



DEI MONTHLY NEWS

"If anyone or anything, a person or a book, can contribute to free us from the resentments towards others or the bitternesses towards life which poison feelings, thoughts, and health, the person has rendered us a great service.....the book has proved its worth."



— Paul Brunton

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Section A : DEI

DEI Delegation Bags Two Prizes at the Inter-University National Youth Festival



The student delegation of Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Agra-282005 achieved remarkable success at the 37th Inter-University National Youth Festival, held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, from March 28th to April 1st, 2024. This prestigious event, named “Hunar: Harvesting National Talent,” witnessed participation from universities nationwide. DEI students showcased their talents in three key events: Western Group Song, On-the-Spot Photography, and Mehendi. While the Western Group Song performance earned a commendation from the organizers, the DEI participants secured the Second place in both the On-the-Spot Photography and Mehendi competitions. Astuti Gogia, a student of Drawing & Painting Department, Faculty of Arts, excelled in On-the-Spot Photography, while Muskaan, also from the same Department, displayed her talent in the Mehendi competition. Their achievements are particularly significant as they competed against participants from 117 universities across the country. The journey to success began with DEI students' outstanding performance at the Zonal Level competitions held in January 2024. Their victory at the Zonal Level secured their spot at the National Youth Festival. At the National Level, they continued to impress, ultimately bringing home two trophies.

Dayalbagh Educational Institute and University of Waterloo extend Educational and Scientific Cooperation

Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Dayalbagh, Agra-282005 and the University of Waterloo, Canada, have renewed and reinforced nearly sixty years of relationship that was first formalized in July 2008 through the signing of a collaborative agreement. The Universities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the fourth term in February-March 2024.

A formal agreement between DEI and Waterloo was first signed in July 2008 and the collaborative partnership has resulted in several joint academic and research activities, including but not limited to joint research, exchange of faculty and students, organization of conferences, seminars and other similar activities of mutual benefit and interest. In the quintessence of continued collaboration:



- A. DEI and Waterloo recognize that universities are enriched by collaboration with institutions of higher learning in other countries.
- B. DEI and Waterloo wish to formally express the joint intent to continue to explore collaborative opportunities.
- C. In this Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”), DEI and Waterloo may be referred to individually as an “**Institution**” and collectively as the “**Institutions**”.

Short-Term Capacity Building Programme on Organizational Behaviour and Life Skills Organized



The Association of Indian Universities-Dayalbagh Educational Institute-Academic and Administrative Development Centre (AIU-DEI-AADC) organized a Short-Term Capacity Building Programme on '*Organizational Behaviour and Life Skills leading to Better Worldliness*' in association with ICT Continuing Education Centre, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Dayalbagh, Agra-282005 from 26th February 2024 to 2nd March 2024. The main goal of this endeavour was to develop an awareness and understanding of Soft Skills or Life Skills that are the foundation of Organizational Behaviour and its ensuing success, thereby leading to Better Worldliness.

Mr. Anoop Srivastava, Vice President, Dayalbagh Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Satsang Sabha, and Former Additional Director General (Railway Protection Force) was the Inaugural Speaker. He advised the participants to be selective in their goals and focus on the *Umbra* (central, dark part of the shadow) while being aware of the *Penumbra* (outer, less dark part of the shadow), an illustrative analogy, to reach their goals with continuous improvement, taking small consistent realistic steps, and blocking irrelevant distractions. Prof. V.B. Gupta, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Education (a non-statutory body serving as a think-tank for Dayalbagh Educational Institutions) highlighted several innovative recommendations that were made by ACE (Advisory Committee on Education, a non-statutory body serving as a think-tank for DEI) which were implemented by the Institute to achieve the highest levels of excellence with relevance. Prof. C. Patvardhan, Officiating Director of DEI, highlighted the importance of managing conflicts and the role of leadership in an organization to achieve Better Worldliness, the ultimate goal of all organizations. Mrs. Sneha Bijlani, Treasurer, DEI, also graced the Inaugural Ceremony with her presence. Thirty-three participants from different locations (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan) attended the Programme in a blended mode. The overall course content of the Programme was delivered by twelve renowned resource persons through ten modules. The sessions were highly interactive and engaging. Mrs. Punam Prakash, Incharge, ICT Continuing Education Centre, DEI and Prof. Jyoti Gogia, Nodal Officer, AIU-DEI-AADC, were the overall Coordinators of the Programme.

