

The Heritage Society

JAI PUR

Heritage Trip

November 17-19, 2022

“A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.”

Mahatma Gandhi

India is a place where colour is doubly bright. Pinks that scaled your eyes, blues you could drown in. A country which can never run out of heritage splendours in many lifetimes. To make oneself familiar with the rich culture and heritage we’ve inherited is to make oneself aware of our glorious past and moving closer towards our roots.

The best way to interact with our past is by visiting the places where stories and legends have been preserved over generations. With this vision, The Heritage Society of Aryabhata College organized a three-day trip to one of the most colourful cities- The Pink City, aka, Jaipur. A group of 25 students across various courses and years of the college were on the board accompanied by 7 teachers. The trip started on November 17, 2022 and concluded on November 19, 2022.



DAY 1

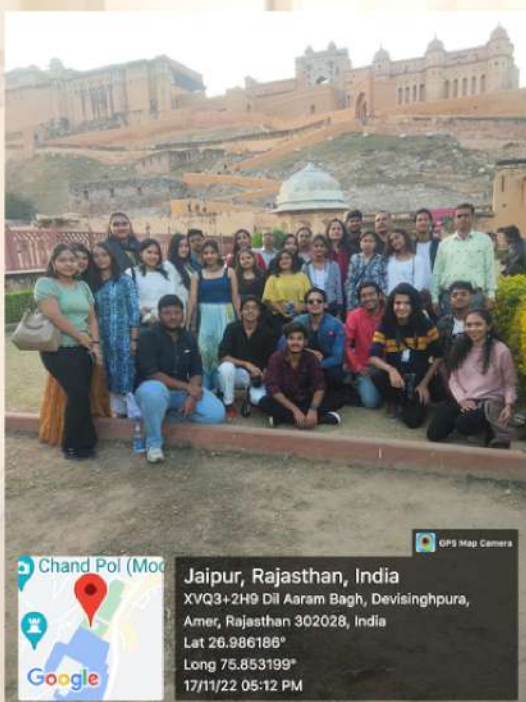
The morning of November 17, 2022 was pleasant with slow cold breeze blowing. That's when we started an enthralling 7-hour journey to Jaipur and we reached our destination by the afternoon. After quickly freshening ourselves up, we headed for Amer fort in the perfect time to visit any fort- the golden hour. The fort appeared all the more beautiful in the golden dimming light of the sun. As evening drew, it was an absolute treat to watch the fort covered in colourful lights. After the bus dropped everyone off, the students made the staired journey up the hill to reach the fort.

After crossing the entry, we were educated by a guide to truly enrich our experience with the deep knowledge and fascinating aspects about the various portions of Amer fort. The fort's architecture is a mix of Islamic, Hindu and Rajput styles all mixed together in a perfect symphony of joyful colours and sculpting.

The guide told us various aspects of the fort that had been built over generations, like the sheesh mahal, the private quarters of the king. The glass used is not just of the decorative variety but also has a functional purpose. The Belgium glass amplifies warmth or cold as dictated by the inhabitant of the room. In winters, it was used to keep warm while in summers, it provided a cooling effect.

Another interesting structure was the private courtyard and chambers of the Raja Jai Singh and his 12 wives. There was a beautiful courtyard in the middle for the queens to gather and socialize.

After the tour of the fort's complex, we went for the light and sound show of Amer fort where we learnt about the history of the formation of Jaipur while simultaneously learning about the courtly habits and practices used in various generations that resided in Amer fort with the resounding and powerful narration of Amitabh Bachchan. The day ended with all of us enjoying our dinner and excited for our next day tour.



DAY 2

On the second day of the trip, all of us got up early for the City Tour. Our first stop was the City Palace. The City Palace, maintained by the Royal Family of Jaipur, comprised of various buildings, at the middle of which was the main museum housing the photos and garments of the royal family of over the past centuries.

Just at the entrance of the palace, students were entertained by the puppet show which comprised of traditional Rajasthani singing and a truly delightful, and humorous, show which left everyone in peals of laughter.

There were many nooks and crannies to explore in the city palace. The place was almost too picturesque, where the majority of the time was spent by the students while exploring this treasure of history. Quite a big part was the weapons armoury where the weapons displayed were truly awe inspiring and a little daunting to today's world. There was even a fully armoured and clothed life-sized horse. The various types of weapons, curves of knives, the carvings on them and the little interesting things like the 'back scratcher', 'ornate lighter' and elephant trunks used to load and push gun powder were wildly intriguing. All this gave a deep insight into the war techniques of the earlier times.

The palace's museum shop was also a beautiful and calm visit. There were little shops set up in a large hall, all patroned and supported by the current royalty, selling the artistic wonders they had created, from little statues to bottles of perfume to large hand painted paintings to the jewellery being sold, it was a little market contained in the city palace itself.

The city palace visit concluded with tour of the Sabha Niwas (Diwan-e-Aam) where the king used to sit and give verdicts. It was a magnificent and luxurious courtroom with portraits of all the previous kings and their costumes.



DAY 2

Our next stop after city palace was the famous Hawa Mahal. The front of it is quite easily visible from the road. There were various levels to explore there. It was interesting to know about the architecture of the place, and how the number of windows in the palace played a unique role in keeping it well ventilated.

Since it was the foundation day of Jaipur, we experienced a live performance of the folk music where the singers sang and danced and so did the students.

After a stop for the lunch, the evening was spent at Albert Hall. The museum was one of the most beautiful and frankly, largest one with the most varied treasures anyone had witnessed. Both of the floors were filled with priceless historical artifacts and treasures.

The various types of pottery, ranging from time periods to their origins and type was truly mind boggling. So was the sheer size of Mahabharata shields displayed fairly early in the tour. As one went deeper, the history also got deeper and much richer. From little figurines of Japanese samurais to Buddhist monks, all were displayed with excellent explanations to those who didn't understand the significance of those figures.

The upper floor carried even more treasuries. With the sculpture hall, weapons display, jewellery display and the Egyptian room where an actual mummy was stored, it was quite exciting for everyone. There was something for everyone, it seemed, no matter what period or field they find the most interesting.

The day ended with exploring the local culture, food and art of the Jaipur.



DAY 3

After much exciting two days, on the morning of the third day, the students and faculty left for the final spot for our trip to Jaipur - The Jaigarh Fort.

While most of the places we had visited yet had been somewhat busy, the Jaigarh fort was probably the calmest and most open space, situated between mountains, just oozing peace with its scarce tourists.

The fort had its own story to narrate. The two interesting spots were the 200 ft long Jaivan cannon, which hasn't been fired after being tested and the water tank where all the jewels and treasury of the royalty had been stored and hidden for centuries until the 20th century.

The fort had a picturesque architecture. It was fascinating to discover how Amer and Jaigarh fort are connected via tunnel and the strategic importance of Jaigarh fort.

Admiring the perfect planning of the city, its monuments, forts and bazaars, we finally boarded the bus to return back to Delhi. Everyone on this trip was awestruck and mesmerised to explore the historical treasures of the city and the fact that they have been preserved till date so that we can experience and learn about it even today. It is true that experience is the greatest teacher of all – and this trip proved it to be true.

The Heritage Society will look forward to more such endeavours in the future, to bring students closer to Indian culture and history.

