



**Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resources
Development Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad**

STUDY TOUR REPORT

**ISTM PHASE-1 Foundation Training
Programme for Assistant Section Officers
(Probationer), CSS of 2023 Batch**

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Acknowledgment

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for providing us with the opportunity to take part in mandatory training program at the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development, Institute of Telangana. I would also like to thank Smt. **Dr Kandukuri Usha Rani**, Course Director, for her constant guidance and support during this tour. This was a unique experience for all of us and we learned quite a lot during this period.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Director General, Dr. MCR HRD Institute for providing all the necessary support for successful completion of this study tour.

Objective Of This Study Tour

As part of mandatory ISTM Phase-01 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (Probationers) of CSS Cadre of 2023 batch at Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, 7 days tour was organized from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024, which I underwent under the guidance of **Shri Dr. K. Sukumar**, Senior faculty and Bharat Darshan Coordinator.

There were 183 participants from different Ministries who participated in this Training programme. The objective of Training programme can be summarized as below: -

- ✓ To develop team spirit, time management, management of crisis and adaptability to various odd situations.
- ✓ To familiarize the trainees with India's cultural heritage and arts.
- ✓ To expose the trainees to research and developmental work being done by Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies.

Schedule Of Study Tour

The study tour organized by ISTM for ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (Probationers) of CSS Cadre of 2023 batch and was scheduled for the period from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024 as per the following details:

| Day | Places | Activities |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 28 th April 2024 | Chennai, Mahabalipuram, Pondicherry | Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shore Temple • Paanch Rathas • Arjuna Penance |
| 29 th April 2024 | Pondicherry | Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auroville • Rock Beach/Promenade Beach • French Colonies |
| 30 th April 2024 | Pondicherry, Coimbatore | Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adiyogi |
| 1 st May 2024 | Coimbatore, Coonoor, Ooty | Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sims Park, Coonoor • Boating in Ooty lake |
| 2 nd May 2024 | Ooty | Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dodabetta Peak, Nilgiri Hills • Tea Factory and Tea Museum |
| 3 rd May 2024 | Ooty, Mysore | Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pykara lake & Dam • Departure for Mysore |
| 4 th May 2024 | Mysore, Bengaluru | Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamundi Hills • Maharaja Palace/Mysore Palace |

DAY 1: Mahabalipuram

Shore Temple

The **Shore Temple** in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, is a remarkable architectural masterpiece that stands as a testament to the artistic and engineering prowess of the Pallava dynasty. Dating back to the 8th century AD, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the oldest structural stone temples in South India. Situated on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, the temple complex consists of three shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu, along with smaller pavilions and carvings that adorn its surroundings.



Shore temple, Mahabalipuram

The Shore Temple's design and orientation are awe-inspiring, with its towering pyramidal spires (shikharas) and intricate sculptures intricately carved from granite rock. The temple's location on the coast adds to its mystique, with the crashing waves of the sea providing a soothing backdrop to the serene ambiance of the surroundings. Visitors to the Shore Temple are mesmerized by the intricate carvings that depict scenes from Hindu mythology, including celestial beings,

divine consorts, and mythological creatures, reflecting the rich cultural and religious significance of the temple.

Beyond its architectural and historical significance, the Shore Temple holds profound spiritual importance for devotees and visitors alike. It is revered as a sacred pilgrimage site and a place of worship, where devotees come to offer prayers and seek blessings from the divine. The temple's timeless beauty, coupled with its serene coastal setting, creates a tranquil environment conducive to meditation, reflection, and spiritual rejuvenation. As a cherished symbol of India's rich cultural heritage and architectural legacy, the Shore Temple continues to inspire awe and reverence among all who behold its majestic splendor.

In conclusion, the Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram stands as a timeless testament to the rich cultural heritage and architectural brilliance of ancient India. Dating back to the 8th century AD, this UNESCO World Heritage Site continues to captivate visitors with its magnificent design, intricate carvings, and serene coastal setting. As a sacred pilgrimage site and architectural marvel, the Shore Temple holds profound significance for devotees, historians, and tourists alike, serving as a beacon of spirituality, cultural heritage, and artistic mastery. Its enduring legacy as a symbol of India's rich past and spiritual heritage continues to inspire awe and reverence, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in its timeless beauty and sacred aura. Through its majestic presence and historical significance, the Shore Temple remains an enduring symbol of India's architectural and cultural heritage, preserving the legacy of its creators for generations to come.

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.



Krishna's Butterball

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.

