

## **AN OVERVIEW OF VIJAYAPURA TOURISM AND THE NEED FOR IT'S DEVELOPMENT**

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**Abstract**—Vijayapura, located in northern Karnataka, is a prominent heritage tourism destination known for its Indo-Islamic architecture and historical monuments built during the Adil Shahi dynasty. Tourism in the region contributes significantly to cultural preservation, employment generation, and regional development. This research paper examines the historical background of Vijayapura, major tourist attractions, economic benefits, challenges, and prospects for tourism development. The study is based on secondary data collected from books, tourism reports, and online resources. The findings suggest that while Vijayapura has immense tourism potential, improvements in infrastructure, conservation, and promotion are required to transform it into a major heritage tourism hub.

**Keywords:** Tourism, Cultural Preservation, Employment Generation, Regional Development, Economic Benefits, Tourism Hub.

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### **Introduction**

Karnataka has its own magnificent heritage of art and architecture. Many of the architectures are buried in the womb of time and some are in the state of disrepair. Others are unknown to anyone. In 1888 AD the art critic Henry Cousins visited Vijayapura. Some of the monuments he mentioned in his work are now ruined but they have their own history. There are ample opportunities to study the art and architecture of Karnataka from different perspectives.

Vijayapura is one of the most historically important cities in northern Karnataka. The city gained prominence during the Adil Shahi rule (15th–17th centuries), which led to the construction of remarkable architectural monuments. Tourism in Vijayapura is mainly heritage-based, attracting visitors interested in history, architecture, and culture. The city's monuments reflect a blend of Persian, Deccan, and Islamic styles, making it a unique destination.

Tourism in Vijayapura plays an important role in the cultural and economic development of northern Karnataka. The city is famous for its historical monuments, Indo-Islamic architecture, and heritage sites built mainly during the Adil Shahi dynasty. Because of its rich past and impressive structures, is often Vijayapura referred to as the “Agra of South India.”

### **Historical Background**

The City was founded by the Kalyani Chalukyas in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. It was known as Bijjanahalli or Bijakanahalli or the City of History. After the Chalukyas it was under the rule Devagiri Yadavas.

By the end of 13<sup>th</sup> century, Bijapur came under the rule of the Delhi Sultan, Alluddin Khilji. Later in 1347AD, the city was captured by the Bahamani Sultan. The Bahamani Empire emerged as 5 Shahi States. Among them, Bijapur in 1489AD was the birth place of the AdilShahi dynasty under the leadership of Yusuf Adil Shah. Today, we can see many monuments built in this place during the Adil Shahi period. In 1686AD, the Mughal Emporors Auranjeb conquered Bijapur. Until 1724Ad, it was under the rule the Nizam of Hyderabad. After independence Bijapur became a part of the Karnataka state. The city was renamed as Vijayapura, dropping the name Bijapur.

Vijayapura (formerly Bijapur) has a long historical tradition dating back to the Stone Age. The region was ruled successively by the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kalyani Chalukyas, Kalachuris, and the Devagiri Yadavas. Later, it came under the Delhi Sultanate and subsequently the Bahmani Sultanate. In 1489, the Adil Shahi dynasty established its rule, leading to the construction of numerous monuments. In 1686, the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb conquered the region, after which it came under the Nizam of Hyderabad before becoming part of Karnataka after independence.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

Objectives of tourism in Vijayapura focus on conserving its 15-17<sup>th</sup> century AdilShahi Islamic architecture, promoting heritage tourism through landmarks like GolGumbaz, Jumma Masjid, UppariBuruj, GaganMahaletc fostering local economic growth. Main aims include enhancing visitor infrastructure, promoting cultural heritage, and generating employment through tourism development.

1. To know the benefits of Tourism in Vijayapura.
2. To know the various monuments and structures in Vijayapura.
3. To improve Tourist facilities.
4. To offer suggestions based on the observation and study to improve heritage Preservation and Conservation.

### **Methodology**

This research paper is based on secondary data collected from tourism reports, books, government publications, and online sources. Descriptive analysis has been used to interpret the information regarding tourist attractions, economic impact, and development prospects.

### **Tourism benefits of Vijayapura**

The important benefits of Vijayapura tourism focus on how to grow economically by creating employment opportunities and to promote sustainable development by fostering cultural exchange, maintaining the quality of infrastructure and improving the standard of living by minimizing poverty through rural tourism and also to protect the environment.

