



Report on Bharat Darshan (Study Tour)
Karnataka Group



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MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

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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-Tamilnadu-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-Tamilnadu-Kerala under the guidance of Dr. 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.**

Bharat Darshan Group-2

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

Day 0 (28th April,2024)

- Reached Bengaluru Airport at 10:30 AM
- Leave for Ooty from Bengaluru Airport at around 11:00 AM
- Had Lunch at The President, Mysore around 3:00 PM
- 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 1 (29th April,2024)

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

Day 2(30th April,2024)

- Visited Botanical Garden at 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Visited The Nilgiris District Co. Operative Employees Co. Operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd.
- Visited TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Visited Pykara Waterfall at around 2:00 PM
- Leave for Wayanad
- Reached Wayanad at around 8 PM

Day 3 (01st May, 2024)

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

Day 4 (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 camps

Day 5 (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
- Visited KSR Dam at around 7:00 PM
- Visited Vrindavan Garden (It was closed due to heavy rain)

Day 06 (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 Rangnatha Swamy at 4:30PM)
- Reached at Bengaluru Airport at 9:00 PM
- Arrived at Dr. MCR HRD IT at around 2:00AM.

1. BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

Bandipur Tiger Reserve, located in Karnataka, India, is one of the country's premier tiger reserves, spanning over 874 square kilometers. Established in 1974 under Project Tiger, it serves as a critical habitat for the endangered Bengal tiger and several other species, including elephants, leopards, and dholes. The reserve's diverse ecosystem comprises moist deciduous forests, grassy woodlands, and perennial rivers, fostering rich biodiversity. Bandipur is renowned for its successful conservation efforts, notably its population of around 120 tigers as of recent estimates. Additionally, it attracts tourists and researchers alike, offering opportunities for wildlife safaris, birdwatching, and ecological studies. However, the reserve faces challenges such as human-wildlife conflict and habitat fragmentation, necessitating continued conservation initiatives and community engagement for its long-term sustainability.



2. Doddabetta Peak (Western Ghats)

Doddabetta Peak, located in Tamil Nadu, India, is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Hills at 2,637 meters (8,650 feet) above sea level. It offers breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, including the lush forests, tea plantations, and the plains of Coimbatore. The peak is a popular tourist destination, drawing visitors for its natural

beauty and cool climate. It's also home to the Doddabetta Tea Park, showcasing the region's tea cultivation. Doddabetta Peak is a significant ecological hotspot, hosting diverse flora and fauna, making it a crucial location for conservation efforts and scientific research.



3. Tea Factory at Ooty

- **Location:** Situated in Ooty, Tamil Nadu, India, amidst the scenic Nilgiri Hills.
- **History:** Established during the British colonial era, showcasing centuries-old tea-making traditions.
- **Production Process:** Offers a comprehensive tour illustrating the various stages of tea production, including withering, rolling, fermenting, drying, and packaging.
- **Interactive Experience:** Visitors can engage in hands-on activities like tea plucking and processing, gaining insights into the intricate art of tea-making.

- **Educational Significance:** Serves as a learning center, educating visitors about the history, culture, and significance of tea in the region.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Highlights sustainable farming practices and environmental conservation efforts within the tea industry.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Showcases the cultural significance of tea in local customs and traditions, preserving the heritage for future generations.
- **Tourist Attraction:** Draws tourists and tea enthusiasts from around the world, offering a memorable and informative experience amidst lush tea gardens.



4.Chocolate factory

- **Location:** Situated amidst the picturesque Nilgiri Hills in Ooty, Tamil Nadu, India.
- **Heritage:** Built upon a foundation of colonial history, reflecting a legacy of fine chocolate craftsmanship.
- **Production Process:** Guided tours offer insights into the meticulous process of chocolate-making, from sourcing cocoa beans to crafting the final product.
- **Interactive Experience:** Visitors can participate in hands-on chocolate-making workshops and indulge in delicious tastings.
- **Quality Assurance:** Maintains stringent quality control measures to uphold premium standards, utilizing locally sourced ingredients for authentic flavors.
- **Tourist Attraction:** Draws chocolate enthusiasts and tourists alike, providing a delectable and educational experience in the heart of Ooty.
- **Cultural Significance:** Represents Ooty's cultural heritage and serves as a symbol of the region's affinity for fine confectionery.



