

REPORT ON

BHARAT DARSHAN

(28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024)

CONDUCTED BY:-



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Human Resource Development
Institute of Telangana

PRESCRIBED BY:-



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INSTITUTE OF SECRETARIAT TRAINING & MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING
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Acknowledgement:

Firstly, let me express our profound appreciation to the Department of Personnel and Training for providing this exceptional chance to partake in the required training course at the MCRHRD Institute of Telangana. Additionally, I want to express my gratitude to Smt. Usha Rani, the MCRHRD's course director, for her excellent support.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to the tour planners and organising committee for their steadfast commitment, careful planning, and immaculate execution, all of which led to this trip's amazing success.

We are highly indebted to Mr. Vinod Goud, Senior Faculty and Bharat Darshan Coordinator for his guidance and constant supervision as well as for providing necessary information regarding the project & also for his support in completing the project.

Beyond its intellectual pursuits, the Bharat Darshan/study tour fostered enduring memories and fostered camaraderie among us. It wasn't just an educational journey; it was a platform that created lasting bonds and cherished moments.

The thoughtfully curated tour and immersive experiences have significantly broadened our horizons. Exploring the historical marvels of Mysore and the natural beauty of Ooty and Coorg has enriched our understanding of the subjects we've been studying.

Once again, my deepest gratitude to ISTM and MCR HRD IT for granting us this invaluable opportunity to learn, explore and forge indelible connections.

Objective of the Tour

As part of the mandatory ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of 2023 Batch, 01-week Bharat Darshan was organized from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024 at Karnataka- Tamil Nadu-Kerala- under the guidance of Dr. Vinod Gaud, Senior Faculty (FTP).

There were 61 participants from different Ministries participating in this Training Programme. This study tour was part of the Training Programme and has following objectives: -

The objectives of a study tour typically include:

1. Learning Experience: To provide participants with an opportunity to gain practical knowledge and insights beyond what can be learned in a classroom or through traditional means.
2. Experiential Learning: To allow participants to engage in hands-on activities, visit relevant sites, and interact with professionals in their field of study, facilitating experiential learning.
3. Cultural Immersion: To expose participants to different cultures, traditions, and ways of life, fostering cultural awareness and sensitivity.
4. Enhanced Understanding: To deepen participants' understanding of theoretical concepts by observing real-world applications and case studies.
5. Personal Development: To promote personal growth, confidence-building, and independence by navigating new environments, overcoming challenges, and adapting to unfamiliar situations.
6. Skill Development: To develop practical skills, such as problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership, through participation in group activities and projects.

7. Critical Thinking: To encourage critical thinking and analysis by exploring diverse perspectives, challenging assumptions, and evaluating different approaches to issues and problems.

8. Evaluation and Reflection: To encourage participants to reflect on their experiences, evaluate their learning outcomes, and identify areas for further development or improvement.

Bharat Darshan Group-2

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

Day 0 (28th April,2024)

- Reached Bengaluru Airport at 10:30 AM
- Leave for Ooty from Bengaluru Airport at around 11:00 AM
- 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 (29th April,2024)

- Visited Doddabeta Peak at around 9:30 AM
- Visited Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory at around 1:00 PM
- Leave for Boat House to have boating at around 5 PM

Day 2(30th April,2024)

- Visited Botanical Garden at 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Visited Paykara Waterfall at around 2:00 PM
- Leave for Wayanad
- Visited Neelimala View Point at 5.30 PM
- Reached Wayanad at around 8 PM

Day 3 (01st May, 2024)

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

Day 4 (02nd May,2024)

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

Day 5 (03rd May,2024)

- Leave for Mysore from Coorg
- Visited Namdrooling Monestry in Piriapatna at around 11:30 to 01:30 PM
- Visited St. Philomena's Cathedral Church in Mysore

Day 06 (04th 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.

We set out on Bharat Darshan, a study journey to investigate the social, cultural, political, and economic facets of South India, from April 28 to May 4, 2024. We visited Ooty, Wayanad, Coorg, and Mysore on our itinerary, which highlighted the area's natural beauty, rich cultural legacy, political significance, and vibrant economy.

