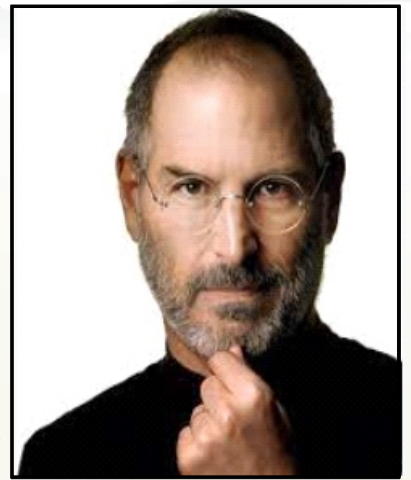




DEI MONTHLY NEWS

"That's been one of my mantras — focus and simplicity. Simple can be harder than complex: You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it's worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains."



— Steve Jobs

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Section A : DEI

DEI Contingent Excels at the Central Zone Youth Festival



Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Dayalbagh, Agra-282005, marked a triumphant participation in the *Gour Gaurav Utsav* (38th AIU Central Zone Youth Festival 2024-25), held at Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (MP), from November 26 to 30, 2024. Organized under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the festival brought together twenty-three universities from the Central Zone for a series of events across Theatre, Fine Arts, Literary Activities, and Music in an atmosphere of fierce yet friendly competition.

A contingent of 44 members, comprising students, accompanying professionals, and teacher officials, departed from DEI on 25th November under the leadership of Team Managers, Dr. Sanjay Saini, Cultural Coordinator, DEI and Dr. Seema Kashyap, Associate Professor, Home Sc. Department, Faculty of Arts, DEI. In the Five-day Festival DEI emerged victorious in multiple events. The Institute secured the First Prize in the Western Group Song, the Second Prize in the Western Vocal Solo, and the Third Prize in the Western Instrumental Solo. Additionally, the team earned the third place in On-the-Spot Painting, the fourth place in Mime and Collage, and the fifth place in Cartooning.

This milestone reaffirms DEI's commitment to fostering holistic development through cultural and artistic pursuits, reflecting the University's vision of nurturing well-rounded individuals. The participants who secured the top three positions are now set to represent DEI at the National Youth Festival, scheduled to be held from March 3 to 7, 2025, at Amity University, Noida.

DEI's Remarkable Triumph at Smart India Hackathon 2024



Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI) reaffirmed its commitment to innovation and excellence with an outstanding performance in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024. The journey commenced with an Internal Hackathon on 10th September 2024, organized by Faculty of Engineering under the leadership of Dr. A. Charan Kumari, the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for SIH 2024 Event. Supported by Dr. Vishakha Baghel, Faculty of Engineering, and a dedicated team of student volunteers, the event saw 65 teams comprising 390 students tackle real-world problem statements, leading to the selection of 45 teams to represent DEI at the national level.

Among these, two exceptional teams, namely, 'Agile Geeks' and 'Aikarthya' progressed to the prestigious SIH 2024 Grand Finale. 'Agile Geeks' addressed critical water management issues with their "Ground Water Level Predictor," while Team 'Aikarthya', guided by mentors Dr. Zeeshan and Ms. Priya Asthana, developed "Skill Matrix," an AI-powered recruitment simulation tool. The

Grand Finale, held on 11th and 12th December 2024, challenged the participants with a 36-hour non-stop coding marathon, featuring live interactions with Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. Team 'Aikarthya' impressed the judges with its advanced AI-driven features, earning the 'Joint Winner' title and a ₹1 lakh prize, presented at the Valedictory Ceremony chaired by AICTE Chairman, Prof. T. G. Sitharam.

This victory, DEI's third SIH triumph, underscores its leadership in nurturing technical talent and fostering a culture of innovation. Prof. C. Patvardhan, Officiating Director DEI, commended the teams for their creativity, adaptability, and commitment to solving real-world challenges, highlighting DEI's mission to provide holistic education and empower students to excel on national and global platforms.

Faculty/College News

Faculty of Science

Students' Achievement:

Three research scholars of Botany Department, Krishan Kant, Shalu Gupta and Parnika Jindal, participated in the Three-Day National Seminar on 'Good Agricultural Practices of Selected Medicinal Plants' held from 16th to 18th November 2024 at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, in which Krishan Kant and Shalu Gupta were awarded the First Prize for their Posters, entitled 'Boosting Yield Attributes and Vitality in Damask Rose Employing Plant Growth Regulators' and 'Peppermint, Elevated: Turbocharging Active Compounds with Polyamines' respectively.

DEI Technical College

Student's Achievement:



Dhruv Kumar Yadav, First-year Mechanical Engineering, has brought immense pride to the Institute by participating in the prestigious East India Dodge Ball Championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 31st October 2024 to 5th November 2024. Dhruv will be participating next in the Dodge Ball World Cup Tournament scheduled to take place in April 2025 in Washington, USA.

