



**Individual Report of STUDY TOUR / BHARAT DARSHAN-
Karnataka Group**

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Introduction

“A big thanks to Dr. MCR HRD Institute to organise our Bharat Darshan tour so well that it has become the best part of our training.”

My name is Ankur Saraswat (OT Code- A 86) and I am an Assistant Section Officer of 2021 batch. My name was included in Group -2 that was scheduled to visit Karnataka including some portion of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. We are highly grateful to Shri Vinod Gaud Sir Senior Faculty and Bharat Darshan Coordinator of Karnataka Group. The tour covered various locations of utmost importance from the educational point of view like Tea-cum-Chocolate Factory and Organisation for the Development of People, NGO. Glamping in Coorg, Karnataka was the most happening part of our study tour that involved first hand experience of life in a forest with no network coverage for about 18 hours. Also, Our group leaders applause for coordinating and managing a big group of 61 OT's.

Objective of the Tour

As part of the mandatory ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs), 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 introduce the trainees to rich diversity of India in cultural aspects.
- To expose the Officer Trainees to work and functioning of NGO;
- To develop team spirit, management and adaptability to different situations.

Itinerary

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

Day 0 (28th April,2024)

- Headed towards Hyderabad Airport from Institute at about 06.00 AM
- Reached Bengaluru Airport at 10:30 AM
- Left for Ooty from Bengaluru Airport at around 11:00 AM
- Had Lunch at The President Hotel, 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 and enjoyed a great dinner in Windsor Heights, Ooty



Day 1 (29th April,2024)



- Left hotel to visit Doddabeta Peak at around 10 AM
- Visited Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory at around 1:00 PM
- Lunch in Ooty
- Left for boating in Ooty lake at around 5 PM

Day 2(30th April,2024)

- Visited Botanical Garden at 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Visited Paykara Waterfall at around 2:00 PM
- Leave for Waynad
- Reached Waynad at around 8 PM





Day 3 (01st May, 2024)

- Visited Edekkal Caves at around 9 AM
- Went to Kappad Beach in Kerala where first Portugese traveller stepped
- Came back to Waynad

Day 4 (02nd May,2024)

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



Day 5 (03rd May,2024)



Day
06
(04th
h

May, 2024)

- Leave for Mysore from Coorg
- Visited Namdroling Monestry in Piriapatna at around 11:30 to 01:30 PM
- Visited St. Joseph's Church in Mysore
- Visited K. R. Chokkappa Temple in Mysore
- Visited V. Venkateswara Temple in Mysore



1.BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

While heading

towards Ooty from Mysore, the way passed

through Bandipur tiger reserve and Mudumali National Park. As we wind through the lush greenery, they catch glimpses of diverse wildlife in their natural habitat, including deer, stags, elephants, and exotic bird species. The evening was getting darker and darker as well as the denseness of forest. Bandipur Tiger Reserve spans 870 square kilometers, offering a haven for biodiversity. Home to the iconic Bengal tiger, the reserve's strategic location along the Mysore-Ooty highway makes it easily accessible for wildlife enthusiasts and tourists.



2.Dodabetta Peak (Western Ghats)

After reaching Ooty at night, the next day involved exploring Ooty and visit to Doddabetta Peak, located in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu. Doddabetta Peak, standing



tall at 2,637 meters (8,650 feet), proudly claims the title of the highest point in the Nilgiri Hills of southern India.

Located near Ooty in Tamil Nadu, Doddabetta offers a breathtaking panorama of the surrounding landscape, encompassing lush valleys, rolling hills, and verdant tea estates. Visitors can ascend the peak via a scenic drive or hike, immersing themselves in the tranquil beauty of the Western Ghats along the way. At the summit, there stands a watch tower that provides a mesmerizing 360-degree view, allowing travelers to feel the peak and ambience to the heart. Way to the peak a no of shops that offer local crafts and cuisine in an elegant way.



