



EVENT REPORT – 80th Independence Day Celebration

EVENT NAME: 80th Independence Day Celebration

DATE: 15th August 2026

VENUE: NHCE Open Stage

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Independence Day is celebrated on **15th August every year**, the day India attained freedom from about 200 years of colonial rule. This occasion is not only a remembrance of our past struggles but also a day to instil the values of liberty, democracy, and unity among all citizens.

The 80th Independence Day 2026 was celebrated at New Horizon College of Engineering with great patriotic spirit and enthusiasm. This year's celebrations carried the theme:

“80 Years of Freedom. 25 Years of Excellence. Together Towards Viksit Bharat...”

The celebration began with the **flag-hoisting ceremony** at 8:50 AM by the **Chief Guest, Lt Col Satyaranjan Panda (Retd.)**, Director of Operations, Indian Army and Executive Director, Technology and Cyber Security Risk Management, Wells Fargo, Bengaluru, in the presence of the President-NHCE, Dr. Manjunatha, Principal-NHCE, Dr. R. Bodhisatvan, Principal-NHCM, and Registrar-NHEI, Mr. Surya Prakash. The hoisting of the tricolor was followed by the **National Anthem**, creating a vibrant and patriotic atmosphere.

The NCC unit presented a guard of honour to the Chief Guest. After this, Lt Col Satyaranjan Panda delivered an inspiring speech emphasizing the work and sacrifices of soldiers, national welfare, and the challenges faced by the country. He motivated students to contribute actively towards nation-building. This was followed by the **Felicitation of the Chief Guest**.

The Principal, Dr. Manjunatha, in his inspiring address, spoke about the progress India has made across science, technology, and global leadership, and emphasized that India should now be seen as a developed nation rather than a developing one. Connecting his vision with the national mission of "Viksit Bharat 2047," he urged students and faculty to embrace innovation, research, and entrepreneurship to help India continue leading the world in technological advancement and socio-economic growth.

The guest, Lt Col Satyaranjan Panda, in his address, spoke at length about life in the Indian Army and the discipline, sacrifice, and dedication that define a soldier's service to the nation. He highlighted the tireless work of soldiers guarding the country's borders under difficult conditions, often far from their families, and stressed that this spirit of service is what keeps the nation secure. He emphasized that a soldier's first priority is always the welfare of the country, above personal comfort or ambition, and urged students to carry this same sense of duty into their own lives and careers. He also spoke candidly about the challenges faced by the armed forces and by the country

at large, from operational hardships to the broader responsibility of nation-building, and encouraged the youth to face challenges with courage rather than avoid them. Drawing on his own transition from military service to the corporate world, he motivated students to stay disciplined, resilient, and purpose-driven, reminding them that true patriotism lies in contributing meaningfully to the nation, whatever path they choose. He concluded with a call to the young generation to take responsibility for India's future and work together towards building a stronger, self-reliant nation.

The **Cultural Programme** showcased patriotic dance and song performances by students of NHCE and NHCM, highlighting the spirit of freedom and unity. The event concluded with the **Vote of Thanks** and **distribution of sweets** to all students, faculty members, and staff, spreading joy and togetherness.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED:

- Flag Hoisting Ceremony with National Anthem
- NCC Guard of Honour and March Past
- Address by the Chief Guest
- Felicitation of the Chief Guest
- Cultural Programme – Patriotic Songs & Dance Performances by NHCE & NHCM students
- Distribution of Sweets

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS:

Approx. **600 participants** including students, faculty, and staff.

GUEST PROFILE:

Lt Col Satyaranjan Panda (Retd.)

Lt Col Satyaranjan Panda (Retd.) is a distinguished veteran Indian Army officer, currently serving as Executive Director, Technology and Cyber Security Risk Management at Wells Fargo, Bengaluru. With a career spanning defense leadership and, more recently, technology and cybersecurity risk management, he brings a unique perspective bridging military service and the corporate world, and continues to inspire young generations through his motivational talks and contributions to society.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EVENT:



Fig 1. NCC Team Escorting the Guest To Flag Hoisting



Fig 2. Chief Guest Hoisting the National Flag



Fig 3. Dignitaries during Celebration



Fig 4. Address by the Chief Guest



Fig 5. Felicitation - Chief Guest



Fig 6. Address by the Principal



Fig 7. March Past by NCC Cadets



Fig 8. Faculties and Student Participants during Celebration



Fig 9. Patriotic Performance by Students during Celebration