



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

[Established by WB Act XIX of 1997 & Recognized by UGC & RCI]

Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A'

organized

1st Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture

Report

Event File:

Date & Time: 15th January 2022, Saturday; 3 PM

Mode: Through Virtual Platform, ZOOM

Participants: 89

About the Memorial Lecture:

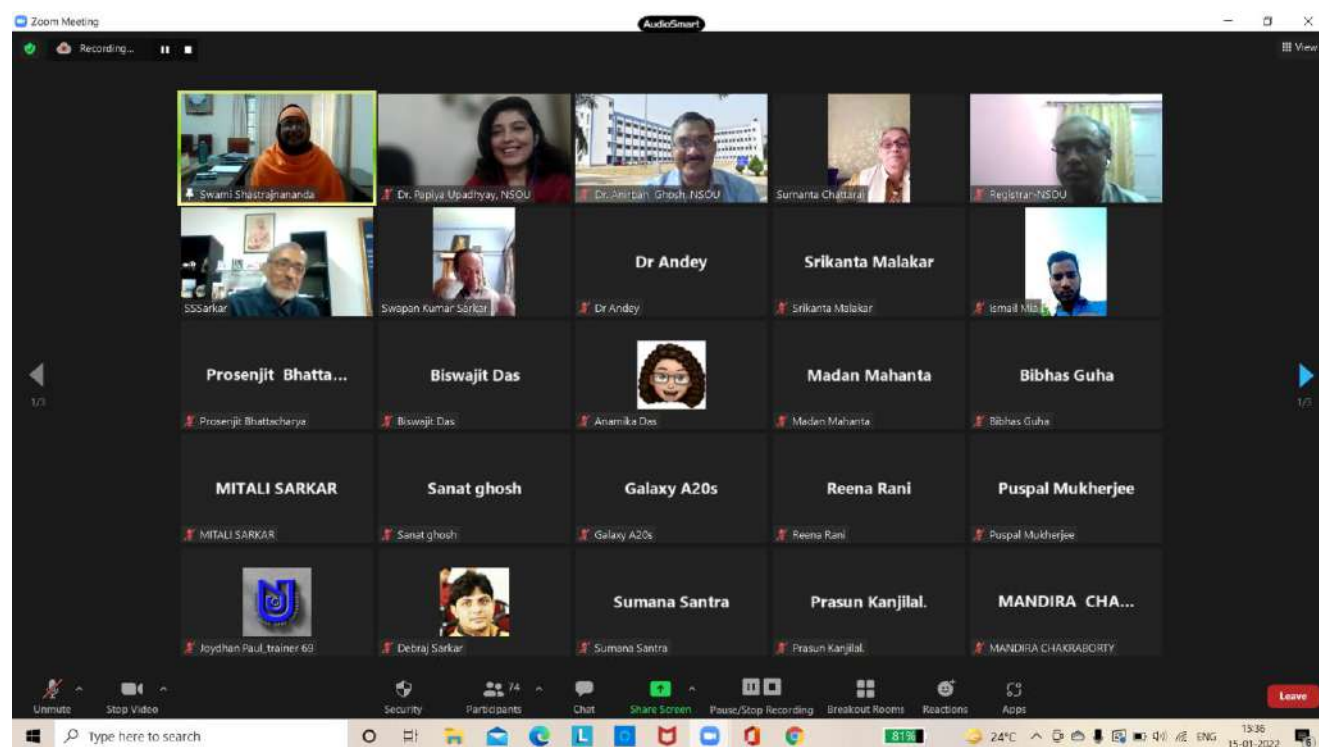
NSOU organizes Memorial Lectures on a regular basis for Faculty Members, Learners, Alumni, Officers, Officials and other staff. The Eminent Speakers for these Memorial Lectures are invited to commemorate the dedicated personality in a befitting manner and ruminate upon his/her contribution to the education and society. The memorial lectures provide a colloquium for dynamic academic debates and exchange of innovative research ideas in the respective field. To commemorate the Silver Jubilee foundation of NSOU, the University hurred the Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture under the School of Education from 2022. Holding of such Memorial Lecture is a big academic event and it was held under the University oriflamme.

Vision & Mission of 1st Swami Vivekananda Lecture:

Swami Vivekananda's teachings not only motivated the youth but also the whole world. He laid the true foundations of India's unity as a nation. He taught us how to live together despite of so many diversities. He was successful in constructing a synergy between the culture of the East and the West. Organising such a memorial lecture would immortalise the messages, thoughts and visions of this great son of India and spread the teachings of Swamiji among the NSOU community, especially among the primary stakeholders.

The University decided to organize the prestigious lecture during the Youth Week, which is observed during 12th -17th January every year throughout India.

