



Freedom at Midnight
Women's Voices and the Indian Freedom Struggle

A national conference by the
Department of Liberal Arts
Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai

under the aegis of
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Scheme
Indian Council of Social Science Research

Friday, 17 February 2023

Programme

9.40 – 10.00:

Opening Remarks: Anubhav Pradhan (Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai)
Prof P.D. Srivastava (HoD, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai)

Welcome address: Prof Rajiv Prakash (Director, IIT Bhilai)

10.00 – 10.45: Plenary

Chair: Sonal Jha (Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai)

Keynote: *Between Communalism and Nationalism: Women political activists in Bengal (1946-7)*

Debjani Sengupta (Department of English, Indraprastha College for Women)

10.45 – 11.00: Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30: Panel: Indian feminisms and nationalism

Chair: Sreejata Paul (Department of English, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence)

- *Women and the Woman's Question: A Study of Early Women's Magazines in India*
Roopa Philip (Department of English, Jyoti Nivas College Autonomous)
- *Consensus and Dissent in Nurturing a Nation: Writings and Activism of Women Nationalists in India*
Rachna Mehra (School of Global Affairs, Dr B.R. Ambedkar University)



- *Feminist Writings in Pre-Independence India: A Comparative Study of Begum Rokaiya's Sultana's Dream and Tarabai Shinde's Stri Purush Tulana*
Mukesh Tiwari (C.V. Raman Global University)

12.30 – 13.15: Lunch

13.15 – 14.45: Panel: Women's nationalism and Gandhian thought

Chair: Roopa Philip (Department of English, Jyoti Nivas College Autonomous)

- *'Muslim' Women and Gandhian Ideology: The Self-Narratives of Syeda Monowara Khatun and Raihana Tyabji*
Sreejata Paul (Department of English, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence)
- *Inlays of the Female Self in Gandhism: Tracing the Crisis and Constitution of Identity in Jankidevi Bajaj's My Life's Journey: An Autobiography*
Sragdharamalini Das (Independent Scholar)
- *At Bhakti/Seva Crossroads: Mirabehn in Indian Nationalist Movement*
Ritu Varghese (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Rourkela)

14.45 – 15.00: Coffee Break

15.00 – 16.30: Panel: Freedom struggle in women's life writings

Chair: Rachna Mehra (School of Global Affairs, Dr B.R. Ambedkar University)

- *Tracing the Notion of Freedom through the autobiographies of refugee women*
Twinkle Dhall (Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, University of Delhi)
- *Rebellion and Nationalism: Reading the works of Sarala Debi Chaudhurani on her Sesquicentennial Birth Anniversary*
Nibedita Paul (Department of English, Techno India University)
- *A Memory of Quest and Transcendence: Reading Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay's Inner Recesses, Outer Spaces: Memoirs*
Antara Chandra (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Goa)

16.30 – 16.45: Coffee Break

16.45 – 17.30: Plenary

Chair: Anubhav Pradhan (Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai)

Keynote: *Prison Narratives of Satyagrahi Women*

Paulomi Chakraborty (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay)

17.30 – 17.35: Vote of Thanks: Nidhi (Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai)