

PRESS RELEASE

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# DECCAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION



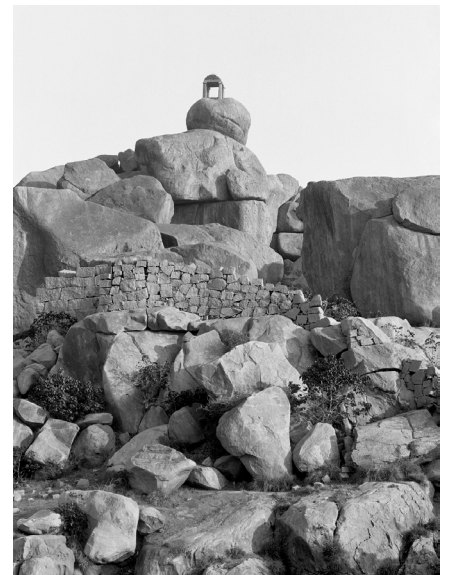
## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Deccan Heritage Foundation (DHF) is pleased to announce the launch of its latest publication, *City of Victory: Hampi Vijayanagara*, authored by **John M. Fritz** and **George Michell**, with photographs by renowned architectural photographer John Gollings. The book, which has been published by **PICTOR**, was launched through a series of events held across Goa, Mumbai, Hampi, and Bengaluru, bringing the book to scholars, practitioners, and heritage enthusiasts across South India.

Drawing on decades of research and field documentation, *City of Victory: Hampi Vijayanagara* offers a deeply informed account of Hampi, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. Combining rigorous scholarship with Gollings' striking black-and-white photography, the book presents Vijayanagara as a sophisticated urban, architectural, and sacred landscape rather than a site viewed solely through the lens of ruin and nostalgia.

In Bengaluru, the book launch was accompanied by a photography exhibition of Gollings' works at **Venkatappa Art Gallery** from **22 to 27 January 2026**, presented with support from the **Australian Consulate-General, Bengaluru**.

*City of Victory: Hampi Vijayanagara* reflects DHF's continued commitment to research, documentation, and public engagement with the built heritage of the Deccan. The publication underscores the importance of sustained research, documentation and international collaboration in the study and preservation of South Asia's cultural heritage.



Anegundi Fort, Hampi

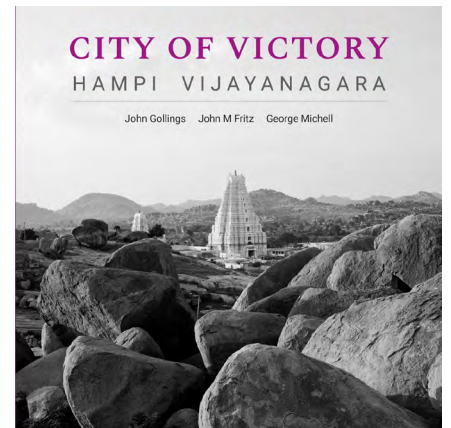
## Publication

Vijayanagara was the capital of the greatest Hindu kingdom of Southern India between the 14th and 16th centuries. Contemporary Persian and Portuguese travellers testify to the power of its emperors and the splendour of their court, the grand scale of the city and its imposing architecture, and the wealth of its markets where diamonds could be purchased.

The remains of the central part of Vijayanagara give the best possible idea of the magnificence of a medieval Hindu city. Covering a vast area of more than 30 square kilometres, the ruins are set in an astonishingly rugged landscape of granite boulders through which flows the Tungabhadra River.

Since 1980 the authors have mapped Vijayanagara's layout and documented its standing structures. As specialists they have authored a definitive text intended for general readers and travellers, as well as scholars and students. Award-winning photographer John Gollings has worked closely with Fritz and Michell. His striking black-and-white photographs capture the drama of Vijayanagara's landscape as well as the architectural forms of its principal monuments and the details of their sculpted reliefs. Additional data is provided by descriptions of individual monuments, accompanied by photographs, site maps and building plans.

In 1986, Hampi was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, which included it on its list of antiquities of global significance. The city's extraordinary religious and courtly ruins that include more than a thousand structures continue to draw pilgrims, artists, scholars and scientists from around the world.



*City of Victory  
Hampi Vijayanagara*

Text by John M. Fritz and  
George Michell  
Photography by John Gollings  
Hardcover 168 pages  
PICTOR Publishing

## Authors

Dr. George Michell

George Michell trained as an architect in Melbourne and received his PhD in Indian Archaeology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. In March 2013 George received an Honorary Doctorate in Architecture from the University of Melbourne. He has carried out research at many historical sites in the Bengal, Gujarat and Southern India. Among George's publications are *Royal Palaces of India*, *Hindu Art and Architecture*, *Thanjavur: One Thousand Years* and *Mughal Architecture & Gardens*. He has also collaborated with John Gollings on two books on contemporary Australian domestic architecture.

Dr. John M. Fritz

John M. Fritz received a PhD in Anthropology with a speciality in Archaeology from the University of Chicago. He was Consulting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Together with George Michell, John contributed to numerous academic publications; they also co-authored the popular guidebook to the site, *Hampi Vijayanagara*, with photographs by John Gollings.

John Gollings

Trained as an architect, John Gollings has worked extensively throughout Australia, as well as in India, China and Cambodia. His photographs have appeared in numerous magazines as well as in the publications *Australia Style* and *Australia City Living*, and have been showcased in an exhibition of three-dimensional panoramas entitled *Place-Hampi*, and in *Now and Then: Australian Urbanism*, the exhibition shown in the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale, now commemorated in a handsome volume, designed by David Pidgeon and published by Thames and Hudson.



Bhima's Gate, Hampi

## **Deccan Heritage Foundation (DHF)**

Founded by architectural historians Helen Philon and George Michell, with Stephane Bloch Saloz as co-founder, the Deccan Heritage Foundation comprises a committed group of scholars, philanthropists and heritage workers from around the world, united by a common purpose — to restore, maintain and inform the public about the Deccan's built heritage.

A major part of the DHF's mission is not only to preserve the past, but to also bring the Deccan's rich heritage, and in particular, its plethora of historic monuments, to a new generation of Indians and world travellers.

Multiple innovative programmes underscore the DHF's work. The restoration and rehabilitation of several significant historical monuments is carefully planned for, with a focus on those that are economically, culturally and socially beneficial to local communities. We understand that education is the means to promote greater knowledge of the Deccan's vibrant architecture, representative of all aspects of Indian cultures and civilisations, and to this end, the DHF also commissions the publication of guidebooks and books, authored by highly regarded professionals in the field.



[deccan-heritage-foundation.org](http://deccan-heritage-foundation.org)  
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### **Press**

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