



VISVODAYA GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE

VENKATAGIRI:: TIRUPATI (DT.)

Report of a
Field Visit to Mahabalipuram



Department of History

MAHABALIPURAM FIELD VISIT REPORT

Date of visit	: 20-06-2022
Place of visit	: Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu
Coordinators from college	: Dr. P. Revathi Reddy
Accompany Lecturers	: Sri. G.Yugandhar and Sri. P. Hanumantha Rao
Participating students	: 14 students from B.A third year.
Approved by	: Dr. K. Aruna Kumar, Principal

Objectives of the visit:

- ❖ To create awareness of the cultural heritage of ancient India.
- ❖ To inculcate artistic skills and interest among the students.
- ❖ To create awareness of the cultural heritage of the Pallava Dynasty and their contribution to South Indian art & architecture.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the visit the students will be able to:

- ❖ Know the richness of ancient South Indian architecture.
- ❖ Understand the cultural heritage of the Pallavas dynasty.
- ❖ Appreciate the sculpture art and architecture of the Pallava kings.
- ❖ Compare and contrast various architect styles of ancient India.


Introduction:

As part of the curriculum, the History department of the Visvodaya Government Degree College, Venkatagiri organized a historical trip to **Mahabalipuram (A UNESCO World Heritage Site)** on 20-06-2022 with prior approval from the principal. All the third year BA students enthusiastically participated in this field visit. The trip was led by Dr. P. Revathi Reddy, Lecturer in History and accompanied by Sri. G. Yugandhar, Lecturer in Political Science and P. Hanumantha Rao, Lecturer in Economics.

About Mahabalipuram

Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram is a historic city and UNESCO World Heritage site in Tamil Nadu, India. During the reign of the Pallava dynasty, between the 3rd century CE and 7th century CE, it became an important centre of art, architecture and literature. Mahabalipuram was already a thriving sea port on the Bay of Bengal before this time. A significant amount of coins and other artefacts excavated from this region also indicate a pre-existing trade relation with the Romans even before it became a part of the Pallava Empire.




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Early History

Mahabalipuram's early history is completely shrouded in mystery. Ancient mariners considered this place the land of the Seven Pagodas. There are others who think that Mahabalipuram suffered from a great flood between 10,000 and 13,000 BCE. Controversial historian Graham Hancock was one of the core members of a team of divers from Indian National Institute of Oceanography and the Scientific Exploration Society based in Dorset, UK who surveyed the ocean bed near Mahabalipuram in 2002 CE. He is more inclined to believe the flood theory. His exploration also afforded him a fair glimpse of the vast extent of submerged ruins of the city. After his underwater exploration, he reportedly commented, "I have argued for many years that the world's flood myths deserve to be taken seriously, a view that most Western academics reject ... But here in Mahabalipuram, we have proved the myths right and the academics wrong."

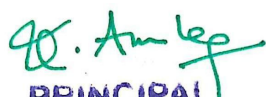
Many opinions exist about the origin of the name of the site too. The most popular explanation is that the place is named after benevolent King Bali, also known as Mahabali. The ancient Indian text of Vishnu *Puran* documents his exploits. After sacrificing himself to Vaman, an incarnation of Vishnu, he attained liberation. "Puram" is a Sanskrit term for a city or urban dwelling. Mamallapuram is the Prakrit version of the original Sanskrit name.

During the rule of Mahendravarman I (600 CE – 630 CE), Mahabalipuram started to flourish as a centre of art and culture. He himself was a well known poet, playwright and orator. His patronage helped the creation of a number of the city's most iconic landmarks. This period of artistic excellence was duly continued by his son Narasimhavarman I (630 CE – 680 CE) and subsequent Pallava kings.

Brief Report of the visit:

We started our journey at 5: AM in Venkatagiri and we reached our destination at 11AM. The team has visited UNESCO World Heritage sites at Mahabalipuram, namely, Arjuna's Penance, Sea shore temple and Pancha Pandava Rathas. In addition, the team has also visited the light house and beach in Mahabalipuram. Dr. P. Revathi Reddy, lecturer in History, has explained the Pallava art and architecture with reference to the political and cultural history of South India. Finally, we returned to our respective places full of memories, knowledge and tales to tell for days to come.

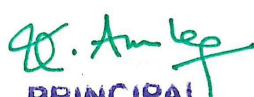



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List of Students Participated in the Field Trip

S.No	Name of the Student	Class
1.	G. Naveen Kumar	III B.A. (HEP)
2.	E. Khyathi Kumar	III B.A. (HEP)
3.	G. Venkata Nagaraju	III B.A. (HEP)
4.	Ch. Shanthi	III B.A. (HEP)
5.	G. Hemalatha	III B.A. (HEP)
6.	G. Srinivasulu	III B.A. (HEP)
7.	M. Triveni	III B.A. (HEP)
8.	G. Murali	III B.A. (HEP)
9.	P. Ranga Raja	III B.A. (HEP)
10.	K. Hari	III B.A. (HEP)
11.	P. Vijay	III B.A. (HEP)
12.	A. Nanda Kumar	III B.A. (HEP)
13.	K. Keerthana	III B.A. (HEP)
14.	P. Madhuri	III B.A. (HEP)




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18/6/22

Venkatagiri,

18/06/2022.

