



# DEI-DEP NEWS

## Science And Spirit

*Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality. When we recognise our place in an immensity of light-years and in the passage of ages, when we grasp the intricacy, beauty, and subtlety of life, then that soaring feeling, that sense of elation and humility combined, is surely spiritual.*



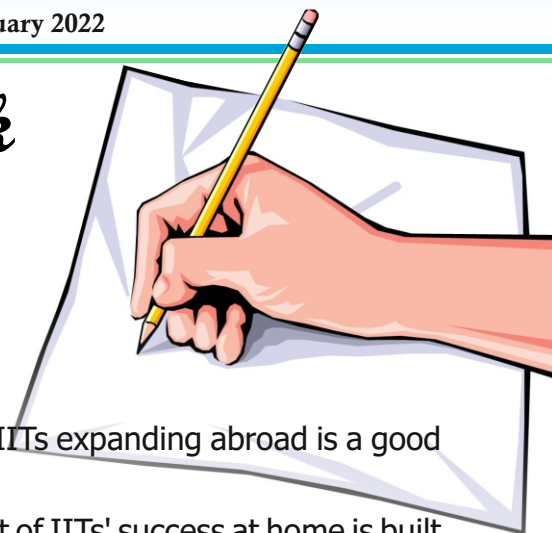
- Carl Sagan

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## *From the Coordinator's desk*

Recently the following headline on an inside page of my Newspaper caught my eye: 'Top Indian Universities, IITs in talks with the U.K. to open outposts for British students' (Times of India, February 16, 2022). The proposal also envisaged that British Institutes will establish their branches in India. On the next day, the newspaper carried a critical appraisal of this news in its first editorial under the rather curious title, 'I for International? - IITs expanding abroad is a good idea. But setting the domestic house in order is a pre-requisite'.



An important point made in the editorial is that a significant part of IITs' success at home is built on the fact some of the students prepare for months to get in, via a ferocious competitive examination. These students are likely to shine – thanks to their own merit. How much of their success is due to pedagogy and research quality in IITs including in the older institutions, is the key question.

The editorial continues, 'As for the new ones, a CAG Audit of eight IITs set-up between 2008-09 found them in deplorable conditions. States have not provisioned land properly, labs are inadequate, little research is sponsored by non-government sources, and most telling of all, over a five-year period these IITs obtained zero patents. The audit seriously indicts the governing bodies for poor stewardship'. The editorial concludes with the statement, 'Minus radical reform, most of higher education will remain, as it is now, meaningless'.

The views expressed in the editorial are in sync with those of Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General of Association of Indian Universities, presented in her recent publication [1], an excerpt from which is presented below:

'India needs to take a number of steps including building world class infrastructure, simplifying visa rules, easy entry and exit provisions, international hostels, and curricular revision with international orientation to attract international students. The important factors that play crucial roles in attracting foreign students include: enriching classroom experience with a focus on learning pedagogy; a robust evaluation process, innovative courses, outreach at a global level; the flexibility in teaching-learning; international isation of entrance examinations; issuing work permits for international students; international curriculum; good quality faculty; research facilities; acceptability of grades and credits on international pattern; and comfortable and affordable hostels'.

In addition to the above, evolving uniform process of credit transfer, setting up an Advisory Body to assist universities for promoting internationalisation and several other pre-requisites have been suggested by Dr. Mittal.

As per the data provided by Dr. Mittal in her article, at present around 800,000 Indian students go abroad to study in foreign higher education institutions as compared to an inflow of only 46,000 foreign students to India, that too with more than half of them from Nepal and Afghanistan. She feels that India is yet to harness the full potential of its wide educational network to attract International students.

(Prof. V.B. Gupta)

[1]. Pankaj Mittal, 'Creating Future Ready Universities: The Indian context', chapter 1 in the book entitled 'Reimagining Indian Universities' edited by Pankaj Mittal and Sistla Rama Devi Pani, published by A.I.U., New Delhi in August 2020.

## The Landscape of Higher Education in India

### **1. Introduction:**

In the January 2022 issue of DEI-DEP News, we wrote about the advent of Education 4.0 in HEIs across the globe. In this edition of the Newsletter, we will consider the situation with specific reference to India. As pointed out by Prof. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, New Delhi [1], India has the world's largest higher education system with over 50,000 higher educational institutions (HEI) primarily triggered due to a massive expansion in the higher education sector leading to a four-fold increase since 2001. However, various challenges like deficient funding, lower employability of graduates, poor standards of teaching, feeble governance, and complex regulatory processes continue to plague the education sector in India.

