

EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, GUWAHATI

Report on visit to IIT Jodhpur by IIT Guwahati students contingent
under EBSB Students' Exchange Programme: 23rd- 29th December, 2019



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*“Sardar Patel gave us **Ek Bharat**. It is now solemn duty of 125 crore Indians to collectively make **Shreshtha Bharat**” – PM Narendra Modi*

To celebrate the diversity in India, this initiative was initiated during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October, 2015 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Following the footprints, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) with 36 students and 4 officials initiated its journey to Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IITJ); this two-institution got paired in the Higher Educational Institution category as per respective states Assam and Rajasthan, which is paired for the year 2019-2020.

The IITG students' contingent started their journey on 21st December 2019 through Guwahati-Barmer Express at 10.45 a.m in the morning.

Day 1: Chilly winters of December and after more than forty hours of travel, they reached the 'Blue City' Jodhpur at around 10 in the morning on 23rd December and then they were picked up from the railway station in a bus by IIT Jodhpur.

After reaching respective hostels allotted by the IITJ, they had lunch followed by an interaction of IITJ staff with IITG contingent, where the IITJ staff introduced them with their respective coordinators and informed about the event schedule.

Day 2: Hon'ble Director of IITJ and Associate Dean, Students, IITJ addressed and spoke about the history of IITJ and the importance of exchange programs between students and regions and how the initiative of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) by MHRD, Govt. of India has been contributing to it since 2015. On behalf of IITG, the Director and Assoc. Dean, Students, IITJ had been felicitated with Gamochas and a memento. After completion of inauguration ceremony, there was a campus tour, where construction is still ongoing. The

Jodhpur Bricks shines everywhere, which made the campus look like some Egyptian architecture with a clock tower in the middle. Berms and Service Tunnel construction are ongoing, which made the campus one of its kind. Berms are made for the relief from dust in the wind in the summers and chilly winds in the winters. Service Tunnels are also made for the relief of scorching heat in the summers. The hostels are named as VIBGYOR altogether where each letter represents names of boys and girls hostel respectively. It also has some commendable facilities, where there are single rooms with AC facilities. The buildings have been constructed with such that the temperature stay balanced both in summers and winters. One can easily identify seeing the IITJ campus that it has the reflection of Jodhpuri culture in it.

After lunch, a Cultural program consists of Langa Vocals and Kalbelia Dance were organized, which connected all the participants with the Soil of Rajasthan. The organizer explained the history of the Langa Vocals and Kalbelia Dance and how it has been evolved since years and gain momentum around the world. They welcomed the gathering with 'Khamma Ghani'- it's a general greeting in the Marwari Language, also the popular line 'Padharo Mhare Desh'. Students also got chance to learn few steps of Kalbelia Dance.

Day 3: Started with historic Mandore Garden visit, it's a town located 9 km North of Jodhpur City. Mandore, an ancient town, historically significant place from the times of Ramayana, House of in-laws of Ravana, the place where temple of Ravana is exist. Mandore Garden houses Cenotaphs of Rulers of Jodhpur State, Memorials and Temples with pleasing architecture of bygone era.

In the afternoon, an interaction of IITJ students with IITG students were organized, where they gave presentations on the history of Rajasthan and Jodhpur, tourist places, Marwari language, food-dance-music and lifestyles of the people of the region.

Day 4: IITG contingent was taken to visit Osian- An Oasis in Thar. A very ancient town, home to ruined Hindu and Jain temples dating back to 8th and 12th century. Muhammad Ghor attacked the town in 1195, most of the city and temples were destroyed then, People fled the town and it was deserted. Sachiyaya temple, an old temple of that era tells of religious and social history of that period. After visiting the temple, students were taken to sand dunes. All of them enjoyed Camel and Jeep Safari.

In the afternoon, IITG contingent started their program with the State Anthem of Assam followed by a presentation about Assam, its tradition-food-culture. They performed a song by Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhuben Hazarika, the song which was from the movie 'Rudali' of which plot is based on Rajasthan and then followed by a Bihu Dance.

Day 5: The students were taken to their most awaited visit to Mehrangarh Fort. The fort can also be seen from Ghanta Ghar- A clock tower standing with pride since years. A travel guide described the stories behind the fort. It is one of the largest forts of India, built on Bhakurcheeria (transl. Mountain of Birds) known for its several palaces inside with huge courtyards and obscure carvings encasing the Heritage of Rathore's of Rajasthan.

In the afternoon, there were performances of Ravanahatha and the most famous performance of Rajasthan, i.e., Puppet show. Ravanahatha is a musical instrument. It has a groovy story behind it from time of Ramayana. King Ravana was a great devotee of Lord Shiva, to appease him one time, he constructed "Shiva Stotram" in praise of him and for music he snatched his nerves out of his hands and used them for strings and sang. Thus, came the instrument Ravanahatha. Puppet show is another popular source of entertainment in Rajasthan, wooden dolls are dressed up in bright and colorful attires and staged on miniature platform. It shows different episodes from throughout history of locality and India extending to social messages with artistic expression on approachable issues of society. They also described the way it has evolved.

The day end with a mouthwatering special Marwari Dinner: Dal-Bati-Churma.

Day 6: Students were taken to Machia Biological Park and Kaylana Lake, enriched with flora and fauna. The Desert like Jodhpur is also blessed with Kaylana lake, which plays an important role in supplying water to the city. At night there was a movie screening, which depicted Rajasthani Culture.

Day 7: The last day, students visited Umaid Bhawan Palace, which is one of the largest world's private residence, partly a museum and a hotel, and principal residence of Jodhpur Royal Family, spreading across 26 acres with 347 rooms, several courtyards, 11 acres of garden and a large banquet hall with capacity of accommodating 300 people. Construction work took roughly 15 years, principal architect was H.V. Lanchester, designed it as a blend of western technology and Indian architectural features. In the afternoon, there was a closing ceremony followed by bonfires, music, poetry and sharing of experiences that the students gained.

The IIT Guwahati students' contingent returned from IITJ campus at 3 PM on 30th December 2019 and headed towards Delhi by bus, reached Delhi Station at 6 AM next day morning. From Delhi, they were brought by Rajdhani Express and reached IITG campus at around 8.30 PM on the 1st day of 2020.

Most of the days, after completion of the scheduled programs, IITG students explored the city as much as possible, went to the nearby mountain to see sunrise and sunsets, explored traditional food stalls and markets, bought many stuffs for near and dear ones and clicked hundreds of photographs to capture the moments! It was a package of memories, shared laughter, new friendships and some unforgettable stories. Indeed, Rajasthan and Jodhpur is blessed with much colorful cultures. Most of the people mainly females can be seen in traditional attire. From wall paintings to sweets shops to chat houses, everywhere one can get essence of Jodhpuri/Rajasthani culture.

Overall, this exchange programme was a wonderful learning experience for the students.

Photo Gallery:-



Picture 1: With the artists of Langa Vocals and Kalbelia Dance



Picture 2: Interaction among the students of IITG and IITJ and also with the faculty members



Picture 3: A shop of traditional art at Mehrangarh Fort



Picture 4: Performance of IITG students



Picture 5: Closing Ceremony