

## **EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT event at COLLEGE of ENGINEERING PUNE**

Time and technology have narrowed down distances in terms of connect and communication. In an era that facilitates mobility and outreach, it is important to establish cultural exchanges between people of different regions, to further human bonding and a common approach to nation-building. Mutual understanding and trust are the foundations of India's strength and all citizens should feel culturally integrated in all corners of India. Students from the north-east, for example, should not feel like 'strangers in a strange land' when they arrive in Delhi. With the same objective, Hon. Prime minister Shri. Narendra Modi on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas ie 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015, launched the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme, under which states and Union Territories of India would be paired with each other for one year to carry out Cultural exchange between them.

For the same, Maharashtra State has been paired with Odisha for the year 2020. In Odisha, College of Engineering Pune has been paired with Gandhi Institute of Technological Advancement, Bhubaneswar(GITA). GITA is located on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. It was founded in 2004 and is one of the leading private colleges in Odisha. The aim of the pairing was to make the students aware of the cultures of either states so that the fear of being in some unknown place should be removed from the minds of the students. As a stepping stone to fulfil this aim, 33 students of Gandhi Institute of Technological Advancement, Bhubaneswar visited College of Engineering Pune during 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This is a detailed report of all the activities that took place in Bhubaneswar during the Program

### **DAY 0: HELLO! WELCOME TO PUNE**

Team GITA comprising of 33 students and 2 faculty members reached Pune junction on 8<sup>th</sup> March at 11:45 pm. The student coordinators of COEP along with faculty Mr. B.B. Jadhav were waiting at the railway station with adequate travel arrangements to route the students to COEP campus. The guests were provided with proper dinner which included Maharashtrian special Aamras, which was really liked by the guests. After the dinner, the students were allotted rooms in the hostel while the faculties were given the guest houses which would be their home for the next five days. With this the day was called off.

### **DAY1: YES. THIS IS COEP:**

After a travel of around 2 days, the guests were given sufficient time to rest during which the morning breakfast and lunch was provided. The students were then taken to a tour of COEP to showcase the technical heritage of COEP. The tour included a visit to the following prominent technical labs of COEP:

1. Machines Lab- Electrical Department
2. Plumbing Lab- Civil Department
3. Fab Lab, Robot Study Centre lab, Octane Racing and Nemesis racing workshop- Production Department.
4. Steam Engineering lab, Laser Technology Lab- Mechanical Department
5. Virtual Lab- Instrumentation Department
6. CSAT ground station- Metallurgy Department

After this, the students were taken to the Boat club for relaxation and refreshments to be ready for Inauguration Ceremony.

The inauguration ceremony was scheduled at 5:00 pm in the Kirloskar Hall of BHAU. The guests were welcomed with a Traditional Marathi Owalni along with a sweet after which the students were gifted a Pheta (Marathi Turban). The students were then individually welcomed by the Hon. Director of COEP on the stage of the inauguration hall. The guests were then addressed by the Hon. Director, Coordinator of EBSB and the student coordinator of EBSB at COEP which included a welcome to Pune and a brief introduction to the activities planned for them during next few days. The guests were provided with a welcome kit which included a COEP writing pad, COEP Abhiyanta magazine and a pen. The guests really enjoyed the welcome they received. After this dinner was provided in COEP Hostel Mess and the day was called off.



## **DAY 2: LETS GET TO LONAVALA!!:**

An action-packed day meant an early start. Due to this, the day started at 6:00 am with the guests and student coordinators boarding the bus to travel to Lohgad. Students were provided with Caps and safety masks (as a precautionary measure), and breakfast was taken at the base of Lohgad fort. Then the students started the climb to the fort which was a first-time experience for many of them. It took around 4:00 hours for the students to climb the fort and come back. During the trek, the guests were guided by the student coordinators of COEP. After the trek, the lunch was taken at Lohgad. As per the plan, the students were then taken to Sunil's Wax Museum which is among the famous attractions of Lonavala. The guests enjoyed clicking their pictures with wax models of celebrities like Virat Kohli and Amitabh Bacchan. After this, the students were taken to a famous Marathi Hotel, Vishnuji Ki Rasoi. The guests really enjoyed the Marathi food among which the most liked item was Puran-Poli. After the dinner, the guests were routed back to the hostel and the day was called off.



