



Dr. Marri Channa Reddy
Human Resource Development
Institute of Telangana
NABET Accredited Excellent (उत्कृष्ट) Institute

**Study Tour (Bharat Darshan) of FTP for ASO of 2023 Batch
(28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024) for Assistant Section Officer (ASO) of
Central Secretariat Service (CSS)**

REPORT

ON STUDY TOUR

KARNATAKA (GROUP-2)

SUBMITTED BY: -

NAME- LOKESH DHYAWANA MEENA

OT CODE- A-75

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

Content

Sl. No.	Particulars	Page
1.	Acknowledgement	3
2.	Objective of the Tour	4
3.	Schedule of Study Tour	5

Places Visited

4.	Visit to Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Mudumalai Elephant Reserve enroute via Bangalore Airport to Ooty	6
5.	Doddabetta Peak	6
6.	Tea Factory	7
7.	Chocolate Factory	8
8.	Boating at Ooty Lake	9
9.	Botanical Garden	10
10.	Pyakara Waterfalls	11
11.	Edakkal Caves	12
12.	Kappad Beach	12
13.	Abbey Falls	13
14.	Camping at Ela Glamping	14
15.	Namdroling Monastery Golden Temple	14
16.	St. Philomena's Cathedral Church	16
17.	Organisation for the Development of People, NGO	17
18.	Mysore Palace	18
19.	Conclusion	20

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 1 (28th April,2024)

- Arrived at Bengaluru Airport
- Left for Ooty from Bengaluru Airport
- Lunch at The President, Mysore
- Visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- Mudumalai Elephant Reserve
- Reached Ooty via Gudalur

Day 2 (29th April,2024)

- Visited Doddabetta Peak
- Visited Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory
- Lunch at Ooty
- Leave for Boat House to have boating

Day 3 (30th April,2024)

- Visited Botanical Garden
- Visited Pykara Waterfall at around
- Leave for Wayanad
- Reached Wayanad

Day 4 (01st May, 2024)

- Visited Edakkal Caves
- Went to Kappad Beach in Kerala where first Portuguese Travel came.
- Came back to Wayanad

Day 5 (02nd May,2024)

- Check out from the hotel in wayanad and proceed to Coorg
- Visited Abbey Falls
- Night Stay in camps at Ela Glamping.

Day 6 (03rd May,2024)

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

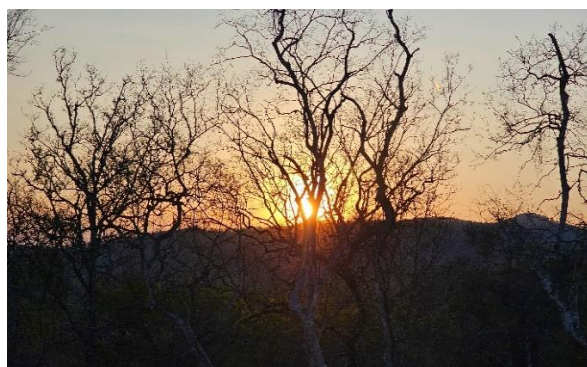
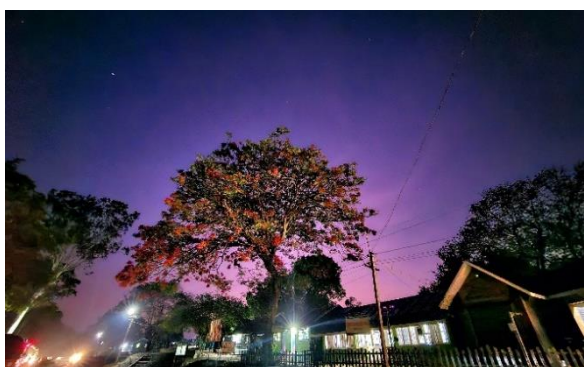
Day 7 (04th May, 2024)

- Visited Organisation for Development of People, ODP (an NGO in Mysore)
- Visited Mysore Palace
- Visited Srirangapatna Temple (Lord Ranganathaswamy)
- Reached at Bengaluru Airport
- Arrived at Dr. MCR HRD IT, Telangana.

1. BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE



Encountering Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Mudumalai Elephant Reserve while traveling from Bangalore Airport to Ooty is an unforgettable journey. The verdant forests, abundant wildlife, and the opportunity to glimpse majestic deer, monkeys, and elephants in their natural environment make it a truly remarkable experience.



2.DODDABETTA PEAK (WESTERN GHATS)

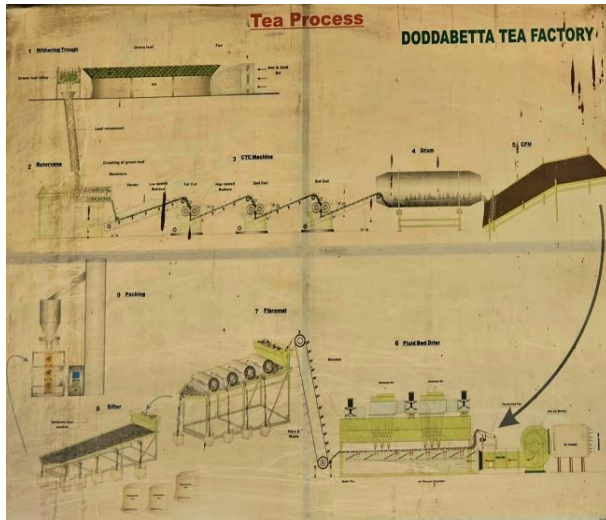


Doddabetta Peak, standing proudly amidst the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, claims the title of the highest summit in the Nilgiri mountain range. At an impressive elevation of 2,637 meters (8,650 feet) above sea level, it treats visitors to sweeping vistas of the surrounding landscape. With its rolling hills, dense forests, and vast tea plantations, the peak forms a captivating backdrop for all who visit. Positioned in close proximity to Ooty, it beckons tourists seeking to revel in the natural beauty of the region. The unique geography of Doddabetta also influences its climate, resulting in cool temperatures and misty conditions that endure throughout the year, adding to its allure as a scenic destination.

3. TEA FACTORY (OOTY)



- Ooty is famous for producing high-quality tea, particularly the prized Nilgiri variety, known for its brisk and bright flavor profile.
- Guided tours offer insights into the tea-making process, covering everything from plucking the leaves to packaging the final product.
- Visitors witness each stage of tea production firsthand, gaining a deeper understanding of tea cultivation and processing techniques.
- Tasting sessions allow visitors to sample a variety of teas produced onsite, experiencing the unique flavors and aromas of different blends.
- These teas make popular souvenirs or gifts for friends and family.
- Many tea factories in Ooty are nestled amidst picturesque tea estates, providing visitors with scenic views of lush green gardens against the backdrop of the Nilgiri Hills.



4. CHOCOLATE FACTORY (OOTY)

- Ooty's chocolate factories are renowned for their artisanal approach to chocolate-making, employing handcrafted methods to ensure exceptional quality and distinctive flavors.
- Guided tours offered by these chocolate factories provide visitors with an interactive experience, offering insights into the meticulous process of chocolate production. From roasting and grinding cocoa beans to tempering and molding, guests witness each stage firsthand.
- Chocolate tasting sessions are a highlight of these tours, allowing visitors to indulge in a variety of chocolates and savor their rich flavors and textures.



5. BOATING AT OOTY LAKE



The boating house was surrounded by lush greenery, across Ooty lake, providing a tranquil setting for boating enthusiasts to unwind and enjoy nature's beauty. Surrounded by the majestically-tall eucalyptus trees and dotted with green bushes along the shores, the Ooty Lake is an impressive spot in Nilgiris district. The Lake, spanning over 65 acres, was originally constructed for fishing.



6. BOTANICAL GARDEN (OOTY)



Spread across 55 acres, the garden presents a captivating exhibition of exotic plants, flowers, and trees, offering a serene escape from urban life's chaos. As visitors stroll along its well-tended paths, they encounter a diverse array of flora from around the globe, including rare roses and orchids. One of its most intriguing features is a fossilized tree trunk, believed to be more than 20 million years old, providing a glimpse into the region's ancient history.

