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Dr MCR HRD INSTITUTE OF

TELANGANA

REPORT ON STUDY TOUR

KARNATAKA

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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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 Karnataka-Tamil Nadu-Kerala under the guidance of Vinod Goud, 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 expose the Trainees to research 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 Karnataka-Tamil Nadu-Kerala as per the following details:-

Day 01 Hyderabad-Bengluru-Mysore-Ooty

Journey commenced on 28th April, we departed for Bengaluru by flight at 8:30 AM. We reached Bengaluru at 10:00 A.M. and proceeded to Ooty (Tamil Nadu) en route Mysore in a Bus. Mysore is connected to Ooty via the national highway 181 which passes through [Bandipur National Park](#) and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve . Bandipur National Park is regarded as one of the most beautiful national parks of India. Located amidst the picturesque surroundings of the Western Ghats on the Mysore-Ooty highway in Karnataka, it is an important part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve that constitutes Karnataka's Rajiv Gandhi National Park to its Northwest, Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary to its South, and Kerala's Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary to its Southwest. The name Mudumalai means " the ancient hill range"

Day 02:Ooty

- **Doddabetta 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.**

The Tea Factory & The Tea Museum

- **The Nilgiris is one of the pioneers in tea production and export. Railway lines were built to transport tea from Nilgiris to Cochin. A large number of Indians are ardent lovers of this beverage which originated in China.**
- **The Ooty tea factory situated four kilometres away from Ooty city also has a tea museum. By visiting the factory, you will get to learn on the history of tea in India and its evolution in the Nilgiris hills. It will also tell you about the origin of different kinds of tea leaves used across the world.**
- **The Tea Factory & Museum is situated on Doddabetta Road in Ooty, amidst the blue hills of Nilgiris.**



Ooty Lake

- **Ooty Lake is an artificial lake constructed by John Sullivan in 1824.**
- **The lake was originally intended to be used for fishing with ferries being used to travel across the lake.**
- **The lake is an impressive spot in Nilgiris district.**
- **The lake spans over 65 acres.**
- **The lake is surrounded by a variety of flora, making it a popular tourist destination.**
- **The region is part of the Western Ghats, which is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world.**
 - **The lake has a variety of trees and plants, including tropical, semitropical, and temperate vegetation.**
 - **There are never-ending ranges of tea-gardens, grasslands, fine pine, eucalyptus, and Shola vegetation, serving domicile to some 650 species of plants and trees.**



Day 03 Ooty-Wayanad

Botanical Garden

Spread over an area of 55 acres, the Government Botanical Gardens is undoubtedly one of the most sought after tourist attractions not just in Ooty but in the entire Tamil Nadu. No tourist will leave Ooty without a visit to the well organized, well maintained botanical gardens. It is a famous [sightseeing place to visit in Ooty](#). Maintained by the Horticultural Department of Tamil Nadu, the present day Botanical Gardens is divided into 5 sections.

They are the Lower Garden, which has the fern house that harbors one hundred and twenty seven species of ferns; the New Garden, which contains the rose garden, a lot of natural floral carpets and natural ponds; the Italian Garden, laid down by Italian Prisoners of

War from the First World War; the Conservatory, which has lots of groups of flowering plants; and the Nurseries, which contains a series of glass houses having innumerable varieties of exotic plants.



Pykara Falls

The Pykara is the largest river in the District. It is considered very sacred by the Todas. The Pykara river rises at Mukurthi peak. It passes through hilly tract, generally keeping to North and turns to West after reaching the Plateau's edge. It gets down majestically in a series of cascades; and the last two falls of 55 meters and 61 meters are known as Pykara falls. They are about 20 kms from Ooty.

The Pykara Lake is about 21 kms from Ooty on the Ooty-Mysore road. Boating on the Pykara lake is enjoyable. A restaurant is also available. Wenlock Downs, a vast Expanse of grassy meadow on way to Pykara, is a favorite picnic location and is very popular with the movie makers of this country.



Neelimala View Point, Wayanad

After having lunch we proceeded for Wayanad and reached our hotel around 7:00 P.M. En route we visited the Neelimala View Point. The trail in the woods offered a serene and stimulating environment for a fun-filled time with our group. The beautiful green valley and misty peaks made me appreciate the beauty of nature. Neelimala View Point in Kerala is an enthralling trekking destination of Wayanad set amidst greenery. It offers a full view of the cascading [Meenmutty Waterfalls](#).

The short trek to Neelimala View Point is as beautiful as the destination. It offers not only untrodden paths but also a pristine view of the Western Ghats

Day 04 Wayanad-Kozhikode

Eddakal Caves

On the fourth day, we went to The Eddakal Caves.

