

REPORT OF STUDENTS' VISIT TO MADHYA PRADESH UNDER EBSB STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Nagaland University

Students of Nagaland University numbering 36 visited Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya (DHSGV), Sagar, Madhya Pradesh during 1st – 6th March 2020.

The Opening Ceremony was held on 1st March 2020 at the Golden Jubilee Hall of the University with Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari (Vice-Chancellor) as the Chief Guest. The Welcome Address by the Chief Guest was followed by short speeches from Dr. A. Bijayasundari Devi and Mr. Peter Ki (Team Incharge, Nagaland University). Folk song of Bundelkhand and folk dance Badhai by the students of DHSGV enthralled the audience. Each of the students, team incharge, teachers incharge Dr. Maibam Radharani Devi & Dr. Paul Asosii, and Mr. Somnath Chakraborty (Assistant, EBSB, NU) were felicitated by the Vice-Chancellor. With closing remarks by Dr. Rakesh Soni (Coordinator, Cultural Council) and the singing of the National Anthem, the programme came to a close.

The Opening Ceremony served as a precursor to six days of intensive activities related to learning the culture of Bundelkhand as well as that of Nagaland.

DAY 1 (1st March 2020)

On 1st March 2020, students of Nagaland University were introduced to folk song and folk dance of Bundelkhand at the premise of the department of Fine Art & Performing Arts.

DAY 2 (2nd March 2020)

On 2nd March 2020, there was the University visit programme during which students of Nagaland University were taken on a cultural procession starting from the department of Botany and culminating at the department of Fine Arts & Performing Arts.

DAY 3 (3rd March 2020)

On 3rd March 2020, the students of Nagaland University visited Khajuraho, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Chhatarpur district, MP. The students were accompanied by faculty members from the department of History and were enlightened about the Khajuraho group of monuments consisting of Hindu temples and Jain temples by a local Tour Guide. The students were told that the 22 temples embodying one of the world's great artistic wonders were conceived

and constructed by the Chandela Rajputs in the short span of a hundred years, from 950-1050 AD.

DAY 4 (4th March 2020)

On 4th March 2020, the students from Nagaland University were taken on a cruise over Lakha Banjara lake. Later, a marriage ceremony was arranged for the first-hand experience of the students of Nagaland University. Traditional games of Bundelkhand were also played. In the evening, the students were introduced to the martial arts of Bundelkhand involving traditional arts techniques like sword and shield, lathi, etc. The students learnt the importance of physical and mental agility through the martial arts of Bundelkhand.

DAY 5 (5th March 2020)

On 5th March 2020, students had the opportunity to visit the local Sagar market. From sweets to the local handicrafts, the students explored and learnt about the local market. Later, the students were also introduced to painting (fine art).

DAY 6 (6th March 2020)

On 6th March 2020, the students and staff of Nagaland University interacted with Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor, in the department of Anthropology. The team members from Nagaland University were warmly received by the faculty members and research scholars under the leadership of the Head of the department of Anthropology.

The visit came to a close with the Closing Ceremony and Valedictory Function in the premises of the department of Fine Arts & Performing Arts. After the closing ceremony, the students from Nagaland University bade farewell to Sagar and embarked on their return journey.

The exchange programme was a great eye-opener for the students from Nagaland University. They learned the Badhai dance and a few Bundelkhandi folk songs. They also taught a Naga folk song to the students of Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya. These were performed at the closing ceremony to the applause of the gathering. Through this visit, the students gained first-hand experience of the culture and lifestyle of the people of Madhya Pradesh.

[Report prepared by Mr. Peter Ki, Team Incharge, EBSB, Nagaland University]