

## IAEA organized Interaction with the Representatives of VO's

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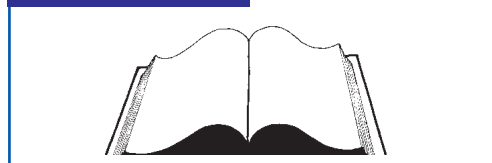
In a bid to develop a network of voluntary organizations committed to the cause of community development IAEA has decided to collaborate with agencies/institutions working at the grassroots level in Delhi. On April 23, 2025 representatives of Balak Mata Centre, Jamia Milia Islamia, Azadpur and Madanpur Khadar Daycare Centre, Pocketful of Sunshine, Jamia Nagar visited IAEA to interact with Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary. Prof. Rajesh, Director In-charge; Smt. Nishat Farooq, EC Member; Shri M.L. Sharma, Office Coordinator and Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer, IAEA were also present during the discussion. A brief presentation on the working of PFO Sunhsine was given by

Ms. Tasneema Zaidi, Managing Director and Smt. Vaidehi Subramani, Child Right Activist & Consultant in the organization. The team of IAEA listen carefully to the proposals submitted by both the organizations and assured to extend every possible help to them to scale-up the activities design for sustainable community development.

A presentation was also given by a group of social activists from Khilona Bagh a socially and economically deprived locality near Model Town, Delhi. While listening their proposal Prof. Rajesh, In-Charge Director told that a team of scholars will be send for conducting a need assessment at the earliest.

Prior to that the team of IAEA also visited a Balak Mata Centre of Jamia Milia Islamia located at Beri Wala Bagh, Azadpur Market to see the activities and programmes being organised by the centre specifically the crèche for nursery level children and the cutting and tailoring centre for imparting skills to young girls and women. The team also had a detailed interaction with Smt. Yashmin, Consultant; Ms. Anjuman, Skill Trainer and other members of staff. Some of the beneficiaries also approached Shri Khandelwal seeking the cooperation of IAEA for opening skill centres in other deprived localities. They were replied favourably by the General Secretary.

### Documents



**ASER. ASER Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2024: Provisional.** New Delhi, ASER Centre, 2025.

The Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2024: Provisional provides a comprehensive assessment of the state of education in rural India. Conducted by the ASER Centre, the report presents data on key educational indicators such as enrollment rates, learning outcomes, infrastructure, and teacher quality across various regions. This year's provisional findings highlight the ongoing challenges and progress in rural education, emphasizing disparities based on socio-economic factors, gender, and geographical location. The data also reflects the impact of recent policy interventions and community-level educational initiatives. By presenting these key findings, the report serves to understand the evolving educational landscape in rural India and

guide future reforms aimed at improving educational access, quality, and equity.

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). **Human Development Report 2025: A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of AI.** United Nations Development Programme, New York. 2025: 324p.

The Human Development Report 2025 looks at how digital technology and (Artificial Intelligence) AI are changing people's lives. It explains how these changes affect people at every stage of life—from childhood to old age—and how they shape jobs, education, and even politics. The report warns about new risks and inequalities, but also highlights opportunities if digital tools are used fairly and wisely.

The report also highlights the importance of freedom, privacy, and fairness in a world shaped by AI. It warns that without careful planning, technology could increase gaps between rich and poor, or between those with and without access to digital tools. However, if guided by strong values and good policies, AI can help solve big problems like climate change and support human well-being.

- Neha Gupta

Librarian-cum-Docummentation Officer

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# IAEA NEWSLETTER

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## Indian Adult Education Association

### Consultation on the Role of IAEA in Nation Building



A one day "Consultation on the Role of the Indian Adult Education Association in Nation Building" was organized by IAEA at its Headquarters on May 30, 2025. After the invocation of morning prayer by Smt. Neha Gupta and Shri Kripal Singh Mehra, the programme began with the welcome and opening address delivered by Prof. L. Raja, President, IAEA followed by detailing of "Consultation Objectives: Key Aims and Outcomes" by Prof. Rajesh, Director In-charge and Treasurer, IAEA. Eminent academicians and educational/administrative planners including Prof. K. Ramachandran, Chairman of the Focus Group on

