



STUDY TOUR REPORT OF BHARAT DARSHAN

28-04-2024 to 04-05-2024 (Tamil nadu)

**For Assistant Section Officers of CSS 2023
Batch**

Officer Trainee's Name: Jatin Singh

OT Code: A79

Ministry: Road, Transport and Highways

Table of Contents

S. No.	Particulars	Page
1.	Acknowledgement	03
2.	Objective of the Tour	04
3.	Schedule of Study Tour	05
4.	Places visited at Mahabalipuram	08
5.	Places visited at Pondicherry	11
6.	Places visited at Coimbatore	15
7.	Places visited at Ooty	16
8.	Places visited at Mysore	19
9.	Conclusion	22

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. Sukumar Rao, 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 Tamil Nadu. I enjoyed the study tour and learned many things during the NGO attachment and the beautiful places visited in Tamil Nadu 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 Study 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 Tamil Nadu under the guidance of Dr. Sukumar Rao, 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 the Study Tour

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 Tamil Nadu as per the following details:-

➤ **DAY 01: 28th APRIL 2024: HYDERABAD – CHENNAI (BY FLIGHT) – MAHABALIPURAM - PONDICHERRY**

10:00 AM: Depart from Hyderabad (27 OTs – BY INDIGO)

10:55 AM: Depart from Hyderabad (35 OTs – BY AIR-INDIA EXPRESS)

11:30 AM: Arrival in Chennai Airport (27 OTs – BY INDIGO)

12:15 PM: Arrival in Chennai Airport (35 OTs – BY AIR-INDIA EXPRESS)

12:30 PM: Depart For Mahabalipuram by Bus

01:30 PM: Enroute Lunch at Local Restaurant.

03:00 PM: Proceed to Mahabalipuram and visit Sea shore Temple, Five Rathas & Arjuna Penance.

06:00 PM: Proceed to Pondicherry and check in to the hotel.

08:00 PM: Dinner at the hotel & Overnight stay at Pondicherry.

➤ **DAY 02: 29TH APRIL 2024: PONDICHERRY**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Visit Auroville

12:00 Noon: Visit French Colonies.

01:30 PM: Lunch at Restaurant

06:00 PM: Pondicherry Beach

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

➤ **DAY 03: 30TH APRIL 2024: PONDICHERRY – ADIYOGI - COIMBATORE**

07:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Check out & Departure to Pondicherry Mangrove Forest

10:00 AM: Visit Pondicherry Mangrove Forest

02:00 PM: Departure to Coimbatore

03:00 PM: lunch at Restaurant

11:00 PM: Check in to Hotel & Overnight stay in Coimbatore.

➤ **DAY 04: 01ST MAY 2024: COIMBATORE – COONOR - OOTY**

06:00 AM: Visit to Adiyogi.

10:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel

12:00 Noon: Departure to Ooty.

02:30 PM: Lunch in Local Restaurant in Ooty

07:00 PM: Check in Hotel in ooty.

08:00 PM: Dinner & Overnight stay at Ooty with Party games & Dinner.

➤ **DAY 05: 02ND MAY 2024: OOTY**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Visit Dodabetta Peak

01:00 PM: Lunch at Restaurant

02:30 PM: Visit Tea Factory & Tea Museum

04:00 PM: Boating at ooty Lake.

07:00 PM: Back to Hotel. Dinner & Overnight stay at Ooty.

➤ **DAY 06: 03RD MAY 2024: OOTY – MYSORE**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:00 AM: Departure from Mysore

11:00AM: Enroute visit Pykara Lake & Dam.

01:30 PM: Lunch at Restaurant

06:00 PM: Arrive Mysore & Check in at Hotel.

07:00 PM: Free for Shopping in Mysore

09:00 PM: Back to Hotel. 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 Chamundi Hills, Mysore Maharaja Palace

01:00 PM: Lunch at Local Restaurant & Departure from Mysore.

06:30 PM: Arrive Bangalore & Drop in Airport (Full Group Departure in the Same Flight)

08:50 PM: Depart by Air-India Express Airlines to Hyderabad.

10:05 PM: Arrive at Hyderabad Airport.

Mahabalipuram

Shore Temple

- The Shore Temple (725 AD) is a complex of temples and shrines that overlooks the shore of the Bay of Bengal. It is located in Mahabalipuram, about 60km south of Chennai in Tamil Nadu, India.
- It is a structural temple, built with blocks of granite, dating from the 8th century AD. At the time of its creation, the site was a busy port during the reign of Narsimha Varman II of the Indian Pallava dynasty. As one of the group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, it has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1984. It is one of the oldest structural stone temples of Southern India.
- ASI has constructed break-water wall all around the sea shore to save the temple from further damage. The temple structure, affected by rouestival.gh sea and winds with salt content are being conserved by the ASI by building protective groynes, treatment with wall paper pulp, and by planting casuarina trees along the affected coast line.
- Mamallapuram Dance Festival is held every year during Dec-Jan in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. This dance festival is organised by Department of Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu. Exponents of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Odissi, Mohiniattam and Kathakali perform against this magnificent backdrop of the Pallava rock sculptures. It is vibrant festival of dance where enormous audience enjoys this one month long festival.



