



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
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Report

Webinar on celebration of 'Quit India' Day / August Kranti Diwas, 9 August 2023

Organised by: Department of History, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University.

Date & Time: 9th August 2023. 11.30 pm to 1.30 pm.

Mode: Online (facilitated by NSOU ICT)

Participants: Female-34 Male-26 (including NSOU Students & Faculty)

About the Webinar:

Department of History, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University commemorated the August Kranti Diwas or The Quit India Day on the 9th of August 2023. This day has a special significance for us, the Indians of an Independent India. This day marked the beginning of people's spontaneous outburst against British imperialism. The Quit India movement began. To honour the patriotic sentiment of the common people of India, reflected in their anti-British struggle, their self-less commitment and sacrifice to the cause of freeing their motherland from about a two hundred years of colonial domination, the department of History held this particular Webinar.

Objectives of the Webinar:

- To share with all students and faculty facts and experiences about 'final and the most decisive phase' and also the most exiting phase in the Indian struggle for freedom.
- To pay homage to all known and unknown participants in the Quit India Movement.
- To remember their selfless commitment in the cause of freeing their motherland from the imperial exploitation

Programme as scheduled:

11.30 am	Welcome Address by Dr. Barnana Guha Thakurta (Banerjee), Officer-in- Charge, SoSS, NSOU
11.35 am	Inaugural Address by Professor Chandan Basu, Professor of History, NSOU

11.45 am Keynote Address by Dr. Sabyasachi Chattopadhyay, Associate Professor,
Department of History, University of Kalyani

12.30 pm Discussion / Question-Answer session

12.55 pm Vote of thanks by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Head & Associate Professor,
Department of History, SOSS, NSOU

The programme was ably compered by Debarati Banerjee, Associate professor, Department of History.

Valuable technical assistance was provided by NSOU ICT.

The Webinar:

Welcome Address: The webinar began at 11.30 am with an introduction by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Professor and Head, Department of History in place of Dr. Barnana Guha Thakurata (Banerjee), Officer -in-Charge, School of Social Sciences, NSOU, who could not attend the webinar due a bereavement in her family.

Inaugural Address: The Inaugural Address was delivered by Professor Chandan Basu of the department of History. He introduced the topic to the audience by drawing attention to the fact that the movement had a bigger historical importance.



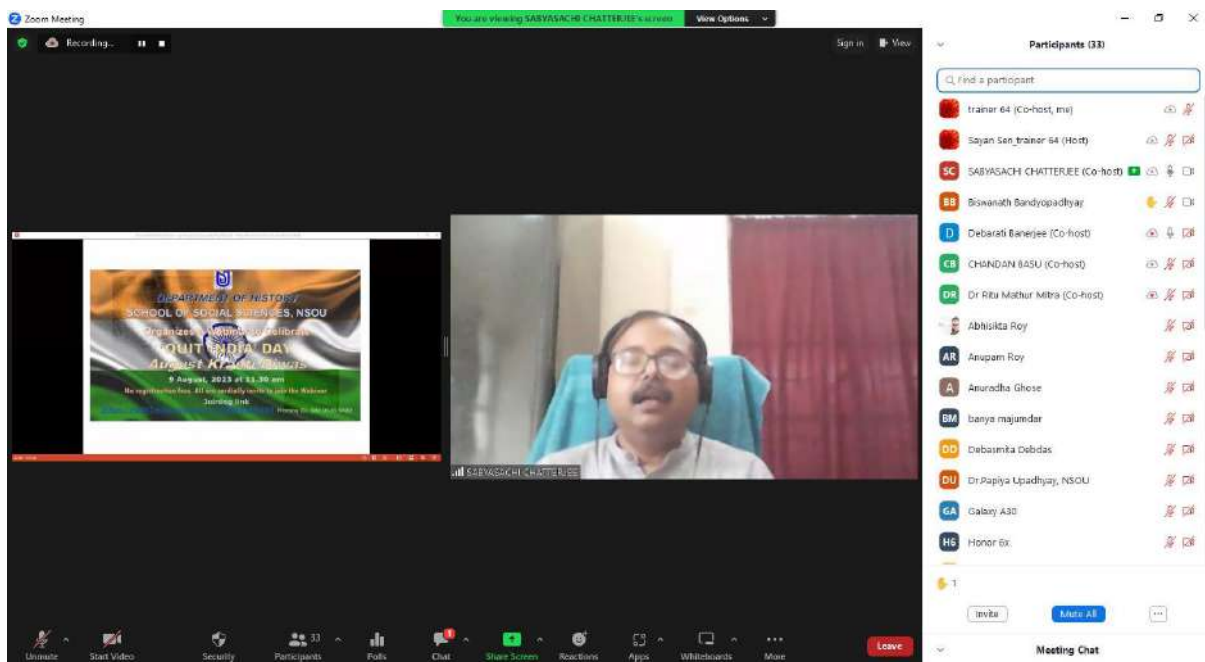
He identified three broad aspects of the movement.

