



# INDIA

## 2017 Study Abroad Trip Montcalm Community College

▲ Fifteen MCC students, faculty and staff participated in a study abroad exchange trip May 6 through 29 in partnership with the M.S. Panwar College of Technology and Communications of Solon in northern India. During the exchange, they were immersed in the country's rich culture as they discovered the beautiful region of the Himalayas, studied the Hindi language and experienced the colorful history and customs of this exotic land. Participants included, in front from left, MCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Rob Spohr, Mackenzie Bell, Naomi Colburn, Heidi Simon, Grace Price, Heather Simon, Mindy Thompson, Luis Garza III, Cynthia Carraba and MCC Dean of Arts & Sciences Gary Hauck; in back from left are MCC Business Instructor Bill Bishop, MCC President Bob Ferrentino, Rhonda Bishop, Brandon Brown-Ford, President of the M.S. Panwar Community and Technical College in Solon Dr. Brijender Panwar and William Allington.



▲ Trains are a primary form of public transportation in India. MCC President Bob Ferrentino, in front, student William Allington and Rhonda Bishop are pictured traveling on a train from Solon to Barog. During the excursion, the station master gave the group a tour of the station and invited them into his home.

▼ The group took a day trip to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal and other historical sites.



▲ This fruit stand was one of many vendor displays at the outdoor market in Solon.



▲ During a three-hour bus trip from Solon to Shimla, the group visited the Institute for Advanced Studies, which was the summer capital of India until 1948. Today, it serves as an educational institution for philosophers and academics.

▼ MCC's group was granted a private audience with the Dali, or spiritual leader of the Bonn Buddhist sect, which is the oldest Buddhist sect in the world. He presented them with white stoles as a token of hospitality. Pictured, from left, are Brandon Brown-Ford, William Allington, MCC President Bob Ferrentino and Grace Price.



▲ MCC students, from left, Mindy Thompson, Heidi Simon, Cynthia Carraba and Naomi Colburn, wore traditional Indian attire during a going away gathering for the group.



▶ The inside of the Bonn Buddhist Monastery features ornate architecture.

◀ Students at the Government Boys Senior Secondary School in Solon gathered for their morning assembly. MCC's group was the guest of honor and observed the students' morning ritual, which included prayer and exercises.

