

# STUDY TOUR REPORT

SUBMITTED BY

**ANGELINA D.**

Register No : **21133012**

Class : **3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, B.Arch**



**HINDUSTAN**  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE  
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....01

## DAY 1

SRIRANGAM TEMPLE.....02

SRI ERUMBESWARAR TEMPLE.....03

## DAY 2

ROCKFORT TEMPLE.....04

KANADUKATHAN CHETTINAD HOUSES/

CHIDAMBARAM VILAS.....05

ATHANGUDI TILE FACTORY.....06

ATHANGUDI PALACE.....07

## DAY 3

BRIHADEESWARA TEMPLE.....08

THANJAVUR PALACE.....10

DARASURAM TEMPLE.....11

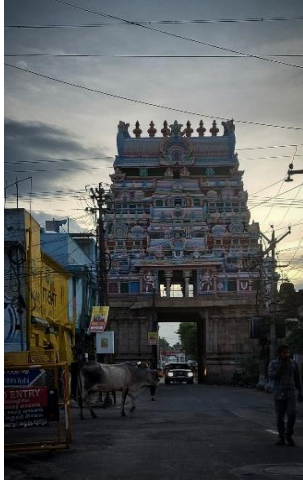
GANGAIKONDACHOLAPURAM.....12

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 3 – day regional study tour guided by the SPADE department of Hindustan University was conducted between 14.06.2022 to 16.06.2022. The students were taken to places like Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Athangudi, Karaikudi, Kumbakonam, Kanadukathan to visit the ancient and beautiful temples, palaces and traditional villas of Tamil Nadu. There was great and in-depth learning of our ancient architecture filled with lot of amusement and fun.

# DAY 1

## SRIRANGAM TEMPLE



### **LOCATION: SRIRANGAM, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, TAMIL NADU.**

Known as Thiruvavangam Tirupati, is one of the most illustrious Vaishnav temples in the country, dedicated to Ranganatha, a reclining form of Hindu deity, Bhagwan Vishnu. Situated in the island of Srirangam that is bounded by the two rivers of Cauvery and Kollidam. It is not just a temple but a temple-town, unique in its Sapta-Prakaram formation, a temple centred settlement pattern that comprises of Sapta (seven) concentric rectangular enclosures or prakarams. While the inner five enclosures of the complex constitute the temple, the outer two enclosures function as the settlement. Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the Temple Complex is massive in scale and spread over 156 acres and the largest functioning temple in the world.

### **SIGNIFICANT COMPONENTS OF SRIRANGAM:**

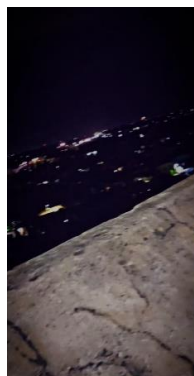
1. Hall (Mandapams) of 1000 pillars.
2. Huge granaries which stand testimony to a systematic food security planning and has water harvesting systems.
3. Small shrines.
4. 21 huge Gopurams and the Rajagopuram is the second tallest gopurams in the world rising to a height of 72 metres.
5. The inscriptions throw up interesting and valuable light on the history, culture and economy during a period of over a thousand years.
6. The walls of the Temple complex are painted with exquisite paintings using herbal and vegetable dyes.
7. The Vahanas is excellent piece of architecture on wood.
8. A Vaishnava devotee in namaste posture.

## SHRI ERUMBESWARAR TEMPLE



**LOCATION: THIRUVERUMBUR, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, TAMIL NADU.**

The temple is counted as one of the temples built on the banks of River Kaveri and constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture. Erumbeeswarar temple is located atop a 60 feet (18 m) hill with a flight of granite steps to the top. Since the temple is atop a hill, it is locally called "Malai Kovil" (meaning hill temple). The temple complex has two prakarams (outer courtyard) and a two-tiered rajagopuram (gateway tower). The central shrine faces east and holds the image of Erumbeeswarar (Shiva) in the form of lingam made of mud mound. The granite images of Ganesha, Murugan, Nandi and Navagraha are in the hall leading to the sanctum. the sanctum of Erumbeeswarar has images of Dakshinamurthy (God of knowledge), Durga (warrior-goddess) and Chandikeswarar (a saint and devotee of Shiva). The path around the foothills, called Girivalam Path, is 6.1 m wide and 900 m long. The climb up to the temple comprises of 125 steps.



