

Report on Educational Visit to Heritage Walk, Dandi Kutir, Sabarmati Riverfront & GIFT City

28th November, 2019

On 28th November, 2019, the Civil Engineering Department of G. H. Patel College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), a Charutar Vidya Mandal Institution, VallabhVidyanagar, organized an educational visit to GIFT city- Gandhinagar, Heritage Walk, Dandi Kutir and Sabarmati River Front for students of 1st year, civil engineering. The main objective behind this visit was to make students aware about the heritage structures, recent developments in the field of Smart cities and accommodating them with the latest concepts of Green Buildings.

On 28th November, 2019, 42 students along with Head of Department, Dr. Khadeeja Priyan and 2 faculty members of Civil Engineering Department, Prof. Krunali Patel and Prof. Alpesh Sankhat left the college campus early morning at 5:30 Am and reached Ahmedabad, the at 7:30 Am. The visit started with a Heritage Walk from 19th century Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur, numerous Pols, Chowks with very popular and famous 15th century Jama Masjid. Ahmedabad heritage walk also known as the journey of '**Mandir to Masjid**'. The walk continued on the route as shown below.

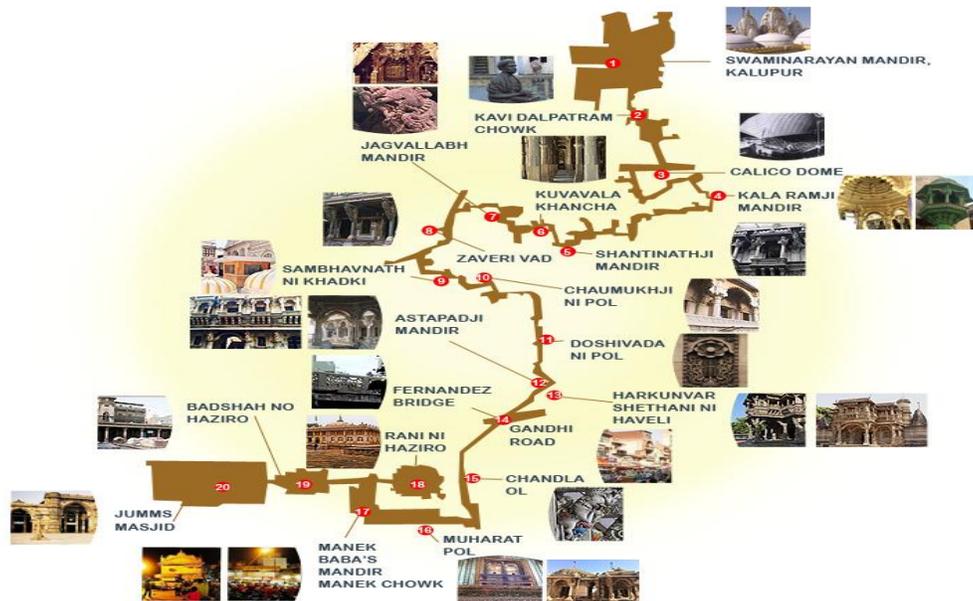


Figure: A Map Of Heritage Walk

The students were given information about the city of Ahmedabad which is endowed with a rich architectural heritage that is vital to the local identity and continuity of the place. The foremost

heritage assets are the Indo-Islamic monuments of the 15th to 17th centuries: the Jama Masjid, the Teen Darwaza, the Bhadra Gate and Tower and the Tombs of Queen and King located in the historic core, the remaining sections of the original fort wall, 12 original gates and a number of other monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Besides these monuments, there are potential heritage precincts in the form of the Pols, the traditional residential clusters of the medieval period, which makes Ahmedabad exceptional. A large enclave of the Maratha period and many fine examples of colonial era architecture also survive in the Walled city. The walk ended at the Jama Masjid and then the group moved to next location i.e the Sabarmati River Front.

