



## **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 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 a Hindu or a Muslim. The spiritual appeal of these songs is beyond the mundane sectarian boundaries. They have the transcendental power of lifting a devotee from gross physicality to a 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 to the 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 the Centre of Oriental Learning. The University comprises 5 Institutes, IIT-BHU, 15 Faculties, 130 departments, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, 4 Interdisciplinary 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, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, etc., get admitted to various academic programs at 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 Mehrotra
- 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](mailto:seminarfssbhu@gmail.com) [not more than 250 words] on or before 15.08.23. 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](mailto: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 – 15/09/23**

**Last date of abstract submission – 15/08/23**

**Acceptance of Abstract – 01/09/2023**

**Last date for Paper submission – 30/09/23**

**Email id to send abstract – [seminarfssbhu@gmail.com](mailto: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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Dean

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Banaras Hindu University

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### **Dr. Pankaj Singh**

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

Faculty of Social Science

Banaras Hindu University

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Contact no – 9696302222

## 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**

**UPI Id – 41895323641@SBI**

**You can also scan and pay -**



### Patron

**Prof. Sudhir K. Jain**

Vice-Chancellor

Banaras Hindu University

### Co-Patron

**Prof. Binda D. Paranjape**

Dean

Faculty of Social Science

Banaras Hindu University

### Convenor

**Dr. Pankaj Singh**

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

Faculty of Social Science

Banaras Hindu University