



Official Report on “Bridging Campuses” 6-Day
Academic, Cultural & Culinary Exchange
Programme

**INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AHMEDABAD IN
COLLABORATION WITH AIHM CHANDIGARH**

08th September 2025 – 13th September 2025

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Introduction

The Institute of Hotel Management, Ahmedabad (IHMA), in collaboration with the Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management (AIHM), Chandigarh, organized a comprehensive **Student Exchange Programme** from 8th to 13th September 2025.

Titled “Bridging Campuses”, the programme was designed to foster **academic enrichment, cultural immersion, and culinary innovation**.

The initiative aimed to provide students and faculty of both institutes with opportunities to share best practices, enhance professional skills, and gain exposure to the heritage and hospitality ecosystem of Ahmedabad. The programme combined academic sessions, culinary workshops, industry visits, cultural showcases, and city tours, thereby ensuring a holistic exchange experience.

07th September 2025 – Pre-Arrival

The students and faculty from AIHM Chandigarh arrived at Gandhinagar Capital Railway Station at 3:05 PM. They were warmly welcomed by student volunteer Mr. Aakash Parmar (2nd Year B.Sc.) and a team of IHMA student buddies. Transportation arrangements had been made to shift the delegation to their accommodations at Visamo/Boys and Girls Hostels, under the supervision of Mr. Suman Sarkar.

Upon arrival at the hostels, the guests were briefed on campus safety guidelines, accommodation facilities, and the programme itinerary. Student buddies actively helped with luggage, room allocation, and ensured a smooth settling-in process. In the evening, the guests enjoyed a hearty dinner at Prayas, coordinated by Mr. Charu Dutt Sharma and Mr. Lalit Waghela.

Following dinner, an informal ice-breaking gathering was organized at the hostel premises. Students from both institutes interacted casually, sharing stories about their academic journey and cultural backgrounds. This initial interaction set the tone for the spirit of collaboration and friendship that characterized the rest of the programme.

08th September 2025 – Arrival & Orientation

The first official day of the exchange began with a grand welcome at IHMA's campus. At 09:00AM, students from AIHM Chandigarh were greeted with a traditional Garba dance performance, symbolizing Gujarat's rich cultural heritage. The welcome ceremony created an energetic and festive atmosphere.

This was followed by a formal address by Principal Mr Kalyan Mukharjee held in the Conference Room. She highlighted the objectives of the exchange Programme and encouraged students to take full advantage of the learning and networking opportunities. Faculty members and student coordinators from IHMA also introduced themselves, ensuring smooth communication throughout the week.

A guided campus tour was then conducted by faculty members and student volunteers. Guests explored classrooms, training kitchens, restaurants, the library, and other facilities, gaining insights into IHMA's academic ecosystem. A tea break at Prayas provided a casual setting for further interaction.

The ice-breaker session in the AV Room was lively and engaging. Students participated in interactive games and activities designed to build camaraderie. Lunch at the Training Restaurant offered not only a taste of IHMA's culinary training but also a chance for further bonding.

The afternoon featured a cultural showcase by IHMA students, including music, dance, and skit performances. This event gave AIHM Chandigarh students a glimpse into Gujarat's cultural diversity. Later, a faculty-level meeting was conducted to align programme expectations and discuss academic priorities.

The day concluded with a group photo session, informal networking, and a relaxing dinner at Prayas. Student buddies also organized a light informal gathering in the hostel common room, further strengthening inter-institute



Welcome address by Principal,
introduction of host team

Ice-breaker activities & interactive games
among students



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Welcome address by Principal,
introduction of host team

Lunch at Training Restaurant

09th September 2025 – Culinary Exploration

The focus of the second day was on culinary learning. The morning began with a masterclass on Gujarati specialties conducted by Dr. Salla Vijay Kumar at the Advanced Training Kitchen (ATK). The session emphasized the philosophy of Gujarati cuisine, the use of indigenous spices, and the importance of traditional cooking techniques.

Following the demonstration, students from both institutes participated in hands-on cooking sessions. Divided into mixed teams, they prepared a variety of dishes while learning from each other's regional cooking traditions. This interactive session was a true exchange of culinary skills and creativity.

Lunch was served at Avezika, featuring the dishes prepared by the students. Faculty members and senior chefs acted as judges, evaluating teamwork, creativity, and presentation. The session encouraged peer learning and highlighted the similarities and differences in regional cuisines across India.

The afternoon was devoted to a reflection session, where students discussed their learning outcomes and experiences in collaborative cooking. The dialogue emphasized the importance of sustainable cooking practices, seasonal ingredients, and waste minimization.

This was followed by a faculty interaction session, where teaching methodologies, kitchen management techniques, and evaluation processes were discussed. Faculty members exchanged insights into academic structures, curriculum delivery, and student assessment methods.

The evening was left free for informal campus activities, organized by IHMA student buddies. Some students played sports while others gathered in informal groups for discussions and networking. Dinner at Prayas wrapped up a fulfilling day of culinary exploration.



Culinary masterclass by senior faculty/guest chef –
Gujarati specialty demonstration

Hands-on session: Visiting and host
students prepare dishes in Team



Faculty interaction: Sharing teaching techniques & kitchen management practices

10th September 2025 – Academic & Cultural Exchange

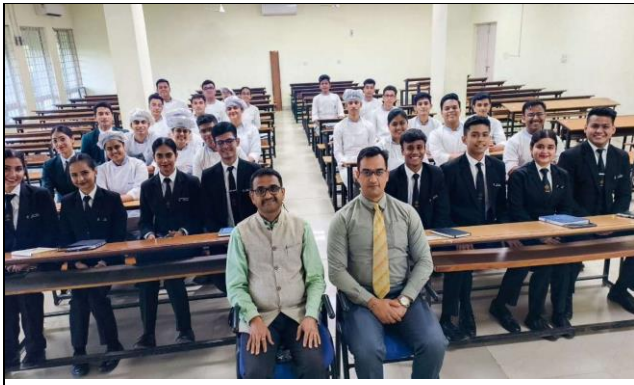
On the third day, students from AIHM Chandigarh attended a regular theory class at IHMA, allowing them to observe classroom pedagogy and academic discipline. This provided valuable insight into the teaching-learning style of the host institution.

