



SYMBIOSIS COLLEGE OF ARTS & COMMERCE

An Autonomous College | Under Savitribai Phule Pune University

Reaccredited 'A+' with 3.51 CGPA For Third Cycle By NAAC | College with Potential for Excellence

REPORT

VISIT TO ODISHA

EK BHARAT SHRESHT BHARAT

- **Introduction:**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has launched a scheme “Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat’ to promote national integration. The MHRD has paired the States and Colleges across India. The state of Maharashtra is paired with the state of Odisha. The Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce visited Odisha from 28th Feb to 4th March 2020, 11 students along with 04 staff members from SCAC visited Odisha for a cultural exchange programme. The exchange programme took place between Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune and its partner colleges: Paradip College, Paradip and Sarla College, Rahama. An official visit to Kalinga Institute of social sciences (KISS) and the secretary's office was also conducted. Apart from the port city of Paradip the group of students also visited numerous tourist attractions in and around the city of Bhubaneswar. This includes Rajrani temple, Mukteshwar temple, Lingraj temple, the renowned temple of Jaganath puri, and ruins of the ancient Konark temple, the local markets, the artisan’s village of Pipli, Nandakana zoo and the Dhauligiri Stupa.

- **Aims and Objectives:**

1. To understand and appreciate the culture of Odisha and to comprehend their way of life.
2. To acknowledge the similarities and the differences and to strengthen the bond between the two states.
3. To visit the tourist attractions in order to understand the history of 'Utkal' and to explore the rich architectural heritage of India.
4. To discover and connect with our roots and respect the diversity that India offers, thus making us better and proud citizens of India.

- **List of the Participants:**

The following Faculty and students participated in the visit.

Sr. No.	Name	Class	Roll No.
1	Dr. Mrs. Sunayini Parchure	Coordinator, EBSB	
2	Dr. Ms. Hilda David	Incharge, SCLA	
3.	Mr. Anil Adagale	Coordinator, RUSA	
4.	Mrs. Eera Khedkar	Coordinator, Odisha Visit	
1	Ms. Madhura Desai	FYBCom	5022
2	Ms. Akanksha Suplekar	FY BA	3008
3	Ms.Vandana Bisoi	M.Com-II	8305
4	Ms.Sarvesha Pujari	S.Y.B.Com	6034
5	Ms.Miti Bhalerao	F.Y.B.A	3014
6	Ms.Tanvi Kamat	F.Y.B.A	3096
7	Mr. Mihir Amrutkar	S.Y.B.Com	5316
8	Ms.Yashomati More	S.Y.B.Com	6035
9	Ms.Avantika Kumari	F.Y.B.A	3052
10	Mr. Yashraj Kadam	F.Y.B.A	3061
11	Ms.Shivani Saindane	T.Y.B.Com	7431

- **Journey from Pune To Paradip:**

The group of teachers and students from Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce started the journey from Pune at 5:00 a.m. and reached Bhubaneswar by 2:25 p.m on 28th February 2020. We then resumed our journey towards Paradip, a port city which is 105kms away from the state capital.

We reached Panth Niwas, Paradip at 9:00p.m. and we were surprised to see that the students and teachers of our host colleges were already there to greet us. They welcomed us traditionally using an aarti thali, flowers and red and yellow chandan paste while blowing the auspicious conch shell.



Chatranati Shivaii Maharai Airport. Mumbai



Visit to Paradip College, Paradip:



The second day i.e. 29th February 2020, we visited our host colleges. In both the colleges we attended a Cultural exchange programme. The Odiya culture was beautifully showcased in the form of dance performances, poetry and music. We learnt a lot about the state and its dances. From the elegant Odissi dance to the energetic sambalpuri dance, we saw everything. We also showed them a few aspects of our Maharashtraian culture. It was an honour to perform in front of them. Our students and teachers performed a few

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dance numbers and songs. These include Koli dance, Lavni, manglagaur, bhaav geet, Gondhal and Maharashtra geet.

The first college that we visited was Paradip College. After a grand welcome we were taken to the auditorium. They had put up an

cultural exhibition for us, which displayed the various festivals of Odisha. We learnt about festivals like 'Raja Parba' that celebrates womanhood. They had also organised a food festival for us. There were numerous delicious dishes like cutlet, malpua and rashogulla which we absolutely relished.

Visit to Sarala College, Rahama :

We started our journey towards Sarla college, Rahama after the cultural programme at Paradip College. Upon our arrival, we were given warm welcome by their staff members and students.



Here we participated in our second cultural programme for the day. It was just as enriching as the first one. Everyone was extremely sweet. As a parting gift they gave us different varieties of the famous local sweet, 'Pheni.'

• Site-seeing at Paradip:

The third day i.e. 1st March 2020 began the visit to the pristine Paradip beach and witnessed the mesmerizing the scenic sunrise. The soft orange light of the morning sun, the clear blue waters and a walk on the clean



sandy beach was very refreshing and relaxing. We also went to the Paradip City Port. Situated at the assemblage of Mahanadi River and the Bay of Bengal, it is a commercial deep-water sea port of India. A lot of iron ore trade and coal trade takes place here. We spotted many cargo ships and fleets of small fishing boats. We also got a chance to do a boat ride of the Mahanadi River. The views were very picturesque.



We were also lucky enough to visit Indian coast guard's offshore petrol vessel 'SUJAY'. The captain gave us a guided tour of the huge white ship and taught us a lot about India's independent armed force that protects its maritime interests and enforces maritime law. The coast guard's motto is 'वयम्रक्षामः' or 'we protect'. It was really inspiring to

interact with a defence personnel who has made so many sacrifices for the nation and he continues to do so.

