



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*

Special Lecture (Virtual)

On

Contribution of Sarojini Naidu towards Independence of India

Date: 24th June, 2023 Time: 2pm

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 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 fifth special lecture programme on "**Contribution of Sarojini Naidu towards Independence of India**" held on June 24, 2023, at 2pm, virtually, using the Zoom platform.

Participants: 21

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 Sarojini Naidu's contribution to India's freedom

Session arrangements:

Opening:

The ceremony was initiated by Ms. Swapna Deb, Consultant, SoE, NSOU 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:

Dr. Debi Prosad Nag Chowdhury, Professor, SoE, NSOU, delivered the Welcome Address on behalf of the Officer-in-Charge, Smt. Antara Choudhury. He cordially welcomed the speaker Dr. Maksuda Khatun, Principal, Calcutta Girls' B T College and all the august participants on the virtual platform.



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Introduction of the Speaker:

Prof. Debi Prasad Nag Choudhury, SoE, NSOU, delivered a brief introduction of the speaker, Dr. Maksuda Khatun as the Principal in Calcutta Girls' B T College, 6/1A Anil Moitra Road (Previously Swinhoe Street), Kolkata 700019. She previously taught as Associate Professor at Bijoy Krishna Girls' College in the Department of Education, Howrah and as a guest faculty in Calcutta University in the Department of Education. She supervised Ph. D. scholars under NSOU. During the period of 2008 -2010 she taught M.A in Education at Bowbazar Womens College study centre under NSOU. She was actively engaged as a member of the central committee in Sarba Siksha Mission. Dr Maksuda Khatun wrote the book "Backwardness among Muslim Women in Calcutta". She edited a book "Education for All". Dr. Khatun acted as Resource Person at many National and International Seminars and Workshops.

The Special Lecture:

Dr Maksuda khatun in her special lecture Entitled "Contribution of Sarojini Naidu towards Independence of India" has emphasized cardinal points of Sarojini Naidu's contribution in the freedom struggle of India's independence. At the outset she synoptically describes Sarojini's childhood, her family education & culture and conducive environment she received during her growing up. Sarojini Naidu was born in Hyderabad on the 13 th February 1879. Her father was linguist Sri Aghor Nath Chattopadhyay and mother was Smt.

Baroda Sundari Debi. Saojini Chattopadhyay became Sarojini Naidu after her marriage to Govindarajulu Naidu. Dr. Khatun emphasized on Sarojini's Education in London's Kings College and Girton college in Cambridge taking scholarship from Nizam of Hyderabad. Dr. Khatun also equivocally explained and opined that her own education and oratory capability and writing poems like Golden Threshold etc. made Sarojini getting popularity. Sarojini received Kaisar-hind-goldmedal from the then govt. of India. The speaker tried every attempt in her speech to focus upon the political aspect of this freedom fighter and discussed the contribution of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, an ardent proponent of expansion of primary education in colonial India. She also spoke about the struggle and movements led by Mahatma Gandhi and Indian National Congress and talked how Sarojini Naidu was influenced by her Guru Gandhiji, the apostle of peace. Dr Khatun also pinpointed by her lucid language Naidu's participation in the movement against black Rowlatt Bill for dropping it. Sarojini also took active participation against British rule. She was the first Indian woman to be president of the Indian National Congress and to be appointed the Governor of a State.

By taking steps for women emancipation, empowerment of the motherland, student unification straining upon the natural system of education and also by her oratory quality. She became the staunchest supporter of Gandhi and always moved the resolution through public meetings or in any form the spirit and activities of M. K. Gandhi for different times. In this connection the speaker mentioned the spirit of Swadeshi, the Sarojini in non – cooperation movement organised by Gandhi and active efforts to drop the black Rowalt action in 1919.

Sarojini raised her voice in England on the Punjab massacre and made different correspondence with M. K. Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and Jaharlal Nehru. The lecture also contained the visit of Sarojini in South Africa for the cause of Indians. The participation of Sarojini Naidu in



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the civil disobedience movement, violation of Salt laws in Dandi and delegation for the round table conference and active participation in the Quit India movement were also mentioned.

