



Study tour (Bharat Darshan)
of FTP for ASO of 2023 Batch
(28.04.2024-04.05.2024)

FOR
ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICERS OF CSS

REPORT ON STUDY TOUR
KARNATAKA

Prepared by –

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OT CODE: A60

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

Acknowledgement:

At the outset, I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Department of Personnel and Training for giving this unique opportunity to participate in the mandatory training programme at the MCRHRD Institute of Telangana. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to Smt. Usha Rani, Course Director, MCRHRD for giving great support.

We are highly indebted to Mr. Vinod Goud, Senior Faculty and Bharat Darshan Coordinator for his guidance and constant supervision as well as for providing necessary information regarding the project & also for his support in completing the project.

This was a unique experience to work as a group during the visit to Karnataka-Tamil nadu-Kerala. I enjoyed the study tour and learned many things during the NGO attachment and Tea-cum-Chocolate Factory Visit as well.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Director General, MCRHRD for providing all necessary support for successful completion of this study tour.

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 Mr. 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: 28th APRIL 2024: HYDERABAD – BANGLORE(BY FLIGHT) – OOTY(TAMIL NADU)**

06:40 AM: Depart from Hyderabad (61 OTs – BY INDIGO/VISTARA)

10:00 AM: Arrival at Bangalore Airport.

10:30 AM: Depart For Ooty by Bus.

02:30 PM: Enroute Lunch at Local Restaurant.

11:00 PM: Dinner at the Windsor Height hotel & Overnight stay at Ooty.

□ **DAY 02: 29TH APRIL 2024: OOTY**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

10:00 AM: Visit Doddabetta Peak.

01:00 Noon: Visit to Tea & Chocolate Factory.

02:30 PM: Lunch at Restaurant

05:00 PM: Boating house visit at ooty.

08:00 PM: Dinner & Overnight stay at ooty.

□ **DAY 03: 30TH APRIL 2024: OOTY – WAYANAD(KERALA)**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Check out & Departure to Botanical garden Ooty.

10:00 AM: Visit Botanical garden Ooty.

12:00 PM: Departure to Pykara Boat house.

03:00 PM: lunch at Restaurant.

10:00 PM: Check in to Hotel & Overnight stay in Wayanad.

□ **DAY 04: 01ST MAY 2024: WAYANAD-KOZHIKODE.**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel

09:00 AM: Departure to Edakkal caves.

01:00 PM: Lunch in Local Restaurant.

02:00 PM: Leave for kozhikode beach.

06:00 PM: Departure from kozhikode.

09:00 PM: Dinner & Overnight stay at Wayanad.

□ **DAY 05: 02ND MAY 2024: WAYANAD-COORG(KARNATAKA)**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Leave for Coorg.

03:00 PM: Visit to Abbey falls.

07:30 PM: Reached Ela glamping camping site.

09:00 PM: Dinner and fun activity at Ela glamping.

□ **DAY 06: 03RD MAY 2024: COORG – MYSORE.**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Departure from Coorg.

11:00AM: Enroute visit Namdroling monastery.

01:30 PM: Lunch at Restaurant.

05:00 PM: Visit to Brindavan park & St. Philomena's cathedral.

09:00 PM: Dinner & Overnight stay at Mysore Hotel.

□ **DAY 07: 04TH MAY 2024: MYSORE – BANGALORE (BY ROAD) /
BANGALORE – HYDERABAD (FLIGHT)**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Visit to NGO(**organisation for the development of people**).

11:00 AM: Visit Mysore Maharaja Palace

02:00 PM: Lunch at Local Restaurant & local handicraft shopping at Mysore.

