

REPORT ON CULTURAL TOUR

Organized by EBSB Cell

Tour to:

Puri – Konark – Bhubaneswar

(Cultural and Heritage Sites of Odisha)

Dates: 16th & 17th September, 2025

Submitted by:

K.Praveen Kumar

B Thanusri Naidu

P. Bishnu Prasad

J.Shirisha

K Meenakshi

G Harika

P Daya Ramakrish

B Trivenu

Bharath M

M Sagarika

D. Chandrasekhar

V Praveena

Under the Guidance of:

Mr. Gopalakrishna Vakamullu

Nodal Officer, EBSB

Dr. Prasanna Lakshmi

Faculty Coordinator



ADITYA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
TEKKALI

PREFACE

It gives us immense pleasure to present this report on the cultural tour organized by the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Cell of Aditya Institute of Technology and Management, Tekkali, to Puri, Konark, and Bhubaneswar, conducted on 16th and 17th September 2025. This tour was designed to provide our students with an opportunity to experience and appreciate the rich cultural heritage, historical monuments, and spiritual traditions of Odisha.

The purpose of this tour was to foster cultural understanding, national integration, and experiential learning among students by exposing them to India's architectural marvels, religious traditions, and artistic legacy. The students visited iconic heritage sites, including the Jagannath Temple at Puri, the Sun Temple at Konark, Lingaraj Temple, Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves, and the Dhauli Shanti Stupa, thereby gaining insights into history, architecture, art, and religion. The program not only enhanced their knowledge but also helped them develop values such as discipline, respect for cultural diversity, and a sense of national pride.

We appreciate the efforts of the EBSB Cell, faculty coordinators, and all staff members who contributed to the successful organization of this tour. We hope that this report will serve as a record of the students' educational and cultural experiences and inspire similar initiatives in the future.

PRINCIPAL

DIRECTOR

List of Students Participated

S.No	Name of the Student	Roll Number
1	K.Praveen Kumar	24A51E0038
2	B Thanusri Naidu	24A51E0003
3	P. Bishnu Prasad	24A51E0025
4	J.Sirisha	24A51E0011
5	K Meenakshi	24A51E0013
6	G Harika	24A51E0008
7	P Daya Ramakrish	24A51E0026
8	B Trivenu	24A51E0001
9	Bharath M	24A51E0018
10	M Sagarika	24A51E0019
11	D. Chandrasekhar	24A51E0006
12	V Praveena	24A51E0037

INTRODUCTION :

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Cell of Aditya Institute of Technology and Management, Tekkali, organized a two-day cultural tour to Puri, Konark, and Bhubaneswar with the objective of fostering cultural understanding, national integration, and appreciation for India's rich heritage. The tour was designed to provide students with an opportunity to experience first-hand the cultural diversity and historical legacy of Odisha, a state renowned for its architectural marvels, traditional art forms, and deep-rooted spiritual heritage. The journey commenced with a visit to Puri, one of the four holy dhams of India, famous for the Jagannath Temple, where students not only observed the grandeur of the temple architecture but also gained insights into the rituals, traditions, and spiritual practices that have been preserved for centuries. The beach town also offered a glimpse into Odisha's cultural vibrancy through local crafts and cuisine.

The next destination was Konark, where the world-famous Sun Temple stands as a testimony to the architectural brilliance of the 13th century. The students were captivated by the intricately carved stone wheels, sculptures, and symbolic representations that reflect the scientific, cultural, and spiritual knowledge of ancient India. The visit helped them appreciate the synthesis of art, culture, and science embodied in the Konark temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The final leg of the journey took the students to Bhubaneswar, known as the "Temple City of India," where they visited Lingaraj Temple, Dhauli Shanti Stupa, Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves, and other culturally significant places. These sites not only highlighted Odisha's contribution to India's religious and historical narrative but also revealed the architectural evolution through different dynasties and periods. Throughout the tour, the students actively engaged with local communities, explored traditional handicrafts, and gained an experiential understanding of the cultural ethos of Odisha.

