

Call for Papers

Interested participants are requested to send their abstract (within 300 words) to departmentofhistoryugb@gmail.com on or before 05.04.2019. Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to the participants by 10.04.2019.

Selected participants must submit their full paper (within 4000 words) on or before 20.04.2019. The abstract and the full paper should carry the full name, designation, contact no and the address of the author and should be mailed as a single MS word attachment, font size 12 in Times New Roman with 1.5 (APA style) line spacing. Selected papers shall be published in a book with ISBN.

Registration fee:

Teachers: 800/-

Research Scholars: 500/-

Students: 150/-

No TA/DA and other allowances shall be provided to the participants for attending the seminar.

The Seminar Organizing Committee is unable to provide accommodation to the outstation participants. However, on prior request, assistance will be provided to find suitable accommodation.

International Seminar On

“Exploring the History of Adivasis, Dalits and Minorities in India”



**Inaugurated by:
Professor Swagata Sen,
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,
University of Gour Banga, Malda**

**Organized By:
Department of History,
University of Gour Banga,**

26th April, 2019

**Venue:
Department of History
(Abul Fazl Hall), Humanities Building,
University of Gour Banga,
P.O. Mokdumpur, Dist. Malda,
West Bengal, India, 732103**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am deeply pleased to inform you that the Department of History, University of Gour Banga, is going to organize a One Day International Seminar on “Exploring the History of Adivasis, Dalits and Minorities in India on 26th April, 2019

On behalf of the Seminar Organizing Committee, I cordially invite for your participation in the seminar and sharing your views on the subject.

**With regards,
Dr. Hosneara Khatun,
Convener,**

**Seminar Organizing Committee,
Co-ordinator, Dept. of History,
UGB, Malda**

Concept Note

The History of Adivasis, Dalits and Minorities in India, touched almost all important areas of historical studies is one of the important fascinating research horizons to the historians, academicians and researchers. From very beginning of the emergence of Indian civilization it is home to a vast variety of cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. The composite structure of the Indian society can be divided into “6 main ethnic groups, 52 major tribes, 6 major religions, 6400 castes and sub-castes and 18 major languages along with 1600 minor languages and dialects”. However, India is proclaimed as a nation celebrating 'unity-in-diversity'.

The Adivasis are identified as being more isolated from the wider community and who maintain a distinctive cultural and ethnic identity. Adivasi is the collective term for the indigenous peoples living in different parts of India. They comprise a substantial indigenous minority of the population of India. In course of time their socio-economic cultural and political life underwent a great change due to some both internal and external forces. The seminar shall highlight the plight of the Adivasis and the way out to their identity, culture, heritage and sustainable livelihoods strategies through historical as well as multi-disciplines and diverse representative forms.

The word Dalit is derived from Sanskrit word 'dal' which means 'to break, crack or split'. However, some scholars argue that the word Dalit comes from the word 'Padadalit' which suggests an individual who is 'trampled upon' within a network of oppressive caste paradigm. According to the 2001 Indian census, 16 percent of the total population of India consisted of the scheduled castes that included 'Dalits' also known as Harijans, or 'Untouchables who belong to the lowest group in the Hindu caste system. Since ancient times the Dalits were subject to discrimination and even violence from members of the higher castes, particularly in access to jobs, education and their position in the society. The Dalits raised their voices against these age old socio-religious dogmas and their movements got momentum during the modern period.

Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Buddhist and Jains are known as Minority Communities in India. The Indian constitution has used the word minorities in Article 29 to 30 and 350A to 350B, and provided some specific rights to protect their socio-cultural distinctiveness. In numerical terms, Muslims constitute 13.4 per cent of the population, Christians 2.3 percent, Sikhs 1.6 percent, Buddhists 0.8 per cent, Jains 0.3 per cent and Parsis a few thousands. Although once these communities had glorious past and left lasting impact on Indian civilization but in course of historical ups and down became numerically (Muslims, Buddhists and Jains) minorities and socio-culturally backward.

In this one day International seminar we would like to explore the historical past (including all spheres of life) of these communities in the context of diverse complicated social fabric of India through multiple disciplines and diverse representative forms. We could have queries regarding the rise and growth, identity/identities, the nature and nurturing of stigmas associated with the oppressed caste/class, communities the ongoing efforts of contesting and empowering of the communities from inside/outside, the growing awareness around history of oppression and other oppressed class of people across the globe. We would also try to locate the regional hue of the communities' identities and how space comes to a dialogue with the identity and the forms of empowerment.

Sub Themes:

1. Historiography of **Adivasis, Dalits and Minorities**
2. Adivasis through the history
3. Ethnicity, Culture and Gender issues of Adivasi
4. The integration of community development and resource management
5. Role of local institutions, government Schemes, policies and governance
6. Migration, climate change and adaptive Capacities.
7. Indigenous knowledge system: belief and practices.
8. Society, science, technology and innovation.
9. Disaster preparedness, rescue and rehabilitation of affected people
10. Position of Dalits in ancient, medieval and modern Indian society
11. Dalit women and their position in society
12. Reservation System and Dalits: state, institution and law
13. Dalit reform movement in modern Indian society
14. Dalit literature and its role in their upliftment
15. Atrocities and Dalit activism: forms of atrocities, history of Dalit activism and their impact on larger society
16. Political parties and issues of Dalit
17. Dalit identity: understanding diversity and homogeneity
18. Minorities through the Indian History
19. Rise and growth of the Minorities (Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Buddhist and Jains)- political, social, economic, cultural and gender history through the ages
20. Environment, science, technology, health, medicine and the **Adivasis, Dalits and Minorities**
21. Rise of alternative Hindutva and the **Adivasis, Dalits and Minorities**