

### Programme Report

#### Central University of Punjab organized Cultural Exchange Programme under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

16<sup>th</sup> January 2019: The Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) organized a special Cultural Exchange Programme to apprise students on cultural perspective on Makar Sankranti Divas. CUPB Ek Bharat Shreshtha Club organized this activity under the patronage of honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. R.K. Kohli. During this programme students from different states represented the culture & shared the celebration style to mark the festival. Makar Sankranti is celebrated across India to mark the occasion of the shift of sun into Capricorn (Makara) Zodiac Sign, that leads to the beginning of even warmer & longer days, and decline of the chilled winter season. Shri K.P..S. Mundra, Registrar, CUPB, presided over the programme. More than 175 students, faculty and staff members participated in this programme.

Sh K.P.S. Mundra, CUPB Registrar urged students to contribute their Alma Mater and take it to the greater heights. He mentioned that we should know about India's rich cultural diversity and CUPB is committed to providing a platform to our students studying here from across the country to showcase the culture of their respective states.

Prof. Tarun Arora, Nodal Officer, EBSB Club at CUPB, welcomed the participants and introduced the programme theme. He mentioned that the purpose of EBSB Club at CUPB is to share the vast cultural heritage of Unified Bharat and to develop respect towards people of different states. While talking about EBSB Club, he shared its constitution and programme schedule. Being from Punjab, he shared the story of folk legend named "Dulha Bhatti" connected with Lohri Festival & informed the students about the significance of "Sunder Mundriye" Punjabi Folk Song.

After this, Prof Monisha Dhiman, Programme Coordinator delineated participants about the cultural perspective of Makar Sankranti in Himachal Pradesh. She mentioned this festival is known as "Magha Saaja" in HP, that marks the start of the month of Magha. People of HP celebrate this day with early morning pooja, tula daan, eating Khichdi, singing and performing "Naati Dance" (Himachal Folk Dance).



**CUPB Students representing their State Culture through Folk Dance Performance (Left) and Prof Monisha Dhiman addressing the gathering (Right)**

Ashok, a student from Rajasthan shared that Makar Sankranti is celebrated in a special way in his state. On this day, besides pooja and visiting holy places, people in Rajasthan love to fly kites and participate in Kite Flying Competitions.

Shambhu, a student from Orissa mentioned that this occasion is celebrated as Harvest Festival across the country and people in his state celebrate this festival after the harvest of paddy crop. He mentioned this festival is known as Utrayan in Orissa. People prepare and distribute a special recipe "Makar Chaula". After this, a student named, Chadola Sunana, presented an Odia Song,

Aret, a student from Nagaland voiced that around this time Suhkuruhnye Festival is celebrated by Chakhesang Nags in her region. This festival is celebrated for eleven days, she added. Sneha, a student from J&K, cited

that Makar Sankranti is celebrated to mark the onset of spring in the valley. On this occasion, people perform “Chajja Dance”.



### **CUPB Student representing their state culture through Folk Songs and Poetry Recitation**

Vaishali, Yogesh & Rahul, students from Uttar Pradesh (UP) communicated that the festival is called “Kicheri” in UP. On this day, people perform religious bathing traditions and distribute ladoos made of sesame and jaggery.

Akhila and group, students from Kerala spoke on the “Makavilaku Celebrations” held in Kerala during this festival and mesmerized everyone by showcasing beautiful dance performance on the folk song of their region.

Abhishek from Bihar shared the details of delicacies and cuisines prepared in his region around this festival. He added, on this day, mothers prepare “Dahi Chuda” and a special “Khichdi with roasted vegetables, papad, ghee and achar” for family.

Aarti, Hardeep and Govind, students from Punjab, shared that this Festival is celebrated with the name “Maghi” in Punjab. They talked about famous Maghi Mela of Muktsar Sahib, held in the memory of forty Sikh warriors who killed during the Battle of Muktsar Sahib in 1705. After this, Gobind presented famous Dachi Walea Punjabi Folk Song and stunned everyone with his beautiful performance.



### **CUPB Students celebrating Makar Sankranti around Bon Fire on Dhol Beats (Left) and Group Picture of Folk Dance Performing Team with CUPB Registrar Sh KPS Mundra.**

Dr Kiran, Programme Coordinator mentioned that Makar Sankranti is celebrated auspiciously all across India and other names of this festival are Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Bhogali Bihu in Assam, Uttrayan in Gujarat, Poush Sankranti in West Bengal and Suggi Habba in Karnataka. She concluded, that there may be diversity in our culture across different states but by heart, we all are united as a nation.

After the representations, participants performed Bhangra in Dhol Beats and enjoyed Gazak and Revari around the bonfire. Towards the end, organisers thanked everyone for making this programme a huge success.

