

## THE SUMMER HERITAGE PROGRAMME AT THE NATIONAL GANDHI MUSEUM, 2019

From 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, students from various schools took part in the **ITIHAAS** Summer Heritage Programme at the National Gandhi Museum in New Delhi.



*The students of 2019 batch*

### Day 1

On the first day, the students from classes 6th to 10th met and interacted with Founder Director, ITIHAAS, Smita Vats, who introduced them to the programme, to Mahatma Gandhi, and the Museum. An ice-breaker activity was held. They were then divided into three groups, led by three sherpas (someone who guides and mentors them). While the groups were busy exploring the different galleries, one member from each group made the drink of sattva for everyone. They shared the recipe and the benefits with each other, and offered the drink to the staff of the museum too. The Gandhian

way of life.

While understanding the various photographs, the written text and the objects, originals as well as replicas, the students had to select a leader, other than Gandhi, who was to be a focus of their projects. They also visited the replica of Hriday Kunj, an ashram, and found themselves intrigued by the size of the rooms, the placement of certain objects, and the fact that Gandhi had made a constitution for the ashram.

### Day 2

Homework was the first thing that was discussed. Each student had to listen to or read a speech given by Gandhi and Nehru and compare the two, as well as compare them with the speeches of present day leaders. The sources for the latter were 4 news channels, 2 in Hindi and 2 in English. They then built an understanding of the differences between leaders and politicians, and the values associated with both.



*Spinning Yam*

They were enthralled when the curator of the museum, Shri. Ansar Ali, spoke to them about his personal experience and how Gandhi played multiple roles in his life. He also took questions at the end of the session. In two groups students interviewed Museum staff, to understand the functioning of the Museum and a second group learnt to spin the charkha.



### Day 3

Preparation for the final day began with understanding what is a gallery walk and how to design and conduct it. To internalise and truly appreciate the concept of Shramdaan, the students physically cleaned the museum and also worked at the bookshop.



*SHRAM DAAN at the Museum.*

### Day 4

The students assembled at Raj Ghat. It was an enriching experience for most of them as they had never been there prior to this. They walked back to the museum and drank lemonade. A novel activity for them, was of writing a postcard and pasting the stamps on the same. The 21st century is mostly technological, but the joy of writing and receiving a real postcard in one's postal mail was unparalleled.



*Gallery Walk*

An interaction with, Shri. A. Annamalai, the Director of the Museum, was the highlight of the day. He talked about the importance of the museum, how it functions, and shared powerful anecdotes from Gandhi's life, which inspired the students.

## Day 5

Each group performed a Gallery walk to conclude and tie together their learnings. Parents, guardians, friends, tourists, and visitors were witnesses of these walks in the Charkha Gallery, Photo Gallery, Commemorative Gallery, and the Martyrdom Gallery. What they saw was not just a simple narrative tour, but one filled with various elements, such as sound effects, self composed poetry, singing and enactment.

After getting their projects and workbooks checked by their sherpas The students presented them to Mr. A. Annamalai,. They received their certificates from him. He was elated with their growth and contribution to the museum.



*Certification with Shri. A. Annamalai, Director National Gandhi Museum*



*Gallery walk with the ITIHAAS Students*

The students left the museum with a lot of information, confidence, and the VIDIA values (versatility, integrity, discipline, innovation, attention to detail) of **ITIHAAS**.

*At the end of the last day of the programme, with wide smiles!*