

Department of History
Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra
(Established by the State Legislature Act XII of 1956)
(“A” Grade, NAAC Accredited)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
On
“1947 : RETHINKING”

13TH – 14TH MARCH, 2015

VENUE : SENATE HALL



KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA :

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, laid the foundation stone of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra on 11th January, 1957 as a unitary residential university with only one Department of Sanskrit. Now it is multi-faculty University with more than 40 Teaching Departments, 445 faculty members and 457 affiliated colleges and institutes and is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. It is spread over 400 acres. The University is engaged in the pursuit of excellence in teaching and research in science, technology, humanities, social sciences, performing arts and sports. It is rated as a premier institution of higher learning in India. The university with a vision to be globally acknowledged as a distinguished centre of academic excellence has been striving to prepare a class of proficient scholars and professionals with ingrained human values and commitment. It aims to expand the frontiers of knowledge for the advancement of society.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY :

The Department of History is one of the oldest Departments of the University founded in 1961 with an emphasis on teaching and research activities. The range of teaching and research include Medieval / Modern / Contemporary Indian History, South Asian Studies and Regional History with special emphasis on Haryana and Punjab studies. The Department has introduced a two years Post-Graduate Teaching Programme, i.e., M.A. in South Asian Studies w.e.f. the Session 2014-15. Currently the Department of History offers M.A. (History) & (South Asian Studies), M. Phil (History) and Ph.D. courses. Given its geographical location most of the research concerns the study of the broad North-Western Region (including Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Colonial Punjab). Our researches have included inquiries into the polity, economy, society and culture during Medieval / Modern / Contemporary India integrated with inter-disciplinary perspective. During the last two and half years the Department has successfully organized four National Seminars and one Refresher Course on the themes related to the Agrarian History, Punjab Studies and Social Justice. On the platform of Research Forum the Department has also organized a number of Extension Lectures on the different themes of study and research in History.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

The independence of India in 1947 was the result of a long drawn struggle carried on by the people of India against the British Raj. However, another side of Independence was the partition of India, which was one of the most significant events in the history of mankind. On the one hand Independence of India marked the success of the Indian National Movement but on the other hand, the partition of India symbolized the failure of Indian nationalism. The partition of India and the establishment of the sovereign state of Pakistan was the culmination of the demand of All India Muslim League and the success of Muslim communal politics. The partition of India, was in fact, the partition of Bengal and Punjab. The growth of Muslim League and the demand for Pakistan in the Muslim Majority Provinces subsequently led to the partition of India, i.e., partition of the Punjab and the partition of the Bengal. Punjab suffered the worst of all that happened during this trauma of partition; the magnitude of the human massacre in this province was unparalleled which resulted in about half a million casualties and the forced migration of about twelve million people.

The partition of India and the establishment of two sovereign States, i.e., India and Pakistan was a significant signpost in the evolution of Modern South Asia as a social-political unit. The India and Pakistan begin their respective journeys after the transfer of power and the partition of India. However, the Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League interpreted the partition in contrasting ways. For the Congress, partition was but a decisive milestone in the growth of a nation state that failed to negotiate a satisfactory solution to the problem of communal politics. To the Muslim League, partition was associated with victory and liberation from both the British rule and the possible Hindu dominate rule of the Congress in future India. What was the nationalism to the Muslim League was communal politics to the Congress. Partition was therefore not merely an end of the British colonialism and beginning the decolonization, but it was also the culmination of a process that begin unfolding with the consolidation of Muslims as a distinct socio-political community.

The partition of India and the foundation of Pakistan was, thus, an event of significant historical importance with far reaching consequences for India and Pakistan and to say for South Asia. It has thus attracted the attention of historical writings. However, to begin

with, the political and social climate of India and Pakistan was not conducive enough to undertake an analytical and scholarly work on the subject. Lack of access to primary sources and cross-references and loss of several important sources in the wake of partition also contributed to it. It was much later that the works of scholarly value and historical importance began appearing. With the passage of time, new sources, new facts and new view-points came along and spurred the historians to ask new questions and look back with a fresh perspective on the history of the partition of India. The historical research on partition of India, as a result, emerges richer out of this on-going process.