Programme Sequence



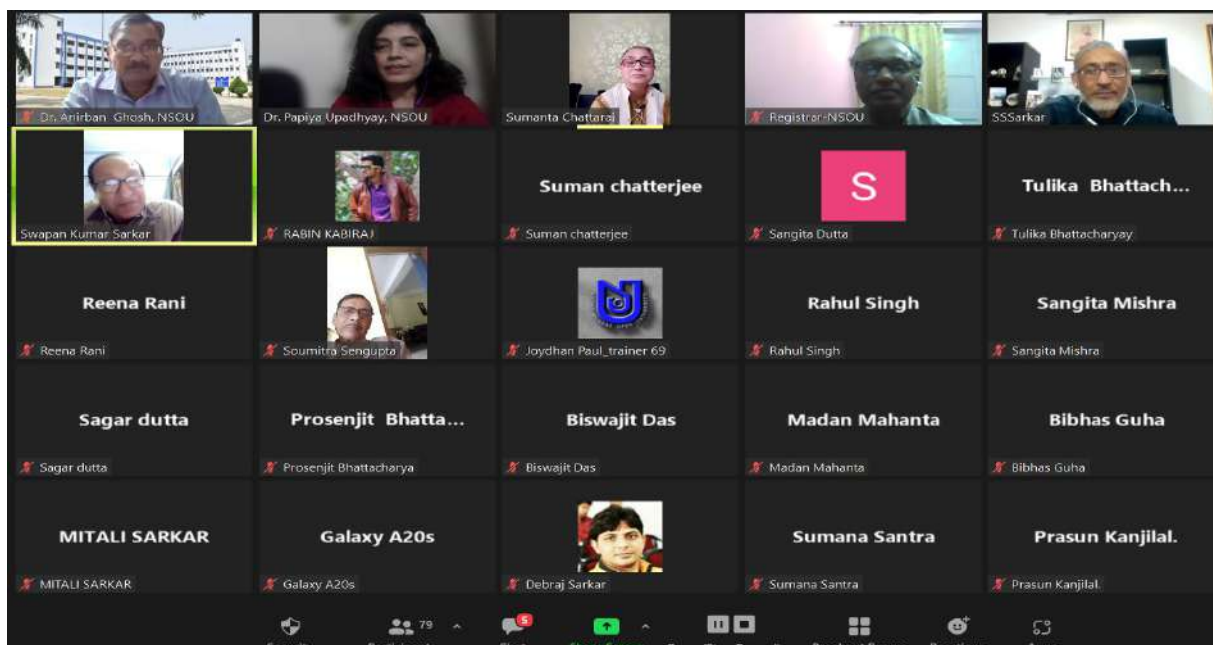
The programme set off with an apt compeering by Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj, SoE, NSOU. The entire programme unfurled sequentially through the following sessions:

Welcome Address was delivered by *C.A. Kishore Sengupta*, Registrar, NSOU. He greeted all academicians, dignitaries, employees of NSOU, invitees with warmth and dignity. He also briefed on the glorious past, rejuvenating present and a promising future of NSOU.

About the University was outlined by *Professor Anirban Ghosh*, Director, CIQA, NSOU. In a nutshell, Prof. Ghosh threw light on the University's major achievements, be it curricular or extended activities. The motto of reaching the unreached to a huge learner base was possible only through technology-enhanced and supported education. And as he emphasized that NSOU is the only University in west Bengal to have a steady ICT support for teaching-learning purposes. His short deliberation wringed upon University's entwined activities and engagement in multifarious extension activities to upsurge the societal reach through the motto of meeting the unmet.



Introducing the Theme of the event was delivered by by *Dr. A. N Dey*, Director, SoE, NSOU in a very lucid and contextual manner. In addition to this, Dr. Dey thanked the University authority to give the responsibility to the SoE for conducting this memorial lecture. Prof. Swapan K Sarkar was invited to elaborate on the focus of the lecture. He justified his short speech reminding the basic tenets of Swamiji’s life and activities. He also highlighted the relevance of the lecture titled for deliberation.



The Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture:

1st Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture was delivered by *Swami Dr. Sashtrajananda* , Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur, W.B. The title of his lecture was *‘Concept of Freedom and Ideas of Swami Vivekananda’*. Swamiji transported that

Vivekananda's concept of freedom, appears to be quite transcendental. He points out that the whole universe is in constant motion towards freedom. He not only advocates spiritual freedom or emancipation from the bonds of Maya but also stands for the freedom in its totality - physical, mental and spiritual. He enlightened everyone with Swamiji's man making and character-building education.



He continued his enticing lecture by quoting, 'It was Swami Vivekananda who showed that the freedom and purity of the Atman can form the basis of human thinking and actions. Swamiji laid the foundation for a truly ontological theory of ethics which is much superior to the deontological and hedonistic theories mentioned above. It makes ethics a study of the way the freedom of the Self manifests itself in a multitude of ways. This does not mean that Swami Vivekananda overlooked the evil tendencies in man or the compulsive nature of human actions. Man as man is not divine, but he has in him the potential to become divine.

The soul's divinity and freedom remain in a potential state because their manifestation is restricted by mental and physical automatisms. All normal thinking, feeling and willing are controlled by latent impression of past experiences called samskaras. It is under the influence of samskaras that people do good actions or bad actions. His one-hour lecture was captivating inspirational and motivating.

Presidential Address was delivered by **Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU. Prof. Sarkar, in his speech referred to the glimpses of the memorial lecture and added nuances of facts and facets to match up with the contemporary world. He also offered his gratitude to Swami Shastrajananda for his eloquence and wisdom.

Vote of thanks was proposed by **Dr. Papiya Upadhyay**, Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU. She

thanked one and all present and associated in/with the event to make it a grand success.

Significance of the Event:

The memorial lecture brought forth the opulence as follows:

- ✚ In the 21st century, when the youth of India are facing emerging problems, pushing boundaries and aspiring for a better future, rejuvenating thoughts of Swami Vivekanand have become more pertinent.
- ✚ The relevance of Swami Vivekanand today is with the ideals and goals that he devised for the youth being a great observer of the human mind and the human society at large.
- ✚ Understanding Swami Vivekananda, his message and presenting it across our youth can be the simplest way to address many problems faced by the academia today.
- ✚ Such lecture indorses the institutional values, ethics and responsibilities toward society.

Report prepared by

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, SoE, NSOU