

Report

Incredible India

(A Virtual Visit to the Cultural Heritage of the East)

Organized by

Regional Centres Agartala, Aizawl, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Patna & Saharsa

Under the

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Programme

13th March 2022

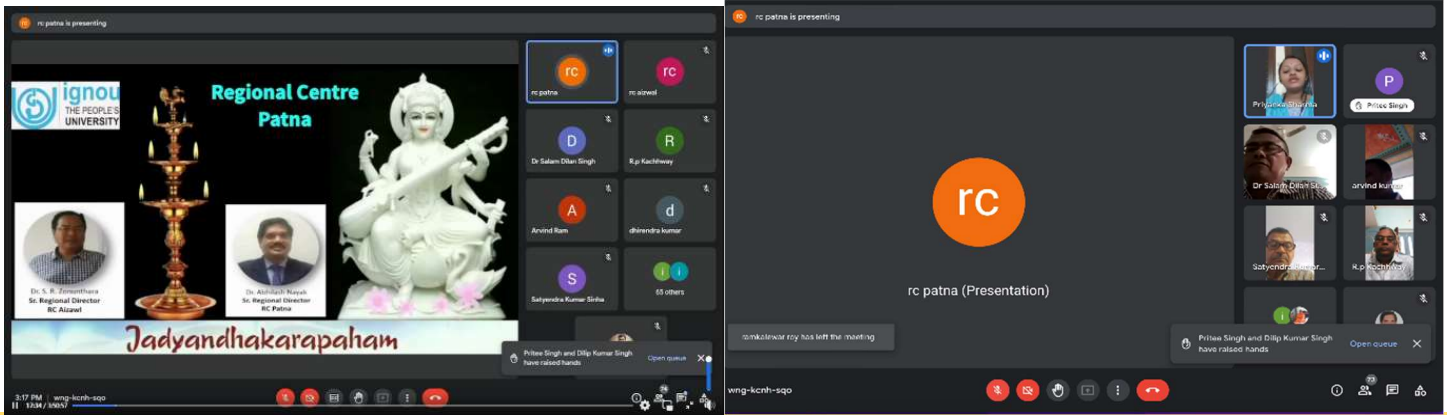
IGNOU Regional Centre, Patna has been identified by the University as the Coordinator for the Ek Bharata Shrestha Bharat Programme of Govt. of India being organized by the Institutions of Higher Education across the country. Being the Nodal Regional Centre, the Regional Centre coordinated with all the 5 participating Regional Centres namely Darbhanga, Aizawl, Saharsa, Agartala and Bhagalpur and encouraged them to organized at least one activity by the 15th of March. In response to our request, Regional Centre, Agartala and Regional Centre Aizawl organized a collaborative activity on 12th March 2022 which highlighted the different forms of dance prevailing in the both the states. The events started with a Welcome Song by Mrs. Priyanka Sharma in Sanskrit and was followed by the dance performance and recitation of Bengali Poetry by an IGNOU learner. The Regional Director, Patna participated in the event as the Guest of Honour and appreciated this initiative of the both the Regional Centres.

On 13th March 2022, in coordination with and support and cooperation from the 5 participating Regional Centres, Regional Centre, Patna organized a mega event Incredible India(A Virtual Visit to the Cultural heritage of the East) from 3 pm to 7 pm through the Google Meet Platform(<https://meet.google.com/wng-kcnh-sqo>). The staff, students, academic counsellors and Coordinators of the LSCs of all the participating RCs participated in this programme.