The visit served as a platform to broaden their horizons beyond academics by connecting them with the diverse traditions, beliefs, and values that form the essence of India's unity in diversity. It also aligned with the vision of the EBSB initiative, which emphasizes strengthening emotional bonds among the youth by promoting cultural exchange and understanding. The cultural tour to Puri, Konark, and Bhubaneswar was not merely an educational excursion but a journey of cultural discovery, personal growth, and collective learning that left a lasting impression on the students. It reinforced the importance of preserving heritage, respecting cultural diversity, and embracing the spirit of national integration. The experience inspired participants to appreciate the living traditions of India, encouraged them to become cultural ambassadors in their own right, and underscored the role of youth in upholding the nation's

cultural wealth. Overall, the program emerged as a memorable and meaningful initiative that blended learning with exploration, and knowledge with experience, making it an invaluable part of the holistic education imparted by Aditya Institute of Technology and Management through its EBSB Cell.

In conclusion, the cultural tour organized by the EBSB Cell of Aditya Institute of Technology and Management not only fulfilled its objective of exposing students to the rich cultural and heritage treasures of Odisha but also helped them internalize the values of unity, respect for diversity, and pride in India's glorious past. The visits to Puri, Konark, and Bhubaneswar offered a holistic blend of spiritual learning, historical knowledge, and cultural exposure, thereby enriching the students' understanding beyond the classroom.

Such experiential learning opportunities are vital in shaping responsible citizens who are culturally sensitive, socially aware, and nationally integrated. The program successfully instilled a sense of belonging and responsibility among the students to preserve and promote India's cultural heritage while fostering mutual understanding and brotherhood among people from different regions. This memorable journey will remain etched in their minds as an inspiring reminder of India's timeless legacy and the vital role of youth in carrying forward the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

PLACECS OF VISIT

PURI:



The Jagannath Temple of Puri, located in Odisha, is one of the most sacred and celebrated pilgrimage sites of India, counted among the *Char Dham* shrines that every devout Hindu aspires to visit. Dedicated to Lord Jagannath, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the temple was originally built in the 12th century by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga dynasty. The architectural style of the temple is Kalinga architecture, marked by its towering shikhara (spire), intricately carved walls, and grandeur that reflects the artistry and devotion of ancient Odisha.

The temple complex is vast and contains numerous smaller shrines, each narrating aspects of religious and cultural traditions. One of the most significant rituals associated with the temple is the world-famous *Rath Yatra* (Chariot Festival), in which the deities Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra are taken out in grand wooden chariots, symbolizing inclusivity and equality, as people from all castes, communities, and walks of life participate in pulling the chariots. The temple is also unique in its offerings of *Mahaprasad*, which is prepared in earthen pots over traditional firewood stoves and is considered sacred by devotees. Its history, spiritual practices, and cultural influence have shaped Odisha's identity, making the Puri Jagannath Temple not just a religious site but also a symbol of India's unity in diversity.



For students, visiting the Puri Jagannath Temple offers immense educational, cultural, and personal benefits. Firstly, it provides an opportunity to witness a living heritage site where history, religion, and tradition continue to thrive together. By observing the architectural marvel of the temple, students gain insights into ancient Indian temple construction techniques, stone carving skills, and the

symbolism embedded in Kalinga architecture. Secondly, experiencing the rituals and practices of the temple fosters an understanding of spirituality, tolerance, and inclusivity, as the Jagannath cult emphasizes universal brotherhood.

Thirdly, the temple visit broadens students' cultural perspective by exposing them to Odisha's art, music, dance, and food traditions, many of which are deeply connected with the Jagannath culture. Such exposure instills respect for India's pluralistic heritage and inspires them to value the preservation of cultural treasures. On a personal level, the visit enhances qualities such as patience, discipline, and collective learning, as students travel, observe, and share experiences together. Overall, the educational tour to Puri helps students connect theory with practice by linking historical and cultural knowledge gained in classrooms with real-world heritage experiences, making their learning holistic and impactful.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the Puri Jagannath Temple lies in its intriguing mysteries and traditions that continue to amaze devotees and visitors alike. The temple's flag, known as the *Patita Pavana Bana*, always flies against the direction of the wind, defying scientific explanation. Similarly, the Sudarshan Chakra fixed atop the temple, known as the *Nilachakra*, appears to face towards every individual no matter where they stand, showcasing the unique brilliance of ancient design. Another wonder is that the temple's shadow never falls on the ground during the day, an architectural mystery that has puzzled experts for centuries.

The preparation of the *Mahaprasad* is equally remarkable — more than 50 clay pots are stacked one over the other and cooked simultaneously, yet the topmost pot cooks first, followed by the lower ones. Moreover, unlike the natural phenomenon of sea breeze in coastal areas, the wind at Puri reverses direction — it blows from sea to land during the day and from land to sea in the evening. These facts not only enhance the spiritual aura of the temple but also highlight the deep scientific knowledge and engineering skills of ancient builders. For students, learning about these intriguing phenomena sparks curiosity, encourages critical thinking, and motivates them to explore the intersection of culture, science, and tradition.