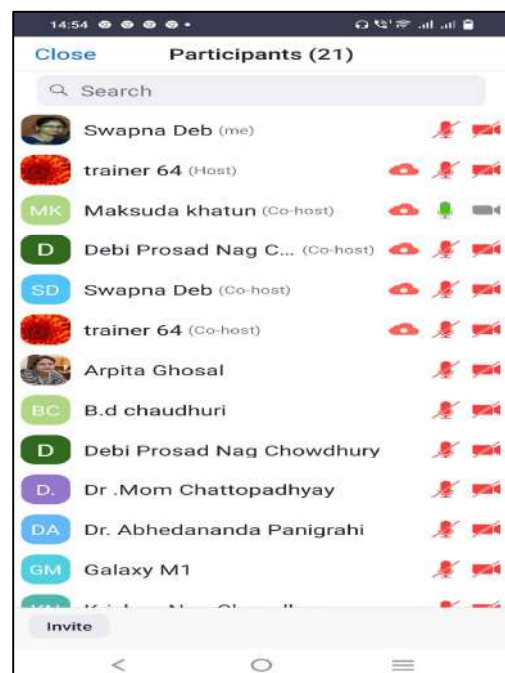
Lastly the speaker gave a description of the imprisonment of Sarojini along with Gandhi and her wife Kasturba.

Sarojini Naidu is forgotten today. In the last portion of this lecture the speaker spoke that Sarojini tried for peace, democracy, brotherhood and hindu muslim unity through the speech delivered on all India Radio on the 15th August 1947 on the occasion of India's Independent entitled 'The battle of freedom is over'. The speaker suggested research regarding Sarojini Naidu. The researcher may throw light upon different aspects of her life. Sarojini inspired students to join the freedom movement. She inspired women all across the country to step out of their houses and take part in the nation's quest to attain independence. The birthday of Naidu that is the 13th February is celebrated as womens' day to remember the strong voices of women in history of India

Vote of thanks:

Prof. Mukti Ganguly, Professor, School of Education, NSOU put forth the formal motion for the vote of thanks. She expressed her gratitude for Dr. Maksuda Khatun's enlightened speech and thanked everyone who participated, contributed, and supported in making the occasion successful and unforgettable.

Report Prepared by
Prof. (Dr) Mukti Ganguly
Ms. Swapna Deb





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The invitation card features a blue border with a central orange scroll. At the top, there are logos for Netaji Subhas Open University, the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, and a Grade A accreditation. The main text on the scroll reads: 'NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY', 'Celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', 'School of Education Cordially invites you to A Special Lecture (Virtual) on Contributions of Sarojini Naidu towards', and 'by Dr. Maksuda Khatun, Principal, Calcutta Girls' B T college, 6/1 A Anil Moitra Road (previously Swinhoe Street), Kolkata -700019'. A 'ZOOM Click Here' button is on the left. At the bottom, a white box contains the date (24th June, 2023), time (2:00pm), and mode (Virtual). To the right, a list of organizers is provided: Mrs. Antara choudhury, Officer-in-Charge, SoE, NSOU; Dr. D. P. Nag Chowdhury, Prof. SoE, NSOU; and Ms. Swapna Deb, Consultant, SoE, NSOU.

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ZOOM
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Date: 24th June, 2023
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Mrs. Antara choudhury, Officer-in-Charge, SoE, NSOU
Dr. D. P. Nag Chowdhury, Prof. SoE, NSOU
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Programme:

2.00 pm: Welcome address: **Mrs. Antara Choudhury**, Officer – in- Charge, SoE, NSOU.

2.05 pm: Introduction of the Speaker: **Dr. Debi Prosad Nag Chowdhury**, Professor, SoE, NSOU.

2.10 pm: Speech: **Dr. Maksuda Khatun**, Principal, Calcutta Girls' B T college, 6/1 A Anil Moitra Road (previously Swinhoe Street), Kolkata -700019.

2.50 pm: Interaction.

3.00 pm: Vote of Thanks: **Dr. Parimal Sarkar**, Asst. Professor of Education, SoE, NSOU.

Announcement: **Ms. Swapna Deb**, Consultant, SoE, NSOU.

Rapporteur: **Prof. Mukti Ganguly**, Professor, SoE, NSOU.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86791140260>