



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

K2 Bidhannagar Fire Station, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
OBSERVANCE OF PASCHIM BANGA DIVAS 2026
Special Lecture on Virtual Mode
পশ্চিমবঙ্গের আত্মপ্রকাশে শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখোপাধ্যায়ের ভূমিকা
Organized by
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi
Coordinator, B.Ed. SoE, NSOU
Speaker
ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81942570804>
Date: 20.06.2026
Time: 1.30pm -2.30pm
Chairperson: Prof. Debi Prosad Nag Chowdhury
Director, SoE, NSOU
Conveners: Dr. Antara Choudhury & Dr. Papiya Upadhyay
Asst. Professor., SoE, NSOU

REPORT ON THE OBSERVANCE OF PASCHIM BANGA DIVAS – 2026

Organized by: School of Education (SoE), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)

Date: 20th June, 2026

Mode: Virtual Mode through Zoom link

Participants: 37 Participants (Learners, Research Scholars, Faculties, Officers, Alumni & Staff of NSOU)

Initiation of the Programme

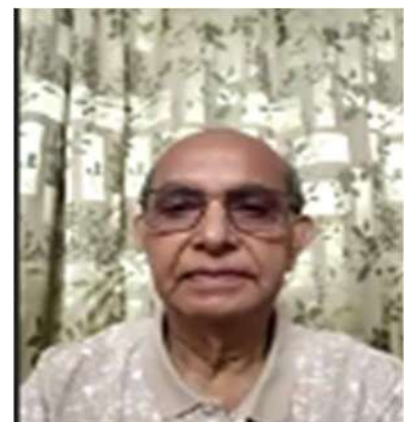
The historical landmark of observing "Paschim Banga Divas 2026" for the first time unfolded on behalf of the State Government of West Bengal. Implemented by each and every institution/organization of the state, this directive opened a new scope and thought regarding the historical approach to the formation of Paschim Banga (West Bengal) during the Partition of United India and United Bengal in the year 1947.

The programme was initiated and anchored by Dr. Antara Choudhury, Asst. Prof., SoE, NSOU & Convener of the Programme. At the outset of the programme, she enlightened the audience with a lucid introduction to the creation of 'Paschim Banga' and its impact over partition.

Welcome Address

As Chairperson of the Programme, Prof. Debi Prosad Nag Chowdhury, Director, SoE, NSOU, delivered the Welcome Address. With a very informative and inspiring speech, he welcomed all the participants and the Speaker, Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, Coordinator, B.Ed., SoE, NSOU.

In his speech, Prof. Nag Chowdhury emphasized the historical importance and significance of observing Paschim Banga Divas (West Bengal Day), which will be officially celebrated annually from this year, 2026. In this context, as per the





Government Circular, 20th June 2026 is considered the 1st Celebration of 'Paschim Banga Divas'.

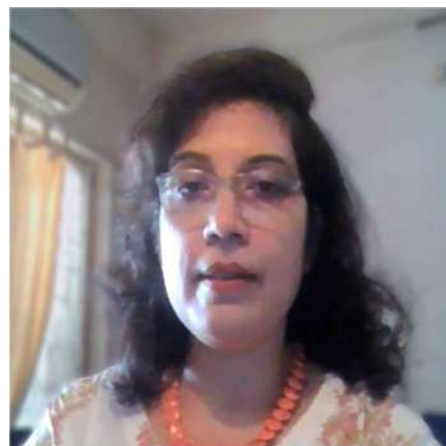
He revealed, in brief, the necessity behind the partition of Bengal and the patriotic efforts of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, who was the pioneer of the emergence of Paschim Banga (West Bengal) as a part of India. This was achieved by consolidating Hindu public opinion through a struggling effort. Prof. Nag Chowdhury focused on the existence, cultural restoration, and self-identity of the Hindu Bengalee people resulting from the division of United Bengal and the creation of West Bengal. Once again, he welcomed all with gratitude for participating in this programme.

Introducing the Theme

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst. Prof. of SoE, NSOU, emphasized the main tune of the theme of today's programme: "Celebration of Paschim Banga Divas". She conveyed the thought of feeling proud as we witnessed the observance of 'Paschim Banga Divas' on 20th June 2026, in accordance with the Government Circular of West Bengal. She briefly mentioned the objectives to commemorate this auspicious day:

- To know the historical perspectives where the roots of our ancestors are restored;
- To maintain the responsibilities, unity, and integrated form of life with the existence and dignity of the Bengalee nation as a part of Indian culture, tradition, and civilization.

Dr. Upadhyay also briefly enlightened the audience with the significant efforts of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, for whom West Bengal could remain a part of India today.



