

**Partition Horrors Remembrance Day Observed  
at Sri Sathya Sai Institution of Higher Learning, on 14 August 2022**

The students and staff of the Sri Sathya Sai Institution of Higher Learning observed 14 August 2022 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, across all its campuses, reflecting and recounting the sacrifices of our elders who were rudely displaced from their homes, and subject to violence on religious grounds.

**Activity 1**

The women's campus at Anantapur was fortunate to have the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Ramnarain Khanuja and Sri. Sur Singh Bhandari as Guest of Honor for the day.

Flt. Lt. Ramnarain Khanuja (Ret.) served in the Indian Air Force till his retirement in the capacity of a Technical Ground Engineer and contributed to the three wars, two with Pakistan and one with China. Both he and his wife Mrs. Khanuja were victims of the horror of partition and faced the devastating trauma of the tragedy.

Hony. Lt. Sur Singh Bhandari (Ret.) served in the Indian Navy from 1956 to 1991 (35.5 years). Mr. Bhandari had taken an active part in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan on board the Naval Warships, INS Betwa, and INS Kirpan respectively.

The Guests of Honour were invited to the stage and felicitated by the Director, Anantapur Campus. Their experiences of the horrors of partition were shared with the faculty and students. Thereafter, they inaugurated the exhibition put to display in the form of a video. This exhibition was curated by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), to showcase the sufferings of the people affected by the partition.

This was followed by two invigorating and moving talks by Dr. Rajani Bhandari, and Dr. Kiran Bala Arora, who shared in detail their parents' experiences during the testing times and how they rose to the occasion to serve the nation in their capacities. The programme concluded with Mangala Aarati and with the campus Brass Band playing the National Anthem.



## Activity 2

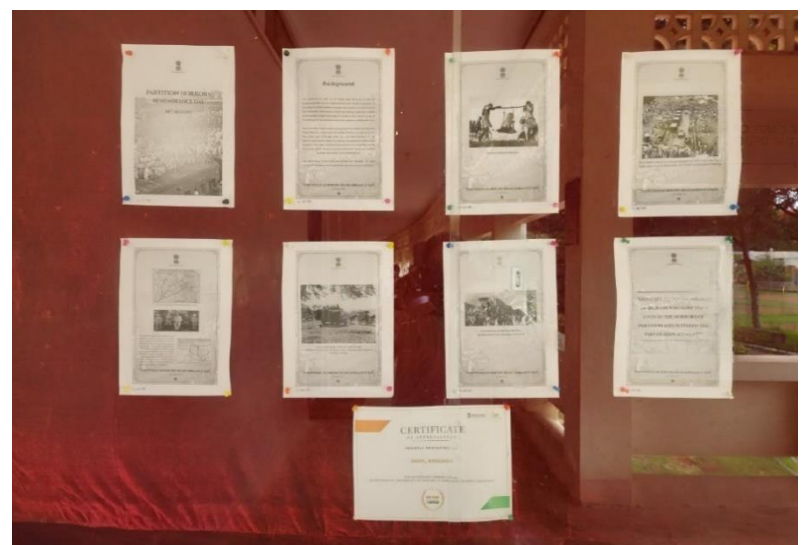
At the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, the session started with an introduction to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) by Sri. Harsh Kumar of II M.Sc. (Biosciences), followed by introductory remarks by the Director, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus who gave the students a brief background on the partition of India.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. R Gangadhara Sastry, Honorary Professor, Dept of Political Science, whose talk revolved around the horrors created by India's partition. He spoke at length about the trauma caused by the violence to men, women and children alike. Those who survived were devastated as they were displaced from their families staying in the current day Pakistan, and had lost their loved ones to the violence and had lost all their wealth/property in the process. The students were then shown the exhibition on the topic curated by ICHR & IGNC. The session ended with the National Anthem.



## Activity 3

The students at our Brindavan campus were shown the digital exhibits. The same was also prominently displayed from 11th August to 16th August 2022. The students got a perspective into the impact it had on the lives of millions of people uprooted from their homes for no fault of their own, and the excruciating pain experienced by them seeing their families being torn apart, exposed to violence of all kinds, surrounded only with hatred, fear, and barbarity of unimaginable proportions.



#### Activity 4

The students of the Muddenahalli campus were shown the exhibits on partition.

The young minds could see that it was neither war nor famine that caused one of the largest forced migrations the world has ever seen, but selfishness, religious intolerance, lack of unity and brotherhood, and hearts devoid of love were to blame.

Overall, these activities made the students realise the sacrifice and the price our forefathers paid and how precious the freedom we enjoy today is. It also helped sensitise them on various issues of society and life, reiterating how love, unity, and tolerance are the basis of peaceful co-existence



We are reminded of a powerful message our Master and Beloved Founder Chancellor Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba gave the world when He said:

*Where there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in character  
Where there is beauty in character, there will be harmony in the home  
Where there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation  
Where there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.*

[Click here to view our report on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations at SSSIHL](#)

Here are few pictures below taken from various campuses from the sessions.

