

A Visit to the Tulip Research Centre at India Habitat Centre

Date of visit: 28 January 2025

Location: India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Garden, New Delhi

Attendees: Class Teacher – Mr. Nilesh Roy & Class XI-D

Visit to the Tulip Research Centre for India Studies (T.R.I.S.) at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This visit was a part of an academic initiative aimed at deepening students' understanding of Indian history and culture through an exhibition on the history of photography in India.

Introduction

Education is most effective when it transcends the boundaries of textbooks and enters the realm of experiential learning. The visit to T.R.I.S. provided the students with a unique opportunity to explore India's past through an immersive and intellectually stimulating exhibition. The exhibition not only presented a collection of rare photographs and manuscripts but also facilitated engaging discussions on the influence of India's historical narratives on contemporary perspectives.

About T.R.I.S.

The Tulip Research Centre for India Studies is a pioneering institution founded by Mr. Neville Tuli, committed to preserving and promoting Indian arts, humanities, and social sciences. The centre aspires to integrate traditional Indian knowledge systems with contemporary global academia, fostering an interdisciplinary approach to education.

The institution focuses on:

Preserving Indian Heritage – Documenting and safeguarding India's rich cultural and intellectual traditions.

Fostering Academic Excellence – Encouraging rigorous research and critical thinking.

Enhancing Global Engagement – Positioning Indian knowledge systems in global discourses.

Promoting Multimedia Learning – Using visual and textual resources to create a dynamic educational experience.

Absorbing the Visual Narratives

The exhibition showcased a breath-taking collection of photographs and artefacts spanning India's historical trajectory from the 1850s onwards. Students carefully observed these images, analysing their historical context, artistic elements, and social significance. This activity underscored the role of photography in preserving history and storytelling.

Interactive Discussions

One of the most enlightening aspects of the visit was a discussion with Mr. Neville Tuli, who shared insights on how India's ancient philosophies continue to shape modern thought. The students engaged in meaningful conversations about history, perception, and knowledge, making the experience intellectually rewarding.

Access to Digital Resources

The students were also introduced to the T.R.I.S. website, which offers free access to specialized research materials, workshops, and programs. This online platform ensures that learning extends beyond the physical visit, providing an opportunity for continued engagement with historical studies.

Significance of the Visit

The visit to T.R.I.S. was not just an educational tour; it was an intellectual journey that instilled in students a deeper appreciation for India's historical and cultural heritage. By bridging the gap between traditional knowledge and contemporary academic discourse, the visit encouraged students to think critically about history and its relevance to modern times.

Key takeaways from the visit included:

The ability to analyse and interpret historical visuals in a meaningful way.

An understanding of the evolution of photography as a historical documentation tool.

Exposure to India's academic and cultural heritage in an interactive manner.

Reflections from Students

The experience had a profound impact on the students, sparking curiosity and admiration for history.

1. Manas Karol



"It was a really nice experience for me to go to TRIS, first the architecture held my breath because Indian Habitat Centre is designed in such a way that air always ventilates, and the building stays cool. Then, I really liked the pictures/ photography and the concept of 'eye' about perception and interpretation of different visuals. I learnt how we can see through our vision not our eyes and gain real knowledge. It was a remarkable and unforgettable experience for me."

2. Anjali Bhaskar



"I had the privilege to visit the reputed TRIS for an exhibition on the history of photography in India since the 1850s. I was amazed by the collection of photos & manuscripts showcased there. This experience helped me inculcate the importance of our history to understand the wider perspectives of the present. It was a truly overwhelming experience!"

Conclusion

The visit to T.R.I.S. at the India Habitat Centre was a remarkable educational experience for the students of Class XI-D. It provided a platform for interactive learning, intellectual discussions, and deep historical appreciation. Through the exhibition and discussions, students gained new perspectives on history, art, and cultural preservation. Such visits play a crucial role in holistic education, ensuring that students not only learn history but also experience it in a way that remains with them for a lifetime.

A special thanks to:

1. **Mr. Nilesh Roy** (Class Teacher)
2. **Prarabdh Gautam**
3. **Manas Karol**
4. **Anjali Bhaskar**
5. **Nandani Sharma**

This visit has left an indelible mark on the students, inspiring them to engage more deeply with history and its multifaceted interpretations.