

GEO EXPLORER'18

" TRAVEL TALES OF INDIA "



Department of Geography
Kamala Nehru College

MISSION STATEMENT

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

The Department of Geography is committed to the discovery, application and dissemination of knowledge concerning the society and physical environment in order to help our students become global citizens, environmental stewards, policy makers, and scientists, and to improve the quality of life for the citizens of India by helping better understand human impacts on the environment and interactions between society and physical environment.

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Field Trip: Bikaner, February 2017

Departmental Activities: 2017-18

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

“There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says “Morning, how’s the water?” And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes “What the hell is water?” This reminds us that we often forget, or take for granted, the most obvious things. Those who are trained in geography,



develop a sense of looking at everything around them in detail. They understand why, how, when and where- of all the things around us. Thinking geographically is not everyday thinking .It is somehow, like learning a language that needs geographical vocabulary and geographical knowledge. It is the joy of geography that straight forward question like ‘how many continents are there and what are they called; also becomes a matter of discussion. Let’s sustain that sense of geography always, as true geographers.

My best wishes to Geography department, and specially the editorial team for bringing out the latest issue of ‘Geo explorer’.

Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni

Principal

MESSAGE FROM TEACHER-IN-CHARGE

Instituted in the Golden Jubilee year of the college and succeeding the News- Letter of Geography department, the magazine, 'Geo Explorer' has become a platform for academic writing by young geographers.



Anyone can be a travel buff but a Geographer can't afford not to be one. This volume of 'Geo Explorer' titled "Travel Tales of India" gives our budding Geographers a chance to express their love for travelling. The travel tales in this volume take one to a virtual tour of India with the beauty and diversity of the natural and cultural landscape being unfolded with each tale told here.

I appreciate the efforts of contributors and wish them all the best for their future endeavors. I also congratulate the editorial team for their relentless efforts. My sincere thanks are due to our respected Principal, Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni, for her valuable guidance and support.

Dr. Ranjana A. Gera

Teacher-in-Charge

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK



Like all years, this year too we bring forth a new issue of “Geo explorer”, the magazine of our department. Every year, we try to focus on the different aspects from a wide array of themes that geography helps us put into perspective. This time, we have chosen our background theme to be “Travel Tales of India” which apart from being a huge caterer to the country’s GDP, is also coming up as a major lifestyle choice. We as geographers have tried to explore the country through a traveler’s eyes and their memories, while getting to learn more about the unexplored part of this beautiful subcontinent. It is this perfection that we try and discover through our humble effort in form of this magazine.

Interwoven among articles are poems, stories, facts and even riddles that take the reader on a journey of their own between the scholarly pieces. The magazine also provides a platform for articles and anecdotes about pressing geographical phenomena and current events in the light of geography. An effort has been made to keep the magazine academic as well as a fun read to both the students and the teachers alike.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our principle. Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni, our teacher-in-charge, Dr. Ranjana A. Gera and our Student Advisor, Dr. Azka Kamil for their constant guidance and support.

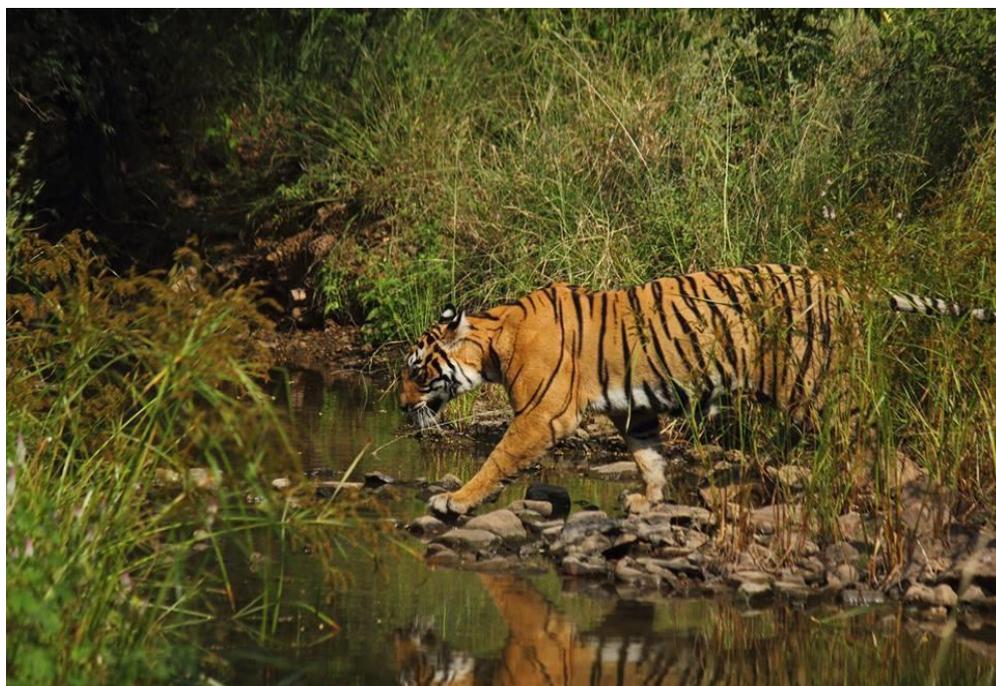
Anushka and Isheeta Singh

Ranthambore: Tigers and More

It is not often that you get yourself an opportunity to escape the monotony of city life and spend some time among lush green forests in the company of tigers, breathing the same air as they do. Ranthambore national park, what a spectacular place, a jungle which has so much to offer. One finds themselves transported back in time, roaming around the ruins of the fort, passing through elaborate gateways, around which nature has beautifully adapted itself. Small ruins scattered all over the park somehow manage to fit very well with the way of this forest.

