

24TH FEBRUARY TO 2ND MARCH, 2023

BRIEF REPORT



शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION



# YUVA SANGAM - EXCHANGE VISIT OF STUDENTS FROM RAJASTHAN TO ARUNACHAL PRADESH

EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT (EBSB)

FACILITATED BY

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN  
(NODAL UNIVERSITY)





Chief guest Dr. Somya Gurjar, Mayor, Jaipur, honorable Vice Chancellor, Central University of Rajasthan, Prof. Anand Bhalerao, the nodal officer of Rajasthan's Yuva Sangam Prof. D. C. Sharma, and other faculty members of the Central University of Rajasthan graced the flag-off ceremony of the Yuva Sangam at Shalimar Hotel, Jaipur. An induction meeting with participants has also been conducted by the faculty members before the flag-off ceremony. The flag-off ceremony started with the address of Prof. Anand Bhalerao. He congratulated all the youths from different corners of Rajasthan for getting selected under this scheme. He proposed thanks to the Ministry of Education, Government of India for providing this wonderful opportunity to the youths of Rajasthan. Honorable Vice Chancellor Central University of Rajasthan, Prof. Anand Bhalerao. was actively involved in the conduct of this event, "Yuva Sangam" under the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat scheme" from its inception. His support, valuable suggestions, and guidance at each step of the event were the source of inspiration for all those who were involved directly or indirectly in the conduct of this event. Despite his busy schedule, he attended the flag-off ceremony and reached back to the University with his team late at night around 2:00 AM.





Dr. Somya Gurjar appraised the audience and thanked the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for taking a good initiative for the youths through this exchange programme. The youth from the rest part of the country will be able to know the culture and traditions of the eastern part of our country. She said that the Youths are like the rising sun, and they are going to the place where the sun rises in India. At the end of the flag-off ceremony Dr. Somya Gurjar and Prof. Anand Bhalerao distributed the T-shirts, caps, and batches to all the youths.

Nodal officer Rajasthan of this event, Prof. D. C. Sharma, was also actively involved in the smooth conduction of the entire event. He coordinated with the Ministry of Education, IRCTC, host institute NERIST, and other ministries who were responsible to make this event successful. His effort was appreciated by all the participants of Yuva Sangam who visited Arunachal Pradesh.

The IRCTC persons from Jaipur, Mr. Rakesh Kumar Nehra, and Mr. Yogendra Singh played a key role in providing accommodation for the participants at Jaipur, travel arrangements, and arrangements for food during the journey.



On February 24, 2023, the first group of Rajasthan's Yuva Sangam EBSB with Dr. Dipak Gayen reached Delhi Airport by bus from Jaipur at 4:00 AM. This group of 25 Yuva Sangam participants checked in at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi for Kolkata at 7:00 AM. They reached Kolkata airport by 9:00 AM. The second group of Yuva Sangam EBSB including 26 participants and four faculty members namely Dr. Jugal Kishor, Dr. Jaya Kritika Ojha, Dr. Guneet Inder Jeet Kaur and Dr. Abhay Kumar Rai started their journey for Kolkata from Jaipur airport at 7:20 AM.





Both the group met at Kolkata airport to catch a connecting flight for Itanagar at 10:30 AM. The participants were very excited because 45 out of total 50 never travelled by air. It was an amazing experience for them. They all boarded to a flight for Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh at 11:05 AM.

The Rajasthan Yuva Sangam, EBSB group of 50 participants with 5 faculty members reached Itanagar airport at around 12:30 PM. The nodal officer of host institute, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Arunachal Pradesh, Prof. Ajay Bharti along with his team were present at the Itanagar Airport for warm welcome of the Rajasthan EBSB youth participants.

Afterward, delegation moved towards the NERIST and reached the CEP guest house around 4:00 PM. In between the journey from airport to NERIST all the delegates had seen the beautiful diversity of the plants, natural scenery and different type of building patterns which were present in between the mountains.





After reaching to NERIST all participants were allotted rooms in the CEP guest house. After that all had lunch and started getting ready for the “Oneness cultural event” at the NERIST campus. The event started with many mind-blowing performances - like different tribe’s attire’s ramp walks, cultural dances of the Arunachal’s tribe. The delegates from Rajasthan experienced the cultural beauty of the Arunachal Pradesh during the event.



After cultural programme a meeting was conducted to brief about the day-2 plan and all were instructed to get ready at 7:30 AM to visit different places in the Arunachal Pradesh. After the meeting all participants were assembled for dinner and moved for their respective rooms.





