

**FORMATIVE PERIOD**

During this period many pilgrims traveled bare footed from across the various regions of India mainly from north part and used to stay for long time till their pilgrimage is done. In 700AD Adi Shankaracharya traveled to Rameshwaram as a part of teaching the principles of Advaita. The existing Theerthams in the island were created by pilgrims which catered for their livelihood and the pilgrims used to stay around it. Theerthams were named on the characters in Ramayana.

**PRE COLONIAL PERIOD**

**URBAN DESIGN STUDIO**

Batch 2019-20 2nd Sem M.Arch

During this period regional rulers donated few lands, villages and dharmashalas around Rameshwaram to accommodate pilgrims who travel from other regions. Temple prakarams, Devasthanam houses were also constructed to accommodate pilgrims.

- Cultural markers
- Settlements
- Dharmashalas
- Theerthams

- Cultural markers
- Devasthanam Houses
- Settlements
- Dharmashalas
- Theerthams
- Pandas Houses/ Mutts



**COLONIAL PERIOD**

Introduction of railways increased the influx of pilgrims to Rameshwaram. Many Chattrams were built to accommodate pilgrims, out of which Tanjore Rajah Choultry, Ramanad Rajah Choultry and Venkata Rao Choultry were the big Chattrams and would cater to large number of people. Those who doesn't wish to stay in Chattrams had an opportunity to stay in Devasthanam houses or in the panda house. Thriupanni buildings were built to accommodate temple construction workers. Temple management buildings were built on the east street to accommodate trustees.

**POST COLONIAL PERIOD**

Dhanushkodi suffered from Cyclone in 1964, which destroyed the complete town. So all the infrastructures and the settlements were shifted to Rameshwaram. A new railway line was constructed in Rameshwaram. Many people migrated from other cities and settled here because of the new development happening in the city. Many commercial activities started along the middle street. Old mutt/residential buildings were converted to commercial shops/hotels. The city grew towards SW side because of the movement of pilgrims from railway station to temple.

- Theerthams
  - Cultural markers
  - Devasthanam Houses
  - Thriupanni buildings
  - Temple buildings
  - Chattrams
  - Chank stores
  - Pandas Houses/ Mutts
  - Chattrams
  - Railway Station
  - Hospital
  - Settlements
- Main roads (Mud road)  
Railway line  
Walkway

- Theerthams
- Cultural markers
- Devasthanam Houses
- Thriupanni buildings
- Temple buildings
- Chattrams
- Chank stores
- Pandas Houses/ Mutts
- Chattrams
- Railway Station
- Settlements



**HOW SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND ECONOMICAL FORCES WEAVE THEIR NETWORK WITH PILGRIMS?**

