



भारत अध्यायन केन्द्र
Bharat Adhyayan Kendra
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi



Faculty of
Social Sciences
Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi



INDIAN COUNCIL OF
HISTORICAL RESEARCH
NEW DELHI

MAHAMANA ARCHIVE

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

is organising

TWO DAYS NATIONAL SEMINAR

इतिहास, स्मृति और अभिलेखागार

(History, Memory and Archives)

30 – 31 October 2026

In collaboration with

Bharat Adhyayan Kendra, BHU

Faculty of Social Sciences, BHU

Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi

Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy Cell (SRICC), BHU

Supported by

Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi

Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy Cell (SRICC), BHU

Venue

Bharat Adhyayan Kendra, Malviya Heritage Complex

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Archives are not merely repositories of documents; they are custodians of the collective memory of societies and nations. Correspondence, administrative records, photographs, manuscripts and other primary sources constitute the foundation of historical research. By preserving such records, archives connect the past with the present and provide essential foundations for understanding historical experiences, intellectual traditions and cultural heritage.

In the Indian context, the need for strengthening institutional and university archives has become increasingly important. Universities are not merely centres of teaching and learning; they are also witnesses to and participants in major social, political, intellectual and cultural transformations. Institutional archives, therefore, play a vital role in preserving the administrative, academic and cultural memory of universities and in making these resources available to future generations and for scholarly research.

The seminar seeks to bring together historians, archivists, scholars, researchers and academics to deliberate on the significance of archives, institutional memory, historical consciousness and the changing nature of archival practices in India. The seminar will also explore the possibilities offered by digital technologies and contemporary archival practices for the preservation, accessibility and dissemination of historical sources.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To highlight the significance of archives, particularly institutional archives, in historical research and the preservation of collective memory.
- ◆ To critically examine the present status and challenges of institutional and university archives in India.
- ◆ To discuss the need for making archives an integral part of university structures.
- ◆ To explore new possibilities of memory preservation through digital archives and modern technologies.
- ◆ To encourage archival awareness and generate practical suggestions for strengthening archival culture and policy in India.
- ◆ To promote dialogue among historians, archivists, academicians, researchers and other stakeholders concerned with the preservation of historical sources.

ABOUT THE MAHAMANA ARCHIVE

The Mahamana Archive, Banaras Hindu University, serves as an important centre for preserving documents and materials associated with Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya as well as the administrative, academic and cultural history of Banaras Hindu University. The Archive provides valuable primary sources for researchers seeking to understand the University's development, its role in the Indian freedom movement, and its contribution to the making of national consciousness.

The present seminar is an academic initiative to advance the dialogue on archives, institutional memory and the preservation of India's intellectual and cultural heritage.

MAJOR THEMES

The seminar will broadly engage with the following themes:

Archives & Historical Research

- Concept and history of archives
- Archives and the writing of history
- Archival sources and historical methodology
- Archives, memory and historical consciousness

Institutional & University Archives

- Institutional archives: need and challenges
- University archives and institutional memory
- Archival preservation of academic and cultural heritage
- The problem of archival neglect in Indian higher education
- Development of university archives in India

Archives, Society & Nation

- Archives, nation-building and historical consciousness
- Archives, power and historiography
- Oral traditions, memory and archival sources
- Archives and regional histories
- Archives and the preservation of cultural heritage

Digital Archives & New Technologies

- Digital archives and emerging technologies
- Digitisation and preservation of historical records
- Accessibility and dissemination of archival resources
- New directions in archival practices

Archives & Indian Intellectual Heritage

- Manuscripts and archival traditions
- Preservation of scientific and intellectual knowledge
- Archival sources and Indian cultural heritage
- Archives and the making of institutional and intellectual traditions

CALL FOR PAPERS

Researchers, faculty members, archivists, historians, academicians and scholars are invited to contribute to the seminar by submitting original research papers related to the broad theme “इतिहास, स्मृति और अभिलेखागार” (History, Memory and Archives). Papers may address any of the above thematic areas or other relevant aspects related to archives, memory, historical research and institutional heritage. Papers will be accepted for presentation on the basis of selection. Abstracts and full papers should be sent to historymemoryarchive26@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for abstract submission	08 October 2026
Last date for full paper submission	12 October 2026

KEY SPEAKERS

Prof. Hanuman Prasad Shukla

Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi
Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha

Prof. Anamika Roy

Department of Ancient History, University of
Allahabad

Prof. Jigar Mohammed

University of Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir

Shri Kailash Chandra Jha

Shri Sitaram Ashram of Swami Sahajanand
Saraswati, Bihta, Patna

Prof. Adhya Bharti Saxena

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Prof. Anil Kumar

Department of AIHC, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
(West Bengal)

In addition to the above, several other distinguished speakers and researchers will participate in the seminar.

KEY ACADEMIC SESSIONS

- ◆ **Invited Lectures:** Distinguished scholars will deliver invited lectures on diverse aspects of archives, memory, historical consciousness, institutional heritage and archival sources.
- ◆ **Technical Sessions:** Research papers will be presented and discussed on themes such as institutional archives, archival methodology, university archives, regional history, manuscript traditions, digital archives and the use of archival sources in historical research. The detailed programme will include sessions on 30-31 October 2026.

REGISTRATION

FREE REGISTRATION FOR ALL

There is no registration fee for participation in the seminar. Research papers will be accepted for presentation based on the selection process.

Register through Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/GbAkv6ynRYiu6UrP8>

Send abstract and full paper to:

historymemoryarchive26@gmail.com



Scan to Register

PATRON	CONVENER/ORGANIZER	CO-CONVENER
Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi Vice-Chancellor Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	Prof. Dhrub Kumar Singh Coordinator, Mahamana Archive Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	Prof. Shardindu Kumar Tiwari Coordinator, Bharat Adhyayan Kendra Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

VENUE

Bharat Adhyayan Kendra, Malviya Heritage Complex, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

For any queries, please write to historymemoryarchive26@gmail.com

Dhrub Kumar Singh
CONVENER/ORGANIZER

Prof. Dhrub Kumar Singh
Coordinator, Mahamana Archive
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Dhrub Kumar Singh
Convener/Organizer
National Seminar on
इतिहास, स्मृति और अभिलेखागार
30-31, October 2026
Mahanama Archive
150th Mahamana Birth Anniversary Building
Malviya Heritage Complex
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi- 221005