

A Report on

Empowering Minds, Inspiring Innovation and Building a Stronger Nation: 80th Independence Day Special Programme by MITS Community Radio 90.8

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Introduction

MITS Deemed-to-be University celebrated the 80th Independence Day of India with patriotic enthusiasm and a strong focus on the responsibilities associated with freedom, education, innovation and nation building. The celebrations brought together the University leadership, faculty members, students and other members of the MITS community.

As part of the celebrations, MITS Community Radio 90.8 provided special coverage of the programme and presented the important messages delivered by the University leadership.

The programme provided an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of independence in the contemporary context. The discussions highlighted that independence is not limited to political freedom; it also encompasses the freedom to think, learn, innovate, develop skills, create opportunities and contribute meaningfully to society and the nation.

The programme particularly highlighted the importance of education and knowledge in empowering individuals. Students were encouraged to acquire new skills, pursue certifications,



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make effective use of emerging technologies and prepare themselves for changing professional requirements.

The celebration also reflected the University's commitment towards innovation, technological development, employability, continuous learning and self-reliance.

Central Theme

“True Independence is the Freedom to Learn, Innovate, Create and Contribute to Nation Building.”

Objectives of the Programme

The 80th Independence Day special programme was designed with the following objectives:

Objective 1 – Promote the Meaning of Independence

To encourage students to understand independence beyond political freedom and recognise the importance of freedom of thought, knowledge, creativity and responsible action.

Objective 2 – Promote Quality Education and Lifelong Learning

To encourage students and faculty to continuously acquire knowledge, skills, certifications and professional competencies.

Objective 3 – Encourage Innovation and Emerging Technologies

To create awareness about the importance of emerging technologies, laboratories, research, innovation and technology-oriented education.

Significance of the Celebration

Independence Day provides an opportunity not only to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters but also to reflect on the responsibilities of citizens in a free nation.

The programme highlighted that the responsibilities of today's generation include:

- Acquiring knowledge and skills.
- Developing innovative solutions.
- Supporting technological progress.
- Becoming professionally competent.
- Promoting ethical and responsible behaviour.
- Contributing to society.
- Strengthening India's self-reliance.
- Participating actively in nation building.

The MITS Community Radio coverage helped communicate these messages to the wider academic community through an accessible audio-based platform.

Opening / University Leadership Message

The opening message reflected on the contemporary meaning of independence and emphasised that freedom should empower individuals to think, learn, innovate and achieve.

Knowledge was presented as one of the most powerful means of achieving independence. An educated and skilled individual is better equipped to make informed decisions, face challenges and contribute positively to society.

The speaker emphasised the responsibility of the University to provide students with opportunities to:

- Acquire new knowledge.
- Develop professional skills.
- Obtain relevant certifications.

Address by Pro-Chancellor – Srinadana Dwaraknath

The programme presenter formally invited the respected Pro-Chancellor, Srinadana Dwaraknath, to deliver his message.

However, the available transcript does not contain the substantive portion of the Pro-Chancellor's speech. Therefore, specific statements or viewpoints have not been attributed to him in this report in order to maintain source accuracy.



Address by the Hon'ble Chancellor – Dr. N. Vijayabhaskar Choudhury

The Hon'ble Chancellor, Dr. N. Vijayabhaskar Choudhury, delivered the principal address and presented several important ideas relating to education, faculty development, innovation, technology, employability and nation building.



Appreciation of the MITS Community

The Chancellor expressed happiness at witnessing the enthusiasm and patriotic spirit of the MITS community.

He appreciated the participation of students and faculty and observed that the spirit of MITS was reflected strongly through the celebrations.

Understanding Gen Z and Future Generations

The Chancellor encouraged faculty members to understand the changing nature of Gen Z and future generations of students.

He emphasised that teachers should recognise the knowledge, capabilities and expectations of younger generations rather than assuming that students possess limited knowledge.

This requires teachers to understand changing learning styles and adapt their teaching approaches accordingly.

Continuous Learning for Faculty

A major theme of the address was continuous learning.

The Chancellor shared an example of a senior professor who learned from research scholars through regular interaction. This demonstrated that learning is a two-way process.

Faculty members were encouraged to remain open to learning from students because students can also bring new ideas, knowledge and perspectives.

Teacher–Student Collaboration

The Chancellor emphasised that teachers and students should recognise their mutual dependence. Teachers provide guidance, experience and direction, while students can contribute new perspectives and emerging knowledge.

Such interaction can create a richer and more productive educational environment.

Relevance in a Rapidly Changing World

The Chancellor highlighted the speed at which technology and innovation are transforming society. Existing knowledge, technologies and institutional practices can become outdated rapidly. Therefore, faculty members and students must continuously update their knowledge and skills.

