

REPORTAGE OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

“Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it”

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Like every year, History Department, Kalindi College, had organized the offline celebration of 75th year of India's Independence which means India has achieved 74 years of freedom. This day reminds us of all the sacrifices that were made by our fighters in order to set India free from British Imperialism. To commemorate the contributions of the freedom fighters in the wake of self-rule Independence Day is celebrated in pomp and panoply. Our esteemed Principal, Professor Naina Hasija, Dr. Rajni Nagpal (Chairperson) and Shri Alok Goswami, (Associated Editor of Panchjanya) had graced the occasion. They were honoured with token of appreciation. Teachers and students had joined online to celebrate India's 75th Independence Day. The celebration of freedom was commenced with flag hoisting. The trio-colour flag symbolizes unity in diversity, secular principles, liberation from British colonial monopoly and fraternity. The proud moment was followed by Vande Mataram and National Anthem. The audience were serenaded by patriotic song, sung by Ms. Chitrajita Gupta of English Hons 1st Year, which spellbound the audience. Dr. Abhishek self-composed poem titled 'Akhand Bharat'. Thereafter, Dr. Anshu Chotani, Convenor ECA club had read the reports of activities conducted by various departments on the theme 'Azadi,' and prizes fetched by various students participated in those events.

To continue with the programme, Dr. Rini Pundir, senior faculty member, History Department requested Principal Ma'am to address the gatherings of teachers and students joined both in online and offline mode. In the address, the principal wished the students and members of Kalindi College fraternity a very happy year ahead. She applauded the sentiment of the students and wished that they would maintain the same sentiment through their futures. It was outlined that University of Delhi celebrating 75th years of India's Independence---'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.' With this note Dr. Naina Hasija ended her speech. Chairperson Dr. Rajni Nagpal was invited to deliver few words to commemorate the event. In her speech, she highlighted the struggles of freedom fighters who had laid their lives to set India free from foreign yoke. Her

motivating speech had raised patriotic fervor in the gatherings and commemorated the long and consistent efforts put by the freedom fighters for the country. It is noteworthy that in her narrative, Dr. Nagpal had named many women freedom fighters like Rani Lakshmi Bai, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Ahalya Bai, Matangini Hazra, Mridula Sarabhai, Aruna Asaf Ali, Sucheta Kriplani, Sarojini Naidu and Vijaylaxmi Pandit and others whose dedications for this country were commendable. Apropos, her focus on the fulfillment of duties and responsibilities by the teachers and students would pave the path of India's success. After Dr. Nagpal's deliverance, Shri. Alok Goswami, was invited to share his experience with the teachers and students. His speech was illuminating with multiple experiences which attracted the audience. He, in his speech motivated the audience to get connected by using common language, I.e Hindi. It was Macaulay who in order to encourage inferiority complex amongst the minds of the Indians had completely overhauled the education system. His continuous mockery and ridicule of India's past education system had distorted the evidences of archaic system of imparting knowledge. Ipso facto, the urge to change older education system with the new one had disseminated in India. In leaps and bounds wherein association with western education system was symbolized as epitome of knowledge and expansion of newer thought processes. Indian in this regard were backdated and therefore model of civilizing mission would have to be willfully germinated in the name of cultural proximity. Sui generis, Shri Goswami also encouraged us to pay homage to those fighters who silently fought for the country's independence. Like for example Shri Jagdish Chandra Bose and others who had not deterred from the path of truth and righteousness. He was narrating his experience when he visited Andaman Cellular Jail where freedom fighters were incarcerated for their so-called crimes meted out against British dominion. His speech contained full of praises and admiration for Veer Savarkar, Subhas Chandra Bose and others whose tireless fights had forced the Britishers to review their position in India. Besides this, Shri. Goswami also praised our esteemed Prime Minister for his dedication and sterling qualities. After his speech, the day concluded with a heartfelt thanks conveyed by Dr. Krishna Kumari, convenor Dharohar, History Society to all those who came to celebrate this day.