



CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND PARTITION STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



REPORT

ORIENTATION PROGRAM

There has always been a continuous discussion on critical topics that arise from the events of India's partition and independence. In this regard, for the first time at the University of Delhi, a dedicated Centre, namely, Centre for Independence and Partition Studies, has been established for a systemic study on these subjects, and also to prioritize the collection of oral narratives of Partition Survivors.

The Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS), University of Delhi, organized its Orientation Program for its first cohort of volunteer members from various Colleges and Departments across the University of Delhi, on Wednesday, 24 July 2024 at 3.00 pm to discuss the Philosophical and Operative content of the Centre's work.

The Resource Persons for the orientation were Prof. Ravi Prakash Tekchandani, Director, National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, who spoke on the philosophical aspects related to the Centre, and Prof. Amrit Kaur Basra, Member, Governing Body, CIPS who spoke on the centre's operational modalities.

Prof. Ravinder Kumar, Centre's Director led the event. In his Welcome Address, he welcomed the Honourable Vice Chancellor Sir, attributing significant first-time achievements in DU's 100-year history to his leadership. He also credited Professor Shri Prakash Singh for the conceptualization and development of the centre and acknowledged the contributions of the governing body and research committee. He raised thought-provoking questions about the origins of the culture of division, the reasons behind centuries of subjugation and the inability to document and present the trauma of partition at par with the extensive work done on the Jewish Holocaust. He also highlighted the gap in literature, films and research capturing India's pain.

On this occasion, Prof. Ravi Tekchandani discussed extensively about the importance of the centre. He pointed out that through this centre, the goal is to do in-depth research on many

dimensions related to independence and the tragedy of partition. He clarified that partition is not only restricted to 1947, but its roots can be seen hundreds of years back in history. When we look at the partition of India, we notice many subjects and can see its effects in social, political, economic, cultural and many other discussions. Prof. Amrit Kaur Basra also shared many experiences related to partition, displacement and the tragedy caused by it. She shared information about the subject material written in many languages related to these subjects. She outlined that for research on many of these subjects, important subject material will have to be collected through interviews, seminars, group discussions etc., which will be compiled in a systematic manner through the centre and will be made available for prospective learners and inquisitors.

The programme was well attended by members of the teaching faculty, including Principals and Professors. Each one of them shared either a personal trauma of their family members or the narratives of life after partition.

Prof. Jyoti Trehan Sharma, Joint Director, CIPS, delivered a vote of thanks at the end of the Orientation Programme. She expressed special gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Yogesh Singh for his visionary approach, and to the Director of the South Campus, Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, for his support in the establishment of this Centre.