1. Bangalore Airport :-

As the gateway to Karnataka and a major aviation hub in India, Bangalore Airport plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the region. It facilitates trade and commerce by connecting the state to various national and international destinations, thereby contributing to the growth of industries like tourism, IT, and manufacturing.

Bangalore Airport serves as a melting pot of cultures, reflecting the vibrant diversity of Karnataka and India as a whole. From its architectural design to the services offered, cultural elements are integrated into various facets of the airport experience, contributing to a sense of place and identity



2. Bandipura Tiger Reserve :-

Bandipur Tiger Reserve, known for its rich biodiversity and ecological significance, contributes to the economy through nature-based tourism. Revenue generated from park fees, safari tours, and accommodations sustains conservation efforts and supports local communities dependent on eco-tourism.

The presence of the tiger reserve fosters environmental awareness and conservation ethics among local communities and visitors alike. It also provides employment opportunities in tourism, hospitality, and wildlife management, empowering nearby villages and indigenous populations.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve is steeped in cultural heritage, with indigenous communities inhabiting the surrounding areas for generations. Their traditional knowledge of the land and wildlife is invaluable for conservation efforts and contributes to the cultural identity of the region.



3. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve :-

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve supports the local economy through eco-tourism activities such as elephant safaris, nature walks, and birdwatching tours. Revenue generated from tourism helps fund conservation initiatives and provides livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The presence of the elephant reserve fosters a sense of pride and responsibility among local communities towards wildlife conservation. It also promotes cultural exchange and awareness about the importance of preserving natural habitats for future generations.

The management of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve involves collaboration between forest departments, wildlife authorities, and local governance bodies.

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is not only a haven for biodiversity but also a repository of cultural heritage. Indigenous communities residing in the region have deep-rooted connections with the land and its inhabitants, preserving age-old traditions and knowledge systems.



4. Dodabetta Peak:-

Doddabetta Peak, the highest point in the Nilgiri Hills, Geographically, it sits at an elevation of 2,637 meters (8,650 feet) above sea level, offering stunning vistas of the surrounding landscape attracts a steady stream of tourists, contributing to the local economy through tourism-related activities. Souvenir shops, cafes, and adventure sports operators benefit from visitor footfall, creating employment and business opportunities.

The panoramic views from Doddabetta Peak serve as a gathering point for tourists and locals, fostering social interaction and cultural exchange. It also provides recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, promoting a healthy lifestyle and community engagement.

Political decisions regarding infrastructure development, environmental conservation, and visitor regulations shape the peak's accessibility and sustainability.

