



## Report

**Gujarat Art and Culture Training Program  
by students of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya  
Under Ek Bharat Shreshtra Bharat (EBSB) Programme  
13 January to 19 January 2023**



गुजरात केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय  
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF GUJARAT

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## **Acknowledgement**

I express my deep gratitude to Dr. Alok Pandey, Managing Director, GTCL, Gov. of Gujarat for sponsoring the entire event and making it a grand success. I am highly indebted to our Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey for his constant support and inspirations. Besides, I also express my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Alok Chakrawal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Central University (GGU), Bilaspur and Prof. Rama Krushna Pradhan and Dr. Jyoti Verma of GGU for accompanying the students to Gujarat.

I take this opportunity to thank all the committee members of EBSB specially to Dr. Minaxi Parmar, Convenor, EBSB, CUG for accompanying the students to Bhuj. I am thankful to Dr. Rajneesh Gupta, Coordinator, NSS, CUG and Dr. Siba Sanker Mohanty, Dr. Alok Pandey, Yoga Instructor and Ms. Deepika Sharma, Hindi Translator for accompanying the GGU students to Bhuj.

Prof. Atanu Mohapatra  
Chairperson and Nodal Officer  
EBSB, CUG

## **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Team, CUG**

Prof. Atanu Mohapatra, Chairperson and Nodal Officer

Prof. Binesh Kumar, Member

Prof. Hiranmayee Yadav, Member

Dr. Charulata Dubey, Member

Dr. M Gururaja, Member

Dr. Minaxi Parmar, Convenor

## INTRODUCTION

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) is a unique cultural conceptualization of the idea of India, whose fabric has been woven by diverse linguistic, cultural and religious threads held together into a composite national identity by a rich



history of cultural evolution, coupled with a rousing freedom struggle that was built around the tenets of nonviolence and justice. The spirit of mutual understanding amidst a shared history has enabled a special unity in diversity, which stands out as a tall flame of nationhood that needs to be nourished and cherished into the future. It is important to establish cultural exchanges between students of different regions to further human bonding and a common approach to nation-building. The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) scheme was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 on the 140<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The program is fundamentally designed to make people aware of the art, culture, history, tradition, education, language etc. of different states of India. For that, an exchange programme involving the fields of art, culture, history, tradition, education, language etc. been designed and a pair of two States/UTs has been created at the central level to inculcate each other's cultural ethos and linguistic tenets. Under this scheme, the state of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh are paired with each other. One of the fundamental aims of this scheme is to understand the art, culture, history, and tradition of different states and country at large with a pursuit to enhance the attachment between people



of different states and strengthen the unity and integrity of India.

As our Honourable Prime Minister has rightly said, सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल ने हमें एक भारत दिया, अब यह १२५ करोड़ भारतीयों की जिम्मेदारी है की भारत को श्रेष्ठ बनायें (Sardar Patel gave us Ek Bharat, now it is solemn duty of 125 crore Indians to make it Shreshtha Bharat). In this way, all the states are to connect and understand each other in the next few years. In the first stage,

students and educational institutions are the main focus groups of this scheme. The potential students will be selected and they would visit to the paired state to learn and understand the art, culture, history, and tradition of the host state which in turn aimed at strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

### **Aims and Objective of the EBSB**

#### **Aims**

The fundamental aim of the EBSB is to expose the students to the art, culture, history, tradition, education, language etc. of different States/UTs of the country.

#### **Objectives**

- To celebrate the Unity in Diversity of our Nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our Country;
- To promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian States and Union Territories through a year-long planned engagement between States;
- To showcase the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of each State for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity in India, thus fostering a sense of common identity;
- To establish long-term engagements and
- To create an environment which promotes learning between States by sharing best practices and experiences.

