

Report of Field work on Socio-cultural and historical aspects of Agartala from 30th December 2017 to 3rd January 2018

1. **Introduction:** The Northeast region is a unique part of India that is designed with diverse linguistics, and cultural and religious threads, held together into a composite national identity by a rich history of cultural evolution. Tripura is a hilly state in the Northeast region, bordered on three sides by Bangladesh and one side by Assam and Mizoram. This state is a home to a mixture of diverse tribal cultures and religious communities. On January 26, 1950, Tripura was accorded the status of ‘C’ Category state and on 1st November 1956, it was recognized as a union territory. With the sanctioned effort and struggle of the people of Tripura, it gained full statehood on 21st January 1972 as per the Northeast Reorganization Act, 1971.
2. **Objectives:**
Objectives of educational excursion:
 - a) To promote learning through outdoor interaction and practical experiences and knowledge.
 - b) To make the students familiar with the geographical location, structure, and natural heritage of Tripura.
 - c) To inculcate a sense of appreciation for the wonders of Tripura, a land of natural beauty and historical diversity.
 - d) To acknowledge the life of people in Tripura.
 - e) To encourage the students to develop the value of togetherness, the ability of leadership, and mutual love and co-operation.
3. **Role of educational excursion :**
 - a) During educational excursions, students are excited and energized;
 - b) During transportation, students come across various new places;
 - c) Excursions open up endless possibilities to understand the outer world;
 - d) In order to know and learn something new, the students don’t have to depend on a structured curriculum.
 - e) An educational excursion is based on an interest-driven approach to improve overall learning through practical experiences and knowledge.

Schedule of educational excursion:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity/event</u>
30/12/2017	Day 1	6.20 am 7.30 pm 8.30 pm	Started from Lala Railway Station to Agartala Reached Agartala railway station Stepped in Saheed Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel
31/12/2017	Day 2	7.00 am 11.30 am 2.00 pm 3.00 pm 5.00 pm 7.00 pm 8.45 pm	The journey started for Chabimura Reached chabimura Lunch Started further journey from Chabimura to Mata Tripureswari Temple, Udaipur Reached Tripureswari Temple, Udaipur Return journey from Udaipur Reached Saheed Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel, Agartala
1/1/2018	Day 3	8.00 am 9.30 am 12.00 pm 12.30 pm 1.30 pm 3.30 pm 4.30 pm 6.00 pm	Moved for Neermahal, Melaghar Reached Melaghar Lunch in Melaghar Started journey for Sepahijala zoological park Reached sepahijala zoological park Moved towards kamalasagar Reached Kamala Sagar The journey started for Arkaneer, NGO in Sekerkut (west).

		6.30 pm 8.30 pm	Reached Arkaneer Come back to Saheed Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel
2/1/2018	Day 4	8.30 am 8.30 pm	<u>Tour in Agartala city</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gedu Mia mosque, Agartala • Maharaja Bir Bikram College, Agartala • Ramakrishna Mission • Ujjayanta Palace Museum • Heritage Park • Agartala Secretariat Building • Indo-Bangla Border(Akhaura Border) • Jagannath Temple • Purbasha (Tripura Handloom Centre) • Back to Saheed Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel
3/1/2018	Day 5	5.00 am 5.30 am 8.30 am 9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 pm 1.00 pm 2.15 pm 6..30 pm 8.00 pm	Started journey for Kumarghat by train Reached Agartala railway Station Reached Kumarghat railway Station Started the journey from Kumarghat to Unakoti by car Reached Unakoti Moved towards Dharmanagar Reached Dharmanagar and had lunch The journey from Dharmanagar to Katakhal by train Reached Katakhal and started back journey to Lala by bus Reached Lala safely

A detailed report on an excursion to Tripura

Day 1- Departure 30/12/2017

The excited students of the final semester of Lala Rural College gathered at Lala Railway Station at 6.20 am. The teachers in charge of this educational excursion were Dr. L.Chiro kumar Singha, Head, Deptt of Political Science, and Dr. Lakshmi Nath, Assistant professor, Deptt of Bengali. These two teachers along with 14 (fourteen) students started the journey from Lala at 7 am and reached Agartala, the capital of Tripura on the same day at 8 pm. Their lodging and flooding were arranged in Saheed Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel. Their local guide was Prof. G.C. Banik, Head, Deptt of Commerce, Lala Rural College.

Day 2- 31/12/2017

1. Chabimura:

Chabimura also known as chakwrakma or chakrakma is famous for its panels of rocks carving on steep mountain walls on the bank of the Gomoti River. There are huge carved images of Shiva, Vishnu, Kartika, Durga, and other gods and goddesses.

