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**Ministry :- Corporate Affairs**

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# **BHARAT DARSHAN TOUR INDIVIDUAL REPORT (KARNATAKA GROUP)**

**Study Tour programme under Bharat Darshan(from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024) as a part of Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (CENTRAL SECRETARIAT SERVICES) of 2023 Batch**

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# Acknowledgement

As a matter of courtesy, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the Department of Personnel and Training for giving us this unique opportunity to participate in this "one of a kind" training programme at the MCRHRD Institute of Telangana under the ambit of BHARAT DARSHAN and special thanks to Smt. Usha Rani, Course Director, MCRHRD for coordination and support whereas needed.

We are thankful to Mr. Vinod Goud, Bharat Darshan Coordinator and the group leaders for their vigilance and constant guidance as well as for providing vital information in the execution of entire itinerary smoothly.

Personally speaking, I have been to trips in western Ghats along with my colleagues at Pune but this was a unique experience to work as a group during the visit to South India. In fact, this has been my first trip to the biodiversity of Deccan. I enjoyed the study tour as well as it was a value addition to my life in person.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Director General, MCRHRD for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this vivid experience.

And how come we forget the sincerity of fellow ASOs who made every effort to make this study tour not just for study purpose only but also as a memorable journey "on and off the road".

## **Purpose of the BHARAT DARSHAN Tour**

Bharat Darshan was a mandatory training part under ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of 2023 Batch which was organized for 01-week from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024 under the guidance of Dr. Vinod Goud, Senior Faculty (FTP).

There were total 183 ASOs which were scheduled for training at this reputed institute of Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of Telangana. This was again divided into three groups of roughly 60 candidates namely Tamil Nadu (Group 1), Karnataka (Group 2) and Kerala (Group 3).

Our group was Karnataka Group consisting of 61 participants from different Ministries. It was a part of our training programme and carried with it following purposes:

- To develop the quality of team building spirit, time and crisis management, adaptability to various odd/extreme/unfavourable situations and potential building
- Enabling trainees to get familiar about the ecological, historical and cultural heritage prevailing under the wide spectrum of Indian landscape
- Visiting NGOs and collect information on research and development work being done by them

# **Bharat Darshan Karnataka Group ITINERARY**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Day (28<sup>th</sup> April,2024)**

- Bandipur Tiger Reseve & Madumalai Elephant Reserve (on our way to Mysore)
- Reached Ooty via Mysore

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Day (29<sup>th</sup> April,2024)**

- Doddabeta Peak-Nilgiri (Highest Peak of South India)
- Tea and Chocolate Factory
- Boating activity at Ooty Lake

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Day (30<sup>th</sup> April,2024)**

- Botanical Garden
- The Nilgiris District Co. Operative Employees Co. Operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd.
- Paykara Waterfall

## **4<sup>th</sup> Day (01<sup>st</sup> May, 2024)**

- Trekking and visit to Edekkal Caves
- Sunset view at Kappad Beach

## **5<sup>th</sup> Day (02<sup>nd</sup> May,2024)**

- Road Journey from wayanad to Coorg
- Abbey Waterfalls at Coorg
- ELA Glamping, Madikeri

## **6<sup>th</sup> Day (03<sup>rd</sup> May,2024)**

- Namdroling Monastery, KARNATAKA
- St. Philomena's Cathedral Church in Mysore
- KSR Dam
- Brindavan Garden (MISSED DUE TO HEAVY RAIN )

## **7<sup>TH</sup> Day (04<sup>th</sup> May, 2024)**

- **"The Organisation for Development of People (ODP)"** NGO in Mysore
- THE Mysore Palace
- Lord Rangnatha Swamy Temple

## **1. BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE AND MUDUMALAI ELEPHANT RESERVE**

Bandipur National Park is a national park covering 868.63 km<sup>2</sup> (335.38 sq mi) in Chamarajnar district in the Indian state of Karnataka. It was established as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1973.<sup>[1]</sup> It is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve since 1986.

Bandipur National Park second highest Tiger population in India. Bandipur National Park. Park is the part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve making it largest protected area in Southern India and largest habitant of Wild Elephants in South Asia. The park has a variety of biomes including dry deciduous forests, moist deciduous forests and shrublands.

Bandipur has typical tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons. The dry and hot period usually begins in early March and can last till the arrival of the monsoon rains in June. Tigers, Indian Elephants, Leopard, Dhole, Sambar, Sloth bear, Chital many more animals and Birds can be spotted in the Bandipur National park. Luckily we grabbed the opportunity to take few pictures on the way.