Pancha Rathas

The Pancha Rathas, also known as the Five Rathas, is a remarkable architectural complex located in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India. Dating back to the 7th century AD, these monolithic rock-cut temples are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a testament to the artistic and engineering skills of the Pallava dynasty. Each of the five Rathas is sculpted from a single granite rock and represents a distinct architectural style, ranging from Dravidian to Nagara. The names of the Rathas are derived from the characters of the epic Mahabharata, with each Ratha dedicated to a specific deity or hero.



Visitors to the Pancha Rathas are awed by the intricate carvings, majestic proportions, and architectural diversity of the temples. Despite being carved from the same rock, each Ratha boasts unique features, decorative motifs, and sculptural reliefs, showcasing the ingenuity and creativity of the Pallava artisans. The Pancha Rathas continue to be a source of inspiration and admiration for art enthusiasts, historians, and tourists alike, offering a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage and architectural legacy of ancient India.

Arjuna Penance (Descent of the Ganges)



Arjuna's Penance, also known as Descent of the Ganges, is a monumental bas-relief located in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India. Carved on two massive boulders, this UNESCO World Heritage Site dates back to the 7th century AD and is one of the most iconic and elaborate rock-cut sculptures in South India. The name "Arjuna's Penance" is derived from Hindu mythology, where it is believed that the hero Arjuna performed severe penance to obtain a powerful weapon from the gods.

The bas-relief depicts a wide range of subjects, including scenes from Hindu mythology, everyday life, and celestial beings. At the center of the composition is a massive cleft in the rock, symbolizing the descent of the sacred river Ganges from the heavens to the earth. The intricate carvings depict a myriad of figures, animals, gods, and mythical creatures, all meticulously crafted with astonishing detail and precision. Visitors to Arjuna's Penance are mesmerized by the sheer scale and complexity of the sculpture, as well as the skill and artistry of the Pallava artisans who created it.

Arjuna's Penance serves as a visual representation of Hindu cosmology, mythology, and cultural traditions, reflecting the rich tapestry of ancient Indian civilization. The sculpture is not only a testament to the artistic genius of the Pallava dynasty but also a cherished symbol of India's cultural heritage and spiritual legacy. As visitors explore the intricacies of Arjuna's Penance, they are transported back in time to an era of artistic splendor and spiritual enlightenment, where myths and legends were immortalized in stone for future generations to marvel at and admire.

DAY 2 : PONDICHERRY

Pondicherry, also known as Puducherry, is a charming coastal town nestled on the southeastern coast of India. Steeped in history and culture, Pondicherry is renowned for its unique blend of French colonial heritage, Tamil tradition, and spiritual ambiance. The town's serene beaches, cobblestone streets, and colonial-era architecture attract tourists seeking a tranquil retreat amidst the bustling chaos of modern life. Visitors can explore the vibrant markets, savor delectable French and South Indian cuisine, and immerse themselves in the spiritual atmosphere of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville. Pondicherry's eclectic charm, rich cultural tapestry, and laid-back vibe make it a captivating destination for travelers seeking an authentic and enriching experience in India.

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 realize human unity – in diversity. Today Auroville is recognized 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.

➤ At the centre stands the Matrimandir, the "soul of the city", a place for individual silent concentration, in an oval shaped Peace Area surrounded by a lake. Radiating out beyond the lake are four Zones - the Industrial (north), Cultural (north east), Residential (south/south west) and International (west) - each focusing on an important aspect of the town's life. Surrounding the township will be a Green Belt consisting of forested areas, farms and sanctuaries.



Rock Beach/Promenade Beach

Rock Beach, also known as Promenade Beach, is a captivating stretch of coastline that serves as a prominent landmark in the quaint town of Pondicherry. Renowned for its rocky shoreline and tranquil ambiance, Rock Beach offers visitors a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Lined with picturesque promenades, vibrant flower beds, and colonial-era monuments, the beach provides an ideal setting for leisurely strolls, scenic sunsets, and moments of relaxation by the sea.



The unique geological formations along Rock Beach, coupled with the gentle lapping of waves against the rocks, create a mesmerizing backdrop that draws both locals and tourists alike. Whether it's soaking in the tranquil atmosphere, indulging in delicious street food from nearby vendors, or simply enjoying the panoramic views of the Bay of

Bengal, Rock Beach offers a serene oasis where visitors can unwind, rejuvenate, and connect with the natural beauty of Pondicherry's coastline.