2. Tripureswari temple, Udaipur

Locating around 55km away from Agartala, Tripureswaeri temple in Udaipur is one of the 51 sati peeths existing in India. The temple was constructed by the then Maharaja Dhanya Manikya in 1501 AD. On the eastern side of the temple, there is the “Kalyan Sagar” lake where fishes and tortoises of huge sizes are found and visitors feed them with puffed rice. The temple consists of a square-type sanctum of the typical Bengali hut structure with a conical dome.

Day 3-01/01/2018

1. Neermahal, Melaghar Popularly known as the lake palace of Tripura, Neermahal palace is the living witness of Tripura's past glory. The antique architectural design, lush green lawn, and royal decoration are attracting a large number of visitors. Located in the middle of Rudrasagar Lake, the palace was constructed by Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya.
2. Sepahijala Zoological Park:
This zoological park is home to hundreds of wild animals such as tigers, leopards, monkeys, migratory birds, and especially monkeys with specs in their eyes. The park also features an artificial lake where boating can be experienced while exploring and surrounding natural beauty.
3. Kamalasagar:
Kamalasagar Kali temple was built on a hilltop by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya in the late 15th century. It is located just beside Bangladesh Border in a village named Kosba. It is 27 km away from Agartala. The lake Kamalasagar in front of this temple enhances its beauty.
4. Arkaner:
It is a non-government organization playing a pivotal role in social development contributing to various aspects like the environment, children, and senior citizens, and also they generated awareness for self-employment.

Day 4- 02/01/2018 (Tour in Agartala city)

1. Gedu Mia Mosque
The Gedu Mia mosque is one of the most famous mosques in Northeast India. The congruence of various Indo-Islamic architectural styles in this mosque is an attraction the visitors. Gedu Mia got the contract for constructing an airport in Agartala from the last princely ruler of Agartala Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya in 1942. A portion of the profits was used to construct this fine-looking mosque that uses imported white marble in its exteriors.
2. Maharaja Bir Bikram College, Agartala
Maharaja Bir Bikram College or MBB College is a degree college in Agartala imparting general education in science, commerce, and humanities. Established in 1947, it is the oldest college in Tripura with a campus spread over 264 acres. The motto of the college is "Vidyamrtamasnute" (Knowledge is the key to immortality). The founder of the college is Maharani Kanchan Prabha Devi named after Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya.
3. Ramkrishna Mission, Dhaleswar, Agartala
The Ramakrishna Mission, Dhaleswar in Agartala was a sub-centered under Viveknagar Ashrama, Agartala which was started in 1996. It has been made a full pledge grant center in July, 2020. The activities of Dhaleswaer center are:
 - a) An allopathic cum Homeopathic dispensary;
 - b) A student's home for boys;
 - c) Religious activities;
 - d) Welfare works through distributing blankets and clothes to needy people.
4. Ujjayanta Palace:
Locating in Agartala, the palace is a significant mark of Tripura's historical glory. The huge palace was constructed by King Kishore Manikya around the end of the 19th century. The whole palace is built in a unique Greek form of architectural design featuring three high domes. The inside museum of this palace is another point of attraction to the visitors.
5. Heritage Park:
Located in the middle of Agartala, Heritage Park represents the amazing scenario of Tripura's tribal tradition and culture. Heritage Park is truly a brief picturization of Tripura's legacy and culture. Besides, portraying the miniature version of Tripura's prominent heritage locations, the part also gives a picturesque view of green scenery.
6. Agartala Secretariat Building:

The new Agartala Secretariat Building is situated in Khejurbagan in Tripura. The architectural design of the complex as well as the surrounding beauty of the building is truly fascinating.

7. Indo-Bangla Border(Akhaura Border):

Tripura is a border state in Northeast India and Agartala lies on the fringes of the country. Akhaura Border divides India and Bangladesh. It is the border location where international trade takes place boosting the economy of both countries. The border also serves as a legal entry to and from Bangladesh. A routine border parade is an attraction to tourists.

8. Jagannath Temple:

Jagannath Temple is a prominent religious place in Agartala built during the 19th century, the Jagannath temple is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra. The temple is said to be constructed by the king of the Manikya Dynasty.

9. Purbasha (Tripura Handloom Centre):

Each tribe of Tripura is famous for its special handicrafts, handloom, cane, and bamboo are the oldest industries in Tripura. Purbasha Tripura Govt. handloom center is a top player in the category of handicraft item dealers. This well-known establishment acts as a one-stop destination serving customers within and outside the state.

