

REPORT ON

BHARAT DARSHAN

(28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024)

CONDUCTED BY:-



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Human Resource Development
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PRESCRIBED BY:-



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INSTITUTE OF SECRETARIAT TRAINING & MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING
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Overview

Days	Place Visited
Day 1	Bandipura Tiger Reserve & Mudumalai Elephant Reserve
Day 2	Doddabeta Peak, Tea factory & Chocolate Factory, Boat House and Ooty Lake.
Day 3	Botanical Garden, Pykara Lake and Waterfalls
Day 4	Edakkal Cave and Kappad Beach
Day 5	Abbi Falls and Ela Camping
Day 6	Namdroling Monastery & St. Philomena's Cathedral Church
Day 7	NGO(Organization for Development of People), Mysore Palace and Shri Rangnathaswamy Temple

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 Dr. Vinod Gaud, 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: -

The objectives of a study tour typically include:

1. **Learning Experience:** To provide participants with an opportunity to gain practical knowledge and insights beyond what can be learned in a classroom or through traditional means.
2. **Experiential Learning:** To allow participants to engage in hands-on activities, visit relevant sites, and interact with professionals in their field of study, facilitating experiential learning.
3. **Cultural Immersion:** To expose participants to different cultures, traditions, and ways of life, fostering cultural awareness and sensitivity.
4. **Enhanced Understanding:** To deepen participants' understanding of theoretical concepts by observing real-world applications and case studies.
5. **Personal Development:** To promote personal growth, confidence-building, and independence by navigating new environments, overcoming challenges, and adapting to unfamiliar situations.
6. **Skill Development:** To develop practical skills, such as problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership, through participation in group activities and projects.
7. **Critical Thinking:** To encourage critical thinking and analysis by exploring diverse perspectives, challenging assumptions, and evaluating different approaches to issues and problems.
8. **Evaluation and Reflection:** To encourage participants to reflect on their experiences, evaluate their learning outcomes, and identify areas for further development or improvement.

Acknowledgment

"I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to ISTM and Dr. MCR HRD IT for organizing an exceptional educational trip, the Bharat Darshan tour in Tamil Nadu Karnataka and Kerala. This incredibly enriching experience stands as a testament to the meticulous planning and dedicated commitment exhibited by both institutions.

I'm immensely grateful to the organizing committee and tour coordinators whose unwavering dedication, meticulous planning, and flawless execution contributed to the tremendous success of this tour.

Gratitude is also extended to Mr. Vinod Gaude sir, group coordinator, for his unwavering guidance and support throughout this educational endeavor.

Beyond its intellectual pursuits, the Bharat Darshan/study tour fostered enduring memories and fostered camaraderie among us. It wasn't just an educational journey; it was a platform that created lasting bonds and cherished moments.

The thoughtfully curated tour and immersive experiences have significantly broadened our horizons. Exploring the historical marvels of Mysore and the natural beauty of Ooty and Coorg has enriched our understanding of the subjects we've been studying.

Once again, my deepest gratitude to ISTM and MCR HRD IT for granting us this invaluable opportunity to learn, explore and forge indelible connections."

Ram Kumar Singh
OT code- A34

(Hyderabad-Bengaluru-Ooty-Wayanad-Coorg-Mysore-Bengaluru-Hyderabad)

Day 1 (28th April,2024)

- Reached Bengaluru Airport at 10:30 AM
- Leave for Ooty from Bengaluru Airport at around 11:00 AM
- Visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve from 4:00 PM to 6 :00 PM
- Madumalai Elephant Reserve from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- Reached Ooty via Gudalur at around 11:00 PM

Day 2 (29th April,2024)

- Visited Doddabetta Peak at around 9:30 AM
- Visited Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory at around 1:00 PM
- Leave for Boat House to have boating at around 5 PM

Day 3 (30th April,2024)

- Visited Botanical Garden at 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Visited Paykara Waterfall at around 2:00 PM
- Leave for Wayanad
- Visited Neelimala View Point at 5.30 PM
- Reached Wayanad at around 8 PM

Day 4 (01st May, 2024)

- Visited Edekkal Caves at around 9 AM
- Went to Kappad Beach in Kerala where first Portugese Travel came at around 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
- Came back to Wayanad

Day 5 (02nd May,2024)

- Check out from the hotel in wayanad and proceed to Coorg
- Visited Abbi Falls at around 3:00 PM
- Night Stay in Ela camping at Coorg

Day 6 (03rd May,2024)

- Leave for Mysore from Coorg
- Visited Namdroling Monestry in Piriapatna at around 11:30 to 01:30 PM
- Visited St. Philomena's Cathedral Church in Mysore

Day 7 (04th May, 2024)

- Visited Organisation for Development of People, ODP (an NGO in Mysore at 10AM)
- Visited Mysore Palace at 12 noon
- Visited Srirangapatna Temple (Lord Ranganatha Swamy at 4:30PM)
- Reached at Bengaluru Airport at 9:00 PM
- Arrived at Dr. MCR HRD IT at around 2:00AM.