Adult Education (NEP 2020); Prof. Usha Sharma, Director, NCCL, NCERT and Shri Deepak Vats, Joint Secretary, UGC shared their thoughtful insights with the august gathering. All of them meticulously explained the steps and interventions IAEA needs to make/implement in future in order to reposition its legacy and apex standing in present national educational scenario. The inaugural session of this consultation programme was concluded with the vote of thanks extended by Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary, IAEA. More than 70

academicians, adult education functionaries and administrative professionals actively participated in four different groups - Policy Strategy and Planning, University/Colleges: Community Linkages and Outreach, Networking and Collaboration and Gender Sensitization and shared their views for a vibrant role to be played by IAEA in the process of nation building. The programme was conducted by Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer, IAEA and Dr. Geeta Mishra, Associate Professor, DCEE, DU. The registration desk was managed by Shri Siya Bihari and Ms. KM Tanu.







Welcoming the guests, scholars and life members of IAEA from National Capital Region of Delhi Prof. L. Raja outlined the purpose and objectives behind organizing the consultation programme. He encouraged the young scholars to speak their mind as the future of any organization lies with the youth only. Prof. Raja said that IAEA has withstand all the challenges pertaining to policy, administration and economy so far and expressed confidence in the dedication of the present team committed to acquire a new height for the Association.

Prof. Rajesh elaborated the concept and structure through which the consultation programme was designed to reach meaningful conclusions. Referring to the academic and institutional background of



the key speakers he said that the opinion expressed by them will certainly help the scholars and institutions to pursue the multidisciplinary approach of research as promoted by NEP 2020.

India aspires to become world's third largest economy and realize the vision of a developed nation by 2047. To make it happen all our institutions



need to address the socio-economic and educational needs of all the citizens specially the disadvantaged communities, youths and those who are still away from the mainstream of the nation and hence, apex institutions like IAEA should reposition itself to fulfil these paramount goals in the ever-changing global context, said Prof. K. Ramachandran.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Usha Sharma opined that human mind is capable of learning and hence, it learns whatever we want it to learn. Streams of knowledge is our creation and to achieve the larger goals we need to hone our mind, individual or institutional, to surpass the boundaries of nomenclature. She further said that the cultural and civilizational legacy India stands for has tremendous motivational strength and hence, both our institutions and citizens can draw inspiration from it. It will certainly help them to think out of box and coin relevant solutions for their empowerment and progress.

Shri Deepak Vats explained various policy initiatives such as Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing



Economy (STRIDE), Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) for fostering collaboration and University Industry Linkages undertaken by UGC for the furtherance of educational goals enshrined in NEP 2020. He also detailed the increase in the budgetary allocations for promotion of research activities in the field of higher education.

The vote of thanks was given by Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary, IAEA who said that education has to play a mega role in realizing the developmental goals visualized by individuals, institutions and the government. A cursory look on the history of educational development in India indicates that the nation has only few functioning institutions as old as IAEA. We in the Association have been fortunate enough to receive the guidance and support of eminent academicians of the day all through our journey. We are hopeful to achieve changing goals in future also.



# Witnessing a Paradigm Shift



It appears that the waning job opportunities for adult education professionals in academics has taken the domain a bit away from optimistic employment zone. The change of nomenclature from Adult Education to Education For All (EFA) for major flagship programmes by the Government of India has further created a sense of confusion among its practitioners. Attempts, hitherto, made here and there, by most of the academicians couldn't exert desired pressure on the establishment and have failed to convince the policy makers of the day that this unilateral change will severely affect the very connotation of adult education as it does not deals only with the literacy perse but also takes care of the research based evolution of the process and methodology of teaching adults very often termed as andragogy. It is astonishing that the appearance of the term adult education 22 times in the NEP 2020 policy document have somehow failed to attract any financial allocation and boost the prospects of adult education as a discipline of higher learning. Focus on lifelong learning is all appreciable however; here it too has limited the scope of adult education as it talks only about the stimulation and motivation of an individual learner. It assures that lifelong learning practices can take them to the higher pedestal of development. However, it does not really talk about the necessity or essentiality of teaching adult education in the institutes of higher learning as an impetus for developing trained human resource for a sustainable lifelong learning education in every possible sphere of life.

