Northeast Himalayas in India: Socio-cultural Context of Indigenous People’s Health

In this exciting three week, 6 credit, summer opportunity, students will experience the rich diversity of northeast India, particularly the state of Arunachal Pradesh, popularly known as “Land of Rising Sun”, nestled in the mighty Himalayas. Surrounded by Tibet and China, Bhutan, and Myanmar, Arunachal Pradesh enjoys rich cultural and religious influences. It is home to 26 major tribes, each with its own unique customs, traditions, languages, and dresses.

During this experiential journey, students will visit the historic city of Delhi, a variety of community agencies, embark upon the adventures of northeast Himalayas and find themselves immersed in an indigenous context. They will also visit the Dibrugarh University in northeastern state of Assam and tea gardens. Students will then travel to Arunachal Pradesh to visit and engage with projects of USF’s partner organization called the Research Institute of Worlds Ancient Traditions, Cultures and Heritage (RIWATCH). The RIWATCH has been recognized by the United Nations as a Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. In addition, students will visit breathtaking historical sites, monasteries, National Parks, and participate in local festivals and traditions. This journey will culminate with a visit to the beautiful Taj Mahal.