On February 25, 2023, the Rajasthan Yuva Sangam, EBSB delegation took breakfast in the morning around 7:30 AM and departed for The Ganga Lake visit. A group of students and faculty members from NERIST, some IRCTC representatives, and ITBP security personnels accompanied us for the visit. The participants were excited and full of enthusiastic for the second day of their journey. We reached Ganga Lake around 10:00 AM. Delegation covered the 3.9 Km track around the lake. The students from NERIST briefed the delegation about the importance of the ganga lake and shared some interesting stories related to the lake. It is said that the lake was founded by the Tai Bida when he reached there to search his lost Mithuns.





The delegation departed for the lunch around 12:30 PM. They took the lunch at Malabar restaurant in Itanagar. After lunch the delegation visited Ita fort. The fort is assumed to be built by the Sutiya kings in the 14th or the 15th century which ruled the region during that time. It has an irregular shape, built mainly with bricks dating back to the 14th-15th century



The fort has three different entrances at three different sides, which are the western, the eastern and the southern side. The delegation entered the fort vis southern gate. The fort has a site that gives a nice view of Itanagar city. The delegation interacted there with Meenakshi Lekhi ji, Union Minister of State for external affairs and culture of India.





After visiting Ita fort, Rajasthan Yuva Sangam, EBSB delegation reached Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum around 4:00 PM. The museum showcases aspects of tribal life of Arunachal Pradesh. These include clothing, headdress, weapons, handicraft, music instruments, jewellery and other artifacts of daily use and culture, besides archaeological finds.



Then, the delegation reached to the Gompa Buddhist Temple around 5:30 PM. It is a Buddhist ecclesiastical fortification of learning that may be understood as a conflation of a fortification, a vihara and a university associated with Tibetan Buddhism and thus common in historical Tibetan regions. Gompa also refer to a meditation room, where practitioners meditate and listen to teachings.





The Rajasthan Yuva Sangam, EBSB delegation reached back to CEP guest house, NERIST around 7:30, took a high tea and met with Prof. Pradip Lingfa, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, and coordinator of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan north east region. He appraised the Yuva Sangam participants about his work on bio-diesel formation. He is leading a project for making biofuels from Nahar tree and cooking oil etc. At last, the participants had dinner at CEP guest house, NERIST and left for their respective rooms to take rest.





On February 26, 2023, the Rajasthan Yuva Sangam EBSB delegation had breakfast around 8.0 AM and left the guest house to meet a distinguished person in the area of music and dance. The delegation was accompanied by the nodal officer NERIST, a few IRCTC representatives, and ITBP security personnel. The group arrived at the residence of the famous singer Ms. Rerik Karlo Digbak, who has been awarded the prestigious "Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar-2020" for her contribution to folk music and dance in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. She officially began her career in music in 1999 after being accepted as an artist by All India Radio in Itanagar. She recorded 20 folk songs for Doordarshan Kendra in Itanagar and 11 folk songs for AIR.

She shared her journey of music with the delegation, and the entire team members were privileged to listen to her singing, including a classical, a folk song, and a popular patriotic song. The faculty members of the Central University of Rajasthan honored Ms. Rerik Karlo Digbak with a Galo, and she also facilitated the delegation.



