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E-mail : dbms.edu23@gmail.com | Website : dbmscollege.in

FACULTY ENRICHMENT THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION: INSIGHTS FROM PUDUCHERRY

ORGANIZED BY : D.B.M.S. College of Education
PARTICIPANTS : Mrs. Sripriya Dharmarajan, Dr. Joohi Samarpita, Dr. Meenakshi Choudhary
DATES : 7th July – 9th July

CONTEXT

In alignment with the vision of continuous professional development and reimagining education beyond classrooms: a faculty learning journey to Puducherry was planned for a group of college members. Mrs. Sripriya Dharmarajan, Secretary; Dr. Joohi Samarpita, Principal; and Dr. Meenakshi Choudhary, Assistant Professor from D.B.M.S. College of Education were the delegation members. The objective of the visit was to gain firsthand exposure to inclusive education practices, value-based schooling models, and holistic wellness approaches. Puducherry, with its unique blend of spiritual heritage, French colonial charm, and progressive learning communities like Auroville, served as an ideal destination for such a multidisciplinary exploration. The itinerary was thoughtfully designed to include visits to special schools, meditation sessions, cultural heritage sites, and innovative educational

spaces, enabling the participants to reflect on their roles as educators in a more meaningful, compassionate, and integrated manner. This visit not only enriched the pedagogical understanding of the faculty but also inspired personal growth through spiritual and cultural immersion.

The visit was deeply inspired by the educational ideals of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, whose vision emphasizes the integral development of the individual- spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Their belief that "education is not merely for earning a living but for the growth of the soul" was a guiding principle throughout the visit. This thoughtfully curated visit allowed faculty members to explore and reflect on how integral education, as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, can be practically integrated into modern educational institutions- making this journey both professionally enlightening and personally transformative.

Puducherry can be highly beneficial as a study tour destination for students, especially for education students, as it offers a rich and multidimensional learning experience that goes beyond the classroom. The town's blend of culture, heritage, spiritual learning and ecosystem aligns well with the objectives of B.Ed. and NEP 2020, makes it ideal destination for educational tour.

TRIP OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance curricular enrichment by gaining real-world exposure to inclusive education and alternative schooling systems, enriching teaching content and methodologies in B.Ed. programs.

2. To strengthen teaching-learning practices by observing innovative pedagogies, therapeutic interventions, and experiential learning approaches in special and alternative schools.

3. To foster reflective and value-based education by engaging with the philosophies of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, promoting integral education, mindfulness, and ethical values in teaching.

4. To promote interdisciplinary exposure and professional growth through learning about sustainable living, community-driven education, and eco-conscious practices in Auroville that can inspire institutional best practices and research ideas.

5. To improve student support strategies by understanding the diverse needs of learners, especially children with special needs, and applying inclusive teaching techniques in B.Ed. classrooms.

6. To build institutional capacity and collaborative learning by encouraging faculty teamwork, leadership in planning and reflection, and sharing of learning outcomes with peers and students.

7. To promote a culture of innovation and social sensitivity by studying ethical business models, sustainable technologies, and educational innovations in alternative communities like Auroville.

FIELD OBSERVATION

The team commenced the journey on 6th of July from Jamshedpur by cab to Ranchi, then boarded a flight for Chennai, upon arrival in Chennai the members travelled by cab for Puducherry.

DAY 01 (07/07/2025): EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CULTURAL IMMERSION IN PUDUCHERRY

HIGHLIGHTS-

- The visit began with a spiritually enriching visit to Sri Aurobindo Ashram

- Explored the philosophy of integral education as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother
- Reflected on the role of spiritual values in holistic teacher development

➢ Explored the Handmade Paper Factory

- Observed eco-friendly paper production and traditional craftsmanship
- Understood the relevance of sustainable practices and experiential learning in education
- Connected the experience to NEP 2020's focus on environmental education
- Observed how the factory transforms paper scraps and natural fibers into eco- friendly handmade paper of various textures, colours and designs.
- The range of products were writing paper, notebooks, diaries, greeting cards, decorative paper and packaging, paper made with pressed flowers and leaves.

➢ Visited the **SABDA** Bookstore

- Engaged with a wide collection of educational and philosophical literature
- Encouraged value-based education and self-reflective practices for faculty growth

➢ Post-lunch visit to Rocky Beach

- Provided a natural, relaxed setting for informal discussions among faculty

- Reflected on how such spaces can support emotional wellness and peer learning

➢ Evening walks through the French Colony
- Witnessed colonial architecture and cultural coexistence
- Developed appreciation for heritage conservation and intercultural understanding

➢ Dinner at Coromandel Café
- Offered an opportunity for team bonding and collaborative reflection
- Reinforced the importance of faculty interaction beyond academic settings

Reflection- The first day offered an ideal blend of intellectual, spiritual and cultural exposure, setting a positive tone for the entire visit.

DAY 02 (08/07/2025): EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, CULTURAL EXPOSURE AND REFLECTION

HIGHLIGHTS-

➢ Visit to Special School, **SATYA SPECIAL SCHOOL**
- Members observed therapy sessions, vocational training, and inclusive classroom strategies for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Staff shared insights on individualized education plans and the challenges in the field of special education.

- Observed multi- sensory learning, peer- assisted classrooms and vocational education in action

➢ Satvik Lunch at Sri Aurobindo Cottage

- A peaceful and health-focused dining experience, reinforcing the value of mindful eating and simplicity.
- The food served at Ashram dining hall reflects the purity. It is not just a meal, a daily practice of mindful living and inner harmony.
- The food was simple yet nutritious, consisting of: Plain Rice, Red Rice, Dal, Curd, Banana, Salad (Cucumber, Tomato, Onion)

➢ Visit to Puducherry Museum

- An enriching tour through artifacts, sculptures, French colonial remnants, and historical documentation helped contextualize the educational and cultural evolution of the region.

➢ Evening Marina Beach Visit

- Enjoyed some leisure time by the water, taking in the natural beauty and tranquillity of Puducherry's coastline.

➢ Dinner at Villa Shanti

- A delightful dining experience at a heritage-style restaurant where faculty enjoyed regional cuisine and reflected on the day's learnings.

Reflection- The day was a perfect balance of professional enrichment and cultural experience, reinforcing holistic development- both personally and pedagogically.

