

# BHARAT DARSHAN REPORT

## KARNATAKA GROUP-2



**Dr. MCR HRD Institute**

**The Study Tour as a part of Foundation Training Programme for  
Assistant Section Officer(ASO) in CSS of 2023 Batch**

**(from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024)**

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**ASO In Ministry of Communication & IT**

**( Department of Posts)**

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## Acknowledgement

At the outset, I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Department of Personnel and Training for giving this unique opportunity to participate in the mandatory training programme at the MCRHRD Institute of Telangana. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to Smt. Usha Rani, Course Director, MCRHRD for giving great support.

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.

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

## 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-Tamilnadu-Kerala under the guidance of Dr. Vinod Goud, 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: -

- To expose the Trainees to research and development work being done by the NGO
- To develop team spirit, time management, management of crisis and adaptability to various odd situations.
- To enables the trainees to know about the ecological, historical and cultural background prevailing in the different zones of India.

## **Bharat Darshan Group-2 Schedule**

### **Day 01 (28<sup>th</sup> April,2024)**

- Bandipur Tiger Reserve & Madumalai Elephant Reserve
- Reached Ooty via Gudalur

### **Day 02 (29<sup>th</sup> April,2024)**

- Doddabeta Peak
- Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory
- Boating House, Ooty Lake

### **Day 03 (30<sup>th</sup> April,2024)**

- Botanical Garden
- Pykara Waterfall
- Neelimala View point

### **Day 04 (01<sup>st</sup> May, 2024)**

- Edakkal Caves
- Went to Kappad Beach in Kerala where first Portuguese Traveller came

### **Day 05 (02<sup>nd</sup> May,2024)**

- Check out from the hotel in wayanad and proceed to Coorg
- Abbey Falls
- ELA Glamping, Madikeri for trekking and camping

### **Day 06 (03<sup>rd</sup> May,2024)**

- Namdroling Monastery in Piriapatna,
- St. Philomena's Cathedral Church in Mysore

### **Day 07 (04<sup>th</sup> May, 2024)**

- NGO "The Organisation for Development of People (ODP)" in Mysore
- Mysore Palace

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

- ❖ Bandipur National Park second highest Tiger population in India. Bandipur National Park is located in Gundulpet taluk, Chamarajanagar district. Park is the part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve making it largest protected area in Southern India and largest habitat of Wild Elephants in South Asia.
- ❖ Bandipur National Park shares its boundary with 3 other National park namely Nagarahole National Park, Wayanad National Park and Mudumalai National park. There is ban of traffic from 9 PM to 6 AM of dusk to dawn to help to draw down the death rate of wildlife.
- ❖ Tigers, Indian Elephants, Leopard, Dhole, Sambar, Sloth bear, Chital many more animals and Birds can be spotted in the Bandipur National park. But we only captured few wildlife animals,



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

- ❖ Doddabetta Peak, located in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, is the highest peak in the Nilgiri mountain range. Geographically, it sits at an elevation of 2,637 meters (8,650 feet) above sea level, offering stunning vistas of the surrounding landscape.
- ❖ The peak is characterized by its rolling hills, dense forests, and tea plantations, creating a picturesque backdrop for visitors. Its location near Ooty makes it a popular destination for tourists seeking to experience the natural beauty of the region.
- ❖ Doddabetta's geography also plays a significant role in its climate with cool temperatures and misty conditions common throughout the year, adding to its allure as a scenic destination.



### 3. Tea Factory at Ooty

- ❖ As Ooty is renowned for producing high-quality tea, particularly Nilgiri tea, which is appreciated for its brisk and bright flavour profile.
- ❖ There we get an guided tour that provide us with insights into the tea-making process, from plucking the tea leaves to withering, rolling, fermenting, drying and packaging. We witnessed each stage of tea production first-hand and learn about the nuances of tea cultivation and processing.
- ❖ Every visitors to the tea factories can indulge in tasting sessions where they can sample a variety of teas produced on-site. This allows them to experience the distinct flavours and aromas of different types of tea and select their favourites to purchase and take to home.
- ❖ The tea factory have onsite shops or outlets where visitors can purchase freshly processed tea products, including loose-leaf tea, packaged tea blends. These teas make for popular souvenirs or gifts for families and friends.
- ❖ Many tea factories in Ooty nestled amidst picturesque tea estates, offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy scenic views of lush green tea gardens against the backdrop of the Nilgiri Hills. The serene ambiance adds to the overall tea-tasting experience.



#### 4. Chocolate factory

- ❖ Handcrafted chocolates: - Ooty's chocolate factories are known for their artisanal approach of chocolate-making. They often produce handcrafted methods, ensuring high-quality and distinct flavours.
- ❖ Interactive Tours: - Chocolate factories provide guided tours that offer insights into the chocolate-making process. We witness the various stages of chocolate production, from roasting and grinding cocoa beans to tempering and moulding chocolate into delectable treats.
- ❖ Chocolate Tasting: - Many Chocolate factories offer tasting sessions where visitors can sample a selection of chocolates to experience the rich flavours and textures first-hand. These tasting sessions allow chocolate enthusiasts to explore different varieties and discover their favourites.
- ❖ Overall, the chocolate factory offers a delightful experience for chocolate lovers, combining artisanal craftsmanship, flavourful creations.