To

The Principal,
Visvodaya Government Degree College,
Venkatagiri.

Respected sir,

Sub: Educational tour to Mahabalipuram- Request for permission, reg.

We, the students of III BA(HEP), are interested to undertake educational tour to Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. Mahabalipuram is considered to be a distinguished UNESCO World Heritage site.

In this regard, we humbly request you to permit us to visit Mahabalipuram on 20/06/2022 (Monday).

Thanking you sir,

Yours sincerely,

III BA (HEP) students.

G. Naveen Kumar

E. Khyathi Kumar

G. Venkatesh Kumar

Ch. Santhi

G. Hemalatha

G. Srinivasulu

M. Thriveni

G. Marali

P. Ranga Raja

K. Hari

P. Vitay

P. P. S.
Lecturer in History



G. Anup
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VISVODAYA GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE

Venkatagiri, Tirupati District
Andhra Pradesh- 524132

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that the final year students of BA (HEP) are undertaking Educational tour to Mahabalipuram on 20th June, 2022. 11 students along with 3 faculty members are participating in the tour. The list of students participating in the tour is enclosed.



Enclosure:

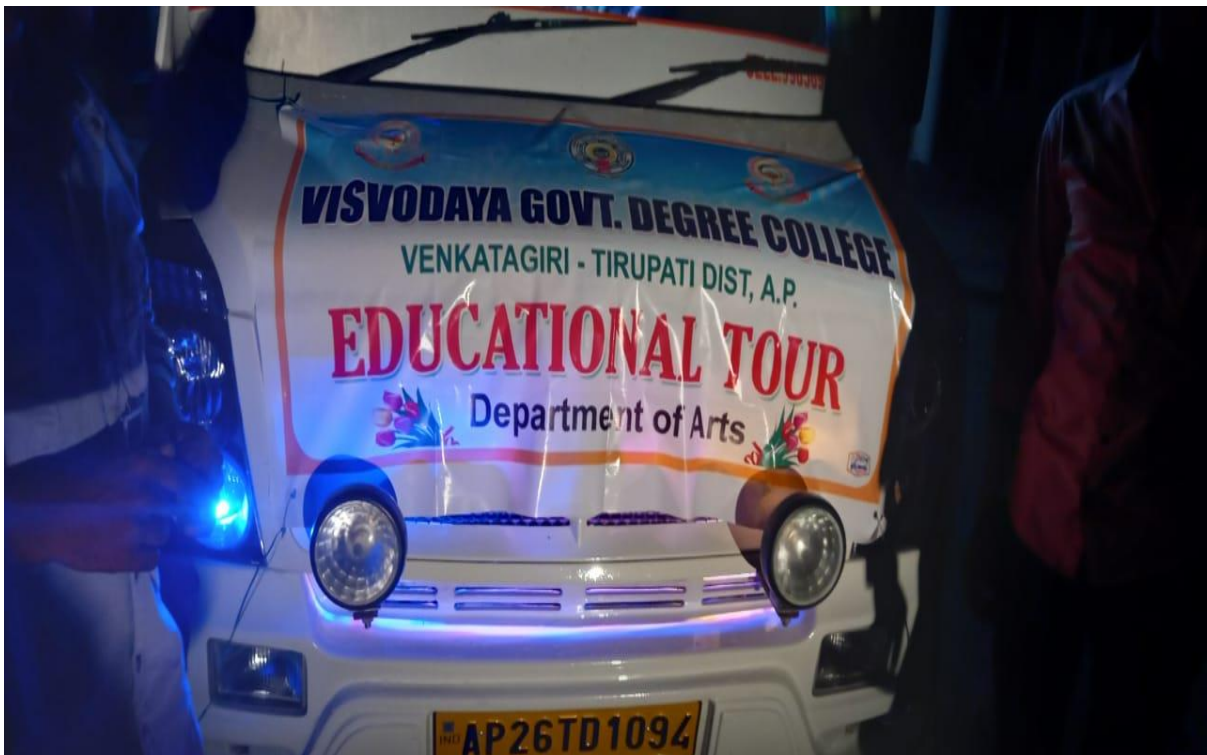
1. List of faculty and students

Q. Amle
Principal
18/6/22
Principal

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SPSR Nellore Dt.



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Dr. Anup
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Dr. Anil Kumar
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