

HISTORICAL TOUR 2016-2017

To

GUNTUPALLI CAVES

(Jeelakarragudem, Kamavarapukota)

W.G. Dt-534275

Date: 28-1-2017

By

P.Mani Raju

Department Of History

Sri YN College (A)

Narsapur, W.G. Dt, A.P

As a part and parcel of final year syllabus the Department of History organized a historical tour to Guntupalli caves (Jeelakarragudem, Kamavarapukota) W.G. Dist. on 21st Jan- 2017. 70 BA students and 2 faculty accompanied them in this tour.

HISTORY OF THE GUNTUPALLI CAVES

The Guntupalli or **Guntupalli Group of Buddhist Monuments** is located near Kamavarapukota, West Godavari district, in the state of Andhra Pradesh in India. It is around 40 km away from Eluru. The rock-cut part of the site has two Buddhist caves, a chaitya hall and a large group of stupas. The chaitya hall has a rare carved stone entrance replicating wooden architecture, a simpler version of that at the Lomas Rishi Cave.

There are remains of structural buildings in brick and stone, including remains of two viharas made of brick, as well as excavated caves at two levels, including an unusual structural chaitya hall (that is, one built above ground). The core of this consists of the stone stupa with an enclosed path around it allowing ritual parikrama (circumambulation). They mostly date to 200-0 BCE, with some sculptures added later. The main building above ground is in brick, around a stone stupa, with over 30 smaller stupas on a terrace in front of it. There are ruins of two other buildings.

During excavation, three relic caskets were found. The caskets had many precious elements like gold, silver, crystal beads. The bronze image of Padmapani was found along with one of the caskets. The inscription on the casket was in the Devanagari script which indicates the year as from the 9th to 10th century CE.



ENTRANCE ARCH OF THE MONUMENT CHAITIYA



BAUDHA STUPA



HISTORICAL EVIDENCE AT GUNTUPALLI CAVES



ANCIENT CONSTRUCTION AT GUNTUPALLI



LANDSCAPE OF STUPAS



A GROUP PHOTO OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY BEFORE THE JOURNEY



STUDENTS PHOTOGRAPH AT ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE



STUDENTS PHOTOGRAPH WITH FACULTY



ANCIENT CAVE ENTRANCE



TINY STUPAS



AT THE ENTRANCE OF CIRCULAR BRICK STUPA CHAITYA



STUDENT'S PHOTOGRAPH AT STUPA



STUDENTS PHOTOGRAPH WITH FACULTY

Conclusion:

Study tours give practical knowledge to the students and help them to understand geographical conditions of that historical place. Apart from class room teaching tours enhance students interest towards the subject.

Study tours give awareness on Indian Ancient Art & Architecture as well as socio-economic conditions of that period. These tours help students to get comprehensive knowledge on Ancient Indian Culture.

Thank you.
