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## **Jagriti Yatra 2025: An Experiential Learning Train Journey on Innovation, Enterprise, Healthcare, and Nation-Building**

Miss. Krutika Bhandari (IV BHMS Student)

### **Abstract**

Jagriti Yatra is a nationally acclaimed experiential learning program aimed at fostering leadership, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility among Indian youth. Conducted as a pan-India train journey, it exposes participants to grassroots development models, healthcare systems, innovation ecosystems, and institutions of national importance. This article presents a chronological and analytical account of Jagriti Yatra 2025 (7–22 November 2025), highlighting its academic relevance from a medical student’s perspective. The journey offered insights into scalable healthcare delivery, preventive health, and social determinants of health, interdisciplinary collaboration, and governance, thereby complementing formal medical education through field-based learning.

### **Keywords**

Jagriti Yatra, Medical Education, Social Entrepreneurship, Experiential Learning, Public Health, Innovation Ecosystems

### **Introduction**

Jagriti Yatra is a nationally recognized experiential learning initiative designed to nurture leadership, entrepreneurship, and nation-building among young Indians. Conducted annually as a multi-state train journey, the Yatra enables participants to engage directly with social enterprises, healthcare institutions, innovation hubs, and governance systems.

Jagriti Yatra 2025 was conducted from 7th November to 22nd November 2025 as a 15-day pan-India journey. I was selected as a fully sponsored participant by the Maharashtra State Innovation Society (MSINS), which supported my participation by funding the entire Yatra fee of ₹1,00,000. Through this opportunity, I represented MSINS and Motiwala National Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Nashik.

### **Orientation and Commencement: Mumbai (7th November)**

The Yatra began in Mumbai with a full-day orientation program at Bal Gandharva Rang Mandir, Bandra. Participants were introduced to the vision, learning framework, and collaborative structure of the Yatra. Cohorts and groups were formed to facilitate peer learning throughout the journey.

A cultural inauguration ceremony was held in the evening, following which participants travelled to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT). The journey officially commenced late at night aboard the specially arranged Jagriti Yatra Express.

#### **Learning on Wheels: On-Train Sessions (8 November)**

The train functioned as a moving classroom, hosting expert sessions by entrepreneurs and leaders, including the co-founder of Rapido. Discussions focused on innovation, startup failures, leadership challenges, and scalability.

A core experiential activity was the Lifeline Exercise, where participants shared personal life experiences. This activity fostered empathy, trust, and strong interpersonal bonds within cohorts.

#### **Culture, Education, and Social Enterprise: Hubli (9 November)**

Participants visited Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya, Hubli, an institution integrating rural education with Indian classical music and arts. The visit demonstrated how cultural education can empower communities.

This was followed by an interaction with SELCO, a social enterprise providing decentralized renewable energy solutions for underserved populations, illustrating technology-driven social impact.

#### **Innovation Ecosystem Exposure: Kerala Startup Mission (10 November)**

At Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), Kochi, participants were introduced to one of India's most robust government-supported startup ecosystems. Sessions covered incubation models, funding pathways, and policy-driven innovation.

A visit to Maker Village, a world-class fabrication and R&D hub, highlighted the role of interdisciplinary collaboration in technology and healthcare innovation.

#### **Scalable Healthcare Delivery: Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai (11 November)**

The visit to Aravind Eye Care Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai, provided insight into a globally recognized model of affordable, high-volume, high-quality healthcare delivery. Standardized workflows, task shifting, cross-subsidization, and operational efficiency were key observations, offering valuable lessons for future healthcare systems.

#### **Technology, Manufacturing, and Precision: ISRO and Sri City (12 November)**

A special-permission visit to ISRO offered exposure to India's space research ecosystem and technological self-reliance. Later, at Sri City, participants visited RSB, a leading automotive component manufacturer. The visit emphasized quality control, systems thinking, and process optimization-principles equally applicable to healthcare management.

#### **Nutrition and National Defence: Visakhapatnam (13 November)**

In Visakhapatnam, participants visited The Akshaya Patra Foundation, observing large-scale, technology-enabled preparation of nutritious meals for school children. This was followed by a visit to the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, offering insight into India's maritime defence infrastructure.

**Community-Led Development: Gram Vikas, Odisha (14 November)**

At Berhampur, Odisha, participants visited Gram Vikas NGO and its residential school. The organization's community-owned sanitation, education, and rural development models highlighted the strong link between dignity, participation, and long-term health outcomes.

**Academic Engagement Onboard: AC Chair Car Session (15 November)**

Structured learning continued onboard through AC Chair Car academic sessions. Our group presented a sales funnel strategy for "BraveCore", a defence-sector drone manufacturing startup. The exercise strengthened understanding of B2B sales, defence entrepreneurship, and investor-oriented thinking.

**Knowledge Systems: Nalanda (16 November)**

Participants visited the ancient Nalanda University ruins and the new Nalanda University campus, reflecting on India's historical legacy as a global knowledge centre and its contemporary academic revival.

**Healthcare Innovation and Field Validation: Deoria (17 November)**

At Jagriti Enterprise Centre Purvanchal (JECPC), Deoria, participants engaged in the BizGyan (BGT) competition. Our group conceptualized and pitched "Aayron", a healthcare venture focused on iron supplementation and women's nutritional health.

Field validation was conducted in Sarkarpara village, where interactions with local women provided insights into grassroots health challenges. The pitch received positive accreditation from the judging panel.

**Governance and Social Responsibility: Delhi (18–19 November)**

Following transit via Gorakhpur, participants reached Delhi and visited Goonj, an NGO transforming urban surplus into rural development resources. A visit to the new Indian Parliament building, including Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, provided exposure to governance and policy-making processes.

**Ethical Enterprise and Culture: Jaipur (20 November)**

At Jaipur Rugs, participants learned about ethical supply chains and artisan-centric business models. A visit to Manpura village offered insight into local culture and community-based livelihoods.

**Valedictory and Conclusion: Ahmedabad and Return (21–22 November)**

In Ahmedabad, participants visited Sabarmati Ashram, reflecting on Gandhian values. The valedictory ceremony was held at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), where certificates of completion were awarded. The journey concluded with the return to Mumbai CSMT on 22nd November 2025.

**Discussion: Educational Outcomes for Medical Students**

Jagriti Yatra 2025 functioned as a field-based educational program with significant relevance to medical education. Exposure to scalable healthcare models, preventive health strategies, social

determinants of health, innovation ecosystems, and governance institutions broadened the understanding of healthcare beyond clinical practice.

Key outcomes included insights into systems-based healthcare delivery (Aravind Eye Care), preventive nutrition-focused interventions (Aayron project), operational efficiency (ISRO and RSB), community health determinants (Gram Vikas), interdisciplinary collaboration (KSUM), and health policy awareness (Indian Parliament).

### **Conclusion**

Jagriti Yatra 2025 was a transformative educational experience that complemented formal medical training through real-world exposure and interdisciplinary learning. For a BHMS student, the journey reinforced the importance of viewing healthcare as a systems-driven, community-oriented, and policy-influenced discipline.

I express sincere gratitude to the Maharashtra State Innovation Society (MSINS) for sponsoring my participation and to Motiwala National Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Nashik, for encouraging experiential academic exposure. The lessons from this journey will continue to guide my development as a healthcare professional committed to innovation, equity, and nation-building.

Photographs of Yatra