French Colony

➤ A remarkable degree of French influence in Pondicherry exists to this date. Pondicherry was designed based on the French (originally Dutch) grid pattern and features neat sectors and perpendicular streets. The town is divided into two sections: the French Quarter (Ville Blanche or 'White town') and the Indian quarter (Ville Noire or 'Black Town'). Many streets still retain their French names, and French style villas are a common sight. In the French quarter, the buildings are typically colonial style with long compounds and stately walls. These French and Indian style houses are identified and their architecture preserved from destruction by an organization named INTACH. The use of the French language can be still seen in Pondicherry.



Day 3: Pondicherry, Coimbatore

Adiyogi (Coimbatore)



Adiyogi, Coimbatore

The Adiyogi Shiva statue, located at the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, is a magnificent symbol of spirituality, enlightenment, and human potential. Designed by the renowned spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, the statue stands at a towering height of 112 feet, making it the largest bust sculpture in the world. Carved out of steel and adorned with intricate detailing, the statue represents Lord Shiva in his fierce meditative form, embodying the essence of Adiyogi, the first yogi and the ultimate source of yoga.

Surrounded by lush greenery and tranquil surroundings, the Adiyogi statue serves as a focal point for spiritual seekers, yoga enthusiasts, and visitors from around the world. It is not only a stunning work of art but also a powerful symbol of inner

transformation and self-realization. Visitors to the Isha Yoga Center can participate in various yoga programs, meditation sessions, and spiritual retreats, all aimed at fostering personal growth and well-being. The presence of the Adiyogi statue serves as a constant reminder of the timeless wisdom and boundless potential within each individual, inspiring all who behold it to embark on a journey of self-discovery and inner awakening.

Day 4: Coimbatore, Coonoor, Ooty

Sims Park – Coonoor

Sims Park is a picturesque botanical garden nestled in the heart of Coonoor, a charming hill station in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, India. Established in 1874, the park spans approximately 12 hectares and is renowned for its diverse collection of plant species, manicured lawns, and tranquil ambiance. Named after J.D. Sims, the then Secretary to the Madras Government, Sims Park serves as a serene oasis amidst the lush greenery of the Nilgiri hills, attracting nature enthusiasts, botanists, and tourists alike.



Sims park, Coonoor

The park's landscape is adorned with a wide array of exotic plants, trees, and flowers, including rare species such as the monkey puzzle tree, cork

tree, and ornamental ferns. Visitors to Sims Park can meander along winding pathways, bordered by vibrant flower beds and towering trees, offering a scenic journey through the park's botanical wonders. The centerpiece of Sims Park is a charming lake adorned with water lilies and surrounded by verdant foliage, creating a serene setting for boating and leisurely walks.

In addition to its natural beauty, Sims Park offers recreational facilities and attractions for visitors of all ages. The park features a children's play area, where young visitors can enjoy swings, slides, and other play equipment amidst the scenic surroundings. There are also well-maintained lawns and seating areas where visitors can relax, unwind, and soak in the tranquility of nature. Whether it's exploring the botanical treasures, enjoying a leisurely boat ride on the lake, or simply basking in the serenity of the surroundings,

Ooty Lake – Ooty

Ooty Lake, nestled amidst the scenic landscapes of the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu, India, is a tranquil oasis that beckons visitors seeking respite from the hustle and bustle of city life. Originally constructed in the early 19th century, this man-made lake spans approximately 65 acres and is surrounded by lush greenery, rolling hills, and eucalyptus forests, creating a serene ambiance that enchants all who visit. Boating facilities are available at the lake, allowing visitors to embark on leisurely rides across its shimmering waters and soak in the breathtaking views of the surrounding hillsides and verdant landscapes.



Ooty lake, Ooty

Beyond boating, Ooty Lake offers various recreational activities and attractions for visitors of all ages. The lakefront promenade is lined with quaint cafes, charming shops, and vibrant gardens, inviting visitors to stroll along its shores and indulge in leisurely pursuits.

Additionally, horseback riding facilities, amusement park rides, and a mini-train ride offer entertainment for children and adults alike, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy at Ooty Lake. Whether it's basking in the tranquility of the surroundings, enjoying a scenic boat ride, or exploring the myriad attractions along its shores, Ooty Lake promises an unforgettable experience amidst the natural splendor of the Nilgiris.

Day 5: Ooty

Dodabetta Peak, towering at an altitude of 2,637 meters (8,650 feet) above sea level, stands as the highest point in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, India, offering visitors panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes and beyond. Located near the hill station of Ooty, Dodabetta Peak is a popular destination for nature lovers, photographers, and adventure enthusiasts seeking awe-inspiring vistas and a rejuvenating escape amidst nature's tranquility. The journey to Dodabetta Peak is as enchanting as the destination itself, with winding roads leading through verdant forests and picturesque valleys, offering glimpses of the region's pristine wilderness.



