

SYMPOSIUM

Nagaland University, at its Headquarters Lumami, celebrated the commemoration of India's 75 years of India's Independence - "**AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV**", as per the letter of Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, GoI dated 05th March 2021.

The programme was organized on 12th March 2021 with the rest of the India to pay respect and homage to the freedom fighters, to discuss the journey of freedom struggle belonging to various schools of thought and the role of Mahatma Gandhi in particular.

The discussion and deliberations were extensively made on India during freedom struggle, India during 74 years of Independence, and the achievements of India during 74 years in the post-colonial period.

The deliberations also centered on the future challenges and opportunities that the youth of the nation, in particular, will be faced with.

The celebration of AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV was organised in the form of a symposium in which a select panel of speakers were identified and roped in both from teaching and non-teaching community as per their respective domain of knowledge.

The programme started with a brief introduction from Mr. Peter Ki, PRO, Nagaland University about the purpose of organizing the symposium. This was followed by the Welcome Address from Dr. Maongsangba, CoE and Registrar Incharge. In his welcome address, the Registrar Incharge highlighted the relevance of commemorating 75 years of India's independence.

The panelists included Dr. Kundan, Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Extension), KVK, NU, Lumami, Mr. Shailendra Sharma, Principal Gr II, KV Lumami, NU, Dr. Anthony V Richa, Deputy Registrar (RDC), and College Development Council i/c, Nagaland University, Prof. M.K. Sinha, Department of Economics, Nagaland University, Prof. A.K. Singh, Department of Political Science & Transparency Officer, RTI, Nagaland University, and Prof. Pardeshi Lal, Vice-Chancellor, Nagaland University.

While Dr. Kundan acquainted the audience with the achievements made in the field of agriculture during 74 years, Dr. Anthony V Richa dwelt on the historic battle of Kohima during World War II. Prof. M.K. Sinha spoke at length, substantiated by available data, about our achievements in the field of economy, technology, infrastructure, agriculture, and in the field of educational field.

Mr. Shailendra Sharma highlighted the importance of five pillars identified in the National Committee to Commemorate AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV headed by the Prime Minister, such as Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75, and Resolve at 75. He also highlighted the role of young minds particularly the school children in taking the responsibility of our independence forward.

Prof. A.K. Singh dwelt at length highlighting the role of freedom fighters and freedom struggle particularly that of Mahatma Gandhi as retrospect, the achievements under introspect, and the challenges and opportunities ahead under prospect. He informed the audience about the importance of all shades and schools of freedom struggle that gave us independence from the British colonialism particularly the role of Mahatma Gandhi who transformed India's freedom struggle into a mass movement, the role and relevance of Dandi March based on the principles and philosophy of non-violence, civil disobedience, and participation of all sections of society particularly the women. He highlighted the achievements of our nation in the post independence period which have been substantive and transformatory (from Nehru's tryst with destiny to Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat), the

transformation from an impoverished, backward nation to a modern, economically and technologically advanced nation, from a country of snake charmers and elephant riders to tremendous achievements in the field of information technology, space, atomic, etc. At length he dealt with the capacity of India to emerge as the most vibrant, resilient, and robust functioning democracy in the world. Today India is recognized as the symbol of democracy among the world community and respected both as a spiritual and technological power contributing to the global good which has been visible during the time of pandemic. He highlighted the challenges in the form of maintaining, preserving, and managing our independence, the ideals of our freedom fighters, and the philosophical base enshrined in our constitution.

Prof. Pardeshi Lal, Vice-Chancellor, Nagaland University gave a synoptic view of the domination of India from the days of Alexander the Great till the British and how during this period, India's spiritual and material strength were plundered and destroyed, turning a golden bird into an impoverished nation. He narrated in poetic forms the contributions of Bankim Chattopadaya, Rabindranath Tagore, Iqbal, and Makhand Lal Chaturvedi. He appealed to the University community in particular to make India once again a global guru in the domain of knowledge and education as it was during the ancient times. He also highlighted on the occasion the importance of NEP 2020 in transforming India into a knowledge economy and Jagat Guru.

The symposium recommended for organizing separate such events marking the celebration of 75 years of India's independence with participation of women panelists only to know the other side of thought on India's freedom struggle and its achievements in 74 years and the future challenges.

The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks from the chairman, followed by a group photographic session.