The park is flanked by the Kabini river in the north and the Moyar in the south. The Nugu river runs through the park. The highest point in the park is on a hill called Himavad Gopalswamy Betta, where there is a Hindu temple at the summit.



## **2. Dodabetta Peak (Western Ghats)**

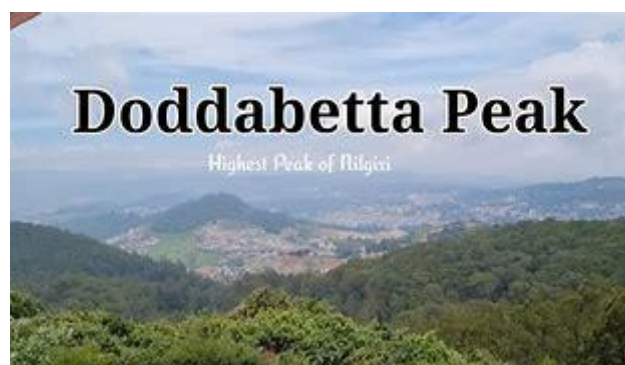
**Doddabetta** is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 metres (8,652 ft). There is a reserved forest area around the peak. It is 9 km from Ooty, on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India. It is a popular tourist attraction with road access to the summit.

It is the fourth highest peak in South India next to Anamudi, Mannamalai and Meesapulimala. The word Doddabetta is derived from Kannada, meaning 'big hill'.

The area surrounding Doddabetta is mostly forested. Sholas cover the hollows of its slopes. Slightly stunted, rhododendron trees, in the midst of thick coarse grass, flowering sub-alpine shrubs and herbs are common, even very near the peak.

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).

The average number of viewers in 2001-2002 was 3500 per day in the season and 700 per day in the off-season





### **3. Tea and Chocolate Factory at Ooty**

Visited the Dodabetta Tea Factory, the **highest-elevation tea factory in South India**. Nestled on the foothills of Dodabetta peak, the **Tea Factory and Museum** offers visitors a comprehensive tour of the tea production process, from leaves to grains. Prepare to embark on a complete tour of the tea manufacturing process, with the stimulating scent of freshly crushed leaves guiding you every step of the way. Don't worry if the aroma makes you crave a steaming cup of tea.

The first step involves plucking fresh green leaves from the tea gardens

After being harvested, the leaves are weighed and spread onto troughs. Conditioned air is circulated between the leaves, removing the surface moisture, concentrating, and chemically breaking down the tea juices.

Next, the Rotorvane machine twists the leaves inside, causing the cell walls to rupture and bringing the juices to the surface of the leaves.

The fermentation process transforms the tea's flavor, strength, and color, causing it to shift from a greenish hue to a coppery brown.

During the drying process, the leaves are fed through driers that contain large circuits of perforated trays. It helps in removing any remaining moisture and takes approximately 20 to 25 minutes.

Lastly, the tea particles are sorted based on their sizes and undergo a thorough cleaning process to remove any remaining stalks and fibers.

The tea is then packed in plywood tea chests or multi-walled aluminum craft paper lined paper sacks to avoid moisture.

As the Tea Factory provides a glimpse into the tea-making process, the Tea Museum offers a captivating journey through the evolution and discovery of tea. It's fascinating to witness the growth and development of technology used to produce the finest teas.





At the exit of the Tea Factory, you'll discover a souvenir shop offering a diverse selection of both flavored and traditional teas. You can also purchase the tea and chocolates online on their **official website**. In addition, the shop boasts a vast array of natural oils, including Eucalyptus (my favorite), tea, camphor, and more, as well as an impressive collection of spices like cardamom, cinnamon, and other varieties

### CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Located on the second floor of the Tea Factory, the Chocolate Factory is a must-visit for anyone with a sweet tooth. Visitors can watch as homemade chocolates are made in the open kitchen. Specialties include rum and raisin, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and sugar-free options. Don't miss out on the delectable dark chocolate-dipped doughnuts on your way out – they're heavenly!



#### **4. Boating at Ooty Lake**

Surrounded by eucalyptus trees and dollops of green bushes along the shores, Ooty Lake is an artificially constructed lake with picturesque natural surroundings. It is one of the most beautiful places to visit in Ooty.

The main attractions you find surrounding the lake are the boat races and boat pageantry organized as a part of the Summer Festival in Ooty.

