



# DEI MONTHLY NEWS

**"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."**



**— Franklin D Roosevelt**

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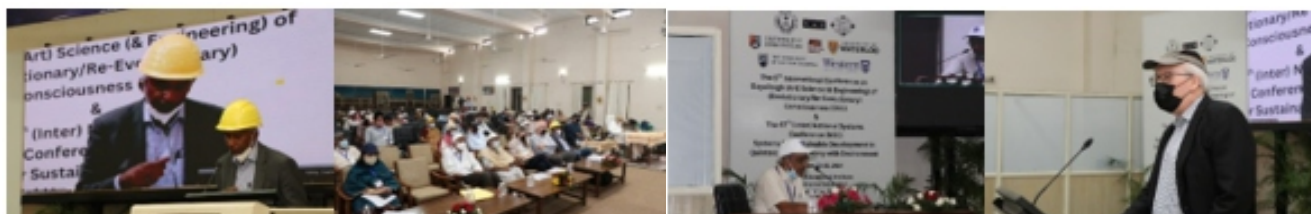
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## Section A : DEI

### **The 6th International Conference on Dayalbagh (Art) Science (& Engineering) of (Evolutionary/Re-Evolutionary) Consciousness (DSC) and 47th (Inter) National Systems Conference (NSC) Systems for Sustainable Development in Quintessential Harmony with Environment (23-25 September 2024)**



The 6th International Conference on Dayalbagh (Art) Science (& Engineering) of (Evolutionary/Re-Evolutionary) Consciousness (DSC) and 47th (Inter) National Systems Conference (NSC): Systems for Sustainable Development in Quintessential Harmony with Environment, commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 in Hybrid Mode. The DSC 2024 was organized by a consortium of seven universities, namely Dayalbagh Educational Institute, (Deemed to be University) (DEI), Dayalbagh, Agra-282005, UP, India, Kiel University (CAU), Germany, the University of Birmingham, UK, the University of Waterloo in Canada, Western University in Ontario, Canada, the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and Arizona State University, USA. The NSC was organized by Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Deemed to be University, (DEI), Dayalbagh, Agra, India in collaboration with the Systems Society of India (SSI). Both conferences had Revered Professor Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab as the Chief Patron.

The Inaugural Talk was delivered by Prof. C. Patvardhan, Officiating Director, DEI and Prof. Sarup Rani Mathur, Arizona State University, USA chaired the Session. This was followed by the Vision Talk by Revered Professor Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Education (a non-statutory body serving as a Think-Tank for DEI), Dayalbagh Educational Institute, (Deemed to be University), Dayalbagh, Agra-282005, UP, India. The Vision Talk dealt with the 'Power-Law of Meditational Consciousness: Integrating Stimulus and Sensation' in which 'the Rudimentary Modelling Framework for Cosmic Domains' was illustrated with an ISM Model. A 'Diagrammatic Representation of Brain Apertures in the Context of Ultra- Transcendental Referential Points during Meditational Practice of Surat Shabda Yoga' was also included in the Talk. Prof. Anand Srivastav, Kiel University, Germany chaired the Session. In the Forenoon Session, there was a DSC Keynote Talk by Prof. Pami Dua, Senior Professor and Former Director, of Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi, India. She spoke on "Lifestyle for Sustainable Development: Insights from the Dayalbagh Model". This was followed by NSC Plenary Talks by Prof. Aaditeshwar Seth, IIT Delhi, New Delhi, India, on the topic, "Initial Attempts at a Systems-based Modeling of Watersheds Using Remote Sensing Data" and by Prof. Shalabh Bhatnagar, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India, on the topic, "An Introduction to Reinforcement Learning".