5.Ooty Lake

Ooty Lake, located in the charming hill station of Ooty in Tamil Nadu, India, is a prominent tourist attraction known for its natural beauty and recreational activities. Here are some important details:

- **Location:** Situated in the heart of Ooty, surrounded by lush greenery and rolling hills.
- **Size:** Spans over an area of approximately 65 acres, offering ample space for various activities.
- **Origin:** Constructed in the early 19th century by John Sullivan, the then Collector of Coimbatore.
- **Scenic Beauty:** Offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, making it a popular spot for picnics and leisurely strolls.
- **Boating:** Visitors can enjoy boating facilities, including pedal boats and rowing boats, to explore the tranquil waters of the lake.
- **Flora and Fauna:** Home to a variety of avian species and adorned with vibrant flowers and foliage, enhancing its natural charm.
- **Recreational Facilities:** Features a children's park, a mini-train ride, and horseback riding, providing entertainment for visitors of all ages.

- **Cultural Significance:** Plays a significant role in the local tourism industry and is often depicted in paintings and photographs as an iconic symbol of Ooty's charm and beauty.



6. Botanical Garden, Ooty

The Botanical Garden in Ooty is a renowned horticultural gem nestled in the picturesque Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, India. Established in 1848, it spans over 55 acres and showcases a diverse collection of exotic flora. Key highlights include a fossilized tree trunk believed to be over 20 million years old, a charming Italian-style garden, and a vast array of indigenous and exotic plants, including orchids, ferns, and medicinal herbs. The garden also houses a fern house, a conservatory, and a glasshouse featuring rare species. Visitors can enjoy leisurely strolls amidst lush greenery, relax by serene ponds, and marvel at stunning floral displays. The Botanical Garden serves as a vital center for conservation, education, and research, attracting nature enthusiasts, botanists, and tourists alike from around the globe.



7. Pykara Falls

Pykara Falls, situated near Ooty in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, India, is a captivating natural wonder renowned for its scenic beauty and cascading waters. Here are some key points for a report:

1. **Location:** Pykara Falls is located about 21 kilometers from Ooty, amidst the lush greenery of the Nilgiri Hills.
2. **Scenic Beauty:** The falls cascade down in multiple tiers, creating a mesmerizing sight against the backdrop of dense forests and rocky terrain.

3. Accessibility: Visitors can reach Pykara Falls by road, followed by a short trek through the picturesque surroundings.

4. Boating: The Pykara Lake, located nearby, offers boating facilities, allowing visitors to enjoy the serene surroundings and panoramic views.

5. Picnic Spot: The area around Pykara Falls is an ideal picnic spot, attracting tourists and locals alike for leisurely outings amidst nature.

6. Wildlife: Pykara is also home to diverse wildlife, including elephants, making it a popular destination for wildlife enthusiasts.

7. Conservation: Efforts are underway to conserve the natural habitat surrounding Pykara Falls, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

Overall, Pykara Falls offers a serene retreat into nature, with its stunning landscapes and tranquil ambiance, making it a must-visit destination for tourists exploring the Nilgiri region.



8. Edekkal Cave

- **Location:** Edakkal Caves are situated in the Ambukuthi Hills of Wayanad district, Kerala, India.
- **Historical Significance:** These caves are renowned for their ancient petroglyphs (rock engravings) believed to date back to the Neolithic era, making them one of the earliest known human settlements in the region.
- **Unique Formation:** The caves are formed by a cleft between two massive rocks, with the fissure being about 96 feet long and 22 feet wide.
- **Exploration:** Visitors can reach the caves by trekking through the picturesque Ambukuthi Hills, enjoying panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.
- **Petroglyphs:** The walls of the caves feature intricate carvings depicting various symbols, animals, human figures, and cultural motifs, providing valuable insights into prehistoric human civilization.
- **Interpretation:** Archaeologists and historians continue to study the petroglyphs to decipher their meaning and understand the lifestyle, beliefs, and cultural practices of the ancient inhabitants.
- **Cultural Importance:** Edakkal Caves hold significant cultural and historical importance, attracting tourists, researchers, and archaeology enthusiasts from around the world.