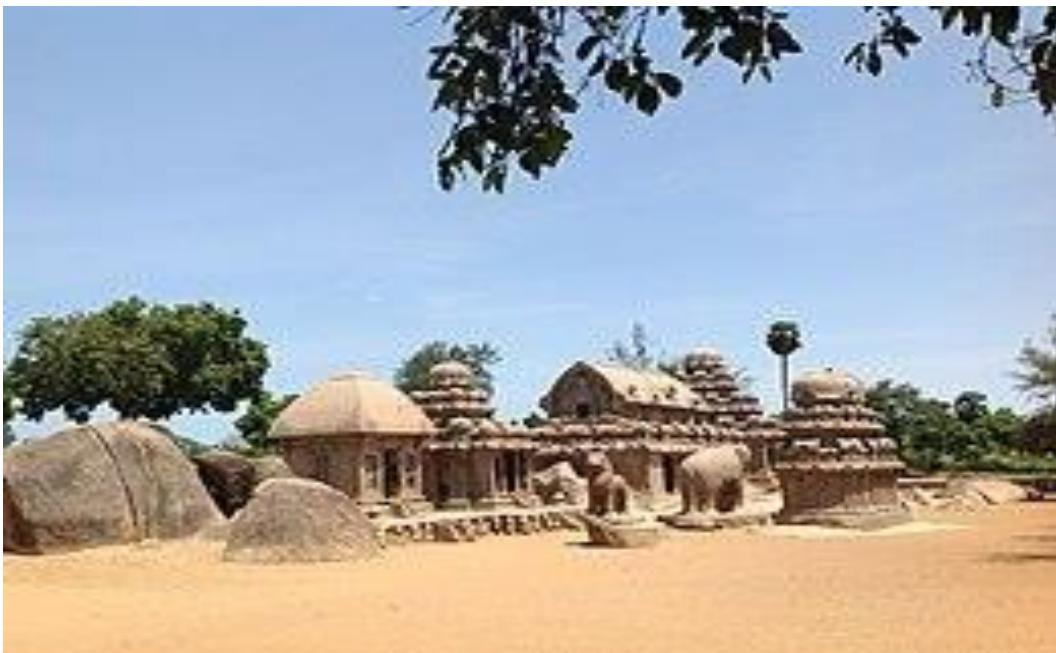
Krishna's Butterball

- The Krishna's butterball is a giant balancing rock, 5 meters in diameter, perched on a smooth slope, seemingly defying all laws of physics. It weighs over 250 tons and miraculously stands on an extremely small, slippery area of a hill.
- This monolithic granite rock found in Mahabalipuram, India. Its original name is Vaan Irai Kal. In Tamil language, the original language of the land, it means "Stone of The Sky God".
- The rock is balanced upon a 4 feet area of the hill and is perilously resting at an angle of 45 degrees. The base of the rock is firmly attached to the hill below. This rock is bigger and heavier than the monolithic stones of Ollantaytambo, Peru. It is also much bigger than the rocks found in the mysterious Machu Picchu.
- In Hindu mythology Lord Krishna had an insatiable appetite for butter, and as a child, would often sneak a handful from his mother's butter jar. Situated on a hill slope near the Ganesh Ratha this massive natural rock boulder is attributed to a bolus of butter the young Krishna would steal.
- It's a common sight to see visitors placing hands under the stone posing for pics, which looks as though they are holding it! The rock provides welcome shade if you dare to sit underneath it, and local kids have discovered that the slippery nearby hillside also makes a great natural slide.



Pancha Ratha Temple

- A Pancha Rathas (also known as Five Rathas or Pandava Rathas or Ainthinai kovil) is a monument complex at Mahabalipuram, on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal, in the Kancheepuram district of the state of Tamil Nadu, India. Pancha Rathas is an example of monolithic Indian rock-cut architecture. The complex was initially thought to have carved during the reign of King Narasimhavarman I (630–668 CE.) However, historians such as Nagaswamy attributed all of monuments in Mahabalipuram to Narasimhavarman II (c. 690–725 CE) with the discovery of new inscriptions. The complex is under the auspices of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and is part of the UNESCO World Heritage site inscribed by UNESCO as Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram.



