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INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL NEW DELHI

Report on the 2016 Session

[26 June to 5 August]



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INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL NEW DELHI

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INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL NEW DELHI

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OVERVIEW



*Outside the Rashtrapati Bhavan
(Presidential Residence) during an
exclusive visit*



*Outside Lecture Hall III at the
Jawaharlal Nehru University's
Convention Centre*



OVERVIEW

The *International Summer School, New Delhi* (ISS, www.issnewdelhi.in) is an intensive, six-week academic programme that brings together students from all over the world over the course of a summer in the national capital of India – the world's largest democracy and one of its fastest growing major economies.

An initiative backed by the New Delhi-based *Centre for Escalation of Peace* (CEP, www.cepeace.org), the programme is convened annually under the banner of the Government's acclaimed *Incredible India* campaign and with the crucial support of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The ISS aims at promoting international goodwill and cross-cultural dialogue amongst promising young individuals, developing their potential as future leaders in government, business and civil society. With India as a study model, it offers undergraduate course modules and experiences that introduce the students to a range of issues and debates that are shaping contemporary developing societies.

With around 40 students representing 20 different countries and some of the world's leading universities, the programme successfully concluded its fourth session on Friday 5 August 2016 after six weeks of lectures, seminars, workshops, excursions, cultural experiences and volunteering activities.



A student asks a question during one of the lectures at ISS 2016

OVERVIEW

Course modules at the ISS include Indian Politics, The Indian Economy, Indian Sociology and Indian History. The faculty delivering lectures as part of these modules come from institutions such as JNU, Delhi University, Ambedkar University and the South Asian University, among others. A fifth module, Fieldwork, allows students to engage with India through workshops and a volunteer experience, building on the knowledge gained from the other four modules.

The academic syllabus at the ISS is supplemented by seminars scheduled throughout the programme where students are able to interact with eminent speakers on topics that are relevant to the nation and its people. A short course on the Hindi language at a beginner's level is also part of the programme. Visits to sites that showcase India's rich culture and heritage are also planned over the course of the programme, including excursions to Agra and Jaipur.

Since 2013, we have successfully held four sessions of the ISS. In this time, the programme has had representation from countries such as Japan, Mexico, South Africa, the United States of America (USA), China, the Philippines, Syria, Australia, Turkey, Italy, Morocco, Germany, Malaysia, Denmark, Iran, Turkmenistan, Thailand, the United Kingdom (UK), Bangladesh, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Iraq, the Kingdom of Bhutan, Tajikistan, Fiji, Yemen, Nigeria, Nepal, Lao PDR, Norway, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Afghanistan and Indonesia apart from students originating from different states and regions of India.



*Saying goodbye to students of
Pallavan School in Jhalawar,
Rajasthan*

OVERVIEW

Many of these participants have been students at some of the top institutions of the world with which the ISS has formal collaborations and/or arrangements in place, with the University of California, the University of Oxford, the University of Tokyo, National University of Singapore, the University of Adelaide and the Royal University of Bhutan being just a few among them.

The ISS is also the beneficiary of crucial assistance from the Ministry of External Affairs in the form of country or region-specific scholarships, including ten India-ASEAN Goodwill Scholarships that are facilitated by the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Additionally, the India-Bhutan Foundation and the High Commission of India in Dhaka extend their kind support in order to establish scholarships for two students each from Bhutan and Bangladesh, respectively.

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2016 ACADEMIC PROGRAMME



*Lecture Hall I at the Jawaharlal Nehru
University's Convention Centre – the
academic venue for the 2016 session*



*Inside Lecture Hall III at the
Jawaharlal Nehru University's
Convention Centre*



2016 ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

The academic programme, based at Jawaharlal Nehru University, consisted of lectures in:

i. Indian History

(Coordinator: Dr. Ruchika Sharma, Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi)

ii. Indian Economics

(Coordinator: Dr. Arindam Banerjee, Ambedkar University)

iii. Indian Sociology

(Coordinator: Dr Tanweer Fazal, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

iv. Indian Politics

(Coordinator: Dr. Sucharita Sengupta, Jamia Millia Islamia – A Central University).

Each module comprised of 12 lectures and over the course of the lectures, the students studied under renowned professors from leading educational establishments from across Delhi.



Ms. Subasini Haidar during a special interaction with ISS 2016 students

2016 ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

During the academic programme, students studied the past, present and future of India across a wide range of domains; this not only allowed them to critically engage with how India has arrived at its present, but also to consider where the future would lead. In addition to these modules, students took introductory classes in Hindi, which served them well during their time in Delhi, as well as with communicating with locals during their fieldwork in Jhalawar.

Students were required to write an essay for each of the four modules, which allowed them to further review and consolidate the knowledge gained during their lectures. These essays gave students the opportunity to distil what they had learned during their academic experiences, as well considering how the theory translates into practice, something which they witnessed in Jhalawar.

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2016 SPECIAL INTERACTIONS



ISS students with Mr. Vikas Swarup, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs and author of 'Q&A' – the book on which the movie 'Slumdog Millionaire' is based





*Hon'ble Justice Madan Lokur
interacts with students over tea*

2016 SPECIAL INTERACTIONS

The students' learning experience was not limited to the classroom, but enriched with a number of meetings with prominent individuals at the forefront of Indian political, social, and cultural life.

Over the four weeks in Delhi, special interactions were arranged with:

i. Justice Madan B. Lokur

Hon'ble Judge, Supreme Court of India

ii. Ambassador Preeti Saran

Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs

iii. Mr. Nakul Anand

Executive Director, ITC Ltd

iv. Ambassador Jayant Prasad

IDSAs



*Dr. Shashi Tharoor, M.P. during
a special interaction with students
at the India International Centre*

2016 SPECIAL INTERACTIONS

v. Mr. Vikas Swarup

Official Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs

vi. Ms. Pooja Kapur

Joint Secretary (ASEAN/ML), Ministry of External Affairs

vii. Ms. Suhasini Haidar

Prominent Journalist, currently Diplomatic & Strategic Affairs Editor at The Hindu

viii. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, M.P.

Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs

ix. Mr. Sobail Hashmi

Eminent Historian

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2016 FIELDWORK



ISS students volunteering as teachers at a Government school in Jhalawar Rajasthan as part of their two-week fieldwork





A student learns weaving during the Fieldwork programme

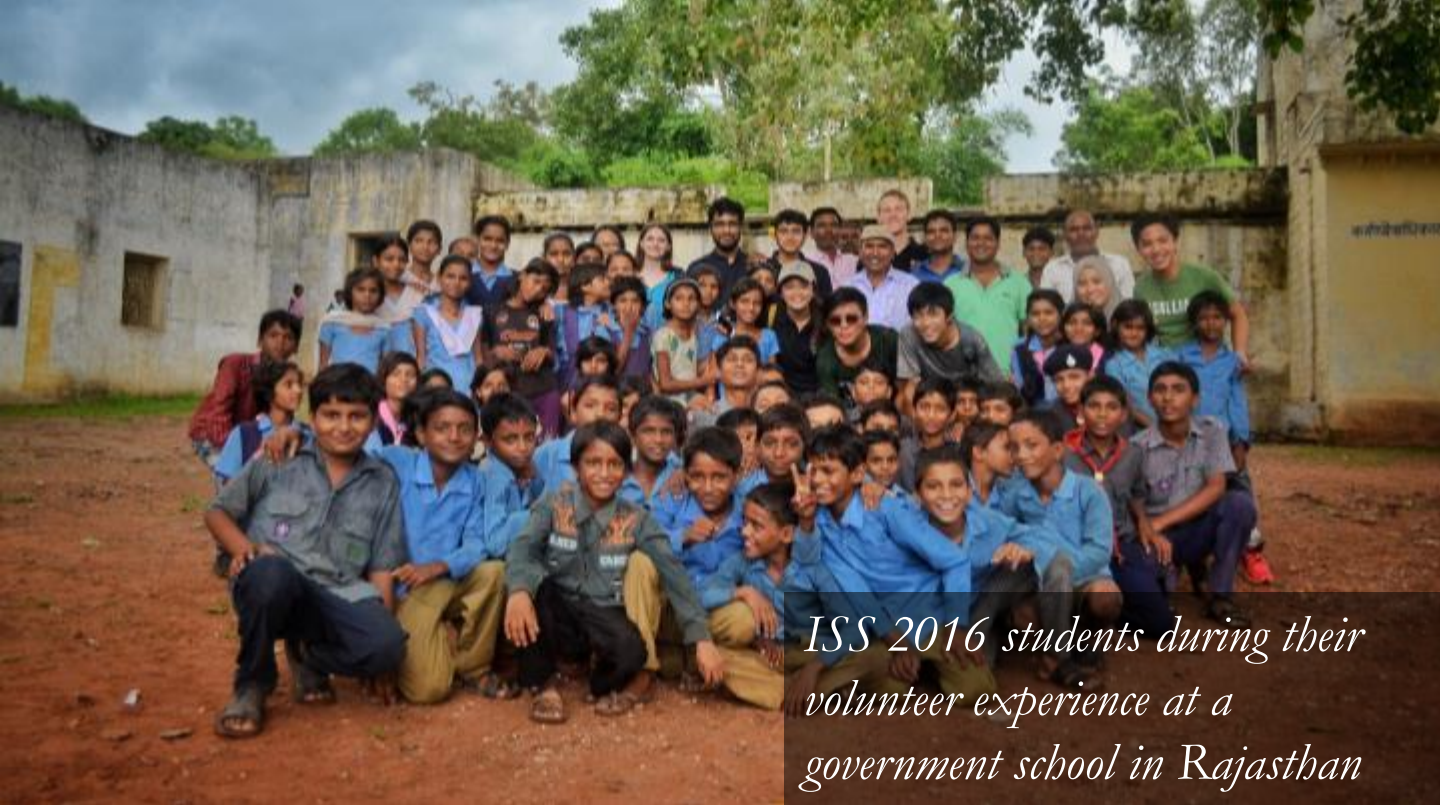
2016 FIELDWORK

Aside from their academics, the students were given an insight into civil society during the two-week fieldwork programme, when they volunteered in the town of Jhalawar in Rajasthan.

This aspect of the programme was organised in close collaboration with the Delhi-based NGOs Ritinjali (an organisation which runs social improvement and education programmes) and 5waraj (a cultural association which seeks to preserve Indian culture).

The fieldwork sought to introduce students to rural India, its local governance and its education system, each of which they had all studied over the course over the first four weeks. Upon reflection, the students all felt as though their understanding of India had been veritably enriched by this experience.

During these two weeks, the students were either volunteering in government schools in the small villages of Munderi and Bagher, or in the Pallavan schools in Jhalawar itself. They were given the freedom to plan their lessons, meaning that their interactions with the school pupils were guided by their own passions and were as enriching as possible; the activities conducted by students ranged from introductory Japanese classes to sessions on women's empowerment.



ISS 2016 students during their volunteer experience at a government school in Rajasthan

2016 FIELDWORK

After classes, the students had the opportunity to interact with pupils, teachers and villagers - and with the help of their Hindi-speaking peers, were able to learn a significant amount about life in rural India, further augmenting their understanding.

Students considered these interactions to be significantly meaningful, as they were able to form bonds with people whose lives were so different from their own - and were incredibly grateful of the hospitality that they received in each home that they invited into.

Furthermore, students were able to explore and discover the rich history and culture of Jhalawar- activities including an interaction with the local historian Mr. Lalit Sharma; a visit to a shrine to listen to *Qawaalis*; performances of traditional music and dance; and a visit to the Palace of Jhalawar.

After the conclusion of the programme, students spent two days discovering Jaipur, before returning to Delhi and departing for their respective countries.

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2016 FAREWELL



Guest of Honour H.E. Ma. Teresita C. Daza of the Philippines, other dignitaries and students celebrate the completion of the 2016 session





Students from Bhutan greet Mr. Sonam Tobgay, DCM of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy

2016 FAREWELL

The end of the programme was marked by a High Tea hosted by Mr. Amjad Ali Khan, the programme's Executive Director.