View from Doddabetta Peak

At the summit of Dodabetta Peak, visitors are treated to breathtaking panoramic views that stretch as far as the eye can see, encompassing rolling hills, lush valleys, and distant mountain ranges. The observation tower situated atop the peak provides unobstructed vistas of the surrounding terrain, allowing visitors to marvel at the natural beauty of the Nilgiris and soak in the serenity of the surroundings. Whether it's witnessing the sunrise

or sunset casting a golden glow over the landscape or simply enjoying the cool mountain breeze on a clear day, Doddabetta Peak offers a tranquil retreat where visitors can reconnect with nature and find solace amidst the beauty of the Nilgiris.



Telescope House of Doddabetta Peak

Tea Factory or Tea Museum

The Ooty Tea Factory, also known as the Government Botanical Tea Garden, is a prominent landmark in Ooty, Tamil Nadu, India. Established in the late 19th century by the British colonial administration, this tea factory stands as a testament to the rich legacy of tea cultivation in the Nilgiri Hills. Nestled amidst verdant slopes and rolling hills, the tea factory

offers visitors a fascinating glimpse into the art and science of tea production, from plucking the tender tea leaves to processing and packaging the final product.



At the Ooty Tea Factory, visitors can embark on guided tours that take them through the various stages of tea production, starting from the sprawling tea gardens where the prized *Camellia sinensis* plants are cultivated. Knowledgeable guides provide insights into the cultivation techniques, harvesting methods, and processing procedures involved in creating the finest Nilgiri tea. Visitors can observe firsthand the withering, rolling, fermentation, drying, and sorting processes that transform freshly plucked tea leaves into the aromatic and flavorful tea blends for which the region is renowned.

In addition to the informative tours, the Ooty Tea Factory also features a tea

museum and a retail outlet where visitors can purchase a wide range of Nilgiri tea products, including loose leaf teas, tea bags, and specialty blends. The museum showcases antique tea-making equipment, historical artifacts, and informative exhibits that highlight the cultural and economic significance of tea cultivation in the Nilgiri Hills. Whether it's sampling freshly brewed teas, learning about the fascinating history of tea in the region, or purchasing authentic Nilgiri tea souvenirs, a visit to the Ooty Tea Factory promises a delightful and enriching experience for tea enthusiasts and curious travelers alike.

Day 6 : Ooty, Mysore

Pykara Falls

Pykara Falls is a breathtaking natural wonder located near Ooty in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, India. Cascading from a height of approximately 55 meters (180 feet), Pykara Falls offers visitors a mesmerizing spectacle of cascading water surrounded by lush greenery and rugged cliffs. Nestled amidst the serene landscapes of the Western Ghats, the falls are renowned for their pristine beauty and tranquil ambiance, making them a popular destination for nature lovers, photographers, and outdoor enthusiasts.



Pykara waterfall, Ooty

The journey to Pykara Falls is as enchanting as the destination itself, with winding roads leading through verdant forests and scenic valleys. Upon arrival, visitors are greeted by the soothing sound of rushing water and the

refreshing mist that envelops the surroundings. The falls are set against a backdrop of dense Shola forests and tea plantations, creating a picturesque tableau that captivates the senses and offers a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of city life.

In addition to admiring the scenic beauty of the falls, visitors can explore the surrounding area, which offers opportunities for picnicking, trekking, and wildlife spotting. Pykara Falls is part of the Pykara River, which flows through the picturesque Pykara Lake located nearby. Boating facilities are available at the lake, allowing visitors to enjoy a leisurely ride amidst the serene landscapes and spot wildlife such as deer and birds along the shoreline. Whether it's immersing oneself in the natural splendor of the falls, embarking on a scenic hike through the surrounding forests, or simply enjoying a peaceful moment by the water's edge, Pykara Falls promises an unforgettable experience amidst the pristine beauty of the Nilgiris.

Day 7: Mysore

Chamundi Hills

Perched atop the majestic Chamundi Hills in Mysore, Karnataka, the Chamundeshwari Temple stands as a symbol of devotion and spiritual significance. Dedicated to Goddess Chamundeshwari, an incarnation of the Hindu goddess Durga, the temple is a revered pilgrimage site and a prominent landmark in the region. The temple's origins date back centuries, with historical records indicating its existence as far back as the 12th century. Over the years, the temple has undergone renovations and expansions, evolving into the magnificent structure it is today, attracting devotees, tourists, and spiritual seekers from far and wide.



