

Government Arts College, Bayad

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Report on Learning and Exposure cum Study Tour for Students

The Government Arts College, Bayad, organized a comprehensive **Learning and Exposure cum Study Tour for Students** on **March 10, 2026 to Statue of Unity and Poicha**. This initiative was executed under the **Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG)** via **Letter No: KCG/2025-26/2038**. This tour was organized with the financial assistance of a grant of ₹1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh Only); for the academic development and student enrichment activities supported by the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG).

The primary aim of this educational tour was to provide students with experiential learning opportunities beyond the classroom, allowing them to observe, understand, and analyze historical, cultural, architectural, environmental, and socio-economic aspects of important national heritage sites. Such tours are considered an essential component of modern education because they bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical understanding.

A total of 100 students along with faculty members from Government Arts College, Bayad participated in this study tour conducted on 10 March 2026. The selected destinations for the tour were the Statue of Unity at Kevadia (Ektanagar) and the Swaminarayan Temple at Poicha, two of the most prominent cultural and tourism sites in Gujarat.

Objectives of the Study Tour:

- 1. Experiential Learning:** To provide students with hands-on exposure and practical learning experiences outside the traditional classroom environment.
- 2. Historical Awareness:** To help students understand the life and contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a key role in the unification of India.
- 3. Cultural Understanding:** To expose students to the architectural beauty and cultural heritage of Gujarat.
- 4. Environmental Awareness:** To observe eco-tourism initiatives such as botanical

gardens and butterfly parks.

5. Personality Development: To enhance students' communication skills, teamwork, and discipline through group activities.

Visit to Statue of Unity:

The first destination of the study tour was the Statue of Unity located near the Narmada River in Kevadia, Gujarat. The Statue of Unity is the tallest statue in the world with a height of 182 meters and is dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India. The students were visited the following sites at Statue of Unity.

Viewing Gallery and Ground Floor Exhibition

One of the most remarkable parts of the visit to the Statue of Unity was the **Viewing Gallery**, located at a height of approximately **153 meters** inside the statue. The students reached the viewing gallery through high-speed elevators and experienced a spectacular panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. From the gallery, students could clearly observe the vast stretch of the **Narmada River**, the scenic beauty of the nearby hills, and the impressive **Sardar Sarovar Dam**.

The viewing gallery provided students with an opportunity to understand the **scale of modern engineering, architectural planning, and tourism infrastructure** developed around the Statue of Unity. The breathtaking view created a sense of admiration among students for the technological capabilities and vision involved in constructing such a monumental structure.

Before reaching the viewing gallery, the students also visited the **Ground Floor Exhibition Hall and Museum**, which is an important educational component of the Statue of Unity complex. This exhibition area presents a detailed account of the life, vision, leadership, and achievements of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

The exhibition hall contains **photographs, historical documents, interactive displays, audio-visual presentations, and digital installations** that narrate the inspiring journey of Sardar Patel. Students learned about his early life, his role in the **Indian freedom struggle**, and his remarkable contribution to the **political integration of more than 560 princely states after India's independence**.

The museum also highlights the significant events of the **Indian Independence Movement**, explaining how Sardar Patel worked alongside leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi** to build a united and independent India.

Through various **multimedia presentations, documentary films, and informative panels**, students gained deeper insights into Sardar Patel's personality, leadership qualities, and his unwavering commitment to national unity. The exhibition effectively communicates why he is popularly known as the "**Iron Man of India.**"

This part of the visit proved to be highly educational and inspirational for the students. By learning about the determination, leadership, and patriotism of Sardar Patel, students were encouraged to develop a sense of **national pride, unity, and responsibility toward society**. The experience helped them understand the importance of strong leadership, dedication to national service, and the value of unity in a diverse country like India.

Overall, the visit to both the **exhibition hall on the ground floor and the viewing gallery above** provided students with a **comprehensive learning experience combining history, education, technology, and inspiration**.

Butterfly Garden:

The students visited the Butterfly Garden where numerous butterfly species are preserved in a natural habitat. The garden helped students understand biodiversity conservation, ecological balance, and the importance of protecting natural habitats.

Cactus Garden:

The Cactus Garden contains hundreds of varieties of cactus and succulent plants collected from different parts of the world. Students learned about plant adaptation to dry climates and desert ecosystems.

Valley of Flowers:

The Valley of Flowers is a beautifully landscaped garden along the banks of the Narmada River filled with seasonal flowers and ornamental plants. It is an example of large-scale horticulture and eco-tourism development.

Kamalam (Ekta Mall):

Students also visited Kamalam, a lotus-shaped building that showcases handicrafts and cultural products from different states of India. This visit helped students understand the promotion of traditional crafts and local artisans through tourism.

Visit to Poicha – Swaminarayan Temple:

After visiting the Statue of Unity complex, the students proceeded to the Nilkanth Dham Swaminarayan Temple at Poicha. The temple is located on the banks of the Narmada River and is known for its magnificent architecture and peaceful environment.

The temple complex features beautifully carved pillars, domes, sculptures, and landscaped gardens. It reflects traditional Indian temple architecture combined with modern construction techniques.

Spiritual and Cultural Importance:

The temple is dedicated to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and represents spiritual teachings focused on morality, devotion, discipline, and service to society. The temple also includes exhibitions and sculptures depicting religious stories and philosophical teachings.

Educational Importance of the Tour:

The study tour provided valuable practical learning experiences for students. They gained knowledge about history, architecture, tourism development, environmental conservation, and cultural traditions. Such tours enhance students' awareness of India's heritage and inspire them to become responsible citizens.

Participation:

The study tour included 100 students and faculty members from Government Arts College, Bayad. Faculty members guided students throughout the tour and ensured that the visit remained educational and well organized.

Financial Support:

The study tour was successfully organized with financial support of ₹1,00,000 provided by the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG). The grant helped cover transportation, entry fees, and logistical arrangements.

Conclusion:

The Educational Exposure and Experiential Learning Study Tour conducted on 10 March 2026 proved to be an enriching experience for students. The visit to the Statue of Unity and the Swaminarayan Temple at Poicha allowed students to explore important aspects of Indian history, culture, architecture, spirituality, and environmental conservation.

Government Arts College, Bayad expresses sincere gratitude to the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat for providing financial assistance to organize this valuable educational activity.

Photo Gallery:



