

EBSB Club, NIT Hamirpur

Himachal Pradesh

19th March 2023

Day-1

**INAUGURAL CEREMONY**





*Image Credits - Pixonoids NITH*

The EBSB Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Club of NIT Hamirpur hosted a 5-day student exchange program from 19.03.2023 to 23.03.23. A team of 15 students led by 3 Professors from NIT Calicut, Kerala had participated in this program as part of the initiative of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat by Government of India. Currently, the states of Kerala and Himachal Pradesh are paired in this scheme. The inaugural program at NIT Hamirpur, welcomed the team from Kerala with remarkable performances on 19th March, showcasing the culture and practices of Himachal Pradesh. Cultural clubs of National Institute of Technology Hamirpur such as Yogicself, Nati, Bhangra, Pravah Drama, Fashp, Music, Rhythmeecz, Dravida performed on the Inaugural day. The institute also screened a documentary film of Himachal Pradesh for the team from Kerala. Director of the Institute Prof. Hiralal Murlidhar Suryawanshi graced the occasion as the chief guest. The Dean Student Welfare of the Institute had described this as a unique opportunity for the students across different states to share and learn different cultures. The exchange of ideas, the fostering of understanding across geographical and cultural divides is of higher importance in today's world, he said. It is truly the learning experience that transcends boundaries. The director of the Institute stated that the NITs have been strong bastions of cultural integration in the country having students from almost across all states. This initiative by the Government of India has truly taken a leap in recognizing and embracing the diverse cultures of the nation. The director also shared his interest in promoting and initiating numerous such activities in the institute that share values, lessons and knowledge apart from the academic curriculum.

Nodal Officer (EBSB)  
Dr. Supriya Jaiswal

EBSB Club, NIT Hamirpur

Himachal Pradesh

20th March 2023

## **DAY-2**

### **CULTURAL VISIT TO DHARAMSALA**

Dharamshala- the place where the Your Highness Dalai Lama lives, a city in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh surrounded by cedar forests on the edge of the Himalayas. The city has been selected as one of a hundred in India to be developed as a smart city under Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship "Smart Cities Mission". On 19 January 2017, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Virbhadra Singh, declared Dharamshala as the second capital of Himachal Pradesh, making it the third national administrative division of India to have two capitals after the state of Maharashtra and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. EBSB Club NIT Hamirpur had the chance to visit this holy place with the delegates of NIT Calicut EBSB Club under "AIKYAM'23" program. 15 delegates from NIT Calicut along with a faculty and 5 delegates from NIT Hamirpur with a faculty completed this cultural visit. They had a chance to visit:

1. BhagsuNag Trek Waterfall
2. The Thekchen Chöling Temple Complex
3. St. John in the Wilderness Church
4. State War Memorial

## **BHAGSUNAG TEMPLE AND WATERFALL:**

The magical Bhagsu Waterfalls, situated near the Bhagsu village, is one of the main attractions near Mcleodganj in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Bhagsunag is a village situated about 7000 feet above the sea level, which makes it an eye-catching location to enjoy the beauty of a high-altitude spot. The prime importance of the place is due to the majestic Bhagsunag temple devoted to Lord Shiva, which adds beauty and mystic to the spot by making it extremely popular amongst worshippers. The stunning waterfalls, present at a walkable distance from the temple, is one of extreme grandeur. The view from the top of the sensational Kangra valley which surrounds the waterfalls is not one to be missed by any kind of nature lover or adventure fanatic. Here are some of the glimpses of Bhagsunag temple and waterfall with NIT Calicut.







### **THEKCHEN CHÖLING TEMPLE COMPLEX:**

The Thekchen Chöling Temple Complex is a spiritual center for Tibetan Buddhism, while the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives houses thousands of precious manuscripts.