KONARK:



The Konark Sun Temple, located on the eastern coast of Odisha near the Bay of Bengal, is one of India's most iconic monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built in the 13th century by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, the temple was dedicated to Surya, the Sun God, and is designed in the form of a colossal chariot with twelve intricately carved stone wheels on either side, drawn by seven majestic horses. This architectural masterpiece is an extraordinary example of Kalinga architecture, blending religious symbolism, artistic creativity, and scientific precision.

The temple once stood at a height of about 200 feet, making it one of the grandest temples of its time, though much of it now lies in ruins. The carvings on the temple walls depict a wide range of subjects — from mythological stories and celestial beings to scenes of daily life, musicians, animals, and floral patterns — reflecting the cultural richness of medieval Odisha. The temple also embodies advanced astronomical knowledge, as its wheels function as sundials, showing the time with remarkable accuracy. Although the presiding deity's idol is no longer present, the temple continues to be a symbol of India's architectural brilliance and devotion to the Sun God, while also standing as a testimony to Odisha's maritime and cultural legacy.



For students, visiting the Konark Sun Temple offers a rare opportunity to blend historical learning with real-world observation of art, architecture, and science. By studying the temple's chariot-shaped design and its symbolic representation of time and space, students gain insights into how ancient Indians combined religious beliefs with scientific knowledge. The intricately carved stone sculptures provide lessons in aesthetics, storytelling, and cultural documentation, enabling students to appreciate how art served as both education and devotion. The site also helps students develop an understanding of heritage preservation, as they can observe how natural forces and human neglect have impacted the monument over centuries, thereby inspiring them to value conservation efforts.

Furthermore, the temple visit sparks curiosity about astronomy, engineering, and craftsmanship, motivating students to see the connections between tradition and innovation. Beyond academic knowledge, the serene and inspiring environment of Konark instills a sense of pride in India's cultural legacy and encourages students to respect and preserve such invaluable heritage. Thus, the Konark Sun Temple visit becomes not just a cultural excursion but an enlightening experience that strengthens both intellectual growth and cultural awareness.



The Konark Museum, maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), is situated near the famous Sun Temple and serves as a treasure house of Odisha's cultural and artistic heritage. Established in 1968, the museum was built to preserve and display the numerous sculptures and artifacts that were unearthed during the excavation and restoration work of the Sun Temple. The museum has four galleries showcasing nearly 260 artifacts, including intricately carved stone panels, colossal sculptures, and architectural fragments that once adorned the temple. Some of the most significant exhibits include the gigantic *Navagraha* (Nine Planets) panel, intricately designed *celestial dancers* (apsaras), and the iconic wheel structures that symbolize the chariot of the Sun God. The museum thus plays a vital role in safeguarding the artistic legacy of the Konark temple and provides visitors with a deeper understanding of its historical and cultural significance.





For students, the Konark Museum offers a unique opportunity to explore history, art, and architecture in an interactive way beyond textbooks. By closely observing the sculptures, they can study the exceptional craftsmanship of Odisha's artisans, the symbolic representation of gods, animals, and human life, and the spiritual narratives carved into stone. The museum also provides context for the structural remains of the temple, allowing students to visualize how the temple once stood in its full grandeur. Exposure to such artifacts nurtures appreciation for heritage conservation and sparks curiosity about archaeology and cultural history. Visiting the museum not only enriches their academic learning but also fosters critical thinking, creativity, and cultural sensitivity, making the experience both educational and inspiring.

Dhauili Shanti Stupa:



Dhauli Shanti Stupa, located on the banks of the River Daya near Bhubaneswar in Odisha, is a site of immense historical, cultural, and spiritual importance. Dhauli is believed to be the battlefield of the famous Kalinga War fought in 261 BCE, where Emperor Ashoka of the Maurya dynasty engaged in one of the bloodiest wars in Indian history. The massive loss of life and suffering during this war deeply moved Ashoka, leading to his transformation from a ruthless conqueror to a follower of Buddhism and a proponent of peace and non-violence.

