



**Bharat Darshan ( Study Tour ) of FTP for ASO of 2023 Batch  
(28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024) for Assistant Section Officer of CSS**

**Report on Study Tour Karnataka (Group-2)**

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**OT CODE- B-11**

**Ministry of Defence**

## Index

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Acknowledgement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Objective of the Tour</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Schedule of Study Tour</b>	<b>4</b>

## **Places Visited**

<b>4.</b>	<b>Visiting Bandipur Tiger reserve and Mudumalai Elephant Reserve enroute via Bangalore airport to Ooty</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Dodabetta Peak</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Tea Factory</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Chocolate Factory</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Boating House Ooty Lake</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Botanical Garden</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Pyakara Falls</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Edekkal Caves</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Kappad Beach</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Abbey Falls</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Ela Camping</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Namdroling Monastery</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>St. Philomena's Cathedral Church</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Organisation for the Development of People, NGO</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Mysore Palace</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>26</b>

### Acknowledgement:

I want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Department of Personnel and Training for granting us the invaluable opportunity to participate in the essential training program at the MCRHRD Institute of Telangana. Special thanks are due to Smt. Usha Rani, the Course Director, for her exceptional support.

We are immensely grateful to Mr. Vinod Goud, Senior Faculty and Bharat Darshan Coordinator, for his invaluable guidance, constant supervision, and provision of vital project-related information. His support was instrumental in the successful completion of our project.

Working as a team during our visit to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala was a truly enriching experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the study tour and gained valuable insights during the NGO attachment and Tea-cum-Chocolate Factory Visit.

A sincere thank you is also extended to the Director General of MCRHRD for their unwavering support, which contributed significantly to the success of our study tour.

## Objectives of the Tour

As an integral component of the mandatory ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the 2023 Batch, a one-week Bharat Darshan was conducted from April 28, 2024, to May 4, 2024, spanning Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. Dr. Vinod Goud, Senior Faculty (FTP), provided guidance for this endeavor.

A total of 61 participants from various Ministries took part in this Training Programme. The study tour, integrated into the Training Programme, aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Exposing the Trainees to the research and development initiatives undertaken by NGOs.
- Familiarizing the trainees with India's diverse cultural heritage and artistic expressions.
- Cultivating team spirit, effective time management, crisis management skills, and adaptability to diverse situations.

## Bharat Darshan Group-2

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

### Day 0 (28<sup>th</sup> April,2024)

- Reached Bengaluru Airport at 10:30 AM
- Leave for Ooty from Bengaluru Airport at around 11:00 AM
- Had Lunch at The President, 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

### Day 1 (29<sup>th</sup> April,2024)

- Visited Doddabeta Peak at around 9:30 AM

- Visited Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory at around 1:00 PM
- Lunch in Ooty
- Leave for Boat House to have boating at around 5 PM

#### Day 2(30<sup>th</sup> April,2024)

- Visited Botanical Garden at 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Visited The Nilgiris District Co. Operative Employees Co. Operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd.
- Visited TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Visited Paykara Waterfall at around 2:00 PM
- Leave for Waynad
- Reached Waynad at around 8 PM

#### Day 3 (01<sup>st</sup> May, 2024)

- Visited Edekkal Caves at around 9 AM
- Went to Kappad Beach in Kerala where first Portugese Travel came at around 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
- Came back to Waynad

