

16 IITGn students tour India the thrifty way

As part of Explorer Fellowship, they travelled to 10 states in six weeks

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Sixteen students of IITGN travelled the length and breadth of India through the Explorer Fellowship '15 that was introduced this year. When dna contacted the students a few days back, they shared their experiences.

Unlike travelling like tourists, the fellows were asked to roam about, get lost and walk on worn paths, to find themselves on the path of unexpected adventures. The students were asked to travel in teams of two or three and each



Some of the places that they visited include (Clockwise) Mysore Palace, Hampi in Karnataka and Chandratal Lake Camp

team was given Rs45,000 for their journey. The aim was to spark curiosity, reflection, compassion and commitment among the fellows through their journey.

Professor Jaison Manjaly, faculty and dean of students said, "The fellowship enabled students to see, experience and connect to different cultures, people and geographic patterns. In six weeks they explored a small chunk of the world but a greater part of themselves."

One of the students said, "We travelled to more than 10 states in six weeks' time. This has changed our perspective about several things. Some of the issues like road safety, delay of trains, landslides, lack of sustainable bridges, roads and architecture grabbed out attention.

'This journey gave me a feeling of self realisation'

Second year chemical engineering student Mridul Pareek, Jaipur, said, "We travelled during our summer break from May-July. As instructed we had to travel mainly by public transport. The most memorable part of the journey was when we travelled from Chennai to Assam in train, as it took us 60 hours. The journey gave me a feeling of self realisation. I also learnt a lot about photography. Our theme was to capture essence of various religions in India." He added, "We started from Gujarat and went to Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Meghalaya, Benaras, Rishikesh, Delhi, Shimla, Spiti valley, Rohtang Pass, Manali, Amritsar, Rajasthan and back."