



**UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding
Malaviya Centre for Peace Research
Faculty of Social Sciences
Banaras Hindu University**

Three days International Seminar

*Indigenous Resources for Peacebuilding: Experiences
from the Global South*

MARCH 18-20, 2025

The dominant discourse on peacebuilding and conflict resolution has been primarily framed within the western theoretical paradigms, Eurocentric terminologies and conceptual moorings. This has resulted in the conscious historical amnesia of the peace practitioners, and policy experts rooted in the Eurocentric peace pedagogies deliberately sidelining the rich repository of Indigenous peace practices and epistemic knowledge traditions. Indigenous peace traditions and lived practices prevalent in the Global South requires in-depth analysis, scrutiny, new intellectual unpacking of the peace resources and shedding new spotlights on the hitherto unknown/lesser-known local instances of peace(s) and notions of just peace. Global South, in general, and Indian traditions, in particular, have dynamic ideas of peacebuilding situated in their rich cultural legacies, sophisticated customs & traditions, innovative mechanisms for conflict transformation, systems of social cohesion and reconciliatory practices engraved in local/ Adivasi/ Indigenous/regional- subregional/lingual-cultural-civilizational traditions.

Indigenous resources of peacebuilding emanating from the Global South, we not only find rich traditions of orality, customary practices but also the dynamic presence of everyday lived religions & cultural modes of living. Community-driven inclusive governance and justice delivery system and their efficacy in fostering peace across ages and geo-cultural landscapes should be probed for better understanding. In this regard, we need to have a nuanced understanding of the traditions of Ubuntu, Vashudhaiv-Kutumbakam, Ahimsa, Sulah kul, Karuna, traditions of Long Peace, and other local resources that must be explored, analyzed and synced with contemporary resonance and sensibilities.

In this background, this three-day international seminar aims to not only provide newer insights into this large reservoir of hitherto lesser-known epistemes and experiential peace ideas but also to create an interdisciplinary confluence of policy experts, academic scholars, and activists and engage in meaningful dialogues in and around local/indigenous resources of peace. This seminar aims to initiate critical discussions and analytical rigour to explore and assess the local approaches of peacebuilding across the Global South and showcase case studies, local/indigenous narratives - stories - experiences centred around peace, justice and dignity-building community experiences. This seminar also addresses the qualitative usefulness of those resources in resolving contemporary global threats to the culture of peace and highlights their pertinence in addressing international conflicts.

Tentative Themes and Sub-themes:

- Conceptualizing Indigenous Peacebuilding.
- Case Studies from the Global South.
- Theoretical interventions, conceptual constructs, and emergent discourse centred around Indigenous resources of peacebuilding.
- Narratives and community experiences from Adivasi/Indigenous traditions.
- Peace ideas and notions of social peace are in Indian knowledge traditions, primarily Hindu, Buddhist, Jaina, Islamic, Sikh, and Christian traditions.
- Peace ideas in lokayat and another philosophical school of thought.
- Peace ideas were developed in ancient oriental civilizations, especially in South Asia, South East Asia, Chinese, Japanese, Latin American, and African traditions.
- Cultural and Spiritual Dimensions in Peacebuilding.
- Customary Law and Indigenous Governance.
- The Role of Women in Indigenous Peacebuilding.
- Challenges and Opportunities of Peacebuilding in Global South.
- Peacebuilding in Global South: Future Roadmap.

March 18-20, 2025

Venue:

**Sambodhi Sabhagar,
Malaviya Centre for Peace
Research, Samata Bhawan,
New PG Building, Faculty of
Social Sciences, BHU**

Please fill in the details below to register for
the seminar:

Full Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Institution/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Category:

- Researcher/Student
 Faculty

Payment Method:

- Online Payment
 Offline Payment

Abstract Submission:

- Yes
 No



UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding

Malaviya Centre for Peace Research

Faculty of Social Sciences

Banaras Hindu University

Malaviya Centre for Peace Research: Advancing Peace and Intercultural Understanding

The ancient city of Varanasi has long served as a crucible for intercultural and interreligious dialogue, fostering enduring discussions on peace. Upholding this tradition, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) established the Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (MCPR) in 1998 under the VIII UGC Plan, making it the first interdisciplinary centre dedicated to peace research and conflict resolution within the Indian university system. Named after the university's illustrious founder, MCPR stands as a testament to BHU's commitment to academic innovation and societal transformation.