#### Day 4 (02<sup>nd</sup> May,2024)

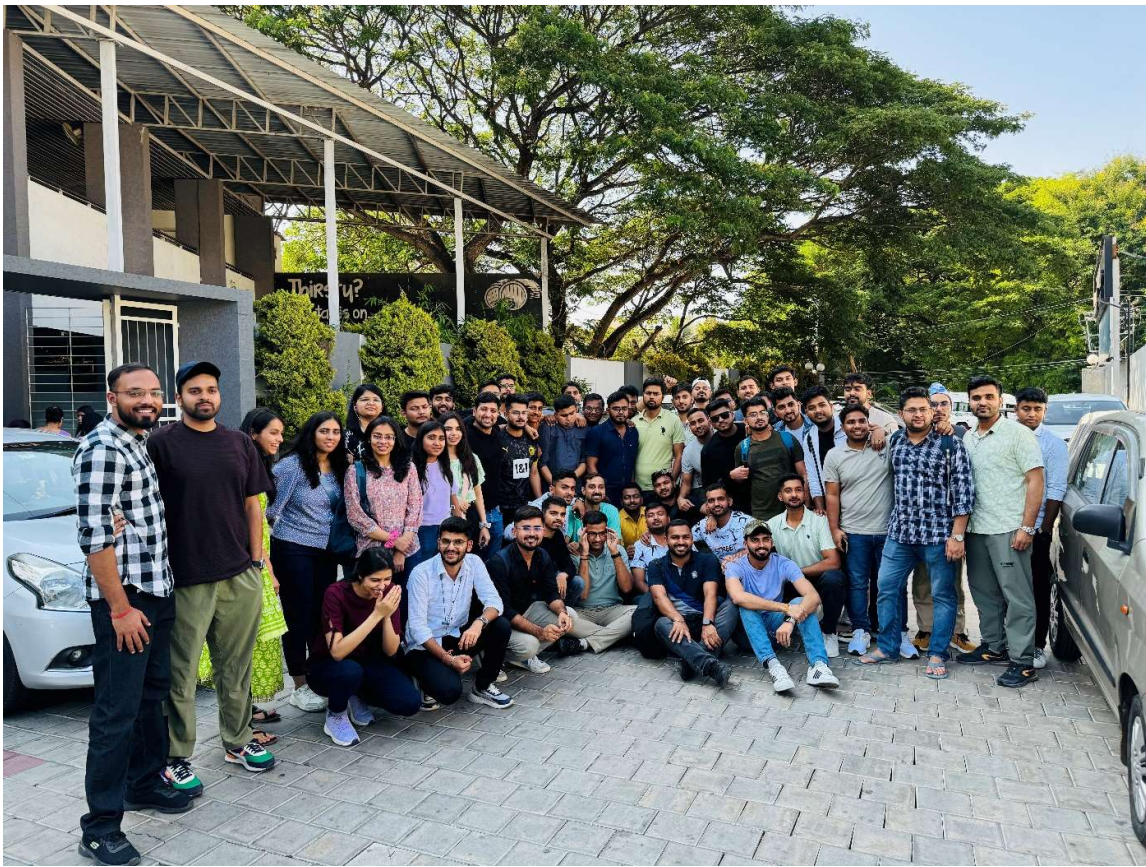
- Check out from the hotel in waynad and proceed to Coorg
- Visited Abbi Falls at around 3:00 PM
- Night Stay in camps

#### Day 5 (03<sup>rd</sup> May,2024)

- Leave for Mysore from Coorg
- Visited Namdroling Monestry in Piriapatna at around 11:30 to 01:30 PM
- Visited St. Philomena's Cathedral Church in Mysore
- Visited KSR Dam at around 7:00 PM
- Visited Vrindavan Garden (It was closed due to heavy rain)

#### Day 06 (04<sup>th</sup> May, 2024)

- Visited Organisation for Development of People, ODP (an NGO in Mysore at 10AM) • Visited Mysore Palace at 12 noon
- Visited Srirangapatna Temple (Lord Rangnatha Swamy at 4:30PM)
- Reached at Bengaluru Airport at 9:00 PM
- Arrived at Dr. MCR HRD IT at around 2:00AM.



**Pic: Lunch at The President , Mysuru**

## 1.BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

Encountering Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Mudumalai Elephant Reserve while traveling from Bangalore Airport to Ooty was an unforgettable experience! The verdant forests, varied wildlife, and the opportunity to witness majestic deer, monkeys, and elephants in their natural habitat made it truly remarkable.



## 2.Dodabetta Peak (Western Ghats)

Doddabetta Peak, nestled in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, stands proudly as the highest point in the Nilgiri mountain range. Reaching an impressive elevation of

2,637 meters (8,650 feet) above sea level, it offers not just stunning views but also a fascinating insight into the region's geography.

The peak's surroundings feature undulating hills, dense forests, and expansive tea plantations, painting a vivid picture of the area's natural beauty. Positioned near Ooty, it has become a favored destination for tourists seeking to delve into the diverse landscapes of the region.

Beyond its scenic allure, Doddabetta's geography significantly influences its climate. Visitors can expect consistently cool temperatures and misty conditions year-round, shaping the ecosystem and adding to the area's charm.

Exploring Doddabetta Peak provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about mountain ecosystems, weather patterns, and the impact of geography on climate. It's not just a destination for sightseeing but also a classroom in nature's grand lessons.







