



K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
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Report on

“STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CHENNAI Under MoU”

Date: 29th October 2023 – 4 November 2023

Venue: SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai

Event Type: Student Exchange Program

Mode of Activity: Offline

Target Group: B.ID, B.sc ID & B. Arch Students of SOAD KRMU and SAID SRM

Resource Person (if any): Faculty Members of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai & K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram

Coordinators: Ar. Disha Shah & Ar. Neeru Gupta

Organized by: Collaboration between School of Architecture & Design, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram and School of Architecture and Interior Design, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai

Number of Participants: 12 Students of SOAD KRMU & SRM University

The recent student exchange program between the School of Architecture and Design at K.R. Mangalam University, Gurgaon, and the School of Architecture and Interior Design at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai. This initiative, facilitated under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, aimed to foster cultural exchange and promote a deeper understanding of architecture and design practices across different regions of India.

The program saw the participation of 12 students from the Interior Design and Architecture departments of K.R. Mangalam University, who embarked on a memorable educational journey to Chennai. During their visit, the students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich historical heritage of the region, particularly through visits to several notable sites,



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including the Mahabalipuram Temples, Butterball, and Panchrathas. These excursions provided an invaluable learning experience, enabling the students to grasp the historical significance and architectural intricacies of these ancient monuments.

Continuing their exploration, the students further ventured to Pondicherry and Auroville, where they delved into the concept of sustainability at the Matri Mandir. The visit to Auroville offered insights into the principles of sustainable living and community development, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental consciousness and its integration into architectural practices. Additionally, the students were introduced to the unique blend of French colonial influences and local architectural styles in Pondicherry, enriching their understanding of diverse architectural traditions.

As a crucial component of the exchange program, the students from K.R. Mangalam University had the opportunity to showcase their learning outcomes and experiences during the visit. This culminated in an engaging session where they presented insightful PowerPoint presentations, highlighting their observations and reflections on the architectural and design elements encountered during the program. Furthermore, the students impressively demonstrated their proficiency in the field by showcasing their exceptional design work, representing the culmination of their efforts and learnings as part of the MoU.

The student exchange program between K.R. Mangalam University, Gurgaon, and SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, proved to be a resounding success, fostering cross-cultural exchange and providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge in the field of architecture and design. It is our hope that such initiatives will continue to nurture collaborative learning and cultural appreciation among students, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities in the global architectural landscape.



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DAY 1: School of Architecture and Planning has organized a Student exchange program at SRM University Chennai. The trip includes SRM university visit, working on a design studio, visiting various historical monuments such as Mahabalipuram temples, and Aurobindo Ashram, and studying settlements in Pondicherry and Auroville as part of our curriculum. Yesterday we visited Mahabalipuram, India, which left us awe-inspiring. We explored ancient rock-cut temples and admired intricate stone carvings. The bonding moments and cultural insights made it an unforgettable journey of learning and fun.

DAY 2 : School of architecture and planning today embarked on an enlightening journey to Auroville. Surrounded by innovative structures and sustainable designs, we absorbed architectural wisdom. Auroville's ethos of harmony with nature and communal living inspired us, igniting our passion for creative and environmentally responsible design. An enriching experience that shaped our architectural perspectives.

DAY 3: School Of Architecture and Planning students conducted an insightful study on the French colonial heritage and vernacular architecture study at Puducherry. Their research encompassed an in-depth analysis of architectural styles, historical context, and cultural influences within the French colony of Puducherry. They recognized the significance of preserving these colonial structures as a vital part of Puducherry's identity. Moreover, the students explored the integration of indigenous design elements into the vernacular architecture, shedding light on the harmonious coexistence of colonial and local influences in the built environment. This study underscores the importance of preserving and celebrating this rich architectural heritage for future generations.

DAY 4: Students of the school of Architecture and Design today visited SRM University Chennai. The visit included an engaging campus tour, interactive sessions with faculties , and a visit to an innovative carpentry workshop where SRM students crafted unique furniture. The



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experience emphasized the importance of hands-on learning and academic collaboration.

DAY 5: School of Architecture and Design Students presented collaborative studio work today, on the second day of their visit to SRM University. SRM Professor T.R. Kamlakannan evaluated each student and provided useful input. In the second half, Professor T.R. Kamlakannan presented a detailed talk on the history of the Shore temple and Mahabalipuram architecture. It was a fantastic day packed with information for the students.

DAY 6: School of Architecture and Design presented a report on all of the historical sites they visited over the last three days. Professor Mannikannan has reviewed their presentation and provided helpful feedback on their reports. Finally, SRM University Dean Dr. Pradeepa presented participation certificates to each and every participant student. It was an excellent learning experience for students who had varied exposure.

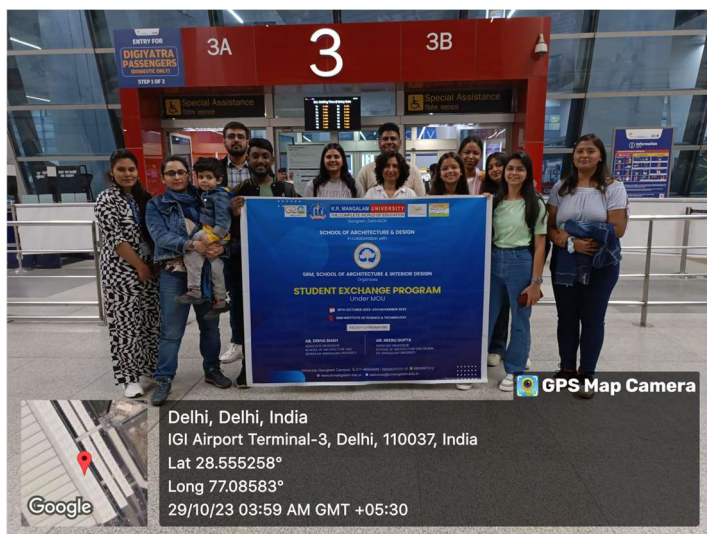


Photo 1: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at IGI Airport.



Photo 2: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at Mahabalipuram.



Photo 3: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at Matrimandir.

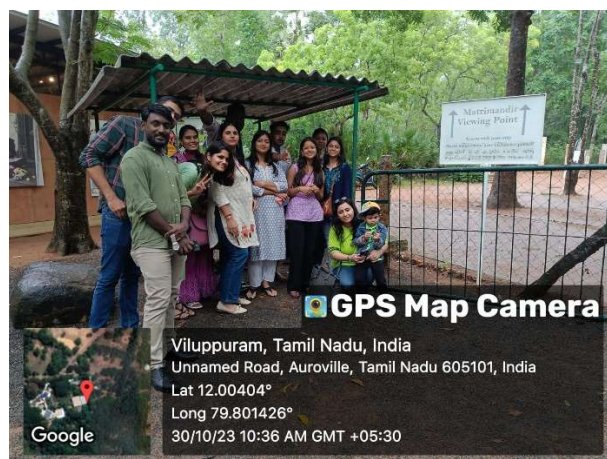


Photo 4: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at Auroville.

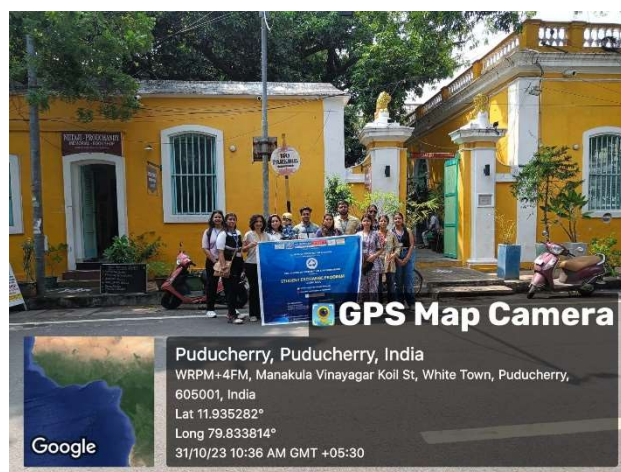


Photo 5: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at Pondicherry.

