

Yuva Sangam
Visit of Bihar Youths to Tamil Nadu
A report

National Institute of Technology
Tiruchirappalli



May 2023

Summary of the programme

The Yuva Sangam Phase II was conducted between the sender institution Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Bihar and the receiver institution National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu during the period 5th May 2023 and 16th May 2023. The Bihar youths were received by the National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli on 7th May 2023 and send off on 14th May 2023 at Chennai. During their visit, the Bihar youths were exposed to Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development) and Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect), Prodyogik (Technology), traveling the stretch from Kanyakumari to Chennai of Tamil Nadu.

Day 1: 7th May 2023

The Bihar delegates arrived at Erode on 7th May 2023, morning by train. They were received at the Erode station by our faculty and escorted by the CISF staff to National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NITT) at noon. They were accorded a warm reception by NITT staff and students in a traditional way.



Left image: The Bihar youths welcomed at NITT. (Right) Group photo of the Bihar delegates along with organizing committee members from NITT.

On the evening of the first day, a welcome event was held at NITT where the chief guest Deputy Superintendent of Police Shri. Arivazhagan addressed the delegates. He spoke about the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu and informed about the important places in and around Tiruchirappalli. After the welcome event, cultural programme was organized by various clubs of NITT. Traditional Tamil songs, Bharatanatyam and thappattam were introduced to the Bihar delegates.



(Photos) Cultural events on the first day.

Day 2: 8th May 2023

The morning of Day 2 (8th May 2023) started with a combined Yoga session where the Bihar and the Tamil Nadu youths (who are selected by NITT to visit Bihar) participated. Later, the day programme started with a visit to Tanjore Brihadisvara temple. The temple built by Chola emperor Rajaraja I around 1010 CE is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.



(Left). Combined Yoga session at NITT. (Right) Bihar youths at Tanjore Brihadisvara temple.

The youths were explained about the architectural skills of ancient Cholas and they were exposed to various other cultural aspects visiting the Museum. Subsequently, the Youths visited the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T). They were exposed to various food process techniques and research activities related to food technology. In the afternoon, the people-to-people connect programme was organized where the Bihar youths were taken to a village near Kallanai. They interacted with the villagers about the traditions, crops and farming. They also witnessed the Jallikattu bull employed in the traditional Tamil sports and had a flavor of the traditional tea served in the village.



(Photos) People-to-people connect programme organized at a village near Tiruchirappalli for the Bihar youths.

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Young Indians (Yi) organized a welcome reception, 'Citizens of Trichy' for the Bihar delegates at Hotel Ramyas, Tiruchirappalli, in the evening. The programme began with a welcome garland and speeches by Ms Kaveri Annamalai Young India Trichy Chapter, Mr B V Ramanan Past Chairman CII Trichy Zone, Padma Shri S Damodaran NGO Gramalaya, Dr G Aghila Director of NIT Trichy, Mr Dhavachelvan Revenue Division Officer Tiruchy District and Mr Rajesh Natrajan Co-Chair Yi Trichy Chapter. Ms Kaveri Annamalai welcomed, followed by Mr BV Ramanan educated the delegates about the history of Tiruchirappalli city. Padma Shri Damodaran shared his experience developing a hygienic lifestyle in rural India for 35 years. Director of NIT Trichy Dr. G. Aghila appreciated the students for being a part of Yuva Sangam which certainly enriched their professional and personal upskilling that helped them to be great citizens of India by engaging in nation-building. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Rajesh Natarajan.

Nearly 25 local students from nearby colleges of Tiruchirappalli interacted with the Bihar youths and had a conversation about the cultural and traditional practices of their respective states. The event concluded with a grand dinner for all the delegates.



(Top left). CII, Yi and district officials on the dias during the Citizens of Trichy reception to the Bihar delegates. (Top right) Youths participating in Antakshri programme. (bottom) Group photo of the 'Citizens of Trichy' participants.

Day 3: 9th May 2023

The day 3 event started with the trip to Kanyakumari, flagged off by Dr Bakthavatsalam, Professor, Training and Placement. The two day trip that includes visit to ISRO was partially sponsored by Boeing through their outreach funds. The Youths visited Keezhadi excavations en route to Kanyakumari, a Sangam-age settlement excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India since 2015. Numerous square pits have been cut that exposed frosts, brick walls, roof tiles, pottery, mimic accessories, skeletal tools, iron Vel, and Tamil-Brahmi letter-etched plates belonging to 3rd century BCE, that were inspected by the Yuva Sangam delegates. After the visit, the delegates reached Kanyakumari.



(Left) Yuva Sangam youths inspecting the Keezhadi excavation pits. (Right) few of the artifacts from the Keezhadi excavation site.

Day 4: 10th May 2023

On the morning of Day 4, the Yuva Sangam Bihar delegates witnessed the sunrise above the sea at Kanyakumari. The Statue of Thiruvalluvar and Vivekananda Memorial were visible in daylight from the seashore. The Thiruvalluvar Statue, built in memory of Thiruvalluvar, is a 41-metre-tall (133 ft) stone sculpture denoting the 133 chapters of the Tirukkural.



(left) A Yuva Sangam youth, looking at the Thiruvalluvar statue from Vivekananda Rock. (Right) Group photo of Yuva Sangam delegates at Vivekananda rock memorial.



Youths shopping for sea-shell items at Kanyakumari.

