



MISSION SHAKTI PROGRAMME (PHASE FOUR)

DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW

25 AUGUST 2022, SMART ROOM

Program Schedule

11.00 a.m. – Lighting of the lamp

11.05 a.m. – Introduction by the Coordinator, Dr. Amita Sonker

11.10 a.m. – Welcome Address by the HoD, Prof. Madhu Rajput

11.15 a.m. – Presentation of the souvenir to the guests

11.20 a.m. - Address by the Convener, Mission Shakti Program, Prof. Madhurima Lall

11.30 a.m.- Address by the first Guest Speaker, Dr. Vijaya

11.50 a.m. – Address by the second Guest Speaker, Colonel Ritesh Kumar

12.10 p.m. – Poem Recitation by Squadron Leader Toolika Rani (retd)

12.25 p.m. – Interaction with the students

12.40 p.m. – Vote of Thanks by Dr. Archana Tewari

12.45 p.m. - Tea



DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU
FOR A SESSION

**UNDER MISSION SHAKTI PHASE 4
A U.P. GOVT. INITIATIVE**

PATRON
PROF. ALOK KUMAR RAI
HON'BLE VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW

SPEAKERS

Colonel Ritesh Kumar
Indian Army

Dr. Vijaya
English and Foreign Languages
University, Lucknow

25TH AUGUST 2022, 11.00 A.M.
SMART ROOM, DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN HISTORY

PROF. MADHURIMA LALL
CONVENER MISSION SHAKTI,
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW

PROF. MADHU RAJPUT
HEAD
DEPTT. OF WESTERN HISTORY

DR. AMITA SONKER
COORDINATOR
DEPTT. OF WESTERN HISTORY





MISSION SHAKTI PROGRAMME (PHASE FOUR)

AN INITIATIVE OF U.P. GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW

25 AUGUST 2022, SMART ROOM

A program was organized under Mission Shakti Phase 4, an initiative by U.P. Government, by Department of Western History, University of Lucknow, on 25th August 2022. The program was conducted under the patronage of Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Lucknow University. The guidance was provided by Prof. Madhurima Lall, Convener, Mission Shakti Program, University of Lucknow, and the supervision was done by Prof. Madhu Rajput, Head of the Western History Department. Two distinguished Guest Speakers Colonel Ritesh Kumar and Dr. Vijaya, Faculty, English and Foreign Languages University, Lucknow, were invited for the event. All the faculty members of Western History Department contributed in organizing the event. A large number of post-graduation students and research scholars attended the program.

HoD Prof. Madhu Rajput welcomed the Convener Prof. Madhurima Lall, and the Guest Speakers, along with the students, and introduced the theme of the function. She emphasized upon the need of pondering over the gender-specific issues, and to generate awareness about equal rights in order to create an egalitarian and just society for all. She stressed the importance of equal economic rights and mutual respect. Dr. Amita Sonker, faculty, Western History Department carried forward the program by introducing the Guest Speakers.

Prof. Madhurima Lall, Convener, Mission Shakti program, thanked the Uttar Pradesh government for initiating this thoughtful campaign. She expressed gratitude to the Patron, Prof. Alok Kumar Rai for granting her the responsibility to organize programs in the University under Mission Shakti, and praised the Department of Western History for conducting thought-stimulating programs under the previous phases of the campaign as well as the current one. She exhorted the male students present in large number to realise the significance of such initiatives, so that in future there remains no requirement at all for women empowerment programs. The first step in this direction must be taken within the families. She expressed confidence in the success of the Mission Shakti program and hoped that the students of Lucknow University will implement these values in their lives and be role models for others.

Dr. Vijaya, the first Guest Speaker, while enumerating the role of women in preserving the culture and language, pondered over the origin and significance of the term, 'Mother-tongue'. She engaged the audience by asking simple but thought-provoking questions about why the mothers

are the most crucial carriers of languages and hence the culture. She said that if women stopped speaking to their children in the mother-tongue, it would eventually lead to the 'language-death'. Hence, the role of the mothers in developing a child's proficiency in mother-tongue must be appreciated, as even the child's overall development depended upon it.

Colonel Ritesh Kumar, while speaking on the role of women in Indian Armed Forces extolled the valour of Indian women, with various examples from history. He shared his experiences of working with women officers. Talking of the first batch of women officers, he said that the best candidates irrespective of the gender were selected. He praised the government's decision to grant Permanent commission to women officers as well as inducting girls into NDA. He cited the examples of women spies of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, and the role played by the six women officers of US Army to trace the whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden, as well as the role played by Indian Air Force woman radar officer in successfully conducting the Indian aerial operation in Balakot, to highlight the contribution of women officers in Armed Forces.

In addition, Squadron Leader Toolika Rani, Ex-Indian Air Force Officer, U. P.'s first woman Everest Climber, International Motivational Speaker and Author recited a poem, titled, '*Mera Parichay*', in which she cited the examples of ancient scholarly women like Gargi and Apala, and warrior queens such as Durgavati and Laxmi Bai to enunciate the various facets of a woman's identity. She exhorted the audience to not restrict women in certain roles but perceive them in a larger context of being a human being, full of talent, aspirations, different inclinations, and equal rights upon the choices of their lives. In the end she cited the example of '*Ardhnareeshvar*' to stress upon a cohesive, and complimentary existence.

The program was covered by Image Today TV channel. The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Archana Tewari, while the senior faculty of the Western History Department Prof. Abha Trivedi was also present and interacted with the guests and the students.

**Glimpses of Mission Shakti Phase- 4 Program, Western History Department,
Lucknow University, 25th August 2022**



*Welcoming Prof. Madhurima Lall, Convener,
Mission Shakti Program*



*Prof. Madhu Rajput, HoD, Western History
Department Welcoming the guests and the
Students and introducing the theme*



Prof. Madhurima Lall addressing the gathering



*Dr. Vijaya, Guest Speaker, speaking on the
significance of Mother-tongue*



*Colonel Ritesh Kumar speaking on the role of women
in Armed Forces*



*Squadron leader Toolika Rani (retd) reciting a
poem on women's identity*