

**A STUDY TOUR REPORT ON**

**‘BHARAT DARSHAN (GROUP 2 - KARNATAKA)’**



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This was a unique experience to work as a group during the visit to Karnataka- Tamil Nadu- Kerala. I enjoyed the study tour and learned many things during the NGO attachment and Tea-cum-Chocolate Factory Visit as well.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Director General, MCRHRD for providing all necessary support for successful completion of this study tour.

## **AIMS & OBJECTIVE OF BHARAT DARSHAN (STUDY TOUR)**

1. **Cultural Exploration:** The primary aim of a Bharat Darshan study tour is to expose to the rich cultural diversity of India. This includes exploring various traditions, languages, cuisines, arts, and crafts from different regions of the country.

2. **Historical Understanding:** Bharat Darshan tours aim to provide participants with insights into India's rich history by visiting historical sites, monuments, and museums. This helps in understanding the country's past, including its diverse dynasties, civilizations, and cultural influences.

3. **Geographical Awareness:** These tours typically cover diverse geographical landscapes, from mountains to plains to coastal areas. The objective is to familiarize participants with India's geographical diversity, climate variations, and ecological significance.

4. **Social and Economic Insights:** Bharat Darshan tours often include visits to rural and urban areas, providing participants with a glimpse into the social, economic, and demographic diversity of India. This helps in understanding issues related to development, poverty, and livelihoods.

5. **Promotion of National Integration:** One of the key objectives of Bharat Darshan tours is to foster national integration by promoting understanding and appreciation of India's unity in diversity. Participants learn about the common cultural heritage that binds the nation together despite its linguistic, religious, and ethnic diversity.

6. **Education and Learning:** Bharat Darshan tours offer experiential learning opportunities outside the classroom environment. Participants engage in interactive sessions, workshops, and discussions to deepen their understanding of Indian culture, history, and society.

7. **Personal Growth and Reflection:** Participants are encouraged to reflect on their experiences during the tour, fostering personal growth, empathy, and a broader perspective on the world. They may develop skills such as adaptability, tolerance, and cultural sensitivity.

8. **Networking and Collaboration:** Participants may have opportunities to network with fellow travelers, local communities, and experts in various fields, fostering collaboration and exchange of ideas.

# TAMIL NADU

The southernmost state in India is called Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu, the sixth most populous and tenth largest state in India, is home to the Tamil people, who speak Tamil, one of the oldest classical languages still in use today. Tamil is also the official language of Tamil Nadu. Chennai is the largest and capital city.

## Geography

Tamil Nadu lies on the southeast coast of the Indian peninsula, bordered to the west by the Western Ghats and Deccan Plateau, to the north by the Eastern Ghats, to the east by the Eastern Coastal Plains that line the Bay of Bengal, to the south-east by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar, to the south-east by the Laccadive Sea at the peninsula's southern tip, and to the west by the Palk Strait. The state is divided by the Kaveri River.

## Climate

The area experiences tropical weather and receives its rainfall from the monsoon season. There are seven agroclimatic zones in Tamil Nadu: high rainfall, high altitude hilly, west, south, northeast, and Kaveri delta. With the exception of a semi-arid rain shadow east of the Western Ghats, most of the inland peninsular region experiences a tropical wet and dry climate.

## Flora & Fauna

While tropical dry forests and scrub areas are abundant in the interior, deciduous woods are found around the Western Ghats. The South Western Ghats montane rain forests are high-altitude rain forests found in the southern Western Ghats. Tamil Nadu is home to over 2,000 different types of wildlife. Common plant species include the state tree, palmyra palm, eucalyptus, rubber, cinchona, common teak, clumping bamboos (*Bambusa arundinacea*), and royal fern.

## Culture

- **Clothing:** Tamil women traditionally wear a *sari* that is typically wrapped around the waist, with one end draped over the shoulder, baring the midriff, as according to Indian philosophy, the navel is considered as the source of life and creativity. The men wear a *dhoti*, 4.5 metres (15 ft) long, white rectangular piece of non-stitched cloth often bordered in brightly coloured stripes.
- **Cuisine:** Rice is the diet staple and is served with *sambar*, *rasam*, and *poriyal* as a part of a Tamil meal. Coconut and spices are used extensively in Tamil cuisine. The region has a rich cuisine involving both traditional non-vegetarian and vegetarian dishes made of rice, legumes, and lentils with its distinct aroma and flavour achieved by the blending of flavourings and spices.

## **DODDABETTA PEAK**

At 2,637 meters (8,652 feet), Doddabetta is the tallest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains. The peak is surrounded by a forest area that is restricted. On the Ooty-Kotagiri Road in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India, it is located 9 km from Ooty. With a road leading up to the summit, it is a well-liked tourist destination. The Kannada term doddabetta, which means "big hill," is its source. At the summit of Doddabetta, there is a public observatory with two telescopes.



