



REPORT
BHARAT DARSHAN
TOUR
OF TAMIL NADU STATE

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Introduction:

Dr. MCR HRDIT organised a one week bhara darshan tour to the state of Tamil Nadu from 28/04/2024 to 04/05/2024 as a part of Foundation Training Programme for ASOs(DR) of CGLE 2023 batch.

Total 61 officer trainees along with Dr. K. Sukumar (course coordinator) joined this visit.

Objectives:

To study implementation of a policy/programme / scheme,

To get familiarized with developmental and citizen centric activities in villages including remote/tribal areas,

To develop team spirit, time management, management of crisis and adaptability to various odd situations.

To interact, learn and understand the traditional cultures and lifestyle of south India especially the ancient temples which stands for vernacular architecture.

To study the effect of climatic change and sea level rise in the coastal regions of Tamilnadu.

Places of visit:

- 1) Auroville, Tamilnadu
- 2) Mangrove Forest, Puducherry
- 3) Arts and Craft Village, Puducherry
- 4) Adiyogi, Coimbatore
- 5) Ooty
- 6) Mysore

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the successful completion of this Bharat Darshan study tour. Firstly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our course coordinator, Dr. K. Sukumar for their invaluable guidance, support, and feedback throughout the duration of this study tour. Their expertise and mentorship has been indispensable in steering us in the right direction and ensuring safe and sound return to the institute.

I am also thankful to course director and other faculty members for their valuable support, which have helped to execute as well provided us with the necessary arrangements to complete study tour effectively.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of our fellow group leaders, whose dedication, teamwork, and collaborative spirit have been essential in accomplishing our study tour goals. Each officer trainees' unique strengths and efforts have contributed to the overall success of this endeavor.

Lastly, I extend my appreciation to my friends and family for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this study tour.

This tour would not have been possible without the collective efforts of all those mentioned above. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the successful completion of this study tour.

DAY 1 (28/04/2024) – Flight Journey to Chennai and Visit to Mahabalipuram

Our journey to southern region of India kick started from Rajiv Gandhi Airport Hyderabad on 28/04/2024. The hot and humid climate of southern India was felt during the arrival. Once we reached Mahabalipuram we were excited to see ocean for the first time.

We visited 7th century **Shore Temple** built by pallava ruler Narasimhavarman II. It has been classified as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 1984.





SHORE TEMPLE, MAHABALIPURAM

The carvings on the temple were eroded due to rough sea winds with salt content.



We all are aware of how gravity works. But, the mysterious 250 ton rock boulder, visited by us, also known as **Krishna's Butterball**, in Mahabalipuram, that strangely defies gravity.

It's a massive 20 feet high and 5 metre wide rock that stands on a slippery slope of a hill, which has a base of less than 4 ft. It's popularly known as Krishna's butterball as butter is believed to be Lord Krishna's favourite food, and as per the myth, it falls from heaven.