Short-Term Capacity Building Programme on *Research Methodology* Organized



The Association of Indian Universities-Dayalbagh Educational Institute-Academic and Administrative Development Centre (AIU-DEI-AADC) in association with Department of Applied Business Economics, Faculty of Commerce, DEI organized a Short-Term Capacity Building Programme on *Research Methodology* on March 11th-16th, 2024. The Programme aimed at assisting budding researchers in both preparation and motivation for conducting their original research. Through the infusion of a scientific approach and the introduction of research tools and techniques, the participants were trained to conduct thorough investigations. Additionally, the Programme emphasized the ethical use of artificial intelligence. Interactive sessions and hands-on exercises were utilized to reinforce learning. The comprehensive course content featured twelve modules expertly crafted by eight resource persons. A total of forty-eight participants from diverse locations were able to attend the Programme in a blended mode.

Prof. V. K. Gangal, Dean, Commerce Faculty and Convener of the Event, introduced the theme of the Programme during the Inaugural Ceremony. Prof. N.P.S Chandel, Professor, Department of Foundations of Education, and Research Coordinator, Faculty of Education, DEI was the Chief Guest. He highlighted the need for and importance of research and its adequate methodology for original research. Prof. M. Naved Khan, Professor, Department of Management, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Jyoti Gogia, Nodal Officer, AIU-DEI-AADC, highlighted the objective of the AADC and its successful execution of programmes. The Event featured a talented group of resource persons, including Prof. Naved Khan, Department of Management, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. Pushpendra Surya, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, Prof. Nidhi Sharma, Department of Economics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Dr. Rekha Handa, University Business School at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Dr. Preet Kumari, Department of Psychology, DEI, Dr. Mange Ram, Librarian, Central Library, DEI, Dr. V. Prem Prakash, Department of Electrical Engineering, DEI, and Prof. Rupali Satsangi, Department of Economics, DEI.

Faculty News

Faculty of Arts:

Department of Music organized a Lecture- cum- demonstration on Tabla Recital by renowned Tabla artist Pandit Hindole Majumdar on 19th March 2024.

Staff News:

- Dr. Shivendra Pratap Tripathi, Asst. Professor, Department of Music, performed a Tabla Solo Recital at Taj Mahotsav on 18th February 2024 and also took part in the Tabla Recital during Ramotsav at Ayodhya on 26th February 2024.
- Dr. Nishith Gaur, Asst. Professor, Department of Sanskrit, was invited as a Resource Person at a Two-day National Seminar on the theme "Challenges and Possibilities of Mother Tongue Teaching in Multilingual Environment", organized by Department of Research and Language Development, Central Hindi Institute, Agra, on 28th and 29th March 2024 in which she delivered her speech on the topic "Indian Languages and Script System in Indian Multilingual Environment".

Faculty of Education:

Three-day Workshop- cum- Hackathon Organized

A Three-day Workshop- cum- Hackathon was organized from 12th-14th March 2024 by the School of Education, DEI Agra. The objective of the Workshop was to train students about the basics of Arduino kits. The Expert of the Workshop, Mr. Hardik Chadda, Teaching Faculty at Faculty of Science, DEI, oriented participants about the use of electronic kits and integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The participants from Education, Engineering and B.Voc. disciplines, developed projects in groups on various topics of education. They made effective applications of AI for solving teaching-learning situations. Prof. Nandita Satsangee, Dean, Faculty of Education along with other Faculty members, Prof. N.P.S. Chandel, Prof. Savita Srivastava and Prof. Sona Ahuja, evaluated the projects. Dr. Sona Dixit, Coordinator, SoE, presented the Vote of thanks. The Conveners of the Workshop were Dr. Neha Jain and Mr. Hardik Chadda. The Hackathon competition was coordinated by Mrs. Mugdha Sharma.

