



Study tour (Bharat Darshan)  
of FTP for ASO of 2023 Batch  
(28.04.2024-04.05.2024)

REPORT ON STUDY TOUR  
TAMIL NADU

Prepared by –

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**OT CODE: B21**

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE.**

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## Acknowledgement:

At the outset, I would like to thank and convey my sincere gratitude to The Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) for giving this unique opportunity to participate in the mandatory training programme at the Dr. MCRHRD Institute of Telangana.

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. And I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to Smt. Usha Rani, Course Director, Dr. MCRHRD for giving great support.

We are highly indebted to Dr. K. Sukumar, 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. His immense support and coordination towards each trainee made this trip joyful to everyone.

This was the most wonderful experience to explore as a group during the visit to Tamil Nadu- Puducherry-Karnataka. I enjoyed the study tour and learned many things during the NGO attachment, visiting to ancient roman trading centre Arikamedu and Tea-cum-Chocolate Factory as well.

## 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 Tamil Nadu-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 make the trainees learn about the functioning 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.

## Schedule of Study Tour & NGO attachment

The study tour organized by MCRHRD for as part of the mandatory ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of 2023- Batch, from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024 at Tamil Nadu-Puducherry-Karnataka as per the following details:-

➤ **DAY 01: 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024: HYDERABAD – CHENNAI (BY FLIGHT) – MAHABALIPURAM - PONDICHERRY**

10:00 AM: Depart from Hyderabad (27 OTs – BY INDIGO)

10:55 AM: Depart from Hyderabad (35 OTs – BY AIR-INDIA EXPRESS)

11:30 AM: Arrival in Chennai Airport (27 OTs – BY INDIGO)

12:15 PM: Arrival in Chennai Airport (35 OTs – BY AIR-INDIA EXPRESS)

12:30 PM: Depart For Mahabalipuram by Bus

01:30 PM: Enroute Lunch at Local Restaurant.

03:00 PM: Proceed to Mahabalipuram and visit Sea shore Temple, Five Rathas & Arjuna Penance.

06:00 PM: Proceed to Pondicherry and check in to the hotel.

08:00 PM: Dinner at the hotel & Overnight stay at Pondicherry.

➤ **DAY 02: 29TH APRIL 2024: PONDICHERRY**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Visit Auroville

12:00 Noon: Visit French Colonies.

01:30 PM: Lunch at Restaurant

06:00 PM: Pondicherry Beach

08:00 PM: Dinner & Overnight stay at Pondicherry.

➤ **DAY 03: 30TH APRIL 2024: PONDICHERRY – ADIYOGI - COIMBATORE**

07:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Check out & Departure to Pondicherry Mangrove Forest  
10:00 AM: Visit Pondicherry Mangrove Forest and roman trading centre  
02:00 PM: Departure to Coimbatore  
03:00 PM: lunch at Restaurant  
11:00 PM: Check in to Hotel & Overnight stay in Coimbatore.

➤ **DAY 04: 01<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024: COIMBATORE – COONOR - OOTY**

06:00 AM: Visit to Adiyogi.  
10:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel  
12:00 Noon: Departure to Ooty.  
02:30 PM: Lunch in Local Restaurant in Ooty  
07:00 PM: Check in Hotel in ooty.  
08:00 PM: Dinner & Overnight stay at Ooty with Party games & Dinner.

➤ **DAY 05: 02<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2024: OOTY**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.  
09:00 AM: Visit Dodabetta Peak  
01:00 PM: Lunch at Restaurant  
02:30 PM: Visit Tea Factory & Tea Museum  
04:00 PM: Boating at ooty Lake.  
07:00 PM: Back to Hotel. Dinner & Overnight stay at Ooty.

➤ **DAY 06: 03<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2024: OOTY – MYSORE**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.  
09:00 AM: Departure from Ooty.  
11:00AM: Enroute visit Pykara Lake & Dam.  
01:30 PM: Lunch at Restaurant  
06:00 PM: Arrive Mysore & Check in at Hotel.

07:00 PM: Free for Shopping in Mysore

09:00 PM: Back to Hotel. Dinner & Overnight stay at Mysore Hotel.

