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ITEC Total Solution for Integrated Library Systems Scholarship programme experience: Chennai India

The Indian government's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) held a two-week fully funded training program from the 28th February to the 12th March 2024 on "Total Solution for Integrated Library Systems" in Chennai, India. This fully funded program welcomed 30 information professionals (librarians and records managers) from 17 developing countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Ghana, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



The focus of the course under the coordination of Dr. Ravichandran was on the modernisation of libraries through learning to leverage sweet shift Todd ttrt è cc right ß library management Systems for optimised library processes, knowledge management including the creation, organis fight stuff chatty cut off utt see cut u so Cuddy's yhu trusted see the scripts ration, and effective communication of knowledge, Web resource maintenance and the promotion of e-learning. Hands on training was provided on key areas of KOHA library management system, dry cut for s day Christy duty DSpace open-source repository, Ubuntu operating system, delving on the installation, customisation and integration of the aforementioned tools. In addition, participants explored basic Linux coding as well as Copyright and intellectual property (IPR) issues and Open Educational Resources (OER) management.



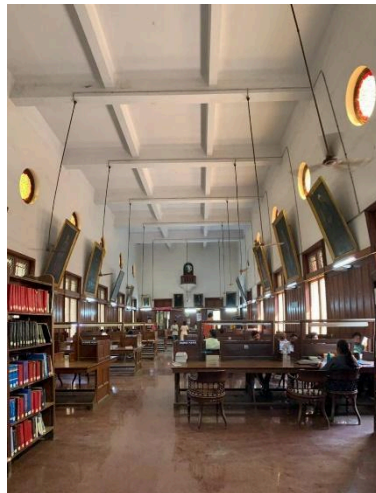
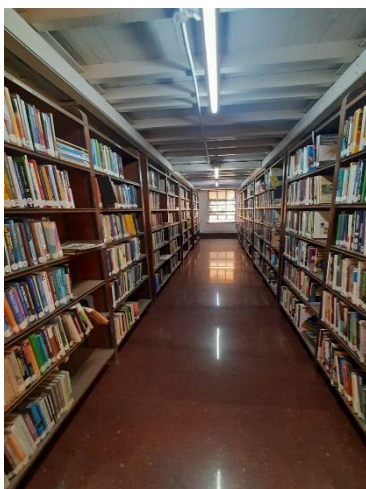
The program went beyond traditional instruction, incorporating enriching sessions on yoga, sound healing, and team building. These workshops were led by renowned specialists in holistic education, fostering a deeper connection between mind, body, and spirit, and promoting collaboration among participants.



Beyond lectures, participants embarked on inspiring library tours. A visit to the Indian Institute of Technology- (IIT) library wasn't just about books; it was a chance to delve into the institute's rich history. Sprawling over 1,000 acres, the IIT campus itself was a marvel. Participants were captivated by the institute's dedication to preserving its indigenous flora. Towering trees offered a cool, leafy canopy, and glimpses of wild animals roaming freely added to the unique experience. The tranquil, picturesque setting provided a welcome respite from the academic environment. The tour also showcased the IIT library's commitment to fostering a love of learning at all ages, with a dedicated children's section specifically designed for staff children, a detail the participants found particularly admirable



The tour also included a visit to the historic Madras University Library at the University of Madras. The library holds a special significance as it was once led by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, considered the "father of Library Science in India" for his ground-breaking contributions that continue to influence libraries worldwide. In Dr. Ranganathan's honor, the library continues to use some of his ingenious inventions, including the colon classification system and the chain indexing system. Participants were even able to see original library furniture pieces dating back to Dr. Ranganathan's tenure, offering a glimpse into the library's rich history and his lasting impact.

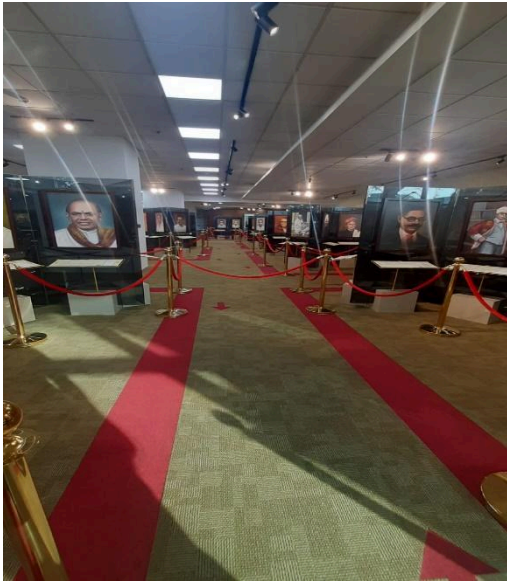


COLON CLASSIFICATION (Ed. 6)		
by		
Dr. S.R. RANGANATHAN		
MAIN CLASS		
Z	Generalia	I Botany
1	Universe of Knowledge	J Agriculture
2	Library Science	K Zoology
3	Book Science	KX Animal Husbandry
4	Journalism	L Medicine
A	Natural Sciences	LX Pharmacognosy
AZ	Mathematical Sciences	M Useful Arts
B	Mathematics	Δ Spiritual Experience and Mysticism
BZ	Physical Sciences	MZ Humanities and Social Sciences
C	Physics	MZA Humanities
D	Engineering	N Fine Arts
E	Chemistry	NX Literature and Language
F	Technology	O Literature
G	Biology	P Linguistics
H	Geology	Q Religion
		R Philosophy
		S Psychology
		Σ Social Sciences
		T Education
		U Geography
		V History
		W Political Science
		X Economics
		Y Sociology
		YX Social Work
		Z Law

