

A detailed report on an excursion to Jaipur 2020 under 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'

Lala Rural College arranged an excursion with students of Final Semester in Jaipur, Capital city of Rajasthan from 30/01/2020 to 07/02/2020. The excursion was possible because of a grant from the Govt. of Assam disbursed through the Director of Higher Education, Assam. The Director of Higher Education categorically mentioned Rajasthan as venue of Excursion under the Scheme Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat..

The initiative of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat was announced by honourable Prime Minister on 31ST October 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. Through this innovative measure, the knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different states and union territories will lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between the states, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme aims to enhance interaction and promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing. The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, tradition and music, tourism and cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

The broad objectives of EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT are:

1. to celebrate the Unity in Diversity and to maintain strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our country
2. to promote of the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagements between all Indian states and Union Territories through a year-long planned engagement between States
3. to showcase the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of either State for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity that is INDIA, thus fostering a sense of common identity.
4. to establish long –term engagements and,
5. to create an environment which promotes learning between states by sharing best practices and experiences.

Vision of the Scheme has been:

1. To celebrate the idea of India as a nation wherein different cultural units across varied geographies coalesce and interact with each other, this glorious manifestation of diverse languages, cuisine, music, dance, theatre, movies and films, handicrafts, sports, literature, festivals, painting, sculpture etc will enable people to imbibe the innate cord of binding and brotherhood.
2. To make our people aware about the seamless integral hull of the Modern Indian State spread across a vast landmass on whose firm foundations, the geo-political strength of the country is ensured to benefit one and all.
3. To impress upon people at large about the increasing inter-connectedness between the constituents of various cultures and traditions, which is so vital for the spirit of nation building.
4. To ease out the feeling of 'stranger in a strange land' among the people of different states, cultures and traditions living in various states of India.
5. To introduce a sense of responsibility and ownership for the nation as a whole through these close cross-cultural interactions as it intends to build up the inter-dependence matrix unequivocally.
6. To celebrate the diversity as well as unity of the Nation at the same time.
7. To generate the vibrance of understanding and appreciation amongst the people and forge mutual bonding to securing an enriched value system of unity in the nation.

With these objectives in mind, the college formed a six member Excursion Committee with the following members:

1. Principal : Chairman
2. Dr. L.Chiro Kumar Singha : Member
3. Ms Anuradha De : member
4. Dr. Manas Sinha : member
5. Dr. Lakshmi Nath : member
6. Prof. Gautam.C.Banik : member

The committee after several round of meetings, finalised the modalities of the tour and selected Dr. Tanuj kumar Dey, Associate Professor of the Dept. of English and Dr. Lakshmi Nath, Assistant Professor of the Dept. of Bengali as Professors-in-charge. Accordingly, the journey commenced on 30th January 2020.

Most of the selected students had no knowledge of traveling beyond the border of Barak Valley, as such when the team arrived in Delhi after a 50 hours train journey, most of the participants became tired and exhausted, and they required a day of rest. So the day was engaged for exploring some famous monuments of Delhi that includes among others, the Kutub Minar, India Gate, Rajghat and the Red Fort. It was a memorable day for the members of the team since they physically witnessed what they had so long heard or saw in television.

The students became so much enthusiastic that their tiredness suddenly vanished and they had no problem of undertaking another journey to Jaipur on the same night. The team arrived Jaipur at the wee hour when the famous Pink City was still in slumber. After a brief stay at the hotel, the team visited some famous monuments/historical sites that include Amer Fort, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal, City Centre, Jal Mahal or Water Palace, Albert Hall, City Palace and some industry where local textiles are produced.

A detailed report on an excursion to Rajasthan

Day 1

Departure 30/01/2020

All the members of the Excursion team gathered at the premises along with their guardians and by 5 p.m they proceeded to Badarpur, nearest railway station for upward journey to New Delhi. The two teachers along with 10 (ten) students formed the team.

Day 2

31/01/2020

1. The train arrived Guwahati, the capital of Assam at 6 in the morning. The entire day was spent on rail and students enjoyed the scenery. For most of the members, it was the longest journey ever undertaken by them. However, the joy and excitement of seeing the unseen, knowing the unknown and exploring the unexplored kept them ever warm.

Day 3-

01/02/2020

Finally the train arrived Anand Vihar of Delhi, the Capital of India sharp at 7.25 pm. The joy of being in the Capital knew know bounds. Since it was a journey over 48 hours, and all members were tired and exhausted, all had an early dinner and went to bed by 10 pm as it was decided to spend a day in Delhi to remove the exhaustion. It was decided to visit some of the important and historical monuments in Delhi.