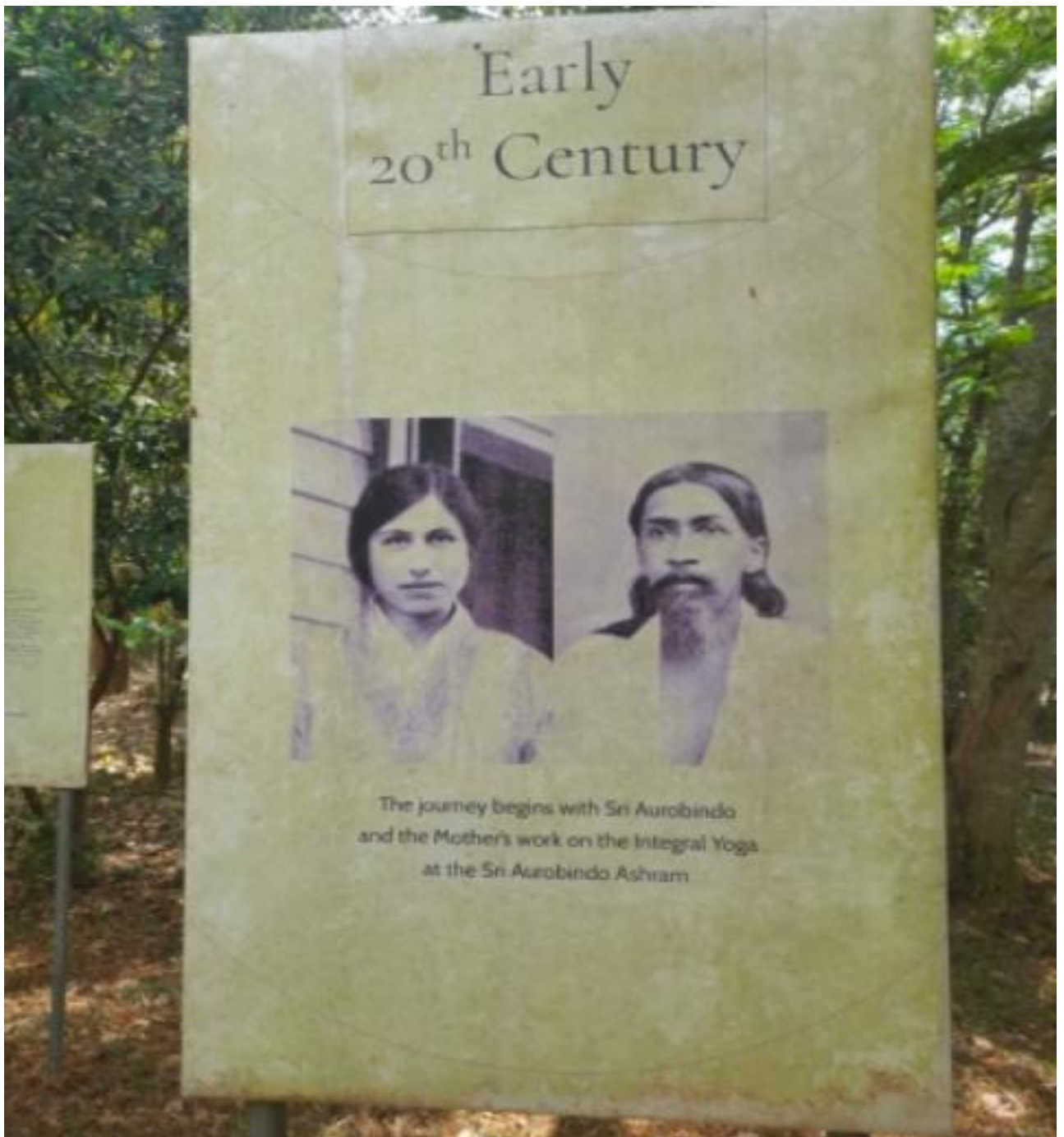
The position of the rock is so strange that we were left wondering how it manages to stick there and not roll down the slope. Yet, it stands so still that visitors even take shade under it. It's interesting to note that it even remained unmoved by any natural calamity like cyclones, Tsunami, or earthquakes. It is also believed that the rock is more than 1200 years old.