➤ **DAY 07: 04<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024: MYSORE – BANGALORE (BY ROAD) / BANGALORE – HYDERABAD (FLIGHT)**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Visit Chamundi Hills, Mysore Maharaja Palace

01:00 PM: Lunch at Local Restaurant & Departure from Mysore.

06:30 PM: Arrive Bangalore & Drop in Airport (Full Group Departure in the Same Flight)

08:50 PM: Depart by Air-India Express Airlines to Hyderabad.

10:05 PM: Arrive at Hyderabad Airport.

# Sight Seeing In Tamil Nadu, Puducherry And Karnataka



## Day 01:-

### Shore Temple : The ancient Temple

❖ The temple we visited is Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram, also known as Mamallapuram, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the coastal town of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the oldest structural stone temples in South India and is



renowned for its architectural beauty and historical significance.

❖ Built during the reign of the Pallava dynasty in the 8th century AD, the Shore Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple complex consists of three shrines, two dedicated to Shiva and one to Vishnu. It derives its name from its location on the shores of the Bay of Bengal. Over the centuries, the temple has faced erosion due to its proximity to the sea, but significant restoration efforts have been made to preserve its grandeur.

❖ The Shore Temple is famous for its Dravidian architecture, characterized by intricately carved sculptures and bas-reliefs depicting various mythological scenes, deities, and celestial beings. The temple

stands as a testament to the craftsmanship and artistic skills of the ancient Pallava artisans.

- ❖ My experience :- Walking to the Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram, I saw its old beauty by the sea. Carvings showed stories of gods, and the waves made a calm feeling.

## Krishna's Butterball : The marvellous rock

- Further Our group visited the Krishna's butterball, a giant rock. The rock originally named as **Vaan Irai Kal** is a giant balancing rock which has a big diameter of 5 meters. It is seemingly defying all laws of physics. It weighs over 250 tons and miraculously stands on an extremely small, slippery area of a hill. Each of the group member were left in a great awe after seeing this marvellous rock.

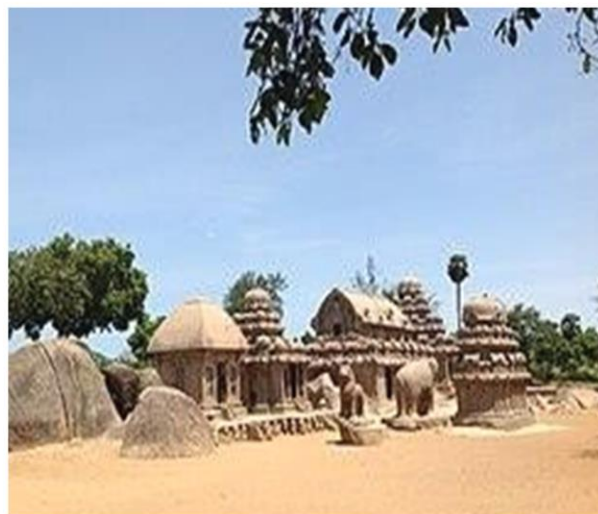


- In Tamil language, the original language of the land, it means "Stone of The Sky God". The rock is balanced upon a 4 feet area of the hill and is perilously resting at an angle of 45 degrees. The base of the rock is firmly attached to the hill below. This rock is bigger and heavier than the monolithic stones of Ollantaytambo, Peru. It is also much bigger

than the rocks found in the mysterious Machu Picchu.

## **Pancha Rathas : The remains of Mahabharat**

❖ In addition to our study tour we visited The Pancha Rathas. They, also known as "Five Chariots," are monolithic rock-cut temples located in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India. Built in the 7th century during the Pallava dynasty, they represent an architectural marvel. Each ratha (chariot) is carved from a single rock, resembling distinctive Dravidian temple styles. Despite being incomplete, the rathas showcase intricate carvings depicting gods, goddesses, and mythical creatures. The rathas are named after the Pandava brothers and their wife Draupadi from the Hindu epic Mahabharata. This UNESCO World Heritage Site attracts visitors for its historical significance, unique architectural features, and artistic craftsmanship, offering a glimpse into ancient Indian culture.



## Day 02:-

### Auroville: A Place to find peace



- ❖ Auroville, located in the state of Puducherry, India, is an experimental township embodying the vision of human unity, peace, and sustainable living. Founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa, known as "The Mother," and designed by architect Roger Anger, Auroville welcomes people from all over the world to live together in harmony, transcending nationality, religion, and creed.
- ❖ At its heart lies the Matrimandir, a golden globe symbolizing the divine presence and unity of humanity. Surrounding it are lush greenery, innovative eco-friendly communities, and sustainable practices in agriculture, energy, and construction. Auroville serves as a hub for spiritual exploration, education,

and cultural exchange, fostering creativity, cooperation, and personal growth.

- ❖ When we visited Auroville, I personally felt so peaceful and inspired by their idea of how they forested a barren land.
- ❖ With its diverse population and commitment to environmental stewardship, Auroville serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for a better world. It stands as a testament to the possibility of peaceful coexistence and collective progress towards a more harmonious and sustainable future.

## **Paradise Beach : The heaven in Pondicherry**

- Paradise beach is a great spot to reach early morning and get a view of the sunrise on the eastern coast. A variety of water sports facilities are available here as well. The travellers can try fishing as well. Fishing rods and nets are easily available for rent.



- It's a place for family picnics, solo travellers or if you are looking for a quiet time by yourself. Our group also enjoyed too much here. Everybody clicking photos with sunset which giving everyone a

good vibe.

- The island is very well maintained, the shore is clean and water is calm, with soft waves. There is changing rooms and toilets on the island. Also few shacks serve quick bites and lunch. You can also carry home cooked food and beers.
- The shore is quite vast, so do carry things to entertain, good place to play football, Frisbee or just a run. The place has lots of palm trees so one can relax and take out their picnic bags for lunch, can easily spend 3 – 4 hours. Best time to go is in the first half of the day.

## Day 03:-

### Some other tourist places visited in and around the Pondicherry.

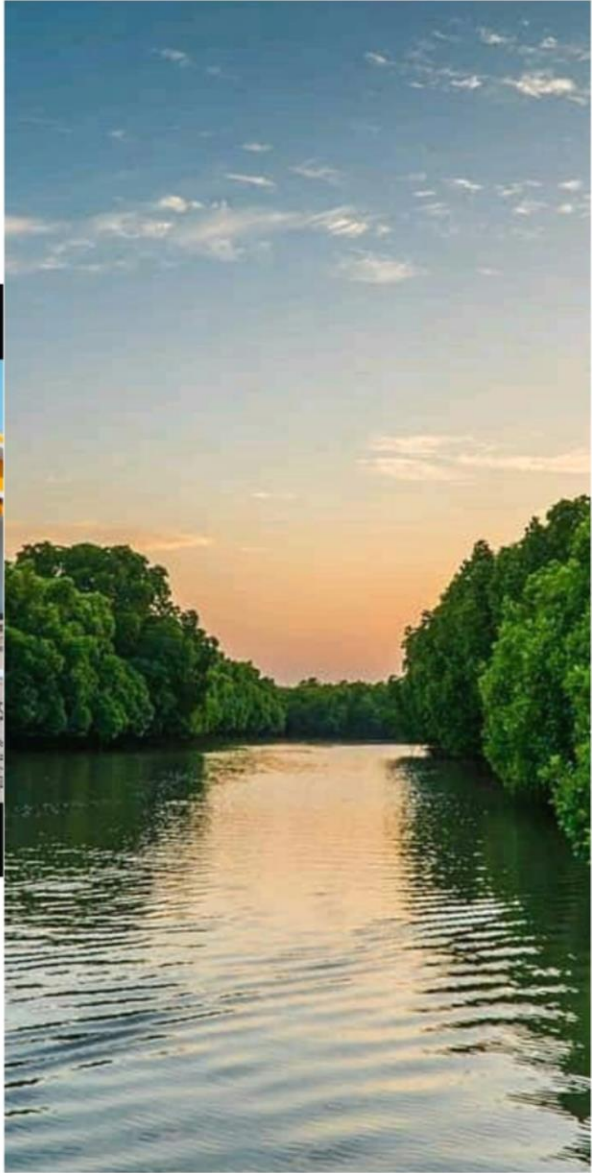
1. Mangrove Kayaking Forest : Mangrove forests are coastal wetlands characterized by salt-tolerant trees and shrubs. They provide vital habitats for diverse marine life, protect shorelines from erosion, and mitigate the impacts of storms and tsunamis.
2. French colony: French colonies were territories under French control, spanning Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific. They influenced French culture globally and left lasting legacies in language, cuisine, and governance.
3. Arts and Crafts Village: The Art and Craft Village, also known as Wills Boat House, in Puducherry offers a picturesque setting for cultural exploration, showcasing traditional crafts and hosting recreational boating activities on serene waters.
4. Arikamedu (Historical Site): Arikamedu is an archaeological site near Puducherry, India, showcasing ancient Roman trade connections. It was a bustling port city from around 1st century BCE to 2nd century CE, trading in pottery, beads, and gems.



