



### **75<sup>th</sup> Years of India's Independence: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

### **Celebration of India's Independence: History and Heritage at School of Heritage Research and Management (SHRM), Dr B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi**



Various programs under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav are being organized across the country by the Government of India, state governments and other govt. and non-govt. organizations to commemorate the sacrifice of our freedom fighters. Special emphasis is given towards the contributions of unsung heroes of the freedom struggle which are being highlighted through Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programs. These programs include seminars, conferences, symposiums, documentaries, photo exhibitions etc.

School of Heritage Research and Management, Dr. B R Ambedkar University, organized Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations on 14th August, 2022 from 10.00 am to 01.00 pm in its Campus at Qutub Institutional Area. The theme of the program was India's Independence: History and Heritage. All the faculty members, students, and staff of the school wholeheartedly participated in the celebration to make it a success.

The ViceChancellor of the University, Professor AnuSingh Lather joined the programvirtually. Dr. Nitin Malik, Registrar, Prof. Satyaketu Sankriti, Nodal Officer of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the Rector of the University and Deans of various Schools of the University also graced the occasion. The Chief guest of the program was a scholar of eminence Dr. Satyavrata Tripathi whose work on the freedom fighter Chandrasekhar Azad is very well known.

The programme ‘India’s independence: History and Heritage’ was started with the welcome to the dignitaries by Prof Rukmini Sen. In her welcome address, Prof. Sen underlined the role of the city of Delhi in the Freedom Struggle and reminded of the trauma and suffering brought about by the partition.

She also invoked Viswa Kavi Rabindra Nath Tagore’s couplet from the Nobel winning anthology, Gitanjali:

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high  
Where knowledge is free  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
By narrow domestic walls  
Where words come out from the depth of truth  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit  
Where the mind is led forward by thee  
Into ever-widening thought and action  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.”



**Dean of School Prof Rukmini Sen welcoming the Guests**

This was followed by two presentations by the students of SHRM. The first presentation was made by Ms. Shristi Kureel on the Indian National Flag: History and Heritage in which she dwelt upon the evolution of the national flag in different phases of history culminating in the post-Independent India tricolour.



**Presentations by SHRM students Shrishti Kureel and Rashi Karir**

The second presentation was made by Ms. Rashi Karir on Parliament Museum and its Significance in Independent India wherein she highlighted about the concept and design of the museum and inauguration of the museum by former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. She also elaborated on various types of galleries and dioramas in the Parliament museum and their significance in the freedom struggle and democratic process of India.



**Visit of SHRM students and Faculty to Parliament Museum**

Registrar of the University Dr. Nitin Malik addressed the gathering on the occasion. In his address, Dr. Malik said, this day, i.e. August 14 is being observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. It is very significant because our forefathers suffered a lot during the time of partition. Also, apart from the known freedom fighters, there were many who fought against the British but they are not remembered and the time has come to identify those unsung freedom fighters. He also urged the students and faculty of SHRM to put effort in that direction by which the contributions of our unsung heroes of freedom struggle could come to the limelight. He also said that during the time of partition, there are many who suffered, lost their friends and relatives and there are tales of sorrow, pain and agony due to partition and hence SHRM can work on this which will be a great contribution on behalf of Dr. B R Ambedkar University.





### Address by Dr. Nitin Malik, Registrar

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Anand Burdhan, Faculty, SHRM spoke on the Freedom Movement and its Significance specifically in the History of Delhi. Dr. Burdhan started with the idea of India and referred to many classical texts and hymns delineating the physical geography of India as envisaged in ancient times. Dr. Burdhan highlighted about the contributions of many unsung heroes of the freedom struggle especially during the First War of Independence in 1857 with special reference to Delhi. He also revealed about the role of many unsung women freedom fighters of Delhi and Satyawati was most prominent among them. In 1938, the great peasant revolutionary Swami Sahajananda Saraswati addressed the gathering at the Delhi Town Hall. In the same meeting, in front of the Swamiji, Satyawati assured him that the women of Delhi are with Swamiji in this fight for freedom. Also, there were thousands of women in Delhi who came out in large numbers participating in the rallies in Chandni Chowk led by Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. Burdhan also spoke about the role of Subhas Chandra Bose and Azad Hind Fauz or Indian National Army highlighting the national anthem of INA *Sab Sukh Chain* sung during the unfurling of Azad Hind Flag at Singapore.





