



Study tour (Bharat Darshan)

of FTP for ASOs of 2023 Batch

(28.04.2024-04.05.2024)

**FOR
ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICERS OF
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT SERVICE**

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Acknowledgement

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We are highly indebted to Mr. Sukumar Rao, Senior Faculty and Bharat Darshan Coordinator for his guidance and constant supervision as well as for providing necessary information regarding the project & also for his support in completing the project.

This was a unique experience to work as a group during the visit to Tamil Nadu- Puducherry-Karnataka. I enjoyed the study tour and learned about the cultural and historical prosperity of our country.

Objective of the Tour

As part of the mandatory ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of 2023 Batch, 01-week Bharat Darshan was organized from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024 at TamilNadu-Puducherry-Karnataka under the guidance of Dr. Sukumar Rao, Senior Faculty (FTP).

There were 61 participants from different Ministries participating in this Training Programme. This study tour was part of the Training Programme and has following objectives: -

- To expose the Trainees to research and development work being done by the NGO;
- To familiarize the trainees with India's rich cultural heritage and arts;
- To develop team spirit, time management, management of crisis and adaptability to various odd situations.

Sight Seeing In Tamil Nadu,
Puducherry And Karnataka

DAY-1

**1. MAHABALIPURAM,
TAMILNADU**

- Mahabalipuram, is known for its Mandapas, Rathas and giant open relief such as - descent of the Ganges etc.
- The Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram occupies a distinct position in classical Indian architecture.
- It has some world heritage listed temples and carvings.
- Among all the sites we could see only **shore temple, Arjuna penance, Ganesh Rath mandir and the Descent of the Ganges.**
- **The Shore Temple** is both a rock cut and a free-standing structural temple. The complex consists of 3 separate shrines: 2 dedicated to the god Shiva, and 1 to Vishnu.





SHORE TEMPLE

Arjuna penance, also known as The Descent of the Ganges is Carved on 2 rock boulders, this depicts the legendary story of the descent of the sacred river Ganges from the heavens to earth, led by the king Bhagiratha. It also depicts the story of Arjuna praying for Pashupati ashtra. It is one of India's best rock-cut sculptures, showcasing the architectural and artistic prosperity of our country.



DEPICTION OF STORY OF BHAGIRATHA PERFORMING PENANCE TO SEEK SHIVA'S HELP IN BRINGING GANGA RIVER ON EARTH.



DEPICTION OF STORY OF ARJUNA PRAYING FOR PASHUPATI ASHTRA



GANESH RATH MANDIR

The Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram is expressing the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property. The sites are in a good state of conservation. These sites are monitored and well maintained by Archaeological Survey of India. Identified potential threats to the integrity of these sites include encroachment and unauthorized constructions in the prohibited/regulated areas.

The authenticity of these sites is the major reason of attracting tourists here.

DAY-2

Auroville, Pondicherry

Auroville is the place of peace and harmony. its main aim is to realise human unity.





It is a peaceful place far from city's busy life. It is place to discover WHO YOU ARE. Matri mandir as a part of auroville is place to meditate and practice spirituality.



Auroville experiments towards the discovery of the soul; the evolution of a new consciousness; the realisation of an actual human unity.

Apart from this Auroville aspires to establish a Sustainable organic farming to promote local food and the meeting of food need in auroville community.

Forest around auroville shows the plantation potential of India. By seeing forest and its history we can say that India is a very rich in its production capacity if we utilise our resources in well manner.

French Colony, Pondicherry

It has a history of being acquired and colonised by the French East India company. Even now we can see a huge French impact in this colony by its restaurants and architectural style. The best way to soak in French culture is to explore these streets.





ART AND CRAFT VILLAGE, PONDICHERRY





Art and Craft Village in Pondicherry is a treasure house of Indian culture.. A range of unique craft items such as paper lamp shades, coconut crafts, leather crafts, designed mats and jute bags, scented candles, seashell craft, stone work crafts, hammocks as well as palm leaf and terracotta items attract visitors here. Mostly woman indulge in this work here. Hence this place is perfect example of economic dependency, and women empowerment.