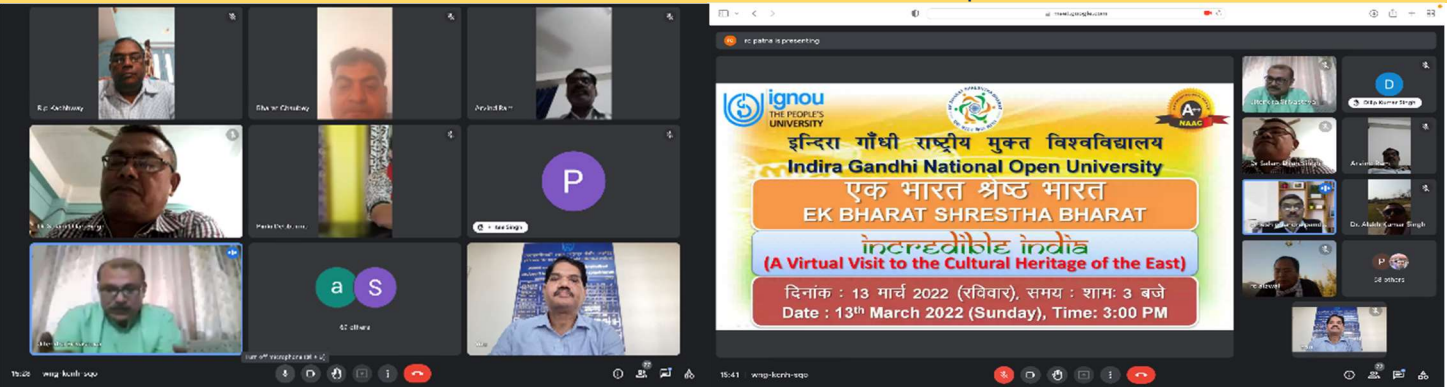
The event started with the Welcome Address and Introduction of Guests by Dr. Abhilash Nayak, Sr. Regional



Director. This was followed by the digital lighting of the lamp, Kulgeet and welcome song in Sanskrit by Smt. Priyanka Sharma, one of the academic counsellors under RC Agartala.



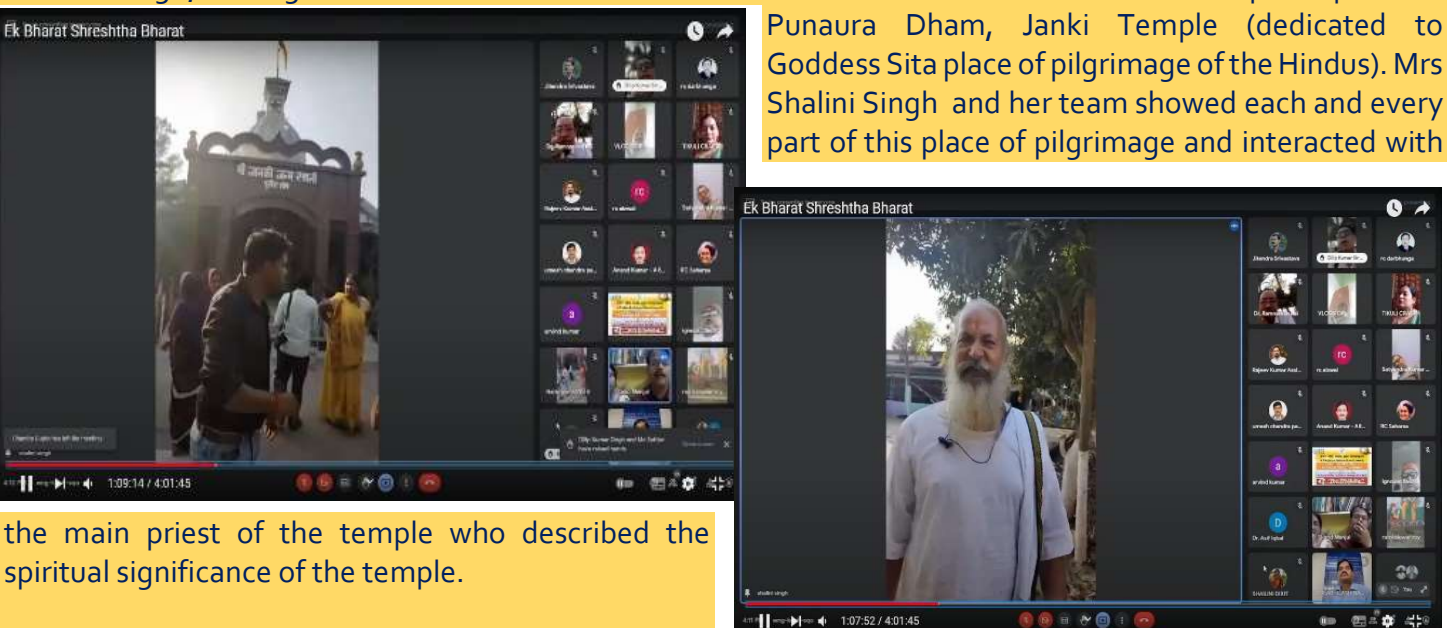
Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, Director, International Division, Chairperson & Nodal Officer, Ek Bharat



