

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY  
REGIONAL CENTRE BHOPAL MADHYA PRADESH

## **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat activities under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav: A Report**

### **Background**

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS) activity has been selected by Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India to be organized as an Iconic Activity (in online mode) under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM) programme.

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS) is a programme aimed at celebrating India's diversity through continuous, sustained engagement between people from different parts of the country. The engagements are expected to cover various aspect of life, viz., language, society, culture, economy, food, festivals, tourist attractions and sports among other aspects. States and UTs have been paired with each other and engagement planned between paired states.

As per the guidelines provided by EBSB Cell, the IGNOU RCs in the paired states would coordinate for planning, organizing and conducting the activities. The activity/events were planned over a 20-day period from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Based on the matrix of paired States provided by EBSB Cell, IGNOU **RCs Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal and Kohima** have undertaken the activities listed below which are detailed one by one. A Committee consisting of the four RCs was formed (**Annexure I**) which met through Google Meet twice, to plan the activities under the Chairpersonship of RD RC Bhopal and the convenorship of **Dr. Subhash Ranjan Nayak, ARD RC Bhopal and Nodal Officer for AKAM** programmes.

1. **Monthly Webinar Series:** Launched a monthly webinar series to showcase the cultural heritage of Central and North-East India on 11/03/2022 with the first Webinar on the same date. The programme is planned as a regular activity with the other three RCs to organize webinars in the following months on a similar theme.
2. **Student Online Interaction:** Google meet between the students of all four regions (Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal & Kohima) to share their cultural practices
3. **Language Awareness Initiative:** by way of Bhasa Sangam App Quiz for students of all four RCs (Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal & Kohima)
4. **Slogan Competition** on language awareness
5. **EBSB Message Sharing with the Public:** Nukkad Natak between IGNOU and Partner Higher Educational Institution (HEI) at a public place in Bhopal.

## Monthly Webinar Series

Launched a monthly webinar series to showcase the cultural heritage of Central and North-East India on 11/03/2022 with the first Webinar on the same date.

### **FIRST WEBINAR ON ‘SHOWCASING MADHYA PRADESH’**

The first inaugural Webinar of the series – Showcasing Madhya Pradesh was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 and organized by Regional Centre Bhopal through virtual mode (Flyer attached as **Annexure II**). The programme began with the lighting of the lamp.

At the outset, the coordinating RC Regional Director, Dr Bini Toms welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. Srikant Mohapatra, Pro-Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Programme Chair Dr. Umesh Chandra Pandey, Director Regional Services Division, IGNOU, Guest of Honour Dr. Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director IGRMS Bhopal, Speaker Prof. Harkirat Bains, SOTHSM and colleagues of paired RCs Dr. S. Srinivas, Regional Directors of Jabalpur, DR. S.J. Neethirajan, Regional Director of Imphal & Dr. Mayonmi Shimray, Regional Director of Kohima and all the coordinators, counsellors, students and all the distinguished guests to the programme.

Dr. Anshuman Upadhayay, Deputy Director RC Bhopal welcomed the Guest of Honour Dr. Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director IGRMS Bhopal and requested all to stand for the IGNOU Kulgeet. After the Kulgeet Dr. Bini Toms Regional Director Bhopal briefly informed about the activities planned by the paired RCs for celebrating AKAM Programme and that this webinar series is one such activity among others. She requested Dr. S. Srinivas, Regional Director of Jabalpur to deliver the welcome address.

The welcome address was followed by address of the Chief Guest and Programme Chair. In his opening remarks, the Programme Chair, Dr. Pandey appreciated and complimented all paired RCs for initiating a webinar series under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav (AKAM) Programme. The speakers took pride of the country’s diversity and felt that inspite of cultural diversity we are all united as a nation and that is Bharat. They felt that the basic idea of the Mahotsav is to appreciate, understand, respect, recognize and cherish each other’s culture. Dr. Mohapatra informed that while paring the states as per the direction of MoE, the 56 RCs were clubbed into 15 pairs. He expressed happiness that Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal and Kohima were clubbed together and have come forward to organize this meet under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS). He requested the students who were attending the programme, to promote each other’s language and culture. With these words, he declared the Webinar Series jointly organized by RC Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal and Kohima under the banner of EBSB open.