#### 5. Boating

- ❖ Ooty Lake is a picturesque artificial lake located in the hill station town of Ooty, also known as Udhagamandalam, in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It's one of the most popular tourist attractions in Ooty, offering serene surroundings and opportunities for boating.
- ❖ Ooty Lake can enjoy boating in various forms, including paddle boats, rowing boats, and motorboats. The lake is surrounded by several shops and eateries where tourists can indulge in local delicacies and shop for souvenirs.
- ❖ Overall, Ooty Lake is not just a beautiful water body but also a hub of recreational activities, drawing tourists from all over India and abroad.





## 6. Botanical Garden, Ooty

- ❖ The garden, sprawling across 55 acres, showcases a stunning array of exotic plants, flowers, and trees, providing a peaceful sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Walking through its well-maintained pathways, visitors can admire a diverse collection of flora from around the world, including rare species of roses, orchids. 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.
- ❖ Environmental Science: The botanical garden provides a living laboratory for studying ecosystem dynamics, soil science, and the interactions between plants and their environment. Students can explore concepts such as nutrient cycling, water conservation, and sustainable land management practices. We observed different plant structures, reproductive strategies, and adaptations to various environmental conditions.
- ❖ The Botanical Garden in Ooty serves as both a recreational space for visitors and a centre for botanical research and education. It's a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts, botanists, and anyone looking to immerse themselves in the beauty of the natural world.



## 7. Pykara Falls

- ❖ Pykara Falls is a captivating waterfall located near Ooty in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, India. It's a popular tourist destination known for its scenic beauty and serene surroundings. The waterfall is formed by the Pykara River as it cascades down from a height of approximately 55 meters (180 feet) a series of rocky outcrops, creating a mesmerizing sight and a soothing sound.
- ❖ The area around Pykara Falls is also home to diverse wildlife. The serene lake surrounded by lush greenery offers a tranquil experience amidst nature's beauty.



## 8. Neelimala View Point

- ❖ Neelimala Viewpoint is a popular tourist destination located near Meppadi in the Wayanad district of Kerala, India. It offers breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys, lush greenery, and the majestic Western Ghats. The viewpoint is situated at an altitude of around 1,500 meters above sea level, providing visitors with a serene and panoramic vista of the landscape below.



## 9. Edakkal Cave

- ❖ "Edakkal" means "a stone in between" in Malayalam, and the name aptly describes the caves as they are formed by a large cleft in a massive rock, with another rock wedged between them.
- ❖ 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.



- ❖ The Edakkal Caves hold cultural significance for the local indigenous tribes, who believe that the caves are linked to ancient myths and legends. Visitors can learn about the folklore and traditions associated with the caves, gaining insight into the rich cultural heritage of the region.
- ❖ Getting to the caves involves a scenic hike through lush green forests and rocky terrain. The journey itself is an adventure, with breath-taking views of the surrounding landscape and glimpses of local flora and fauna along the way.



## 10. Kappad Beach(Kerala)

- ❖ Kappad Beach holds significant historical importance in India, particularly in the state of Kerala, also known as Kappakkadavu Beach, holds significant historical importance in the cultural landscape of Kerala, India. It's located near Kozhikode (Calicut) in the South Indian state of Kerala.
- ❖ The beach gained prominence primarily due to the historical event associated with it - the landing of the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama in May 1498.
- ❖ It was a pivotal moment in history, as it opened up sea routes from Europe to India, eventually leading to significant cultural exchanges, colonization, and the establishment of trade networks between Europe and Asia.
- ❖ Today, Kappad Beach is not only a historical landmark but also a popular tourist destination in Kerala. The Kerala Tourism Department has also developed infrastructure around Kappad Beach to cater to tourists, including amenities like resorts, restaurants, and souvenir shops. Cultural events and festivals are occasionally held here, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.



## **11. Abbey Falls**

- ❖ Abbey Falls, also known as Abbi Falls, is a breathtaking waterfall located near Madikeri in the Kodagu (Coorg) district of Karnataka, India. It's one of the most popular tourist attractions in the region, drawing visitors with its scenic beauty and serene surroundings.
- ❖ The waterfall is formed by the cascading waters of the Kaveri River as it descends from a height of about 70 feet into a pool below. Surrounded by lush greenery, dense forests, and coffee plantations, Abbey Falls offers a picturesque setting that is both tranquil and refreshing.
- ❖ To reach Abbey Falls, visitors have to undertake a short trek through well-maintained pathways surrounded by trees and vegetation. The journey to the falls itself is an adventure, and the sound of the cascading waters can be heard from a distance, heightening the anticipation.



## 12. ELA Glamping ( Camping Site )

- ❖ Ela Glamping is a unique and luxurious camping experience located in the heart of Wayanad, Kerala, India. The term "glamping" is a fusion of "glamorous" and "camping," and it refers to a style of camping that combines the adventure of camping with the comfort and amenities of a luxury resort.
- ❖ 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.