DAY -3

Adi Yogi (Coimbatore)

- Aadiyogi is dedicated to first Yogi 'SHIVA' but it is a secular place. And mainly promotes Yoga and meditation.
- SARVA DHARMA STAMBHA shows the unity among all religious. Aadiyogi is a reminder for humanity to shift from religion to responsibility.
- Foreigners engaged in Yoga here shows the promotion of YOGA all over the world.





DAY -4

Dodabetta Peak

- Doddabetta Peak is the highest mountain peak in the Nilgiri Mountains, located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.
- **Ecology and biodiversity**
 - The slopes of Doddabetta are covered with thick shola thickets. Shola are a unique type of tropical montane forests that grow on higher mountain regions. These broad-leaved forests interspersed with montane grasslands are a retreat to the eyes of the visitors.
- **Tourism and recreation**

- Doddabetta Peak is a top place to visit in Ooty for nature and adventure lovers.
- The peak is frequently visited by travellers interested in outdoor pursuits like trekking.
- Tourists move up to the summit to enjoy the inspiring sunrise and sunset. Bird watching is another activity visitors get engaged in provided they reach the peak early morning.
- Telescope House- There is an observatory at the top of Doddabetta with two telescopes available for the public.



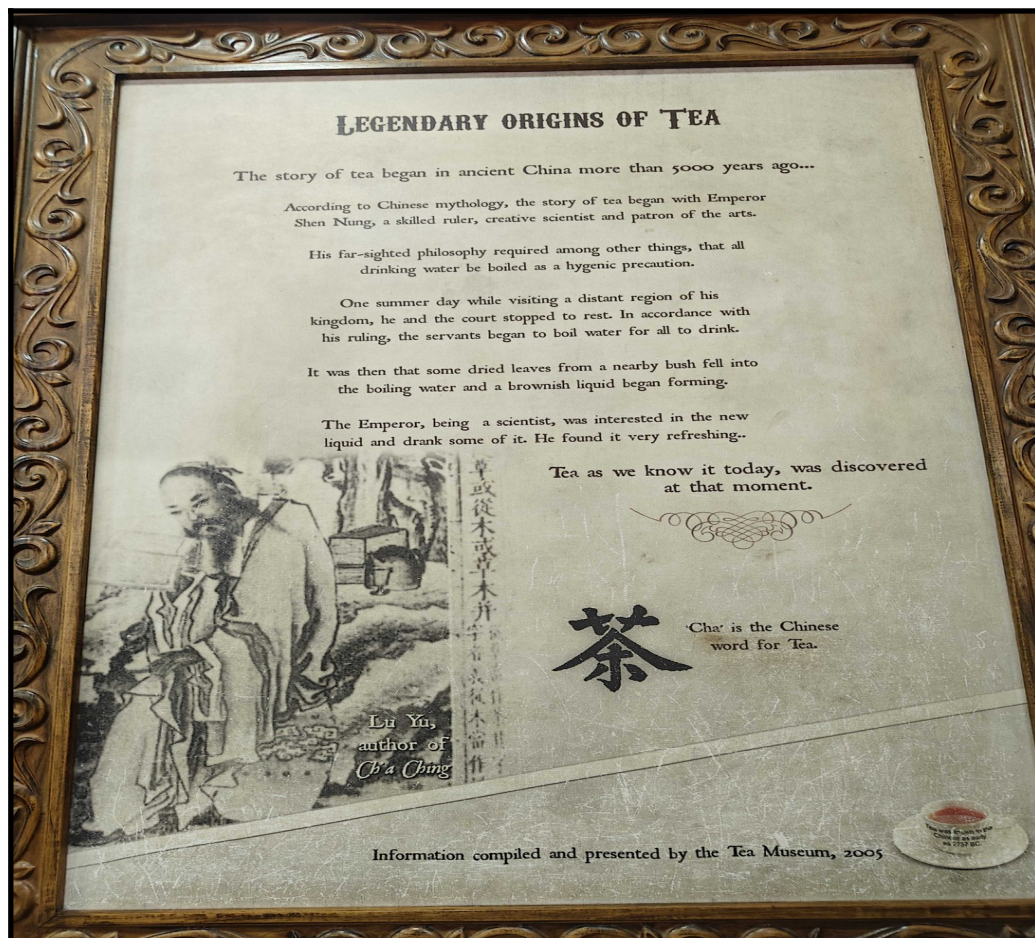
The Tea Factory & The Tea Museum

➤ A Glimpse into the Past:

- The Nilgiris is one of the pioneers in tea production and export. Railway lines were built to transport tea from Nilgiris to Cochin.