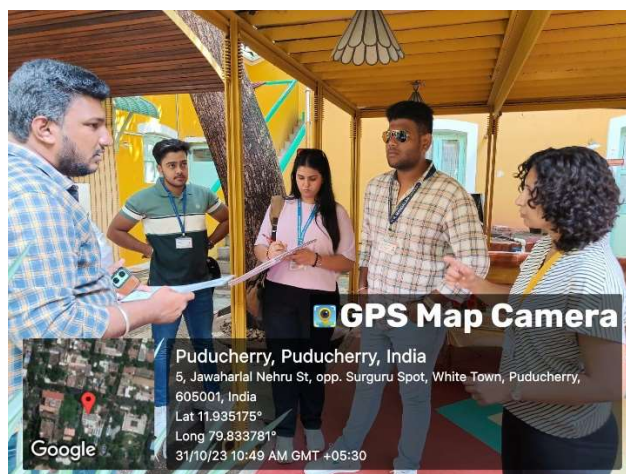


Photo 6: Students and Ar. Disha Shah , at 250 year old Governor house of Pondicherry



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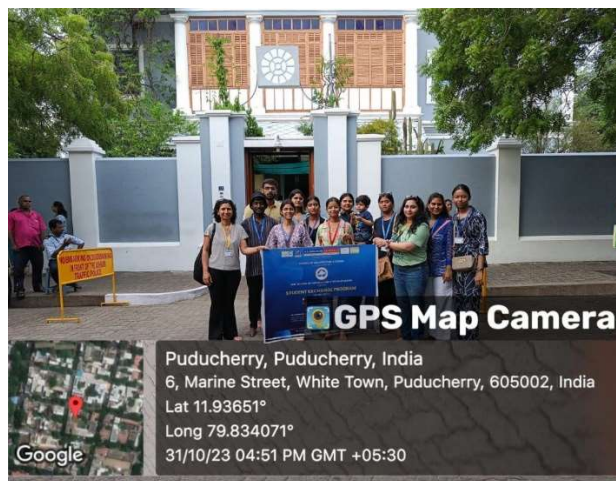


Photo 7: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry



Photo 8: Students and Faculty members of KRMU and SRM University at SRM Chennai



Photo 9: Students of SRM University presenting their work to Faculty of KRMU



Photo 10: Students of SRM University and Students of KRMU at Presentation Hall, SRM Chennai



Photo 11: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at SRM University



Photo 12: Students of KRMU Presenting their studio work to Prof. T.R Kamlakannan.



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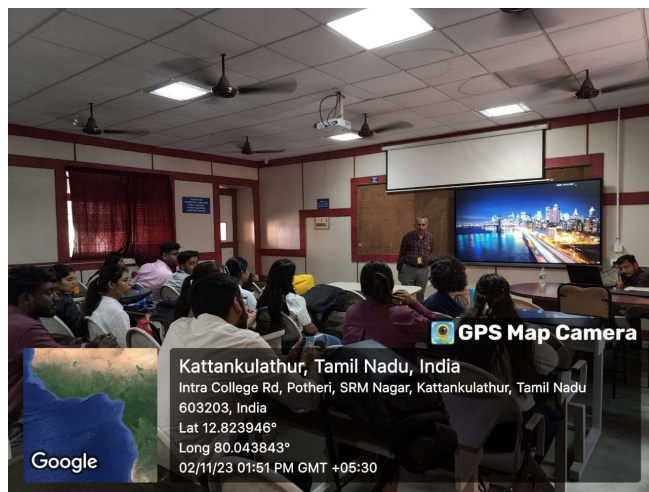


Photo 13: Prof. T.R Kamlakannan giving presentation on Mahablipuram



Photo 14: Students and faculty members of KRMU at SRM University.



Photo 15: Prof. T.R Kamlakannan evaluating presentation of KRMU students.



Photo 16: Students of KRMU presenting their Work on Field Visit.



Photo 17: Faculty Members of KRMU and SRM University.

From the left to right **Ar. Suraj Dwivedi** (Asst. Prof, SRM University) , **Ar. Neeru Gupta** (Asst. Prof, KRMU) , **Dr. C Pradeepa** (HOD – SAID, SRM UNIVERSITY) , **Ar. Disha Shah** (Associate Prof, KRMU) , **Prof. T.R Kamlakannan** (Professor , SRM Univeristy) , **Ar. Sukeshi** (Asst. Prof, SRM University).



