

Study Tour to Gandhi Teerth and Jain Irrigation Project

(3rd-6th September 2017)



A study tour was conducted between 3-6 September 2017 for the TYBA students from the Departments of Politics, Philosophy, History and Economics. Our plan was to visit two of the most significant destinations, namely, Gandhi Teerth along with the Jain Irrigation Project and NGO Manobal, in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. The tour also included a small trip to Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad. The tour was organized in collaboration with Amrutyatra, a Mumbai-based organization who are pioneers in the domain of social tourism.



We started our inspirational journey with a prayer session at Gandhi Teerth. This was followed by a Charka weaning activity in which most of us actively participated.

The session followed with a visit to Jain irrigation project, where practical application of drip irrigation, sprinkle irrigation and solar water heater projects were shown. The main aim of the visit was to acquaint students to the vision of late Bhavarlal Jain, the founder Chairman of the Jain Irrigation Group. Jain, a recipient of the prestigious Padmashri Award and many other important awards and accolades for his mission of creating a self-sustaining, profitable model of agriculture in a drought-prone area of Jalgaon. A constant zeal of innovation is at the core of Mr. Jain's vision. The company has developed world-class tissue culture labs where we saw the agriculture techniques like hydroponics, food processing units.



Jain Irrigation Project, their production and projects has immensely contributed in providing employment to a large number of people. It has benefitted the farmers as well as the locals and ensured a fair return for their produce. All in all, it has fairly realised the Gandhian goal of village self-sustainability.

We then visited to the spiritual garden, a beautifully landscaped garden set amidst mango and orange orchards around. Each tree planted in the garden bears a spiritual value. Also, various rare and medicinal plants were planted there.

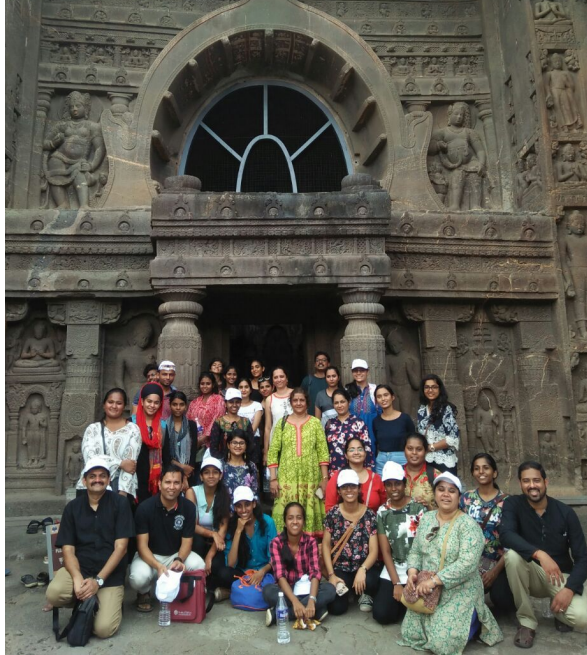


Later in the day we visited Gandhi museum which is the largest audio visual museum narrating Gandhi's life and work. The visit helped understand the journey that transformed Mohan to Mahatma. This session was followed by a very enlightening talk by Mr.Ashwin Jhala, a member of Gandhi Research Foundation, which provides intellectual anchorage to the project .



Ashwin Jhala, member of Gandhi Research Foundation interacting with the faculty and students

On the second day, we visited the Ajanta Caves. The UNESCO World Heritage site didn't fail to excite us. The Buddhist caves provided a visual treat which helped us understand the glaring differences between various sections of Buddhism.



NGO Manobal, the last on our itinerary was the highlight of the tour. Run by a dedicated social activist Yajurvendra Mahajan, Manobal is a center dedicated for differently-abled and tribal youth to pursue their dream of getting into various government jobs through competitive examinations. A discussion with the resident students at Manobal helped us draw immeasurable inspiration and confidence to see the world with a whole new spectacle.



The whole tour was quite memorable and provided us with enough food for self- introspection, construction and deconstruction of various ideas, thoughts that shape our vision.

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