Tourism contributes significantly to the local economy of Vijayapura. Heritage monuments generate employment in hotels, transport, handicrafts, and guiding services. For example, major monuments like Gol Gumbaz attract around 1.5–2 lakh visitors annually, and the city's heritage sites together draw over three lakh tourists each year.

The following are the benefits of Tourism:

- **Revenue Generation:** Maintaining all the monuments in good form and developing infrastructure in the city would attract the foreign tourists which will facilitate in generating foreign exchange that will help in increasing government revenue.
- **Creating Employment Opportunities:** If the facilities required by the tourists are provided more and more tourists flow to the city that will help in Creating new jobs and will help in developing service sector like transportation, Hotels and restaurant, hospitals etc.
- **Infrastructure Development:** In order to make the place being attracted by the tourists upgradation of infrastructure and other utility services will help in the overall development of the district in particular and makes the state popular.
- **To Promote Understanding:** Tourism helps in building strong relations between different cultures, religions and will facilitate in promoting the understanding between cultures and will help in protecting local heritage.
- **Ecological Impact:** Maintaining ecological balance is of very important so Tourism Encourages in managing natural resources carefully therefore, that will help in minimizing the negative impacts of wrongful utilization of resources
- **Rural Development:** Tourism Supports rural development and by giving the opportunity to the local and rural people to enhance their income.
- **Safety and Security:** Ensuring the protection of tourists and enhancing the reputation of the destination.
- **Cultural and Heritage Tourism:** The city promotes heritage tourism through monuments, Bijapur tourism is mainly heritage-based, with Indo-Islamic architecture being the primary attraction. The city contains palaces,

### *An Overview of Vijayapura Tourism and the Need for It's Development*

mosques, tombs, stepwells, and forts built between the 15th and 17th centuries. These sites showcase the artistic excellence and engineering skills of the Deccan rulers. Festivals, local traditions, and handicrafts also contribute to tourism. Cultural events and heritage walks allow visitors to experience the historical atmosphere of the city.

- **Cultural and Social Importance:** Tourism in Vijayapura promotes cultural exchange and preserves historical heritage. Festivals, local traditions, handicrafts, and heritage walks enhance visitor experience and help maintain cultural identity. Tourism also strengthens social understanding and promotes regional pride.

#### **Major Tourist Attractions in Vijayapura**

Vijayapura is home to numerous historical monuments representing Indo-Islamic architecture. Important attractions include:

- **Gol-Gumbaz:** The dome of this monument is the second largest in the world and the first in India. It is a magnificent structure and 'Gol' means circular or round and 'Gumbaz' means dome. This monument was built during the reign of Muhammad Adil Shah, the seventhultan of the AdilShahidynasty.It has a total of seven floors. It has a medieval Indo-Islamic style of architecture, its construction began in 1626 and lasted in for about 30 years untill1656AD. It is also called as whispering gallery.
- **Bara Kaman:** This Bara Kaman is is an unfinished grand structure. It is the tomb of Ali Adil Shah II. The most unique feature of this monument is the big and tallest arches.There are no domes here.It is a high stone arrangement that has been turned into arches. The original intention of this monument was to build a building with arches arranged horizontally and vertically. Standing on the high platform the structure looks very magnificent. The reason for its name BaraKaman is that during the AdilShahiperiod,a nobleman named Shah Nawaz Khan was in charge of the monuments of the AdilShis.Since this Ali Roja is the 12<sup>th</sup> monument built under his supervision, it is called Bara Kaman.
- **Jumma Masjid:** Sultan Ali Adil Shah I of Bijapur built this mosque after his victory in the battle of Talikote in 1565 AD. This mosque is one of the largest mosques in South India. It has a total area of 1,16,300 square feet and is 450 feet east-west, It has a total capacity of 2250 people to offer prayer together. Initially the mosque had entrances on the north and south sides. Later, Aurangzeb built a large entrance on the east side of the mosque. During the reign of Muhammad Adil Shah, Quranic inscriptions were painted on the western wall in very fine detail. The yellow letters were painted with goldwater. This is called Mihrab.
- **Asar Mahal:** The Asar Mahal was built by Muhammad Adil Shah in 1646 AD. It was used as Hall of Justice. The monument is built with huge wooden pillars and the upper rooms are decorated with paintings. Every year festival is held at this place, where the beard hair of the Prophet is kept, It is open to the public during this festival. The huge entrance gate on the side of this monument is two-storeyed, On the eastern side, in front of the hall, three huge water tanks can be seen. The tank in the middle is 15 feet deep, and the tanks on its sides are four feet deep. We can see stone channels for the water to enter and exit.
- **Anand Mahal:** This Mahal was built by Ibrahim Adil Shah II in1589AD. The hall can be seen on the high roof of this monument, Currently there are many Government departments here, but the current district administration has decided to clear them and make them a major tourist center.
- **Sangeet Mahal:** Sultan Ibrahim Adil Shah II, who was a music lover, buit the palace, it has a large building for holding a separate music hall, with a large arch in the middle and two smaller arches. There is a tallpavilion in front of it and a wide water dam. It is surrounded by a wide fort wall. Because the sound of music echoed. This monument is located near the village Toravi.
- **Jal Mahal:** This Jal Mahal is currently located behind Gagan Mahal next to the Sat Manjil Monument. Although the Jal Mahal is a small monument to see it is full of wonderful carvings, There is a rectangular water tank around this monument, in the middle of which is this monument. Lotus flowers are very artistically carvedon the outer wall of this monument.
- **Taj Bawdi:** This is the well which was built in the name of Taj Sultana, the wife of Sultan Ibrahim Shah II, who was famous among the sultans, and is named 'TajBawadi'. It has two octagonal towers above the entrance gate, There is always water here at any time of the year. Recently the archeological department and many organistions have succeeded in cleaning it. It was built in 1620 AD, this well is 52 feet deep and 223 feet long, according to the locals no one has ever seen the deapth of this well because it never dried up.

