CHAPTER 6

6. CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The town Srirangapatna is identified by its historical importance and character. The history of the town is manifest in its historic buildings. Though a town should necessarily have new structures, it is not wise to lose the old buildings, as every building has some history related to it. Thus in the present study an attempt has been made in bringing out the existing condition of the natural forms and the built forms and the environment and the various factors that are causing damages to them that leads to loss of the character and value of the town. The monuments are the most precious built forms in the town with heritage value that brings the town its international importance. These monuments though recognized and protected by the Archaeological Survey of India and State Archaeology Department still need attention from the concerned authorities and the public. The conservation and maintenance of these monuments including developmental measures need a holistic approach as the development of the town cannot be thought of without an attention to the monuments.

The town with numerous monuments with rich history and culture has a high potential for tourism due to the International renown of its Heritage and structures. It has been observed that the fort area is facing tremendous destructive pressure from commercialization and overcrowding. Inadequate infrastructure facilities such as basic services, parking facilities, narrowness of roads etc. lead to traffic congestion and cluttered pedestrian movement. Recently most of the town has undergone major changes due to the urbanization. The penetration of modern buildings into the fabric of the town has not only affected the visual character of the town but also has altered the social and behavioral shapes that defined its urban character.

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

Srirangapatna town is well known for its rich historic, heritage, cultural, and religious significance. The history of Srirangapatna reveals that the place has been ruled in their chronological order by Gangas, Hoysalas, Vijayanagar kings, Islamic rulers and British, the influence of which is reflected by the Historical Monuments. The glory of the rulers is expressed in the magnificent structures like temples, palaces, royal
buildings, mosques, tombs, etc. The town being the erstwhile capital of Mysore kingdom has witnessed countless battles some of which have shaken the foundations of its massive fort wall, that still stand as a testament to the greatness of the town’s glorious past.

Though the origin of the town is traced to the 2nd century, the town started attaining its glory only under Vijayanagar viceroy after the 15th century and continued to be the seat of government until its seizure by the British during the last Anglo-Mysore war in 1799 A.D. and later the Raja’s capital was shifted to Mysore. With these changes the town Srirangapatna began to decline. The decline of Srirangapatna began with the death of Tippu Sultan in 1799 A.D. and the importance of being the capital was lost. It remained as a temple town, and the growth declined tremendously. The population of Srirangapatna which was over 0.15 million fell to a mere 32,000 within a year of Tippu’s death. Also, the prevalence of Malaria and Plague after the war resulted in the out migration causing further decline in population until 1861. However, some of the developmental activities along with resettlement by the British led to an increase in the population from 1871-1891.

Srirangapatna became the Taluk headquarters and gradually regained its importance as a place of worship and pilgrimage bringing along with it tourism and commercialization. The influence of these factors crushed the primary source of revenue which was agriculture for many families. After 1990 the tourism sector started gaining importance focusing on its international value in its heritage and structures. Due to the various developmental activities and programmes initiated in the town, the population of Srirangapatna gradually increased to 21,905 in 1991, 23,729 in 2001 and 25061 in 2011, but is still an insignificant figure considering its glorious past. Though these initiatives were taken, the growth of the town is not remarkable or wholesome.

The town had an extent of area of 2.8 sq.km in 1960 (only the fort area) and later the town area got extended to 7.1Sq km in 1971 (Ganjam area was included). It further got extended and in 2005 local planning area has been declared and the present Local planning area is 10.93 Sq km.
The historical and heritage town of Srirangapatna has innumerable monuments that are of National and State renown and these monuments are recognized and protected by the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Archaeology Department respectively. The largest number of monuments is located within the fort, which is one of the principal elements that add up to the character of Srirangapatna. The heritage character of Srirangapatna is being supported by tourism that has led to the emergence of numerous tourism based business. But the town has failed to attract the tourists who opt for night stay, the reason being the close proximity to the city Mysore.

The historic past structures are visibly being eroded by human intervention and natural forces. Over the years, the ever increasing developmental pressures and disregard for monuments/ heritage areas and their environs resulted in decay factors. The modern lifestyle has caused the breakdown of the historical characteristics of the town, significantly. However in the last one and a half decade, the growth of tourism has put considerable pressure on space causing several adverse changes in the town and its environs. These developments not only have an adverse impact on the historic features but also affect its well-defined urban form.

While tourism remains a slow and unsteady activity and source of income, the need to associate with tourists who are the patrons of a tourism driven economy, forces the locals to encroach onto public space and the main centers of tourist activity have become a muddle of commercialization. Hawkers and petty shops crowd the streets hampering and impairing tourism and furthermore leading to accumulation of garbage. This chain of consequences has affected the economic progress of this small town. However, Srirangapatna is gradually regaining in importance not only as a pilgrimage town but also as a historic and heritage town bringing along with it tourism and commercialization.

Recently most parts of the town have witnessed major changes. The emergence of modern buildings in the town has not only affected the traditional pattern of the town but also has altered the social and physical nature of the town. People’s dependence on agriculture is declining as they depend more on the income obtained from rent and trade and from tourism dependent activities. The current economic base of the town is agriculture substantially and next to it are the trade and commerce and tourism. While
tourism remains a small and unsteady source of income, agricultural income happens to be not considerable.

Until the town became a focus of tourism, there was little human intervention. There was neither any development nor any major damage, except that due to the vagaries of nature. However in the last one and a half decades, the growth of tourism has put enormous pressure on space causing several undesirable changes in its character. These developments are not only damaging the historic and heritage features but also a well-defined urban form is changing for the worse.

Among the monuments in the town, the Fort is one of the principal monuments and is in a dilapidated condition due to ignorance and lack of awareness of the heritage value by both the Authorities and the general public. The significance of the fort is known only by a few personnel working in the Departments like ASI, Municipal office and a few residents. The general public is totally unaware even of its existence. The Magazines or the storage for the gun powder are located at different places in the fort area but are totally in the derelict condition. Thomas Inman's Dungeon, an ASI Monument is being uncared for because of its inaccessibility and private encroachments. The inaccessibility to many of the monuments is paving the way for unwelcome activities.

Srirangapatna is endowed with a number of monuments and an appraisal of these monuments reveals that:

- The historical, religious and cultural significance of the temple is drawing the maximum number of tourists. About 50% of the tourists visiting Srirangapatna visit only Sri Ranganathaswamy temple.
- Next preference is the Daria Daulat Bagh, where most of them visit to enjoy the garden and relaxation. The museum is strolled just incidentally.
- The Temple, Col. Bailey's dungeon and the Spot where Tippu’s body was found are the most visited monuments in the fort area due to their easy accessibility.
- Heritage monuments like Thomas Inman’s dungeon, Magazines (Gun powder storage), The Breach, Fort and Moat, Obelisk and other important monuments...
are almost wholly ignored by the visitors. They all bear the board stating their history and significance and the declaration as the heritage monuments but fail to attract visitors due to lack of awareness regarding the existence of these monuments.

The monument which enjoys the maximum value is the most sought after by the tourists, pilgrims, historians and locals. The monuments with the higher values are considered to be of high potential and require immediate attention whereas the others with the lesser values could be dealt with in the successive phases.

There is a vital need for appreciation of rich heritage as they are the treasures left by the various past rulers, builders and ancestors. They need to be preserved and conserved for future generations by identifying the ways for due preservation, conservation, adaptive reuse and restoration for the sake of cultural continuity and document them for posterity.

Srirangapatna with its long river front area, rich built and natural environment and diversity of cultures, ethnics and history, represents a great opportunity for waterfront development as a strategy to enhance investment for social, commercial and recreational projects. These investments will let the town increase its ability to attract more tourists, and provide new job opportunities for local people.

Srirangapatna has a good potential to develop a unique public space environment based on its rich diversity of cultures, ethnics and history. The public spaces can be the venue of interface among local people, and with tourists for exchanging ideas and cultures. This will increase the familiarity and linkages between the city and its people whether they are residents or tourists.

The SWOT is carried out to identify some of the key strengths and weaknesses that characterize Srirangapatna, as well as some of the significant opportunities and possible threats that the town faces. The analysis reveals that the town has equal strengths and opportunities provided the weaknesses are overcome by the concerted efforts of Government authorities, Private agencies, tourists and residents. The suggested
measures are drawn as action items from TOWS matrix that enhance the social, economic and physical development of the town.