PONDICHERRY



Mangrove Forest  
Boat House





## Day 04:-

### Adi Yogi : An abode of God

- ❖ Adi Yogi, also known as the Adiyogi Shiva statue, stands as an awe-inspiring marvel at the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore, India. Crafted under the guidance of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, it is a monumental tribute to Lord Shiva, the Adi Yogi, who is considered the first yogi and the originator of yoga.



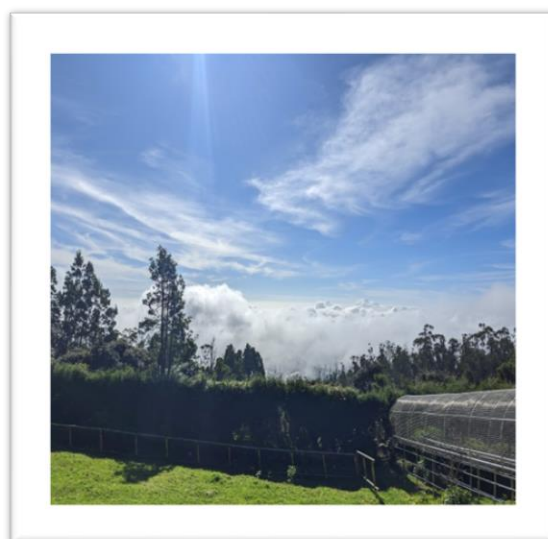
- ❖ Rising an impressive 112 feet tall and weighing 500 tons, Adi Yogi is the largest bust sculpture in the world. Its imposing presence evokes a sense of reverence and draws seekers and visitors from all corners of the globe. The sculpture's intricate design and meticulous craftsmanship reflect the profound spiritual significance and scientific understanding of yoga.
- ❖ When I visited the Adi Yogi, I felt lord shiva's energy inside my body. The places behind the Adi Yogi temple named Dhramaling was a place where one can find peace by focusing in his own.
- ❖ Adi Yogi's seven concentric rings represent the seven chakras or energy centers in the human body, symbolizing the seven dimensions of consciousness. This symbolism invites individuals to explore and expand their inner dimensions, fostering a deeper connection with themselves and the cosmos.
- ❖ Beyond its physical grandeur, Adi Yogi serves as a powerful source

of inspiration and guidance for spiritual seekers and yoga enthusiasts worldwide. It embodies the timeless wisdom of yoga, offering a path towards inner transformation and self-realization. Adi Yogi stands as a beacon of light, illuminating the path to profound inner exploration and ultimate liberation.

## DAY 05:-

### Dodabetta Peak: Where the sky touches the Earth

- ❖ In addition to our tour we visited Dodabetta Peak. Dodabetta Peak is the highest mountain peak in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 meters (8,652 feet) .
- ❖ It is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India, and is 9 km from Ooty on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road .
- ❖ The term Doddabetta means Big Mountain in Badaga language. It is a combination of two words Dodda meaning big and Betta which means mountain
- ❖ **Cultural significance**
  - The peak is frequently visited by travel aficionados interested in outdoor pursuits like trekking and is a top place to visit in Ooty for nature and adventure lovers.
- ❖ **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 travel aficionados 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. It was opened on 18 June 1983 and is run by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC)

## The Tea Factory & The Tea Museum: Inside the world of Tea:

Reaching to Tea factory we came to know that how tea made by leaves and here are three subtopics that cover various aspects of tea factory:

#### ❖ **Tea Processing Steps:**

- Covers the entire tea manufacturing process from plucking to sorting and packaging.

