

## **Report**

### **One Day Webinar Commemorating World Philosophy Day on ‘Reflections on the Philosophical Contemplations of Sri Aurobindo and K.C.Bhattacharya’**

*Organized by the Department of Philosophy, Diamond Harbour Women’s University, in collaboration with Indian Council of Philosophical Research, on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2021*

A Webinar on Reflections on the Philosophical Contemplations of Sri Aurobindo and K. C. Bhattacharya 27th March, 2021 was organized by the Department of Philosophy in collaboration with the Indian Council of Philosophical Research. The resource persons offering illuminating discourses on the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and K. C. Bhattacharya were Prof. Tara Chatterjee, Former Professor, Department of Philosophy, Lady Brabourne College, Prof. Indrani Sanyal, Former Professor, Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University and Prof. Aparajita Mukhopadhyaya, Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University.

## About the Webinar

Sri Aurobindo (1872-1950) was one of the greatest spiritual seekers of India, a Mahayogi, who tried to show a spiritual way to the entire humanity towards the realization of a peaceful harmonious life on earth. Krishnachandra Bhattacharya (1875-1949) was one of the greatest speculative and analytical thinkers and philosophers of India. His philosophy is described as Transcendental Idealism. The webinar, commemorating World Philosophy Day, would focus upon some essential aspects of the thoughts of these two great contemporary Indian thinkers of the 19<sup>th</sup> India with the objective-to find their relevance in the present era

## Programme Schedule

### 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021

11:00 a.m.: Inaugural Session.

11:00 a.m.: Introducing the theme of the Webinar by Dr.Sushmita Bhowmik, Coordinator, Dept. of Philosophy, DHWU.

Announcements of the Inaugural Session by Dr. Sharmistha Dhar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, DHWU.

11:05 p.m.: Inaugural Address by Professor Anuradha Mukhopadhyay, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DHWU

11:15 a.m.: Welcome address by Dr. Sayeedur Rahaman, Hon'ble Registrar, DHWU

11:20 a.m.: Special Address by Professor Tapán Kumar Mondal, Respected Dean, Faculty of Arts, DHWU

11:25 a.m.: Special Address by Dr. Tania Chakraverty, Respected Dean of students' Faculty, DHWU

11:30 a.m.: First Academic Session (The Thoughts of K.C.Bhattacharya)

11:30 a.m.: Speaker: Professor Tara Chatterjee, Former Professor in Philosophy, Lady Brabourne College

12:35 p.m.: Q&A Session

12:45 a.m.: Second Academic Session (The Thoughts of Sri Aurobindo)

12:45 p.m.: Speaker: Professor Indrani Sanval, Former Professor in Philosophy, Jadavpur University.

12:50 p.m.: Q&A Session

2:00 p.m.: Professor Aparajita Mukherjee, Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University

3:05 p.m.: Q&A Session

3:15 p.m.: Vote of Thanks by Mr. Sudip Bag, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, DHWU.

The Department of Philosophy, Diamond Harbour Women's University, has organized **One Day Webinar Commemorating World Philosophy Day on 'Reflections on the Philosophical Contemplations of Sri Aurobindo and K.C.Bhattacharya', on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**. The webinar began with an inaugural address by the Honourable Vice chancellor of Diamond Harbour Women's University. The Vice Chancellor congratulated the Department of Philosophy for organizing the webinar on such a relevant topic. She said a few words focusing upon the thoughts the two great thinkers. Then the Honourable Registrar of the Univesity Dr. Sayeedur Rahman said a few words while delivering hiswelcome address. Then the Dean of Students' Welfare, Dr. Tania Chakrevertty delivered aspecial address. After this the Coordinator of the Department introduced the theme concept of the webinar. She said that during the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries India saw the birth of some great socio-political thinkers and philosophers like Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi Sri

Aurobindo, Krishnachandra Bhattacharya, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Vinaba Bhave, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Pandit Hanuman Prasad Poddar and many others. Among them the present webinar would focus upon the philosophical thoughts of Sri Aurobindo and Krishnachandra Bhattacharya. Sri Aurobindo (1872-1950) was one of the greatest spiritual seekers of India, a Mahayogi, who tried to show a spiritual way to the entire humanity towards the realization of a peaceful harmonious life on earth. Krishnachandra Bhattacharya (1875-1949) was one of the greatest speculative and analytical thinkers and philosophers of India. His philosophical works may be classified under two heads: the work of interpretation and the work of construction. He interpreted *Vedānta*, *Sāṃkhya*, *Yoga*, *Jaina* and other philosophical thoughts. His philosophy is described as Transcendental Idealism. For him ultimate reality is not describable in terms of any accepted philosophical terms and as such it is transcendental. In the present social scenario when the life of mankind is faced with various socio-political upheavals and there is a gradual erosion of values everywhere, there it is essential to discuss and regenerate the thoughts and values upheld by these two contemporary Indian thinkers to improve and uplift our life. After the introduction of the topic the first academic session began.

**In the first academic session of the webinar the speaker was Dr. Tara Chatterjea, Retired Professor in Philosophy, Lady Brabourne College.**

**In the second academic session, the speaker was Professor Indrani Sanyal, Retired Professor in Philosophy, Jadavpur University. Her topic was *Sri Aurobindo on Matter and Materialism*.**

Her main objective in this paper was to explain why Sri Aurobindo is said to be a spiritual thinker. She explained that the term 'spiritual' is ambiguous. Generally 'spirituality' carries with it a negative implication meaning that which is antagonistic towards science. But an analysis of Sri Aurobindo's thoughts and writings clearly shows that he was never hostile towards science, rather he has always praised the contribution of science in the advancement of human life. Sri Aurobindo was a yogi, a metaphysician, a poet, as well as a social and political thinker. He analyzed and explained the psychology of social development in his book 'The Human Cycle'. There Sri Aurobindo has explained the various stages of social development as found in Europe. He pointed out that during the individualistic age which was the age of reason there was rapid development of science and establishment of Truth as found in Mother Nature. Hence there was improvement of human life on the basis of reason which was appreciated by Sri Aurobindo. But

at the same time he pointed out that too much of scientificity lead to the development of materialism. Human life started to be guided by mechanical principles which turned man into machines and neglected the subtle aspects of human nature. Thus Sri Aurobindo was not against science, matter and materialism. But he pointed out that science or reason cannot be the sovereign master of life. Hence awakening of spirituality that is the inner awakening of our being is essential and it cannot be ignored even in the days of science.

In the third academic session the speaker was Dr. Aparajita Mukhopadhyay, **Professor in Philosophy, Jadavpur University**. Her topic was comparison between Sri Aurobindo's philosophy and existential philosophy. The speaker focused upon the points of similarity between Sri Aurobindo's thoughts and the thoughts of the existential thinkers.

The seminar generated great interest within the listeners. They asked different questions to the speakers and were satisfied with their answers.

The seminar ended with a vote of thanks to the ICPR, University Authority, speakers, students and other listeners.