



**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**

Submitted by:

Yogesh Yadav
Assistant Section Officer
Department of Water Resources,
Ministry of Jal Shakti
OT Code – A92
Group – 01

INDEX

S.No.	Particulars	Page
1.	Acknowledgement	3
2.	Objectives	4
3.	Schedule of Study Tour	5-6
4.	Sight Seeings in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka	7-29
5.	Conclusion	30

Acknowledgment

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Department of Personnel and Training for providing me 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 me and I learned quite a lot during this period.

I would also like to express my 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"> • Mangrove Forest • Adiyogi
1 st May 2024	Coimbatore, Coonoor, Ooty	Visit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sims Park • 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"> • Chamundeswari Hills • Maharaja Palace/Mysore Palace

DAY 1: Mahabalipuram

Shore Temple

Shore Temple, complex of elegant shrines (c. 700 ce), one among a number of Hindu monuments at Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram), on the Coromandel Coast of Tamil Nadu state, India. It is considered the finest early example of medieval southern Indian temple architecture. At the time of its creation, the site was a busy port during the reign of Narasimhavarman II of the Indian Pallava dynasty.



Unlike most of its neighbours at the site, it is built of cut stones rather than carved out of caves. It has two shrines, one dedicated to Shiva and the other to Vishnu. Its style is characterized by a pyramidal *kutina*-type tower that consists of stepped stories topped by a cupola and finial, a form quite different from the northern Indian *sikhara*. The Mamallapuram monuments and temples, including the Shore Temple complex, were collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984.

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.



Pancha Rathas



➤ Aa 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.

➤ Each of the five monuments in the Pancha Rathas complex resembles a chariot (ratha), and each is carved over a single, long stone or monolith, of granite which slopes in north–south direction with a slight incline. Though sometimes mistakenly referred to as temples, the structures were never consecrated because they were never completed following the death of Narasimhavarman I. The structures are named after the Pancha Pandavas and their common wife Draupadi, of epic Mahabharata fame. In order of their size, they include the Dharmaraja Ratha, Bhima Ratha, Arjuna Ratha, Nakula Sahadeva Ratha, and Draupadi Ratha.

Arjuna Penance (Descent of the Ganges)

Descent of the Ganges, known locally as *Arjuna's Penance*, is a monument at Mamallapuram, on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal, in the Chengalpattu district of the state of Tamil Nadu, India. Measuring 96 by 43 feet (29 m × 13 m), it is a giant open-air rock relief carved on two monolithic rock boulders. The legend depicted in the relief is the story of the descent of the sacred river Ganges to earth from the heavens led by Bhagiratha. The waters of the Ganges are believed to possess supernatural powers. The descent of the Ganges and Arjuna's Penance are portrayed in stone at the Pallava heritage site. The relief is more of a canvas of Indian rock cut sculpture at its best not seen anywhere else in India. It is one of the Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram that were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site.



DAY 2 : PONDICHERRY

Pondicherry (or Puducherry), a French colonial settlement in India until 1954, is now a Union Territory town bounded by the southeastern Tamil Nadu state. Its French legacy is preserved in its French Quarter, with tree-lined streets, mustard-colored colonial villas and chic boutiques. A seaside promenade runs along the Bay of Bengal and passes several statues, including a 4m-high Gandhi Memorial.

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 (or, known as, "Pondicherry Beach". French: Plage de la promenade) is the popular stretch of beachfront in the city of Puducherry, India, along the Bay of Bengal. It is a 1.2-kilometre-long stretch in Pondicherry, starts from War Memorial and end at Dupleix Park on the Goubert Avenue.



