

GIANTS Ki Jai Ho!!!

Fun, Feast, Music & Networking..... All of this & many more, defines our trip to GWF International Convention at Gandhidham.

Gujarat was on my agenda as one of my dream locales to visit, for a long time now!! Also, the impact of watching daily soaps and advertorials by Gujarat tourism, made it more encouraging. My excitement levels rose on the day we kickstarted our planning to visit this Convention & got enhanced, post booking of our travel tickets.

Since we were visiting a vibrant Gujarat, we planned to visit a few places in and around Gandhidham, viz., Bhuj, Kutch, etc.,

When we landed in Bhuj, weather was pretty cold. We all enjoyed the weather, including my 83-year-old granny, Smt. Uma Shambhoj, who is also one of our Giants members. Hats off to her spirit for travelling to all destinations along with us, withstanding the challenging climatic conditions. We visited some of the beautiful places, viz., Palace, Temple, Smritivan Earthquake Museum, wherein we experienced a typical earthquake simulation exercise & an educational tour on how earthquakes happen!! It was absolutely worthy of an experience & we felt how difficult such natural disasters would be to mankind, when it happens!!!

The next day, we went to Kutch. Immediately on landing in Kutch, we felt that Amitabh Bachchan Sir's punchline of "Kutch nahi dekha tho Kutch nahi dekha" was truly justifiable!!! We first went to White Desert (Kutch Rann Utsav). It was such a mesmerising & a beautiful desert & we enjoyed to the hilt, by participating in some events, such as Camel Ride, Dancing away to glory in Gujarati traditional dress & costumes. We also visited to see a few tents to experience the comfort it could offer!!!

The BEST OF IT ALL: Enroute, we experienced the Anti-Gravity Slope at Kalo Dungar, which is located at 462 m above sea level. It is the highest point in Kutch where vehicles in neutral gear seem to defy gravity. It is also the only place offering a panoramic view of the Great Rann of Kutch – the world's largest salt crust desert. We experienced this drive on hill road which is an optical illusion of a gravity hill where our vehicle seemed to defy the gravity and roll from down slope to up the slope & that too when the vehicle was in neutral gear. Truly Amazing!! Later on, by around 10.30 PM, same day, we reached Gandhi Dham.

The First Day of the Convention was very memorable. The entry was well crafted & organised with lots of fun & folklore. Breakfast was very tasty, & we all envisaged on how the hospitality could be unfolding, for the next 3 days!!! Welcome Kit was well organised. Convention started with a Musical Housie, which was a very entertaining

way to begin the Convention. There were Award Functions, wherein we, Giants Group of Garden City, Bengaluru, won the below awards:

1. Certificate of Merit – OUTSTANDING GROUP
2. Certificate of Merit – OUTSTANDING SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR
3. Award for MEMBERSHIP GROWTH.

Presidents Meet went as per schedule. Later, most of the Saheli Groups who had travelled across the length & breadth of our great country, danced very nicely & we too joined them, in the celebrations.

The 2nd Day of the Convention Started at 8:30 AM. Breakfast was delicious, as usual!! The entire team of us, wore Karnataka traditional dresses. Men wore Mysore Peta, Kurtha and Panche. Women were draped in our famous & prestigious Mysore Silk Saree. There was a bidding process for 2025 Convention. We, Giants Group of Garden City, Bengaluru, went on the stage and gave a beautiful presentation on what we could offer as hosts, for the next convention. Unfortunately, we could not succeed to get the bid for the next year convention, which happens to be a Golden Jubilee year. However, we got the opportunity to host the Convention for 2026.

In the evening, we really enjoyed the musical evening wherein our Indian Idol Winner/ Finalist, Pavandeep Rajan & Arunita Kanjilal participated. We enjoyed some nostalgic & evergreen songs of Bollywood.

The 3rd & the last day of Convention, we listened to a Motivational Speech from Mr. Shantibhai. He kept us enthralled & his speech was very inspiring & interactive, wherein Mr. Shantibhai asked some of us from the crowd to come on stage and participate. Program got concluded with a Vote of Thanks & National Anthem.

Me as one of the young Giants, thoroughly enjoyed this trip & was very happy with the way Giants Group of Gandhidham hosted the event, which was laced with full of warmth & hospitality. Good quantum of networking was also done & lot of takeaways from this trip with great memories.

Rakshita Rajeev

Member

Giants Group of Garden City, Bengaluru.