

BHARAT DARSHAN REPORT

KARNATAKA GROUP-2



Study Tour (Bharat Darshan) as a part of FTP for ASO of 2023 Batch (from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024) for Assistant Section Officers of CSS.

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Special thanks are owed to Mr. Vinod Goud, Senior Faculty and Bharat Darshan Coordinator, for his invaluable mentorship, continuous supervision, and provision of essential project-related information, which were instrumental in the successful completion of the project.

The journey through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala was truly exceptional, offering a unique opportunity for collaborative learning. The study tour, NGO attachment, and the visit to the Tea-cum-Chocolate Factory were enriching experiences from which I gleaned invaluable knowledge.

Lastly, I express my sincere gratitude to the Director General of MCRHRD for their unwavering support, which played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful culmination of this enriching study tour.

Objective of the Tour

As an integral component of the mandatory ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the 2023 Batch, a one-week Bharat Darshan was meticulously organized from April 28, 2024, to May 4, 2024, spanning across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, under the expert guidance of Dr. Vinod Goud, esteemed Senior Faculty.

This transformative journey welcomed 61 enthusiastic participants from diverse Ministries, converging to partake in this immersive Training Programme. The overarching objectives of this study tour were meticulously crafted to:

- Provide a firsthand encounter with the pioneering research and development endeavors undertaken by NGOs.
- Foster a sense of camaraderie, emphasizing team spirit, adept time management, crisis resolution skills, and adaptability in navigating diverse and challenging scenarios.
- Facilitate an in-depth exploration of the ecological, historical, and cultural tapestry woven across the myriad landscapes of India, offering trainees a comprehensive understanding of our nation's rich diversity.

Bharat Darshan Group-2 Schedule

Day 0 (28th April,2024)

- Bandipur Tiger Reseve & Madumalai Elephant Reserve
- Reached Ooty via Gudulur

Day 1 (29th April,2024)

- Doddabeta Peak
- Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory
- Leave for Boat House, Ooty Lake

Day 2(30th April,2024)

- Botanical Garden
- The Nilgiris District Co. Operative Employees Co. Operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd.
- TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Paykara Waterfall

Day 3 (01st May, 2024)

- Edekkal Caves
- Went to Kappad Beach in Kerala where first Portugese Traveller came

Day 4 (02nd May,2024)

- Check out from the hotel in waynad and proceed to Coorg
- Abbey Falls
- ELA Glamping, Madikeri for trekking and camping

Day 5 (03rd May,2024)

- Leave for Mysore from Coorg
- Namdroling Monestry in Piriapatna
- St. Philomena's Cathedral Church in Mysore
- KSR Dam
- Vrindavan Garden (It was closed due to heavy rain)

Day 06 (04th May, 2024)

- **NGO "The Organisation for Development of People (ODP)"** in Mysore
- Mysore Palace
- Srirangapatna Temple (Lord Rangnatha Swamy)

1. BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE AND MUDUMALAI ELEPHANT RESERVE

Bandipur National Park has second highest Tiger population in India. Bandipur National Park is located in Gundulpet taluk, Chamarajanagar district. Park is the part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve making it largest protected area in Southern India and largest habitat of Wild Elephants in South Asia.

Bandipur National Park shares its boundary with 3 other National park namely Nagarahole National Park, Wayanad National Park and Mudumalai National park. There is ban of traffic from 9 PM to 6 AM of dusk to dawn to help to drawn down the death rate of wildlife.

Tigers, Indian Elephants, Leopard, Dhole, Sambar, Sloth bear, Chital many more animals and Birds can be spotted in the Bandipur National park.



1. Dodabetta Peak (Western Ghats)

Doddabetta Peak stands majestically as the highest point in the Nilgiri Mountains, a verdant range nestled in Southern India. Rising to an elevation of 2,637 meters (8,650 feet), this iconic peak overlooks the picturesque hill station of Ooty (Udhagamandalam) in Tamil Nadu. Renowned for its breathtaking vistas, Doddabetta offers panoramic views of the sprawling

Nilgiri landscape, encompassing rolling tea estates, dense shola forests, and meandering streams.

Visitors flock to Doddabetta not only for its stunning natural beauty but also for its accessibility. A well-maintained road leads to the summit, allowing travelers to easily reach the observation tower perched atop the peak. From this vantage point, one can savor sweeping views of the entire region, with the distant mist-covered peaks adding to the ethereal charm.

The surrounding area is also home to diverse flora and fauna, with rare species of plants and animals thriving in the cool climate of the Nilgiris. Doddabetta Peak thus stands as not only a scenic wonder but also a sanctuary of biodiversity, captivating the hearts of all who venture to its lofty heights.



2. Tea Factory at Ooty

As Ooty is renowned for producing high-quality tea, particularly Nilgiri tea, which is appreciated for its brisk and bright flavour profile.