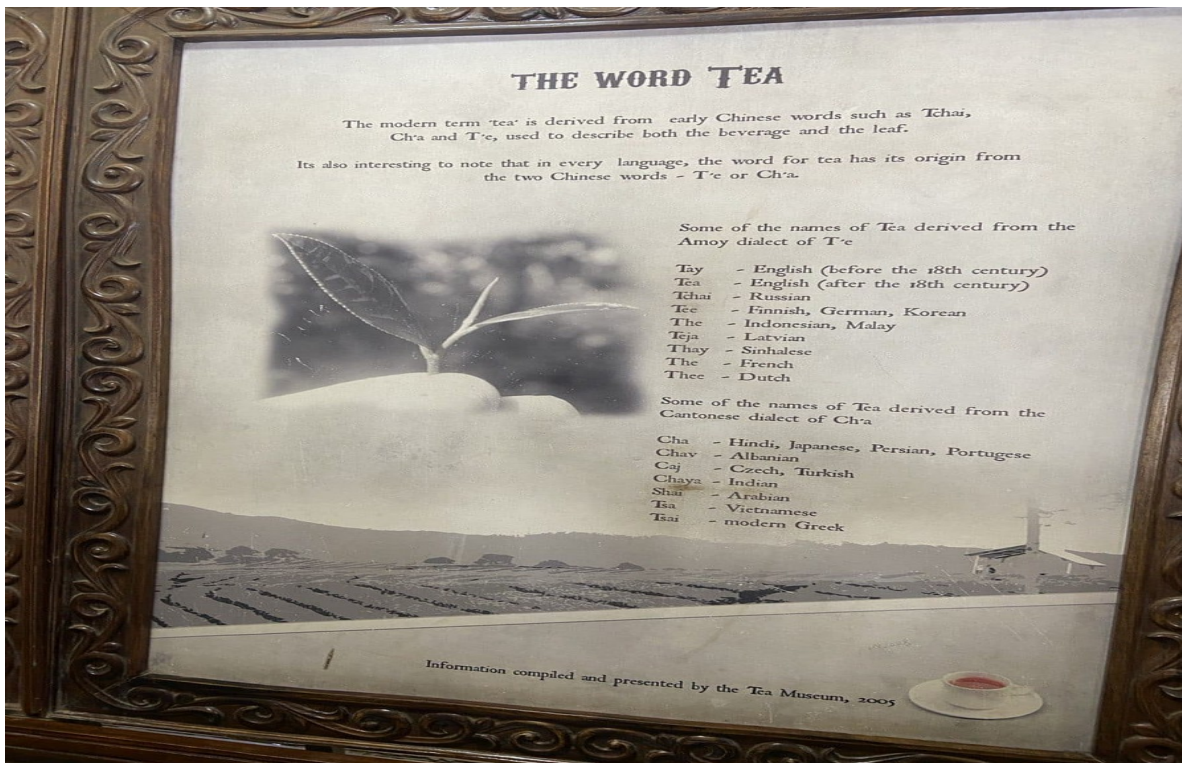
Doddabetta Peak holds cultural significance for indigenous communities inhabiting the Nilgiri Hills, who consider it a sacred site imbued with spiritual significance. Rituals and festivals associated with the peak reflect the cultural heritage and traditions of the region.



5. Tea & Chocolate Factory:-

The Tea and Chocolate Factory in Ooty plays a crucial role in the region's economy by promoting agro-tourism and value-added agricultural products. The factory tour provides insights into tea and chocolate production processes, attracting visitors and generating revenue for the local economy.

Tea and chocolate production have become integral aspects of Ooty's cultural identity, reflecting the region's colonial history and agricultural heritage. The factory tour allows visitors to engage with these cultural narratives while savoring the flavors of the Nilgiri Hills.



6. Ooty Lake:-

Ooty Lake is a major tourist attraction, contributing to the local economy through boating activities, souvenir shops, and food stalls around its shores. The lake's scenic beauty and recreational facilities draw visitors throughout the year, generating revenue for businesses and vendors.

Ooty Lake serves as a recreational hub for residents and tourists alike, fostering social interaction and community engagement. Activities such as boating, picnicking, and nature walks provide opportunities for leisure and relaxation, strengthening social bonds and cultural exchange.



7. Botanical Garden:-

The Botanical Garden sprawling across 55 acres, stands as a verdant emblem of natural beauty and biodiversity. Nestled within the lush landscape of the Western Ghats, this botanical garden serves not only as a recreational spot but also as an educational hub and a sanctuary for rare plant species. The highlight for many is the fossilized tree trunk, estimated to be over 20 million years old, offering a glimpse into the region's ancient history

Furthermore, the botanical garden serves as a symbol of the government's commitment to environmental conservation and the preservation of natural heritage sites, enhancing its political standing both locally and nationally.

The botanical garden not only showcases the region's rich flora but also serves as a cultural landmark, reflecting the indigenous knowledge and traditions associated with plant life.



8. Pykara Waterfall:-

The Pykara Waterfall cascades gracefully amidst the verdant landscape of the Nilgiri Hills, offering a serene retreat for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike. The waterfall cascades down from a height of approximately 55 meters (180 feet) into a series of pools and streams, creating a mesmerizing sight and a soothing sound. The Pykara Waterfall serves as a magnet for tourists, drawing visitors from far and wide to witness its majestic beauty.

