

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered on the page.

# REPORT ON BHARAT DARSHAN- CUM-STUDY TOUR

-BY AYUSH RAJ



Study tour (Bharat Darshan)

of FTP for ASO of 2023 Batch

(28.04.2024-04.05.2024)

FOR

ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICERS OF CSS

REPORT ON STUDY TOUR KERALA

**Prepared by –**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- AT THE OUTSET, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING FOR GIVING THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANDATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME AT THE MCRHRD INSTITUTE OF TELANGANA. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONVEY MY SINCERE THANKS TO SMT. USHA RANI, COURSE DIRECTOR, MCRHRD FOR GIVING GREAT SUPPORT.
- WE ARE HIGHLY INDEBTED TO MR. SRI SAKA VENKATESHWARA RAO, 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 MANY THINGS DURING THE NGO ATTACHMENT AND TEA-CUM-CHOCOLATE FACTORY VISIT AS WELL.
- I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MCRHRD FOR PROVIDING ALL NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS STUDY TOUR.

# 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 KERALA UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SRI SAKA VENKATESHWARA RAO FACULTY.
- 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 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.





- AS I REFLECT ON OUR ENRICHING STUDY TOUR THROUGH KERALA, EACH DESTINATION UNFOLDED LIKE A CHAPTER IN A CAPTIVATING NOVEL, REVEALING THE RICH TAPESTRY OF THIS VIBRANT REGION. OUR JOURNEY BEGAN WITH THE MAJESTIC PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE, ITS INTRICATE ARCHITECTURE AND SPIRITUAL AMBIANCE SETTING THE TONE FOR OUR EXPLORATION.
- EXPLORING THE ENCHANTING CHARMS OF KERALA: A COMPREHENSIVE JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF GOD'S OWN COUNTRY
- IN THIS REPORT, WE DELVE INTO THE MESMERIZING LANDSCAPES, VIBRANT CULTURE, AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES ENCOUNTERED DURING OUR VISIT TO KERALA. FROM THE TRANQUIL BACKWATERS TO THE LUSH GREENERY OF THE WESTERN GHATS, JOIN US ON A CAPTIVATING JOURNEY THROUGH ONE OF INDIA'S MOST ALLURING DESTINATIONS
- THROUGH VIVID DESCRIPTIONS, PERSONAL ANECDOTES, AND PRACTICAL TIPS, THIS REPORT AIMS TO PROVIDE READERS WITH A VIVID PORTRAYAL OF KERALA'S CHARM, HIGHLIGHTING THE MUST-VISIT DESTINATIONS, LOCAL CUISINE, ACCOMMODATION
- THE PRESENT REPORT IS A COMPILATION OF THE EVENTS, PLACES VISITED AND ACTIVITIES OF 7 DAYS STUDY TOUR TO KERALA ORGANIZED BY ..... FROM 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 TO 04<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 WITH THE AIM TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES, GET FAMILIARIZED WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND CITIZEN CENTRIC ACTIVITIES IN VILLAGES AND TO DEVELOP TEAM SPIRIT AND TIME MANAGEMENT.
- WE WERE A GROUP OF 61 STUDENTS AND 1 FACULTY MEMBER. 5 STUDENTS WERE CHOSEN AS GROUP LEADERS FOR SMOOTH CONDUCTANCE OF THE TOUR.
- FACULTY MEMBER: SRI SAKA VENKATESWARA RAO
- GROUP LEADERS: DEEPAK JOSHI, VIJAY KUMAR VERMA, KAVYANSHU SONI, SUBHASH SINGH, SATYENDRA SINGH.



