

INDIA'S FIRST TRAVEL MAGAZINE

Discover India

OCTOBER 2014 ₹100



THE LIMITLESS CANVAS

Landscapes & Beings Your Camera Will Love

The Spiti Chronicles • Festive Flavours • Wildlife Sanctuaries Explored
Shrines Of Yore • Travel-Ready Grooming & Accessories

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 10



INR 100-DI- OCT 2014



Legacy Of The Mahatma

The Khoj Gandhiji Ki Museum in Jalgaon is a tribute to the Mahatma's life and work, preserving and propagating his ideals.

Words BRINDA GILL

The road meanders past plantations on the outskirts of Jalgaon, Maharashtra, and a stately pink-beige sandstone complex, sprawling across the hill-top and fronted by lush lawns, comes into view. A simple board reads 'Gandhi Teerth.' Approaching the complex, built of stone used in combination with lime mortar, walking through the colonnades that frame vistas of the structure as well as of the landscape, and experiencing its vast collection of memorabilia related to Mahatma Gandhi leaves the visitor awed by his ideals as well as the architecture that speaks of strength in simplicity.

Spread across 81,000 sq ft and set in 300 acres of land, encompassing mango orchards, lawns and forests, Gandhi Teerth—inaugurated by the President of India on March 25, 2012—is a centre for Gandhian studies, research and dialogue. Its core objective is to preserve and promote Gandhian ideology. Sponsored by Jain Irrigation Systems, and Bhavarlala and Kantabai Jain Multipurpose Foundation, the complex is designed by Jodhpur-based architect A. Mridul. The buildings are placed around the central court that is designed like an amphitheatre, and used for various activities.

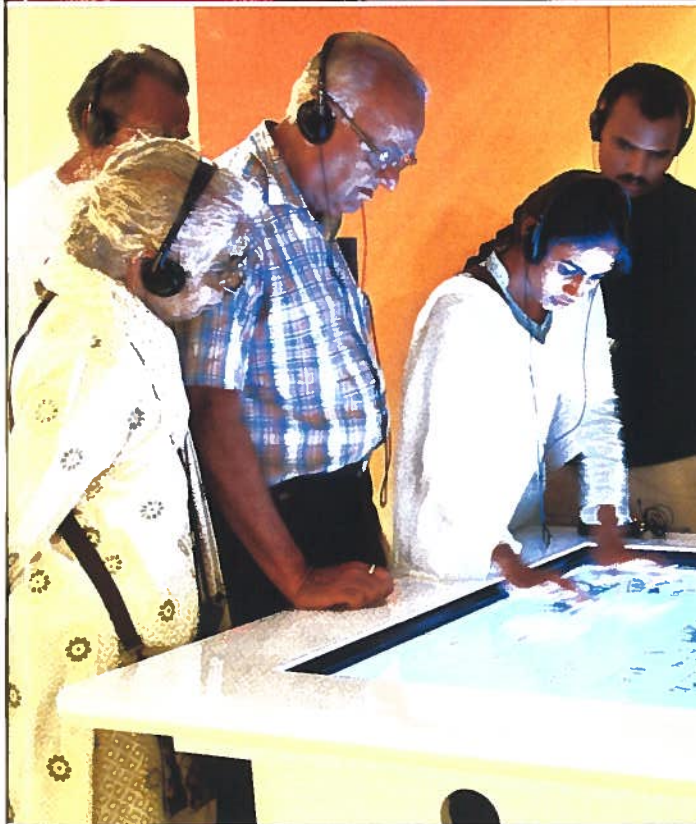
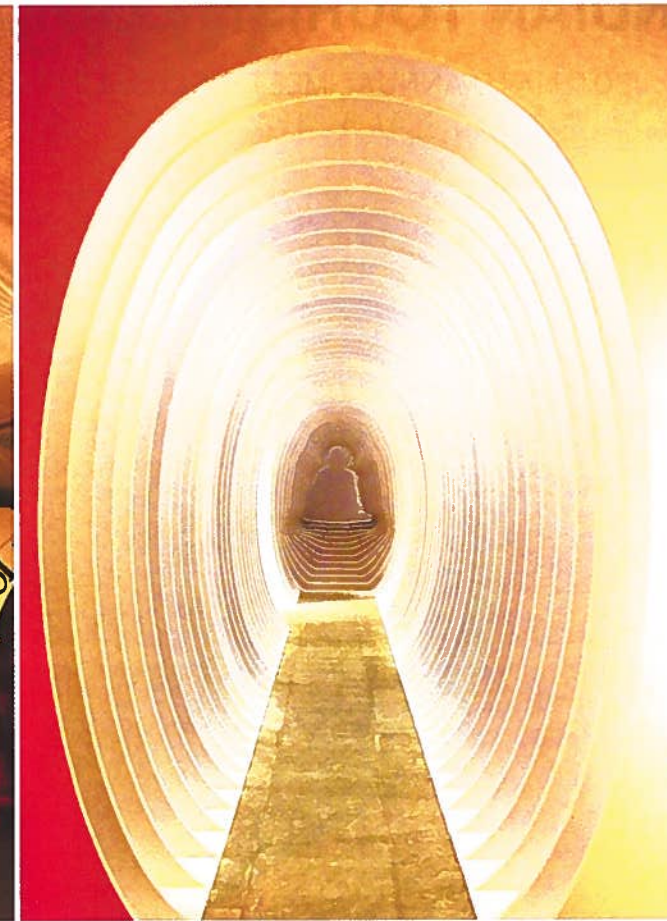
Gandhi Teerth comprises the Khoj Gandhiji Ki Museum; the Gandhi International Research Institute that is the academic arm of the Gandhi Research Foundation (GRF) that promotes Gandhi Teerth and facilitates research in Gandhian studies and awards diplomas and degrees; the GRF Think Tank that is an association of scholars who study and discuss contemporary issues; Gandhiana that organises publications by and on Gandhi; Gandhi Archives that preserves archival publications related to Gandhi and India's freedom movement; and Gandhinomics that apply Gandhian ideology to present-day rural issues and foster rural development through various initiatives.

