Report

on

Monthly Faculty Lecture

Series	May, 2024-25

Date: 14th May, 2025; Time: 2:00 PM

Title: SWAYAM MOOC Platform: An Introduction

On 14th May, 2025 the Monthly Faculty Lecture was held under the aegis of Swami Vivekananda University at NND block, Room No: 314, where **Dr. Julian S Das, Producer at EMRC Kolkata, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata – 700 094, West Bengal**, delivered an insightful lecture on the crucial topic of *"SWAYAM MOOC Platform: An Introduction"* The event was graced by the presence of SVU officials, directors of various departments, faculty members, staff, and research scholars, making it a significant gathering of academic and professional minds.

Introduction

The event commenced with an opening address by **Prof. (Dr.) Ranjan Chakrabarti, Director of Research and Academic Development, SVU,** and the event was chaired by **Prof. (Dr.) Mita Banerjee, Chief Academic Advisor (Department of Education), SVU**. Prof. Chakrabarti highlighted the growing significance of digital transformation in the Indian education system, particularly in the wake of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He emphasized the need for technological integration in education and the pivotal role platforms like SWAYAM play in this evolving landscape.

The speaker, **Dr. Julian S. Das**, an expert in educational media and online learning, currently associated with EMRC Kolkata, was then introduced. Dr. Das has been closely involved in developing MOOC content for SWAYAM and holds extensive experience in educational broadcasting and instructional design.

Key Highlights of the Lecture

Dr. Das delivered a comprehensive presentation on the SWAYAM platform and its strategic alignment with NEP 2020. His session was divided into thematic segments, each exploring a critical aspect of online education and technological integration.

1. NEP 2020: A Transformational Shift

Dr. Das began by outlining how NEP 2020 represents a **paradigm shift** in India's educational framework, aimed at making education more inclusive, equitable, and holistic.

- He specifically referred to **Part III** of NEP 2020, which includes **Chapters 23 and 24**, dedicated to **Technology Use and Integration** and **Online and Digital Education**.
- **Chapter 23.1** mentions the bi-directional relationship between education and technology. Education empowers digital India, and digital tools enhance learning.
- New technologies such as **AI, ML, blockchains, smart boards**, and **adaptive learning systems** are positioned to revolutionize both pedagogy and educational outcomes.

Dr. Das emphasized that NEP 2020 not only acknowledges but actively promotes the integration of **digital platforms** in school and higher education, advocating for an ecosystem where **access, affordability, and quality** intersect.

2. MOOCs and the Global Context

Transitioning to the **MOOC phenomenon**, Dr. Das provided a brief history and global context:

- **MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)** emerged as an educational revolution nearly two decades ago, democratizing access to quality learning.
- Platforms like **Coursera** (founded in 2012 by Stanford professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller) and **Udemy** (founded in 2010 in Silicon Valley) have become global leaders.
- However, he argued that imported MOOCs do not fully address India's specific linguistic, cultural, and pedagogical needs.

3. The Case for Indigenous MOOCs: Why SWAYAM?

Dr. Das then introduced **SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)** as India's indigenous MOOC platform, launched by the Ministry of Education to:

- Bridge the digital divide in education.
- Provide high-quality content to learners across diverse geographies.
- Support teachers and institutions with professional development and content creation.

He noted that India's **shortage of faculty**, **resource constraints**, and **diverse learner base** demand homegrown solutions. SWAYAM addresses these gaps by making **localized**, **curriculum-aligned**, and **certifiable** content available to all.

4. Structure and Features of SWAYAM

Dr. Das provided an in-depth explanation of the **SWAYAM platform's four-quadrant approach**, which ensures a comprehensive learning experience:

1. **e-Tutorial** – Video lectures.
2. **e-Content** – Reading material and reference content.
3. **Discussion Forum** – For peer learning and interaction with instructors.
4. **Assessment** – Quizzes, assignments, and exams for evaluation.

He also outlined the **Credit Mobility framework**, where universities can integrate SWAYAM courses into their curriculum following UGC guidelines.