- **Conservation Efforts:** Conservation initiatives are underway to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the caves, ensuring their protection for future generations.



9. Kappad Beach(Kerala)

- **Location:** Kappad Beach is located in Kozhikode district, Kerala, India, about 16 kilometers from the city of Kozhikode.

- **Historical Significance:** It gained international recognition when Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed on its shores in 1498, marking the beginning of European colonization in India.

- **Scenic Beauty:** Kappad Beach is known for its serene and picturesque setting, with golden sands, swaying palm trees, and the tranquil Arabian Sea stretching into the horizon.

- **Activities:** Visitors can indulge in a variety of activities such as sunbathing, swimming, beach volleyball, and leisurely walks along the shoreline.

- **Sunset Views:** The beach offers breathtaking views of the sunset, making it a popular spot for evening outings and romantic walks.

- **Ayurvedic Treatments:** Nearby Ayurvedic resorts and spas offer traditional Ayurvedic treatments and massages, providing relaxation and rejuvenation to visitors.

- **Cultural Attractions:** The Kappad Backwaters, nearby temples, and traditional fishing villages offer insights into the rich cultural heritage of the region.

- **Conservation Efforts:** Efforts are underway to preserve the natural beauty and ecological balance of Kappad Beach, ensuring its sustainability for future generations to enjoy.

- **Tourism Infrastructure:** The beach is well-equipped with facilities such as parking, restrooms, eateries, and souvenir shops, catering to the needs of tourists and visitors.



10. Abbey Falls

a) - **Location:** Abbey Falls, also known as Abbi Falls, is situated near Madikeri in the Coorg district of Karnataka, India.

b) - **Scenic Beauty:** The falls cascade down from a height of about 70 feet amidst lush green surroundings, creating a picturesque sight and a soothing ambiance.

c) - **Accessibility:** Visitors can reach Abbey Falls by a short trek through a well-maintained pathway from the parking area, enjoying glimpses of the surrounding coffee plantations and dense forests.

d) - Viewing Platforms: There are designated viewing platforms strategically located to offer stunning views of the falls from different angles, allowing visitors to capture the beauty of Abbey Falls through photographs.

e) - Monsoon Season: The best time to visit Abbey Falls is during the monsoon season (June to September) when the water flow is at its peak, presenting a magnificent spectacle of gushing water amidst the verdant landscape.

f) - Picnic Spot: The area around Abbey Falls is an ideal spot for picnics and leisurely outings, with benches and seating areas provided for visitors to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings.

g) - Conservation Efforts: Efforts are underway to preserve the ecological balance of the area surrounding Abbey Falls, ensuring the sustainability of this natural attraction for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.



11.Ela Camping

Ela Camping Spot, located in Madikeri(Karnataka), offers a unique and memorable outdoor experience for nature enthusiasts. Here's what makes it special:

a) ***Serenity and Seclusion***: Ela Camping Spot is known for its tranquil and secluded atmosphere, providing a peaceful retreat away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Nestled amidst lush greenery and surrounded by scenic landscapes, it offers a serene setting for relaxation and rejuvenation.

b) ***Riverside Camping***: 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.

c) ***Outdoor Activities***: 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.

d) ***Campfire Experience***: Gather around a crackling campfire under the starry sky for a memorable evening at Ela Camping Spot. 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

1. **Location**: Namdroling Monastery is located in Bylakuppe, Karnataka, India. It's one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in the world.

2. Establishment: It was established in 1963 by Pema Norbu Rinpoche, also known as Penor Rinpoche, as a center for the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.

3. Architecture: The monastery features traditional Tibetan architecture with vibrant colors, intricate designs, and golden pagodas. Its main temple, known as the Golden Temple, is particularly impressive with its ornate decorations and statues.

4. Education: Namdroling Monastery serves as an important center for Buddhist education, offering teachings on Buddhist philosophy, meditation, rituals, and the Tibetan language. It has a significant role in preserving Tibetan culture and knowledge.

5. Community: The monastery is home to a large community of monks, nuns, and lay practitioners. It serves as a spiritual and cultural hub for Tibetan Buddhists in India and around the world.

6. Events: Namdroling Monastery hosts various religious ceremonies, festivals, and events throughout the year, including Losar (Tibetan New Year) celebrations, teachings by esteemed lamas, and rituals such as the Monlam Prayer Festival.

