

International Conference on North Indian Diaspora: Roots and Trajectories

24-26 October 2018

**Venue: Department of History, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU)
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, PIN-22100**

During colonial period approximately 1.5 million people migrated from India as indentured labourers to various plantation colonies around the world to work mainly in the sugar plantations. In these plantation colonies, while emigrants came from practically every province of India, the bulk of them (approx. 80%) were drawn from the Gangetic plains of North India; especially from two provinces of British India, namely United Provinces (modern day Uttar Pradesh) and Bihar. Of these, again the majority came from eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh and western districts of Bihar which is culturally and linguistically known as Bhojpuri region. The studies have shown that these migrants were recruited from all the religions as well as all the major castes from this region and reflect the perfect cross section of North Indian society.

However, the end of colonial rule did not stop migration from this region. After Independence, many highly-educated skilled people migrated to developed countries. From the 1970s, hundreds of thousands of contract workers migrated to Gulf countries as unskilled and semi-skilled labourers in search of better livelihood. And finally, the most recent migration of knowledge workers to developed countries such as USA, UK, and Australia also includes a substantial number of people from this region.

This conference envisages bringing scholars and academicians who are working on North Indian Diaspora to a common platform at Banaras Hindu University, which is located in the heart of the Bhojpuri region, to discuss and deliberate upon the contribution made by Indian origin people from this region to the outside world.

Since this conference will be of an interdisciplinary nature, the themes of the seminars would focus on historical, cultural, economic, linguistic and any other contemporary issue that is relevant for the diaspora and this region. Hence, the experts and scholars working in the field of diaspora studies are invited to present their papers on the following themes:

Themes:

1. Historical linkages and the question of identity
2. Socio-linguistic connections and cultural affinities
3. Religious and cultural values, and ritual practices
4. Diasporic perceptions and the attitude of the host society
5. Portrayal of Indian Diaspora through mass media and literary imagination
6. Conservation of monuments and retention of cultural-linguistic heritage
7. Contribution of Diasporic Community to the political emancipation of their adopted country
8. Challenges and opportunities before the Indian Diasporic communities
9. Economic prospects, political engagement and cultural moorings in the era of Globalization
10. Indian Diaspora and its relation with the Mother Country

All interested contributors are requested to submit an abstract (500 words) by E-mail to seminarhistorybhu@gmail.com latest by 31st July 2018.

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