6.2 SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are based on the overall study and SWOT analysis for the development of Srirangapatna town. With due consideration to preserve its Historic, Cultural, Religious, Architectural and Aesthetic assets, the suggestions are put under the following heads:

1. Historical/Heritage
2. Tourism
3. Infrastructure
4. Policy

6.2.1 Historical/Heritage: Historic monuments are the key elements in the development of towns and cities. Though the town, Srirangapatna has innumerable historic monuments that have been included in the tentative list of UNESCO, their potentials are yet to be fully explored.

- Sri Ranganathaswamy temple is to be conserved and restored to its full glory.
- The birth place of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, Narasimhaswamy temple and Tuppada Kola are located in the close vicinity of the Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, but they are quite infrequently visited, as the public are not aware of the interest in these monuments. All these monuments require to be revived to sustain the historical and cultural legacy.
- A museum delineating the life history of Maharajas of Mysore requires to be established in the Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar’s birth place building as the building is currently not in use. The reuse of the building also helps to save money and resources as it is cheaper to repair and reuse than to demolish and construct a new one. It also helps in preserving the identity of the monument without altering the original features.
- The Thomas Inman’s dungeon and the Obelisk are totally out of sight with no proper accessibility. Hence accessibility has to be provided.
• The eight Magazines, which were identified as State Monuments have to be restored and conserved as they highlight the military technology significance of the town.

• Widening of the Rampart road facilitates the easy movements of traffic as more number of monuments are located along this road.

• In order to preserve aesthetic environs around these monuments, it is necessary to declare areas surrounding these monuments as zones of special control and impose regulations around these monuments.

• Buildings up to a height of 3.5 meters from the ground level have to be permissible within the distance of 100-300 meters from the premises of the monuments.

• Building up to inclusive of first floor or up to a height of 7 meters from ground level whichever is less only has to be permissible in the area beyond 300 meters from the premises of the monuments within the fort area.

• The prominence of the monuments can be highlighted by interconnecting them in a Heritage Trail that helps the tourists to visit all the monuments.

• One of the most formidable forts in India, with the UNESCO tag if conserved and maintained, with wide International publicity attracts locals, historians and tourists. Also the town is to be highlighted or publicized as Fort Town.

• Conservation and restoration of heritage structures would attract domestic and International tourists.

• Initially free circuit tour to all the monuments, showcasing the heritage context of the town can be arranged for the pilgrims which creates mouth to mouth publicity at the domestic level (Kerala model).

• Create awareness among the residents about the International value of Heritage structures through rallies, Heritage walks involving celebrities (Gujarat model), and conducting exhibitions etc.

• As the town is noted as the birth place of Indian missiles, wide publicity through websites and media is to be arranged highlighting the technology used in those days.
6.2.2 Tourism: Tourism is one of the priority sectors identified in the Government’s overall growth plans for the state. The main objective is to develop Srirangapatna as a dynamic, sustainable and highly favoured tourism destination by increasing domestic and international visitations, offering high quality experience to visitors, facilitating and accelerating investments and improving livelihood opportunities at the local level. In achieving this, the initiatives required to be taken are:

- The economic development can be encouraged through tourism based commercial activities and also by providing suitable infrastructure facilities and services.
- The North Rampart Road is lined with monuments and it provides a beautiful view to the fort, if conserved. As the monuments are located on the edge of the town and are not intervened with the developments, the conservations measures can be effectively carried out.
- The movement of local traffic is very less on North Rampart Road and this is an added advantage for the tourist movement and there is ample space available for parking.
- The economic base of the town can be expanded and strengthened through proper planning and development of tourism vision plan, which in turn enhances the character of the town.
- Apart from the monuments recognized by the Archaeological Survey of India and State Archaeology Department, the other important natural and built forms with special value of architecture or culture or history, with well-known character or event are to be listed by the local planning authority.
- Exclusive ‘Fort tour’ could be arranged with professional guides giving thrust to the Indo-British war showcasing the massive fort walls, magazines, gates and bastions.
- The stake holders in Srirangapatna and Mysore should work together to publicize and arrange Heritage tours for the tourists visiting Mysore and Bangalore.
- The journey of the foreign tourists from Bangalore to Mysore or vice- versa should be supplemented with DVDs, handouts and books narrating the glorious history of the town.
• Proper maintenance and management of all the attractions with strict implementation of rules and regulations supplemented with public conveniences could attract tourists.

• The stake holders in the town shall visit yoga centers at Mysore and arrange weekend tours to the foreign yoga trainees. This helps in word of mouth publicity.

