

75th Independence Day Celebration

On 15th August 2021, India celebrated its 75th Independence Day with pride and elation across the country. IIT Bhubaneswar observed the day with dignity and euphoria to inspire the young minds of the institute. On this auspicious occasion, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) team of IIT Bhubaneswar conducted a virtual program for the enrolled students from different schools of Odisha. The objective of the program was to enlighten students about the rich history of India and inspire them to actively participate in the welfare of our society. In view of that, the UBA team organized multiple co-curricular activities among the students through online mode.

Several activities such as drawing, debate, essay writing and one-minute-thought were conducted based on relevant social themes with an innovative approach. The activities were carried out sequentially by the team members and students were encouraged to participate in all events. Students enthusiastically participated in the events displaying their talent and charisma. The students' artworks were inspiring and beautiful representation of Indian society and history. The submitted essays were well-written with commendable coverage of the topic. Students expressed quite significant and salient features about the social topics assigned to them in debate competition. In the 'one-minute-thought' event, students were given a topic to think about for 'one-minute' and then speak about it for two minutes. The views of the students were quite broad and expressed them quite fluently. The students actively attended the entire program with euphoria. Moreover, the UBA team had encouraged students to exhibit their cultural talents to make the program colourful. Consequently, some students played instruments, and sang patriotic songs during the events as part of cultural celebration of the program.

The UBA team also organized a very informative and innovative quiz event based on historic achievements and eminent personalities of the nation. Topics related to current affairs such as India's achievements in Tokyo Olympics 2020, were also covered. Students diligently participated in the quiz and gathered significant information from it. Moreover, the UBA team had encouraged students to exhibit their cultural talents to make the program colourful. Consequently, some students played instruments, and sang patriotic songs during the events as part of cultural celebration of the program. Besides, some students recorded small dance performances and sent their video to the team to be played during the cultural program. The UBA team efficiently motivated and inspired the students to display their talents in the program. The students were encouraged to think broadly about the society and how they can make significant contributions for the welfare of our nation at their level. For instance, a student of Class VII gave useful information about how to handle cell phones while attending online classes to mitigate its negative impact on students' health. In the prevailing situation of a pandemic that has pervaded normal life, students attended the virtual program with zeal and joy.

The UBA team sincerely commended the efforts of students and motivated them to improve their skills and actively participate in future events in various aspects of life. Winners of the students' events were graced fairly ensuring that most of the actively participating students

are honored to boost their talents and instill confidence for improvement. The team professed about the joy of our independence and its significance in life. Students were encouraged to respect the struggle of our great freedom fighters, by not only paying homage to them but also by uplifting and preserving the virtues of Mother India. Students were elated and took home the message of hard work, modesty and perseverance to build a vibrant personality in future. The virtual Independence Day program was conducted successfully by the UBA team members. The UBA team applauds the students for their active participation and their family members for their support. The team sincerely acknowledges IIT Bhubaneswar for providing such an opportunity to build a platform for inspiring and uplifting school students and aims to conduct such motivating events in future.