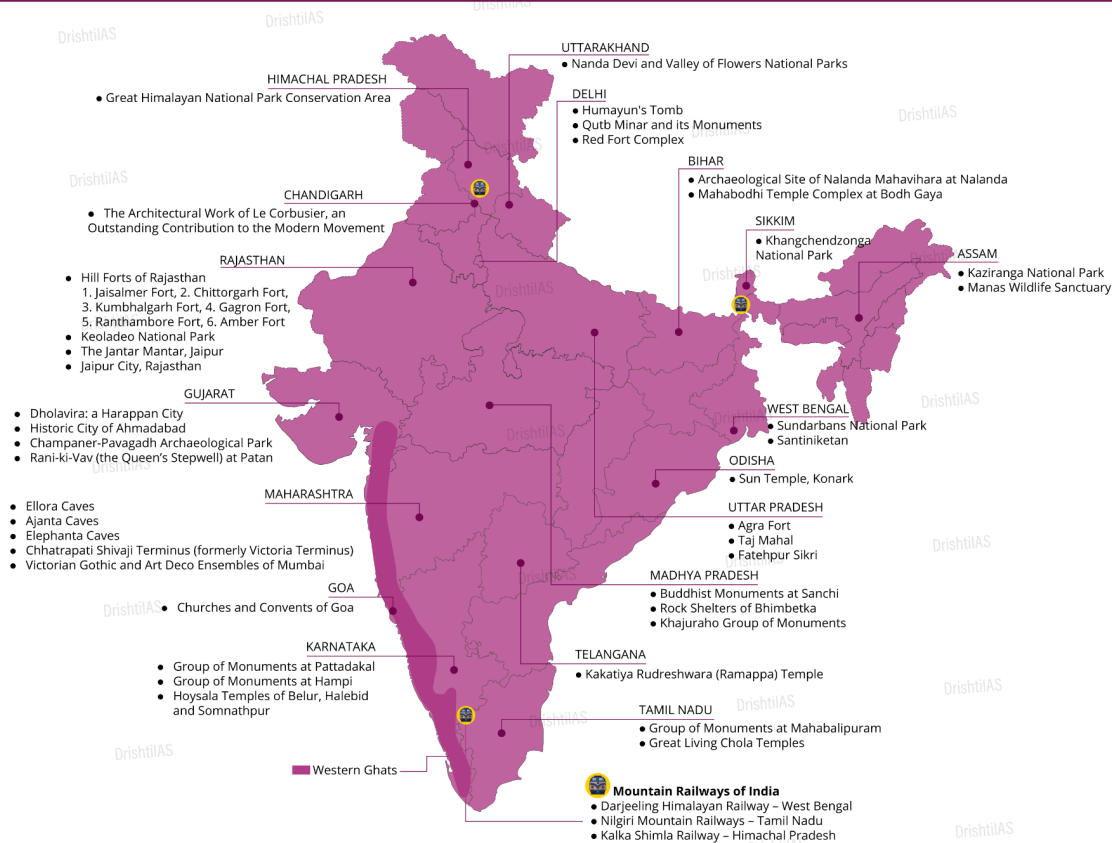
Group of Monuments at Hampi

- Hampi, located in central Karnataka on the banks of the **Tungabhadra River**, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Spread over an area of nearly 4,200 hectares, the **site contains over 1,600 surviving monuments, including forts, temples, palaces, and other structures**.
 - It was once the **capital of the Vijayanagara Empire**, known for its historical and

archaeological significance.

- The location of Hampi, amid craggy hills and the **Tungabhadra River**, provided a **natural defensive setting for the capital city**.
- Hampi's monuments showcase the pinnacle of **Vijayanagara architecture**, a synthesis of the **Dravidian style with Indo-Islamic influences**.
- **Architectural Marvels:** The Vitthala Temple complex, features exquisitely carved pillars and the **iconic Stone Chariot**.
 - The **Royal Enclosure** with its majestic structures like the **Lotus Mahal and Elephant Stables**.
 - The **Hazara Rama Temple**, is known for its intricate stone carvings and sculpted panels.
 - The massive **Virupaksha Temple**, one of the oldest and most sacred sites in Hampi.
- **Notable Structures:** Krishna temple complex, Narasimha, Ganesa, Hemakuta group of temples, **Achyutaraya temple complex**, **Vitthala temple complex**, Pattabhirama temple complex, and **Lotus Mahal complex**.
- The ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by an engineer and antiquarian named **Colonel Colin Mackenzie**.
- In recognition of its outstanding universal value, the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** inscribed Hampi as a **World Heritage Site in 1986**.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites



FACTS

- **Total Number of World Heritage Sites in India:** 42
- **Total Cultural Heritage Sites:** 34
- **Total Natural Sites:** 7 (Kaziranga National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, Sundarbans National Park, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Keoladeo National Park)
- **Mixed Site:** 1 (Khangchendzonga National Park)
- **World Heritage Sites Listed First:** Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves (all in 1983)
- **Latest Addition (2023):** Hoysala Temples (42nd site) and Santiniketan (41st site)
- **Countries With the Most UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Italy (58), China (56), Germany (51), France (49), Spain (49)
- **India is 6th in number of World Heritage Sites in the World**

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