### 13. Namdroling Monastery

- ❖ 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 Namdroling Monastery was established in 1963 by His Holiness Pema Norbu Rinpoche, also known as Penor Rinpoche, the 11th throneholder of the Palyul lineage of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.
- ❖ The monastery was founded as a center 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.



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

- ❖ St. Philomena's Cathedral Church, located in Mysore, Karnataka, India, is one of the largest churches in the country and a striking example of neo-gothic architecture. It is dedicated to Saint Philomena, a young Christian martyr whose relics were discovered in the catacombs of Rome in the 19th century.
- ❖ Construction of the cathedral began in 1933 under the supervision of the then Maharaja of Mysore, Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, and was completed in 1941. The cathedral was designed by the renowned architect Reverend Rene Feuge, who drew inspiration from the Cologne Cathedral in Germany. The majestic twin spires of St. Philomena's Cathedral rise to a height of about 175 feet, dominating the skyline of Mysore.
- ❖ St. Philomena's Cathedral is not only a place of worship for the Catholic community in Mysore but also a major tourist attraction, drawing visitors from all over the world. It is known for its architectural splendor and historical significance, serving as a testament to the enduring faith and cultural heritage of the region.





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



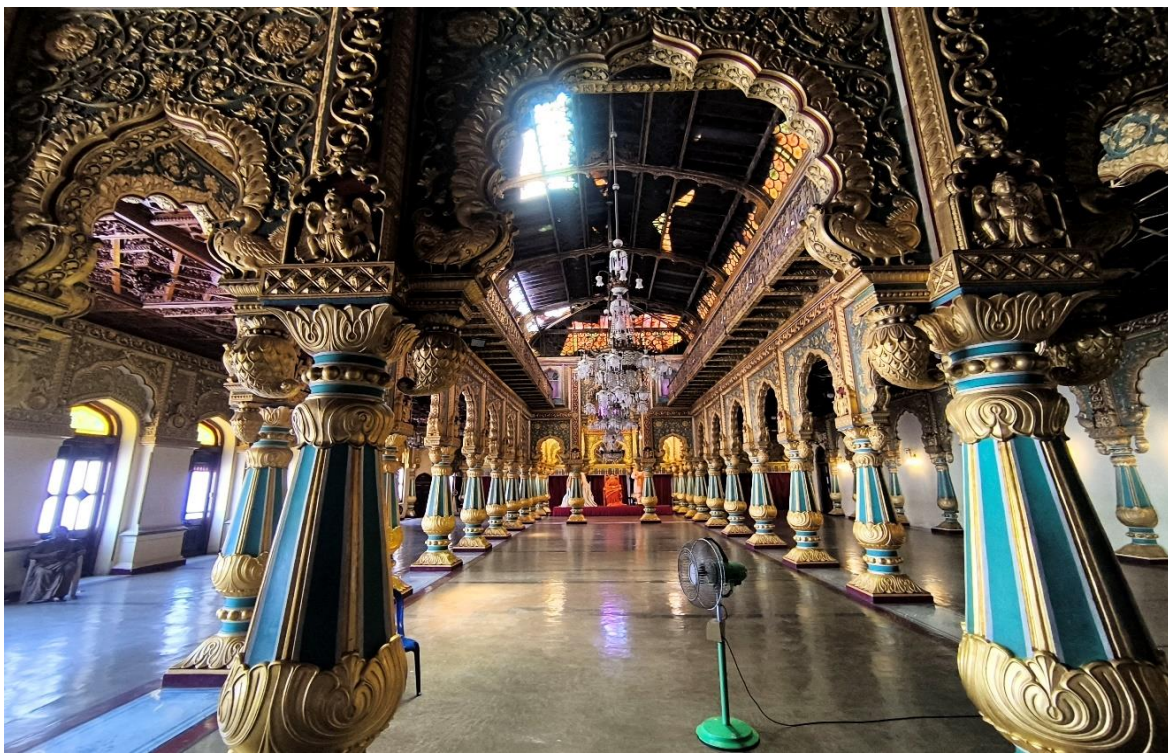
- ❖ **About the Organisation:** ODP is a voluntary, non-profit organization aiming to develop and strengthen the under-privileged and marginalized sections of society through a right based approach, by organizing the community based people's institutions to become self-managed and self-reliant, for better 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.



## 16. Mysore Palace

- ❖ The palace was originally built in the 14th century, but the current structure was constructed in the early 20th century after the original palace was destroyed by fire. It was commissioned by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV and was completed in 1912. The architectural style of the palace is a blend of Indo-Saracenic, Hindu, Muslim, and Rajput styles, reflecting the cultural diversity of the region.
- ❖ The Mysore Palace is a sprawling complex consisting of several buildings, courtyards, gardens, and halls. The main palace building is adorned with intricately carved wooden doors, ceilings, and pillars, as well as beautiful paintings and frescoes depicting scenes from Hindu mythology and royal history.



## **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.