The ISS was very pleased to welcome a number of dignitaries: H.E. Maj. Gen. Vestop Namgyel, Ambassador of Bhutan and H.E. Ma. Teresita C. Daza, Ambassador of the Philippines were the Guests of Honour.

In addition to this, there was representation from various other Embassies and High Commissions, including from the countries represented by students at ISS 2016, as well as from countries from which the ISS hopes to welcome students in subsequent sessions of ISS.

Finally, the ISS was pleased to welcome representatives from educational and cultural centres based in Delhi, both from organisations with which it has existing links and from those which it would wish to partner for subsequent sessions of ISS.

The eminent international journalist, Dr. Waiel Awwad was the Keynote Speaker and engaged the students by sharing his experiences of arriving in Delhi as a young man, expressing sentiments with which the students could wholly identify.

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2016 STUDENT EXPERIENCES



*Students welcomed in
Jhalawar, Rajasthan with
garlands*





KENSUKE

Japan

Before participating in this program, I was going to stay in India for less than 2 months. But now, I feel like staying for a much longer time in India. Why do I feel so?

Each time we have the lectures on various fields, a new place to visit is added to my to-do list in India. It's because of the diversity of religions, languages, foods and histories in India. And also it's because that everything I experience in India makes me have a feeling that this country would be more incredible than all people expect.

I'm looking forward to traveling after this program due to the above reasons. At the same time, I am dreading the end of this program because I will miss the days I've spent with great friends from various countries.

I've learnt a lot of things from these friends. I want to travel with them but I know it's impossible.



CARLOTTA

Italy

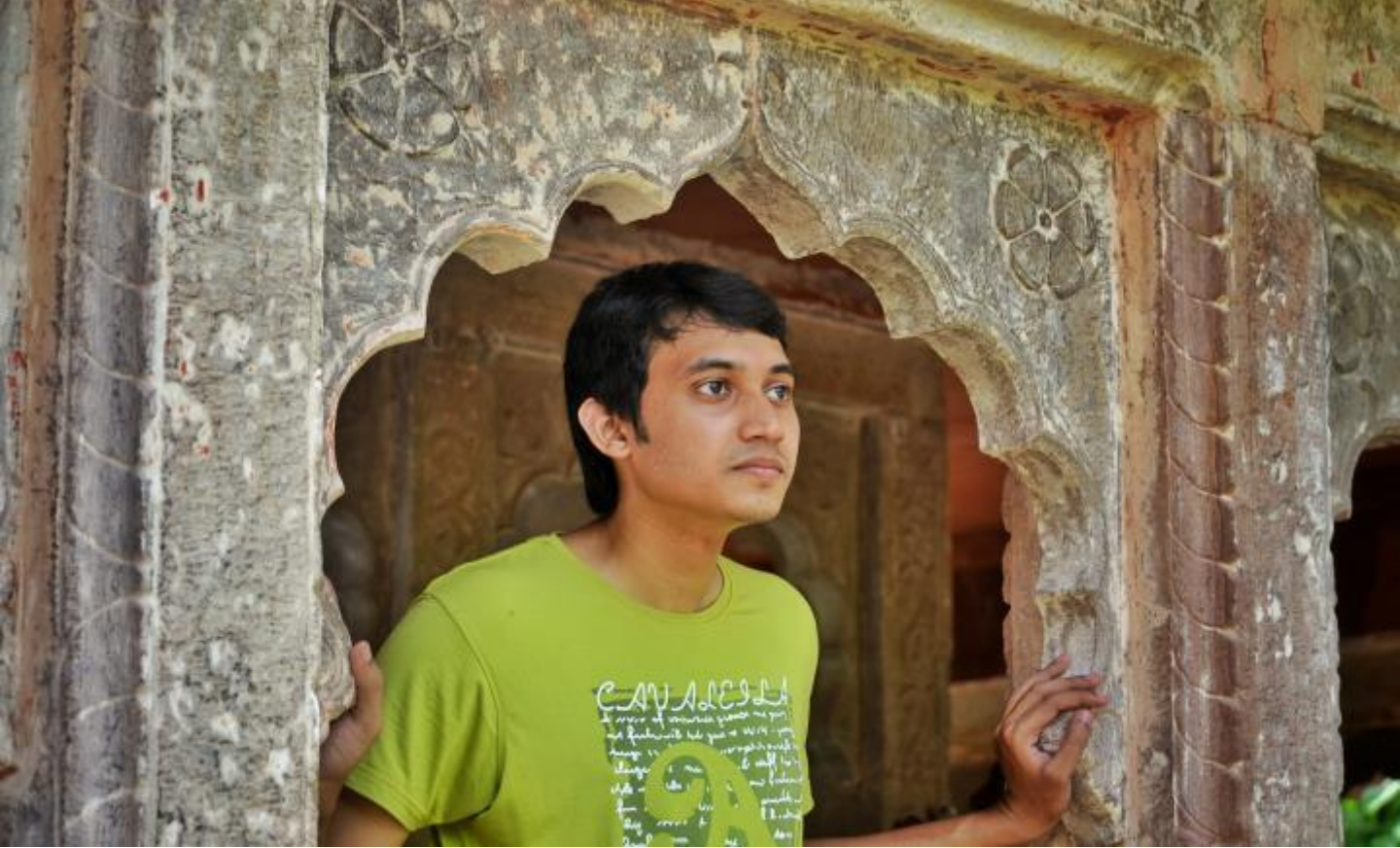
I had never travelled outside Europe before coming to New Delhi, so I boarded the plane with a mix of fear and trepidation. My experience at ISS, however, has exceeded all my expectations. ISS offers a unique opportunity to learn about the Indian culture(s). By sitting in lectures, exploring markets, and sharing thoughts with a diverse group of students from around the globe, this experience has deeply enriched me in ways that are difficult to express in words. One of my favorite memories is of visiting Humayun's Tomb, with its vibrancy of colours, shapes, and materials, all coexisting in harmonious balance.