It is important that these deficiencies are addressed to a reasonable extent before a transition to Education 4.0 can take place.

### **2. Financing of Higher Education:**

Back in the sixties (1964-66) the Kothari Commission, which was set up by the Government of India, suggested that 6 percent of national income (Gross Domestic Product or GDP) should be spent on education. The National Policy on Education 1986 and programme of action 1992 also envisaged that about 6% of GDP would be earmarked for the education sector. The actual amount spent has been slightly above half this amount. As pointed out by Prof. L.K. Awasthi, Director, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar [2], India has the largest youth population aged between 15-24 years. However, it ranks very low in terms of spending per student and per teacher.

The percentage share of GDP for higher education in India was close to 0.5% as opposed to 2.9% in the USA and 1.5% in China. As pointed out by Prof. M.A. Varghese, Ex-Vice Chancellor, SNDT University, Mumbai [3], the responsibility of financing higher education is shared by both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, it is the joint responsibility of central and state governments for state government institutions. About 80 percent of the financing is by the state government. Even in the state government, about 82 percent of funding is for routine expenditure: administration and maintenance etc., and therefore hardly any fund is spent for capacity building. The central government spending is lop-sided towards central universities and Centres of excellence, which serve hardly 3 per cent of total higher education students in the country.

With decreasing public funding of higher education, there is a mismatch between stagnant revenue and increasing cost in institutions. It is, therefore, not surprising that

there has been a spurt in private higher education providers in India. About one-third of Indian universities, 60% of colleges and 75% of diploma institutions are private. In terms of enrolment, 67% of students are in private institutions. The fees charged by these institutions are exorbitant and often they are of lesser quality.

### **3. Low Employability of Graduates:**

The low employability of graduates is a matter of concern. As pointed out in the 2019 Annual National Employability Report for Engineers prepared by 'Aspiring Minds', '80% of graduating engineers are not employable for any job..... The report continues: It is safe to conclude that the Indian higher education system has not been helped by the small ad-hoc changes to which it is accustomed and is in need of fundamental change. Micro-interventions may help create isolated pockets of competence, but they do little for higher education or the larger economy as a whole. The Government of India needs to prioritize higher education and take long-term policy interventions in the next 5-10 years to ameliorate the low rate of engineering employability'.

In a global programming skill comparison, the survey finds that 37.7% of Indian engineers cannot write compliant code as compared to China's 10.4% and USA's 4%. The authors of the report concluded by stating that in the global talent war, India needs to significantly up its game in IT skills.

### **4. Multifaceted Requirements of Higher Education:**

As pointed out by Prof. M.A. Varghese [3], higher education has expanded rapidly in the last seven decades, but the quality is not comparable to international levels. To move towards the goal of higher quality, there is a need to review the financial resources, access and equity, quality standards, curriculum, relevance, infrastructure, governance, structures of organization, etc.

The National Education Policy 2020 has been widely welcomed by the Higher Education Community. It is expected that its strict implementation will address most of the problems of higher education in India and put it on the right track so that it conforms to the requirements of Education 4.0.

- Contributed by Prof. V.B. Gupta  
Coordinator, DEI Distance Education Programme

#### **Reference:**

Reimagining Indian Universities, Edited by Pankaj Mittal and Sistla Rama Devi Pani, Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, August 2020.

[1]. Ranbir Singh: Chapter 4 – Towards Making Indian Universities Relevant and Future – Ready.

[2]. Lalit Kumar Awasthi: Chapter 7 – Building Agile and Evolving Higher Education Institutions.

[3]. M.A. Varghese: Chapter 8 – Envisioning the Future of Indian Higher Education.

## NEWS FROM DEI

### 40th Convocation of DEI Held



The 40th Convocation of Dayalbagh Educational Institute was held on 12 February 2022. Most Reverend Prof. P.S. Satsangi Sahab, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Education, Dayalbagh Educational Institutions (Non-Statutory body, serving as a Think-tank for DEI) and Most Respectable Rani Sahiba graced this milestone event in the virtual- virtuous mode. Dr. Ajay Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. All the precautions as per the recommended protocol because of the ongoing pandemic were duly followed during the entire process.

This year, a total of 5742 students of different programmes of study received a degree/diploma from the institute. 88 students were awarded PhD Degrees, 3136 students got Bachelor's degrees, 708 students received Master's degrees, 65 attained M. Phil. degrees, 821 received diplomas, 175 got post-graduate diplomas, 327 got High School certificates and 422 got Intermediate degrees. 153 students received the Director's Medal for attaining the highest-grade points in their respective programme of study. This year three students received the President's Medal for their outstanding academic achievements. For securing the highest-grade point in All Undergraduate Examinations, 2021, Ms. Mitali Varshney was awarded the President's Medal whereas for securing the highest-grade point in All Postgraduate Examinations, 2021, Ms. Arti Gupta and Ms. Tanya Singh received this prestigious medal. In the end, President, DEI presented the Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the Systems Society of India to the Chief Guest, Dr. Ajay Kumar.



## *News From Information Centres*

### **Audio Webinar Organized by ICT, Bangalore**



DEI ICT Centre, Bangalore organized an Audio Webinar on "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning" on 19 December 2021. The speaker was Dr. Swanti Satsangi of IISc, Bangalore. The programme started with the opening remarks by Prof. TVSN Murty, CentreIn-Charge, followed by the University Prayer rendered in Sanskrit by Mrs. Preethi Sharma and Mrs. Shikha Mathur. After the presentation, an interesting interaction took place between the speaker and the audience. Mr. Saurbh Srivastav, Mrs. Shruti Satsangi and Mrs. Surat Roshni Mishra contributed substantially to the success of the event.

### **Human Book Club Activity Organized at Karol Bagh Centre**

The Karol Bagh Centre organized a CCA activity named Human Book Club on 7 February 2022 with faculty & students. Everyone participated with great enthusiasm and zest. The whole activity was meticulously planned and hosted by the students and the faculty Cultural coordinator team.



The programme was all about Human experiences in this world. Everybody was asked to present a chapter from the book of their lives including the experiences and the lessons they have learnt from them and give it an appropriate title. In the end, the audience was addressed by the CCA coordinator, where she appreciated the efforts done by the organizing team and the students and also enlightened the audience about the importance of sharing and learning together.

### **Lohriand Republic Day Celebrated at Karol Bagh Centre**

The Karol Bagh Centre celebrates Lohri every year. This year also, the faculty & students celebrated this religious and cultural festival on 13 January 2022. The whole programme was fastidiously planned and hosted by the students and the faculty Cultural coordinator team. The programme commenced with the University Prayer followed by an energetic, warm and very informative introduction by students about

**“Why is it celebrated? And the importance of It.”** This was followed by the cultural programme performed by students (including storytelling & poem/song recitation). In the end, the audience was addressed by the Centre In-charge, where he appreciated the efforts made by the organizing team and the students and also enlightened the audience about the importance of this Day. The programme was concluded with the rendering of the University Song.

Republic Day was also celebrated at Karol Bagh Centre with great zest on 26 January 2022. The whole programme was diligently planned and hosted by the students and the faculty Cultural coordinator team. The programme commenced with University Prayer followed by Flag Salute & National Anthem and the DEI Anthem (Suno Bhai Ek Gaan Humara). This was followed by a very informative introduction by the students about the importance of the day. A cultural programme was then performed by the students (including Slogans by Freedom Fighters, Storytelling, Quiz, Poem/Songs Recitation & Open Table Discussion). In the end, the audience was addressed by the Centre In charge. The programme was concluded by reciting the University Song.

### Republic Day Celebration at Murar Centre



Information Centre Murar celebrated Republic Day with great enthusiasm. The Satsangi brothers and sisters residing in the Satsang Colony Murar, and others were invited to partake in the celebrations. The programme started at 8:15 AM. The students of all streams and their teachers received the audio transmission from the headquarters. Later, all the students presented March Past and took a pledge. Km. Kusum, a student of the DDT stream presented a speech on the significance of 26th January.

The students of the Electrician course presented an action song on “Mera Desh Mahan”. Sports and painting competitions were also held. In the end, light refreshments were served to all.

### Founder's Day Celebrations at a Glance

#### Mumbai Centre:

Founder's Day was celebrated at Mumbai Centre on 31st January 2022 with great enthusiasm and fervour. The entire Centre was beautifully decorated and wore a festive look with colourful rangoli and artefacts decorating the stairs, walls, passages and doors of the Centre. The 'Singhasan' of the August Founder- Director Most Revered Dr. M.B. Lal Sahab was magnificently decorated with silk cloth and zari work, fresh flowers, tassels, a golden net and a variety of colourful LED lights. The entire atmosphere was charged with a spiritual aura.

The Programme commenced with the University Prayer. After this the Path "Aaj Sahab Ghar Mangal Kari....." was recited by the entire congregation with love and devotion in the Holy Feet of Huzur Radhasoami Dayal and obeisance was paid to the Most Revered Param Guru Huzur Dr. M.B. Lal Sahab. After the welcome speech, the Centre-in-charge addressed the gathering highlighting the significance of the



Founder's Day, achievements of DEI and the Education Policies of DEI framed by our August Founder Director. He also talked about HIS Life in brief. This was followed by poem recitation, Bhakti Sangeet and short speeches by the faculty members, mentors and one of the DEI students highlighting the value-based education imparted at DEI, good quality education made available at nominal cost to all sections of society and the Dayalbagh way of life being an ideal example to emulate in life etc. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks followed by another Path.

### Toronto Branch:



On January 31, 2022, Toronto Branch celebrated Founder's Day in the fond memory of the Most Revered Dr. M.B. Lal Sahab, the August Founder of Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University). The programme started with the recitation of DEI Prayer, 'Hai Dayal SadKripal' in Sanskrit. Offering reverence and heart felt gratitude, the composition 'Mere Pyare Lal Sahab, Sabke Pyare Lal Sahab' was recited with adoration and submission.

Little tots of Sant Superman Scheme and CRC children highlighted the progress made in education during Param Guru Huzur Dr. Lal Sahab's time, specifically about establishing DEI (Deemed to be University). Enactments were performed by Toronto youth and DEI Alumni in audio mode on some special experiences of His Grace and Merciful Spiritual interactions. All attendees were then encouraged to participate in a Guessing Game to recognize



Dayalbagh Buildings. The game was enjoyed by all participants. Following this, a celebratory Qawwali, 'Lali Mere Lal Ki Jit Dekhun Tit Lal' was recited with exuberance and spiritual fervour. The programme concluded with the rendition of the DEI song.

### Murar Centre:

Founder's Day was celebrated with great pomp and show at DEI Information Centre, Murar. The programme started with the University prayer by the students. The Life-history of Param Guru Huzur Dr M.B. Lal Sahab was presented by Shri. Agam Satsangi. Electrician course students presented a patriotic song. Games were also organised on this day. Boy students participated in the Register-Balancing Race and Slow-Cycle race. Girl students participated in the 'Walking Race'. Ball balance with bat Race was also conducted. All viewers enjoyed the programme.

All classrooms of respective courses were decorated with the tools, Equipment and Charts prepared by students. Series-Parallel Circuits, staircase wiring and PVC casing capping wiring of 4 rooms made on





wooden boards and many models made by students were exhibited which were highly appreciated by the visitors.

DDT students of the current session displayed beautifully stitched garments, different paintings and Embroiderywork. In the end, Prizes were distributed to the winners of the games and light refreshment was served to all.

### Atlanta Centre:



Atlanta Centre students celebrated Founder's Day on 31 January 2022 with fervour and enthusiasm. There were 34 zoom connections out of which there were more than 25 students from Atlanta, Dallas, Florida, and Houston locations who participated in the celebration. The programme started with the University Prayer, 'Hey Dayal Sad Kripal', in Sanskrit which was melodiously sung by the Houston students. Later, Mrs. Madhulika Nemani welcomed all and highlighted the significance of the Founder's Day as the Birthday of Param Guru Dr. M.B. Lal Sahab, the Chief Architect of the DEI Education policy. Afterwards, Professor Emeritus, Meera Sharma from DEI, recited

'Guru Mahima' shloka and a poem on Param Guru Dr. Lal Sahab in Sanskrit. Following this was sung a Happy Birthday song in Sanskrit for the Revered Founder of DEI, Param Guru Dr. M.B. Lal Sahab by Prof. Sharma. After this followed the presentation by Mrs. Shabda Swaroop on the 'Life of Param Guru Dr. M.B. Lal Sahab' exhibiting His early life, education, important events, and famous personalities who visited Dayalbagh during His regime. Later, an insightful interactive session was conducted by Mrs. Harsh Gulati on Param Guru Dr. Lal Sahab in which the children of Atlanta Study Centre enthusiastically participated. A 'Transformation' poem was rendered by the Florida children in which they emphasized the 'Go Green Atlanta Cell' initiative of Composting and Agroecology endeavours.

Next, was a talk on 'Composting' by Mr. Hithesh Gazzala and Mr. Puneet Bhatnagar. In their talk, they shared hands-on composting insights and composting process of efficiently converting kitchen and yard wastes to organic fertilizers. Consequently, students were encouraged to set up their personal and location green goals for the year 2022 to emulate and embrace the DEI Dayalbagh Agroecology principle. The event concluded with the prayer in His Holy Feet '*Abhilasha Iyameva Yaavat Jeevam*' which was melodiously rendered by the Florida students.

### Jalandhar Centre:

The most cherished Founder's Day was celebrated with all enthusiasm and zeal in the Jalandhar Centre. The pass out students and the new entrants 2021-2022 along with parents and mentors were cordially invited for esteemed celebrations. Mr. Jasbir Singh, the Distt. Secretary, the Chief Guest and Mr. Abhishek Kalra, Branch Secretary, the Guest of Honour, were received by the Centre In-charge Mr. Balbir Singh, Mentors Mr. G.D. Khanna, Mr. Ashok Kalra and Mrs. Sunita Sharma. University Prayer made the outset of the occasion very impressive. The welcome speech by the Centre In-charge was followed by the



Founder's Day Celebration at DEI Study Center, Jalandhar

### Dayal Nagar, Visakhapatnam:

Founder's Day was celebrated with immense zeal at DEI information Centre, Dayal Nagar, Visakhapatnam. It was a great pleasure to have Shri Vijay Prakash Malhotra, Principal, DEI Technical college, Dayalbagh as the honourable Chief Guest of the day through the virtual mode. The programme started with the University Prayer. The introductory remarks were given by Centre In-charge Mr. V. DakshinaMurthy. The Chief Guest was introduced by Shri P.Ravi, the Administrative facilitator. Thereafter, Shri Malhotra delivered a motivational speech. He explained the importance

presentation of the brief life- sketch of Param Guru Dr MB Lal Sahab by Mrs. Uma Sharma. Mrs. Asha Rani presented a shabda, 'Hey Santan Sirtaj Kripala', Ms. Bharti Sharma presented views on Education, Mr. Shashi Gupta discussed the core values of DEI and Mr. Abhishek Kalra encouraged the newcomers with compliments and best wishes. The students were also awarded certificates by the Chief Guest and then the guests took a round of the exhibits displayed.



of Founder's Day and also elaborated about the Life history of our Revered Leader Param Guru Dr. M.B. Lal Sahab, the founder of DEI (Deemed to be University). The programme concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Mrs. G. Phanisri, a faculty member and recitation of the University Song.

### Pune Centre:

Due to COVID restrictions in Pune, Founder's Day was celebrated in virtual mode this year. The programme was hosted by Mrs. Vidhi Nigam. The programme started with the University Prayer and was followed by a wonderful presentation on the significance of Founder's Day by Ms. Mansha Sinha. Following this, a presentation on the importance of Theology was given by an alumnus of DEI, Ms. Seema Das. Two ex-students, who had pursued and completed their MBA from the Pune Centre, presented their business ideas and how the MBA course has helped them to start a new business. Then, the Centre-In-charge of Pune, Ms. Vinita Bhavnani hosted an open discussion on the role of virtual platforms for studies during the current pandemic. Students, mentors, and other attendees shared their views on the topic, with some points in favour, and a few points highlighting the difficulties faced during "Virtual Education". District Secretary, Mr. Soami Das also shared his valuable inputs on the topic. MGRSA Regional president Mr. P.S. Malhotra gave a speech that motivated the students. A Vote of thanks was given by MBA Mentor, Mr. Gurucharan Iyer. Everyone enjoyed the celebrations.

<b>Patrons</b> ○ Prof. P.K. Kalra Prof. V.B. Gupta	<b>Editorial Board</b> ○ Dr. Sonal Singh Dr. Meena Pydah Dr. Lowleen Malhotra Shri Rakesh Mehta
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Spoken to Registrar DEI for pursuing the Recent Continuing Initiatives taken by DEI on one hand and Radhasoami Satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh on the other\* as the Donor Society for DEI by submitting a copy to Shri R.K. Sharma, OSD, President's Secretariat.

\* Requisite action is expected from Secretary RS Sabha in this regard.

1. Copy to: Registrar DEI and
2. Copy to: Secretary RS Sabha