At MCPR, we bridge the gap between theory and practice by blending academic insights with real-world perspectives from scholars and practitioners. Over the years, the centre has evolved into an intellectual hub, recognized for its excellence in conflict analysis and peace studies. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has lauded MCPR as a model of 'best practices,' and a UGC visiting team described it as 'a laudable initiative.' Subsequently, MCPR was selected by the UGC to lead an innovative interdisciplinary teaching program under its Scheme of Innovative Programmes in Interdisciplinary and Emerging Areas.

The international academic community has also recognized MCPR's contributions. M.J. Lunine, Professor of Global Peace Studies at San Francisco State University, commended the "energy, sophistication, and serious commitment" of our faculty and graduate students, calling MCPR one of the most remarkable initiatives he has encountered worldwide.

UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding

The Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (MCPR) at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has solidified its position as a leader in global peace studies since being awarded the prestigious UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding in 2010. Under the continued guidance of its founding Chairholder, Professor Priyanka Upadhyaya, the Centre has flourished over the past 15 years, strengthening its dedication to peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue. The UNESCO Chair's work has garnered the highest praise from UNESCO and other UN entities, receiving consistent recognition, including the most recent accolade in 2024.

The UNESCO Chair is uniquely positioned to fulfil its founding mission, which includes:

- Transforming cultural and religious diversity from a source of division into a resource for peace.
- Developing a substantial body of peace practitioners skilled in conflict resolution.
- Creating a regional centre for research, training, and documentation on peace, human rights, and conflict resolution, with a focus on structural and cultural diversity.
- Protecting public spaces that embody communal harmony and cultural heritage, while raising awareness among media and civil society about shared cultural values and peacebuilding initiatives.
- Expanding academic networks in India and internationally, nurturing the development of Master's and PhD programs in peace and conflict studies.

The UNESCO Chair has fostered a vibrant intellectual environment at the MCPR, hosting numerous seminars, workshops, and training programs in partnership with academic institutions and through ongoing research. A central focus is showcasing Varanasi as a prime example of intercultural and communal peace, reflecting India's national policies and UNESCO's global mission. Through research, education, and strategic partnerships, the MCPR continues to shape the conversation on peace and conflict resolution, contributing significantly to both academic understanding and practical peacebuilding efforts.

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), located in Varanasi, is an internationally renowned institution founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya in 1916 with support from leaders like Dr. Annie Besant. Established under the BHU Act of 1915, it played a pivotal role in India's independence movement and has become one of India's largest centers of learning. With a sprawling 1300-acre campus featuring lush greenery, a temple, and an airstrip, BHU is a blend of tradition and modernity. The university also has a 2700-acre campus at Barkachha in Mirzapur.

BHU comprises 6 institutes, 14 faculties, 144 departments, and numerous research centers. It spans a vast range of disciplines, from humanities to technology, science, and the arts. The university also boasts advanced research centers, a reputed museum, and a 927-bed hospital. Facilities include large playgrounds, a flying club, and a range of student services.

Home to approximately 15,000 students, 1,700 faculty, and 8,000 staff members, BHU is a hub for both Indian and international students, contributing significantly to intellectual and cultural growth.

We invite you to contribute your research/ideas by submitting a research paper related to the theme of the seminar.

Important Dates:

Last Date for Abstract Submission: **March 10th**

Abstract/Full Paper Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts can be submitted in **Hindi or English**.
- The word limit is **500 words**.
- For **Hindi**, please use **Krutidev 10 or Mangal** font, size **16**.
- For **English**, please use **Times New Roman** font, size **12**.

Please send your abstract to:

mcprseminar@gmail.com

Registration Fee:

- **Researcher/Student : Rs. 1000/-**
- **Faculty/Staff : Rs. 1500/-**