### **Dr. Anand Burdhan Speaking on History of Freedom Movement in Delhi**

On the occasion, the Chief Guest of the programme, Dr. Satyavrata Tripathi was felicitated by the Registrar Dr. Nitin Malik with a shawl and a memento. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Tripathi said, he has special interest in the study of India's freedom struggle. Since his childhood he grew up in Prayag, and that place was also associated with one of the greatest freedom fighters, Amar Shahid Chandrasekhar Azad. He became the victim of a large conspiracy where his own associates were bribed by the British and he was martyred for the country. Dr. Tripathi very lucidly elaborated the grand conspiracy that was hatched by the British to arrest Azad. Azad was about to meet his revolutionary friends at Alfred Park, Allahabad to chalk out the course of action against the British. His associates provided prior information to the police about the meeting of Azad. When Azad entered the park for the meeting, police reached the spot and cordoned off the area. Azad was asked to surrender. But he didn't; fought valiantly and martyred.







**Chief Guest Dr. Satyavrata Tripathi delivering his lecture**

Shri Laxmikant Gaurji, retired judge and head of the Delhi Judicial Academy was also felicitated with a memento on the occasion.



**Felicitation of the Chief Guest, Dr. Satyavrata Tripathi**

Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Anu Singh Lather inaugurated a Digital Exhibition on the occasion. The exhibition was curated by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Art (IGNCA) and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). Professor Lather congratulated the school for successfully organizing the program and wished all the faculty, students and staff all the best for their future



### **Inauguration of the (digital) Exhibition by Vice Chancellor Professor Anu Singh Lather and Special Address**

It was followed by a special lecture by Prof. Lather. She appreciated Dr. Satyavrata Tripathi for the release of his book on the freedom struggle and wished that everybody should read his book. She said that we all are celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and this spirit continues as everybody is connected with this spirit. Prof. Lather said, it is important for all of us to remember the contributions of our freedom fighters and what did they do for us. Also we should remember from where did we reached in this stage. There are many historians and scholars amongst us who have brought out the real history of these freedom fighters. She also reminded about the physical geography of India from ancient times till present saying, 'from Bharat to Hindustan to India we have come across a long way'. She said, if you will observe keenly, you will find that we are a country for cultural nationalism. When Alexander the Great reached India, he found unity among people. We have Harappan Civilization and the world is learning about it. In our national anthem, we come across words like Punjab, Sindhu, Gujarat, Maratha ...means Sindhu was part of India.

Prof Lather also highlighted the contribution of women in the struggle for independence. She said that everybody including elderly, children, students took part in the freedom struggle. Even during the partition, the displaced people became refugee and they also faced poverty and hunger. So, huge amount was looted from India and it was not accounted for in any of the platforms. For the freedom of India, a lot of people sacrificed their lives. As per an estimate, more than 30 lakh people were killed in the freedom struggle. We observe partition remembrance day to remind the pain, the brutality meted out to during partition and not to forget it.