In his address, the Guest of Honour, Dr. Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director IGRMS Bhopal congratulated IGNOU for its diverse presence in the field of education and for organizing such a programme under the banner of AKAM-EBSB. He spoke briefly about the culture of Madhya Pradesh and North East India. Further, he described the role of IGRMS in the preservation and promotion of tribal art and traditions. He invited all the speakers and participants presented in the programme to visit the IGRMS to learn various culture and traditions across the India and also the archeological survey of India. The address was followed by remarks of all the four Regional Directors.

The main webinar was planned in a different way; as a recorded interaction. The main resource person, Prof. Harkirat Bains, Professor, School of Tourism & Hospitality Service Management (SOTHSM) Training Cell (TC) Bhopal in conversation with Ms. Kumud Verma, Assistant Regional Director, RC Bhopal and Mr. C. P. Mursenia, Section Officer, RC Bhopal, spoke in details on the topic, 'Showcasing Madhya Pradesh'.

Ms. Kumud Verma felt that when talking of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS), we automatically come to the tag line of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department that, Madhya Pradesh is the heart of incredible India.

Prof. Harkirat Bains, remarked that she was very grateful for the opportunity to speak on showcasing Madhya Pradesh under the banner of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS). She narrated the rule of major dynasties and about the beautiful monuments, cultural practices and food habits of the region. She informed that the state had abundant forest cover, beautiful ranges of Satpura and Vindhyanchal and many rivers prominently Narmada and Tapti. The state is known hot spot of wildlife safari and many exotic animals and birds are there. Around 20% of the populations of the state are tribals and among these 46 tribes are documented in the constitution of India. They are generally referred to as *Adivasi*. Main tribes of the Madhya Pradesh are Bhills, Begas, Korkus and Gonds. The state has three world heritage sites, first is Bhimvatika which is pre historic of painting of early men, second is the Sanchi Stupas, built by emperor Ashoka in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and the third one was Khajurao Temple. Another place of rich heritage is Mandu which was built in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The state has number of temples and pilgrimages. It also has rich heritage of art and culture. Several eco-tourism places were set up in the year 2005 for the preservation of local forests, flora and the fauna. As IGNOU is the academic giant of the country, to help the preservation of the tourism, the University has undergone the signing of a MoU with the State Tourism Department in the year 2010 and ever since, in the form of SOTHSM Training Cell, the University is committed and has designed courses for students. Certificate programmes (front office, housekeeping and food & beverage service) and PG Diploma programme (Hotel Operations) have been designed in this context. The Speaker informed that study materials were in the modular form and one of the module is

specially designed on destination Madhya Pradesh. SOTHSM Training Cell has trained students and inculcated the skill required in the tourism sector during face to face contact sessions as well as provided hands-on training sessions. Through these certificate and PG Diploma programmes, the training cell had trained almost 2000 learners for hotel, hospitality and related industries. The programme can be viewed on the you tube link, [https://youtu.be/11Ulbw4\\_Qh4](https://youtu.be/11Ulbw4_Qh4)

The Webinar was followed by vibrant interaction and ended with Vote of thanks by Dr. Oinam Jayalakshmi Devi, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Centre Imphal and the National Anthem. *The programme is planned as a regular activity with the other three RCs to organize webinars in the following months on a similar theme.*

### **Student Online Interaction**

A Google Meet was held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, organized by Regional Centre Bhopal through virtual mode. In the beginning of the programme Dr. Anshuman Upadhyay, Deputy Director RC Bhopal welcomed the Regional Directors of RC Jabalpur, Imphal, Kohima and students present in the meeting and requested Dr. Bini Toms Regional Director of RC Bhopal to initiate the discussions.

Dr. Bini Toms welcomed the RDs of paired RCs and spoke about the main objectives of the organizing these google meet. It was discussed that interaction between the students of paired states was planned for exchange of ideas/ discussion on each other's Language, cultural Practices, festivals, food habits. After that Dr. S. Sriniva, RD Jabalpur, Dr. Mayonmi Shimray RD Kohima & DR. S.J. Neethirajan RD Imphal gave their remarks on the programme. Then, the platform was open to students of four RCs (Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal & Kohima) to share their experiences/ideas of respective state culture.

The discussion began with a learner of Masters degree programme from RC Kohima (Ms. Ashu Roy). She narrated how rich the culture of Nagaland was and how they live it in their day to day life. Another learner from RC Bhopal (Mr. Dharmendra Patel) shared about the local culture, pilgrimages and festival of Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh. A student from RC Jabalpur shared about the local festivals and informed that tribal population dominated various districts of Madhya Pradesh and how their culture was different from the mainstream population.