NANCY

Mexico

Apka nam kya hai? (what's your name) Welcome to the Hindi speaking country and the world of a range of languages. I love to ask the Indian people this phrase, it's easy to start a conversation and break the ice. This has been one of the most exciting experiences that I ever had in my life. It's been almost 4 weeks since I arrived from Mexico and all I can say is: Incredible India! I've been in other countries as well, but no one like this. I have met a lot of students from many different countries, most of them from Asia and Europe. This gives you the opportunity to get in touch with a variety of cultures, ideologies, languages, gastronomy, traditions, currency, religion, and others. The ISS brings all of these things together. For example, the program lectures which are well-structured and provided by high level professors, the lunch time at JNU (so far, this is the best food I ever tasted in India, no other restaurant compares to it), the tours on Saturdays (we have visited a lot of interesting historical places, I loved the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib), the coordinators have been really helpful and kind, everything is being amazing, and Taj Mahal wait for us next week. But, what have I love the most? Let's imagine walking on the street and suddenly you look at the sky and realized that there's an incredible view from the horizon and the sun is going down with vibrant and never seen colors. It's perfectly magic and so grateful of having the chance to experience this almost every day.



TANVIR

Bangladesh

Politics of Identity, religion, artificial division, diversity and fraternity are things that constitute the kaleidoscope through which we see South Asia. Under the rubrics of nationalism people are compelled to create images of themselves and others which in time transforms into a dehumanized version of the other. When I heard about the program I decided that I would go with an open mind and see for myself how people reacted to this “artificially created other”. And to my surprise I found people as just as they are in my country. The platform that ISS-New Delhi has provided each of us to interact, is something that allows that platform where we can all get together to form a close knit society of not only South Asians or Asians but also as global citizens. The Sanskrit saying, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, means the ‘world is one family’ and this cannot be better reflected than what we have experienced at The International Summer School. The hospitality that I’ve been accorded to, really reflects the traditional saying in India: Atithi Devo Bhava. India is on the path to become a global power and take its rightful place among the society of nations. Today’s world India is a power that can’t be ignored. The country of Gandhi, Buddha, Akbar, Taj Mahal, Ambedkar and of Yoga, needs closer scrutiny that is unbiased and empirical. That understanding couldn’t have been better represented than in the extensive curriculum of ISS-ND. I wish ISS-ND all the best and hope to have a very enjoyable time with all of my friends in the 2016 Summer School.



EVE

United Kingdom

I had absolutely no idea what to expect from India or from ISS when I arrived in Delhi, but the weeks that I've spent here have been incredible! As a city, it's a vibrant melting pot of different cultures and religions, shown by the strong and distinct identities found in different parts of Delhi- but despite this vibrant diversity, there is an underlying sense of unity amongst its people. ISS as a programme is no different; welcoming students from all over the world, it allows us to learn about India, about each other and even about ourselves, by obliging us to question our perspectives.



MUGILAN

Malaysia

I am proud to be in New Delhi for International Summer School Program. The day I arrived here, I have learned a lot of new things and knowledge. Even though we are here for some month but it's really one of our best moment. We being here as a family and learn about the Indian Culture, History of India and more. And this is my favourite picture which taken at the Lotus Temple. Such a best place which I visit in New Delhi.



MELISSA

United States of America

"In ruins, but not ruined!" My experience in ISS thus far has been so memorable! It's an honor to be part of a program that dedicates so much work and effort into its students and coordinates these amazing trips across Delhi. I love seeing India and learning about this country's culture along with students from across the globe. My favorite part about ISS is not that I get to learn about one county, but that I get to learn about many.



VEE

Lao PDR

International Summer School (ISS) is a great program that brings students from all around the world to discuss, to share ideas and experience India together. I have met many students from different countries, languages and cultures. From the lectures and Delhi tour, I get required knowledge about Indian history, politics sociology and economics. And because of unique culture, economy and society, India possesses great opportunity for advancement and I'm grateful to be able to witness this very moment.

Upon my return to my home country, I understand that it's my obligation to contribute and share this knowledge that I have obtained to allow more people to understand India in hope that this will intrigue and welcome them to India. In addition, I will encourage Laotians to pick up Hindi, to be able enjoy this experiences.



ISHAAN

India

I have been in Delhi since childhood till the end of High School. Now studying for my undergraduate degree in Actuarial Science from the University Of California, Santa Barbara. While I was applying to this program through my university, I was often poked by others pointing at the oxymoronic nature of me studying abroad in my own home city. Initially, I was highly skeptical as to what more could I learn about my own city where I had spent my entire childhood but I was proven wrong. I have been introduced to the 'Real India', much more than what I could have learnt otherwise. I am a big fan of this format of ISS wherein we have a different lecturer for mostly every lecture of ours and the interactive nature of the lectures. I would specially like to point out the Economics lecture by Suhasini Haider on 'India and its Neighborhood' which according to my opinion was highly productive as she made use of the diverse group of young students in order to gain their perspective about the global political matters and of those concerning India. I consider myself as being privileged to be able to attend such an interesting and knowledgeable program which, due to its diverse nature helped me widen my perspective on India. It has also brought to my attention the fact that it is not only India which has problems as a country rather all the countries that face hindrances in their development and/or sustenance. Thus, it is only through enhancing our knowledge and empathizing with the entire globe that the youth would be able to better the world we live in today.



PEY LING

Singapore

What I love most about my ISS experience are the people. I am very thankful to be part of a group of 40 participants from 20 nationalities and this diversity brings my ISS experience far beyond India. Besides gaining a deeper understanding about India with the broad overview on Indian politics, economics, sociology and history shared by our lecturers, my classmates' sharing on how things are similar or dissimilar in their home countries greatly enriches my learning experience. The complexity of Indian culture and how it is shaped by many different influences during separate time periods is evident in the architecture of the magnificent structures we encountered during our weekend visits to historical sites, where defining elements of different dynasties or empires can be identified in a single work of art.



