National Education Day is an annual observance in India to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Dr Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the First Education Minister of India who served from August 15, 1947 until February 02, 1958. ‘National Education Day’ of India is being observed on November 11 every year since 2008 so on this occasion the commemorative program was held at our campus; for the last four years since 2014 we have been doing so. Prof. M.S. Narasimhan, Professor of Finance and Accounting and Dean Administration, IIMB was the Chief Guest to speak on the theme of “Importance of Education and Nation’s Commitment”. The program started with the introduction of the Chief Guest by Prof. K.C. Mishra, Principal and briefing about the program.

In his key note address Prof. M.S. Narasimhan stressed on the quality of education and not simply the importance. He said in India we have diversified education system and Government does not have clear focus towards the education system; and our educated ones lack decisiveness at the time of need. In the span of 25-30 years though drastic changes have taken place in our education system, Government has lost control and quality in education is missing with the intent of holistic development. Some key issues from Prof. Narasimhan’s speech are as follows:

- Manpower is more but we have failed to deliver quality education
- Proper action plan and its implementation is lacking
- Diversified education system is in place in a vast country like ours

The keynote address was followed by Panel Discussion on the topic “Importance of Education and Nation’s Commitment: Journey since Independence” by Mrs. Neena P.C Assistant Professor; Ms. Tejaswini, MBA student on the topic ‘Education for Change: Social Development to Nation Building” and the other MBA student Ms. Prakriti on the topic “Educational Quality Issues and Challenges.” All the panelists focused on the given theme and suggested how the present students can lead future India taking cue from the ancient system and also from the Indians who are excelling in other fields at global level. The panel discussion was followed by question-answers session. About 100 students and 30 faculties attended the program.

Ms. Neena PC talked of gaps in talent supply in higher education and what should be the objective of higher education. Her focus was mainly on quality in higher education so that our Universities can find top ranks globally; she reminded Dr Kalam’s saying that Indian education
framework needs to be changed completely. Tejaswini discussed about different facets of societal change through education; whatever change occurs are they realistic? Prakriti focused on issues and challenges related to education system; she reminded of Dr Nelson Mandela who said education was the most powerful weapon to be used to change the world.

The outcome was we have to offer quality education with global standard. Teachers’ accountability should increase and Education Experimentation Entrepreneurship should go hand in hand and greater thrust should be given on primary education so that the basic backbone of a student could be solidly established upon which edifice s/he builds super structure with the contents of higher education received. The program was coordinated by Prof K.C. Mishra, Principal. Prof Narasimhan was felicitated by the Principal and vote of thanks rendered by Tejaswini.