

Report on the Heritage Walk organized by the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Integral University

The Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Integral University, Lucknow, successfully organized a Heritage Walk of the historic city of Nawabs, Lucknow, on **April 22, 2023**. The event aimed to provide students with a firsthand experience of the rich cultural heritage and historical significance of the Lucknow city. Led by the Head of the Department, **Prof. (Dr.) Zeba Aqil** and accompanied by a dedicated team of faculty members primarily **Dr. Pallavi, Dr. Anshal Ali Tiger, Dr. Tabinda Anjum, Dr. K.D. Hameed & Dr. A.K. Singh**, the walk saw an enthusiastic participation of the students.

The main objectives of the Heritage Walk were:

1. To promote awareness and understanding of Lucknow's cultural heritage among students.
2. To provide students with insights into the historical significance of key sites in Lucknow.
3. To inspire a sense of pride in local heritage and traditions among participants.
4. To enhance the educational experience through experiential learning outside the classroom.

Key Highlights of the Walk:

Bara Imambara:

The Heritage Walk began at the iconic Bara Imambara, an 18th-century architectural marvel commissioned by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula. Students explored the central hall, one of the largest arched constructions without support beams globally, and the Bhool Bhulaiya (labyrinth), where they navigated through a maze of corridors and passageways. The faculty members provided valuable insights into the unique Mughal architecture and the socio-economic context in which the structure was built, including its role in providing employment during the famine of 1784.

Chota Imambara:

The group proceeded to Chota Imambara, also known as the Imambara of Hussainabad. Built by Muhammad Ali Shah, the third Nawab of Awadh, this monument is famous for its opulent chandeliers, glasswork, and reflective water bodies. Students were captivated by the Indo-Islamic

architectural style and learned about the Nawabi tradition of 'Azadari' (mourning rituals), for which the Imambara was originally constructed.

Rumi Darwaza:

The iconic Rumi Darwaza, often referred to as the 'Gateway to Lucknow,' was the next stop. Faculty members provided insights into its architectural style, which bears a striking resemblance to Istanbul's Sublime Porte. Students learned about its construction during Asaf-ud-Daula's reign and its historical role as the city gate.

Clock Tower (Husainabad):

After the Rumi Gate, students visited the Husainabad Clock Tower, the tallest clock tower in India. Built in 1881 in honour of Sir George Couper, the first Lieutenant Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the tower features a blend of British-Gothic and Indo-Islamic architectural styles. Students were fascinated by its 67-meter height and the huge 14-foot-long clock.

The Heritage Walk concluded successfully, leaving students with a deeper appreciation of Lucknow's rich cultural heritage. Students gained valuable insights into the historical and architectural significance of the sites visited. The HoD and faculty members praised the students for their enthusiasm and active participation. The event effectively served its purpose of promoting cultural awareness and pride in local heritage.



