

IIT Mandi has kickstarted the ‘Yuva Sangam’ program.

The Indian government's Yuva Sangam project aims to introduce students at higher education institutions (HEIs) and off-campus youth to other youth in other states and vice versa. It gives a thorough examination of many facets of life, as well as current successes, developmental milestones, and a connection amongst young people in the host state. During their travels, the teenagers will get experience in five main areas: tourism (Paryatan), traditions (Parampara), development (Pragati), inter-human relations (Paraspar Sampark), and technology (Prodyogiki). This is done to promote empathy and relationships amongst young people from different states. Participants will be able to interact with local children through this youth exchange and have a thorough grasp of the state they are visiting.

The Yuva Sangam program under the aegis of *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat* was inaugurated on 12th May 2023 whereby Padmashri Nek Ram Sharma and Ms. Nivedita Negi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mandi, attended the event as the chief guests. As part of the event, 45 student delegates from Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh started their journey from IIT Mandi to Goa on 12 May 2023. While students from Goa have also come to Himachal Pradesh on 17 May 2023 respectively where IIT Mandi is their host and they will stay on till 23 May 2023.

On the first day, the youth were offered a basic understanding of the Mechanical Workshop, the Botanical Lab, the Tinkering Lab, and the Drone Lab of IIT Mandi where they mingled merrily with the campus folk. Their other itineraries include:

- Visit Rewalsar Town (2nd day)
- Visit to Atal Tunnel and Manali (3rd day)
- Visit the Larji Dam and Mandi Town (4th day)
- Visit Villages such as Salgi, and Nandli and connect with local people (final day)

This program is supported by several Ministries including Education, Tourism, Youth Affairs, Tourism, and Railways. During the student delegates' visit to IIT Mandi, the Institute will arrange interactions for them with various dignitaries of the state. Further, the student delegates will experience the academically stimulating environment of IIT Mandi and the rich culture and magnificent landscape of Himachal Pradesh.