7. Tourism: Due to its cultural significance and architectural beauty, Namdroling Monastery attracts thousands of visitors and tourists every year. Visitors can witness daily prayers, explore the monastery grounds, and learn about Tibetan Buddhism and culture.



13. St. Philomena's Cathedral Church

St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysore, Karnataka, is one of the most majestic churches in India and holds significant religious and historical importance. Here's why:

a) **Architectural Marvel:** St. Philomena's Cathedral is renowned for its stunning architecture, blending elements of Neo-Gothic and Roman architectural styles. Designed by the French architect Daly, it is one of the largest churches in Asia, standing at an impressive height of 175 feet. The intricate carvings, stained glass windows, and imposing spires make it a sight to behold.

b) **Religious Significance:** St. Philomena's Cathedral is an active place of worship and serves as the headquarters of the Mysore Diocese of the Catholic Church. It hosts regular religious services, including Masses, weddings, and other ceremonies, attracting devotees and visitors from far and wide.

c) **Tourist Attraction:** Beyond its religious significance, St. Philomena's Cathedral is a popular tourist attraction in Mysore, drawing visitors with its grandeur and historical significance. Tourists flock to admire its architecture, explore its interior adorned with statues and paintings, and learn about its fascinating history through guided tours.

d) **Community and Fellowship:** For some, prayer in a church provides an opportunity for communal worship and fellowship. Visitors may join in group prayers or attend religious services, such as Mass or prayer meetings, to worship together with others and share in a sense of community and belonging.



14. Organisation for the Development of People, NGO

The Organization for Development of People (ODP) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in India, dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities and promoting sustainable development. Here's an overview of ODP:

a) ***Mission and Vision*:** ODP's mission is to empower disadvantaged communities, especially women, children, and marginalized groups, to improve their quality of life and achieve socio-economic development.

b) ***Areas of Focus*:** ODP works across various sectors to address the multifaceted needs of communities. Their programs typically focus on areas such as education, healthcare, livelihood development, women's empowerment, child welfare, environmental conservation, and disaster response.

c) ***Advocacy and Awareness*:** In addition to direct service delivery, ODP engages in advocacy and awareness-raising efforts to address systemic issues affecting marginalized communities. They advocate for policy changes, social justice, and human rights, while also raising awareness about key issues such as gender equality, environmental conservation, and healthcare access.

Overall, the Organization for Development of People (ODP) plays a vital role in promoting sustainable development, empowering communities, and fostering positive social change in India. Through their holistic approach and commitment to grassroots participation, ODP continues to make a significant difference in the lives of those they serve.



15. Mysore Palace

1. Location: The Mysore Palace, also known as the Amba Vilas Palace, is located in the heart of Mysore city, Karnataka, India.

2. Architecture: The palace is a masterpiece of Indo-Saracenic architecture, blending Hindu, Islamic, Rajput, and Gothic styles. It features intricately carved arches, domes, turrets, and vibrant murals, making it one of the most stunning palaces in India.

3. History: The original palace was constructed in the 14th century but was destroyed by fire in the late 19th century. The current palace was rebuilt in 1912 under the reign of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV. It served as the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty, the rulers of Mysore.

4. Royal Residence: The Mysore Palace was the seat of the Wadiyar dynasty and served as their official residence until India gained independence in 1947. Today, it is still owned by the royal family but is managed by the Government of Karnataka.

5. Interior: The interiors of the palace are equally impressive, with elaborately decorated rooms, halls, and courtyards. Visitors can admire the exquisite craftsmanship of the palace's interiors, including intricate wood work, mosaic floors, and stained glass windows.

6. Attractions: The palace houses a rich collection of artifacts, including royal costumes, jewelry, weapons, and musical instruments, which are on display in various galleries within the palace complex.

7. Lighting: Every Sunday and on public holidays, the palace is illuminated with thousands of lights, creating a breathtaking sight known as the "Palace Illumination." It is a major attraction that draws crowds of tourists and locals alike.

8. Tourism: The Mysore Palace is one of the most visited tourist attractions in India, attracting millions of visitors every year. Tourists can explore the palace grounds, visit the museum, attend cultural events, and witness the grandeur of the royal legacy of Mysore.



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!