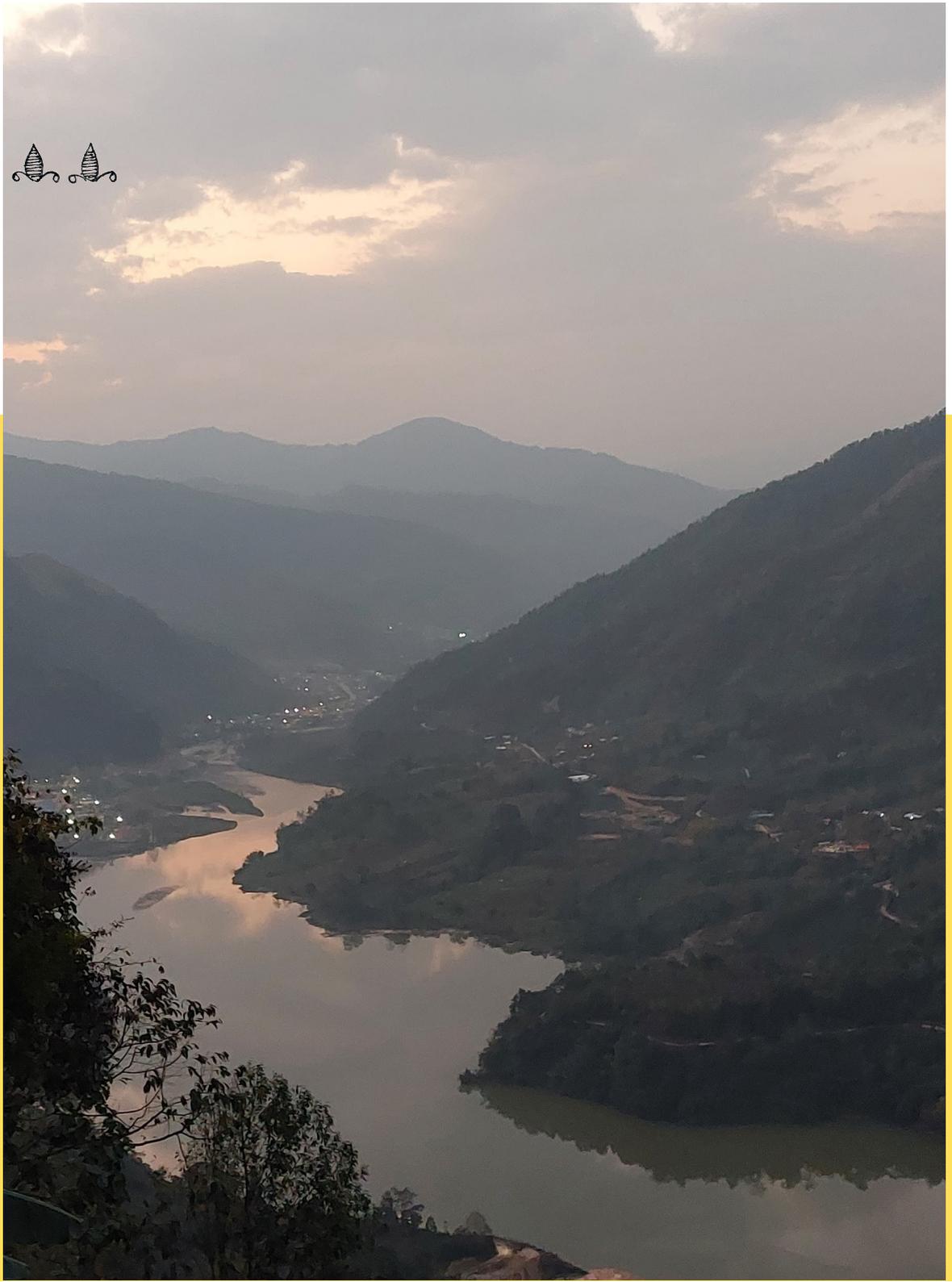


After visiting her place, the delegation moved to the residence of International Karate Player Ms. Lipin Ete, who won numerous medals for India in events at the national & international levels. She honored the nation by winning a bronze medal at the 10th Commonwealth Karate Championships in 2022. She won a bronze medal in the junior girls' kata competition at the Thailand Open Karate Championships 2022 in Phuket, Thailand, at the age of 16 years. She shared her life experience with the Yuva Sangam delegation. It was inspiring for all the youth of the delegation. She wore Yuva Sangam T-Shirt and cap and praised the youth by saying a motivational quote, "You can only fight the way you practice".





The delegation left her house at 12.30 PM and reached NERIST Guest House for lunch. After lunch, they started the incredible journey to Ziro Valley by bus, accompanied by faculty members from NERIST, some IRCTC representatives, and ITBP security personnel. On the way, the scenic beauty was enjoyed by all the members. The group traveled comfortably to Ziro valley at 7.30 PM and received superb stay arrangements at Hotel Blue Pine.





On February 27, 2023, the Rajasthan Yuva Sangam, EBSB delegation took breakfast in the Hotel Blue Pine in the morning around 8:00 AM and departed for the District Museum in lower Subansiri district of Ziro Valley. A group of students and faculty members from NERIST, some IRCTC representatives, and ITBP security personnels accompanied us for the visit. The participants were excited and full of enthusiastic for the fourth day of their journey.