From April 28th to May 4th, 2024, we embarked on Bharat Darshan, a study tour to explore the social, cultural, political, and economic aspects of South India. Our itinerary covered Ooty, Wayanad, Coorg, and Mysore, showcasing the region's natural beauty, cultural heritage, political significance, and economic dynamics.



Travel from Bengaluru to Ooty:

We arrived at Bengaluru Airport and headed towards Ooty, stopping at The President hotel in Mysore for lunch. We visited the Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Madumalai Elephant Reserve, witnessing the region's rich wildlife. We reached Ooty via Gudalur, arriving at 11:00 PM.

Bandipura Tiger Reserve:-



Bandipura Tiger Reserve, known for its rich biodiversity and ecological significance, contributes to the economy through nature-based tourism. Revenue generated from park fees, safari tours, and accommodations sustains conservation efforts and supports local communities dependent on eco-tourism.

The presence of the tiger reserve fosters environmental awareness and conservation ethics among local communities and visitors alike. It also provides employment opportunities in tourism, hospitality, and wildlife management, empowering nearby villages and indigenous populations.

Bandipura Tiger Reserve is steeped in cultural heritage, with indigenous communities inhabiting the surrounding areas for generations. Their traditional knowledge of the land and wildlife is invaluable for conservation efforts and contributes to the cultural identity of the region.



Ooty Exploration:-

Ooty, short for Ootacamund, is a charming hill station nestled in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, India. Known for its salubrious climate, lush tea gardens and picturesque landscapes, Ooty is a popular retreat for nature lovers. The town offers a scenic escape with its botanical gardens, lakes and colonial architecture.





In Ooty we visited Doddabetta Peak which is the highest point in the Nilgiri Mountains. From the peak we saw the panoramic view of Nilgiri Mountains and the surrounding valleys. The view was simply breathtaking, and we spent a good hour soaking in the beauty of Nature. After descending from Doddabetta Peak, we headed to a nearby Tea Factory to learn about the process of tea production and experience the rich aroma of freshly brewed tea. After the tea factory visit, we headed to a nearby Chocolate Factory to indulge in the sweet world of chocolate-making then we had lunch in Ooty and enjoyed boating at the Boat House in the evening.





Botanical Garden:-

Before leaving for Wayanad, we went to visit the Botanical Garden. Visiting the Botanical Gardens in Ooty feels like stepping into a colorful painting filled with amazing smells. This garden is right in the middle of the beautiful hill station in Tamil Nadu and it's like a dreamland for people who love plants.



It is huge-covering 55 acres-and it's packed with all kinds of plants from here and from faraway places. Walking around, you'll see lots of pretty flowers, really tall trees, and different parts of the garden that look like they're from a fairy tale. You can also see the Nilgiri Hills from here, making it even more beautiful with nature all around.

Pykara Lake & Water Fall:-

After visiting the Botanical Garden, we headed towards Wayanad, visiting the Paykara Lake and Pykara Waterfall en route.



Edakkal Cave:-

The Edakkal caves are two natural caves at a remote location at Edakkal. They lie 1200 m above sea level on Ambukutty Mala, near an ancient trade route connecting the high mountains of Mysore to the ports of the Malabar Coast. Inside the caves are pictorial writings believed to date to at least 6000 BCE from the Neolithic man, indicating the presence of a prehistoric settlement in this region.



Kappad Beach:-

After visiting the Edakkal cave we went for Kappad Beach. Kappad beach, located in Kerala, India, is a stunning beach with a history, being the landing site of Vasco da Gama in 1498.



Abbey Falls and Coorg Camping:-

Abbey Falls is located in Kodagu, Karnataka on the early reaches of the river Kaveri. The waterfall is located between private coffee plantations with stocky coffee bushes and spice estates and trees entwined with pepper vines.



We checked out of our hotel in Wayanad and proceeded to Coorg, visiting Abbi Falls in the afternoon. We stayed in camps overnight.



