

Group of Monuments at Hampi

1. Executive Summary

With reference to the letter CLT/WHC/APA/HG/RL/23/012 dated 08.02.2023, the following is the State of Conservation report for the Group of Monuments at Hampi World Heritage Site.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the nodal agency, has submitted the response with respect to the points raised by the Director, World Heritage Centre and Advisory Body concerned.

This report follows the prescribed format for the submission of state of conservation (SoC) reports by the state parties in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

(Decision: N.A.)

Director, World Heritage Centre & concerned advisory bodies, vide letter No. CLT/WHC/APA/HG/RL/23/012 dated 08.02.2023 cited the following issues:-

- i. Development of a road within the property,
- ii. Collapse of part of the fort around Kamala Mahal within the boundaries of the property,
- iii. Development works to widen a road within the property (all of which may have impact on its OUV notable integrity of its landscape setting).
- iv. Third party information about large-scale tourism development projects that may have negative impacts on the property and its OUV

Accordingly, point wise submission is produced below in the SOC report.

i. Development of a road within the property:

A proposal to develop a road within the Hampi World Heritage Area was received from the National Highway Authority India (NHAI) in the World Heritage Property. Objections were raised by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) citing that the activities will affect the authenticity, historic fabric and integrity of the natural landscape to Deputy Commissioner Vijayanagara and Project Director NHAI Hosapete). The NHAI was intimated to take necessary permissions from the concerned authority before proceeding with these activities. An NOC has to be obtained following the scrutiny of a Detailed Project Report. Work has not been initiated.

ii. Fort of the Kamala Mahal Enclosure

The Kamala Mahal is situated in the Zenana enclosure. The fallen portion of the western wall is situated behind the treasury building in this enclosure. The fort wall is a cyclopean wall built out of massive edge-shaped stone blocks placed one on top of the other with a core filling of rubble and earth in dry masonry. Unanticipated heavy rains led to the bulging of the core materials, which led to the collapse of a portion of the fort measuring 13 m out of 140 m of total length, in the year 2020. An estimate of Rs. 98,63,063.66/- has been already approved by the DG, ASI for the conservation of the affected portion of the fort. Currently, the work is under progress and is expected to be completed by March 2023.



Kamala Mahal Enclosure wall.

iii. Road-widening activity between Kamalapura-Hospete; State Government

Road-widening and construction of RCC culvert has been observed from Malapanagudi to Kadiramapura entrance up to Kamalapura Tank Junction. The ASI has taken cognizance of this issue. In this regard, a meeting with local authorities was arranged to address matter and its possible impact. The State Government has intimated that road widening activities in the buffer and peripheral zone will now be done using traditional materials and will not disturb any archaeological remains.





Road Widening Near Kamalapura Tank

iv. Developmental activities related to large-scale tourism development projects

- a) Within the core zone of the World Heritage Property, infrastructure works are being executed by the State Government at Kamalapura. ASI is regularly monitoring these activities and co-ordinating with the State Government to limit these development activities to avoid any negative impact on its OUV of the property.



New Bus Stand in the Core Zone of the World Heritage Area of Kamalapura

b) Amendment of zonal regulations:

The amendments to the zonal regulations have been requested by the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA). The ASI has requested a study to be undertaken by HWHAMA on the feasibility, suitability, and location of these amendments in order to evaluate:

- The proposal to extend the development area of villages in the buffer and peripheral zone from 100 m to 250 m from the existing boundary of villages in the World Heritage Area.
- The proposal to provide wayside tourist amenities in the core zone along the highways.
- The proposal to provide farm stays in the agricultural lands of each revenue village to facilitate development in the buffer and peripheral zone.

c) Celebration of Hampi Utsava:

The Hampi Utsava is the largest festival celebrated in the World Heritage Area in the district by the Government of Karnataka to promote culture and tourism. The festival is being organised by the State Government for the past 20 years. The festival is attended 3-5 lakhs people. ASI and State Government work in tandem to ensure no damage to any monuments within the Core Zone.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

Nil

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

Nil

5. Public Access: This report may be uploaded for public access.

6. Signatory


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