1. It was a frontal attack on imperial ideology. It was comparable to the Great Revolt of 1857.
2. The movement had regional dimensions and diversities.
3. The movement was not directed from above but was in every way a movement which emerged from below. Professor Basu emphasised on its subaltern aspect. It was violent in nature. It had a mass leadership. The traditional Gandhian technique or mechanism did not work. It was a people's movement comparable with that of Chinese and the Vietnamese.

The introduction of Professor Basu set the webinar in the mood for the Keynote Address by Dr. Sabyasachi Chattopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Kalyani.

Keynote Address: Dr. Chattopadhyay started his Keynote Address by showing short video clipping from the Bengali movie '42'(Biyallish) released in 1951. Dr. Chattopadhyay harped on the fact that reminiscing the movement after a period of almost 9 years, reveal the great impact that the movement had on the people and also their perception on the historical event at a later date.

Dr. Chattopadhyay discussed the different aspects and significances in details by a power point presentation.



August Kranti was a spontaneous movement which manifested the desperation of the people of India to oust British imperialism. The loss of confidence of the Indians in British rule, Chattopadhyay, pointed out was evident in the fact that investments were withdrawn by the Indians. The militant nature of the movement and the attacks on symbols of British imperialism revealed the impatience of the mass to gain freedom from foreign rule. This again is the proof of the fact that there was an emergence of general popular political consciousness highly critical of the exploitative character of imperialist rule. There was mass mobilisation in spite of the fact that leaders were either underground or in jail. This, according to Professor Chattopadhyay reflected the awakening of the self-confidence of the people. The Quit India Resolution prepared by Gandhi and his message of Do or Die had no doubt inspired the people to action. In the course of the discussion the speaker mentioned about the role played by the women particularly in organising secret revolutionary groups, in setting up wireless transmission to inspire people.

Dr. Chattopadhyay, though spoke on the Quit India movement and its impact all over the country, he was more specific about the movement in Bengal particularly in Midnapur.

One most important aspect of Dr. Chattopadhyay's lecture was the presentation of the vast literature survey on the topic.

Another interesting aspect of his lecture was the divergent sources used by him. At the beginning of his lecture, he mentioned he had studied the coins and stamps issued by the government to understand the official paradigm.

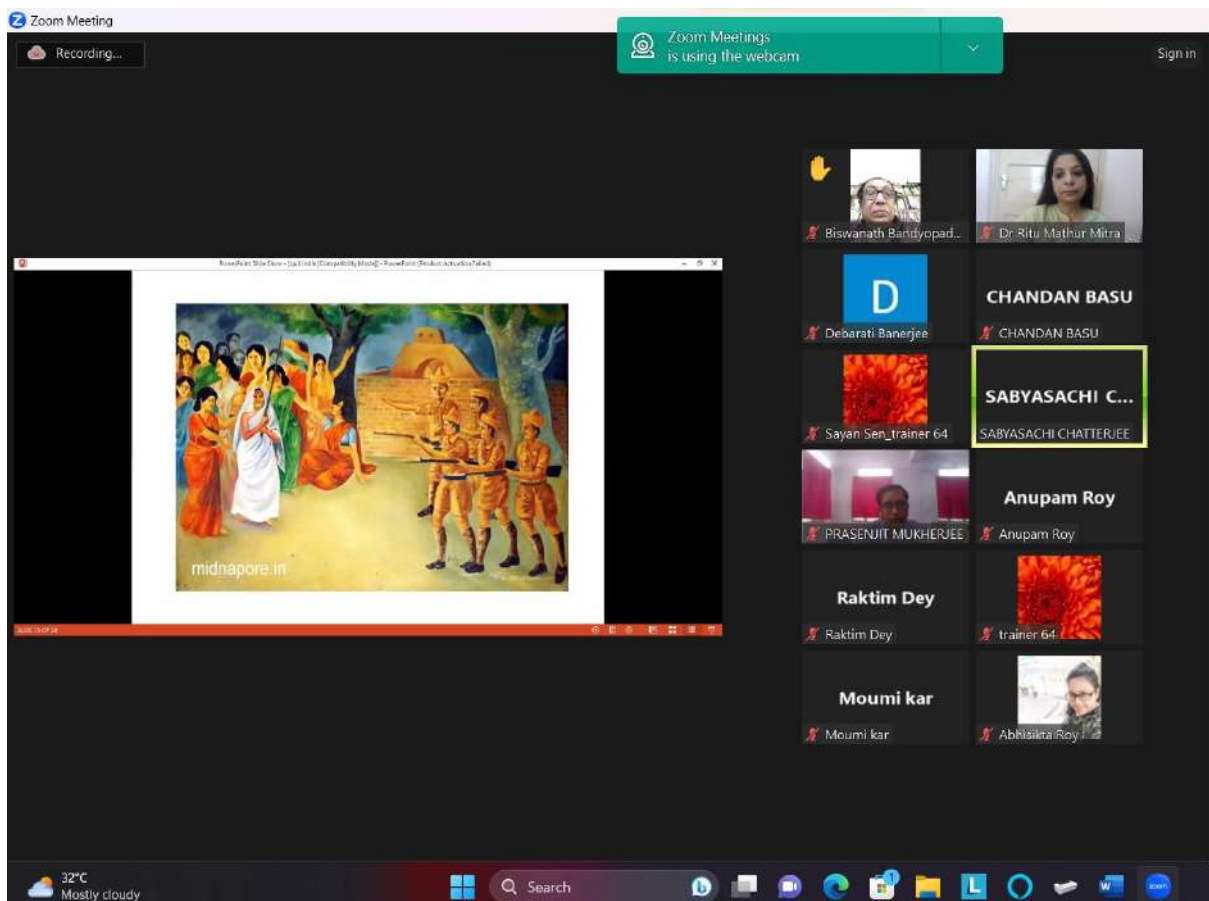
Dr. Chattopadhyay's scholarly approach to the topic expressed through a lucid story -telling form not only reflected his deep knowledge on the subject but also enthralled his audience.