French Colony

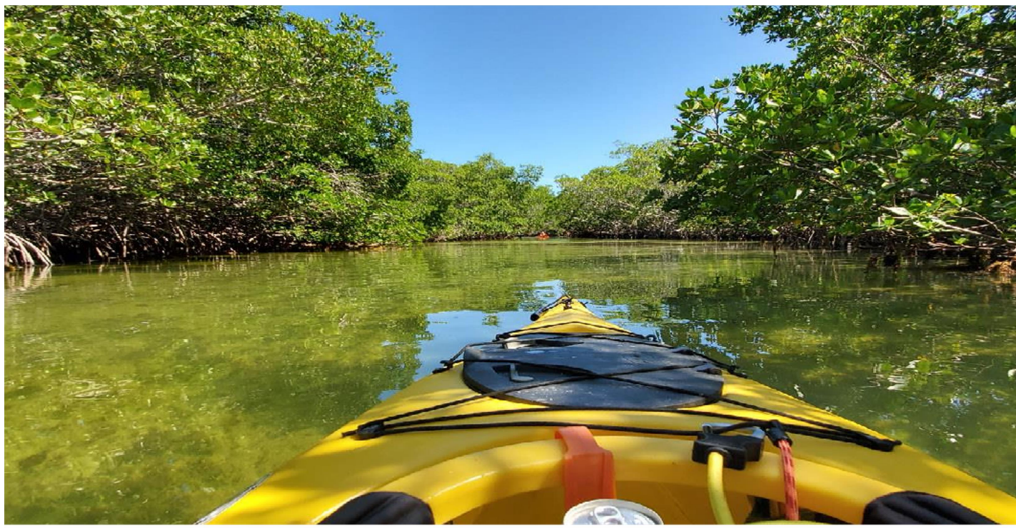
➤ A remarkable degree of French influence in Pondicherry exists to this date. Pondicherry was designed based on the French (originally Dutch) grid pattern and features neat sectors and perpendicular streets. The town is divided into two sections: the French Quarter (Ville Blanche or 'White town') and 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

Mangrove Kayaking (Pondicherry)

This kayaking experience takes you across the beautiful backwaters of Pondicherry. All ICMR mandated guidelines are being followed so that you can have a smooth, mesmerizing experience as you glide across the shimmering waterways. As you glide along the calm waters, you'll witness the breathtaking beauty of lush greenery, migratory birds, and pristine landscapes. These serene backwaters provide the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, allowing you to reconnect with nature and find inner peace.



Adiyogi (Coimbatore)

The *Adiyogi Shiva bust* is a 34-metre tall (112 ft), 45-metre long (147 ft) and 25-metre wide (82 ft) steel bust of Shiva with Thirunamam at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It is recognized by the *Guinness World Records* as the "Largest Bust Sculpture" in the world. Designed by Sadhguru, the founder and head of the Isha Foundation, the statue weighs around 500 tonnes (490 long tons; 550 short tons).

Adiyogi refers to Shiva (Shankara) as the first yogi. It was established to inspire people towards inner well-being through yoga.

Adiyogi is located at the Isha Yoga Centre. Its height, 112 ft, symbolizes the 112 possibilities to attain to *moksha* (liberation) that are mentioned in yogic culture and also the 112 chakras in the human system. A linga named *Yogeshwar Linga* was consecrated and placed in front of the statue. The Indian Ministry of Tourism has included the statue in its official Incredible India tourism campaign. It is also the venue of a light and sound show about Shiva as a yogi, inaugurated by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.



Day 4: Coimbatore, Coonoor, Ooty

Sims Park – Coonoor

This unusual park-cum-botanical garden was developed around the natural contours of the land more than a hundred years ago., Ethnic trees, shrubs and creepers, co-habit with many unusual species of foliage brought in from various parts of the world. Rudraksha – the bead tree and Queensland karry pine, a handsome ornamental tree, are among the many attractions in this park. Sim's park and the Botanical Garden to gather from the largest repository of temperate plants in India and an important destination for Botanists. Sim's Park is the venue for the annual vegetable and fruit show.

Sim's Park, Coonoor, came into existence due to the pioneer efforts of the early European settlers. It was inaugurated in December, 1874 due to the efforts of Mr. J.D. Sim, Secretary to Government and Major Murray, acting Superintendent of the Nilgiris forests, and the park was named after the former.

The park is situated in a deep ravine on the northern side of Coonoor railway station at an elevation of 1768 to 1798 metres above MSL. It extends over an area of 12 hectares of undulating land and possesses a number of natural advantages. It adjoins the Pomological Station, Pasteur Institute and Silk Worm Seed Station.



Ooty Lake – Ooty

Ooty lake is an artificial lake near Ooty in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, India. It covers an area of 26 hectares (64 acres). The boathouse on the lake is a major tourist attraction.

