



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

School of Social Sciences

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

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



Report on the Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture

Organized by the School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University

Kolkata, January 10, 2025

Venue: Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar, NSOU, DD-26, Salt Lake, Kolkata- 700064

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture on January 10, 2025. This significant academic and cultural event honoured the indomitable spirit and contributions of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of India's most iconic leaders, and his unwavering dedication to India's freedom struggle.

In continuation of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture series, this Eleventh lecture stood out as a testament to the university's commitment to preserving Netaji's legacy and promoting critical academic discourse.

Welcome Address



The program commenced at 1:30 PM with a stirring Director's Address delivered by Professor Barnana Guha Thakurta (Banerjee), the respected Director of the School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU). Known for her academic vision and dedication to nurturing intellectual inquiry, Professor Guha Thakurta began by welcoming the distinguished guests, faculty, officers, learners, researchers and dignitaries, setting the stage for the Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture.

In her address, Professor Guha Thakurta (Banerjee) drew attention to Netaji's enduring ideals of freedom, dissent, and academic inquiry, which she described as pivotal to shaping societal progress and building a more just and equitable world. She elaborated on how Netaji's life exemplified the courage to challenge oppressive structures and envision a future grounded in independence, justice, and equality. Reflecting on these principles, she emphasized their relevance in today's rapidly changing social, political, and economic landscape, urging the academic community to engage critically with these values.

Professor Guha Thakurta further outlined the academic practices and objectives of the School of Social Sciences, underscoring its role as a hub of intellectual exchange and scholarly excellence. She highlighted the school's initiatives, including organizing national and international seminars, conferences, workshops, publishing scholarly journals, and fostering interdisciplinary research that aligns with the university's mission to advance knowledge and address pressing societal issues.

In her remarks, she also celebrated the Memorial Lecture series as a hallmark of NSOU's commitment to promoting dialogue on critical themes and preserving the legacy of leaders like Netaji, whose contributions to India's freedom struggle remain unparalleled. She acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the faculty and staff in upholding these traditions, emphasizing how such events contribute to nurturing a culture of academic freedom and innovation.

Her speech concluded with a heartfelt call to action, encouraging the attendees to not only reflect on Netaji's values but also to embody them in their own academic pursuits and civic responsibilities. The Director's Address set a deeply reflective and inspiring tone for the event, resonating with the audience and setting the foundation for the intellectually enriching discussions that followed.

Special Address

At 1:45 PM, the Registrar's Special Address was delivered by Smt. Ananya Roy Choudhuri, the Acting Registrar of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU). In her address, Smt. Roy Choudhuri warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, faculty members, learners, and scholars, acknowledging their enthusiastic participation in this significant event. She began by paying homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, emphasizing how his visionary ideals continue to inspire generations to strive for a more empowered and equitable society.



Smt. Roy Choudhuri highlighted the university's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, emphasizing its efforts to create an environment that fosters intellectual growth and

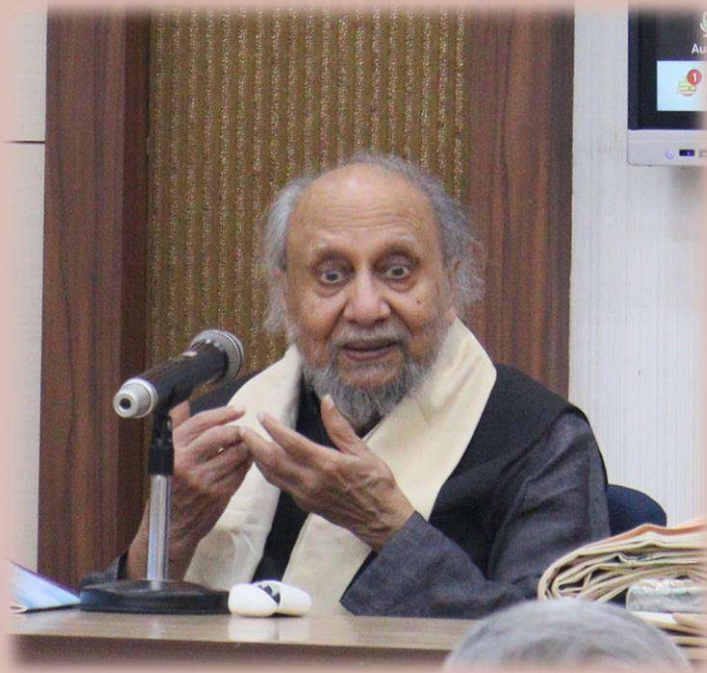
innovative thinking. She elaborated on NSOU's initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive education, particularly through its open and distance learning programs, which have expanded access to quality education for learners from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Drawing a connection to Netaji's vision of nation-building through knowledge, she underscored the university's role in empowering individuals by equipping them with the skills and values necessary for contributing to society's progress. She also spoke about the importance of blending traditional knowledge systems with modern pedagogical practices, ensuring that education remains both relevant and transformative.

