



**Combined Trekking Trip and Visit to Madras Regimental Centre
(Wellington Cantonment) - 2023**
Report

On Saturday, March 18th, 2023, the NCC cadets from PSG Institute of Applied Research and PSG Institute of Architecture and Planning went on an educational trip to the Madras Regimental Centre (MRC) in Wellington and trekked the hills of Udagamandalam (Ooty). The cadets were under the command of Lt. Vilasini and Lt. Gajendran, along with Army PI staff Michael and Aravind, who were present to guide and look after the group.

The cadets were to wear the NCC track, shirt, and jacket and be ready to fall-in near the hostels at 4:30 AM. After a roll call, the luggage and necessities were loaded onto the bus, and the group left for the hills at 5:30 AM. The bus reached the foothills at 7:30 AM, where they stopped for a quick 15-minute tea break before proceeding to scale the hills. The cadets were amazed by the beautiful natural scenery and picturesque views of the massive hills.

At three-fourths of the way up, the bus parked near a cliff, and the cadets took pictures of the beautiful valley. It took 40 minutes for the bus to climb to the top and reach Conoor. There, they were greeted with the view of lush green tea estates and the magnificent architecture of the town. Officer Michael briefed them about the plan for the day and showed and explained different sites and attractions as they traveled through the hill station.



At 9:00 AM, the bus stopped at Aravankadu station for breakfast. They were served breakfast, which were provided by the college. The cadets then fell in and were given a briefing by



Officer Michael on the trek, including the path traveled, distance to cover, locations, etc. After confirming the conditions of all the cadets, the hike commenced. The group started at Aravankadu station, walked by the roadside for half a kilometer through a village, and then were guided to a hiking trail. For a few hundred

meters, they hiked through a forest with tall

vertical trees before the trail narrowed down. The cadets carefully trod the trail, which squeezed between dense flora, which contained beautiful white and yellow wildflowers and thorny plants.

After a few hundred meters, the cadets reached the peak of the first hill and entered a tea estate, where



they had a brief but informative interaction with a tea plucker, who explained the process of identifying and plucking tea leaves, the costs, and how to prepare green tea. The group hiked for a few kilometers through the tea estates, scaling two small hills while taking pictures

of the serene views and enjoying the weather. They hiked a total distance of 8 kilometers, proving their tenacity and endurance. The group returned to Aravankadu station at around 1:00 PM and proceeded to have lunch and rest for an hour.

At 2:00 PM, they traveled to Wellington to visit the Madras Regimental Centre, where they first went to the Museum and learned about the history of the regiment and the cantonment, its influences, accomplishments, and the valour of its soldiers. The cadets watched a short film that showed the excellence of the soldiers from MRC. Afterward, the cadets could look around the museum and ask questions to the guiding officers.



The cadets were then led to the Sri Nagesh Barracks,

which is the largest closed barracks in Asia, and were explained the history of the building, important locations, and the meaning and importance of various structures and symbols. In the barracks, a brief but insightful lesson was given on how to accurately find the cardinal

directions using stars and other geological and man-made structures, and more. A brief but insightful lesson was given on how to accurately find the key directions, using stars and other geological and man-made structures, and more. The army instructors proceeded to provide a lesson on map reading and the significance of different symbols. In the end, the cadets Witnessed the Lowering of the Regiment flag, which



was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that left a lasting impression on the cadets.

The cadets were shown to the training area, where they were taught the various methods of defending a fort or a camp, which included showing how to mine a field and the ideas behind different barbed wire setups. They were shown trench structures and the application of their shape and size.





Finally, the cadets were shown the war memorial and the college. They had a glance at the surrounding buildings, including the Manekshaw museum and the Wellington hospital.



At 6:45, we reached Conoor, where the chaperones gave the cadets 15 minutes to buy souvenirs and snacks. At 7:00, we started the descent down the hill station.

At 8:30, The bus stopped at a location in Mettupalayam so the cadets could fill their stomachs. The group started at the college at 9:15 and finally arrived at the college at 11:15.

This trip was not only educational but also an immensely valuable experience for the cadets, providing them with a wealth of practical knowledge that could only be gained from such an establishment. The cadets were pushed to their limits, both physically and mentally, during this challenging adventure, allowing them to develop valuable skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership. As a result, the cadets gained immense experience that will serve them well in their future endeavors.

Moreover, this trip provided the cadets with a newfound appreciation for the dignity and honor of the Indian armed forces. Witnessing the Lowering of the Regiment flag and learning about the history and significance of various structures and symbols at the Wellington cantonment has instilled in them a deep respect for those who selflessly serve our nation. This experience has undoubtedly inspired the cadets to be more patriotic and to actively contribute to the betterment of our country.