The Afternoon Session of the Conference included Invited Talk by Dr. Dayal Pyari Srivastava, DEI on the topic, "Consciousness as a Quantum Phenomenon", followed by an Invited Talk by Mrs. Prem Pyari Dayal, DEI, entitled, "Karmas and the Necessity of the Sant Satguru of the Time to Attain Salvation" and a Talk by Dr. Bani Dayal Dhir, DEI, on the topic, "Toward True Liberation: An Analysis of Huzur Sahabji Maharaj's Play *Swarajya*." This Session was chaired by Prof. Andrew Davies, Edward Cadbury Centre, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK. The Day came to an end with two DSC Keynote Talks. The first Talk was by Prof. Andrew Davies, Edward Cadbury Centre, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK, and Dr. Juhi Gupta, University of Birmingham, UK & Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, UP, India, on the topic, "The Role of Women in Consciousness Studies" with Prof. C. Vasantha Lakshmi, DEI, in the chair. The second Keynote Talk was presented by Prof. Joy Sen, IIT Kharagpur, Department of

Architecture and Regional Planning, Midnapore Sadar, India. He deliberated on, “Science of Controls and Communication in Consciousness Studies: Key Inputs from Cybernetics and Systems Thinking” with Prof. Sukhdev Roy, DEI, as the Chair.

The second day began with the Keynote Address by Professor Amy Chapman from Columbia University, New York, USA. She spoke on “Spirituality Mind Body Cluster: Nurturing Spirituality in Adolescents and Emerging Adults for Mental Health and Well-being,” with the session chaired by Professor Saroop Rani Mathur. During the 'DSC Young Researchers Forum' that followed, two invited talks were conducted via Zoom. Dr. Ami Kumar from Irving Medical Center, Columbia University, presented her discussion on the topic, “Physiological Biomarkers for Cognitive Dysfunction in Neurological Disorders,” while, Dr. Apoorva Ratan Murthy from Georgia Institute of Technology discussed the topic, “Towards the Scientific Study of Human Subjective Experience.” Prof. Gursaran from Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI) also contributed to this Session as the Chair. Later, a guided tour of DEI and the ecovillage of Dayalbagh was organized, leaving the participants impressed by its sustainable initiatives. The Afternoon Session featured another Keynote Talk by Prof. Rocco Gennaro from the University of Southern Indiana on “Buddhist Eliminativism,” chaired by Professor Pami Dua from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. In the subsequent 'DSC Young Researcher Forum' Session, Dr. Aarat Kalra from IIT Delhi delivered a talk on “Triple Energy Migration in the Cytoskeleton,” followed by Melina Seidel from the University of Kiel, Germany, who presented her Talk on the topic, “Seeing the Brain Think.”

The day also included presentations on 'Energy and Environmental Systems' and 'Agriculture, Dairy, and Healthcare Systems,' followed by a Poster Session and several contributed talks chaired by Prof. Sona Ahuja from DEI. The Keynote Talks during the evening included the Presentations of Prof. Wolfgang J. Duschl from the University of Kiel on “Direction and Length of the Arrow of Time” and Herbert Lang of the German-Indian Society on “Nadabrahma, Nadayoga, Nadopasana – Sound as Contemplation of God.” The Final Session of the day featured talks by Prof. Adrian Owen and Prof. Yalda Mohsenzadeh from Western University, Canada, and Prof. Anna Margaretha Horatschek from Kiel University, Germany, on topics related to consciousness and brain function.

The final day of the Conference started with two sessions of the NSC-contributed oral talks on 'Education, Literary and Social Systems' and 'Information and Communication Systems' followed by the Keynote Address by Prof. Sukhdev Roy from DEI on “Controlling the Mind, Brain, and Heart with Light and Sound: Eastern and Western Perspectives”. In the DSC Young Researcher Forum, Dr. Shiroman Prakash from DEI discussed “Consciousness and Contextuality,” exploring the philosophical principles necessary to integrate consciousness into scientific narratives. The day continued with a Felicitation Ceremony, where awards were presented for the best oral and poster papers in various categories.

The Conference concluded with a Panel Discussion on the theme “Art, Science & Engineering of Evolutionary/Re-Evolutionary Consciousness for Sustainable Development.” It highlighted that sustainable Development in Quintessential Harmony with Environment underscores the critical role of systems thinking in understanding and addressing complex global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and social inequities. By focusing on the interconnectedness of human and environmental systems, the Panel Discussion sought to inspire holistic approaches to sustainability. The discussion involved experts from India and abroad, including Shri Gur Saroop Sood, President, DEI and Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh, Prof. Anand Srivastav, University of Kiel, Prof. S.S. Bhojwani, Advisor, Department of Agroecology-cum-Precision Farming, Dayalbagh, and Prof. C. Patvardhan, Officiating Director, DEI, among others. The event wrapped up with a cultural programme by the children of Dayalbagh's Superhuman Evolutionary Scheme, followed by Closing Remarks, a Vote of Thanks, and the Institute Song.

## Springer-Nature India Organizes Book Launch- cum-Presentation Ceremony at DEI





Springer-Nature India, a German-British academic publishing company, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research, began its 30-day research tour on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024, stopping at educational institutions around the country. Aiming to visit 17 cities across 9 states, with a focus on research integrity, Sustainable Development Goals, and equity in research, the tour stopped at the Dayalbagh Educational Institute on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The most significant highlight of the visit was the launch of the Special India Edition of the book entitled, *Consciousness Studies in Sciences & Humanities: Eastern and Western Perspectives*. Recognizing the immense contribution of the Esteemed Editors of the book—Most Revered Prof Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Education (a non-statutory-body, serving as Think-Tank for Dayalbagh Educational Institutions), Prof. Anna Margaretha Horatschek, Former Director, Department of English, Kiel University, Germany and Prof. Anand Srivastava, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Kiel University, Germany, the organizers felicitated them by presenting each of them with a citation and a shawl. The book is another major step towards integrating the spiritual philosophy of the East with scientifically accepted phenomenology, thereby offering a complete and comprehensive perspective. The International Edition of this book was launched on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami, earlier this year.

The ceremony included the recorded excerpts from the Keynote Address delivered by Revered Prof. P.S. Satsangi Sahab at the Inaugural Webinar of the SPHEEHA Global Webinar Series held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and invited talks by dignitaries like Shri. G.S. Sood, President, DEI and Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh, Mr. Venkatesh Sarvasiddhi, Managing Director of Springer Nature India, Prof. C. Patvardhan, Officiating Director, DEI, and Mr. Nick Campbell, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Springer Nature. Ten young female researchers of DEI, namely, Bhakti Prasad, Neetu Chaudhary, Carol Singh, Himani Parihar, Surbhi Sharma, Vidhi Gupta, Sweta Rana, Gunjan, Shivani Sharma, and Swati Satsangi, were also felicitated on this occasion for their worthy contributions to research in their respective domains.

### **Five-Day National Workshop on Experimental Research in Social and Behavioural Sciences**

The Association of Indian Universities-Dayalbagh Educational Institute-Academic and Administrative Development Center (AIU-DEI-AADC) in association with the Faculty of Education, DEI organized a Five-Day *National Workshop on Experimental Research in Social and Behavioural Sciences* from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. The Workshop aimed to give participants a deep understanding of the methodologies, techniques, and ethical



considerations essential for conducting rigorous experimental research. It was tailored to offer comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in experimental research. The course content was comprehensive, featuring ten expertly crafted sessions led by twelve resource persons. A total of 107 participants from diverse locations attended the Workshop, which was conducted in a blended mode.

At the Inaugural Ceremony of the programme, Prof. Jyoti Gogia, Nodal officer of AIU-DEI-AADC, provided a brief overview of the AADC and its functions. Prof. N P S Chandel, Convener of the Workshop, outlined its objectives. Prof. C. Patvardhan, Officiating Director, DEI, was the Chief Guest of the workshop. He emphasized the significance of leveraging technology in research to keep up with the rapid pace of the world. Dr. Anup Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics and Health Informatics, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, delivered the Inaugural Address. He gave a brief introduction to experimental research. The Inaugural Session was coordinated by Dr. Shalini Verma, Co-convener of the Workshop.

The Workshop showcased a group of accomplished resource persons, including Dr. Shraddha Sharma from Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, Dr. Keerti Jain from the Institute of Management Technology, Centre for Distance Learning, Ghaziabad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad from Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi, New Delhi, Prof. Ashok K. Shrivastava, Former Professor & Head, Research Division, NCERT, New Delhi, Prof. Kamaljeet Sandhu, Prof.

Sona Ahuja, Prof. Sunita Malhotra, and Dr. A.P. Tyagi from DEI. Prof. N.P.S. Chandel, Prof. Nandita Satsangi, Prof. Savita Srivastava, Prof. Meenu Singh, Prof. P.S. Tyagi, Prof. Lajwanti, Dr. Sona Dixit, Dr. C.L. Singh and Dr. Arti Singh presided as Session Chairs.

