

**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI - 110007.**

May 11, 2023

Sub: Setting up of Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS), in the University of Delhi.

The University of Delhi constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of the Director, SDC for setting up of Centre for Independence and Partition Studies in the University of Delhi. The committee discussed in detail in various meeting held for setting up of Centre for Independence and Partition Studies in the University of Delhi. The following are the committee members.

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| 1. Prof. Shri Prakash Singh,
Director, UDSC | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. Ravi Prakash Tekchandani | - | Member |
| 3. Prof. Vipul Singh | - | Member |
| 4. Prof. Amrit Kaur Basra | - | Member |
| 5. Prof. Jyoti Trehan Sharma | - | Member |
| 6. Dr. Swadesh Singh | - | Member |
| 7. Dr. Bhuwan Jha, | - | Special Invitee |
| 8. Sh. A. K. Prakash, JR, UDSC | - | Member Secretary |

After comprehensive deliberations. the committee finalised a Concept Note for setting up of Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS) in the University of Delhi.

The Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS) shall be constituted under Ordinance XX (..) of the Ordinances of the University.

Cont....



The Centre for Independence and Partition Studies, as a multi-disciplinary centre, shall focus on different facets of the struggle for freedom and the reasons and impact of Partition and emerge, in due course of time, as a specialized resource centre to facilitate such studies.

The committee prepared the draft Ordinance XX for setting up of Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS) in the University of Delhi, with the i) Objectives, ii) Governing Structure, iii) Office Bearer's, iv) Faculty members, v) Finances and vi) General conditions.

The Committee unanimously recommended to place the Draft Concept Note (Annexure: A) and also the draft Ordinance XX (Annexure: B) for setting up of Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS) in the University of Delhi, before the Academic Council and the Executive Council of the University of Delhi for consideration and approval.

The note may be forwarded to the Joint Registrar (Academics)/Joint Registrar (Council) for taking further necessary action in this regard.

[Signature]
A K Prakash
JR- UDSC

Member Secretary, CIPS-Committee.

[Signature]
The Director, UDSC
Chairman, CIPS-Committee

DSCN-2380
16/05/23

JR (Council)
19/05/2023

May be considered and approved
the revised recommendations as
above please.

Hon'ble VC
[Signature]

[Signature]
16/5/23

JR/Academics
[Signature]

University of Delhi
Draft Concept Note for setting up
'Centre for Independence and Partition Studies'

1. In 2021, Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, put a strong emphasis on revisiting and remembering the horrors associated with the partition of India and accordingly appealed to the countrymen to observe 14th August each year as the Partition Horrors' Remembrance Day: 'We celebrate independence, but the pain of partition still pierces the chest of India. It is one of the greatest tragedies of the last century', and therefore, it was important to remember the people who lost their lives, and to honour the pain and sufferings faced by the people of India during the partition. After announcing the government's decision, the PM said that remembrance of the horrors of Partition would 'keep reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment'
2. The sheer human tragedy and the intensity of savagery that accompanied partition has few parallels in human history. Among the largest and most rapid displacements in human history, millions of Muslims left India for Pakistan and millions of Hindus and Sikhs in the opposite direction. Migration from Bengal continued in waves over the next decade or so, moving to distant locations as far as Andaman & Nicobar Islands, causing massive pains and dislocation. Within four years a population of around 15 million had been displaced. More than three million people are estimated to have lost their lives in the violence accompanying partition. It is a saga of extreme brutality, pain and sufferings that has continued to afflict the lives of generations of affected families. The aftermath of Partition continues to impact the geo-political and social realities in the entire Indian subcontinent.
3. The horrors of Partition also serve as a grim reminder of invasions and savagery of more than a millennium that transformed a land of tolerance, co-existence and plenty into that of strife, fault-lines and schism. There was always diversity and plurality in Indian society but there was also an innate

oneness that unified all. The Indian society witnessed a stagnation that led to a long phase of lethargy and intellectual complacency in every aspect of life. If centuries of invasions destroyed the grand structures and attacked the Indian knowledge system, then the British colonisers completed this task by destroying the collective memory of these structures and the grand knowledge system. India— as the oldest living civilisation— was once a great melting pot that subsumed all differences and divisions. Due to external invasions, starting with the Arab invasion of Sindh in early 8th century, Indians started to gradually lose their cultural and intellectual strengths and many fault lines along caste, religion, language and race came to be drawn. Of these, religion grew into a chasm and resulted in the country being partitioned on religious lines.