To reach the entrance of Edakkal Caves, we needed to trek up and climb steep steps. But once we made it to the top, the view was rewarding and inside the caves, we saw ancient wall carvings, which depicted animals, humans and other figures from prehistoric times. A tour guide told us that the earliest Edakkal Caves carvings were believed to be from the neolithic era (the Stone Age), as early as 6000 BCE and the latest carvings were from around 1000 BCE.

Also he told that Edakkal means “a stone in between.” And this cave-like rock shelter was formed by a massive boulder wedged between two bigger boulders. It’s believed to exist for over 8,000 years now.

Edakkal Caves was a site with archaeological importance. It’s known for its mystic rock formation and ancient drawings and engravings. And these petroglyphs are some of the earliest examples of human writing and expression.



Kappad Beach, Kozhikode

After having lunch, we departed for Kappad beach which was approx 85 Km from Wayanad. Nestled in the North Kerela Coast at Kozhikode, Kappad beach is of historic importance. On these shores, over 500 years ago in 1498, Vasco- da-Gama landed on his first voyage to India. The spice route flourished through this Beach. The rocks and small hills add to its charm. Kappad Beach has also been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag Certification, signalling its status as one of the cleanest beaches in the world.

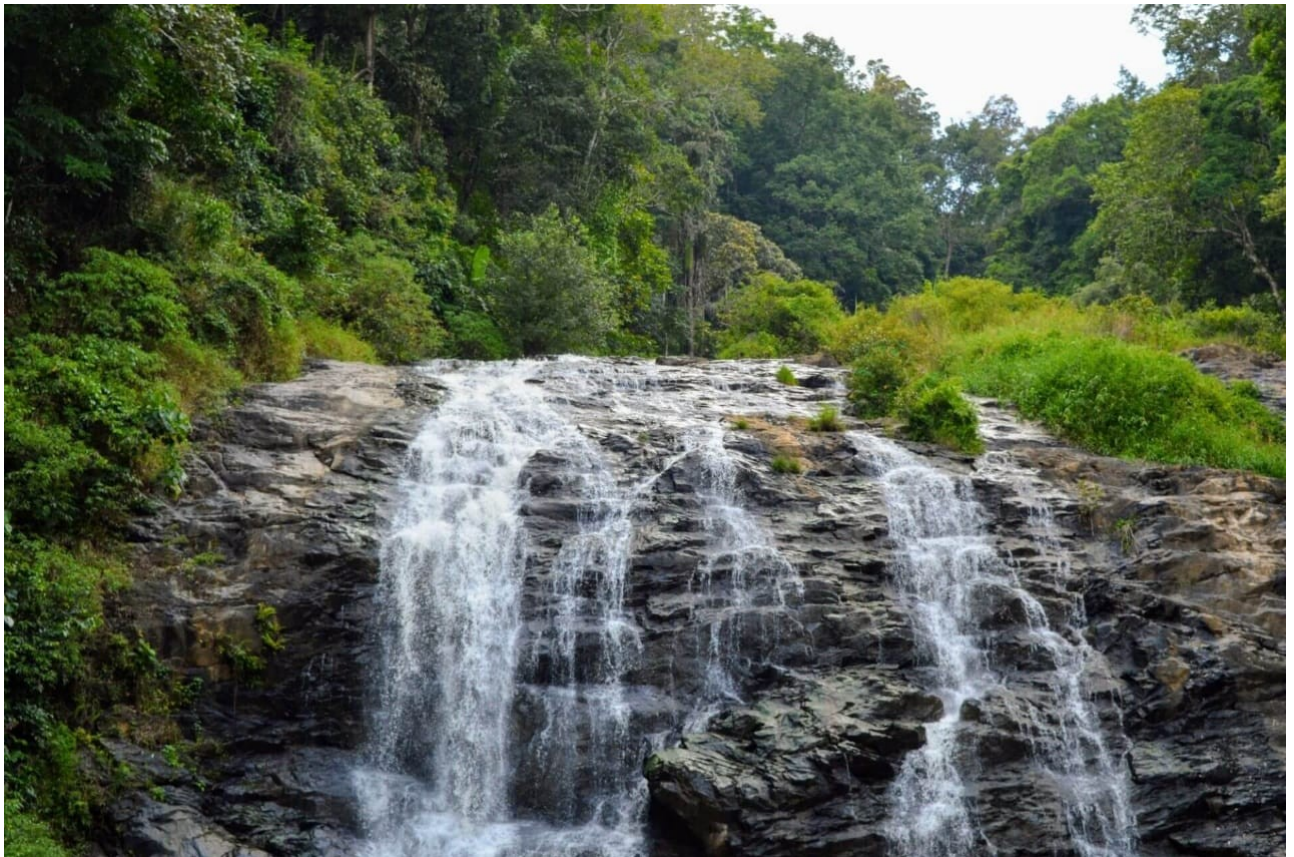
Then we returned to Wayanad to our hotel by 9:00 P.M.



