

An Initiative by



Vishwa Yuvak Kendra
(A Unit of Indian Youth Centres Trust)

Co-Partners

bajaj FOUNDATION

Heritage Fest 2024

A Unique Platform for Promoting Peace, Harmony,
Traditional Culture, and International Integration.



REPORT



21 - 27 November 2024



Swami Vivekananda
Ground, Agartala, Tripura, India



Heritage Fest 2024

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Traditional Culture, and International Integration.

Background

Heritage Fest 2024: A Vibrant Celebration of Youth, Culture, and Unity

Heritage Fest is a platform to share the indigenous culture find out the way to youth development and promote the National Integration, Peace, Harmony and Brotherhood across the world. The concept of Heritage Fest was flourished by the Yuva Vikash Kendra (YVK) in the year 2022.

The third edition of Heritage Fest 2024 successfully concluded on November 27, 2024, after a week of vibrant cultural exchanges, motivational activities, and thought-provoking discussions at the Swami Vivekananda Ground in Agartala, Tripura. The unique event, initiated by Yuva Vikash Kendra and co-partnered by Bajaj Foundation and Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, was held from November 21 to November 27, 2024. This year's festival saw an impressive participation of 426 youth from 26 states across India, along with youth delegates from Bangladesh, all coming together with a shared vision of promoting peace, harmony, traditional culture, and nation-building. The festival, which began as an innovative initiative in 2022, has steadily grown in scope and significance, becoming one of the most anticipated events in the Northeast, particularly in Tripura. This year's festival was an enriching blend of cultural performances, intellectual discussions, and hands-on workshops aimed at empowering the youth and encouraging them to become active contributors to the nation's development.

The Fest began with an International Youth Peace Rally in Agartala City where youth from all over the country participated in their traditional costumes. The rally aimed to promote a message of Unity in Diversity and through the rally, the youth spread the beautiful message of peace and harmony throughout Agartala city.



Inaugural Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony on November 21, marking the beginning of Heritage Fest 2024, was a momentous occasion attended by several distinguished dignitaries. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, inaugurated the festival, a tradition he has upheld for three consecutive years, underscoring the importance of this event in the state's cultural and social calendar. Along with the Chief Minister, Shri Tinku Roy, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of Tripura, Shri Subrata Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice Chairman of the State-Level Cultural Advisory Committee under the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Shri Uday Shankar Singh, CEO of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Shri. Mahendra Phate, Regional Programme Manager of Bajaj Foundation, Shri Tapan Lodh, Hon'ble Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Yuva Vikash Kendra and Shri Debashis Majumder, President of Yuva Vikash Kendra were present at the inauguration. In his address, the Chief Minister praised the initiatives of the organisers and emphasized the transformative power of youth-led projects in shaping a prosperous and peaceful society. He expressed his belief that the Heritage Fest will soon become a signature event that symbolizes the rich cultural heritage and progressive spirit of Tripura.







The daily schedule was thoughtfully designed to engage the youth in various activities from early morning until evening. The day began with a Youth Song session at 6:00 AM, followed by Yoga and Meditation at 6:30 AM to promote physical and mental well-being. The festival also featured other activities like the Shram Sanskar at 7:30 AM, a special community service program aimed at instilling the values of hard work and social responsibility in the youth. In addition, Language Exchange Classes at 10:00 AM allowed participants from different linguistic backgrounds to share and learn new languages, fostering unity through linguistic diversity. A critical segment of the festival was Discussion on Social Issues and Development at 11:00 AM, where renowned speakers led discussions on various issues such as rural development, environmental sustainability, drug addiction, and the promotion of a tobacco-free society.





A key highlight of the festival was the Indigenous Art and Craft Exhibition, which showcased the rich cultural and artistic traditions of Tripura and the Northeast. This exhibition provided a platform for local artisans, especially women from self-help groups, to display and sell their products, gaining valuable exposure and market access. The exhibition was supported by various organizations, including the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM), Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC), Tripura Bamboo Mission, Department of Skill Development, Department of IT and the Department of Handloom, Handicrafts, and Sericulture, Government of Tripura. These collaborations were instrumental in promoting local handicrafts and supporting grassroots economic development in Tripura. The festival not only gave these artisans a chance to showcase their skills but also contributed to their economic upliftment, with many returning home with significant sales and new business prospects.