### **Exchange Programmes Between CUG and GGV**

As Gujarat is paired with Chhattisgarh under EBSB programme, CUG and GGV have signed a MoU in 2017 to facilitate exchange programme between both institutions. Every year delegations of CUG and GGV visit to each other's state. After a halt of two years due to Covid-19 pandemic this programme began again this year (2023). The Central University of Gujarat invited and hosted students from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya to witness the culture, heritage and language of Vibrant Gujarat. A team of 20 students along with mentors Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan and Dr. Jyoti Verma was sent by Prof. Rajendra Mehta Coordinator & Nodal Officer, EBSB, GGV. The team was hosted by Prof. Atanu Mohapatra, Coordinator & Nodal Officer, EBSB, CUG which stayed in Gujarat from 13 January to 19 January 2023.

## Brief about the GGV-EBSB Team visit to Gujarat

**Day- 1 (13/01/20223)**

The GVV team reached to Ahmedabad junction on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 3.30 pm. On their arrival at station, the EBSB team of the Central University of Gujarat welcomed the EBSB team of GGV with full of excitement and escorted them to the designated Guest House in Gandhinagar by the University Bus.



GGV-EBSB Team along with Prof. R. Meha and Mentor teachers at Bilaspur Station



GGV-EBSB Team reached to Ahmadabad Station



## Meeting with Hon'ble VC of Central University Gujarat:



At 6 p.m. students were taken to the Central University Gujarat where students met the Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey sir. He welcomed and explained the idea of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat which indeed instilled the spirit of patriotism and the idea of India as the Vishwa Guru through his historical and cultural narration of the horary past and rich cultural heritage of India embodied in its treasures of knowledge system neglected hitherto. After the meeting, refreshment was served to EBSB GGV team by EBSB CUG team. Students took a tour around the University and spend some quality time before embarking on dinner at 9 pm after which students were dropped at the Guest House.

**Day- 2 (14/01/2023)**

Students were asked to get ready by 6 am to enable them to reach the Statue of Unity on time. It was full of excitement for all of EBSB GGV team to witness the tallest statue in the world and see the replica of the great man known for uniting our great country India. Students had refreshments on the way and reached the much-awaited statue of unity at around 1 pm. Students took a sumptuous lunch before entering statue arena.

**Statue of Unity Visit:** Students saw the mesmerising statue of the iron man of India Shri Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The tallest statue in the world, the Statue of Unity is 182 meters (597 feet height. It was inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018. It is located on the Narmada River in Kevadia in the state of Gujarat, India.

After beholding the statue of unity, students had the opportunity to visit the statue of unity museum and the gallery to have a glance at the making of the statue and the history surrounding it. After that, students visited Sardar Sarovar Dam.

Then students visited 'the valley of flowers'. The Valley of Flowers (also known as Bharat Van) is spread across 24 acres of land and is a haven for colourful flowering plants along the bank of river Narmada. After completing the day-long tour of the Statue of Unity students embarked on their mission to the Rann of Kutch. EBSB CUG and GGV) teams had their dinner at Vadodara and then initiated their journey towards Kutch at night.

### Day- 3 (15/01/2023)

At around 7 o'clock on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023, students reached Kutchh University, Bhuj where accommodation was arranged by EBSB CUG team. After a brief rest and breakfast, students had the opportunity to meet the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jayrajsinh D. Jadeja sir of Kutch University. After a brief discussion with regard to the importance of the place, EBSB teams were invited by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor sir to his office where the indigenous artwork called 'mud work' was painted on the walls with fascinating pictures. Students



sought his blessing before leaving for the Black Hills.

The first destination on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day was 'the Black Hill' locally called '*Kalo dunger*', located around 97 km from District headquarter of Bhuj. *Kalo Dungar* or Black Hill is the highest



point in Kutch, Gujarat at 462 m (1,516 ft). Students witnessed magnetic hill a popular optical illusion where the vehicle seems to defy gravity and roll up the slope and enjoyed it thoroughly during their journey to the hilltop. The *Kalo Dungar* is also famous for its 400-year-old Dattatreya temple.

Then students moved towards Rann of Kutch. Although students reached there around the dust, they had the chance to witness the Great Rann of Kutch or Rann of Kutch, seasonal salt marsh. Students travelled through ‘the Camel Baggi’ and participated in the evening concert. They also tried to learn and perform ‘garba’. The night-stay was planned at the Guest House of Kutch University, Bhuj.

