REPORT

One-Day National Seminar on "Partition and Punjab: Memory, Migration and Resilience"

Organised by: Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi
In Collaboration with: Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS), University of Delhi
Date: 30 October 2026
Venue: Mata Gujri Hall, Mata Sundri College for Women

Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS), University of Delhi, organised a One-Day National Seminar on **"Partition and Punjab: Memory, Migration and Resilience"** on 30 October 2026 at Mata Gujri Hall, Mata Sundri College for Women.

The seminar aimed to provide an academic platform for examining the historical, political, social and cultural dimensions of the Partition of India, with particular emphasis on Punjab. It sought to revisit the experiences of displacement, migration, violence, loss of homeland, community relationships and the resilience of people who experienced Partition. The seminar also encouraged scholarly engagement with the memories and narratives of Partition and their continuing relevance in understanding contemporary society.

Inaugural Session

The seminar commenced with the formal inaugural proceedings and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge and intellectual enlightenment.

The inaugural session was graced by distinguished academicians and eminent scholars, including **Prof. Ravinder Kumar**, Director, Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS), University of Delhi; **Prof. Jyoti Sharma**; and **Prof. Anoop Lather**.

The distinguished guests highlighted the importance of studying Partition beyond its conventional historical and political narratives. Their presence and academic insights provided an important foundation for the deliberations of the seminar. The inaugural proceedings emphasised the need to preserve historical memories, document individual and collective experiences, and encourage younger generations to engage critically with the history of Partition.

The seminar brought together scholars and academicians to examine Partition through interdisciplinary perspectives, highlighting its political, social, cultural and human dimensions.

Technical Session I

Chair: Dr. Amrit Kaur Basra

Speakers:

1. Prof. Himanshu Prasad Roy

2. Dr. Hina Nandrajog

The first technical session focused on the historical and political dimensions of Partition, particularly its impact on Punjab and the communities affected by the division. The speakers explored the complexities of Partition, the experience of displacement and the transformation of social and political relationships.

The session provided an opportunity to understand Partition through historical documentation, political developments and the lived experiences of individuals and communities. The chairperson guided the academic discussion and encouraged critical engagement with the issues raised by the speakers.

Technical Session II

Chair: Prof. Yuthika Mishra

Speakers:

1. Dr. Pallavi Chakravarty
2. Dr. Simmi Kapoor Mehta

The second technical session examined the memories, narratives and social consequences of Partition. The discussions highlighted the significance of oral histories, cultural memory and intergenerational experiences in understanding the legacy of Partition.

The speakers reflected upon the experiences of migration, identity, belonging and resilience, particularly in the context of Punjab. The session also explored how memories of displacement and loss continue to shape social identities and collective consciousness.

The deliberations offered valuable insights into the importance of preserving personal narratives and historical memories as essential sources for understanding the human dimensions of Partition.

Valedictory Session

The seminar concluded with a valedictory session featuring **Prof. Dinesh Khattar, Principal, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi**, and **Dr. Akanksha Kumar** as distinguished speakers.

Prof. Dinesh Khattar shared his academic reflections on the significance of revisiting Partition through scholarly research and historical understanding. Dr. Akanksha Kumar also contributed to the concluding deliberations, highlighting the relevance of interdisciplinary academic engagement with historical experiences and collective memory.

The valedictory session brought together the key discussions of the day and reiterated the importance of academic platforms in encouraging dialogue, research and critical engagement with significant historical events.

Vote of Thanks

The formal proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the distinguished guests, speakers, session chairpersons, collaborating institution and all participants for their valuable contributions.

Special appreciation was extended to the college administration, the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur, for her guidance and support in organising the seminar. Acknowledgement was also extended to the faculty members, organising team and student volunteers for their dedicated efforts.

The contribution of the student coordinators, **Ms. Kajal and Ms. Agreema**, was particularly appreciated for their commitment to the coordination and smooth management of the seminar. Their efforts played an important role in ensuring the effective conduct of the academic programme.

Conclusion

The One-Day National Seminar on **"Partition and Punjab: Memory, Migration and Resilience"** provided an enriching academic platform for examining one of the most significant events in modern Indian history. Through its inaugural and technical sessions and valedictory deliberations, the seminar facilitated meaningful academic exchanges on the historical experiences, political implications, social transformations and enduring memories associated with Partition.

The seminar reaffirmed the importance of interdisciplinary research, historical documentation and the preservation of collective memories. It also highlighted the role of higher educational institutions in fostering historical awareness, critical thinking and informed academic dialogue among students and scholars.

The event concluded successfully, strengthening the college's commitment to promoting meaningful academic discussions and research-oriented engagement with important themes in Indian history and politics.