

CLASS: 7
HISTORY
CHAPTER- 6: TOWNS, TRADERS AND CRAFTSPERSONS
Module- 3/4
HANDOUT

A Closer Look: Hampi

The Architecture Splendor of Hampi:-

- Hampi is located in **Krishna- Tungabhadra basin**. Hampi was a well fortified city and the nucleus of the Vijayanagara Empire, founded in **1336**.
- No mortar or cementing material was used in the construction of the walls of the city. They used a technique in which stone slabs were wedged together by interlocking.
- The architecture of Hampi was distinctive. The buildings in the royal complex had splendid arches, domes and pillared halls with niches for holding sculptures.
They also had well planned orchards and pleasure gardens with sculptural motifs such as the lotus and corbels.
- **Moors** [a special name used for Muslim merchants], **Chettis** and the agents of European traders such as **the Portuguese** traders were commonly seen in the markets of Hampi.

Culture of Hampi:

- Temples had many cultural activities, *devadasis* [temple dancers] performed before the deity, royalty and masses in the many- pillared halls in the **Virupashka** [a form of Shiva] temple.
- The Mahanavami festival, known today as Navratri in the south, was one of the most important festivals celebrated at Hampi.

- Archaeologists have found the Mahanavmi platform where the king received guests and accepted tribute from subordinate chiefs. From here he also watched dance and music performances as well as wrestling matches.

The Decline of Hampi:

- Hampi fell into ruin following the defeat of Vijayanagara in 1565 by Deccani Sultans like the rulers of Golconda, Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar and Bidar.

A Gateway to the West: Surat

- Surat in Gujarat was emporium of western trade during the Mughal period along with Cambay (present day Khambhat) and somewhat later, Ahmadabad. Surat was the gateway for trade with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz.
- Surat has also been called the gate of Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from Surat to Mecca.
- In the seventeenth century, the Portuguese, Dutch and English had their factories and warehouses at Surat.
- According to the English chronicler Ovington who wrote an account of the port in 1689, on average a hundred ships of the different countries could be found anchored at the port at any given time.
- The textiles of Surat were famous for their gold- lace borders [Zari] and had a market in West Asia; Africa and Europe. There were also several retail and wholesale shops selling cotton textiles at Surat.
- The state built many rest- houses to take care of the needs of the people from all over the world who came to the city. There were magnificent buildings and innumerable pleasure parks.

- The **Katahiawad *seths or mahajans*** [money changers] had huge banking houses at Surat.
- The **Surat hundis** were honored in far-off markets of **Cairo in Egypt, Basra in Iraq and Antwerp in Belgium.**
- Surat began **to decline** towards the end of the seventeenth century. **This was because of many factors:-**

1] The loss of markets and productivity because of the decline of the Mughal Empire.

2] Control of the sea routes by the Portuguese.

3] Competition from Bombay [present-day Mumbai] where the English East India Company shifted its headquarters in 1668.

Key words:

Emporium: A place where goods from diverse production centres are bought and sold.

Hundi: It is a note recording a deposit made by a person. The amount deposited can be claimed in another place by presenting the record of the deposit.