5. Developing a SWAYAM Course: The Process

Dr. Das detailed the proposal and development process for creating SWAYAM MOOCs:

- Begins with a **call for Expression of Interest (EoI)** from **National Coordinators (NCs)** such as NPTEL, CEC, AICTE, IGNOU, and others.

- The proposal must include:

    o **Course title and objectives**
    o **Reference books and materials**
    o **Brief profile of the Course Coordinator**
    o **Contact details and a passport-size photo**
    o **Week-wise lesson plan**
    o **Course logo**
    o **Sample video lecture (3-5 minutes)**

He encouraged faculty members to actively participate in this initiative, citing benefits like **Academic Performance Indicators (API)** enhancement, **monetary incentives**, and **recognition as national content creators**.

6. SWAYAM and DIKSHA: Synergizing Technology with Education

Dr. Das highlighted **DIKSHA** as another government-backed platform geared towards school education. He emphasized the synergy between DIKSHA and SWAYAM:

- **DIKSHA** caters to K-12 educators and students with e-content in multiple languages.

- **SWAYAM** primarily serves **higher education and professional development**.

Both platforms work under the broader vision of the **Digital India Campaign**, aiming to transform India into a **knowledge economy**.

7. Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite its potential, Dr. Das acknowledged certain challenges:

- **Digital Divide** – Rural and marginalized learners still face connectivity and device-related barriers.

- **Faculty Resistance** – Not all educators are equipped or willing to transition to digital modes.

- **Quality Assurance** – Maintaining consistent academic rigor across courses remains a concern.

However, with robust policy backing from NEP 2020 and increasing digital literacy, these challenges can be addressed through capacity-building, infrastructure investment, and institutional support.
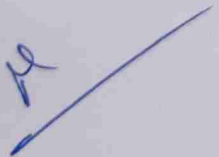
Interactive Session

An engaging Q&A session followed the lecture. Faculty members, instructional designers, and research scholars raised pertinent questions:

- How can SWAYAM content be integrated into existing syllabi?
- What incentives exist for faculty to create courses?
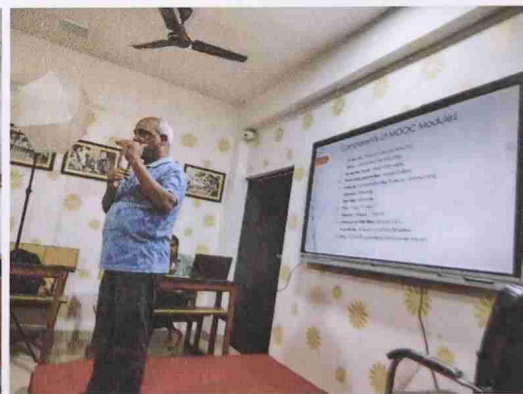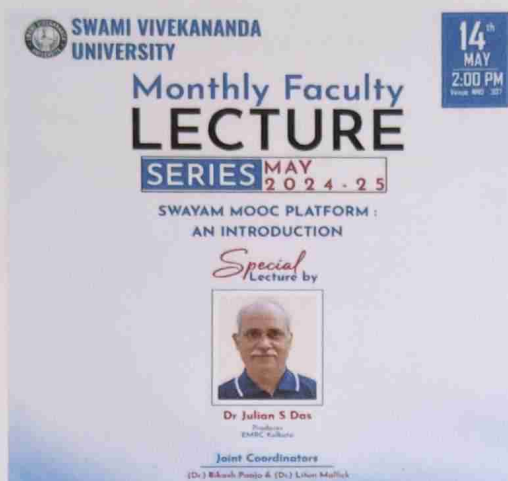- What training is available for first-time content developers?

Dr. Das answered each question with clarity, offering real-world examples and institutional best practices. He encouraged participants to explore the SWAYAM website and even consider submitting proposals for new courses in emerging and interdisciplinary areas.