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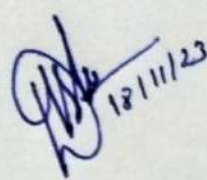
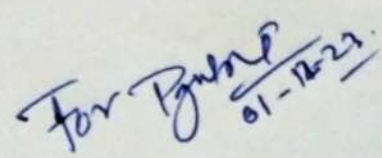
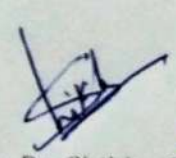
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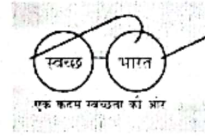
Report prepared by	 Name: Ar. Disha Shah Date: 18/11/23
Report Verified by Dean	 Name: Prof. Hemani Singh Date:
Report Verified by IQAC Office	 Name: Dr. Shikha Dutta Sharma Date:

IQAC
K.R. Mangalam University
Sohna Road, Gurugram-122103

Annexure I: Feedback from target audience

Annexure II: Attendance

Annexure III: Certificates



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Report

"Academic Collaboration Studio Project"

(Field Project Report)

School of Architecture and Design

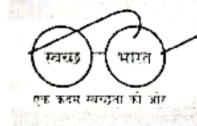
Program Code: APAR333B/APID333A

Project Guide:

Ar. Disha Shah, Associate Professor SOAD KRMU

Ar. Neeru Gupta, Assistant Professor SOAD KRMU

Academic Year – 2023-24



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DECLARATION

We undersigned hereby declare that this field project report represents work carried out by us. We also declare that we have adhered to all the principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any idea/ data / fact /source in our submission. We understand that any violation of the above will lead to disciplinary action by the Institute. The findings in this report are based on the sampling / survey /data collection / recording during the field survey held between 29th October 2023 at SRM University under the guidance of Ar. Disha Shah, Associate Professor, SOAD KRMU and Ar. Neeru Gupta, Assistant Professor, SOAD KRMU

Signature of the students:

MANAV PODDAR

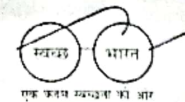
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8th November 2023
K.R. Mangalam University
Sohna Road, Haryana

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INTRODUCTION

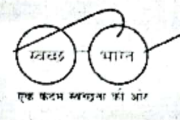
K.R. Mangalam University orchestrated a dynamic and intellectually enriching 6-day exchange program with SRM University in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This collaborative initiative aimed to foster a profound understanding of architectural marvels by immersing participants in the exploration of various monuments and iconic sites. The program entailed an in-depth study of architectural features, culminating in the creation of presentations to be shared with SRM University faculties.

The journey took the participants to a diverse array of destinations, each with its unique historical and architectural significance. Mahabalipuram's Krishna's Butterball, the Shore Temple, Panchratha Temple, Auroville, White Town in Pondicherry, and the Aurobindo Ashram were among the prominent sites explored during this educational venture.

The exchange program facilitated interactions with faculties and students from SRM University, fostering a meaningful exchange of knowledge and skills. Participants had the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions, share their findings, and learn from the expertise of their counterparts. The collaborative nature of the program aimed at creating a symbiotic relationship between the two educational institutions.

The culmination of the program resulted in presentations that encapsulated the architectural insights gained during the visits. These presentations were then delivered to the faculties of SRM University, providing a platform for participants to showcase their newfound knowledge and analytical skills.

Beyond the academic and intellectual gains, the exchange program left a lasting impact on the participants' overall learning journey. The exposure to diverse architectural styles, historical contexts, and cultural nuances broadened their perspectives. This immersive experience not only enhanced their academic prowess but also contributed to the development of practical skills, enriching their educational and personal growth.



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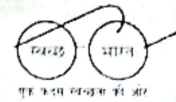
OBJECTIVE

The 6-day exchange program between K.R. Mangalam University and SRM University was meticulously designed with the objective of providing participants a comprehensive understanding of architectural marvels through the exploration of various monuments and historical sites. The program sought to encourage educational exploration by visiting significant landmarks like Mahabalipuram Krishna's Butterball, Shore Temple, Panchratha Temple, Auroville, White Town in Pondicherry, and the Aurobindo Ashram, facilitating a detailed study of their architectural features.

A key component of the program was the promotion of knowledge-sharing, as participants were tasked with synthesizing their observations into presentations. These presentations were intended to be shared with SRM University faculties, fostering an exchange of knowledge and ideas between the participating institutions. The initiative aimed at not only enriching academic understanding but also providing cultural exposure to the diverse historical contexts embedded in these sites.

Furthermore, the program prioritized collaborative learning, fostering interactions between participants and faculties from both universities. This approach aimed to create a dynamic environment for the exchange of skills, perspectives, and ideas. The hands-on experiences during the visits were designed to enhance research, analytical, and presentation skills, contributing to the holistic development of the participants.