Plenary Lecture

The Special Plenary Lecture was delivered by Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, Coordinator, B.Ed., SoE, NSOU, with his usual spontaneous, sweet, and melodious voice. The topic was: **"The Role of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee in Self-revelation, Self-restoration, and Self-identity of West Bengal"** (পশ্চিমবঙ্গের আত্মপ্রকাশে শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখোপাধ্যায়ের ভূমিকা).

His thoughtful lecture was nicely categorized into different aspects:



1. **Introductory & Academic Phase:** Dr. Panigrahi started the introductory part focusing on the childhood development and brilliant academic achievements of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee. In his lecture, he mentioned his administrative position as the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, where his patriotic feelings for Bengal and the Bengali language were exposed (such as introducing Bengali as a medium of



instruction in higher studies, and the Convocation speech delivered in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, etc.).

Historical & Pre-Partition Perspectives: In the next part of the lecture, historical and contemporary political perspectives were revealed. The speaker elucidated the events of the Partition of Bengal (1905) and the formation of the Muslim League. He critically discussed the Lahore Resolution (1940), the demand for a separate country of Pakistan by the Muslim League, the Quit India Movement (1942), and the drastic political changes at the end of the Second World War.

The Unsecured Position of Hindu Bengalees: Dr. Panigrahi discussed how the partition of India was almost accepted by the then leaders of the Congress and the Muslim League. In the later part of this scenario, the Hindu Bengalee people felt unsecured, realizing their safety and security would be hampered under the reign of a Muslim administration if the entirety of Bengal became a part of Pakistan.

The Leadership of Dr. Mukherjee: In this context, the role of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee was glorious for the emergence of West Bengal, especially to restore the entity, culture, and religion of the Hindu Bengalee people. He strongly organized public opinion for the partition of Bengal to include and debut the western part of Bengal as a state of India.

Dr. Panigrahi elaborated with sequential thoughts and ideas on the chronological political events. Since 1946, after the acceptance of a divided India, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee (the son of Bengali icon Asutosh Mookerjee) accelerated his activities regarding public opinion, Hindu organizations, and the Hindu Mahasabha. He emphasized the importance of religion on social, cultural, and political consciousness, demographic population, and population density with respect to the partition of Bengal and the formation of West Bengal as an integrated part of India.

The speaker also exposed the brilliant, conscious political spirit of Dr. Mukherjee in relation to Hindu unity, Hindu middle-class sentiments, and the reality of the economic importance of the Calcutta Port, which led to the foundation of the spirit to partition Bengal. This logical political activity was supported by other distinguished politicians and educationists, namely Kiran Sankar Roy, Dr. B.C. Roy, etc., who gave their consent for making the state of West Bengal for the Hindu Bengalee people. The initial programme was started at Tarakeswar through the Hindu Mahasabha, where a strong decision was taken for the partition of Bengal to restore the entity of Bengali culture and civilization. Not only this, for the safety and security of the eastern part of divided India, a separate state of West Bengal was united.

The historical day marks **June 20, 1947**, when members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly voted to partition Bengal, fully realizing the importance of the creation of West Bengal. This pivotal legislative vote paved the way for the creation of West Bengal, offering a secure homeland and preventing the Hindu-majority western regions from being included in East Pakistan.

Our learned speaker, Dr. Panigrahi, also categorically elucidated the contributions of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee in the following aspects:

The determination of the borderline of West Bengal during partition;

Addressing the problems of refugees, displaced persons, and evacuees who were made homeless and forced to flee their original homes;

Facilitating rehabilitation and employment opportunities.

Considering these versatile aspects, the historical decision was taken in favor of the partition of Bengal and the creation of West Bengal. Dr. S.P. Mukherjee illuminated the light of the lamp, which in turn inspired several patriotic Hindu people, freedom fighters, and leaders to support his



view for the sake of restoring the Hindu Bengalee entity and ensuring the safety and security of India.

In the later part of the discussion, the speaker exposed the multi-dimensional impact on social, cultural, religious, demographic, economic, and political aspects regarding public sentiment and the fruitful outcome of the partition of Bengal to ensure West Bengal was not included in East Pakistan. In that context, a critical analysis was focused on by the speaker in relation to long-term problems, the deterioration of relations between the divided Bengals, and communal harmony, alongside defensive security, the restoration of Hindu civilization, and the democratic cultural traditions of Indian origin.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Dr. Panigrahi acquainted the audience with the fact that today's celebration of 'Paschim Banga Divas' for the day 20th June 2026 is a historical landmark, made possible by the positive efforts considered on behalf of the Government of West Bengal. The name 'Paschim Banga' (West Bengal) carries a significant historical perspective, which will be celebrated year after year by future generations, especially by the Hindu Bengalee people.

