"The vast depth hidden underneath the apparent contrasts are webs of little connecting strings."
The main venue of the Congress, New Delhi is marked by the presence of historical masterpieces of different eras and regimes in its vicinity, extending from pre-colonial times to contemporary India. The delegates would have the memorable experience of witnessing the co-existence of monuments and structures of diverse architectural traditions and cultural significance.

**DELI**

The **India Gate** serves as a memorial for Indian soldiers and is a reminder of their sacrifice for their motherland. One could observe the eternal flame beneath it, the ‘Amar Jawan Jyoti’ symbolizing the nation’s tribute to the brave hearts who laid down their lives in various battles and wars for independent India.

Delhi has many marvellous structures, and one such is **Akshardham**, the magnificent Hindu Temple which spans an area of more than 86,000sq ft. It is an architectural spectacle of modern India portraying the ancient Hindu tradition and style, Indian culture, and spirituality.

Within Old Delhi, the beautiful **Qutub Minar** presents a fusion of Indo-Islamic architecture, and the **Red Fort** built in red sandstones stands massive. In addition, **Jama Masjid**, the Mughal influenced monument, and all these structures make this walled city an embodiment of various artwork, architecture, remains of the bygone era. The by lanes around Jama Masjid provide a narrative of their own through their food history.
Another astounding structure is the **Lotus Temple**, a Bahai house of worship known for its lotus flower-like shape. Some of the monuments of the British period are the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** a massive construction, now serving as home to the President of India, and the **Parliament House** an astonishing circular building. Delhi showcases a mosaic of architectural influences and testifies to the embracing of multiple cultures.

**AGRA**

Just 150 miles away from New Delhi is towards Agra, which is synonymous with the Taj Mahal, the world famous monument known for its charismatic historical testimony of conjugal love.

As you walk through the magnificent arcades and walkways of the nearby Agra Fort, the white marble and red stone architecture will surprise and enchant you with their visual effects. One feels the windows, huge palace rooms and walls whispering as the tourist guides reveals the stories of love, care, and affection on one spectrum and the tragedies of betrayal and loneliness that played out within the royal court and in the reign of the mighty Mughals. if whispering those to your ears.

One such story is of the emperor who built the Taj for his beloved wife after her demise but was never able to bask in its glory and was reduced to finding solace in seeing his work from afar, imprisoned in a tower by his son where he would eventually breathe his last.
Jaipur, the Pink City, is a must-see when visiting India. This city of rich history and tradition, the city of Maharajas (Kings), and a city of immense value will truly add colour to the travel.

Jaipur enchants visitors not only with stories of valiant emperors, queens, and princesses, but also with royal jewellery, fabrics, and shoes that are a visual feast. It entices you with its Palace of Winds, 'Hawa Mahal', a potpourri of Hindu and Mughal culture, 'the Amer fort' and the grandeur is enhanced by breath taking view of Maota lake.

Yet another blend of Mughal and Rajput architecture is the 'City Palace'. Its museum displays Sanganeri prints, (hand block prints) folk embroidery along with Rajput Weaponry, (from the 15th century), and beautiful art paintings which makes it worth visiting. A trip to Jaipur is incomplete without witnessing the mesmerizing view of the 'Jal Mahal', a floating palace in the lake.
KOLKATA

Kolkata is known as 'the City of Joy' because the people love to live life to the fullest, with music, art, and literature pouring in their veins, and the city personifies these. The city's face is the magnificent Howrah bridge, one of the longest suspended bridges in the world. Kolkata is one of those places of India that imbibes an old world charm while remaining in step with the modern era, in its grace and majesty.
HYDERABAD

'The City of Nawab', Hyderabad, is also known as 'the city of pearls' for its exquisite pearl trade. It has charming historical monuments, and entertainment parks, and serves world-famous cuisines.

Charminar, just a short drive from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, is one of the most prominent landmarks in Hyderabad's Old City.

Another highlight of Hyderabad is the Golconda Fort, which has intricate and brilliant engineering. Ramoji Film City, one of the world's largest film studios, is also a notable attraction here.

The Laad Bazaar is a prominent market known for its glass and stone studded lacquer bangles and other jewellery.
PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry, one of the gems of South India and an erstwhile French colony, exudes cosmopolitanism. This is evident in its architecture, which carries remnants of French influence as well as the strong imprint that Sri Aurobindo’s spiritual community has left on the region.

One should not miss leisurely walks along the beautiful rocky beach sides and enjoy the calmness in the beautiful churches, the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** being the prominent one showcasing Gothic architecture.

**Auroville Ashram** was built with the idea of bringing in people of different nationalities, culture, religions, and traditions to depict diversity at its best. **Arikamedu**, are the famous ruins representing the remnants of the Roman trade in India.

Across the different corners of the country, these multitude stops, promising a rich and exciting travel and learning experience for the visitor, steeped in history and culture and marked by the diversity that India stands for.
Credits

Internship Programme, IUAES-WAU World Anthropology Congress - 2023

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