3. Tea Factory at Ooty

The visit to a tea factory in Ooty offers an insightful journey into the fascinating world of tea production. Upon arrival, visitors are greeted with the aroma of fresh tea leaves. When we entered the Tea Factory at Ooty, we noted that tea manufacturing is completed in following steps:

1. **Plucking:** Skilled workers handpick tender tea leaves from the bushes, selecting only the finest quality leaves for processing.
2. **Withering:** The freshly plucked leaves are spread out on large trays or racks to reduce moisture content, allowing them to become pliable for further processing.
3. **Rolling:** The withered leaves are passed through rollers to break down their cell walls, initiating oxidation and releasing enzymes that contribute to flavor development.

4. Fermentation: The rolled leaves are spread out in a controlled environment to undergo oxidation, a crucial step that determines the tea's flavor profile.
5. Drying: Once the desired level of oxidation is achieved, the leaves are dried using hot air or ovens to halt the fermentation process and reduce moisture content.
6. Sorting: Dried tea leaves are meticulously sorted based on size, shape, and quality to ensure consistency in the final product.
7. Packaging: The sorted tea leaves are carefully packaged into bags or containers, ready for distribution to markets or retail outlets.



We were also offered freshly prepared tree and its taste was really beyond description.

4. Chocolate factory at Ooty

After tea factory, we went to nearby Chocolate factory. A visit to the chocolate factory in Ooty offers a delectable experience for chocolate enthusiasts. Visitors are treated to an immersive tour of the manufacturing process, witnessing the transformation of cocoa beans into mouthwatering chocolate delights. Additionally, the factory houses charming shops where visitors can indulge in purchasing a variety of handcrafted chocolates, each a tempting treat for the taste buds.



5. Boating in Ooty lake

At Ooty Lake, boating was a serene adventure amidst nature's greenery. Renting rowboats or paddle boats from the lakeside, we began the exciting journey. Slowly gliding across the calm waters, surrounded by lush greenery and misty hills, creates a peaceful atmosphere. All OTs cherishing moments of togetherness were enjoying the water. As the sun set, casting a golden glow over the scenery, the charm of the lake magnified. Each stroke of the oar or push of the pedal added to the memories woven into the fabric of the outing.



Even after returning ashore, the tranquility and beauty of the Ooty Lake linger in the hearts of visitors, a cherished memento of their time on the water was engraved.



6. Botanical Garden Ooty

It was Day 2 of our trip. The garden, sprawling across 55 acres, showcases a stunning array of flora. Venturing into the Botanical Garden in Ooty offered a delightful escape into a realm brimming with natural splendor. As we stepped inside, the fragrant perfume of blossoming flowers enveloped us, beckoning us to explore further. This enchanting garden boasted a diverse collection of plant life, ranging from exotic orchids to majestic trees, each adding to the tapestry of colors and textures. The main attraction included Fern house and Italian Garden inside.





7. Pykara Falls

Pykara Falls is a scenic waterfall located near Ooty in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the region, known for its natural beauty and tranquil surroundings. The waterfall cascades down from a height of approximately 55 meters (180 feet) into a series of pools and streams, creating a mesmerizing sight and a soothing sound. Captured the beauty of the falls through photography and simply immersed oneself in the serenity of nature, Pykara Falls offers a memorable experience for visitors of all ages.





8. Edekkal Caves

Visiting the Edekkal Caves in Kerala was a fascinating experience that took us on a journey through ancient history and natural wonder. Here's what visitors can expect:

a). Historical Exploration: The caves are renowned for their ancient petroglyphs, which are prehistoric rock carvings dating back thousands of years. Visitors can marvel at these intricate carvings, which depict symbols, animals, and human figures, offering a glimpse into the lives of early inhabitants of the region.

b) Scenic Hike: Getting to the caves involves a scenic hike through lush green forests and rocky terrain. The journey itself is an adventure, with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape and glimpses of local flora and fauna along the way.

c). Cave Exploration*: Upon reaching the caves, visitors can explore the cavernous chambers and narrow passages, which are formed by massive boulders resting atop one another. The unique geological formation of the caves adds to their allure, creating a sense of mystery and intrigue.

d). Cultural Insight: The Edakkal Caves hold cultural significance for the local indigenous tribes, who believe that the caves are linked to ancient myths and legends. Visitors can learn about the folklore and traditions associated with the caves, gaining insight into the rich cultural heritage of the region.



