

**AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV  
NORTH EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY  
CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY  
9<sup>th</sup> OF MARCH 2023**

North Eastern Hill University under the banner of Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav celebrated International Women's Day by organizing a day long program on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. The program started with the inauguration of a Women's Fair cum Food Court which comprised of various stalls of women entrepreneurs such as WISE from St. Mary's College, Local made ornaments and garments by fashion designer Iba Malai, Khasi local delicacies from the famous Mei-Ramew Café from Khweng village in Ri-Bhoi, Kong Joy's Pani Puri mobile cart, Organic and indigenous vegetables from Ri-Bhoi and other local delicacies. There was also a 'Selfie Booth' depicting the theme of the program "Daughters of the Soil" which attracted a large number of students. The main objective of the 'Women's Fair' was to reach out to the women vendors of rural areas who are dependent on agro-based livelihoods. The fair was also a way to help the women entrepreneurs get exposure by selling their products at the campus.

Added to this there was also a Panel Discussion held the same day at 1 PM at Multi Use Convention Hall. The Vice Chancellor, NEHU, Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla chaired the program. The panelists who were invited were:

- (1) Dr. Pynsuklin Syiemiong, Vocalist of Summersalt band,
- (2) Miss Neena Rabha, Deputy Superintendent of Police, CID, ACB
- (3) Miss Iba Malai-Founder and Creative Director, KINIHO
- (4) Mr. Bhogtoram Mawroh, Senior Associate Research and Knowledge, NESFAS.
- (5) Miss Careen Joplin Langstieh-Artist

Prof. Desmond Kharmawphlang, Chairman, Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav, NEHU welcomed the gathering and the Convenor of the function Prof. Rekha M Shangpliang coordinated the panel -discussion.

The panel discussion was very informative since the 4 panelists belonged to different fields. Dr. Pynsuklin Syiemiong as a Vocalist of one of the famous local bands in Shillong named Summersalt shared her experiences of being a mother as well as a teacher at a college and a singer too. However, she stressed on self-reliance and determination as the key to success. The second speaker Miss Neena Rabha as a 'Lady in Uniform' shared her experiences as a Police officer who faced societal pressure but she stressed on a disciplined

life and faith in oneself. The third speaker Mr. Bhogtoram Mawroh explained about his involvement at NESFAS and how women entrepreneurs were helped by the NGO. The next speaker Miss Careen Langstieh encouraged the students to take up courses on Art and Literature which could build up their creativity and talent in projecting their own culture through various art forms. The last speaker Miss Iba Malai a Fashion designer was keen on working on indigenous methods of weaving with 'ryndia' (heritage fabric of the Khasis) which through her designs can be a cultural symbol of the North East in general.

The program ended with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. Rekha M Shangliang, Covenor of the program.



The Banner





**Stalls selling local indigenous vegetables**



**Felicitation of the Vice Chancellor**



**The Panelists with the Convenor and the chairperson of AKAM**



