

# CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER TIBETAN STUDIES

## (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

### Report on 'Educational Tour'

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#### Introduction:

Under the auspicious blessings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and cordial greetings of Vice Chancellor Prof. W.D. Negi & Registrar Dr. Sunita Chandra, the 11 days educational tour organized by Centre for Teacher Education, CIHTS, Sarnath, Varanasi from 17th to 28 February commenced with the esteemed presence and support of Director CTE, Dr. Himanshu Pandey. Asst. Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta and Dr. P. Shushmita Vatsyayan led a group of 30 B.Ed and B.A.B.Ed students, accompanied by three SWA members, on an enriching journey spanning Delhi, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. This meticulously planned tour aimed to offer a comprehensive understanding of India's rich cultural and historical heritage as well as educational management and teaching practices of different educational institutes and universities. The tour aimed to provide an immersive learning experience, allowing students to explore significant landmarks, interact with diverse communities, and deepen their appreciation for the country's multifaceted identity.

#### 1. Delhi:

The tour commenced in Delhi, where students from CTE, CIHTS were warmly welcomed at the Tibetan Youth Hostel. This cultural exchange was particularly significant as both institutions share a common cultural heritage, fostering a sense of kinship and understanding among the students. The interaction provided valuable insights into Tibetan culture and traditions, setting a positive tone for the rest of the tour.

Following this enriching exchange, next morning students visited Zama Masjid, one of Delhi's architectural gems, where they marvelled at the intricate design and learned about its historical significance. The visit provided students with a deeper understanding of the religious diversity and architectural heritage of India.

In the afternoon, the group proceeded to Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its Mughal architecture. Here, students were captivated by the grandeur of the tomb and its lush surroundings, while also gaining insights into Delhi's rich historical legacy.



As the day came to a close, students eagerly participated in a friendly basketball match between CTE and the Tibetan Youth Hostel teams. The match, held separately for boys and girls, not only showcased sporting prowess but also promoted cultural exchange and camaraderie among the participants. It provided an opportunity for students to bond over a shared love for sports and further strengthened the sense of unity and friendship between the two institutions.

In the evening, after the exhilarating basketball match, students from both CTE and the Tibetan Youth Hostel came together to showcase their cultural heritage through traditional dance performances. The rhythmic beats and graceful movements mesmerized the audience, highlighting the unity and diversity of Indian and Tibetan cultures. The cultural dance performance further strengthened the bonds of friendship and mutual respect between the two institutions.



## **2. Rajasthan:**

Rajasthan, known as the "Land of Kings," is a treasure trove of vibrant culture, rich history, and architectural marvels. Our educational tour through Rajasthan aimed to provide students with an immersive experience, delving into the royal heritage, cultural traditions, and architectural splendors of this enchanting state.

### **Jaipur - The Pink City:**

Our journey through Rajasthan commenced in Jaipur, the capital city famously known as the Pink City. Here, students were captivated by the majestic Amber Fort, a magnificent blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture perched atop the Aravalli hills. The intricate carvings, expansive courtyards, and breath-taking views left a lasting impression on the students, offering a glimpse into the grandeur of Rajputana royalty.



Exploring further, students marvelled at the iconic Palace of Winds, or Hawa Mahal, with its elaborately designed façade allowing royal women to observe street festivities while remaining unseen. A visit to the historic City Palace provided students with a deeper understanding of Jaipur's royal legacy, with its ornate gates, sprawling courtyards, and an impressive collection of artefacts showcasing the opulence of the Rajput rulers.



### **Indian Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur:**

In Jaipur, our educational tour took an enriching turn with a visit to the Indian Institute of Ayurveda. Here, students delved into the ancient science of Ayurveda, learning about traditional healing practices, herbal remedies, and holistic approaches to health and well-being. The interactive sessions and demonstrations provided students with valuable insights into the significance of Ayurveda in promoting physical, mental, and spiritual wellness.



### **Jodhpur - The Blue City:**

Continuing our journey, we arrived in Jodhpur, the enchanting Blue City nestled amidst the stark landscapes of Rajasthan. Dominating the skyline is the formidable Mehrangarh Fort, perched majestically atop a rocky hill, offering panoramic views of the city below. Students explored the intricately carved palaces, expansive courtyards, and well-preserved artefacts within the fort, gaining a deeper appreciation for Jodhpur's architectural heritage and military prowess.





Venturing into the bustling markets and narrow lanes of the old city, students immersed themselves in the vibrant culture and traditions of Jodhpur. The azure-hued houses, adorned with intricate latticework and vibrant colours, provided a picturesque backdrop for exploration and photography, while interactions with local artisans offered insights into traditional crafts such as pottery, textile weaving, and jewellery making.

#### **National Law University, Jodhpur:**

Adding an academic dimension to our tour, students had the opportunity to visit the esteemed National Law University in Jodhpur. Here, they engaged in informative sessions and discussions, gaining insights into the Indian legal system, judicial processes, and the role of law in shaping society. The interactions with faculty members and students provided valuable perspectives on legal education and advocacy in India.