The Ooty lake is often referred to as Ooty boat house as boating is one of the prime attractions of the lake throughout the year.



## 5. Botanical Garden Ooty

Spread over an area of 55 acres, the **Government Botanical Gardens** is undoubtedly one of the most sought after tourist attractions not just in Ooty but in the entire Tamil Nadu. No tourist will leave Ooty without a visit to the well organized, well maintained botanical gardens. It is a famous sightseeing place to visit in Ooty. Maintained by the Horticultural Department of Tamil Nadu, the present day Botanical Gardens is divided into 5 sections.

They are the Lower Garden, which has the fern house that harbors one hundred and twenty seven species of ferns; the New Garden, which contains the rose garden, a lot of natural floral carpets and natural ponds; the Italian Garden, laid down by Italian Prisoners of War from the First World War; the Conservatory, which has lots of groups of flowering plants; and the Nurseries, which contains a series of glass houses having innumerable varieties of exotic plants. The Flower show held as a part of the **Summer Festival in Ooty** is a must see if you happen to visit Ooty during that time.

Another main attraction in the Botanical Garden, Ooty is the Fossil Tree trunk which is twenty million years old and the Toda mund or the Toda hill. On any day you will find an innumerable number of families just chilling and enjoying the warm sun and children playing around in the gardens. You are filled with a sense of inner peace when the cool summer breeze caresses your body bringing an unknown vigor within yourself. It is not an exaggeration if at that very moment you feel like you are in heaven.

The Government Botanical Garden in Ooty is open from 7 in the morning till 6:30 in the evening. It is open on all days of the week.



## 6. Pykara Falls

Originating in the Mukurthi peak, Pykara River and the waterfalls the river produces is one of the most beautiful and majestic sights that you will get to see in Ooty. Located 20 kms away from Ooty in the Ooty-Mysore road, the Pykara lake has been developed into a thoroughly enjoyable picnic spot.

The dam and power house built across the river also ensures hydro electricity to the population. Declared a heritage site, the Pykara lake is one of those "must see" sights in Ooty.

As the river flows down the mountains it forms two majestic waterfalls, the first one fifty five meters in height and the second one even higher at sixty one meters. To bask in the summer sun by the side of the lake or go boating in the lake are the favourite pastimes of people who visit there.





## **7. Edakkal Cave**

Edakkal Caves is an enchanting site with archaeological importance. It's known for its mystic rock formation and ancient drawings and engravings. And these petroglyphs are some of the earliest examples of human writing and expression.

Edakkal means "a stone in between." And this cave-like rock shelter is formed by a massive boulder wedged between two bigger boulders. It's believed to exist for over 8,000 years now.

To reach the entrance of Edakkal Caves Wayanad, you need to trek up and climb steep steps. Inside, you'll see ancient wall carvings, which depict animals, humans and other figures from prehistoric times.

### **History of Edakkal Caves**

Edakkal Caves' story is shrouded in mystery. As per the legends, the caves were formed because of Luv and Kush – sons of Lord Rama. It's said that their arrows split a large rock into two, thus forming this narrow passage.

The earliest Edakkal Caves carvings are believed to be from the neolithic era (the Stone Age), as early as 6000 BCE. The latest carvings are from around 1000 BCE.

These carvings were discovered only recently, in the 19th century. Fred Fawcett, a police official of the erstwhile Malabar state, found these during one of his hunting trips.

The carvings are in different forms. And the varied styles suggest that the caves were inhabited several times. Many of the symbols are yet to be deciphered. Only about 400 Edakkal Caves petroglyphs have been identified so far, some of which link to the Indus Valley civilisation.



## 9. Kappad Beach, Calicut

Kappad Beach has historically played an important role in the history of Kerala. On these shores, over 500 years ago in 1498, 170 men led by Vasco- da-Gama first stepped onto Kerala. A stone monument installed by government commemorates the "landing" by Vasco da Gama with the inscription, '*Vasco da Gama landed here, Kappakadavu, in the year 1498*'. The entire State, especially the Malabar Coast, would never be the same again.

A visit to Kozhikode is incomplete without a visit to this legendary site. The spice route flourished through this Beach. A walk in and around the place gives one an idea of its historical relevance. The rocks and small hills add to its charm. The nearby shacks are always stocked with excellent local delicacies and tea. Migratory birds can be spotted occasionally as well. Kappad Beach is a truly majestic destination, which will always hold an important place in our history.



