



مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی  
मौलाना आज़ाद नेशनल उर्दू यूनिवर्सिटी  
MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL  
URDU UNIVERSITY  
(Accredited Grade "A+" by NAAC)

**Two-Day National Seminar (4-5 November 2025)**

**on**

**"Region in Indian History"**

**ORGANIZED BY**

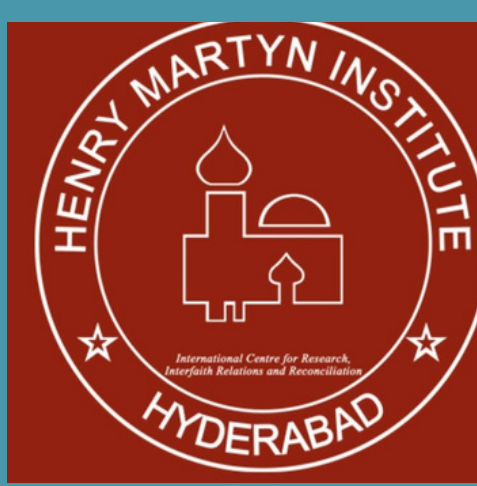
**Department of History**

**Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad**

**in Collaboration with**

**Henry Martyn Institute:**

**International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and  
Reconciliation**



## About the University

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), a Central University established in 1998 by an Act of Parliament, is headquartered at a 200-acre campus in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Named after Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister, MANUU is dedicated to promoting Urdu language and providing quality education through regular and distance modes with a focus on women's education.

The University offers 97 programmes, including 25 PhDs, 27 PG, 15 UG, diplomas, and certificate courses, across seven Schools of Studies and 19 departments. It also runs nine specialized centres, three directorates, two satellite campuses (Lucknow and Srinagar), eight Colleges of Teacher Education, five Polytechnics, three ITIs, and three Urdu Model Schools, with a strong presence in 13 states. Its Directorate of Distance Education operates nine regional and five sub-regional centres nationwide.

MANUU holds NAAC 'A+' grade accreditation and ranks 24th in publications among Indian public universities. Recent initiatives include the adoption of NEP 2020, the integration of MOOCs, faculty research support, online feedback systems, and international collaborations. Committed to social responsibility, it actively contributes through NSS, NCC, and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.



## About the Department



The Department of History at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) was established in 2014 and currently offers M.A. in History and a Ph.D. programme. The department also offers various courses for the undergraduate students under the four year undergraduate program. The faculty members are drawn from reputed universities across the country and specialize in diverse and significant areas of historical studies.

The Department's curriculum is designed with a focus on national interests, India's cultural ethos, the employability of students, and the University's broader objective of promoting women's education and marginalised communities. It aims to nurture the spirit of national integration, multiculturalism, and global academic standards through quality teaching and research. The department imparts the remedial coaching for UGC JRF exam. Besides, in a short span of time, the department has made significant progress through its vibrant teaching programs and research by publishing in reputed journals by the faculty members in their respective domains. The alumni of the department have been able to get suitable openings in the various universities and colleges as faculty members. Two former students of the department have made it to the Universities in UK for higher studies.





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## Concept Note

India, known for its 'Unity in Diversity,' consists of regions with distinct geographical, social, political, economic, linguistic, and cultural features. A comprehensive history of the country requires viewing these elements from regional perspectives, as regions encompass not just geography and demography but also society, economy, and their interaction with the environment.

Historically, some regions have been overrepresented while others remain neglected, despite the diversity of India's multilingual sources. Regional histories are therefore essential to reconstructing a fuller understanding of the past and identifying the common forces that shape collective identity. The Annales School in the early 20th century inspired interest in regional history, and in India, nationalist historiography also encouraged such writing, though its roots can be traced to Kalhana's 12th-century Rajatarangini.

Regional history thus studies specific areas and their historical developments, helping uncover lesser-known facts, explore local identities, and analyze socio-economic and cultural trends.

For a long time, historians adopted an epicentric view of Indian history, concentrating on the Indo-Gangetic plains and the rise and expansion of large kingdoms. While these studies were important, they had certain drawbacks.

First, they left little scope for micro-history. Second, they implied that the decline of large states marked an age of darkness, rendering the intervening periods insignificant to historical growth. Third, by focusing on trans-regional phenomena, they overlooked the importance of regions in shaping socio-economic, cultural, and political trends.

From the 1980s onwards, however, historians began shifting attention from the Indo-Gangetic heartland to specific localities and regions, emphasizing that regional studies are crucial to understanding the historical process. This region-centric approach reconfigured key concepts of Indian history, offering insights into socio-economic and political developments as well as India's cultural diversity. Considerable work has been done on Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Malwa, Bengal, and Tamil Nadu, though the vast diversity of India still leaves many regions understudied.

Some key questions arise: What defines a region in a particular spatial and temporal context? What unexplored sources can be used to study it? What factors enabled regions to emerge as centers of major states? What cultural traditions shaped them? How did colonialism define or demarcate regions? What role did language play? And what issues do regions face in post-colonial India? These questions form the basis for the following sub-themes.



## CALL FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

Original and unpublished research papers are Invited from:  
Young Faculty Members, Early Career Researchers and PhD  
Research Scholars.

1. The seminar proceedings will be published by an international publisher.
2. Authors must follow the prescribed reference style sheet (Chicago).
3. The length of the paper should be between 8,000–10,000 words.
4. The abstract should not exceed 500 words.
5. Abstract should be accompanied by a brief bio-note of 250 words mentioning institutional affiliation and contact details.

Selected outstation candidates will be provided with  
III-Tier AC train fare/economy airfare (subject to the  
availability of funds). Complimentary accommodation  
on a twin-sharing basis & food for the duration of the  
conference will be provided.

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**Dr Daud Ibrahim**  
Faculty  
Department of History, MANUU

**Co-coordinator**  
**Dr Abdul Adil Paray**  
Faculty  
Department of History, MANUU

## Sub-Themes

- I- **Boundaries of a region**
  - a) Defining region in various phases of Indian history
  - b) Supra-region in history
  - c) Evolution of the region as an anti-thesis to traditional periodization
  - d) Sources on regional history
- II- **Socio-economic and political transitions**
  - a) Expansion of agrarian economy and migration
  - b) Identification of communities in a region/proliferation of caste
  - c) Urbanization and Trade
  - d) Region, locality and State
  - e) Autonomous spaces
  - f) Science and Technology: Its diffusion, growth and application
- III- **Shaping of the regional traditions and culture**
  - a) Normative/'Greater' traditions in a region
  - b) Assertion of the local elements
  - c) Assimilation and accommodation of local cults/beliefs; emergence of regional religious traditions
  - d) Cultural regions
- IV- **Transformation of a region: Continuity and change**
  - a) Reading regions through the colonial lens
  - b) Shaping and reshaping of regional identity in modern India
  - c) Contested spaces and regional politics in post-colonial India
  - d) Role of Linguistics in forming region, state and country.

### Important Dates

**DEADLINE OF ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:**  
**15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Acceptance of Abstract: 18th September, 2025  
Submission of full paper: 28th October 2025.

**FOR MORE DETAILS**  
**PLEASE CONTACT**

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