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- 1) Registrar for uploading on the university
- 2) Dr. M.K. Halder
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By
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NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

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School of Social Sciences

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Report on the Webinar Observing Constitution Day of India

Objective of the Programme

As per the instructions of the authorities of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), the Department of Political Science, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), organised an online webinar on **5th December 2024** to observe **Constitution Day**, commemorating the adoption of the Indian Constitution. The primary objective of this programme was to create awareness about the historical context and philosophical foundations of the Indian Constitution, which serves as the cornerstone of India's democratic framework.

This initiative aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the Constitution's principles, including justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity, and their relevance in contemporary governance and societal structures. The programme sought to provide an academic platform for learners, scholars, and educators to engage with the Constitution's legacy and its enduring importance in shaping India's democratic values.

By bringing together a distinguished resource person, faculty members, and a diverse group of participants, the event aligned with the university's broader mission to promote academic discussions on key national events and encourage civic awareness and responsibility among students and the wider academic community.

Targeted Audience

The webinar is primarily intended for the learners, scholars, faculty members, and administrative staff of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU). It will serve as an educational opportunity for individuals within the university community to deepen their understanding of the Constitution of India, its principles, and its ongoing relevance in the governance of the

country. The event will also be open to external participants, including scholars, researchers, and professionals with a keen interest in constitutional studies, Indian polity, and the legal framework of the nation.

Additionally, the program invites individuals from diverse backgrounds - such as students from other universities, members of civil society, and practitioners in the fields of law, political science, and public administration—who wish to explore the constitutional values that underpin the democratic system in India. The event will also appeal to those interested in the evolving role of the Constitution in shaping contemporary governance, rights, and duties in India. Through this inclusive approach, the webinar aims to create a broad platform for cross-disciplinary engagement with constitutional issues.

Programme Highlights

The programme commenced at 2:00 PM on the Zoom platform with the following schedule:

- ✚ **Welcome Address:** Dr. Manoj Kumar Halder, Associate Professor, NSOU, welcomed participants and set the tone for the event.



- ✚ **Introductory Address:**

Dr. Barnana Guha Thakurta (Banerjee), Director of the School of Social Sciences and Head of the Department of Political Science, NSOU, delivered a comprehensive and thought-provoking introductory address at the commencement of the webinar. In her speech, she carefully introduced the theme of the event, focusing on the significance of Constitution

Day and its role in the nation's democratic journey.

Dr. Guha Thakurta elaborated on the profound historical importance of the Indian Constitution, noting how its adoption marked a pivotal moment in India's transformation into a sovereign republic, grounded in the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. She highlighted that Constitution Day is not merely a ceremonial occasion but an opportunity for deep reflection on the philosophy that guides the country's governance.

In her address, she stressed the importance of understanding the philosophical foundation of the Constitution, which encapsulates the ideals of social justice and equal rights for all citizens. Dr. Guha Thakurta emphasized the relevance of observing Constitution Day as a means to remind ourselves of the values enshrined in this sacred

document and their continuing significance in addressing the challenges of modern India.

Dr. Guha Thakurta also expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for entrusting the Department of Political Science with the responsibility of organizing this important event. She extended her thanks to all the university authorities whose cooperation and support were instrumental in making this program a success. Additionally, she expressed her appreciation to the faculty members of the department for their active involvement and unwavering commitment to the smooth execution of the event.

Her address not only set the tone for the discussions that followed but also inspired participants to appreciate the importance of this day and to engage in critical reflection on how the Constitution continues to shape the democratic and social fabric of the nation.

Key Deliberation:

Dr. Nivedita Saha, Associate Professor at the University of Kalyani, delivered an insightful and comprehensive lecture on the theme "*Historical Background and Philosophy of the Indian Constitution.*"



The speaker began her lecture by tracing the historical background of the making of the Indian Constitution, providing a detailed account of the political and historical context leading to its formulation. She highlighted the role of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League in shaping the constitutional framework, emphasizing how both political entities influenced the constitutional discussions and the eventual agreement on the need for a formal document.

Dr. Saha also delved into the significant influences that shaped the Constitution, particularly the Cripps Mission, the Cabinet Mission, and the Government of India Act of 1935. These historical events, she explained, played a crucial role in steering the process of constitutional development, as they laid the groundwork for discussions on self-governance and autonomy for India.

Moving forward, the speaker thoroughly discussed the composition and functions of the Constituent Assembly, focusing on its various sub-committees, with particular attention to the Drafting Committee. She acknowledged the instrumental role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other

key members of the Drafting Committee in meticulously crafting the Constitution. Dr. Saha outlined how the committee's members worked collaboratively to ensure the document was reflective of the diverse needs and aspirations of the Indian populace.

In the latter part of her lecture, Dr. Saha shifted her focus to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, providing an in-depth discussion on its basic themes. She emphasized how the Preamble encapsulates the fundamental principles of justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity, which are central to India's democratic identity.