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DAY- 03 (09/07/2025): EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT AUROVLLE

- Visited Auroville, an international township founded by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother on the ideals of human unity and sustainable living.
- Entered the inner chamber of the Matrimandir for meditation. For this online booking was done three days before 9th of July,
- Experienced a space of silence and meditation at the spiritual heart of Auroville. The golden sphere, standing in the heart of Auroville, seemed to radiate not only light but also a sense of purpose and calm. Inside the pure white meditation chamber with its single beam of light falling on the crystal globe created an atmosphere of complete stillness. Sitting there in silence, I felt a deep connection with my inner self. Thoughts slow down the outside world faded and a quiet clarity emerged. It was as if the mind paused to make space for something higher, something more conscious. There was no need to speak, no urge to move, only a still awareness. I came out feeling lighter, calmer. The experience reminded me that true peace does not come from outside it grows from within. Matrimandir in Auroville is not just a structure, it is a space for soulful reflection, spiritual centring.
- Took a guided Auroville campus tour, exploring its unique architecture, eco-conscious initiatives, and community spaces.
- Learned about the educational philosophy at Auroville, focusing on experiential learning, integral development, and freedom in education.
- Observed operations at the Solar Kitchen, where solar energy is used to prepare meals for the Auroville community—an example of sustainable practices.

- Explored the Sound Garden, engaging with instruments designed to promote inner harmony and mindfulness.
- Understood business strategies adopted by Auroville units—emphasizing ethical entrepreneurship, community profit, and self-sufficiency.
- Reflected on the lifestyle of Aurovilians, rooted in simplicity, cooperation, eco-consciousness, and spiritual growth.

Reflection- This visit fostered a sense of responsibility toward integrating sustainability, experiential learning, and inclusivity into modern educational frameworks, making it a truly transformative experience.

10th July the final day was kept light to allow for travel arrangements the group did debrief sharing of key learnings, takeaways and suggestions for integrating new ideas into institutional practices. The team left Puducherry with a deeper appreciation for the vision of Integral education developed at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram which offers time- tested and spiritually rooted approach to holistic learning.

CONCLUSION

The three- day visit to Puducherry was a highly impactful journey. The exposure to inclusive educational models, special school environments, meditation practices and alternative learning communities like Auroville broadened the understanding of holistic education. The insights gained from this experience are sure to enhance teaching methodologies, institutional practices and the personal well- being of educators.

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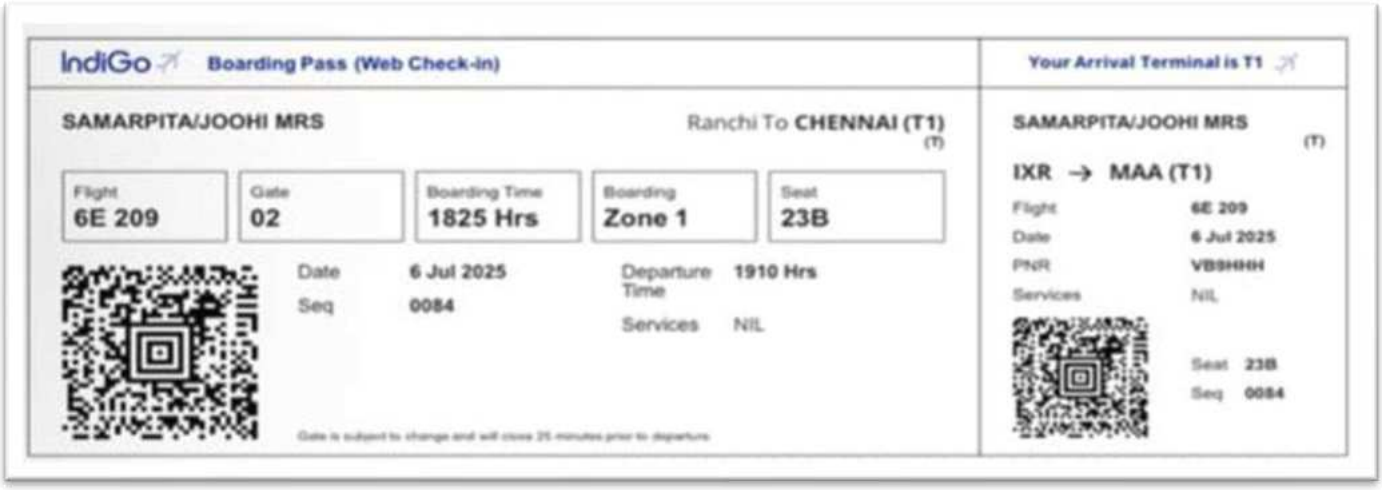
DOCUMENTATION OF VISIT

ARRIVAL BOARDING PASS FROM RANCHI TO CHENNAI



IndiGo Boarding Pass (Web Check-in)

SAMARPITA/JOOHI MRS — Ranchi To CHENNAI (T1) (T)

Flight	Gate	Boarding Time	Boarding	Seat
6E 209	02	1825 Hrs	Zone 1	23B

Date 6 Jul 2025 | Seq 0084 | Departure Time 1910 Hrs | Services NIL

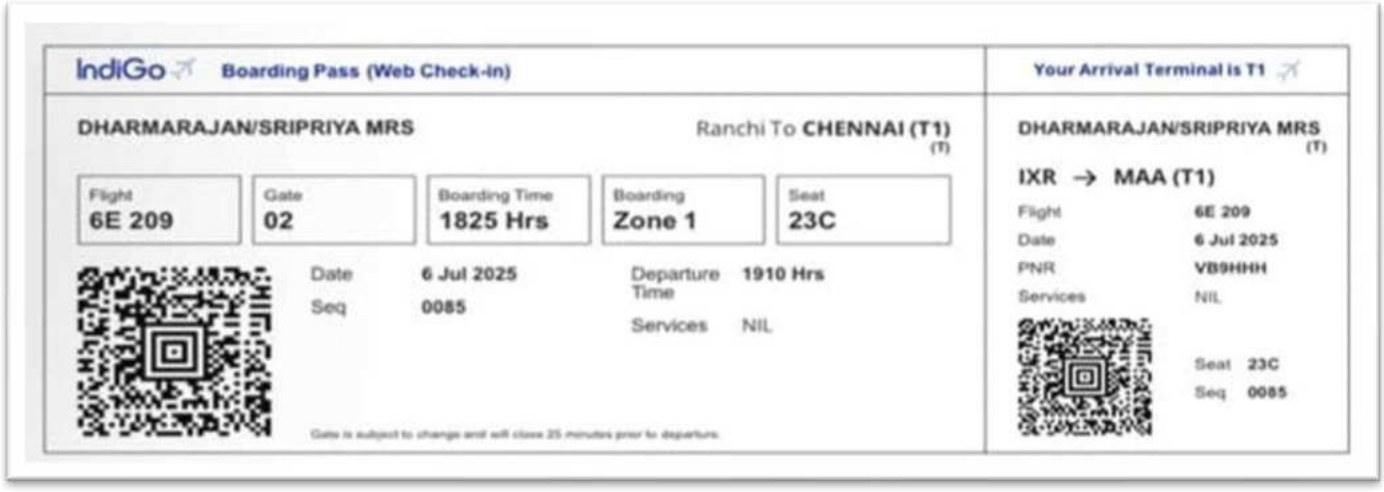
Gate is subject to change and will close 25 minutes prior to departure.

