



St. Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysore

Post Graduate Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

Report on the Mysuru City Round trip

Programme Name : The City Round Trip

Date: November 29, 2024

Number of Student Participation: 25 both from first and Second Years MA

Report on the Mysore City Round: Photography and Feature Writing Exposure Trip

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at St. Philomena's College organized a one-day Mysore city round on **29th November 2024** as part of the practical curriculum for **Photography and Feature Writing**. This exposure trip included both first-year and second-year MA students, aiming to enhance their understanding of educational and historical sites while fostering creative and journalistic skills.

Objective of the Trip

The primary goal of the trip was to provide students with hands-on experience in photography and feature writing. By visiting places of educational and historical importance, students could observe and document diverse perspectives, enriching their academic and creative abilities.

Itinerary and Participants

The journey began at 9:30 AM from the college premises. Under the guidance of Head of Department, Dr. Venugopal Gowda M K, along with faculty members Dr. Vagdevi and other lecturers, students embarked on a well-planned tour that included the following destinations:

1. R.K. Narayan House
2. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya
3. Lalitha Mahal Palace
4. Oriental Research Institute
5. Kukkarahalli Lake

The group comprised first-year and second-year MA students, accompanied by faculty members, ensuring a balance of learning and mentorship throughout the day.

Details of the Destinations

1. R.K. Narayan House

We reached R.K. Narayan's house at 10:15 AM. This historic house, converted into a museum in 2016, is dedicated to the celebrated author known for his works such as *Swami and Friends* and the creation of the fictional town, Malgudi. Students explored artifacts like his personal belongings, manuscripts, awards, and photographs, gaining insight into his literary journey.



Highlights:

- The museum houses original manuscripts, medals, and family photographs.
- Inspiring stories of Narayan's friendship with author Graham Greene.
- Students were particularly captivated by the simplicity and dedication reflected in his life and work.

2. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya

The second destination, located at the foothills of the Chamundi range, was reached by 11:30 AM. This museum showcases the hidden cultural heritage of India and features artifacts and exhibits from various indigenous communities, including the Gonda and Mansi communities of Madhya Pradesh.



Highlights:

- The museum displayed replicas of folk art and tribal culture.
- Students learned about ancient and living traditions through exhibits of tools, artifacts, and performance spaces.
- The visit highlighted the importance of preserving cultural diversity and heritage.

3. Lalitha Mahal Palace

By 12:20 PM, the group arrived at the Lalitha Mahal Palace, a historical landmark built in 1921 for the exclusive use of the Governor-General of India. Now a luxury hotel, it offers visitors a glimpse into the grandeur of the Mysore royal heritage.



Highlights:

- The architecture reflects Indo-Saracenic styles, with elegant domes and sprawling gardens.
- The group enjoyed complimentary coffee and biscuits provided as part of the ticket.
- Students captured the intricate designs and took photographs to document the grandeur of the palace.

After exploring the palace, the group paused for lunch at Ramya Hotel at 1:30 PM.

4. Oriental Research Institute (ORI)

At 2:42 PM, the group reached the Oriental Research Institute (ORI), an esteemed center for the preservation of rare manuscripts. The ORI houses over 45,000 palm-leaf manuscripts and other ancient texts, showcasing the richness of Indian scholarly traditions.



Highlights:

- Students observed manuscripts written in various ancient scripts, such as Brahmic, Nandinagari, and Grantha.
- The institute shared insights into the preservation techniques, such as the use of Melkote oil.
- Students gained an appreciation for the depth of historical research and documentation in India.

5. Kukkarahalli Lake

The final destination, Kukkarahalli Lake, was reached at 5:20 PM. Known for its scenic beauty, the lake offers a serene environment for photography and observation of nature.

Highlights:

- The lake, spread over 58 hectares, is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and home to numerous bird species such as the Spot-billed Pelican, Painted Stork, and Oriental White Ibis.
- Students learned about the ecological importance of the lake and its role in inspiring literary works by Kuvempu.
- The sunset at the lake provided a perfect setting for photography.



The exposure trip successfully combined education, history, and creativity, leaving students inspired and enriched. The itinerary allowed participants to:

- Document the culture, heritage, and history of Mysore through photography and writing.
- Gain hands-on experience in fieldwork, enhancing their academic skills.
- Appreciate the historical and cultural diversity of the region.

The trip concluded with students returning to the college premises safely, marking the end of an insightful and enjoyable day. This experience is expected to reflect in their academic projects and broaden their understanding of journalism and feature writing.

The Trip was organized by Head of Department, **Dr. Venugopal Gowda M K**, along with faculty members **Dr. Vagdevi H S**, **Mr. Ravithej S P**, and other lecturers.

Date: 30/11/2024

Yours