Discussion/ Question-Answer Session: The Keynote Address was followed by a lively 'Question- Answer and Comments' session.

Participants like Sri Anupam Roy and Dr. Papiya Upadhyay put forward their questions and observations concerning the difference between nationalism and patriotism which further enlightened the audience.

Professor Biswanath Bandyopadhyay, inspired by the lecture expressed his desire to involve in research on the subject in future.

Professor Anuradha Ghose spoke about the bravery and patriotism of Matangini Hazra.

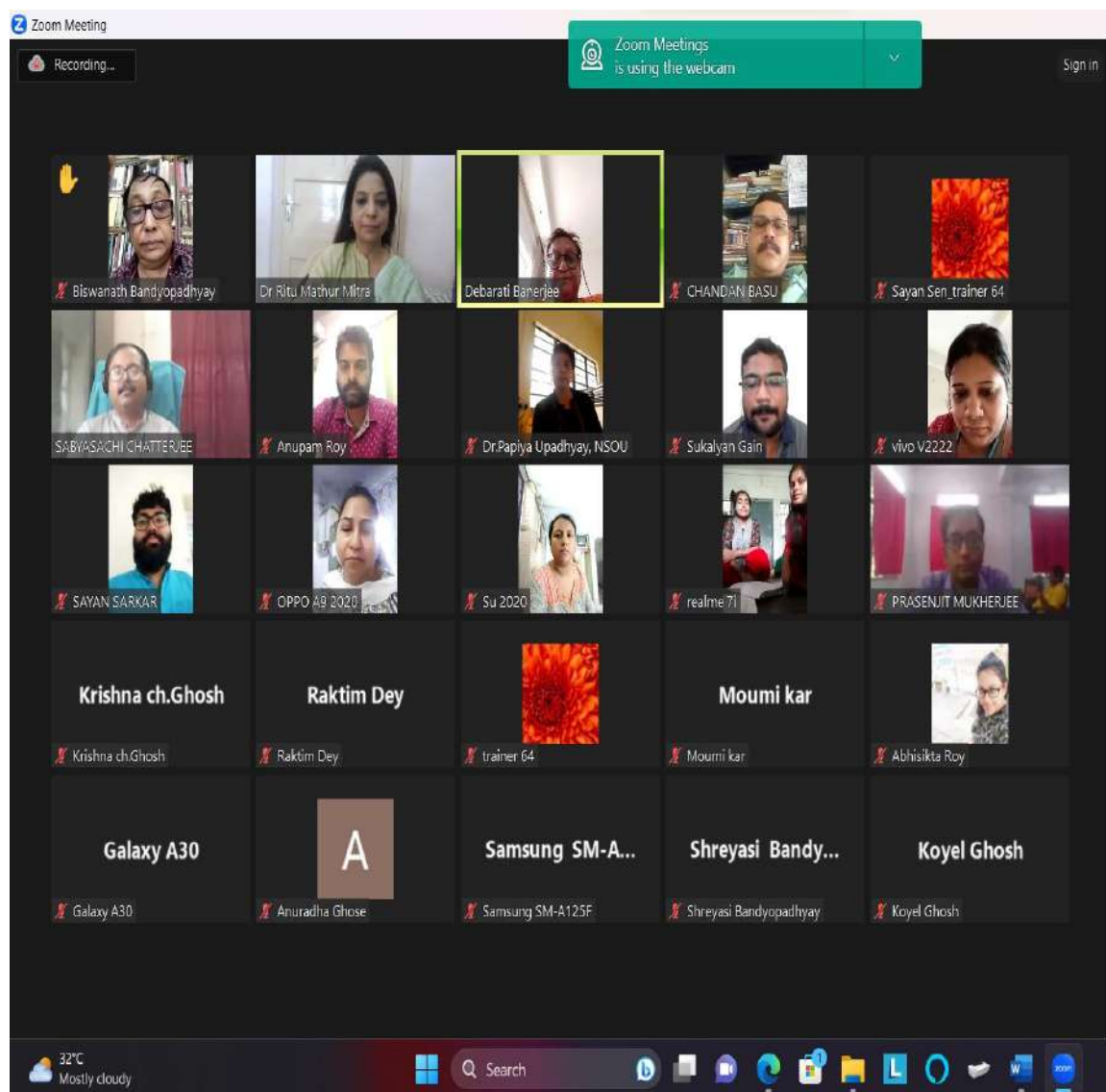


Professor Chandan Basu raised the most pertinent point reflecting on the patriotism of the general public which had turned them into violent revolutionaries. In this context he quoted from Rabindranath Tagore to elaborate the distinction between Patriotism or *swadesh prem* and Nationalism or *jatiyatabad*. The later glorifies the superiority of nation in the course inculcating a sense of competitiveness among nations whereas the former preaches the message of love, compassion and self- development.

Vote of Thanks: The webinar was concluded by a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Associate Professor and Head, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, NSOU.