Workshop Organized on Classical Dance for Effective Communication in Education

A one-day National Workshop was organized on April 8th, 2024, at the School of Education, Faculty of Education, under the Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT). The Workshop, titled "Harmonizing Expression: Foundations of Classical Dance for Effective Communication in Education," was designed to enrich the teaching methods at all levels. Renowned Bharat Natyam dancer from Agra, Aarti Hariprasad, led the Workshop along with Odissi dance specialist Mr Pratap Bahera from Vrindavan. Participating educators enriched their understanding of non-verbal communication. Pre-service teachers learned to incorporate dance activities into lesson plans with innovative strategies, thereby creating an intellectually stimulating environment. 164 Pre-service teachers, teacher educators, and researchers participated enthusiastically. Professor Nandita Satsangee, Dean, Faculty of Education, welcomed the guests, while Professor N.P.S. Chandel and Professor Savita Srivastava presided over the Inaugural Ceremony. The Workshop was convened by Dr Manu Sharma, and Dr. Sona Dixit, Coordinator, School of Education.



Faculty of Science:

Staff News:

Dr. Zeeshan Saifi, Lecturer, Department of Physics and Computer Science, DEI, delivered an Invited Talk on the topic- "*Decoding Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals: Scientifically Unmasking Deception*" in the fourth Global Alliance for Rapid Diagnostics (GARD)-2024 Forum organized during 15-16 March 2024 by Alolija Nano-Biosensors Lab, Michigan State University, U.S.A.

Faculty of Social Sciences:

Two-Day Workshop on Role of Digitalization in Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Creation and Growth

Department of Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, DEI, organized a Two-day Workshop on April 12th-13th, 2024, on the Role of Digitalization in Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Creation and Growth in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. The Workshop stemmed from a major research project funded by ICSSR, New Delhi, with Prof. Sumita Srivastava from Department of Management serving as Project Director and Dr. Jaspreet Kaur from the Department of Management as Co-Project Director. During the Workshop, seven teams presented



their ideas to a jury comprising professionals from various sectors, including Mr. Achintya Sharma (CEO and Founder, Amiach Technology Private Ltd.), Mr. Anjul Dayal (VP- Accenture Solutions), Prof. Tulika Saxena (Head and Dean, Faculty of Management, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly), and Dr. Swatantra (Associate Professor, IIM-Indore). The jury provided feedback to all the teams after their presentations.

The Inaugural Session featured the Welcome Address by Prof. C Patvardhan, Officiating Director of DEI, a screening of the DEI film, and introduction to the Workshop by Prof. Sanjeev Swami, Head, Department of Management, DEI. Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, was the Chief Guest, and Prof. Francisco Linan, Full Professor of Entrepreneurship, University of Seville, Spain, served as the Plenary Speaker. The first day concluded with a cultural programme presented by DEI students.

On the second day, four women entrepreneurs, namely, Dr. Ritu Bhatnagar (CEO and Co-founder, Pixel Truth), Ms. Richa Bansal (Director and Co-founder, Pink and Purple Marketing Pvt. Ltd.), Dr. Hifaz Afaq (CTO and Co-founder, Shoegaro Fashions Pvt. Ltd.), and Ms. Sangati Bansal (Founder, Currypatta Company), presented their case studies. This was followed by a Plenary Talk by Mr. Dhruv Khanna, Founder of Dataresolve Pvt. Ltd., Singapore. The Panel Discussion on the theme 'MSMEs and Digitalization: Challenges and Opportunities' featured Prof. Pushpendra Kumar (University of Delhi), Dr. Ritu Bhatnagar (Co-founder, Pixel Truth), Subhasis Mukhopadhyaya (Founder, Treacle Tech), Mr. Achintya Sharma (Founder, Amiach Technologies Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Vaisakh T.R. (Founder, Prophaze Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Dhruv Khanna (Founder, Dataresolve Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Ved Pal Dhar (Brand Owner, My Kind of Place [MKOP]), and Dr. Jaspreet Kaur (Assistant Professor, Department of Management, DEI). The Panel Discussion was moderated by Prof. Sumita Srivastava, the Workshop Coordinator.

During the TechVenture 2024 Award Ceremony, Prof. Anand Mohan, Registrar, DEI, felicitated the winners. The 'Creative Catalyst' group from Faculty of Engineering, comprising Divyansh, Harshit Chaudhary, and Tanishka Chaudhary, won the Gold Medal. 'Eco Sponge Squad' by Gauri Sharma, Divya Kushwah, and Nandini Kushwah from Faculty of Engineering secured the Silver Medal. Another group, 'Tech Busters,' comprising Rahul Jaiswal, Shruti Goyal, and Yash Shakya from Faculty of Engineering also won the Gold Medal. Lastly, the Poster Presentation titled 'Custom Clothing' by Sarthak Jain, Pooja Kaushik, Nikita Rawat, and Kanishka Pathak from Faculty of Social Sciences (Integrated-MBA) received the Bronze Medal. The Programme concluded with the Institute Prayer and the National Anthem.

Staff News:

Prof. Sumita Srivastava and Dr. Jaspreet Kaur were invited as Resource Persons at the Three-day Prof. S.B. Singh Memorial Lecture Series held from 8th to 10th April 2024 at Faculty of Management, MJP Rohilkhand University, Bareilly. Prof. Sumita Srivastava delivered a lecture titled "Exploring the Aspiration-Reality Gap: Understanding Millennial Career Expectations and Experiences." While Dr. Jaspreet Kaur's talk was titled, 'Value-based Leadership at VUCA World'.

Student and Staff Achievements:

Ms. Pooja Kewalramani, Research Scholar, Department of Management, DEI, along with Dr. Jaspreet Kaur, Prof. Sumita Srivastava of DEI and Prof. Francisco Linan of University of Seville, Spain received the prize for the Best Paper titled 'AI Startup Dynamics in India: A Comprehensive Study' in the track 'Entrepreneurship' at Doctoral Colloquium-2024 on the theme 'Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability' organized by Xavier School of Management, XLRI, Jamshedpur from 08th to 10th April 2024.



Section B: DEI-ODE (Online & Distance Education)

From the Coordinator's desk

Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed-to-be University) launched its Distance Education Programme on 2nd June 2004 in the blended education mode, i.e. as a blend of traditional instruction and e-education. The e-education experience proved to be very rewarding when the Covid-19 pandemic struck India in the summer of the year 2020 and we were able to make a smooth transition to on-line education and later on, when we decided to switch over to the five UGC-entitled degree-level programmes in the online mode in the session 2021-22.



All of us are aware of the tremendous benefit that has come about from the introduction of e-Satsang. But some may not be aware of what came to light from a report that Prof. Gursaran, Dean of ICT Centre, Soami Nagar, New Delhi mailed to me, which is reproduced below:

The evolution of e-Satsang has its origin in the Launch of the Distance Education Programme of the Dayalbagh Educational Institute at Melathiruvankatanathapuram (Tamil Nadu) on June 2, 2004. In that programme, a novel two-way transmission between MTV Puram and Dayalbagh took place which gave the programme the status of being interactive. The Institute prayer was sung from Dayalbagh and transmitted to MTV Puram; inaugural speeches and the Holy Bachan of Gracious Huzur were transmitted to Dayalbagh; and finally, the Institute song was sung at Dayalbagh and transmitted to MTV Puram. Through Immense Grace, the launch was successful. The technologies employed were most rudimentary: audio was transmitted directly over a mobile phone line, and video images (one every 3 seconds) were transmitted through the Yahoo server (a third-party server).

Soon after the Launch programme was over, in a second function to mark the celebration of fifty years of the Tamil Radhasoami Satsang Association (also held at MTV Puram), Gracious Huzur was pleased to remark:

"The bold new experiment that we witnessed this morning is in fact a forerunner of Tele-education and Tele-Satsang or as you might call it as e-education and e-Satsang i.e., electronic education and electronic Satsang. We had the full view of Sanctum Sanctorum of Radhasoami Satsang at Dayalbagh during the morning function and the Holy Singhasan, the most sacred Singhasan of Radhasoami Satsang with Param Guru Huzur Dr. Lal Sahab enthroned thereon was an exhilarating experience for all Satsangis gathered here this morning."

