

## Press Release for 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

### Ref.: Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations

In continuation with the celebrations NIPER week –Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Lecture series, on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, four eminent speakers gave their talks on the theme “Drug Discovery @ 75”. All the speakers were of very high academics standards & achievements.

The first session started with the talk of Padam Bhushan awardee **Prof. P. Balaram**, Ex-Director, IISC, Bangaluru. He delivered a talk on “Sambhu Nath De and GN Ramchandran: Revisiting Two Triumphs of Science in Post-Independence India”. He mentioned about huge contributions made by these great Indian scientists and how it influenced the past 75 years of drug discovery efforts. He appreciated that Ramchandran Plot is an iconic image of modern biochemistry. He advised young Indian scientist to emulate the high standards set by these stalwarts, which includes *‘silent innovative work without expecting laurels.’*

The session was continued with the next talk by **Dr. Shekhar C Mande, Director General DSIR and CSIR.** He shared his vision for “Drug Discovery and Development”. He mentioned that it is our duty to pledge to get into all aspects of drug discovery for future rather than only in generics. He further told that there is a huge scope in phytopharmaceuticals for Indian Pharma industry. He also detailed the advantages India has w.r.t. cost efficiency, economic driver, policy support by Indian government and increasing investments. He invited CSIR and NIPER scientists to work together in the field of drug discovery which has a great potential for economic growth.

**Prof. (Ms.) Mitali Chatterjee**, Prof. and Head, Department of Pharmacology, Institute of PG Medical Education and Research, Kolkata delivered her talk on “Azadi from kala-azar..... almost there”. She

started from the history of eradication of different diseases from India. She highlighted about the research on Kala-azar. She explained that how researchers can help and guide the clinicians in conducting the trials to consider the patient is parasite free. She advised that the pioneering efforts are practical in NIPERs because of their strength in fundamental sciences and their application prospective.

**Prof. Javed Iqbal**, Ex-Director, Dr Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences, Hyderabad delivered a talk on "How COVID-19 opens-up opportunities for young Indians to become entrepreneurs". First, he discussed about the impact and challenges of COVID-19 on our lives. He further discussed about the attributes of and motivations for entrepreneurs. With his vast experience in academia and pharmaceutical industry, he suggested that NIPERs should establish innovation hubs for pharmaceutical industrial growth, and that is very practical.

During today's lectures, along with Prof. Dulal Panda, the Directors of NIPER Ahmedabad and Kolkata introduced the speakers to the audience. Today's lecture series concluded with the thanks from Prof. Dulal Panda, Director, NIPER, SAS Nagar.



Talk By Prof. P. Balram



Talk By Dr. Shekhar C Mande



Prof. Kiran Kalia introducing Speaker Prof. Ms Mitali Chatterjee



Dr. V. Ravichandiran introducing Dr. Javed Iqbal



Professors of NIPER, Mohali attending 6<sup>th</sup> October's Conference