➤ **Origin:**

- The Ooty tea factory has a tea museum also. By visiting the factory, you will get to learn on the history of tea in India and other countries and its evolution in the Nilgiris hills. It will also tell you about the origin of different kinds of tea leaves used across the world.



ORIGINS OF TEA IN INDIA

The Company suddenly lost its monopoly in China and then woke up to the fact that India may prove a profitable alternative.

A committee was set up and Charles Bruce was given the task of establishing the first nurseries. The secretary of the committee was sent off to China to collect 80,000 tea seeds (because they were still unsure if tea was indigenous to India, committee members insisted on importing the seeds from China).

The seeds were planted in the Botanical Gardens in Calcutta and nurtured until they were sturdy enough to travel 1000 miles to the newly prepared tea gardens.

In 1833 everything changed.



Information compiled and presented by the Tea Museum

ORIGINS OF TEA IN THE NILGIRIS

Credit for the first manufacture of Nilgiri tea goes to Mr Mann.

He succeeded at making fairly good tea from Nilgiri plants and was encouraged to get more seed. He procured a supply from the forest plantations in China in 1854 and planted them on a piece of land in Coonoor, now called the Coonoor Tea Estate.

As early as 1856, the tea from these plants were favourably reported upon by London brokers, but Mr Mann was disheartened by the difficulties in procuring forest land to expand his operations and gave up.

At the same time, Mr Rae obtained a grant of land near Shelur, now called Dunsandle Tea Estate for growing tea.

Thiashola Estate began in 1859 and in 1861, the estate known as Belnoent was formed on the Bishopsdown property at Ooty.

Tea would soon emerge as the mainstay of the economy of the Nilgiris.



Information compiled and presented by the Tea Museum, 2005

Ooty

A tourism place, land of beautiful landscape and magnificent mountains. The tourism employs a large number of people in hotels, tourist companies, and shops. Ooty is primarily an agrarian town. Tea farming, chocolate, pickle manufacturing are a few small activities people engaged in.



DAY-5

Mysore Palace

Mysore is commonly described as the 'City of the Palaces', and **The Cultural capital of Karnataka.**

- Mysuru Palace, also known as Amba Vilas Palace, used to be the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty and the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore.
- Mysore Palace is one of the most famous tourist attractions in India.
- There is a museum with palace, and paintings in potrait gallery that gives a overall history of Mysuru.

There are many temples also inside palace

- The palace has a temple dedicated to the Hindu goddess Chamundeshwari.



Ratha yatra



Conclusion and Learnings

The study tour was very memorable and enriching experience for all of us. We learned a lot about the diversity and unity of India, the history and culture of different regions, the ecology and biodiversity of different ecosystems, the development and governance of different states, and the challenges and opportunities of different sectors. We also developed our skills and competencies in team work, time management, crisis management and adaptability. We also made some lifelong friends and memories.

Some of the key learnings from the tour are:

- India is a land of contrasts and contradictions, where the ancient and the modern, the rural and the urban, the rich and the poor, the traditional and the contemporary coexist and interact.
- India has a rich and glorious history and culture, which is reflected in its monuments, temples, forts, palaces, museums, art, literature, music, dance, festivals, cuisine and customs.
- India has a diverse and rich ecology and biodiversity, which is manifested in its forests, mountains, rivers, lakes, deserts, islands, coasts, wetlands, grasslands and wildlife.

The study tour was a valuable and enjoyable part of our cadre training programme. We are grateful and thankful to the MCR HRDIT, the Course Director, the Study Tour Committee, and Officials for making this tour possible and successful. We are also thankful to our fellow participants for making this tour fun and friendly. We hope to apply and share our learnings and experiences from this tour in our future work and life. We also hope to visit these places again and explore more of our incredible India.

Jai Hind!!