### 3. Tea Factory at Ooty

Ooty's reputation for producing premium-quality tea, particularly the renowned Nilgiri tea, stems from its distinctive brisk and vibrant flavor profile.

**Educational Tours:** Delve into the tea-making process with guided tours, providing a comprehensive understanding from leaf harvesting to the intricate steps of withering, rolling, fermenting, drying, and packaging. Witness each stage firsthand, gaining insight into the art and science of tea cultivation and processing.

**Tasting Experiences:** Immerse yourself in tasting sessions offered at the tea factories, where visitors can explore a variety of teas produced onsite. Sample different blends, each offering unique flavors and aromas, empowering you to select your favorites to bring home and enjoy.

**Tea Offerings:** Discover freshly processed tea products available for purchase at onsite shops or outlets, including loose-leaf tea and carefully crafted blends. These make for delightful souvenirs or thoughtful gifts for friends and family.

**Scenic Settings:** Set amidst picturesque tea estates, many tea factories in Ooty offer stunning views of lush green tea gardens against the majestic backdrop of the Nilgiri Hills. The serene atmosphere enhances the overall tea-tasting experience, inviting visitors to unwind and savor the moment.



#### **4.Chocolate factory**

Artisanal Chocolate Making: Ooty's chocolate factories are celebrated for their artisanal approach to crafting chocolates, employing traditional techniques to ensure superior quality and distinctive flavors.

Interactive Tours: Visitors are treated to guided tours at these chocolate factories, providing a captivating glimpse into the chocolate-making process. From roasting and grinding cocoa beans to the meticulous tempering and molding of chocolate, guests witness each stage up close.

Chocolate Tastings: Many of these establishments host tasting sessions, inviting guests to sample a variety of chocolates and experience their rich flavors and

textures firsthand. These sessions offer chocolate enthusiasts the opportunity to explore different varieties and discover their preferences.

In essence, Ooty's chocolate factories offer a delightful experience for chocolate aficionados, combining skilled craftsmanship with an array of flavorful creations.



## **5.Boating**

Nestled amidst the verdant greenery near Ooty Lake, the boating house stands as a tranquil sanctuary, beckoning to boating enthusiasts seeking respite amidst nature's embrace. With its idyllic setting and serene ambiance, it provides the perfect retreat for visitors to unwind and immerse themselves in the breathtaking beauty of the surroundings. Whether gliding across the pristine waters or simply basking in the serenity of the lakeside, the boating house offers an unforgettable experience for those seeking solace and tranquility amidst Ooty's picturesque

landscapes.



## 6. Botanical Garden Ooty

Spread across 55 acres, the garden showcases an impressive variety of exotic plants, flowers, and trees, providing a serene refuge from city life's chaos. Strolling along its well-kept paths, visitors encounter a diverse range of flora from around the world, including rare roses and orchids. A notable feature is the ancient fossilized tree trunk, estimated to be over 20 million years old, offering a glimpse into the region's distant past.

More than just a scenic spot, the botanical garden serves as an outdoor classroom for environmental science. Here, students explore ecosystem dynamics, soil science, and the intricate relationships between plants and their environment. They observe plant structures, reproductive strategies, and adaptations to different environmental conditions, while learning about nutrient cycling, water conservation, and sustainable land management practices.





## 7. Pykara Falls

Pykara Falls, located near Ooty in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district, is a scenic waterfall renowned for its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere. It stands as one of the region's most beloved tourist spots, drawing visitors of all ages with its tranquil surroundings and stunning vistas. Plunging from a height of approximately 55 meters (180 feet), the waterfall forms a captivating sight as it descends into a series of cascading pools and streams, accompanied by the soothing sound of rushing water. Whether capturing the falls' splendor through photography or simply immersing oneself in the tranquility of nature, Pykara Falls promises an unforgettable experience for all who visit.



