



एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत

Tour Report

Cultural Exchange

**5-day visit of Karnataka State Universities students
and teachers to the Doon University, Dehradun,
Uttarakhand**

Period: 19th December, 2019 to 23rd December, 2019

About the Cultural Exchange

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) program of MHRD is focused on developing sense of belongingness in every citizen, for the whole country. The broad objectives of the initiative are as follows:¹

- i. To CELEBRATE the Unity in Diversity of our Nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our Country;
- ii. To PROMOTE the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian States and Union Territories through a year-long planned engagement between States;
- iii. To SHOWCASE the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of either State for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity that is India, thus fostering a sense of common identity
- iv. To ESTABLISH long-term engagements and,
- v. To CREATE an environment which promotes learning between States by sharing best practices and experiences.

In this program, the States are paired with other remotely situated states. In this sequence, our state Uttarakhand is paired with Karnataka state. Similarly, the higher education institutions of both the states are also paired with each other. Our Doon University is paired with three different state level institutions of Karnataka, which are Bangalore University, Maharana Cluster University, Bangaluru, and Govt. Science College, Bangaluru.

In this program, every institution has prepared an EBSB club of >50 students. Doon University has also created its EBSB Club involving Students and teachers.

The cultural exchange is one of the objectives of this program. 54 students along with 4 faculty members of paired institutions of Karnataka visited the Doon University in a five days tour.

Following sections involved the details of this visit.

¹<http://ekbharat.gov.in/Pages/AboutObjectives>

Arrangements for the guest EBSB team

For successful conduct of this program the Doon University created committees for individual tasks. The faculty members were assigned different works accordingly. The committee includes:

1. Food and Accommodation Committee
2. Travel and Transport Committee
3. Media and Reporting Committee

The EBSB Club of the Doon University is engaged in almost every level of preparation and planning of this event.

The accommodation of guests of EBSB team was arranged in Faculty Lodge of University which has an in-house mess for the team. The faculty members as well as students, all stayed in same building on sharing basis.

The ID card and 5-day activity schedule were prepared, as per MHRD guidelines.

Two Buses were hired for the travel purpose during this program.

The lodge also has a student clinic, which was helpful during this program.

Arrival of the guest team

The guests came by bus from New Delhi, and arrived around 8:00 pm on 18.12.2019. The EBSB clubs of Doon University welcome the students and faculties. The volunteer students helped in distribution of ID and program schedule. The volunteers of accommodation team allotted the rooms to the guests, and helped them in carrying their luggage. The team then had dinner in the mess.





Day 1:

Inauguration of the Program

The inaugural ceremony was conducted in Senate Hall of the Doon University at 9:00 am. The guest of the events included ACS higher education from Karnataka state, Additional Secretary, Higher Education Uttarakhand, Vice Chancellor Doon University, RUSA State Coordinator from Karnataka and the Director Higher Education of Uttarakhand.

The cultural committee student of Doon University and Paired institution recited the *saraswati vandana*. The guests addressed the students and faculty members and extended their best wishes for this program. The mementos of Kedarnath were given to the guests and to the faculty members of paired institutions. The ceremony ended with vote of thanks by the Registrar, Doon University. A group photo session was conducted after that, which was followed by High Tea.



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Day 1: Visit of Vigyan Dham and Centre for Aromatic Plants

After inauguration, the guest team along with faculties of Doon University and volunteers visited the Vigyan Dham, in Jhajhara, Dehradun. The students visited different science models, galleries, and shows there. This place has beautiful demonstration of Himalyan region, in terms of its geomorphology, legends, and culture. It showcases the tribes and their culture in this region. The students also enjoyed the 3D theater and the planetarium.



After visiting this place, the visiting students had their lunch; lunch packets were distributed by students of Food Committee.

Thereafter, the team moved to the next institution, Centre for Aromatic Plants (CAP), in Selaqui, Dehradun. This Center is a complete business incubator centre for development of aromatic sector

in Uttarakhand. There, the students were taken to the field of various aromatic plants. They were demonstrated the use, properties, and climatic requirements of different plant species grown there.



Demonstrators at this centre also explained that their focus was to make these facilities available to the farmers, entrepreneurs, researcher, buyers, distillers, perfumers and traders under one roof. Student saw distillation units where aroma is extracted from these plants. At the end, the CAP arranged a good bye tea (Herbal tea) for the students. After that the students returned back to Doon University.

Day 2: Visit of Mussoorie Company Garden and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)

On 20.12.2019, the students went to Mussoorie. In the forenoon, the students visited the Company Garden. The weather and natural beauty of the place was mesmerizing and a life time experience for most of the guest students. The students enjoyed the fun rides and had photographs in traditional dresses from professional photographers working around Company Garden.



Thereafter, the students had a group photo and started towards Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). There, they had pre-packed lunch, this time students from guest team also took part in distribution.

Once the lunch was over, the team went inside LBSNAA. A faculty member from the intuition guided the tour of their Library facility, Photo museum, lecture hall, and playgrounds. He explained the significance of different buildings and the history associated with those. A presentation was given to the students by authorities regarding history of the institution, its objectives, legacy, and curriculum for different types of training programs. The students and faculties took keen interest in the presentation and asked several questions. Further, the team had a small tea party at LBSNAA canteen. Thereafter, the team moved back to Dehradun.