Concluding Remarks

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Bikash Panja, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SVU, who lauded Dr. Das for-shedding light on the strategic relevance of online learning platforms in today's education system. In a world rapidly transitioning to digital modes of learning, the lecture was described as both informative and visionary, highlighting the role of indigenous platforms like SWAYAM in shaping the future of Indian education. With NEP 2020 providing the policy impetus and platforms like SWAYAM offering the technological infrastructure, the session aligned well with the institutional mission of fostering innovation and inclusion—heralding a new era of accessible, equitable, and quality learning.

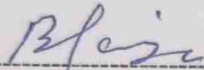**Glimpses for Lecture Session:**

Impact and Takeaways

Participants widely appreciated the clarity and depth of the lecture. Key takeaways included:

- Awareness of NEP 2020's focus on technology-enabled education.

- Understanding of the SWAYAM platform, both as a learner and content developer.
- Clarity on course development processes, incentives, and academic recognition.
- Insights into the global MOOC landscape and India's positioning through SWAYAM.

This session has inspired many faculty members and researchers to explore SWAYAM both for upskilling and as a medium to disseminate their expertise to a national audience.

Dr. Bikash Panja
Joint Co-ordinator
Monthly Faculty Lecture Series, SVU

Prof. (Dr.) Ranjan Chakrabarti,
Director, Research & Academic
Development, SVU

Dr. Liton Mallick
Joint Co-ordinator
Monthly Faculty Lecture Series, SVU

Date: 19ᵗʰ April, 2025

To

Dr. Julian S Das

Producer EMRC Kolkata
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)
Kolkata – 700 094

Subject: **SVU Faculty Lecture Series May 2025, Invitation regarding**

Dear Professor Das,

Greetings from SVU!

At the outset, we would like to acknowledge your significant contributions in the field of research and academic administration.

Swami Vivekananda University, Barrackpore, West Bengal, organizes a Faculty Lecture every month under its Monthly Faculty Lecture Series. It is with great pleasure that I invite you, on behalf of the University, to deliver the Distinguished Faculty Lecture on **"Swayam Mooc Platform: An Introduction"** on **May 14, 2025 at 2 pm** in our campus.

Your expertise and insights will be invaluable in enriching the program, and your lecture will be a source of inspiration for our faculty members and research scholars.

We would greatly appreciate a line of confirmation at your earliest convenience.

For any further information or clarification, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Liton Mallik at Mobile No. 7003185671.

With best regards,

R. Chakrabarti.

Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti,

Director Research and Academic Development, Swami Vivekananda University

Hony. Visiting Professor, Jadavpur University

Former Vice Chancellor of Vidyasagar University and Netaji Subhas Open University (WB)

Received a copy
Julian Das.
15/05/2025

✉ Gmail

Fwd: Invitation - Faculty Lecture Series on 14th May
2 messages

Director, Research & Development <director.research@svu.ac.in>　　　　Sun, May 11, 2025 at 11:51 AM
To: Bikash Panja <bikashp@svu.ac.in>

Professor Panja

Kindly forward the invite to our hods and Faculty members

SVU Monthly Faculty Lecture Series (Lecture 8) on 14th May, 2025, Invitation regarding

Dear Esteemed Colleague

Greetings !

Swami Vivekananda University, Barrackpore, West Bengal, regularly organizes a monthly Faculty Lecture Series and it is delivered by a distinguish scholar from within SVU or outside.

In this context, I am pleased to invite you to kindly make it convenient to attend the upcoming Faculty Lecture of the University on 14th May 2025, to be delivered by Dr Marchino Bernard Osta of St Xavier's College, Kolkata, **at 2.00 pm. The title of his Lecture is,** "Swayam Mooc Platform : An Introduction". **Please find the poster of this event attached herewith for your kind perusal.**
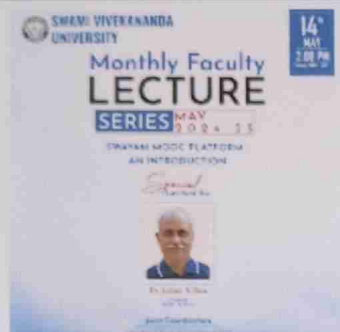
Your graceful presence along with your departmental colleagues shall enrich the program and inspire our faculty and research scholars.