Guided Tours:- There we get an guided tour that provide us with insights into the tea-making process, from plucking the tea leaves to withering, rolling, fermenting, drying and packaging. We witnessed each stage of tea production firsthand and learn about the nuances of tea cultivation and processing.

Tasting Sessions:- Every visitors to the tea factories can indulge in tasting sessions where they can sample a variety of teas produced on-site. This allows them to experience the distinct flavors and aromas of different types of tea and select their favorites to purchase and take to home.

Tea sales:- The tea factory have onsite shops or outlets where visitors can purchase freshly processed tea products, including loose-leaf tea, packaged tea blends. These teas make for popular souvenirs or gifts for families and friends.

Scenic Surroundings:- Many tea factories in Ooty nestled amidst picturesque tea estates, offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy scenic views of lush green tea gardens against the backdrop of the Nilgiri Hills. The serene ambiance adds to the overall tea-tasting experience.



3. Chocolate factory

Handcrafted chocolates:- Ooty's chocolate factories are known for their artisanal approach of chocolate-making. They often produce handcrafted methods, ensuring high-quality and distinct flavors.

Interactive Tours:- Chocolate factories provide guided tours that offer insights into the chocolate-making process. We witness the various stages of chocolate production, from roasting and grinding cocoa beans to tempering and molding chocolate into delectable treats.

Chocolate Tasting:- Many Chocolate factories offer tasting sessions where visitors can sample a selection of chocolates to experience the rich flavors and textures firsthand. These tasting sessions allow chocolate enthusiasts to explore different varieties and discover their favorites.

Overall, the chocolate factory offers a delightful experience for chocolate lovers, combining artisanal craftsmanship, flavouful creations.



4. Boating in Ooty lake

Ooty Lake is a picturesque artificial lake located in the hill station town of Ooty, also known as Udhagamandalam, in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It's one of the most popular tourist attractions in Ooty, offering serene surroundings and opportunities for boating.

Ooty Lake can enjoy boating in various forms, including paddle boats, rowing boats, and motorboats. The lake is surrounded by several shops and eateries where tourists can indulge in local delicacies and shop for souvenirs.

Overall, Ooty Lake is not just a beautiful water body but also a hub of recreational activities, drawing tourists from all over India and abroad.



5. Botanical Garden Ooty

Nestled amidst the verdant hills of Ooty, the sprawling botanical garden spans across 55 acres, offering a captivating sanctuary from the urban clamor. Its meticulously curated pathways guide visitors through a mesmerizing tapestry of exotic plants, vibrant flowers, and towering trees, fostering a serene ambiance. Enthusiasts marvel at the diverse flora, including rare roses and orchids, while the focal point—an ancient fossilized tree trunk, dating back over 20 million years—unveils the region's ancient past.

Beyond its aesthetic allure, the garden serves as a dynamic hub for environmental science exploration. Here, students delve into ecosystem dynamics, soil science, and plant-environment interactions, exploring concepts like nutrient cycling and sustainable land management. Observing diverse plant structures and adaptive strategies enriches understanding of environmental resilience.

As a multifaceted gem, the Ooty Botanical Garden not only enchants visitors seeking tranquility but also fosters botanical research and education, beckoning nature enthusiasts and scholars alike to immerse themselves in its boundless beauty and knowledge.



6. Pykara Falls

Pykara Falls, nestled near Ooty in Tamil Nadu's enchanting Nilgiris district, is a beguiling spectacle that captivates all who behold it. Revered for its pristine beauty and tranquil ambiance, it stands as a cherished haven for travelers seeking solace amidst nature's embrace. The cascading waters of the Pykara River gracefully plummet from a height of approximately 55 meters (180 feet), carving a picturesque path through rugged rocky formations, painting an ethereal panorama that delights the senses.

Beyond its breathtaking cascades, the vicinity of Pykara Falls teems with diverse wildlife, adding a touch of wilderness to its serene charm. The placid lake, ensconced within verdant foliage, invites visitors to partake in moments of serenity, offering a respite from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Pykara Falls emerges not just as a sight to behold, but as a sanctuary of natural wonder, inviting exploration and reverie amidst the tranquil splendor of the Nilgiris.



7. Edekkal Cave

"Edakkal" means "a stone in between" in Malayalam, and the name aptly describes the caves as they are formed by a large cleft in a massive rock, with another rock wedged between them.

The caves are renowned for their ancient petroglyphs, which are prehistoric rock carvings dating back thousands of years. Visitors can marvel at these intricate carvings, which depict symbols, animals, and human figures, offering a glimpse into the lives of early inhabitants of the region.