After spending two extremely pleasant days in Paradip, we had to return to Bhubaneswar to commence our next half of the trip. We bid adieu to Paradip and started our journey towards the state capital 'Bhubaneswar' also known as the 'City of temples'.

- **Visit to City of Temples:**

As soon as we reached Bhubaneswar we observed that there were beautiful stone carved temples everywhere. We started our local sightseeing immediately. Our first stop was 'Rajarani temple' of the 11 century. The entire temple was beautifully carved using just dull red and yellow sandstone, which is locally known as Rajarani, hence the name of the temple. The temple is incomplete and there is no idol inside the sanctum.



We next visited '*Mukteshwar temple*'. The temple dates back to 950–975 CE and is dedicated to lord Shiva, ' the god who gives freedom'. Inside the compound of this temple there were various small temples dedicated to other deities like ganesha, saraswati and Parvati. There were also ancient ponds full of fishes and fully bloomed bright yellow sunflowers. According to tradition, barren women give birth to sons if they take a dip in the Marichi Kunda tank in the premises of the temple on the night before Ashokashtami festival.

We then proceeded to visit the famous '*Lingraj temple*'. It is dedicated to lord Shiva and being the oldest and biggest temple in Bhubaneswar it perfectly represents the quintessence of Kalinga architecture. The temple has an average of 6,000 visitors per day and receives up to lakhs of visitors during festivals like Shivratri. This majestic temple is one of the most prominent and sacred temples in Odisha.

Visit to Jagannath Puri Temple and Konark Temple:



This huge temple is a very significant to the vaishnavas and is dedicated to lord Vishnu. It is one of the 4 char dhams of India. It is decorated with intricate carvings throughout and has a mammoth 20 feet huge wall. There are more than 120 smaller shrines and temples inside its complex. Puri Jagannath temple has one of the largest kitchens in the world and it cooks 56 different dishes every day! The dishes are not only cooked for the Lord but also for thousands of devotees as Mahaprashad.

While millions of devotees visit the Puri Jagannath temple during Rath Yatra festivities, even on an average day the temple is thronged by more than 2000 devotees!

We were guided by a priest who told us numerous age old stories associated with the temple. After the darshan we felt extremely blessed to be able to visit this sacred place.

Next we proceeded to visit the ancient **Konark temple or Sun temple of Odisha**. It is dedicated to the sun god and was constructed in the form of a chariot in the 13th Century. Sailors once called this Sun Temple of Konarak, the Black Pagoda because it was supposed to draw ships into the shore and cause shipwrecks. According to a legend the temple had a huge magnet in the shikhara that made the idol of the deity float in the air. The temple also has 12 wheels that act as a sundial.



Once magnificent, this temple stands in ruins today. Most of it is destroyed but it still hasn't lost its glory.

In the evening we visited Pipli which is an artisan's village. It is famous for designing beautiful Applique handicrafts and colourful fabrics. There were paintings, embroidery, lanterns, wall hangings and handmade fabrics. We then went to the market building in Bhubaneswar where we visited city shops like 'Boyenka' and 'Utkalika'. Here we further saw a wide range of odia fabrics, Kurtis, sarees, paintings and silver filigree jewellery.

We started our day by visiting KISS or Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences. It is a fully free, residential home for more than 27,000 tribal children who are provided holistic education from Kindergarten to Post Graduation along with lodging, boarding, health care facilities, vocational skills, life skills and empowerment.

We were given a tour of their campus by a teacher. We saw their prayer hall, library, kitchen and even in built factories. The students were extremely disciplined and talented. We were extremely inspired by the noble work that is being done there and especially by their eco-



friendly zero waste strategies. It made us realise how much more we can do for the society and inspired us to become better humans.

We next visited the odisha state secretary's office. There, we met Roma ma'am, incharge of the EBSB government division, Odisha. We shared with her the details of our visit.

In the afternoon, we visited Nandkanaan Zoo and Dhauligiri Stupa.

Nandakanan is a huge zoo with myriad varieties of flora and fauna. The students got to watch the majestic white tiger which is an endangered species in India. We also saw lions, tigers, bears, rhinos and many other animals. Altogether, it was a thrilling experience.

Dhauligiri Shanti Stupa or 'World Peace Stupa' is built on the banks of river Daya jointly by the Japan Buddha sangh and the Kalinga Nippon Buddha sangha. The big white monument was completed in the year 1972 to commemorate the mission of peace that the Kalinga war achieved. It is believed that after the bloody war of Kalinga, it was here that Ashoka quit his weapons and accepted the non violent path of Buddhism forever. The view from up there was really impressive. This place had a peculiar calming effect.



In the evening we visited Shaheednagar to try the local cuisine and street food of Bhubaneswar. We treated ourselves to tangy 'Gupchups', and delicious 'chaats'.

- **Return Journey from Odisha to Pune:**



With a heavy heart and mind full of warm memories we started for the airport. We boarded our flight which was scheduled at 1:05p.m. and bid a final goodbye to Odisha. We reached our respective homes by 10:00p.m.

CONCLUSION:

These six days were extremely delightful and enriching. We discovered so much about Odisha, its language, its culture and its people. In an attempt to explain our culture to them we ended up learning more about it. We realised that in spite of all the differences there are more similarities that make us one. It is our unity in diversity that makes ***OUR BHARAT SHRESHTA BHARAT***. We learnt that before everything we will always be proud Indians. This was surely an experience of a lifetime.

***** THANK YOU *****