



CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND PARTITION STUDIES



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

REPORT

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day- 14 August 2024

National Seminar- Unravelling the Partition of India

The Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS), University of Delhi organised a National Seminar to commemorate Partition Horrors Remembrance Day on Wednesday, 14 August 2024. This event is a part of a national initiative introduced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji in 2021, to acknowledge the immense human tragedy at the time of country's partition in 1947. The event was organised in collaboration with the National Council for the Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL) and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and sought to reflect on the profound suffering caused by the Partition and honouring the millions of lives upended by the historical tragedy.

The day's programme began with the inauguration of a Photography Exhibition at the hands of the Chief Guest of the event, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice, Government of India, and Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi. The exhibition was sponsored by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). The exhibition detailed the timeline of Partition profoundly focusing on the people, processes and publications related to the travesty. It explored the multifaceted aspects of the human horror, showcasing powerful images of the suffering and violence endured by the people.

This was followed by the National Seminar titled '*Unravelling the Partition of India*', brought together scholars, dignitaries and some survivors of Partition to reflect on the lasting impact of this human tragedy on the subcontinent. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of Law and Justice was the chief guest of the event, who has been a vocal advocate for acknowledging the historical wounds of Partition. He was honoured by Prof. Yogesh Singh, Vice-chancellor of the University of Delhi who presided over the proceedings of the Inaugural session. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal praised University of Delhi's initiative in launching the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies. He underscored the importance of studying Partition in- depth, noting that many untold stories, narratives and forgotten heroes still need to be uncovered. He expressed hope that the Centre would become a key institution in advancing

this important area of research. A select number of Partition survivors were also felicitated by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal for their courage and resilience in recounting their stories. All the dignitaries on the dais released the Catalogue of Books and Research Theses on Partition Studies, as compiled by the Centre.

In his address, Prof. Yogesh Singh reflected on the political nature of the Partition, emphasising that it was a decision imposed on the people of India by the political leaders, rather than a choice made by the people themselves. He also pointed out that the trauma of Partition continues to affect generations, and much of the pain remains unacknowledged in mainstream political discourse. Other dignitaries such as Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Director, South Campus, and Prof. Ravinder Kumar, Director of the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies, were also appreciated for their roles in organizing the event. The introduction about the Centre was given by Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Director, CIPS. Prof. Ravi Prakash Tekchandani, Director, NCPSL talked about his institution's engagement with the event and the problems of the Sindhi community who were also uprooted as a result of partition. Prof. Ravi Prakash Tekchandani closed the inaugural session with the vote of thanks.

The second session of the seminar featured a keynote address by Prof. Kapil Kapoor, former Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha. His address focused on the academic and cultural implications of Partition for him and his family, along with the nation after independence. The session was chaired by Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Director, South Campus. The session also marked the launch of the official website of the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies.

Additionally, the Centre announced the winners of its Logo Competition, which had attracted 123 entries. The winners were honoured with awards, celebrating the creativity and engagement of young minds with the subject of Partition.

The final session was particularly poignant, as it featured a panel of Partition survivors who shared their personal memories of the traumatic event. This session, chaired by Prof. Payal Mago, Director, Campus of Open Learning, brought the audience closer to the lived experiences of those who lived through Partition. Their stories painted a vivid picture of the human suffering, loss and displacement caused by the division of the country. Those who joined the session to share their Lived Experiences of partition were, Prof. K. L. Johar, Shri. Krishnanand Sagar, Shri. Jagdish Chandra Gosain and Sardar Atma Singh.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Prof. Jyoti Trehan Sharma, Joint Director of the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies. The day's programme was compered by Prof. Jyoti Trehan Sharma, Joint Director, CIPS and Dr. Charu Kalra, Member, Functional Committee, Culture Council. The proceedings were formally wrapped up with the recital of the National Anthem, symbolizing national unity and the collective memory of the painful past.

The program was a solemn yet powerful reminder of the lasting scars left by the Partition of India and a call to ensure that the lessons of this history should not go untold and unlearned.