## 10. Abbey Falls

The Kashmir of Karnataka, Coorg, the land of coffee and awe-stricking nature, is the home for some of the most beautiful waterfalls in the state. These waterfalls in Coorg add on to the picturesque setting and pleasant weather making your Coorg tour all the more memorable.

Abbey Waterfalls is one of the worth visiting sightseeing places in Coorg. Its scenic charm, coupled with aromatic plantations of coffee and spices and peaceful surroundings deserve to be not just visited but remembered by every traveller.

Also known as Abbi Falls, Abbey Falls, located near Madikeri, is a perfect place to visit in Coorg not only for nature enthusiasts but for shutterbugs as well. It is also one of the most sought tourism place. The sight of water falling from a cliff with a height of 70 feet, surrounded by lush greenery is indeed a sight that will behold everyone's attention.

The waterfall is a combination of many streams that come together and fall into a pool of water that flows and merge into River Kaveri. The scenic grandeur of Abbey Falls increases by many folds in monsoon. During Monsoon, the stream of water becomes thicker with louder roar. Adding to it is the richer greenery around, which does create sight of a lifetime.

Nestled between the coffee and spice plantations, the waterfalls is opposite to a hanging bridge. The view from the hanging bridge is one of the major attraction. Aromas of coffee and spices intermingled with the refreshing coolness of air makes the experience one of a kind.

The sound of water gushing down mixed with aromas filling the air greet you even before you get a view of the Abbey Falls. Visited by thousands of nature lovers every year, this tourist attraction near Madikeri is not to be missed when you are planning your **Coorg tour**

The area around the fall is ideal for trekking as well. Near the bridge there is a small temple dedicated to the Goddess Kali.

### *History of the Abbey Falls*

Abbey Falls, which are also called Abbi Falls, was initially named as Jessy Falls. The first British reverend of Coorg when visited Abbey Falls fell in love with its unparalleled beauty. He then dedicated and named the waterfall as Jessy falls, after the name of his daughter.

Post independence, the waterfall and the area surrounding with its rich flora and fauna, came under the control of Government. Later, the area with the waterfall was



bought by Mr. Neravanda B. Nanaiah from the Government, who then transformed in from a natural forest to cultivated farmlands with plantations of coffee and various spices.

The Abbey Falls, which was till then hidden amid the thickness of a forest, came upfront, mesmerising everyone with its sheer beauty. The waterfall is now located on a private property yet a popular sightseeing place in Coorg, attracting tourists throughout the year. The best way to visit this mesmerising hill station is with our [all inclusive Coorg tour packages](#).

#### *Location of Abbey Falls*

Abbe Falls/Abbey Falls is located in Coorg region of Western Ghats in Karnataka. It is around 8 km away from Madikeri, while from the historical town of Mysore, it stands around 122 km away.

A short walk, of around 200 steps, through plantations of coffee and spices like cardamom, pepper, etc., take you to the Abbi Falls. The best time to visit Abbey Falls is undoubtedly the monsoon season, when its scenic beauty is at its best



## 11. ELA Glamping

Glamping is a form of camping involving accommodation and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping:

Ela Glamping is a unique and luxurious camping experience located in the heart of Wayanad, Kerala, India. In addition to the luxurious accommodation, Ela Glamping offers a range of activities and experiences designed to immerse guests in the beauty and culture of Wayanad.

Guests can enjoy guided nature walks, birdwatching tours, and outdoor adventures such as trekking and wildlife Safari. One of the highlights of Ela Camping Spot is its proximity to a picturesque river. Visitors can set up camp along the riverbank, listening to the soothing sound of flowing water and enjoying panoramic views of the surrounding wilderness.

Riverside camping adds an element of adventure and connection to nature. Ela Camping Spot offers a range of outdoor activities for visitors to enjoy. From nature walks and birdwatching to fishing and kayaking in the river, there's something for everyone to explore and experience amidst the natural beauty of the surroundings.

Campfires provide the perfect opportunity for bonding with friends and family, sharing stories, singing songs, and enjoying delicious meals cooked over an open flame.



## **12.Namdroling Monastery**

The monastery was established by the 11th throneholder of the Palyul lineage, Drubwang Padma Norbu Rinpoche in 1963, following his 1959 exit from Tibet as the second seat of the Palyul Monastery one of the six great Nyingmapa Mother monasteries of Tibet prior to annexation.