Shrestha Bharat Committee, IGNOU, New Delhi and the Director, Regional Services Division Dr. Umesh Chandra Pandey graced the event as the Guests of Honour and appreciated this initiative of the participating Regional Centres.

After the formal inauguration by the Guests, address and presentation by the Regional Directors followed.

Dr. S.S. Singh, Sr. Regional Director addressed the audience and facilitated virtual visit of the participants to



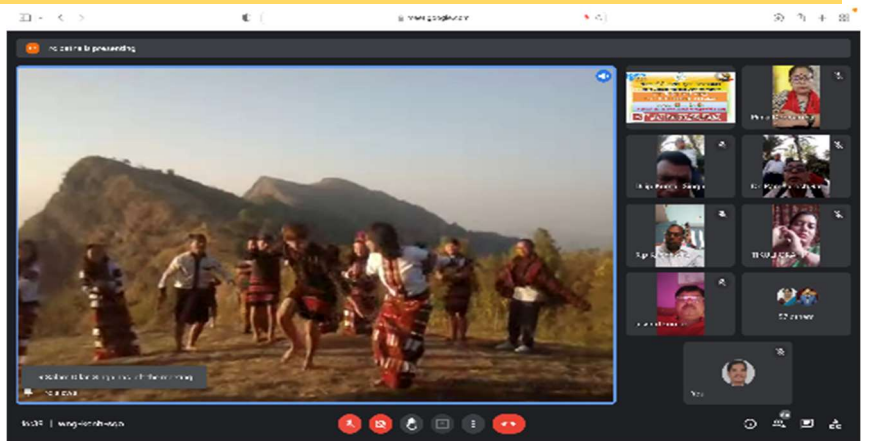
the main priest of the temple who described the spiritual significance of the temple.

Then Mr Arvind Ram and his team facilitated the virtual visit to Ahalya Sthan, the place famous for Ahalya, wife of Maharishi Gautam who had been turned into stone with his curse and later came back to life with the touch of Lord Ram. The team also interacted with the priestess of the temple who explained the spiritual



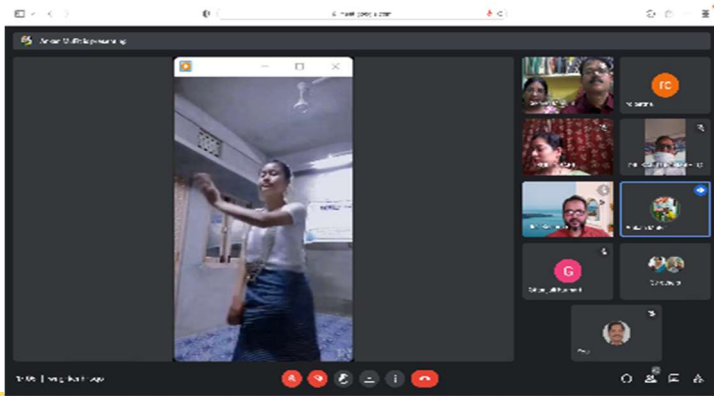
significance of the place and informed that only female priestesses are allowed to worship in the temple. During the virtual visit to these places, Dr S S Singh, Sr. Regional Director and Dr Sanjay Kumar Manjul, Additional Director General, ASI, new Delhi provided explanation and expert comments for the understanding of the participants.

Then Dr. S.R. Zonunthara, Sr. Regional Director addressed the participants and arranged a live presentation of the Folk Dance Chheihlam, dedicated to war. PC Malsawmtluanga & Jenny Laldanglovi were the lead artists and it was presented by the Ngopa Cultural Club.

