

# Bharat Dharshan 2024

Karnataka Group

Date- 28<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> March



Report by

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OT code- B80

28<sup>th</sup> April

We reached Bangalore in the morning, then from there we went for Ooty. On the way we visited Bandipur National Park and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

## Bandipur National Park

Bandipur National Park is located in Gundulpet taluk, Chamarajanagar district. It has second highest Tiger population in India. This 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.



## Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

This is the first Sanctuary to be set up in India and forms part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Park. It is located 36 kms from Ooty from Kalhatty and 67 kms via Gudalur. From Mysore it is 91 kms away. This Sanctuary extends over an area of 321 sq.kms in the junction of the three states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. It is at an elevation of 1,140 mtrs. A variety of habitat ranging from tropical evergreen forest, moist deciduous forest, moist teak forest, dry teak forest, secondary grasslands and swamps are found here.

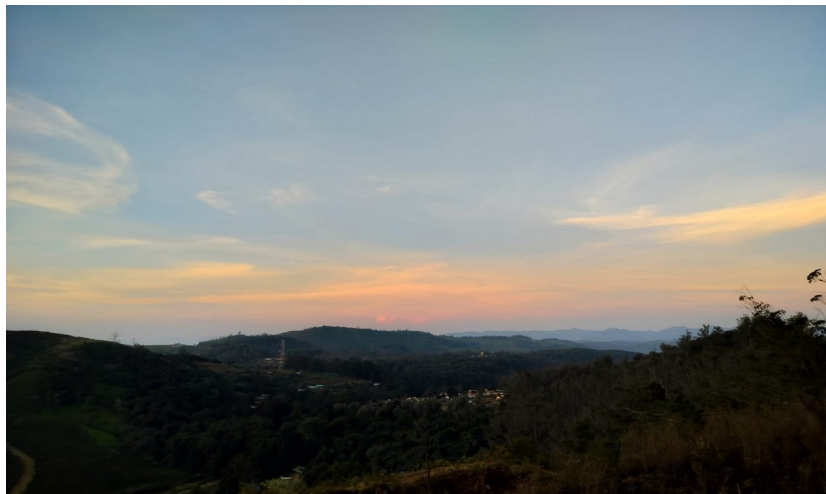


29<sup>th</sup> April

After staying overnight in Ooty we went to visit Doddabetta Peak, Tea factory, Chocolate factory and Ooty lake.

## Doddabetta Peak

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.



# Tea factory and Tea Museum at Ooty

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.



## Chocolate factory at Ooty

Ooty's chocolate factories are known for their artisanal approach of chocolate-making. They often produce handcrafted methods, ensuring high-quality and distinct flavours.



The Chocolate factory provided guided tour that offered insights into the chocolate-making process. We witnessed the various stages of chocolate production, from roasting and grinding cocoa beans to tempering and moulding chocolate into delectable treats.



## Ooty Lake

Surrounded by the majestically-tall eucalyptus trees and dotted with green bushes along the shores, the Ooty Lake is an impressive spot in Nilgiris district. The Lake, spanning over 65 acres, was originally constructed for fishing. It was later transformed into a tourist park when the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation took over it in 1973.

There are many fun activities that tourists can indulge in when they are at the Ooty Lake. Cycles are available for rent to ride around the Lake. Boating is another attraction. A tranquil ride through the waters is an attractive pastime as it lets one take in the entire beauty of the Lake. Paddle boat-, motor boat- and rowing boat services are also available. The ride offers a view of the serene greenery around and also of the distant hills.



30<sup>th</sup> April

We left Ooty in the morning and went for Wayanad. On the way we visit Botanical garden and Pykara falls.

## Ooty Botanical garden

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.





# Pykara Falls

Pykara Falls is a scenic waterfall located near Ooty in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the region, known for its natural beauty and tranquil surroundings.