In this consideration, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee will be remembered with distinctive honor as one of the main pioneers of the formation and creation of West Bengal, alongside other great men of Bengal and India. In fine, it can be stated that if a man like Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee had not taken the initiative for the creation of West Bengal, supported by the then Hindu Mahasabha, the members of the Legislative Council of Bengal, and other patriotic personnel, the fate of the Hindu Bengalee people and their existence would have been miserable and diminished.

Thanks to the goodwill of the State Government of West Bengal, at least after 75 years of the Independence of India, 'Paschim Banga Divas' is being celebrated everywhere across organizations and institutions. This recognizes the Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee as the founder, illuminator, reformer, and pioneer of Paschim Banga (West Bengal), an initiative that seems to be *"Better Late than Never"*.

The charming and lucid presentation of this memorable lecture won the hearts of all. It not only unfolded the historical truth of the creation of Paschim Banga but also enriched the audience with patriotic, social, cultural, and ethical values alongside the restoration of the intellectual civilization of modern Hindu Bengalee Indians. It showcased the role of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee in the rejuvenation of a nation with a reformative vision and foresight. The speech ended with the speaker, Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, conveying his thanks to all participants and dignitaries.

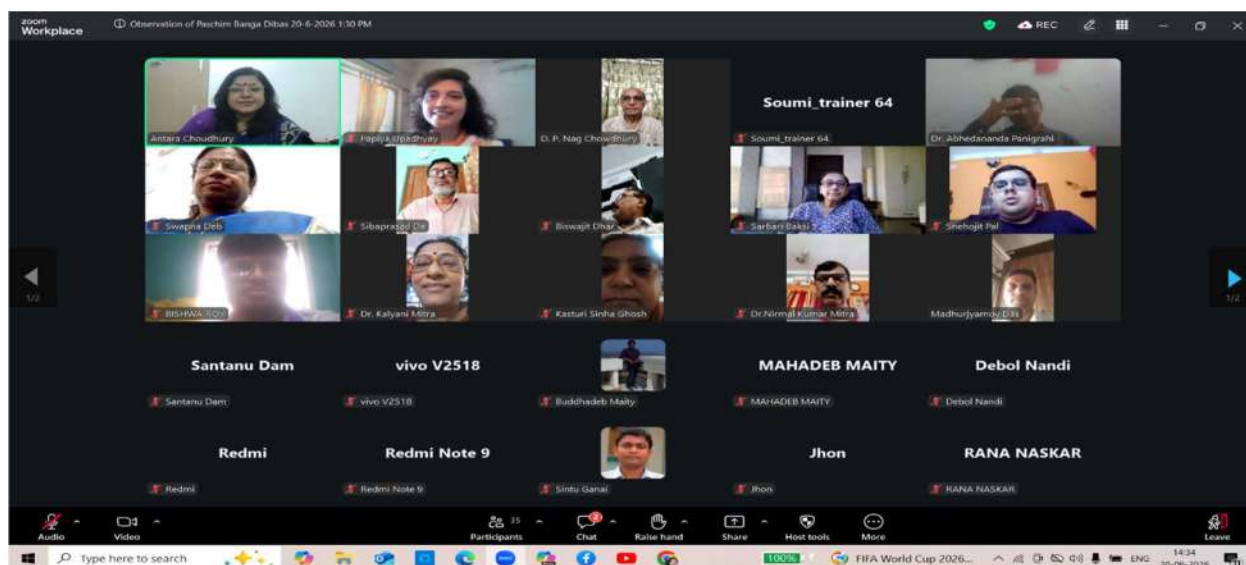


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Vote of Thanks

Dr. Antara Choudhury, Asst. Prof. and Joint Convener of this programme, extended her enthusiastic vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Director for his instructions, valuable guidance, and welcome address. She offered thanks to Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst. Prof. & Coordinator, M.Ed. (Spl. Edn.), for her deliberation on the theme of the programme and for acting as the Joint Convener. Dr. Choudhury also extended her deepest thanks and gratitude to the speaker, Dr. A.A. Panigrahi, for his brilliant exposition and the manner in which he enriched everyone with critical thinking, sequential historical elucidation, and the influential feelings created through his speech. She acknowledged the cooperation received from the Technical Team (ICT), NSOU, for providing seamless technical support. Lastly, but not least, she conveyed her heartfelt thanks to the learners, participants, and dignitaries for their presence and for the successful completion of the programme.



Report Prepared by: Prof. Sibaprasad De
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&
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