Professor Veera Gupta, Honorary Director of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre and Professor in the Department of Teachers Training and Non-Formal Education at Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, delivered the Valedictory Address. Dr. Shalini Verma presented the Workshop report. The Workshop received an enthusiastic response from the participants.

### Faculty/Office News



Prof. Anand Mohan, Registrar, DEI, was felicitated by the Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, as a Guest of Honour during 'Geology Day Celebrations' on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024. One of its distinguished alumni, and an illustrious contributor as a scientist in Geology, Petrology, and Mineralogy, Prof. Anand Mohan was bestowed with a Shawl, a Citation, and a Memento on this occasion.

Prof. Arvind M. Kayastha, Member of the Governing Body, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Dayalbagh, Agra-282005, and Senior Professor, School of Biotechnology, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University was bestowed with the *Prof. N. Appaji Rao Best Mentor Award 2024* from the Alumni Association of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at IISc Bangalore. This carried a cash prize and a citation given once every three years to a scientist in Biological Sciences who has mentored several young persons to achieve positions of eminence and leadership.

### Faculty of Engineering

Dr. A. Charan Kumari, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, DEI, was invited as a guest speaker at the prestigious Stakeholders' Conclave organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Noida Branch Office, on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024. The event was held at Radisson, Agra, and key participants from government bodies, industry, NGOs, and academic institutions were brought together to discuss vital themes in sustainability and innovation. Dr. Charan Kumari's presentation, titled "The Synergy of AI, SDG 9, and BIS Standards: Driving Innovation and Sustainable Development in Indian Industry," focused on the critical role that artificial intelligence (AI) can play in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9.



### School News

DEI Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Saran Ashram Nagar School, Dayalbagh, hosted two Workshops for Classes Third to Fifth, under the coordination of Mrs. Sherry Arora, one of the school's Teaching Faculty members. The 'English Handwriting Improvement Workshop' was held from September 6<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, followed by a three-day 'Fun with Spelling Rules Workshop' from October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with 34 participants each. Both Workshops fostered mastery of cursive writing and spelling through innovative techniques.



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

# From the Coordinator's desk



I distinctly remember that on Deepavali Day in the year 2013, Most Revered Prof. P.S. Satsangi Sahab, in His address during the morning field work near Radha Nagar directed that henceforth Deepavali Day should be celebrated by DEI as 'Values & Quality Day'. A year later, we reported in our Newsletter of October 2014 that a number of our centres in India and abroad were connected through e-transmission with DEI on Deepavali day and became a part of the celebrations. On that occasion, I wrote in my column.

*The enthusiasm with which the Study Centres responded to our call for observing 23rd Oct, 2014 as Values Day on the pattern of Dayalbagh (which is celebrating 100th year of its foundation), is very welcome. This is perhaps a good way to light the inner lamps which otherwise would lay dormant. In this age and time, the need of the hour is that Values are not only imbibed and practised but also talked about and spread around.*

Around the time of the Corona Virus pandemic in the year 2020, Gracious Huzur directed that this event be re-named 'Innovation, Quality and Valuation Day' and now it is due for celebration on October 31, 2024. Let me attempt to consider these three attributes briefly.

### **Innovation**

In the academic area, several innovative features have been introduced. The blended mode of education, which combines e-education with face-to-face sessions, which are an intrinsic part of our education process, is a tribute to the vision of the Founding Father of the Distance Education Programme of DEI, Prof. P. S. Satsangi Sahab. A number of steps taken at His instance, e.g. alignment of vocational courses with those of NCVT (ITI) courses, modularization of certificate level programmes, daily home assignment system, dual certificate programmes, and many more are all extremely innovative. We run Two-year Wireman and Electrician Courses with the option to exit after one year. We allow lateral entry to distance education certificate-level students in the on-campus diploma programmes. Our distance students in university-level programmes compete with on-campus students for Director's medal and other rewards. The Open Book Examination introduced recently is another example of innovation.

### **High-Quality Study Material**

One of the requirements for recognition of an Institution for offering programmes in the distance mode was that the printed study material will be in the self-learning format, as prescribed by IGNOU.