Armed with the camera - the journey began. After a drizzle of history about the Ranthambore fort and climbing up the enormous fortress, one gets an incredible view of the famous lakes-

Padam talao and Rajbagh talao. The further you go, the more you get to see the various parts of the once abode of the royalty and a Ganesha temple.



The jungle seems to reward your sincerity in its own unique way. For some it could be spotting a rare bird, a rare animal or even a rare moment with the ordinary. You will find yourselves graced by the presence of treepies, vultures, honey buzzards, kingfishers, owlets, storks, terns, lapwings, ibis, serpent eagles, nilgai, langurs leaping from one tree to another overhead and a satisfying number of deer. The jungle has a certain charm to itself. The best people you will ever meet will be nature lovers!



Another delightful experience was meeting a young man from a village-living his dream, Govardhan bhaiya. He claims to have fallen in love with the tiger even before he saw one. He now works to educate local children and

makes conservation efforts with support from 'save the tiger' organization. He says that he loves his job! And it was here that I met Mr. Valmik Thapar. This name is bound to come up, if you ever find yourself watching a documentary on Ranthambore or have a conversation with a wildlife conservationist or simply come across one of the various books that he has written on India's tigers

"At last I saw it. The unmistakable glow of the striped coat; the powerful, unhurried, silent walk. It was my first tiger, confidently strolling down the middle of the road. The power and pure beauty of that moment cast a spell which was to become a driving passion in my life in the months and years ahead."

- Valmik Thapar

In retrospect, I think this explains the feelings at the sight of my first tiger too!

Rhea Varma

The Valley Where Time Stops

In the spring of 2017, I had the fortune of visiting a place which I've heard many people talk about, the place where the beauty of high Himalayas resides, the valley of Leh-Ladakh. I took the air route to Ladakh and although it was a mere 90 minutes flight, but those 90 minutes were worth a lifetime and being a geography enthusiast flying over the Himalayas observing the surface was truly staggering, be it those frozen valleys or the plateaus of ranging size or the number of rivers and their tributaries playing their own little game of hide and seek amongst the ridges.

And I was travelling from Delhi which we all know has the worth breathing air there can be, so the moment you step down from the plane and that amazing gush of fresh air that brushes your face will tell your heart that you which cannot see that it has arrived at a place which it would not want to leave for a very long time.



Being at such a high altitude the sky is a different view to look at altogether. Remember as kids we all used to think that maybe the sky is just a huge roof and maybe if we are somehow able to take a really good jump, we may just be able to touch it. I don't know how, I don't know why, but the same feelings returned. Not because I forgot the basic principles of geography, but because to touch the beautiful sky, just as we did as kids. Ladakh makes you feel like a kid again. And that is a feeling you remember. Ninety seven percent of the people in Ladakh are Buddhists and the biggest touristic attraction here are the monasteries.

Places like *sangam* of Indus and Zaskar rivers are so memorable, where the water is so chilly it is highly advised not to take a dip in the water considering the risk of hypothermia, but staying the reckless kid I am, I went ahead anyway. And the moment I jumper into water, I found nirvana. People of Ladakh are so nice and sweet that you for once feel that maybe being a Delhite isn't so awesome after all. Because these people will make you feel home in their own private space and not mind all the snappy and rude things you say. Be it a woman or a man, I bet you cannot be at a safer place then Leh. Be it midnight or any time of the day, people in this valley will help you get home safely at the risk of their own. I can't really find the perfect words to put an end to this experience, but all I can say is don't deprive yourself of Leh- Ladakh, it's your one way experience to real haven.



Rashi Lohan

A Trip to South India

My trip to south India was one of the most amazing trips with family. I visited Bangalore, Mysore, Trivandrum and Kanyakumari. First my journey started from Bangalore where I visited Bangalore Palace, a very beautiful palace which was built in the year 1887 by King Chamaraja Wadiyar and is today open to the public. The architectural style is a mix of Tudor and Scottish Gothic with many physical elements inside imported from Britain. Then I visited Lal Bagh which is a Botanical Garden, but unlike other gardens it was having its own beauty of tourist attraction because the garden area was spacious, has a lake and has a famous glass house which hosts two annual flower shows (26 January and 15 August). Lalbagh houses India's largest collection of tropical plants.