### **St JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS CHURCH:**

Paying a tribute to Lord Elgin, the Church is a fine example of Gothic and Colonial style architecture. The church was built in stone and features incredible stained-glass windows. An ancient cemetery overlooks the church. Set amidst the wilderness, the site lures many visitors who like to check out the typical British ambiance. At this site the delegates from NIT calicut learnt about the different architectural styles.



## **STATE WAR MEMORIAL:**

The primary motive of this war memorial is to commemorate the memory of the soldiers who fought for saving our motherland during the Indo-China War and in UN Peace Operations. It is in their memory that three huge panels of black stone of 24 feet in height have been carved out.

Surrounded by the pine forests, the enchanting, picturesque views of the region are simply mind-blowing.



There was no doubt that cultural visits were in a great spirit where the scenic beauty of Himachal Pradesh has been introduced to the delegates from Kerala. They have enjoyed their stay and praise the management of this cultural exchange programme positively.

EBSB Club, NIT Hamirpur

Himachal Pradesh

21st March 2023

### **Day-3**

#### **Cultural visit to Palampur**

Recently, on March 21, 2023, the EBSB club of NIT Hamirpur organised a cultural visit to Palampur, Himachal Pradesh for NIT Calicut students who were visiting our campus as part of the cultural exchange programme under the government of India's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.

We were 23 people who went to Palampur, including 15 NITC students and 4 NITH students. There were three NITC faculty members present, as well as our EBSB Club NITH Nodal Officer.

Our bus left the campus at 6:15 a.m., and we all began our journey. Our team members ensured that all medical supplies, including breakfast, were available.

We arrived at a Dhaba 10 kilometres away from Palampur at 9:05 a.m. and had breakfast there. It was an exciting time for all of us. We had a great time there, and after breakfast, we were all on our way to our first destination, the **Saurabh Van Vihar**.





**Saurabh Van Vihar**, which spans 13 kilometres, is a nature park dedicated to the brave soldier Saurabh Kalia (martyr in the Kargil War). The park is located in Kwat Village on the bank of the snow-fed Neugel Khad. Saurabh Van Vihar, a great place for recreation, is about 4 kilometres from Palampur. The beauty of this nature park is enhanced by the various varieties of plants and trees, which overlook the mighty Dhauladhar Range. The park also has a large population of bird species, which adds to its allure.

We had a great time there, especially on the swings and in the aquarium. That was all a nightmare.

The We left there at 12:30 and proceeded to our second destination, the **Tashi Jong monastery visit**. The serene atmosphere of the monastery provided us with a relaxing environment, and we all had a great time there, taking many photographs to remember our special moments.



Then, at 1: 30 p.m., we left and headed to our next destination, the **Shobha Singh Art Gallery**. The **Sobha Singh Art Gallery** is dedicated to the work of eminent artist Sobha Singh and is located in Andretta village, 14 kilometres south of Palampur. Sobha Singh is a well-known Sikh painter, and his masterpiece of Guru Nanak (with one hand raised as if to bestow blessings) has earned him a lot of attention. The art gallery features some of Sobha Singh's finest work, including portraits of Sohni-Mahinval and Hir-Ranjha (famed Punjabi couples).

Then, at 3:00 p.m., we left and all went to our **lunch**. The lunch was delicious, and all of the NITC students and faculty members enjoyed the Himachal flavour. They all had a great time there.





Then, at 4:05 PM, we all left and began our journey towards the **Sujanpur Fort**. Sujanpur Tira palace-fort is located 22 kilometres from Hamirpur town and touches the Kangra border. Raja Abhay Chand of Kangra's Katoch dynasty built the fort in 1758. Sujanpur Tira served as the Katoch dynasty's royal residence for more than a century. In the early nineteenth century, the fort was also the home of Raja Sansar Chand, who is regarded as the patron of the Kangra School of miniature painting.