Smt. Roy Choudhuri concluded her address by applauding the School of Social Sciences for organizing the Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture. She commended the School's dedication to upholding Netaji's legacy by encouraging critical discourse on pressing societal issues.

The Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture

The Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture, delivered by the esteemed scholar **Professor Ashis Nandy**, emerged as the focal point of the day's proceedings. Starting promptly at 2:00 PM, the lecture was a deep intellectual engagement with the theme, "**The Past and the Future of Dissent in India.**" Professor Nandy, a globally recognized social theorist, author, and political psychologist, brought his characteristic depth and incisiveness to this complex topic, offering a multi-dimensional analysis of dissent as a cornerstone of democratic life.



Professor Nandy began by providing a historical context, tracing the roots of dissent to ancient Indian traditions of debate, dialogue, and philosophical inquiry. He referenced the Upanishadic debates, Buddhist councils, and medieval Bhakti and Sufi movements, highlighting how these traditions embodied the spirit of questioning and resistance against orthodoxy. He drew parallels to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's legacy, describing him as a

symbol of dissent against both colonial domination and ideological conformity within the Indian independence movement.

Professor Nandy elaborated on how dissent shaped the Indian freedom struggle, citing examples such as Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent resistance, Bose's militarized approach through the Indian National Army (INA), and the role of marginalized communities who challenged caste, gender, and class hierarchies during the struggle. These instances, he argued, underscore the diversity of dissent in India's historical journey.

Transitioning to modern times, Professor Nandy analysed the changing dynamics of dissent in India's socio-political landscape. He spoke at length about the role of dissent in shaping democratic institutions, public policy, and social reforms. However, he also expressed concern over emerging challenges such as the erosion of democratic spaces, the increasing criminalization of dissent, and the use of state machinery to stifle voices of opposition.

The increasing restrictions on journalists, intellectuals, and activists, which threaten the democratic ethos.

The rise of people-led movements advocating for environmental justice, women's rights, and minority rights, and their transformative potential.

Professor Nandy offered a profound exploration of the relationship between culture and dissent, asserting that cultural practices often serve as tools for resistance. He cited examples of folk traditions, protest art, and literature that have historically challenged dominant narratives. Drawing from his vast research, he explained how the interplay between political resistance and cultural creativity sustains the spirit of dissent in even the most repressive environments.

He also discussed the ethical dimensions of dissent, emphasizing that the act of questioning authority is not merely a political exercise but a moral responsibility in a democracy. He argued that dissent must be rooted in compassion, inclusion, and the pursuit of justice to ensure that it leads to constructive outcomes rather than destructive divisions.

In his concluding remarks, Professor Nandy reflected on the future of dissent in India. He highlighted the resilience of Indian democracy, driven by its vibrant civil society and youth activism, as a beacon of hope. He also warned against complacency, urging the audience to remain vigilant in defending democratic values and fostering a culture of critical engagement.

Presidential Address



Following the lecture, at 2:50 PM, **Professor Indrajit Lahiri** the Honourable Vice Chancellor of Netaji Subhas Open University took the stage to deliver the Presidential Address. In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor extended heartfelt appreciation to the School of Social Sciences for organizing this prestigious event, emphasizing its importance in continuing the university's tradition of intellectual engagement and academic excellence.