NCC Activities and Achievements

Ninth Blood Donation Camp Organized at DEI Technical College



The NCC Unit of DEI Technical College, Dayalbagh, Agra, led by Capt. Manish Kumar, Company Commander, 7/1 Coy, 1 UP Bn NCC, Agra organized a One-Day Blood Donation Camp on 20th November 2024 at the DEI Technical College Campus. This was the 9th Blood Donation Camp organized by the NCC Unit of DEI Technical College. The Camp was organized with the assistance of Manav Seva Charitable Blood Bank, Khandhari, Agra. A total of 325 units of blood were collected during the day-long Camp.

The Camp was inaugurated by Shri V.P. Malhotra, Principal, DEI Technical College. Other dignitaries who visited the camp included Prof. Anand Mohan, Registrar DEI, and Sub. Maj. Baldev Singh, 1 UP Bn NCC, Agra. Sub-Maj Baldev Singh expressed happiness at the tremendous response the Camp had generated among the members of the Institute. A 'Nukkad Natak' on the importance of Blood Donation was also performed during the Camp.

Cleaning Drive at the Yamuna Riverbank Organized

On 9th December 2024, the NCC Unit of DEI organized a One-Day Water Body Cleaning Drive at the Yamuna riverbank near the Pontoon Bridge, Nagla Chhatura, Agra. The initiative aimed at raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness by actively demonstrating the cause and chanting self-composed slogans. During the drive, cadets interacted with passersby, informing them about the significance and benefits of maintaining clean, plastic-free water bodies. A total of seventy cadets, comprising both boys and girls, enthusiastically participated in the event under the supervision of their officers. This effort was a step towards promoting environmental consciousness and encouraging the community to take collective responsibility for preserving natural resources.

Notable Achievements of NCC Cadets:

- UO Kriti Nautiyal, a 3rd-year NCC cadet, has been conferred with the DG Commendation 2024, the most prestigious award for a cadet in the NCC, recognizing her dedication and outstanding performance. In addition, she has been declared 'the Best Cadet' (SW) of the Uttar Pradesh Directorate, further highlighting her exemplary contributions and leadership in the NCC. These achievements reflect her commitment to excellence and serve as an inspiration for her fellow cadets.
- A team comprising CDT Dhruv Dev and CDT Rishank Rana, 2nd-year NCC Cadets, represented the Agra Group in the Inter-Group Quiz Competition and secured 1st place at the Uttar Pradesh Directorate level. Furthermore, CDT Dhruv Dev was felicitated with the prestigious 'Chief Minister's Silver Medal' in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the NCC. These accomplishments underscore the cadets' dedication, teamwork, and excellence, bringing pride to their Unit and the Agra Group.



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

From the Coordinator's desk

Nature, the famous British Scientific Journal has picked Kolkata as India's Science Capital for the year 2024, based on Research Papers generated during 2023, according to a report in the *Sunday Times of India* of Dec. 15, 2024, by Prithvijit Mitra et al. Kolkata ranks 84 globally, ahead of Bengaluru (85), Mumbai (98), New Delhi (124) and Hyderabad (184). What bodes well for Kolkata's future in basic science is that its Researchers have contributed more to Natural Science and Health-Science journals than those in cities like Edinburgh, Helsinki, Geneva, and Frankfurt which already have a formidable reputation for research.



The global report for 2024 presented by *Nature* contains interesting and useful information. Some excerpts from the global report are presented below:

- China's research output continues to grow rapidly in 2024 with Beijing maintaining its position as the top Science City of the world according to the latest 'Nature Index global Science City' rankings.
- Chinese capital has reinforced its leadership in this ranking and is followed by Shanghai which has overtaken New York. The *Nature* Index data has revealed a significant shift this year with half of the top 20 cities now in China.
- Perhaps the more interesting development in the scientific cities this year is the clear emergence of Chinese provincial capitals. The engines driving China's success are its cities. Government initiatives to attract foreign researchers, and entice Chinese researchers to return home, are helping to boost China's performance in innovation areas as are incentives for Universities and research institutes to apply for patents and more industry collaboration. Today China leads the world in patent applications numbers picking up four times more AI-related patents than the US in 2022. Chinese cities are playing a key role in the development of specialist technologies such as Solar Energy. China accounts for more than half of the Electric cars sold globally.
- It would be prudent to note that how 'Made in China 2025' helped supercharge Scientific development in China's cities. The Policy has boosted Technology transfer and economic growth in some regions.
- As a part of this 'Made in China' initiative, China sets itself the goal of becoming 70% self-reliant across key industries. Many of its targets have been met particularly in the areas of Renewable Energy and Bio pharmaceuticals.
- China's universities have been fundamental to achieving its 'Made in China 2025' goals. They supply the talent and expertise that its high technology industries need.

The above Ranking exercise done by *Nature* suggests that the country's economic growth can be attributed predominantly to its focus on education – in particular higher education, which helps to develop a workforce with practical skills and a variety of talents. For this, the universities' curriculum should be designed such that it can supply the talent and expertise that the high-tech industry needs. Another important point made by the study is that the development process must cover all parts of the country for maximum utilization of its available human resource and therefore it must be ensured that all its provinces or states should develop to the maximum possible extent.

