



# Centre For Society and Policy



*Presents*

## **Hampi and its environs: Insights into techno-cultural and geological landscapes**



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Studies (NIAS)

Dr. Sharada Srinivasan is an archaeologist specialising in the scientific study of art, archaeology, archaeometallurgy and culture. She was awarded India's fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri, in 2019. She has a PhD in archaeometallurgy from University College, London; Masters from SOAS, London; and Bachelors from IIT Mumbai. Dr. Sharada is currently associated with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India, and the University of Exeter, UK. She is first author of the book 'India's Legendary Wootz Steel: An advanced material of the ancient world'. She is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and World Academy of Art and Science. She is also an exponent of classical Bharata Natyam.

### **Abstract:**

The World Heritage Site of Hampi in Karnataka, renowned for the evocative remnants of the medieval metropolis of the Vijayanagara Empire which flourished from 14th to 16th century AD in southern India. The talk touches upon some exploratory techno-cultural investigations into aspects of the regional cultural and geological heritage with respect to its metalworking and stone sculptural traditions. Relevant evidence from field and archaeometallurgical investigations by the author for gold, copper and iron and wootz steel are touched upon (including lead isotope analysis), including early evidence from the Anegundi region for megalithic iron and steel. The bun-like porphyritic granites dotting the region, amongst the oldest known rock formations could also merit being regarded as 'heritage stones'. These were used not only in the medieval architecture ranging from Dravidian style temples to monuments with Deccan Sultanate influences, but also much earlier in the enigmatic megalithic sites such as nearby Hirebankal and with intriguing tonalities noted here as well as at Hampi. The talk also briefly touches upon some insights from a past collaborative Digital Heritage NIAS project in exploring iconometric aspects such as of the colossal Narasimha sculpture.



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CSP Seminar Hall, IISc  
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Refreshments  
@ 3:30 PM