Your Arrival Terminal is T1

SAMARPITA/JOOHI MRS (T)

IXR → MAA (T1)

Flight 6E 209
Date 6 Jul 2025
PNR VB9HHH
Services NIL
Seat 23B
Seq 0084



IndiGo Boarding Pass (Web Check-in)

DHARMARAJAN/SRIPRIYA MRS — Ranchi To CHENNAI (T1) (T)

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6E 209	02	1825 Hrs	Zone 1	23C

Date 6 Jul 2025 | Seq 0085 | Departure Time 1910 Hrs | Services NIL

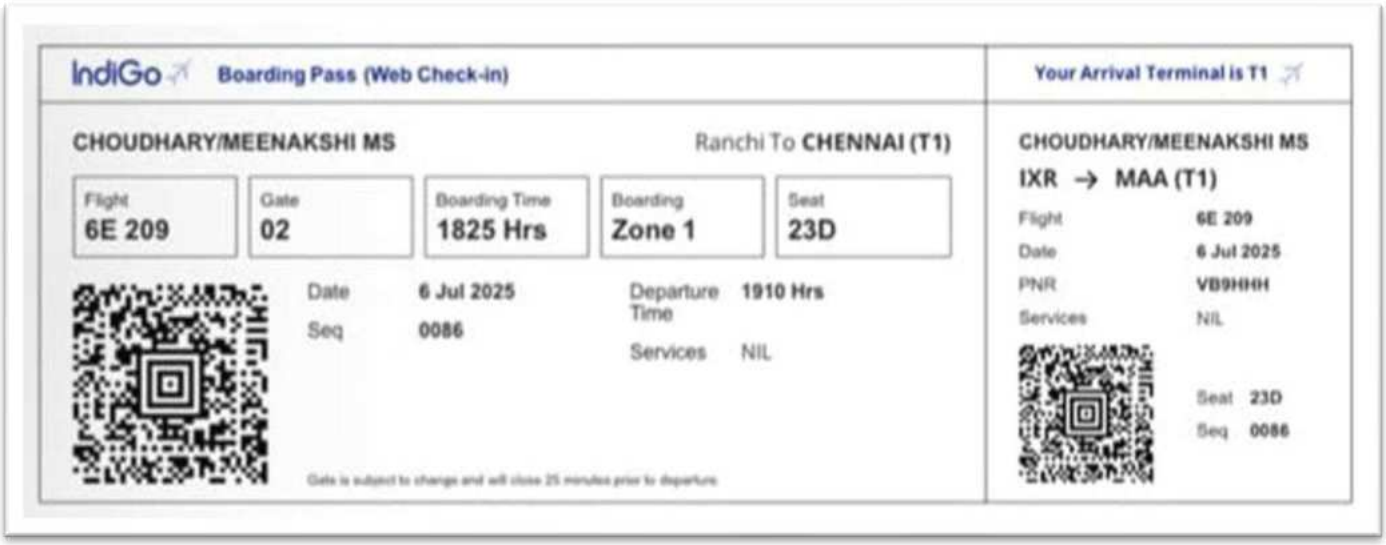
Gate is subject to change and will close 25 minutes prior to departure.

Your Arrival Terminal is T1

DHARMARAJAN/SRIPRIYA MRS (T)

IXR → MAA (T1)

Flight 6E 209
Date 6 Jul 2025
PNR VB9HHH
Services NIL
Seat 23C
Seq 0085



IndiGo Boarding Pass (Web Check-in)

CHOUDHARY/MEENAKSHI MS — Ranchi To CHENNAI (T1)

Flight	Gate	Boarding Time	Boarding	Seat
6E 209	02	1825 Hrs	Zone 1	23D

Date 6 Jul 2025 | Seq 0086 | Departure Time 1910 Hrs | Services NIL

Gate is subject to change and will close 25 minutes prior to departure.

Your Arrival Terminal is T1

CHOUDHARY/MEENAKSHI MS

IXR → MAA (T1)

Flight 6E 209
Date 6 Jul 2025
PNR VB9HHH
Services NIL
Seat 23D
Seq 0086

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EXPERIENTIAL SNAPSHOTS OF DAY- 01(07/07/2025)

PIC-01

AUROBINDO ASHRAM

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PIC-02

TEAM AT AUROBINDO ASHRAM

PIC-03

SABDA BOOKSTORE

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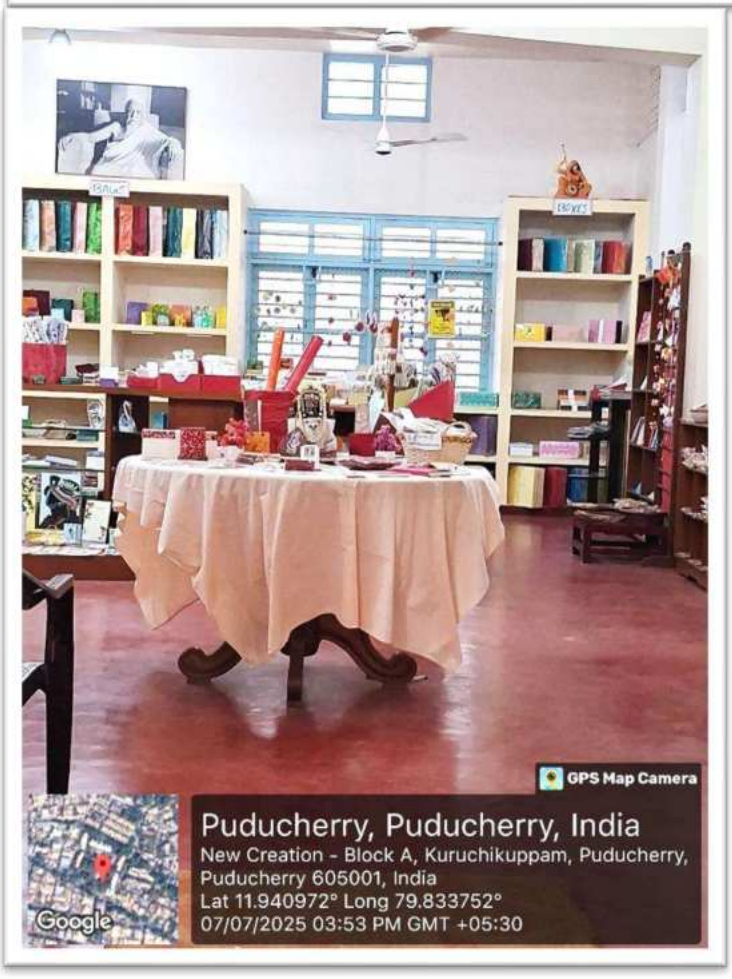