Day 3: Visit to Rishikesh and a village near Doiwala

On the 3rd day of the tour, the visiting team was taken to Rishikesh, said to be a world capital of Yoga, for showing the devotional and religious fervour of Uttarakhand. The students were given a guided tour by a professional with historical and religious significance of Rishikesh. The visiting Team was informed that Rishikesh was the gateway of Chardham, i.e., Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. The Team was surprised to know that the Holy city was associated with “Samudra Manthan” and its name is taken from the word Hrishikesh, which was one more name of Lord Vishnu. The Guide also provided the information about the religious importance of several other places like Nilkanth Mahadev, mountains near Rishikesh, some trees and Ghats etc. The visiting Team enjoyed boating to move from one Ghat to another Ghat. Team was taken for a spiritual tour in which team members visited Swarg Ashram, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Triveni Ghat, Ram Jhula, etc., most of which are located on the holy bank of Mother Ganga in the lap of the Himalayas. As Uttarakhand is also known for its gemstones and minerals found in Himalayas, the visiting team was taken to Uttarakhand Nigam shop where team members saw *Ek Mukhe Rudraksh* and several other gemstones and got acquainted with their health benefits. Afterwards, the team had its pre-packed lunch at Holy Ganga Ghat and disposed their used lunch packs at designated place in line with spirit of Swach Bharat Mission.





After taking lunch, the visiting team went to a village in between Doiwala and Lachiwala to have a glimpse of Uttarakhand village culture, traditional farming and costumes of Uttarakhand. In the village, the team met several villagers and knew about their life styles and culture. The visiting Team was pleasantly surprised to see the simple living and high morals of villagers. Thereafter, the team returned back to the Doon University.





Day 4: Visit of Forest Research Institute (FRI) , Paltan Bazar, CM House, and a Bonfire event.

On 4th day of tour, which was Sunday, the team was taken to FRI, Dehradun. The students were told about the significance of the building, and as to why this building is a famous destination for movies and commercials shooting events. The students were given a guided tour by a professional. He explained the history and need of that institution during British Raj in India. Then he took the students to each museum one by one and explained the details by referring to the displayed items there.

The students were simply amazed with the architecture of the building and were surprised to know, that materials used in the construction were also truly interesting-- teak wood was imported from Burma, back at that time, and no cement was used in the construction.

Afterwards, the team had its pre-packed lunch in open area in a ground. By now, the guest students developed a very good bond with host students, which could be easily observed with their behaviors in common events.





After FRI visit, the team was taken to the Paltan Bazar. On the way to market, it was informed that the students had to visit CM house at 5:00 PM for a tea-party. Therefore, the visiting team had limited time for the market.

Since it was Sunday, the market was crowded enough. So the team students and faculties were distributed in groups of 10-10 students and each group was assigned one volunteer student who helped them in visiting desired shops, and also in shopping.



Afterward, the visiting students and host students went to the CM House, where they interacted with Honorable CM of Uttarakhand. The CM asked for the places they visited so far and things they liked very much and their overall experience at Uttarakhand. Several guest students spoke about their heartening experience during the Uttarakhand tour so far, and how their trip was going. The CM asked the team to visit the IMA as well, and arranged a tour for the team, instantly. Then, the students had tea and snacks with the CM.



The student returned to the Doon University, where members of Doon University Student Council have arranged a Bonfire event for the guests. The students, teachers and staff on Doon University and guests danced with hands-in-hand on popular *Garhwali* and *Kumaoni* songs. The visiting students and host students formed mixed groups and danced on songs on each other's states. The scene indeed validated the success of the trip and its very purpose.



Day 5: Visit to Indian Military Academy (IMA) and Valedictory

On 5th day of tour, the visiting team was taken to IMA, Dehradun where IMA officials had designated one instructor and a Havaladar to show the vast history and some important buildings such as War museum, Mess, Gym, Horse and their Stables, Fire Range etc. The students were told about the proud history of IMA. They were informed that IMA was established in 1932 under the chairmanship of Field Marshal Philip Chetwode to train army officers where approximately 400 officers are trained every six months. They were informed that a trainee on admission to IMA was referred to as a Gentleman Cadet (GC) and there were various traditions in the IMA, and one of the most well known is the Passing Out Parade (POP). The Team saw War museum equipped with historical armoury of Second World War, China war 1967 and Pakistan war 1971. The IMA Museum also displays artifacts of historical importance such as the pistol of Lieutenant General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi of the Pakistan Army, given during his surrender to Lt. Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora after signing the Instrument of Surrender to end the Liberation War of 1971. The visiting students also saw original signed copy of our Constitution. In the Museum, a group photograph was taken after seeking due permission of officials. Afterwards, the team visited fire range, Khetarpal Auditorium, Chetwode Hall, Hoshiar Singh Gymnasium, Vikram Batra Mess, stables having different breed of horses. Thereafter, the team returned back to the Doon University.





The Valedictory function started in the afternoon. The Chief Guest of the function was Honorable Higher Education Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Dhan Singh Rawat. The Hon'ble VC of the Doon University addressed the team and asked for their experiences. Several students shared their experiences and their impression of Uttarakhand they had after this trip. The faculty members of guest team thanked Doon University for the hospitality and for good management of the whole tour. They also invited Doon University to Bangaluru.

The students of guest team presented several cultural performances like singing, dancing, painting, and embroidery during this function. The Chief Guest, addressed the students and requested them for visiting Uttarakhand again, by saying that there was a lot more to see, if they would come again and travel to other parts of Uttarakhand. In the end, the certificates of participation in the event were distributed to the guest students. The Program ended with vote of thanks by Honble VC of Doon University. The VC encouraged the students to come again in Doon University and gave his personal mobile number to every student of guest team, and asked them to call him without any hesitation in case of their re-visit to the state. The students had a group photo afterwards.



