

# Hindu Mythological story about the creation of Hampi

*Indian popular culture identified Kishkinda (Hampi in popular culture) as the forest domain of the monkeys, through which the river Pampa flowed (as the Hampi river was called then).*

*According to well-known episodes in the Ramayana (you could say one of the two foundational Indian bibles), the story goes that there was a bitter power struggle going on between two princely brothers, Sugreeva and Vali. In a pitched battle, Vali defeated Sugreeva and chased him out of the kingdom. The frightened Sugreeva took refuge at the Matanga hill (the tallest hill in Hampi ) as Vali couldn't climb it thanks to an earlier curse on him.*

*The epic relates that a certain Rama, the king of Ayodhya, arrived in Kishkinda with his brother Lakshmana, in search of the former's abducted wife Sita (a Helen of Troy story...). There they encounter the monkey warrior, Hanuman, who introduces them to his master, Sugreeva. Sugreeva had witnessed Sita being carried through the air by the demon Ravana. Hanuman also tells the two brothers about the struggle between Sugreeva, the previous ruler of Kishkindha, and his impetuous brother Vali. They persuaded Rama to kill Vali and restore Sugreeva to the throne. For which, in return, Hanuman undertakes and goes out to search for his wife, Sita.*

*He eventually discovers her in captivity in Ravana's island fortress of Lanka (Sri Lanka). He then returns to Kishkindha to inform Rama and Lakshmana of Sita's whereabouts. They decide that after the monsoon season is over, they will set out to rescue her. Vali then offers them the help of his monkey army to attack Lanka and free Sita. In return, Rama will help him kill Sugreeva and regain the throne of the monkey kingdom.*

*After Sita is found and freed, Vali and Sugreeva fought a momentous battle. The story goes it was so intense that the boulders they threw at each other piled up all around Hampi.*

*And that is how, in Indian mythology, the extraordinary boulder site of Hampi first emerged...*

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