To commemorate this transformation and to spread the message of peace, the *Dhauli Shanti Stupa* or Peace Pagoda was built in 1972 by the Japan Buddha Sangha and the Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha. The Stupa, with its white dome and beautifully sculpted figures of Lord Buddha in different poses, symbolizes harmony and universal brotherhood. Nearby, the famous Ashokan Rock Edicts inscribed in Brahmi script can still be seen, recording Ashoka's message of dharma, compassion, and respect for all living beings. Thus, Dhauli stands as a landmark in India's moral and spiritual history, representing the turning point when violence gave way to peace and humanity.



For students, visiting Dhauli Shanti Stupa provides not only a glimpse into India's glorious past but also valuable life lessons. The site allows them to connect with the transformative story of Emperor Ashoka, highlighting the power of compassion, forgiveness, and moral courage. By observing the Peace Pagoda, students gain insights into Buddhist philosophy, values of non-violence, and the importance of

peace in a conflict-ridden world. The Ashokan Rock Edicts, with their historical inscriptions, serve as a practical learning source for history, archaeology, and ancient languages, giving students a chance to witness primary evidence of India's past. The serene surroundings of Dhauili also encourage reflection and mindfulness, helping students appreciate the relevance of peace and harmony in today's society. Such experiences foster empathy, critical thinking, and cultural awareness, making the visit to Dhauili not just an academic excursion but also a journey of personal and ethical growth.



Dhauili is not only remembered as the site of the Kalinga War but also as one of the earliest centers of Buddhism in India. After embracing Buddhism, Emperor Ashoka took active steps to spread Buddhist values across his empire and beyond. Dhauili became one of the places where Buddhist monasteries and stupas flourished, serving as a hub for monks and scholars. The famous *Ashokan Rock Edicts* at Dhauili are among the earliest known written records of Indian history, inscribed in Prakrit language using the Brahmi script. These edicts contain Ashoka's declarations of moral conduct, appeals for non-violence, tolerance, kindness to animals, and respect for all religions, which reflect the ethical and spiritual transformation of the emperor.

The River Daya, flowing nearby, holds symbolic significance as it is said to have turned red with the blood of thousands of soldiers who perished in the Kalinga War. Archaeological evidence also indicates that Dhauili was a prominent settlement during ancient times, with traces of fortifications and Buddhist establishments still visible. In modern history, the construction of the Dhauili Shanti Stupa in collaboration with Japanese Buddhist organizations highlights the international recognition of Dhauili as a global symbol of peace and non-violence.

LINGARAJ TEMPLE:



The Lingaraj Temple, located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, is one of the oldest and most celebrated temples in India, representing the grandeur of Kalinga architecture. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, worshipped here as *Harihara* (a unique form that unites both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu), the temple reflects the deep syncretism in Indian religious traditions. Built during the 11th century by the Somavamsi dynasty, with later contributions from the Ganga dynasty, the temple complex stands as a masterpiece of medieval Hindu architecture.

The main spire of the temple soars to about 180 feet, making it a striking landmark of Bhubaneswar, often called the *Temple City of India*. The temple complex houses more than 150 smaller shrines dedicated to various deities, creating a sacred cultural ecosystem. The carvings and sculptures on the temple walls depict mythological tales, divine figures, animals, and motifs that showcase the exceptional artistry of Odishan craftsmen. The annual festival of *Shivaratri* and the grand *Rukuna Rath Yatra* are among the highlights that attract thousands of devotees from across the country. The Lingaraj Temple thus not only embodies the religious devotion of its time but also represents centuries of architectural refinement and cultural continuity in Odisha's spiritual history.



For students, visiting the Lingaraj Temple offers multiple layers of learning and cultural enrichment. From an academic perspective, the temple serves as a living example of Kalinga architecture, allowing students to observe the structural designs, carvings, and symbolism that they may have only studied in textbooks. By exploring the temple's history, they gain insights into the role of dynasties like the Somavamsis and Gangas in shaping the cultural landscape of Odisha. The temple also exposes them to the concept of religious syncretism, as it honors both Shaivite and Vaishnavite traditions, fostering respect for India's inclusive spiritual heritage.

Beyond historical and architectural knowledge, the visit allows students to experience the vibrant rituals, festivals, and devotional practices that connect communities and sustain cultural traditions even today. Such experiential learning helps students develop appreciation for heritage conservation, encourages critical thinking about religion and society, and nurtures cultural sensitivity. Moreover, the temple's atmosphere inspires values of discipline, humility, and collective participation, making the visit not only educational but also personally transformative.