Day 5- 03/01/2018

1. Unakoti

Situated around 178 km away from Agartala, Unakoti is one of the prime tourist places in Tripura known as the center of pilgrimage, unakoti is home to numerous historical and Religious sculptures. Made out of rocks, the sculptures here speak about Hindu mythology. From Unakoti, this excursion group started the return journey. And reached Lala safely on 3/1/2018 at 8.00 pm.

Importance of this educational excursion to Tripura

1. This excursion has imparted education through practical individual experiences.
2. The students have visited various places of historical importance which will help them to know about the historical facts of Tripura.
3. They have become familiar with the language, culture, customs, and food habits of the tribal people in Tripura which was usually unknown to the students of Lala Rural College.
4. This educational tour in the group has developed a sense of togetherness, co-operation, and fellow feeling among the students as in this group, students of different communities were included. Moreover, a very close relationship has been developed between the teachers and students while going through the entire excursion.
5. The fact is that it is very difficult for some students to afford personal visits in such far-off lands. But such an excursion is affordable for each student and our students have also got the opportunity to visit Tripura through excursion.

The government of Assam sanctioned Rs. 1, 00,000(one lakh only) for this excursion. And this excursion has become possible due to this financial support from the govt. Overall, this educational excursion was a memorable event both for the students and teachers.

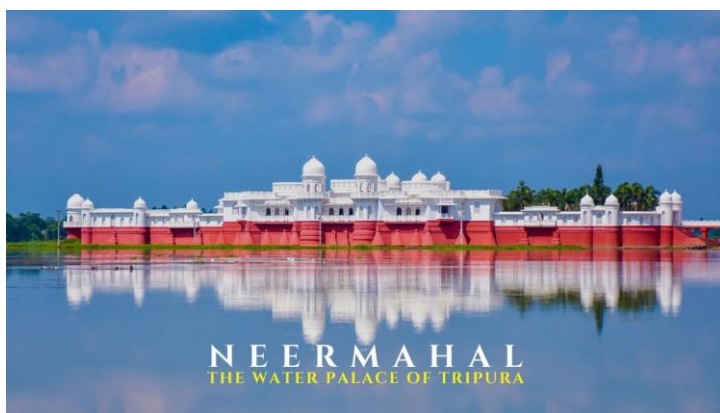
Encl: Notice of the Lala Rural College in the selection of participants for the excursion program to Tripura.

Teachers in-charge :

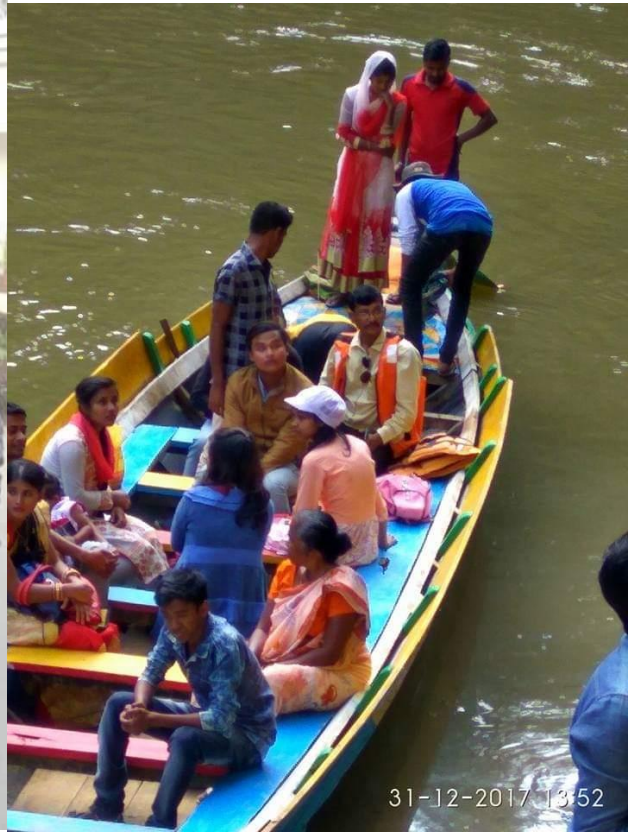
1. Dr. L. Chiro Kumar Singha(HoD, Political Science)

2. Dr. Lakshmi Nath (Assistant Professor)

Photo Gallery









Sd/-

Dr. L. Chiro Kumar Singha
Professor in charge
Educational Excursion to Agartala
Lala Rural College, Lala