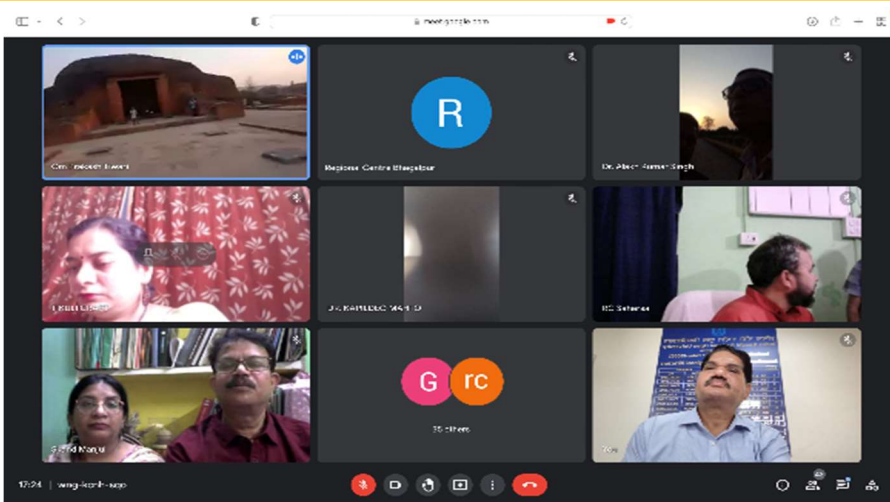
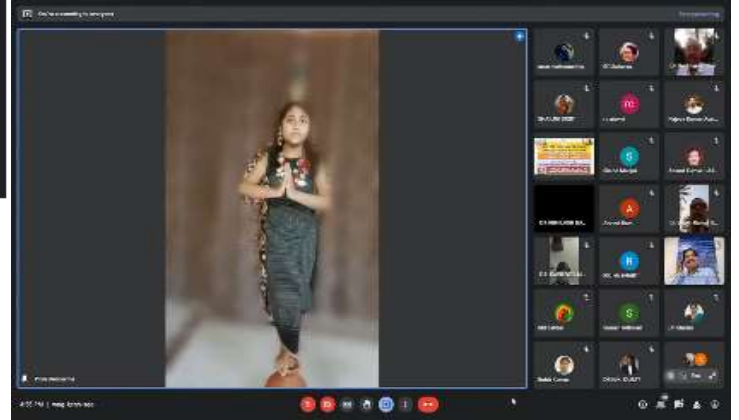


This was followed virtual visit of Food Production Outlet for Khaza (famous sweet in Bihar) by Regional Centre Saharsa. Dr Mirza Nihar Baig, narrated the background behind the choice of the item. Mr Ram Kumar and his team showed the sweet shop where such delicacies are prepared and interacted with the Owner of the Stall who explained why this variety of sweet is popular and how it is gaining international prominence.

The presentation of RC Saharsa was followed by live performances of a tribal dance by an IGNOU learner, folk dance Hojagiri Nritya by Mrs Pinki Debarma and her daughter and recitation of Bengali Poem by Regional Centre, Agartala. In the Hojagiri Nritya, the

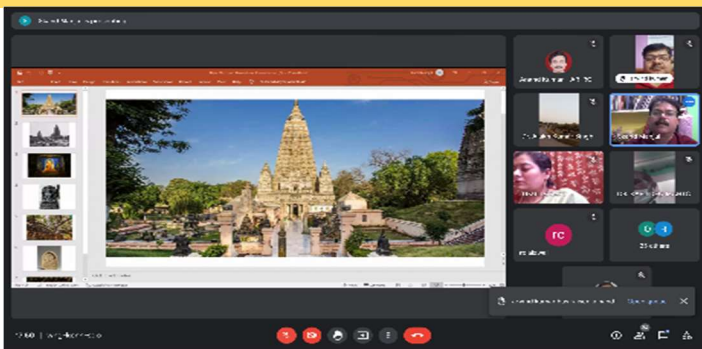


dancer balanced herself on an pitcher with series of lamps on her head. The audience was amazed at her brilliant performance. Dr Salam Dilan Singh, RD addressed the participants and his team from the Learner Support Centre in Government Degree College, Dharmanagar(2602) arranged the presentations.

