



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A'

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

CF-162, Sector-I, Salt Lake, Kolkata-64

Phone Number: 03340047570/1, Email:soensou@gmail.com

Celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*

A Special Lecture

On

‘Contribution of Mahatma Gandhi towards Independence of India’

Date: 14th June, 2023; Time: 2p.m.; Mode: Virtual

Programme Report

Preview:On the 75th, or Platinum Jubilee, year of Indian Independence, a festival known as "*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*" is being observed throughout India. The festivities will last until August 15, 2023. This is an excellent method for instilling in Indian citizens both adults and children a sense of love, respect, pride, and duty towards their nation. A critical first step is to revive India's history, culture, and other aspects of freedom. Indian citizens are encouraged to actively participate in this campaign.

In this context, the School of Education at NSOU cherished the concept of commemorating 75 years of Independence under the banner of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* by organising a series of special lectures. It is the fourth special lecture programme on Contribution of Mahatma Gandhi towards Independence of India held on June 14, 2023, at 2p.m., online using the Zoom platform.

Participants:24

Objectives of the event:

- ❖ To commemorate the 75 years of Independence
- ❖ Celebrating the awe and delight of India's freedom and the struggle that led to it
- ❖ Must use what has been learned from the past, revitalise the present, and get ready for the future
- ❖ To emphasise Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to India's freedom



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Session arrangements:

Opening:

The ceremony was initiated by Dr. Parimal Sarkar, Asst. Professor, conveying the well wishes expressed by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU, Prof. Chandan Basu, and the Director, School of Education, NSOU, Dr. Atindranath Dey.

Welcome Address:

Smt. Antara Choudhury, Officer-in-Charge and Asst. Professor of Special Education, SoE, NSOU, delivered the Welcome Address on behalf of the School of Education. She cordially welcomed Prof. Rajsekhar Basu, Dept. of History, University Calcutta, the renowned speaker and all the august participants on the virtual platform.

Introduction of the Speaker:

Prof. Debi Prosad Nag Choudhury, SoE, NSOU, delivered a brief introduction of the speaker. Prof. Rajsekhar Basu is a Professor in the Department of History, University of Calcutta. He has previously taught at Rabindra Bharati University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has also been a visiting faculty to Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode and Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. He has formerly been an ICCR Chair in Contemporary Indian Studies in Vilnius, Lithuania. He has served as a Visiting Professor in the University of Uppsala, Tartu University, CNRS, Paris, Heidelberg, Charles University, Prague, Lund University, University of Marseilles, McMaster University and University of Christchurch. He has been a recipient to a number of international fellowships and grants. He has monographs and books from the leading academic publishers, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Sage, Orient Blackswan, and Primus.



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The Special Lecture:

Through his knowledge and skill, Prof. Rajsekhar Basu explored the various aspects of **Mahatma Gandhi** and his extensive leadership in the country's liberation movement. Dr. Basu described the few key concepts associated with Mahatma Gandhi's ideology. These are:

Satyagraha: Satyagraha is a philosophy and practice of nonviolent resistance, which Gandhi developed and employed as a powerful tool in the Indian independence movement. It emphasizes the power of truth, nonviolence, and civil disobedience to bring about social and political change.

Ahimsa: Ahimsa, or nonviolence, is a fundamental principle of Gandhi's philosophy. He believed in the power of love and compassion and advocated for resolving conflicts without causing harm or violence to others, both physically and emotionally.

Swaraj: Swaraj, meaning "self-rule" or "self-governance," was Gandhi's vision for India's independence. He promoted the idea that Indians should govern themselves, free from British colonial rule, through self-sufficiency, self-discipline, and nonviolent resistance.

Sarvodaya: Sarvodaya, meaning "welfare of all," is a concept that Gandhi advocated for, envisioning a society where every individual's well-being is uplifted. It promotes social and economic equality, justice, and the elimination of poverty.

Trusteeship: Gandhi believed in the idea of trusteeship, where wealth and resources are seen as a collective trust to be used for the benefit of society. He suggested that wealthy individuals should consider themselves trustees of their wealth, using it for the welfare of others and the betterment of society.

Swadeshi: Swadeshi is the promotion of local, indigenous industries and products. Gandhi encouraged Indians to boycott British goods and support local industries to promote self-reliance, economic independence, and the revival of traditional crafts and skills.

These concepts reflect Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence, self-reliance, equality, and social justice, which continue to inspire people around the world.



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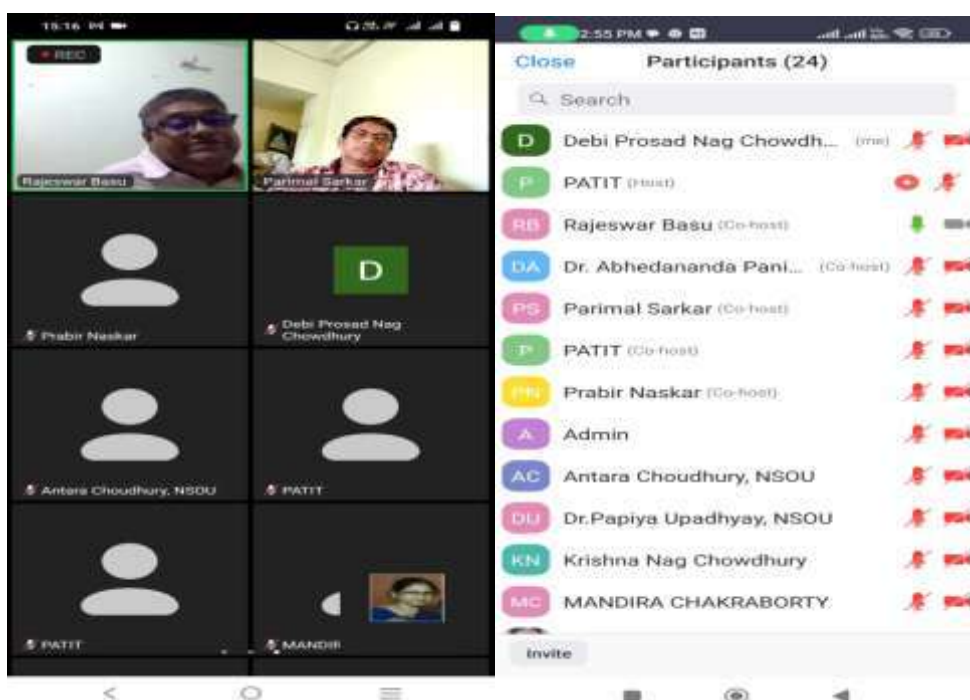
Interaction:

In this phase few participants asked some thoughtful questions with respect to Prof. Basu's Speech and Prof. Basu nicely clarified their queries, thereby making the session a great success.

Vote of thanks:

Prof. Sibapasrad De, Professor of Education, SoE, NSOU, put forth the formal motion for the vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude for Prof. Rajsekhar Basu's powerful speech and thanked everyone who participated, contributed, and supported in many ways in making the occasion successful and unforgettable. He expressed his thanks to TeamLease Ed. Tech for their technical support to conduct this online programme.

Dr. Parimal Sarkar conducted the entire programme nicely and meticulously.



Report prepared by
Shri Prabir Naskar,
Asst. Professor, SoE, NSOU.

Mrs. Antara Choudhury,
Officer-in-Charge &
Asst. Professor, SoE, NSOU.