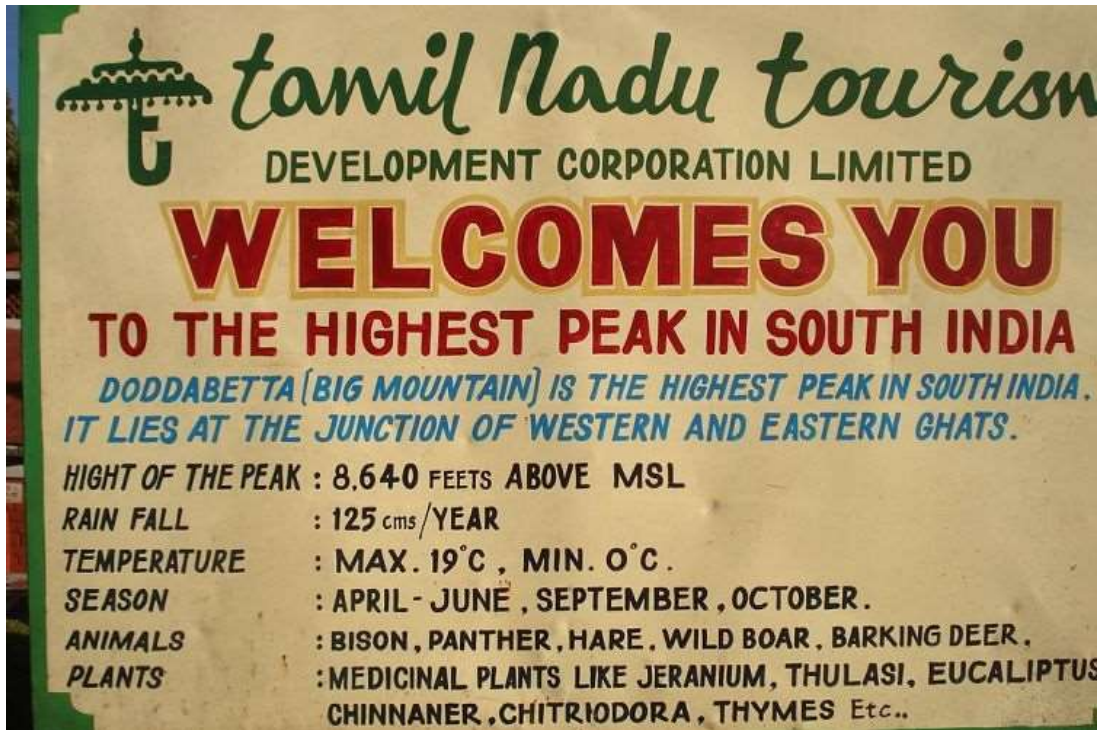
03:00 PM: Depart for Bangalore Airport.

09:00 PM: Arrive Bangalore & Drop in Airport.

10:50 PM: Depart by Indigo airlines to Hyderabad.

01:00 AM: Arrive at Hyderabad Airport.

Doddabetta peak(Nilgiri Hills) & Tea and Chocolate factory Museum.



- Doddabetta is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 metres. There is a reserved forest area around the peak. It is 9 km from Ooty, on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India. It is a popular tourist attraction with road access to the summit.



2,637 meters (8,650 feet)

- Doddabetta Peak is easily accessible by walking and by car & the mountain top gives you beautiful landscape views of the surrounding hills, including **Chamundi Hills, grassy plains of Mysore and Coimbatore**. One can even see the forests of **Bandipur National Park** from the top. The entire visual is that of misty mountain tops, serene valleys, and tranquil nature at its best.

- There are other mountains in the surrounding area, like **Hecuba (2375 m), Kattadadu (2418 m)** and **Kulkudi (2439 m)**. It is the fourth highest peak after Anamudi, Mannamalai and Meesapulimala.



- On top of Doddabetta Peak, there is a Telescope House, with two telescopes. You can view sweeping panoramic views of the entire region through these two telescopes, and get close-up views of the surrounding areas.



- Doddabetta Peak is surrounded by a reserved forested area, which has rich flora

and fauna.

- There are rhododendron bushes on the slopes of the mountain, adding charm with their bright pink colors.
- Dense Shola forests surround the mountain, and there are patches of open grassy meadows. Many herbs and plants having medicinal value can be found here.



- The Tea Factory at the base of Doddabetta Peak is a factory and museum, where you can see how tea is made from tea leaves. Here you will find various machines processing tea leaves & eventually making the tea powder that we use today by you & me.

- There are pictures & charts describing the discovery of tea, and various manufacturing processes involved in tea making. A free cup of hot tea is offered to visitors after the visit to the tea factory, and you can even buy tea packets from the factor. In short, its worth visiting.

BOTANICAL GARDEN (OOTY)





- The Botanical Gardens, Ooty was established in the year 1847 by Marquis of Tweeddale but was the brain child of the architect, McIvor. It is situated on the hill locks of Ooty and is home to the rare paper bark tree, 20 million old fossil tree, the monkey puzzle tree and more. The Gardens are now, under supervision of the Government and the Horticulture Department. One of the most exiting features of the Botanical Garden is the “Annual Flower Show” that takes place in the month of May. A large number of people from the country and abroad, visit the location to witness the striking assortment of plant life.

- The gardens have around a thousand species, both exotic and indigenous, of plants, shrubs, ferns, trees, herbal and bonsai plants. The centre of the gardens lie a fossilized tree trunk estimated to be 20 million years old. The gardens consist of several lawns with flowering plants, ponds with lilies, beds of flowers and ferns laid out in an Italian style, several plots of flowering plants, a variety of medicinal plants.

Edakkal Caves (Wayanad)



- Edakkal Caves are two natural caves 25 km away from Wayanad. They're on Ambukutty Mala hills, and a series of around 300 stairs takes you to them. On the inside, you get a glimpse of the early human expression in the form of rock engravings. And from the top, you get a scenic view of the surroundings.
- Edakkal means "a stone in between." And this cave-like rock shelter is formed by a massive boulder wedged between two bigger boulders. It's believed to exist for over 8,000 years now.