### VISIT TO DISTRICT MUSEUM

The team reached the District Museum around 10:00 AM. The District Museum in-charge briefed the delegation and highlighted that the museum housed a rich collection of textiles, weaponry, household articles and handicrafts that reflected the tribal culture and heritage of Arunachal Pradesh. It had displays pertaining to several cultural and economic practices of tribes in Ziro Valley. Some of these exhibited the different forms of tribal dances, musical instruments, woven baskets, tools, dresses, jewellery etc. As the major tribe in Ziro valley is the Apatani tribe, their expertise in weaving baskets with intricate designs was displayed especially the baskets weaved for catching fish as the paddy cum fish culture is the speciality of this tribe. The displays also included dresses and jewellery of Nyishi tribe, Tagin tribe and Hill miri tribe. The visit to the district museum facilitated in enriching the minds of the youth through their real artifacts and immersive exhibitions which provide a uniquely positive environment to foster learning and understand the way of living of people in the valley.





## VISIT TO REGIONAL FISH FEED FARM

The delegation departed for the Regional high altitude fish seed farm in Tarin, Ziro. Tarin, Ziro's High Altitude Fish Seed Farm is a high-altitude facility encircled by forests of bamboo and pine trees. The Apatani tribes' Bulla settlement is home to the Tarin Fish Farm, which is located at a significant elevation. The journey to the farm was full of scenic beauty. After reaching the farm, the whole process was explained by a fisheries officer. The fisheries officer explained that the high-altitude fish are bred at the Fish Farm, a well-liked tourist destination. He explained the method in which two rice crops and one Ngihi fish crop were cultivated concurrently. The Apatanis cultivate rice, cum, and fish throughout a 200 km<sup>2</sup> region in Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh's Kamala Valley. Being one of the greatest places in Ziro, it provided everyone an opportunity to learn about the fish culture in the valley.





## VISIT TO CRAFTS CENTRE & EMPORIUM

The next stop was Crafts centre and Emporium, Ziro. Here, the delegation got an opportunity to look at the different handicrafts and textiles of Arunachal Pradesh. From baskets and pencil stands to shawls and sweaters, everything which was beautifully representing their culture was showcased. There were also centers of learning such as carpentry center, carpet center and metal bell center.



## LUNCH AT HIGHWAY DHABA

The delegation departed for the lunch around 1:30 PM. The team had a sumptuous lunch at the Highway Dhaba restaurant in Ziro.





### VISIT TO SEEH LAKE

After lunch the delegation visited Seeh lake. A manmade lake, Seeh Lake is a local tourist attraction and offers boat rides in its pristine water amidst the beautiful surroundings of the Ziro valley. The lake has also been a spot inviting migratory birds like mandarin ducks. Owing to its picturesque beauty, Seeh lake was mesmerizing and refreshing for the delegation. The lake area is included under the Sii amrit sarovar water conservation project by the water resources Department. The team enjoyed boating in the lake and appreciated the natural beauty of the lake.



### WALK THROUGH THE HONG VILLAGE- AN INSIGHT INTO THE APATANI CULTURE

After visiting Seeh lake, the delegation was on its way to Naara Aaba kiwi wine factory in Ziro. In the last stretch towards the wine factory, the delegation took a walk in the Hong village and learnt about the Apatani culture closely. The delegation saw:

**Lapang**- an elevated platform built with wooden planks and here is where the congregation of the villagers occur during the festivals





**Babo**- it is the T-shaped wooden poles, with flags on the top, of every house. The Apatanis practice the Donyi-Polo religion and babo is built during the Myoko festival which happens around March every year and used during its rituals.

**Nago**- it is a hut in the front of a house where there is a ritual to placate the souls of dead men or animals done during the Myoko festival.





## WALK THROUGH THE HONG VILLAGE- AN INSIGHT INTO THE APATANI CULTURE

After walking through the Hong village, the delegation reached Naara Aaba kiwi wine factory in Ziro where the organic process of wine production was learnt by the delegation. The Naara Aaba had a range of wines from Pear, Plum, Plum to Pecha wines. Explaining the process, it was briefed that usually it takes a 15days fermentation with yeast variant to produce these wines. The session also included an opportunity to taste the wine and experience how organic wines are different.