(Prof. V.B. Gupta)

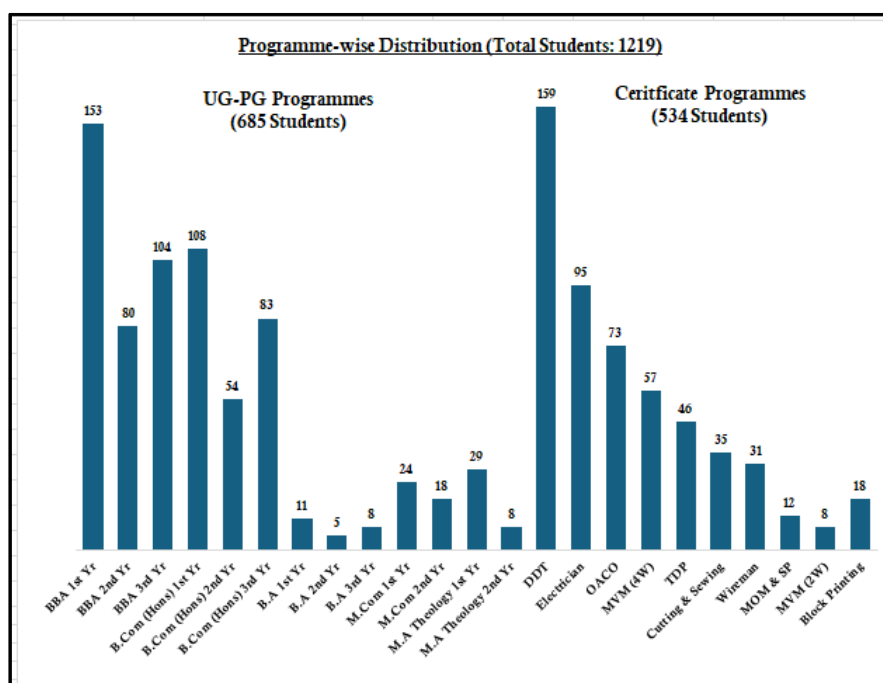
Data on Student Enrolment and Student Profile in the Online & Distance Education Programme of DEI for the 2024-25 Session

During the 2024-25 session, while the UG/PG degree level UGC-entitled Online Programmes have been offered in the supervised Online Mode, the Certificate Courses are being conducted in the Offline Mode, as had been the practice for the past several years.

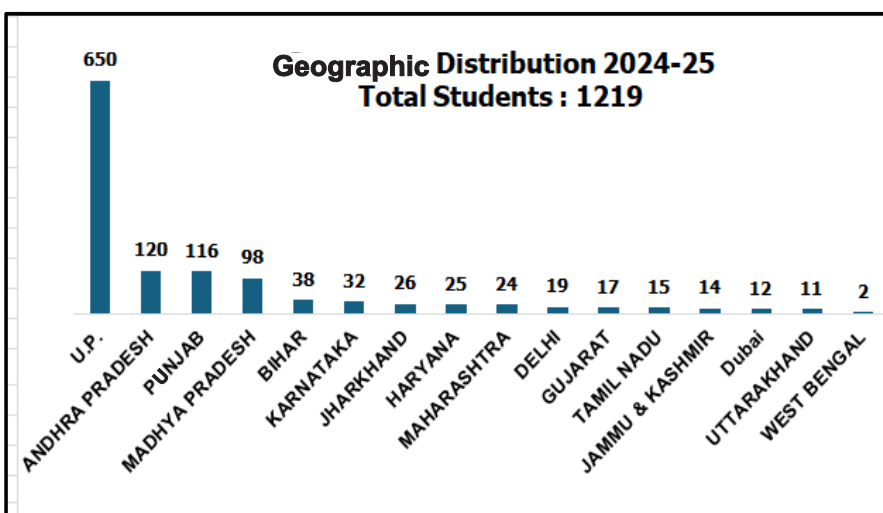
The total student enrolment in the 2024-25 session was 1219 out of which 685 students were enrolled in UG and PG degree level programmes and 534 students in certificate level programmes including one Stand-alone modular programme. The data on student enrolment is presented below in terms of programme-wise and geographic distribution followed by the data on student profile in terms of category, area and gender.

A. Student Enrolment:

Programme-wise	
BBA 1st Yr	153
BBA 2nd Yr	80
BBA 3rd Yr	104
B.Com (Hons) 1st Yr	108
B.Com (Hons) 2nd Yr	54
B.Com (Hons) 3rd Yr	83
B.A 1st Yr	11
B.A 2nd Yr	5
B.A 3rd Yr	8
M.Com 1st Yr	24
M.Com 2nd Yr	18
M.A Theology 1st Yr	29
M.A Theology 2nd Yr	8
DDT	159
Electrician	95
OACO	73
MVM (4W)	57
TDP	46
Cutting & Sewing	35
Wireman	31
MOM & SP	12
MVM (2W)	8
Block Printing	18