The River front project aims to provide Ahmedabad with a meaningful waterfront environment along the banks of the Sabarmati River and to redefine an identity of Ahmedabad around the river. Students observed the development and infrastructure of this project. The River Front Project has benefited the city in various aspects like **Environmental improvement** by reducing erosion and flood to safeguard the city, diverging sewage to clean the river, water retention and recharge, **Social infrastructure improvement** by rehabilitation and resettlement of riverbed dwellers and activities, creation of parks and public spaces, provision of socio-cultural amenities for the city and **Sustainable development** by Generation of resources, revitalization of neighbourhoods etc.

After the completion of river front visit, the students along with faculty members headed towards the next location, i.e Mahatma Mandir- Gandhinagar. (Salt Mound Memorial). The Mahatma Mandir is a convention as well as memorial centre located at sector 13 in the capital city of Gujarat (Gandhinagar). It is one of the largest convention centres in India, having an area of around 34 acres. Proudly owned by the government of Gujarat, the Mahatma Mandir completed construction in 2011, and was inspired by the life and philosophy of one of India's greatest freedom fighters, Mahatma Gandhi.

It is a concrete dome structure which is constructed representing salt mound houses, a museum, a library and a research center. The memorial provides real life experience of Gandhian era. Students were taken to the memorial centre, where an audio tape was given as they walked around the memorial. The entire memorial had sensors, in which the required audio would play at the respective time of arrival. There are exhibits related to Gandhiji's life at the Gandhi Kutir. The structure is equipped with modern technology with the best depictions from the time of Gandhiji's birth, his studies abroad, his personal life, his time in jail and the part he played in major assemblies during the British rule. In an hour and a half, we were well informed about the Gandhian principles and how he encouraged everyone to live an ideal life by not eating meat, not drinking and never telling a lie. It was a visit worth its while and the Salt Mound Memorial holds a respectable place among the best constructed structures in the state of Gujarat.

After having lunch, we reached the Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT) city at around 4:00 pm. It is a smart city currently developing in a total land mass of 886 acres

between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar on the banks of river Sabarmati. As we entered the premises of the GIFT city, we were welcomed by the sight of two skyscrapers which are named GIFT-1 and GIFT-2. We received the permission of Mr. Jitendra Yadav to have a look in the city and he assigned one of his colleague to accompany us for solving queries along the visit. It was a spacious area with the tallest glass windows for better lighting. He informed us about the basics of the infrastructure of GIFT city and the developing sites. The GIFT city is a Public Private Partnership project. The two buildings GIFT-1 and GIFT-2 are 28 stories high and completely constructed. Another We were explained about us the importance of GIFT city as a finance and IT services hub in India. GIFT city is a first of its kind in India and is designed to stand eye to eye with globally benchmarked financial centers at Tokyo, Singapore, etc. In GIFT city, 226 acres of land is specifically allotted as economic zone. It is denoted as SEZ (Special Economic Zone) and will hold the first center for IFSC (International Financial System Code) in India. The first World Trade Centre of India is being constructed at present. The GIFT city is expected to become a contemporary model development in India using sustainable and ecological methods. The amazing part of the premises is the utility tunnel which is 10m*10m in dimensions and accommodates all the utility services that are necessary for GIFT city. We have also seen the District Cooling System which acts a central AC for whole city. Almost all the building in the city are rated Gold by IGBC. The development of GIFT city is divided into various phases and as of now, phase-1 is completed. There are different colored garbage containers available at every building for separating the recyclable waste from organic and metallic wastes. There is fully automatic an underground waste management system which uses vacuum to collect waste from all parts of the city, thus keeping it clean. On our way around the city, we saw the Fire station of the city well equipped with modern facilities. Thus, GIFT city project is a smart city project which promotes the concepts of recycling, sustainable construction and ecological development along with being the world class model of sophistication and providing the best financial services. After a successful visit we returned to college premises at 8:00 pm.

We are thankful to GCET and the GIFT city administration for providing this opportunity and helping us gain knowledge in the best possible way. We extend our gratitude to our HOD Dr. Khadeeja Priyan for arranging this visit.