Day 4

02/01/2018

Sight-seeing in Delhi that includes

1. Kutub Minar
2. India Gate
3. Rajghat
4. Red Fort

Qutub Minar

This impressive structure has removed all traces of exhaustion caused by the long train journey. This towering 73 metres high structure is one of the most popular places to see in Delhi. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, presenting a glimpse into the grandeur of the past. Built in 1192, it is considered to be the first building, marking the arrival of Muslim rulers. Surrounded by an appealing garden, Qutub

Minar creates a sight worth remembering. Tourists all over the world come here admiring the imposing figure of the minaret. Students had the unique opportunity to meet some people of different parts of the world. Built in the style of Indo- Islamic Afgan architecture, Qutub Minar is built with red sandstone. Its height is 72.5 metres and there are 379 steps to reach its top. The minaret is 47 feet wide at the base while at the top it is around 9 feet. It consists of five towers.

The joy of travel comes in exploring new things. Planting one's feet somewhere one has never been before brings with it the joy of discovery and the joy of pushing back on the boundaries of one's very own world.

India Gate

The India Gate is a war memorial. It stands as a memorial to 84,000 soldiers of the British Indian Army who died between 1914 and 1921. Following the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1972, a structure consisting of a black marble plinth with a reversed rifle, capped by a war helmet and bounded by four eternal flames, was built beneath the archway. This structure, called Amar Jawan Jyoti has since 1971 served as Indis's tomb of the unknown soldier. India Gate is counted amongst the largest war memorials in India.

Rajghat

Rajghat is the cremation site of Gandhiji, most revered and remembered as the Father of the Nation. The mortal remains of Gandhiji were cremated at this ghat on 31st January following his assassination. The structure of the Samadhi reflects simplicity. The last words of Mahatma Gandhi, 'Hey Ram' are inscribed on the memorial platform, which is flanked by an eternal flame. Visiting dignitaries plant trees in the designated place. People of every class visit the memorial to pay their homage to this great soul whom they fondly call 'Bapu'.

Red Fort

The Red Fort is a historic fort in the Old Delhi that historically served as the main residence of the Mughal Emperors. Emperor Shah Jahan commissioned construction of the RF on 12th May 1638, when he decided to shift his capital from Agra to Delhi. Originally red and white, its design is credited to Ustad Ahmad Lahori who also constructed the Taj Mahal. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.. On 15 August 1947, the first prime minister of India raised the Indian Flag above the Lahori Gate. Every year on India's Independence Day, the prime minister hoists the Indian tri colour flag at the fort's main gate and delivers a nationally broadcast speech from its ramparts.

Day -5

03-02-2020

The team covered the journey from Delhi to Jaipur overnight and arrived Jaipur at 12.30 am. After a comfortable stay at hotel, they went out for sightseeing at 8 in the morning..

1. Jeep Safari to Amer Fort
2. Jaal Mahal
3. City Centre
4. Jantar Mantar
5. Hawai mahal
6. Albert Hall

Amer Fort

It was built in 1592 by Raja Man Singh. It was located in Amer, Rajasthan which is a part of Jaipur by extension. The Fort stands out for its Hindu characteristics in terms of architecture and design and closely resembles a grand temple. The relevance of Amer Fort as one of many historical monuments in Jaipur stems from the fact that it was long considered the stronghold

of the Rajput Maharajas, Rajasthan's longest reigning royal family. This is a UNESCO Heritage Site.

Jal Mahal

The Jal Mahal or water palace is situated in the middle of the Man Sagar Lake of Jaipur City. The location of this palace sets it apart from any other historical structure in the city. The interiors of this palace are not open to the public but the pathway outside is a popular place to take pictures and enjoy the view.

City Centre

Visit to city center has been a unique one. Students could see how clothes are dyed with raw vegetables. Ethnic dress is another significant item. Market places are crowded with leather products, rejai (blanket) and various items of home decoration. Both teachers and students were found busy in purchasing the ethnic items.

Jantar Mantar

Jaipur has its very own Jantar Mantar. It is one of the most famous monuments of Jaipur. It is an equinoctial sun dial and is one of five structures in India: all built by Maharaja Jai Singh II between 1724 and 1735. Located at Kanwar Nagar, these Jantar Mantars were built to tabulate astronomical tables and track the sun, the moon and planetary movement. It is itself a wonder.

Hawa Mahal

The palace of the winds or Hawa Mahal was built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh for royal women to view the busy streets of Johari Bazar while staying veiled behind the Jharokhas. It was completed in 1799 and constructed with pink and red sandstone. The exteriors of this palace stand out for the fact that it closely resembles the honeycomb of a bee hive with 953 "jharokhas" or small windows that are nicely accentuated with exquisite lattice work. During day time, its chambers get illuminated with varied colours as the sunlight streams in through its many coloured glass work windows.