GJIANNE

Philippines

I've always dreamed of travelling to another country and learning about the life of its locals through actual interactions. But most of the time, it remained just a thought. By attending ISS2016, I have not only been able to do just that but also gain so much more with India's diversity. Thank you, #IncredibleIndia for letting me experience your country. I will definitely cherish all the remaining days I have and learn as much as I can about your myriad of cultures. This opportunity has given us more cultural knowledge and experiences while building friendships from all over the world.

Shukriya! Mujhko India pasand hai. (Thank you! I love India.)



JOKHONGIR

Uzbekistan

I have recently finished my Bachelor's degree in Economics with Finance at Westminster International University in Tashkent. Currently, I am undertaking the summer school courses of ISS in Delhi where I am experiencing a high steam of cultural exchange and multinational society. I believe that my new life in Delhi will be extremely interesting part of my whole life experience as I have acquired a lot friends from different nations with different backgrounds, having enough spicy but very delicious food, learning gestures while explaining something in English to any Indian taxi or auto driver and of course enjoying mangos which are rarely imported into my country. The lectures on history, economy, politics, Hindi and sociology are letting me explore more about incredible India. It is difficult to express all impressions about India in one word, but I can tell that India is a puzzle to reveal, an island to discover, a peak to climb and a night dream to have once. If you do not believe me, go to India, tour India, live India, do India and feel India. It is full of surprises, full of happiness, full of new things and full of culture.



PAKJIRA

Thailand

This is my first time going abroad. I came to India and participated in this program. I have learnt and made a lot of new experiences about India from staying in New Delhi by studying at JNU, having Indian food, visiting many places, going shopping at markets and traveling by auto car and metro. I have known about environment, weather, air, traffic, food, people and the Indian way of life. Moreover, I live in India with friends from other countries. We have exchanged the culture together. It is a good opportunity in my life to have an experience in India, learn about Indian culture and society and know everyone in this program.



PAWINA

Thailand

As an Indology student (major in Pali and Sanskrit), I always think that I should come to India in order to learn all about India through the experience. And I was very thankful that India Government provided me the India-ASEAN Goodwill scholarship to let me have the opportunity to attend International summer school, New Delhi. Through the academic modules; Indian Politics, Indian Economics, Indian Sociology, Indian History and Introduction to Hindi, I have learned and deeply understood India in every important aspect. Especially Hindi class, it was really challenging and funny! In addition, I have met new friends from all across the world. They are very really nice to me. We have studied, exchanged our cultures and languages, gone shopping in the markets, explored New Delhi together. It is a very good time in my life and I never forget it.



AMBERLYNE

Philippines

It still feels surreal to be really here in India, taking in its awe-inspiring sights, having this once in a lifetime opportunity to get to spend the summer building relationships, learning and exploring alongside people from every nation and tongue.

It made me see first-hand the diversity that India teems with, whether it be in the form of arts and architecture.

Still, it feels like and I am actually far from close to having a grasp of India. For that I am stoked for the remaining weeks of my stay.



YI TING Singapore

In this melting pot of diversity, I constantly find myself in a quest to understand and experience the vastly different communities, cultures and tradition of India and 19 other countries. ISS have brought 38 individuals from a myriad of backgrounds together in this 6-week program, to explore and discover the sights and sounds of India; and I am very honoured to be part of this journey.

Lectures and tours of India's politics, economics, sociology and history have been thoughtfully put together throughout the programme. With the guidance of various distinguished professors, we were able to map the images of India to the reality of this country, in an attempt to discover Incredible India for ourselves – what is and what's not. This amalgamation has also brought about new perspectives and have taught us a plurality of ways of knowing this country.

But how can I leave out my new friends made when describing my experience for ISS? One of my biggest takeaway from this journey will always be the friendship that were forged through this programme, sharing an abundance of new experiences and knowledge together during the weeks. they are the ones who made these memories ever so fond. “Mujhko India pasand hai!” (I love India!)



MEERA

Singapore

I don't think I can say I have ever enjoyed studying, absorbing and learning as much as I did during my time at the International Summer School. Growing up as a Non-Resident Indian in Singapore, I have strong cultural and familial ties to India but for a very long time, I have lacked an understanding of the country itself. I grew up reading Akbar and Birbal stories, I watch Bollywood movies, visit India often and speak Hindi. But often when it came to dinner table discussions about The Mughals or questions from my non-Indian friends about the politics of India, I'd find myself lost and uncomfortable in my ignorance. I applied to the International Summer School precisely to close this gap in my understanding and to find out what this country is all about. Although four weeks isn't nearly enough to cover everything India has to offer, I can definitely say I now have a stronger understanding of how we came to be who we are and the key issues we face today. But I think I am most grateful for my newfound appreciation for India. To me, Delhi is no longer simply polluted air and dusty streets but a city dotted with windows into our 5000-year history and an interesting case study for recent changes in Indian politics. Visits to some of India's most prized monuments and buildings such as Lal Qila and the Taj Mahal and interactions with some of India's most informed people such as MEA Spokesperson Vikas Swaroop, Shashi Tharoor and Supreme Court Justice Madan Lokur helped to change my impression of the country. The entire experience was made infinitely more enjoyable by the wonderful friends I made along the way. Thanks to everyone being so welcoming, I felt completely at home in a classroom of students from India to South East Asia to Latin America and everywhere in between. Not only was it really nice to meet people who shared a similar interest in this country, but classroom discussions were made much more interesting by the diversity of perspectives on India.



PHUB & KUENZANG

Bhutan

The feedback received from both of these students was overwhelmingly positive and shows that ISS 2016 fulfilled its aims of teaching students about India and promoting cross-cultural dialogue through academia and practical experience. Both Ms Phub Dem and Mr Kuenzang Dorji expressed their gratitude for “the golden opportunity to attend the fourth session of the International Summer School, New Delhi with the kind support of the India-Bhutan Foundation”. Mr. Dorji further remarked, “I thank my legendary Kings, country and people for giving me the opportunity to attend such a programme. Specifically, the India-Bhutan Foundation, the Indian Foreign Ministry, and the Royal University of Bhutan, for whom I have no word to express my gratitude.”