• Specific tourist circuit such as fort circuit, heritage circuit, pilgrimage circuit could be arranged.

• Wide publicity to be given and a ‘Tag line’ on website help the International tourists to plan the trip ahead.

• To improve infrastructure, products and services that leads to an increase in the number of visitors and their longer duration of stay.

• To provide better access to information, set of services like eating, shopping, participative safe and hassle-free experience so that the visitors get ‘total quality’ experience.

• To enhance tourism industry skills, knowledge and professionalism to provide visitors a pleasant experience and promote local employment opportunities.

• Amenities including parking at the entrance of major tourist destinations to be promoted to regulate vehicular movement, with special access for the physically challenged.

• Set up Vocational Training Institute at Srirangapatna, offering a range of courses and develop curriculum for job-oriented courses which can be offered to post school students. This will enhance the education and enhancement of competencies for local communities including reducing the number of school dropouts. And also acts as a tool to catalyse economic opportunities from tourism activities. This again helps to mitigate the outmigration of residents to nearby city Mysore for the sake of education. A new category of skilled guides is the prime requirement in the town that will cater to the upper echelon of tourists.

• Considering the popularity of the town and the available carrying capacity of the Srirangapatna town, the tourism related infrastructure facilities such as accessibility, accommodation, transportation and other activities has to be improved as the town has potential to receive more number of tourists.
6.2.3 Infrastructure
- The town creates interest in its historical, architectural, cultural, artistic and varied monuments with many dynasties ruling it; the town does not have the facilities to hold the visitor for a longer duration. The domestic and international tourists do not stay overnight but pay a fleeting visit to the town as the town does not have proper lodging, boarding and recreational facilities.
- The necessary infrastructure and related amenities provided in the town will definitely boost tourism activities.
- Promote new IT& BT industries in the town by providing incentives; and this will supplement or decentralize their Bangalore Mysore counterparts.
- Waterfront development on the lines of Sabarmati riverfront development will not only attract tourists but also gives a facelift to the town.
- Establish training institutes for the courses like hospitality, professional guides, etc., and tie up with universities.
- Regular trips to Mysore will save the travelling time and bring in more number of tourists and provision of quality accommodation facilities with comparatively cheaper tariff and promotional offers also attracts tourists.

6.2.4 Policy
- Srirangapatna aspires to be an International destination for cultural, spiritual, natural, historical and religious tourism based on the history associated with the town. However, conservation of historical buildings and large number of dilapidated buildings needs policies for redevelopment.
- Commercial interests run high in the fort area of the town where many monuments exist. To bring about a balance between historical monuments and commercial interests, the development has to be planned with proper guidelines to maintain the character and overall ambience of the town.
- Land values and intensive urban developments which cause the breakdown of the heritage of the town, can be controlled by proper land use, zoning regulations and building bye-laws and implementing the same stringently.
- The town municipal council can take planning assistance from the Assistant Director of Town Planning, Mandya. The TMC can also seek assistance from the Conservation Engineer, Archaeological Survey of India, Department of
State Archaeology, Department of Heritage and Non-Government Organisations.

- The urban characteristics can be retained by solving the urban problems in a coordinated approach involving all stakeholders and authorities.
- The planning for the tourism should be carried out comprehensively amidst the other activities of the town. As tourism is an important feature of the town, the Department of Tourism can utilize the resources of the town for development effectively.
- The Planning Authority has to develop guidelines for development, re-development, additions, alterations, repairs, renovation and reuse of heritage building within the LPA.
- Provide facilities to perform rituals only at designated place and this has to be included in the bye-laws.
- Create awareness about the Prime Minister’s Swach Bharat Abhiyan among locals, priests and tourists.
- The land near the historical and heritage structures has to be developed as public spaces which facilitates maintenance.
- Town Municipal Council has to take initiative to implement Swach Bharat Abhiyan. Also the waterfront development will provide recreational facilities.
- Building bye-laws have to be implemented strictly to prevent the encroachments of the building façades, canopies etc.

6.3 REMARKS

The town of Srirangapatna is an irreplaceable and non-renewable cultural resource. The suggestions presented in this study leads to enhance the historical, architectural, cultural and aesthetic aspects of the town. Creating quality built and natural environments supports the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the communities in the town. This enhances livability, diversity, amenity and safety of the public realm and also promotes attractiveness of the town.