## **TEA FACTORY**

The Tea Factory & Museum is located on Doddabetta Road in Ooty, and it is 4 km from Doddabetta Peak and 5 km from the bus and train stations. It is a well-known tea factory, especially around Ooty and Tamil Nadu.

The Ooty Tea Factory, situated at an elevation of 1839 meters, occupies over an acre and is entirely covered in emerald green tea trees. From the moment the green leaves are picked until they are packaged in the facility, visitors may witness the complete production process. Additionally, it is home to the Tea Museum, where guests may discover the history of tea in India and the Nilgiris, as well as the origins of many types of tea leaves that are used throughout the world. In addition, the Doddabetta tea mill in Ooty provides stunning views of the surrounding high mountain ranges and the valley.



## **OOTY LAKE BOATHOUSE**

The Ooty lake is one of the most exquisite and gorgeous lakes in South India, with the mountain railway passing through one of its banks. It's a must-visit location to experience and appreciate Ooty's splendor, with vegetation abounding. Ooty Lake is a man-made lake surrounded by beautiful natural scenery. The lake, which was first built for fishing, is now practically a major tourist destination in Ooty.

Since boating is one of the lake's main year-round attractions, Ooty Lake is frequently referred to as Ooty Boat House. Around the lake, there are also many of stores offering reasonably priced local goods like shawls and eucalyptus oils.



## **BOTANICAL GARDEN (OOTY)**

**The Botanical Garden** is a botanical garden in Udhagamandalam, near Coimbatore (Ooty), Tamil Nadu state, India laid out in 1848. The gardens, divided into several sections, cover an area of around 22 hectares (54 acres), and lie on the lower slopes of Doddabetta peak. The garden has a terraced layout. It is maintained by the Tamil Nadu Horticulture Department.

It ascends the slopes of the hill at an elevation of 2250–2500 metres above mean sea level. The garden enjoys a temperate climate, with an average rainfall of 140 cm, the most of which is received during south-west monsoon, with frosty nights from November to February. The maximum and minimum temperatures are 28 °C and 0 °C respectively. Its architect was William Graham McIlvor.

The gardens have around a thousand species, both exotic and indigenous, of plants, shrubs, ferns, trees, herbal and bonsai plants. In the centre of the gardens lie a fossilized tree trunk estimated to be 20 million years old. The gardens consist of several lawns with flowering plants, ponds with lilies, beds of flowers and ferns laid out in an Italian style, several plots of flowering plants, a variety of medicinal plants.



## **PYKARA FALLS**

In the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, Pykara is a river that is 19 kilometers (12 mi) from Ooty and has a village of the same name close by. The Todas hold the Pykara River in high regard. It rises from Mukurthi Peak, runs north, and then, as it reaches the edge of the plateau, turns west. The river is a crucial component of an enormous hydroelectric power project and flows via the dams at Glenmorgan, Pykara, and Mukurthi.

The river travels over a sequence of waterfalls, the final two of which are known as Pykara Falls and are 55 meters (180 feet) and 61 meters (200 feet) high. The major road leads to the falls around 6 km/4 mi away from the bridge. At Pykara, there's a forest rest house. An



additional tourist attraction on the Pykara reservoir is a boat house. Large grassy meadows, Toda communities, well-protected, gated sholas, and excellent wildlife habitat are all features of Pykara.



# **KERALA**

Kerala is a state on India's Malabar Coast region, known as Keralam in Malayalam. After the States Reorganisation Act was passed, it was created on November 1st, 1956, by merging the Malayalam-speaking parts of the former Cochin, Malabar, South Canara, and Travancore areas. Kerala, which covers an area of 38,863 km<sup>2</sup> (15,005 sq. mi), is the twenty-first largest state in India. Tamil Nadu borders it to the east and south, Karnataka to the north and northeast, and the Lakshadweep Sea to the west.

## **Climate**

Kerala has a wet and maritime tropical climate with 120–140 rainy days annually, which is influenced by the yearly heavy rains of the northeast winter monsoon and southwest summer monsoon. Only Kerala's southern districts exhibit the Northeast monsoon's influence. The range of the average daily temperature is 19.8 °C to 36.7 °C.

## **Flora & Fauna**

In the Western Ghats, there is a concentration and protection of the majority of biodiversity. Kerala is home to more than 25% of India's 15,000 plant species. Of the four thousand kinds of blooming plants, 1,272 are native to Kerala, 900 are used medicinally, and 159 are in danger of extinction.