**VIEW FROM SHRI ERUMBESWARAR TEMPLE**

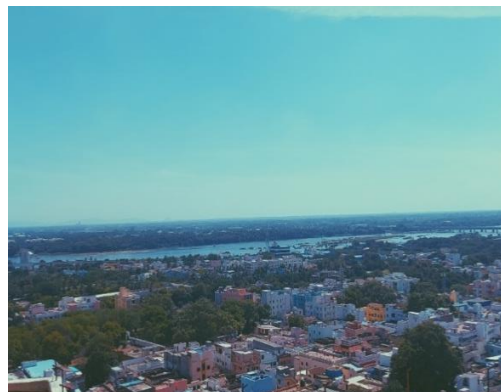
## DAY 2

### ROCKFORT TEMPLE



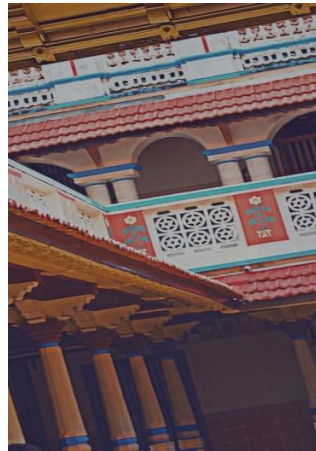
#### **LOCATION : TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, TAMIL NADU.**

The most famous land mark of Tiruchirappalli is Rockfort Temple. It is also called as Uchi Pillaiyar Kovil. It is in the heart of the city. The temple is over 3.8 billion years old. The temple was built by Mahendra Varman of Pallava dynasty. This is a 275 ft. tall rock structure. It is reached by a step flight of 437 steps cut into the rock. The temple complex has three shrines. The Rockfort is visible from almost every part of the city's north. The Teppakulam at the foot of the Rockfort is surrounded by bazaars. It has a mandapa at its centre and has facilities for boat riding. All the temple related float festivals are held in the tank. The temple is located halfway up the Rockfort. The temple has columned structure. It had two principle shrines, Shiva in the east and Vishnu in the west and central bay. Ganesha temple is much smaller with an access through steep steps carved on rock and provides stunning view of trichy, srirangam and the rivers of kaveri and kollidam.



#### **ENTIRE CITY VIEW FROM ROCKFORT TEMPLE.**

# KANADUKATHAN CHETTINAD HOUSES / CHINDAMBARAM VILAS



## LOCATION: KANADUKATHAN, TAMIL NADU.

The Chettinad region of Tamilnadu is acclaimed for its gorgeous traditional villas belonging to agriculture and land owning families who tilted themselves as Chettiar or Chetti. The villa is currently maintained and lived by the fifth generation people of the family. This house is designed according to vastu, constructed with local materials and techniques. It is famous for luxurious scale, vivid colours, wood carvings, multiple courtyards, stained glass windows, symmetry maintained throughout the house. The symmetric form of the house provides splendid ventilation for the entire house without any electrical supplies. The tiles used in the villa are handmade, very creative and artistic from Athangudi and the walls have not lost their colour till today though it has not been painted for years together. Beautiful wood carvings, handcrafts, sculptures and stucco works found at the entrance door. They use rain water harvesting for water storage. Teak wood, marble and granite pillars were used throughout the villa. A lot of movie shootings happen at this beautiful large courtyard.



**SYMMETRIC VIEW OF  
COURTYARD**



**HANDMADE TILES & TEAKWOOD PILLARS**



# ATHANGUDI TILE FACTORY



## LOCATION: ATHANGUDI, TAMIL NADU.

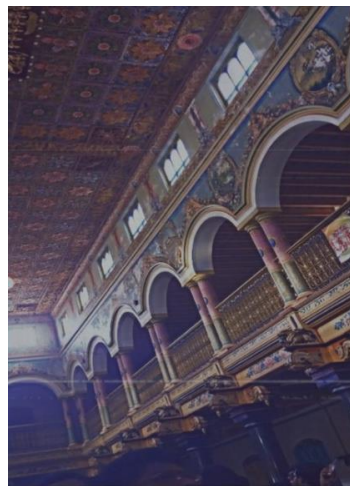
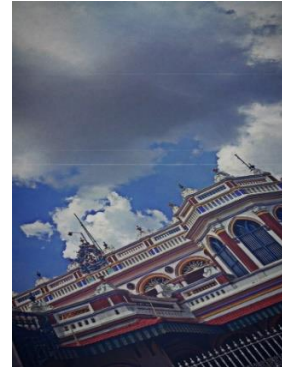
The birthplace of those gorgeous handmade tile is originated from Athangudi.

## THE MAKING OF A HANDMADE TILE:

- Each colour required to make the tile is mixed with white cement and placed into different buckets.
- The unique stencil design is placed on a glass.
- The required colour is kept in a dot form using a flat ladle on the stencil design.
- They use two methods to spread the colour to the entire design, one a thin stick is used to brush upon, another method was to tilt the tiles carefully to spread the colour.
- The entire tile is covered with cement and tilted the other way round.
- Stencil is removed and the tile is kept in a clean, dry and safe place protected from water.
- Generally it takes 10 days for a tile to dry up and we also learnt that they make approximately 300 tiles per day.