9. Kappad Beach(Kerala)

After visiting caves, our group was sort of tired with mountains and here comes the change. Our group was now heading towards Kappad Beach of Kerala. Kappad Beach holds importance too as a)European Contact with India*: Vasco da Gama's arrival at Kappad Beach is considered a pivotal moment in

Indian history as it marked the first direct sea route from Europe to India. This contact between Europe and India had far-reaching consequences, shaping the course of Indian history, culture, and trade.

b) Tourist Attraction*: Today, Kappad Beach is not only a historical landmark but also a popular tourist destination in Kerala. Visitors come to enjoy the scenic beauty of the beach, take leisurely walks along the shore, and engage in water sports like swimming and surfing. The historical significance of the beach adds to its appeal, attracting both history enthusiasts and beachgoers alike.



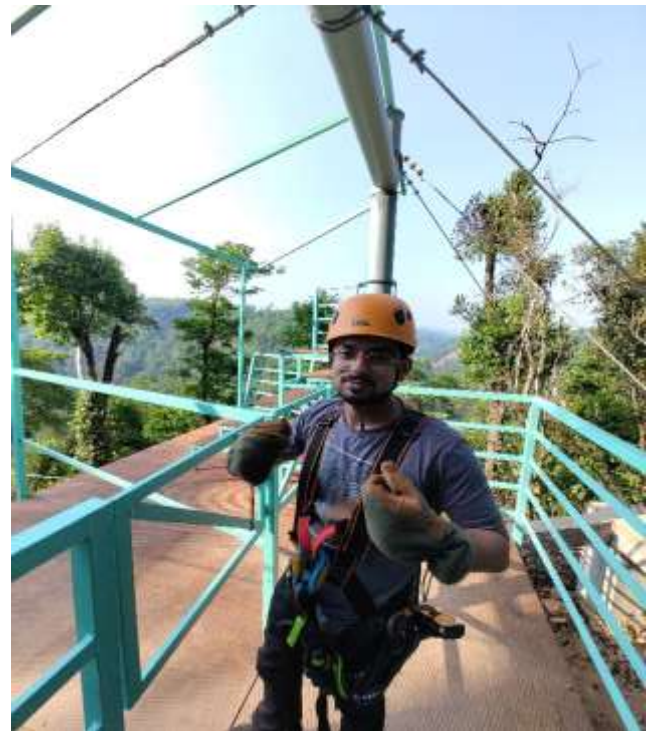
10. Abbey Falls

On Day 04, our destination was Coorg. On the way to heart of Coorg, we were to visit Abbey Waterfalls. Visiting Abbey Falls in Karnataka was a captivating experience that immersed us in the beauty of nature and the power of cascading water. Situated at about approximately 8 kilometers from the town of Madikeri, Abbi Falls is easily accessible by road, surrounded by dense forests and coffee plantations. Abbi falls was initially known as Jessi Falls named after wife of a british officer. The two main attraction of the waterfalls are

a) *Spectacular Waterfall*: Upon reaching Abbey Falls, visitors are greeted by the sight of water plunging from a height of about 70 feet into a pool below. The sheer force of the waterfall creates a mesmerizing display of cascading water, surrounded by rocky cliffs and dense vegetation.



b) **Karnataka's longest Zipline-** Pure Adrenaline rushed to its height while ziplining through the Karnatak's longest zipline on the way to Abbi waterfalls. The 40 seconds adventure at a height of several hundred metres provides a spectacular view of the Kodagu from a completely different angle.



11. Ela Glamping

Ela Camping Spot, located in Madikeri(Karnataka), offers a unique and memorable outdoor experience for nature enthusiasts. Situated at 14 Kms from Abbey falls is one of a kind attraction. In a forest that

The main attraction was first hand experience of deep forest life- a night under stars with no network coverage, zero navigation with a taste of local life. The site had arrangements of bonfire. Locals told that tourism and plantation of beverage and spice was the major employment factor in the area.

is a home to vipers and cobras, the camping coordinator disclosed that it took several hardships for about 04 years to develop that glamping site.

The second attraction is Bonfire 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.

The third attraction is nearby flowing river. The flowing water amid the greenery creates an ambience that is unable to forget once experienced. In night, the hundreds of fireflies on the river creates a totally different spectacle in the darkness of jungle.





12. Namdroling Monastery

Namdroling Monastery, nestled in the serene hills of Coorg in Karnataka, India, is a captivating symbol of Tibetan Buddhist culture and spirituality. Established in 1963, it stands as one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist centers outside Tibet, also known as the Golden Temple due to its ornate and gilded architecture. The monastery is

renowned for its vibrant and colorful murals, intricate woodcarvings, and towering statues of Buddhist deities, creating a mesmerizing ambiance of reverence and tranquility. Home to thousands of monks and nuns, Namdroling Monastery welcomes visitors from around the world to experience its sacred teachings, rituals, and the profound serenity it offers.



Architecture: The Namdroling Monastery is known for its vibrant Tibetan architecture adorned with intricate traditional motifs and colourful prayer flags with a dedicated shopping area for Tibetan handicrafts, artifacts and souvenir of Buddhist importance. The main attraction is the Golden temple which enshrines a 60 ft tall golden statue of Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism.



13. St. Philomena's Cathedral Church

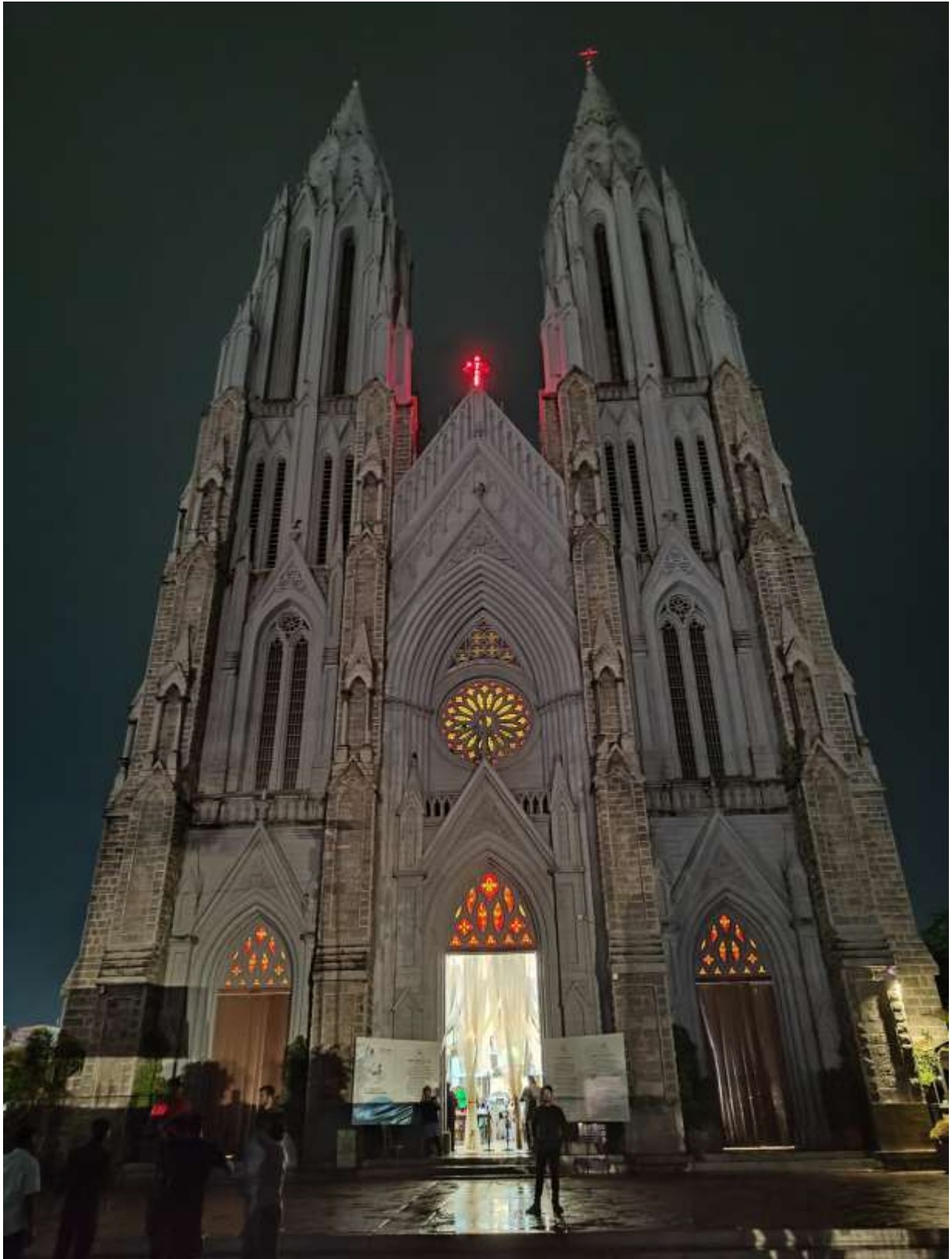
St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysore, Karnataka, is one of the most majestic churches in India and holds significant religious and historical importance. Here's why:

a) **Architectural Marvel***: St. Philomena's Cathedral (175 ft) is the second largest Church in Asia renowned for its stunning architecture, blending elements of Neo-Gothic and Roman architectural styles. Designed by the French architect Daly, 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. It has been featured in a no of films including Amar, Akbar and Anthony.



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.

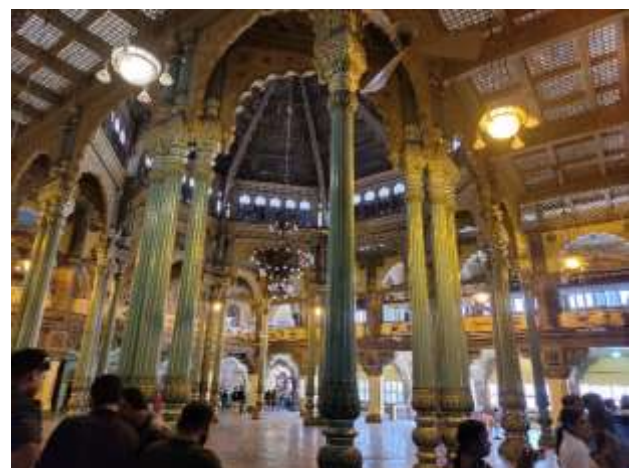


15. Mysore Palace



The Palace of Mysore (also known as the Amba Vilas Palace) is a historical palace in the city of Mysore in Karnataka. Designed by the English Architect, Henry Irwin, the Mysore Palace dominates the skyline of Mysore. A three storied structure in the Indo-Saracenic style built between 1897-1912, the palace has beautifully designed square towers at cardinal points, covered with domes.

*The Durbar Hall with its ornate ceiling and sculpted pillars and the Kalyanamantapa (marriage pavilion) with its glazed tiled flooring and stained glass, domed ceiling are worth noting. Intricately carved doors, the golden howdah (elephant seat), paintings as well as the fabulous, jewel encrusted golden throne (displayed during Dasara) are amongst the palace's other treasures.





The walled palace complex houses the Residential Museum (incorporating some of the Palace's living quarters), temples and shrines including the Shwetha Varahaswamy temple. The palace is illuminated on Sundays, Public Holidays as well as during the Dasara Celebrations where 97,000 electric bulbs are used to illuminate it.

The Palace has four entrances. Main entrance is called "**Jaya Maarthaanda**" to the east, "**Jayarama**" to the North, "**Balarama**" to the South and "**Varaha**" to the west.
architecture, culture.



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!