

EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO SHANKAR'S INTERNATIONAL DOLLS MUSEUM, NEW DELHI

Course: BA programme -ADC Semester III

Subject: Indian and World Costume

Venue: Shankar's International Dolls Museum, Nehru House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi

Date: 1st October 2026

An educational visit to Shankar's International Dolls Museum, New Delhi was organised for the students of B.Sc. Home Science (Hons.), Semester III, as part of their curriculum under the subject Indian and World Costume. The visit aimed to provide students with practical and visual exposure to diverse costumes, garments, draping styles and traditional clothing practices of different regions of India and the world. The visit was coordinated by Ms. Chanchal Sharma.

The primary objective of the visit was to help students connect their classroom learning with real-life visual references. Through the extensive collection of dolls, students observed distinctive clothing styles, silhouettes, fabrics, colours, ornaments and accessories associated with different cultures and communities.

During the visit, students explored dolls representing various countries, states and regions of India. The dolls were dressed in culturally representative costumes, allowing students to observe variations in traditional attire across geographical regions. Particular attention was given to garments, methods of draping, styling, ornamentation, headgear and accessories. Students also observed how clothing reflects the cultural identity, traditions and lifestyle of a particular region. The visit helped students compare differences in silhouettes, garment arrangement, layering and draping techniques. They also gained an understanding of how climate, geographical conditions, customs and cultural practices influence traditional clothing.

The international collection provided an opportunity to broaden their understanding of world costumes and develop a comparative perspective on Indian and international costume traditions. The Indian section was particularly relevant as it provided valuable visual references for traditional costumes from different parts of the country.

The detailed representation of regional attire helped students appreciate the diversity of Indian dress traditions and understand the relationship between costume, culture and identity. From a design and apparel perspective, students were able to study the overall arrangement of garments, draping styles, colour combinations, accessories and other elements of traditional dress.

These observations provided useful references for understanding and analysing costumes discussed as part of their academic curriculum. The educational visit was an informative and enriching learning experience. It strengthened students' practical understanding of Indian and world costumes and enhanced their appreciation of the rich diversity of traditional clothing and cultural representation across India and the world.

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