## 8. Edekkal Cave

Exploring the Edekkal Caves in Kerala was a captivating journey through ancient history and natural marvels. Here's what awaits:

- a) **Historical Voyage:** These caves are renowned for their ancient petroglyphs, intricate rock carvings dating back thousands of years. Visitors can marvel at these depictions of symbols, animals, and human figures, providing glimpses into the lives of early inhabitants.
- b) **Scenic Trek:** Reaching the caves involves a picturesque hike through verdant forests and rugged terrain. The journey offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape and chances to observe local flora and fauna.
- c) **Cave Expedition:** Upon arrival, visitors can explore the expansive chambers and narrow passages formed by massive boulders. The unique geological formation of the caves adds to their allure, evoking a sense of mystery and wonder.
- d) **Cultural Experience:** The Edakkal Caves hold cultural significance for local indigenous tribes, who believe in their ties to ancient myths and legends. Visitors can immerse themselves in the folklore and traditions associated with the caves,

gaining insights into the region's rich cultural heritage.



## 9. Kappad Beach (Kerala)

Kappad Beach holds significant historical importance in India, particularly in Kerala state. Here's why:

a) European Contact with India: Vasco da Gama's arrival at Kappad Beach marked a pivotal moment in Indian history, establishing the first direct sea route from Europe to India. This historic encounter between Europe and India had far-reaching effects, influencing Indian history, culture, and trade.

b) Tourist Attraction: Today, Kappad Beach is not just a historical site but also a popular tourist destination in Kerala. Visitors are drawn to its scenic beauty, offering opportunities for leisurely walks along the shore and engaging in water sports like swimming and surfing. The beach's historical significance adds to its charm, attracting history enthusiasts and beachgoers alike.





## 10. Abbey Falls

Abbey Falls, nestled in Karnataka, offered a mesmerizing experience that immersed us in nature's beauty and the captivating power of cascading water. Here's what awaits visitors:

a) Scenic Exploration: Embarking on the journey to Abbey Falls typically involves a delightful trek through lush greenery. This allows visitors to fully absorb the sights and sounds of the surrounding forest, adding to the sense of adventure and excitement as they approach the waterfall.

b) Breathtaking Waterfall: Upon arrival at Abbey Falls, visitors are greeted by the breathtaking sight of water plummeting from a height of approximately 70 feet into a tranquil pool below. The sheer force of the waterfall creates a spellbinding spectacle of cascading water, framed by rugged cliffs and dense foliage.



## **11.Ela Camping**

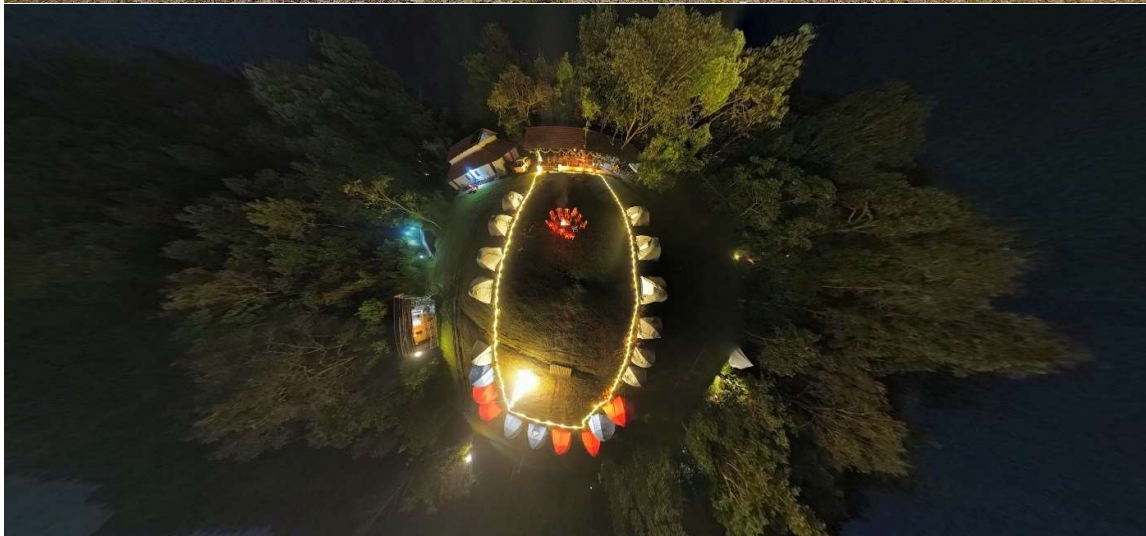
Located in Madikeri, Karnataka, Ela Camping Spot promises a distinctive and unforgettable outdoor adventure for nature enthusiasts. Here's what sets it apart:

a) **Tranquility and Privacy:** Ela Camping Spot is renowned for its serene and secluded ambiance, offering a tranquil escape from urban life's chaos. Surrounded by lush greenery and picturesque landscapes, it serves as a peaceful haven for relaxation and rejuvenation.

