**COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS - FIELD VISIT:**

**DADAR ATHORNAN INSTITUTE**

A field trip to ‘**Dadar Athornan Institute’** in Mancherji Joshi Parsi Colony,
Dadar, Mumbai was organized by **Prof. Vrushali Gupte-Paralkar** on Saturday, 21st July, 2018. The students were scheduled to meet the Principal of the institute; **Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia**. This field trip was undertaken with regards to Zoroastrianism being the first religion which the students studied in the Comparative Religions course. Twenty-three students from the Comparative Religions class of SYBA participated in this field trip.

The students, accompanied by their Professor, left for Dadar from SIES Collage at 10:45 am and reached Dadar Athornan Institute by 11:30 am. En route to their destination, the students came across **Rustom Framna Agairy**, a fire temple. Various Zoroastrian symbols and the architectural style were duly noted by them. After a quick walk, the students reached Dadar Athornan Institute. This institute is a place of religious learning for Zoroastrian children of the priestly ‘Athornan’ class. The students here undergo training to become priests of the Zoroastrian religion. The students then met the Principal, Dr. Karanjia, who is a learnt scholar of his field. Dr. Karanjia gave the students a brief introduction to the history of the Institution which was inaugurated in the year 1915. He then opened up the talk for students to put forth their questions. The students took utmost advantage of this special opportunity to fulfill their curiosity and inquisitiveness about Zoroastrianism. Dr. Karanjia gave precise, crystal-clear answers to the students’ queries. The students had already learnt an introductory lesson about the religion in their Comparative Religions course, however, humans always long for deeper knowledge. This longing was fulfilled to an extent by Dr. Karanjia. He also shared his email ID and website details with the students so that the students can fulfil their thirst for further knowledge about Zoroastrianism. The session ended with one of the students; Rajdeep Vijayaraj, extending a formal vote of thanks to Dr. Karanjia on behalf of all the students and the Professor.

The friendly personality and deep knowledge of Dr. Karanjia made this field trip a great success. The students were thankful to Prof. Vrushali and looked forward to more such trips in the future.