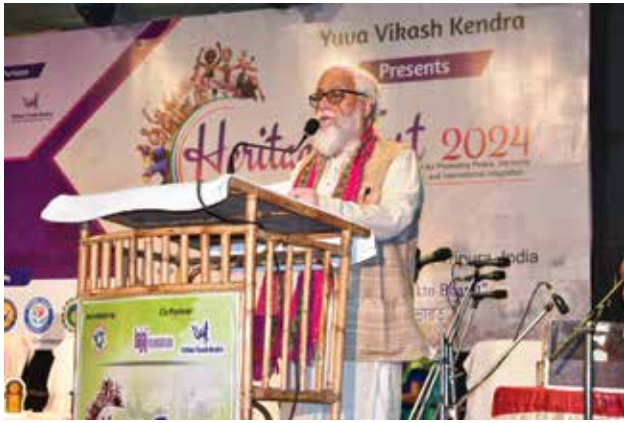
In addition to cultural activities and exhibitions, the festival featured several guest speakers who conducted sessions on pressing issues of national and global importance. Shri Uday Shankar Singh, CEO of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, delivered a lecture on Youth Development and Peace Promotion, inspiring the participants to engage in social causes and promote peace in their communities. Another important session was led by Dr. Sujit Ghosh, who spoke on the issue of a Tobacco-Free Society and the dangers of drug addiction, urging the youth to adopt healthy lifestyles and raise awareness about these pressing health challenges. Smt. Rakhi Somkuwar, Regional Programme Manager of Bajaj Foundation shared about the initiatives of Bajaj Foundation in the field of agriculture, water harvesting and livelihood promotion.



The evening sessions were filled with energy, as participants from different states performed their traditional dances, songs, and cultural programs, allowing them to showcase the rich diversity of India's cultural heritage. These performances were not only a source of entertainment but also served as a powerful reminder of the shared values and common bond that unite India's youth across geographical and cultural boundaries.



Each day of the festival was blessed by the august presence of eminent dignitaries like Shri Ratan Chakraborty, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Bhagaban Das, Hon'ble MLA, Shri. Balai Goswami, Hon'ble Sabhadipati, Paschim Tripura Zilla Parisad, Shri. Samir Ranjan Ghosh, Hon'ble Chairman, Tripura Tea Development Corporation, Smt. Jharna Debbarma, Hon'ble Chairperson of Tripura Commission for Women, Shri. S.B. Nath, Director of Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri. Manik Lal Das, Managing Director, Tripura Tea Development Corporation, Shri Manik Lal Das, SDM, Sadar Sub-Division, Shri Sanjib Deb, Editor, North East Colors, Smt. Rakhi Somkuwar, Programme Manager, Bajaj Foundation, Shri Santosh Kumar Rawat, General Manager, Tripura Gramin Bank, Shri. Anil S. Kotmire, General Manager of NABARD, Tripura, Shri. Diganta Kumar Das, Deputy General Manager of NABARD, Tripura, Mr. Jeet Bhattacharya, Marketing Executive, Tripura Gramin Bank and others.



To promote Tripura's tourism and highlight its cultural and natural beauty, participants were taken on guided tours to some of the state's most iconic landmarks, including the Ujjayanta Palace, Indo-Bangladesh Border, Mata Tripureswari Temple, Neermahal, and the picturesque Tripura Tea Gardens. These tours not only served to educate the youth about the state's rich heritage but also aimed to promote Tripura as a major tourism destination to the national and international community.





On 27th November 2024 afternoon, His Excellency Mr. Eric M. Garcetti, US Ambassador to India, visited the festival's campsite at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel, Agartala along with the Consul General of the United States Consulate General Kolkata Hon'ble Ms. Kathy Giles-Diaz, they also engaged themselves in a insightful discussions with young participants from 26 states across India and gain a impression idea about the event as well as the YVK activities. On the other hand it was a unique opportunity for the youth to interact with high-level diplomats and gain the knowledge about global perspectives.



