GSAP Study Tour – South India February 2020

Study Tour Report from 14/02/2020 to 20/02/2020

Total Number of Students attended: 36 (1st Year & 2nd Year students)

Study Tour Coordinators:
1. Mr. Dhashrath P - Assistant Professor
2. Mr. PruthviSagar - Assistant Professor
3. Ar.Vijayalakshmi B K - Assistant Professor
4. Ar.Parichita Mohapatra- Assistant Professor

Tour Operators: SUPREME UNIVERSE INTERNATIONAL, Bangalore 560045

Day 1: 14.02.2020

BANGALORE: Leave Bangalore at about 10.30p.m by Bus for Tiruchirapalli.

Day 2: 15.02.2020

TIRUCHIRAPALLI: (also called Tiruchi or Trichy) - is an ancient city in India's southern Tamil Nadu state. The Kaveri and Kollidam rivers flow around Srirangam Island, which is known for sacred Hindu sites.

Visited:
Place 1 - ATHANGUDI VILLAGE: It is a village in Sivaganga District. The place is known for its floor tiles called as "Athangudi tiles". The tiles are handmade and have traditional patterns and design. The tiles are durable and eco-friendly. Tile preparation method was demonstrated to the students and they also had hands on experience on the making of the tiles.

Place 2 - CHETTINAD MANSION: Built in 1902, the beautiful Chettinad Mansion in Kāraikkudi features stunning architecture, Italian marble flooring and wooden furnishings.

Place 3 - JAMBUKESWARAR AKHILANDESWARI TEMPLE: is a famous Shiva temple in Trichy. The temple was built by Kocenganna (Kochenga Chola), one of the Early Cholas, around 1,800 years ago. It is located in the Srirangam island, which has the famous Rangamathaswamy Temple.

Thiruvanaikal is one of the five major Shiva Temples of Tamil Nadu (Pancha Bhoota Stalam) representing the Mahabhuta or five great elements; this temple represents the element of water, or neer in Tamil. The sanctum of Jambukeshwara has an underground water stream and in spite of pumping water out, it is always filled with water.

Place 4 - RANGANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE - Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the Temple Complex is massive in scale and spread over 156 acres (63.131 hectares). According to some scholars, this makes Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple the largest Functioning Temple in the World and is often found ranked amongst the largest religious complexes of the world, including the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet, Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Borobodur in Indonesia, Machu Picchu in Peru and the Vatican City.

Day 3: 16.02.2020

THANJAVUR: formerly Tanjore - is a city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Thanjavur is an important center of South Indian religion, art, and architecture.

Visited:
Place 1 - BRIHADEESWARAR TEMPLE: is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva located in South bank of Kaveri river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the largest South Indian temples and an exemplary example of a fully realized Dravidian architecture. It is called as Dhakshina Meru (Meru of south). Built by Tamil king Raja Raja Chola I between 1003 and 1010 AD, the temple is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Great Living Chola Temples", The original monuments of this 11th century temple were built around a moat.
**Place 2 - THE THANJAVUR MARATHA PALACE**: was the official residence of the Bhonsle family who ruled over the Thanjavur region from 1674 to 1855. It was originally constructed by the rulers of the Thanjavur Nayak kingdom. THE SARASWATHI MAHAL LIBRARY in the Maratha palace established around 1700 and located in the premises of the palace, contains over 30,000 Indian and European manuscripts written on palm leaf and paper.

**Day 4**: 17.02.2020

**KUMBAKONAM**: is a town and a special grade municipality in the Thanjavur district. It is located 40 km from Thanjavur and 273 km from Chennai. Kumbakonam is known as a "temple town".

**Visited**: -

**Place 1 - AIRAVATESVARA TEMPLE**: Airavatesvara Temple is a Hindu temple of Dravidian architecture located in the town of Darasuram, near Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. This temple, built by Rajaraja Chola II in the 12th century CE is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with the Brihadeeswara Temple at Thanjavur, the Gangaikondacholisvaram Temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram that are referred to as the Great Living Chola Temples.

**Place 2 - GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM**: Gangaikonda Cholapuram is a Village located near to Jayankondam, Tamil Nadu, India. It became the capital of the Chola dynasty in c. 1025 during the reign of Rajendra Chola I, and served as the Chola capital for around 250 years. Chola rulers were patrons of the arts and architecture. They built the temple of Gangaikondacholisvara. The temple has sculptures of exceptional quality. The bronzes of Bhogasakti and Subrahmanya are masterpieces of Chola metal icons. The Saurapitha (Solar altar), the lotus altar with eight deities, is considered auspicious.

**Day 5**: 18.02.2020

**CHIDAMBARAM**: is a town and municipality in Cuddalore district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is the headquarters of the Chidambaram taluk. Teritiary sector involving tourism is the major occupation. Roadways are the major means of transportation.