Thus the term "e-Satsang" was born. Ever since, through Immense Grace, Satsangis all over the world have been Blessed with the opportunity of having *Darshan* and hearing Holy *Bachans* live, sitting in the remotest of Satsang Halls, while e-Satsang Teams have been granted a rare and special opportunity for seva. The birth and spread of e-Satsang has been no doubt a turning point in the history of Satsang. No one imagined that e-Satsang would grow at such a breathtaking pace from its birth in MTV Puram with a small experiment, to today's 160-station Cascade network.....

After the Launch of e-Satsang on June 2, 2004, a second experiment was performed on June 7, 2004, from Kakinada. The Satsang was once again interactive with Dayalbagh, with the Satsang proceedings from Kakinada being transmitted to Dayalbagh, and the Ladies' path from Dayalbagh being transmitted to Kakinada. A few days later, on 10th June 2005, atop a serene and sacred hilltop in Rajaborari where Huzur Sahabji Maharaj once used to sit, Gracious Huzur was pleased to Proclaim that the next e-Satsang transmissions would go directly to New York and London. It was a Mandate that foretold the beginning of the evolution of e-Satsang.

We consider it a Blessing that the Distance Education Programme of DEI had a role in the evolution of e-Satsang. Presently, we have 484+ 1 e-Satsang centres located across our planet Earth. We are hopeful that they will host our programmes in the coming years.

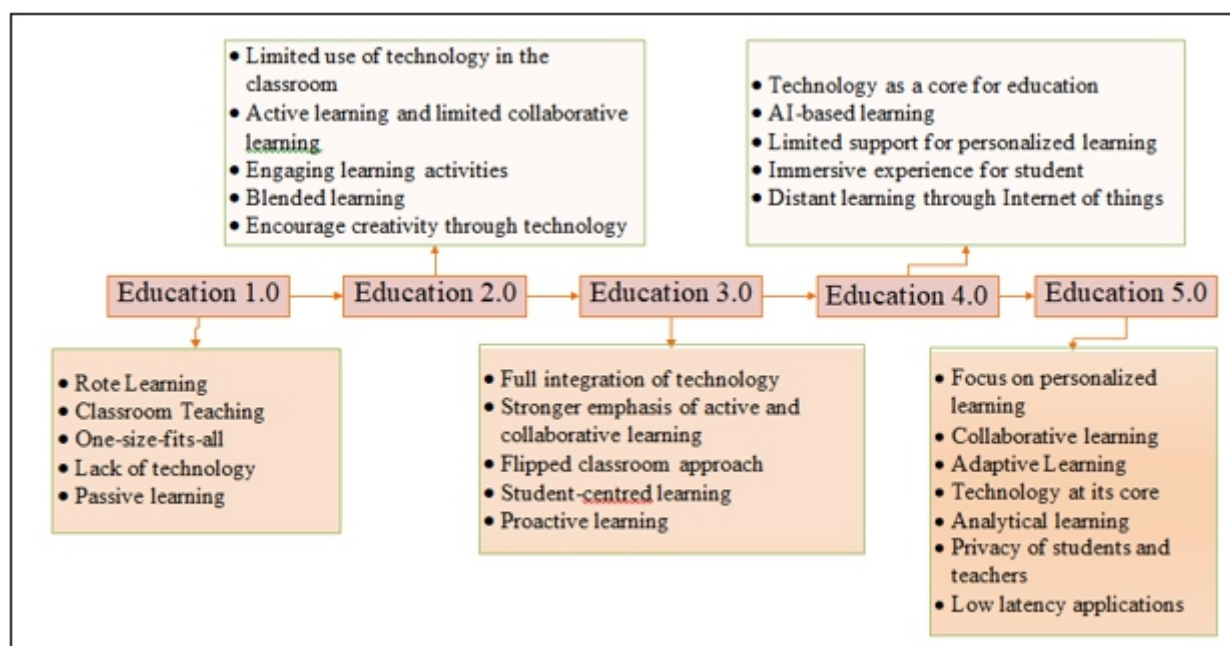
(Prof. V.B. Gupta)

Note: An edited version of the above report appears in '*DAYALBAGH*' Garden of the Merciful, 1915-2015, published by the Sabha in the year 2015.

