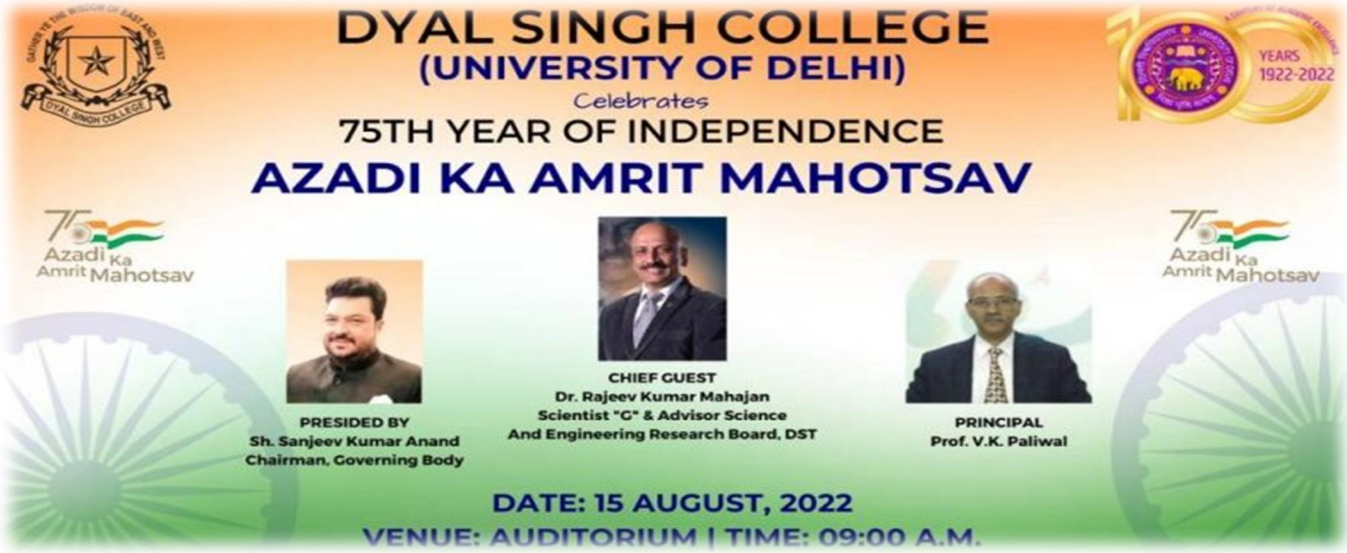
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
Dayal Singh college
(75 years of Independence)
(15.08.2022)

What a mesmerizing day at Dayal Singh College - one of the oldest and esteemed institutions of Delhi University for me where I was invited as Chief Guest to be part of these celebrations. An elite university at the capital which had also been my alma for five years at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi

This almost four hours long program at Dayal Singh College never had any dull moments - neither for me nor for anyone among the organisers perhaps. Commencing from the march by smartian NATIONAL CADET CORPS - India cadets escorting the Chief Guest to the flag hoisting venue amphitheatre as well as other prominent locations in the premises, until the culmination of the hugely energetic cultural program, everything went by the clock precision. There was quality, vibrance and positivity in the environment. The spectacular show was created by societies and groups like NCC, National Service Scheme, Roots Musical Society, Zenth Musical society, Junoon Dramatic Society, Rudra Dancer Society and a few others. Its beyond words to explain the created magic.

In the introductory session I was really surprised to know that a total of more than 9000 students are part of the college in morning and evening shifts. Speaking to the faculties and students on the occasion was really satisfying that I could reach out to not only an intellectual class but rooted ones to our rich Indian Culture and Heritage.

The essence of the talk was an introspection of our "freedom". After the Britishers left us in 1947, are we really free? Have we become a proud nation or do some of us continue to feel and act like self-fllagelatling Indians? Are we 'Indian' by our genes and colour, or our tastes, intellect or value system reflect otherwise (the western)? As to why the modern has become synonymous with the Western? Do we really value the hard earned freedom and its sustenance in the past, as well as have gratitude for the contributions of so many Indian stalwarts in Science, Arts, Culture, Economy, Social Fabric and in many fields during the last 75 years, to reform India what she is today? Lastly, to determine how we cultivate a sense of ownership for the nation among the Generation Next - through integrity, empathy and excellence.