**Visited**: -

**Place 1 - NATARAJA TEMPLE**: is the main temple of Chidambaram, which is dedicated to the Nataraja or the dancing posture of Lord Shiva. This temple is located in the heart of the town and has undergone numerous renovations under the reign of Chola and Pallava kings. The temple of Shiva Nataraja (Shri Sabhanayaka) of Chidambaram is one of the great temple complexes of South India. Chidambaram is situated some 250 km south of Chennai, about 10 km from the Bay of Bengal. The temple is the heart of the town with the complex measuring 18 hectares in total. The temple is a living religious institution, and it is therefore still developing.

**Place 2 - PICHAVARAM MANGROVE FOREST**: Pichavaram is a village near Chidambaram in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India. It is located between the Vellar estuary in the north and Coleroon estuary in the south. The Vellar-Coleroon estuarine complex forms the Killai backwater and the mangroves that are permanently rooted in a few feet of water. Pichavaram consists of a number of islands interspersing a vast expanse of water covered with mangrove forest. The Pichavaram mangrove Forest is one of the largest mangrove forests in India covering about 1100 hectare of area. It is separated from the Bay of Bengal by a sand bar. The biotope consists of species like Avicennia and Rhizophora. It also supports the existence of rare varieties of economically important shell and fishes.
Day 6: 19.02.2020

**PONDICHERRY:** Formerly a French colony which has settled in the early part of the 18th century. Places of interest are Sri Aurobindo Ashram Auroville - the brain child of the mother and designed by French Architect roger Anger. **AUROVILLE:** Located 10 kms north of Pondicherry town, Auroville is envisioned as a Universal Town, where people from different nationalities, faiths and beliefs, can live in peace and harmony.

**Visited:**

**Place 1- AUROVILLE EARTH INSTITUTE:** For 30 years, the Auroville Earth Institute has educated and empowered people to build their own dwellings using earthen techniques. This website provides information, images, and videos about the many earthen construction techniques, particularly Compressed Stabilized Earth Block (CSEB). The students witnessed live workshop on the preparation of earth blocks.

**Place 2- MATIR MANDIR:** is an edifice of spiritual significance for practitioners of Integral yoga, in the centre of Auroville established by The Mother of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. It is called soul of the city and is situated in a large open space called Peace. Matrimandir does not belong to any particular religion or sect. The Matrimandir took 37 years to build, from the laying of the foundation stone at sunrise on 21 February 1971 - the Mother’s 93rd birthday - to its completion in May 2008. It is in the form of a huge sphere surrounded by twelve petals. The Geodesic dome is covered by golden discs and reflects sunlight, which gives the structure its characteristic radiance.

**Place 3- PONDICHERRY BEACH:** The beaches are the best place to relax in Pondicherry. The 1500 metre long beach that borders the town on the eastern side is clean and is an ideal place for swimming and sun bathing. There are two monuments of historical significance on the beach.

Day 7: 20.02.2020

**MAHABALIPURAM:** Lies on the Coromandel Coast which faces the Bay of Bengal. This is an elegant place to watch which a well established sea port was during the 7th and 10th centuries of the Pallava dynasty.

**Visited:**

**Place 1- SHORE TEMPLE** – It is believed that there were seven magnificent temples what are known as the seven pagodas, built near the sea shore. **Place 2- KRISHNA'S BUTTERBALL** – Krishna's Butterball is a gigantic granite boulder resting on a short incline in the historical coastal resort town of Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu state of India. **Place 3- PANCH RATHAS OR THE FIVE RATHAS** – Are the perfect examples of the evolution of Dravidian style architecture. They are built in the shape of pagodas and they look similar to that of the Buddhist shrines and monasteries. Rathas in English means chariot.

**CONCLUSION:** The 7 day tour culminated with good memories and a great learning experience for the students and the faculties. Students were excited to gather information about the historical sites in order to get it documented for the successful completion of the studio requirements which was allotted to them prior to the trip.

The tour coordinators were very cooperative in arranging guides wherever possible. They made sure we had a comfortable stay and the food served was tasty and hygienic.

*Study Tour is successfully completed with the guidelines of Management Gopalan Foundation, Principal GSAP, DEAN GSAP and Faculties of GSAP. Special thanks to the Attended students of GSAP for the cooperation.*
Study Tour Photos

CHETTINAD HOUSE, TIRUCHIRAPALLI

BRIHADEESWARAR TEMPLE, THANJAVUR
When sketching meets photography...

GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM, KUMBAKONAM
GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM, KUMBAKONAM

Magnificent Nandi carved out of single stone...
AIRAVATESVARA TEMPLE, KUMBAKONAM

NATARAJA TEMPLE, CHIDAMBARAM
MATRI MANDIR, AUROVILLE, PONDICHERRY
PANCH RATHAS OR THE FIVE RATHAS, MAHABALIPURAM
Glimpses of interesting details....