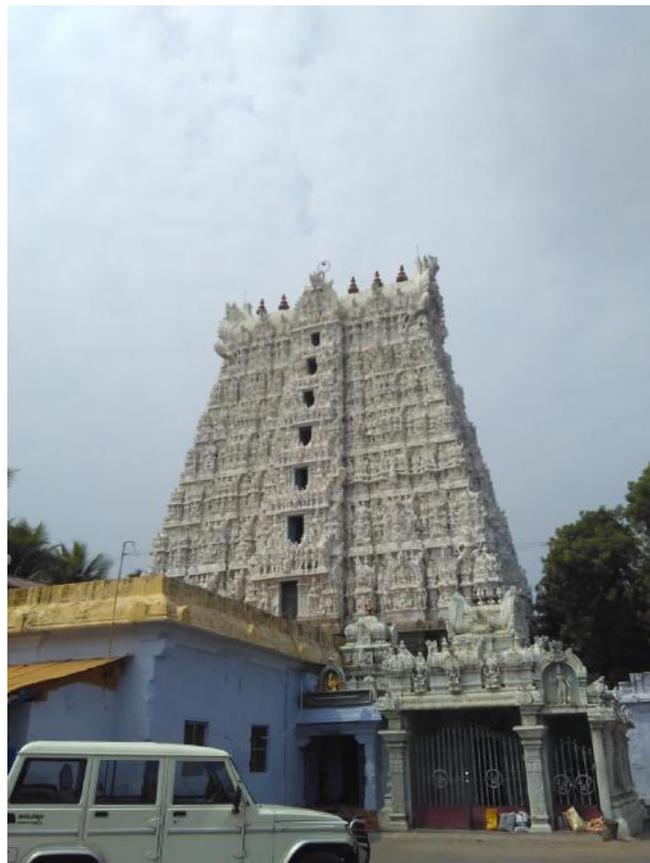
We also visited Shri Radha Krishna ISKCON Temple, which one of the largest ISKCON temples in the world. Then our next destination was Mysore, where first of all we visited Mysore Palace. The palace displays Indo-Saracenic style of architecture, Commissioned by the Krishnarajendra Wadiyar IV; this palatial building comprises of two durbar halls, a number of colossal courtyards, buildings and strikingly beautiful gardens that speak volumes of the splendour of the Wadiyars. Then in the evening we went to Brindavan Garden which lies adjoining the Krishnarajasagara dam which is built across the river Kaveri. The work on laying out this garden was started in the year 1927 and completed in 1932. The place is visited by close to 2 million tourists per year.



Then our next destination was Trivandrum, where we first visited the Padmanabhaswamy Mandir, which is built in an intricate fusion of the indigenous Kerala style and the Tamil style (kovil) of architecture associated with the temples located in the neighboring state of Tamil Nadu, featuring high walls, and a 16th-century Gopuram. In line

with the Temple Entry Proclamation, only those who profess the Hindu faith are permitted entry to the temple and devotees have to strictly follow the dress code.

Then we went to Neyyar River which meets the Arabian Sea and visited Golden sand beach. After that we went to Kanyakumari. It is the southernmost tip of peninsular India, and is surrounded on three sides by the Laccadive Sea. Next day we went to Thanumalayan Temple, also called Sthanumalayan Temple, it is an important Hindu temple located in Suchindram in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.



After that we visited the last place that is Kovalam Beach, a very beautiful and peaceful beach. From Kovalam Beach we came back to Delhi with lots of amazing and lovely memories.

Iepsita Baruah

Back in the Twilight of an Autumn Eve

I choose the anonymity of untrodden ways,

The calluses of untamed terrains,

The virginity of untraversed turfs

I choose the surprises of unlit passages,

The half-shadows of hidden gloves,

The forlornness of trails devoid of trail posts.

I choose the desertedness of storm savaged streets,

The broken ruins of fallen cities,

The obscurity of forgotten shrines

I choose the twined tangles of nettled weeds.

The willful thrusts of raw cold winds,

The sudden curves of winding dusty lanes.

Let weathered maps rudder other journeys,

Let smoother paths be traced out by other feet

For mine shall wander to lost worlds,

Hidden behind out of order signs,

Because back in the Twilight of an Autumn Eve,

Untrodden ways,

The calluses of untamed terrains, the virginity of untraversed turfs,

to leave tread prints of feet unshod.

Shivani Singh

A Glimpse of Incredible India- A Short Journey through the Corridors of India.

“The favorite travel moment is pausing every thought. Pausing to take in the character of the place. Pausing to feel collective experiences and journeys of thousand miles. Pausing to revere the nature and her creations. Pausing to honor man and his inventions.” Ketki Sharangpani has quoted justly as travelling is the only treasure box for all new extraordinary experiences that a person needs. It opens a whole new world out there and reveals your inner strength. There is nothing as relishing as travelling, like seeing a new place for the first time- it is always a pleasurable experience. In the hectic world of 21st century people tend to be self absorbed and their life tends to be monotonous but travelling in these cases act like a pinch of tangy spice in daily plain dishes. Travelling opens up new horizons to people and often gives them the fresh air of life which is much needed for their rejuvenation. Travel basically reminds us that “we are not the only ship in the sea, this is a huge world and we are only a small insignificant pea in it.”

