

Brief overview of EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT (EBSB)

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) is a flagship programme initiated by the Government of India to promote greater mutual understanding between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India. The MHRD is the coordinating Ministry for these activities under EBSB.

The IIITs have been strong bastions of cultural integration in the country having students from almost across all states. It is therefore, appropriate that this integration is showcased as a part of the EBSB programme. IIIT Bhagalpur is determined to make this programme a grand success and achieve the desired outcome expected by the Ministry.

Events under EBSB at IIIT Bhagalpur

The first phase of EBSB programme was successfully hosted by IIIT Bhagalpur during 27-28 January, 2018. According to the guidelines proposed by the Ministry, IIIT Bhagalpur invited students of NIT Mizoram to take part in the first phase of this programme. The 2(two) day long programme was focussed on various cultural activities of Bihar and Mizoram presented by the students of both the institutes. IIIT Bhagalpur showcased the cultural heritage of Bihar while NIT Mizoram showcases their traditional dances specific to the state of Mizoram. The events organized under this programme are given below:

1. Essay Competition
2. Traditional dance and song performances
3. Painting Exhibition
4. Nukkad Natak
5. Cultural tour to Vikramsheela, Bihar

The opening ceremony of this programme was held on the morning session of 27th January, 2018. Officiating Director, Prof. Pinakeswar Mahanta had inaugurated the programme. Eminent guests from different parts of Bhagalpur were present in this occasion. Faculty and staff of IIIT Bhagalpur and BCE Bhagalpur; Nodal officers from IIIT Bhagalpur were present in this event. NIT Mizoram students led by Dr. K. G. Singh, Assistant Professor were also present on this occasion and described the rich cultural heritage of Mizoram to the gathering.

Essay Competition

An essay competition was organized among the students of IIIT Bhagalpur and NIT Mizoram on the 27th January, 2018 (Picture 1). Three judges were invited for selecting the winners. The topic of this essay competition was "National integration for the promotion of Unity in Diversity". Total 25 students had participated in this competition. Three students namely; a) Laldinenga, NIT Mizoram b) Andy Liansanglawma, NIT Mizoram and c) Pushpendra Sharma, IIIT Bhagalpur were adjudged as the winners of this competition (Pictures 2-4).



Picture 1: Students of NIT Mizoram and IIIT Bhagalpur during the Essay competition. **Picture 2:** 1st Prize Winner in the Essay Competition



Picture 3-4: 2nd and 3rdPrize Winners of the Essay Competition respectively.

Traditional dance and song performances

In the afternoon session of 27th January, 2018; cultural programmes were being organized for demonstrating the cultural heritage of the State Bihar as well as the State Mizoram. Traditional dances were performed by the students of both these institutes. Cheraw popularly known as “bamboo dance” is a very old traditional dance of the Mizos. It is believed that the dance had already existed way back in the 1st Century A.D.. Apart from this dance form, 'Sarlamkai' dance was also performed by NIT Mizoram students. Sarlamkai symbolizes the victory in a war.



Picture 6-7: NIT Mizoram students during the "Cheraw" and "Sarlamkai" dance performances respectively.

Bhojpuri and Maithili music are integral part of Indian music and Bihar has produced several notable singers like Bharat RatnaUstadBismillah Khan.Few students from IIIT Bhagalpur had demonstrated the taste of these two musical forms in front of the audience in the evening session.

Nukkad Natak

Street play popularly known as “Nukkad Natak” was an instrument for the artists to showcase the society. This instrument was utilized perfectly by the students of IIIT Bhagalpur to demonstrate the dark side of the dowry system. This system has negatively influenced the lives of numerous number of Indian citizens. The social campaign of Govt. of India called as “BetiBachao, BetiPadhao” was given a dramatically touch by the IIIT Bhagalpur students. Pictures 7-8 given below were captured during this auspicious occasion. Chhath is an ancient Hindu Vedic festival native to Bihar and few other states of India. The rituals performed during this

“ChhathPuja” were demonstrated by the IIIT Bhagalpur students. These programmes were very helpful for showcasing the state of Bihar in front of the people coming from NIT Mizoram.



Picture 7-8: IIIT Bhagalpur students during their "Nukkad Natak" performances

Painting Exhibition:

Madhubani and Manjusha art are the two art forms with global exposure. As part of the first phase of EBSB programme, a painting exhibition was organized on 28th January, 2018. This exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. K.G. Singh, NIT Mizoram. Paintings from IIIT Bhagalpur students as well as local artists contributed their valuable artwork in this painting exhibition. A local artist famously known as Manjusha Guru, Manoj Kumar Pandithaving expertise in Manjusha art was invited for this special occasion. He explained the artworks to the students of NIT Mizoram as well as IIIT Bhagalpur students (Picture 9-10).



Picture 9-10: Students-artists' interaction during the Painting Exhibition.

Cultural tour to Vikramsheela:

Vikramashilawas one of the two most important centres of learning in India during the Pala Empire, along with Nalanda. Students of both the institutes along with the few faculty members of IIIT Bhagalpur visited this historical place on the evening of 28th January, 2018. With this tour, Mizoram students came to know about the rich Indian educational history. During the journey, visitors also got the taste of traditional cuisine of Bihar such “LittiChokha” and “Dahichura”. Few cherishing moments captured during this tour are shown through Picture 9-10.



Picture 10-11: Student and faculties at the Vikramshila.

The first phase of the EBSB programme hosted by IIIT Bhagalpur aspires to realize the dream set by the MHRD. The unity among people of India is necessary to prosper as a nation. Still photography along with videography of this event were also successfully done. These were communicated to the newspapers for publishing this event as well creating awareness among the Indian citizens. Programmes like EBSB will definitely help us to stay united.

The second phase of the EBSB program was hosted by NIT Mizoram, India during 6th- 8th April, 2018. IIIT Bhagalpur takes pride in participating in the Govt. of India's EBSB program.

During this program, people have witnessed the conglomeration of four premier educational institutes of India namely NIT Patna, NIT Agartala, NIT Mizoram and IIIT Bhagalpur. Students from these four different institutes showcased the cultured heritage of their respective regions. IIIT Bhagalpur students have demonstrated the cultural traditions of Bihar. The list of IIIT Bhagalpur students who participated in EBSB program phase II are-

1. Abhrojeet Bose
2. Adarsh Raj
3. Anuranjan Kumar
4. Devanand Singh Choudhary
5. Kanish Tyagi
6. Ranjeet Kumar



Picture 12-13: IIIT Bhagalpur Students participating in NIT Mizoram