### **Jaisalmer - The Golden City:**

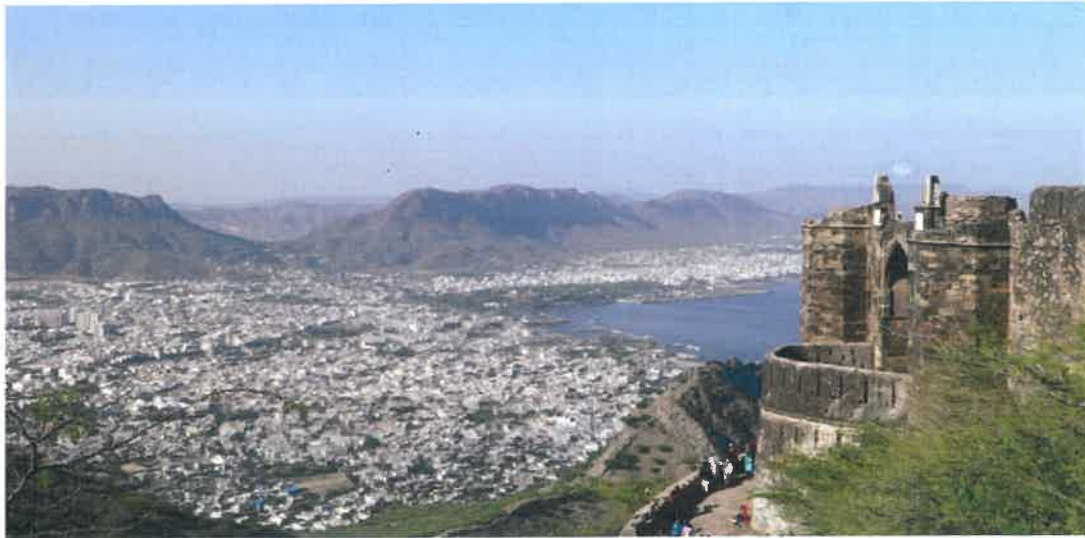
Our journey through Rajasthan continued to the golden city of Jaisalmer, where students were transported back in time amidst the golden sands of the Thar Desert. The highlight of our visit was the magnificent Jaisalmer Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, rising majestically from the desert landscape. Students explored the intricately carved Jain temples, royal palaces, and narrow lanes bustling with activity, gaining a deeper understanding of Jaisalmer's rich history and architectural splendor. An unforgettable camel safari into the heart of the Thar Desert provided students with an immersive experience, allowing them to witness the mesmerizing sunset over the sand dunes and connect with the timeless beauty of Rajasthan's desert landscape.



### **Ajmer - Spiritual Significance:**



Our journey culminated in Ajmer, a city steeped in spiritual significance and cultural heritage. Here, students paid homage at the revered Ajmer Sharif Dargah, the shrine of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, experiencing the profound spiritual atmosphere and offering prayers for peace and harmony. The visit to the Dargah provided students with a unique insight into the rich cultural tapestry of India and the enduring legacy of Sufism in promoting love, tolerance, and compassion.



### **3. Uttar Pradesh:**

The Uttar Pradesh segment of our educational tour offered students a captivating journey through the historic cities of Agra and Lucknow, providing rich insights into the cultural, architectural, and historical heritage of the region.

#### **Agra:**

Our exploration began in Agra, the epitome of Mughal grandeur and home to one of the world's most iconic monuments, the Taj Mahal. As we approached this architectural masterpiece, students were spellbound by its ethereal beauty and timeless elegance. The Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, served as a poignant symbol of eternal love and artistic brilliance, captivating our hearts and minds.



Adjacent to the Taj Mahal stands the imposing Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of the power and grandeur of the Mughal Empire. Within its fortified walls, students delved into the rich history and architectural marvels of the Mughal era, exploring intricately decorated palaces, royal chambers, and impressive courtyards.

Our time in Agra was not only a journey through history but also an opportunity to engage with the vibrant local culture and cuisine. Students savored the flavors of authentic Mughlai cuisine, immersing themselves in the culinary delights of the region.

### **Lucknow:**

Continuing our expedition, we arrived in Lucknow, the city of nawabs and cultural confluence. Here, students were transported back in time as they explored the architectural splendor of the Bara Imambara and Chota Imambara, marveling at the intricate designs and grandeur of these historic landmarks.

At the Bara Imambara, students were awestruck by the sheer magnitude of the complex, which includes the impressive Bhool Bhulaiya labyrinth and the grand Asfi mosque. The Chota Imambara, with its intricate decorations and sparkling chandeliers, provided further insight into the opulence of the Nawabi era.



In addition to architectural marvels, students delved into the rich cultural heritage of Lucknow through interactions with local artisans and craftsmen. They witnessed firsthand the art of chikankari embroidery, a traditional craft synonymous with the city, and gained a deeper appreciation for the skill and craftsmanship involved.

The tour concluded with a visit to the historic Residency, a reminder of Lucknow's colonial past and its role in India's struggle for independence. Students explored the ruins of this former British residency, reflecting on the turbulent history and resilience of the people of Lucknow.

### **Conclusion:**

The tour, led by Asst. Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta and Dr. P. Shushmita Vatsyayan, unfolded with enriching experiences in each destination. In Delhi, interactions with the Tibetan community at the Tibetan Youth Hostel fostered cultural exchange and understanding, setting a positive tone for the journey. Explorations in Rajasthan, from the majestic Amber Fort in Jaipur to the historic Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur, provided students with a deeper appreciation for the region's royal heritage and architectural marvels. Academic visits to institutions such as the

Indian Institute of Ayurveda in Jaipur and the National Law University in Jodhpur enriched their understanding of diverse subjects. Culminating in Uttar Pradesh, the tour concluded with awe-inspiring visits to iconic landmarks such as the Taj Mahal in Agra and the architectural splendors of Lucknow. Through these experiences, students not only expanded their knowledge but also forged lasting bonds and gained invaluable insights that will resonate throughout their academic and personal journeys.

Overall, the educational tour was a resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the students and igniting their curiosity to explore further the wonders of our rich and diverse world.

*(This report is prepared by Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Assistant Professor, Education, CTE, CIHTS)*



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