The overarching goal was to broaden participants' perspectives by exposing them to different architectural styles and cultural nuances. By offering a unique blend of theoretical exploration and practical application, the program sought to enrich the overall learning journey of participants. Moreover, it aimed to establish a foundation for mutual benefit between K.R. Mangalam University and SRM University, fostering ongoing collaborative initiatives and knowledge-sharing endeavours between the two institutions.



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DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

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Mode of Activity: Offline

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Resource Person (if any): Faculty Members of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai & K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram

Coordinators: Ar. Disha Shah & Ar. Neeru Gupta

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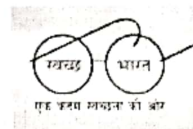
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Furthermore, the program prioritized collaborative learning, fostering interactions between participants and faculties from both universities. This approach aimed to create a dynamic environment for the exchange of skills, perspectives, and ideas. The hands-on experiences during the visits were designed to enhance research, analytical, and presentation skills, contributing to the holistic development of the participants.

The overarching goal was to broaden participants' perspectives by exposing them to different architectural styles and cultural nuances. By offering a unique blend of theoretical exploration



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and practical application, the program sought to enrich the overall learning journey of participants. Moreover, it aimed to establish a foundation for mutual benefit between K.R. Mangalam University and SRM University, fostering ongoing collaborative initiatives and knowledge-sharing endeavours between the two institutions.

DAY 1: On October 29, 2023, a journey commenced from New Delhi Airport at 7:30 a.m., culminating in our arrival at Tamil Nadu Airport at 10:00 a.m. The subsequent exploration led us to the captivating town of Mahabalipuram, nestled along the coastline in the Chengalpattu District of the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Mahabalipuram, also known as Mamallapuram, emerged as a significant hub for classical monuments in India, showcasing an array of monolithic and cave temples.

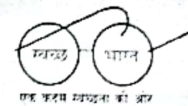
Our attention was immediately drawn to the rich tapestry of ancient architecture and sculpture that defines Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage. The monuments in Mahabalipuram provided a unique opportunity for a profound study of these historical artistic expressions. The striking amalgamation of monolithic structures and intricately carved cave temples served as a testament to the artistic prowess of the region.

Notably, Mahabalipuram boasts magnificent stone depictions portraying numerous deities, celestial beauties, and epic legends. The lifelike representation of these elements left an indelible impression on our senses, showcasing the mastery of the artisans who crafted these timeless creations.

One of the jewels in Mahabalipuram's crown is its coastline temple, standing proudly against the backdrop of the azure sea. The temple not only serves as a religious landmark but also stands as a testament to the architectural marvels of ancient India. The cave temples, with their enigmatic aura, further added to the allure of Mahabalipuram, allowing us to delve into the spiritual and historical significance embedded in the rock-cut structures.

A notable highlight of our visit was encountering Ar. Neeru Gupta, Assistant Professor, whose presence added an academic dimension to our exploration. Mrs. Gupta, with her expertise, provided valuable insights and context, enriching our understanding of the cultural and historical nuances associated with Mahabalipuram.

As we immersed ourselves in the wonders of Mahabalipuram, it became evident that the town is a treasure trove of heritage, offering a glimpse into the artistic and architectural brilliance of ancient Tamil Nadu. The journey was a captivating odyssey through time, leaving us with a profound appreciation for the cultural legacy etched in the stones of Mahabalipuram.



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DAY 2 : On the 30th of October 2023, our journey led us to the enchanting enclave of Auroville, situated in the Viluppuram district of Tamil Nadu, India. Established in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa, known as "The Mother," and inspired by the visionary ideals of Sri Aurobindo, Auroville stands as a groundbreaking experiment in fostering human unity and spiritual evolution.

At the heart of Auroville lies the mesmerizing Matrimandir, a golden spherical structure often referred to as the town's "soul." Surrounded by serene gardens, the Matrimandir serves as a sacred space for meditation, encapsulating the spiritual aspirations that define Auroville. Visitors from across the globe pilgrimage to this iconic site to experience its tranquil ambiance and partake in contemplative activities.

Auroville's essence lies in its diverse and international community, where residents, known as Aurovilians, coexist with a shared commitment to principles such as human unity, sustainability, and integral living. The town's architecture mirrors this commitment, characterized by experimentation and innovation, featuring eco-friendly designs that seamlessly blend with the natural surroundings.

Cultural exchange flourishes within Auroville's dynamic tapestry. The town hosts a myriad of events, including dance performances, music concerts, art exhibitions, and intellectual discussions. This vibrant cultural scene fosters creativity and collaboration, contributing to the inclusive atmosphere that defines Auroville.

