



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

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Report

Independence Day celebration at Netaji Subhas Open University, Headquarters, 15/8/2023

15th August is celebrated as our Independence Day every year across the country. Netaji Subhas Open University too celebrates this special day by hoisting the National flag with much pride and zest. This year too we celebrated the 77th Independence Day in all our campuses as per convention. At NSOU, HQ the tricolour flag was unfurled by Dr Ashit Baran Aich, Registrar (Acting) in the tri-colour flags and balloons decked front courtyard area. Several members of faculty, officers, and staff were remain present, and all saluted the national flag with great patriotic zeal.



The theme for this year's Independence Day is "Nation First, Always First". On the occasion of this celebration, esteemed academic and non-academic staff members of NSOU, who were present, deliberated on important issues relevant to our university in today's context in the broader background of independent India.

Professor Chandan Basu, Professor of History, School of Social Sciences, spoke elaborately on the significance of the freedom movement that gave us independence from colonial rule. He explained how British rule was fundamentally based on "surplus extraction" or as it is popularly called "drain of wealth" from India. Prof. Basu, very importantly reminded us that much before the more organised national movement started against colonial hegemony, several subaltern groups since the second half of 18th century, had already started to resist colonial oppression in organised ways. The role of the subaltern groups needs to be focussed more when we study India's National Movement. Next to speak was Dr Atindranath De, Director, School of Education who reiterated the significance of independence and Independence Day and how we need to conduct ourselves as responsible citizens. He very pertinently pointed out that for the first time lawmakers in the US have introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to declare 15th August as a "National Day of Celebration of the World's two largest Democracies". This was followed by an address delivered by Dr Debi Prasad Nag Chowdhury, Professor, Dept. of Education, who while speaking about the national movement and how finally independence was achieved, specifically talked about the partition of the country and the innumerable sufferings that partition brought about in the lives of the common man, at that time. However despite all difficulties, our country finally became free from colonial rule.

Smt Ananya Mitra, Jt Registrar(Administration) greeted her fellow colleagues on this special day and reminded all that this day should be taken up as a day to resolve that henceforth we must become more accountable in our duties towards one another, to ourselves and most importantly



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towards our Nation. We need to be responsible citizens before the world. Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, School of Professional and Vocational Studies and Director, CIQA, further elaborated on the importance of celebrating Independence Day. He also spoke on how NSOU has progressed with time, always striving to better itself in its role to cater to the learners. On this historic occasion Dr. Aich, Registrar (Acting), mentioned the fact that how we must learn to value this precious gift of freedom that we have received, and try and uphold the actual meaning of freedom in all spheres of life and while the principle of independence implies freedom to make one's choices, we need to make such choices which would serve our country in the best possible manner.



After this Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee (Biswas), Jt. Registrar (Academic) too deliberated on the significance of Independence Day and how we have been celebrating this special day with much pride, enthusiasm and patriotic zeal through the years. She also sang a few lines of Rabindra Sangeet, motivating the audience to overcome all obstacles in performing their duty towards the Nation. Finally, CA Sri Sachindra Chandra Kar, Finance Officer spoke on the role of the North East in India's Independence. The North Eastern states too played an important role in India's freedom struggle as they long put up rebellions which were initially spontaneous in nature, later became more comprehensive, keeping in tune with the main freedom movement.

The Independence day program finally concluded with singing of the National Anthem in front of the bust image of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, by all members present on this historic occasion.

Thus while we celebrate our independence, we must not forget to acknowledge, with humility and respect the contributions of all those, be it the great leaders or the lesser known freedom fighters, who had put up such a heroic resistance against British domination through which we emerged as a free nation. Finally, in conclusion it maybe said that while we celebrated our Independence Day we all reiterated on one common fact, that is, beyond the festive revelry, we as stakeholders of our institution and Nation need to uphold the principles of development, social justice, integrity and harmony, for in that only the true essence of "independence" can be best understood, practiced and valued.