PIC- 05 & 06

OBSERVATION AT HANDMADE PAPER FACTORY

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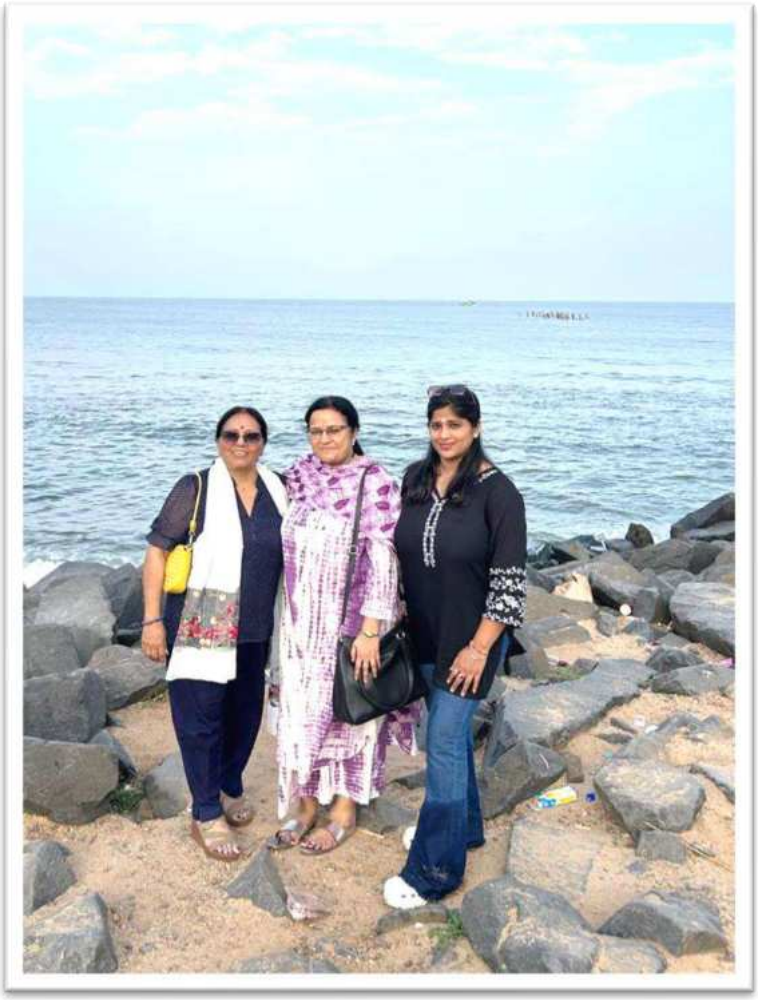

PIC- 07 & 08

TEAM AT ROCKY BEACH

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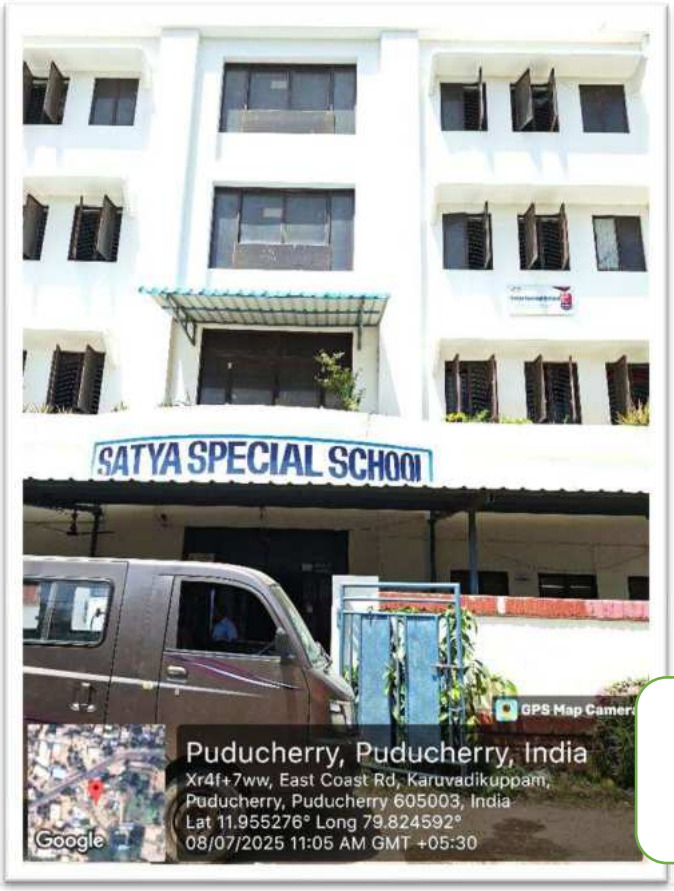
EXPERIENTIAL SNAPSHOTS OF DAY- 02 (08/07/2025)