Accordingly, a three-day workshop on "Development of Self-Instructional Print Material (SIM)" was held in DEI on Nov. 26-28, 2006 in which two resource persons from the Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE), IGNOU, New Delhi, gave a series of seminars on various aspects of this subject. Over 100 participants from DEI and from the various teams which had developed the study material for the programmes being conducted in Study Centres and also those involved in developing course material for courses planned for the future, attended the workshop.

Care was taken to prepare the material with the following characteristics:

- They are written in a simple, easy-to-understand style and language
- The format is designed for self-learning
- The contents are highly focused and do not deviate from the prescribed syllabus
- They contain answers to frequently - asked questions.



## **Values-based Education**

Right from its inception, DEI has paid attention to the inculcation of values in students. The towering structure of DEI stands on the bedrock foundation of innovation provided by the DEI Education Policy formulated by Revered Dr. M. B. Lal Sahab. Revered Prof. P.S. Satsangi Sahab used the Interpretative Structural Model to show that there are 93 elements of values in this model and it is noteworthy that the values specified in the NEP 2020 document are not only mostly present in DEI Education Policy but also how these are inculcated/imbibed with the help of appropriate Aims and Objects, Education System and Organisational policies.

It is often stated that India is a country of the young as 50% of the population is below the age of 25 years and this is often referred to as the demographic dividend. However, it is worth stating that for estimating demographic dividend, a more realistic parameter would perhaps be one that uses the human capital index as a normalisation factor.

I would like to conclude with the following observation of Most Revered Prof. P. S. Satsangi Sahab: *Among the Primary Activities that Dayalbagh carries out, we might list, Spirituality, Education, Agriculture and Healthcare apart from our concern for environment. Also, the education we offer here is distinct from education elsewhere, in being value-based.*

Each activity appearing in the above quote adds to the human capital index and the cumulative contribution of the young population imbibing these elements adds up in the true sense to the demographic dividend. Without these attributes, the vast young population can prove to be a demographic disaster.

**(Prof. V.B. Gupta)**

## **Some Thoughts on Human Capital**

In the 1700s, the Scottish Economist Adam Smith wrote, “The acquisition of ..... talents during.....education, study or apprenticeship costs a real expense, which is capital in a person. Those talents are part of his fortune and likewise that of society.” This description of human capital is still true in 2024.

As per Wikipedia, Human Capital, in a broad sense, is a collection of ..... all the knowledge, skills, abilities, experience, intelligence, training, and competencies possessed individually and collectively.

There are various methods for measuring human capital. For decades studies have used measures of schooling as a proxy for human capital. This is based on the assumption that being in school translates to learning. Evidence emanating from several studies suggests that this is often not the case.

Many theories explicitly connect investment in human capital development to education, and the role of human capital in economic development, productivity, growth and innovation has frequently been cited as a justification for government subsidies for education and job skills training.

*The Times of India* of March 15, 2024 reported that “.....India ranked 134 on a list of 193 countries in 2022 as per the latest UNDP's Human Development Index, it has been further reported that the UNDP Resident Representative in India had issued the following statement:

*“India has shown remarkable progress in human development over the years. Since 1990, life expectancy at birth has risen by 9.1 years; expected years of schooling have increased by 4.6 years, and mean years of schooling have grown by 3.8 years. India's Gross National Income per capita has grown by approximately 287%.”*

Years of schooling and quality of school education appear to play an important role in estimating human capital. Against this backdrop, it may be recalled that the United Nations member states met in the year 2015 and adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030. A mid-term review of the progress made in achieving the targets set for each SD Goal was undertaken on a global scale by the United Nations.

Goal no 4 is related to Quality Education. A review has been done recently to assess the progress made in achieving the 2025 benchmarks by the various components of this goal. The detailed scorecard published by UNESCO shows the following status of progress for India:

- (i) Participation rate in organised learning one year before primary – on track to achieve target



- (ii) Trained Teachers – Pre-primary – Fast progress
- (iii) Overcoming gender gap in completion rate – fast progress
- (iv) School internet Connectivity – Average progress
- (v) Out-of-school rate – lower secondary – slow progress
- (vi) Completion rate – upper secondary – slow progress

Some relevant data on the two important areas in which progress is slow are presented below:

- Class X:  
Dropout Rate in 2021-22 : 20.6%  
Failure Rate : around 15%  
(National Boards 6%, State Boards 16%)
- Class XII:  
Failure Rate : 12% at National Boards  
18% at State Boards

Completion Rate: As per *The Times of India* of July 17, 2024, A bigger worry is the completion rate at the upper secondary level of 51%. It highlights the need for targeted interventions to support students through to the end of secondary education.

