

EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT event at GITA BHUBANESWAR

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 31st 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, 24 students of College of Engineering Pune visited Bhubaneswar. This is a detailed report of all the activities that took place in Bhubaneswar during the Program.

DAY1: WELCOME TO BHUBANESWAR

The team of COEP reached Bhubaneswar at around 6:00 pm on 14th Feb 2020. The student Coordinators from GITA Bhubaneswar were at the station to receive us. We were taken to the College Campus, where the faculties were waiting for us. After a photoshoot, we were provided with dinner and rooms were allotted. The day was called off after that.



DAY 2: THE INAUGURATION AND COLLEGE TOUR:

Every college is known by its students and faculties. To start the event, all the guests from COEP received a TILAK Welcome at the entry of the auditorium of GITA Bhubaneswar. After getting seated the faculties of the host college arrived which included the Principal Dr. M.K. Roul, the vice principal Dr. S.C. Mohapatra, Director EDP Dr. N.P. Patro, Dean Academics Dr. K.K. Mishra, Dean R&D Dr. B.P. Mishra, all the HODs and faculty members. The program started with the opening speech of Dr. N.P. Patro who spoke about EBSB and its need in current scenario. After him, the principal of the College, spoke about the rich heritage of the college. The Dean Academics then introduced us to the faculties present in the program. To sum it up, the vice principal focussed on the role of these events in our lives. The team Leader from COEP and the faculties were called up to speak a few words. After that, a presentation was given by Prof Sakti Mahanti of the host college about the rich heritage and culture of Odisha state, which included the history of the state, the rich biodiversity of the state, the places to visit and the notable freedom fighters of the state. The inauguration event was summed up with a group photo.

The afternoon session started with the tour to the college library, which had separate reading rooms available for all the departments and academic years. It was great to be lost in between those books. After that, we were taken to the college theatre for a demo documentary.

The plan for the evening was to visit the local market. It started with a visit to Esplanade One Mall. After that, the group started towards the local market famous for local handicrafts, chat and ladies' items. After some basic shopping for around an hour and half, we were back into the college bus to head towards the campus.



DAY 3: BHUBANESWAR: The City of Temples

Bhubaneswar is the city of temples they say. The third day was completely reserved for outings at Dhawli Stupa, Konark Sun Temple and Jagannath Puri. We started off from the campus at around 9:00 and reached Dhawli Stupa (place where the war of Kalinga was fought) at around 10:00. During that, we came to know about the story of Kalinga War from a local resident. Also, the importance of the stupa in the history of India and spread of Buddhism in the world was explained to us.

The main attraction of Bhubaneswar is the Konark Sun Temple built in the 13th Century. The visit to the Sun Temple included the complete explanation of the history of the monument by a local guide, who told us about the history of the temple, the way in which it was made, the meaning of the sculptures on the temple and the demise of the main temple by the Portuguese. We were surprised to know that the new 10 Rupee note has the symbol of Konark Sun temple at the back of it. After that proper Odiya Lunch was taken near the temple. It included a famous Odiya dish called Dalma along with rayta, rice, etc.

Along the Chandrabhaga Sangam, we started off towards Jagannath Puri. On the way, we were explained about the appearance of Lord Jagannath and its relation with Science. As per the locals, the evolution theory relates to the appearance of Lord Jagannath. On reaching there we got to know about the rich culture of the Puri Temple and the efforts the locals have taken to preserve the sacred temple. After visiting the temple, we did some local shopping and returned to the campus.



DAY4: A FRIENDLY BATTLE OF TWO CULTURES

Third day focussed on temples as well as the geographical heritage of Odisha. It started with the Lingaraj temple. It was built in the 12th Century (along with the Jagannath Puri temple), and is one of the oldest temples in the Bhubaneswar city. After that we visited the Khandgiri and Udaygiri Hills which are a major tourist attraction of Odisha. At around 1:00 pm we started off towards the campus.

The third day was also marked by the cultural exchange program in which both the colleges exhibited their cultural heritage. The performances of GITA included Sambalpuri dance, the Odisha folk dance, etc. It was followed by the showcase of Maharashtrian culture, which included Lawni, Gondhal, Powada, Flute and Pasaydaan. Overall it was a great show of Indian talents.



DAY 5: THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF ODISHA.

Apart from the rich culture, Odisha is famous for the rich biodiversity. The biggest example for it is the Nandan Kanan Wildlife Sanctuary located in Bhubaneswar. It is home for many rare species including the White Tigers, the Bengal Tigers, the Emu, Orang Utans, etc. Special provisions are made for roaming inside the forest considering the safety of both the tourists and the animals. Also, there is a shore reserved for tourist boating, which includes Motor boating and Paddle boating.

The second part of the day was reserved for the Food Festival. It is a unique event that takes place in GITA Bhubaneswar every year in which students from different academic years set up stalls of food as a business and earn profits. The person who earns the highest profit is declared as winner. We got to eat many items which we had never heard of before. The day ended with a flash mob for COEP students.



DAY 6: A HARD TO SAY GOODBYE.

Day 5 started with a quiz competition for all the students under EBSB from both COEP and GITA. The quiz was based on Odisha, Maharashtra and India. The three winners of the quiz were Mansi Chavan, Ghanshyam Patil and Ajay Wagh, all from COEP. After that, a feedback form was filled by students of COEP telling about their experiences at GITA. It was followed by the Public Speaking Skills Workshop by COEP Debate and Quiz club which was conducted by Tarannum Panhali and Anushka Shinde. After that, a few students from COEP and the faculties shared their feedback and memories and the programme ended with flute performance by Ajay Wagh and a rap about COEP by students of GITA.

The hardest part of the tour was bidding a goodbye to the place where many memories were created and bonds were made. We were routed to the railway station to board our train.



PHOTO GALLERY:







THE TEAM:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Ashutosh Mhasagar | 13 | Shweta Raut |
| 2 | Pooja Rathod | 14 | Vineet Pawar |
| 3 | Aditi Rahegaonkar | 15 | Sanket Wardhekar |
| 4 | Akanksha More | 16 | Chetan Gupta |
| 5 | Anoushka Pakhre | 17 | Vidisha Baviskar |
| 6 | Ajaykumar Wagh | 18 | Shantanu Parode |
| 7 | Siddhi Pingat | 19 | Riya Jadhav |
| 8 | Rohini Tidke | 20 | Mrunal Thombare |
| 9 | Ghanshyam Patil | 21 | Shreyash Hupre |
| 10 | Hrithik Patni | 22 | Anushka Shinde |
| 11 | Sanket Sope | 23 | Tarannum Panhali |
| 12 | Naman Bajaj | 24 | Mansi Chavan |

FACULTY IN-CHARGE:

1. Mr. Yogesh Keskar
2. Ms. Rajshri Mahajan
3. MR B.B.JAdhav

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. P.R. Dhamangaonkar

Reported By:

Ashutosh Mhasagar(Team Leader)