PIC- 09

SATYA SPECIAL SCHOOL

PIC- 10

WITH SCHOOL IN-CHARGE

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PIC- 11 & 12

MEMBERS OBSERVING EDUCATION PRACTICES FOLLOWED AT SPECIAL SCHOOL

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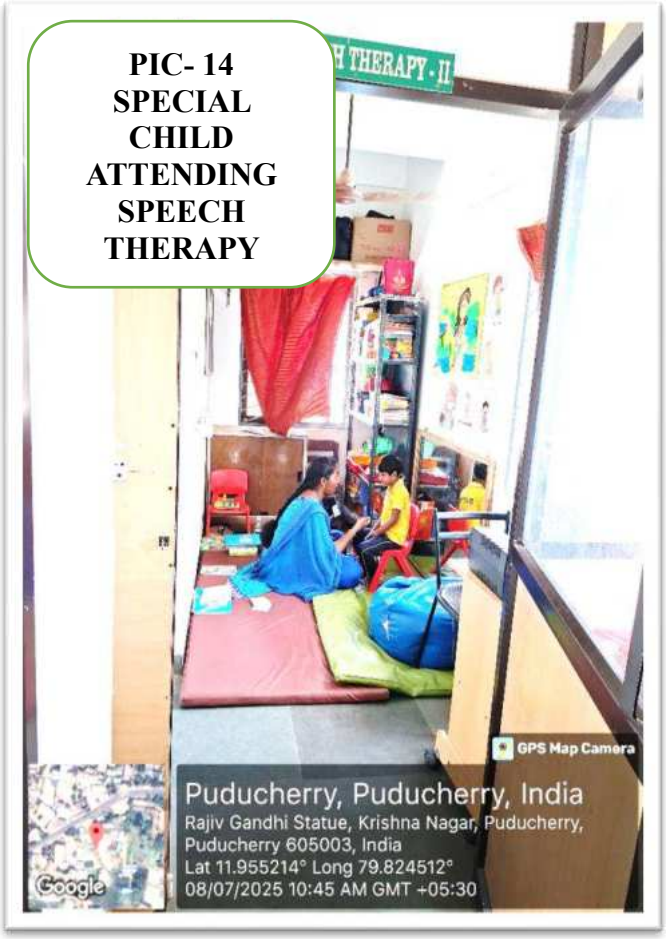
PIC- 13

SPECIAL CHILD ATTENDING PHYSIOTHERAPY

PIC- 14

SPECIAL CHILD ATTENDING SPEECH THERAPY



PIC- 15

SPECIAL CHILDREN ATTENDING THERAPEUTIC PHYSICAL

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PIC- 16 & 17

SATVIK FOOD AT AUROBINDO ASHRAM

PIC- 18

MEMBER ENJOYING HER SATVIK MEAL

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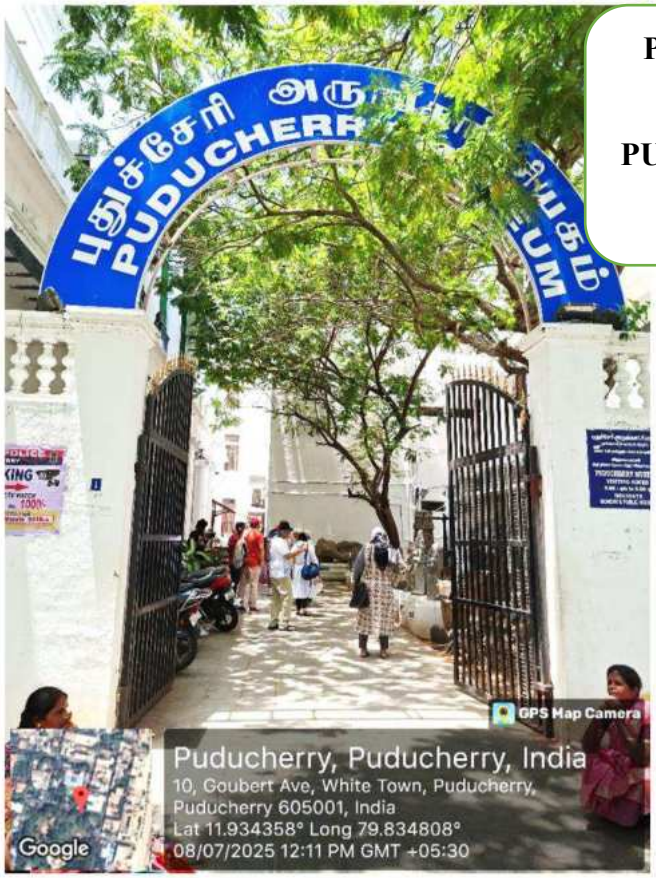
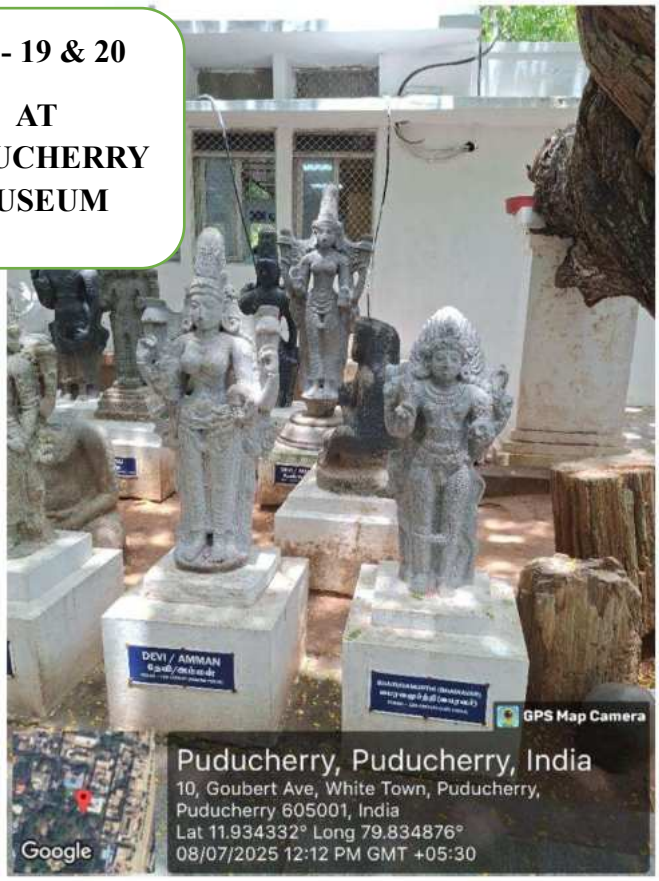
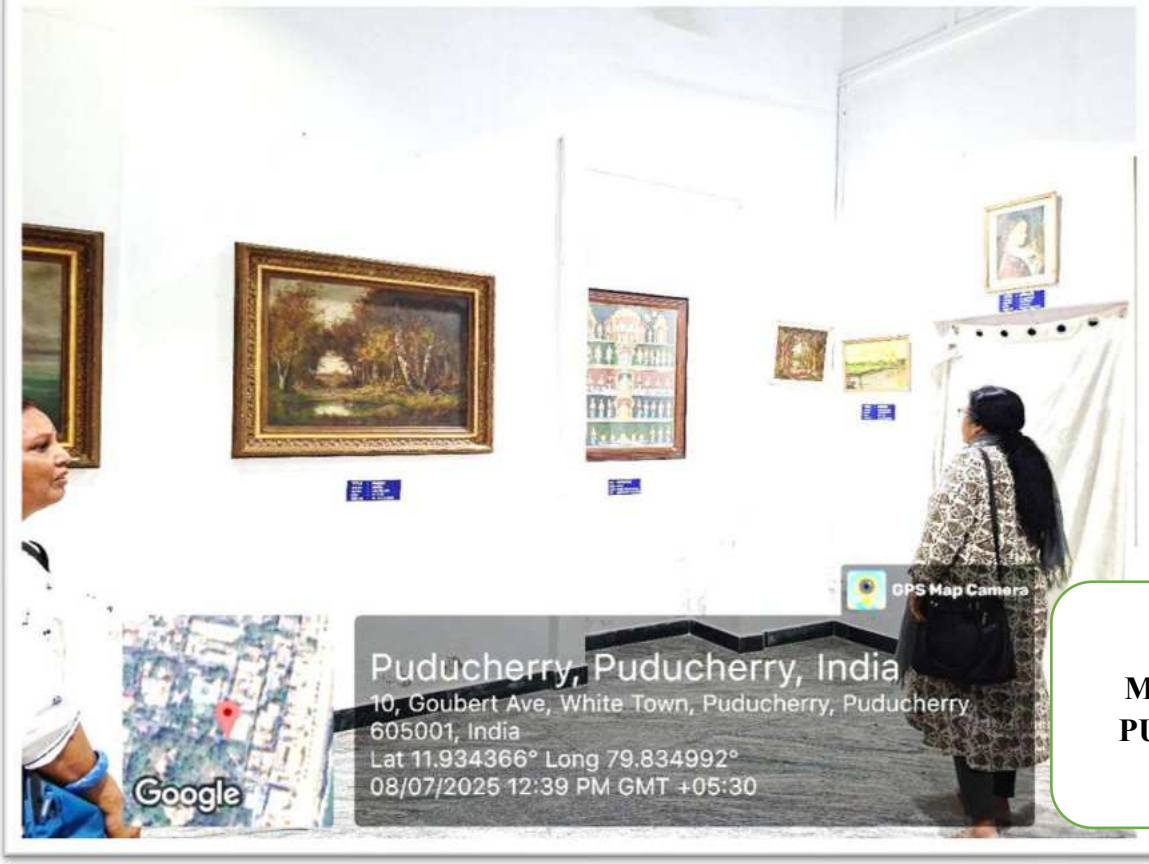