He highlighted the enduring relevance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's ideals, particularly in the context of the challenges faced by contemporary society. The Vice Chancellor pointed out that Netaji's vision of a free, inclusive, and resilient India is still highly pertinent in addressing the socio-political issues of today, including inequality, nationalism, and global tensions. Drawing parallels between Netaji's leadership and modern-day challenges, he underscored the need for a renewed commitment to democratic values and social justice in the face of current adversities.

The Vice Chancellor's address offered a scholarly perspective on the lasting impact of Netaji's leadership, drawing attention to his fearless resistance against colonialism and his advocacy for a progressive India. The speech was both inspiring and reflective, urging the audience to engage with Netaji's visionary leadership as a source of strength and guidance in these times. His words called on the attendees to internalize the lessons from Netaji's struggles and achievements, fostering an environment of critical thought, courage, and civic responsibility among the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and change-makers.

Publication of Book



A notable highlight of the Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture was the inauguration of a book titled **The Past and the Future of Dissent in India**, authored by the esteemed speaker, **Professor Ashis Nandy**. The book, a printed version of the lecture, captures the profound insights and thought-provoking analysis presented during the event, offering readers a deeper understanding of the historical and contemporary dimensions of dissent in India. In a brief yet significant ceremony, Professor Nandy officially unveiled the book, emphasizing its importance as a scholarly contribution to the discourse on democracy, dissent, and social progress. The publication of this work not only immortalizes the essence of the Eleventh Memorial Lecture but also serves as a valuable resource for academics, students, and policymakers alike, inspiring them to reflect on the enduring legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the context of modern democratic challenges. The event marked another milestone in Netaji Subhas Open University's commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and preserving the spirit of Netaji's visionary ideals.

Vote of Thanks

The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Professor Ritu Mathur, Department of History, School of Social Sciences. In her concluding remarks, Professor Mathur expressed her sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture. She began by acknowledging the distinguished speakers, especially Professor Ashis Nandy, for his insightful and thought-provoking lecture that illuminated the complex dynamics of dissent and democracy in India.



Professor Mathur also thanked the Honourable Vice Chancellor for his inspiring Presidential Address, which added scholarly depth to the event and reinforced the relevance of Netaji's ideals in contemporary times. She extended her appreciation to Professor Barnana Guha Thakurta, the Director of the School of Social Sciences, and Smt. Ananya Roy Choudhuri, Acting Registrar of Netaji Subhas Open University, for their leadership and unwavering support in organizing the event.

Professor Mathur also expressed her sincere appreciation for the unwavering support of the **Finance Officer** and other university officers, whose contributions were instrumental in facilitating the logistical and financial aspects of the event. Furthermore, she recognized the dedicated efforts of the **administrative staff** and **supporting staff**, whose commitment and behind-the-scenes work ensured the smooth running of the program. Their collective efforts

exemplified the spirit of collaboration and dedication that defines the ethos of Netaji Subhas Open University.

Additionally, Professor Mathur acknowledged the active participation of the audience, including esteemed academics, researchers, learners, policymakers, and dignitaries, whose enthusiasm and engagement added depth and vibrancy to the event, making it truly memorable. She extended her heartfelt gratitude to the organizing team, whose meticulous planning ensured every detail was flawlessly executed.

In her closing remarks, Professor Mathur emphasized the significance of events like this in fostering intellectual discourse, preserving the legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and inspiring the future generation to uphold the values of freedom, dissent, and democracy. She ended her address by once again thanking everyone for their invaluable contributions and expressing hope for continued engagement with such thought-provoking initiatives in the future.



The entire program was seamlessly and gracefully conducted by Dr. Srabanti Choudhuri, Assistant Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, NSOU. Her eloquent comparing added a touch of professionalism and warmth to the event, ensuring a smooth flow between sessions. Dr. Choudhuri's insightful introductions of speakers, timely transitions, and engaging commentary enhanced the overall experience for the audience, reflecting her deep understanding of the event's academic and cultural significance. Her efforts contributed significantly to the success of the program.