The institutional apathy towards adult education has created a sense of exasperation throughout the country's institutional edifice responsible for the furtherance of the domain of AE including its practitioners, voluntary as well as public institutions and even those associated with policy planning. Changing policy parameters and lack of financial support from the government has put a question mark on the very survival of entire network of adult education in India. The Directorate of Adult Education has been closed sine die, State



Resource Centers are closed and JSSs have been shifted to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The vast network of voluntary organizations once operational throughout the country too has mend or mending their ways away from fostering literacy and adult education. The number of universities having the department of adult, continuing education and extension have drastically reduced to nearly half the number it used to have only a decade ago. Many universities have altered their names where the word adult education is missing now. So to say entire NLMA has gone to sleep mode. The situation has turned to be so bewildering that those scholars who consider themselves to be the victims of these changes don't think it encouraging to raise their issues in black and white. They often find that the euphemistic statements given to highlight the actual situation have helped to reduce the intensity of reaction further.

For many scholars the present situation doesn't appear to be optimistic at all. Pioneering institutions like IAEA is closely monitoring the developments and making concerted efforts to raise the collective concerns of all the adult educationists, scholars, practitioners and policy planners. While there cannot be any ambiguity about the changing percepts of literacy, the importance of adult education, where the ego of being teacher takes a back seat or wanes out to help to assimilate with the taught, the line of separation between teacher and taught loses its very existence for creating a cohesive atmosphere of collaborative learning, too cannot be minimized or ignored.

IAEA while celebrating its Platinum Jubilee in the year 2014 vouched for redefining its vision, mission and goals and of course adopting a suitable modus operandi cohesive with Zen Z to achieve it. This resulted into identifying emerging and more challenging topics for its national conferences and other major programmes. The consultation on visualizing the emerging role of IAEA in national building held on May 30, 2025 at IAEA headquarters may also be considered as a reflection of the same agenda. The Association is

committed to work with all the stakeholders of AE and lifelong learning to quell the apparent pessimism around the subject. IAEA welcomes youth with vision to contribute their best in the empowerment of the citizens and advancement of the nation as a whole. This approach resulted into a noticeable episode.

On May 26, 2025 two youths, one girl and a boy, pursuing their senior secondary education from a very well-known school of



South Delhi came to the office of IAEA while searching an institution working for the furtherance of adult education and literacy in India. Their quest was really remarkable in the sense that they themselves did the research to find out a core issue of national importance for their project work to be submitted to their school carrying 20 important marks which matters a lot for securing their best in the senior secondary board examinations. During their discussion with Prof. Raja, President, IAEA it was revealed that based on the reviews and analysis of documents available on IAEA in public domain they decided to showcase adult education and IAEA through a documentary film. It was a mere coincidence that the moment they arrive at IAEA office a group of prominent adult educationists including Prof. Raja, Shri Suresh Khandelwal, Prof. Rajesh, Smt. Nishat Farooq were there in the office and all of them appreciated the quest and endeavor of both these youths. During the consultation programme held on May 30, 2025 this episode and their discussion with veteran Prof. K. Ramachandran was referred as paradigm shift for the journey of adult education with Zen Z. It's important because sometimes very simple things carry the seed of enormous change or a defining moment. Former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam dedicated one of his well-read books "India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium" to an eight-year-old girl who replied "I want to live in a developed India" when APJ asked her "What is your aim in life?" That too was a defining moment for our classrooms as the idea of "Developed Nation" became a matter of daily discussion in India's national life.

- B. Sanjoy



## IAEA sponsored Entrepreneurship Development Programme held at Kolhapur, Maharashtra



The Narayani Bahuuddeshiy Sevabhavi Sanstha, Kolhapur organization dedicated to the cause of women empowerment have recently conducted two field outreach programs with the finance assistance provided by the Indian Adult Education Association –the first one being an “Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women” and the second one was focussed on “Making Bags and Dolls from Waste Clothes and Cotton”. Both the programmes were coordinated by Dr. Gorakhnath Kamble, EC Member, IAEA.

### Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women

The Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women was organized by the Narayani Bahuuddeshiy Sevabhavi Sanstha, Kolhapur in collaboration of Stree Shakti Mahila Nagari Sahakari Patsanstha, Yerawada, Pune on May 16-17, 2025 which was participated by more than 35 women and girls from the locality. The first day of the programme began with the introduction of aims and objectives by Dr. Gorakhnath Kamble, EC Member, IAEA followed by the speech delivered by Dr. Anupama Pawar, Deputy Commissioner of Skills and Entrepreneurship Development and Employment, Pune Division, Govt. of Maharashtra who explained various schemes of skill development being run by the Govt. of Maharashtra with the help of local NGOs. Smt. Kranti Shitole, Chairperson, Stree Shakti Patsanstha elaborated the relationship between employment, entrepreneurship and banking finance. The vote of thanks was proposed by Smt. Vidya Gorakhnath Kamble a Life Member of IAEA.