On February 28, 2023, a group representing youth of Rajasthan participating in Yuva Sangam programme began their visit with breakfast at Ziro. At around 9 am, The team left our hotels for the first site visit. They visited two places, the first being the Siddheshwar Nath Temple and the second being the Casa Resort

### SIDDHESHWAR NATH TEMPLE, KARDOH, ZIRO

The Siddheshwar Nath Temple was the first destination of the day. It was a beautiful temple situated amidst the mountains in Ziro. All the members of the Yuva Sangam group visited the temple and performed the Jalabhishek ritual on the Shivling. After this, they listened to the story of the temple's origin from the priest of the temple, Pandit Devendra Dubey. According to the priest, this Shivling is the world's largest naturally formed Shivling, which is approximately 25 feet tall. This natural Shivling was first discovered in 2004.





It is believed that during the month of Sawan, a woodcutter was cutting trees here. However, whatever tree he cut, it did not fall on the Shivling, but went in the opposite direction. In this way, the woodcutter realized the presence of some mystical power and brought the place to the attention of the local priest and people. The local priest saw the images of Vasuki Naag and the marked leaves of the Bilva tree on the stone, after which the excavation of this Shivling began. Since then, this temple has been named after Siddheshwar Nath.





## CASA RESORT, ZIRO

After visiting the temple, the delegation headed towards the Casa Resort, which is a beautiful and serene place located in Zero. The resort is surrounded by greenery, and its beautiful architecture added to its charm.

In this resort, there were many old wooden bridges, caves, and mountain trails, which provided the opportunity to understand the difficult geographical conditions along with natural beauty from a very close perspective. People from other places also come here to enjoy the beautiful valleys, along with the local Apatani tribe. The resort had facilities like various types of swings, horse riding, rock climbing, etc. Many of our colleagues also enjoyed activities like rock climbing and horse riding.

They enjoyed their time there and appreciated the peaceful ambiance of the resort. The Casa Resort provided a calming environment for us to relax and appreciate the natural beauty of the place.





The team enjoyed the time there and appreciated the peaceful ambiance of the resort. The Casa Resort provided a calming environment to relax and appreciate the natural beauty of the place.

The day was well spent, and the team gained valuable knowledge about the rich culture and serene beauty of Arunachal Pradesh. The Siddheshwar Nath Temple and the Casa Resort were both unique experiences that allowed the youth group from Rajasthan to appreciate the history and natural beauty of Arunachal Pradesh. The visit was a valuable learning experience.

They had lunch at the Blue Pine Hotel and then left for the NERIST campus in Itanagar from Zero Valley. Seeing Zero Valley from such a close distance was a very memorable experience.

NERIST team and IRCTC played a crucial role in making these moments memorable, and the team expressed their gratitude to both of them for this.





On March 01, 2023, the Rajasthan Yuva Sangam, EBSB delegation took breakfast in the morning around 8:00 AM and departed for the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO). NEEPCO is a central public sector undertaking. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It was formed on 2 April 1976 to plan, investigate, design, construct, generate, operate, and maintain power stations in the North Eastern Region of India. It generates 2 x 55 MW hydraulic power. The delegation reached there at 11:00 AM. The officials of the NEEPCO demonstrated to the delegates about the operational details of the power station. The officials also described the functionality of the turbine.





The delegation departed for lunch around 2:00 PM. They took lunch at CEP guest house NERIST. After lunch, the delegation took a rest for two hours. At 5:30 PM a cultural programme was inaugurated by the Director, NERIST Prof. H. S. Yadav. He welcomed the delegates and appraised them giving a brief introduction to NERIST. All the faculty members from the Central University of Rajasthan, NERIST, and IRCTC members were felicitated by the organizing committee. After the felicitation, Prof. Ajay Bharti, the nodal officer of the EBSB summarised the visit of the Rajasthan youths from February 24 – March 01, 2023. In the cultural programme, many wonderful performances were delivered by the youths of Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh. In the end, Dr. Piyali Das proposed the vote of thanks. After the cultural programme, EBSB delegates departed for dinner at the CEP guest house.





On March 02, 2023, the delegation of Rajasthan's Yuva Sangam took breakfast at the CEP guest house, NERIST along with all the coordinators. They met NERIST's director Dr. H. S. Yadav for the campus visit. They visited the NERIST campus which includes VIP guest house, central library, and the Silver Jubilee hall (auditorium



After the campus visit, the delegation departed for the Donyi Polo airport, Itanagar. They took breakfast at the airport and boarded to the flight for Kolkata. The delegation reached Kolkata airport by 3:30 PM to catch a connecting flight for Jaipur. They took lunch at Kolkata airport and left for the Jaipur around 7:00 PM. The delegation reached Jaipur around 10:00 PM and everybody left for their destinations.

