



THE AISMV BULLETIN

-Goes South-

(Issue dedicated to Regional School Exchange Programme)

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DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO CHAIRPERSON MA'AM – Visionary Par Excellence

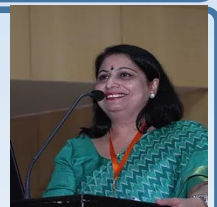
‘A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you.’ There couldn't be better words to describe our respected Chairperson Ma'am, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan who always offers myriad avenues to help Amitians showcase their talent and potential. We, the team of AIS, MV are extremely grateful to Ma'am for providing us with this opportunity to gain cross-cultural exposure which offered an insight into the traditions and customs of Southern India through the Regional Exchange Programme with Chettinad Public School.



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson, RBEF

DEEP THANKS TO OUR GUIDING LIGHT – JYOTI ARORA MA'AM

‘Leaders become great because of their ability to empower others.’ The dynamic Director of AERC, Jyoti Arora Ma'am, is a beacon of light who mentors the students at every step with her invaluable suggestions and guidance. The team of AIS, MV is forever grateful to respected Ma'am for her unstinted support and mentorship.



Ms. Jyoti Arora
Director, AERC

AMITY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE

Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) is a magnanimous endeavor of Amity Group. The school exchange programme which is one of the key initiatives of the AERC carries forward the pioneering philosophy of our Honourable Founder President, Dr. Ashok K Chauhan, and the firm conviction of our respected Chairperson, Dr. (Mrs.) Amita Chauhan, that the ‘World is one Family’, “**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**”. It helps the students to gain cross-cultural exposure and imbibe the best practices of different regions through their interactions and experiences.

REGIONAL SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Chettinad Public School, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu



Amity International School, Mayur Vihar



Chettinad Public School, Karaikudi

Guided by the exemplary vision of our Chairperson, Dr. Amita Chauhan in giving Amitians a cross cultural exposure, Amity International School, Mayur Vihar, Delhi conducted a Regional Exchange Programme together with Chettinad Public School, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu. As a part of this programme, nine students along with two teacher escorts of AIS, MV visited Chettinad Public School from January 21 to January 27, 2018. The theme of the project was ‘Connecting and Collaborating the Culture and Heritage of Chettinad and Delhi’ covering the culture, history, art and architecture and cuisine of the Chettinad region. During the course of the project, our students did many activities together with the CPS students and gained an insight into the culture and heritage of the region.

We seek the good wishes and support of our readers to continue this endeavour with ardent passion and zeal . Students can contribute their write-ups at :

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The Chettinad Chronicles



Sneak Preview...

Day 1 – Sunday, 21st January, 2018

The faces of the entire team were lit up with excitement right from early morning when they gathered at the Delhi airport to catch a flight to Tiruchirappalli via Chennai. The bus ride from Trichy airport to Karaikudi was the start of an enriching experience filled with many memorable moments to cherish for life.



Day 2 – 22nd January, 2018

After a mouth watering traditional breakfast of piping hot idlis served with coconut chutney, the team was accorded a warm welcome in the school assembly. They began their journey into Chettinad Culture with a visit to the nearby temples and forts and palaces and were soon craving for more!



Day 3 – 23rd January, 2018

A visit to two of the most famous sites of Tamil Nadu, the holy shrine of Rameshwaram and the memorial of the most loved President of modern India, Dr Abdul Kalam! What more could the team ask for!



Day 4 - 24th January, 2018

The team conducted the Morning Assembly in the host school on the theme of 'Organic Living' and spread the Amity ethos with soothing shlokas and inspiring talks. Pongal gaiety was recreated by the host school through Pongal Celebrations which gave our team an insight into the rich culture and traditions of Tamil Nadu.



Day 5 – 25th January, 2018

History was brought alive when the team visited the ancient Brihadeeshwara Temple of Thanjavur which they had only read about in their textbooks. Traversing through the hallowed corridors, they gathered miscellaneous facts about the temple history from



Day 6 - 26th January, 2018

Patriotic fervour resounded in the air as the host school conducted Republic Day Celebrations along with our students who presented patriotic songs and dances and soul stirring speeches before the august gathering. The day ended with the team going shopping for souvenirs through the local markets of the region followed by a sumptuous dinner hosted by the Chairman of CPS for the delegation.



