#### **FEBRUARY 2022**

# ramanujan refreshers



Ramanujan refresher brings to you all the latest developments, and updates about faculty, students, research studies, projects and the upcoming events, including cultural activities

# REFLECTIONS

#### A note from the editor: A fresh look at 'Natural Intelligence' amid covid stress

As we move towards publishing the 12<sup>th</sup> issue of college newsletter, our 'School of Happiness' plans to make a film **"The Unlimited: A documentary on Natural Intelligence"**. The school believes that our policies should aim for the creation of natural intelligence (NI) and pro-social transformative power. This would enable us to see the real nature of each phenomenon, take corrective steps, and boost our morale even in the darkest and disrupted hours. The Covid-19 pandemic wave coming back again and again has compelled us to give a fresh look at our life-skills, priorities and values. Just singing the glory of technology is like plucking low-hanging fruits in the wonderland. It skirts the major issue of transformative thinking. And that is why stress keeps disrupting us.

As technology improves the way we live and think, our health and happiness is deteriorating. The technology-based social media has become an effective tool for fraudsters. Given how it casts a shadow on the jobs of millions of earners, it is crucial for us to regain supremacy of our NI over this new wave of technology. Through NI, we can master the three monkeys: Mobile, Money, and Mind. While the impact of cyber war is predicted more severe than nuclear war, the daily increasing complexity of cybercrimes is reinforcing the need to rigorously monitor and protect operations and environments.

Isaac Asimov says, **"The saddest aspect of our life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom"**. Whereas science is trying to defeat the speed of NI through AI, IT is trying to control the behavior of human through social media. Reducing our ability to be happy, science is showing negligence towards our health and values. Resultantly, our school children are debating now on depression. If we postulate a need for real success and sustainable development, we need to rethink our pursuits and make it more natural and humane. Through NI, we can enhance our capacity to engage with nature, non-violence and truth.

"With bad laws and good civil servants, it's still possible to govern. But with bad civil servants, even the best laws can't help", said an Italian philosopher Otto Von Bismarck. Spiritual seeker Meena Om says, "Nature seems to be asking us to transform, go back to being our natural self, and embrace truth in our actions, thoughts and deeds". If we do not learn lessons easily, nature appears to be determined to remove all imperfections that have seeped into our system.

> Prof. T.K. Mishra Vice-Principal

# **IN BEATS**



Dr. Rajiv Nayan was awarded with International Vishwa Ram Sanskriti Samman by Uttar Pradesh Mandal of America, California on 30 November 2021 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

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# SPOTLIGHT

#### Surya Namaskar For Vitality

On the holy occasion of Makar Sankranti the NSS unit of Ramanujan College (University of Delhi) organized a virtual program on Zoom platform Surya Namaskar for Vitality under Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav. On 14th January 2022, under the respectful guidance of the esteemed Principal Dr. S.P. Aggarwal and NSS Programme Officer Dr.Alok Ranjan Pandey, the NSS society organized this event to make people more aware about the benefits of Surya Namaskar.

In the practice of yoga, Surya Namaskar is a salutation performed to the Sun offering gratitude and love for the life-giving energy that it provides. The sun represents energy, power, and vitality. As the Surya Nadi or Sun Channel runs along the right side, you begin the Surya Namaskar with your right leg first. The Surya Namaskar or the Sun Salutation is best performed early in the morning before sunrise. Experience many benefits such as physical and mental strength, better command over your body, calmness of the mind, balanced energies, and inner peace. Surya Namaskar is a powerful technique to make you more mindful. With regular practice, it increases awareness forming a deeper connection between the body, breath and consciousness. You can start with 5 cycles a day as a beginner.

The event took place early in the morning at 7 am. More than 50 volunteers actively took part in the event. Under the warm rays of the winter morning, the volunteers spread their mats and performed the asana on it. The activity was a refreshing and relaxing experience for all the participants. The experience taught how beneficial Surya Namaskar can be for us. The participants felt physically, mentally and emotionally relaxed after the event.



### **SPOTLIGHT**

#### Webinar on National Youth Day



This has rightly been emphasized that, "Self sacrifice, not self-assertion, is the law of the highest universe." In honor of the achievements and contributions of Swami Vivekananda Ji, National Youth Day is observed on his birth anniversary across the country on 12th of January.

Swami Ji believed in providing service to mankind. He kept others above his own self and taught us selflessness. He believed it to be our duty as the nation's youth to work for the welfare and do larger good to the society.

To mark the day, NSS Unit of Ramanujan College organized a webinar in which our C h i e f G u e s t , R e v . S w a m i Divyasudhananda Ji graced us with his

presence by giving "Swami Vivekananda's Message to the Youth". His message is of showcasing our strengths to do everything and anything and to be the creator of our own future. His ideas encourage our youth to come forward and make India a better country.

More than a 100 attendees were present in this webinar held on the zoom platform which was simultaneously aired live on YouTube. A video representation on the life achievements and a poetry by the volunteers was dedicated to honor Swami Vivekananda Ji.

A sincere vote of thanks to the Principal of Ramanujan College Dr. SP Aggarwal, Vice Principal Dr. TK Mishra and NSS Programme Officer Dr. Alok Ranjan Pandey who came forward to share their views and made this event a huge success.



Short-term course on "Data Science": 24 Jan-24 Apr 2022



Short-term Course on "Digital Marketing": 20 Jan-20 Mar 2022



Short-term Course on "Fundamentals of Python Bootcamp": 26 Jan-12 Mar 2022



International Conference on "Rethinking New Work Order: A Policy Change Initiative": 21-22 Jan 2022.



Two-week Refresher Course on "Law in Contemporary Times": 27 Jan - 10 Feb 2022



Two-week Refresher Course in "Chemical Sciences": 1-15 Feb 2022



Two-week Refresher Course in Economics: 31 Jan - 14 Feb 2022



Two-week Refresher Course in "Biomedical Content Writing": 10-24 Feb 2022



Two-week Interdisciplinary Refresher Course on "Research Methodology & Data Analysis": 21 Feb - 5 Mar 2022



One-week FDP on "Teaching Learning Methods: From Micro-teaching to peer learning": 31 Jan-06 Feb 2022



One-week FDP on "Open Source Tools for Research": 7-13 Feb 2022



Two-week Interdisciplinary Refresher Course in "Managing online classes and Co- Creating MOOCs 11.0": 7-21 Feb 2022



One-month Faculty Induction/ Orientation Programme: 15 Feb - 16 Mar 2022



4-Week Executive Development Programme on Data Analysis and Research (Sharpening the Skills Through MS-Excel & R Software): 14 Feb – 11 Mar 2022



Two-week Refresher Course in "Research Methodology": 20 Feb- 06 Mar 2022



One week Faculty Development Programme from 31 December, 2021 to January 5, 2022



One week Faculty Development Programme from 17<sup>-</sup>23 January, 2022



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One-week FDP on "Psychological Skills for effective teaching and learning" from January 6-12, 2022



One-week FDP on "Data Analytics" from January 16-22, 2022



Two-week FDP/ Refresher Course on "Advanced concepts in developing MOOCS" from January 7-21, 2022



Online Induction training/ Orientation Programme from December 20, 2021 to January 19, 2022



Interdisciplinary two-week Refresher Course/ FDP on "Research Methodology": 22 Dec 2021 - 5 Jan 2022



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Two-week FDP/Refresher Course on "Advanced Research Methodology": 22 Jan - 5 Feb 2022



One-Month Faculty Induction/ Orientation Programme from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2022



Farewell function of Librarian Dr. N.I. Azmi on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022



A webinar on "Distraction Management in College Life" on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022.



The Freshers Party organised by RAMCOMM on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.



Orientation Ceremony of National Service Scheme on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.



# ··· IN THE MEDIA

#### Delhi Rewind: When Deshbandhu College was built for educating kids of Partition refugees

Deshbandhu College, as it came to be named after freedom fighter Deshbandhu Gupta, had been established by the Ministry of Rehabilitation in the refugee colony of Kalkaji, with the specific purpose of educating children of those displaced by the Partition.

Written by Adrija Roychowdhury | New Delhi | Updated: January 30, 2022 7:53:23 pm

Gurcharan Singh (82) often remembers the morning of 1952 when, on a walk to the market in Kalkaji, he heard a lot of excitement about some kind of inauguration. Just 12 at that time, he enthusiastically followed the crowd to sneak into the celebration and get hold of sweets and cold drinks being distributed. It was much later that he discovered that the then minister of education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, had graced his neighbourhood to inaugurate a first-of-its-kind college.

Deshbandhu College, as it came to be named after freedom fighter Deshbandhu Gupta, had been established by the Ministry of Rehabilitation in the refugee colony of Kalkaji, with the specific purpose of educating children of those displaced by the Partition.



Deshbandhu College had been established by the Ministry of Rehabilitation in the refugee colony of Kalkaji in 1952; (above) Gurcharan Singh (82) was 12 at the time. (Adrija Roychowdhury)

Singh was, at that time, living with his mother and

six siblings at the refugee camp in Kalkaji Temple. He had found shelter in Delhi a couple of years back, having escaped the horrors of communal violence at his hometown of Quetta in Balochistan. "Those days we had no money, nor any means of livelihood. Education was hardly anyone's priority," said Singh.

He recalled how, in the early 50s, he would attend a government school in Kalkaji during the day and spend the evenings working in a firecracker factory nearby to earn a living for his family. Singh recently retired from the college, where he worked in the administrative division, and lives with his family in Kalkaji.

In these initial years after Independence, large parts of Delhi had been drawn up by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, specifically for housing Partition refugees. "This was a very turbulent time and the government's priority was to provide means of livelihood and housing for the refugees. Issues of schooling and higher education, although important, were raised much later, only from 1949 onwards," explained Shrishti Khanna, research scholar at Delhi University, currently working on the history of education in Delhi. "Also, several existing schools and colleges in Delhi were transformed to provide shelter to the refugees."

Later, most of these schools and colleges started admitting these children for education as well. With time, however, it was realised that the number of displaced children had surpassed the seats available in existing schools and colleges. Thereafter, several schools were opened by the Ministry of Rehabilitation in refugee colonies such as Kalkaji, Lajpat Nagar and Kingsway Camp. "Some of these were also makeshift schools established in the camps," said Khanna.

"Many of the existing schools were also converted into double shifts to accommodate displaced persons," said Dr Vikas Gupta, Professor of Modern Indian History at Delhi University. He said that a number of scholarships were also started specifically aimed at displaced persons.

# IN THE MEDIA

Dr Gupta explained that the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation had in 1948 established a board for the education of displaced people, which included Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Azad, among others.

He said there was a paradigm shift in the policy of education during this period, and the priority now was integration of all people irrespective of caste, class, religion or community. "The integrationist approach to bring together people under a mainstream nationalist is reflected in the way they built institutions," he said. "So it's not as if the displaced people were just given some money to settle here. Institutions were built specifically for the purpose of integrating them within the larger society."

It is in this context of the Ministry's plan to educate displaced persons that Deshbandhu College was opened with just 72 students. Singh, who was just 12 that time, recalled how the college immediately gained popularity among young adults in the areas in and around Kalkaji. It was particularly well known for its pre-medical and science courses.

Six years later, an evening college was opened on the same premises. It was realised that a number of displaced persons, whose education had been jeopardised on account of the Partition, were working in shops or as labourers in order to earn a livelihood. Consequently, an evening college started so as to meet the requirements of those who were unable to attend college in the morning. Singh, who had turned 18 that year and had dropped out of school after class XI, found a job as a peon in the college.

For the 42 years that he served the college, he saw it grow from its humble origins to the sprawling campus that it is today. "I became friends with most of the students," he recollected with a smile. "As per protocol, the students of the evening college would have to show proof of a day job employment to get admission. Often, they would be confused on how to go about it and would approach me."

From attendance to late fees payment, all issues of the young college goers would be resolved by him. In 1972, the college became part of the University of Delhi.

Dr S Narayanan, who joined Deshbandhu College in 1965 as Professor of Chemistry, said that unlike the campus colleges like St Stephen's and Hindu, there was no craze among toppers to join this college. "Most students in Deshbandhu belonged to lower middle to middle class background," he said.

Narayanan recalled an incident during the Mandal Commission protests of the 1990s when a student from Deshbandhu tried to self-immolate as a mark of protest on the Kalkaji main road, right outside the campus. "The incident was covered by the Time Magazine," he said.

In the mid 1990s, the evening college turned from being only for boys to a co-educational one. Singh remembered the incident of a girl from Bihar who had come for admission to the college, and how nervous she was on account of not having the full fees. He had asked her to pay whatever she had and paid the remaining amount on her behalf from his own pocket.

In 2010, the morning and evening colleges split up, with the latter now being known as Ramanujan College.

Dr S P Agarwal, who had joined the evening college in 1980 as professor, said he initiated the decision to form a separate college in 2008 when he took over as principal. "The idea behind the split was to ensure individual development of both colleges," said Dr Agarwal, who is currently principal of Ramanujan College.

In the last several years, he has seen the college grow to a most sought after one, not only for students from Delhi but also from other cities. He noted that among the college's 3,200 students today, about 1,500 are those from outside the city.

Editorial Assistance by: Dr. Anshika Agarwal