On the second day of the training programme “Beauty Parlour as Career Entrepreneurship” was organized by Smt. Sunandatai Nikalje, Member, Triratna Sangh in which the Resource Person Smt. Manjusha Kamble Jadhav also a Life



Member of IAEA demonstrated various practices for skin care, hair style and facial enrichment. Smt. Malti Dhiwar, President, Triratna Sangh proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was organized with the active help of Smt. Vidya Gorakhnath Kamble and Shri Anup Kamble both Life members of IAEA.

### Making Bags and Dolls from Waste Clothes and Cotton

On June 3-4, 2025 two days training was imparted to the enrolled beneficiaries in which they learnt how to make bags and dolls from waste clothes and cotton which have a high demand in local market.

Smt. Prasannata Chavan, the Resource Person, taught the learners the details of stitching, weaving, making parts of dolls and also making bags from old sarees. She also encouraged the beneficiaries to not to use polythene for making toys as they are hazardous to the environment.

Dr. Gorakhnath Kamble who is a versatile genius in performing arts showcased a doll-dance with the dolls prepared in the training programme to popularize the trade among the learners.



the dais.

The inaugural session was concluded with the standing ovation



given to the veteran Prof. K. Ramachandran and rendering of the National Anthem. Thereafter, all the participants got divided into four different working groups for intense discussion on four different topics identified as part of this extensive consultation work.

The first working group on “Policy Strategy & Planning for IAEA” was chaired by Prof. K. Ramachandran and



moderated by Dr. M. V. Lakshmi Reddy while Ms. Poonam Rajput was the Rapporteur. Other academicians who took part in this group included Prof. L. Raja, Prof. Rajesh, Prof. Usha Sharma, Prof. Varsha Das, Prof. N. K. Ambasht, Dr. Bani Bora, Dr. Sunil Sharma, Shri Ramesh Gupta, Advocate Y.S. Chouhan and Dr. Atul Gautam. In order to develop a robust and future-ready policy framework aligned with national priorities and global goals, this group recommended to adopt a multipronged policy approach and envisioned strategies for IAEA for working in tune with NEP 2020, SDG 4 and Vision 2047. Literacy in the digital era must be seen as a foundation for economic participation, civic engagement, and lifelong learning. In view of this, IAEA must reposition itself as a future-ready organization by embracing the expanded notion of literacy, adopting technology-enabled tools, and delivering learner-centric, context-specific adult education programmes.

The second working group on “University/College: Community Linkages and Outreach” was chaired by Prof. Shikha Kapur and moderated by Dr. Biresh Pachisia while Ms. Parinita Batra was the Rapporteur. Other who shared their views in the group included Dr. Vivek Nagpal,

Dr. Nitish Anand, Dr. Vikas Singhal, Prof. Nasra Shabnam, Dr. Anwara Hashmi, Shri Letginlen DOUNGEL, Dr. Rajkumari Meena, Dr. Santosh Kumar, Ms. KM Tanu, Shri Alok Kumar and Shri Siya Bihari. The deliberations of Working Group-2 offered a holistic and actionable roadmap for IAEA’s enhanced engagement with universities, colleges, and communities. The major recommendations emerged from this group included - promotion of paid internships for students, grassroots level interventions through capacity building initiatives, phased and structured outreach programmes, developing contextual understanding of communities, creation of a central digital platform for adult education, mental health awareness and sensitization programme, developing strategic partnerships with other stakeholders, play a role of knowledge amplifier by documenting and disseminating successful models and case studies, recognition of prior learning (RPL) and enhancement of

RVA processes and create a shared repository of work done by various institutions and agencies in the field of adult education. The consultation emphasized the need for a structured outreach, inclusive platforms, mental wellness, strategic partnerships, and recognition of prior learning which can significantly contribute to building a more literate, skilled, and empowered India.

The third working group on “Networking and Collaboration” was chaired by Shri V. Umar Koya and facilitated by Shri Kumar Gaurav while Ms. Jyoti Tiwari was the rapporteur. The group was also participated by Shri K. K. Sethi, Dr. A. Mathew, Dr. Mridula Seth, Shri S.C. Dua, Dr. Jai Pratap Singh, Shri Abdul Samad and





the domain of IAEA which was attended by the members of the Gender Sensitization Committee of IAEA including Smt. Nishat Farooq, Chairperson; Dr. Chayanika Uniyal, Co-chairperson; Dr. Geeta Mishra, Dr. Gyanendra Kumar and Smt. Neha Gupta. The group emphasized on the need of creating awareness about various gender related policy

Shri Siddhant Singh. Focusing on the agenda assigned - strategic planning, finding potential partners, resource mapping and way forward, this group made an attempt to underline important activities enhancing the visibility of IAEA within society and institutions such as Creating a Networking cum Collaboration Cell, building a robust network of field-level actors, strengthening partnerships with NGOs and academic institutions, developing dedicated communication channel and revamping library to serve the need of



scholars in changing context.

**The fourth working group** was focused on cultivating a gender sensitized approach of working within

statements, developing complaints redressal mechanism and promotion of gender equality in various aspects of working of the Association.

## Skill Orientation for IAEA Staff

Enhancement of efficiency requires continuous upgradation of skills needed to accomplish even routine job. It has been a practice of IAEA to conduct programmes for identifying learning spaces for the professional staffs. On May 31, 2025 one such programme was organized for the benefit of the staff which was presided over by Prof. L. Raja, President, IAEA. Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary also addressed the staff and emphasized on the need to expand grassroots level activities by the Association. Shri Ummer Koya, Director, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Malappuram, Tamil Nadu and Dr. Jitendra Mishra, Joint Director, Delhi Government both interacted with the members of the staff and shared the nuances of a good planning, monitoring and evaluation. Prof. Rajesh, Director In-charge thanked both the invitees for sparing their valuable time with the Association.



## Nomination invited for prestigious Welthy Fisher Award-2025

The India Literacy Board, Lucknow invites nominations from various Institutions & Organisations for the national level Welthy Fisher Award-2025 for outstanding contribution in any of the field - Literacy & Life Long Education, or Skill Development, or Agriculture related to Innovative Farming or Natural Farming or Farmers Training. The award carries a cash prize of Rupees One Lakh. The Code of Procedure for the award can be viewed and downloaded from its

website: [www.indialiteracyboard.org](http://www.indialiteracyboard.org).

Interested Institutions/Organisations may submit their nominations addressed to Director, India Literacy Board online on our email [idlbfawardnomination@gmail.com](mailto:idlbfawardnomination@gmail.com) & by registered post on the prescribed format up to 30th June, 2025. Director, India Literacy Board, Lucknow may be contacted on telephone/email for any further details. Phone No. 0522-2470268, email: [directorilb@gmail.com](mailto:directorilb@gmail.com)



## Exploring the Idea of Adolescent Care Centre at Madanpur Khadar



Ms. Tasneema Zaidi, Managing Director, Pocketful of Sunshine and Smt. Vaidehi Subramani, Child Right Activist & Consultant in the organization had an interaction with Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary, IAEA on April 23, 2025.



Pursuing the agenda of the said discussion Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer, IAEA visited one of the centres of Pocketful of Sunshine on May 7, 2025 located at Madanpur Khadar to explore the areas in which IAEA and PFO can work together and organize

grassroots level programme in collaboration. During the discussion Ms. Tasneema explained the extent of vulnerability faced by the kids and students of most of the families who are migrant labourers engaged in unorganized tertiary sectors. She said that the both the parents of these students have to work to meet their both ends and hence taking care of these students is a stupendous task for them. In the absence of parental care students even the kids invite lot of troubles for them including physical harassment, sexual abuse and proximity of drug paddlers. An adolescent care -cum-adult education centre can provide awareness as well as foundational literacy, critical skills and equivalency education to them and hence, options were explored to established and run such a centre in Madanpur Khadar or adjacent locality.

## Visitors

### Vice Chancellor's paid Interns, DU visited IAEA

The University of Delhi has launched a programme to provide first hand working experience to the scholars coming from different departments of the university. Under the name "Vice Chancellor's paid Interns" selected scholars work for a pre-specified period under distinguished professors and senior university officials for which they are offered honorary emoluments. A few of them working with Prof. Rajesh, Director In-charge, IAEA visited Indian Adult education Association on June 12, 2025 and had discussion with Prof. S.Y.Shah, former Head, Group of Adult Education, JNU. Visiting guest Shri M. Rajagopalan Nair, Former Secretary, Lok Sabha also present on the occasion.



### Ms. Prachi Panwar, NCERT Doctoral Fellow visited IAEA



Ms. Prachi Panwar, a student of Pondicherry University and NCERT Doctoral fellow visited IAEA on April 17, 2025 to discuss various gender issues pertaining to voluntary sectors specifically with the working women. Ms. Prachi interacted with Prof. Rajesh, Director In-charge, along with Shri M.L. Sharma, Coordinator; Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer; Smt. Neha Gupta, Librarian-cum-Documents officer and Shri Kripal Singh Mehra, Programme Associate, IAEA present on the occasion. She expressed her willingness to visit IAEA frequently to have research support for completing her doctoral thesis.

### Ms. Ayesha Siddique visited IAEA

Ms. Ayesha Siddique a student of University of Delhi visited IAEA on May 1, 2025 to get an exposure about the working of IAEA. During her visit she had an interaction with Prof. S.Y.Shah, Prof. Rajesh, Shri B. Sanjoy and Smt. Neha Gupta on different dimension of working of IAEA.





# Prof. Rajesh attended World Literacy Summit 2025 at Oxford University

In the world of education and literacy the World Literacy Summit owes paramount importance as it provides an opportunity to the literacy experts, politicians, researchers, and practitioners coming from more than 80 member nations to discuss, deliberate, interact and develop meaningful networking. It's truly a matter of prestige and glory that Professor Rajesh, Senior Professor,



University of Delhi and Director In-charge of IAEA attended the World Literacy Summit 2025 at Oxford University, London which was Sixth in the series since its establishment in 2012. In view of its national significance Prof. Rajesh's visit was sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

During his four day stay at Oxford from April 6-9, 2025 Prof. Rajesh actively engaged himself with almost all the important events organized as part of the conference including the orientation programme, guided tour of key departments of Oxford University, networking session, reception at the Ashmolean Museum, plenary session titled "Reimagining Literacy in the Digital Age", thematic workshop on "Financial Literacy and Digital Inclusion", prestigious Ambassador Lunch, interactive session on

"Measuring Literacy Impact", session dedicated to paper presentation, question and answer session, post-presentation networking, panel discussion on "Higher Education Institutions' Role in Community Literacy", exhibition visit and the concluding ceremony.



He presented his paper entitled "India's Comprehensive Approach to Community Literacy: Policies, Programs and Progress" in the session which was chaired by Mr. Andey Kays, CEO, World Literacy Summit 2025. Tracing the extensive epistemological framework contextualising India's literacy programme she highlighted the interdependent linkage between literacy acquisition and socio-economic empowerment within the wider socio-cultural landscape of India. Focussing on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Prof. Rajesh attempted to elucidate heutagogical strategy for community involvement and knowledge dissemination via higher education institutions. While examining the efficacy of ULLAS, the latest manifestation of literacy movement in India Prof. Rajesh demonstrated how ULLAS enables transformational learning experiences through practical interaction with literacy material. His presentation received wide appreciation as well as interventions from the august gathering. Apart from this he had extensive discussion with Dr. Maria Sanchez, UNESCO Literacy Program Director, Prof. John Williams, University of Cambridge, Ms. Elizabeth Motswai, South African Literacy Foundation and Dr. Hiroshi Tanaka, Tokyo University which will initiate meaningful networking for institutional collaboration. Back home Prof. Rajesh has already been invited by a number of eminent institutions and academic platforms to deliver lecture on the outcome of the World Literacy Conference and each time he has received accolades from the audience.

## Staff Meeting

A meeting of the members of the staff of IAEA was held on May 14, 2025 which was presided over by Prof. S.Y.Shah and Prof. Rajesh, Director In-charge, IAEA. The on-going preparation for the "Consultation on the Role of the Indian Adult Education Association in Nation Building" to be held on May 30, 2025 at the office was collectively reviewed and members were assigned specific task so that all the pending work is completed in advance.



# Discussion on "Community Development: A Lifelong Learning Approach"



A discussion on "Community Development: A Lifelong Learning Approach" was organized by IAEA on April 25, 2025 at its Headquarters which was addressed by Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary; Prof. Rajesh, Director In-charge and Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer, IAEA. Participated by volunteers, young professionals and scholars associated with community development and lifelong learning education this discussion was an outcome of the attempt of IAEA to provide stage for in-depth interaction among young professionals. While working with communities across the national capital region most of the participants were found to have firsthand experience of their own. During the discussion they could raise their concerns and pointed out the need for a lifelong learning approach both for community development and community engagement.

The meeting began with participants introducing themselves, where each participant shared their experiences of working with different communities, the challenges they encountered, and their views on community development. Many participants reflected on the importance of trust



building in community engagement. Drawing from their past experiences, some pointed out that often, after collecting data from slum areas, researchers tend to disengage, leaving the communities feeling abandoned. There was a consensus that giving hope to the community only to later neglect them creates distrust, which hampers future interventions. This concern highlighted the need for long-term commitment and follow-through after data collection and research activities.

Another important theme that emerged was the need for greater awareness, sensitization, education, and skill-building initiatives in underprivileged communities. Participants noted that many individuals in these communities' lack knowledge about their rights and duties. They are often unaware of government schemes and programs designed for their welfare. This ignorance is sometimes exploited by intermediaries or brokers, preventing them from accessing the full benefits available to

them. Therefore, participants suggested that raising awareness and providing education and vocational skills should be central areas of intervention to empower communities and enable them to assert their rights and improve their socio-economic conditions.

The discussion also brought attention to the importance of consistency in community development efforts. Participants strongly agreed that meaningful change cannot be achieved within a few months. Instead, sustained and persistent engagement is essential to create a real impact. Short-term projects may provide temporary relief, but they do not contribute to lasting transformation. Participants emphasized that patience and ongoing support are crucial when working at the grassroots level, where trust is built slowly, and positive change takes time. While discussing the ground realities, participants acknowledged the complexity of issues present within communities and the need of strong community interaction skills, cultural sensitivity, and an in-



depth understanding of Indian social dynamics for volunteers was also underlined. Challenges such as gender discrimination, social exclusion, and unequal access to resources were identified. However, they agreed that it would be unrealistic to address all issues at once. Instead, the focus should be on empowering individuals through awareness and critical thinking so that community members can identify problems and develop their own solutions over time. Trained pool of volunteers helping people to become self-reliant and confident in their ability to solve problems was seen as a sustainable approach to community development.

Most of the participants agreed that lifelong learning is going to play an important role in community development. Participants stressed that promoting a culture of lifelong learning could empower individuals to seek knowledge and skills relevant to their personal and professional needs. If people recognize the value of learning, they will pursue education and training independently, leading to self-driven development. Learning to learn was considered an essential capability that could enable individuals to adapt, grow, and overcome challenges in an ever-changing environment. Awareness and sensitization programs were unanimously supported as effective strategies to initiate this process. Overall, the brainstorming session provided valuable insights into the challenges and possibilities of community development through a lifelong learning approach, and it set a strong foundation for IAEA's future interventions.



## Prof. Rajesh Assumes the Office of Director In-charge

The University of Delhi has played a key role in evolution of Indian Adult Education Association since the inception of the idea of establishing a national level organization to lead the educational agenda of the country in post-independence period. Taking the legacy forward Prof. Rajesh, DCEE, DU who also happens to be the senior most Professor in the field of adult, continuing education and extension in the country today, was assigned the responsibility to handle the day-to-day affairs of the Association on March 6, 2025. However, he assumed the office of Director In-charge, IAEA on April 22, 2025 after receiving the consent from the university administration. He was welcomed in the office by both Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary, IAEA and Prof. S.Y. Shah, Director, IIALE. While assuming the office Prof. Rajesh said that it was truly an honour for him to have an opportunity to lead the programmes and activities undertaken by the Association. He expressed his gratitude towards all the members of the Executive Committee specially Prof. L. Raja, President; Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary and Prof. S.Y. Shah, Director, IIALE for reposing confidence in him.



## Literacy and Skill Awareness Campaign at Sanjay Colony



An intense door to door campaign was conducted in Sanjay Colony, New Delhi on April 15, 2025 in which more than 50 families were approached. A team of IAEA comprising Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer; Shri Kripal Singh Mehra, Programme Associate; Ms. Kajal, Trainer at IAEA Skill Centre and Shri Bittu made an effort to knock every door and communicate with the residents specifically women and drop out girls and motivate them to join IAEA skill centre for acquiring Cutting and Tailoring skills with perfection. It was appreciable that a number of house wives eagerly came forward to register themselves with the skill centre. They also expressed their willingness to join literacy classes as well as skill courses on beautician, mehendi application and professional communication in Hindi and English.

## Union Sakshar Adult Literacy Programme

### Prof. L. Raja visited Union Sakshar Adult Literacy Centre at Angul, Odisha

The Adult Learning Centre at Bajiraut Hostel premises Angul, Odisha is going well with its schedule designed to impart basic literacy skills in Odia to the local drop outs. Sponsored by the Union Bank of India this centre will attempt to make at least 30 non-literates to become literate and acquire financial and digital literacy skills for their wellbeing. Prof. L. Raja, President,

IAEA visited the centre on April 17, 2025 to monitor the progress of the learners. He was accompanied by Dr. Sathya Narayana Singhsambanth an Ayurvedic doctor and the Guest of Honor Shri Antaryami Baral, President, Bajiraut Hostel and former Director, Jan Shiksha Sangha, Angul. The visiting dignitaries interacted with beneficiaries and requested them to remain punctual at the



centre so that they can acquire the desired skills and get equivalency certificate of literacy in the concluding ceremony. Assimilating himself with the group of beneficiaries Prof. Raja said that literacy is the beginning of a long and assured journey towards development and told the participants that it will help them in finding employment or lead the children to move forward from middle to higher classes.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Singhsambanth explained healthy habits for healthy life in a very enthusiastic manner which was appreciated by all the beneficiaries as it encourages them to speak and share their own experiences gained while attending literacy classes at the centre. Shri Antaryam Rath made people aware about the importance of education and language learning. Prof. R. Irama presented a beautiful song while Ms. Lipika Mahapatra rendered the welcome song. The program was conducted by the coordinator Shri Suryanarayanath and the vote of thanks was given by Shri Lalkrushna. Shri Chandan Naik and other present on the occasion contributed to make the program a success.

### Financial Literacy Programme in Kerala

As part of the Union Sakshar Adult Literacy Programme, a session on



financial literacy was organized on April 28, 2025 at the Learning Center, Chadayamangalam, Palakkad, Kerala to support adults gain knowledge and confidence needed to manage their personal finances

more effectively. The session aimed to support participants in making smart financial decisions that can improve their daily life and long-term well-being. It was facilitated by Shri Ashok Nemmara, Director, Centre for Life-skill Learning, Palakkad who explained essential financial concepts such as saving and



budgeting in simple terms. He also guided participants through various government schemes, insurance options, and pension plans designed to support low-income families. A key focus of the programme was on recognizing and avoiding financial traps, including how to stay alert to scams and how to borrow money responsibly.

The session was highly interactive, with participants actively sharing their real-life experiences and challenges. Many said they felt more confident after the session and were eager to apply what they had learned to manage their personal financial aspect more independently. It also helped them understanding financial planning for a better future. Others well known persons associated with the programme were present on the occasion included Prof. V. Reghu, Dr. M. S. Geetha, Dr. Madhubala Jayachandran, Shri K. Ayyappan Nair, Shri S. Harish Kumar, Dr. Hari. R. S., Dr. T. Sundaresan Nair, Dr. Rajeswari, Dr. G. Suresh Kumar, Dr. Usha Susan Varughese, Dr. K. Anvar and Dr. Remadevi.



### Annanagar Adult Literacy Center visited by UBI Officials - Tamil Nadu

The Adult Literacy Center at Annanagar colony, Peraiyur in Madurai District running under Union Sakshar Adult Literacy Programme is playing an important role for empowering more than 30 persons including 25 female beneficiaries who are regularly coming to the Centre even during the on-going festival session. The instructor takes classes regularly except Sundays. Recently, in the month of May 2025 Shri M. Etturajan, Manager, UBI, Peraiyur Branch, visited the centre to monitor the progress of the enrolled learners. He was quite satisfied to found that more than 50 percent of learners have already acquired basic skills and able to read and write simple sentences. He encouraged all the learners citing the example of those who have already started reading, to come regularly and attend the classes so that soon all of them are able to read and write. He also appreciated the efforts made by the instructor to make the learners aware of various social security schemes such as PMSBY, PMJJBY and PMAPY etc. The learners too shared their experience and confidence in handling their bank accounts after learning important aspects of financial literacy, ATM usage, and how to write bank cheques for money withdrawal.