FLAME students rediscover India

Sixty-eight students of the Foundation for Liberal Art Management Education (FLAME) in Pune recently participated in a novel programme of discovering India. The programme aimed at blending academic skills of documentation, research and presentation with the pleasure of discovery.

These second-year undergraduate students were divided into seven groups that visited different parts of the country and conducted a week-long field research on themes of their choice, as part of the 'Discover India Project' (DIP).

"The unique programme allowed young minds to connect with self in relation to their connectivity with the exterior world, giving them an opportunity to study in groups and consolidate holistic learning," said chairman of DIP Vinay Hardikar.

The groups gave presentations of their projects recently on the institute campus. The jury, which included architect Ballirahma Doshi, graphic designer Subrata Bhownick and editor of Heritage India Manjiri Khandekar, selected the best project based on each group's findings.

The topics of research for the DIP programme that were selected by the seven groups were — a study of temples in Bikaner (Rajasthan); rediscover Punjab; Cochin — a hub of ethnic and cultural diversity; Chitragarh: weaves community in Andhra Pradesh; tracking India’s plural culture through the Indian Railways (Milestone, 1883) and Jaisalmer.

The jury adjudged the group that undertook ‘Punjab re-discovered’ as the best based on their final presentation, analytical report and marks received by individual members of the group. Receiving the highest number of points, Sher-e-Punjab was declared the DIP prize-winning group. They got a group scholarship to conduct an international research project.

"We chose to explore Punjab and its people for various sociological reasons. The programme has changed our lives forever," said team leader of the DIP prize-winning group, Stalin Koticha.