- **UppariBurj:** This UppariBurj is called ‘UppaliBurj’ by the locals because the local around it used to beat the mound with dow dung on this monument. Therefore, the mound is called Uppali in Hindi. It is also popularly know as UppaliBurj. In 1584AD HyderKhaan, the general of AdilShahi, built this monument, Due to this, it is also called HyderBurj. This monument is circular and its base is wide and narrows towards the top. There are also steps around it to go up. When you go up, you see a wide space and are two cannons. One of the cannons is aweighing about 22 tons which is long range cannon.
- **Ibrahim Rouza:** It has magnificent twin monuments, One is a burial place and the other a prayer place, A fountain in the middle separates the prayer place and the burial place. It is a fine example of Indo-Islamic style. It covers a n area of about 400 square feet and is the burial place of Ibrahim Adil Shah II along with the tombs of his wife Taj Sultana, darghter of Zahira, mother of Hajibadi, and two sons Darvesh and Sulaiman. This monument is called Ibrahim Roja because it is related to Ibrahim Adil Shah II. It is a magnificent structure with twin monuments with delicated carvings and beautiful arches, halls and a large dome with magnificent carvings. The monument is now said to be a model for the Taj Mahal in Agra. The critic Henry Cousins, impressed by the architectural splendor of this monument, called it the The Taj Mahal of South India. The Quran is beautifully engraved in Arabic on the outer wall of this tomb. Its architect was Malik Sandal. The monument has a beautiful garden in front of it Built in 1617AD the Ibrahim Roja which is called so after the death of Ibrahim Adil Shah II.
- **Malik-e-Maidan:** This the world’s first heavy cannon in medieval history, It is the most famous of all cannons, It is called ‘Malik-E-Maidan Cannon’ which means ‘King of the plains, It is placed on SherjaBurj. Its total weight is 55 tons and is 15 feet long and 5 feet wide, It is made of Pnchaloha. According to its inscription it was made in 1565AD by a craftsman named Muhammad bin Hasan Rumi of Ahmednagar, it was used in the Battle of Talikote in 1565 AD. It was given as a gift to Ali Adil Shah who married Chandbib
- **GaganMahal:** The Gagan Mahal was built in 1561 AD by Ali Adil Shah. It is located amidst huge forts and water moats. This monument was used as a durbar hall of the AdilShahis. The large arches here especially attract everyone’s attention. It also has three floors, and currently it is restricted to go up. There is a lawn garden in front of the monument and a water moat next to it, The durvar hall of this palace is wonderful to see. Three huge arches can be seen here. The central arch is hrge, while the adjacent arches are equal in height but saller in width.
- **Chand Bawdi:** The city, known for its strong Islamic architecture, also boasts the Vijayapura Fort and various citadels that reflect its rich, war-torn history as a prominent Sultanate. The best time to visit is during winters from October to Mar

**Kummatagi Summer palace:** There is a village called Kumatagi on the way to Sindagi from Vijayapura District. It is 15 kms from the main city. This is a village, which was the site of a summer Palace during the Adil Shahi. It is known that it was built by Sultan Mohammad Adil Shah, who ruled from 1627AD to 1656 AD. Two monuments are important here. Technology used to keep these monuments cool can still be seen here. Special attraction of this Palace is that water used to fall from the top of th monument in the shape of rain drops, such taces can be seen at present. Water was supplied through a pipe line from the famous lake of that time, located 100ft. away from this monument. Even today water still flows there.