Sujanpura Tira is home to five temples and a hall known as Baradari, where the court of Sansar Chand was held. The fort's entrance is impressive, with evidence of some excellent wall paintings. The main attraction of the fort is the Gauri Shankar Temple, which is located within the palace grounds. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shankar and Goddess Parvati and features a large number of meticulously executed wall paintings.





Then we wandered around there until 6:00 PM, when we were fortunate to discover a well-known **Sujanpur fair**, so we all obtained permission from our nodal officer and went to see it. It was a fantastic experience for everyone. We all enjoyed the various rides there as well. Then, at 7:15 p.m., we all left and headed towards our NITH campus. Then, at 8:15 p.m., we arrived at our campus and proceeded to the Satpura Hostel for tea. We began our dinner at 8:30 p.m. After that, we all went to bed. It was a lovely day.



EBSB Club, NIT Hamirpur

Himachal Pradesh

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

## **DAY-4**

### **CULTURAL VISIT TO SHIMLA**

Shimla is popularly known as the queen of hills that spread across seven hills in the northwest Himalayas. It is situated among lush valleys and forests of rhododendron, oak, and pine. It is the capital as well as the largest city of Himachal Pradesh.

In 1864, Shimla was declared as the summer capital of British India. After independence, the city became the capital of East Punjab and was later made the capital city of Himachal Pradesh. As the summer capital, Shimla hosted many important political meetings including the Simla Accord of 1914 and the Simla Conference of 1945. After independence, the state of Himachal Pradesh came into being in 1948 as a result of the integration of 28 princely states. Even after independence, the city remained an important political centre, hosting the Simla Agreement of 1972. After the reorganisation of the state of Himachal Pradesh, the existing Mahasu district was named Shimla.

The EBSB Club NIT Hamirpur had the chance to visit this grand city ;with its thriving history and natural beauty; with the delegates of NIT Calicut EBSB

Club under “ AIKYAM’23 ” program. 13 students along with a faculty from NIT Calicut and 7 students with a faculty from NIT Hamirpur completed this cultural visit. They had the chance to visit:

1. Indian Institute of Advanced Studies
2. Himachal Pradesh State Museum
3. Ridge and Mall Road

### **Indian Institute of Advanced Studies:**

The **Rashtrapati Niwas** (lit. 'President's Residence'), formerly known as **Viceregal Lodge**, is located on the Observatory Hills of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India. It was formerly the residence of the British Viceroy of India. It houses some of the most ancient articles and photographs going back to the times of the British rule in India.



Interiors at Viceregal Lodge (IIAS), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India

The Viceregal Lodge was designed by British architect Henry Irwin and built in the Jacobethan style during Lord Dufferin’s tenure as Viceroy. Its construction



started in 1880 and was completed in 1888. Lord Dufferin occupied the lodge on 23 July 1888.

The final cost of project was about 38 lakh (3,800,000) rupees with the annual upkeep cost being around 1.5 lakh (150,000) rupees in the 1880s. At that time the estate stood on an area of 331 acres (134 ha), but today is reduced to 110 acres (45 ha). The structure draws inspiration from the architectural style of the English Renaissance, and also reflects elements of the castles of the Scottish Highlands. The building is of light blue-grey stone masonry with tiled pitch roofing. The interior of the main building is noted for elaborate woodwork which has stood the test of time. Teak was brought from Burma, and was supplemented by local cedar wood and walnut.

The summer capital of India was of little use to the President of India who visited it only for a few days in the year, if at all. Professor S. Radhakrishnan thought of putting it to academic use. The Rashtrapati Niwas Estate was transferred to the Ministry of Education to be handed over to the Indian Institute of Advanced Study.



Visiting the IIAS gave delegates some insight into the rich history of this historic city as well as the colonial India. While walking through the halls of the Viceregal lodge, everyone could feel history coming to life; the aura of its majestic chambers telling stories of past; collection of pics representing the significance of this historic building and the decades it has seen passing.

