



Study Tour (Bharat Darshan)
Of FTP for ASOs of 2023 Batch
(28.04.2024-04.05.2024)

FOR
ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICERS OF CSS

REPORT ON STUDY TOUR
KARNATAKA

Prepared by–

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OT CODE: B86

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Contents

Sl. No.	Particulars	Page
1.	Acknowledgement	01
2.	Objective of the Tour	02
3.	Schedule of Study Tour	05-09
4.	Visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Mudumalai Elephant Reserve enroute via Bangalore Airport to Ooty	11
5.	Dodabetta Peak	12-13
6.	Tea Factory	13-14
7.	Coffee Factory	14-15
8.	Ooty Lake	15-17
9.	Botanical Garden	17-18
10.	Pykara Falls	18
11.	Edakkal Caves	19
12.	Kappad Beach	20
13.	Abbey Falls	20-21
14.	Ela Glamping	21-22
15.	Namdroling Monastery	22-23
16.	St. Philomena's Cathedral Church	23-24
17.	Organisation for the Development of People, NGO	24-25
18.	Mysore Palace	25-27
19.	Sriranganathswamy Temple	28
20.	Conclusion	29

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, Hyderabad. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to Smt. Usha Rani, Course Director, MCRHRDIT 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-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.

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 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 familiarize the trainees with India's rich cultural heritage and arts;
- To develop team spirit, time management, management of crisis and adaptability to various odd situations.

Schedule of Study Tour & NGO attachment

The study tour organized by MCRHRD for as part of the mandatory ISTM Phase-1 Foundation Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of 2023- Batch, from 28.04.2024 to 04.05.2024 at Karnataka-Tamil Nadu-Kerala as per the following details:-

➤ **DAY 00: 28th APRIL 2024: HYDERABAD – BENGALURU (BY FLIGHT) – MYSORE - OOTY**

08:35 AM: Depart from Hyderabad (34 OTs – BY INDIGO)

08:50 AM: Depart from Hyderabad (17 OTs – BY VISTARA AIRLINES)

10:00 AM: Arrival in Bangalore. Meet and depart by coach to Mysore.

03:00 PM: Enroute Lunch at ‘The President ‘, Mysore.

04:00 PM: Visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve and stay there till 06:00 PM.

06:00 PM: Visited Mudumalai Elephant Reserve till 07:00 PM.

11:00 PM: Reached Ooty via Gudalur; Overnight stay at Hotel.

➤ **DAY 01: 29TH APRIL 2024: OOTY**

07:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:30 AM: Proceed to visit Dodabetta peak in the morning.

01:00 PM: Visit Tea Factory and Chocolate Factory

03:00 PM: Back to Ooty for Lunch

05:00 PM: Boating in Lake till Evening & other activities near the lake.

19:30 Hrs: Back to Hotel with Party Games & Dinner; Overnight stay at Ooty_

➤ **DAY 02: 30TH APRIL 2024: OOTY-WAYANAD**

07:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:30 AM: Visit to Botanical Garden.

01:30 PM: Enroute lunch at a local restaurant

02:30 PM: Visited The Nilgiris District Co. Operative Employees Co. Operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd and also visited TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs

04:00 PM: Visited Pykara Waterfall.

06:00 PM: Depart for Wayanad Hotel & Check in to the hotel in Wayanad.

09:30 PM: Dinner & Overnight stay at Wayanad.

➤ **DAY 03: 01ST MAY 2024: WAYANAD**

08:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

09:30 AM: Visited Edekkal Caves.

11:30 AM: Back to Hotel for lunch.

01:00 PM: Went to Kappad Beach in Kerala where first Portugues Traveller came

08:00 PM: Back to Hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Wayanad.

➤ **DAY 04: 02ND MAY 2024: WAYANAD-COORG**

07:00 Hrs: Breakfast at Hotel in Wayanad.

07:30 Hrs: Early morning check-out and proceed from Wayanad to Madikeri (Coorg)

14:00 Hrs: Had lunch in Local Restaurant.

15:00 Hrs: Later, visit to Abbey Falls.

19:00 Hrs: Dinner & Night Stay at Camps at Coorg.

DAY 05: 03RD MAY 2024: COORG– MYSORE

07:00 AM: Breakfast at the Hotel.

08:00 AM: Depart from the Hotel from Coorg to Mysore.

11:00 AM: Visited Namdroling Monastery in Priyapatna.

02:00 PM: Arrived Mysore. Lunch at a local restaurant.

05:00 PM: Check-in Hotel 'The Quorum' in Mysore.

06:00 PM: Visited St. Philomena's Cathedral Church in Mysore.

07:00 PM: Visited KSR Dam and Vrindavan Garden(Closed due to heavy Rain)

09:00 PM: Back to the Hotel for Dinner & Overnight stay at Mysore

➤ DAY 06: 04TH MAY 2024: MYSORE – BANGALORE (BY ROAD) / BANGALORE – HYDERABAD (FLIGHT)

07:00 AM: Breakfast at Hotel.

08:00 AM: Visit Chamundi Hills for visiting the Chamunda temple and Big Nandi.