# DAY 1

- ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 06:10 HOURS, OUR GROUP OF 62 MEMBERS BOARDED FLIGHT 6E 5278 OF INDIGO FROM RAJIV GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HYDERABAD TO THIRUVANANTPURAM. WE REACHED THIRUVANANTHURAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT 07:45 HOURS. THE WEATHER WAS HOT AND HUMID AND THE TEMPERATURE WAS AROUND 35
- **PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE:**
- THE FIRST POINT IN OUR ITINERARY WAS PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE. THE TEMPLE HAS A DRESS CODE FOR MEN AND WOMEN. WOMEN ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR SAREES, MUNDUM NERIYATHUM (SET-MUNDU), SKIRT AND BLOUSE, OR HALF-SAREE. YOUNG GIRLS BELOW THE AGE OF 12 MAY WEAR GOWNS. MEN ARE SIMILARLY REQUIRED TO WEAR MUNDU OR DHOTI AND BARE THEIR TORSO. DHOTIS ARE EASILY AVAILABLE FOR RENT AT THE ENTRANCE. WE WORE THE ATTIRE AND PROCEEDED TOWARDS TEMPLE. THE TEMPLE IS LOCATED IN THE EAST FORT OF TRIVANDRUM. AFTER ENTERING EAST FORT, THERE IS POND, PADMATHEERTHAM ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE PATH AND KUTHIRMAIKA PALACE ON LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE PATH. THE TEMPLE IS BUILT IN AN INTRICATE FUSION OF THE KERALA STYLE AND THE DRAVIDIAN STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE, FEATURING HIGH WALLS AND A 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY GOPURAM. THE GOPURAM OF TEMPLE IS 100 FOOT (30 M) HIGH, IT HAS 7-TIER AND IT IS BUILT IN PANDYAN STYLE. THE TEMPLE HAS 4 ENTRANCE- KIZAKKE NADA, PADINJARE NADA, VADAKKE NADA AND THEKKE NADA” ( MEANS EAST, WEST, NORTH & SOUTH). BUT THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS KIZAKKE NADA (EAST ENTRANCE). THE TEMPLE HAS A CORRIDOR WITH 365 AND ONE-QUARTER SCULPTURED GRANITE-STONE PILLARS WITH ELABORATE CARVINGS. THIS CORRIDOR EXTENDS FROM THE EASTERN SIDE INTO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM. AS IT WAS SUNDAY, THE TEMPLE HAD A LOT OF RUSH AND THE QUEUE WAS VERY LONG. THE QUEUE RUNS THROUGH THE CORRIDOR AND THEN INTO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM. BY THE TIME WE REACHED SANCTUM SANCTORUM, IT WAS TIME FOR MADHYANYA POOJA OR , SO WE HAD TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER 45 MINUTES FOR DARSHAN. IN THE GRABHAGRIHA, PADMANABHA RECLINES ON THE SERPENT. THE DEITY IS VISIBLE THROUGH THREE DOORS – THE VISAGE OF THE RECLINING PADMANABHA AND SIVA LINGA UNDERNEATH HIS HAND IS SEEN THROUGH THE FIRST DOOR; SRIDEVI AND BHRIGU MUNI IN KATUSARKARA, BRAHMA SEATED ON A LOTUS EMANATING FROM THE DEITY’S NAVEL, HENCE THE NAME, “PADMANABHA”, GOLD ABHISHEKA MOORTHIES OF PADMANABHA, SRIDEVI AND BHUDEVI, AND SILVER UTSAVA MOORTHI OF PADMANABHA THROUGH THE SECOND DOOR; THE DEITY’S FEET, AND BHUDEVI AND MARKANDEYA MUNI IN KATUSARKARA THROUGH THE THIRD DOOR. INSIDE THE TEMPLE, THERE ARE TWO OTHER IMPORTANT SHRINES, THEKKEDOM AND THIRUVAMBADI, FOR THE DEITIES, UGRA NARASIMHA AND KRISHNA SWAMI RESPECTIVELY. AFTER HAVING DARSHAN WE WENT TO OUR BUSES. THE TIME WAS AROUND 1 PM AND WE PROCEEDED TOWARDS OUR HOTEL
- **VELI VILLAGE**
- EVERYONE WAS FEELING FULL OF ENERGY AFTER HAVING LUNCH AND TAKING SOME REST. IN THE EVENING WE PROCEEDED TOWARDS VELI VILLAGE. VELI TOURIST VILLAGE LIES WHERE THE VELI LAKE MEETS THE ARABIAN SEA. IT PROVIDES UNIQUE BOATING AND PICNICKING OPPORTUNITIES. WE RETURNED FROM VELI VILLAGE BY AROUND 8 PM AND AFTER HAVING OUR DINNER WE TOOK A GOOD SLEEP.