PIC- 19 & 20

AT PUDUCHERRY MUSEUM



PIC- 21

MEMBERS AT PUDUCHERRY MUSEUM

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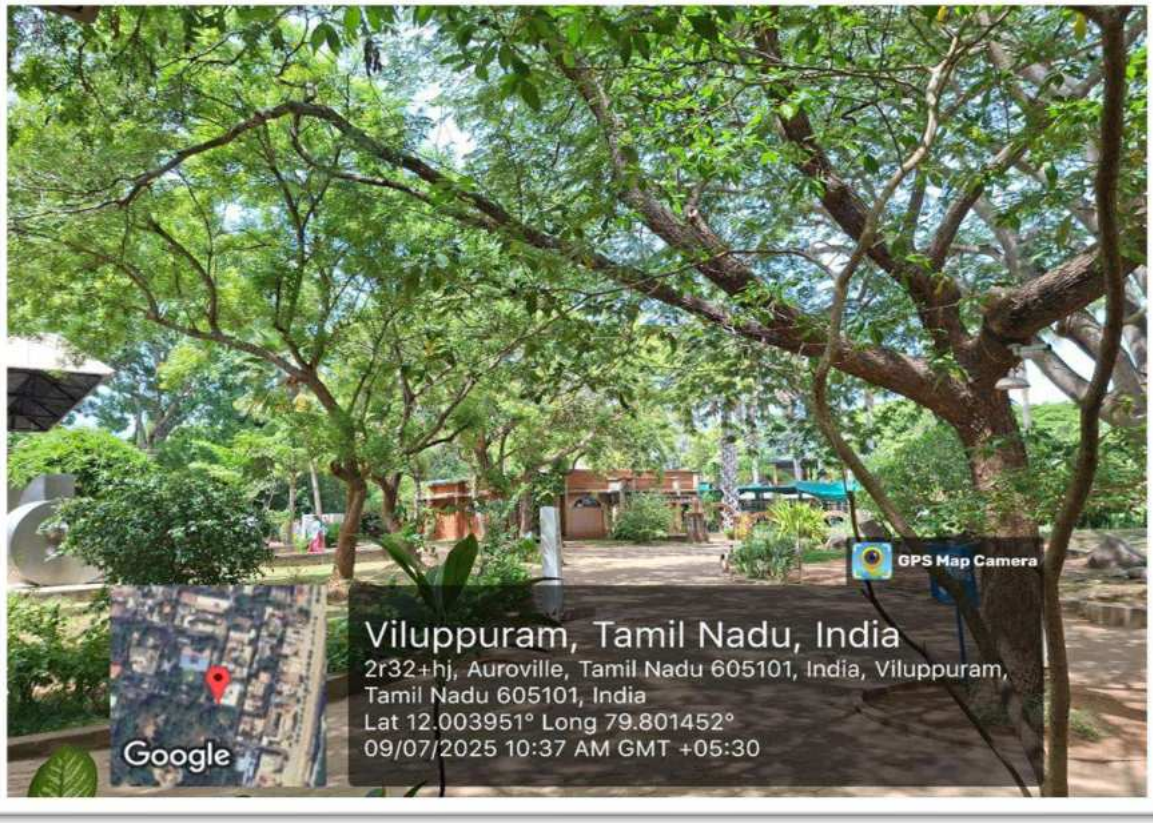
EXPERIENTIAL SNAPSHOTS OF DAY- 03 (09/07/2025)