Furthermore, the speaker examined the constitutional ideas in connection with various government programmes and initiatives over time. She explained how these ideas evolved in relation to policy decisions and governance strategies, particularly in the context of India's post-independence development. Dr. Saha also explored the introduction of liberalization in the Indian economy, linking it with the concept of a mixed economy and discussing the significance of these economic reforms in the broader constitutional framework.

Through her detailed and insightful lecture, Dr. Saha enriched the participants' understanding of the Indian Constitution, its historical evolution, and the philosophical ideals embedded within it. Her analysis provided a deeper appreciation of the Constitution's relevance in shaping India's democratic and socio-economic landscape.

Open Discussion:

After Dr. Nivedita Saha's insightful lecture, an engaging interactive session followed, where participants raised several thought-provoking questions. One of the key questions asked about the position of the ideas written in the Preamble of the Constitution, particularly whether these ideals were properly introduced and implemented, especially in the context of socialism. Other questions also explored the interpretation of the Preamble and its evolving significance over time, as well as the economic principles enshrined in the Constitution, particularly in the context of India's economic liberalization.

Dr. Saha addressed these questions with great care, providing valuable insights into the historical, political, and economic dimensions of the Indian Constitution. She elaborated on how the socialist ideals in the Preamble were initially reflected in the state's interventionist role in the economy and how these ideals have been shaped by later economic reforms. Her responses enriched the participants' understanding of the Constitution's foundational principles and its dynamic evolution, fostering a deeper appreciation of its ongoing relevance.



Vote of Thanks: The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Utathya Bandopadhyay, Professor of Political Science at NSOU. Dr. Bandopadhyay expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Vice Chancellor for their continued support and guidance, which played a crucial role in the successful organization of the webinar. He also thanked Dr. Barnana Guha Thakurta, Director of the School of Social Sciences, for her leadership and invaluable contributions to the event.

In addition, Dr. Bandhopadhyay extended his sincere appreciation to all the dignitaries, speakers, and faculty members, especially Dr. Nivedita Saha, for her insightful lecture that greatly enriched the understanding of the Indian Constitution. He acknowledged the presence of scholars and learners who actively participated in the discussions, raising thought-provoking questions that furthered the intellectual exchange. Dr. Bandhopadhyay concluded by thanking all the attendees for their enthusiastic engagement, making the event a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Outcome of the Programme

The webinar successfully achieved its objective of enhancing participants' understanding of the historical background and philosophical principles underlying the Indian Constitution. Dr. Nivedita Saha's lecture provided a comprehensive exploration of the Constitution's making, the pivotal role played by various political entities, and the significant influences shaping its creation. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the Constitution's foundational ideals, such as justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, and how these ideals continue to guide India's governance.

The open discussion further enriched the program, with participants raising insightful questions about the Preamble's ideals, especially in relation to socialism and its evolving significance. Dr. Saha addressed these queries in great detail, offering valuable perspectives on the Constitution's principles and their adaptation over time, particularly with regard to economic liberalization and governance.

Overall, the programme succeeded in fostering a reflective and intellectually engaging environment, where participants had the opportunity to critically engage with the Constitution's historical context and its relevance in contemporary India. The event not only deepened participants' knowledge of the Constitution but also inspired them to appreciate its ongoing significance in shaping India's democratic and socio-economic landscape.

Relevance of the Programme

The webinar emphasized the enduring importance of the Indian Constitution in shaping the democratic ethos of the nation. By highlighting its historical evolution and philosophical framework, the event reinforced the relevance of constitutional awareness in contemporary society. The program also underscored the role of academia in promoting civic education and fostering a sense of responsibility among citizens.

The webinar successfully achieved its objectives, providing a platform for meaningful discourse on Constitution Day. The participation of esteemed resource person Dr. Nivedita Saha and the active engagement of attendees made the event a significant academic and cultural milestone for NSOU.

Visual Documentation



Speaker: Dr. Nivedita Saha



Participants



Participants

Flyer of the Programme

WEBINAR
Commemorating the Constitution Day of India
Organised by:
Department of Political Science
School of Social Sciences
Netaji Subhas Open University


Date: 5th December 2024, Time: 2:00 P.M.

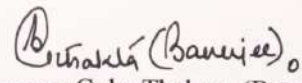
Speaker:
Dr. Nivedita Saha
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Kalyani

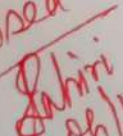
Join us for an insightful session to commemorate the Constitution Day on the adoption of the Constitution of India and reflect on its significance in shaping our democratic values and rights.

You are cordially invited to join us for an enlightening session on 5th December 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Click on the link to join the session: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85302966789>

Placed before the honourable Vice Chancellor for his kind approval to be uploaded on the website of the University.


Dr. Manoj Kumar Haldar
Associate professor of political Science
School of Social Sciences, NSOU
& Coordinator


Prof. Barnana Guha Thakura (Banerjee) 06/12/2024
Director,
School of Social Sciences
& Head
Department of Political Science
Netaji Subhas Open University

Approved as proposed

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Director, SOSS