



Institution's Innovation Council  
Saurashtra University Rajkot

## “Educational Visit”

12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March

At

KUTCH, GUJARAT

# Contents

<b>Saurashtra University – IIC .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Event Schedule.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Brief about Event .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Key Points.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Outcome .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Connect Us: .....</b>	<b>8</b>

# Saurashtra University – IIC

The university is dedicated to instruction, research, and extending knowledge to the public (public service). Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India has established 'MoE's Innovation Cell (MIC)' to systematically foster the culture of Innovation among all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The primary mandate of MIC is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by supporting them to work with new ideas and transform them into prototypes while they are informative years. Saurashtra University is one the Organization that have constituted the IIC to foster the vision of MoE and be a part for the promotion and development of innovation ecosystem.

## Event Schedule

<b>Day 1: 12 March, 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rajkot to Anand;</li><li>• Visit to Anand Agricultural University &amp; Kamdhenu University</li></ul>
<b>Day 2: 13 March, 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anand to Ahmedabad;</li><li>• Visit to Gujarat Technological University (GTU);</li><li>• Ahmedabad to Bhuj, Kutch.</li></ul>
<b>Day 3: 14 March, 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit to Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GIDE);</li><li>• Exploring Bhuj- Prag Mahal &amp; Smritivan (Earthquake memorial)</li></ul>
<b>Day 4: 15 March, 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dhola Vira via the Road to Heaven &amp; White</li><li>• Rann of Kutch</li></ul>
<b>Day 5: 16 March, 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mata no Madh,</li><li>• Narayan Sarovar &amp; Koteswar Mahadev,</li><li>• Organic Agro farm in Bhuj</li></ul>
<b>Day 6: 17 March, 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mundra Port</li><li>• Mundra to Rajkot</li></ul>

## Brief about Event

The Department of Biosciences, in collaboration with IIC Saurashtra University and SUSEC, was arranged an educational visit scheduled from March 12<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The tour was planned and led by Dr. R. K. Kothari and other non-teaching staff members. The visit was attended by 42 microbiology students.

The journey commenced on 12th March at 6:00 am from the Department of Biosciences, where all participants congregated. Traveling in buses, accompanied by faculty members and non-teaching staff, the journey was marked by lively interactions, including music, games, and moments of relaxation. We reached Anand at around 11:30 am and had lunch in the city. We reached Anand Agricultural University (AAU) at around 1:00 pm. Then we headed towards our stay at the AAU's Tribhuvan Farmers hostel. We gathered at around 2:00 pm for the institutional visit. Our first visit was the Department of Agricultural Microbiology, recognized for its pioneering work in commercial biofertilizers and agriculturally significant microorganisms. We were introduced to an array of advanced equipment utilized in their research, ranging from centrifuges to microscopes. Our exploration continued at the Centre for Advanced Research in Plant Tissue Culture and Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology. Here, we witnessed the development of various fruits and plant species, including the remarkable achievement of date palms with accelerated flowering cycles. Advanced tools like next-generation sequencing and supercomputing systems underscored the center's commitment to scientific innovation.

Our itinerary included visits to the Department of Animal Biotechnology and the Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding at Kamdhenu University, Anand. Here, we gained insights into veterinary projects and animal breeding methodologies intertwined with molecular technologies. The facilities boasted diverse laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art equipment for DNA analysis and sequencing. Our final visit of the day was to the College of Food Processing Technology and Bioenergy, where we learned about the amalgamation of molecular biotechnology with biochemistry and chemistry. Advanced equipment for microbial decontamination and chromatography highlighted the center's focus on addressing contemporary challenges in food processing and bioenergy production. Following the visits, we enjoyed a leisurely stroll around the campus, immersing ourselves in the natural surroundings. The evening concluded with dinner at the hostel, accompanied by engaging group discussions.