It was a great opportunity and blessing to watch the complete process of them do such an artistic, creative and handmade tiles.

# ATHANGUDI PALACE



**ATHANGUDI CEILING**

**SYMMETRIC COURTYARD**

## **LOCATION: ATHANGUDI, TAMIL NADU.**

The Athangudi Palace is incredibly grand and it displays the best of the typical features of a Chettiar home. The open courtyards, elaborate verandah (thinnai) and a gorgeous amalgamation of European and Indian architecture. The stunning mansion has been a location for many Indian films. The palace is a beautiful fusion of European and Asian architecture. Japanese tiles blend beautifully with the Athangudi ones while classy Italian marble enhances the color of the palace. The Belgian glass windows create a kaleidoscope of colors on the floor and around the Burma teakwood pillars and doors. It is this whole medley of decor that makes the palace grand and very different from other Chettiar houses. Lavish and ornate would describe the Athangudi palace perfectly. Over my head was the Athangudi ceiling with its tall chandeliers.

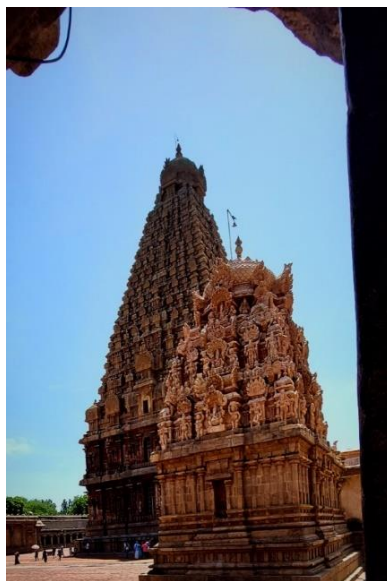
## DAY 3

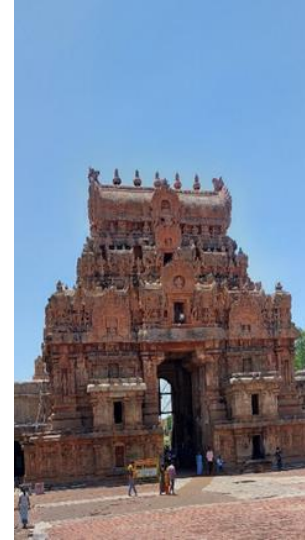
### BRIHADEESWARA TEMPLE



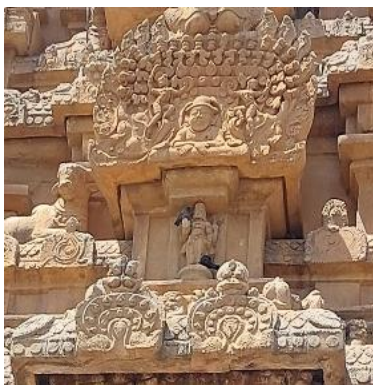
**LOCATION: THANJAVUR, TAMILNADU.**

Brihadeeswara Temple locally known as Thanjai Periya Kovil, and also called Rajarajeswaram, is a Hindu Dravidian styled temple dedicated to the God Shiva located in South bank of Cauvery River in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India. It is 1,012 years old temple. It is one of the largest Hindu temples and an exemplary example of a fully realized Tamil architecture. Built by Chola emperor Rajaraja I between 1003 and 1010 CE, the temple is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Great Living Chola Temples", along with the Chola dynasty era Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple and Airavatesvara temple.





It is a big temple built on a higher platform of a natural or man-made mounds. The temple complex is a rectangle that is almost two stacked squares, covering 240.79 metres east to west, and 121.92 metres north to south. In this space are five main sections: the sanctum with the towering superstructure (sri vimana), the Nandi Hall in front (Nandi-mandapam) and in between these the main community hall (mukhamandapam), the great gathering hall (mahamandapam) and the pavilion that connects the great hall with the sanctum (Antrala). Built using granite, the vimana tower above the shrine is pyramidal in shape with a circular stone shikhara on top and is one of the tallest in South India. Also, the vimana of the temple does not cast a shadow at noon. The circular stone was carried over a ramp to place be placed on the top. The temple was wholly built using only manpower (no machines were used) and with help of elephants and horses to carry heavy loads.