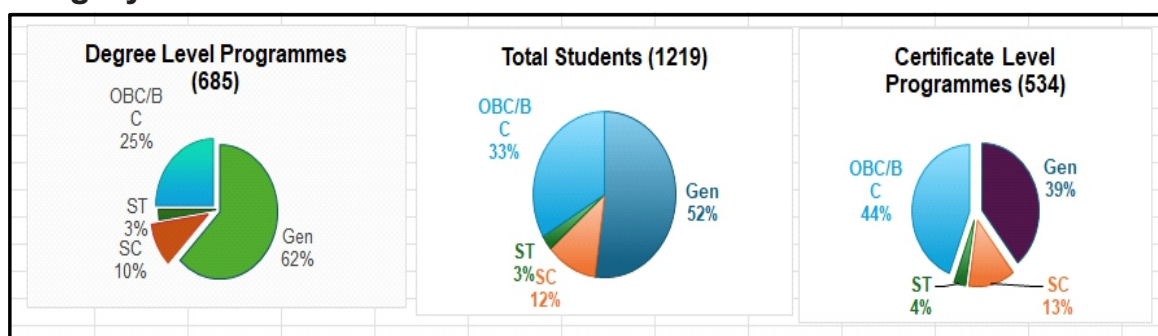


Geographic Distribution	
U.P.	650
ANDHRA PRADESH	120
PUNJAB	116
MADHYA PRADESH	98
BIHAR	38
KARNATAKA	32
JHARKHAND	26
HARYANA	25
MAHARASHTRA	24
DELHI	19
GUJARAT	17
TAMIL NADU	15
JAMMU & KASHMIR	14
Dubai	12
UTTARAKHAND	11
WEST BENGAL	2

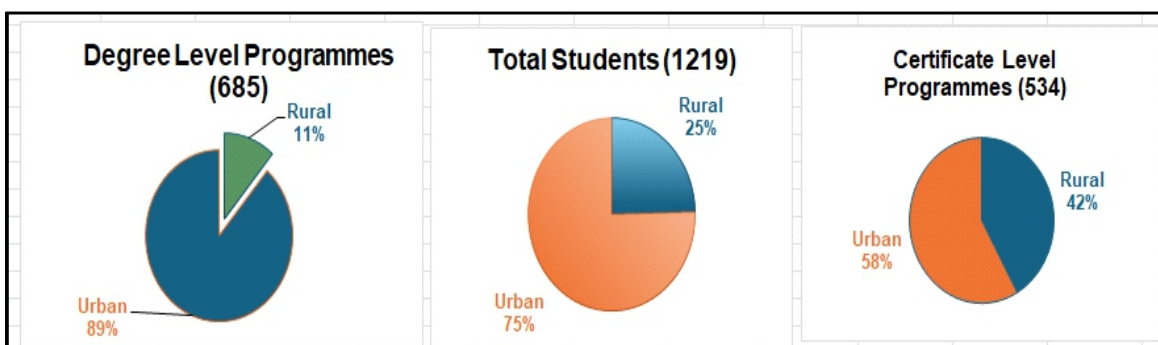


B. Student Profile:

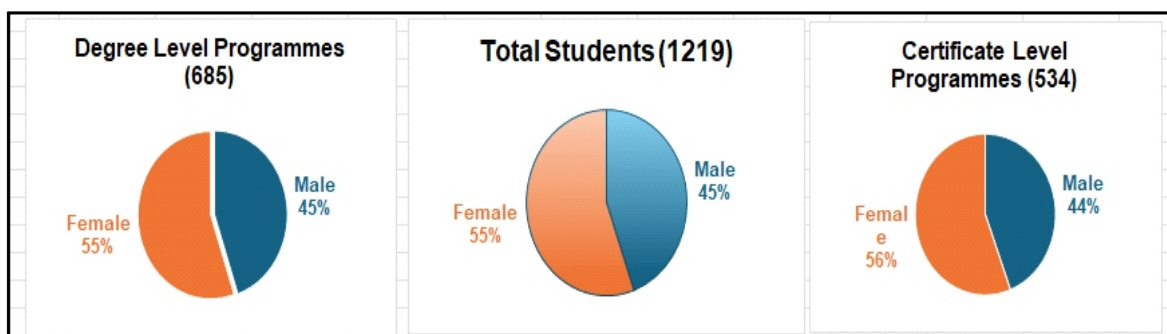
a) Category-wise



b) Area-wise



c) Gender-wise



Regarding the student enrolment distribution in degree-level and certificate-level programmes shown above, the following noteworthy observations can be made:

- The certificate-level programmes have a relatively higher enrolment of reserved category students.
- The certificate-level programmes have significantly more students from rural areas.
- The gender distribution in both degree-level and certificate-level programmes is a Vindication of our efforts in promoting women empowerment.

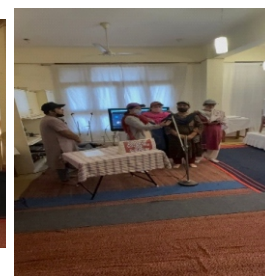
Observations (a) and (b) above are consistent with our general experience viz. that certificate-level programmes have a relatively higher number of reserved category students and a significantly higher number of students from rural areas. They confirm that the constituencies for the degree and certificate-level programmes are well-defined. Observation (c) shows a higher-than-usual number of female students (usually it is 40%) which is a welcome trend.

News From the Centres

Report on Innovation, Quality & Valuation Day 2024 at DEI Centres

Innovation, Quality & Valuation Day 2024 was celebrated by the **Bangalore Centre** of DEI on 31st October 2024 for the eleventh consecutive Year successfully. It was organised in Hybrid Video Mode after the Video transmission of the function from Dayalbagh. The Programme started with the University Prayer followed by a brief Welcome Speech by Centre In-Charge Prof TVSN Murty. It was followed by

two interesting and informative presentations on "Golden Era of AI" by Mr Vinesh Chohan and "GIVE BACK " by Mr Saurabh Srivastav which were well received by the audience. Towards the end, Mr Sahej Grover delivered the Vote of Thanks. The occasion was befittingly celebrated among faculty members, students, and the members of the Satsang community of the Bangalore Branch.



Janakpuri Information Centre, Mitraon, Delhi, started its operations on 15th August 2024. This was the Centre's first time to celebrate Innovation, Quality, Value (IQV) Day. Students and all faculty members, with their families, were invited. Students displayed their artistic skills with a colourful and beautiful display of Rangoli at the entrance, adding to the festivities. The programme started with a prayer followed by a Welcome Speech by Shri. Pramod Talwar, Mentor of OACO Course. He greeted all present and briefly explained the meaning of IQV.



Shri. Rakesh Kumar CIC, appraised the gathering on the education policy of DEI, and its three cornerstones -Innovation, Quality and Valuation. He further explained its linkage with the Vision and Mission Statement of DEI. For the benefit of the guests, he shared the details of Vocational Certificate Courses being offered at the three Information Centres in Delhi and the present status of the OACO Course running at Janakpuri Centre. This was followed by a Short Talk by Shri. Uday Sharan on 'Value based education system'. As part of the celebration, a competition was held to complete 15 Hindi Phrases within two minutes for parents and students. They participated in this competition wholeheartedly and with great fervour. Different age groups of children enjoyed different games like Pyramid Building (age 3-5 years) and Suspended Tennis Ball game (age 5 and above). An Origami class was also held by Shri. Pramod Talwar which captivated the students' interest. It was a hands-on, practical and skill-based learning for the children. Students and their guardians were also prompted to offer feedback on their experience in association with the Information Centre, which was quite encouraging. Light refreshments were also served to all. This provided an opportunity for everyone to mingle and interact with each other on a personal level.

Celebrating Tribal Leaders: Honouring the Legacy of Birsa Munda

The government of India embarked upon a nationwide initiative on "Spreading Knowledge & Awareness about great Tribal leaders." Janakpuri Information Centre, Mitraon, Delhi, organized a momentous event on 24th November 2024 to celebrate and showcase the life of one of the most revered tribal leaders, Birsa Munda, who belonged to the Munda tribe in Chhota Nagpur in Jharkhand. He was a folk hero, a symbol of tribal resistance, and led a rebellion



movement against the colossal colonial British Empire. He made a remarkable contribution towards the Indian freedom struggle. The presentation in the form of a Skit highlighted Birsa Munda's life from childhood to an activist who inspired his community to fight for their rights and freedom from the oppressing British rule. This left an indelible impression and an awakening to follow his legacy. On the management's initiative, the whole event was conceived, led and guided by a faculty member, Smt. Alka Talwar. A Skit was envisaged on the model of a Street play as it is a popular form of art among tribal folks. All the students had a role to play and performed outstandingly, considering that it was their first stage appearance. Students took part with enthusiasm and dressed up in the tribal style. The Street play concluded with the popular slogans of the Independence Movement, "अंग्रेजों भारत छोड़ो" and "भारत माता की जय". A *Bhajan* in praise of God was sung by one student in a melodious voice. The audience consisted of parents, faculty members and families. The programme also included Indian tribal/folk dances by the students. The whole programme spanning over thirty-five minutes was well appreciated by one and all.

Section C: DEI Alumni (AADEIs & AAFDEI)

From the Editor's desk

The Chandogya Upanishad, VII, 26, 2. says, *Ahara Suddhau Sattvasuddih*, which translates as. 'From purity of food, comes purity of mind'. This timeless wisdom firmly establishes the irrevocable bond between food and life itself. The environmental, ethical and health benefits of a lacto-vegetarian diet can no longer be denied. As the world gradually evolves towards vegetarianism, our chances of overcoming the problem of global hunger improve. At Dayalbagh, cooperative agroecology is practiced regularly in two shifts, one in the morning and the other in the evening. This is today an essential and integral part of the Dayalbagh way of life - based on innovation, in harmony with Nature, with judicious use of resources, self-sufficiency, a philosophy of simple living and high thinking, establishing the ideal of better worldliness and a health care habitat. When the Dayalbagh Dairy Farm was formally established in 1929, His Holiness Huzur Sahabji Maharaj, was pleased to explain its purpose in His inaugural address:

"We hold that milk, curd and butter are the best and the most beneficial articles of diet for the people of this country. By using those, a man not only keeps the best of health, but also a clear brain and pure heart, is able to understand subtle things and can perform spiritual exercises with great ease....."