b) **Riverside Retreat:** A notable feature of Ela Camping Spot is its close proximity to a charming river. Visitors have the opportunity to pitch their tents along the riverbank, immersing themselves in the calming sound of flowing water and soaking in panoramic views of the wilderness. Riverside camping adds an adventurous touch and fosters a deeper connection with nature.

c) **Outdoor Adventures:** Ela Camping Spot caters to adventure seekers with a variety of outdoor activities. From leisurely nature walks and birdwatching to thrilling fishing and kayaking excursions on the river, there's something for every adventurer to explore amidst the natural splendor of the surroundings.

d) **Campfire Delights:** Gather around a crackling campfire beneath the starlit sky for an unforgettable evening at Ela Camping Spot. Campfires provide the perfect opportunity for bonding with loved ones, sharing stories, singing melodies, and relishing delicious meals cooked over an open flame.



## 12. Namdrolling Monastery

The Namdrolling Monastery, popularly known as the Golden Temple, stands as a significant Tibetan Buddhist sanctuary situated in Bylakuppe near Kushalnagar, within the Kodagu (Coorg) district of Karnataka, India. Here's a brief overview of its historical background and visitor experience:

**Historical Significance:** Established in 1963 by His Holiness Pema Norbu Rinpoche, also recognized as Penor Rinpoche, the 11th throneholder of the Palyul lineage of

the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, the Namdroling Monastery serves as a hub for Tibetan Buddhist study and practice. Its foundation aimed at preserving the teachings of the Nyingma tradition, leading to its evolution into one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist centers beyond Tibet.

#### Visitation Experience:

a) Architectural Marvel: The Namdroling Monastery captivates visitors with its remarkable architecture, featuring intricate designs, vibrant hues, and traditional Tibetan motifs embellishing the temple structures. The focal point is the Golden Temple, boasting three towering golden statues of Guru Padmasambhava (also known as Guru Rinpoche), Buddha Shakyamuni, and Amitayus.

b) Spiritual Ambiance: Stepping onto the monastery grounds, visitors are enveloped in a serene atmosphere conducive to contemplation and spiritual introspection. The presence of monks engaged in prayer and ceremonial rituals adds to the tranquility, offering visitors an opportunity to partake in meditation and reflection.

c) Cultural Immersion: The monastery provides an insight into Tibetan Buddhist culture and customs. Visitors can observe monks performing religious rites, participate in prayer sessions, and gain understanding about the symbolism and significance of Tibetan Buddhist traditions.

d) Shopping and Dining: Within the monastery complex, visitors can explore shops offering Tibetan handicrafts, religious artifacts, and souvenirs, providing an opportunity to procure mementos commemorating their visit. Additionally, dining options are available for those seeking a taste of Tibetan cuisine amidst the

monastery's

serene

surroundings.





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

St. Philomena's Cathedral, located in Mysore, Karnataka, stands as one of India's most majestic churches, boasting significant religious and historical importance. Here's a closer look at why:

a) Architectural Splendor: St. Philomena's Cathedral is celebrated for its breathtaking architecture, seamlessly blending Neo-Gothic and Roman styles. Crafted by French architect Daly, it ranks among Asia's largest churches, soaring to an impressive height of 175 feet. Its elaborate carvings, vibrant stained glass windows, and imposing spires create a sight to behold.

b) Religious Reverence: Serving as an active place of worship, St. Philomena's Cathedral is the headquarters of the Mysore Diocese of the Catholic Church. Hosting regular religious services such as Masses, weddings, and ceremonies, it draws devotees and visitors from near and far, enriching the spiritual fabric of the community.

c) Tourist Attraction: Beyond its religious significance, St. Philomena's Cathedral entices tourists to Mysore with its grandeur and historical significance. Visitors flock to admire its architectural marvels, explore its interior adorned with statues and paintings, and delve into its captivating history through informative guided tours.

d) Community and Camaraderie: For many, attending church offers an opportunity for communal worship and fellowship. Visitors often join in group prayers or attend religious services like Mass or prayer meetings, fostering a shared sense of community and belonging.