Ooty Lake is an artificial lake constructed by John Sullivan in 1824. The water flowing down mountain streams in the Ooty valley was dammed to form the lake. The lake became empty on three occasions when it breached its bund. Originally, the lake was intended to be used for fishing, with ferries being used to travel across the lake. It gradually shrunk from its original size, giving place to the current bus stand, race course and the lake park. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, on behalf of the Tourism Department, took possession of the lake in 1973 to provide boating facilities as a tourist attraction.

The lake is surrounded by groves of Eucalyptus trees with a railway line running along one shore. During the summer season in May, boat races and boat pageantry are organised for two days.



Day 5: Ooty

Doddabetta is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 metres (8,652 ft). There is a reserved forest area around the peak. It is 9 km from Ooty, on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India. It is the fourth highest peak in South India next to Anamudi, Mannamalai and Meesapulimala. The peaks Hecuba (2375 m), Kattadadu (2418 m) and Kulkudi (2439 m) are the three closely linked summits in the west of the Doddabetta range near to Udagamandalam. The word Doddabetta is derived from Kannada, meaning 'big hill'.

Telescope House: There is an observatory at the top of Doddabetta with two telescopes available for the public. It was opened on 18 June 1983 and is run by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC).



View from Doddabetta Peak



Telescope House

Tea Factory or Tea Museum

Ooty Tea Factory or Tea Museum is situated on the Doddabetta Road in Ooty. Surrounded by emerald green tea plantations, the museum takes you on a tour of tea evolution from the origin to the present. It has a variety of preserved tea leaves on display. It also has an adjacent souvenir shop where you can try and buy various kinds of tea leaves.



Day 6 : Ooty, Mysore

Pykara Falls

The Pykara is the largest river in the District. It is considered very sacred by the Todas. The Pykara river rises at Mukurthi peak. It passes through hilly tract, generally keeping to North and turns to West after reaching the Plateau's edge. It gets down majestically in a series of cascades; and the last two falls of 55 meters and 61 meters are known as Pykara falls. They are about 20 kms from Ooty.

The Pykara Lake is about 21 kms from Ooty on the Ooty-Mysore road. Boating on the Pykara lake is enjoyable.



Day 7: Mysore

Chamundeswari Hills

Chamundeswari temple is situated on the top of Chamundi hill which is about 3,489 ft. above sea level and located at a distance of 13 Kms. from Mysore. The temple is dedicated to Sri Chamundeswari, the titular deity of the Mysore Royal Family also described as ‘Mahishasura Mardini’ for having killed the buffalo headed demon Mahishasura.

Krishnaraja Wodeyar III built a Gopura with gold finials, and set up statues of his and his three queens. In 1827, Krishnaraja Wodeyar III made arrangements for festivals and processions and gifted Simhavahana in 1843.

There are two other temples dedicated to Narayana Swamy and Mahabaleswara. Sri Mahabaleswara temple was built before the beginning of the Hoysala rule. Epigraphical evidences indicate this area as Mabhala or Mabbala theertha and states that Hoysala. King Vishnuvardhana has given donations to this temple in 1128 A.D.

Nandi: The colossal Nandi is one of the largest in India, 16 ft. (4.8 metres) tall at the front and 25 ft. (7.5 metres) in length. The magnificent pendent bell around its neck are exquisite Doddadevaraja was responsible for the creation of this colossal bull.



Chamundeswari Hills



Chamundeswari Temple



Nandi, Chamundeswari Temple

Mysore Palace

Mysore Palace, also known as **Amba Vilas Palace**, is a historical palace and a royal residence (house). It is located in Mysore, Karnataka, India. It used to be the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty and the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore. The palace is in the centre of Mysore, and faces the Chamundi Hills eastward. Mysore is commonly described as the 'City of the Palaces', and there are seven palaces including this one. However, the Mysore Palace refers specifically to the one within the new fort.

The land on which the palace now stands was originally known as *mysuru* (literally, "citadel"). The first palace inside the Old Fort was built in the 14th century, which was set ablaze and reconstructed multiple times. The Old Fort was built of wood and thus easily caught fire, while the current fort was built of stone, bricks and wood. The current structure was constructed between 1897 and 1912, after the Old Palace burnt down, the current structure is also known as the New Fort. Mysore Palace is one of the most famous tourist attractions in India, after the Taj Mahal, with more than six million annual visitors.



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.