Education in Auroville aligns with its integral philosophy, boasting its own educational system that includes institutions like the Auroville Kindergarten and Auroville Schools. These establishments prioritize holistic education, emphasizing not only academic knowledge but also experiential learning and personal growth.

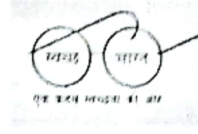
Auroville's commitment to sustainability is evident in the active engagement of Aurovilians in organic farming, renewable energy initiatives, and eco-friendly construction methods. The town serves as a living model for environmentally conscious living, embodying principles of ecological responsibility.

The governance of Auroville is a unique and participatory process, guided by a Residents' Assembly and an Auroville Council. This distinctive governance structure ensures collective decision-making and inclusivity, amplifying the diverse voices within the community.

In essence, Auroville transcends the conventional definition of a town; it is a living manifestation of the visionary ideals of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. A beacon of spiritual exploration, cultural exchange, and sustainable living, Auroville continues to inspire individuals on a quest for a harmonious and integrated way of life.

DAY 3: On the 31st of October 2023, marking the third day of our journey, we explored the captivating White Town in Puducherry, India. Renowned as the French Colony, this district stands as a captivating testament to the colonial history of French India. The area's unique charm lies in its seamless blend of French and Indian architectural styles, creating a distinctive cultural and historical atmosphere.

White Town unfolds as a repository of well-preserved colonial structures, each edifice narrating a tale of the past. The streetscapes are vibrant, adorned with architectural gems that showcase the artistic amalgamation of two rich cultural traditions. The ambiance is both charming and



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historically resonant, offering visitors a glimpse into a bygone era.

One of the prominent features of White Town is the presence of institutions such as the Aurobindo Ashram, a spiritual and cultural haven founded by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother (Mirra Alfassa). This serene retreat serves as a center for meditation, yoga, and philosophical exploration. Its tranquil surroundings attract not only spiritual seekers but also students keen on delving into the teachings and practices propagated by Sri Aurobindo.

The aesthetic allure of White Town extends beyond its architectural splendors. The district serves as a living testament to the cultural fusion that transpired during the French colonial era in Puducherry. The legacy of this historical period is palpable in every corner, offering a profound sense of connection to the past.

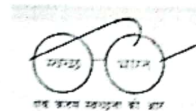
In essence, our visit to White Town on the 31st of October was a journey through time, immersing us in the rich tapestry of French colonial history and its enduring influence on the cultural landscape of Puducherry. The well-preserved structures, vibrant streets, and the spiritual haven of the Aurobindo Ashram collectively contribute to making White Town a captivating and significant destination for those seeking to unravel the layers of India's colonial heritage.

DAY 4: On the eventful fourth day of their journey, the enthusiastic group embarked on a road trip from Pondicherry to the bustling city of Chennai, fuelled by anticipation and excitement. Their destination was none other than SRM University, a hub of knowledge and innovation. The journey itself was marked by laughter, camaraderie, and the scenic landscapes that unfolded along the way.

Upon reaching SRM University, the atmosphere was charged with curiosity and eagerness as they engaged with the esteemed faculties and had the privilege of meeting the dean. Conversations flowed, insights were shared, and a sense of inspiration lingered in the air.

Having absorbed the enriching experience at the university, the group decided to return to their abode—the hotel. The day, though fulfilling, had taken its toll, leaving them with a pleasant weariness. Eager to recharge and rejuvenate, they retreated to the comfort of their accommodations, reflecting on the plethora of experiences that had unfolded throughout the day. The promise of more adventures in the days to come fuelled their dreams as they embraced a well-deserved rest.

DAY 5: On the fifth day of their journey, the group revisited SRM University, where previous interactions with local students and a campus tour had taken place. The day unfolded with a presentation on a furniture design workshop, facilitated by the university's faculty, offering insights into the nuances of the subject. Additionally, the group had the opportunity to peruse the



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projects and designs accomplished by SRM University students, providing a glimpse into the creative endeavors thriving within the institution.

The focus then shifted to KRMU students, who presented their own designs and concepts. Following these presentations, a jury undertook the evaluation process, and subsequently, the group was organized into smaller teams. Each team received specific topics, laying the groundwork for presentations scheduled on the sixth day. This structured division and assignment set the stage for collaborative efforts, as each subgroup prepared to delve into their respective topics, fostering an atmosphere of anticipation and engagement for the educational pursuits ahead.

