

CLASS: 7  
HISTORY  
CHAPTER-6  
TOWNS, TRADERS AND  
CRAFTSPERSONS

**MODULE- 3/4**

## A CLOSER LOOK : HAMPI

- Hampi is located in the Krishna –Tungabhadra basin, which formed the nucleus of **the Vijayanagra Empire**, founded in **1336**.
- The magnificent ruins at Hampi reveal a well- fortified city.
- No mortar or cementing agent was used in the construction of the enclosure walls of Hampi.
- 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.
- **Moors** (a name used for Muslim merchants), Chettis and the agents of European traders such as the Portuguese traders were commonly seen in the markets.

# A CLOSER LOOK : HAMPI

- Temples were the hub of cultural activities.
- **Devadasis** (temple dancers) performed before the deity, royalty and masses in the pillared halls in **the Virupaksha** [ a form of Shiva] temple.
- **The Mahanavami** festival [Navaratri] was one of the most important festivals celebrated at Hampi.
- Hampi fell into ruin following **the defeat of Vijayanagra in 1565** by Deccani Sultans - the rulers of **Golconda, Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar and Bidar.**

# HAMPI



- Interlocking technique



- Stone chariot, Vitthala temple  
Hampi



Vijaynagara Architecture



Lotus temple Hampi

# A Gateway to the West: Surat

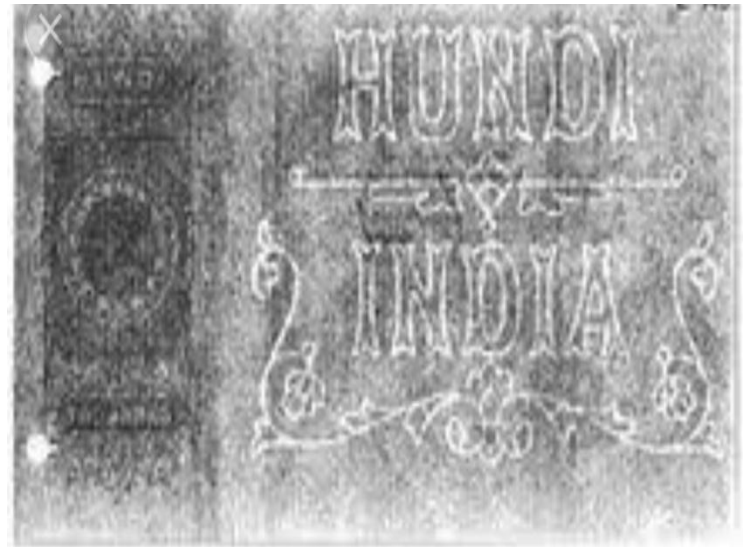
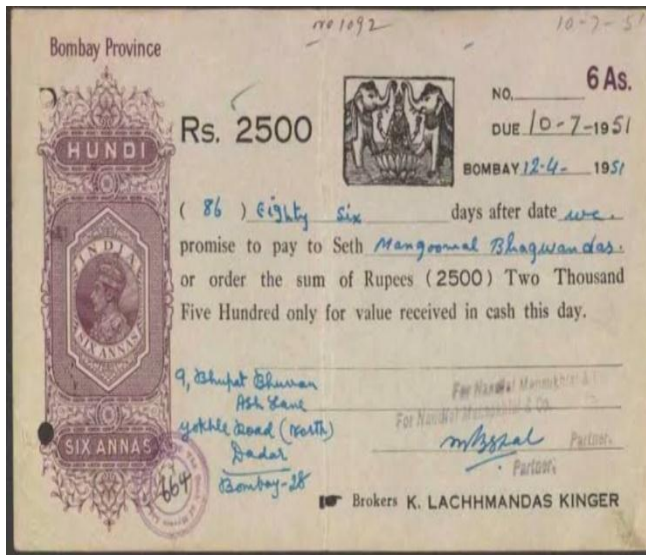
- Surat in Gujarat was the **emporium** of western trade during the Mughal period along with Cambay [Khambhat].
- Surat was gateway for trade with west Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz. Surat has also been called **the gate to Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from here.**
- The city was cosmopolitan and people of all castes and creeds lived there. The Portuguese, Dutch and English had their factories and warehouses at Surat in the seventeenth century.
- 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.

## A GATEWAY TO THE WEST : SURAT

- 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 build 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 mahajans [money changers] had huge banking houses at Surat.

# THE SURAT *HUNDIS*

- The Surat hundis were honoured in far-off markets of Cairo in Egypt, Basra in Iraq and Antwerp in Belgium.



**Hundi** - 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.

# A GATEWAY TO THE WEST: SURAT

- 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.