

VAHANI NEWSLETTER

February 2024
Issue 17



• THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF VAHANI •

“ *We are creating leaders who will be the inspiration and agents of change in their communities* ”

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“ Our mission is to inspire and empower the next generation, fostering their growth as compassionate leaders of tomorrow. ”

VAHANI WINTER WORKSHOP 2024

The Vahani Winter Workshop 2024 was an event filled with adventure, learning, and camaraderie. With a focus on "Building a Stronger You," the workshop aimed to challenge Scholars physically and mentally while fostering connections and inspiring personal growth.

Day 1 began with a bang as Scholars gathered after breakfast to receive thoughtful Vahani takeaways: personalised sneakers from Plaeto along with delicious lunch boxes for the trek. The theme of the workshop was evident in the challenging trek that tested Scholars' physical endurance and taught them valuable lessons in perseverance and courage. As they descended from the Aravali hills, a sense of accomplishment and gratitude filled their hearts, with shared laughter and lasting memories making the journey truly worthwhile. Even our Founder-Chairperson, Reeva Misra, joined in on the adventure, showcasing the spirit of unity within the Vahani family.

Following a well-deserved rest, high tea was arranged for the 2023 batch induction, opening with inspiring speeches from the Founder Reeva Misra, followed by Patrons Mrs. Shalini Misra and Mr. Rajeev Misra. The introduction of the new Creative Programme by Roshni Misra added a fresh dimension to the workshop, offering Scholars a platform to explore and showcase their artistic talents.

The day concluded with engaging roundtable discussions, introduction sessions, and a fun quiz to test the Vahani IQ of the new batch. A sumptuous dinner was organised by Hyatt Place, where scholars savoured a delightful spread.

Day 2 of the Vahani Winter Workshop 2024 was a continuation of the enriching experiences from the previous day, hosted amidst the tranquil surroundings of the Roshni Farm in Chattarpur, Delhi. This picturesque location served as the perfect backdrop for a day filled with insightful discussions, creative exploration, and meaningful connections. The scholars gathered at the farm, greeted by warm welcomes and the promise of engaging activities.

Founder and Chairperson Reeva Misra set the tone for the day, emphasizing the importance of learning and growth in fostering strong leadership skills. The highlight of the day was a thought-provoking panel discussion on "Leadership in the Times of Conflict." Esteemed panellists, including Sanjeev Bikhchandani, Kiram DM, and Dr. Asha Ram Sihag, all of whom brought decades of experience and expertise to the table, offering valuable insights into navigating challenges and conflicts in leadership roles. Moderated by Vahani Board Member and Patron Rajeev Misra, the discussion delved into real-world scenarios, encouraging Scholars to critically analyse and reflect on effective leadership strategies.

The Scholars went on to participate in a variety of hands-on activities designed to stimulate creativity. Pottery and painting workshops provided opportunities for self-expression and reflection, encouraging Scholars to explore new perspectives and unlock their creative potential. Throughout the day, Scholars were treated to the warm hospitality of Roshni Farm, with authentic Kahwa and hot cappuccinos served to keep energy levels up. The relaxed atmosphere provided the perfect backdrop for meaningful conversations and new connections among the Scholars.

As the day progressed, the English Communications Programme team organised a fun AD-MAD activity, challenging scholars to showcase their creativity and marketing skills by selling unconventional items. Mentor Sonia Bhutani and Board Member Jaishree Misra judged the competition, celebrating the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the participants.

The day culminated by showcasing Scholar performances which ranged from dance to poetry, illustrating the diverse talents available within the Vahani community. A lively dance party provided the perfect opportunity for scholars to unwind, celebrate, and forge lasting memories with friends old and new. As Scholars bid farewell to the Winter Workshop 2024, they carried with them not only cherished memories but also valuable lessons in leadership, creativity, and collaboration.



ANNUAL REVIEW: PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



CEO PREETI BHATIA WITH SCHOLAR DIVYA

Scholar Gaurav Bibe comes from a small town in Buldana, Maharashtra and aims to become an Aerospace engineer in the near future. One year into his college, he is one of the most promising Vahani Scholars. Beyond securing a very high academic score and becoming the topper of his batch, he has also been involved in activities including the National Aerospace Conceptual Design Competition and Rubber Powered Aero-model Competition. He, along with his team also successfully designed and fabricated a 3D model showcasing the structure and aerodynamics of the model.

Beyond his interest in aerodynamics, he has also been actively involved and succeeded in Vahani programmes. He also loves designing and has been one of the major contributors to the Vahani Social Media Team. His journey was one among the many transformative stories that the Vahani team witnessed during the Annual Performance Review.

The Vahani Annual Performance Review was implemented with the aim of fostering continuous growth and development among scholars. The Vahani team had two major goals to achieve with this activity: provide feedback on the Scholar's journey and secondly give guidance on the next steps which will lead to a holistic development. This was a moment of reflection for Scholars as well as the organisation. The Scholars took time to look at the bigger picture and understand where they needed to work harder to achieve success. As for Vahani, this activity brought us to a realisation of the importance and significance of the mandatory programmes like: English Communication Programme, Computer Literacy Programme, Professional Literacy Programme, Internship and Mentorship Programme. The feedback from Scholars helped us chart a better course and structure for the programmes and activities conducted at Vahani.



EMERITUS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Manisha Shekawat
Applied Business Analytics

Prashika Dua
Digital Transformation

Sakshi Gupta
Product Management

Roma Singh
Digital Marketing and Analytics

Shalini Dubey
Digital Marketing and Analytics

Ritu Chauhan
Digital Marketing and Analytics

Mansi Chauhan
Digital Marketing and Analytics

Shipra Saini
Product Management

Pratibha Yadav
Applied Business Analytics

While academic scores were one of the major criteria for marking, the annual review was an inclusive activity to understand how scholars develop their personalities to become employable in the best organisations around the world. One of the most challenging factors, which later turned out to be one of the proudest moments for the team was to conduct the in-person review. Sitting down with the Scholars made us realise that being present in person and taking time to understand each story and concern individually allowed us to better connect with the scholars. Another major feather in our cap was our purposeful initiative to provide personalised guidance to scholars from different academic courses and cultural backgrounds.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2ND VAHANI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEET IN UDAIPUR

Early one morning, Vahani alumni excitedly began their journeys from various railway stations to the venue of the 2nd Vahani Alumni Association meet at The Fern, Udaipur. After several detours, all finally reached the destination, eager to share stories and updates gathered during the many months of being apart.

Over lunch, Alumni bonded over job experiences, shared adventures and many achievements. Post lunch, the President of the Alumni Association took the stage to officially begin the meet. Going over the activities and achievements of the last year, we realised how much effort and creativity the President and his team put towards keeping the vision of the Vahani Alumni alive.

This meet was extremely important to break ground for the new milestones that we hope to achieve in the next 5 years.



The meet was attended by Alumni members from the most senior to the most junior. However, everyone presented their perspective on the points of discussion, with the vice-president ensuring that the discussion stayed on track with everyone getting the chance to share their thoughts. However, it was not all work and no play. Indulging in simple games like balloon busting and musical chairs made us all nostalgic for our early years together. However, this did not dim our competitiveness! While the governing members became referees, the Alumni threw heart and soul into taking home prizes.

The following day, everyone boarded a local bus to tour the amazing sights of Udaipur. A lot of fun was had as everyone conversed with local people, clicked pictures to remember these moments and promised to stay in touch with each other.

As the one-day Alumni meet came to an end, there was a realisation that while our shared experiences with Vahani Scholarship Trust had initially brought us together, it was now our shared values that truly bound us.

Throughout the day, as we reminisced over past experiences, celebrated each other's achievements and strategized for the future, it became evident that our commitment to excellence, strong sense of community engagement and unwavering dedication to social responsibility were the cornerstone of the Vahani Alumni identity. As we bid farewell to Udaipur, we carried not just the memories of the day but also a renewed sense of purpose.

RIDE FOR FUN- CYCLING THROUGH THE STREETS OF DELHI



For the first time in the history of Vahani, we joined hands with "Delhi By Cycle" for an exciting event dubbed "Ride for Fun" on 14th October 2023. This unique initiative, brought together Vahani Scholars, Mentors, and the Vahani Team resulted in a memorable cycling adventure through the heart of Delhi. The event was a thrilling experience, especially for those Scholars who had never cycled through the bustling streets of Delhi before.

"Ride for Fun" was not just about cycling; it was a chance for Scholars to bond with their Mentors and for Mentors to connect with the Vahani Team. The camaraderie among participants added an extra layer of excitement to the early morning ride. The cycling expedition took participants through a diverse array of landscapes, from the intricate alleys of Old Delhi to the charming markets of Connaught Place, and finally along Kartavya Path. Along the way, they delved into Delhi's rich history, passing iconic landmarks like India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The event also served as a reminder of the holistic benefits of cycling. As participants pedalled through the historic, tree-lined streets of Delhi, they not only created lasting memories but also took home a valuable life lesson about the importance of keeping the wheels of their lives moving in perfect harmony.

SCHOLARS ACHIEVEMENTS



PRATHIK KHARAT

B-Tech student at PES University, Karnataka

Participated as a delegate of Qatar at the UNDP Committee, IMUN INDIA SUMMIT 2024, organized by Dayanand Sagar University.



SHUBHAM TAYADE

B-Tech student at Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

Contributed in Data Descriptor paper on Brain Computer Interface (BCI), published on IEEE dataport to help build BCI solutions.



ANURAG KUMAR

Hindi Honors Student at Hindu college, University of Delhi

Awarded Third Position in Inter College Creative Writing Competition organized by Dyal Singh college.



DHIRAJ KUMAR

Design in Fashion communication student at NIFT, Delhi

Awarded three Bronze Medals (200m, 400m and 800m run) in CONERGENCE, an Inter-NIFT competition.

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