DAY 6: On the concluding sixth day of their visit, the group returned to SRM University for the final session. All students participated in presentations centered on three topics—Auroville, Pondicherry, and Mahabalipuram. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as students explored the cultural, historical, and architectural intricacies of each location, offering a diverse array of perspectives.

Post-presentations, a panel of judges meticulously evaluated each, considering factors such as research depth, creativity, and overall presentation skills. These assessments formed the foundation for final judgments, encapsulating the essence of the students' exploration and comprehension of the chosen topics.

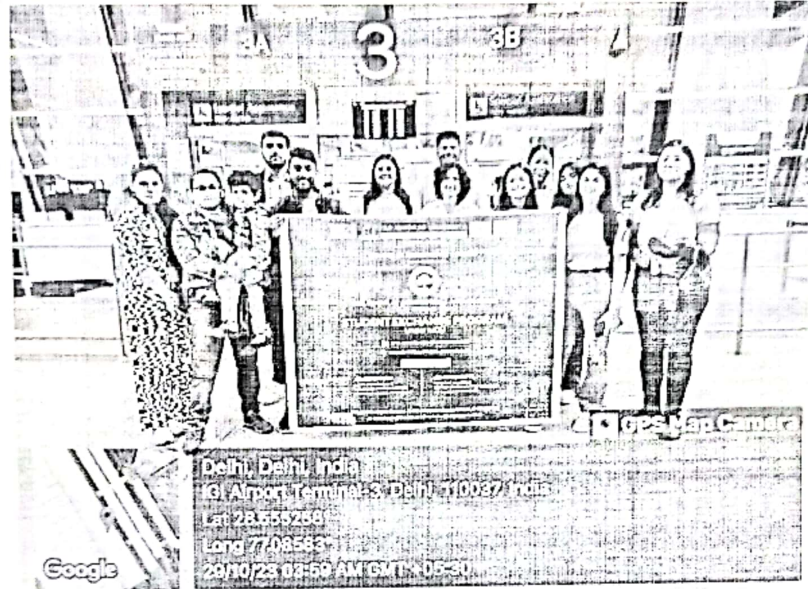


Photo 1: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at IGI Airport.



Photo 2: Students and Faculty members of KRMU at Mahabalipuram

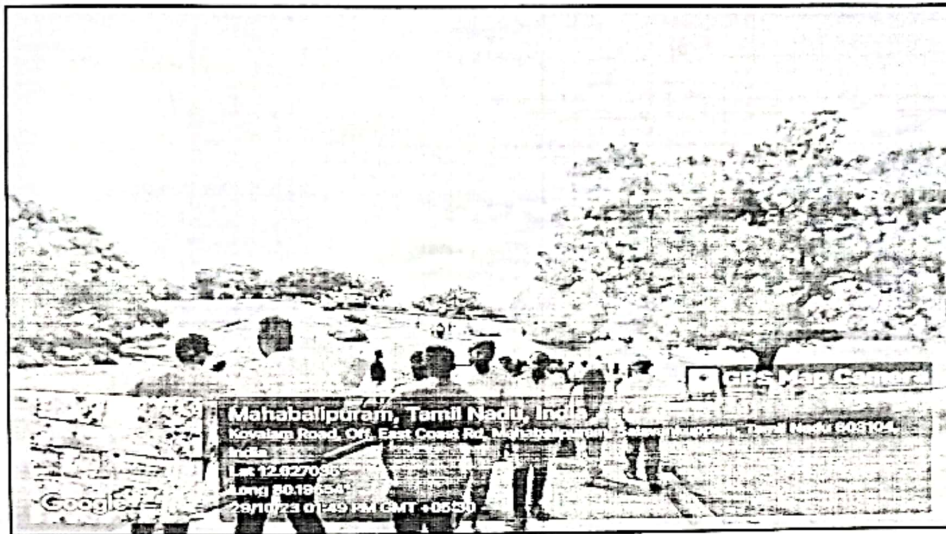


Photo 5: Visit Mahahabalipuram (DAY-1)