#### **Day- 4 (16/01/20223)**

On 4<sup>th</sup> day, students visited the *Smirtivan* (which can be translated as Forest of Memories), adorned as the largest memorial and museum to ever be built in modern India, covers a vast area over 470 acres.

Created for the bereaved families of the earthquake victims of 2001, *Smritivan* is a place of pilgrimage, praise for the resilience and reverence of the people of Kutch, and a haven for those who find solace in nature. The memories consisted of a Sun-Point that overlooks the city, the sunrises and the sunsets from atop the Bhujiyo Dungar.



Then the students went to the famous Raj palace-Vijay Vilas. The palace was built in the reign of Maharao Shri Khengarji III, who was the Maharao of Kutch. It was meant to be a summer resort for his son and heir to the kingdom, Yuvraj Shri Vijayaraji. The palace is named 'Vijaya Vilas Palace' after him. The construction of the palace started in the year in 1920 and was completed in 1929. Shri Vijayaraji died in 1948. A chhatri (decorative tombstone) in his memory stands on the premises of the palace. It was a really good place. Some movies and shooting have been done in this palace. The team enjoyed the fascinating



view from the top roof.

After visiting this historic palace which witnessed shooting of several Bollywood movies, students were taken to visit another historic museum named after Shri Shyamji Krishna Varma.



Shri Shyamji Krishna Varma memorial is a historical depiction of the India House in London and the freedom fighters who wage the freedom struggle against the British in Britain. Shri Verma, a leading figure amongst all, was born on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1857 in Mandvi town of Kutch district of Gujarat. He was one of the foremost freedom fighters in the history of the freedom movement of India with a high sense of patriotism and selfless service for the nation. He had organized a revolutionary center in 'India House' in London and propagated the cause of India's independence through his writings in his publication - journal called 'The Indian



Sociologist'. The memorial is a replica of India House and was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi ji in 2010. Students watched the documentary show depicting the life of Shri Shyamaji Krishna Verma and learnt some good lessons from his inspiring life story. For students, it was a dream come true to visit the India House which helped them to revisit the history of the freedom struggle and the role and struggle of educated Indians living in Britain. After instilling patriotic passions in our minds and heart, the team marched towards Mandvi Beach to witness the Sun Set there.

The Mandvi beach is a stretch of golden-brown sand located at the southernmost point of Gujarat's Kutch district. It is located south of the main intersection, Bhuj. Given that there are numerous water activities available there, it is also the ideal location for adventure seekers. Students returned to Gandhinagar after a successful and enjoyable tour of places of historical importance. Students reached Gandhinagar the next morning.

## Day- 5 (17/01/2023)

After the historical tour, the next activity under EBSB was to learn the Gujarati culture and



language. After the breakfast in the Middle town hotel, students left for the Central University of Gujarat at 9 am by their University bus. Upon arrival at the University, Gujarati language training sessions were organised by specialist language teachers from the Gujarati department of Central University of Gujarat. In the entire first half, the students were taught basic alphabet and pronunciation in the Gujarati language. In the second half, training of *Garba* - Gujarat's famous dance, was planned. The *Garba* training was given by Mr. Jayesh Mali who has been awarded distinctions and medals in *garba*. And then in the evening, students visited Akshardham temple and witnessed the world famous '*Nachiketa*' water show.

## Day- 6 (18/01/2023)

### LANGUAGE AND HANDMADE BANDHANI MAKING TRAINING PROGRAM

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in addition to the Gujarati language training program, students had the opportunity to learn the art of *Bandhani* making i.e. tie-die technique, which is famous traditional Gujarati art. During *Bandhani* making workshop, students learnt the technique of

making pattern on the plain fabric and then the process of dying to get the desired design on cloth.

In the evening students visited Sector-30 campus of CUG to have firsthand experience of their fully automated Digital Library and the high-tech laboratories. Then students went to local market and bought some souvenirs for themselves, friends and family.



