



Banaras Hindu University **Faculty of Social Sciences**

The Faculty of Social Sciences is organizing an International Seminar.

Topic: ‘Understanding India’s Composite Culture through the tradition of Devotional Songs.

Dates: October 28-30, 2023.

Venue: Sambodhi Sabhagar, Banaras Hindu University

Singing to the Glory of the God is a common practice across different faiths. India has a long tradition of sacred songs praising various Gods, Goddesses and Saints. When Indians got introduced to the new faith of Islam, gradually that also got incorporated into this tradition. Songs addressed to Prophet Muhammed peace be upon him, are sung with no less passion than a song sung to Shri Krishna or Shri Rama. Innumerable Nat, Salam, and Bhajan. Kirtan songs have been giving solace to the devotees of different faiths. Bhajans and Kirtans are inseparable from the Indian identity, may it be of a Hindu or a Muslim. The spiritual appeal of these songs is beyond the mundane sectarian boundaries. They have a transcendental power of lifting a devotee from gross physicality to subtle level of consciousness. These songs are the companions of the humans striving for an experience of inner peace. The imagery and philosophy of the devotional songs are good testimony of universality of humans. Most importantly these are pieces of good literature, literature that is appreciated and enjoyed by the learned and the illiterate alike. A scholar may write essays on a Bhajan and an illiterate may simply sing it and experience the joy of being one with his/her object of worship, but in essence, both are swinging on the same rhythm of emotion.

The proposed seminar is an attempt towards understanding the poetry, music and spiritual transcendence intended through these devotional songs. Papers are invited on the following topics:

1. The tradition of Shaiva/ Shakta and Vaishnav devotional songs, the tradition of Nat, Salam, Marsia, devotional Qawwali’s, the tradition of Christian songs, the tradition of Sikh Shabad Kirtans in India.
2. A poetic appreciation of the Indian devotional songs.
3. Devotional songs as sites of composite culture.
4. Nuances of the performance: Devotional songs of different faiths.
5. Any other topic related to the theme will be accepted.

There will be sessions of performances by the artists of Nat, Bhajans, and other genres of singing.

About BHU

Banaras Hindu University [BHU] founded by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya in 1916, is one of the most prestigious Central Universities in the country. Being a living embodiment of such visionaries as Mahamana Malviya, Dr. Annie Besant and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, this seat of learning epitomizes the synthesis of ancient wisdom and modern scientific temper. The University is situated on the western bank of the holy river Ganga in the pious city of Varanasi, the religious capital of India and Centre of Oriental Learning. The University comprises 5 Institutes, IIT-BHU, 15 Faculties, 130 departments, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, 4 Inter- disciplinary Centres, 14 UGC Special Assistance Programs, a Constituent College for Women and 3 Constituent schools. The 1200- bed [approx..] Sir Sundar Lal Hospital of the university is equipped with modern amenities and caters to the healthcare needs of the vast population of eastern U.P., parts of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, M.P., Jharkhand and adjoining Nepal. A good number of students from abroad including from the USA, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa, etc. get admitted in various academic programs in the University every year.

About the Faculty

The Faculty of Social Sciences, established in 1971, has presented landmark impacts with the help of the rigorous exercises done by the Sociologists, Psychologists, Economists, Political Scientists and Historians. Many of the Faculty members have earned international reputations by their intellectual output. The IRDP, Malviya Centre for Peace Research, and Centre for Women's Studies and Development have made commendable academic output in the areas of developing human relations and social solidarity.

Organizing Committee

- Prof. Tabir Kalam
- Prof. Manisha Ashish Mehrotra Nee Gupta
- Prof. Sarfaraz Alam
- Prof. Ramagya Rai
- Prof. Shri Prakash Shukla
- Dr. Anuradha Singh
- Dr. Arti Nirmal
- Dr. Dhriti Ray Dalai
- Dr. Mosharaaf Ali
- Dr. Rajeev Dubey
- Dr. Moghees Ahmad
- Dr. Swapnil Singh

Venue

Sambodhi Sabhagar, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

Submission of Abstract

Kindly send your abstract through email at seminarfssbhu@gmail.com [not more than 250 words] on or before 15.07.23. For **English** use **Times New Roman, Font size – 12**, and for **Hindi** use **Kruti Dev 010, Font size – 10, in PDF format**. For further queries you may contact the convenor of the seminar.

Guidelines for Full Paper Submission

For Full paper in [English Font size -12, line spacing 1.5, Font – Times New Roman and for Hindi use Kruti Dev 010, Font size – 10, PDF document only] should be submitted by email at seminarfssbhu@gmail.com, with the subject ‘Research paper Submission’. The author’s name, affiliation and contact number should be clearly mentioned on the cover page. The paper’s, main text should have 3000-5000 words, including references, figures, and tables. The paper should demonstrate critical rigor and clearly contribute to the knowledge.

Important Dates

Last date of Registration – 31/08/23

Last date of abstract submission – 15/07/23

Acceptance of Abstract – 15/08/2023

Last date for Paper submission – 30/09/23

Email id to send abstract – seminarfssbhu@gmail.com

Registration Fees

Student, Research Scholars, and Faculty Members – 1000/- INR

Foreign Persons – 200 \$US

- **Accommodation is not included.**
- **The registration fee is non-refundable.**
- **On the spot registration is not allowed.**

Accommodation

Accommodation may be arranged on prior request in the University Guest House/Faculty Guest House on a payment basis.

For Hotel booking [outside campus] directly contact hotels through websites.

Address for Correspondence

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Registration Link

Click here to register – <https://forms.gle/zmai7PhCW8sKsj8z5>



For Fee Payment

Registration Fee can only be paid online on the following details –

Name of the Bank – State Bank of India

Account No – 41895323641

**Name of the Account Holder – UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S COMPOSITE CULTURE
THROUGH THE TRADITIO**

IFSC code – SBIN0000211

You can also scan and pay -



Patron

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain

Vice-Chancellor

Banaras Hindu University

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