Pondicherry

Paradise Beach

- Paradise beach is a great spot to reach early morning and get a view of the sunrise on the eastern coast. A variety of water sports facilities are available here as well. The travellers can try fishing as well. Fishing rods and nets are easily available for rent.
- The island is very well maintained, the shore is clean and water is calm, with soft waves. There is changing rooms and toilets on the island. Also few shacks serve quick bites and lunch. You can also carry home cooked food and beers.
- 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.



Auroville

- Auroville is a universal township in the making for a population of up to 50,000 people from around the world. The concept of Auroville - an ideal township devoted to an experiment in human unity - came to the Mother as early as the 1930s. In the mid-1960s, the concept was developed and put before the Govt. of India, who gave their backing and took it to the General Assembly of UNESCO. In 1966 UNESCO passed a unanimous resolution commending it as a project of importance to the future of humanity, thereby giving their full encouragement.
- The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity – in diversity. Today Auroville is recognised as the first and only internationally endorsed ongoing experiment in human unity and transformation of consciousness, also concerned with - and practically researching into - sustainable living and the future cultural, environmental, social and spiritual needs of mankind.



French Colony

- A portion of France still exists in India in the French quarter in Pondicherry, which has a history of being acquired and colonised by the French East India Company to set up a trading centre. Pondicherry had been passed on to multiple colonial powers of Dutch, Portuguese, English but predominantly French. Even now there is a huge French influence in the French Colony of Pondicherry, now a union territory of India.
- The colonial style French villas have huge compounds, grand walls and majestic doors. This defines the French lifestyle of keeping their personal and social life to themselves behind the high walls.



Mangrove Kayaking Forest

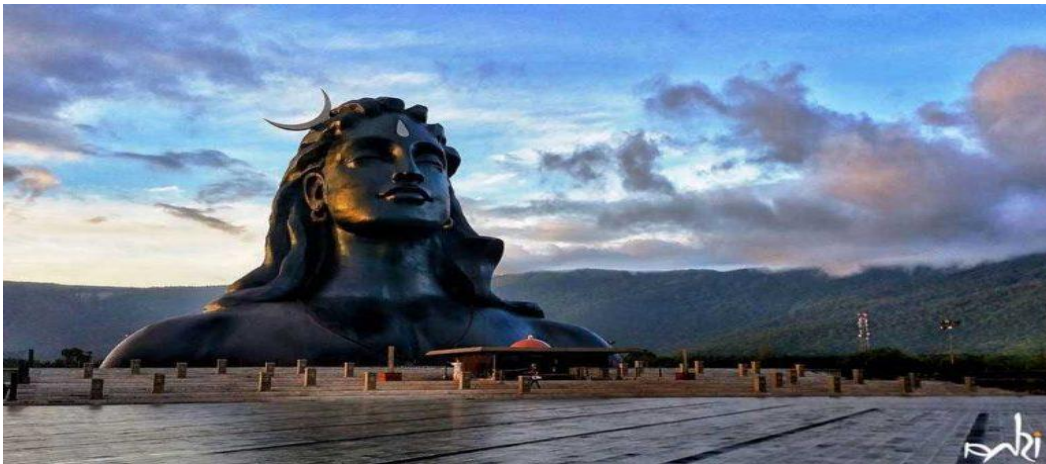
- Kayaking in Pondicherry Mangroves is an incredible experience that one should not miss when visiting Pondicherry. Kayaking is always an adventure lovers' bucket list. If one can Kayak during sunrise surrounded by lush green mangrove forest. Kayaking takes place in the Gingee river, where the mangroves are located. Kayaking is done in the backwaters; one can do it only in high tides/ The best time to do this is during early morning and sunsets. Kayaking during sunrise is an experience one will never forget.



Coimbatore

Adiyogi

- **Adiyogi Statue:** The centerpiece of the premises is the 112-foot-tall Adiyogi statue, a mesmerizing depiction of Lord Shiva as the first yogi. The statue's striking presence captivates visitors and serves as a focal point for meditation and introspection.
- **Surrounding Landscape:** The Adiyogi premises are surrounded by lush greenery and scenic landscapes, creating a tranquil atmosphere conducive to inner exploration and relaxation. Visitors can take leisurely strolls amidst nature or find quiet spots for contemplation.
- **Yoga Spaces:** The premises include dedicated spaces for practicing yoga and meditation. These may include open-air yoga platforms, meditation halls, and tranquil alcoves where visitors can engage in various yogic practices under the guidance of trained instructors.



Ooty

Dodabetta Peak

- 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
- 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.
- 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.



Tea Factory

➤ A Glimpse into the Past:

- 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.

➤ Origin:

- 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.

➤ Where it Stands

- 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.
- The lake also has a variety of birds and animals, ranging from the sleepy Indian rock python to the majestic King cobra. Among the mammals, the elusive panther is the most exotic you find here. The forests are rumored to harbor the big cat, tiger, towards the Karnataka side of the forest.
- The lake has boating facilities, garden, amusement parks, and 7D cinemas.



