



## **Call for Papers**

**Two-Day National Seminar**

*on*

**Transitions in Indian History: Economy, Society and Culture**

**10-11 September 2024**

**Department of History**

**Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad**

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### **About the Seminar**

What is 'transition' and how do we make sense of it in terms of a category of historical analysis in the context of Indian history? This is the central theme of the conference on which scholars are invited to reflect during the Two-Day National Seminar to be held at MANUU, Hyderabad, India.

Scholars have conceptualized 'transition' as something different from 'change'. It is seen as a set of historical processes that are long-drawn, multifaceted and as slow as imperceptible. Change, it is argued, is an 'event' and a 'rupture' in the Braudelian sense, while transition is fluid, on-the-move and the 'prehistory' of that change. The view is that while it is crucial to appreciate 'change' as a marker of break from the past, it is equally, even far more, important to pay attention to the multipronged and divergent processes, political, economic and social, the mutual convergence of which leads to something inherently different.

Modern scholars of Indian history, particularly over the last four decades, have contributed immensely to highlighting the historical processes that had for long eluded adequate understanding such as the feudalism debate, the formation of regional polities in the post Gupta period, the decline of the Mughal empire and transition to colonial India. However, these discussions have, for some reasons, been limited largely to the processes of state formation and production and exchange economy. One of the objectives of this conference is to invite scholars to go beyond the political and economic processes and explore the possibility of delving into, say for example, social and cultural processes that are no less significant. Similarly, how do we identify and define elements

of transition in religious traditions, historiographical conventions and scientific discourses. Literary and artistic practices also deserve our attention.

The aim of the Seminar is to problematize and further complicate the understanding of ‘transition’ as a category and to discuss how such a shift may bring out new dimensions of Indian history.

Scholars are invited to submit their proposals (max. 350 words) addressing, preferably but not exclusively, any of the sub-themes at [ikramhaque888@yahoo.com](mailto:ikramhaque888@yahoo.com) by **15 August 2024**. The accepted proposals will be intimated by **20 August 2024**. We have definite plan to publish the proceedings of the seminar from a leading publisher at the earliest. We would, therefore, request the participants to send us their papers (6000-8000 words) following Chicago style of referencing by **5 September 2024**.

The Department of History will provide accommodation and food to all the participants at the University Guest House during the Seminar.

### **Sub-themes**

- Understanding transition from different perspectives
- Exploring various sources to study transition
- Locating transition in society: social groups and institutions
- Understanding transition in culture: Literature, Art and Architecture
- Identifying elements, modes and practices of transition in Religion
- Situating Economy in transition: Production, Distribution and Exchange
- Science, Technology and Environment

For any other query, please contact Dr. Ikramul Haque at [ikramhaque888@yahoo.com](mailto:ikramhaque888@yahoo.com)

Seminar Convener

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