The Youths had a boating trip to Vivekananda rock memorial, built in honor of Swami Vivekananda at Kanyakumari. Swami Vivekananda was known for the introduction of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. His speech at the 1893 Parliament of Religions in Chicago had great acclaim. The Youths got an astonishing view of the sea covering the India peninsula and the Thiruvalluvar statue from the Vivekananda rock memorial. The Youths then headed towards Mupandal Wind farms, one of India's largest onshore wind farms. The visit to the wind farms made the youths to realize the development potential of India in renewable energy sources such as wind energy. Wind energy is one of the clean energy sources and India has vast potential in green energy technologies.



(Left) Yuva Sangam youths at a wind energy generator (Right) Group photo in front of ISRO-IPRC, Mahendragiri.

Afternoon, the youths visited ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, nearly 27 kms from Kanyakumari. The ISRO scientists explained the various cryogenic engines and testing protocols, visiting the museum inside ISRO and screening of the videos. Later, the team visited the onsite testing facilities and the rocket's stage assembly. The Youths were very much impressed by the technological skills of India in space and mentioned that it was their best part of the visit that covered Prodyogik (technology). The delegates traveled back to NITT after the ISRO visit.

Day 5: 11th May 2023

The forenoon session of Day 5 began with an interaction session at NITT. Shri B.V. Ramanan (MD Livia Polymer PVT LTD), Shri. K. Ellango (Vice President RECAL), Shri. Venkatesh Devarajan (Arjuna Awardee , Frist Indian Boxer to win Bronze medal in world championship) and Padma Shri Awardee S. Damodaran addressed the delegates and interacted with them. The curious bunch of delegates asked several questions the responses to which informed them about the individual role each of them will have in nation-building and underlined the importance of upskilling and having an entrepreneurial temperament. The Director of the Institute Dr. G. Aghila expounded how the 5 aspects of the Yuva Sangam programme positively influence the participants.



The interaction programme where entrepreneurs, Padma Shri awardee and Arjuna awardee interacted with the youths.

Subsequent to the interaction programme a cultural programme by the Bihar youths was conducted where they performed singing and dancing at the Barn Hall of NITT. A karaoke programme was conducted where NITT faculty sang songs. An art exhibition was arranged that showcased the artistic skills of NITT arts club.

In the evening, the Bihar delegates checked out from NITT after visiting the sports facilities and reached Rock Fort at Tiruchirappalli. The Rockfort complex has fort, temples and stone steps leading to the top. It has the oldest cave temple built by the Pallavas under Mahendravarman I (c. 580–630 CE).



*(Left) Yuva Sangam delegates on top of rock fort.
(Right) Dinner at Hotel Sangeethas where an Youth is singing a song.*

Day 6: 12th May 2023

The Yuva Sangam Bihar delegates reached the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai on 12th May 2023 early morning. They visited Raj Bhavan, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, for the interaction session with the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu at 11 am. The Hon'ble Governor Thiru. R. N. Ravi interacted with the delegates informing that he was also from Bihar. He discussed the cultural heritage of India, richness of Tamil Literature, how he adopted the food culture of Tamil Nadu etc. The Youths had asked questions such as his feelings when he became Governor, his early life etc which he explained to the youths. The youths were very much impressed by the highly interactive nature of the meeting with the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Governor also issued certificates to the youths and honoured the coordinators from IIT Patna during the meeting. The delegates had a photo session with the Hon'ble Governor and lunch at Raj Bhavan. The Hon'ble Governor presented books on Thirukural translated into Hindi and two books written on the intercultural connections of Tamil Nadu with Kashi and Sourashtra.



(Left) Group photo of the Yuva Sangam delegates with the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. R. N. Ravi at Raj Bhavan, Chennai. (Right) The IIT Patna coordinators presenting a memento to the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu.

The Yuva Sangam delegates spent their evening at Vivekananda House as suggested by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu. Swami Vivekananda stayed in the house in 1897 and it is now maintained by Ramakrishna Math which exhibits the life of Vivekananda. Facing Marina Beach in Chennai, the youth delegates had an experience of the audio visual shows depicting the career of Swami Vivekananda. The youths visited the Marina Beach later.



The Bihar youths visited Vivekanand house at Chennai

Day 7: 13th May 2023

The Yuva Sangam youths explored the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai campus on their seventh day. They visited the shore temple of Mahabalipuram, a granite structural temple dating from the 8th century AD and one of the UNESCO world heritage site. They later visited the Pancha Rathas that, showcase the monolithic Indian rock-cut architecture carved during the reign of King Narasimhavarman in the 6th Century CE. The Youths were impressed during their visit to India shell museum, one of asias largest shell museum with collections of more than 40,000 sea shells from across the world and visited the associated exhibitions such as the pearl museum, mineral museum, Dinosaur park and Aquarium.



(Top) Yuva Sangam youths at the Shore temple, Mahabalipuram, (bottom) Dinosaur park and youth at the mineral museum.

Day 8: 14th May 2023

The last day of the programme began with the visit to the Beach of Chennai where the Bihar youths enjoyed the waves and the beach sand. The end-of-tour programme began with an address by Prof. Nilesh J Vasa, Dean Students, IIT Madras, Chennai. He quizzed the youths about the places they visited and the things learned out of the visit. The youths then headed for the railway station and boarded the train from Perambur, Chennai, at 12:50 noon.



(Clockwise from top) Bihar youths at Besant Nagar Beach, Chennai, one of the youths enjoying the beach sand, Prof. Nilesh J Vasa, Dean Students, IITM interacting with the youths and farewell group photo at IIT Madras, Chennai.

Acknowledgements

1. Shri. Shailendra Kumar Singh, IIT Patna, for the photographs