The waterfall serves as a venue for cultural events and festivals, showcasing the region's rich heritage and traditions to a wider audience. The Pykara Waterfall holds cultural significance for the indigenous communities residing in the area, who view it as a sacred site imbued with spiritual meaning.

Visitors to the waterfall have the opportunity to learn about the cultural heritage and traditions of the local tribes through interpretive exhibits and guided tours, thus promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.



9. Neelimala View point:-

The Neelimala Viewpoint offers a panoramic vista of the verdant valleys and mist-clad mountains of the Western Ghats, providing visitors with a breathtaking glimpse of nature's grandeur.

The Neelimala Viewpoint holds cultural significance for the indigenous communities residing in the region, who view it as a sacred site imbued with spiritual significance.

Visitors to the viewpoint have the opportunity to learn about the cultural heritage and traditions of the local tribes through interpretive exhibits and guided tours, promoting cross-cultural exchange and appreciation.



10. Edakkal Caves:-

The Edakkal Caves stand as a testament to human ingenuity and artistic expression, bearing ancient petroglyphs and rock carvings dating back thousands of years. The caves are renowned for their ancient petroglyphs, which are prehistoric rock carvings dating back thousands of years. Visitors can marvel at these intricate carvings, which depict symbols, animals, and human figures, offering a glimpse into the lives of early inhabitants of the region.

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

Visitors to the caves have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of ancient rock art and archaeological artifacts, gaining insights into the cultural heritage and traditions of the region.



11. Kappad Beach:-

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. 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.



12. Abbi Falls, Coorg:-

Abbi Falls, nestled amidst lush greenery, contributes significantly to Coorg's tourism industry. The influx of tourists seeking the serene beauty of the falls drives economic activities in the region, including hospitality, transportation, and local handicrafts.

Abbi Falls is not just a natural wonder but also holds cultural significance for the Coorg community. It is often depicted in local folklore and traditions, symbolizing the deep-rooted connection between nature and culture.

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



13. Ela Camping:-

Ela Camping Spot, located in Madikeri(Karnataka), offers a unique and memorable outdoor experience for nature enthusiasts. Ela Camping Spot is known for its tranquil and secluded atmosphere, providing a peaceful retreat away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Nestled amidst lush greenery and surrounded by scenic landscapes, it offers a serene setting for relaxation and rejuvenation.

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.

Gather around a crackling campfire under the starry sky for a memorable evening at Ela Camping Spot. Campfires provide the perfect opportunity for bonding with friends and family, sharing stories, singing songs, and enjoying delicious meals cooked over an open flame.



14. Namdrolling Monastery:-

His Holiness the 3rd Drubwang Pema Norbu Rinpoche (1932-2009) is the founder of Namdrolling Monastery (popularly known as 'the Golden Temple'). His Holiness laid a foundation stone of the monastery in the year 1963 on 31 st of July. His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited the monastery to consecrate it and bestowed the name Namdrolling. Likewise His Holiness Chatrel Rinpoche named the monastery Thegchog, while Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche named it Shedrub and His Holiness himself added Dargyeling. Thus the complete name of monastery came to be known as Thegchog Namdrol Shedrub Dargyeling (Land of Increasing Practice and Teaching of the Utmost Yana that achieves spontaneous Liberation).

The Namdrolling 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.



15. St. Philomena's Cathedral Church:-

One of the largest cathedrals in India, St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysuru is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The majestic church, built to honour the memory of Saint Philomena, a Latin Catholic Saint of the Roman Catholic Church, draws inspiration from the beautiful Cologne Cathedral of Germany. Remains of St Philomena are preserved at the cathedral. St. Philomena's Cathedral is one of the tallest churches in Asia. St Philomena's Cathedral was built by Maharaja of Mysuru Mummudi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in 1843 in memory of 4th-century saint and martyr St. Philomena. The cathedral was built as a gift to a large number of European populations residing in Mysuru in the 19th century. As the need for a larger church was felt due to the growing population of Europeans, the foundation for the new church was laid in October 1933 by the then king of Mysuru, Krishnarajendra Wodeyar.