# TRIVANDRUM AIRPORT

- ARRIVING AT TRIVANDRUM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF AN UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE THROUGH THE ENCHANTING LANDSCAPES AND VIBRANT CULTURE OF KERALA. WITH ITS EFFICIENT FACILITIES, CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, AND PROXIMITY TO KEY ATTRACTIONS, THE AIRPORT ENSURES A SEAMLESS AND ENJOYABLE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE FOR VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
- TRIVANDRUM AIRPORT BOASTS A RANGE OF FACILITIES TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF TRAVELERS. FROM CURRENCY EXCHANGE COUNTERS AND ATMS TO DUTY-FREE SHOPS AND SOUVENIR STORES, THERE ARE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHOPPING AND RELAXATION. TRAVELERS CAN ALSO ENJOY A VARIETY OF DINING OPTIONS, RANGING FROM LOCAL DELICACIES TO INTERNATIONAL CUISINE, AT THE AIRPORT'S RESTAURANTS AND CAFES. FOR THOSE IN NEED OF REST OR PRIVACY, COMFORTABLE LOUNGES AND SEATING AREAS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE TERMINAL.
- AFTER COMPLETING THE ARRIVAL FORMALITIES, TRAVELERS HAVE SEVERAL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS TO REACH THEIR FINAL DESTINATION. TAXIS, PRE-PAID CABS, AND APP-BASED RIDE-HAILING SERVICES ARE READILY AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THE TERMINAL, PROVIDING CONVENIENT AND HASSLE-FREE TRANSPORTATION TO HOTELS, RESORTS, AND TOURIST DESTINATIONS ACROSS KERALA. ADDITIONALLY, CAR RENTAL SERVICES ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE AIRPORT PREMISES FOR TRAVELERS WHO PREFER TO EXPLORE THE REGION AT THEIR OWN PACE.







# DAY 2

## • **KAVALA BEACH**

- IN THE EARLY MORNING WE WENT TO KOVALAM BEACH TO SEE SUNRISE. THERE WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SOME LOCAL FISHERMAN. FISHING IS ONE OF THE MAJOR BUSINESS IN KERALA. THE CATCH CONSISTS OF KING FISH, RED SNAPPERS, POMFRETS, SHRIMPS, ETC. THEY SELL THEIR LOT MOSTLY TO LOCAL MARKET.

## • **ALLEPPEY (VENICE OF THE EAST)**

- AT AROUND 9AM WE DEPARTED FROM TRIVANDRUM TO ALLEPPEY. WE REACHED OUR DESTINATION AT 2PM. ALLEPEY IS FAMOUS FOR ITS CANALS, BACKWATERS, BEACHES AND LAGOONS. WE HAD BOOKED A BACKWATER CRUISE TO SEE THE SCENIC MAN MADE ISLANDS AND BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS OF COCONUT FRINGED BACKWATERS AND PADDY FIELDS. ALL THE STAFF OF THE CRUISEBOAT WAS LOCAL AND THEY ACTED AS OUR GUIDE FOR THE BACKWATERS JOURNEY. THE CRUISE STARTED FROM PAMBA RIVER AND WENT UPTO VEMBANAD LAKE. TOTAL DISTANCE COVERED WAS AROUND 15KM (TO AND FRO). THE PATH TRAVERSED BY US IS PART OF NATIONAL WATERWAY 3. THE SCOPE OF ROAD AND RAILWAYS DEVELOPMENT IN ALLEPPEY IS LIMITED AND THAT'S WHY THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATERWAY IN THIS AREA HAS PROVED TO BE A BOON FOR TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES SUCH AS COIR, CASHEW AND FISHING. IT IS THE FIRST NATIONAL WATERWAY IN THE COUNTRY WITH 24 HOUR NAVIGATION FACILITIES ALONG THE ENTIRE STRETCH.
- THE ECONOMY OF ALLEPPEY IS BASED ON PADDY FARMING, TOURISM AND COIR INDUSTRY. ALLEPPEY IS PART OF KUTTANAD REGION, THIS REGION HAS THE LOWEST ALTITUDE IN INDIA, AND IS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES IN THE WORLD WHERE FARMING IS CARRIED ON AROUND 1.2 TO 3.0 METRES BELOW SEA LEVEL. THE REGION IS KNOWN AS THE RICE BOWL OF KERALA AND IT IS ALSO THE PART OF SECOND LARGEST RAMSAR SITE IN INDIA. TO STOP THE SALTWATER INTRUSION INTO THE KUTTANAD, A 1252M LONG SALTWATER BARRIER, THANNEERMUKKOM HAS BEEN BUILT ON VEMBANAD LAKE..
- BESIDES ITS BACKWATERS, ALLEPPEY IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR ITS COIR INDUSTRY. COIR IS EXTRACTED FROM THE OUTER HUSK OF COCONUT AND IS USED TO MAKE ROPES, TWINE, BROOMS AND BRUSHES, DOORMATS, ETC.
- AFTER DISEMBARKING FROM THE BOAT, WE WENT TO OUR HOTEL AND LATER IN THE EVENING WE WENT TO SOME COIR SHOPS TO SEE THE COIR PRODUCTS.









# DAY 3

- I. AT AROUND 8AM WE PROCEEDED TOWARDS THEKKADY TO VISIT PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK. PEOPLE-ORIENTED AND PARK-CENTERED COMMUNITY-BASED ECOTOURISM IS THE HALLMARK OF PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE. THESE PROGRAMMES ARE CONDUCTED BY LOCAL PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE VULNERABLE PARTS OF THE RESERVE. COMMUNITY-BASED AND PROTECTION-ORIENTED ECOTOURISM PROGRAMMES (CBET) WERE INITIATED IN PTR DURING THE IEDP. THESE PROGRAMMES WERE DEVELOPED TO ENSURE LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND TO REDUCE NEGATIVE DEPENDENCY ON FORESTS. TICKETS FOR BOATING AT PERIYAR LAKE WERE ALREADY BOOKED BY US. ON REACHING THEKKADY, A BUS OF NATIONAL PARK TOOK US FROM OUR STOP TO PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK. THERE WERE 4 DOUBLE DECKER BOATS WAITING FOR THE TOURISTS AT THE LAKE. THE BOAT JOURNEY WAS OF 1 HOUR AND DURING THIS BOAT JOURNEY WE WITNESSED HERD OF DEER, ELEPHANTS, WILD GOATS AND WILD BUFFALOES. THERE WAS NO SIGHT OF TIGER. ON INQUIRING FOREST OFFICIAL ABOUT THIS, HE SAID THAT IT IS A RARE SIGHT AND IN HIS 24 YEARS OF SERVICE, HE HAS WITNESSED TIGER ONLY 12 TIMES. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT 925 SQ KM OF PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK IS HOME TO ONLY 40 TIGERS. THE FORESTS OF PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE ARE PRISTINE AND UNAFFECTED FROM ALL OUTSIDE DISTURBANCES, EVEN AFTER ACCOMMODATING THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS EVERY YEAR. THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE. IT ALSO BAGGED FIRST PRIZE IN THE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION (MEE) OF TIGER RESERVES IN INDIA FOR THE YEAR 2022, RELEASED BY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.
- II. FROM PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE, WE PROCEEDED TO OUR NEXT DESTINATION MUNNAR AND REACHED THERE BY 11PM. ON THE WAY FROM THEKKADY TO MUNNAR WE WITNESSED MANY TEA, SPICE AND RUBBER PLANTATIONS.



# DAY 4

## ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK

IN THE MORNING WE DEPARTED FOR ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK WHICH WAS 15KM FROM OUR HOTEL. IT IS SITUATED IN THE KANNAN DEVAN HILLS OF THE SOUTHERN WESTERN GHATS. THE WILDLIFE PARK HAS AN AREA OF 97 SQ. KM. AND IT IS THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK IN KERALA. IT IS DIVIDED INTO THREE REGIONS- THE CORE AREA, THE BUFFER AREA AND THE TOURISM AREA. VISITORS ARE ALLOWED ONLY TO THE TOURISM AREA. AFTER REACHING MAIN ENTRANCE OF TOURISM AREA, A BUS OF KERALA FOREST AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT TOOK US TO THE STARTING POINT OF KURINJI TRAIL. THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF BEAUTIFUL TEA PLANTATIONS ON OUR WAY WAS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD. THE TREK FROM TO KURINJI IS OF ONE HOUR AND THE ON THE WAY ONE CAN WITNESS HERDS OF NILGIRI TAHR, THE ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN GOAT, FOR WHICH ERAVICULAM IS A NATURAL HABITAT. THE NATIONAL PARK HAS THE HIGHEST DENSITY AND LARGEST POPULATION OF NILGIRI TAHR. THE TREKKING JOURNEY ALSO PROVIDES A MESMERIZING VIEW OF THE LARGEST STRETCH OF UNDISTURBED MONTANE SHOLA-GRASSLAND ECO SYSTEM IN THE WESTERN GHATS. ANAMUDY (2695M), THE HIGHEST PEAK SOUTH OF HIMALAYAS, IS ALSO LOCATED WITHIN THE PARK.

AT THE ENDING OF THE TREK IS THE HIGHLY ADMIRERD PLANT SPECIES STROBILIANTHES KUNTHIANA, WHICH IS LOCALLY KNOWN AS NEELAKURINJI. NEELAKURINJI IS AN ENDEMIC SPECIES OF WESTERN GHATS AND IT IS UNDER THREAT BECAUSE OF BEING PLUNDERED FROM THE GRASSLANDS OF HIGH RANGES BY IGNORANT/BERSERK PEOPLE. IT BLOOMS ONCE IN 12 YEARS. IT LAST BLOOM IN 2018 AND HENCE IT WILL BLOOM AGAIN IN 2030. AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME ON THE TOP, WE CAME BACK TO THE STARTING POINT OF THE TREK AND VISITED "STORY OF THE PARK". IT SHOWS BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PARK AND THE FLORA AND FAUNA WHICH ARE FOUND IN THE PARK WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO NILIGIRI TAHR.





# ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK

## OBSERVATIONS

- **Eravikulam National Park**
- Located in the Western Ghats of Kerala, Eravikulam National Park is renowned for its rich biodiversity and stunning landscapes. Key features include:
- **Nilgiri Tahr Habitat:** Home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr, a mountain goat species endemic to the region, the park plays a crucial role in their conservation.
- **Flora and Fauna:** The park boasts a diverse range of flora and fauna, including endemic species such as the Neelakurinji, which blooms once every twelve years, painting the hillsides blue.
- **Scenic Beauty:** Visitors are treated to breathtaking views of rolling hills, lush valleys, and cascading waterfalls, making it a paradise for nature enthusiasts and photographers.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Strict conservation measures are in place to protect the park's fragile ecosystem, emphasizing the importance of responsible tourism and wildlife preservation.
- **Visitor Experience:** Guided tours, trekking trails, and interpretive centers offer visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the park's natural beauty while learning about its ecological significance.







# DAY 5

- THE MORNING WE VISITED MATTUPETTY DAM. MATTUPETTY IS MORE THAN JUST A WATER STORAGE FACILITY. THE WATER BODY THAT FORMS AS A RESULT OF THIS GRAVITY DAM IS OFTEN TERMED AS MATTUPETTY LAKE. MATTUPETTY LAKE IS A PERENNIAL LAKE WHICH NEVER DRIES UP EVEN IN THE SUMMERS. THE DAM IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF ELECTRICITY AND THE LAKE HOSTS VARIOUS WATER BASED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH ADDS TO THE TOURISM. THE WATER OF MATTUPETTY LAKE IS ALSO USED FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSE IN THE NEARBY FIELDS.

## • TATA TEA MUSEUM

- TEA HAS PLAYED AN INTEGRAL PART IN THE HISTORY OF MUNNAR. TATA TEA MUSEUM HAS PHOTOGRAPHS AND MACHINERIES, WHICH CHRONICLE THE JOURNEY OF TEA IN THE AREA. THE MUSEUM SET UP AT THE NALLATHANNI ESTATE OF TATA TEA ENSURES THAT THE LEGACY OF THOSE WHO WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THE TEA PLANTATIONS SURVIVED THIS LONG IS RECOGNISED PUBLICLY. WE GOT TO WATCH THE TRANSITION FROM THE RUDIMENTARY TEA ROLLER TO THE MODERN FULLY AUTOMATED TEA FACTORY. VARIOUS STAGES OF TEA PROCESSING CAN BE SEEN, WHICH INCLUDES THE MAKING OF BLACK TEA. THERE WAS A SUNDIAL, PLACED ON A GRANITE BLOCK, WHICH WAS MADE IN 1913 BY THE ART INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AT NAZARETH, TAMIL NADU. IT HAS OTHER ATTRACTIONS LIKE THE 'PELTON WHEEL' USED IN THE POWER GENERATION PLANT IN THE 1920S, TEA ROLLER AND A RAIL ENGINE WHEEL OF THE KUNDALE VALLEY LIGHT RAILWAY
- A DEMONSTRATION ROOM FOR TEA TASTING IS ANOTHER ATTRACTION WHERE WE CAME ACROSS DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF TEA. WE TASTED SOME OF THE MOST EXOTIC VARIETIES OF TEA AVAILABLE AROUND THE WORLD HERE.