PIC- 22 & 23

ENTRANCE OF AUROVILLE



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PIC- 24 & 25

EXHIBIT HALL AT MATRIMANDIR VIEWING POINT, AUROVILLE

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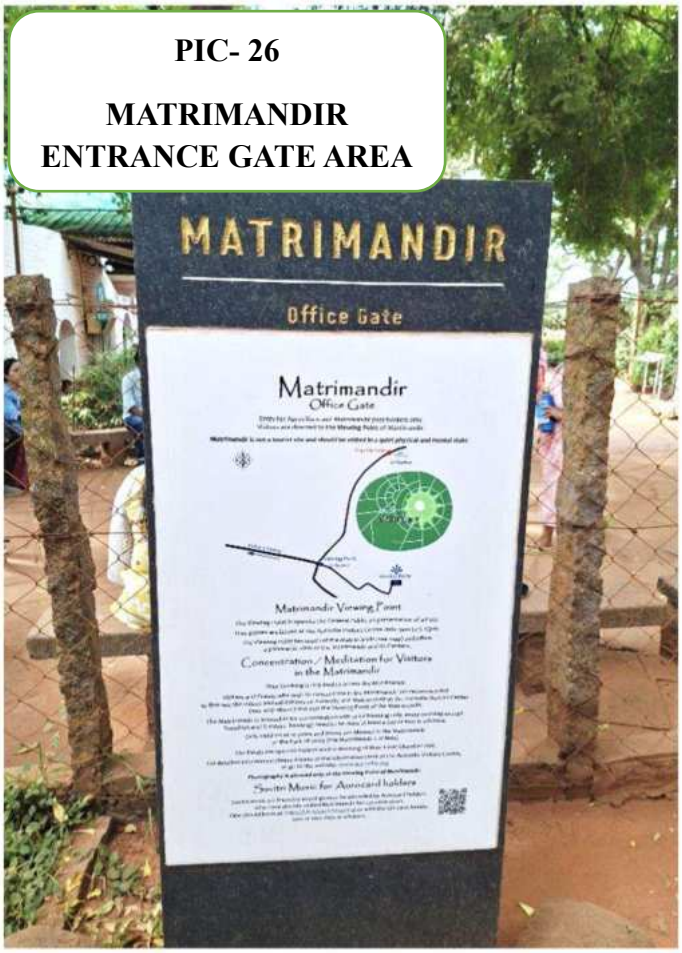
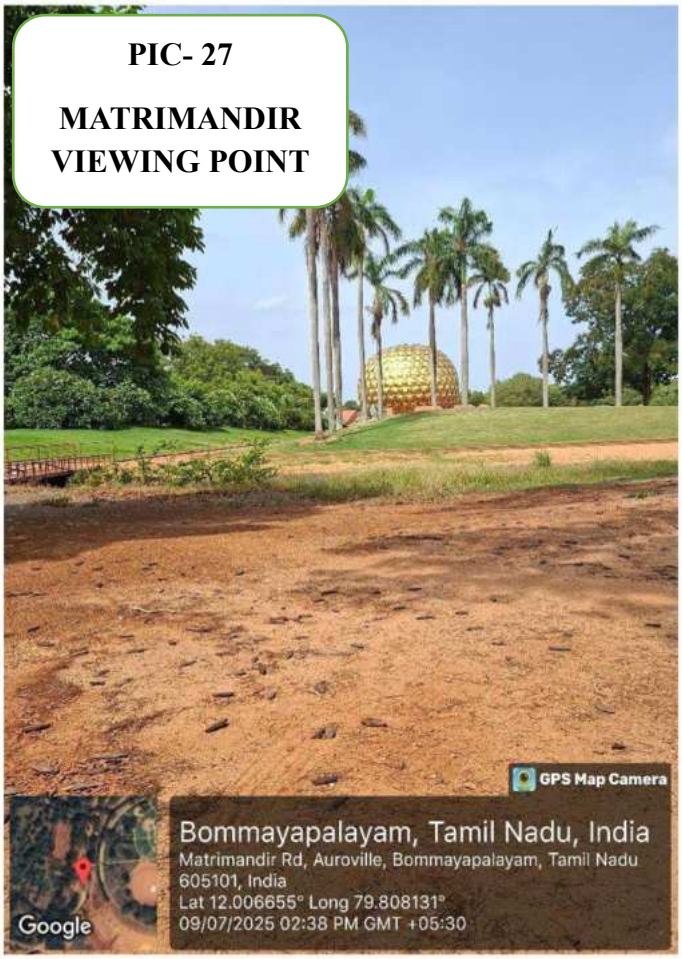


