



Report-Heritage Walk to Chandni Chowk-The hub of Secularism

Date: 3 December 2016

Venue: Chandni Chowk

Organised by: Itihaas

Attended by: Students of Class IX

"If we live in our oneness, we will feel the essence of all religions which is the love of God. Forgiveness, compassion, tolerance, brotherhood and the feeling of oneness are the true signs of a religion".

As an initiative to explore the old corridors of Delhi, students of Class IX visited Chandni Chowk on a heritage walk to know how diverse Indian religion is and to teach the children the aspects of secularism.

The students initiated their walk from St. Stephens Church where they were given a brief history about the church and how the stained glass rose window is a unique feature of St. Stephens Church in Delhi. It is also said to be the only of its kind in the capital.

The students got an opportunity to interact with the senior most Imam of the Fathepuri Mosque where questions about the Islamic Law and the history of the mosque were answered. He enriched the students on how no one is questioned before entering the mosque and the harmonious living of people in the locality. Fatehpuri Masjid was built by Fatehpuri Begum, one of Emperor Shah Jahan's wives who was from Fatehpur Sikri. Interestingly, the mosque at Taj Mahal is also named after her.

The students then visited Gurudwara Seesganj Sahib where Guru Tegh Bahadur was beheaded on the order of Aurangzeb. Before his body could be quartered and exposed to public view, it was stolen under the cover of darkness by one of his disciples, Lakhi Shah Vanjara, who then burnt his house to cremate the Guru. The walk enlightened the students that the essence of all religions is one although their approach may be different.

