On participating in
Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
Student Exchange Program

Organised by
MAHARSHI MARKANDESHWAR ENGINEERING COLLEGE
Mullana, Ambala, HARYANA
MANAGE, HYDERABAD

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) was selected by The Ministry of Human Resource Development to pair up with Maharishi Markandeshwar Engineering College Mullana, Ambala under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) scheme. Concerning the scheme, Cultural Exchange Programme was organized by the NSS volunteers of Maharishi Markandeshwar Engineering College from 28.02.2020 to 06.03.2020. Thereby, 25 students of MANAGE along with the Placement coordinator Mrs. P. Bharathi Rani visited Haryana and took part in several activities.

The arrival of students on 27.02.2020 was followed by a cordial welcome gesture. Heading ahead, inaugural function was scheduled the next morning. During the inauguration, placement coordinator from MANAGE, Mrs. P. Bharathi Rani and Dr. Karan Agarwal, EBSB coordinator from MMU, Haryana lighted lamps and declared the program open. The inaugural programme was followed an informal exchange of pleasantries to understand and appreciate the culture respective to different students present there. After which we had a treasure hunt of all the places in the University to understand the area, clay modeling also happened.

The second day was marked by visits to villages like Mullana and Sarakpur including sightseeing and visits to Markanda River and Mata Balasundari Mandir. The intriguing facts that were noted was the differential cultures of people including dressing styles as well as the undeniable non-resemblance with the temples with that in the southern regions of India.

Following this, we, along with students of MMU, performed a nukkad natak in the Sarakpur village regarding few social issues like smoking, women empowerment, sanitation etc. One cannot deny that a visit to Haryana is incomplete without visiting the lustrous wheat fields, and thus, we weren’t an exception too. And that ended another eventful day at Haryana. After returning, we had an elocution competition on the ideals of Bhagat Singh

The third day uphold India’s belief, yet again, specifying Unity in Diversity, when we were divided into various groups, irrespective of the place we came from and culture we belonged to, to compete against the other team in events like rangoli, canvas painting and poster making where the themes spoke of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, with students putting their best foot forward as
participants as well as competitors. We had competitions such as collage making, clay modeling and story on canvas.

This followed another day which started with Prabhat Pheri at 7AM, imbibing positivity in our thoughts and spirituality in our souls. The next was a rigorous rush of adrenalin in our blood, for it was the time for sports which included volleyball, lemon and spoon race, sack race, three-legged race etc. We were taken to the Hotel Management Block of MMU on the fifth day where they made us taste various traditional cuisines of Haryana which undoubtedly were a delicacy. Later in the day, we had the cultural programmes to warm our hearts which included Ramp walk portraying the South Indian States, Odisha and Nagaland. This was followed by portrayal of Classical dances, folk dances and folk songs which are the speciality of South India along with MMU students performing the traditions from North. Next two days, we visited nearby traditional and historical places in and around Ambala which made us realize the rich heritage Haryana is actually possessing.

On the 6th of March, the valedictory ceremony was organised to appreciate talents that had gathered and represented India as students. It started with Saraswati Vandana and the dignitaries present on the dais lighted the lamps and addressed the gathering. Prizes and medals were given away to winners and certificates were distributed to all participants. The placement coordinator from MANAGE, Mrs. Bharathi addressed the vote of thanks and the event was concluded peacefully following which group photos were taken and we bid adieu to Haryana with heavy hearts, taking way with us the very essence of unity that India always propagates. We also learnt to appreciate traditions and understood the importance of exchange in cultures that is borne from soil and imbibed only if you know and understand others and appreciate them.