09:30 AM: Proceed to Visit Organisation for Development of People, ODP(an NGO in Mysore).

11:30 AM: Visited Mysore Palace.

02:30 PM: Had lunch in a local Restaurant.

04:00 PM: Depart from Mysore. Visited Srirangapatnam temple.

09:00 PM: Arrived Bangalore airport in the night. Depart from Indigo Flight in the night. Arrived Hyderabad in the midnight.

02:00 AM: Arrived at Dr. MCR HRD IT at Hyderabad.

Sight Seeing In Karnataka-Kerala-Tamil Nadu

BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

Came across Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Mudumalai Elephant reserve enroute via Bangalore Airport to Ooty is an unforgettable experience! The lush forests, diverse wildlife, and the chance to spot a majestic Deer, Monkey, Elephant in its natural habitat make it truly special.



MUDUMALAI ELEPHANT RESERVE

Mudumalai National Park is a wildlife reserve located in the southern part of India, in the state of Tamil Nadu. The park is home to a wide variety of animals, including elephants, tigers, leopards, deer, and many species of birds.



Doddabetta Peak

- Doddabetta Peak is the highest mountain peak in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 meters (8,652 feet) .
- It is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India, and is 9 km from Ooty on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road .
- The term Doddabetta means Big Mountain in Badaga language. It is a combination of two words Dodda meaning big and Betta which means mountain
- **Cultural significance**
 - The peak is frequently visited by travel aficionados interested in outdoor pursuits like trekking and is a top place to visit in Ooty for nature and adventure lovers.
- **Ecology and biodiversity**
 - The slopes of Doddabetta are covered with thick shola thickets. Shola are a unique type of tropical montane forests that grow on higher mountain regions. These broad-leaved forests interspersed with montane grasslands are a retreat to the eyes of the visitors.
- **Tourism and recreation**
 - Doddabetta Peak is a top place to visit in Ooty for nature and adventure lovers.
 - The peak is frequently visited by travel aficionados interested in outdoor pursuits like trekking.

- Tourists move up to the summit to enjoy the inspiring sunrise and sunset. Bird watching is another activity visitors get engaged in provided they reach the peak early morning.
- Telescope House- There is an observatory at the top of Doddabetta with two telescopes available for the public. It was opened on 18 June 1983 and is run by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC)



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.

Guided Tours:- 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 firsthand and learn about the nuances of tea cultivation and processing.

Tasting Sessions:- 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 flavors and aromas of different types of tea and select their favorites to purchase and take to home.

Tea sales:- 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.

Scenic Surroundings:- 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.



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 flavors.

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 molding chocolate into delectable treats.

Chocolate Tasting:- Many Chocolate factories offer tasting sessions where visitors can sample a selection of chocolates to experience the rich flavors and textures firsthand. These tasting sessions allow chocolate enthusiasts to explore different varieties and discover their favorites. Overall, the chocolate factory offers

a delightful experience for chocolate lovers, combining artisanal craftsmanship, flavouful creations.



Ooty Lake

➤ A Glimpse into the Past

- Ooty Lake is an artificial lake constructed by John Sullivan in 1824.
- The lake was originally intended to be used for fishing with ferries being used to travel across the lake.
- The lake is an impressive spot in Nilgiris district.
- The lake spans over 65 acres.

➤ Ecology and biodiversity

○ Flora

- The lake is surrounded by a variety of flora, making it a popular tourist destination.
- The region is part of the Western Ghats, which is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world.

- The lake has a variety of trees and plants, including tropical, semitropical, and temperate vegetation.
- There are never-ending ranges of tea-gardens, grasslands, fine pine, eucalyptus, and Shola vegetation, serving domicile to some 650 species of plants and trees.

o **Fauna**

- The lake also has a variety of birds and animals, ranging from the sleepy Indian rock python to the majestic King cobra.
- Among the mammals, the elusive panther is the most exotic you find here.
- The forests are rumored to harbor the big cat, tiger, towards the Karnataka side of the forest
- Some parts of the Ghats near Ooty form a critical section of one of the elephant corridors in South India. These parts are deemed protected and are out of bounds for visitors unless accompanied by forest officials

➤ **Tourist Attractions**

- The lake has boating facilities, garden, amusement parks, and 7D cinemas.



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.



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. 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.



Edekkal Caves

Visiting the Edekkal Caves in Kerala was a fascinating experience that took us on a journey through ancient history and natural wonder. Here's what visitors can expect:

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) Scenic Hike: Getting to the caves involves a scenic hike through lush green forests and rocky terrain. The journey itself is an adventure, with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape and glimpses of local flora and fauna along the way.

c). Cave Exploration*: 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.

d). 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 region.