Albert Hall

It is both a museum and a monument of historical importance. It was opened to the public in 1887. It has the distinction of having its foundation stone laid by King Edward II. It is an impressive structure and has a rich collection of artefacts, paintings, sculptures, crystal works and metal works.

Day -6

04-02-2020

On way back to Delhi, it was decided to visit Fatehpur Sikri on Jaipur – Deli Road. Night was spent in the vicinity of Fatehpur Sikri.

Located at a distance of 40 km from Agra and built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. It is essentially a fortified city. It was awarded the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986. It is home to Jodha Bai's Palace, Jama Masjid, Buland Darwaja. Akbar built the grand city in a barren land, a land known for lack of water, for one simple reason. He intended to show his reverence for the Sufi saint Salim Chisti. Salim lived in the desert, so Akbar built his city in the desert. When Chisti passed away, Akbar constructed the center piece of Fatehpur Sikri, the Tomb of Salim Chisti. The Sufi holy man's tomb has remained a place of pilgrimage for Muslims. The ancient structures stand impressive: Diwan-i-Aam, Diwan –i-khas, ibadat Khana, panch MAHAL, tomb of Salim Chisti, jama Masjid, Buland darwaja, Birbal's house, Daftar Khana, Pachisi Court, Khwabgah and so many. The structures tell stories even today.

Day -7

05-02-2020

Early in the morning the team left for Delhi and spent a few hours in Agra to watch the famous Taj Mahal. It is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the right bank of the river Yamuna. It was commissioned in 1631 by Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal Emperor to house the tomb of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It also houses the tomb of the emperor himself. The tomb is the centerpiece of a 17 hectre complex which includes a mosque and a guest house. The Taj Mahal complex is believed to have been completed in its entirety in 1653. The project work employed some 20,000 artisans under the guidance of Ustad Amjad Lahori, the emperor's court architect. It attracts more than 6 million visitors a year, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 and it was declared a winner of the New 7 Wonders of the World.

With this Wonder, the team arrived Delhi at 7 PM, boarded Rajdhani Express at 7.30 pm

Day -8

06-02-2020

Whole day spent on train. The only discussion students could initiate was all about the tour they had just undertaken

Day -9

07-02-2020

Arrived Badarpur at 9 am

Arrived Lala at 10.30 am

Importance of this educational excursion to Rajasthan

1. Though the excursion was aimed in Rajasthan, students could avail some extra exposure to some outstanding places. This is because the team had to travel Rajasthan through those places. This includes visit to Delhi, Agra and Fatehpur Sikri.
2. The students gathered practical taste of travel and adventure.
3. They had experienced the vastness of India, its rich diversity, culture, tradition and custom of the people, their way of life. This understanding is the need of the hour. Meeting people of other countries and interacting with them was a life time feeling. It has been a moment of pride being an Indian when people of other countries appreciate our country for its rich cultural tradition, heritage, and unique historical structures.
4. Visit to each of the places is itself a rewarding experience. Students had no words to express their sense of wonder, joy, bewilderment and above all, the reality they are exposed to.

5. They have become, to some extent, familiar with the language, culture, customs, and food habits of different people they encountered in different situations.
6. They have successfully spent so many hours only on travel from one extreme part of the country and had witnessed so many states. Such a long continuous journey for days together and their thirst of travel and knowledge is praiseworthy.
7. The students have all through co-operated with teachers, had been found responsible and accountable for their action. The educational tour in group has initiated a sense of togetherness, co-operation, and fellow feeling among them as members of a group, though they belonged to different communities in their personal life. Moreover, a very close bonding had developed over the tour that is expected to retain throughout their life.
8. At the personal level, it may not be possible to visit such places with some definite objects in mind. Some of the students may not even afford to undertake such visits to such far-off lands.
9. The excursion will surely make the students ponder deeply to seek reasons or the drawbacks, if any, why we fail to draw more tourists though our state Assam has so many things to showcase to the outside world like some national parks sheltering one-horned rhinoceros and so many rare flora and fauna, the lush greenery, places like Haflong for its earthly paradise, tea gardens, the largest river island, the second largest wetland, numerous tribes and their rich unique traditions, the ancient historical monuments scattered throughout the state and so on. Government should initiate process so that more tourists come to this land and it will provide economic incentives to the local youths as well.

The excursion will encourage other students to be more dedicated to their studies so that they could find a place in the excursion to be conducted in the coming days. At the same time, through such programme, the knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different states and union territories will sure lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between the states, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

Since Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat programme aims to enhance interaction and promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing, this visit to Rajasthan will not only gain a student at the personal level, it will have a deep imprint in their minds when they compare the work culture, dedication, sincerity of those people with us, and this enlarged vision will have a direct impact in our society in the coming days. The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, tradition and music, tourism and cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

Photo gallery









Sd/-

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