India- a country with varied dimensions, a perfect experience gaining place is majorly a tourist hotspot. With a population of about one billion, India is multi cultural, each of the twenty eight states of India has its unique identity that determines and directs its history. India is one of the oldest countries in the world, full of charming and attractive historical sites and challenging and mysterious stories that were laid in the foundation of Indian cities, regions and even buildings. India is a country of contrasts from architectural and cultural perspectives. If one wants to amuse oneself with variety of foods, cultural realms, linguistic diversity, clothing styles and various traditions then India is the perfect place of visit as it is a perfect blend of all these features. From the mesmerizing snow covered mountains of Kashmir to the beautiful beaches in Goa, India has got everything and thus from times immemorial has been a popular tourist destination from all over the world.

Cultural India is for those who like to dive into the local traditions and celebrations to feel the real country's spirit. Goa carnival, Varanasi Ghats, Pushkar fairs are the places that you cannot miss if you are in search of spiritual and cultural tourism. In winter the tourists start trickling in India, like the winter birds. Tourists get attracted to India because India has a lot of everything like, history, culture, cuisine and sight that makes the tourists want to come back here to know the unknown again and again. Tourism being the sunrise sector of India, it has been so forever without much being done which can be a paradigm shift from what is the

tourists are surely keen on savoring the other India, as manifest by the more macabre tourist trips to Mumbai's Dharavi to see the poverty there but there are a lot more who would just like to savor the Indian life, however that area is totally unexplored much to the detriment of the country. India has a very good rank from tourism point of view because when it comes to outbound tourism there should be a systematic segmentation with reference to Geography, since each region in India has its peculiar social, demographic and economic characteristics which in turn influences travel consumption patterns and preferences.

Due to India's scorching deserts of Rajasthan to the snowy sheets in Kashmir to the huge rainforests, the travel and tourism industries in India are rapidly growing. Tourism is an integral part of India's economy. The tourism industry in India is rapidly growing at the annual rate of 7.5 percent and generating Rs. 8.31 lakh crore revenue in 2015 which is estimated to reach Rs. 18.36 lakh crore by 2025. India ranked 52nd from 141 countries according to the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report.

Thus, India with respect to travel destination is a treasure box in all ,starting from explicit caves of Ajanta and Ellora , Elephanta , scenic beauties of hills of northeast , Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, coasts of Kerala, historical monuments all over from North to South, temples of various sects; every aspect makes India a relishing experience . Finally I would conclude quoting Mark Twain –“In religion India is the only millionaire. The one land that all men desire to see and having seen once by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for all the shows of all the rest of the globe combined.”

Debanjana Ghosh

A Broken Plot

Travelling is the healthiest addiction one can have, and plans which are unplanned and spontaneous is what bleeds in every escapade. Hiking, Paragliding, camping, rafting and a bike trip to Ladakh is what every wanderlust thinks of initially and even who wants to take a break from the worldly parasites of grief or disappointment. I took pleasure in one such escapade and it was river rafting in the wild Ganga in Rishikesh. It was a 16km rollercoaster

voyage, which thrills me every time whenever I think of. I referred voyage, because it was something which was as small as the Chambal Ravines and that means you never know what comes next and with what intensity. We were a group of seven, and are friends since our high school. The wild Ganga was an add on to our Dehradun-Mussourie-Haridwar trip and was eventually the best one can ever experience. The adrenaline rush was on its apex and with every rapid we faced was making us more and more confident about what we chose to do. Although, the fear of losing control over the inflatable rafting boats crossing every seam of the calm Ganga was always ringing in our minds. But, our rafting instructor was the man who holds us tight as a team and encouraged us with his gripping words and we all came off safe at the end. The journey was an amazing experience and it made me believe that everything is possible if we try it once, because when you try you get know that, what it actually is. There were four grades of rapids increasing one after the other simultaneously and it was just like our lives, as when it was calm we felt peace but the way we cherished and enjoyed after every rapid was worth to be lived. So, stay strong and cherish every bit of your life like anything.

Priyanka Das

Towards The Breeze of Nicobar

I like getting up early with a sense of planning, with so much of energy and freshness about the way I am going to spend my day. The plan was to wake up little early, and leave for Havlock Island, so we could be on time for scuba diving the next morning. Nicobar afternoons are so amazing and beautiful that a person can sit down and stare at the place mouth wide open. I remember how those sights mesmerized me and made me pinch myself. We reached Havlock, and it was raining badly. The trails were wet, trees looked greener, rendering those jungle and the clouds we're simply passing by. We got wet on our way to the hotel, I remember how fun it was running with our bags in search for taxi and then trying to settle with the language and acting how broke we are and struggling our way with money. Next morning we woke up early and went for our scuba training. Our trainers were quite

attractive with their words, I remember one of them saying, " to observe the fish is to become the one". Diving isn't just going deep inside water. It's the beauty inside the world we are not much familiar with, it's the color, the creatures, the movements. Down there everything looked so perfect, in junior years listening to the teachers about water ecosystem and how things work down there was quite fascinating but experiencing that life was quite breathtaking.

I will always remember those roads, getting life lessons from Dad while stargazing and Mom bringing food and how I fought with my brother for every bite of those cuttle fish.

Anubhuti Shekhar

RIDDLES

1. When you need me, you throw me away. When you're done with me, you take me back. What am I?
2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
3. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
4. Used left or right, I get to travel, over cobblestone or gravel. Used up, I vie for sweet success, used down, I cause men great duress. What am I?
5. A man travels to a town on Friday stays for 2 nights and travels back on Friday, How can this be?