**Day- 7 (19/01/2023)**

### **LAST DAY OF EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT TRIP**

The GGV students arrived at the Central University of Gujarat for their tie-and-dye training session after checking out of Hotel Middletown. They learnt how to prepare the dyes such as orange, red, green, c-green, blue, and black for dying the *bandhani*, *leheriya*, and *Sher kaamwali Bandhani* designs that were already prepared on cotton fabrics on previous day. All the arrangements and materials were provided by CUG for the training purpose.

### **Participation in the Cultural fest of CUG:**

Some students of GGV had also participated in CUG's Cultural fest with great enthusiasm and energy. Sathish Rathore and Vidhi Agarwal presented their poetries while Shivam Srivas came up with his Rap.



And the others began preparing for their presentations for the cultural evening that was organized as part of the exit meeting.

### **Cultural Evening:**

"Effort and hard work construct the bridge that connects your dreams to reality." By 7 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the cultural programme started at the auditorium of CUG. The atmosphere of the auditorium erupted with life and vibrancy as soon as the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey entered. In the same atmosphere, the cultural event started with Kulgeet of CUG which was written by Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CUG. A welcome speech was delivered by Prof. Atanu Mohapatra, the nodal officer of EBSB of CUG.





The event further continued with honouring the Hon'ble VC sir with a bastri shawl, Bastar painting and memento of Nandi bailla which signifies the Pola festival of Chhattisgarh, (festive of thanksgiving to bulls and oxen celebrated by farmers) and Handmade Tricolour Flag to Hon'ble VC.





Additionally, the Hon'ble VC of CUG honoured a Kutchi shawl and a memento of Sardar Vallabhai Patel ji to the mentors of the ESBS GGV team, Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan and Dr. Jyoti Verma. Moreover, the Hon'ble VC sir gave a Kutchi shawl and memento as a souvenir to each student participated under EBSB from GGV. Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey, VC of CUG enhanced the evening with his great knowledge and wisdom.



Prof. Atanu Mohapatra, Director IQAC and the Nodal Officer of EBSB warmly welcomed the EBSB GGV team to the exit meeting and gave an introductory remarks highlighting upon importance of such exchange programme, in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble VC Prof. Dubey. Then after handed over to Miss Jhalak Sachdev of GGV for the further proceeding. The GGV students sang the Chhattisgarh Rajyageet "Arpa pairi ki dhaar" and briefly



introduced themselves in the Gujarati language; in short, they presented the learning that they learnt under the guidance of Dr. Deepak Bhatt and Dr. Baldev Prajapati. EBSB GGV team also performed the famous loknritya form of Chhatisgarh Panthi.



The cultural evening ended with a photo session with the honourable Vice-Chancellor sir, EBSB nodal officer Prof. Atanu Mohapatra, Prof. H. B. Patel, Registrar, CUG and mentors from GGV and EBSB CUG team. After having dinner in the University canteen the students and mentors of GGV headed towards the Ahmedabad Railway station with great memories, learnings and acknowledgements.



## At Sardar Sarovar Dam

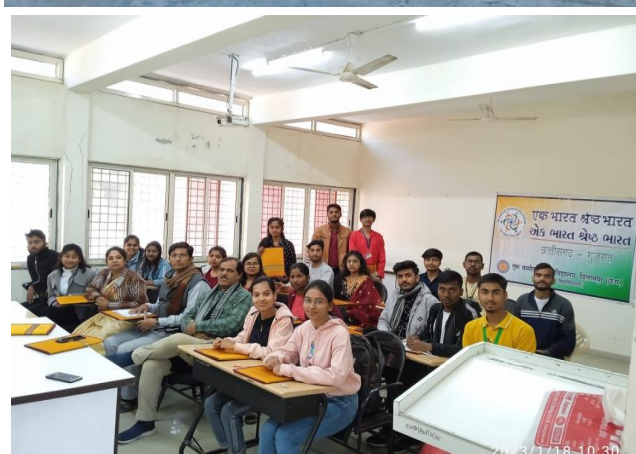


## Guru Ghasidas University students and professors At Central University of Gujarat











**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**