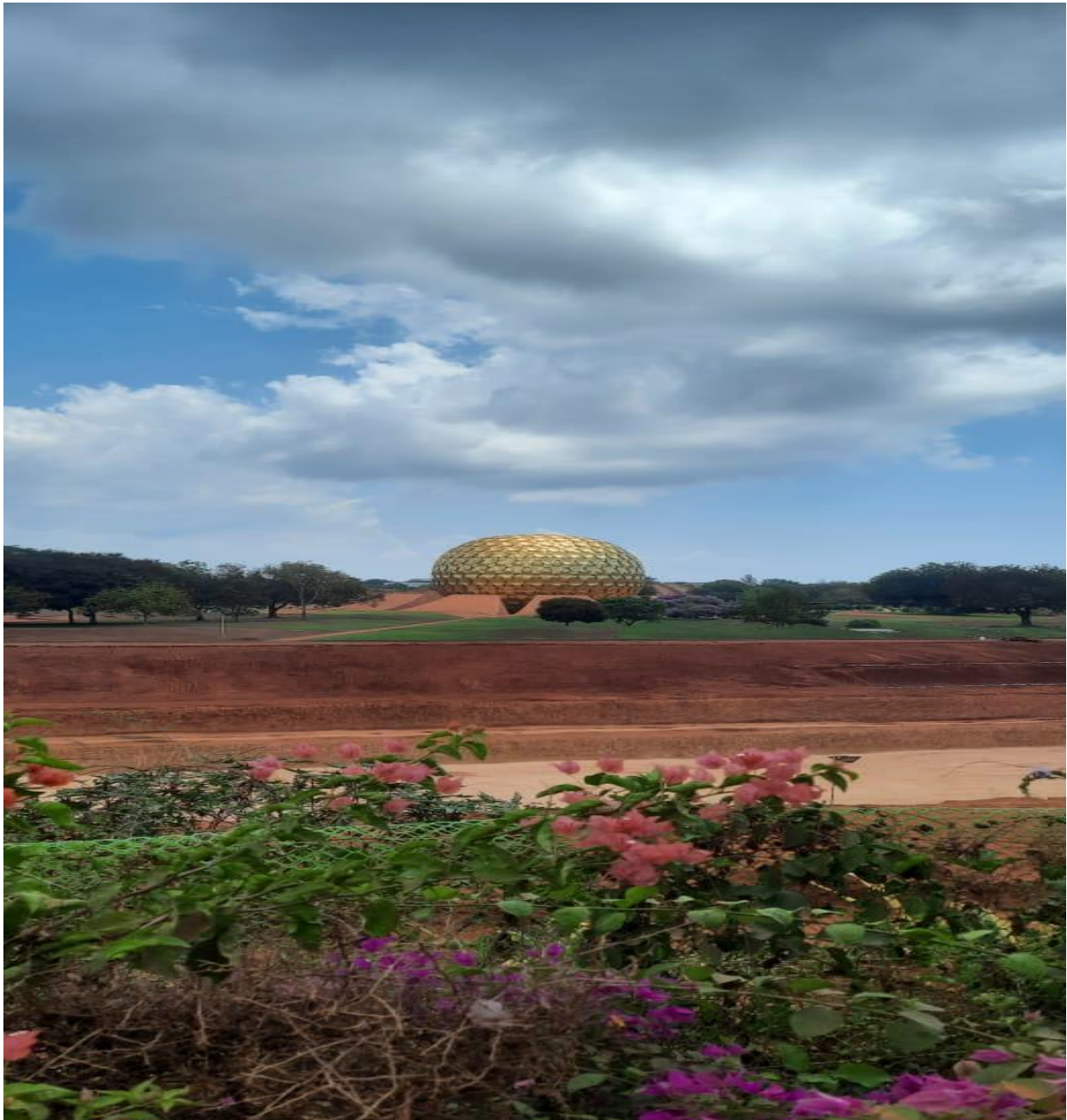
Krishna's Butterball

DAY 2 (29/04/2024) –Visit to Auroville,Tamilnadu

Auroville is an experimental township in Viluppuram district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. It was founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa (known as "The Mother") and designed by architect Roger Anger. As stated in Alfassa's first public message about the township, Auroville is meant to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of our visit to Auroville is to realize human unity. We saw MatriMandir which is located at the centre of township.



We were shown an introduction video by the people of Auroville in a hall. There were mats to sit on and no air conditioning system only fans, simplicity was seen. It was about 2km walk to Matrimandir, even after hot and humid weather it was amazing to walk through forest.



Matrimandir

Later we visited the French colony in Puducherry. It has a typical French colonial style of buildings with compounds and high walls. These buildings are mostly painted in yellow and blue with highlights of white. These vibrant-looking buildings make it one of the favourite destinations among travellers and photography enthusiasts.

Mostly we saw ice cream parlours and bakeries. Buildings were showcasing french architecture.



French Colony



Pole lights and bright yellow color painted walls

DAY 3 (30/04/2024)-Mangrove forest

We visited pichavaram mangrove forest. We did boating in the backwaters and went upto river front. Watching river meet sea was enthralling experience. Next we opted for kayaking in the backwaters which we enjoyed a lot.