All through the years the Dairy farm/Gaushala has been operating 24X7X365, catering to the milk requirements of Dayalbagh colony and students studying in Dayalbagh Institutions. Today the Dayalbagh Gaushala is home to cows, buffaloes, goats and camels. Coupled with the healthy organic produce from the Dayalbagh farms and fields, the community feels blessed to partake of a healthy diet based on organic produce from the Dayalbagh farms and fields, sanctified by the All Merciful Presence of the Supreme Father.

We look forward to your comments and contributions at aadeisnewsletter@gmail.com!

Sustainability Cup 2024: A Report

Apurva Narayan

Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario, Canada

The first friendly cricket match - the 'Sustainability Cup' powered by the support of International Centre for Applied Systems Science for Sustainable Development (ICASSSD), was held on December 8, 2024 in the heart of London, Ontario - fondly known as the Forest City, which is also the home to the renowned University of Western Ontario. The event was supported by The Dayalbagh Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Satsang Association of North America (DRSANA) through its Toronto Branch (located in Cambridge, ON approximate 99km from London, ON). The match was more than just a contest between two teams, it was a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to protect our planet. What took the event beyond the realms of the physical universe was our opportunity to hold this game in the presence of our Supreme Father, Waqt/Present Sant Satguru, Most Revered Professor Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab and Most Respected Rani Sahiba.

Founded in 1878, the University of Western Ontario - a global leader in education and research, is ranked no. 1 in Sustainability in Canada by Times University Ranking. ICASSSD in collaboration with Prof. Apurva Narayan, Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario and Dayalbagh Educational Institute is at present hosting around 4 graduate students and 1 post-doctoral fellow pursuing research to create dynamic sustainable solutions towards sustainability in lines with the Dayalbagh Way of Life. ICASSSD also boasts of hosting an annual research school on developing dynamic sustainable solutions for UG/PG and High school students.



The event began with the March Past by all *Veeranganas* of the Toronto Branch (age 13 years and

above). The parade was commanded by Ami Satsangi, followed by Pbn. Daya Kumar holding the flag of ICASSSD high. Sumira Allamraju and Daras Satsangi followed next, upholding the flags of India and Canada respectively, and the rest of the parade followed.

The players were encouraged by an exhilarating cultural performance by the Supermen of Toronto Branch which included a beautiful dance and energetic display of gymnastics on the song 'लहरा दो, दृढ़ विश्वास का परचम लहरा दो.....'.



Highlights of the Match :

- 8 - over limited friendly Cricket match.
- The captains of the teams 'Nature' and 'Ecology' were Pb. Anil Suravarapu and Pb. Rohan Kapoor respectively.
- Team 'Ecology' won the toss and chose to bat first, finally scoring 54 runs for 6 wickets.
- Man of the Match: Pb. Suryakant Sassan scored 15 runs from 7 balls, and took 1 wicket.
- Best Batsman: Pb. Nitin Narad, scored 19 runs which were the maximum runs scored by any batsman in the match.
- Best Bowler: Pb. Dinesh Saini, took 4 wickets in 1 over.
- Best Fielder: Pb. Uday Devulapalli, prevented 4 boundaries including 4s and 6s
- Pb. Arsh Chowdhry was the wicket keeper and did two run outs.
- Team 'Ecology' won the game, with the team 'Nature' scoring 47 runs for 1 wicket in 8 overs.



The event was attended by 70 people including Mr Sam Chopra, President, South Asians in Ontario (a Non-profit organization). The commentators PB. Rajan Sharma and PBn. Runjhun Saran Narayan enthusiastically engaged the audience throughout the game. The audience encouraged the players with energetic chants of 'Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi' multiple times throughout the match. The Mahila Association of Toronto branch zealously prepared snacks, made from mustard leaves and meals for all attendees, which were served in boxes made from biodegradable sustainable material. The Sustainability trophy and prizes were selected and presented to the players by the Branch Secretary of Toronto branch, PBn. Usha Sharma.



The highlight of the event was when Most. Revered Professor Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab inquired about the statistics of the game and was pleased to remark that three awards be given: for the Best Batsman, Best Bowler and Best Fielder. HE was pleased to remark at the end “Keep it up! Win, Win, All the Way”. The entire stadium echoed “Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi” in full fervor and enthusiasm. The Merciful Blessing of the Supreme Father filled the audience and the players with spiritual energy to remain steadfast in the service of mankind under the leadership of the Supreme Father Most Revered Prof. Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab.



Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi

Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Satsang Sabha Gaushala: Promoting Lacto-vegetarianism

Prakhar Mehra

MBM Batch 2002, B Com (Hons) Batch 2000, DEI

Currently, Sewak (Manager), RSS Gaushala Dayalbagh, AADEIs Lifetime Member

Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Satsang Sabha Gaushala was established in the year 1926 and is currently abode to over 1060 cows and buffalos, 53 goats and 12 camels. It is a unique model of community participation wherein Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Deemed to be University, Agricultural Operations and Animal Husbandry exist together, all supported by the community. Gaushala Livestock, and people who render selfless service here, are truly blessed with the Merciful visits of Most Revered Gracious Huzur and Most Respected Rani Sahibaji, Who are true source of energy for all of us undertaking this service to animals and community.

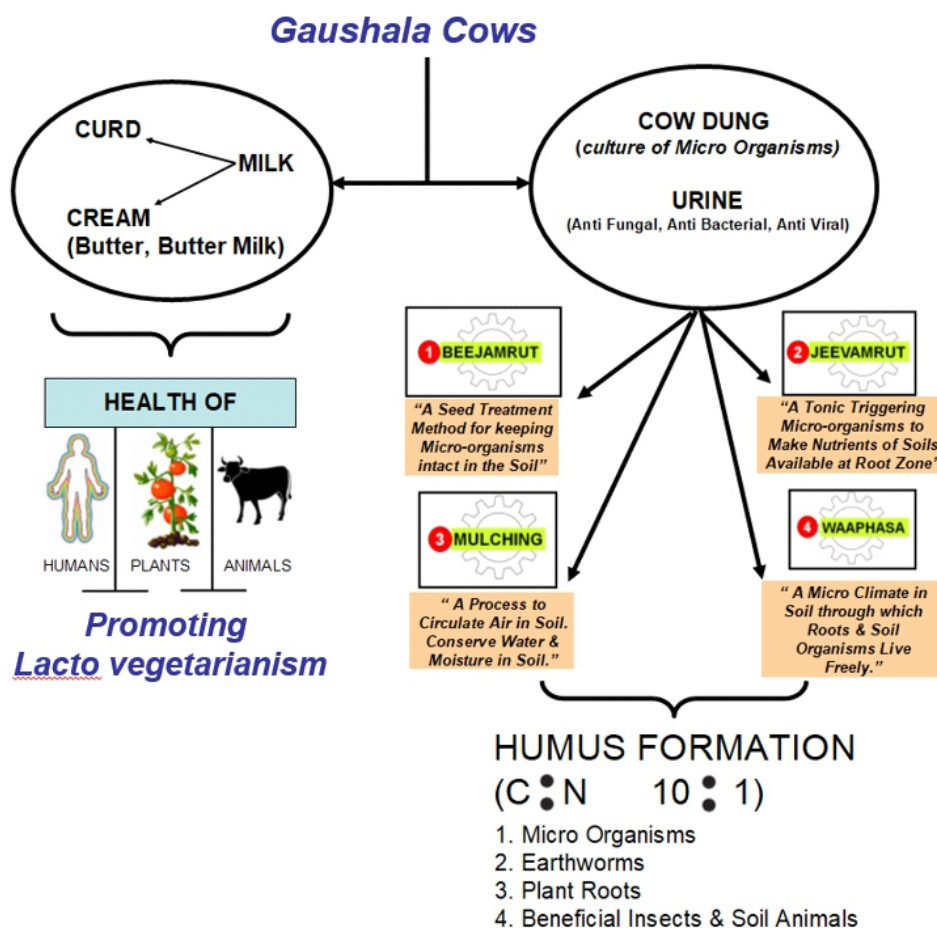
Gaushala provides milk, which is the elixir of life, to the community and the institutions of Dayalbagh. Milk is provided at an affordable price of Rs 18/ltr for toned milk. The cow dung and urine are used as compost and for preparing ingredients for Natural Farming practices which enable Chemical Free farming on every inch of the Dayalbagh land.

Gaushala operates on scientific principles, modern techniques and blends Ancient Wisdom around the four key pillars of Breeding, Feeding, Health & Hygiene and Facilities Management. Music Therapy by playing the Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Chant, daily grazing of milking herd for exercising, identifying names of cattle along with sensors for activity monitoring, providing data



analytics, hot milk for superhuman children and field volunteers in the morning at khet, nutrition planning and milk which contains cow, buffalo, goat and camel milk and that too at less than 1/3rd of the market rate affordable to the last, the least, the lowest and the lost, are a few of examples which make the Gaushala unique.

Over the last decade, Gaushala has aligned to the Sigma Six IQV&A Model of Dayalbagh Way of Life, which has been shaped by Most Revered Gracious Huzur. And therefore, Gaushala has made efforts to contribute towards Innovation, Air Quality, Water Quality, Education, Agricultural & Dairying Operations & Women Empowerment.



Milk from Gaushala is the key source of protein and other valuable vitamins and minerals promoting lacto-vegetarianism. Sustained milk production from cows, buffalos, camels and goats ensures high quality milk availability without putting strain on the resources. The Natural Farming practices, being adopted for cultivation of crops without the use of fertilizers, are solely undertaken using ingredients like cow dung and urine. Samadhi Khaad received 6-8 months after burial of one cow has potential to provide micro nutrients for 6 acres of land.