Mysore

Chamundeshwari Temple

- Chamundeshwari Temple is a Hindu temple located on the top of Chamundi Hills about 13km from the palace city of Mysuru in Karnataka. The temple was named after Chamundeshwari or the fierce form of Shakti, a tutelary deity held in reverence for centuries by the Maharaja of Mysore.
- Chamundeshwari is called by the people of Karnataka as Nada Devi which means state Goddess. It is situated at the elevation of around 3300ft from the mean sea level.
- Chamundeshwari temple is considered as a Shakti Peetha and one among the 18 Shakti Peethas. It is known as Kroncha Peetha as the region was known in puranic times as Kroncha Puri. It is said that the hair of Sati fell here.



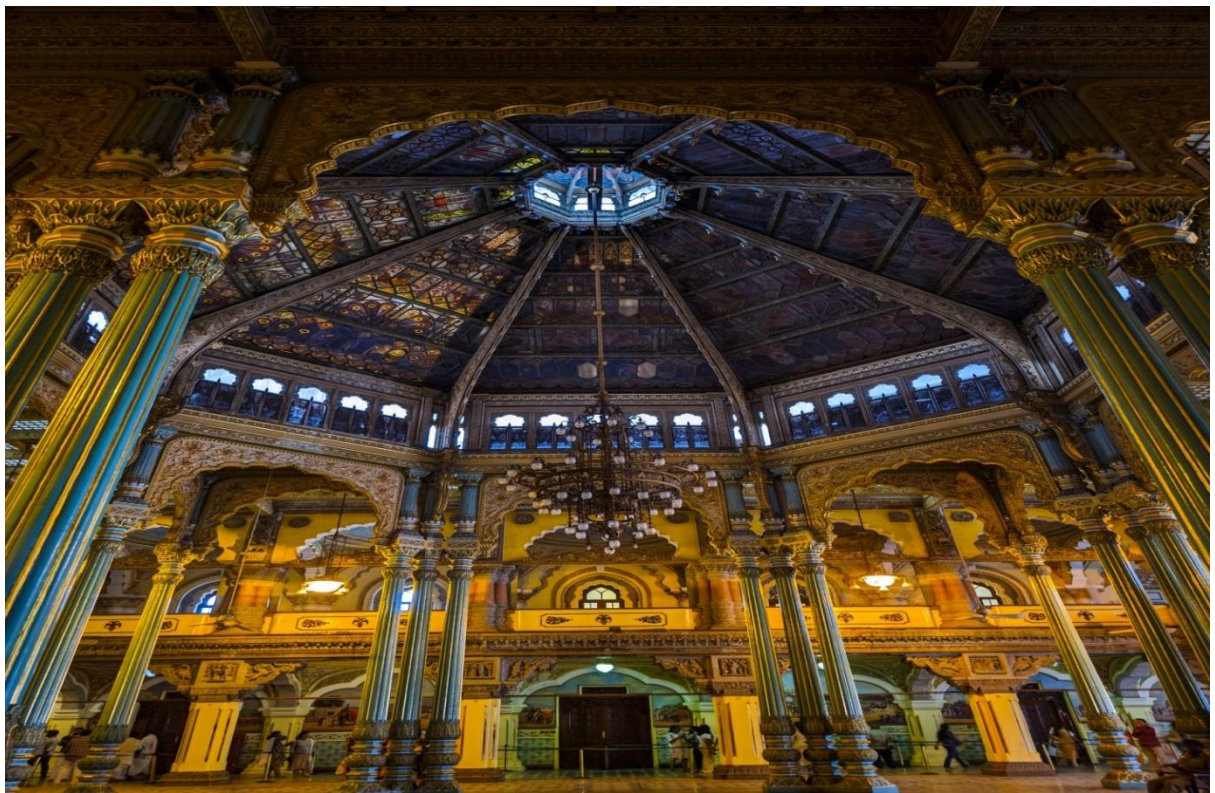
St. Philomena's Cathedral

- St. Philomena's Cathedral is a Catholic church that is the cathedral of the Diocese of Mysore. The full name is the Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Philomena. It is also known as St. Joseph's Cathedral. It was constructed in 1936 using a Neo Gothic style and its architecture was inspired by the Cologne Cathedral in Germany. This is one of the tallest churches in Asia.
- The church was designed by a Frenchman named Daly. It was designed to be built in the Neo Gothic style with inspiration drawn from the Cologne Cathedral. The floor plan of the cathedral resembles a cross. The long part of the cross is congregation hall called the nave. The two arms of the cross are the transperts. The part containing the altar and the choir is the crossing. The cathedral has acrypt that houses a statue of St. Philomena.



Mysore Palace

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