

## **STUDY TOUR IN VARANASI CONDUCTED BY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY (DAY), VIC**

A Study Tour in Varanasi has been conducted by the Department of History (Day), Victoria Institution (College) with the students of Semester 3 (Honours) and four faculty members, from 18/12/2023 to 22/12/2023. This tour is as per their SEC syllabus.

The tour started from Howrah Station as the teachers and students gathered there and boarded in Vibhuti Express and reached Varanasi on 19/12/2023.

In the first day, the students visited the Kasi Viswanath Temple and the Gyan Vapi Masjid along with the 'Ganga Arati' from boat.

In the second day they went to Sarnath (Mrigadava or Ishipatana ), visited the Buddha Temple and the famous Bodhi Tree where Gautama Buddha preached his First Sermon (Dharmachakrapravartana) to his five disciples. The place is very significant and remarkable as Buddhism had been spread over the whole of India and abroad from here. Next, they went to the famous Dhameka Stupa and Dharmarajika Stupa which were built by Emperor Asoka in 249 BCE. This place contains a Vihara named Mulagandhakuti along with a Chaitya. Buddhist monks from various places use to come here as it is a sacred place for the Buddhists. The teachers described the history and importance of this place to the students. There is also a Jain Temple within this Stupa complex. Besides, there is the Museum where the world-famous original Asokan Pillar having the Lion Capital, which is the National Emblem exists. Moreover, there are the archaeological remains, artifacts and original art objects of the Mauryan period. The teachers gave the description of every object to the students.

Next, the students visited the Ramnagar Palace which is in the other bank of Ganges. The palace has been transformed to a Museum containing all the objects used by Kashi Naresh. A wonderful sun set has been viewed from the terrace of the palace. In the evening the students went for their favourite shopping in nearby market.

In the third day, the entire team went to BHU to see the campus. There is a temple within the campus, very rich in architectural pattern and it is a replica of the Viswanath temple. The students strolled around the campus and were very pleased to see the architecture of different departments also the greenery.

Next, they came to the Varanasi station and after an overnight journey reached Howrah.

Thus ended the excursion of the Department of History.

It was a very successful excursion as the students got the firsthand experience of Temple, Stupa and Islamic Architecture along with a vivid description by their teachers which covered a large part of their syllabus.

## A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS DURING THE EDUCATIONAL TRIP





