

# **4<sup>th</sup> Indian Multiversity Alliance Meeting**



***21<sup>st</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019***

***Bir, Plampur Himachal***

## **INTRODUCTION:**

### **Under the Bright Blue Sun**

On a sleepy rainy morning  
We paint a bright blue sun  
Drawn into this unfolding  
There's nothing we can't learn

We flock together, in multicolour  
Each of us like none  
We fly in the sky, we smile and sigh  
We sing and dance as one

To conferences & schools, structures of  
society  
We go and add the word "un"  
We tear up every tyrannical rule book  
And have a hell of a lot of fun!

Together in walkouts of various ways  
Together in mess & churn  
In surrender to the dazzling light

Of what makes our hearts burn

With no marks to get, no hoops to jump  
And no credits to earn  
We break walls in minds and hearts  
to do what cannot be done

This isn't just a new chapter or a book  
We're making the whole library turn  
And inviting the librarian to join IMA  
Even if she may be stern

We're mothers birthing the newness  
Of the world our hearts oft yearn  
As our ways shall spread & roots go deep  
That lost ancientness shall return

It can't be stopped, stolen or silenced  
Cos its already really begun  
And one fine day, we'll smile at the sky  
and our bright blue sun!

***By: Abhishek Thakore***

**BACKGROUND:** Around 60 practioners of alternative education met at Bir, Plamapur for Indian Multiversity Alliance (IMA) annual gathering. This was the fourth meeting of the IMA. The location was chosen so that we can have the maximum out of this experience in the lovely heat of the tropics. The gathering was hosted by the Deer Park.

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** There were around 60participants from across the country representing different organizations. The names are enclosed in the Annexure.

## **OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING:**

- Annual Meet up of Multiversities Alliance members ( [www.multiversities.net](http://www.multiversities.net) ).
- Reconnect to and review our core values.
- Review our earlier plans, experiences and activities and cargo (responsibilities).
- Encourage cross pollination, mentorship and synergies among member participants
- Sharing of practices, models and innovations to further evolve the national agenda of Re-imagining Education with newer members, leaders and change makers
- Co-create new projects for mutual collaboration, greater social impact and personal growth of leaders.

- Visit sustainable, learning spaces (Sambhavana & Avishkaar) in Himachal Pradesh to learn, share and reflect as a group

### **DAY 1:**

**INTRODUCTION AND SHARING OF PERSONAL JOURNEYS** - The day started with the Ice breaker and short introduction of the partners through an exercise.

Manish welcomed all the participants and gave an introduction of the IMA especially for the new participants and where are we today.

Claude Alvares gave a very inspiring background and touched upon the significance of the IMA in the present context. A video of the same is attached along with this report.



**Photo 1: Claude's wisdom sharing**

Brief presentations by the new projects taken under the IMA last year: During the 2018 meeting new projects were conceived and launched like Traveller's University, Gap Year Programme, Converse Action.

- Rahul and Ashiq presented their work over the year about the traveler's university.
- Aneeta presented about the Anubhava – Pan India Gap Year Programme
- Deepankar and Chetan presented their project of Converse Action.
- Abhishek presented project Youth Fest 2069.

- 52 livelihoods was also presented.

**MELA:** Post lunch a Mela of different new initiative which have joined the IMA was organized. Some of the projects who shared their ideas and projects were Sambhavana, Avishkaar, DEFY project, Youth Link, Jail University, Gnostic Center, storytelling.



Photo 2: Presentation by Youth Link



Photo 3: Presentation by Sambhavana



Photo 4: Presentation of Udaipur Jail University



Photo 5: Presentation by Gnostic center

**DAY 2:** The second day started with debriefing of the first and harvesting the feelings which emerged on first day. There was great sense of community which the participants felt.

**PRO-ACTION DREAM CAFE** - The day was focused to provide space to the partners who wish to start new projects. It was an enriching half a day where everyone contributed their idea and energy to support the projects which are at the idea level.



Photo 6: Sharing Project Idea



Photo 7: Sharing the Project Idea



Photo 8: Sharing the Project idea

**Presentation and Discussion by Prashant Varma on Engaging with Classical Wisdom Traditions:** Prashant who hosted us at Deer Park presented the vision behind the deer park and gave us an understanding work related to Classical wisdom which they are focusing on.



Photo 9: Left to Right Mohit, Prashant & Deepak

**VISIT TO BHUMANG JAMPALING MONASTERY:** a visit was organized to understand the Buddhist culture. We had a guided tour of the Bhumang Jampaling Monastery. We witnessed the vening class of debate which the students have as part of their studies. A student spends 18 years to learn about Buddhism.



Photo 10: Group photo at the Monastery



Photo 11: Debate by the Monks

**DAY 3:** The day started with the debriefing of the last day. The facilitators harvested the need of the various participants.

The third day focus was to initiate the collaborative projects and strengthen the new ideas which were emerging which can be undertaken under IMA.

We had 6 ideas which emerged for more understanding. The groups took space of their choice and the different participants choose different projects to interact with.



Photo 12: Group Discussion



Photo 13: Collector of treasure

**NEW COLLABORATIVE PROJECT:** the participants were divided into smaller groups and brainstormed on any new collaborative projects. Some of the Following projects made their presentation:

1. Sustainable Campus
2. I lead
3. Mensversity.
4. Rediscover India



Photo 14: Presentation by the projects

**SEWA:** some of the participants did sewa at the Deer park farm. They helped in harvesting the wheat field and preparation of the mulch.



Photo 15; Helping Hands

**DAY 4:** soon the final day arrived, which started with a check in. carrying on with the enthusiasm of participants, various cargos were made after much deliberation which took different roles and responsibilities. Following cargos were made:

1. Communication (Website Updates, Content Group & Newsletter)
2. Learner Forum/Festival
3. Heart stewards
4. Mentoring new team
5. Next gathering
6. Knowledge team

A steering committee was also presented to the participants which actively met throughout the gathering to chalk out the strategy of the network.

**CONSOLIDATION OF THE LEARNING:** smaller groups were formed in order to harvest the learning of the gathering.



Photo 16: Consolidation



Photo 17: Consolidation

At the end we had a beautiful and powerful silent closing ritual facilitated by Harsh and Mohit.

**FIELD VISIT:** the group visited Sambhavana and Avishkaar post lunch to understand their organisations's work.



Photo 18: Field visit to Avishkaar



Photo 19: Field Visit to Sambhavana

**CONCLUSION:** *The gathering concluded with the determination to take forward the movement with more strength and increase the number of learner's and partner organisation who align with the vision of the IMA.*