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**Report of Completion of Special Lecture Programme/Extended Counselling Sessions (2<sup>nd</sup> cycle) on Social Sciences for Competitive Examinations, held online between January to March 2023 offered by NSOU Centre for Social Studies**

Following the massive success of the *Special Lecture Programme on Social Sciences* held in 2022 at the Kalyani RC, NSOU organized by the NSOU Centre for Social Studies, the **2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of Special Lecture Programme / Extended Counselling Sessions on Social Sciences for Competitive Examinations** was offered **online on the Google Classroom (Google Workspace)** platform by the **NSOU Centre for Social Studies**, from **January to March 2023** with a total of **46hours** of lectures delivered for the benefit of aspirants of competitive examinations like IAS, WBCS etc.

**Twenty-six** participants took part in the online course oriented specifically towards competitive exams which has provided the aspirants with a comprehensive understanding of the various subject matter within the domain of competitive examinations including the CSAT and General Studies subject papers.

The online Special Lecture Programme/Extended Counselling Sessions covered a wide range of topics related to competitive exams such as **History, Indian Constitution and Polity, Indian Society and Politics, Indian and World Geography, Economics, Environmental Studies, Administration and Ethics Integrity and Aptitude**, including test-taking strategies, and subject-specific knowledge for various exams like **UPSC-IAS, WBCS** and other examinations oriented towards government services. The course also provided tips and tricks for solving different types of questions, as well as guidance on how to improve performance in **CSAT and General Studies** papers of the competitive examinations.

Overall, the course content was well-structured, informative, and easy to follow. From the encouraging feedback received from the participants, it was brought to light that course was effective in achieving its objectives. It provided the learners with a comprehensive understanding of the various strategies required to excel in competitive exams. The course material was well-organized and presented in a clear and concise manner, which made it easy to understand and follow. The interactive exercises and practice MCQ's also helped the aspirants to test their knowledge and identify areas where they needed to improve. Furthermore, the course was designed to be flexible and self-paced, which allowed learners to learn at own pace and according to a flexible online schedule convenient to the faculties and the learners.

The course instructors included **NSOU faculties** from the **Departments of History, Political Science, Public Administration and Sociology** under the School of Social Sciences, and the **Department of Economics** under the School of Professional Studies, NSOU as well as the **Departments of Geography and Environmental Studies** under the School of Sciences, NSOU.

The faculties used multiple online teaching-learning methodologies and practices including **presentations, online whiteboard, infographics, online quizzes**, including providing learners with **e-content** in the form of **reference materials** in addition to the **online discussion forum (on Google classroom) and live classes**, to make it a great learning experience that has equipped the learners with the knowledge and skills required to excel in these exams.

The **twelve weeks online course** was designed and coordinated by **Programme Coordinator, Mr. Debajit Goswami**, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, NSOU and based on positive learners' feedback the **Special Lecture Programme/Extended Counselling Sessions on Social Sciences for Competitive Examinations**, offered by the **NSOU Centre for Social Studies** under the aegis of **The School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University**, stands greatly recommend for all learners and aspirants who are looking to appear for, and improve their performance in various competitive examinations.