She thanked the speakers, participants, the technical team and all support staff.

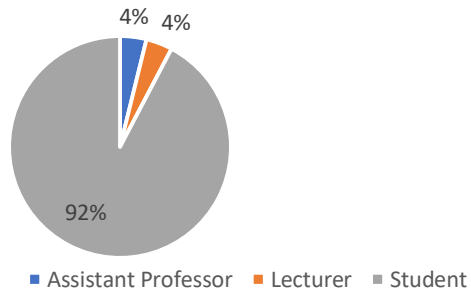
She pointed out that the aim of the department was to create an awareness among learners and faculty about history and important historical events to create a sense of history in all. Dr. Mathur concluded by the announcement that this lecture was one in a series of lectures which the department organises on and often to commemorate and celebrate events of importance in the history of mankind. In the future, she said, the department will organise many such lectures, conferences and seminars.



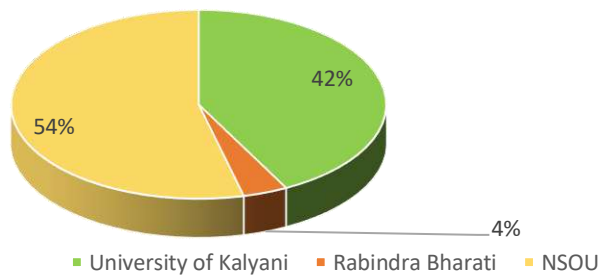
Outcomes of the Webinar:

The following feedback was received from the participants through Google feedback form-

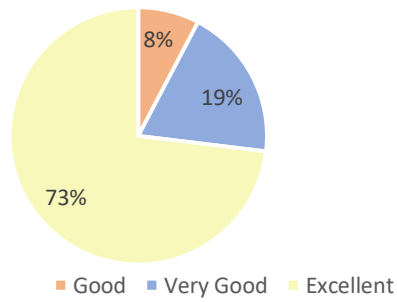
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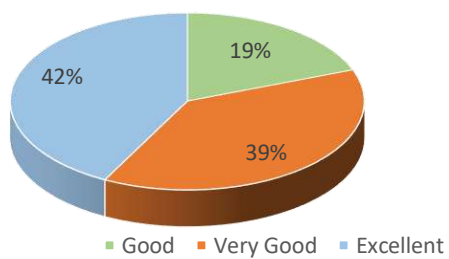
Name of the Institution



Please rate the programme



Rate the management of the technological aspect



The following certificate was provided to the participants



Report prepared by:

Debarati Banerjee
Associate Professor, Department of History
School of Social Sciences, NSOU
and
Dr Ritu Mathur Mitra
Head & Associate Professor, Department of History
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