The monastery's full name is Thegchog Namdrol Shedrub Dargyeling, called "Namdrolling or Namdroling" for short. Its initial structure was a temple constructed from bamboo, covering an area of approximately 80 square feet (7.4 m<sup>2</sup>). It is carved into the jungle that the Indian government granted to Tibetan exiles. The initial challenges included rampaging elephants and other tropical dangers

The Namdroling Monastery, also known as the Golden Temple, is a significant Tibetan Buddhist monastery located in Bylakuppe near Kushalnagar in the district of Kodagu (Coorg), Karnataka, India. The monastery was founded as a centre for the study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism and to preserve the teachings of the Nyingma tradition.

The Namdroling Monastery is renowned for its stunning architecture, with intricate designs, vibrant colors, and traditional Tibetan motifs adorning the temple buildings. The main attraction is the Golden Temple, which features three towering golden statues of Guru Padmasambhava (also known as Guru Rinpoche), Buddha Shakyamuni, and Amitayus.

The monastery offers visitors a glimpse into Tibetan Buddhist culture and traditions. Visitors can observe monks performing religious rituals, participate in prayer sessions, and learn about the significance of Tibetan Buddhist symbols and practices.



### **13. St. Philomena's Cathedral Church**

With the fame of being one of the largest churches in India, this majestic church captivates everyone with its architectural excellence. It also boasts of being the second largest church in Asia. Dedicated to Saint Philomena, St. Philomena's Church is not only known for its architectural beauty and religious significance; it stands as an exemplary of secular viewpoint and the religious harmony which existed in Mysore. This can be seen from the fact that this church was built by Mysore ruler for the European residents in the city

#### *History of St. Philomena's Church*

Built in 1840, earlier it used to be called as the St. Joseph Chavez, which was later changed to its present name. Initially a small church, it gained its present form in 1933 during the reign of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

#### *Architecture of St. Philomena's Church*

Constructed in the Neo-Gothic or the Victorian style, this church draws its inspiration from the Cologne Cathedral of Germany. The church is said to be designed by a French artist Daly. This church has been made in the shape of a cross.

The main attraction of the church is its twin spires with a height of 175 feet, which can be spotted even from mile away. The design of spires is similar to those in St. Patrick's Church which is located in New York. Each spire has a cross adorned on it with a height of 12 feet. The altar presents a captivating view with intricately crafted marble and the statue of St. Philomena which was brought from France. At altar you will find statues of St. Philomena and beneath the altar, in the underground catacomb, relics of St. Philomena have been kept.

The hall of the church boasts of a capacity to accommodate close to 800 people. The sanctum add more beauty to the entire structure with its stained glass windows, displaying exquisitely drawn paintings from various stages of Christ's life such as birth, Last Supper, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and the Ascension are another major attraction here. These glasses were made in France. There are three front doors to the church along with various small side doors, which take you to the prayer halls.

Pillars in the church have also been crafted with exquisite flower patterns.



## 14. The Organisation for the Development of People, NGO

- ❖ **About the Organisation:** ODP is a voluntary, non-profit organization aiming to develop and strengthen the under-privileged and marginalized sections of society through a right based approach, by organizing the community based people's institutions to become self-managed and self-reliant, for better livelihood security.
- ❖ Established on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1984, ODP is the Mysore Diocesan Social Service Society, registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act- 1960. The perspective of ODP's work is rooted in the mission of God, to empower men and women and bring back the image of God in humanity.
- ❖ **Vision:** A society of love, peace, justice, prosperity and ecological harmony.
- ❖ **Mission:** To empower marginalized communities through capacity building programs, building their networks and by results driven actions to help communities get their legitimate rights and enhance their social economic and ecological status.

### ❖ **Objectives:**

1. Organize poor and marginalized women to develop courage and self esteem.
2. Strengthen sanghas, central committees, taluk and district level federations and the apex body (Mahilodaya Women's Federation) through training's, awareness, exposure and interactions with other groups / institutions.
3. Build up the capacity of grass root level leaders and groups to carry forward their activities effectively – at least 5 good and able leaders in each group.
4. Enable leaders to become actively involved in the panchayat structures so that they have a legitimate voice and evolve better local governance.
5. Build up and strengthen resource teams with effective local leaders – to continue animation and capacity building.
6. Strengthen linkages with various government departments and financial institutions – to mobilize available schemes and resources.
7. Initiate savings among sangha members for mutual help and support during times of need and to avoid exploitation by middle men / money lenders.
8. Increase income and assets for women – at individual, house hold and community levels.