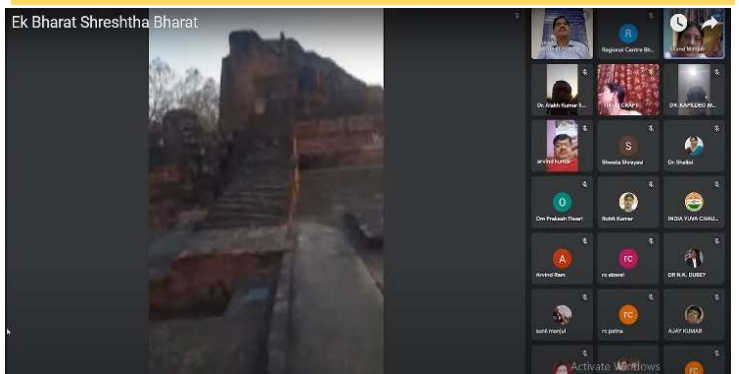


Then Regional Centre, Bhagalpur presented virtual visit of Vikramashila University (one of the largest ancient Buddhist Universities. Dr Sarah Nasreen, RD(I/C) addressed the precipitants and Dr OP Tiwari, ARD arranged the virtual visit to ruins of the university. Dr Sanjay Kumar Manjul, Additional Director General, ASI, New Delhi explained the historical and spiritual significance of the place and provided expert comments for the understanding of the participants.

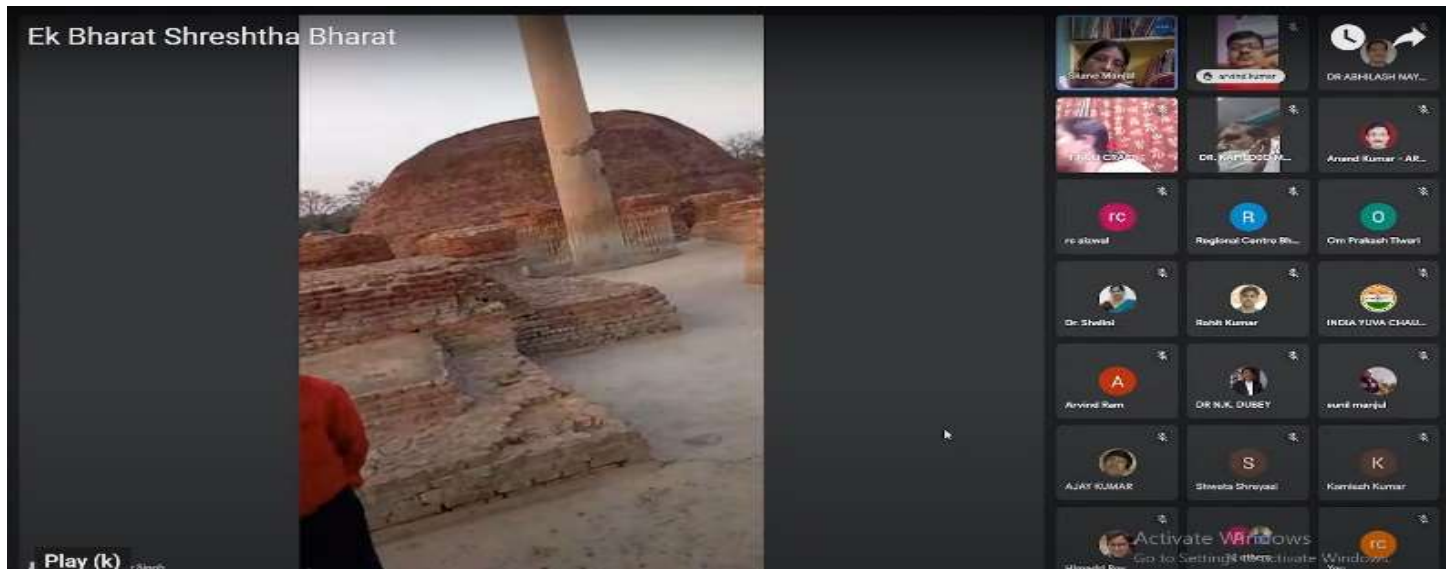
At last, Regional Centre, Patna arranged virtual visit of Bodh Gaya (associated with Mahabodhi Temple a UNESCO World Heritage site) Gaya, Ruins of Nalanda University, Nalanda, and Ashoka Pillar at Vaishali. The virtual visit to the Ruins of Nalanda University, Nalanda, and Ashoka Pillar at Vaishali were arranged



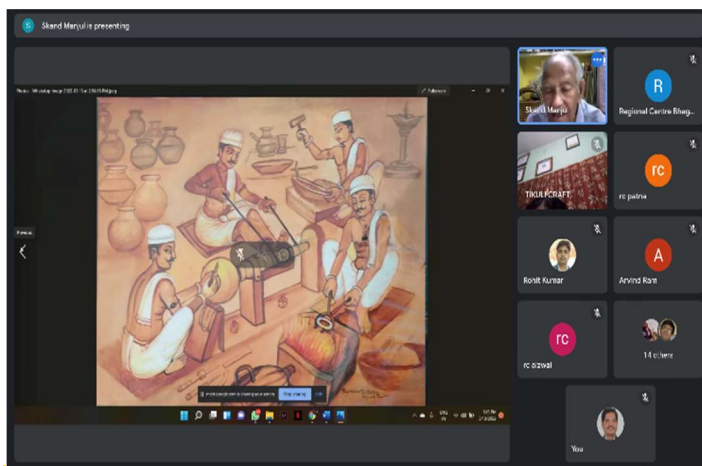
by the LSCs in Nalanda College, Nalanda(0573) and A B College, Lalganj(05160) respectively. The teams were led by **Dr. Hegoyel**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of A.I.&A.S, Nalanda College, Bihar Sharif and Dr



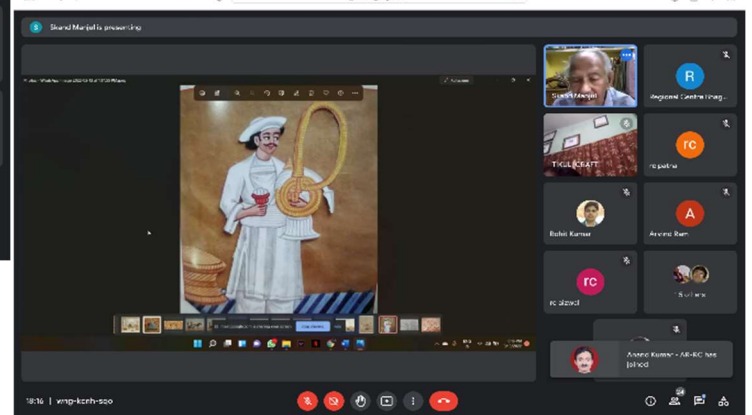
Dillip Kumar Singh, Coordinator of 05160. During the virtual visit of these places, Dr Sanjay Kumar Manjul, Additional Director General, ASI, new Delhi provided explanation and expert comments for the understanding of the participants.

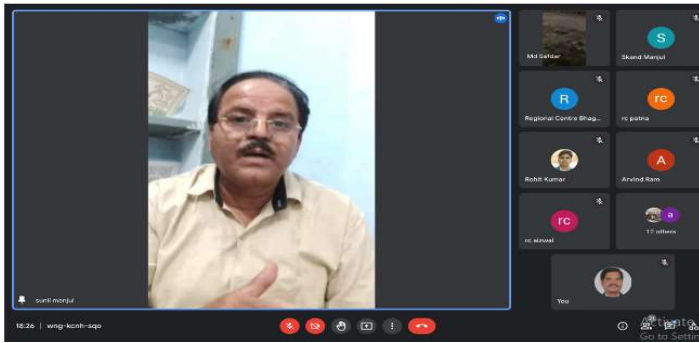


This was followed by elaborate presentations by Sh. Rajendra Prasad, Rtd. Sr. Artist, Darbhanga Museum on Patna Kalam. In spite of being an octogenarian, he explained in detail about the growth and development of Patna Kalam, the different motifs used in the paintings and the way colours are prepared and mixed to make the paintings. He also exhibited varieties of paintings of the Patna Kalam form and tried to show how the paintings reflected the common life. His passion for