4. Since India's Independence and Partition occurred as concomitant developments, and as the process of transfer of population witnessed unprecedented violence and genocide unforeseen in the history of the world on such occasions, the studies surrounding the event and the process acquires special significance for the world in general and our countrymen in particular. In view of the fact that India is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, and the University of Delhi, a hundred years of its magnificent existence, it would be quite befitting to set up a centre to carry out studies and research on Independence and Partition. The national capital was witness to the major brunt of Partition, housing a massive number of its victims, and the event itself affected the way the University expanded subsequently.
5. Though different departments in Social Sciences and Humanities in the University briefly touch upon the history, politics and literary narratives around Independence and Partition in their syllabii, such academic engagement, barring few exceptions, is hardly based on field research, dedicated archival sources or the studies of affected groups. Further, there have been no effort to create a dedicated resource centre for exclusive studies on Independence and Partition. There is hardly any effort to sensitize the student communities to the traumas and horrors around partition.

6. The communities which bore the pains of loss and displacement rarely figure among the subject matter of our studies or research. The urgency of creating a dedicated resource centre, based partially on the collection of the narratives and memories of the first generation of the displaced communities which may already be in the twilight zone of their life, is aptly reflected.
7. There is a need to fully comprehend the challenges faced in securing Independence from the foreign rule, and how the geographical partition of the country did immeasurable physical, emotional, economical and cultural harm to the people, and how the endless trauma associated with partition has affected multiple generations across India. Horrors around the partition of Bengal are hardly recalled, while the impact of Bengal's partition have huge bearings on the demographic changes around the borders in the neighbouring Indian states.
8. The proposed centre should focus on different facets of the struggle for freedom and the reasons and impact of partition and emerge, in due course of time, as a specialized resource and research centre to facilitate such studies. At the operational level, the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies should be set up with the following priorities:
 - (i) It should highlight those stories, including those in Indian languages and local dialects, which seldom find space in mainstream historical narratives by encouraging the study of those individuals and events which are largely ignored and forgotten, e.g. unsung heroes of freedom struggle, those leaders who are rarely recalled or named, and also by putting the acts of those heroes in perspective who have received a biased and prejudiced treatment in history-writing.
 - (ii) The Centre shall broadly focus on the intricacies surrounding Partition. Within this context many questions need further research. For instance, the role played by Radcliffe (who was hardly familiar with Indian culture, geography and demographic pattern) in Partition; the game plan and the strategies of the imperial government; the high voltage politics accompanying Partition; the germs of separatism that the central leadership failed to contain; the way Congress Working Committee consented to Partition without

consulting Gandhi; the reason for the non-insistence of central leadership on having the Frontier Province with India; the uncertainty of the fate of the Princely States; the steps taken by the government to contain violence and death of innocent people; the strategies adopted for rehabilitation of the Partition victims.

(iii) It should undertake an exercise to map the location and other details of partition victims including their routes of migration. This may include weaving narratives about their sorrows, challenges and triumphs, and to revisit the lives of these victims by conducting interviews and creating a repository of oral history transcripts. Efforts may also be made to collect and preserve the private papers of individual leaders, academics and diplomats who may have left related and relevant writings.

(iv) The proposed centre should undertake research, collaboration and develop linkages including MoUs with similarly placed or related research centres and academic institutions.

(v) A library dedicated to the study on the subject may be set up. A suitable area inside the central library may also be identified for the purpose.

(vi) The centre should create a strong digital and electronic database, and make it open-source wherever feasible, for larger dissemination of knowledge in the field, and thus facilitate further research in Delhi University and at other academic institutions.

(vii) In order that the work carried out at the centre finds greater academic dissemination, and also that it eventually emerges as a focal point for research in such areas, it should carry out publications of reports and books. In due course, it may bring out a journal matching high professional standards to encourage and disseminate research and findings to the larger academic world in the area of freedom struggle and partition.

(viii) The centre may look at the feasibility of creating distinguished professorial Chairs. It may include exploring the possibility of merging existing Chairs in related areas which were allotted to the University, but which may have been non-operational for long. Along with these Chairs, fellows and

student-interns may be hired to work for stipulated periods. Academic exchange programmes involving teachers and students may be encouraged.

(ix) The centre may design short term offline and online courses for students, teachers and other stakeholders. At a later time colleges may also be requested to set up local study circles/centres revolving around popularizing studies around these themes.

(x) The centre should also explore the possibility of suitable funding from time to time from government and non-government agencies and individuals.