ANSWERS

- 1.** An anchor
- 2.** Footstep
- 3.** The letter “M”.
- 4.** Your Thumb
- 5.** He was traveling on a horse called Friday.

Bhawna Tanwar

A Mesmerizing Trip to Mcleodganj & Dharamsala

Travelling has always been my passion. I always wanted to explore new places and get close to nature. Being a Rajasthani, I always wanted to run away from this harsh weather. I love hilly areas as they are calm, peaceful, and serene and of course pollution free. So after taking permission from parents, this first cousins trip finally took place in the month of chilling December and we onset our journey to McLeodganj and Dharamsala.

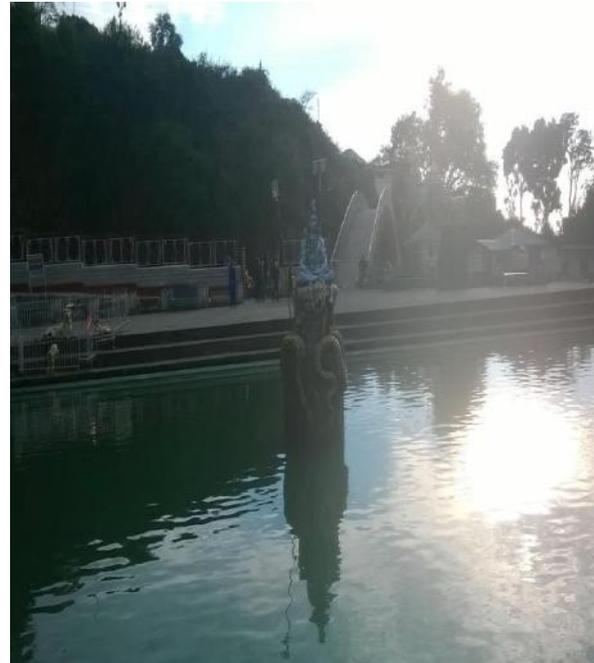
We all gathered in Delhi and chose a road trip instead of airways or railways. On 24th December, at 7 in the morning we left from Delhi. We took a tea break at 70 Milestone Dhaba and Restaurant near Samalkha. It was 5 in the evening and we took another tea break at Zimidara Tourist Dhaba when we entered in Punjab. We crossed two important destinations on our journey i.e. Bhakra Nangal Dam and Anandpur Sahib Gurudwara. I saw the snow-covered Dhauladhar Ranges shining bright in the night. We reached McLeodganj in the night at 10 p.m. We headed towards our hotel 8 Auspicious Him View and we purposely booked balcony rooms facing snow-covered mountains to embrace the beauty of nature. Next morning was Christmas morning, 25th December. We all got ready early in the morning and took our breakfast in the hotel itself and went for local sightseeing. As it was Christmas, everyone in the city was happy and full of joy. Firstly, we went to St. John’s Church in Wilderness and took part in the special prayer that was going on. Then we went to Dharamsala and visited the HPCA stadium. After doing our time taking photo shoot for our

facebook and instagram, we headed to Norbulingka Institute which is totally based on Tibetan culture for preserving the Tibetan artistic skills. This institute provides employment, education and training to Tibetan refugees. The place was so quiet, calm and peaceful. It was worth knowing about the people working here as they suffered a lot in the past.

We had our lunch in the canteen area. We were so hungry that we ordered *Chapattis and daal*. The chef was so frustrated because we ordered so many *Chapattis* and he was not habitual to make that many. After having our lunch, we went to the famous Chamunda Mata Temple and praised the idol present here. It was a beautiful temple present on the sides of Ban Ganga River with an idol of Lord Shiva in the backyards of the temple. After spending few hours here, we went back to McLeodganj and visited the local market. We purchased beautiful shawls, hand woven gloves and socks, Himachali caps and few handicrafts.



Norbulingka Institute



Chamunda Mata Temple

We had hot sizzling momos, coffee, brownies, patties, etc. in the Main Square market. Temperature that evening dropped to -3 degrees. We had ice cream in that chilly weather. After having all the food we went to our hotel. Who knew that the approaching night would be so happening? We all were tired but danced a lot and slept. At 2 a.m. we suddenly heard birds chirping and dogs barking. Yes! It was an earthquake.

After that horrifying night, next morning, we went to Bhagsu Nag temple and trekked to Bhagsu Nag Fall. The trekking was very adventurous as the path was pebbled and you have to have control on your legs otherwise you can tremble. After seeing the fall, we trekked higher up to Shiva Cafe and had snacks. After spending few hours in Shiva Cafe, we trekked back to our hotel, did our lunch, packed our luggage and came to Main Square to return back. But the journey did not end. While returning back, we went to Kangra Fort. It holds an important historical value. It is said that, ages ago, the earthquake ruined whole of Dharamsala and McLeodganj, but this fort stand still. Here, there is an ancient Jain Temple inside the fort itself. The weather was so amazing and chilly that we were shivering. This was the last spot which we covered on our sweet and short trip.



Shiva Cafe



Kangra Fort

The trip ended here with an amazing experience which we will cherish lifetime. The memories of the trip are still fresh on my mind and I want to trek back to those beautiful snow-covered mountains.