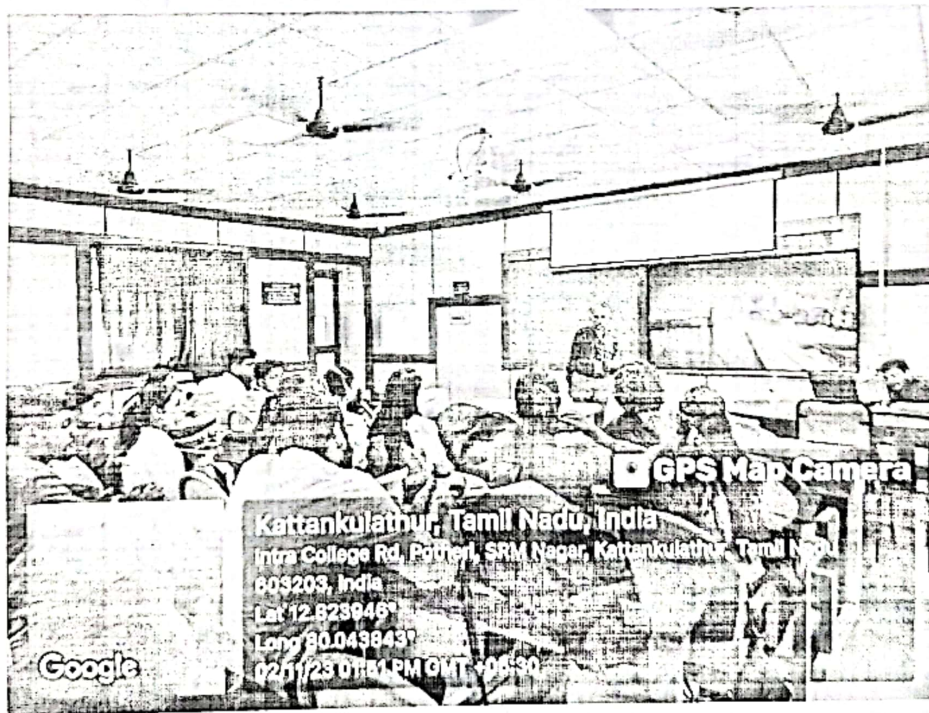


Photo : Prof. T.R Kamlakannan giving presentation on Mahabalipuram



Photo: Student and faculty members of KRMU at SRM University



Photo 17: Faculty Members of KRMU and SRM University.

From the left to right **Ar. Suraj Dwivedi** (Asst. Prof, SRM University) , **Ar. Neeru Gupta** (Asst. Prof, KRMU) , **Dr. C Pradeepa** (HOD – SAID, SRM UNIVERSITY) , **Ar. Disha Shah** (Associate Prof, KRMU) , **Prof. T.R Kamlakannan** (Professor , SRM Univeristy) , **Ar. Sukeshi** (Asst. Prof, SRM University).

CONCLUSION

Six-day journey through the cultural tapestry of Tamil Nadu unfolded as a captivating odyssey, weaving together the historical, spiritual, and educational facets of the region. From the ancient wonders of Mahabalipuram to the visionary ideals embodied in Auroville and the colonial charm of White Town in Puducherry, each destination left an indelible mark on our collective experience.

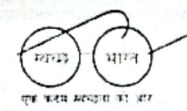
Mahabalipuram, with its monolithic structures and intricate cave temples, provided a deep dive into the artistic brilliance of ancient Tamil Nadu. The lifelike stone depictions and the coastal temple stood as testaments to the rich cultural heritage etched in the stones of this captivating town.

Auroville, a beacon of spiritual exploration and sustainable living, showcased a unique experiment in human unity. The Matrimandir and the diverse international community underscored the town's commitment to integral living, cultural exchange, and ecological responsibility.

White Town, with its well-preserved colonial structures and the serene Aurobindo Ashram, offered a journey through the layers of French colonial history, blending two rich cultural traditions seamlessly.

The educational pursuits at SRM University added an academic dimension to our journey, fostering collaboration, inspiration, and creative exploration. The presentations on the final day encapsulated the depth of our understanding of Auroville, Pondicherry, and Mahabalipuram, showcasing the diverse perspectives gained during our exploration.

As the journey concludes, the memories of laughter-filled road trips, insightful interactions with local communities, and the thrill of educational pursuits linger in our minds. The culmination of the six-day expedition at SRM University, with its thoughtful evaluations and reflections, serves as a fitting finale to our exploration of Tamil Nadu's cultural, historical, and educational richness. The journey may have ended, but the impressions and lessons learned will resonate within us, shaping our perspectives and fostering a deeper appreciation for the diverse facets of this enchanting region.



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