

A Trip to Dharamshala

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.”
– *Saint Augustine*

On 14th November 2024, eighty-two students from Army Public School Jammu Cantt embarked on an exciting educational trip to Dharamshala and adjoining places in Himachal Pradesh. The trip was designed to provide students with exposure to the natural beauty, spiritual heritage, and cultural diversity of the region which was enriching and memorable. The students were accompanied by a team of 07 faculty members under the supervision of the Vice Principal of the school, Mrs. Manmeet Kour.

Trip Overview

Dharmshala, located in the Kangra Valley, is known for its peaceful environment, Tibetan culture, and scenic beauty. Bhagsu Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is one of the main attractions in the area and is a significant pilgrimage site. The trip also included visiting nearby attractions like the Bhagsu Waterfall, Dalai Lama Temple, War memorial, Tapovan, Tea gardens, Science City-center famous for their natural beauty and spiritual significance.

Day-wise Itinerary

- **Day 1: Departure and Arrival in Dharamshala**

The trip began with an early morning departure from Jammu at 7. After having breakfast at Pooja Bhojnalaya in Pathankot, the group reached Dharamshala in the afternoon after a scenic drive through the hills. After checking into the DN Hotel at Mcleodganj, the group headed to Bhagsu Temple. The temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is nestled amidst the scenic Dhauladhar Range and is a popular site for pilgrims and tourists. The students later took a short walk around the local markets of Mcleodganj, where they experienced Tibetan culture through its handicrafts, food, and people. The students then arrived back at the hotel and relished a DJ party from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm.

- **Day 2: A visit to Waterfall and Dalai Lama Temple**

On the second day, the group took a short trek to the nearby Bhagsu Waterfall, which is one of the most visited natural attractions in the area. The students enjoyed the refreshing atmosphere around the waterfall and took the opportunity to click photos and relax by the water.

The students then proceeded towards the Dalai Lama temple, greeted by a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere, with the sounds of prayer bells ringing in the background. The temple complex is beautifully adorned with traditional Tibetan architecture, colorful prayer flags, and intricately designed murals depicting various Buddhist teachings. The students spent the evening exploring the place, enjoying its laid-back vibe, quaint cafes, and local markets. The students also had a chance of celebrating Gurupurab by reciting hymns along with teachers and later on they enjoyed a DJ party.

- **Day 3: A visit to the War Memorial, Tapovan, Tea Gardens and Science City-centre**

The day began with a wholesome breakfast at the hotel, where students were provided with a variety of local and continental options. After breakfast, the students checked out from the hotel at 9 o'clock, packed their belongings, and boarded the bus for the day's excursions. The

first stop of the day was the **War Memorial**, a place of great historical significance located in the heart of Dharamshala. The memorial is dedicated to the soldiers of Himachal Pradesh who have lost their lives in various wars, especially during the Indo-China and Indo-Pakistan wars. Next, the group visited **Tapovan**, a serene and spiritually significant area in Dharamshala. Tapovan is famous for its beautiful setting and for being a place where the great sage Vyasa is believed to have meditated.

The next stop of the day was the **Tea Gardens**, where students got an opportunity to experience the process of tea cultivation and its importance to the local economy. After a scenic drive through the picturesque hills of Himachal Pradesh, the group reached **Palampur** for lunch. Post lunch, the group proceeded to the **Science City-Center**, a well-known educational hub designed to enhance understanding of science through interactive displays and exhibits.

At last, the departure from Palampur started at 5 o'clock. After having snacks at Pathankot, the trip ended at the school late at night.

Conclusion:

The educational trip to Dharamshala and adjoining places was an enriching experience for all the students. It provided them with an opportunity to explore the natural beauty of the region, learn about Tibetan culture and spirituality, and engage in physical activities that fostered teamwork. The trek to Bhagsu Temple and the visit to Bhagsu Waterfall were particularly memorable, allowing students to experience the peace and tranquillity of the Himalayan environment.

Overall, the trip was a great success, and it gave the students a deeper understanding of the cultural and spiritual significance of Dharamshala. The memories and lessons from this trip will stay with them for years to come, and they look forward to more such educational journeys in the future.



