



EBSB is a programme for promoting national integration through systematic exchange between paired institutes in the cultural, literary and linguistic fields. Under the EBSB scheme proposed by MHRD, Govt. of India, a visit of IIT Jodhpur students to IIT Guwahati campus was organised involving the paired states of Rajasthan-Assam from 7th to 9th March 2020. Students from IIT Jodhpur showcased the various cultural art forms of Rajasthan and learned the versatile culture of Assam including history, life styles, food, etc. of Assam. In these three days several activities were performed together by host institute and visiting institute students.

Program Date: 7th March 2020 ,Time : 09:00 HRS

Venue: IIT GUWAHATI

Dignitaries on Dais:

- 1) **Prof. P.S. Robi, Deputy Director(since Director was out of station)**
- 2) **Prof. Chitrlekha Mahanta, Dean of Academic Affairs**
- 3) **Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma, Chairman,Cultural Board,IIT-Guwahati**
- 4) **Prof. V.V. Dasu, Dean of Student Affairs**
- 5) **Prof. Mallikarjuna C., Associate Dean of Student Affairs**
- 6) **Prof. Anamika Barua, Associate Dean of Student Affairs (the nodal officer of EBSB)**
- 7) **Monalisa Kakati, Assistant Registrar, Student Affairs**
- 8) **Prof. Chandan Mahanta, HOD,Civil Dept, IIT GUWAHATI**

A bright morning started with a beautiful bird watching tour around the campus and followed by a relaxing yoga session, then we were invited for the opening ceremony. Dignitaries lit the lamp and started the said exchange program of EBSB. The objectives of 'EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT' were

explained more clearly and explicitly to all. It includes 'Unity in Diversity' amongst the 130 crores population of the world's largest democracy. It aimed us to take on a fun roller coaster ride of various diverse cultures , heritages of our nation in terms of their rituals, clothings, cuisine, habitat, arts, music and literature ,etc.

Temple Visit

1. Kamakhya Temple

The Kamakhya Temple is a Hindu Temple dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya. It is one of the 51 Shakti Pithas. It is situated in the Nilachal Hill in western part of Guwahati city. It is the main temple in a complex of the ten Mahavidhyas of Shaktism.



It is an important pilgrimage destination for Hindus and especially for Tantric worshipers. This temple attracts thousands of tantra devotees in an annual festival known as the Ambubachi Mela.

2. DouL Govinda Temple

Doul Govinda Temple is one of the important temples of Kamrup. It is situated on the northern banks, on the foothills of Chandra Bharati hill at Rajaduar, North Guwahati. The temple is mainly devoted to Lord Krishna. The temple is known for its Holi celebrations. Holi is observed by the local people for five days with various programmes. We visited the temple during the Holi celebration



3. Balaji temple



Purva Tirupati Sri Balaji Mandir, located in NH-37 Betkuchi, Guwahati, Assam was constructed on the Land given by Govt. of Assam by the Devotees of Mutt, M/s Williamson Magor and group of companies with the blessing of Their Holinesses Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham. The consecration (Pran Pratistha) was done in the year 1998. The temple has a clean environment. Tirupati Balaji Temple Guwahati is a profound and peaceful place for the devotees to visit. It is a magnificent temple of the city Guwahati, Assam India. The Complex is located on Nine Acres of Prime land with a unique Architectural design. One can find the temple of Lord Ganesha at the entrance of the temple as people following Hindu religion start their prayers by praying to Lord Ganesha at first. The main temple of Lord Balaji is at the centre of the shrine. One can find several temples in the adjoining portion of the main temple such as Goddess Padmavathi and Garuda, Goddess Durga . The main temple has an idol which weighs about tonnes and is dedicated to Lord Balaji.

Tea-Garden of Assam

The state of Assam is the world's largest tea-growing region by production, lying on either side of the Brahmaputra River, and bordering Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and very close to China. This part of India experiences high precipitation; during the monsoon period, as much as 250 to 300 mm (10 to 12 in) of rain per day. The daytime temperature rises to about 36 °C, creating greenhouse-like conditions of extreme humidity and heat. This tropical climate contributes to Assam's unique malty taste, a feature for which this tea is well known.

Assam generally denotes the distinctive black teas from Assam, the region also produces smaller quantities of green and white teas as well, with their own distinctive characteristics.

The tea plant is grown in the lowlands of Assam, unlike Darjeelings and Nilgiris, which are grown in the highlands. It is cultivated in the valley of the Brahmaputra River, an area of clay soil rich in the nutrients of the floodplain. The climate varies between a cool, arid winter and a hot, humid rainy season conditions ideal for growing tea. Because of its long growing season and generous rainfall, Assam is one of the most prolific tea-producing regions in the world. Each year, the tea estates of Assam collectively yield approximately 680.5 million kg of tea.



