

REPORT

INDO POLISH EXCHANGE 2016-17- Visit to Krakow, Poland

The Indo Polish Exchange 2016-17 between Delhi Public School, Gurgaon, and VIII Prywatne Akademickie Liceum Ogólnokształcące, IB World School 006265 (VIIPALO), in Kraków, Poland spearheaded, by visionary Principals Ms. Aditi Misra and Professor Jerzy Waligóra provided opportunity to their students to bridge the gap between geographical regions and break cultural barriers.

The first leg of the Exchange was a visit to India in November, 2016 by the Polish partner school. During the second leg 18 students from class XI with Ms Mamta Kumar and Ms Renu Narang visited Krakow, Poland in the month of May, 2017.

The visit was fruitful mix of learning, insight into the history and culture of Poland. The host school arranged visits to; Kazimierz Jewish District; Wavel Castle; Wieliczka salt mines-a UNSECO heritage site; and a tour of the Auschwitz Birkenau museum where the students could observe and visualize the horrific details of the life of the prisoners in the concentration camps created by the Nazi, during World War II. Theatre workshop, for the team, gave the students an insight into the nuances of dialogue delivery, body language and posture. Indian cookery and yoga classes held by Ms Narang was appreciated by all.

The two day tour of the newly constructed Warsaw, sights of meticulously reconstructed Old Town and Palace of Culture was a treat for the history lovers. The students enjoyed the visit to Copernicus Centre an interactive science museum. The Indo Polish team was invited to the Indian Embassy at Warsaw. His Excellency Shri Ajay Bisaria the Indian ambassador to Poland addressed the students on role of young leaders in the era of globalization. During the question answer session Sir, stated the importance of such exchanges in strengthening the socio-cultural ties between two countries. The team also visited Gdansk a port on the Baltic Sea. The students saw varied geographical sites and also walked along the Amber route.

The Indian team of students attended classes, visited and staged shows as a part of the community outreach programme in a hospital and old age home. The visited culminated with 'International Day', a stage show showcasing the international activities of VIII PALO and the cultural performance by the Indian team. Medley of dances and sharing of experiences by our students was appreciated by the audience.

These two weeks spent with the host families, led to firm bonds of friendship not only amongst the students but also the families. The exchange acted as an incentive to create a diverse learning environment for the student. The students learnt to be responsible and resourceful and at the same time developed an enhanced interest in global issues.