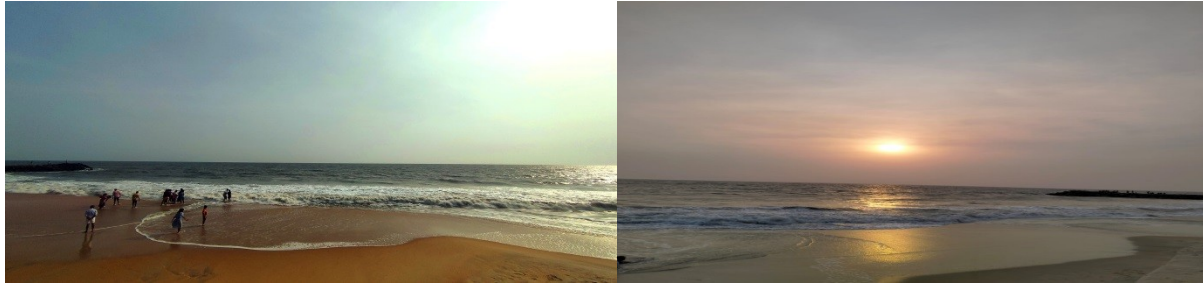
Kappad Beach(Kerala)

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 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.



Abbey Falls

Visiting Abbey Falls in Karnataka was a captivating experience that immerses us in the beauty of nature and the power of cascading water. Here's what visitors can expect:

a) ***Scenic Trek***: The journey to Abbey Falls often involves a short trek through lush greenery, providing visitors with an opportunity to soak in the sights and sounds of the surrounding forest. The trek adds to the sense of adventure and anticipation as visitors make their way to the waterfall.

b) ***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 Glamping

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

a) ***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.

b) ***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.

c) ***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.

d) ***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.



[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. Here's a glimpse into its history and visiting experience:

History: 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.

Over the years, the monastery has grown in size and significance, becoming one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist centers outside of Tibet.

Visiting Experience:

a). ***Architecture***: 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.

b). ***Spiritual Atmosphere***: Visitors to the monastery can experience a sense of peace and tranquility 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.

d) ***Shopping and Dining***: The monastery complex includes shops selling Tibetan handicrafts, religious artifacts, and souvenirs, and take home mementos of their visit.



St. Philomena's 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. Here's why:

a) ***Architectural Marvel***: St. Philomena's Cathedral is renowned for its stunning architecture, blending elements of Neo-Gothic and Roman architectural styles. Designed by the French architect Daly, it is one of the largest churches in Asia, standing at an impressive height of 175 feet. The intricate carvings, stained glass windows, and imposing spires make it a sight to behold.

b)*Religious Significance*: St. Philomena's Cathedral is an active place of worship and serves as the headquarters of the Mysore Diocese of the Catholic Church. It hosts regular religious services, including Masses, weddings, and other ceremonies, attracting devotees and visitors from far and wide.

c)Tourist Attraction*: Beyond its religious significance, St. Philomena's Cathedral is a popular tourist attraction in Mysore, drawing visitors with its grandeur and historical significance. Tourists flock to admire its architecture, explore its interior adorned with statues and paintings, and learn about its fascinating history through guided tours.

d) *Community and Fellowship*: For some, prayer in a church provides an opportunity for communal worship and fellowship. Visitors may join in group prayers or attend religious services, such as Mass or prayer meetings, to worship together with others and share in a sense of community and belonging.



Organisation for the 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.

Overall, the Organization for Development of People (ODP) plays a vital role in promoting sustainable development, empowering communities, and fostering positive social change in India. Through their holistic approach and commitment to grassroots participation, ODP continues to make a significant

difference in the



Mysore Palace

➤ A Glimpse into the Past

- Mysuru Palace, also known as Amba Vilas Palace, is a historical palace and a royal residence.
- It used to be the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty and the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore.
- The first palace inside the Old Fort was built in the 14th century, which was set ablaze and reconstructed multiple times.
- The current structure was constructed between 1897 and 1912, after the Old Palace burnt down, the current structure is also known as the New Fort.

➤ The Art of Building

- The palace is a three-story, gray granite, Indo-Saracenic building capped by a five-story tower that culminates in a gilded dome.

- The construction cost was placed at Rs 41,47,913 (around \$30 million adjusted to inflation) and the palace was completed in 1912.

➤ **Strategic significance**

- The palace is in the center of Mysore, and faces the Chamundi Hills eastward.
- Mysore is commonly described as the 'City of the Palaces', and there are seven palaces including this one.

➤ **Origin**

- The land on which the palace now stands was originally known as mysuru (literally, "citadel").

➤ **Where the Monument Stands**

- Mysuru Palace is located in Mysore, Karnataka, India.

➤ **Cultural significance**

- Mysore Palace is one of the most famous tourist attractions in India, with more than six million annual visitors.

➤ **Era of construction**

- The palace was constructed between 1897 and 1912.

➤ **The Divine Connection**

- The palace has a temple dedicated to the Hindu goddess Chamundeshwari.



SRIRANGANATHSWAMI TEMPLE

The Ranganathaswamy temple or Sri Ranganathaswamy temple in Srirangapatna, in the Mandya district of Karnataka state, India, is dedicated to the Hindu god Ranganatha. The temple is Classified one among the 108 Abhimana Kshethram of Vaishnavate tradition.



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!

Thanking You

Krishna Agrawal (UPSC)