Assam tea is generally harvested twice, in a "first flush" and a "second flush". The first flush is picked during late March. The second flush, harvested later, is the more prized "tippy tea", named thus for the gold tips that appear on the leaves. This second flush, tippy tea, is sweeter and more full-bodied and is generally considered superior to the first flush tea. The leaves of the Assam tea bush are dark green and glossy and fairly wide compared to those of the Chinese tea plant. The bush produces delicate white blossoms.

Cultural Exchange

1. Cuisine :

IIT Guwahati arranged the special Assamese traditional breakfast and lunch on alternative days. And there we get to know Assamese dishes are less spicy and mostly non vegetarian . Their staple diet is rice. Fish curry also known as Machor tenga as a sour dish , pigeon meat (paro manxho) and duck meat curry are quite popular dishes. Aloo Pithika and Ou khatta are other flavoursome dishes of Assam .



A picture of traditional breakfast served at iit guwahati.

2. Folk Dance:

Folk dances of Assam include the Bihu , the Bagurumba , the Bhortol and the Jhumair dance.

Bihu dance : The dance is performed on traditional bihu music . It is a group dance in which males and females dance together, but maintain separate gender roles .In this form females follow stricter line or circle formations. The male dancers and musicians enter the dancing area first, maintain their lines and follow synchronized patterns.

Bagurumba dance : It is a folk dance in Assam which is performed by the bodos , usually practiced in a bodo festival of vishuva sankranti. Bodo women wearing colourful dokhna and aronai perform the Bagurumba dance (also known as the Bardwisikhla dance) ,accompanied by instrument such as sifung (flute), tharkha (split bamboo), kham or madal (long drum, made of wood and goatskin)

Jhumair dance : Jhumair is a traditional dance form of "Adivasi" or Tea tribes community of Assam. The dance is performed by young girls and boys together. The girls mostly perform the dancing part, holding each other's waist and moving hands and legs forward and backward synchronously. In the picture below, the state artist performed at the closing ceremony.



Assam State Museum

The museum is divided into various sections each one showcasing the different sect of history. Manuscript section displays the ancient manuscripts such as Assamese, Tai, Myanmarese, The interesting part, however, is the collection of these documents on the bark of old trees that are well-preserved inside the museum. Arms and ammunition section has a vast collection of the swords, armors from the Medieval period to the Mughal period. It also houses the collection of ammunition from World War II. The collection of arms of the Ahom dynasty of the 1200's is the uniqueness of this section.

The prehistoric terracotta section has put on display the sculptors from the Indus Valley civilization and the various terracotta objects extracted from the different parts of Northeast India. Numismatics and metallic sculptures section have the collection of metal relics of Vishnu, Goddess Durga, and Buddha along with the collection of coins from Mughal and Ahom dynasty.

The Epigraphy section has a collection of stone and copper inscriptions belonging to the 5-18th century. Natural history gallery has the collection of natural biodiversity of the state including the life of one-horn rhino. The museum has also put on display the various handicrafts and handmade objects of the North-east India along with the reconstructed tribal huts. The conservation lab was opened in June 1984 to conserve the present collection of the sculptures and artifacts found in the museum and to extract more historical objects.



The exhibits of the Museum are displayed under different sections, viz., Epigraphy, Sculptures, Miscellaneous, Natural History, Art and Crafts, Anthropology & Folk Art & Arms section. The sculptures from the Assam region fall into four principal categories - stone, wood, metal and terracotta. The collections which are on display here, are very rare.

The library in Assam State Museum was established in 1985 and is rich in its stenographic collections. There are various periodicals, journals and books relating to art, culture, mythology, biography, encyclopedic works and even the Asiatic society journals of the country.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Hailed by Lonely Planet as the Best Wildlife destination, Assam is one of the last bastions of the one horned rhino. Pobitora is popularly known as ‘miniature Kaziranga’ for its highest density of one horned rhino in Assam. Pobitora National Park is situated in the Morigaon district of the state of Assam. The national park is located about 48 km from Guwahati. It is a 1-hour drive through a road passing by River Brahmaputra, and a small portion of the village of Mayong. It has a dense population of the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros. It covers 38.8 km². Though the total notified area of the park is 38.80 square kms, only 16 square kms is the effective rhino habitat. Pobitora was declared a reserved forest in 1971 and a wildlife sanctuary in 1987. It covers flat floodplains and a hillock (Raja Mayong). In Pobitora wildlife sanctuary, there are now around 93 rhinos, a ten per cent increase over the last six years. These 93 rhinos are surviving in a merely 16 square km area of the park. It is an Important Bird Area and home for more than 2000 migratory birds and various reptiles. Besides one horned rhino, the protected area is a paradise for both resident and migratory birds at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. This area is also identified as an

important Bird Areas in the country by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). The presence of migratory waterfowl during winter is quite significant in Pobitora.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary



Language workshop (By prof. Shakuntala Mahanta)

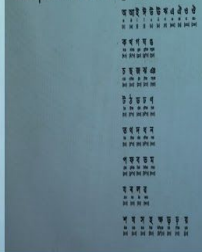


Morphology

- **gender:** is usually not marked but it can be indicated by adding a qualifying word after the noun (like 'male' or 'female'), by using different nouns for male or female, or by adding feminine suffixes (-i, -ni, -ani, -uni) to a masculine noun.
- **number:** *singular, plural.*
- Nouns qualified by quantifiers (like 'many, several' or numerals) are not marked for number.
- *bhuh manuh* ('many man' = men)
- *manuh-bor* ('men')
- *scrui-bilak* ('birds')
- *deuta-hõt* ('fathers')



Script and Orthography



Assamese, also Asamiya, is an Eastern Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in the Indian state of Assam, where it is an official language. It is the easternmost Indo-European language, spoken by over 15 million speakers, and serves as a lingua franca in the region.

Assamese is the official language of Assam, and one of the 23 official languages recognised by the Republic of India. The Assam Secretariat functions in Assamese. whereas in some of the districts in the Barak Valley, Bengali enjoys the official status. Majority of people in Assam speak Assamese.

Morphology and grammar:

- Gender and number are not grammatically marked.
- There is a lexical distinction of gender in the third person pronoun.
- Transitive verbs are distinguished from intransitive.
- The agentive case is overtly marked as distinct from the accusative.
- Kinship nouns are inflected for personal pronominal possession.
- Adverbs can be derived from the verb roots.
- A passive construction may be employed idiomatically.

Classifiers:

1. zɔn" is used to signify a person, male with some amount of respect. E.g., manuh-zɔn – "the man"
2. "zɔni" (female) is used after a noun or pronoun to indicate human beings E.g., manuh-zɔni – "the woman"
3. "zɔni" is also used to express the non-human feminine. E.g., sɔɭai zɔni – "the bird", pɔɭuwa-zɔni – "the ant"
4. "zɔna" and "gɔɭaki" are used to express high respect for both man and woman. E.g., kɔbi-zɔna – "the poet", gɔxaɪ-zɔna – "the goddess", rastrapati-gɔɭaki – "the president", tiɭɔta-gɔɭaki – "the woman"
5. "tɔ" has three forms: tɔ, ta, ti
 - (a) tɔ: is used to specify something, although someone, e.g., loɭa-tɔ – "the particular boy" (impolite)
 - (b) ta: is used only after numerals, e.g., ɛta, duta, tinita – "one, two, three"
 - (c) ti: is the diminutive form, e.g., kesua-ti – "the infant, besides expressing more affection or attachment to
6. "kɔsa", "mɔtʰa" and "taɭ" are used for things in bunches. E.g., sabi-kɔsa - "the bunch of key", saul-mɔtʰa – "a handful of rice", suli-taɭi or suli kɔsa – "the bunch of hair"
7. dal, dali, are used after nouns to indicate something long but round and solid. E.g., bā^h-dal - "the bamboo", kat^h-dal – "the piece of wood", bā^h-dali – "the piece of bamboo"

Cultural and Closing ceremony

Date: 9th March 2020 ,Time : 18:00 HRS

Venue: IIT GUWAHATI

Dignitaries on Dais:

- 1) **Prof. P.S. Robi, Deputy Director(since Director was out of station)**
- 2) **Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma, Chairman,Cultural Board,IIT-Guwahati**
- 3) **Prof. V.V. Dasu, Dean of Student Affairs**
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Cultural and Closing ceremony started with facilitation of IIT Guwahati dignitaries on the behalf of IIT Jodhpur.

To fill colours of Rajasthan in the air of Assam, IIT Jodhpur presented the rajasthani culture in form of:

(a) **Presentation:** Presentation started with the royal history of Rajasthan covering the native languages viz., marwadi, mewari, dudhadi, mewati to name a few, traditional attire, fashion and jewellery, famous forts, wildlife, climate, Rajasthani cuisine. It further provided a brief tour of various spices, crops and other medicinal plants grown on the hot land of Rajasthan.

(b) **Cultural Program:** Rajasthani folk song, poetry and famous Ghoomar dance (a famous folk dance of Rajasthan) presented towards the end of the event. Also, to spread the aroma of diverse culture of the nation as the event signifies "Ek Bharat" (united but diverse India), we come up through various other performances including punjabi dance, bhala nritya and skit on united India.

IIT Jodhpur wants to thank the Government of India for the EBSB scheme proposed by MHRD, administration and students of IIT Guwahati for hosting us. We saw the versatile culture of Assam, its history, life styles, variety in cuisines, folk dances, languages etc. It was quite an adventure and providing such a wonderful experience, we all had such a great time. We appreciate being so well taken care of.