SHARMIN

Bangladesh

I am studying in Asian University for Women that has students from 16 different countries. So, I have been experiencing diversity for 4 years. However, International Summer School (ISS), New Delhi has exposed me to a class that includes students across the world. In ISS, I am learning not only about India, but also cultures of my fellow classmates. While having the class discussion every day after class lecture, I have observed how we, the students of ISS in spite of being from different educational background can think, contextualize, and relate our learning in the historical, social, political and economic issues of India to our home countries and how our thoughts in these issues in future can promote peace among different countries of the world. Each day I am learning something new that includes things from gossiping in the bus to thinking about the final essays that we have to submit. Class lectures become fascinating when we go for field trips every Saturday. The most memorable part of my ISS journey is friendship with new people that I will always cherish in my mind.



MASASHI

Japan

I have a great interest in India. India is a country where the economy is developing sharply, where more than 1.2 billion people live, and where a lot of languages and religions exist. I know these things through books, but knowledge is just knowledge. I want to feel them personally. I want to go and see by myself how the society is working and what the atmosphere is like. This is why I applied this summer school and, so far, I enjoy greatly staying and studying here in India.

Interacting with other participants is also a main part of this summer school. The participants come from 18 different countries with different backgrounds. It is interesting to ask and explain what each other's country is like. This helps me not only deepen my understanding about other countries but also realize the characteristics of Japan which I wouldn't have noticed if I had stayed inside Japan.



JUWAYRIA

India

As an Indian who lives in Delhi, I was very curious about what I could learn about India from this programme- but since the day that I've arrived, I've learnt more about my country and my city than I have in the years I've lived here! Being in such a diverse group of people means that I get to see Delhi in an entirely new light, learn about the place of India in the 21st Century, as well as learning about cultures from all over the world!



YESENIA

United States of America

I have truly enjoyed my time here with ISS. Everyone here is so sweet and so adorable and I'm glad to have met them all. Being in India as a student in this program has been incredibly beneficial to my understanding of this great place and I'm grateful to be learning from such respected instructors and from my knowledgeable peers.

It's very easy to travel to a place and romanticize the area because we readily accept our roles as tourists. We sometimes fail to grasp the complexities of the lives of the people who reside here permanently and we don't make the effort to understand how their lives have been shaped by the country's history, politics, cultural norms, and economic policies. My participation in this program has given me a deeper understanding than I could have ever obtained on my own and for that I am thankful.

I will forever cherish my time here and the memories I have made with everyone.



YUKI

Japan

I'm learning a lot about diversity from this program. Living in a highly homogenous society, I didn't think seriously about diversity in Japan. However, there are many people who speak different languages and have their own culture in India. I was surprised to know that Indian people have a bit of difficulty in the aspect of language when they travel India! Through the lectures, I'm learning how India manages this situation and I find it interesting.

Also, since students from many parts of the world participate in this program, I have a lot of chance to interact with them. Many differences (language, custom, food etc...) exist among us, but I'm really enjoying it. As for the rest part of program, I'm looking forward to exploring India more with friends from many countries.



ROHIT

India

India has always been a nation of diversity - from dialects changing at every 4 km to people of all the faiths living in your neighbourhood. But being an Indian myself, I never that much attention to this rich variety of people around me (we often take our own things for granted, typical human nature). It was when my friends from different parts of the world started pointing out and asking me why those two people/places/things are so different from each other that I realised that whatever for me was homogeneous till date was in-fact so distinct and diverse. International Summer School has been an enriching and one of the best experiences I ever had. Making friends from across the planet, understanding their beliefs and value systems and exploring my own nation in great depth - is something I am going to cherish throughout my life. Also, people living in different corners of earth might not share living customs and traditions, but they do share a great deal of humour.



SZE ENG

Singapore

Everyday I'm learning something new about India and something new about myself. Through my stay here, previous misconceptions are being slowly erased through experience, and context slowly given through the lectures. The ISS balances out academics and hands-on experience really well. Other than Indian culture, I have also learnt about the cultures of many other Asian countries from the other students. This programme not only supports the cultural exchange between one's own country and India, but also with all the other countries participating. Having just one week left for lectures, I honestly cannot wait to do some hands-on fieldwork in Rajasthan!



SOFEA

Malaysia

People learn through various experiences in their lives. Every experience affects a person in a way. Being an exchange student, thousands miles from home and living in a different country for a while has opened my eyes. We learn a different language. We learn other traditions and culture. We learn new things, we learn to accept and most of all we learn how to live.



TAMIL

Singapore

I decided to embark on the ISS stint to experience the culture and lifestyle in India. I am so thankful for this opportunity as not only do I get to immerse in the beautiful Indian culture, I also have the chance to interact with international students. India is so beautiful and amazing that words can't express how I feel. Being a South Asian minor student, I have learnt about India throughout my lectures at NUS and I'm learning so much more here as I get to experience the realities of this breath-taking country.



LASSE

Denmark

I headed to India full of excitement, but without really knowing what I was letting myself in for. However, since I arrived in Delhi, I have enjoyed every second here. It is a great privilege to be able to study with students from so many different countries and cultures. My learning experience here goes beyond that of India only. I learn just as much inside as outside the lecture hall from interactions with my new ISS friends.

In stark contrast to my home country, India is a big, heterogeneous developing country. When I get a better understanding of such a culturally, socially and historically different country, it broadens my worldview in general. I have already learnt a lot about India, and I am looking forward to the next weeks in Delhi and Rajasthan together with the great people of ISS 2016.