- The engravings are not the only attractions at Edakkal. The Muniyaras, or ancient burial sites that have been discovered in these hills have yielded a rich collection of ancient earthenware and pottery. Most of the artifacts discovered here are now housed in the Wayanad Heritage Museum.



- The caves contain drawings that range over periods from the [Neolithic](#) as early as 6,000 BC to 1,000 BCE. The youngest group of paintings have been in the news for a possible connection to the [Indus Valley civilization](#).

Kozhikode Beach(Kerala)



- Kozhikode Beach or Calicut Beach is a beach on the western side of Kozhikode, situated on the Malabar Coast of India. The beach is accessible through four road overbridges in the city. The beach has paved stones and illumination. There is one Lions Park for the children and an aquarium. Kozhikode beach has always been a prominent place for conducting public meetings. The beach road was renamed 'Gandhi Road' in 1934 after Gandhi visited Calicut in 1934.
- The shore is quite vast, so do carry things to entertain, good place to play football, Frisbee or just a run. The place has lots of palm trees so one can relax and take out their picnic bags for lunch, can easily spend 3 – 4 hours. Best time to go is in the first half of the day.

Abbey Falls (Kodagu)



- **Abbey Falls** is a waterfall in Kodagu, in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, India. It is located 8 km from the Madikeri, 122 km from Mysore, 144 km from Mangalore and 268 km from Bangalore.
- The waterfall is on the early reaches of the river Kaveri, located between private coffee plantations with stocky coffee bushes and spice estates and trees entwined with pepper vines. There is a hanging bridge constructed just opposite the falls. Flow is much higher during the monsoon season.

ELA GLAMPING (COORG)



- ❑ Situated in bewilderness Ela glamping provides much needed solitude we crave for in our daily hectic life. This camping site is located approximately 14 km from Abbey falls.
- ❑ One needs to do offroad trell of approximately 7km to reach the camping site. Sounds of nature soothes you amidst cool breeze flowing in hills.
- ❑ Experience of a lifetime and worth visiting this camping site for relaxation and bridging harmony with the nature.

NAMDROLING MONASTRY(KARNATAKA)



- The Namdroling Nyingmapa Monastery or Thegchog Namdrol Shedrub Dargye Ling is the largest teaching center of the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism in the world. Located in Bylakuppe, part of the Mysuru district of the state of Karnataka, the monastery is home to a sangha community of over five thousand lamas (both monks and nuns), a junior high school named Yeshe Wodsal Sherab Raldri Ling, a religious college (or shedra for both monks and nuns) and hospital.

- 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).

Brindavan Garden(Mysore)