Participants also visited the impressive Anna Centenary Public Library. The architectural marvel is a public library boasting a collection of over a million books on diverse subjects. It caters to all ages, featuring a dedicated Braille section, a digital library, and a children's area designed to spark a love of reading, resembling a playful learning space.

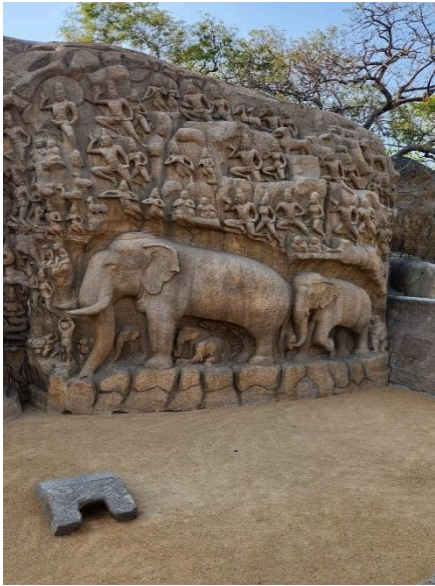






As part of the program, the international participants embarked on exciting cultural tours. The tours showcased the rich heritage of Tamil Nadu.

One such destination was Mamallapuram, a coastal town famous for its exquisite temples and monuments built by the Pallava dynasty between the 7th and 8th centuries. Here, participants marvelled at the Krishna's Butter Ball, a massive boulder precariously balanced on a small hill, defying gravity. They also explored Arjuna's Penance, an intricate rock-cut monument depicting scenes from Hindu mythology.



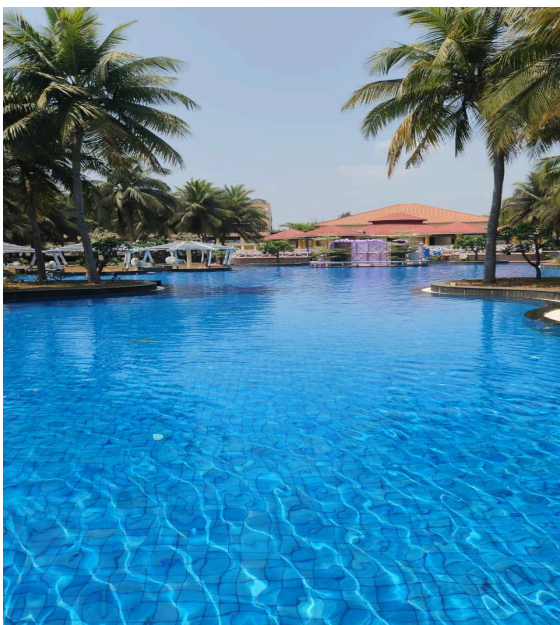
Elephants, Krishna ball,

The cultural tours extended to the spiritual side of Tamil Nadu where the participants visited Auroville Matrimandir, a captivating structure nestled amidst serene gardens. The unique space is dedicated to fostering harmony and spiritual growth and unlike a traditional temple the Matrimandir welcomes people of all faiths and backgrounds. Its golden globe bathed in sunlight serves as a powerful symbol of inner peace and the pursuit of a higher consciousness.



Auroville ball and garden pic

The program offered a taste of coastal living with a trip to Pondicherry town where participants were pampered at the luxurious Ocean Spray Resort, a five-star haven boasting a variety of swimming pools and private villas. The resort's location provided stunning views of Pondicherry Beach, with scenic pathways ideal for leisurely strolls





The program also treated participants to a delicious exploration of Indian cuisine where they savoured on a vibrant medley of curries, fragrant teas and coffees, fresh herbs, rice sweets, and an array of local dishes like Rasam, Lemon rice, Uttapam, Paruppu payasam, Pongal, and biryani.





The exploration extended beyond the program with exceptional shopping opportunities where participants found a treasure trove of materials from 100% cotton to pure leather textiles manufactured in India.

The training concluded on the 12th of March 2024 with a valedictory session Address from Prof. Usha Natesan Director NITTTR, report of program Dr Ravinchadran and Valedictory address from Dr Mahesh Kalyanaram Associate Vice President –Risk and Compliance HCL Technologies, Chennai.



The warmth of the Indian hospitality and the comprehensive course delivery made a lasting impression on all participants. Despite our diverse nationalities, we discovered a powerful connection with India – a shared sense of humanity that transcended borders. For this unforgettable experience, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the ITEC program.

