

## Educational Tour

### GDC Nankhari

**Date:** 18/03/2025

**Name of the Event:** Educational tour to Presidential Retreat & Craignano Nature Park, Mashobra

**Total No. of Participants:** 40

**Faculty Coordinators:** Prof. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Priyanka, Prof. Shiva

**Introduction:** The GDC Nankhari has facilitated an Educational Excursion for the students on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to Presidential Retreat & Craignano Nature Park, Mashobra. The tour witnessed the participation of 40 students accompanied by Prof. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Priyanka and Prof. Shiva. The primary purpose of the excursion was to offer the students with enriching outdoor learning experience. The tour was designed to supplement the classroom learning and provide students the opportunities to explore, observe and learn beyond the confines of the traditional teaching learning practices.

**Departure and Journey:** The journey started at around 7am, with students being assembled at the Nankhari Chowk. Everyone boarded the bus hired for the excursion and departed for the designated place. The drive through the vibrant forests and the majestic mountains offered a breathtaking tapestry of nature's beauty. The students were thrilled throughout the journey. A halt was taken for lunch at around 12pm near Bekhalti. Thereafter the journey continued to The Presidential Retreat, Mashobra.

#### **Visit to the Presidential Retreat:**

The Rashtrapati Niwas, Mashobra is a 174-year-old heritage building located in the picturesque surrounding of Mashobra, HP. It is the official summer retreat of the Hon'ble President of India. This enchanting estate, set amidst the serene landscape of Mashobra comprises of a grand building as its main core surrounded by vibrant orchards, expansive lawns and tranquil trails amidst the beautiful nature. In a historic shift in 1965, initiated by President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the Rashtrapati Niwas was designated as the Presidential retreat. In another landmark move in April 2023, Rashtrapati Niwas opened its doors to the public for the first time, offering a unique glimpse into its historical and cultural significance.

The students walked from the parking through the trails experiencing the beauty of rich and serene verdant sights. Thereafter the students under the guidance of the designated Tour Guide, were acquainted with the brief history of the place. The students learnt about the foundation of the building by the king of the Koti Riyasat and the further annexation of the building into the hands of the British Empire. The students also learnt the historical as well as the cultural significance of the place. Thereafter everyone witnessed the magnificent distant views from the place and also enjoyed a stroll at the Helipad. The students then headed to the second destination.

#### **Craignano Nature Park:**

Craignano Nature Park is located in the picturesque town of Craignano on the Shimla Naldehra Highway built in an Italian-Style Estate perched at an elevation of approximately 7700 feet above sea level, established by a celebrated Italian Confectioner and photographer Chevalier Frederico Peliti, who named

the place after his native village in Italy. The students felt exhilarated by the serene beauty and undertook a diverse array of activities. The park features a small lake, beautiful picnic spots and distinct varieties of flora and fauna. The faculty facilitated a guided tour throughout the park offering the students with the rich knowledge of the flora and fauna.

### Homeward Journey:

After exploring a day filled with rich learning experience and memorable moments, we headed back to Bekhalti for an early dinner. The students enjoyed the hearty meal and during the dinner reflected on the significance of the historical and cultural understanding of the sights visited. After having dinner we boarded the bus back to Nankhari. The homeward journey was filled with conversations and laughter. We reached the Nankhari chowk at around 8 o'clock, marking the end of a successful and enriching excursion.

### Conclusion:

The one day educational excursion to Presidential Retreat and Craignano Nature Park offered a memorable and enriching learning experience to all the students as well as the faculties marking a perfect blend of history, culture and nature. The students acquired the values of leadership, team building and adaptability through the excursion.

We thank the Principal, Dr. Poonam Mehta for providing the students with such a wonderful opportunity to explore beyond the four walls of the classroom. We also thank all the faculties, students and the organizers for their active participation and cooperation that helped transforming this excursion into an unforgettable experience.

### Some Glimpses:



