



Chandramauleshwar Temple. Photo by © Global Heritage Fund

Hampi, India

Ancient City of the Vijayanagara Hindu Kingdom

Site Significance

Founded in 1336, the site of Hampi, Karnataka, is located on the banks of the Tungabhadra River with a backdrop of majestic rock boulders and was the capital of the Vijayanagara Kingdom. The 15th century Chandramauleshwar Temple is centrally located in Hampi and is one of the site's most prominent buildings, aligned with the primary axis of Vithhala Temple and overlooking two rivers on a popular pilgrimage route to a sacred mountain at Hampi. In 1986, UNESCO inscribed the group of monuments at Hampi as a World Heritage site. More recently in 1999 Hampi was listed by UNESCO on the List of World Heritage in Danger prompted by the construction of two new suspension bridges and a new major road within the Core Protected Area which threaten the World Heritage site's integrity. However in 2006 Hampi was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger after addressing the World Heritage Centre's (WHC) concerns.

Project Goals

Of significance is the fact that the work on this temple is the first pilot project in Karnataka for the restoration of a State Protected Monument in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi, and is further a pioneering initiative of public-private partnership by the Hampi Foundation and the Government of Karnataka. By establishing best practices in this project, it can serve as an exemplar for future preservation projects within the site and across the region.

Preservation by Design®

Planning

A Master Conservation Plan for the temple and its environs was identified as the first necessary step before any other work could proceed, and this was completed in 2004. Since that time, the focus has shifted to the stabilization of the temple and its associated structural features.



Threats

Urbanization & unplanned development
Environmental Threats
Lack of Cultural Resource Management

Start Date

2004

Project Partnerships

- Hampi Foundation
- Cornell University
- State of Karnataka

Conservation Science

GHF is undertaking stabilization of the temple's foundation and conservation of the walls and roofs of the main hall and other sacred chambers as well as the temple embankment walls. A large number of structural components of the main temple and plaza area are piled up around the temple and must be inventoried

and analyzed to determine appropriate usage and placement, both for structural integrity and architectural and historical authenticity.

Community

The local community of Aneundi has supplied skilled stone masons and other craftsmen to work on the project, and discussions are underway with the community to identify infrastructure and other needs.

Recent Accomplishments

- Installation of support bracings and shoring of the temple and its embankment walls.
- Consolidation of the upper embankment wall supporting the temple platform.
- Preparation of plans showing all labeled embankment stones' locations.
- Construction of a temporary rail track to ease the transportation of required materials while minimizing impact on the surrounding and subsurface archaeological remains.



Restoration of embankment wall. Photo by James Hooper



Conservation of the Chandramauleshwar Temple underway. Photo by James Hooper

Chandramauleshwar Temple is one of the most architecturally beautiful and centrally located temples in this endangered UNESCO World Heritage site.



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