Beyond its aesthetic allure, the botanical garden serves as a dynamic learning environment for environmental science. Acting as a living laboratory, it enables the exploration of ecosystem dynamics, soil science, and plant-environment interactions. Here, students engage with concepts such as nutrient cycling, water conservation, and sustainable land management practices, while observing various plant structures, reproductive strategies, and adaptations to diverse environmental conditions.



7. PYAKARA WATERFALLS



Pykara Waterfalls, nestled near Ooty in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiri district, stands as a picturesque gem in the region's landscape. Renowned for its unspoiled beauty and peaceful ambiance, it ranks among the top tourist destinations. Plummeting from a height of around 55 meters (180 feet), the waterfall forms a graceful cascade, trickling into pools and streams below. Whether capturing its splendor through photography or basking in the tranquility of nature, Pykara Falls promises a memorable excursion for visitors of every generation.



8. EDAKKAL CAVES (KERALA)



Exploring the Edakkal Caves in Kerala is a journey that intertwines ancient history with natural marvels, offering visitors a truly immersive experience. Here's what to anticipate:

- **Historical Revelations:** These caves are renowned for their ancient petroglyphs, revealing prehistoric rock carvings that date back thousands of years. The intricate symbols, animals, and human figures depicted on the walls offer a fascinating glimpse into the lives of early inhabitants.
- **Scenic Trek:** Accessing the caves involves a picturesque hike through lush forests and rugged terrain. Along the way, adventurers are treated to breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape and encounters with indigenous flora and fauna.
- **Cave Exploration:** Upon arrival, visitors are invited to navigate through the cavernous chambers and narrow passageways, all formed by massive boulders stacked atop each other. The distinctive geological features of the caves contribute to their allure, evoking a sense of intrigue and wonder.
- **Cultural Immersion:** The Edakkal Caves hold profound cultural significance for local indigenous tribes, intertwined with ancient myths and legends. Exploring these stories and traditions provides a deeper understanding of the region's rich cultural heritage.

9. KAPPAD BEACH (KERALA)

Kappad Beach holds a profound historical significance in India, particularly within the state of Kerala, for several compelling reasons:

- a) **European Contact with India:** The arrival of Vasco da Gama at Kappad Beach marks a watershed moment in Indian history, signifying the inauguration of the first direct sea route from Europe to India. This historic encounter between Europe and India had profound implications, profoundly influencing the trajectory of Indian history, culture, and trade.
- b) **Tourist Attraction:** In contemporary times, Kappad Beach has transcended its historical importance to become a cherished tourist destination in Kerala. The beach's rich historical legacy adds an additional layer of allure, attracting both history aficionados and beach enthusiasts alike.



10. ABBEY FALLS (KARNATAKA)

Visiting Abbey Falls in Karnataka offers an enchanting voyage into the heart of nature's beauty and the exhilarating force of cascading water. Here's a glimpse of the unforgettable experiences that await:

As visitors approach Abbey Falls, they are met with a breathtaking spectacle: water plunging gracefully from a height of around 70 feet into a serene pool below. The sheer power and grace of the cascading water, framed by rugged cliffs and verdant foliage, create a mesmerizing tableau that captures the imagination and leaves an indelible impression.



11. CAMPING AT ELA GLAMPING

Nestled amidst the serene landscapes of Madikeri, Karnataka, Ela Glamping offers an unparalleled outdoor escapade tailored for nature enthusiasts. Here's what makes it a standout destination:

- ❖ **Tranquility and Seclusion:** Ela Camping Spot is renowned for its tranquil and secluded setting, providing a serene refuge from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Surrounded by lush greenery and picturesque vistas, it offers an idyllic backdrop for relaxation and rejuvenation.
- ❖ **Riverside Serenity:** An enchanting feature of Ela Camping Spot is its proximity to a meandering river. Visitors can pitch their tents along the riverbank while basking in panoramic views of the natural wilderness. Riverside camping adds an element of adventure and fosters a deep connection with nature.
- ❖ **Outdoor Adventures:** Ela Camping Spot caters to the adventurous spirit with an array of outdoor activities.
- ❖ **Campfire Bliss:** As the sun sets, gather around a crackling campfire beneath the twinkling night sky for a memorable evening at Ela Camping Spot. Campfire gatherings provide the perfect opportunity for bonding with loved ones, sharing stories, harmonizing melodies, and savoring delicious meals cooked over an open flame.