Arnima Jain

Some Lesser Known Facts About India

Saare Jahan se acha Hindustan hmaara, these words were said by Rakesh Sharma when he was asked how India looked from space. This indeed is true about our country. It is a mix of genetic, linguistic, culinary and sartorial diversity which are usually found in a continent.

Here are some lesser known facts about our country.

- India is the only country that managed to reach Mars in the first attempt and also the first to locate water. In September 2009, India's ISRO Chandrayaan- 1 using its Moon Mineralogy Mapper detected water on the moon for the first time.
- The 2011 Kumbh Mela was the largest gathering of people with over 75 million pilgrims. It is considered the largest tourist gathering in the world. The gathering was so huge that the crowd was visible from space.
- At an altitude of 2,444 meters, the Chail Cricket Ground in Chail, Himachal Pradesh, is the highest in the world. It was built in 1893 and is a part of the Chail Military School.
- Shampooing is an Indian concept: shampoo was invented in India, not the commercial liquid ones but the method by use of herbs. The word 'shampoo' itself has been derived from the Sanskrit word champu, which means to massage.
- Rabindranath Tagore is credited not only for writing the Indian national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, but the Bangladeshi national anthem, Amar Sonar Bangla, as well. He was also offered knighthood by the British but refused the honour after the Jalianwala Bagh massacre.
- A special polling station is set up for a lone voter in the middle of Gir Forest: Mahant Bharatdas Darshandas has been voting since 2004 and during every election since then, a special polling booth is set up exclusively for him as he is the only voter from Banej in Gir forest.
- The earliest system of medicine known to modern-day humans is Ayurveda. Ayurveda was developed mainly by Charaka, a great Indian physician, during ancient times. It is the only medical system, which takes a holistic view of the person being treated.
- Sushruta, a physician of ancient India, conducted complicated medical procedures like cesareans, surgeries to rectify cataract, plastic surgery, surgical procedures to remove kidney stones, limb prostheses, rectifying fractures, and even brain surgery.

- Usage of anesthesia was common in ancient India. Sushruta Samhita, an ancient Indian text on Ayurvedic medicine, clearly states the usage of wine and cannabis incense before surgical procedures.
- Ancient Indians had a well-developed concept of water harvesting. Grand Anicut, which is also known as 'Kallanai dam', is the fourth oldest in the world. It is also one of the oldest dams in working condition. An artificial lake called 'Sudarshana' was built by the Mauryas during 320 B.C.
- Vedic texts which were written in 6th century have enough evidence to prove that ancient Indians had profound knowledge on the solar system. American mathematician and author Richard L. Thompson had released a book titled 'Mysteries of the sacred universe.' The book clearly explains that ancient Indians were masters of astronomical studies.

Swati And Joyti

A Memorabilia

It was my first visit to Haridwar as a grown up because the last time I visited Haridwar was when I was in my mother's arms. Haridwar, a place well known for pujas and prayers, exclusively for the dead souls however, it has many more hidden treasures. The alarm snoozed at 3:00 a.m. in the morning and the four of us; me, my parents and my brother jumped out of bed, half awake and half asleep. All of us got ready, pushed the packed suitcases inside the car, settled ourselves and finally our journey to Haridwar commenced. The best thing about road travel for me is the dhabas where the smell of fresh tea attracts every passerby, especially the travelers. After 5 hrs of travel we reached the famous ghat of Haridwar. The ghat had people and pandits moving here and there performing the pujas. But the scene that took my breath away was river Ganga. The sun's rays appeared to be dancing as it touched river ganga. Within the ghats we reached a place called Har Ki Pauri, famous for bathing and gangajal; here i had my first experience of dipping in river Ganga which was very scary in the first attempt, due to the gushing of the river water but the next few dips

helped me overcome my fear. Oh! yes when you visit Haridwar keep a few things in mind; first, be very careful about your belongings and second, dip yourself completely in water and not partially. After the dip we changed and began exploring the place. Haridwar has lanes decorated with stuff like: bangles, footwear, clothes, sandalwood, eateries and many more. We explored, purchased, ate and enjoyed a lot in Haridwar and finally returned back to Delhi. So this was my TRAVEL TALE FROM INDIA of a place whose beauty and serenity left me speechless.

Latika Rathore

Adventures of Paradise

"Wherever you go, you become a part of it somehow" this is not just a quote. I remember, when finally I had the courage to go on a solo trip, I realized this was the best decision of my life. Travelling is like breathing, it is something you just do. You cannot know people and places while sitting in a little corner of the earth. There is so much to explore and enjoy every bit of it. You just pack your bags and see the world full of new colors, with new eyes, not as a tourist but as a traveler with broader mind. I am crazy about mountains. I go there to leave a part of my soul, to feed my mind. Standing on a bridge at night, with sky so clear and dark, full of stars, water running below and shining in the moonlight, all this feels like your first love, the time when you had butterflies in your stomach, and you couldn't get over the fact that you were so lucky to find something so amazing. You realize how small you are in this universe, how tiny space you cover in your lifetime, You feel that this, right here, this exact moment is everything that you have always imagined and nothing else matters. TIME FREEZES.