Apart from this paintings of that time pictures of Sultan, and pictures of birds can be seen even today.

- **Alamatti Dam:** The Alamatti Dam is also called Lal Bahaddur Shastri Dam. The dam is surrounded by 77 acres of lush greenery, including district styles like Mughal, Italian and French Garden. The Lava Kusha Garden is particularly famous for its Sunrise and Sunset views every evening, tripically starting around 7 pm to 7-30pm, a vibrant musical fountain show takes place. It is often accompanied by a laser light that points the dam’s surrounding in brilliant colours. Motor boating can also be enjoyed in Silver Lake.

This expansive area features over 1500 life size sculptures depicting rural life, mythology and north Karnataka culture. It also includes a dinosaur sector and a butterfly sector, making it a hit with families.

This is a dam project on the Krishna River in north Karnataka, India which was completed in July 2005. The annual electric output of the dam is 713000000 kwts. It is the main reservoir of the upper Krishna irrigation project: the 290 MW power project is located on the right side of the Alamatti Dam. The facility uses vertical Kaplan turbines: five 55 MW generators and one 15 MW generator. Estimated costs were projected as 1470 core rupees during the initial stages, but following the transfer of project management to the Karnataka power corporation ltd, the estimated cost was reduced by over 50% to Rupees 674 cores. Here there is a beautiful garden worth visiting.

## *An Overview of Vijayapura Tourism and the Need for It's Development*

Many more such beautiful monuments and other structures like Began Talab, Joda Gummata, Ramalinga Kere, Shvigiri, Sundareshwar Temple etc. are located and Fort walls can be seen in Vijayapura to attract history lovers, architects, and tourists from across India and abroad.

These monuments showcase architectural excellence, engineering skills, and the cultural richness of the Deccan region. Heritage tourism forms the backbone of Vijayapura's tourism sector

### **Primary Problems of Tourism in Vijayapura**

- **Poor Infrastructure & Facilities:** Heritage centers suffer from poor maintenance, and there is a lack of basic hygienic facilities at tourist destinations.
- **Urbanization Pressure & Encroachment:** The historical core faces challenges from rapid urbanization, including traffic congestion, pollution, and encroachment by local inhabitants, which threatens the integrity of protected monuments.
- **Inadequate Tourist Amenities:** There is a lack of professional, trained tourist guides and insufficient tourist information centers.
- **Environmental & Climate Factors:** The hot and dry climate of North Karnataka acts as a barrier during the summer months (March-May), leading to seasonality in tourism.
- **Administrative & Planning Issues:** Inadequate public-private partnerships, lack of a comprehensive Master Plan for heritage conservation, and poor management.
- **Safety & Security:** Issues such as the prevalence of beggars and harassment of tourists around heritage monument centers.

### **Suggestions for Tourism Development**

Following are the few suggestions to develop tourism activities in the Vijayapura district.

#### **Suggestion to Improve Tourist facilities:**

- **Strengthen digital promotion and marketing:** By creating high quality videos, posters, info graphics and virtual tours, instagram, YouTube search engine optimization etc. will help the promotion of tourism.
- **Establish tourist information centers:** Easily accessible provides essential travel assistance, including maps, attraction guides.
- **PPP implementation:** With the help of this the revenue can be generated and the structures safety and facilities will automatically get improved.

#### **General Suggestions to Improve Tourism:**

- **Restore and conserve heritage monuments:** Since many monuments are totally ignored and neglected, as a result of this we can see sewage water around such monuments and many plants have grown there, therefore, due care is required to be taken to protect them from being totally vanished.
- **Provide training to tourist guides by developing deep subject knowledge, communication skills and conducting post-tour debriefs and developing confidence in them.**
- **Transportation facilities:** Making special transport facility to visit such sites will facilitate the people who visit such sites and will attract the attention of tourists.
- **Providing Security to all the monuments and structures is very necessary for further development.**

### **Conclusion:**

Tourism in Vijayapura plays a vital role in preserving heritage and supporting economic development. The city's monuments, cultural richness, and historical importance make it a significant tourism destination in Karnataka. With proper planning, infrastructure development, conservation, and promotion, Vijayapura has the potential to emerge as a major heritage tourism hub in India.

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