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. Here we captured the beauty of the falls through photography and simply immersed oneself in the serenity of nature, Pykara Falls offers a memorable experience for visitors of all ages.



## 1<sup>st</sup> May

On this day we visited Edakkal caves and Kappad beach in the state of Kerala.

### Edakkal caves

Visiting the Edakkal Caves in Kerala was a fascinating experience that took us on a journey through ancient history and natural wonder.

a). Historical Exploration: 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.

b) Cultural Insight: 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 place.



# Kappad Beach

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

- a) European Contact with India:** Vasco da Gama's arrival in 1498 AD at Kappad Beach is considered a pivotal moment in Indian history as it marked the first direct sea route from Europe to India. This contact between Europe and India had far-reaching consequences, shaping the course of Indian history, culture, and trade.



- b) Tourist Attraction:** Today, Kappad Beach is not only a historical landmark but also a popular tourist destination in Kerala. Visitors come to enjoy the scenic beauty of the beach, take leisurely walks along the shore, and engage in water sports like swimming and surfing. The historical significance of the beach adds to its appeal, attracting both history enthusiasts and beachgoers alike.



**2<sup>nd</sup> May**

We left Kerala and reached Coorg for night camping, in between we visited Abbey falls.

## Abbey Falls

### Spectacular Waterfall:

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.



## Ela camping

Ela Camping Spot, located in Madikeri(Karnataka), offers a unique and memorable outdoor experience for nature enthusiasts. Here's what makes it special:

### 1.Serenity and Seclusion:

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.



## 2. Riverside Camping:

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.

## 3. Outdoor Activities:

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



#### 4. Campfire Experience:

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.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> May

We left the camp area and went for Mysuru. On the way we visit Namdrolling Monastery and St. Philomena cathedral church. This shows the secular aspect of our tour.

### Namdrolling Monastery

The Namdrolling Monastery, also known as the Golden Temple, is a significant Tibetan Buddhist monastery located at Bylakuppe near in the district of Kodagu (Coorg), Karnataka, India. Here's a glimpse into its history and visiting experience.



#### Visitor Experience:

##### a) Architecture:

The Namdrolling Monastery is renowned for its stunning architecture, with intricate designs, vibrant colours, 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.

##### b) Spiritual Atmosphere:

Visitors to the monastery can experience a sense of peace and tranquillity as they explore the temple grounds and witness monks engaged in prayer and ritual ceremonies. The serene atmosphere and the sound of chanting create a conducive environment for meditation and reflection.





### c) Cultural Insight:

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.

## St. Philomena cathedral church

St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysore, Karnataka, is one of the most majestic churches in India and holds significant religious and historical importance.

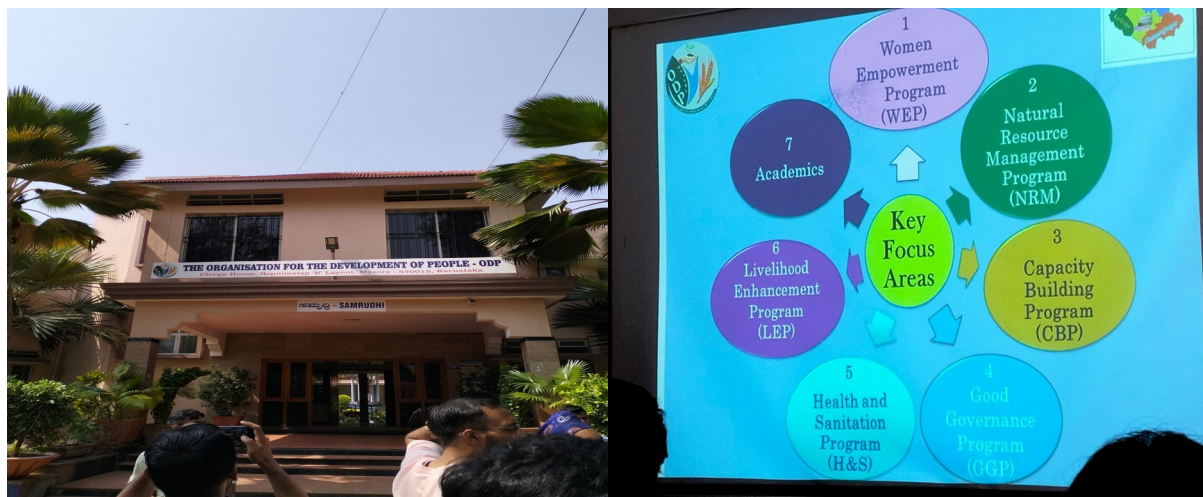


4<sup>th</sup> May

On the last day of our tour we visited an NGO (Organisation for development of people), Mysuru palace and Sri Ranganathaswamy temple.

## Organisation for development of people, NGO

The Organization for Development of People (ODP) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in India, dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities and promoting sustainable development. Here's an overview of ODP:



### a) Mission and Vision:

ODP's mission is to empower disadvantaged communities, especially women, children, and marginalized groups, to improve their quality of life and achieve socio-economic development.

### b) Areas of Focus:

ODP works across various sectors to address the multifaceted needs of communities. Their programs typically focus on areas such as education, healthcare, livelihood development, women's empowerment, child welfare, environmental conservation, and disaster response

### c) Advocacy and Awareness:

In addition to direct service delivery, ODP engages in advocacy and awareness-raising efforts to address systemic issues affecting marginalized communities. They advocate for policy changes, social justice, and human rights, while also raising awareness about key issues such as gender equality, environmental conservation, and healthcare access.

# Mysuru Palace

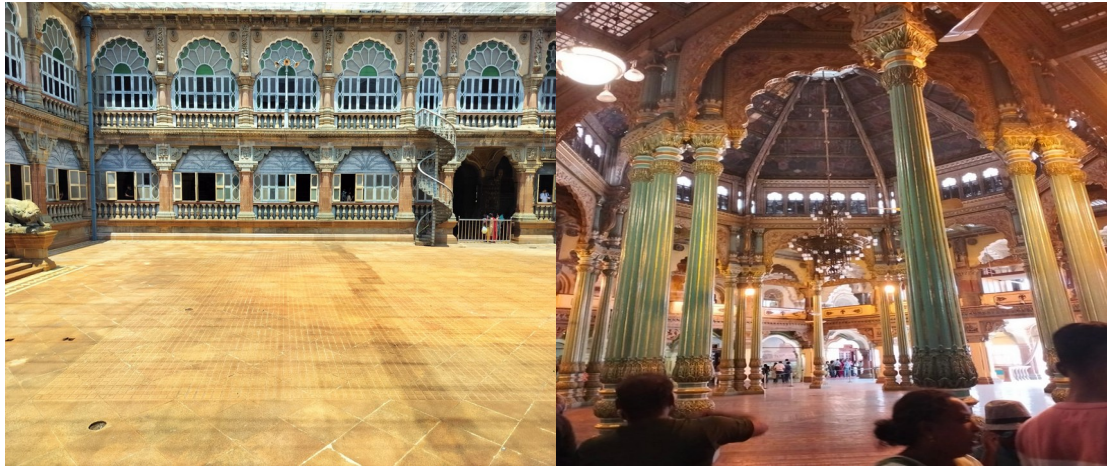
Visiting the Mysore Palace was a captivating experience that immerses visitors in the rich history, culture, and architectural grandeur of Karnataka, India.

Here's what visitors can expect:



## a) Architectural Marvel:

The Mysore Palace, also known as the Amba Vilas Palace, is renowned for its stunning Indo-Saracenic architectural style. The palace boasts intricate carvings, vibrant paintwork, and domes adorned with intricate designs, showcasing a blend of Hindu, Islamic, Rajput, and Gothic influences.