2016 MEMORIES



ISS students volunteering as teachers at a Government school in Jhalawar Rajasthan as part of their two-week fieldwork

2016 MEMORIES



*ISS students invited to visit the
Ministry of External Affairs's Press
Briefing Room*

Incredible India

CENTRE FOR
ESCALATION
OF PEACE

CEP

2016 MEMORIES



*ISS students at India Gate
during one of their tours of
Delhi*



Incredible India

CENTRE FOR
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OF PEACE

CEP

2016 MEMORIES



ISS students at a tea hosted for them by Mr. Nakul Anand, Executive Director of ITC Ltd., one of India's largest corporations



Incredible India

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CEP

2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Guest of Honour H.E. Maj. Gen. V. Namgyel of
Bhutan and Keynote Speaker Dr. Waiel Anwad,
among others*



Incredible India

CENTRE FOR
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OF PEACE

CEP

2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Guest of Honour H.E. Maj. Gen. V. Namgyel
with Mr. Amjad Ali Khan, Executive Director of
the ISS, along with Ms. Dilreen Kaur (Ritinjali)
and Mr. Khalid Jaleel (ISS)*



Incredible India

CENTRE FOR
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OF PEACE

CEP

2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Ms. Dilreen Kaur, Director of Ritinjali, with Ms.
Yoko Torii of JTB, Japan*



Incredible India

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CEP

2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Mr. Eduardo M. Curiel, DCM at the Embassy
of Mexico with Alfonso, a student at ISS 2016*



Incredible India

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2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Yuki from Japan and Zhaoning from China*



2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Mr. Stefan Diedrich of Freie University (Berlin)
with Joanna, a student from Germany*

Incredible India

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CEP

2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Mr. Gustavo Makanaky of the Embassy of
Colombia, Mr. Sonam Tobgay, DCM of the Royal
Bhutanese Embassy and Mr. Amjad Ali Khan*



Incredible India

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OF PEACE

CEP

2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Mr. Ben Sakker Kelly of the Australian High
Commission with Charlie, a student from Australia*



Incredible India

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2016 MEMORIES



*Photo from the ISS 2016 Farewell:
Mr. Hiroshi Yoshino, Director of the University of
Tokyo (India) with Ms. Yoko Torii and Mr.
Amjad Ali Khan*



Incredible India

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2016 MEMORIES



*ISS students at Qutab Minar, a
World Heritage Site, during one
of their tours of Delhi*



Incredible India

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2016 MEMORIES



*ISS students during an exclusive
visit to the Supreme Court of
India*



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2016 MEMORIES



*Ambassador Preeti Saran, Secretary (East),
Ministry of External Affairs hosting ISS 2016
students at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan*

