



Exposure Visit of Youth to
Various States of India

Yuva Sangam Report

by



Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Guwahati-781039, Assam

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Acknowledgments

The Yuva Sangam, as an academic program, is envisaged to provide an immersive experience of development, landmarks, recent achievements, and connect the youth studying in various Institutions across the country. During the visits, the students had a multi-dimensional exposure under five broad areas – Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Prodyogik (Technology), and Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect).

Around 1000 youngsters participated in the Yuva Sangam. This project aimed at connecting and strengthening the bond between young people of North Eastern States and the rest of the country. Thus, to conduct an event of such magnitude and scale, coordination among various organizations was a necessity. Therefore, we express our sense of gratitude to all who had been a part of this program and helped us achieve grand success in its implementation.

Firstly, we would like to thank our Director, Prof. Parameswar Iyer, for his support, guidance and advice at every step of this program; without his help, we could not have managed so far. He was a constant source of help and leadership during this enterprise.

We also thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi for his inspiring vision for the country. It was his vision to bring students from across the country to Northeast India so that everyone can be exposed to the rich cultural heritage of the North East.

Our sincere thanks to Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhanji for his guidance and support at each stage of this program. We would also like to thank the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, for their continued support and guidance in executing this Yuva Sangam program.

Our heartfelt gratitude also goes out to Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for his support and advice in conducting this program. We would also extend our gratitude to the AICTE for facilitating this event.

We thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam's office for their continued support in conducting the entire event and making it a grand success.

Our thanks also belong to the Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria for allowing us to visit the Raj Bhavan and taking his valuable time to interact with the participants.

Our special thanks belong to the Hon'ble Minister of Education Dr. Ranaj Pegu, for readily accepting our invitation and being with us in several send-off events for this Yuva Sangam program.

We thank the Ministry of Education, Govt. of Assam for coordinating with IIT Guwahati during this whole event. Special thanks to Dr. Pranjal Barua, from the Directorate of higher education for supporting us throughout this program.

We thank Mr. Anuj Panday and his team from Sashastra Seema Bal for being with us throughout this program and providing security cover to all our participants. We also thank Mr. Jagdeep Pal Singh, DIG, SSB for arranging the trip to the border villages.

We are grateful to Sports Authority of India, Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for their active participation, guidance and support in the Yuva Sangam program.

We are also thankful to Dr. Bikul Das and team for their help in Sualkuchi visit.

We would also like to express our appreciation to IRCTC officials for making all the travel arrangements for the participants and being with us.

We thank the representatives of various startups and the group Angavinoy Assam for their participation in today's events.

We would also like to thank, Dean of Student Affairs Prof. Anamika Barua, Hostel Affairs Board, Sports Board, IPM team of IIT Guwahati, and Security persons, IIT Guwahati for their effort and support towards the success of this event.

We especially thank the participants from Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka, for their active and enthusiastic participation in the activities prepared for them.

Lastly, our special thanks belong to our faculty colleagues, staff from several sections, and student volunteers, whose hard work and effort made this event possible. In all, twenty-one coordination committees were formed to carry out various activities related to the program which included faculty members, staff members, and more than sixty student volunteers from across the Institute. Also, thanks to all staff from Students' Affairs for their continued support.

Thanking you,

With kind regards,

Professor Bithiah Grace Jaganathan (Associate Dean, Student Affairs)

Professor Ashwini Kumar Sharma (Nodal Officer)

Introduction

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati organized an initiative of 'Yuva Sangam (युवा संगम)' under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat from 27 February to 3 March 2023. The aim was to strengthen the people-to-people connection between the youth of the North-eastern states and other states. As per the mandate of the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India, the youth were to be given a multi-dimensional exposure under five broad areas – Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect), and Prodyogik (Technology).

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, as a nodal center for Assam, was responsible for hosting 150 student delegates along with 12 faculty coordinators from three paired Institutes, namely, Indian Institute of Technology Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore from Karnataka and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar from Gujarat. The Institute also had the responsibility to send a group of around 119 student delegates along with 6 faculty coordinators representing Assam to NITTR Chandigarh and Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi.

Send-off ceremony

The first group of student delegates left for Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 22 February, 2023 from Guwahati Railway Station at 05:35 am. Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Welfare of Plain Tribe & Backward Classes, Govt. of Assam, graced the ceremony as the chief guest. The event was presided over by Prof. Parameswar K. Iyer, Officiating Director of IIT Guwahati.

Dr. Ranaj Pegu spent considerable time at the Guwahati railway station and interacted with the participants one-to-one and encouraged them to make use of this unique opportunity to learn about the culture and tradition of Gujarat. The event was flagged off to kick-start the first batch of participants for the tour of Gujarat.