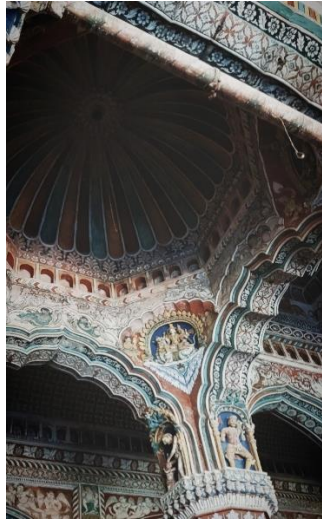


**THE FACE OF A FOREIGNER WAS SCULPTED ON THE TEMPLE, INDICATING THAT TRADING TOOK PLACE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN THOSE DAYS.**

**NANDI SCULPTED  
OUT OF A SINGLE ROCK.**



# THANJAVUR PALACE



## LOCATION : THANJAVUR, TAMILNADU.

The Thanjavur Maratha Palace Complex, known locally as Aranmanai. The palace was built by Thanjavur Nayak kings. The palace complex consists of the Sadar Mahal Palace, the queen's courtyard and the Durbar Hall. The Royal Palace Museum contains a splendid collection of Chola bronzes. The Raja Serfoji Memorial Hall and the Royal Palace Museum are situated in the Sadar Mahal Palace. There is also a small bell tower. The Saraswathi Mahal Library is situated with the Thanjavur palace complex. The Chandramouleeswarar temple also is located within the premises.

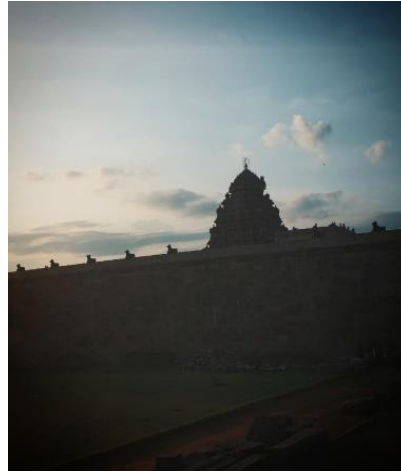


**RAJA SERFOJI MEMORIAL HALL**



**DURBAR HALL**

## DARASURAM TEMPLE

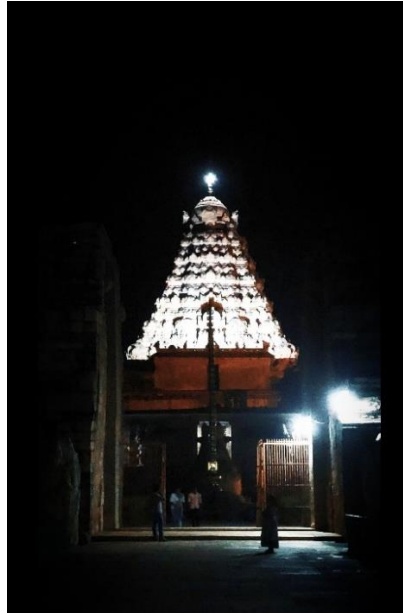


### LOCATION: KUMBAKONAM, TAMIL NADU.

The temple was constructed by the Rajaraja Chola II in the 12th century CE. The temple is a recognised by UNESCO World Heritage monument. The mighty Airavatesvara Temple bear witness to the remarkable achievements of the Chola in the field of art, architecture, sculpture, painting, and bronze casting. This revered Hindu temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Airavatesvara Temple, along with the famous Brihadeeswara Temple at Thanjavur and the Gangaikondacholeeswaram Temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram is a part of the notable trio called the “Great Living Chola Temples”. The prakara or the wall that runs around the temple has beautifully sculpted couchant bulls visible from outside the gate too. Another interesting feature of this temple are the miniature panels with inscriptions that tell stories associated with the 63 Nayanmars (Shaiva saints), showing the Chola connect with Shaivism. Interestingly some of the panels also depict scenes from daily lives, such as women in yoga postures, a woman giving birth to a child with the help of female attendants.



## GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM



**LOCATION: ARIYALUR, TAMIL NADU.**

The temple has sculptures of exceptional quality. The Saurapitha (Solar altar), the lotus altar with eight deities, is considered auspicious. The shiva lingam is made from single rock. The temple tower here measures 55 m in height and holds a striking similarity to the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur. The Chola rulers constructed enormous stone temple complexes with intricate carvings of Hindu gods. The grandeur of this temple has not been diminished by age. There is a massive statue of Nandi, the sacred bull of Shiva, in the central courtyard of the temple. The exquisite bronze statues of the Chola period are known the world over for their grace and lifelike appearance. Majestic nandi and simhakinaru was found inside the premises.



**HEAVILY ORNAMENTED PILLARS ACCURATE IN DETAIL AND RICHLY SCULPTED WALLS, IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF CHOLA ART AND ARCHITECTURE.**