St. Philomena's Cathedral Church:-

One of the largest cathedrals in India, St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysore is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The majestic church, built to honor the memory of Saint Philomena, a Latin Catholic Saint of the Roman Catholic Church, draws inspiration from the beautiful Cologne Cathedral of Germany. Remains of St Philomena are preserved at the cathedral. St. Philomena's Cathedral is one of the tallest churches in Asia. St Philomena's Cathedral was built by Maharaja of Mysore Mummudi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in 1843 in memory of 4th-century saint and martyr St. Philomena. The cathedral was built as a gift to a large number of European populations residing in Mysore in the 19th century. As the need for a larger church was felt due to the growing population of Europeans, the foundation for the new church was laid in October 1933 by the then king of Mysore, Krishnarajendra Wadiyar.



Namdroling Monastery:-

The Namdroling Monastery, popularly referred to as 'The Golden Temple' is one of the largest Tibetan settlements in India. The Golden Temple complex is home to about 16000 refugees and 600 monks. Namdroling Monastery's main entrance is an attractive four story tower with a wheel portraying symbols of Buddhism. The main attraction inside the temple is the statues of Lord Buddha in the center with statues of Lord Amitayus and Lord Padmasambhava on either side.



Mysore Exploration

We visited the Organization for Development of People (ODP), an NGO in Mysore, and the Mysore Palace.

Organization for Development of People (ODP) is a voluntary, non-profit organization established on 4th January 1984. The organization is aiming to develop and strengthen under-privileged people through a participatory approach, by organizing community-based people's group to become self-managed and self-reliant, for better livelihood security. ODP believes that "CHANGE IS PROGRESS" and ODP is working through peoples groups and implementing various development interventions to bring about this change. ODP is presently working in the 4 district of Mysore, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu- covering 477 village and 89 rural towns/slums- in 202 Panchayats of 18 taluks.



Mysore Palace

Right at the center of Mysore is the impressive Mysore Palace. It's a masterpiece of fancy architecture that shows off how grand things were in the past. The palace, also called Amba Vilas Palace, was built around 100 years ago by a king named Krishna Rajendra Wadiyar IV. It's a symbol of how lavish the Wadiyar dynasty, who ruled Mysore, used to be. The design mixes Hindu, Muslim, Rajput, and Gothic styles, and it's full of beautiful domes, arches, and detailed carvings.



Stepping inside the Mysore Palace feels like stepping into a world of kings and luxury. The insides are covered in amazing art, colorful glass, and fancy ceilings. The Durbar Hall, with its gold columns and pretty arches, is especially cool and shows off how awesome the palace's design is.

Mysore's really famous for its Dasara/Dussehra festival, which happens at the palace. It's a huge 10-day party that attracts people from all over the world. During Dasara, the palace lights up at night, making it look like something from a fairy tale. This festival makes Mysore even more special and cultural.

They also have a 750-kilogram golden throne called the Chinnada Ambari displayed in the palace.



Srirangapatnam Temple:-

(Located on Srirangapatnam, an island in the river Kaveri, Ranganathaswamy Temple is one of the country's most revered Temples. It is dedicated to Ranganatha, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. It is considered to be one of the Pancharanga Kshetram (five most important shrines devoted to Lord Vishnu) in South India.



Social Aspect:

Our study tour highlighted the region's social diversity, with interactions with local communities, tribes, and NGOs. We witnessed the impact of tourism on local economies and the importance of sustainable tourism practices. We visited the Nilgiri District Co-operative Employees Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd., which promotes social and economic development among local communities.

Cultural Aspect:

We explored the region's rich cultural heritage, visiting temples, churches, and historical sites. We experienced the local cuisine, music, and art, showcasing the region's cultural diversity. We visited the Botanical Garden, which showcases the region's flora and fauna, and the Edakkal Caves, which contain ancient petroglyphs and rock art.

Political Aspect:

Our tour highlighted the region's political significance, with visits to the TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and the Organization for Development of People (ODP), an NGO in Mysore. We witnessed the impact of government initiatives on local communities and the importance of political stability in promoting economic development.

Economic Aspect:

Our tour showcased the region's economic dynamics, including agriculture, tourism, and eco-tourism. We visited tea and coffee plantations, factories, and local markets, highlighting the importance of sustainable economic practices. We witnessed the impact of tourism on local economies and the importance of responsible tourism practices.

Conclusion:

Our study tour provided a comprehensive understanding of South India's social, cultural, political, and economic aspects. We experienced the region's natural beauty, cultural heritage, political significance, and economic dynamics, highlighting the importance of sustainable tourism and economic practices.