

A Report on

Brainstorming Session “New India Manthan” on Yeh India Ka Time Hai

As per the directive of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Department of Higher Education, Government of India, Dated the 21st August 2017, Nagaland University, HQRS: Lumami organized a brainstorming session “New India Manthan” on the subject “Yeh India Ka Time Hai” to celebrate 70 years of Independence and 75th year of Quit India Movement with a view to ushering in “New India by 2022”.

The **sub-theme** of the brainstorming session was **“New India-Young India: Opportunities and Challenges”**

The programme was organized on 08-09-2017 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. in the conference hall of the Department of political science and was moderated by Professor Arun Kumar Singh, Head of the Department and co-moderated by Mr. Likhase Sangtam and Miss Neizhanuo Golmei, Assistant Professors of the Department.

The significance and the relevance of the theme of the brainstorming session was dwelt upon by the moderator who emphasized on connecting our traditional cultural and civilizational values of tolerance, peaceful co-existence, non-violence, altruism, universal brotherhood and vasudhaiva kutumbakam with modern scientific and technological advancement to achieve and fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the young India.

He highlighted the opportunities available to the youth of our country in form of Prime Minister’s flagship programmes such as ‘Make in India’, ‘Skilled India’, ‘Digital India’, ‘Stand Up India’, ‘Start Up India’ to mention a few. The challenges before the youth of today and tomorrow are to overcome the socio-cultural evils of casteism, communalism, and terrorism and to strengthen the systems/institutions of good governance by making them democratic, participatory, accountable, responsive and corruption free.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pardeshi Lal, in his inaugural remarks while highlighting the importance of the brainstorming session thanked the MHRD for providing the opportunity to the Nagaland University community in general and the young students, faculty and staff in particular for being part of churning of ideas (Manthan) to accomplish the dreams and desires of a New India by 2022 when we all will celebrate the 75th year of India’s Independence with pride and confidence.

An India that will be strong, confident and sustainable. An India that will be based on the principle of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas”, both at home and abroad.

He made the young audience and the participants aware of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in fulfilling the dreams of a New India-Young India. Some of the challenges like unemployment, infrastructural bottlenecks both physical as well as social like lack of a quality education and health system, cross border terrorism, cyber security, disaster management, global warming and climate change, institutions of governance plagued with the menace of corruption, criminalization and red tapism need to be overcome to make our nation vibrant, strong and a world leader by 2022.

He asked the young audience to take a Sankalp/pledge to be enlightened citizens to fight against the social evils like communal violence, caste and religion based discrimination, income and regional inequality and to make India incredible by keeping it filth free.

The Sankalp Se Siddhi pledge (New India pledge) to build a New India, towards a clean India, a poverty free India, a corruption free India, a terrorism free India , a communalism free India and towards a casteism free India was administered to the participants in English by the Vice-Chancellor and in Hindi by Professor M. K. Sinha, the Registrar in-charge.

Professor M.K. Sinha while participating in the brainstorming session opined that if we want to build a New India by 2022 then we have to fulfill the dreams of the leaders of our freedom struggle who sacrificed their youth and life to achieve Independence from colonialism. We have achieved independence but still we are not free from social, political, cultural and economic evils.

In order to build a New India-Young India, we have to get rid of negativity and harness our positive energy for nation building by getting rid of poverty, corruption, casteism, communalism and conflicts.

The two invited speakers Prof. H. John Sema, Department of political science and Prof. S. K. Chaturvedi, Dean, Research, Development and Consultancy (RDC) also shared their thoughts on the theme New India-Young India. Professor John exhorted the young participants to make cleanliness the part and parcel of their life style as cleanliness is Godliness. The youth of today must be prepared to connect local with global and should inculcate a strong sense of belongingness to society and nation. He further opined that performance of one's own duty with honesty will be a great step forward for mitigating corruption.

Professor S. K Chaturvedi called for creation of a fear-free society by 2022 to achieve the dreams of New India. He stressed upon the importance of proper training and guidance to the young minds in order to enhance their capacity and capability to face the challenges of the 21st Century. He highlighted the meaning and importance of "Manthan" that means churning of ideas that will result in getting the best for shaping the future of our nation.

The inaugural/introductory segment of "the New India Manthan" was followed by three technical sessions moderated by Professor A. K. Singh, Convener of the programme and Mr. Likhase Sangtam and Miss Neizhanuo Golmei, the Co-Conveners.

Altogether thirty eight (38) listed/identified participants drawn from teaching faculty, research scholars, students and administrative staff cutting across various disciplines and specializations took part in the programme and came out with a number of valuable suggestions and recommendations which were adopted in the concluding session attended among others by the Vice-chancellor and the Registrar.

Recommendations

Some of the important ideas, recommendations and resolutions which are the outcome of “New India Manthan” brainstorming exercise are summed up and listed below in concise manner for giving a policy direction and orientation for New India-Young India by the decision makers ;

- Need for quality and value based education system that will create a creative as well as an innovative reservoir of human resource and human beings capable of problem solving of the present as well as the future generations. Quality educational infrastructural facility is a prerequisite for high quality teaching and research at par with global standards to meet the requirements of the 21st Century-a century of the knowledge society.
- Need for defining national security in more comprehensive and inclusive manner to include environmental security, water security, food security, health security, cyber security, maritime and space security since the dimensions of and challenges to national security are varied and multi-dimensional.
- Need for developing curricula and syllabi from school to university level that will be helpful in imparting skill based education and knowledge where the youth will be job givers and not mere job seekers. The courses should be designed and implemented in such a way that should cater to the needs and aspirations of young India by 2022.
- Need for transforming the youth into a responsible, responsive, sensitive and an enlightened citizens to perform the task of nation building and to liberate India from filth, poverty, hunger, disease, malnutrition, corruption, casteism, communalism, discrimination, exploitation and inequality-social, cultural, economic and political.
- Need to inculcate and imbibe the cultural and civilization values among the youth based on composite culture, pluralism, tolerance, non-violence, peaceful-coexistence, universal brotherhood and unity in diversity. There is a need for making the youth aware of ideas and ideals enshrined in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, and Fundamental Duty of our great Constitution.
- It was further resolved that the dreams of building a New, Strong and Vibrant India, Make in India, Smart India, Stand Up and Start Up India as well as a Digital India will be fulfilled only when women are empowered socially, culturally, economically, politically, digitally and technologically to make governance inclusive, sensitive and people friendly.
- There is a strong need for revamping and reinventing the system of governance based on the principle of ‘maximum governance and minimum government’ to achieve the objectives of various flagship programmes launched by the Prime Minister and to fulfill the dreams of young India by the time we celebrate 75th year of our Independence in 2022.
- There is need for a collective effort particularly on part of the youth of our country to make our institutions of governance democratic, participatory, responsive, transparent, accountable, sensitive and corruption free. Then only delivery system will be efficient, effective and capable of translating policy programmes into policy actions for the benefit of marginalized and weaker sections in particular.
- Since our Prime Minister has articulated ever since he came to power in 2014 that development of India will not be possible without the development of North East, it is a must to have special and region specific programme of action to uplift the socio-cultural, economic and political as well as the security profile of the North East region, a region which

is endowed with rich natural and human resource and opens our nation's gateway to South, East and South East Asia and beyond under India's Look East/Act East policy.

- There is a need for integrating the people of rest of India with those of the North East- emotionally, psychologically, socially, culturally and politically. In order to understand the region and its people better, it is desired to mainstream our course curricula and syllabi accordingly so that the rest of India understands and shares the history, culture and the way of life of the people of the North East. A secure, stable, peaceful, developed and prosperous North East is *sine qua non* for a new and strong India of the 21st Century and beyond.

Finally, it was resolved that New India-Young India should constitute India in which I stands for innovative India, N for India of nation-builders, D for developed India, I for inclusive India and A for accommodative, altruistic India.

The Vice-Chancellor as well as the convener/moderator of the Manthan programme thanked the participants for making the programme a great success in line with the theme "New India-Young India: Opportunities and Challenges" on the subject "Yeh India Ka Time Hai".

A formal vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Monalisa Tase, Assistant Professor in the Department of political science who thanked the MHRD among others for giving an opportunity to the young minds in particular to have a brainstorming session to come out with ideas to make New India a Great India by 2022. She thanked the rapporteurs for their insightful coverage of the session. She also thanked the staff members of ALL India Radio, Kohima, for covering the brainstorming session for the benefit of public at large.

The brainstorming session was followed by a musical concert on the theme "Yeh India Ka Time Hai".

Prof. Arun Kumar Singh
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Convener and Moderator