### **Himachal Pradesh State Museum:**

The Shimla State Museum houses a huge collection of magnificent paintings, sculptures, coins, handicrafts, photos, etc of not only the state of Himachal Pradesh but outside too. The state museum is a major attraction of the Mall area of Shimla built in the style of colonial edifice with sprawling lawns all around. This museum was inaugurated in 1974.



The state museum of Shimla also comprises a library that is loaded with historical books and manuscripts. The Shimla State Museum was erected solely with the purpose of preserving the rich cultural heritage of the state and to spread the message of cultural legacy over generations.

The paintings depict the life and culture of the hilly people. Besides there is a huge collection of Mughal and Rajasthani paintings. The museum holds the sculptural merit of the 8th century stone works of Masrur and Bajaura. Also, a wide lay out of Himachali dolls are displayed here.

The various galleries of the Shimla State Museum are as follows:

- **Pre-Historic Gallery** - The gallery consists of ancient stone age tools as well as models of extinct animals.
- **Wood-Carving Gallery** - Remains of wood panels of ancient temples and traditional wood artistry and stone work is found here.
- **Archaeology Gallery** - Storehouse of sculptural works and terracotta stuffs of Maurya, Shunga and Gupta period.



- **Wall Painting Gallery** - Bags wall painting of the Rang Mahal of Chamba.
- **Numismatic Gallery** - Has got an extensive collection of the coins of Himachal Pradesh.

The other galleries of the Shimla State Museum are:

- Himachal Archaeological Gallery
- Pahari Miniature Painting Gallery
- Photographs Gallery
- Rajasthan Miniature Painting Gallery
- Bronze Gallery

By visiting the museum, the delegates were able to learn about Himachali clothing customs, the lifestyle of people and also the various bridal styles prevalent in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Ridge and Mall Road:**

Mall Road is the major hangout point and shopping centre in Shimla. Constructed during British colonial rule, the Mall Road is located a level below The Ridge.

The offices of municipal corporation, fire service and police headquarters are located here. Automobiles, except emergency vehicles are not allowed on this road. Mall Road has a number of showrooms, department stores, shops, restaurants, and cafes. A Himachal emporium that offers handicraft products of Himachal Pradesh like locally designed woollen clothes,

branded clothes, pottery items, wooden products, and jewellery is also located here.



### Attractions:

### **Scandal Point**



Scandal point is where the Mall Road joins Ridge road on the west side. The name arose from the commotion caused by the supposed elopement of a British lady with an Indian Maharaja. The story goes that the Maharaja of Patiala had eloped with the daughter of the British Viceroy. This had led to the Maharaja being banished from entering Shimla by the British authorities. He countered the move by setting himself a new summer capital – now famous hill resort of Chail,

45 km from Shimla. The most prominent feature of the point today is a statue of the Indian freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai. Next to Scandal Point is General Post Office.

### **Gaiety Theatre**



Gaiety Theatre, located on the Mall Road, was opened on 30 May 1887. Many popular film personalities have performed on its stage. Today, the Gaiety is primarily known for its social club. Schools in Shimla use this theatre for performing arts. The theatre has been renovated with the original structure untouched to keep its heritage preserved while making it more attractive.

### **Town Hall**



The Town Hall Building constructed in 1908 by Scottish Architect James Ransome has been the centre of municipal activities since the beginning and it currently houses the Shimla Municipal Corporation. The building adds to the



surrounding architecture, reminiscent of the pre-independence era. The large steps and the entrance to this building are a common site for pictures depicting the Mall at Shimla. A project was started in 2014 to restore the building to its original look and more than 8 crore rupees were spent in renovating this colonial architectural marvel.

While walking on The Ridge it is clear to see the effects colonisation brought on Indians. The Ridge was one of the places Indians were not allowed to enter during colonial rule. While on The Ridge everyone could feel the infinite struggles our ancestors suffered through to get freedom and now it's our responsibility to make our country truly 'Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat'.