Day 05 Coorg

ABBAY FALLS

Abbey Falls (also referred to as Abbi Falls) is a popular waterfall in Kodagu district. River Kaveri drops for about 70 ft over wide rocks creating a spectacular view. While the height is not much compared to other waterfalls in Karnataka, Abbey Falls' has wider fall area that creates spectacular views and its proximity to Madikeri city makes Abbey Falls desirable and easy to access.



CAMPING IN MADIKERI

The camping experience in the woods of Kerala was quite fantastic, as it was a delightful escape from the busy urban life. There was no internet connectivity, we connected with the nature in its raw form. We enjoyed bonfire, sounds of forest at night is such a beautiful experience which is instilled in our minds and never be forgotten.



Day 06 Mysore

NAMDROLING MONASTERY

On the day 6 we departed to Mysore and en route we visited the Namdroling Monastery, popularly referred to as 'The Golden Temple' and is one of the largest Tibetan

settlements in India. Located in Bylakuppe, about 5 kms from Kushalanagara in Kodagu district, it is home to about 16000 refugees and 600 monks .

Visit Outline

Namdroling Monastery's main entrance is an attractive four story tower with a wheel portraying symbols of Buddhism. The main attractions inside the temple are the statues of Lord Buddha in the centre with statues of Lord Amitayus and Lord Padmasambhava on either sides. There we prayed, meditated, gave our offerings and rotated the mani prayer drums. Rotating these prayer drums is believed to give the same benefit as chanting "Om Mani Padme Hum", the Buddhist prayer.

History

His Holiness the 3rd Drubwang Pema Norbu Rinpoche (1932-2009) is the founder of Namdroling Monastery (popularly known as 'the Golden Temple'). His Holiness laid a foundation stone of the monastery in the year 1963 on 31 st of July. His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited the monastery to consecrate it and bestowed the name Namdroling. Likewise His Holiness Chatrel Rinpoche named the monastery Thegchog, while Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche named it Shedrub and His Holiness himself added Dargyeling. Thus the complete name of monastery came to be known as Thegchog Namdrol Shedrub

Dargyeling (Land of Increasing Practice and Teaching of the Utmost Yana that achieves spontaneous Liberation).



Day 07 Mysore-Bengluru-Hyderabad

NGO VISIT

Day 07 started by a visit to NGO- ORGANISATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE at Mysore. This NGO was established on 4th January, 1984 and managed by the Mysore Diocesan Social Service Society. They cover four districts – Kodagu, Mandya, Mysore being the Headquarters and Chamarajnagar. We learnt about the key focus areas of the NGO some of which are:

Women Empowerment Programme

Natural Resource Management Programme

Health and Sanitation Programme



Mysore Palace

➤ A Glimpse into the Past

- **Mysuru Palace, also known as Amba Vilas Palace, is a historical palace and a royal residence.**
- **It used to be the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty and the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore.**
- **The first palace inside the Old Fort was built in the 14th century, which was set ablaze and reconstructed multiple times.**

- **The current structure was constructed between 1897 and 1912, after the Old Palace burnt down, the current structure is also known as the New Fort.**

➤ **The Art of Building**

- **The palace is a three-story, gray granite, Indo-Saracenic building capped by a five-story tower that culminates in a gilded dome.**
- **The construction cost was placed at Rs 41,47,913 (around \$30 million adjusted to inflation) and the palace was completed in 1912.**

➤ **Strategic significance**

- **The palace is in the center of Mysore, and faces the Chamundi Hills eastward.**
- **Mysore is commonly described as the ‘City of the Palaces’, and there are seven palaces including this one.**

➤ **Origin**

- **The land on which the palace now stands was originally known as mysuru (literally, “citadel”).**

➤ **Where the Monument Stands**

- **Mysuru Palace is located in Mysore, Karnataka, India.**

➤ **Cultural significance**

- **Mysore Palace is one of the most famous tourist attractions in India, with more than six million annual visitors.**

➤ **Era of construction**

- **The palace was constructed between 1897 and 1912.**

➤ **The Divine Connection**

- **The palace has a temple dedicated to the Hindu goddess Chamundeshwari.**



Conclusion

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.

!!Thank You!!