

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). Many events in the field of pharmaceutical sciences were held under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. NIPER SAS Nagar organized "NIPER Week" from 4th-9th October, 2021" as a common program for all seven NIPERs. These events were conducted in both offline and online modes at NIPER, SAS Nagar for one week.

Many pharmaceutical industry experts, academicians, start-up leaders, and NIPER alumni gave lectures during this week. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Hon'ble Union Minister (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers), was the Chief Guest and Ms. S. Aparna, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Chairperson, Apex Council, NIPERs was the Guest of Honour for the inaugural event. There were inaugural lectures on the theme "Story of Pharma sector during last 75 years". The lectures were by Dr. Rustom Mody, Head Biologicals, Sun Pharma, Dr. Dinesh Dua, Executive Director, Chairman, Nectar Lifesciences, & Chairman, Pharmexcil and Chairman, CII Northern Region, (Life Science and Biotech) and Dr. Girish Sahnii, Ex DG-CSIR. There was a key note address by Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog.

During Industrial Leadership Conclave, four speakers talked on the theme "The role of Pharmaceutical industry in development of India since Independence". The speakers were Dr. Ved Shrivastava, Vice President of Chemistry at Aktis Oncology, NC, USA, Dr. Rajamannar Thennati from Sun Pharma Advanced Research Co. Ltd. and SPARC Bio-Research Pvt Ltd., Dr. Gautam Das, Co-Founder and Managing Director for Startup miBiome Therapeutics, Mumbai and Dr. Sanjay Singh from Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, Pune.

On October 6th 2021, under the category of Popular Science Lectures (Academia), four eminent speakers gave talks on the theme "Drug Discovery @ 75". The session started with the talk of Padma Bhushan awardee Prof. P. Balaram, Ex-Director, IISc, Bengaluru. The session continued with a talk by Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Director General, DSIR-CSIR, Prof. Mitali Chatterjee, Prof. & Head, Department of Pharmacology, Institute of PG Medical Education and Research, Kolkata and Prof. Javed Iqbal, Ex-Director, Dr Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences, Hyderabad.

On the next day, six NIPER Alumni gave presentations on the theme "Experience at NIPER and in the real world". During the AKAM Celebrations, two exhibitions were organized in the institute on (i) History of Pharmacy in India and (ii) Medicinal Plants.

Under the heading "Popular Science Lectures", the lectures were delivered by the BoG Members /

Superannuated faculty members of NIPER on the theme "Pharmaceutical Education and Research @ 75". Dr. Mukul Jain, President, Zydus Research Centre, Ahmedabad, BoG - NIPER Ahmedabad, Prof. Asit K. Chakraborti, Ex-Professor & HoD, NIPER SAS Nagar, Prof. U.C. Banerjee, Ex-Professor & HoD, NIPER SAS Nagar and Prof. P.P. Singh, Ex-Professor, NIPER SAS Nagar delivered their talks.

On 11.10.2021, a one day seminar was conducted by Shin-Etsu in collaboration with AAPS NIPER Student Chapter on the title 'Pharmaceutical Excipients for Solid Dispersion'. This seminar focused on providing critical inputs on excipients available with "Shin-Etsu" for preparing solid dispersions.

From 18.10.2021, three lectures were conducted by Agilent and AAPS NIPER Student Chapter. The first lecture was on the title 'Dissolution testing solutions for emerging formulations: Definitive Nanoparticle Dissolution testing'. The lecture imparted critical insights regarding NanoDis system by Agilent. On 20.10.2021, a second lecture on the title "Dissolution testing solutions for emerging formulations: Biorelevant Dissolution testing" was delivered. The lecture explained the technology development background for USP type III apparatus by Agilent. Further, Technology overview of BioDis Apparatus III and Reference applications of the same were elaborately discussed. On 22.10.2021, a third lecture on the title "Dissolution testing solutions for emerging formulations: Compendial small volume Dissolution testing for novel dosage forms such as combination drug products" was delivered. The lecture focused on 400 DS Apparatus VII launched by Agilent. This allowed attendees to gather critical inputs for their dissolution studies.

Prof. Dulal Panda the Director of the institute distributed the prizes to the winners of the Poster making and Essay Writing Competitions held on 26th and 27th October, 2021. He felicitated Retd. Air Force Officer, Sqn. Ldr. Chandra Prakash for his remarkable contributions to the nation.

On 31.10.2021, there were two lectures organized. First entitled "Post-independence Developments in Indian Pharmaceutical Industry Some Toxic Dependence and What Country is Doing to Overcome It" By Prof. HPS Chawla, Ex-Dean, NIPER, SAS Nagar and second entitled "The Idea of Bharat: A Rashtra or Nation?" by Prof. Sudhir Kumar, Professor, Panjab University, Chandigarh. There was Sitar Vadan by Pt. Shubhendra Rao under the aegis of SPIC MACAY.