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

The Organization for Development of People (ODP) is an Indian non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities and advancing sustainable development. Here's an overview of ODP:

a) Mission and Vision: ODP's mission is to empower disadvantaged communities, particularly women, children, and marginalized groups, to enhance their quality of life and achieve socioeconomic development.

b) Areas of Focus: ODP operates across various sectors to meet the diverse needs of communities. Their initiatives typically encompass education, healthcare, livelihood development, women's empowerment, child welfare, environmental conservation, and disaster response.

c) Advocacy and Awareness: In addition to providing direct services, ODP actively engages in advocacy and awareness campaigns to address systemic issues affecting marginalized communities. They advocate for policy reforms, social justice, and human rights, while also raising awareness about critical issues such as gender equality, environmental preservation, and access to healthcare.

Overall, ODP plays a crucial role in advancing sustainable development, empowering communities, and fostering positive social change in India. Through their holistic approach and dedication to grassroots engagement, ODP continues to make a significant impact in the lives of those they serve.





ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
PEOPLE (ODP), MYSURU



## 15. Mysore Palace

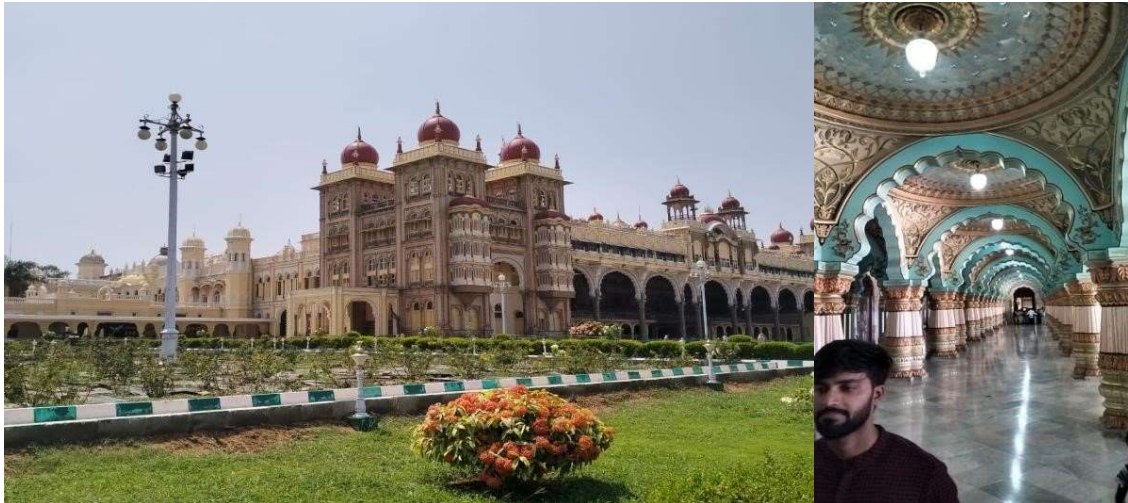
Exploring the Mysore Palace proves to be a captivating journey that plunges visitors into the rich history, culture, and architectural splendor of Karnataka, India. Here's what awaits:

a) Architectural Gem: The Mysore Palace, or Amba Vilas Palace, stands out for its remarkable Indo-Saracenic architectural style. Adorned with intricate carvings, vibrant paintwork, and domes embellished with elaborate designs, the palace epitomizes a fusion of Hindu, Islamic, Rajput, and Gothic influences.

b) Historical Insight: Delving into opulent halls, royal chambers, and private quarters, visitors uncover the palace's illustrious past and the enduring legacy of the royal family through guided tours and informative exhibits.

c) Glimpse into Royalty: Exploring displays of artifacts, furniture, and personal belongings offers visitors a glimpse into court etiquette, royal ceremonies, and the daily lives of the royal family, enriching their understanding of Mysore's regal heritage.

In essence, a visit to the Mysore Palace promises a multifaceted learning experience, embracing facets of history, architecture, and culture.



### Conclusion and Learnings

- The study tour provided a profound learning experience, exposing us to India's diverse culture, history, ecology, and governance.
- We developed essential skills such as teamwork, time management, crisis handling, and adaptability.
- Key insights included India's juxtaposition of ancient and modern, rural and urban, rich and poor.
- We appreciated India's rich history, vibrant culture, and diverse ecosystems.
- Gratitude to organizers and fellow participants for making the tour enjoyable and successful.
- We aim to apply and share our learnings in future endeavors and look forward to revisiting India's incredible destinations.

