



Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies

School of Humanities

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Established By Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognised by U.G.C.)

Head Office: DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064; Phone: 033 40663214

Report on 8th BPR Workshop & 23rd Lecture of Partition Lecture Series, Netaji Subhas Open University

The 8th Workshop of Bengal Partition Repository and the 23rd Partition Lecture, organized by the School of Humanities at Netaji Subhas Open University, took place on September 2nd. This event marked the eighth year of the Bengal Partition Repository project on the Partition and Liberation War. The 8th workshop was reserved for BPR field investigators and selected researchers, attracting approximately 40 participants from various districts. The event commenced with an opening address by Prof. Manankumar Mandal, the Director of the School of Humanities and the Project Director of the University. He provided a comprehensive overview of the project, highlighting its evolution over the past few years. Prof. Mandal discussed the objectives of the Bengal Partition Repository, a project under the Center for Language, Translation, and Cultural Studies within the School of Humanities, and emphasized the importance of fieldwork in its future direction.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Assam University, Professor Tapodhir Bhattacharya, delivered the inaugural speech, setting the tone for the workshop's discussions. Eminent writer Amar Mitra graced the event with his presence and shared insights into the life and political situation of Bangladesh post-partition, drawing from personal experiences. Dr. Uttam Kumar Biswas from Presidency University and Dr. Pradip Kumar Das from Kazi Nazrul University, both invited speakers, offered valuable insights into their research experiences related to migration, refugees and the Bengal Partition Repository Project. Prof. Das specifically focused on the impact of partition in the western region of West Bengal after 1947, opening the possibility for further research in this area. Project researcher Dyuti Tasnuva Rifat from Bangladesh shared her fieldwork experiences in Chapai Nawabganj, Bangladesh, contributing to the workshop's rich exchange of ideas. During the first session, researchers and field investigators from the Bengal Partition Repository (BPR) shared their valuable insights and experiences gained during their fieldwork, covering diverse aspects of partition, including folk songs, the path of migration, the idea of remigration, borderland issues, etc.

In the concluding part of the first session, Prof. Manan kumar Mandal elucidated the ideas and research aspects of the project's upcoming fifth phase, providing interested researchers with a glimpse of the project's future direction. The second session featured the 23rd Partition Lecture, delivered by writer Sasim Kumar Barai. His discussion covered various post-partition issues, including border public life, enclaves, the Char-Meghna region, and the Berubari problem. Barai's speech provided historical insights into Partition and Emigration, shedding light on the political situations in both West Bengal and Bangladesh.



Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies

School of Humanities

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Established By Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognised by U.G.C.)

Head Office: DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064; Phone: 033 40663214

In the second session, the distinguished guests unveiled the third catalogue of interviews from the Bengal Partition Repository, comprising 100 oral interviews capturing the life experiences of refugees from North Bengal, Bangladesh, and various parts of the western region. This invaluable resource adds to the repository's extensive archive. To recognize the contributions of field surveyors in the fourth phase of the project, certificates were awarded at the end of the second session. Additionally, Prof. Manankumar Mandal, the project director, presented certificates to the workshop participants for their active involvement. The Bengal Partition Repository project, initiated in 2016 by the School of Humanities at Netaji Subhas Open University, continues to be a vital public research effort. It has already collected over 600 interviews documenting personal memories of Bengal's Partition and the Liberation War of 1971, which are being preserved in the archives. With the active participation of more than 60 dedicated researchers and students, this project remains a significant endeavour in preserving historical narratives and fostering scholarly engagement.

Prepared by: Pratim Das (BPR Project intern)

Sd/-

Manan Kumar Mandal

Project coordinator, Bengal Partition Repository