She said, when Baba Saheb presented the draft of constitution in the Constituent Assembly, in his speech, he said, it is a matter of happiness that we got independence. But his concern was can we maintain that independence? He said, the reason for which we lost our independence, the same reason still exists in the society now also. As Dr. Tripathi said, how Chandrasekhar Azad was betrayed by his own associates and how police was informed about our freedom fighters, that practice still remains. Prof. Lather appealed to our youth to study and understand our history, and all credit goes to them who, without any fear, present the history in right perspective. She also emphasized that, one can divide the territorial borders of the nation but cannot divide its shared history. One can twist and present the academic history, but cannot delete the inner history which are imbued in our historic memory and they can never be erased. One should not forget one's history, one's past and one should always stand for its nation; now and forever. Prof Lather said that it made her happy when Srishti and Rashi were giving presentations because the students are now trying to connect with their history. She said, if we can design such types of courses for the New Education Policy, then we can connect to our bachelors students with our history. She added that, for *desbbhakti* curriculum, a lot of efforts are being made in the country and Delhi government is also trying its best in that direction.

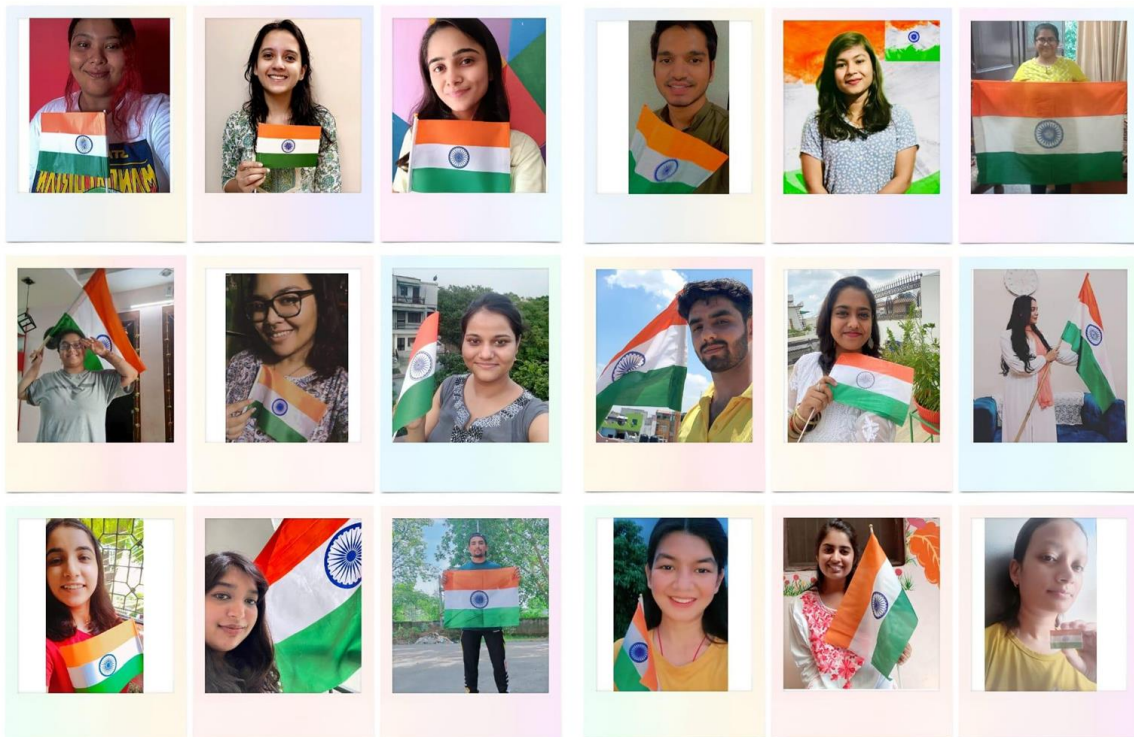
Prof. Satyaketu Sankriti, the Proctor of the University and the Nodal Officer for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, delivered the vote of thanks.



**Vote of Thanks Professor Satyaketu Sankrit, Nodal Officer, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**

The programme ended with the National Anthem.

**Students of SHRM in the *Har Ghar Tiranga* Campaign.**



**Supported SHRM Student: Ankit Chanchal**



## Photo Gallery













**Photo courtesy: SHRM students, Dr Aman Kumar Singh, Dr Snigdha Vishnoi  
Report Compiled by: Dr Sailendra Swain and Dr Sima Yadav**