The Edakkal Caves hold cultural significance for the local indigenous tribes, who believe that the caves are linked to ancient myths and legends. Visitors can learn about the folklore and traditions associated with the caves, gaining insight into the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Getting to the caves involves a scenic hike through lush green forests and rocky terrain. The journey itself is an adventure, with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape and glimpses of local flora and fauna along the way.

9. Kappad Beach(Kerala)

Kappad Beach holds significant historical importance in India, particularly in the state of Kerala. Here's why:

Kappad Beach, also known as Kappakkadavu Beach, holds significant historical importance in the cultural landscape of Kerala, India. It's located near Kozhikode (Calicut) in the South Indian state of Kerala. The beach gained prominence primarily due to the historical event associated with it - the landing of the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama in May 1498.

It was a pivotal moment in history, as it opened up sea routes from Europe to India, eventually leading to significant cultural exchanges, colonization, and the establishment of trade networks between Europe and Asia.

Today, Kappad Beach is not only a historical landmark but also a popular tourist destination in Kerala. The Kerala Tourism Department has also developed infrastructure around Kappad Beach to cater to tourists, including amenities like resorts, restaurants, and souvenir shops. Cultural events and festivals are occasionally held here, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.



10. Abbey Falls

Abbey Falls, lovingly known as Abbi Falls, stands as a testament to nature's grandeur, nestled near Madikeri in Karnataka's Kodagu (Coorg) district. This majestic cascade entices travelers from far and wide, weaving a spell of enchantment with its breathtaking beauty and serene ambiance.

The waterfall's magnificence unfolds as the Kaveri River gracefully descends from a height of approximately 70 feet, cascading into a serene pool below. Encircled by verdant forests, lush foliage, and verdant coffee plantations, Abbey Falls presents a scene straight out of a postcard—tranquil, rejuvenating, and utterly captivating.

To embark on the journey to Abbey Falls is to embark on an adventure of the senses. Trekking along well-trodden pathways adorned with lush vegetation, visitors are serenaded by the melodious symphony of cascading waters, heightening the anticipation of the majestic sight that awaits. Abbey Falls isn't just a destination; it's an experience—an immersion in the raw beauty and untamed splendor of nature's bounty.



11. ELA Glamping (Camping Site)

Ela Glamping is a unique and luxurious camping experience located in the heart of Wayanad, Kerala, India. The term "glamping" is a fusion of "glamorous" and "camping," and it refers to a style of camping that combines the adventure of camping with the comfort and amenities of a luxury resort.

In addition to the luxurious accommodation, Ela Glamping offers a range of activities and experiences designed to immerse guests in the beauty and culture of Wayanad. Guests can enjoy guided nature walks, birdwatching tours, and outdoor adventures such as trekking and wildlife Safari.

One of the highlights of Ela Camping Spot is its proximity to a picturesque river. Visitors can set up camp along the riverbank, listening to the soothing sound of flowing water and enjoying panoramic views of the surrounding wilderness. Riverside camping adds an element of adventure and connection to nature.

Ela Camping Spot offers a range of outdoor activities for visitors to enjoy. From nature walks and birdwatching to fishing and kayaking in the river, there's something for everyone to explore and experience amidst the natural beauty of the surroundings.

Campfires provide the perfect opportunity for bonding with friends and family, sharing stories, singing songs, and enjoying delicious meals cooked over an open flame.





12. Namdroling Monastery

The Namdroling Monastery is a significant Tibetan Buddhist monastery located in Bylakuppe near Kushalnagar in the district of Kodagu (Coorg), Karnataka, India.

The Namdroling Monastery was established in 1963 by His Holiness Pema Norbu Rinpoche, also known as Penor Rinpoche, the 11th throneholder of the Palyul lineage of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.

The monastery was founded as a center for the study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism and to preserve the teachings of the Nyingma tradition.

The Namdroling Monastery is renowned for its stunning architecture, with intricate designs, vibrant colors, and traditional Tibetan motifs adorning the temple buildings. The main attraction is the Golden Temple, which features three towering golden statues of Guru Padmasambhava (also known as Guru Rinpoche), Buddha Shakyamuni, and Amitayus.

The monastery offers visitors a glimpse into Tibetan Buddhist culture and traditions. Visitors can observe monks performing religious rituals, participate in prayer sessions, and learn about the significance of Tibetan Buddhist symbols and practices.



13. St. Philomena's Cathedral Church

St. Philomena's Cathedral Church, nestled in the heart of Mysore, Karnataka, India, stands as a monumental testament to both faith and architectural brilliance. This awe-inspiring edifice is revered not only as one of the largest churches in the country but also as a splendid embodiment of neo-gothic architecture.

Dedicated to Saint Philomena, a revered Christian martyr whose relics were unearthed in the catacombs of Rome in the 19th century, the cathedral's construction commenced in 1933 under the patronage of the visionary Maharaja of Mysore, Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV. Overseeing its realization was the renowned architect Reverend Rene Feuge, who drew inspiration from the iconic Cologne Cathedral in Germany.