KHANDAGIRI AND UDAYAGIRI:



The Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, located near Bhubaneswar in Odisha, are ancient rock-cut caves that hold immense historical, cultural, and archaeological significance. These twin hills, dotted with caves carved into sandstone, date back to the 2nd century BCE and were commissioned by King Kharavela of the Mahameghavahana dynasty. Primarily created as residential retreats for Jain monks, the caves reflect the flourishing of Jainism in ancient Odisha. Among the 33 caves (18 in Udayagiri and 15 in Khandagiri), several contain inscriptions, sculptures, and motifs that reveal the religious practices, artistic traditions, and socio-political life of that era.

The *Hathigumpha Inscription* of King Kharavela, found in Udayagiri, is one of the most important historical records in early Indian history, narrating his conquests, religious patronage, and contributions to art and architecture. The caves are adorned with carvings of Jain Tirthankaras, dancers, musicians, and animals, which highlight both spiritual ideals and aspects of daily life. While Udayagiri is noted for its well-preserved and ornate caves such as *Rani Gumpha* (Queen's Cave), Khandagiri provides panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, adding to its cultural and natural appeal. Together, these caves stand as a testimony to Odisha's ancient religious harmony, architectural skill, and the patronage of Jainism.



For students, a visit to the Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves provides valuable learning experiences that go beyond classroom study. The caves serve as living museums of ancient history, enabling students to directly connect with primary sources like inscriptions and rock-cut architecture. By studying the Hathigumpha Inscription, students gain firsthand exposure to ancient scripts, historical narratives, and political chronicles, enhancing their understanding of historiography. Observing the intricate carvings and designs also fosters appreciation for ancient art forms and craftsmanship.

The caves highlight the role of Jainism in shaping India's religious diversity, thereby teaching students the importance of tolerance and interfaith respect. Moreover, the site helps them recognize the significance of preserving archaeological heritage, inspiring awareness about conservation. Beyond academic knowledge, the peaceful environment of the caves encourages reflection, curiosity, and cultural sensitivity, while the physical exploration of the hilly terrain builds qualities of teamwork, observation, and experiential learning. In this way, the Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves become not just a site visit but a holistic educational experience blending history, religion, art, and personal growth.

CONCLUSION:

The cultural tour organized by the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Cell of Aditya Institute of Technology and Management, Tekkali, to Puri, Konark, and Bhubaneswar was an exceptionally enriching experience that provided students with a rare opportunity to engage with India's rich cultural and historical heritage. The journey offered a comprehensive exposure to Odisha's architectural brilliance, religious traditions, artistic heritage, and philosophical values, allowing students to explore and understand the nuances of Indian culture beyond the classroom. Visits to iconic sites such as the Jagannath Temple in Puri, the Sun Temple in Konark, the Lingaraj Temple, Udayagiri and Khandagiri

caves, and the Dhauili Shanti Stupa offered a multidimensional learning experience that encompassed history, art, religion, and social life. Each site revealed unique insights: the Jagannath Temple showcased devotional practices and the grandeur of temple architecture, Konark reflected the fusion of art, science, and spirituality, Lingaraj Temple highlighted medieval architecture and syncretism, the caves at Udayagiri and Khandagiri brought alive the ancient Jain heritage and inscriptions, and Dhauili reminded students of the transformative power of peace and non-violence through the story of Emperor Ashoka. The tour had significant educational and personal benefits for the students.

Academically, it enhanced their understanding of historical chronology, architectural styles, cultural symbolism, and heritage conservation. It also encouraged them to observe, analyze, and critically appreciate ancient engineering and artistic skills, providing a practical dimension to theoretical knowledge. Personally, the tour instilled values of discipline, teamwork, patience, and cultural sensitivity, while fostering a sense of pride in India's legacy of art, religion, and history. Experiencing the rituals, local customs, and interactions with communities allowed students to develop empathy, broaden their worldview, and appreciate the diversity and unity of Indian culture.

Furthermore, the tour reinforced the objectives of the EBSB initiative by promoting emotional bonds among students through shared cultural experiences, highlighting the significance of national integration and mutual respect among different regions and traditions. It encouraged students to become conscious custodians of heritage, motivating them to preserve and promote India's cultural treasures for future generations. Overall, the cultural tour was not merely an educational excursion but a journey of discovery, reflection, and inspiration. It created lasting memories, deepened students' cultural awareness, and contributed meaningfully to their intellectual and personal growth. The experience has left an indelible impact, equipping students with knowledge, values, and perspectives that will continue to influence their academic pursuits and life beyond the classroom.