PIC- 26

MATRIMANDIR ENTRANCE GATE AREA



PIC- 27

MATRIMANDIR VIEWING POINT

PIC- 28

SOLAR KITCHEN OF AUROVILLE

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PIC- 29 & 30

MEMBERS AT SVARAM SOUND GARDEN

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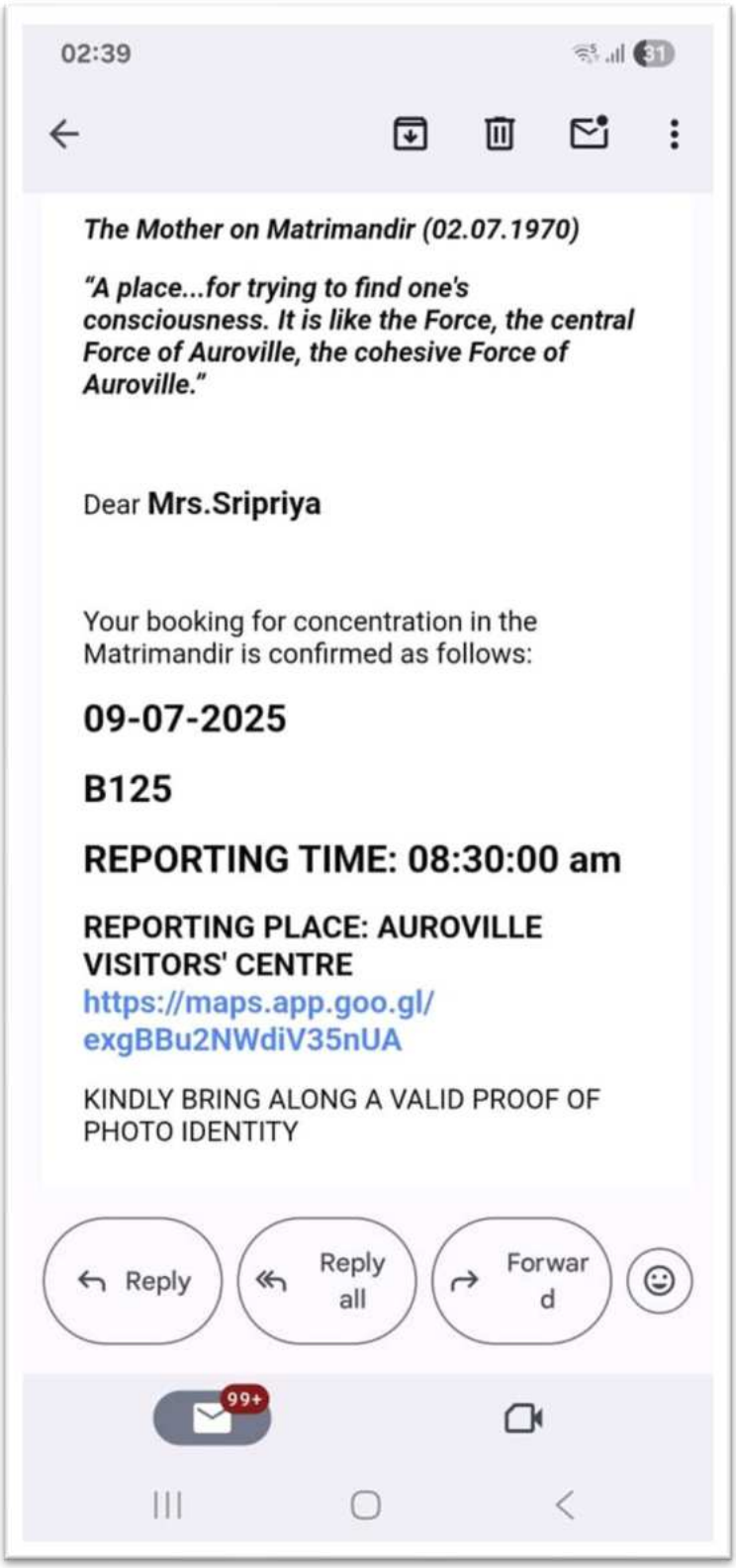
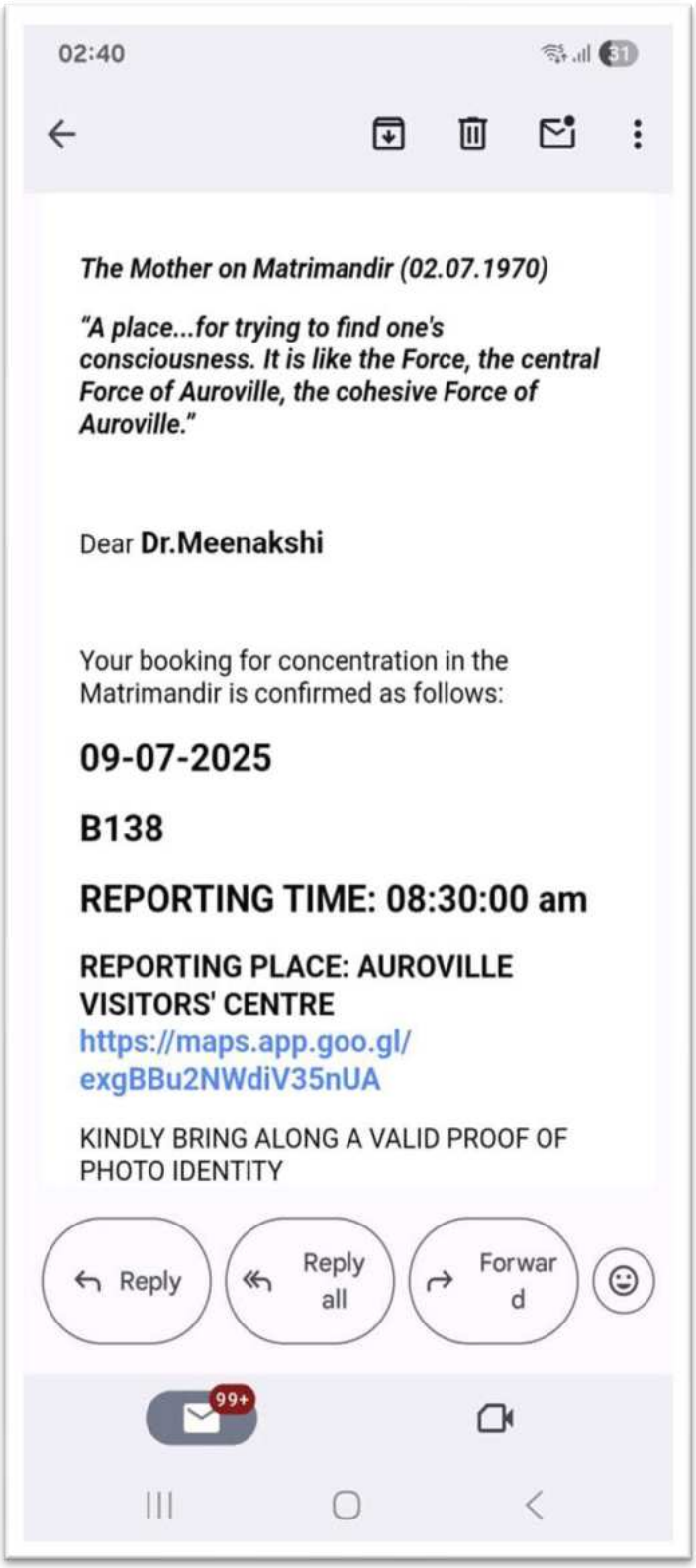
CONFIRMATION EMAIL FOR MEDITATION INSIDE MATRIMANDIR





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RETURN BOARDING PASS FROM CHENNAI TO RANCHI

IndiGo **Boarding Pass (Web Check-in)**

SAMARPITA/JOOHI MRS CHENNAI (T1) To **RANCHI**

Flight	Gate	Boarding Time	Boarding	Seat
6E 6113	-	1545 Hrs	Zone 2	14B

Date **10 Jul 2025** Departure **1630 Hrs**
Seq **0044** Services XSAT

Gate is subject to change and will close 25 minutes prior to departure

Your Departure terminal is T1

SAMARPITA/JOOHI MRS

CHENNAI (T1) To **IXR**

Flight **6E 6113**
Date **10 Jul 2025**
PNR **FYWJ3E**
Services XSAT

Seat **14B**
Seq **0044**

IndiGo **Boarding Pass (Web Check-in)**

DHARMARAJAN/SRIPRIYA MRS CHENNAI (T1) To **RANCHI**

Flight	Gate	Boarding Time	Boarding	Seat
6E 6113	-	1545 Hrs	Zone 2	14C

Date **10 Jul 2025** Departure **1630 Hrs**
Seq **0045** Services XSAT

Gate is subject to change and will close 25 minutes prior to departure

Your Departure terminal is T1

DHARMARAJAN/SRIPRIYA MRS

CHENNAI (T1) To **IXR**

Flight **6E 6113**
Date **10 Jul 2025**
PNR **FYWJ3E**
Services XSAT

Seat **14C**
Seq **0045**

IndiGo **Boarding Pass (Web Check-in)**

CHOUDHARY/MEENAKSHI MS CHENNAI (T1) To **RANCHI**

Flight	Gate	Boarding Time	Boarding	Seat
6E 6113	-	1545 Hrs	Zone 2	14D

Date **10 Jul 2025** Departure **1630 Hrs**
Seq **0046** Services XSAT

Gate is subject to change and will close 25 minutes prior to departure

Your Departure terminal is T1

CHOUDHARY/MEENAKSHI MS

CHENNAI (T1) To **IXR**

Flight **6E 6113**
Date **10 Jul 2025**
PNR **FYWJ3E**
Services XSAT

Seat **14D**
Seq **0046**