Fishing Harbour



River Front



Kayaking in backwaters

Then we visited **ART AND CRAFT VILLAGE**, where we found skilled artists and craftspersons making beautiful things made of jute, stone, leather, sea shells etc.

The prime motto of this Art and Craft village at Puducherry is towards the re-emergence of every art form and craftsmanship which is borne of a legacy of thousands of years which cannot be let fade away with the time.

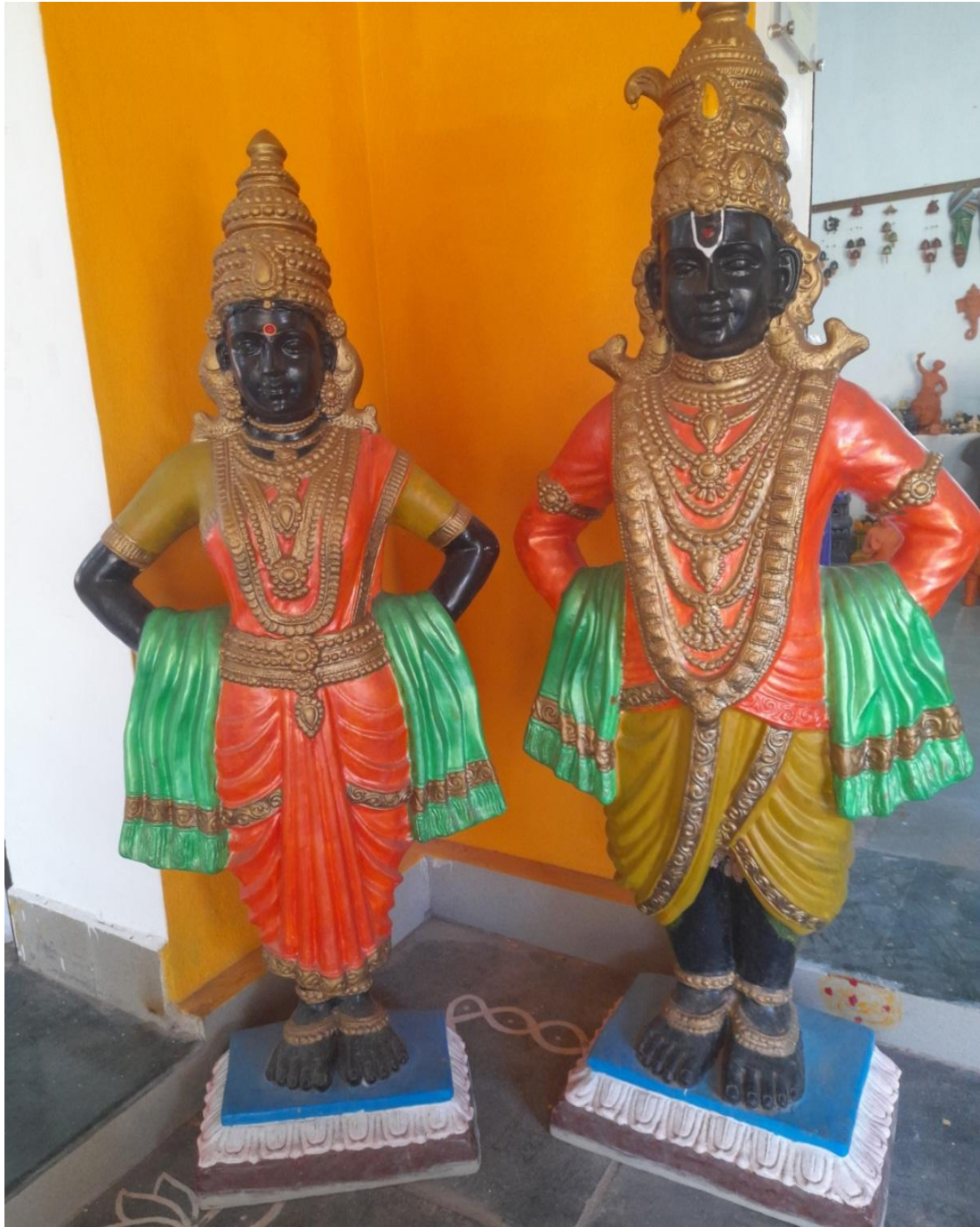
The Art and Craft Village looks actually like a National and International fora paving avenues for the talented craftsmen getting connected with an unique learning experience under the tutelage of the legendary leaders in the respective domains which in turn is aimed to rejuvenate the almost forgotten crafts and art forms of India.

