DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY SHYAM LAL COLLEGE

Programme organized by the Department of History (2020-2021)

ACADEMIC YEAR (2020-2021)

<u>Departmental Lecture "Rethinking Indian History and the Idea of Revolution" on 23rd March,</u> 2021

The Department of History, Shyamlal College commemorated the martyrdom of India's great revolutionary freedom fighter Saheed Bhagat Singh by organizing an Online Departmental Lecture on Tuesday, 23rd March, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. Dr. Sunny Kumar, Assistant Professor, Miranda House, DU, was the guest speaker on the ocassion who delivered lecture on the topic, "Rethinking Indian History and the Idea of Revolution". At the outset the Teacher-In-Charge, Dr. Rohan Mandal and Dr. Jaya Kakkar, Associate Professor, in the Department of History, who anchored the program welcomed the guest speaker and the students and teachers who had joined the lecture programme. There were 100 students and teachers who attended this lecture. In his lecture Dr. Sunny Kumar underlined the two contrasting anti-colonial resistance strategies viz., one represented by Bhagat Singh and the other by Mahatma Gandhi. The trend represented by Bhagat Singh was upheld as violent revolutionary whereas Gandhian method was upheld as embodiment of non-violence and the mainstream movement. Dr. Sunny Kumar argued that even though violent revolutionary methods played central role in many anti-colonial movements violent revolutionary method as a legitimate form of struggle has deliberately been discredited with the rise of modern politics during the colonial regime and in post-independence period by the Indian Republic. Dr. Sunny Kumar in his lecture traced deep antecedents of violence as legitimate counter-measure to counter state oppression but in the modern period of Indian history how, anti-colonial violence not only forced British government to implement a series of repressive measures but also resulted in the emergence of an official discourse on militant anti-colonial movements as well, which were juxtaposed to terms like "sedition", "conspiracy", "revolution" and finally "terrorism". Dr. Sunny Kumar in essence saw violent revolutionary struggle as very much legitimate form of counter-movement against state oppression. At the end of the lecture a number of queries were raised by both the students and the teachers which were answered to their satisfaction by the speaker. The session ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jaya Kakkar.