Prof. Parameswar K. Iyer congratulated and welcomed the participants at IIT Guwahati and accompanied them to the Guwahati railway station for the send-off ceremony with Dr. Ranaj Pegu. Prof. Iyer interacted extensively with the participants and motivated them to showcase the culture and tradition of Assam while emphasizing fulfilling the essence of Yuva Sangam.

The student delegates for Indian Institute of Management Bangalore in Karnataka started on 27 February, 2023 from Guwahati Railway Station at 06:40 pm. Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Hon'ble minister of Education, Welfare of Plain Tribe & Backward Classes, Government of Assam, flagged-off the send-off event from the IIT Guwahati campus. The group of student delegates for Indian Institute of Technology Jammu in Jammu & Kashmir started on 1 March, 2023 at 05:35 am from Guwahati Railway Station.





Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Honorable minister of Education, Welfare of Plain Tribe & Backward Classes, Government of Assam, during the send-off event at the Guwahati railway station.



The Sashastra Seema Bal escort team with Prof. P. K. Iyer.

Itinerary details

IIT Guwahati prepared a detailed five-day itinerary covering all broad areas as outlined by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India. During the subsequent days, the student delegates visited Nilachal Hill, Sports Authority of India complex at Paltan Bazaar, and Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education Sonapur on Day 1; Bhutan Border at Darranga arranged by Sashastra Seema Bal, and three villages at Dhopatari, Silbhoral, Athyabori for the buddy program on Day 2; the delegates visited the Raj Bhavan at Kharghuli Hills and met with the Hon'ble Governor of Assam on Day 3 followed by startups interaction session; Day 4 included a visit to Urbasi Island and a workshop on language processing tools at IIT Guwahati. Day 5 was marked by a trip to Sualkuchi followed by cultural nights and gala dinner. The interaction session with the startups incubated at IIT Guwahati, held on Day 3, was arranged in the afternoon session to encourage the young participants to pursue entrepreneurship. Caliche, Primary Healthtech Pvt Ltd and Souvenir stop were a part of this interaction run by very young entrepreneurs. A workshop on Developing Natural Language Processing Tools and Technologies for Languages in North East India was organized on Day 4 to give a glimpse of how the evolving technologies can be more suitable to restore, translate and communicate the traditional languages of the North East with the rest of the world. Sports sessions were arranged at the IIT Guwahati sports facility for the student delegates. The program culminated with a cultural night where Assamese folk-based dance performances were presented by Angavinoy, a dance school located in Nagaon. The participants also presented their traditional dances and songs during the program. A portion of the itinerary is listed below for reference followed by a day-wise glimpse of these various activities.

Itinerary from IIT Guwahati (IITG) for IIM Bangalore, IIT Jammu and IIT Gandhinagar

Day	Arrival/ start place	From	To	Places to Visit
0	Guwahati railway station	Guwahati railway station	IITG	Welcome by EBSB team at IITG.
1		IITG	Nilachal Hill Paltan Bazar Sonapur	Rock-cut figures and one Stone – Gateway Daurgarila Rock Inscription, Kamakhya temple, Local market at Kamakhya Hill Sports Authority of India Complex Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education
2		IITG	Villages Bhutan Border	Buddy program: Visit to the three villages Bhutan Border visit at Darranga arranged by SSB.
3		IITG	Kharghuli Hills IITG	Raj Bhavan at Kharguli Hills Startup interaction.
4		IITG	Urbasi Island IITG	The Carvings, inscriptions and pillar on the Urbasi Island. Workshop at IITG
5		IITG	Sualkuchi IITG	Sualkuchi Cultural program at IITG Gala Dinner at IITG
6	Departure from IITG	IITG	Guwahati railway station/ Airport	

Day-wise events

Day 0 (26.02.2023)

All the student delegates and the faculty coordinators from the three paired Institutes reached IIT Guwahati by 21:30 hrs. Later that night, they were given a warm welcome by the traditional band from Sashtra Seema Bal. Prof. P. K. Iyer, the officiating Director of IIT Guwahati, welcomed the delegates.



Prof. P. K. Iyer, Officiating Director interacting with the participants.

The traditional band from Sashastra Seema Bal ready to welcome the participants.



Sashastra Seema Bal performing in front of the participants.

Day 1 (27.02.2023)

Student delegates prepared themselves for the first day of their visit. The send-off was arranged at NEW-SAC at IITG. Dr Buddha Chandrashekhar, Chief Coordinating Officer at AICTE, during his visit to IITG interacted with the participants along with Prof. P. K. Iyer. Participants visited the Sports Authority of India Complex and Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIFE), Sonapur.