The festival concluded on November 27, with a grand closing ceremony attended by Smt. Kalyani Roy, Hon'ble Chief Whip of the Tripura Legislative Assembly, as Chief Guest along with Shri. Dipak Majumder, Hon'ble Mayor of Agartala Municipal Corporation and Dr. Sanvi

Jethwani, Eminent Social Activist and Motivational Speaker. All the eminent dignitaries expressed their appreciation to all the volunteers, speakers, and partners who contributed to making the event a grand success.



The organizers of Heritage Fest 2024—Yuva Vikash Kendra, Bajaj Foundation, and Vishwa Yuvak Kendra—expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all the government departments and private institutes, including the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, and the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Prime Care Nursing Home, State Bank of India and Tripura Gramin Bank for their invaluable support in organizing the event. The festival's success set a high benchmark for future editions, the organizers expressing hope that Heritage Fest would continue to grow and become a hallmark event for youth empowerment, cultural exchange, and national integration in the years to come.

The Heritage Festival is not only a cultural exchange but also a platform where, young people participate in several activities related to nation-building. All these activities are directed by Shri Vinay Gupta, from the Yuva Vikash Kendra, who is from Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh. Shri Gupta plays an active role in supporting the camp every year.

As Yuva Vikash Kendra looks to the future, it remains committed to its mission of uplifting the youth of Tripura and the Northeast through innovative programs that promote peace, harmony, and sustainable development. With continued support from local and national partners YUVA VIKASH KENDRA also remind the selfless effort of its team named Pinku Das, Organizing Secretary, Panchali Debbarma, Vice-President, Anupam Debnath, Vice-President, Pratima Debbarma, Secretary, Sumita Debnath, Jt. Secretary, Dr. Manimoy Debbarma, Jt. Secretary, Adv. Anjan Debnath, Legal Advisor, Sukanta Sarkar, Programme Coordinator, Manish Debnath, Programme Coordinator, Sujay Majumder, Digital Programme Coordinator, Sarajit Deb, Culture Convenor, Archa Roy, Jt. Culture Convenor, Ranjit Singh Rajpur, Cultural Convenor of Festival, Hema Chowdhury, Sevir Debbarma, Priti Saha, Diptanu Majumder, Manik Debnath, to finish each and every task smoothly. At the end YVK thanked all the individuals, organisations, dignitaries and others to extending their support, valuable guidance in favour of YVK. It also expects that Heritage Fest will play an even greater role in shaping the future of the region's youth.

Gratitude Message from YUVA VIKASH KENDRA (YVK)

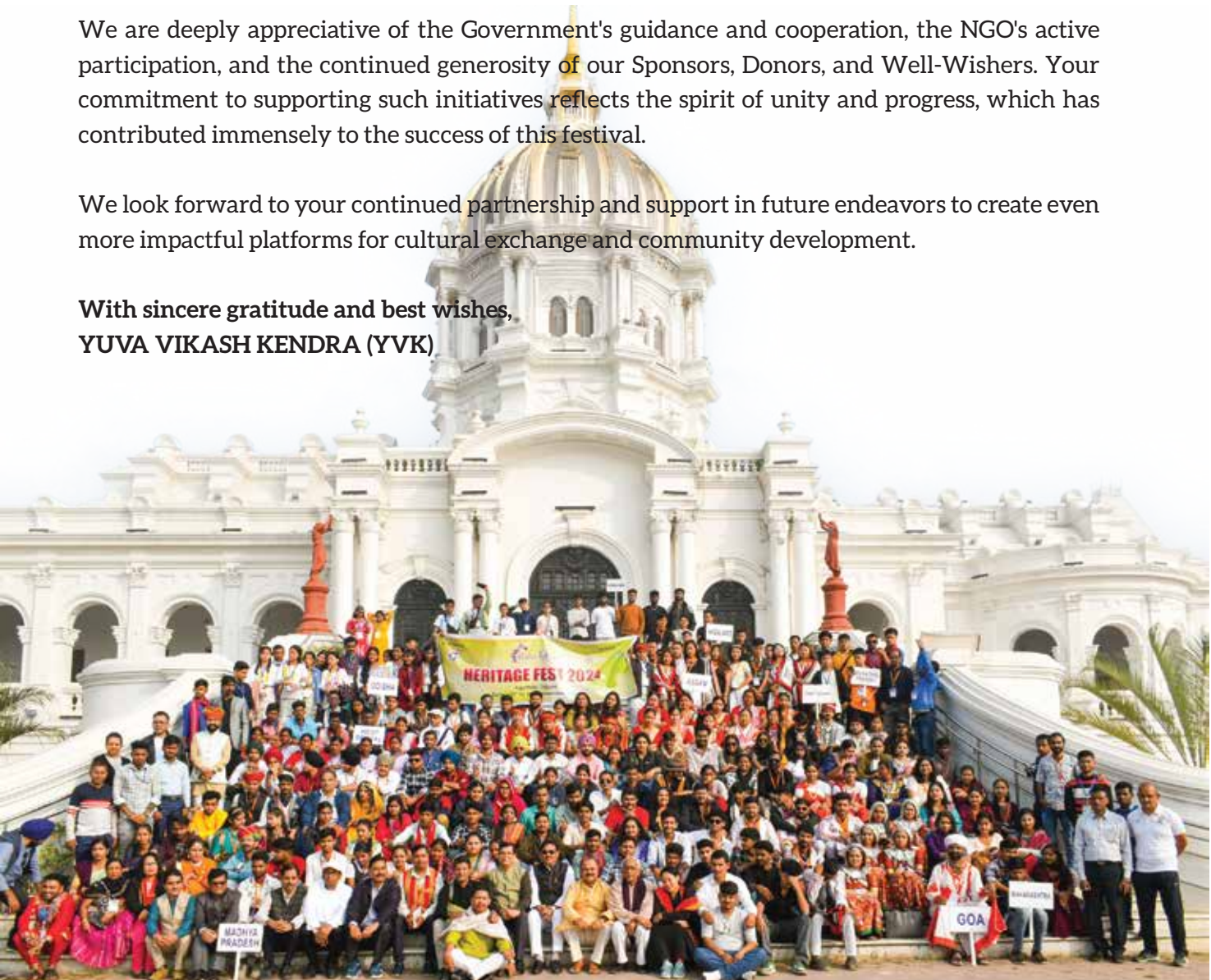
On behalf of YUVA VIKASH KENDRA (YVK), we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government Departments, Non-Governmental Organizations, Sponsors, Donors, and all our Well-Wishers for their unwavering support in the successful organization of the Heritage Fest 2024 at Swami Vivekananda Ground, Agartala, from November 21st to 27th, 2024.

Your generous contributions, both in resources and expertise, were instrumental in making this event a grand success. It was an incredible platform to showcase our rich Cultural Heritage, National Integration and your collective effort has made it possible to bring together a diverse community and celebrate our shared traditions.

We are deeply appreciative of the Government's guidance and cooperation, the NGO's active participation, and the continued generosity of our Sponsors, Donors, and Well-Wishers. Your commitment to supporting such initiatives reflects the spirit of unity and progress, which has contributed immensely to the success of this festival.

We look forward to your continued partnership and support in future endeavors to create even more impactful platforms for cultural exchange and community development.

**With sincere gratitude and best wishes,
YUVA VIKASH KENDRA (YVK)**



In this group photo, we have the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Government of Tripura, Shri Pranajit Singha Roy; the Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of Tripura, Shri Tinku Roy; the Secretary of the Law Department Shri Sanjoy Bhattacharjee, the Director of Information and Cultural Affairs, Shri Bimbisar Bhattacharya; the Director of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri S.B. Nath and Others.

Thank You All!

Co-Partners



Vishwa Yuvak Kendra
(A Unit of Indian Youth Centres Trust)

Supporting Partners



Department of Handloom Handicrafts
and Sericulture, Government of Tripura





Some glimpses of the event



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