



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

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

Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A'

Organized

Foundation Day Lecture 2021

'ODL, NEP 2020 and Task Ahead of NSOU'

Report

Date: 25 November, 2021; Time: 3pm; Mode: Blended

Objectives of the Programme:

- ✚ To celebrate the Silver Jubilee Foundation of Netaji Subhas Open University
- ✚ To witness the Foundation Day Lecture delivered by an eminent educationist
- ✚ To release/unveil University Publications/Souvenir

Participants: Around 70 stakeholders of NSOU & other academia

Overture:

Foundation Day gives us a chance to celebrate our anniversary as a University. The Foundation Day Lecture is the most prestigious lecture delivered as the name suggests on the Foundation Day of Netaji Subhas Open University held annually on the 25th day of November. This occasion gives an opportunity to take stock of the achievements and re-dedicate its stakeholders to face the new challenges that lie ahead. This year being special, as NSOU completes 25 years of its sustained mark in the higher education arena.

The programme began at 3 pm and was very efficiently moderated by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, School of Education. It was attended by the Directors of Schools of Studies, Heads of Departments, teaching faculty, non-teaching staff and other stakeholders of NSOU in the offline or online mode depending on their convenience and in accordance with Covid protocols.

The programme flowed through the following sequences-

Welcome address:

Shri Kishore Sengupta, the Registrar, NSOU gave the Welcome Address which set the tone of the lecture.

Introduction and Felicitation:

Dr. Upadhyay introduced the eminent speaker and the founder Vice-Chancellor, NSOU, Prof. Radharaman Chakrabarti before the august gathering.

Foundation Day Lecture on 'ODL, NEP 2020 and Task Ahead of NSOU'

The lecture was delivered by the brilliant and highly respected academician, Prof. Radharaman Chakrabarti. It was only fitting that in the Silver Jubilee Year of the University the lecture should be delivered by the founder Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakrabarti. It was indeed a matter of great honour for the University.

Prof. Radharaman Chakrabarti began his speech by thanking the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of NSOU, Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, for inviting him to the University. His speech was an

excellent blend of his extensive knowledge and research, rich experience and personal anecdotes.



Prof. Chakrabarti spoke about Teaching Learning and Research in the ODL (Open and Distance Learning) system and the remarkable progress made by NSOU since its humble beginnings in 1997, earning it the name of 'educraft carrier,' a term coined by him. He pointed out that though initially the Open University system was regarded as an anathema and not welcomed by the teaching-learning community at large, the Distance Education Council (DEC) at the behest of IGNOU authorities provided generous curricular and financial support to NSOU. Referring to the tasks ahead for ODL he discussed five major desiderata in this context.

He also found it gratifying that the National Education Policy, 2020, intended to use the distance and digital mode in an extensive way. However, in light of the status of Open Universities he criticised some aspects of the policy document. Prof. Chakrabarti concluded his excellent lecture by emphasising the importance of developing a 'research outlook' for the Universities especially in these pandemic times.

Ceremonial releases:

This session saw a rainbow of releases. Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) was invited to do the honours. Prof. Ghosh presented an epilogue of NSOU (1997-2021) enticed with its achievements, awards and recognition acquired over all these years. He highlighted the topsy-turvy journey of the University but also documented how NSOU sailed through to reach its avowed mission to reach the unreachable from existence to excellence.

To mark the 25th year of glorious establishment, Prof Ghosh requested Prof. Chakrabarti to unveil the symbol on screen. As a mark of souvenir, the symbol was designed on the logo of NSOU by the Hon'ble V.C., Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar. It was lauded by one and all.



Prof. Anirban Ghosh, handed over the Annual Report 2020-21 which is traditionally released on the occasion of the Foundation Day Lecture. The Report was officially released by Prof. Radharaman Chakrabarti and NSOU authorities. The edited volume, *Resilient Strategies for Good Governance in the Post Covid Era*, a successful publication of the School of Professional Studies was also released on this auspicious occasion was also released by the Hon'ble V.C., Founder V.C., and Registrar, NSOU.



Presidential address:

The Presidential Address was delivered by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar. He underscored the difficulties faced by the Open University in comparison to traditional Universities, citing UGC and other higher bodies' restrictions on the opening of new courses as well as financial constraints. Despite these challenges, Prof. Sarkar reinstated and emphasised the University's progress in encouraging and financing faculty research and enrolling Ph.D students in the regular mode.



The formal Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Head and Associate Professor of History, School of Social Sciences, NSOU.

The programme clinched with the national anthem voiced by all present.

----Report prepared by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra