

Heritage Revisited: The Educational Excursion to Hampi
Class VII
24 /9/2025 to 28 /9/2025

An educational excursion for five-days was organized for the students of class seven of AMS .P.OBUL REDDY PUBLIC SCHOOL, to Hampi from 24th to 28th September 2025 for 39 students, accompanied by their teachers and coordinators. The purpose of the trip was to provide experiential learning beyond the classroom by exploring the architectural, cultural, and historical heritage of one of India's most remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Sites — Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. The team departed from Hyderabad on the morning of 24th September 2025.

The Vijayanagara Empire stands as one of the most magnificent chapters in Indian history, symbolizing power, prosperity, and cultural brilliance. Founded in the 14th century, it rose to become a beacon of art, architecture, and learning in South India. The glorious capital city of Hampi still echoes the grandeur of this empire, reflecting a unique blend of devotion, strength, and creativity that continues to inspire generations.

DAY 1: Heritage Exploration and Cultural Evening

On 25th September, the day began with a visit to Hemakuta Hill. The site, dotted with numerous ancient shrines and stone structures, provided a panoramic view of the Hampi landscape. The group explored the temples and learned about the legends associated with Lord Shiva that are linked to this hill.



At 3:00 p.m., the group visited the Virupaksha Temple, one of the oldest and most significant temples in Hampi, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The students observed the architectural details of the gopuram and the intricate carvings that reflect the artistic brilliance of the Vijayanagara era. Following this, a short visit was made to the Tungabhadra River, where the tranquil surroundings and historical significance of the site were discussed.

In the evening, the participants enjoyed a traditional cultural performance of “Dollu Kunita”, a dynamic drum dance native to Karnataka. The rhythmic beats and colorful attire of the performers provided an enriching glimpse into the region’s folk culture.



DAY 2: Trekking and Temple Visits

The schedule for 26th September began early with a trek to Matanga Hill, the highest point in Hampi. The activity combined adventure with education, as participants observed the surrounding ruins and landscape from the summit, gaining insight into the city’s layout and geography.

Later in the evening, visits were made to the Narasimha Swamy Temple, renowned for its colossal monolithic statue of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha. Carved from a single block of granite, the statue stands as a remarkable example of the artistic excellence achieved by the Vijayanagara sculptors.



The visit continued to the Krishna Temple, an architectural gem dedicated to Lord Krishna, built during the reign of Krishnadevaraya. The temple's detailed carvings, sculpted pillars, and traces of an ancient market street revealed the prosperity and devotion that flourished under the Vijayanagara rulers. As the sun set behind the rocky landscape, the golden light bathed the temple ruins, leaving the group in awe of Hampi's timeless beauty.



DAY 3: Architectural Grandeur of Hampi

On 27th September, the group explored the Vittala Temple Complex, renowned for its stone chariot and musical pillars that produce melodious tones when struck. The architectural precision and craftsmanship fascinated all the visitors, making this one of the most memorable parts of the trip.

In the evening, the group proceeded to the Royal Enclosure, which served as the political and ceremonial center of the Vijayanagara Empire. The vast area once housed majestic palaces, audience halls, and ceremonial platforms that reflected the might and sophistication of the empire. Key attractions included the Lotus Mahal, Mahanavami Dibba, Stepped Tank, Elephant stables, Coin minting unit and Queen's Bath, each reflecting the engineering brilliance and grandeur of the period.



Reflections: History beyond Textbooks

The educational excursion to Hampi was a successful and enriching experience for all participants. It fulfilled its objective of combining learning with exploration and cultural appreciation. The visit enabled the students to connect classroom learning with real-world heritage, making it a memorable and intellectually stimulating journey. The excursion to Hampi was a journey through time, offering valuable insights into India's glorious past. Students gained a deeper appreciation for the art, architecture, and culture of the Vijayanagara Empire. The experience encouraged teamwork, curiosity, and respect for historical preservation.