



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
NSOU Centre for Social Studies
School of Social Sciences

DD-26, SECTOR- I, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA-700064

Phone: (033) 4066-3220, website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Memo No:

Date

**A REPORT OF ONLINE SPECIAL TALK
ON
"PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN COALITION POLITICS IN
INDIA: PROCEDURES AND PERSPECTIVES"**

*Organised by NSOU Centre for Social Studies (NCSS) in
collaboration with the Department of Political Science, NSOU
Held on 18/07/2022.*

On the occasion of the election of the head of the state of the largest democracy in the world, NSOU Centre for Social Studies (NCSS), in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, successfully organized and completed a special online talk.

Title:

"Presidential Election in Coalition Politics in India: Procedures and Perspectives."

Held on: 18.07.2022

Platform: Online platform: Zoom

Speaker:

Dr. Soumen Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Sidho Kanhu Birsa University, Purulia, and Prof. Utathya Bandopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, NSOU,

OBJECTIVE OF THE TALK

The objective of the talk was:

- ✓ To create an open academic space to discuss the role of regional parties in national politics. Especially in the era of coalition politics, the Presidential elections create a situation in which various regional parties try to forge alliance against the ruling coalition. This situation raises some questions which are very pertinent within the UG and PG course curricula of Social Sciences.
- ✓ To analyse and discuss how far the opposition is successful in creating a common opposition platform.
- ✓ Does this Presidential election (process and consequences) create a strong united opposition in the parliament?
- ✓ Whether this Presidential election will have a long-term effect on the General election 2024 as well as national Politics?
- ✓ How far does the President in coalition government exercise power on his/her own?

Introductory Speech and Welcome Address:

Dr. Monaj Kumar Haldar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, NSOU, set the ball of the online talk on “Presidential Election in Coalition Politics in India: Procedures and Perspectives” rolling first by delivering his introductory speech and then by introducing the Speakers, to the audience. Dr. Soumen Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Sidho Kanhu Birsa University, Purulia and Professor Utathya Bandopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, NSOU followed by welcome address by Prof. Chandan Basu, Director, School of Social Sciences, NSOU. Dr. Basu welcomed the speakers and after uttering a few words on the President election, requested the speakers to provide the written version of their talks so that they can be published in the journals of the University thereby benefitting the students, research persons and the faculty.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

All the learners of undergraduate and Post Graduate courses in Political Science and Public Administration, Research Scholars and interested academicians, faculty and scholars, and learner of other disciplines.

The Special Talk:

As the first speaker, Professor Soumen Roy lucidly described the processes and procedures for President election in India citing various articles from our constitution. In this connection, he went on to explain the method of Presidential election, called the “proportional representation by means of single transferrable vote”, the ‘Electoral College’ for Presidential election consisting of the elected members of the two houses of the parliament, House of the People and the Council of States (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively), along with the members of the Legislative Assembly of the states. To be elected as president the candidate must get quota. As told by Professor Roy, those who cast their vote in the election of the President must show their first preference in the ballot paper failing which the ballot gets cancelled and the electors are not bound to show their second or third preferences. Professor Roy did remind the audience that in case of any disputes regarding the election of the President, it is the Supreme Court which comes forward to resolve those disputes. Professor Roy explained the procedure for impeachment of the President as outlined in Article 61 of our constitution.

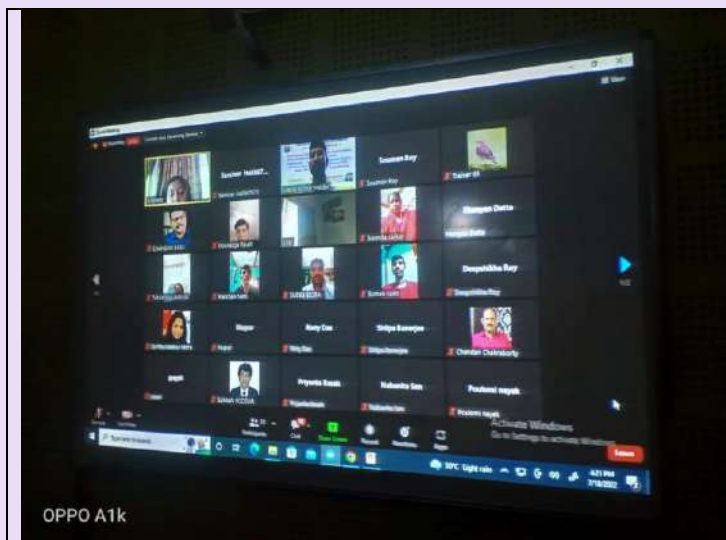
The second speaker, Dr. Utathya Banerjee dwelt on the coalition politics in India and its impact on the Presidential election. To begin with, Dr. Banerjee explained how coalition politics