- Incorporates aspects of history, machinery, quality control, environmental impact, and cultural significance.
- Discusses the stages of tea processing, their significance, and their impact on tea quality and culture.



#### ❖ Machinery and Technology:

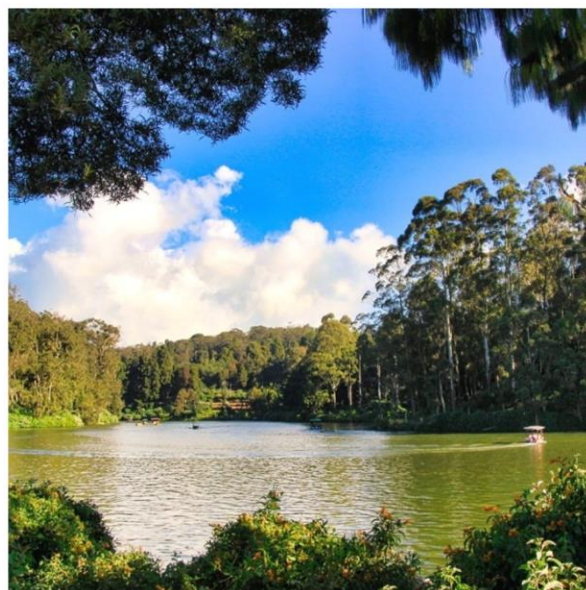
- Focuses on the equipment and technology used in tea factories.
- Addresses the machinery involved in each processing step and its role in modern tea production.
- Touches upon technological advancements, quality control measures, and their economic and environmental implications.

#### ❖ Sustainability and Challenges:

- Discusses sustainable practices, waste management, and energy consumption reduction.
- Considers the economic and social impact of tea factories on local communities and potential solutions to challenges like labour shortages and climate change.

## Ooty Lake : Ooty's natural gem

- ❖ Ooty Lake is a large, man-made lake located in the charming hill station of Ooty, India. Created in 1824 by John Sullivan, it has become a beloved destination for tourists for finding peace amidst nature. Surrounded by greenery and scenic hills, the lake offers activities such as boating and leisurely walks along its shores. Visitors can rent paddle boats or rowboats to explore the serene waters or simply relax on the grassy banks.
- ❖ Ooty Lake is also a haven for birdwatchers, attracting numerous avian species with its peaceful ambiance. Additionally, it hosts an annual boat race during the summer festival, adding excitement and festivity to its serene atmosphere.
- ❖ With its picturesque setting and opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment, Ooty Lake remains a cherished destination for travelers seeking a peaceful retreat amidst the natural beauty of the Nilgiri hills.
- ❖ Our group most enjoyed at the lake while riding the paddling boat. The paddling boat is run on the team



cooperation. I also paddled the boat with three of our group members which were a great experience

## Day 06:-

### Pykara lake and Dam : Nature's reflection

- ❖ Pykara Lake and Dam, situated near Ooty in Tamil Nadu, amidst the Nilgiri hills. The lake, formed by the Pykara River, is surrounded by greenery and rolling hills.



Visitors can enjoy boating in the still waters. The Pykara Dam, built across the river, adds to the scenic beauty and serves as a popular picnic spot. With its pristine surroundings and recreational activities, Pykara Lake and Dam attract tourists seeking solace and natural beauty in the heart of the Nilgiris.

## Day 07:-

### Mysore Palace

- ❖ Mysore Palace, found in Mysore, India, is a magnificent historical site. Originally built centuries ago and later reconstructed after a fire, it showcases a mix of different architectural styles. Inside, visitors can admire beautiful paintings, intricate floors, and elaborate ceilings. The palace includes a grand hall where the king held important meetings and various rooms where the royal family once lived. Surrounding the palace are lush gardens that enhance its charm, especially during festivals when it's illuminated with thousands of lights. Each year, countless tourists flock to Mysore Palace to marvel at its splendor and learn about its rich history. It stands as a significant cultural landmark, symbolizing the grandeur of Mysore's past and attracting visitors from around the globe who are eager to explore its beauty and heritage.



## Conclusion and Learnings

The study tour was a 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!