It is noteworthy that the President of the National Academy of Sciences of USA, Marcia McNutt in her recent 'State of the Science' address, while lamenting that U.S. was ceding its global scientific leadership to other countries, emphasised that to stop this slippage, the strengthening of foundational STEM (Science, Technology, Engg & Math) education between KG and 12th grade needed utmost attention [1].

In a recent article entitled 'We Should Engineer Better Learning in Our Schools' [2], it is stated that 'U.S. students get very little engineering instruction in their schools and then adds 'In East Boston, the [Bradley School](#) has embraced engineering since 2018. From kindergarten onward, students participate in an innovative engineering-based class that engages them in designing technologies such as shoes at least twice a week. School leaders say this has profoundly improved student motivation and success, including a nine-point increase in students' science scores on the state end-of-year test.'

And then, the author concludes with the following statement: "*Learning engineering fosters children's growth and potential to solve problems (not to mention teaching them persistence, a necessary part of the systematic, iterative process of engineering).*"

**Compiled and Collated by  
Prof. V.B. Gupta, Coordinator, DEP-DEI**

### **References:-**

- [1] S.S. Iqbal, *Scientific American*, August 7, 2024
- [2] Christine [M. Cunningham](#), *Scientific American*, June 18, 2024

### **News From a Centre**

#### **Teachers' Day Celebrations at ICT Centre, Soami Nagar, New Delhi**

Teachers' Day was celebrated with devotion and fervour at the ICT Centre, Soami Nagar, New Delhi. The Birthday celebration of Educationist, Philosopher and Former President of India Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was celebrated with the Institute Prayer followed by a series of devotional songs in the praise of Guru and Lord. The songs highlighted the teacher-student relationship and the significance of the guidance of Guru that helps throughout life. A poem expressing gratitude, respect and indebtedness for Gurus was also recited by one of the students. Teachers, Mentors and Administrators of the Centre also spoke on the occasion in which they praised the hard work of the students of past as well as present Batches.

The programme was planned, organised, executed and supervised by the students of the B. Ed. Programme exclusively. Thereafter, the Centre participated in the telecast of the programme organised at the Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University) at the Dayalbagh Campus, Agra-282005, UP. In the end, Snacks were served to all.



## Section C: DEI Alumni (AADEIs & AAFDEI)

### *From the Editor's desk*

In today's world of intense violence and destruction, there is need to value the earth and its resources, and to reconsider our relationship with Nature. When the English Nature poet Wordsworth wrote, "To me the meanest flower that blows can give/ thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears", he tried to reflect on the most fundamental connection between Nature and that eternal, divine spirit of which we are a part. Even Einstein marvelled at the healing powers of nature and her ability to give solace and peace. Dayalbagh, truly a 'Garden of the Merciful' has developed a sustainable agroecosystem and healthcare habitat in which community participation in agriculture and dairy ensures physical, emotional and spiritual well being. On December 17, 2022, Ms. Usha Vijay Kumar during a visit to Dayalbagh remarked, "Dayalbagh has been an eye opener. I have not seen such a community which lives so much by the basic tenets of Mother Nature".

The Dayalbagh agricultural fields provide not only the benefits of being close to Nature but also a unique opportunity to reinforce the bond that every devotee has with the Sant Satguru (Merciful "Acclaimed" *Waqt*/Present Sant Satguru), who is Present in His benevolent Ever Merciful Form, morning and evening in the fields.

We invite our readers to share their views at [aadeisnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aadeisnewsletter@gmail.com) and look forward to hearing from them!