Hence, Gaushala plays an integral part of the Dayalbagh Eco- Health Care habitat. The sustained milk production and farming practices have the potential for wide scale implementation to promote lacto-vegetarianism through which 12 billion people can be fed by 2050.

Initiating Research on Lacto-Vegetarianism in Literary Studies

Gurpyari Bhatnagar

PhD, MA English (Batch 1996), Dayalbagh Educational Institute

Presently, Associate Professor, English, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sharda University; Mentor, BBA Online Program, Noida Information Centre



As a faculty of English Literature, when I came across the recent call for article on lacto-vegetarianism by the chief editor of AADIs/AAFDEIs section, I was drawn to reflect on this subject in the context of literature. It was quite interesting to discover that vegetarianism emerged as a significantly under-researched theme in English literature. This reflection, though initially disheartening, revealed a fascinating research gap and more importantly, an opportunity for literary inquiry.

As a scholar of English Literature, classical philosophers have always interested me. However, it is only now that I discovered that Pythagoras was the first philosopher in the West to advocate vegetarianism. He gave three arguments in favour of vegetarianism. First, animals like humans have souls. Secondly, killing animals and consuming meat defiles the soul and hence, prevents the union of the soul with the Divine. And thirdly, eating flesh makes humans aggressive and engage in war against one another. Likewise, in Plato's 'Republic', Socrates suggests that in order for an ideal polis, humans and animals need to coexist harmoniously, and hence people need to advocate vegetarianism.

While the philosophy of vegetarianism holds a significant place with Romantic poets like Shelley and Byron too, unfortunately, it is an often-overlooked aspect of Romanticism. Shelley describes natural diet as free from animal flesh in his text, 'A Vindication of Natural Diet', where he contends it to be essential for both physical and spiritual well-being. He notes, "The advantage of a reform in diet is obviously greater than any other. It strikes at the root of the evil... Every man forms, as it were, his god from his own character to the divinity of one of simple habits, no offering would be more acceptable than the happiness of his creatures." (1884, p.24)

There are more instances like the above in English Literature, but they are rare and scattered. As a matter of fact, google search reveals very few comprehensively researched texts in this area. One notable example is Theophilus Savva's 'Vegetarianism and Veganism in Literature from the Ancients to the 21st Century', recently published by Cambridge University Press. Similarly, the only significant repository of articles that I encountered during my research is the biannual journal, 'Animal Ethics' that, though not exclusively related to Literature, presents a public debate on this subject. The lack of attention to this significant subject underscores the need to explore it further in English Literature. This subject can be explored at the intersection of theories like systems theory, cultural theory or ecocritical framework, lending newer and fresh perspectives to the texts. In sum, by introducing lacto-vegetarianism to literary studies, research can most definitely explore how literature both mirrors and shapes values.

Besides, being a member of the Dayalbagh community, lacto-vegetarianism holds spiritual significance for me; I have grown up watching how this practice connects the members of our community to ethical and sustainable living. So, today, as I reflect as an educator-- I feel, my personal connection to the values of lacto-vegetarianism, rooted in the Dayalbagh way of life-- can help engage my students create meaningful conversations around this subject in literature.

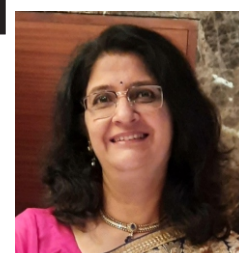
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Lacto Vegetarianism- Nurturing Nature and Humanity

Priya Singh

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In Dayalbagh, the Garden of the Merciful,
Life is vibrant, serene and blissful.
Air and water quality are maintained,
The beauty of nature is also retained.

Through Agro Ecology, organic crops grow,
A Lacto vegetarian diet everyone follows,
Fresh Milk, dairy, fruits and vegetables,
Make all the inhabitants strong and able.

This diet is a very balanced one,

Giving the right nutrition to everyone.
Nature, flora, fauna are all protected
Humans with nature are beautifully
connected

This diet nourishes Sant Superhuman race
Making them strong for challenges to face,
When in the world, strife will be plenty,
They will spread peace and harmony,
Bringing a new world order in humanity

Reader Response Section

Agroecology: Farming with Nature, Powered by Science

Sree Prabha S

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I found the articles on agroecology in the prior issue quite fascinating. I truly agree with the perspectives of the readers shared. Indisputably, agroecology is an eco-friendly farming approach that focuses on using natural methods to grow food. It avoids chemicals and relies on practices like crop rotation, composting, and organic farming to keep the land healthy. The goal is to work with nature, not against it.

What makes agroecology unique is the combination of traditional farming wisdom with modern science. Farmers can use both to develop local, sustainable solutions. One important tool is Precision Farming, which uses technology like drones, sensors, and global positioning system (GPS) to track crop growth, water use, and soil health. This boosts food production, saves resources, and helps farmers make smarter decisions.

Agroecology also helps tackle major global challenges like food crisis. By improving soil health and making farming more resilient to climate change, it can increase food production where it is needed most. In the end, agroecology helps feed more people, protect the environment, and build a more sustainable future for everyone.

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