16. Organisation for the Development of People, NGO:-

THE ORGANISATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE' (ODP), is the Diocesan Social Service Society (DSSS) of Mysore intended for an integrated human development of the socially and economically disadvantaged, the underprivileged and the marginalized sections of Society. Inspired by Christian values of love, sharing, caring, universal brotherhood, concern for the needy, Equality, Justice and Peace, the Diocese of Mysore established and registered the Organisation (ODP) on 4th January 1984. The Bishop of Mysore heads the Organisation as President.

ODP renders its services to all the poor, while placing more emphasis on women, small and marginal farmers, the landless and the most marginalized among the disadvantaged. In all its programs ODP gives special importance to the empowerment of women and there by enables them to come out of debilitating traditional backgrounds and assists them to silhouette an identity for themselves, for their families, and for their communities at large.

Hence ODP's goal 'Integrated Human Development'. In this developmental process, ODP acts as an agent that enables, encourages, and facilitates creation of active and committed leaders in the communities who are dedicated to the cause of the uplift of the downtrodden.

Through various programs, ODP strives to enable people to think about and analyse their life situations; helps them to discover their capabilities and potentialities; unites them to act collectively to resolve their problems; empowers them to make their own rational decisions which are suited to and in accordance with local conditions in a given situation; and finally guides them to become agents of their own development and growth – the masters of their own destiny.

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.

Goal: Integrated Human Development.

Values:

- Integrity: Serve our community with complete honesty and integrity.
- Respect for People, Communities and Cultures: Treat all people with dignity and respect.
- Honesty, Transparency & Commitment: Carry out all our work and actions with the greatest responsibility, discipline and accountability – garnering trust



17. Mysore Palace:-

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

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

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





18. Srirangapatnam Temple:-

Located on Srirangapatna, an island in the river Kaveri, Ranganathaswamy Temple is one of the country's most revered Temples. It is dedicated to Ranganatha, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. It is considered to be one of the Pancharanga Kshetram (five most important shrines devoted to Lord Vishnu) in South India. The presiding deity is known as Adi Ranga as it is the first Temple from upstream.

Besides the religious significance, the Temple is also renowned for its fine architecture. A stunning example of Hindu architecture, the Temple has a striking tower along with two huge Prakarams around the sanctum at the entrance. A pavilion, lined with pillars leads to the main shrine. These pillars are intricately carved, showcasing the exceptional craftsmanship of the people of the past era.

The Temple is surrounded by River Kaveri where pilgrims take a dip before entering the Temple complex. While the Temple is visited by people throughout the year, the best time to witness its glory is during the various festivals celebrated here. Bangarada Garudotsava, Sriranga Jayanti, Sudha Poornima, and Uyyalotsava are some of the most important festivals celebrated here. During these celebrations, there are huge lines of pilgrims coming here from different parts of the country to seek blessings.



Conclusion and Learnings

For all of us, the study tour was an unforgettable and rewarding experience. We gained a great deal of knowledge about India's diversity and unity, as well as its history, cultures, ecosystems' biodiversity, development, and governance, as well as the opportunities and problems faced by various industries. Our abilities in teamwork, time management, crisis management, and adaptability were also enhanced. We also created memories and lifelong friends.

Among the most important lessons from the visit are the following:

- India is a country of contradictions and contrasts, where the old and the new, the rural and the urban, the wealthy and the poor, and the traditional and the modern live and communicate.
- India's monuments, temples, forts, palaces, museums, artwork, literature, music, dance, festivals, food, and customs all bear witness to the country's rich and illustrious past and culture.
- India boasts a rich and varied biodiversity and ecology, which is reflected in its wetlands, grasslands, mountains, rivers, lakes, deserts, islands, and beaches.

A worthwhile and entertaining component of our cadre training program was the study tour. For making this visit possible and successful, we are appreciative of the MCR HRDIT, the Course Director, the Study visit Committee, and the Officials. We also appreciate all of the other attendees for adding to the enjoyable and social nature of our tour. In our future careers and personal lives, we intend to put the knowledge and insights we gained from this tour to use. We also intend to return to these locations and discover much more of our amazing India. Jai Hind!

