

Foreign students explore India at IITGn's *khoj*

India ki Khoj, an 8-day module, will focus on city's heritage

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As India steps forth in the global technological platform, more people have expressed interest in wanting to know about the country's quintessential nature.

Catering to the inquisitiveness of foreign students, the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn) has hosted the third edition of India Ki Khoj (IKK), an eight-day-long intensive module for providing a sneak-peek into the Indian society, culture, economy and technology to its participants through diverse lectures and field visits. The module started on Monday and has 10 participants from California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in US and 13 students from IITGN. The module uses various modes of demonstration like Bollywood songs, literature, architecture and heritage while taking the students on a tour of the Indian subcontinent.

The first day of the module had

director of Zubaan Books, Urvasi Butalia talk about the shifting roles of women in the rising economy and also spoke about imploring the real reasons for the increase in crimes against women. The day also had a talk on "Using Song in Hindi Film" by Nasreen Munni Kabir, an India-born television producer, director and author based in the UK. On Tuesday, city's architect and academician Neelkanth Chhaya gave a talk at the workshop. He spoke about the transformation of the urban spaces and the style of architecture in the city. In the lecture, he talked about the evolving architectural styles from sense of luxury and comfort between 1950s to 1980s and a gradual shift towards the concept of "world class", and how the intrinsic culture architecture style shifted to a plainer look.

The students were also given lessons on heritage by taking a 'Heritage Walk' in the *pols* of old city and visited Hutheesing Palace and other heritage monuments. They also attended a talk on "World City - Heritage City the case of Ahmedabad" by research scholar at IITGn, Pooja Thomas.