and his expertise in the art form was clearly visible from his presentation.

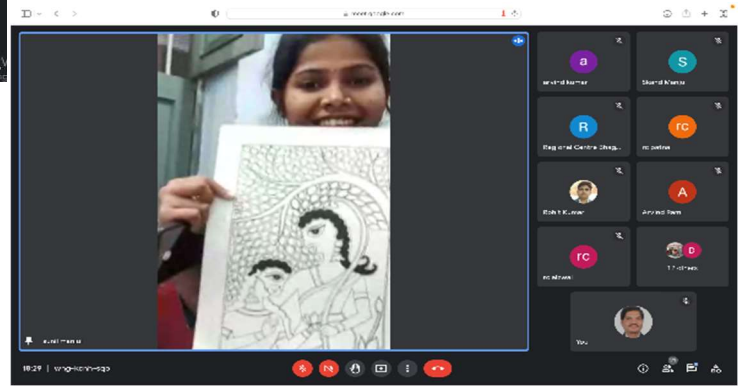




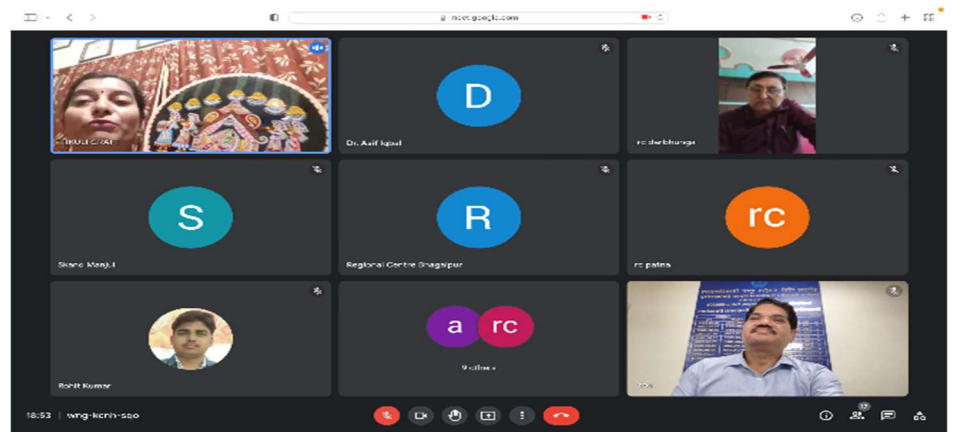
Then Sh. Sunil Kumar Manjul, Secretary, Mithila Art & Culture Association made a presentation on internationally renowned Madhubani Painting. During his presentation, he highlighted the growth and development of the Madhubani painting, different motifs driving the painters and exhibited some of the

creations of the young apprentices working under him.

While he made the presentation, Dr S S Singh, Sr RD RC Darbhanga informed the audience that the cover page of one of blocks of IGNOU course materials for contained the painting by Mrs Dulari Devi, Padmashree Awardee.



Finally Mrs. Geetawali, Assistant Professor, Fashion Designing, Patna Women's College, Patna made a presentation on Tikuli Art. During her presentation, she explained the growth and development of Tikuli Art, different motifs used for making the art on different items and exhibited some of her beautiful creations.



Dr. Abhilash Nayak, Sr. Regional Director proposed formal Vote of Thanks.

The programme was streamed live on:

Facebook(<https://www.facebook.com/100025779620785/videos/533353081481671/0>)

&

YouTube(<https://youtu.be/NbkTohoOvWk>)