Later in the morning, student groups from both institutes delivered presentations on their respective regional cuisines, training practices, and cultural identities. Presentations included traditional dishes from Punjab, and Gujarat, along with insights into training restaurant operations and academic practices.

After lunch at Prayas, a roundtable discussion was organized in the Conference Room. Faculty and selected students shared best practices related to curriculum design, practical training, and placement preparation. The discussion highlighted the strengths of both institutes and potential areas for collaboration.

The Principal then delivered a special interactive session on career opportunities in the hospitality industry. She encouraged students to adopt a proactive approach to internships, placements, and lifelong learning. Students actively participated, asking questions about global career pathways.

The evening featured a social activity, including a movie screening and cultural games. The relaxed environment allowed students to bond beyond academics and exchange cultural perspectives. Dinner at Prayas concluded the day.



AIHM Students attending regular theory class of the IHM Ahmedabad



Each group presents their IHM's regional cuisine, unique training practices, and cultural insights

11th September 2025 – Industry & Heritage Connect

The fourth day combined industry exposure with heritage exploration. In the morning, students visited The House of Mangaldas Girdhardas, a renowned heritage hotel in Ahmedabad. Here, they observed hotel operations, guest service protocols, and the blending of heritage with modern luxury. Faculty members explained the business models of heritage hospitality.

Lunch was served at the hotel, after which the group proceeded to explore Ahmedabad's heritage landmarks. The highlights included Sidi Saiyyid ni Jali, famous for its intricate stone latticework, and other cultural attractions in Lal Darwaja. Guides provided historical context and explained the significance of Indo-Islamic architecture.

In the evening, IHMA hosted a Cultural Night in the auditorium. Students from both institutes performed traditional and modern dances, musical pieces, and skits. The event symbolized cultural integration and celebrated India's diversity. The audience enthusiastically applauded the collaborative performances, which reflected the spirit of unity. The day ended with an informal dinner and interaction at Prayas. Students expressed admiration for the cultural richness of Ahmedabad and the hospitality extended by IHMA.



Industry visit to The House of Mangaldas Girdhardas, Ahmedabad



Heritage site visit to Sidi Saiyyid ni Jali, Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad



Cultural Night: Joint performances by visiting and host students in IHMA Auditorium



12th September 2025 – Conclusion & Way Forward

The penultimate day began with a joint feedback session in the Conference Room. Students, faculty, and principals shared reflections on the programme, highlighting key learnings in academics, cultural immersion, and personal growth. Many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to experience a different academic environment.

A certificate distribution ceremony followed, where the Principal awarded certificates of participation.

A group photo session was held to capture the memorable moment. A closing lunch was hosted at Prayas, where participants celebrated the success of the programme.

In the afternoon, students visited Adalaj ni Vav, a historic stepwell known for its architectural brilliance. The visit provided insights into ancient water conservation methods and Indo-Islamic design aesthetics. The heritage experience deepened students' appreciation of India's cultural heritage. The day concluded with a farewell dinner at Prayas. Emotional speeches were made by both IHMA and AIHM Chandigarh students, marking the successful conclusion of the exchange.



Half day Tour to Adalaj ni Vav



Half day Tour to Adalaj ni Vav

13th September 2025 – Sightseeing Tour

The final day was dedicated to a **full-day Dekho Amdavad City Tour** by bus. The itinerary included prominent landmarks, bustling markets, and cultural hubs. Students explored Ahmedabad’s historic neighborhoods, iconic architecture, and popular food destinations.

The city tour also served as an informal platform for students to bond further. They captured photographs, exchanged souvenirs, and strengthened their friendships. The day concluded with a dinner at Prayas, where students reflected on their experiences and shared laughter one last time before departure.



Dekho Amdavad City Tour



14th September 2025 – Departure

On the morning of the final day, the delegation from AIHM Chandigarh departed from Gandhinagar Capital Railway Station at 10:05 AM by the 19411 GNC DLPC Express. Prior to departure, students exchanged contact details, group photographs, and small tokens of remembrance.

The farewell was an emotional occasion, with both sides expressing gratitude for the warmth, hospitality, and learning opportunities. The event concluded with a mutual commitment to continue collaborations between IHMA Ahmedabad and AIHM Chandigarh in future academic and cultural initiatives.

Conclusion

The Bridging Campuses Student Exchange Programme was a resounding success. It provided students and faculty with a unique opportunity to share knowledge, experience cultural immersion, and develop professional competencies. Both institutes.

Overall Feedback & Suggestions



The student exchange program between IHM Ahmedabad and AIHM Chandigarh was an enriching and insightful experience, providing students with valuable exposure to diverse culinary traditions, academic practices, and hospitality standards. The sessions and activities were well organized, interactive, and highly beneficial in broadening our knowledge and perspective. To make the program even more impactful, it is suggested that the management include a session for visiting nearby villages or rural areas, which would allow students to explore and understand the authentic rural culinary experience. It is also suggested to include at least one non-mainstream cuisine of the state, (such as Siddi Cuisine from Gujarat, ‘Kodava cuisine from Karnataka’, Parsi Cuisine of or ‘Bodo cuisine from Assam,’) along with the mainstream state Cuisine so that students gain exposure to lesser-known but culturally significant food traditions.”