### DAY 3: LETS FIND WHAT PUNE REALLY IS:

Day 3 included a visit to famous places in Pune. Breakfast was taken at the COEP Mess, after which at 8:30 am, the guests boarded the bus to visit the Pu. La. Deshpande garden. Pu. La. Deshpande garden, also known as Friendship Garden, is an example of Japanese artwork in Pune. The students enjoyed the sceneries and flowing water which was an encouragement to photography enthusiasts. After this, the guests were taken to the Southern Command National War Memorial Museum where an army officer was allotted to our batch who explained the heritage of Indian Armed forces to our team. The museum also had the National Memorial statue with the national flag. Also, the guns and missile launchers used in the previous wars were in display along with the ammunition of guns. The students really had a great time. After this, the students were divided into two groups one of which visited Aga Khan Palace while the other went for lunch and then the groups were interchanged. The last stop of the day was Shaniwar Wada which is near to the COEP hostel. The faculty on duty Mr. Vaibhav Khatavkar and Ms. Kshipra Moghe explained the guests about the legacy of Shaniwar Wada.

After this, the students were given some rest, for the cultural exchange program which was organized for students of COEP and GITA. The cultural team of COEP displayed the Marathi culture while the students of GITA were outstanding with their mixture of Odia and Marathi Culture. The program concluded with the COEP street play team presenting their play about Gender Equality. The non-veg dinner was then served to the students after which the day was called off.



#### DAY 4: THERE IS MUCH TO SEE OUTSIDE PUNE AS WELL:

Another early start to the day meant much was waiting for the guests at Satara. Satara is among the districts under the tag of Old Maharashtra. And so are the forts of rich heritage in the district. We started off at 6:30 am from the hostel towards Ajinkyatara fort. Breakfast was taken on the way where the shops selling jelly candies attracted the students. We reached Ajinkyatara fort at 11:00 am, but considering the non- accessibility to heavy vehicles and the condition of the route, the visit to the fort was cancelled. But as a compensation, the students were explained about the legacy of the fort and a glimpse of the fort was given. After that, the guests were taken to Sajjangad fort, which has now been transformed to an Ashram of Swami Sadguru. The lunch was taken at the fort and the guests got another chance of an easy level trek. After this, the guests were taken to Baramotichi Vihir which is a stepwell that was built by Raja Shahu maharaj. The locals said that the aim of building that well was to support the growth of Mango farms in that area. The stepwell was said to be 110 ft. deep.

After this an extra spot was added to the day which included the visit to Ketkawle Balaji Temple which was really appreciated by the guests due to the atmosphere and the natural beauty at that place. The day ended with dinner at COEP Mess.



#### DAY 5: IS IT NECESSARY TO SAY GOOD BYE?

This was going to be a hard day as it was the last day of the event and a Good Bye was on the cards. But to make it a memorable one, with the help of Cricket Club of COEP a cricket match was played between COEP and GITA, with equal participation of both Boys and Girls, which GITA won by 2 runs. After this, the students were given some time to rest and pack the bags.

The valedictory ceremony was arranged at 2:00 pm in Kirloskar Hall. The student coordinator of COEP gave a brief report of the event after which the guests came up and expressed their feedbacks about the event. The guest students were then honoured with a certificate and a memento as a token of appreciation for being a part of this great event. The faculties were also given certificates and Ganesh idols as a token of love. We also extended our warm regards to the Principal and Coordinator of EBSB from GITA, by sending the Lord

Dagdusheth idols to them. And who can forget the little kids, Shiv and Jivika who put the stage on fire two days ago, during the culture exchange program. They were also rewarded for their performance and at last, the students and faculties of COEP, who actively participated in the event were given appreciation certificates. The program ended with distribution of Modak Pedha among the guests.

At 5:30 pm, the students were routed to the Railway station along with the food packets for their dinner. EBSB Coordinator Dr. P.R. Dhamangaonkar, along with Dr. Yogesh Keskar and Mr. B.B. Jadhav were present to bid Goodbye to the students. The student coordinators made sure that all the guests were seated in the Konark Express and with the departure of the train, the curtains of the event were closed.



#### PHOTO GALLERY:



**National War Memorial, Pune**



**Shaniwar Wada, Pune**



**Cricket Match Between COEP and GITA**



**Inauguration Ceremony scenes**



**Vishnuji ki Rasoi**



**GLIMPSE FROM LOHGAD FORT**



**SAJJANGAD ENTRANCE**





**THE TREKKERS FROM GITA INSTITUTE**

**Reported by:**

Ashutosh Mhasagar  
Student Coordinator  
EBSB COEP

**Faculty Incharge:**

Dr. Rajshri Mahajan  
Dr. Yogesh Keskar  
Mr. B.B.Jadhav

**Faculty advisor and coordinator EBSB:**

Dr. P.R.Dhamangaonkar