

ECHO OF ARUNACHAL

RGU students make cultural exchange with their BHU counterparts at Varanasi

ITANAGAR, Mar 2: As part of activity of MHRD, Gol, New Delhi, a five-day student cultural exchange programme between Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (UP) under 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' event depicting the culture of paired states of Uttar Pradesh-Arunachal Pradesh ended on Friday last. Egged on by Rajiv Gandhi University vice chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha, a 50-member cultural contingent from RGU led by Dr Sambhu Prasad, nodal officer, EBSB and Dr Sumin Prakash, Asstt Professor, Dept of Education, RGU comprising students of various departments was on a five-day visit to BHU, Varanasi from Feb 24-28 to participate in the annual Inter-Faculty Cultural Youth Festival of BHU called 'SPANDAN'. Under the aegis of this scheme (EBSB) all 28 states of the country have been paired into 14, and in this Arunachal Pradesh got paired with Uttar Pradesh and hence, RGU got paired with BHU. This year's 'SPANDAN' has been dedicated to EBSB, and RGU students were accommodated accordingly to show them the cultural diversity of the country available in BHU. The students of RGU participated in various cultural events of SPANDAN as guest participants to showcase the culture of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in the form of exhibition of the theme of EBSB in the inaugural procession of SPANDAN, group patriotic song, poster making, collage making, group tribal dance and group Bihu dance during the valedictory function. Thereafter the students visited various departments of BHU like Computer Science, Faculty of Visual & Performing Arts, Bharat Kala Bhawan (a museum of national importance, maintained by BHU), Physical Education, Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), Central & Cyber Library, hostels, Malviviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra, Malviya Bhawan, Sports facilities of the university and had a feel of the lush green pollution free campus life of BHU. In addition to this, the students played a friendly football match with the male and female teams of department of physical education, BHU and also interacted with the NSS volunteers of BHU on the theme 'Linguistic Diversity and National Cultural Unity' and brainstormed on the ways they can ensure their individual contribution in making EBSB successful. The students of RGU also participated in a cultural procession which started from BHU main gate and culminated at the Assi Ghat of Varanasi. During the procession to historic Assi Ghat, the students put on their traditional attire and showcased their diversity. During their stay, the students very actively participated in the campus life of BHU and got the opportunity to taste various local foods, especially 'Bati-Chokha and Jalebi' of Varanasi. On the last day of the programme, the RGU team participated in the valedictory function of the youth exchange programme organized at the NSS Bhawan in which they reflected on their experiences and memories of the whole programme and received their certificates. Later, the team visited Sarnath, the place where Lord Buddha after attaining enlightenment addressed his disciples for the first time and had rotated the wheel of Dhamma. On the same day, Prof Vashishth Narayan Tripathi, nodal officer, EBSB, BHU and Prof Bala Lakhendra, NSS coordinator, BHU hosted a bash for the departing RGU team.

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