To begin with, the popular historiography of India and Pakistan have studied the partition of India on the bases of two-nation theory. The Imperialist historiography held the view that a general lack of wisdom and statesmanship on the part of the Congress made the partition of India and establishment of Pakistan unavoidable. The Imperialist historians argued that the British efforts to preserve the unity of India were sincere and well conceived but passions had been so deeply aroused for human reasons to control the course of events. The Marxist and Progressive historiography of India argue that the Colonial State because of its vested interests played a crucial role in adding and abetting the communal forces specially the Muslim Communal Politics. This historiography further argues that the national movement could not weaken the growth of communal politics because of its weak secular agenda and weak social bases among the Muslims of India. The conventional Cambridge historiography on the partition of India argues that the British constitutional strategies helped to shape the Muslim Communal Politics. This historiography further argues that the provincial and All India Muslim Politics was consolidated on the bases of the communal interests within the imperial framework with subsequently led to the partition of India and the establishment of Pakistan. The Revisionist Cambridge historiography, however, argues that the partition of India and the establishment of Pakistan was the tragic collapse of the agenda and programme of the All India Muslim League under the leadership of Jinnah. Regional Studies and the growth of Muslim Politics leading towards partition of India have also attracted the attention of the historians which resulted in the accumulation of vast literature on the politics of the Muslim Majority Provinces, i.e., Punjab, Bengal, Sindh and North-West Frontier Province.

No doubt that during the last six decades the Imperialist, the Nationalist, the Cambridge, the Marxist, Subaltern and the Progressive historiography has produced a voluminous literature on the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan. The different aspects of partition, regional studies, gender studies and other related themes have also attracted the attention of the historians and scholars. Needless to say that the scholars, historians and researches have produced a very valuable body of literature on the partition of India of lasting historical importance. However, as is the case with every aspects in the study of history, here there is a room for further analysis. The availability of new sources, access to more private papers, emerging trends in historiography and ever- evolving tools of historical research still provide exciting opportunity to the researchers to focus attention on the hitherto neglected aspect on the study of the partition of India and also to provide fresh interpretations on the existing one. It is with this understanding that the Department of History proposes to organize a Two-Day International Conference on **“1947: Rethinking” on 13th and 14th March, 2015.**

Aims and Objectives :

There is a dire need to organize an International Conference on the study and research on the different themes and aspects related to the Independence and Partition of India, Historiography on the Partition of India, Partition and communal riots, Rehabilitation and Legacy of the Partition in South Asia. The Department of History, thus, proposes to hold an International Conference on “**1947 : Rethinking**” on **13th -14th March, 2015**. The historians and scholars from United States of America, England, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will present their view points in this International Conference. In this International Conference historians with international reputation will deliver the Inaugural address, Key-Note Address, Valedictory Address and the Presidential Address. Eminent historians and scholars across the globe will Chair the different Technical Sessions of this International Conference. This International Conference will make a humble attempt to add one more chapter to the study and research on the different aspects/themes related to the Independence and Partition of India and its Legacy in the South Asia. The teachers and research scholars from the different Universities and Colleges of North India will participate in this Conference as delegates.

This International Conference will be an intensive mix of Lectures by the eminent historians and scholars, presentation of research papers by the delegates/participants, panel discussions and imparting of some essential software skills, i.e., power point presentation and the like. The aim of this Conference is to imbibe knowledge among scholars, researchers, young faculty members and students of the History on the study of Independence and Partition of India. The Conference may provide an opportunity to the historians/scholars and to the young participants/students to know about the availability of new sources on this crucial subject in the history of Modern South Asia and it will also enable the participants that in what way the new sources may be utilized. The Conference is also aimed at to debate on the emerging/fresh viewpoints/interpretations on the study and research on the partition of India.

The sub-themes of the International Conference:

- (i) Imperialist and Cambridge Historiography on the Partition of India
- (ii) Marxist/Progressive/Subaltern Historiography
- (iii) Nationalist Interpretations of India and Pakistan
- (iv) British/ Congress/Muslim League and the Study of Partition
- (v) The Sikhs and the Partition
- (vi) Historical Geography of the Partition
- (vii) Partition and Inter - Communal Relations
- (viii) State and the Rehabilitation : India and Pakistan
- (ix) Partition and South Asia : The Legacies
- (x) Sufis, Islam and Colonial South Asia
- (xi) Literary Perspectives
- (xii) Emerging Trends in Historiography on the Partition
- (xiii) Any other related theme on the Conference

The list of areas mentioned above may be treated as illustrative rather than exhaustive. Paper-presenters are free to choose an area of their interest which broadly falls within the theme of the seminar i.e. **1947 : RETHINKING**. Papers will be reviewed by a committee formed for this purpose. *Selected papers will be published shortly after the completion of the Conference in form of a Book with ISBN No from a reputed publishing house.*