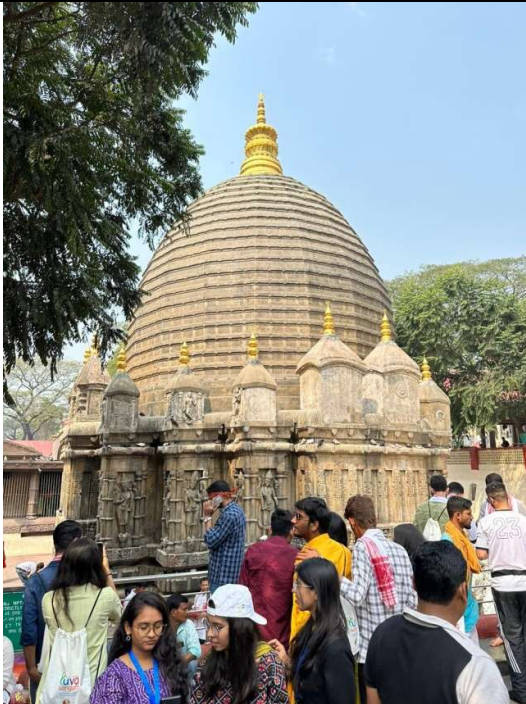


Student delegates and faculty coordinators along with officiating Director Prof. P. K. Iyer and other

IIT Guwahati officials at NEW-SAC of IIT Guwahati ready to go ahead with their first day trip.



Last row: Prof. P. K. Iyer (second from left), Dr Buddha Chandrashekar and Prof. Bithiah Grace Jaganathan



Participants at the Nilachal Hill visiting Kamakhya temple.



Interaction with the officials of the Sports Authority of India, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati



Interaction with the officials of LNIFE, Sonapur, Guwahati.

Day 2 (28.02.2023)

The buddy program is an initiative to bring about a cultural connection between people across the country. Participants thus visited three villages, namely, Dhopatari, Silbhoral, and Athyabori under the program. The contact program was arranged with the help of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Guwahati. This was followed by the participants visiting the Bhutan border at Darranga. The visit was an outcome of the kind gesture from Sashastra Seema Bal.



Participants interacting with the villagers under the buddy program.



Bhutan border at Darranga.

Day 3 (01.03.2023)

Student delegates visited the Raj Bhavan at Kharghuli Hills, the official residence of the Governor of Assam. Prof. P. K. Iyer, Officiating Director, IIT Guwahati accompanied the delegates. The Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, addressed the student delegates encouraging and motivating them to strive for excellence and to make good use of this opportunity.



Prof. P. K. Iyer presenting a memento to Hon'ble Governor of Assam Shri Gulab Chand Kataria ji.



Hon'ble Governor of Assam Shri Gulab Chand Kataria addressing the gathering.



Prof. P. K. Iyer addressing the gathering at the Raj Bhavan.



Participants at Raj Bhavan, Kharghuli Hill, Guwahati.



Participants at Raj Bhavan, Kharghuli Hills, Guwahati.

Later that day, startup interaction sessions were arranged at the conference center in IITG. Prof. S. Senthilmurugan from the Department of Chemical Engineering discussed the importance of start-ups and encouraged the participants to look forward to becoming job creators and not job seekers. He fielded many questions regarding direction, career paths, and decision-making which the delegates directed towards him after his address. Mr. Robin Rajendran from Caliche interacted with the participants. Caliche, led by a young and multidisciplinary team of engineers and researchers, is committed to solving complex industrial challenges. They started their journey by developing technologies for the Energy Industry. They were incubated at IIT Guwahati on 14th June 2018. The

presentation focused on soil consolidation using microbes, Microhealer, and Carbon Capture Technology. Mr. Ankit Chowdhury, Co-founder and Chief Product Officer represented Primary Healthtech Pvt Ltd. Primary Healthtech is a rapidly growing NextGen Healthtech startup with a vision to make healthcare diagnostics, affordable, accessible and predictive co-founded by IIT Guwahati Graduates. The interaction session helped the delegates obtain insights into the thought process behind a startup and how one may become a successful entrepreneur.

After the startups interaction session, sports activities were arranged for all the participants at the IITG students activity center.



Prof. P. K. Iyer interacting with the participants on the startup interaction session.



Professor S. Senthimurugan interacting with the participants.





Participants enjoying the outdoor and indoor sports facilities at IITG.

Day 4 (02.03.2023)

Participants visited Urbasi island in the morning. The travel was via water route across the mighty Brahmaputra, a unique experience in itself.