As we boarded the bus for the return journey, everyone had hearts full but also a bit heavy as this marked the last day of our cultural visit and Goodbyes were soon arriving.

EBSB Club, NIT Hamirpur

Himachal Pradesh

23rd March 2023

## DAY-5

### Valedictory Ceremony-the final part

The final showdown, where the delegates of NIT Calicut performed and introduced Kerala culture. On the closing ceremony, Mr. Rohin Dogra, DSP of Hamirpur was the guest of honor whereas Mr. HM Suryawanshi, the director of NIT Hamirpur was the chief guest. Many more authority including Dean (SW), Associate Dean (S & SA), Nodal officer , Dean (FW) and faculties of NITH were present to enjoy the ceremony.

The programme began at 10 am by Saraswati Vandana and Welcoming Session by Jyochith and Ansil, the members of NIT Calicut EBSB Club. After that, A short talk of the faculty of NIT Calicut, Dr. Raju Dey was arranged also. A short video regarding the culture of Kerala was shown also. The whole event was scheduled:



## **1. OPPANA:**

Oppana is a popular form of social entertainment among the Mappila (Kerala Muslims) community of Kerala, South India, prevalent throughout Kerala, especially in Malabar. Oppana is generally presented by females, numbering about fifteen, including musicians, on a wedding day. The bride dressed in all finery, covered with gold ornaments and her palms and feet adorned with an intricately woven pattern of mylanchi (henna), sits amidst the circle of dancers.





## 2. DANCE PERFORMANCE BY ANJALI GOSWAMI



## 3. PERFORMANCE BY MUSIC CLUB OF NITC



#### **4. MARGAMKALI:**

Margamkali is an ancient Indian round dance of the St. Thomas Christians community- based in Kerala state, mainly practiced by the endogamous sub-sect known as the Knanaya or Southist Christians. A dozen dancers sing and dance clapping around a Nilavilakku wearing the traditional "Chattayum Mundum". The lamp represents Christ and the performers his disciples.



## **5. KARNATIC SONG BY DEV AND BHAGATH**



## **6. DANCE PERFORMANCE BY GOPIKRISHNAN INCLUDING KUCHIPUDI AND BHARATNATYAM:**

Kuchipudi dance is a vibrant dance form which originated in Andhra Pradesh. It is one of the eight classical dance forms in India. This dance form is known because of its fast moves, lively eye expressions, hand gestures and so on. It is a mixture of the laya of the Tandava dance form and of the Lasya or the slow movement in dance speed. The unique concept of the dance form is that the brass plate is moved in accordance with the Carnatic music.

Bharatanatyam is an important classical dance form in India. It originated in the temples of South India, particularly, Tamil Nadu.

This dance form is performed by both men and women.

The costumes worn are bright coloured. Women wear saris and men wear dhotis. The music used in Carnatic classical music, accompanied by instruments such as flute, violin and the Mridangam.





## **7. THIRUVATHIRA:**

Thiruvathirakali or Kaikottikali is a unique dance performed in Kerala on the auspicious day of Thiruvathira, the birthday of Lord Shiva. It is performed by women who seek blessings for eternal marital bliss. It falls in the Malayalam month of Dhanu (December-January). As per Hindu mythology, this dance is what brought Kamadeva (God of Love) back to life when he had been burnt to ashes by Lord Shiva's fury. Groups of up to eight or ten women are seen dressed in traditional Kerala attire, dancing in a circle. The graceful movements of the dance are both enchanting and elegant. The white saris with colorful borders along with fresh jasmines adorning their hair make for a wonderful sight.



After the ceremony, certificates were given to the performers and the members of both institutes.



The ceremony came to an end with vote of thanks by Nodal Officer , EBSB Club NIT Hamirpur at 1 pm. The performance of NIT Calicut students were immensely intense as it gave a delightful ending to the last day of the “AIKYAM 23”.



Nodal Officer (EBSB)

Dr. Supriya Jaiswal