An MTTM learner form RC Imphal shared about the local festival and culture of Manipur and how it was different from other parts of the country. Another MTTM learner from RC Bhopal (Mr. Mukesh Kapoor) detailed his vast experience in the field of tourism and hospitality

services. He was working with the department of tourism and hospitality service Govt. of Madhya Pradesh and after his retirement enrolled in the MTTM programme of IGNOU. He narrated the culture of tribal population and the Bhagoria festival usually celebrated by the tribes of Jhabua during Holi. Then he gave an in-depth idea about the wildlife sanctuaries, water sources (especially river Narmada and Tapti) and the monuments available various part of Madhya Pradesh. Another learner from RC Kohima discussed about cultural practices of Nagaland and how it was different from one tribal community to the other. In this sequence the discussion moved ahead with IGNOU colleagues from each region adding to the discussion.

After this discussion Dr. Bini Toms invited Ms. Kumud Verma, ARD RC Bhopal, Dr. Oinam Jayalakshmi ARD RC Imphal and Dr. Vivek Shrivastava, ARD RC Jabalpur who shared their experiences about Madhya Pradesh. Dr. Vivek Shrivastava suggested that a google group can be created for the learners of the three states (Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland) for exchange of experiences. His suggestion was well received and he was requested to go ahead so that in future all four RCs could organize such programmes at regular interval. With these words the discussion forum was closed.

The interaction session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Subash Ranjan Nayak, Assistant Regional Director- Regional Centre Bhopal. Few pictures of the Interaction Session are attached as **Annexure III**.

### **Language Awareness Initiative & Slogan Competition**

Language Awareness Initiative by way of Bhasa Sangam App Quiz for students of all four RCs (Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal & Kohima) was a huge success. One of the questions was requesting submission of a Slogan as a Competition with the objective of creating on language awareness.

For this activity, as decided in the meeting of the four RCs, 10 quiz questions were prepared on Bhasa Sangam App and the list of 10 students were submitted by each RC. The Quiz questions were communicated to all 40 students of RC Bhopal, Jabalpur, Imphal and Kohima through google form. A scanned copy of the administered google form is attached as **Annexure IV**.

### **EBSB Message Sharing with the Public**

On 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at 03:00 PM Regional centre Bhopal collaborated with local educational institutions and presented a Nukkad Natak at the entrance of DB mall, a public place in Bhopal. This Natak was on the theme of taking pride in our cultural heritage and on empowerment through education. This was also one of the activities of paired RC Bhopal under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav. Few pictures of Nukad Natak are placed as **Annexure V**.

#### **The Takeaway**

All participants of the various activities took pride of the country's diversity and felt that in spite of cultural diversity, we are all united as a nation and that is Bharat. Everyone felt that the basic idea of all activities undertaken was to appreciate, understand, respect, recognize and cherish each other's culture while celebrating 75 years of the country's Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav.

**Dr. Bini Toms**  
**RD RC Bhopal**

**Dr. S. R. Nayak**  
**Convener (EBSB-AKAM)**

## Annexure I



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY  
REGIONAL CENTRE, BHOPAL



F. No. IG/RC-15/EBSB-AKAM/22/1742  
Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022

### OFFICE ORDER

**Sub: Constitution of Coordination Committee for Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Week Activities under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav (AKAM)**

In accordance with the RSD Circular IG/RSD/EBSB-AKAM/2022, dated, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 and subsequent inauguration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav (AKAM) at IGNOU by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, a Committee, with the following members is constituted to plan and carry out activities under "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav (AKAM)".

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Dr. Bini Toms, Regional Director RC Bhopal                  | Chairperson       |
| 2. Regional Director RC Jabalpur or his Nominee                | Member            |
| 3. Regional Director RC Imphal or his Nominee                  | Member            |
| 4. Regional Director RC Kohima or his Nominee                  | Member            |
| 5. Dr. Anshuman Upadhayay, Deputy Director RC Bhopal           | Member            |
| 6. Dr. Subash Ranjan Nayak, Asstt. Regional Director RC Bhopal | Member & Convener |

As per instructions received from the University head quarters on the matter RC Bhopal will be the coordinating RC and Dr. Subash Ranjan Nayak, ARD, RC Bhopal will be the Nodal Officer for this activity to plan different activities with paired institutions/States (Manipur & Nagaland) in consultation with the Committee.



