

Excursion Report

13th of May 2010

“I would like to spend the whole of my life travelling, if I could anywhere borrow another life to spend at home.”

- **William Hazlitt**

The excursion to new places at the beginning of the session is the highlight of the year. How teachers and students alike wait for it with bated breath. Waiting for the journey is as exciting as the journey itself. All the plans which are hatched, pictures to be taken, eatables to be tucked into...

The trip to Narkanda in 2009 had been great fun, but Manali was something else altogether. Yes, that's where we were headed this year, Manali. Manali is an artist's muse. It is like no other hill station I have ever visited. As you walk down its narrow, winding roads you get the impression of quaint cottages, cozy log cabins, luxury resorts and friendly dogs which follow you around. That's only talking of the civilized portion of it. The real Manali is the pine scented air, untamed forests, and rugged snow capped peaks. It is also silence and the bird song, the rushing of the river Beas and the boulder strewn gorges; it is everything that city sore eyes would want.

We left for Manali on the 13th of May, six teachers and forty six students. Night time, in the train, Rohit Agarwal was seen prowling around, with a marker in his hand and mischief in his eyes, looking for victims. He wrote and drew on unsuspecting children and then didn't sleep during the whole trip for the fear of retaliation. We reached Chandigarh at midday on the 14th. We lunched on south Indian cuisine, stretched our legs, and then settled down for the ten hour overnight drive. The rickety bus, with its small seats was an ordeal for those who wanted to sleep. The night grew chilly as the bus wound its way next to the Beas. We arrived in Manali at around six the next morning. The air was like an elixir, all the tiredness of the night was washed off. We looked around and were delighted to see snow covered peaks in the distance. The senior students enjoyed hot tea and omelette at the bus stand while some of us trudged huffing and puffing up to the camp site with our luggage. We took it easy the first day, after breakfast, some napped and some explored the camp site. Post lunch we went for local sightseeing. We visited Manu temple and Hadimba Devi temple. The visit to Manu temple turned out to be quite enlightening, only it was a different kind of enlightenment than you would expect, it was a discovery of our inner child – through a very unexpected source – LOLLIPOPS. We found a tiny shop selling them, thereafter it was like a mania, and even our Principal couldn't resist the lure of the Lollipop. We headed off to Hadimba Devi Temple next. It started drizzling en route and we hurried. The temple was ancient, made of carved wood it was beautiful amidst the cedar forest.