

The Visit to Sant Tukaram Sugar Factory, Kasarsai, Pune: A Field Trip Report

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An educational field visit to the Sant Tukaram Sugar Factory, Kasarsai, Pune, was organised by Lokmat for the Grade VIII students of S.B. Patil Public School on 3rd October 2025. The objective of the visit was to provide students with hands-on exposure to industrial processes—specifically sugar production—and to help them understand the connection between agriculture, manufacturing, and sustainable resource management.

Upon arrival, the students were warmly greeted by Mr. Vithal Bhale, who conducted a guided tour of the sugar factory. Through his detailed explanations, students learned that sugar production is closely linked to rainfall, as a good monsoon leads to a healthy sugarcane crop and improved sugar yield. The students showed great enthusiasm, actively participated, and asked insightful questions throughout the visit.



One of the major highlights was learning how the Sant Tukaram Sugar Factory operates as a self-power-generating unit. The leftover material from sugarcane after extraction, known as bagasse, is used as fuel to generate electricity for the factory's operations. The factory also produces ethanol as a byproduct, contributing to cleaner fuel initiatives.

Any excess power generated is sold to the power grid, supporting the local energy supply, while the ash produced during combustion is converted into manure to promote sustainable farming. The factory runs at full capacity, 24x7, from November to April, and during the off-season (post-April), the focus shifts to machine maintenance and preparations for the next production cycle.



Students had the opportunity to observe the journey of sugarcane through various stages—cutting, crushing, juice extraction, boiling, crystallisation, drying, and packaging.

The field trip to the Sant Tukaram Sugar Factory was both educational and inspiring. It offered students valuable insights into how an industrial unit can function efficiently while maintaining harmony with nature. The visit successfully bridged classroom learning with real-world application, leaving students with a renewed appreciation for sustainable industrial practices.