How incredible it is to have a cup of hot coffee sitting near a waterfall, sunlight kissing your face, surrounded by the magnificent sight of snow covered mountains. You don't seek peace there, peace seeks you! And then comes trekking, the adventurous part of your

travelling. You make friends on the way to your destination, tackling the challenges of steep mountainous narrow paths. And when you finally reach your destination, your soul has finally managed to achieve the happiness it was yearning for, because this is something you really worked for, and you realize you can tackle all your obstacles of life the same way!

Raveena Baneta

Field Trip -Chail , Himachal Pradesh

“Travelling—it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller” Henceforth this is a story of our short venture to Chail , a small hill station situated in Himachal Pradesh located at an altitude of 2250 meters. So, as the days went by our teachers in charge summed us up about the tentative plan frame for the trip to Chail. As per the given schedule everyone reported at the college assembly ground at sharp 8:30 pm. In total there were 60 students which included both B.A. Programme students pursuing geography as their Generic elective and the Geography Hons. Students themselves, we were accompanied by our Respected teachers Chetan Chauhan Sir, Bratati Ma’am, Om prakash sir and Joseph sir. After the teacher’s made sure every student was seated and that there were enough food and water to supplement us for the trip we set out for our onward journey to chail.



“Hotel Jungle Inn Tents” (Shot By: Takam Diring)

We finally arrived at our Hotel Jungle Inn which was situated on the top of a hill. We rested for a few hours after the breakfast, and were to leave for the first objective of our Research Survey. It was “Socio Economic situation of households”. As we entered the hotel gates at night, in front of us was a magnificent bon fire lit for us and tea and some snacks to compliment it .We went to our respective tents soon to freshen up and gathered again for dinner which was followed by a DJ Night and Bon Fire session again. 17th February 2018 our 2nd day in Chail, the chilly cold morning welcomed us as we arose in our tents and headed out to see the sunrise spreading beautiful shades on the horizon. We gathered for breakfast and were formed into groups to leave for another village in Chail to complete our second objective of the Research Survey; it was “Farming Practices with special emphasis on organic farming”. During the survey, we met the locals of the village and experienced their livelihood first hand they were very welcoming and offered us their farm produce and voluntarily contributed to the survey as well.



"It's more important to click with people than to click the shutter" (local people of chail) (Shot By: Jayita Kundu)

18th February 2018, our 3rd day in Chail also our last day. We woke up with the sun shining warm and bright above us but we dressed up with the warmest pair of clothes we had to battle the freezing cold which was to welcome us at Kufri our destination for the 3rd objective of the research Survey which was ‘Nature and Adventure Tourism’. It was an emotional night as we all sat around the bon fire reminiscing the days and the events

throughout the trip. After dinner we went back to our respective tents and packed our belongings, for the coming morning we had to bid farewell to our hotel. The next morning was the brightest morning of the entire trip; we had a rich and heavy breakfast for our journey back to Delhi. We bid farewell to the hotel staff and then kept our luggage in the bus and after a series of attendance checking we left for our journey back to Delhi. We reached Delhi at mid night and after our teachers escorted everyone safely to their homes our Research trip finally came to an end.

We owe a depth of gratitude to our honorable Principle for giving us this opportunity and to our respected teachers for guiding us throughout the trip and caring for us and looking out for us with patience and also the hotel staff for their hospitality and lastly the locals of Chail, Himachal Pradesh who have elevated our memorable experience in Chail.



“Group Picture at Chail” (Shot By: Nitika Jain)

Takam Diring

Field Trip- Bikaner,February,2017

The day of 8th February,2017 will be a memorable day for all of us , the batch of 2018. Along with the sweetest teachers of the department ;Chetan Sir, Pratibha Ma'am , Tara Shankar Sir and Om Prakash Sir, we headed towards Bikaner, the beautiful city of Rajasthan from New Delhi for our field survey as per our curriculum. We were mesmerized by the exquisite beauty, art and architecture of the Junagarh Fort on the very first day of our 4- day trip. After capturing the essence of the fort, we went to camel breeding farm which was a different experience. We even tasted the scrumptious ice- cream made from camel milk. Next day we visited Udairamsar village and surveyed the socio- economic conditions there .Post lunch at our stay, Hotel Sagar Niwas, we left for the serene Karni Mata Temple where we conducted a survey on religious tourism. The last day of the trip commenced with a visit to the Bikaji food factory where we got to know the dynamics of the manufacturing processes of their food products .This was succeeded by a visit to the local market place where we conducted our market survey and had a gala time shopping with friends .The trip concluded beautifully as we departed on our train back to New Delhi .The trip was a blend of learning, fun and amazing interactions with new people. We will never forget this trip.

