



Indira Gandhi National Open University

Regional Centre, 5-C/INS-1, Vrindavan Yojna, Telibagh, Lucknow

Report on Celebration of National Unity Day & Vigilance Awareness Week (28th October – 2nd November, 2019) on 31st October, 2019

IGNOU Regional Centre, Lucknow celebrated 31st October as National Unity Day. All the staff members and Academics actively participated. A Lecture was organized on this occasion. Dr. Anamika Sinha, Assistant Regional Director (Ph.D. in History, Lucknow University) deliberated upon the important role of Sardar Patel in keeping India united and integration of more than 550 independent princely states into India from 1947 – 49 by Independence Act (1947). Dr. Sinha informed the gathering the following, **"As the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India, Patel organized relief efforts for refugees fleeing from Punjab and Delhi and worked to restore peace. He led the task of forging a united India, successfully integrating into the newly independent nation those British colonial provinces that had been "allocated" to India. Besides those provinces that had been under direct British rule, approximately 565 self-governing princely states had been released from British suzerainty by the Indian Independence Act of 1947. Threatening military force, Patel persuaded almost every princely state to accede to India. His commitment to national integration in the newly independent country was total and uncompromising, earning him the sobriquet "Iron Man of India". He is also remembered as the "patron saint of India's civil servants" for having established the modern all-India services system. He is also called the "Unifier of India". The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, was dedicated to him on 31 October 2018."**

She concluded by focusing on statue of Unity. Dr. Sinha said, **"The Statue of Unity is a monument dedicated to Patel, located in the Indian state of Gujarat, facing the Narmada Dam, 3.2 km away from Sadhu Bet near Vadodara. At the height of 182 metres (597 feet), it is the world's tallest statue, exceeding the Spring Temple Buddha by 54 meters. This statue and related structures are spread over 20000 square meters and are surrounded by an artificial lake spread across 12 km and cost an estimated 29.8 billion rupees. It was inaugurated by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31, 2018, the 143rd anniversary of Patel's birth."**

Lastly the learners, staff, and the Academics of Regional Centre took **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge**.



Dr. Reena Kumari, Assistant Regional Director proposed a formal Vote of Thanks and the programme was conducted by Dr. Kirti Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director.

Gyanvani, Lucknow also organized Live Phone-in-programme on this occasion on the topic, **"Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat"**. Dr. Vivekanand Singh, a renowned historian was invited as an expert.



The details have been uploaded on University Activity Monitoring Portal (UAMP).

- Regional Director