(Dr. Bini Toms)  
Regional Director

Copy to:

1. All members of the Committee
2. PA to D (RSD) for kind information

## Annexure II



इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय  
Indira Gandhi National Open University



**एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत**  
क्षेत्रीय केन्द्रों द्वारा साझा कार्यक्रम  
Shared Programme by Regional Centers

**श्रृंखला उद्घाटन**  
दि. - 11 मार्च 2022      समय - 3:00 PM

WEBINAR TOPIC: SHOWCASING MADHYA PRADESH



मुख्य अतिथि  
डॉ. श्रीकांत महापात्र  
सम कल्पति  
इग्नू क्षेत्रीय सेवा  
प्रभाग नयी दिल्ली



अध्यक्षता  
डॉ. उमेश पाण्डेय  
निदेशक  
इग्नू क्षेत्रीय सेवा  
प्रभाग  
नवी दिल्ली



मुख्य वक्ता  
डॉ. हरकीरत बेन्स  
SOTHSM  
इग्नू  
भोपाल



विशिष्ट अतिथि  
डॉ. प्रवीण कुमार मिश्र  
निदेशक  
IGRMS  
भोपाल

Join by Google meet <https://meet.google.com/iax-zrny-yqs>

**आयोजनकर्ता**

- डॉ. विनी टॉम्स, क्षेत्रीय निदेशिका, इग्नू क्षेत्रीय केंद्र भोपाल
- डॉ. सोमासी श्रीनिवास, क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, इग्नू क्षेत्रीय केंद्र जबलपुर
- डॉ. एस. जे. नीधिराजन, क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, इग्नू क्षेत्रीय केंद्र इम्फाल
- डॉ. मर्यामी श्रीमरय, क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, इग्नू क्षेत्रीय केंद्र कोहिमा

You tube link [https://youtu.be/11Ulbw4\\_Qh4](https://youtu.be/11Ulbw4_Qh4)

**Annexure III**



**Screen Shots of the Student Online Interaction**

## Annexure IV

3/16/22, 12:28 PM

Quiz on Bhasa Sangam App Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS)form

### Quiz on Bhasa Sangam App Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS)form

Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS) Programme activity has been selected for Iconic Activity (in online mode). As per the guidelines provided by EBSB Cell, the IGNOU RCs in the paired states will coordinate for planning, organizing and conducting the activities. One of the activities for online interaction between paired states is quiz on each other's Language – introduction to the Bhasa Sangam App. Kindly provide your response to the following questions to test your awareness by 15.03.2022 (Tuesday).

\* Required

1. Email \*

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2. Name of the Student \*

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3. Enrollment No \*

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4. Programme Code

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[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19LyaJ-5zLpNLb5nPw-d\\_ASFQsvVMR9CgYnpyGwByG8/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19LyaJ-5zLpNLb5nPw-d_ASFQsvVMR9CgYnpyGwByG8/edit)

1/5

3/16/22, 12:28 PM

Quiz on Bhasa Sangam App Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS)form

5. Name of Regional Centre \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- RC Bhopal
- RC Jabalpur
- RC Imphal
- RC Kohima

6. Who designed the Indian National Flag? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Motilal Nehru
- Pingali Venkaiah
- Bhagat Singh
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

7. How many languages are mentioned in the schedule of Indian constitutions? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- 20
- 15
- 22
- 18

3/16/22, 12:28 PM

Quiz on Bhasa Sangam App Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS)form

8. In which schedule of Indian Constitution are major languages mentioned? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

2nd

4th

8th

7th

9. Which language is recently added in Indian Constitution? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Tamili

Sanskrit

Kannada

Odiya

10. Which is queen of languages in India? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Tamili

Hindi

Kannada

Sanskrit

11. Do you have any idea about Bhasa Sangam App? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

3/16/22, 12:28 PM

Quiz on Bhasa Sangam App Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS) form

12. Do you have any idea about Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

13. Whose birthday is related with the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Motilal Nehru

Bhagat Singh

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel

14. In which year was Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme launched? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

2013

2016

2019

2015

15. How Many Languages are there in Bhasa Sangam App? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

15

10

18

22

3/16/22, 12:28 PM

Quiz on Bhasa Sangam App Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mohostav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBS)form

16. Under whose initiative was the Bhasa Sangam App launched? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Tourism

17. Please submit a slogan of not more than 8 words of what you think is the main objective of the Bhasa Sangam App. \*

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This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

**Google Forms**

## Annexure V