Kindly attend.

Warm regards

Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti,
Director Research and Academic Development, Swami Vivekananda University
Hony. Visiting Professor, Jadavpur University
Former Vice Chancellor of Vidyasagar University and Netaji Subhas Open University (WB)

Fulbright Scholar, Brown University 1994-95
Charles Wallace Fellow,London University 1997
Alexander O'Vietor Memorial Fellow, Brown University 2004

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Bikash Panja <bikashp@svu.ac.in>   Sun, May 11, 2025 at 8:02 PM
To: abirs@svu.ac.in, Ranjan Kumar <ranjank@svu.ac.in>, "Dr. Sudip Das" <sudipdas1380@gmail.com>, digantab@svu.ac.in, ranjankm@svu.ac.in, subhabratab@svu.ac.in, tanmoys@svu.ac.in, prithap@svu.ac.in, souravm@svu.ac.in, dipanwitag@svu.ac.in, manisham@svu.ac.in, nilanjanam@svu.ac.in, olyb@svu.ac.in, subhranilm@svu.ac.in, rituparnac@svu.ac.in, pramitir@svu.ac.in, litonm@svu.ac.in, anirbanh@svu.ac.in, kallalb@svu.ac.in, debanjalia@svu.ac.in, Sujoy Bhowmik <sujoyb@svu.ac.in>, subratan@svu.ac.in, najnin.islam92@gmail.com, kazi hasibur rahman <via.kazi786@gmail.com>, sudips@svu.ac.in, srijanh@svu.ac.in, subhasiss@svu.ac.in, arups@svu.ac.in, moumitad@svu.ac.in, papiam@svu.ac.in, rajend@svu.ac.in, shubhamb@svu.ac.in, moumitac@svu.ac.in, Amitava Bhowmick <amitavabmce@gmail.com>, shantanuc@svu.ac.in
Cc: director.research@svu.ac.in, deputy.registrar@svu.ac.in, abhishek.dhar@svu.ac.in, sourav@svu.ac.in

Dear all HODs and Research Coordinators

Please find the invitation to the upcoming said program and circulate among our faculty members, research scholars and students. We encourage your participation and look forward to your valuable presence.
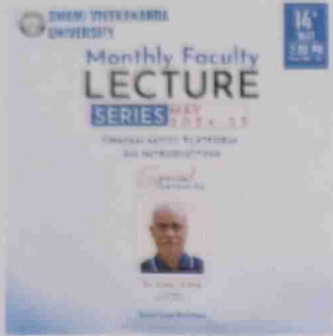[Quoted text hidden]

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Thanks & Regards.

Dr. Bikash Panja

Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
School of Engineering, Swami Vivekananda University
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Monthly Faculty Lecture Series

Swami Vivekananda University

Barrackpore - Barasat Rd, Sewli Telinipara, Malir Math,

Bara Kanthalia, West Bengal 700121

May – 2025

14/05/2025

SL No.	Name	Department	signature
1)	Dr Keya Dars Ghosh	Director IIC, Dept of Mgt	Ghosh
2.	Dr. Rakesh Das	Agriculture	Das
3.	Suman Kumar Ghosh	Mechanical	
4.	Sayan Paul.	Mechanical Eng.	Sayan Paul.
5.	Debarshi Aratndar	English	
6.	Himadol Chakraborty	English	
7.	Natasha Chatterjee	English	N. Chatterjee
8.	Dr. Rumti Das	Education	
9.	Dr Joyati Mail	Education	
10	A. Mukhopadhyay	School of Science	AM
11.	M. Saha	School of Management	M Saha
12.	M. Banerjee.	Dept. of Education	MBanerjee.
13	RANJAN CHAKRABARTI	Director, R&D.	R.C
14.	Dr Liton Mallick.	Education	