## From Farms to Firms: Harvesting Life Lessons for Corporate Success

**Sahiba Ummatt**

*BBM (Batch 2014), MBA-Integrated (Batch 2015), DEI*

*Presently, Senior Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - D.E.Shaw, Bangalore*



As an alumnus of Dayalbagh Educational Institute, my fondest memories are of the harvesting season. The philosophy of "development of the complete man" is truly embodied in the fields of Dayalbagh, where we, as students, participated in seva during the paddy harvesting season. I can still recall the sight of my friends and me working in unison, performing "jhadaai," a process that separates grain from straw. It was a fulfilling experience—coming together for a common goal, that brought a deep sense of satisfaction.

Dayalbagh's approach to agriculture is both traditional and modern. Organic farming practices are prioritized, with natural fertilizers like compost replacing chemicals. Everyone, from women to children to the elderly, are given the option to perform tasks according to their abilities, much like how corporate structures are now designed to accommodate people's strengths and learning curves. These principles are not just about farming but about building character. Participating in these activities is not only a lesson in agriculture but a practice in discipline, empathy, and resilience.

One striking parallel between my experiences in Dayalbagh and my corporate journey is how talent is nurtured from a young age. In Dayalbagh, small children are encouraged to participate in harvesting alongside the elders, teaching them resilience, responsibility, and the value of hard work from the very beginning. This preparation mirrors how organizations groom talent at the graduate level, equipping young minds with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in a corporate environment. By nurturing individuals early on, whether in the fields or in professional settings, both Dayalbagh and corporations invest in their future success.

Working in the fields of Dayalbagh profoundly shaped my understanding of the corporate world. In

harvesting, the unpredictability of weather and the constant need for adaptation reflect the ever-changing dynamics of corporate life. Just as the fields demanded flexibility and teamwork, so does the corporate environment. In both spaces, change is inevitable, and resisting it only creates friction. I learned that, much like in the fields, when everyone aligns with the common goal and adapts with a positive attitude, even the toughest challenges become manageable.

In the fields, if I made a mistake, there was always someone to guide me, quite similar to how mentorship in the corporate world fosters growth. Harvesting also taught me the value of holistic development. While physical labor may seem far removed from intellectual work, the mind-body connection fostered through such activities enhances mental clarity, concentration, and stress management. These skills have translated seamlessly into my professional life, helping me maintain focus and balance.

In essence, my experiences in the fields of Dayalbagh gave me a foundation of resilience, adaptability, and teamwork that makes navigating the corporate world smoother. It reminds me that while the corporate and agricultural worlds may seem far apart, they are, in fact, deeply interconnected, both requiring us to grow together toward a common goal.

## Eco-Spirituality

**Dr. Pantula Venkatanaga Srinija**

*Master of Arts (Theology), DEI, Batch 2021*

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Eco-spirituality refers to deep spiritual connections between human beings and the environment. The spiritual connection takes place and persists only when the ecosystem is preserved and taken care of. It is through this care that human beings and the earth they inhabit become interconnected. This holistic relationship underscores the need for mindful stewardship of the planet.

Eco-spirituality is a classical practice existing from the beginning of human life on the planet. Man gained knowledge of himself and his relationship with the universe by observing nature. The biotic and abiotic elements of the environment form the principal basis for the continuity of mankind. Eco-spirituality can only be attained when the actions of human beings are homogenous, guided by a sense of protection for the ecosystem. The spiritual connection between the environment and human beings is beyond the limitations of language. Here thoughts and actions become significant. When a person indulges in spiritual practices that align one's soul with nature, it creates a cycle of mutual enrichment, benefiting both the individual and the ecosystem. The process both nourishes the soul and cherishes the sacredness of the mother earth.

From the pre-historic times, humans worshipped trees, animals and water. We have seen saints attaining enlightenment while meditating in the lap of mother earth. Having spiritual connection with the environment naturally leads to a desire to protect and conserve resources provided by Nature. Spirituality is being good, kind, respectful, disciplined and dutiful.

In the Dayalbagh way of life, the preservation of the environment is integral to daily living, with all elements of nature being actively protected. One can experience the harmony and serenity of the ecological system blended with spiritual activities. Dayalbagh ensures that the quality of air is maintained, measures to improve water quality are regularly taken. This has an amazing influence on the mind. Added to this is value-based life style, innovation, the use of technology to save the environment, enhancing the quality of food through organic farming. At Dayalbagh the members of the community are given an opportunity to participate in agricultural activities, thus, enriching bondage with the most basic element – 'soil'. All flora and fauna are protected and an absolute representation of sustainable relationship between the environment and the humankind can be seen

here. 'SPHEEHA', a dedicated organization imparting environmental awareness, aims to work for the sustainable management of life support ecosystems which serves as a link between environment and spiritual well-being.

In Buddhism, a tree is considered a treasure which nourishes all life forms, symbolizing longevity, health, beauty, and even compassion. Indicating the importance of trees in spiritual upliftment, the citizens of Bhutan celebrated the birth of their newborn prince by planting 108,000 trees, each sealed with a prayer. Though a tiny kingdom, their principles and way of life are an inspiration to those who witness it. Gross National Happiness, a peculiar policy of the country, balances the economic growth with environmental conservation and the wellbeing of its citizens.

Masaru Emoto's experiments with water demonstrated that when exposed to positive vibrations, water forms beautifully symmetrical and perfect crystals. The human body constitutes 60% water and it has the unique quality of carrying energy. The power of elements of nature is enormous and this energy becomes even more powerful when all the elements are strengthened with spiritual connection.

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## Nature's Abundance- Ode to Harvest Time

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Harvest time is here, Harvest time is here,  
Let's celebrate, rejoice and cheer,  
To connect with nature- A blessed  
opportunity,  
And to express Gratitude to the Almighty.

A golden hue adorns the fields,  
All around is a bountiful yield,  
Men and women gather in unison,  
Toiling hard till the harvest is done.

Harvesting they do from dawn to dusk,  
Then threshing begins to remove the husk,  
Paddy, Mustard, lentils, and wheat,  
One by one the crops are reaped.

Children too enjoy connecting with nature,  
Picking strands of grain, they learn to  
nurture,

There's so much vigour and excitement,  
People sing and dance in enjoyment.

Harvest time brings human community  
together,  
Working in unanimity like fellow brothers,  
There, class, caste, creed, doesn't exist,  
Just feelings of joy, peace and bliss.

Fields are a vital landscape on the Earth,  
A source of food, when of it there's a dearth,  
Lacto Vegetarianism lifestyle '1 Billion' do  
follow,

Can feed the '11 Billion' Tomorrow,  
So the grasslands, let's tend and nurture,  
To ensure food security for the future.



## Felicitation Programme at Skill Resource Centre: A Report

Pb Prem Das Satsangi, Secretary, RS Sabha, was invited as Chief Guest for a special programme organized at Skill Resource Centre premises to felicitate its X and XI batches and to award certificates. This event took place on September 25, 2024. Dr S. K Satsangi, President, AADEIs; Prof. Sahab Dass, Chairman AADEIs SRC Coordination Committee; Pb Rajendra Prasad and Pb Soami Das, Members AADEIs Coordination Committee also graced the occasion with their presence. Immediately upon arrival, a video showing glimpses of progress of SRC over the last four years was presented to the



guests. Thereafter the Chief Guest took a round of the premises and examined the items being prepared by the trainees during their training and interacted with the mentors. PBn Vineeta Srivastava, Administrator, SRC introduced the Mentors to the Chief Guest and briefed him about the activities being conducted in various Skill courses. The Certificate Distribution program started with the prayer "Tere Charnon mein.....". Dr Sahab Dass welcomed the guests and introduced the Chief Guest PB Prem Das Satsangi, Secretary RS Sabha. PB Saran Srivastava, Centre In-charge, SRC, presented a report on the brief history and progress of the Skill Resource Centre. So far 319 candidates have completed their training from SRC. Thereafter, certificates were handed over to 60 trainees of X and XI Batch by the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest then addressed the trainees and emphasized upon the utility and benefits of vocational courses. He said that by undergoing vocational training, not only do trainees learn a new skill but it also infuses self- confidence enabling them to achieve their objective in life.



Dr S K Satsangi, President, AADEIs also addressed the gathering and exhorted the trainees to make good use of the skills learnt at SRC by having confidence in their abilities. He also praised the good work being done by the entire Team of SRC which is reflected in the feedback on progress being made by the trainees. The program concluded with several trainees sharing their experiences about the training program. They also thanked their mentors and the entire team of SRC.



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