



**CENTRE FOR
INDEPENDENCE AND PARTITION STUDIES
IN COLLABORATION WITH
BHARTI COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

**Organized a One Day National Seminar on
'Borders and Boundaries: Displacement, Identity and Resettlement'
held on Tuesday 15 April 2025**

REPORT

The Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS), University of Delhi, in collaboration with Bharati College, organized a One-Day National Seminar titled "Borders and Boundaries: Displacement, Identity and Resettlement" on Tuesday, 15 April 2025, at Bharati College. The event was jointly hosted by the Departments of Political Science and Punjabi at Bharati College.

The seminar commenced with a solemn lamp-lighting ceremony, following which Prof. Saloni Gupta, Principal, Bharati College, welcomed the gathering with a poignant opening address. She shared the experience of her father's journey from Lahore to India during the partition, through resilience and education. Her narrative set the tone for the event, emphasizing the pain, hope, and resilience embedded in the countless migration stories.

The introductory remarks were delivered by Prof. Ravinder Kumar, Director, CIPS, University of Delhi, who powerfully evoked the trauma of Partition. He spoke of Punjab's villages, where sorrow, violence, and separation left lasting scars. He described the Partition as an "Indian Holocaust," urging a deeper recognition of its human cost and consequences. The esteemed speaker of the inaugural session Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Director, South Campus, University of Delhi, shared the historical roots of Partition, pointing to early political figures and arguing that the seeds of discord were sown long before 1947. He highlighted the importance of preserving first-hand accounts to better understand this critical period in history. The Chief Guest of the day, Dr. Swapan Dasgupta, renowned journalist and former member of Rajya Sabha, shared a sociocultural perspective, exploring the lived experiences of refugees across India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. He discussed how these communities, despite rejection and hardship, forged new identities and contributed to regional development, while also highlighting the cultural dissonance between East and West Bengal. He resonated his talk with a cultural unification while referring to the 'Shakti- Peeths', and how partition has stigmatized this spiritual discourse.

The Panel discussion chaired by Prof. Himanshu Prasad Roy, Professor, The Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), featured Dr. Varun Gulati, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi; Prof. Amrit Kaur Basra, Department of History, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC); and Dr. Bhuwan Jha, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Delhi. The panellists provided a multi-faceted exploration of Partition's consequences. Dr. Varun Gulati critiqued the British colonial strategy of "divide and rule," asserting that Partition was politically calculated to preserve imperial interests. Prof. Basra urged the audience to focus on academic rigor and reclaim the lost voices of those displaced by Partition, emphasizing the importance of re-examining the Punjab experience. Dr. Jha discussed the ideological foundation of Partition, particularly the role of the Two-Nation Theory and political figures like Jinnah and Iqbal in shaping the division. The Chair Prof. Himanshu Roy, summarised the discussion with his assessment and remarks, followed by an intellectually

stimulating Q&A session, where students asked thought-provoking questions, encouraging further exploration of Partition's long-lasting effects.

Prof. Jyoti Trehan Sharma, Joint Director, CIPS concluded the session and the program with a formal vote of thanks, and urged the audience to indulge in historical narratives that have been hidden due to the larger colonial political motives. This One-Day National Seminar successfully served as a platform for academic dialogue, emotional reflection, and collective remembrance. It highlighted the need for continued research, documentation, and discourse on Partition—not just as a historical event, but as a formative moment that continues to influence South Asian identities, politics, and relationships even today.

The climax of the day saw the enactment of a play 'Goonjti Khamoshi' by the students of Bharati College.