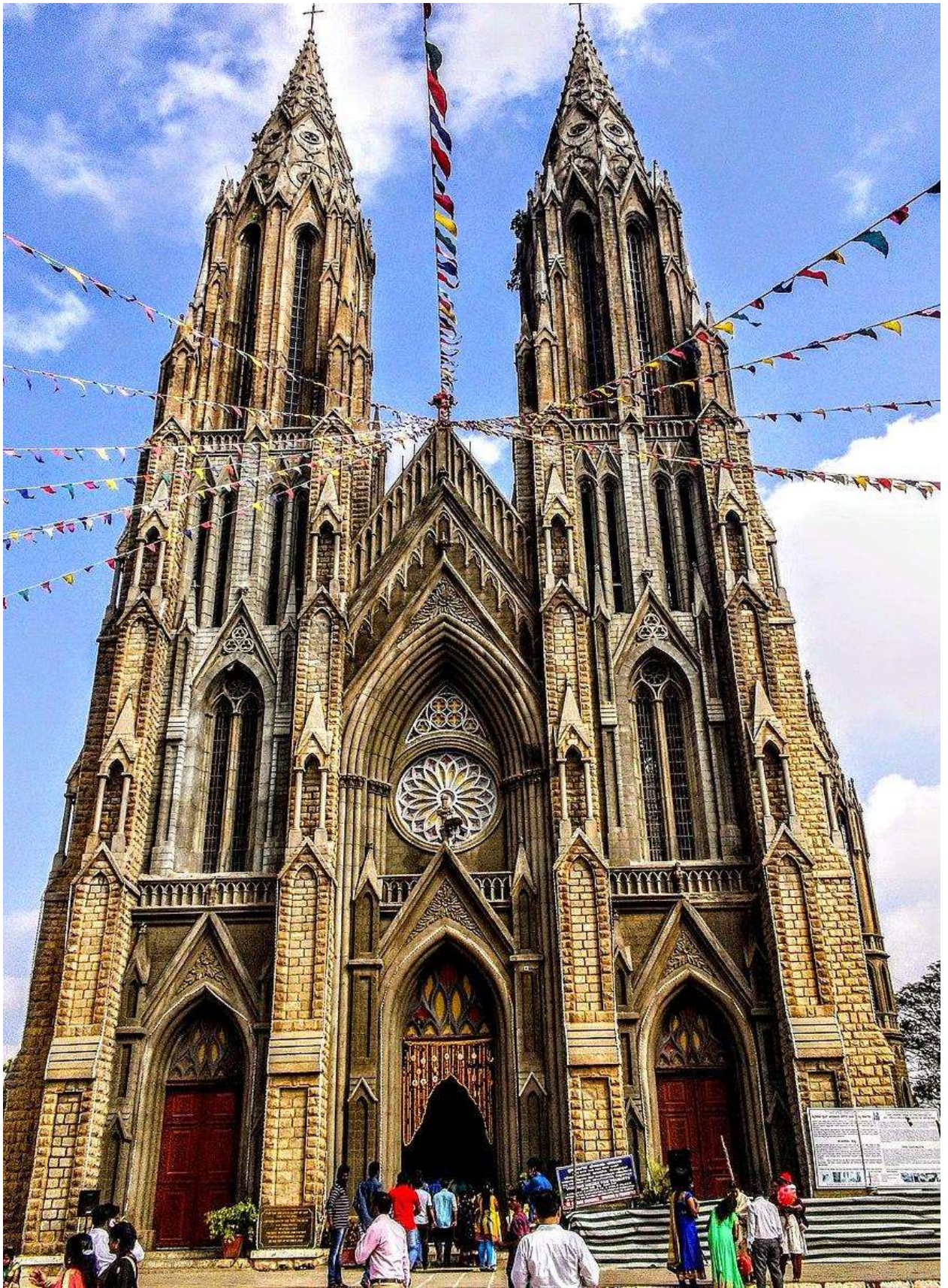
- The Brindavan Gardens is a garden located 12 k.ms from the city of Mysore in the Mandya District of the Indian State of Karnataka. It lies adjoining the Krishnarajasagara Dam which is built across the river Kaveri. The work on laying

out this garden was started in the year 1927 and completed in 1932.



- Garden:Laid out in 3 terraces, the garden is full of splendour. As the sun sets, the colorful lights and captivating showers of fountains turn this garden into a paradise. The musical fountain that showcases the synchronized movement of water to the mesmerizing music leaves everyone spellbound. Apart from this, other popular attractions include illuminated flower beds and open spaces to relax and unwind.Spread over 60 acres, it is a well-maintained botanical garden with an array of exotic flowers. You can find Ficus Tres, Foliage Plants such as Duranta and Euphorbia, and flowering plants like Celosia, Marigold, and Bougainvillea. Not only this, but it also has Topiary works, Pergolas, and much more.

St. Philomena's Cathedral(Mysore)



- The Saint Philomena's Church in Mysore is one of the oldest churches in India. It is over 200 years old. This beautiful Cathedral was built in 1956 and is one of the largest churches in the country. It has been built in the Gothic style with beautiful stain glass windows and lofty towers. The illuminated church in the evening is a wonderful site not to be missed. The cathedral has a crypt that houses a beautiful statue, acquired from France, of Saint Philomena, a 3rd century saint from Greece. There is also an idol of Christ lying in his sacred wounds. Above the sanctum there are lovely stained glass windows from France with painting depicting the birth of Jesus Christ, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. The part of the church that is most attractive is the towers or spires. These towers resemble that of a cathedral in Cologne in Germany and those of St. Patrick's Church in New York. The two spires are 175 feet tall.

NGO ATTACHMENT (ORGANISATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE)





- The organisation for the development of people (ODP) is the diocesan social service society (DSSS) of Mysore intended for an integrated human development of the socially and economically disadvantaged, the underprivileged and the marginalized section of the society. Inspired by christian values of love, sharing, caring, universal brotherhood, concern for the needy, Equality, Justice, and Peace, the Diocese of Mysore established and registered the organisation(ODP) on 4th January 1984. Fr. Becket D'souza was appointed its first secretary and Founder- Director. The bishop of Mysore heads the organisation as president.
- **OBJECTIVES**
- Organize Poor and marginalized women to develop courage and self esteem.

- Strengthen sanghas, central committees, taluk and district level federations and apex bodies(Mahilodaya Women's federation) through trainings, awareness exposure an interactions with other groups/ institutions.
- Initiate savings among sanghas members for mutual help and support during times of need and to avoid exploitation by middle men/money lenders.
- Increase income and assets for women- at individual, house hold and community levels.
- Enable women to manage resources productivity and expand their sources of livelihoods.

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 and Learnings

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. Jai Hind!