Needless to mention that the Department of History, Kurukshetra University (Kurukshetra, Haryana, India) will provide accommodation for the outstation paper-presenters as per university rules.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

- I. Patron** Lt. Gen. (Dr.) D.D.S. Sandhu, PVSM, ADC (Retd.)
Vice-Chancellor,
Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra
- II. Director of International Conference** Prof. Amarjit Singh, Chairman
- III. Organizing Committee**
- i. Prof. Amarjit Singh, Department of History
 - ii. Prof. R.S. Sangwan, Department of History
 - iii. Prof S.K. Chahal, Department of History
 - v. Dr. Vijender Singh, Asstt. Prof. Dept. of History
 - vi. Dr. Gopal Parshad, Associate Prof. University College,
Kurukshetra
 - vii. Dr. Kusum Lata, Assistant Professor, Univ. College, K.U.K.
 - viii. Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of History
 - ix. Mr. Dharamveer Saini, Assistant Professor, Department of
History
 - x. Ms. Shweta Kashyap, Assistant Professor, Department of
History
 - xi. Mr. Prashant Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of
History
 - xii. Dr. Nandini Basistha, Assistant Professor, Department of
History
- IV Organizing Secretaries:**
Dr. Nandini Bashishta, Assistant Professor, Department of History
Mr. Dharamveer Saini, Assistant Professor, Department of History

Those who wish to present papers are requested to note down the following:

- Registration Fee** Rs. 800/- from Teachers of Colleges and Departments
Rs. 400/- from Research Scholars/Students/others.
- Venue of Conference** Senate Hall (University Auditorium)
Kurukshetra University
Kurukshetra: 136 119, Haryana
- Dates of Conference** 13th – 14th March, 2015

Submission of Papers :

The paper-presenters are requested to send their abstracts of approximately 300 words with their full contact details to chairperson.history@kuk.ac.in / amarjitsingh_45@yahoo.co.in not late than 5th February, 2015.

Full research papers of approximately 3500 – 5000 words should be sent as an e-mail attachment to chairperson.history@kuk.ac.in / amarjitsingh_45@yahoo.co.in not late than 20th February, 2015.

For participation and further enquiry contact:-

Director of the Conference: **Prof. Amarjit Singh**
Chairman, Department of History,
Kurukshetra University,
Kurukshetra-136119 (Haryana)
(M) – 098121-84925
Landline No (s) - 01744-238410, 238196,
238679, Extn. 2558 & 2559 (Office)

Organizing Secretaries: **Dr. Nandini Bashistha**
Assistant Professor
Dept. of History, K.U.Kurukshetra
(M) – 09729074479

Mr. Dharamveer Saini
Assistant Professor
Department of History, K.U.Kurukshetra
(M) – 097288-61900

Email: chairperson.history@kuk.ac.in
amarjitsingh_45@yahoo.co.in

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Kurukshetra town is situated 160 km from Delhi on National Highway no. 1 (popularly known as Grand Trunk Road). Kurukshetra is connected by train from New Delhi, Mumbai, Jammu, Lucknow, Amritsar and other important cities of the country. New Delhi is about 3.00 hours journey by road from Kurukshetra. All buses from ISBT, New Delhi going to Punjab, Himachal and J & K stop at Pipli from where University is 10 km. All trains from Delhi to Amritsar / Jammu / Kalka run through Kurukshetra. Local transport is available at Railway station and Pipli bus stand. Nearest airport is Chandigarh 100 km from Kurukshetra.

Weather at Kurukshetra at the time of International Conference

Weather in Kurukshetra during the time of International Conference in March will be pleasant. Temperature during the day will be 20–30 °C and in night it will be 15–20 °C approximately.

REGISTRATION FORM
Two-Day International Conference

on

“1947 : RETHINKING”

(March 13th -14th, 2015)

Venue : Senate Hall, K.U.Kurukshetra

1. Name of the Resource Person/Participant/Delegate :

2. Nationality :

3. Designation :

4. Name of the University/College :

5. Address for Communication :

6. Phone No: Resident:
 Mobile:
 Fax:

7. Email-ID :

8. Title of the Research Paper :

9. Category: GEN./SC/ST/BC/SBC/EBPG/PH/OTHERS

Signature of the Scholar /Delegate

Signature of the Head/Dean/Registrar
University/College