The message strongly encouraged a culture of:

Learning → Unlearning → Relearning → Reskilling → Innovation

Guiding the Younger Generation

The Chancellor called upon faculty members to train, guide and steer students towards bright

careers and innovative opportunities.

He emphasised that institutional goals can be achieved only through collective efforts involving:

- Students
- Faculty
- University administration
- Management
- Technical and support teams
- Other stakeholders

The University therefore has an important responsibility to prepare students not only for employment but also for leadership and responsible citizenship.



Student Welfare and Skill Development

The Chancellor appreciated institutional efforts to support students through scholarships and emphasised that financial difficulties should not prevent deserving students from accessing education.

He also encouraged students to make use of skill laboratories and certification opportunities.

Faculty members, student volunteers, NCC and NSS members were encouraged to motivate students to acquire additional skills and certifications.

Technological Self-Reliance

One of the most significant themes of the address was technological self-reliance.

The Chancellor connected India's political independence with the need for technological and industrial capabilities.

He referred to areas including:



- Defence technology
- Semiconductor manufacturing
- Electric vehicles
- Indigenous production
- Advanced technologies

The message was that a truly self-reliant nation requires strong capabilities in science, technology, manufacturing and innovation.

Centres of Excellence and Innovation

The Chancellor encouraged faculty members to come forward with innovative ideas and take ownership of new initiatives.

The establishment and development of Centres of Excellence were highlighted as opportunities for advancing research, innovation and institutional capabilities.

Faculty members were encouraged to contribute ideas that address future technological and societal challenges.

Employability and Reskilling

The Chancellor highlighted the changing nature of employment and professional careers.

Obtaining a job should not be considered the end of learning. Professionals must continuously update themselves to remain relevant in the workplace.

The concept of:

“Unlearn, Relearn and Reskill”

was particularly relevant to the changing employment environment.

Students were therefore encouraged to develop adaptability, technological competence and lifelong learning habits.

Resilience and Nation Building

The Chancellor concluded his address by highlighting India's resilience and the importance of strengthening the country through technological capabilities, indigenous production, semiconductor development and defence preparedness.

He called upon students, faculty and all stakeholders to contribute towards:

Individual Development → Institutional Development → Nation Building

The message emphasised that India's future depends upon educated, skilled, innovative and responsible citizens.

The Independence Day celebration therefore served as a platform to connect patriotic responsibility with educational excellence, innovation and technological self-reliance.



Major Outcomes of the Programme

Outcome 1 – Enhanced Awareness of Knowledge-Based Independence

The programme encouraged students and faculty to understand independence as the freedom to think, learn, innovate and develop capabilities. It reinforced the importance of education, knowledge and continuous learning in achieving individual and national progress.

Outcome 2 – Increased Orientation Towards Innovation and Technological Self-Reliance

The programme highlighted the importance of emerging technologies, research, skill laboratories, Centres of Excellence, semiconductor development, defence technology and indigenous innovation. Students and faculty were encouraged to contribute towards India's technological advancement.

Outcome 3 – Strengthened Employability and Nation-Building Orientation

The programme promoted continuous learning, unlearning, relearning and reskilling, preparing students and professionals to respond to changing employment requirements. It encouraged all stakeholders to contribute towards institutional growth and national development.

Overall Impact

The programme created a meaningful connection between Independence Day and contemporary educational responsibilities.

Rather than limiting independence to historical remembrance, the programme encouraged the MITS community to consider how education, innovation, technology and skills can strengthen India's future.

The overall impact can be represented as:

Freedom → Knowledge → Skills → Innovation → Self-Reliance → Employability → Nation Building

Conclusion

The 80th Independence Day Special Programme by MITS Community Radio 90.8 was a meaningful initiative that connected India's historic journey of independence with the contemporary responsibilities of education, innovation, technology and nation building.

The programme highlighted that the meaning of independence has evolved. In addition to political freedom, a progressive nation requires citizens who possess the freedom to think, learn, innovate, create and contribute.

The messages delivered during the programme particularly emphasised the importance of continuous learning, faculty development, student skill development, emerging technologies, employability, innovation and technological self-reliance.



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The Chancellor's address provided a strong vision for preparing students and faculty to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The emphasis on unlearning, relearning and reskilling reinforced the importance of lifelong learning, while the focus on Centres of Excellence and indigenous technology highlighted the role of higher education institutions in strengthening India's innovation ecosystem.

The programme also reinforced the importance of collective responsibility. Students, faculty, management and institutional stakeholders all have important roles in strengthening educational institutions and contributing to national progress.

Alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 4: Quality Education

Promoted continuous learning, certifications, skill development, faculty development, emerging technologies and career-oriented education.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Emphasized employability, reskilling, professional development, career preparedness and adaptation to changing employment requirements.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Emphasized collective participation of management, leadership, faculty, students and other institutional stakeholders in development and nation building.