Visiting Urbasi island via mighty Brahmaputra river.

In the afternoon, a workshop was arranged at the IIT Guwahati conference center. Dr. Sanasam Ranbir Singh, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT

Guwahati conducted a workshop on Developing Natural Language Processing Tools and Technologies for Languages in North East India. He highlighted the role that language processing tools can play to ensure that various indigenous languages from the North East region do not go extinct but continue to play an important role in carrying the traditions of the region.



Dr. Sanasam Ranbir Singh conducting the workshop.



Participants attending the workshop.

Day 5 (03.03.2023)

On the final day of their stay at IIT Guwahati, the participants visited the Sualkuchi village considered as the textile center of Assam. The village is famous for the weaving of famous Assam silk clothing, namely, Muga silk, Pat silk, and Eri silk. Mekhela chadors and Gamosas which represents the tradition of Assam are also made here. The visit gave a unique exposure to everyone about the life and nature of work done by traditional weavers in the making of famous silk material and the clothing. They also had a unique opportunity to visit the research-based NGO laboratory, Kavikrishna lab, which is working for the treatment of cancer.





Participants interacting with the villagers.

The day ended with a cultural night where the students of Angavinoy Assam from Puranigudam, Nagaon performed traditional folk dances of Assam. Moreover, the participants represented their states and performed various events including traditional folk dance and songs.



Students of Angavinoy performing folk dance.



Students of Angavinoy performing folk dance.



Students of Karnataka performing a group song.



Students performing Garba a folk dance of Gujarat.



Participants on stage performing Garba a folk dance of Gujarat.



Students of Jammu & Kashmir presenting a folk dance.

Media coverage

Ministry of Education:

<https://twitter.com/EduMinOfIndia/status/1628258238641872896>

PIB Assam:

https://twitter.com/PIB_Guwahati/status/1632080446736547841

https://twitter.com/PIB_Guwahati/status/1628268790424432640

https://twitter.com/PIB_Guwahati/status/1631265187297742849

https://twitter.com/PIB_Guwahati/status/1630885919950618625

https://twitter.com/PIB_Guwahati/status/1630890604593913858

DoNER Ministry:

https://twitter.com/MDoNER_India/status/1632005355109761024

Governor of Assam:

https://twitter.com/Gulab_kataria/status/1630859183175393280

AICTE

https://twitter.com/AICTE_INDIA/status/1629888852784738304

IIT Guwahati:

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<https://twitter.com/IITGuwahati/status/1628000205294678018>

Souvenirs



Banner and standee



Conclusion

We believe that the Yuva Sangam program was a grand success. All participants showed a lot of enthusiasm during their participation. It is heartening to see a reflection of the cultural and traditional values of this great nation in our youth and the moral values that they have imbibed from their elders. We wish all the success to the future of Yuva Sangam.

Feedback/Report of the participants

One of the participants of Yuva Sangam beautifully captured the whole program with his picture diary.

We started as strangers on this journey, but as we explored new places and shared our stories, we became friends

Yup!! The journey was about to begin and never appeared after a month or so...

Amruth and Sakshi The best duo

Shikhar Bhattacharya I wish I had his life! I mean I wish I could have that life!

Chola pavel (Bada bhambha)

At this point I don't even know anyone's name but still I'm enjoying myself!

Here we had dinner with some strangers

Tanna Sir The best violinist!

Minu Sharma ya Bhai's kites were flying through clouds

And the best singer of our squad!

The beauty of travel is that it allows us to meet new people and form connections we never thought possible. These strangers have now become some of my closest friends

The Portuguese guy American

Alex Malin knows your songs!

Aur phir ye strangers Kab dost ban gaye Kuch pata nhi chala

Hummer... After such a long time I'm here on the channel. Aa jayega Open air club aur Dil se Angel!

Atisha gossamer For such an amazing introduction

Sayonara Japanese Peeps

We may have started this trip as strangers, but we ended it as a family, bonded by our shared experiences and the memories we created together

MARU. In Hindi na toh koi bhi karta hai to foreigner MARU. And people actually have selfies with him!

Hum ek toh hi nhi yaad Roke koshish ki Pronounce karne ki Lekin usse hi saam Chhina saamni Multa saamni venu gopal Aglar HAI!

Some IT students jibe mai nhi jata

It's amazing how quickly people can become an important part of your life when you travel together. These strangers turned friends have left a lasting impact on my heart!

Yup! The whole journey was amazing

After embarking on a journey with a group of strangers, it's heartwarming to know that we are separating our ways, and that's the magic of travel