Day 7 – 27th January, 2018

The team returned home with heavy hearts and loads of memories created through an extremely rewarding and enriching journey to Chettinad.



WARM WELCOME AT CHETTINAD

The team was overwhelmed by the glowing warmth and hospitality of the Chettinad Family right from the moment they arrived. They felt at home and comfortable though they were miles away from home. Here are some glimpses of the warm welcome accorded to our visiting team ...

First Glimpse Of Chettinad

The first sight that met our eyes when we entered the school building was the bulletin board outside the Principal's office welcoming the team to the programme. A sign of many such overwhelming moments in the days to come!



Welcome At The Morning Assembly

The team was warmly welcomed in the morning assembly the next day with the smell of sandalwood and warmth of the Chettinad region pervading the air.



Morning Assembly by AIS, MV

The team conducted Morning Assembly on 'Organic Living' to spread awareness about adopting the organic way of life. They enumerated the various measures that we can adopt such as using organic products in our daily lives. Here are a few glimpses of the activities:



In Conversation with Art Collector, Mr. G.R.Mahadevan

The waste of today is relic of tomorrow! The two-storied bungalow looks like your typical Indian family house but once you go inside, it is a different era and world altogether. There is not a single wall which doesn't narrate the tale of history, Mr. Mahadevan and his wife Ms. Priyadarshini, provide an insight into their house-turned-museum. In spite of receiving appreciation from National Geographic and Discovery channel, their heart still resides on the soil of Chettinad. Quite inquisitively, Anandi Sen and Nandini, XI-G on a dinner invite to his home learnt about his Unique Hobby

How it all started

I have always been captivated by these antiquities, I wanted to buy a lot of them but couldn't afford them as I belonged to a normal middle-class family. After I started earning, I started collecting them. It all started from a tin toy car, in the past 8 years I have gathered more than 10,000 toys!

Collections from the time of World War I

In the Chettinad tradition, it is a practice to give toys to girls as a present during wedding ceremonies. Most of the girls keep them safe and secure, after years pass by and they are about to get married, I used to collect them from the girls.

The elders of chettinad family would get unique and ancient things whilst travelling abroad or to different countries.

Message to the young collectors

People have left country for better prospects, they have gone to Malaysia and America. This generation must learn the art of preserving things. As a developing country, our middle-class generation has no suffering issues of survival. If the future generation uses its talent by not travelling abroad and letting their passion grow on our motherland, we could preserve the art of collection! Don't throw anything, preserve it as an asset!



Local Crafts



The Chettinad Sari

The cotton sari also known as "kandaangi", is unique in the dramatic and spontaneous use of colour and pattern with bold checks, stripes and contrasting hues.^[6] Its vibrance and weight are its distinguishing factors. Records and old photographs show the use of sari by previous generations.



Aathangudi Tiles

Athangudi tiles, named after the place of the manufacture in Chettinad, Tamil Nadu, come in a myriad of colours and patterns, and are made by a unique process using local soil and glass plates.^[7] These tiles are a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the Chettiar community, who effectively adapted many influences to their own brand of local craftsmanship. The designs and colours used in Athangudi tiles are still those of a bygone era. However, of late, new designs and patterns are being incorporated. The Athangudi tiles are hand-made. However, with a short shelf life and relatively slow manufacturing process, these tiles are not much in demand.



Chettinad Captures

Chettinad Architecture

The Land Of Temples

Popularly known as 'The Land of Temples', Tamil Nadu is home to about 33,000 ancient temples, most of which are dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha and Lord Kartikeya locally

known as Lord Murugan. Studded with complex architecture, variety of sculptures, and rich inscriptions, the temples reflect the very essence of the culture and heritage of Tamil land, with historical records dating back to at least 3,000 years. During their visit, our team had the good fortune of visiting some of the most pious shrines of the region.

Brihadeswara Temple, Thanjavur

The Brihadeswara Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is located at Thanjavur and popular for its architecture. It was built by Raja Raja Chola I in 1010 AD and displays great and unique Chola architecture. The temple tower is 216 ft. high. The top most structure of the temple is carved out of a single stone which weighs nearly 1000 kgs. Because of its architectural style it is regarded as a World Heritage Monument as 'Great Living Chola Temple' by UNESCO.

Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameshwaram

Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameshwaram is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva located on Rameswaram island in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the 12 Jyotirlinga temples. The temple has the longest corridor among all temples in India. The ace deity, the Lingam of Ramanathaswamy (Shiva), is believed to have been established and worshipped by Rama, an avatar of the god Vishnu.

Chettinad Forts & Palaces

The team travelled to the forts, palaces & museums of the Chettinad region and the annals of history books came to life while they traversed through the corridors of these priceless relics. During their sojourns, they gained a first hand insight into the rich heritage of Chettinad, gathering invaluable facts about its history.



Chettinad Captures



Chettinad Cuisine



From the Chettinad Kitchen

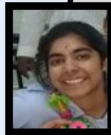
From the land of chhole bhature and rajma to the world of idlis, dosais and idiyappams, the team savored the delightful Chettinad cuisine which is perhaps the most renowned fare in the Tamil Nadu repertoire. It uses a variety of spices and the dishes are made with fresh ground *masalas*. Most of the dishes are eaten with rice and rice based accompaniments such as *dosas*, *apams*, *idiyappams*, *adais* and *idlis*.



6 Anna Dato Sukhi Bhavantena

"May God Bless the One Who Feeds Others!"

How I wish I could savour the taste of sweet and sour idiyappams again! ~ Sarah



The 'melting in the mouth idlis' with tomato chutney were too good to believe" ~ Anandi



The taste of Chettinad Chicken still lingers in my mouth ~ Anushka



I discovered the yummylicious paniyarams during the trip and instantly fell in love with them! ~ Prithika



Chettinad Captures

Chettinad Customs & Traditions

PONGAL AT CHETTINAD

The host school recreated the gaiety of Pongal Celebrations for the team giving them a slice of the flavors of Tamil Nadu. They were given a traditional welcome at the Chettinad farmhouse and enjoyed bullock cart rides, biting into sugarcane, along with helping in the preparation of 'shakar pongal', the traditional pongal dish. They learnt about the customs and traditions associated with the festival and enjoyed the folk dances of Tamil Nadu performed by the Chettinad students.



Miscellany

- ◆ The senior most female in the house is called is called Aachi.
- ◆ Instead of lawns in front of the house, the Chettiars have courtyards inside.
- ◆ The courtyard of a Chettinad house is located in the center of the house and is utilized for marriages and other ceremonies
- ◆ Traditional meals are served on banana leaf.
- ◆ As the Chettiars are superstitious with numbers, dishes have to be served to them in odd numbers – seven or nine according to the meal.
- ◆ The statue of Nandi faces the Shivling in the temples.

Republic Day Celebrations

Saare Jahan Se Achha

Patriotic fervor resounded in the air as Republic Day was celebrated with both the teams collaborating to present a razzmatazz of patriotic songs and dances.

Our orators expressed their love for motherland through powerful speeches in Hindi and English that stirred the emotions of the august gathering.



Reminiscences..

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What an exhilarating experience this has been! In the past five days, we have not only learnt about the customs and traditions of Chettinad but also created a host of memories and precious moments that we shall remember forever. We started off on the first day itself, dancing to the foot tapping Tamil songs in the bus. We can never forget the 'Master of All Trades' Guruji..dynamic and energetic of all with the ability to entertain us anytime, anywhere, the multi-talented and ever smiling, Guruju. He was the one who taught us that the one who gives food must live long... Anna datosukhibhavantene. We didn't feel like coming back ever, so enjoyable was tthe entire trip!. But as Tamilians would say, seri...poyeetveraam. Chettinad cuisine was delicious. I personally loved iddi appam with achaar. We made so many new friends who have become a part of our family now. We are so grateful for this little infinity. We hope that our stay in Chettinad has helped CPS gain an insight of amity tradition and the culture of our region. Thank you so much everybody for being a part of the best days of our lives, most of all for making them the best days of our lives. On behalf of the entire team, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to our dearest respected Chairperson Ma'am for offering us this wonderful platform to gain cross cultural exposure and also to respected Jyoti Arora Ma'am for guiding us throughout the programme.

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-Sarah Susan Varkey

Back home, Ma always thought of me as a spoilt and overly pampered child. After my return from Karaikudi, she felt that an independent lady had entered the house.

