

Visit to Ojas Art Gallery

The Koels visited the Ojas Art Gallery on 14th October 2025, and I had the chance to join them. The day began as usual with the children attending their classes. Their class teacher spoke to them about the visit, explaining what they would see and reminding them of the rules to follow inside the gallery. The children recalled from their previous outdoor visits that they must stay quiet, avoid running, and whisper if they needed to ask something.



Afterwards, the students made their way to the bus, each class sitting in their respective buses. The journey began with great excitement. On the way, the teacher pointed out landmarks and told them that they were going near Qutub Minar. Some children eagerly mentioned that their homes were nearby and that they had seen the monument before. They also spotted the metro and shared their little stories with joy. After navigating through the day's traffic, we finally reached the 1AQ Ojas Art Gallery.

As we entered the premises, the first thing we noticed was a statue of a person in an exercise pose, which instantly caught the children's curiosity. As the bus moved forward, we saw more sculptures, and the kids looked at them with great interest. Once parked, the children got down in a neat line. The surroundings were beautiful—lush, green, and very clean. The first thing that drew everyone's attention was a big banyan tree. The teacher explained how banyan trees have roots that grow down from their branches, which the children quickly noticed and pointed out excitedly.



Inside the gallery, we were welcomed into a warm and inviting space. The first exhibit was *“Healing Wounds”* by Veer Munshi. There were two artworks—one in black and white, the other in shades of green. The gallery volunteer introduced the artist, explaining that he was from Kashmir and had to leave his home and move to Delhi. His artworks reflected his longing for his homeland. The pieces were handcrafted from wood, featuring carpets, tigers, flowers, animals, houses, and gardens—all symbols of Kashmir. The children listened quietly and attentively.



Next, we saw *“Ascending Roots”* by Manjunath Kamath and Veer Munshi. The volunteer explained that it was like a poem created by the artists from terracotta clay, with each piece carrying its own meaning. The children observed the different shapes—some saw masks, others boats, lotuses, or mushrooms. It was delightful to see how imaginative and observant they were.



The final artwork was “*Visvaroopā* – a cosmic and deeply symbolic form of Vishnu”, created collaboratively by Manjunath Kamath, Bajju Shyam, and Santosh Kumar Das. The volunteer explained that the artists combined their unique styles—Jaipuri, Madhubani, and Gond—to create a unified piece. The artwork represented harmony among all living beings, despite their differences. It depicted gods, humans, animals, birds, sea creatures, the sun, and the moon—all interconnected in the vast universe. It was fascinating for me particularly to imagine how three artists could merge their unique styles into such a meaningful and beautiful work.



After viewing the exhibits, the children were given paper and color pencils to draw their favorite artwork. They sat patiently and began drawing with great focus. Some tried to recreate “*Healing Wounds*” while others drew parts of “*Ascending Roots*”. It was wonderful to watch their creativity unfold.



Once everyone finished, the children moved to the open lawn in front of the gallery, where they played freely under the shade of the banyan tree. Each teacher asked their respective class students about their drawings and what they had liked most about the visit. Before leaving, the gallery staff kindly offered snacks, which the children enjoyed happily. They thanked the volunteers and boarded their buses. On the way back, teachers helped them finish their remaining snacks, as it was already past their break time.



It was a long and eventful day, but the children remained cheerful and energetic till we returned to school. Overall, it was a rewarding experience to accompany the students and see their curiosity, imagination, and appreciation for art.

Report by-

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