Education 5.0 and Its Implementation

1. Evolution of Education

The evolution of education over the past years has been considered in a recent publication [1] in terms of Education 1.0 to Education 5.0 using the following schematic representation:



It has also been pointed out in this publication [1] that Education 5.0 tries to address the following shortcomings of Education 4.0:

- (i) Lack of accessibility – Education 4.0 depends heavily on technology and the Internet, which can create barriers for disadvantaged students,
- (ii) Human interaction which is essential for developing social and emotional skills, is considerably reduced due to the high use of technology, and
- (iii) Over-reliance on technology creates a situation when students become so highly dependent on technology to learn that they begin to lack the skills to learn independently.

Education 5.0 aims to address these shortcomings by creating a more inclusive and equitable education system that uses technology to enhance human interaction and promote independent learning, for example, by focusing on developing an interdisciplinary approach to learning, integrating different fields of study, and fostering more collaboration between students and teachers.

Education 5.0 aims to promote personalized learning, collaboration, and well-being and to develop 21st Century skills such as critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving.

2. Implementation of Education 5.0

Another interesting publication [2] dealing with the implementation of Education 5.0 in developed and developing countries, gives useful information.

Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, where Education 5.0 is being implemented successfully, were

selected as the developed countries while Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka were selected as the developing countries.

Developed countries have established the rules and regulations at the highest level in the Ministry of Education, industry, and business. The focus is on identifying the key obstacles at any level and bridging the gap for sustainable and reliable advancement in the education sector. Developing countries need to conduct more scientific research to observe and assess the current situation at all levels to propose different new ideas based on evidence-based study outcomes.

Study results revealed that restructuring the overall education process needs to frame rules and regulations to make the education environment more organized. This is particularly needed in developing countries.

Developed countries are providing ample financial resources for the development of the higher education sector to meet the market needs and demands as they believe this is the backbone of the country's future prospects in terms of economic and industrial growth. The investment made by developing countries in education, on the other hand, is rather low.

References:

[1] <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2307.15846>

[2] https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ce_2023051915532321.pdf

News From the Centres

Holi Celebrated at Gadiras (Sukma)



Shri Gufran Ahmad, Assistant Commandant, Central Reserve Police Force, Gadiras, invited the students and staff of DEI Centre, Gadiras (Sukma), on the occasion of Holi at 188 Bn, CRPF Camp on 25th March 2024. The Celebration started with a *bhajan* and after a short cultural programme and the traditional application of *gulal*, *Prasad* was distributed to all.

Celebration of 'World Health Day' at the Roorkee Centre

'World Health Day' was celebrated at DEI-Roorkee Centre on 7th April 2024, to emphasize the importance of health and well-being in lives. To mark this significant day and as a part of the 'Swasthya Sangama Satra Initiative', an enlightening online talk on the topic, "Be Prepared: First Aid Strategies for Critical Situations" by Ms. Corrin Roman, RN, MSN, Practice Manager at Reid Health Hospital, U.S.A, was organized. Ms. Corrin Roman is a medical professional with more than ten years of experience in US health centres. She shared invaluable insights and first-aid strategies for critical situations, equipping the audience with essential knowledge to respond effectively in emergencies. Her expertise and dedication to promoting health and safety truly inspired all.



There was an active participation of faculty, students and guests in the event. Following Ms. Corin's presentation, an insightful question-and-answer session, fostering dialogue and deepening the understanding of crucial health-related topics was conducted. After the Talk, a Parents-Teacher meeting was convened to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to student placement.

Section C: DEI Alumni (AADEIs & AAFDEI)

From the Editor's desk

The articles in this issue are a tribute to one of the most magnificent creatures on our planet—Elephants. Empathetic, sensitive and extremely intelligent, their absence would be devastating not just to humans but entire ecosystems which rely on them. Today threatened by environmental degradation, habitat loss and poaching, the Asian elephant has been listed as endangered on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List. *Elephant Whisperers*, which won the 2022 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Film is a powerful depiction of the close bond between elephants and their caretakers. The film highlights the challenges faced by those who work towards elephant conservation and with deep love and commitment care for orphaned or injured calves.

The possibility of elephants being added to the growing herds at the Dayalbagh Gaushala brings hope and cheer, as all beings may yet have the good fortune to reach everlasting Bliss under the Watchful and Ever-Merciful Gaze of Wakt/Present Sant Satguru, The Lord God of All Creation and The Monolith Of Ever Blissfulness.

