

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat A Cultural Exchange Program

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Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing. The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc. The idea of a sustained and structured cultural connect between people of different regions was mooted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October, 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Hon'ble Prime Minister propounded that cultural diversity is a joy that ought to be celebrated through mutual interaction & reciprocity between people of different States and UTs so that a common spirit of understanding resonates throughout the country. Every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT for a time period, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc. For example, Telangana is paired with Haryana during this period, Haryana people would attempt to learn key words in Telugu, a few Telugu books would be translated into Haryanvi & vice-versa, Telangana people would hold food festivals offering Haryanvi dishes, Haryanvi would perform Telangana folk dances, while Telangana would perform Bhangra at staged events etc. This pattern of cultural adoption of the partner State/UT would be followed by all states and UTs.

The Commissioner of Collegiate Education Telangana Sri Navin Mittal IAS initiated this EBSB concept at degree college level and paired the Telangana colleges to Haryana colleges. As per the pairing NTR Govt Degree College for Women Mahabubnagar is paired with Govt College for Women Narnaul Haryana. Both colleges are having EBSB Committees. Sh.R.K.Yadav Principal is the Chairperson, Dr K.P Singh is the EBSB coordinator and Sharmila Yadav is the resource person from Narnaul College similarly from NTR College Mahabubnagar Dr K. Padmavati Principal is the chairperson, Mrs

Nagalaxmi B is the coordinator and Dr M. Aslam Farouqi is the resource person.

As per the cultural exchange both colleges organized one webinar on the topic of “ **Haryana and Telangana Folk**” on 20th June 2020. The college faculty and students attended the webinar online through Google meet. The program was successful as both sides presented various presentations on the culture of Telangana and Haryana. Dr K Padmavati Principal, Dr M Aslam Farouqi resource person from NTR College Mahabubnagar and Sh.R.K Yadav Principal and Sharmila Yadav resource person from Haryana Narnaul college spoke on the occasion. Smt Nagalaxmi B and Dr K.P Singh EBSB coordinators anchored the program from both sides. Both college students also participated in the webinar and gave presentations. The EBSB Facebook page, twitter account and whatsapp groups of both colleges also started. Both the college faculty and students are exchanging cultural information through this friendship chain. Both colleges conducted quizzes about the culture of Haryana and Telangana. For Telangana culture 312 students participated in the online quiz and for Haryana culture 475 students participated in the quiz. E certificates were issued to the students.

As the pandemic situations are prevailing both sides are exchanging cultural information through online mode. As soon as the situation is clear both college students will visit each other physically and will enjoy hospitality of each other. And thus gain the cultural knowledge and enhance unity in diversity.