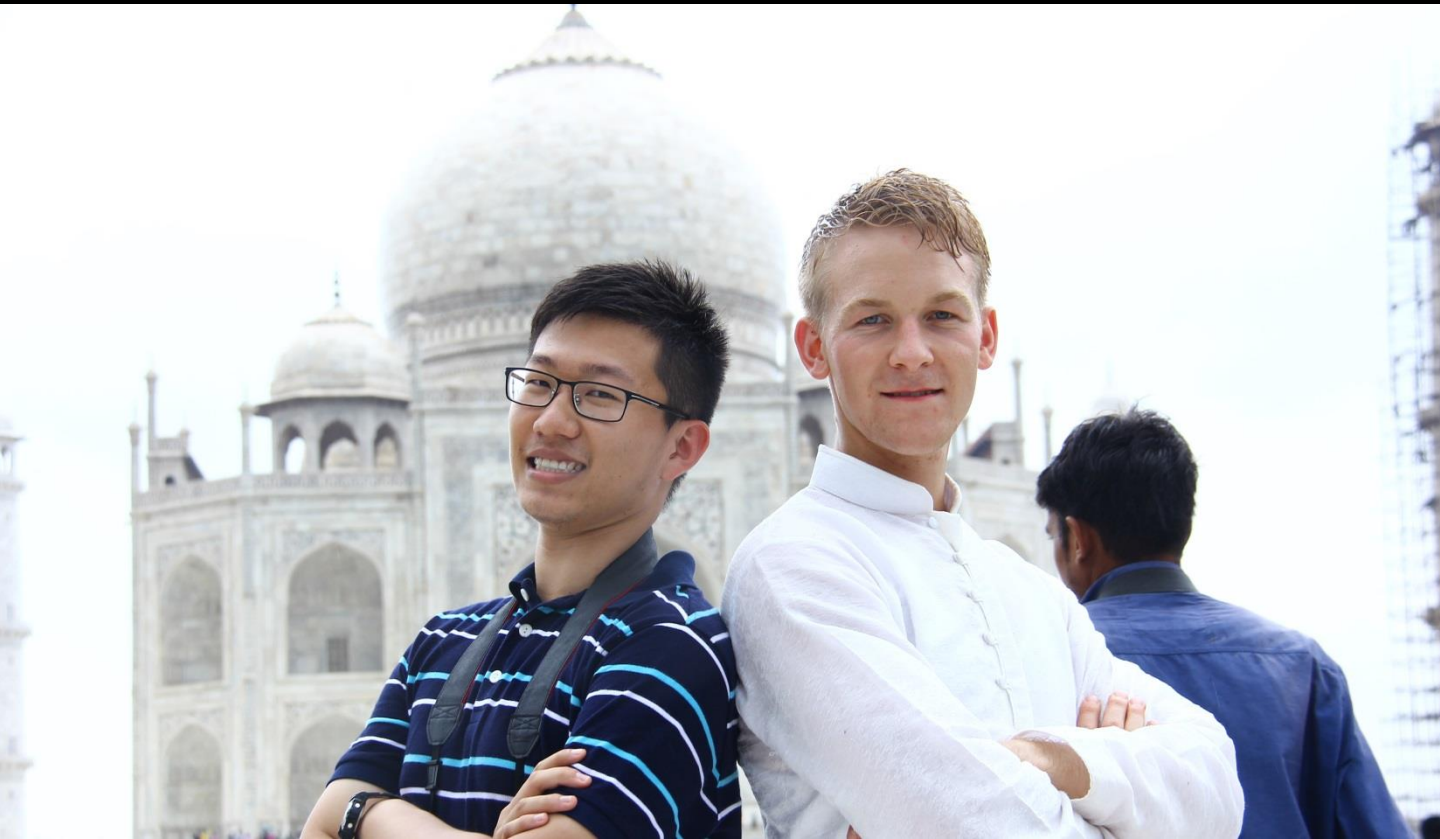


Incredible India

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OF PEACE

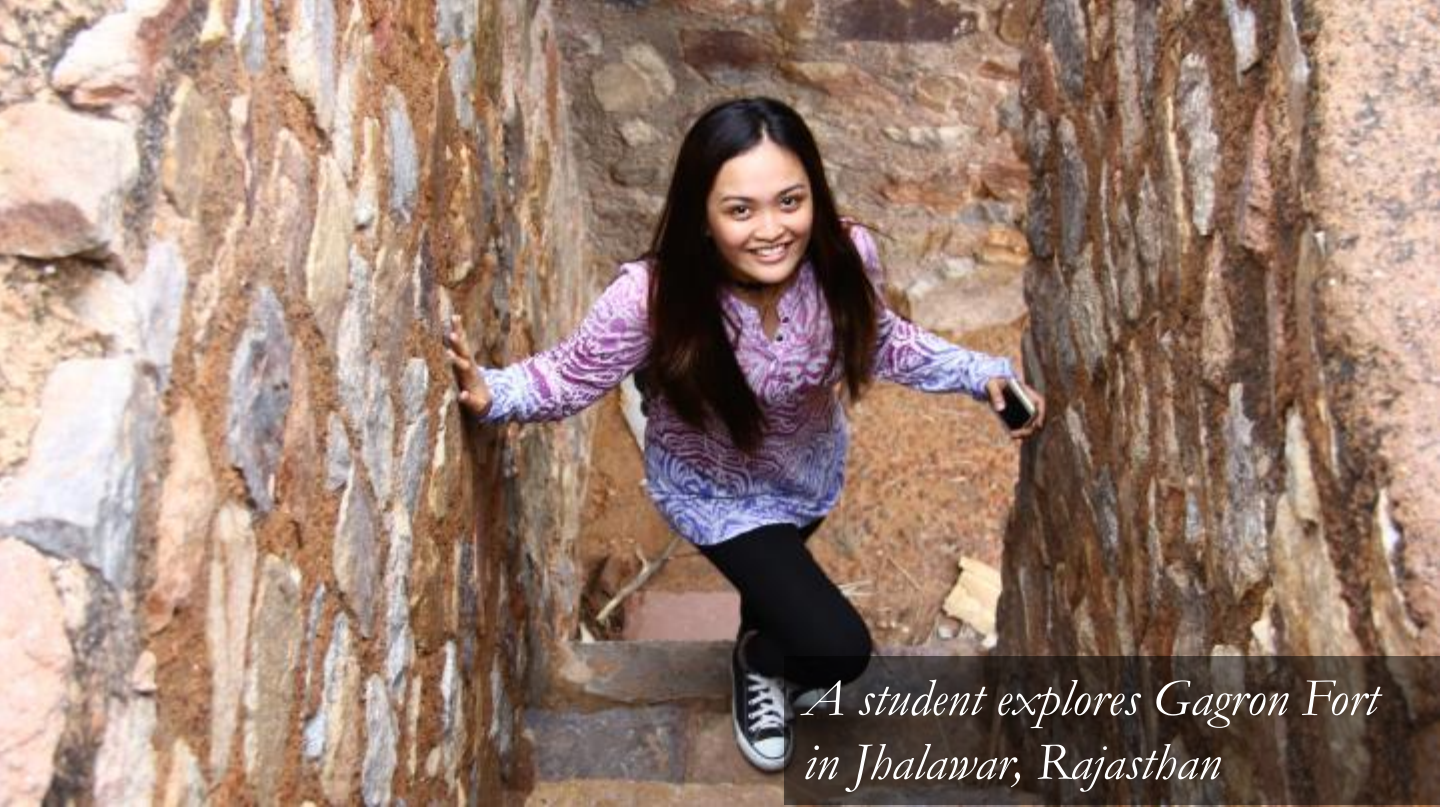
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



*ISS students at the
magnificent Taj Mahal in
Agra*





*A student explores Gagron Fort
in Jhalawar, Rajasthan*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful completion of the 2016 session was only possible on account of the tremendous support received from our benefactors, partners and stakeholders.



सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

The **Ministry of External Affairs** (through the work of ASEAN-ML Division in New Delhi and the Indian Mission to the ASEAN) provided the *India-ASEAN Goodwill Scholarships* to ten outstanding young students from across the ASEAN nations to enable their participation in the ISS.



The aforementioned Scholarships were coordinated by the **ASEAN Secretariat** in Jakarta with the guidance of the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY).



Students at a special interaction in one of the halls at the India International Centre

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful completion of the 2016 session was only possible on account of the tremendous support received from our benefactors, partners and stakeholders.



The **India-Bhutan Foundation** – an entity established by the Indian Embassy in Thimphu and the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi – has, since 2013, been supporting the participation of two students from the Royal University of Bhutan at the ISS.



High Commission of India
Dhaka, Bangladesh

The **High Commission of India in Dhaka** supported the participation of two students from the Bangladesh at the ISS.



Students outside the ITC Green Building in Gurgaon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful completion of the 2016 session was only possible on account of the tremendous support received from our benefactors, partners and stakeholders.

Incredible!ndia

The Ministry of Tourism, through its acclaimed *Incredible India* campaign, has been associated with the ISS since its inception.



The Jawaharlal Nehru University had kindly agreed to be the academic venue for the 2016 session of the ISS.

CENTRE FOR
ESCALATION
OF PEACE | CEP

The CEP's Board of Governors has been instrumental in guiding the ISS towards achieving the stated objectives of the programme.



Stretching out after a long day of volunteering during the Fieldwork programme

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We must thank our institutional partners for their continued confidence in the ISS as well as their support in facilitating the participation of their students.



東京大学
THE UNIVERSITY
OF TOKYO

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(India Office)

Special thanks to the **University of California** EAP Regional Director, Dr. Mary McMahon, and Ms. Amy Frohlich, International Program Specialist



UCEAP
UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
EDUCATION
ABROAD
PROGRAM



Special thanks to Mr. Xingwen Li of the International Relations Office at the **National University of Singapore**



Students at the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We must thank our institutional partners for their continued confidence in the ISS as well as their support in facilitating the participation of their students.



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

Special thanks to Prof. Purnendra Jain of the Department of Asian Studies at the **University of Adelaide**

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Royal University of Bhutan



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

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