We look forward to hearing from our readers. Please share your comments and contributions at aadeisnewsletter@gmail.com.

Trunks through Time

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One look at one of God's most majestic, graceful and intelligent creations and one cannot help but ask in wonder -- where did they come from? With a history spanning millions of years, elephants began their evolutionary journey over 60 million years ago with small, dog-sized ancestors called Moeritherium. Over time, they developed their iconic long trunks—a versatile tool crucial for survival.



Around 25 million years ago, these ancestors diversified into species like mastodons and mammoths, eventually leading to today's African and Asian elephant emerging 5 to 10 million years ago.

Elephants can very well be hailed as 'Engineers of the Ecosystem'. As the largest land animal on Earth, they play a pivotal role in shaping the landscapes they inhabit. Their presence reverberates through the ecosystem, creating a delicate balance that supports a diverse array of plant and animal life. These gentle giants act as ecosystem engineers, transforming their habitats by uprooting trees, creating "elephant lawns," and digging waterholes that become a vital source of water in times of drought. Elephant dung, a rich source of nutrients, promotes plant growth and supports a thriving community of insects and micro-organisms. Their role as seed dispersers helps regenerate forests and maintain plant diversity. Without elephants, ecosystems can become overgrown, leading to loss of biodiversity and food sources for other animals.

Only three species of elephants are found in the whole world! There are three recognized species of elephants in the world, each with distinct characteristics and habitats. The African Bush Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*) is the largest land animal on Earth, native to sub-Saharan Africa with its large size, long tusks, and distinctively shaped ears. The African Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) is smaller and found in the dense rainforests of central and western Africa, with straighter tusks and smaller ears adapted to their habitat. The Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is smaller than its African counterparts, found across Asia with distinctive twin-domed heads and one finger-like projection at the end of their trunks.

Which species is India home to? There are four recognized subspecies of Asian elephants, each with distinct characteristics and habitats. The Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) is widely found across the Indian subcontinent, known for its relatively small size and large ears. The Sri Lankan Elephant (*Elephas maximus maximus*) is smaller and exclusive to Sri Lanka. The Sumatran Elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) is one of the smallest subspecies, found in Sumatra's dense forests and the Borneo Pygmy Elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) is adapted to the forests of Borneo.

How do Elephant Families Work? Elephants, known for their intricate social structures, form close-knit family units led by a matriarch. These wise leaders guide their offspring, while herds share strong bonds. Young females learn crucial caretaking skills, preparing for their future roles as mothers. Male elephants, leading more solitary lives, may join female herds during mating season or form loose associations with other males. Communication, through vocalizations and gestures, is vital, reflecting their empathy and cooperation. In times of danger, they unite, forming protective circles.

The Asian elephant is classified as an endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. India is home to the largest population of wild Asian elephants in Asia, yet their survival faces threats such as habitat loss and fragmentation due to rapid deforestation for agriculture and development. Human-elephant conflict (HEC) poses a serious challenge, leading to crop raiding, property damage, and loss of lives on both sides. Poaching, though not as widespread, remains a threat to elephants due to the demand for ivory. India has implemented various conservation initiatives, including protected areas like the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and Kaziranga National Park, and measures to mitigate HEC such as elephant-proof trenches and wildlife corridors. Community-based conservation projects are also underway, engaging local communities and providing alternative livelihoods. The enduring bond between elephants and humans, seen in cultural practices like temple elephants, underscores the need to protect these magnificent creatures and their habitats. Collaboration between government, conservation groups, communities, and citizens is essential to secure a future where elephants continue to thrive in India's forests, embodying the spirit of the wild for generations to come.

Elephant Whisperers, the 2022 Academy Winner Documentary: A Review

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Set in the heart of Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, *Elephant Whisperers* is a 40-minute documentary that chronicles a pure and poignant bond between a devoted indigenous couple, Bomman and Bellie and an orphaned elephant, Raghu. Bomman is a mahout who comes from a long line of elephant handlers and has inherited his father's expertise in reuniting abandoned baby elephants with their herds. The couple's decision to take in Raghu is a profound commitment to nurturing and protecting a vulnerable animal in need. Through their selfless dedication and unwavering care, they create a sanctuary of love and belonging.

The documentary is a tapestry woven with threads of emotional moments, each one stirring the viewers' hearts with a profound mixture of joy, sadness and compassion. The scenes entailing Raghu's recovery from the injury and his return to good health under the watchful gaze of his caregivers are very heartwarming. Equally touching are the scenes where Raghu expresses his love for Bomman, while he bathes and feeds him with care. Raghu is soon joined by another baby elephant, Ammu, who is also an orphan. Raghu seems to act an older sibling to Ammu, who exudes a playful energy and a curiosity about the world around her. The viewers witness a deep bond developing between the two elephants, bringing newfound purpose, joy and fulfillment in the lives of Bomman and Bellie. The documentary ends with the Forest Department taking Raghu away from the close-knit family to hand him over to a new caregiver. As Raghu is led away, Bomman and Bellie are left heart broken. In a tender scene captured by the camera, Ammu wipes away the tears that trickle down Bellie's weathered cheeks with a gentle touch of her trunk. The documentary is replete with such moving episodes, where each scene unfolds with a delicate balance of emotion.

Against the backdrop of encroaching development and environmental degradation, the film serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to coexist harmoniously with the natural world and protect its most vulnerable inhabitants. With breathtaking cinematography, the film invites viewers to experience the magic of this extraordinary tale firsthand. Ultimately, the film leaves a profound impression, inspiring audiences to reevaluate their relationship with the natural world and embrace the transformative power of compassion and connection.

Produced by Guneet Monga and directed by Kartiki Gonsalves, the documentary makes history as the first Indian film to win the Best Documentary in the Short Subject category at the 95th Academy Awards. Its victory at the Oscars is a proud moment for Indian cinema and a testament to the rich diversity and creativity of the country's film industry.

The Divine Call

Priya Singh

*Batch: MBM (1993), Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (2012), DEI;
Currently, Centre Incharge, DEI Chennai Information Centre*



We are the largest land animals around,
For centuries, lived with nature all around,
Dwelling in jungles, forests, in the open air,
Amidst our tribe, in harmony, love and care.

Man's greed pushed us from our natural habitat
In zoos, circus, temples our life did start.
More challenging and hard, life did become,
When man hunted us for trade and fun.
Hunted, caught, tamed and caged,
Our existence has now reached this stage.
Peaceful, loving, resilient animals we are,
Longing to go back to nature...so far.

Our miseries, sorrow, we want to end,
Earnest prayers to the Almighty we send,
Oh Lord, give us respite and relief,
Back to mother nature, help us retreat,
The natural habitat to us is very dear,
Living in the open, without any fear.

Our prayers have finally reached Supreme Father,
Who resides in 'The Garden of The Merciful',
Where humans, animals in harmony live together,
In Dayalbagh, a land so blessed and beautiful.

A sanctuary and divine haven for all mammals,
Living here are humans, cows, buffaloes, goats, camels,
We too have been blessed with a boon,
Supreme Father has ordained us to join them soon.

The search is on for us, far and wide,
The Divine Master is our Shepherd and Guide,
To bring us to the holy land,
Where we shall stand, tall and grand.
Supreme Father, we are so grateful to THEE,

Alumni Bytes...

“The biggest takeaway from education in Dayalbagh is...”

As a graduate of DEI's Electrical Engineering program, my time at the Institute not only provided technical knowledge but also cultivated crucial entrepreneurial qualities. DEI's holistic education approach, integrating modern academics with ethics, shaped my mindset. Through diverse coursework and supportive mentorship, I developed resilience, risk taking ability, adaptability, and innovative thinking. DEI's emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and community service fostered my leadership skills, essential for a first generation entrepreneur. Overall, DEI provided me with a firm foundation for cultivating the qualities essential for embarking on new ventures, enabling me to confidently pursue opportunities in a highly challenging Business Environment.

-Sameer Malhotra, B.Tech. Electrical Engineering (Batch 1989-1993); Currently Director, Springfeel Polyurethane Foams Pvt Ltd; Director, Springfeel Wind Energy Pvt. Ltd and Mentor for various start-ups.



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