The complex houses over 9,000 books, over 5,000 periodicals, over 14,000 photographs, 85 films, 152 audio recordings of Gandhi's speeches, and philately artefacts from 119 countries.

The focus of the complex is Khoj Gandhiji Ki Museum, a multi-level, interactive, multimedia museum. Rather than a chronological narration, the approach has been to present a thematic collection of events from Gandhi's life.

The museum is divided into sections, with the initial galleries depicting Gandhi's childhood, his learning experiences during this period, his stay in London where he went for higher studies and his

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF GANDHI TEERTH ARCHIVES



experiences with his mother. The subsequent sections depict his life in South Africa as well as important moments and events related to India's freedom movement. The wealth of captioned photographs spanning his life, films on him and audio files (which offer visitors the opportunity to hear his voice and speeches) offer rare insights into Gandhi's life. Well-informed guides accompany visitors on the tour, at the end of which is a hyper realistic statue of Gandhi spinning—it feels real to the touch!

Statues of Gandhi in outdoor spaces emphasise the core ethos of the centre. In keeping with the Mahatma's philosophy of holistic living, the complex has an eco-friendly design (featuring natural cooling and light) and generates a very small carbon footprint. It has been awarded a 5-star rating by Teri Griha, the highest rating for green buildings in India. Like the values espoused by Gandhi, the complex is built to endure and it aims to preserve his ideology and memorabilia related to him for posterity.

Navigator

By Air Aurangabad airport is 160 km away.

By Rail Gandhi Teerth is located 12 km from Jalgaon railway station.

By Road The museum is well-connected by road. It is in proximity to other prominent spots around, including Ajanta Caves (55 km) and Ellora Caves (140 km).

Address Gandhi Teerth, Jain Hills, PO Box 118, Jalgaon—425 001 (Maharashtra) **For details, call** 0257-2260481 **email** info@gandhifoundation.net **web** gandhifoundation.net