Audience Response

The lecture was met with enthusiastic applause, reflecting the audience's deep appreciation for Professor Ashis Nandy's profound insights and thought-provoking analysis. The attendees, including distinguished academics, learners, policymakers, scholars and dignitaries, were clearly moved by the scholarly depth and relevance of his address. Many admired how Professor Nandy masterfully illuminated the historical and contemporary dimensions of dissent, aligning them with the enduring legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The strong response underscored the significance of the memorial lecture as a platform for intellectual discourse and a means of honouring Netaji's ideals of democracy, freedom, and resistance.

Professor Nandy's address not only celebrated Netaji's legacy but also served as a call to action, urging the promotion of a more inclusive and resilient democracy. His words will undoubtedly resonate with the audience for years to come, inspiring them to champion the values of dissent, dialogue, and democracy in both their academic pursuits and personal lives.

Conclusion

The Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture was a remarkable success, characterized by enthusiastic participation from a diverse audience that included academics, dignitaries, policymakers, researchers and learners. This strong turnout underscored Netaji Subhas Open University's (NSOU) continued commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and providing a platform for meaningful academic engagement. The lecture not only honoured the legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of India's most iconic freedom fighters, but also reflected the university's dedication to promoting the values of democracy, dissent, and social progress values that Netaji so passionately championed throughout his life.

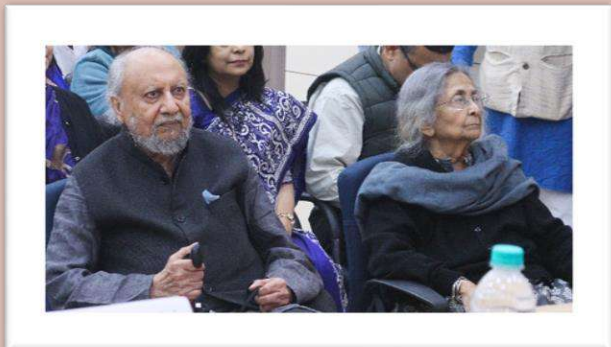
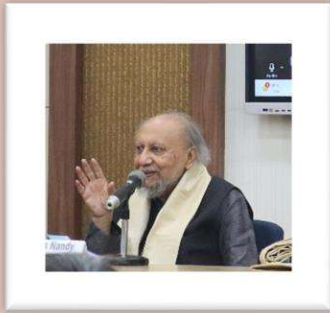
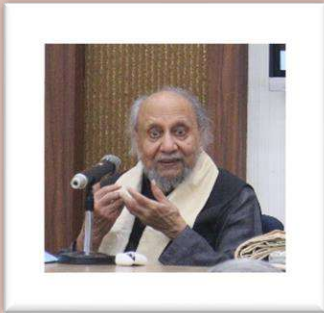
The School of Social Sciences at NSOU takes great pride in organizing this annual memorial lecture, an event that continues to inspire and educate future generations of thinkers, scholars, and leaders. The event serves as a powerful reminder of Netaji's visionary ideals, encouraging students and attendees to critically engage with the pressing issues of our times, including freedom, resistance, and societal change.

As the lecture concluded, it reaffirmed NSOU's role as a key institution in the academic community, committed to the preservation and promotion of intellectual inquiry. The success of this year's lecture stands as a testament to the university's ability to bring together diverse perspectives and create a space where ideas can flourish, ultimately contributing to the ongoing mission of honouring Netaji's enduring contributions to the freedom struggle and his vision for a progressive India.

In sum, the Eleventh Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture was not just an academic event; it was a celebration of Netaji's legacy, an acknowledgment of the enduring relevance of his ideals, and a call to action for the future.

Visual Documentation











NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

A SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES INITIATIVE



11th

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE MEMORIAL LECTURE



SPEAKER: PROFESSOR ASHIS NANDY

FRIDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2025

REGISTRATION: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Venue: Netaji Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar

Netaji Subhas Open University

DD-26, Salt Lake, Sector-1 Kolkata-700064

REGISTRATION LINK