12. NAMDROLING MONASTERY GOLDEN TEMPLE

Situated amidst the tranquil landscapes of Bylakuppe near Kushalnagar in Karnataka, India, the Namdroling Monastery, often referred to as the Golden Temple, stands as a revered bastion of Tibetan Buddhist spirituality.

Historical Significance: Founded in 1963 by His Holiness Pema Norbu Rinpoche, the 11th throneholder of the Palyul lineage of the Nyingma tradition, the Namdroling Monastery serves as a beacon for the study and preservation of Tibetan Buddhist teachings. Over the years, it has evolved into one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist centers outside of Tibet, embodying a legacy of spiritual enlightenment and cultural heritage.



Visitor Experience:

- ❖ **Architectural Splendor:** The Namdroling Monastery is renowned for its exquisite architectural marvels, adorned with intricate designs, vibrant colors, and traditional Tibetan motifs. The Golden Temple, a focal point of the complex, mesmerizes visitors with its towering golden statues of Guru Padmasambhava, Buddha Shakyamuni, and Amitayus, offering a visual feast for the senses.
- ❖ **Sacred Ambiance:** Stepping onto the monastery grounds, visitors are enveloped in a serene aura of spiritual reverence. The rhythmic chants of monks engaged in prayer and ritual ceremonies create an atmosphere of tranquility, inviting introspection and spiritual contemplation amidst the tranquil surroundings.
- ❖ **Cultural Immersion:** The Namdroling Monastery provides an immersive journey into Tibetan Buddhist culture and traditions.
- ❖ **Shopping and Dining:** The monastery complex includes shops selling Tibetan handicrafts, religious artifacts, and souvenirs, and take home mementos of their visit.



13. ST. PHILOMENA'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH

St. Philomena's Cathedral, situated in Mysore, Karnataka, stands as an awe-inspiring symbol of both faith and architectural brilliance, weaving together a rich tapestry of religious reverence and historical significance. Here's a deeper look at its profound impact:

- **Architectural Grandeur:** Revered for its breathtaking architecture, St. Philomena's Cathedral seamlessly blends Neo-Gothic and Roman styles, sculpted by the skilled hands of French architect Daly. Dominating the skyline at a towering 175 feet, its intricate carvings, vibrant stained glass windows, and majestic spires leave an indelible mark on all who behold its splendor.
- **Spiritual Haven:** Serving as the spiritual nucleus of the Mysore Diocese of the Catholic Church, St. Philomena's Cathedral is more than a mere edifice; it is a sacred sanctuary where devotees gather for Masses, weddings, and solemn ceremonies.
- **Cultural Gem:** Beyond its religious significance, St. Philomena's Cathedral holds a special place in the hearts of tourists, beckoning them with its timeless allure and storied past.
- **Community Nexus:** Within the cathedral's walls, believers find not only solace but also a sense of community and fellowship.



14. THE ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (ODP), MYSURU

- The Organization for Development of People (ODP), an esteemed non-governmental organization (NGO) based in India, stands as a beacon of compassion and dedication in its mission to uplift marginalized communities and foster sustainable development. Here's a nuanced glimpse into ODP's core principles and transformative impact:
- **Empowerment and Inclusivity:** ODP's unwavering commitment revolves around empowering the most vulnerable segments of society, notably women, children, and marginalized groups. By facilitating access to resources and opportunities, ODP aims to elevate their socio-economic status and nurture an environment of inclusivity and equity.
- **Holistic Engagement:** ODP adopts a multifaceted approach to address the multifaceted challenges faced by communities. From educational initiatives and healthcare provisions to livelihood enhancement, women's empowerment, and environmental stewardship, ODP's programs span across diverse sectors to cultivate holistic well-being and sustainable progress.
- **Advocacy and Awareness Initiatives:** Beyond direct intervention, ODP actively advocates for systemic changes and raises awareness on pertinent social issues. By amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and advocating for policy reforms centered on social justice and human rights, ODP catalyzes transformative change and fosters a culture of collective responsibility and solidarity.
- In essence, the Organization for Development of People (ODP) embodies a tireless commitment to social justice, community empowerment, and sustainable development. Through its comprehensive approach and unwavering advocacy, ODP serves as a catalyst for positive change, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those it touches.



Organisation for the development of the people (ODP), Mysuru

15. MYSORE PALACE, KARNATAKA



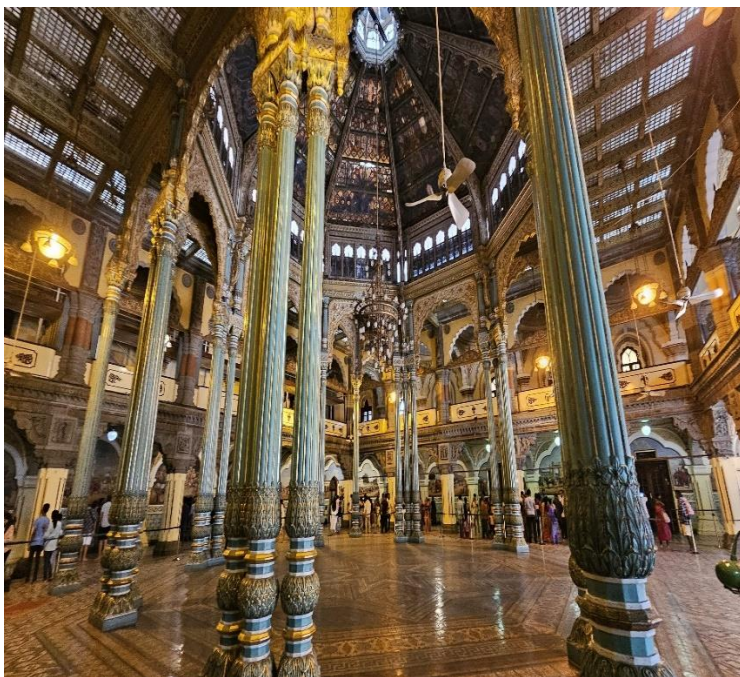
Embarking on a journey through the Mysore Palace unveils a captivating tapestry interwoven with Karnataka's rich history, cultural heritage, and architectural opulence. Here's an intricate portrait of what awaits:

- ❖ **Architectural Extravaganza:** The Mysore Palace, an architectural jewel also known as the Amba Vilas Palace, mesmerizes visitors with its resplendent Indo-Saracenic style. Adorned

with intricate carvings, vibrant hues, and majestic domes reflecting Hindu, Islamic, Rajput, and Gothic influences, it stands as a testament to the timeless fusion of artistic brilliance.

- ❖ **Historical Reverie:** Step into the corridors of the palace to embark on a voyage through time, unraveling tales of grandeur and legacy woven into its opulent halls and chambers.
- ❖ **Regal Majesty:** Dive into the realm of royalty as you immerse yourself in the nuances of courtly elegance and regal traditions. From exploring ceremonial rituals to witnessing the exquisite artifacts and personal relics adorning the palace, every corner whispers stories of a bygone era, inviting visitors to bask in the splendor of royal magnificence.

In essence, a sojourn through the Mysore Palace promises a symphony of sensations, where each facet of its beauty - be it historical, architectural, or cultural - converges to create an enchanting narrative that lingers in the hearts and minds of all who tread its hallowed halls. Overall, a visit to the Mysore Palace offers a multi-faceted learning experience, encompassing history, architecture, culture.



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. Jai Hind!