On the second day We embarked on our journey towards Ahmedabad, filled with anticipation for the experiences that awaited us. Our first destination in Ahmedabad was the School of Applied Sciences & Technology and the Atal Incubation Centre, nestled within Gujarat Technological University (GTU). The School of Applied Sciences & Technology boasts state-of-the-art research labs equipped with a myriad of cutting-edge equipment essential for molecular biotechnology research. Among the notable equipment are the Qubit for DNA quantification, Vitek for identification and analysis, NGS Illumina sequencing, electronic gel tape-station for electrophoresis, and kjehldal apparatus. The Atal Incubation Centre, functioning as a collaborative workspace, provides invaluable support to small-scale startups. These centers serve as hubs for fostering innovation and nurturing dynamic entrepreneurs striving to establish scalable and sustainable enterprises. Offering comprehensive infrastructural and financial assistance during the research and developmental phases, the Atal Incubation Centre plays a pivotal role in nurturing budding talents. Our arrival in Bhuj, marked the end of our day's travels. We made our way to the of Navchetna Trust house, where we rested. After settling into our

accommodations, we ventured into the local market to savor the flavors of Bhuj in dinner. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day Our first stop was the Swaminarayan Mandir, Bhuj, where we sought the divine blessings of Shree Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Immersed in the tranquil ambience of the temple, we absorbed the positive vibrations before proceeding towards our next destination. then our journey continued to the Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GIDE), an institute dedicated to the study of desert regions within the Kachchh district. Here, we delved into the intricate details of Kachchh's geographical distribution, its diverse flora and fauna, and the unique soil profile of the district. Despite the arid landscape and limited water resources, Kachchh remains a haven for migratory birds during certain seasons, showcasing the resilience of life in challenging environments. GIDE's commitment to detailed research in this area provided us with invaluable insights into the ecosystem dynamics of the region. Our next visit was the iconic Prag Mahal. This 19th-century palace, meticulously restored after the devastating earthquake of 2001, mesmerized us with its grandeur and architectural splendor. The Darbar hall, adorned with regal artifacts and personal belongings of the royal family, offered a glimpse into the opulence of bygone eras. Our exploration of Bhuj culminated with a visit to Smritivan - The Earthquake Memorial, a poignant tribute to the resilience of the people of Kutch in the aftermath of the 2001 earthquake. Spanning over 470 acres atop the Bhujiyo Dungar, this sprawling memorial and museum serve as a testament to the human spirit and the enduring bond between man and nature. The Sun-Point, offering panoramic views of the city and its surroundings, provided a serene backdrop for reflection. Additionally, the world's largest Miyawaki Forest within the memorial symbolizes rejuvenation and renewal, underscoring the transformative power of nature.

Fourth day commenced with an early start as we embarked on a journey to the ancient city of Dholavira. Nestled on the arid island of Khadir, Dholavira stands as a testament to the ingenuity of the Harappan Civilization. Occupied between approximately 3000-1500 BCE, this archaeological site showcases one of the best-preserved urban settlements in Southeast Asia. The fortified city, encompassing a heavily fortified castle, ceremonial grounds, and a sophisticated water management system, reflects the resilience of its inhabitants in coping with the harsh desert environment. The large cemetery with various types of cenotaphs provides insights into the Harappan's unique beliefs surrounding death, while artifacts unearthed from bead processing workshops attest to their artistic and technological achievements. Evidence of inter-regional trade further underscores the city's significance in ancient commerce. Next, we proceeded to the White Rann of Kutch, renowned for its expansive salt desert and ethereal beauty. This natural marvel, reputed to be the largest salt desert in the world, captivated us with its vast expanse of white sandy terrain. Home to sanctuaries like the Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary and the Kachchh Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, the Rann of Kutch offered a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers alike.