## • TEA ESTATES

- THE TEA MUSEUM IS SITUATED IN THE NALLATHANNI ESTATE, WHICH IS OWNED BY KANAN DEVAN HILLS PLANTATIONS COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED. SOME OF THE PLANTATIONS OF KDHP ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC. WE VISITED SOME OF THE TEA ESTATES AND SAW HOW THE TEA WORKERS PLUCKED TEA LEAVES. FOR PLUCKING THE PLUCKERS TAKE FIRST TWO LEAVES AND A BUD. PLUCKING IS A LABOUR INTENSIVE BUSINESS AND HAND PLUCKING IS ECONOMICAL THAN MACHINE PLUCKING.









# DAY 6

- **KALARIPAYATTU**

IMMERSING MYSELF IN KERALA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, I WITNESSED THE AWE-INSPIRING PERFORMANCE OF KALARIPAYATTU, THE ANCIENT MARTIAL ART FORM THAT ORIGINATED IN THIS REGION. THE AGILITY AND PRECISION OF THE PERFORMERS LEFT ME SPELLBOUND, AS I GAINED A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR KERALA'S RICH TRADITIONS.

- **KOCHI: CHERAI BEACH AND FORT KOCHI**

- CONTINUING MY JOURNEY, I EXPLORED THE VIBRANT CITY OF KOCHI, WHERE I BASKED IN THE SUN-KISSED SHORES OF CHERAI BEACH AND EXPLORED THE HISTORIC QUARTERS OF FORT KOCHI. THE BLEND OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE AND BUSTLING STREETS FILLED WITH THE AROMA OF SPICES OFFERED A FASCINATING GLIMPSE INTO KOCHI'S MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE.

- **MATTANCHERRY PALACE AND CHINESE FISHING NETS**

- VISITING THE ICONIC LANDMARKS OF MATTANCHERRY PALACE AND THE CHINESE FISHING NETS, I DELVED INTO THE REGION'S STORIED PAST. THE INTRICATE CRAFTSMANSHIP OF THE PALACE'S MURALS AND THE RHYTHMIC SWAYING OF THE FISHING NETS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE SETTING SUN PAINTED A VIVID PICTURE OF KERALA'S MARITIME HISTORY.

- **THERIVORUM NGO**

- LASTLY, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF VISITING THE THERIVORUM NGO, WHERE I WITNESSED FIRSTHAND THE IMPACTFUL WORK BEING DONE TO EMPOWER MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN KERALA. THROUGH VARIOUS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES, THE NGO IS FOSTERING POSITIVE CHANGE AND PROMOTING SOCIAL EQUALITY, LEAVING A LASTING IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THOSE IT SERVES.
- IN CONCLUSION, MY STUDY TOUR OF KERALA WAS A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE, WHERE I NOT ONLY GAINED INVALUABLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE REGION'S RICH CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE BUT ALSO FORGED MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS WITH ITS PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES. KERALA'S ENCHANTING BEAUTY AND WARM HOSPITALITY WILL FOREVER HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART.



# THERUVORAM NGO



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# KEY LEARNING

- OUR ITINERARY SPANNED ACROSS MULTIPLE DESTINATIONS, INCLUDING HISTORICAL SITES, CULTURAL HUBS, AND PROFESSIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS. WE DELVED INTO THE INTRICACIES OF EACH LOCATION, ABSORBING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES ALONG THE WAY. FROM ANCIENT RUINS TO MODERN ENTERPRISES, EVERY STOP OFFERED A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON OUR STUDY FOCUS
- THE STUDY TOUR PROVED TO BE A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE, ENRICHING US WITH INVALUABLE INSIGHTS. WE IMMERSSED OURSELVES IN THE RICH TAPESTRY OF CULTURES, FOSTERING A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY. EXPLORING HISTORICAL LANDMARKS SHED LIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING HERITAGE AND LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE.
- DESPITE THE ENRICHING EXPERIENCES, THE JOURNEY PRESENTED ITS SHARE OF CHALLENGES. LANGUAGE BARRIERS OCCASIONALLY POSED COMMUNICATION HURDLES, REQUIRING PATIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY TO OVERCOME. ADDITIONALLY, NAVIGATING UNFAMILIAR TERRAIN AND LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS DEMANDED CAREFUL PLANNING AND TEAMWORK.
- THE STUDY TOUR LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON MY PERSONAL AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH. IMMERSING MYSELF IN DIFFERENT CULTURES EXPANDED MY WORLDVIEW AND INSTILLED A SENSE OF EMPATHY TOWARDS DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES. WITNESSING FIRSTHAND THE RESILIENCE OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND THE INNOVATION OF MODERN ENTERPRISES FUELED MY PASSION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND EXPLORATION