

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**  
**VARANASI - 221 005**  
**INDIA**

---

**Second Announcement**

1.6.17

Subject: Call for Abstracts for International Seminar on Environment and Tribal History of India (October 2 - 4, 2017) - reg.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a call for abstracts for the International Seminar on Environment and Tribal History of India which has been scheduled for October 2 - 4, 2017, and shall be held at our department. As teaching and research on tribal history forms an integral part of our curriculum the seminar is being organized for considering a range of issues involved in the tribal and environmental history of India.

Attached please find a concept note for abstracts submissions. Dr. Ajay Pratap has been nominated as the Seminar Coordinator, and all correspondence may kindly be directed to him at [drajayprt@yahoo.com](mailto:drajayprt@yahoo.com). Please ensure the submission of your abstracts by 31<sup>st</sup> July and full papers by the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017, respectively.

Look forward to welcome you to Varanasi which is wonderful at this time of the year.

With all good wishes.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Ajay Pratap)

Prof., Head & Seminar Coordinator

Enclosed:

Concept Note

International Seminar on Environment and Tribal History of India  
(Proposed for October 2 - 4, 2017) at the Department of History,  
Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi - 221  
005.

This three-day international seminar proposes to review and discuss the state of research in the combined fields of environmental and tribal history of India. Why is there a lack of historical clarity in the overall picture where the earliest periods of tribal history in India are concerned? Archaeological and historical materials, related with

possible tribal pasts abound, yet seldom are they presented in historical narratives. Clearly 'evidence' does not history make.

While modern day environmental histories usually assign the role of the 'chief predator' of the environment to the colonial state, these analysis are seldom set comprehensibly in real histories of tribal peoples who most felt the negative impacts of the colonial land and forest policies. While the study of environmental history has, as a result, lacked proper grounding, the writing of proper and comprehensive tribal histories and ethnohistories, has also been on the back-burner. It is proposed to make some headway in such a direction by taking a look at Medieval and Modern Indian History also in this regard.

#### I. Landscapes, material cultures, and tribal histories: Studies in Ancient Indian Society

This session would aim that historians of ancient India attempt to develop a historical narrative for the periods projected as the early periods of tribal and environmental history. The emphasis should be on 'constructing' histories rather than offering archaeological or historical source materials or data as 'history'. A discussion of early historic literature in other languages and in Sanskrit (the Vedic *vangyamaya* or corpus) shall be open for discussion.

#### II. Tribes and Environment in Pre-Medieval and Medieval India

This session would aim at explicating histories of hunter-gatherers, pastoralists, shifting cultivators and tribal agriculturists, in early and late medieval periods. Can an exclusive narrative on tribes and the environment during the medieval period be achieved?

### III. The Historiography of Tribal Revolts and Uprisings

Why and which uprisings take place among various tribal peoples in different parts of the country? What are the immediate causes and outcomes both for tribes and the environment? This session would tackle the subject of proscription of tribal settlements and territories, demographic adjustments and movements, in colonial India. The aim here would be to discuss the impact of Land and Forest legislations upon tribes, and the general environment, in a historical perspective.

### IV. New Directions

This is a general session which would include a discussion of new sources, interpretive techniques, blogs and websites, online archives, video and cinema, digital and internet media breakthroughs and other approaches.