



Exposure Visit to Ajanta and Ellora Caves

The Department of History, Loyola College, organised an exposure tour for its students from **21st February 2020 to 25th February 2020**. The aim of the exposure tour was to give the students an on the field experience of looking at the monuments they studied about. An exposure tour is something which has been tailor-made for the students to know about the particular concept or place by visiting it. It allows the student to have a hands on experience of how it feels to experience something about which they studied all this while. It aims to enhance the knowledge about the subject. Every student looks forward to participate in the exposure visit as it gives them memorable experience out of the walls of the classroom to explore something new and interesting.

As a part of the exposure tour, the Department of history took its students to Hyderabad and Aurangabad. As per the proposed itinerary it was a 5 day trip which involved lot of travel and fun filled experiences.

We started of our journey from Chennai Central on 21st at 16:45hrs. On reaching Secundrabad, we visited Mecca Masjid, Charminar and Salarjung Museum.

Mecca Masjid: Mecca Masjid is one of the largest mosques in India with a capacity of 20,000. The mosque was built between the 16th and 17th centuries. This great monument was built by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty. It is said that the ruler commissioned beicks of this mosque to be made from the soil brought from Mecca [The holy site of Islam] therefore it has been named as Mecca Masjid.

This was a beautiful sight to visit. Each one of us were astonished to have seen a beautiful monument like this.

Charminar: The Charminar is a beautiful monument which has been one of the centre monuments of Hyderabad. It is located very close to the Mecca Masjid. The literal meaning of Charminar is four minarets. It is one of the most recognised structures of Hyderabad. It is both historically and religiously significant. This monument was built by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah of Qutb Shahi dynasty in 1591. It is said that the Charminar was built to commemorate the eradication of the deadly disease Plague. It was nice to know about such

facts which we were unaware of. Visiting such sights with historical importance is definitely one of the best way of learning History.

Salar Jung Museum: It is one among the three national museums of India. A huge museum filled with artefacts and things of historical importance from all around the globe. This museum was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of our country Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951. This is a huge three storeyed building. It has so many galleries. It is filled with statues, ivory made artefacts, wooden furniture, Toys, clothes, watches, utensils, ceramics, carpets etc which has been spectacularly arranged for the visitors. This museum is one of the most important place to visit in Hyderabad.

Golconda Fort: It is the fort built by the Kakatiyas as part of their western defences. Golconda flourished as the trade centre for sultans due to the huge amount of diamond mines it had. Golconda is built on a granite hill that is 120 meters high. This fort was later occupied by the Bahamani sultans, hence one could see an amalgam of both Hindu and Islamic cultures. It is a huge fort consisting of various galleries and rooms, each having its own historical significance. We were given a guide who took us through the fort and explained the importance of each place. It was mind boggling to know about the technology used then to establish communication. This fort is definitely a must visit place for every history student.

We reached Aurangabad the next day at 04:45hrs and proceeded towards the famous Ajantha caves.

Ajantha Caves: Ajanta Caves are rock cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. These caves include paintings and rock cut sculptures described as among the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art. This monument is an UNESCO world heritage site. There are more than hundred caves out of which only 36 caves can be visited. Each one of them are unique and beautiful which narrates the story of Buddha and the Jatakas. There are few caves which has a replica of the Sanchi stupa. These caves are extremely calm and beautiful and a must visit place.

Next day morning we left for the Ellora caves, which was the last place to visit in our itinerary.

Ellora caves: Ellora caves is an UNESCO world heritage site located in Aurangabad. It is one of the largest rock cut monastery- temple cave complexes in the world, featuring Jain, Buddhist and Hindu monuments. It is an amalgam of monuments of all the religions showing

their harmony with each other. It is extremely beautifully carved. The cave 16 in particular features the largest single monolithic rock excavation in the world, the Kailashanatha Temple, a chariot shaped monument dedicated to Shiva. The entire monument is designed in such a way which takes the visitor to a Ratha Yathra. This beautiful monument is cool, calm and extremely peaceful.

This tour was completely a fun filled blissful trip. It was nice to move out of college and experience something new, which we have never witnessed. Each and every student of the History department is very grateful and thankful to the department for arranging such an amazing tour and for making it memorable.

VISUAL REPORT



EXPOSURE VISIT AT CHARMINAR - 22.02.2020



EXPOSURE VISIT AT ELLORA - 24.02.2020