-Anandi

When told that the bigger the entrance of the temple, the smaller the size of the deity inside, the Bollywood enthusiast in me remarked, "Bade bade temples mein chhote chhote idols milte rehite hain."

~ Sarah

"It is strange how the same people who make you smile can be the reason for your tears as well. Meeting Guruji was the most joyful moment, and saying goodbye to him, the saddest one."

~ Anushka

'All the world's a stage' wasn't really believable until we started dancing on Tamil songs in the bus on our first ride to the school. Surely, Shakespeare thought way ahead of his time!

~ Devashree

For sure I am going to miss Dilli ka Khana in this small town', I thought to myself. Little did I know that the lipsmacking Chettinad Cuisine would delight my taste buds leaving me craving for more.

~ Pihu

Q. Why is the Pamban Bridge so special?
Before : Because Chennai Express was shot on it.
Now : Because it is a breathtaking engineering marvel.

~ Stharanya

Making Memories



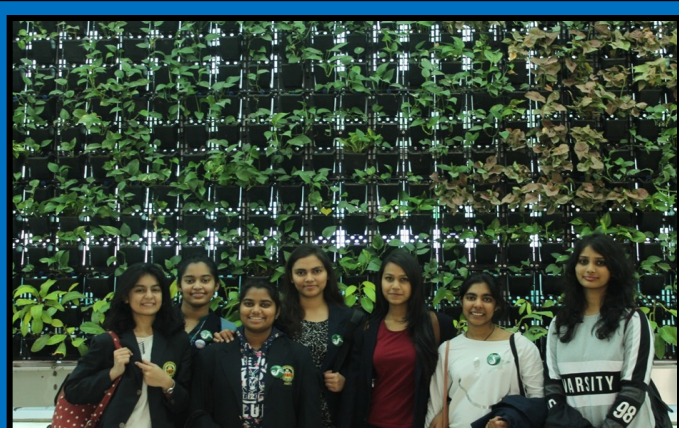
Pongal Festivity in the Air



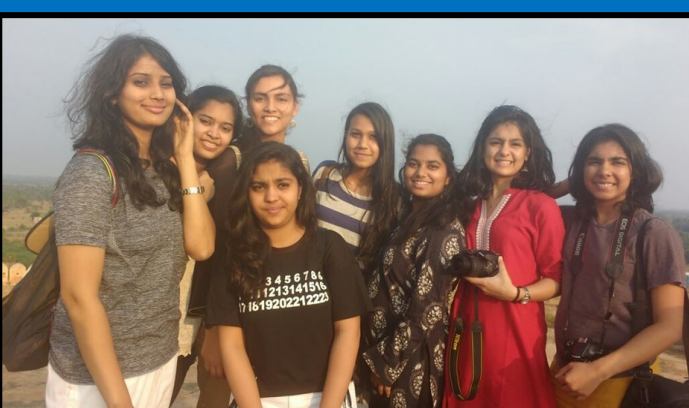
Up Above the Town So High – Thirumayam Fort



The Way to the Dining Hall is the Way to Bliss



All Set for an Exciting Journey Ahead



Excited Faces, Happy Souls



Shopping, the Road to A Girl's Happiness



Back with a Bouquet of Memories

AMITY ACHIEVERS



Pihu Kalra, winner of 5 silver medals in Archery at National School Games



Pihu Kalra with Mahabali Satpal G (Arjuna, Dronacharya, Padamshree awardee)



3 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals at 33rd National Karate Championship



First Prize in Digital Story & Documentary Film and Second Prize in Project Display at ASN, IT Event



First Prize bagged by Students of class III in Inter Amity Mental Math Quiz



Karan, Ali and Naman - winners of Inter-School Ramanujan Competition.



Sharanya Chakroborty of class VIII won First prize in R.K. Mission Competition



Students selected for Interview at Yuva Vichar Manch



Third Prize in Mental Math Quiz by Class IX Students

ACTIVITIES GALLERY



Online Interactive Session by
Dr. Gianluca Masi



Heritage Quiz Class I To III



Republic Day Assembly by class I & II



Observing Lunar Eclipse Phenomenon
at India Gate



Debating Panel on "Beti Bachao, Beti
Padhao."



Republic Day Celebration



Winners of Odyssey of Mind



Students performing at Odyssey of Mind



Students performing at Odyssey of Mind