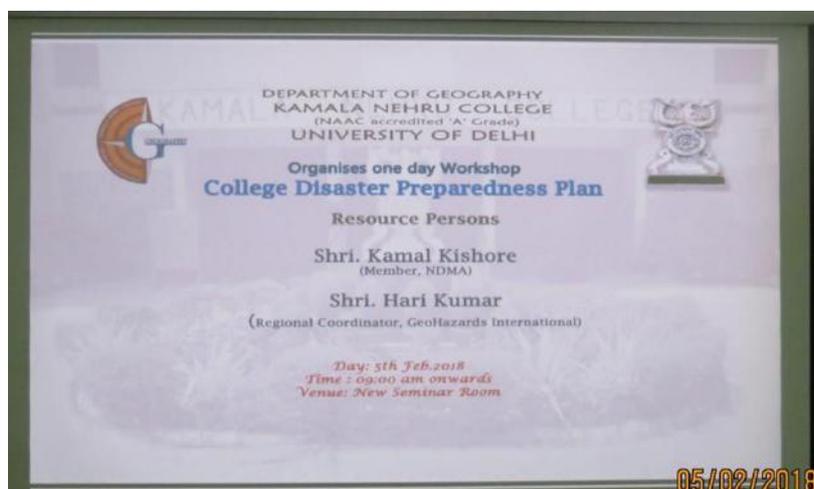


Anushka

Departmental activities 2017-18

Workshop on Disaster Management, 5 February 2018

A Workshop on Disaster Management was conducted by the department on 5 February 2018 with the motive of preparing a Disaster Management plan for the college. The workshop was held in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Geo Hazards International. The full day workshop was graced by Shri Kamal Kishore, member of National Disaster Management Authority and Shri Hari Kumar, Regional Coordinator, Geo Hazards International. The students were given mock situations and were guided to respond during and after a disaster. They were informed about the hazards and vulnerabilities in our surroundings and suggestions to reduce them. It was an enlightening experience for the students.



Geography Day: Geographika, 2018

The department celebrated Geography Day- Geographika on 8th February, 2018, with great pomp and show. The day begin with a melodious inauguration by the students of the department. The theme for this year was 'Career choices in Geography' .It was a great pleasure for the department to have its alumni students as its prestigious guests. It was a very enlightening experience for the students to hear from them. The panel discussion was followed by several competitions like mock CID impromptu, fun from junk and geo melt. Students not only from Kamala Nehru College but from other colleges also participated with great enthusiasm. Later on, various cultural performances were given by the students from all three years. The evening concluded with prize distribution ceremony and vote of thanks.



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Our Teaching Faculty

Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni (Principal)

Dr. Ranjana A. Gera

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Dr. Bratati Barik

Dr. Chetan Chauhan

Dr. Om Prakash Koli

Mr. Joseph Kr. Ravi

Ms. Homolata Borah

Our Non- teaching Staff

Mr. Sanjay Sharma

Mr. Ananti Prasad

Mr. Akshay Kumar

The Geography Department Association (2017-2018)



(L-R) Arundhuti Dey- President, Kumud Bisht- Treasurer, Rosileena Sarania- General Secretary, S V A L K Vyshnavi Chithirala- Vice President

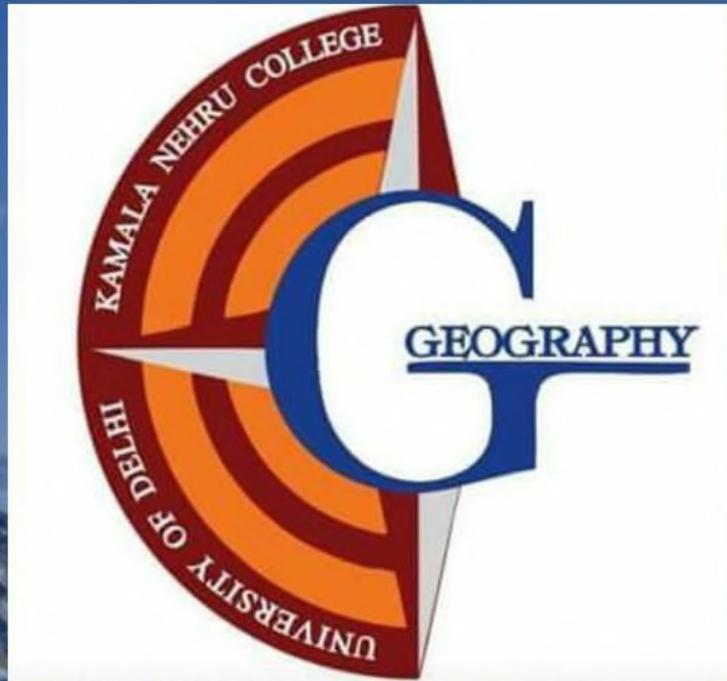
The Geography Department Association (2017-2018) is grateful to introduce the department magazine – “GEO EXPLORER”. The theme chosen for the magazine is ‘The Tales of India’. The association is thankful to all those who have contributed and participated in the making of this magazine. The journey we had shared with each one of you has been amazing and will always be cherished.

“I always wanted to work for the Department and take it to another level. It’s my privilege that I was able to serve my department and learn a lot of things from everyone. I must say that under my workmanship period, I found yet another family.”

~Arundhuti Dey, President (Department of Geography, 2017-18)

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the teaching and non-teaching staff of the department for guiding us throughout the term. Also, on behalf of the association we would like to thank the students for co-operating with our work and participating in it completely. Thank you to each and every member of the Department for always guiding us and letting us improvise and progress in a better manner.

-The Geography Department Association (2017-2018)



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