originated in India demolishing the supremacy of the congress party both at the central and the state level and how coalition politics has come to stay in India. Dr. Banerjee opined that Nehru was in favour of taking the regional parties along and mentioned the name of Ram Manohar Lohia as one of the first proponent of coalition politics. But the Congress party failed to unite the varied interests of the Indian people. This failure on the part of the Congress resulted in the emergence of regional politics as well as coalition politics. The sad fact of coalition politics was that party interests got precedence over the ideological issues. Another weakness was secular/communal divide as manifested in the form of NDA and UPA coalitions. Dr. Banerjee drew the attention of the participants to the impact of coalition politics on the Presidential election. Winding up his discussion, Dr. Banerjee commented that coalition politics has been in existence for a period of more than fifty years and that coalition politics has become an integral part of the political culture of Indian politics.

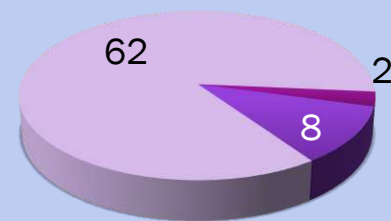
Participants



Participants: Our system has recognized 72 (excluding technicians) devices by which participants have attended during the session. Among the participants, 08 are faculty members of the University, and others are learners, scholars and interested academicians.



Participant Ratio



- Technicians
- Faculty
- Learner & Scholars



Prof. Chandan Basu, Director, School of Social Sciences, NSOU. Delivered welcome address.



Speaker: Dr. Soumen Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Sidho Kanhu Birsu University, Purulia

Question -Answer Session



After the talk, a question-answer session was organized and a lot of questions were raised by the participants including the students and the speakers answered all of them to their satisfaction.

Questions raised may be mentioned as follows:

- What are the qualifications for the post of President?
- What is the proportional representation by means of single transferrable votes?
- What is quota?
- What are reasons for which the President can be removed from office?
- Can President act on his own?
- What is a coalition government?
- What impact coalition governments have on the President election?
- What is common minimum programme?
- Why are political parties unable to choose a consensus candidate for President Election?
- Has President of India discretionary powers?

Relevance:

The relevance of the topic of the online talk on “Presidential Election in Coalition Politics in India- Procedures and Perspectives” needs no reiteration. President is not only the head of the state, he or she is the commander-in-chief and he or she is the protector of our constitution. All citizens of the country must know the election procedure and the constitutional position of the President. Students of Political Science are duty-bound to keep themselves abreast with the nitty-gritty of Presidential election and his or her powers and position as the President. Hence, the selection of the topic is in consonance with the special interests of the students of Political Science and students of other disciplines in general.

Concluding Speech

Dr. Srabanti Choudhuri, Assistant Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, NSOU made the concluding speech thanking the speakers and the participants. Dr. Choudhuri specially thanked the Vice-Chancellor and other officials of the University for their Unstinted Support and cooperation in holding the talk. Dr. Chandan Basu, Director, School of Social Sciences, NSOU, thanked the speakers and also thanked the students for making the talk a grand success by their active participation and hoped that many more such talks would be organized in the future. Dr. Basu thanked the Department of Political Science, NSOU for organizing the talk. Finally, Dr. Manoj Kumar Haldar declared the end of the talk thanking all once again.

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A'

Online Special Talk on 'Presidential Election in Coalition Politics in India: Procedure and Perspectives'.

Organised by : NSOU Centre for Social Studies (NCSS) in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, NSOU

Date: - 18th July, 2022 Time: - 2 p.m. Onwards

Speaker

Dr. Soumen Roy
Associate Professor of Political Science
Sidho Kanhu Birsu University, Purulia



Dr. Utathya Bandyopadhyay
Associate Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science, NSOU



➤ E- Certificate will be provided to all valid participants.
➤ No registration and registration fee.

**Joining link: Zoom Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81620089814>
YouTube Link - <https://youtu.be/CuyvqVJBYMw>**

Poster of the Special Talk

(This report is prepared by Dr. Manoj Kumar Haldar, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SSS, NSOU
Date: 05.09.2022)



[Dr. Manoj Kumar Haldar]
Assistant Professor of Political Science, NSOU
& Coordinator
NSOU Centre for Social Studies