The forests are home to grizzled giant squirrels, common palm civets, Nilgiri tahr, Bengal tigers, Indian leopards, and Indian elephants. The king cobra, viper, python, and mugger crocodile are examples of reptiles. The Malabar trogon, the great hornbill, the Kerala laughingthrush, the darter, and the southern hill myna are some of the species found in Kerala. Fish like kadu, orange chromide (*Etroplus maculatus*), red line torpedo barb, and chootachi can be found in the lakes, wetlands, and canals.

## **Cuisine**

There are many different vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes made with fish, fowl, and meat in Keralan cuisine. Keralan cuisine is characterized by its millennia-old tradition of cultivating culinary spices. One common staple that is consumed throughout the day is rice.

## **WAYANAD**

Nestled amidst the Western Ghats' mountains, Wayanad is a verdant wonderland that delineates the edge of Kerala's greener region. This region is rich in culture and history, and it is also immaculate and captivating. situated 76 kilometers away. This lush hill station, which is accessible from Kozhikode's seashores, is home to several plantations, forests, and animals. The Wayanad hills create a large land mass that allows wildlife to roam freely in their natural habitat because they are adjacent to Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu and Bandhipur in Karnataka.



## **EDAKKAL CAVES**

The Edakkal caves are two naturally occurring caves located in a secluded area in Edakkal, Kerala, India. They are situated in the Wayanad district, 25 kilometers (15.5 mi) from Kalpetta. Situated atop Ambukutty Mala, close to an old trading route that links the ports of the Malabar Coast with the high mountains of Mysore, they are 1,200 meters (3,900 feet) above sea level. There is evidence of an ancient settlement in this area thanks to graphic writings found inside the caves that are thought to be written by Neolithic man and date back to at least 6,000 BCE. Aside from those found in Shenthurini, Kollam, Kerala, the rare and unique Stone Age engravings of Edakkal are the only ones from South India that are known to exist. The Mesolithic period is represented in the cave paintings found in Kerala's Shendurney (Shenthurini) forests.

These are clefts, rifts, or rock shelters that are about 96 feet (29 meters) by 22 feet (6.7 meters) in size. They are 30-foot-deep (9.1 meters) cracks that were created when a section of rock broke off from the main body. They are not really caves. Within the cave are at least three different types of petroglyphs. The oldest could be more than 8,000 years old. The available data indicates that the Edakkal caverns have been inhabited on multiple occasions throughout history.



## **KAPPAD BEACH**

In the Keralan district of Kozhikode, there is a beach and village called Kappad, also known locally as Kappakadavu, close to Koyilandy. Vasco da Gama's "landing" is commemorated by a government-erected stone monument that reads, "Vasco da Gama landed here, Kappakadavu, in the year 1498."

About ten kilometers from Kappad lies Koyilandy, the closest major train station. About 25 kilometers from the town of Kozhikode is Calicut International Airport (CCJ), the closest airport. In addition to stopping at Thiruvangoor on National Highway 66 between Kozhikode and Vadakara, guests can access the beach by private transport buses that depart from the major bus terminus. The beach has a Blue Flag.



# **KARNATAKA**

India's state of Karnataka is located in the southwest. With 31 districts, Karnataka is the eighth-most populous state in terms of population. Bangalore, the state capital, is the fourth most populous city in India with 15,257,000 people living there.

Karnataka has four distinct seasons. The monsoon season, which runs from June to September, the summer season, which runs from March to May, and the post-monsoon season, which runs from October to December, come after the winter months of January and February.

There is a wide diversity of animals in Karnataka. Its area under forest cover is 38,720 km<sup>2</sup>. Ten percent of India's tigers and twenty-five percent of its elephant population live in these forests. The western part of Karnataka is part of the Western Ghats, a hotspot for biodiversity. In 1986, UNESCO designated the Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks as part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

## **MADIKERI (COORG)**

The capital of the Kodagu district in Karnataka, India, Madikeri is a hill station town located in the Madikeri taluk. "The city of Mudduraja" was the original name of the place, Muddurajanakeri. It is recognized as a UNSECO World Heritage Site as well as one of the eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity in the world.

## **Camping at ELA Glamping**

Ela Glamping offers services to satisfy the needs of luxury campers, nature lovers, and thrill-seekers. For those searching for a truly unique getaway, their glamping resort offers a unique experience. Ela Glamping offers a lot to offer those seeking adventure. Along with offering outdoor movie screenings, river walks, trekking, and jungle paths, they also host DJ nights at the camp. They provide adventure seekers an experience they won't soon forget.



## **NAMDROGLING MONASTERY**

The largest teaching institution of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism in the world is the Namdroling Nyingmapa Monastery, also known as Thegchog Namdrol Shedrub Dargye Ling or Namdroling Vihara. The monastery is situated in Bylakuppe, which is a part of the Mysuru district in the state of Karnataka. It houses a hospital, a religious college (known as shedra for both monks and nuns), a junior high school called Yeshe Wodsal Sherab Raldri Ling, and a sangha community of more than 5,000 lamas (monks and nuns).



## **ABBEY FALLS**

Abbey Falls is a waterfall in Kodagu, in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, India. It is also called Abbi Falls and Abbe Falls. It is situated 8 kilometers from Madikeri, 122 kilometers from Mysore, 144 kilometers from Mangalore, and 268 kilometers from Bangalore.

The waterfall is situated between spice estates, private coffee plantations with robust coffee

bushes, and trees covered with pepper vines on the early reaches of the Kaveri River. Just across from the falls is a hanging bridge that has been built. Flow is significantly greater in the monsoon season. Before, the falls were known as Jessy Falls, after the daughter of an English priest.



## **MYSORE**

The second-most populated city in the southern Indian state of Karnataka is Mysore, sometimes known as Mysuru. It serves as both the district and division headquarters for Mysore. For nearly 600 years, the city served as the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore (1399 to 1947), during which time it served as the Wadiyar dynasty's customary seat. The city of palaces, heritage buildings, and culture (including the well-known Mysore Palace) have earned Mysore the titles "City of Palaces," "Heritage City," and "Cultural Capital of Karnataka." According to the Swachh Survekshan, it is among the cleanest cities in India. The Chamundi Hills' foothills are where Mysore is located.

## **ST. PHILOMENA'S CATHEDRAL**

The Indian Diocese of Mysore's cathedral is a Catholic church called St. Philomena's Cathedral. The Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Philomena is the complete name. Another name for it is St. Joseph's Cathedral. Its architecture, which was influenced by Germany's Cologne Cathedral, was built in 1936 in the Neo Gothic style. Among the tallest churches in Asia is this one.

Frenchman Daly was responsible for the church's design. The Cologne Cathedral served as inspiration for the design, which called for construction in the Neo Gothic style.



## **THE ORGANISATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE' (ODP)**

The Diocesan Social Service Society (DSSS) of Mysore is home to THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (ODP), which aims to provide integrated human development for the poor, marginalized, and socially and economically disadvantaged segments of society. The Diocese of Mysore founded and officially registered the Organization (ODP) on January 4, 1984, guided by Christian principles of love, sharing, caring, global brotherhood, concern for the poor, equality, justice, and peace. Its founder-director and first secretary was Fr. Becket D'Souza. The President of the Organization is the Bishop of Mysore.

Since its founding, ODP has aimed to improve societal transformations. It causes people to reevaluate their unsuitable social value systems and negative attitudes.

### **Objectives:**

- Organize poor and marginalized women to develop courage and self-esteem.
- 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.
- Initiate savings among sangha members for mutual help and support during times of need and to avoid exploitation by middle men / money lenders.



- Increase income and assets for women – at individual, house hold and community levels.
- Enable women to manage resources productively and expand their sources of livelihood.



## **MYSORE PALACE**

Amba Vilas Palace, commonly referred to as Mysore Palace, is a historical palace that serves as a royal home. It's in the Indian state of Karnataka, near Mysore. It was once the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore and the formal palace of the Wadiyar family. Located in the heart of Mysore, the palace looks eastward towards the Chamundi Hills. Known as the "City of the Palaces," Mysore is home to seven palaces, including this one. But Mysore Palace explicitly refers to the one inside the rebuilt 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 RANGANATHASWAMY TEMPLE**

The Hindu deity Ranganatha (a manifestation of Vishnu) is worshipped in the Ranganathaswamy Temple, also known as Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, in Srirangapatna, in the Mandya district of the Karnataka state, India. The temple is categorized as one of the Vaishnavate tradition's 108 Abhimana Kshethrams. It is one of the five major Sri Vaishnavite pilgrimage locations along the Kaveri River for Ranganatha devotees. In South India, these five locations are referred to as Pancharanga Kshethrams. Adi Ranga is the name of the god since Srirangapatna is the first temple to be reached from upstream.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) asserts that the temple is quite old. According to an inscription at the temple, Tirumalaiah, a local chief and vassal of the Western Ganga dynasty, built it around 984 AD. Previous references to the deity's existence at Srirangapatna suggest that a temple was probably constructed on top of a pre-existing shrine dedicated to Ranganatha swami.



## **CONCLUSION AND LEARNINGS**

The study tour was a memorable and enriching experience for all of us. We learned a lot about 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 lifelong friends and memories.

Some of the key learnings from 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 and enjoyable part of our cadre training programme. We are grateful and thankful to the MCR HRDIT, the Course Director, the Study Tour Committee, and Officials for making this tour possible and successful. We are also thankful to our fellow participants for making this tour fun and friendly. We hope to apply and share our learnings and experiences from this tour in our future work and life. We also hope to visit these places again and explore more of our incredible India. Jai Hind!