Dominating the skyline of Mysore, the cathedral's majestic twin spires soar to a towering height of approximately 175 feet, casting a spellbinding silhouette against the heavens.

Beyond its religious significance, St. Philomena's Cathedral beckons travelers from across the globe, drawn by its architectural grandeur and rich historical heritage. It stands not only as a place of worship for the Catholic community but also as a revered symbol of Mysore's enduring cultural legacy—a beacon of faith and beauty that continues to inspire awe and reverence in all who behold it.



14. The Organisation for the Development of People (ODP), NGO

- ❖ **About the Organisation:** ODP is a voluntary, non-profit organization aiming to develop and strengthen the under-privileged and marginalized sections of society through a right based approach, by organizing the community based people's institutions to become self-managed and self-reliant, for better livelihood security.
- ❖ Established on 4th January 1984, ODP is the Mysore Diocesan Social Service Society, registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act- 1960. The perspective of ODP's work is rooted in the mission of God, to empower men and women and bring back the image of God in humanity.
- ❖ **Vision:** A society of love, peace, justice, prosperity and ecological harmony.
- ❖ **Mission:** To empower marginalized communities through capacity building programs, building their networks and by results driven actions to help communities get their legitimate rights and enhance their social economic and ecological status.
- ❖ **Objectives:**
 1. Organize poor and marginalized women to develop courage and self esteem.
 2. Strengthen sanghas, central committees, taluk and district level federations and the apex body (Mahilodaya Women's Federation) through training's, awareness, exposure and interactions with other groups / institutions.
 3. Build up the capacity of grass root level leaders and groups to carry forward their activities effectively – at least 5 good and able leaders in each group.
 4. Enable leaders to become actively involved in the panchayat structures so that they have a legitimate voice and evolve better local governance.
 5. Build up and strengthen resource teams with effective local leaders – to continue animation and capacity building.
 6. Strengthen linkages with various government departments and financial institutions – to mobilize available schemes and resources.
 7. Initiate savings among sangha members for mutual help and support during times of need and to avoid exploitation by middle men / money lenders.
 8. Increase income and assets for women – at individual, house hold and community levels.
 9. Enable women to manage resources productively and expand their sources of livelihood.
 10. Collaborate and co-ordinate with like minded NGOs working in the field of women's development and form strong linkages with them to tackle common issues.



15. Mysore Palace

The palace was originally built in the 14th century, but the current structure was constructed in the early 20th century after the original palace was destroyed by fire. It was commissioned by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV and was completed in 1912. The architectural style of the palace is a blend of Indo-Saracenic, Hindu, Muslim, and Rajput styles, reflecting the cultural diversity of the region.

The Mysore Palace is a sprawling complex consisting of several buildings, courtyards, gardens, and halls. The main palace building is adorned with intricately carved wooden doors, ceilings, and pillars, as well as beautiful paintings and frescoes depicting scenes from Hindu mythology and royal history.





Conclusion and Learnings

In reflection, the study tour stands as a profound journey of discovery, enriching each of us with invaluable insights and experiences. We delved into the intricate tapestry of India's diversity and unity, unraveling the threads of its rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landscapes. From the majestic monuments to the bustling streets, from the serene countryside to the dynamic urban hubs, we witnessed the harmonious coexistence of tradition and modernity.

Our exploration unveiled the kaleidoscope of India's ecological wealth, from lush forests to pristine rivers, from towering mountains to vast deserts. We marveled at the intricate web of life thriving in its diverse ecosystems, fostering a deeper appreciation for our natural heritage.

Moreover, the tour served as a crucible for personal growth, honing our skills in teamwork, time management, crisis navigation, and adaptability. Amidst the journey, we forged enduring friendships and etched memories that will linger in our hearts forever.

As we conclude this chapter, we carry with us the profound learnings garnered along the way—the realization of India's myriad contrasts, the reverence for its rich heritage, and the awe for its boundless natural splendor. Each insight, each experience, adds a new layer to our understanding of this enchanting land we call home.

The study tour proved to be an invaluable and delightful segment of our cadre training program, leaving an indelible mark on each of us. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to MCR HRDIT, the Course Director, the Study Tour Committee, and all officials whose efforts rendered this journey possible and fruitful. Equally, we extend our thanks to our fellow participants for infusing this tour with camaraderie and joy.

As we bid adieu to these cherished locales, we carry forth a treasure trove of experiences and knowledge, eager to weave them into the fabric of our future endeavors. May the lessons learned and memories made during this journey serve as guiding lights in both our professional pursuits and personal lives. With hopeful hearts, we yearn for the opportunity to revisit these hallowed grounds, to further unravel the wonders of our incredible India.