

## BRIEF REPORT

India is a special country whose fabric has been woven from various linguistic, cultural, and religious threads. A long history of cultural evolution and a freedom struggle centered on the principles of non-violence and justice have held this diverse nation together to form a composite national identity. A true sense of unity in diversity has been made possible by the spirit of understanding that permeates our shared history. This unity stands out as a tall flame of brotherhood that must be nurtured and protected in the future.

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing. The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices.

Under the aegis of EBSB program and Azadi ka Amruth Mahotsav, B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bengaluru, Karnataka, was the receiving Institute and Gurukul Kangri deemed to be University, Haridwar, Uttarakhand was the sender institute from 12<sup>th</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The receiving Institute had planned a sequence of activities for the students from the sender Institute for effective exchange of culture, ideas and practices from the state of Karnataka.

Day-wise activities are elucidated as follows:

Day-1 (12<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

Uttarakhand contingents were received at the Yesvantpur Junction Station on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 8:00 AM. A total of 49 students and 4 faculties were received, of which 24 students are currently in High School and 25 students are currently pursuing their higher education. The students were then taken by metro trains to the BMS College of Engineering, providing them the opportunity to travel in Namma Metro. Post lunch the activity of Kannada Kali was conducted to teach the students basic Kannada language which can be used for

day to day interactions. Civil Defense Commander Dr. P R S Chetan, an unsung hero, addressed the students about the challenges he faced in his work during natural calamities in Karnataka. The Inauguration of the visit was done at 6:00 PM, the Chief Guest of which was Sri. Kamal Pant IPS, Director General of Police - Recruitment, Karnataka who was born in Uttarakhand. He expounded on the heritage of Karnataka and Uttarakhand, and how the students can benefit from this student exchange program. Dr. P Dayananda Pai, Chairman of BMSCE also addressed the students and advised them to make the most of their visit to Karnataka. The inauguration was concluded with a performance of Dollu-kunitha - a folk form of Karnataka.



Day-2 (13<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

On day two, the students were taken to Ramanagara - one of the cultural heritage cities of Karnataka. The students first visited Ramadevara Betta - Vulture Sanctuary - a place also popular for its treks and the shooting of the iconic Bollywood movie “Sholay”. The next place of visit was “Janapada Loka” - the center of folk forms and culture of Karnataka. In Janapada Loka students got the opportunity to witness the composite culture of various parts of Karnataka including but not limited to dance forms such as Suggi Kunitha, Dollu Kunitha, Veeragase, Yakshagana, practices such as Bhoota Kola and Naga Darshana of coastal Karnataka. The last event for the day was a visit to the popular Sports Authority of India (SAI), where students got the opportunity to witness and interact with national level athletes and coaches who were practicing their sport.



Day 3 (14<sup>th</sup> October 2022):

The third day itinerary included visits to prominent places in the city of Bengaluru. The first visit was to the famous Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum - which exposed the students to the cutting edge technologies being employed in the industry for scientific and technological advances. The next place of visit was the state legislative assembly of Karnataka - Vidhana Soudha. The students witnessed the great monument built by Kengal Hanumantharaya. Next they visited the High Court of Karnataka and strolled outside Cubbon Park. The colonial era legacy and heritage of this part of Bengaluru was shared with the students. The next place of visit was the ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) Radha Krishna temple. The students were exposed to the spiritual heritage of the city and establishment during this visit.



Day 4 (14<sup>th</sup> October 2022):

The fourth day visit was planned to the heritage city of Mysore. The students visited the world famous Amba Vilas Palace also known as Mysore Palace, Mysore Dasara Exhibition and Brindavan Gardens on the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam. Students got an opportunity to witness the rich heritage of Mysore and the Mysore royals. The Brindavan garden was an engineering marvel built by Sir M. Visvesvaraya on the KRS dam.



Day 5 (16<sup>th</sup> October 2022):

Day five started in leisure giving them time to recover from the previous day's extraneous travel. The students started the day with playing local sports in the Indoor Stadium along with volleyball and throwball. Proceeding through the day, the students were taken to Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium where they watched shows on space and astronomy. Post lunch the students assembled in the auditorium of BMSCE and were awarded a small memento marking their visit to Karnataka under the EBSB program. The students also got an opportunity to share their cultural talents with the receiving Institute. Next they visited the Dodda Ganapathi Temple and Basavanna Temple in Basavanagudi, and then proceeded to shop souvenirs in the famous Gandhi Bazar market for the near and dear ones back home.



Subsequently on the sixth day (17<sup>th</sup> October 2022), the receiving Institute bid farewell to the students from Uttarakhand who boarded their trains in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Railway Station.