9. Enable women to manage resources productively and expand their sources of livelihood.
10. Collaborate and co-ordinate with like minded NGOs working in the field of women's development and form strong linkages with them to tackle common issues.



## 15. **Mysore Palace**

Mysore Palace also known as Amba Vilas Palace located at the heart of Mysore city is the most prominent tourist destination of Mysore that attracts millions of visitors round the year. This historical palace housed within the Old Fort facing the Chamunda Hills stands as the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty who ruled the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 to 1950. Displaying Indo-Saracenic style of architecture, this sprawling building is a replacement of the old wooden building destroyed by fire in late 19th century. Commissioned by the Krishnarajendra Wadiyar IV, this palatial building comprises of two durbar halls, a number of colossal courtyards, buildings and strikingly beautiful gardens that speak volumes of the splendour of the Wadiyars.

### **History**

The Wodeyars whose roots trace back to Dvarka, Gujarat's Yadava community came to Karnataka and settled in Mysore getting enthralled by its natural beauty. Starting with Yaduraya Wodeyar who founded the Wodeyar dynasty in 1399, the Yadavas ruled the area for around six centuries. He was first to build a palace within Mysore's Old Fort in the 14th century, but that was dismantled and built several times later. Immediately after the death of Tipu Sultan in May 1799, Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar III made Mysore his capital and eventually came under the control of the British. The spelling of the royal name of the dynasty was changed to Wadiyar from Wodeyar by his successors.

In 1897 the wooden palace was destroyed by fire while the wedding ceremony of His Highness Rajarshi Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV's eldest sister, Princess Jayalakshmi Ammani was taking place. That year itself the young monarch and his mother, Her Majesty Maharani Vani Vilas Sannidhna, regent of Mysore, delegated Lord Henry Irwin, a British architect, to construct a new palace. In 1912 the construction of the palace was completed at a cost of Rs. 4147913. It was expanded in 1940 under the rule of last Maharaja of the Kingdom of Mysore, Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar.

### **Architecture**

The palace is a three-storey stone structure made with fine granite, grey in colour, having deep pink marble stones atop and a five-storey tower measuring 145 ft. The size of the palace measures 245 ft. by 156 ft. Designs of the domes illustrate Indo-Saracenic architecture which was applied by the British architects in British India during the late 19th century. It incorporates elements from Indian, Indo-Islamic, Neo-Classical and Gothic revival styles. Three gates of the compound lead to the palace - the front gate (more specifically the East Gate) opens for the VVIPs and otherwise during the Dasara; the South Gate is designated for general public;



and the West Gate normally remains open in Dasara. Apart from these the cellar of the palace has many secret tunnels that lead to several confidential areas and other places like the town of Srirangapatna. Several fancy arches adorn the façade of the building with two smaller arches on either side of the central one that is supported with long pillars. A sculpture of the goddess of good luck, prosperity and wealth, Gajalakshmi, with her elephants is seated atop the central arch. The palace facing Chamundi Hills is a manifestation of the devotion of the Maharajas of Mysore towards Goddess Chamundi. The emblem and coat of arms of the Mysore Kingdom adorns the entrance gate and arch. A large, beautiful and well-maintained garden surrounding the palace makes the site even more spectacular.

### **Attractions & Events**

The Mysore Palace, the seat of the famous Wodeyar Maharaja's of the Mysore Kingdom today stands as one of the precious possessions of the nation which is presently converted into a museum. The strikingly embellished and finely chiselled doors lead one to richly and elegantly ornate rooms. The exquisitely columned Durbar Hall, the solid silver doors, the finely incised mahogany ceilings and many other embellishments of the palace make one spellbound while giving an idea of the exuberant lifestyle of the royals. Displays in the palace include royal dresses, souvenirs, musical instruments and weapons used by the Wodeyars. An array of superb paintings including the ones illustrating 8 manifestations of Goddess Shakthi as also a masterpiece by famed artist Raja Ravi Verma finds place in the palace.



## Conclusion and Learnings

All in all the entire Bharat Darshan tour was a enriching experience. We got familiarity with 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 new friends along the journey.

Key highlights of 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 for cadre training programme. We are grateful and thankful to the MCR HRDIT, the Course Director of the Study Tour Committee, and group leaders for making this tour possible and successful. We are also thankful to our fellow participants for making this tour a fun activity.

We hope to apply and share our learnings and experiences from this tour in our future work and life. We hope to visit these places again and explore more of our incredible India.

**Thank You.**