The long survived crafts of our country and the diligent contribution of our ancestors are explained to the visitors in the form of audio visuals. The most jubilant part of your visit to the Art and Craft village at Puducherry is the live demonstrations you are allowed to engage and experience.

You can involve yourself in creating shapes out of wet clays, dismantling and reassembling the strings of a violin, needless to say, learning can happen at any moment and need not have a full stop. The artefacts are also for sale which you can take back to your loved ones as a souvenir of your visit to this Art and Craft Village. The beauty of the craftsmanship and the finest finishing of the articles behold your eyes and stay in your memory for a longer time.







Day 4- (01/05/2024) Adiyogi and travel to Ooty

Adiyogi visit was a new spiritual experience.

The Adiyogi Shiva bust is a 34-metre tall (112 ft), 45-metre long (147 ft) and 25-metre wide (82 ft) steel bust of Shiva with Thirunamam at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It is recognized by the Guinness World Records as the "Largest Bust Sculpture" in the world. Designed by Sadhguru, the founder and head of the Isha Foundation, the statue weighs around 500 tonnes (490 long tons; 550 short tons).

Adiyogi refers to Shiva (Shankara) as the first yogi. It was established to inspire people towards inner well-being through yoga.

The Adiyogi Divya Darshanam is 3D laser show, narrating the story of the Adiyogi and how the science of yoga was given to human beings. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind on Mahashivratri in 2019. It is a 14 minute light and sound show, projected upon the Adiyogi Statue.

We enjoyed the mesmerising laser show and it was a unique experience.

Peace and calmness was experienced here. Phone was not allowed inside premises. We sat beside dhyanlingam for 15 min meditation and it gave mental peace and bliss.



Dhyanlingam



Adiyogi in the background

Day 5- (02/05/2024) Visit to Dodabetta peak

Doddabetta is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 metres (8,652 ft). There is a reserved forest area around the peak. It is 9 km from Ooty, on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India. It is a popular tourist attraction with road access to the summit. It is the fourth highest peak in South India next to Anamudi, Mannamalai and Meesapulimala. The peaks Hecuba (2375 m), Kattadadu (2418 m) and Kulkudi (2439 m) are the three closely linked summits in the west of the Doddabetta range near to Udagamandalam. The word Doddabetta is derived from Kannada, meaning 'big hill'.





Day 6 - (03/05/2024) Visit to Pykara waterfall and journey to Mysore via Mudumalai tiger reserve

Pykara is a river 19 kilometres (12 mi) from Ooty in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu with a village by the same name nearby.

The river flows over a series of waterfalls, the last two of 55 metres (180 ft) and 61 metres (200 ft) being known as Pykara Falls.



Pykara Falls



On the way view of Mudumalai tiger reserve

Day 7 (04/05/2024)-Mysore Palace

Mysore Palace, also known as Amba Vilas Palace, is a historical palace and a royal residence (house). It is located in Mysore, Karnataka, India. It used to be the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty and the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore.

Designed by Henry Irwin, an English architect, the style is that of Indo-Saracenic architecture, with elements from Islamic, Rajput, and Gothic architecture styles. It is a three-story, gray granite, structure, about 75 m (245 ft) long and about 48 m (156 ft) wide. There are square towers, five stories tall, at each of the cardinal points, topped with pink domes. The tallest tower, 44 m (145 ft) tall, is at the centre of the palace and is topped with a gold plated dome.

We were astonished to see the intricate details in the construction of this beautiful marvel that remained in our memory even after leaving the premises.



Mysore Palace



Then we left for bangalore, boarded our flight to Hyderabad and reached the institute on 04/05/2024 midnight.