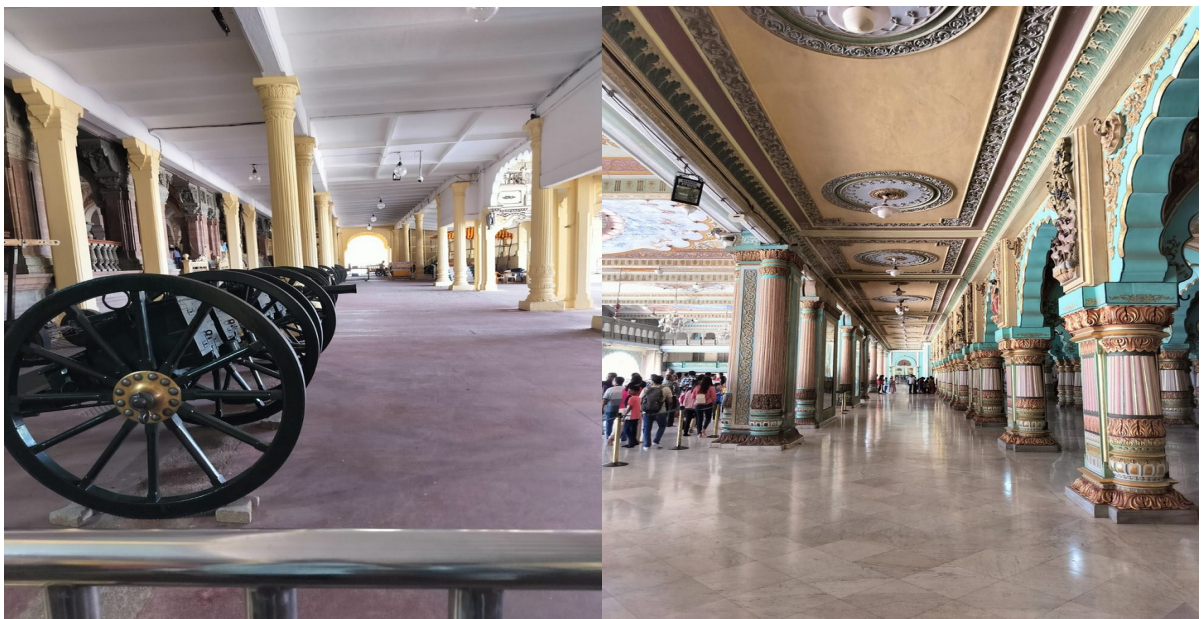


### b) Historical Significance:

Visitors can explore the opulent halls, royal chambers, and private quarters, learning about the palace's storied past and the royal family's legacy through guided tours and informative exhibits.

### c) Royal lifestyle:

Visitors can learn about court etiquette, royal ceremonies, and the daily lives of the royal family through displays of artifacts, furniture, and personal belongings.



Overall, a visit to the Mysore Palace offers a multi-faceted learning experience, encompassing history, architecture, culture, conservation, and tourism, and fostering a deeper appreciation for Karnataka's cultural heritage and royal legacy.

## Sri Ranganathaswamy temple



Ranganathaswamy Temple, a beautifully carved temple complex, is located in Srirangapatna in the south-western state of Karnataka, India. The temple is dedicated to Lord Ranganatha who is an avatar of Lord Vishnu in Hindu religion. Do take a minute to notice the beautiful carvings at the entrance Gopuram of the temple. The complex is surrounded by the River Kaveri which adds to the beauty of the temple. The ghats of the river are frequented for taking a dip before entering the holy temple complex.

## Conclusion and Learning

It was a great opportunity for us to travel across the three states of south India. We started from Hyderabad on 28<sup>th</sup> April and went through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and returned on 4<sup>th</sup> May. It helps us gaining a deeper understanding of the country's diversity and complexities and witnessing the challenges faced by the citizens.

Some of the key learning from this 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.

**Thank You**