



State Level Seminar on 100 Years of Jallianwala Bagh: Reliving the Grief



Organized by:

Department of History &

Internal Quality Assurance Cell

Sarojini Naidu College for Women

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Resource Persons:

Dr. Nirban Basu, Mahatma Gandhi Chair Professor in Social Science, CU

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About the College:

Founded on the 14th of August 1956 as a college dedicated to the rehabilitation of refugees, **Sarojini Naidu College for Women** is one of the premier institutions for women's education in the northern suburbs of Calcutta. Initially affiliated to Calcutta University, it now enjoys affiliation under the West Bengal State University and offers quality education in Arts, Commerce, Science and Management streams. **SNCW** is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, learning and understanding in the service of society. The college has a dedicated and sincere faculty for whom the general well-being of the students is of utmost importance.

Sarojini Naidu College for Women is committed to ensuring students from all backgrounds achieve their full potential in various spheres of activity and to this effect, ever since its establishment, students of **SNCW** have demonstrated academic talent and commitment irrespective of their social, religious, or economic background.

About the Seminar:

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919. A large peaceful crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab, to protest against the Rowlatt Act and arrest of pro-independence activists Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal. In response to the public gathering, the temporary Brigadier general, R. E. H. Dyer, surrounded the protesters with his Gurkha, Baloch, Rajput and Sikh troops from the British Indian Army. The Jallianwala Bagh could only be exited on one side, as its other three sides were enclosed by buildings. After blocking the exit with his troops, he ordered them to shoot at the crowd, continuing to fire even as the protestors tried to flee. The troops kept on firing until their ammunition was exhausted. Estimates of those killed vary between 379 and 1500+ people and over 1,200 other people were injured. The level of casual brutality, and lack of any accountability, stunned the entire nation, resulting in a wrenching loss of faith of the general Indian public in the intentions of the United Kingdom. The event fuelled great widespread anger against the British among the Indian populace, leading to the non-cooperation movement of 1920–22. Some historians consider the episode a decisive step towards the end of British rule in India. The Seminar organised to commemorate the completion of 100 years of this massacre, attempts to relook at the past in an objective manner, and analyse how it has shaped our history over the years.