Chamundeshwari Hills

The journey to the Chamundeshwari Temple begins with a scenic drive up the winding roads of Chamundi Hills, offering panoramic views of the

surrounding landscapes and the city of Mysore below. As visitors ascend the hill, they are greeted by the imposing entrance arch adorned with intricate carvings and religious motifs, marking the threshold to the sacred abode of the goddess. Upon reaching the temple complex, devotees are greeted by the towering gopuram (tower) adorned with colorful sculptures depicting scenes from Hindu mythology, setting the stage for a divine encounter with the goddess.



The main sanctum of the Chamundeshwari Temple houses the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari, adorned with precious jewels and draped in vibrant silk sarees. Devotees offer prayers and perform rituals to seek the blessings of the goddess for health, prosperity, and protection from evil forces. Surrounding the main shrine are smaller shrines dedicated to various deities, including Lord Ganesha and Lord Shiva, adding to the spiritual ambiance of the temple complex. Additionally, the temple precincts feature lush gardens, serene courtyards, and ornate pavilions where devotees can meditate, reflect, and partake in religious ceremonies.

Apart from its religious significance, the Chamundeshwari Temple offers visitors a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage and architectural grandeur of Karnataka. The temple's intricate carvings, towering spires, and vibrant colors reflect the Dravidian architectural style prevalent in the region, while its serene surroundings and panoramic views provide a tranquil retreat amidst the natural beauty of Chamundi Hills. Whether it's seeking blessings from the goddess, marveling at the architectural marvels, or simply soaking in the spiritual ambiance, a visit to the Chamundeshwari Temple promises an enriching and transformative experience for devotees and travelers alike.

Mysore Palace

The Mysore Palace, also known as the Amba Vilas Palace, stands as a magnificent testament to the opulence and grandeur of the Wodeyar dynasty, who ruled the Kingdom of Mysore for centuries. Located in the heart of Mysore city in Karnataka, India, the palace is a masterpiece of Indo-Saracenic architecture, blending elements of Hindu, Muslim, Rajput, and Gothic styles. Originally constructed in the 14th century and rebuilt multiple times over the centuries, the Mysore Palace showcases a stunning amalgamation of architectural influences, characterized by its intricately carved arches, domes, and ornate facades adorned with vibrant colors and intricate patterns.



Maharaja palace, Mysore

Entering the palace grounds, visitors are greeted by the imposing facade of the main entrance, flanked by two majestic stone elephants, symbolizing strength and prosperity. As visitors step inside, they are transported into a world of regal splendor and historical intrigue, with every corner of the palace adorned with exquisite craftsmanship and artistic detailing. The

interiors of the palace are adorned with elaborate frescoes, stained glass windows, ornate chandeliers, and intricate woodwork, reflecting the wealth and cultural richness of the Wodeyar dynasty.

The highlight of the Mysore Palace is the magnificent Durbar Hall, or the Audience Hall, adorned with intricately painted ceilings, gilded columns, and a grand throne crafted from gold and precious gemstones. This opulent hall served as the ceremonial and administrative center of the kingdom, where the Maharajas held court and conducted official functions. Surrounding the Durbar Hall are numerous other chambers and galleries, including the private chambers of the royal family, the Ambavilasa Hall, and the Kalyana Mantapa, each showcasing a unique blend of architectural styles and decorative motifs.

Today, the Mysore Palace stands as one of India's most visited tourist attractions, drawing millions of visitors each year to marvel at its architectural splendor, delve into its rich history, and experience the grandeur of royal life. In addition to serving as a museum and heritage site, the palace continues to be a focal point of cultural and religious celebrations, hosting various events, festivals, and ceremonies throughout the year, keeping alive the legacy of the Wodeyar dynasty and preserving the cultural heritage of Karnataka for generations to come.

Conclusion

The study tour was successful, informative, pleasant, enjoyable, and enriching. It was a success in terms of accomplishment of objectives and goals. This tour was a great learning experience and provided us with an opportunity to explore the rich and diverse culture of our country.

This study tour has exposed us to the socio-economic differences in the country and left an indelible mark on all of us. The exposure to different villages will serve as an encouragement to us to work harder to directly or indirectly affect people's lives through various central schemes.

Apart from this, this tour also developed our ability to work in groups through a number of team-building activities. All in all, the tour could be termed a big success and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Department of Personnel and Training for providing us with this opportunity to explore our country.