Day 5 of our journey was dedicated to a leisurely exploration of several sacred sites around Bhuj. Our first stop, Mata no Madh, is revered as a sacred site where devotees worship Goddess Ashapura. This pilgrimage destination holds great religious importance. Next on our itinerary was Narayan Sarovar, a renowned pilgrimage site revered for its sanctity. Adjacent to Narayan Sarovar's a wildlife sanctuary, offering a glimpse of nature's splendor with sightings of flamingos, cranes, and pelicans during certain seasons. Our journey continued to Koteshwar Mahadev, a spiritual enclave known for its numerous 'Shivalinga's' and serene surroundings. Here, amidst the mangroves and marshy lands, we witnessed the confluence of spirituality and natural beauty. The prominent water border with Pakistan served as a poignant reminder of the region's geographical

significance. Following our spiritual sojourn, we visited a renowned organic farm in Bhuj, known for its pioneering efforts in organic farming and cultivation of new fruit varieties. Ashapura Agro Fruits Foundation showcased a diverse range of fruits and crops that thrive in the arid landscape of Kachchh, thanks to innovative organic farming techniques and bio compost formulations. We were enlightened about various sustainable farming practices aimed at enhancing crop yield and promoting environmental stewardship.

At the last day we visited the Mundra Port operated by Adani Industries. Mundra port stands as a testament to the modern maritime hub, bustling with import-export operations that drive global trade. Its skyline is dotted with towering cranes, effortlessly maneuvering colossal container ships filled with goods from around the world. At the heart of its operations lies cutting-edge technology, ensuring efficient handling and swift turnaround times. Meticulous coordination orchestrates the seamless flow of cargo, making Mundra a strategic location for businesses aiming to tap into global markets. As a global trade facilitator, Mundra port plays a vital role in connecting economies and driving economic growth through its state-of-the-art infrastructure and unwavering commitment to excellence. we have taken our lunch between at local restaurant and we arrived Rajkot at 6:00 p.m. from Mundra port.

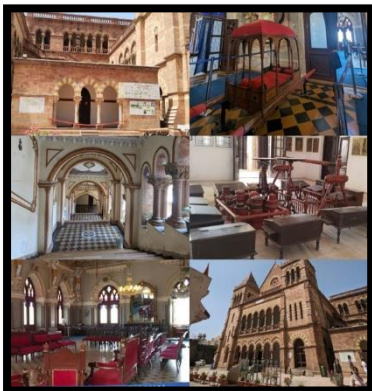
## Key Points

During the session, below mentioned points were discussed:

- Visited Anand Agricultural University & Gujarat Technological University.
- Explored agriculture, biotech, & food processing.
- Experienced desert ecology & cultural landmarks.
- Visited Bhuj, Dholavira & the White Rann of Kutch.
- Explored spiritual sites Mata no Madh & Narayan Sarovar.
- Learned about organic farming in Bhuj.
- Toured Mundra Port for maritime trade insights.
- Experienced diverse ecosystems & historical sites.
- Enjoyed local cuisine & cultural immersion.
- Explored resilience in challenging environments.

## Outcome

The journey was an enriching blend of academic learning, cultural exploration, and environmental appreciation. Participants gained insights into cutting-edge research in biotechnology and agriculture, witnessing advanced equipment and innovative practices at institutions like Anand Agricultural University and Gujarat Technological University. Cultural immersion in Bhuj included visits to historical landmarks and spiritual sites, offering moments of reflection and appreciation for the region's heritage. Exploration of natural wonders like the White Rann of Kutch and the ancient city of Dholavira showcased the resilience of life in challenging environments. The journey also emphasized sustainable practices in organic farming, culminating in a visit to an organic farm in Bhuj. Finally, a tour of Mundra Port highlighted the region's economic significance in global trade, showcasing modern infrastructure and technological advancements driving economic growth.



## Connect Us:



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/susec>



<https://www.facebook.com/susecrajkot>



<https://www.instagram.com/susecrajkot>



[iic@sauuni.ac.in](mailto:iic@sauuni.ac.in)



<https://bit.ly/SUSECLocation>



<https://bit.ly/SUSEC-youtube>