

Invitation for two days National Seminar on “Resituating the Life and contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh”.

Dear Madam/ Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to two days National Seminar on “Resituating the Life and contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh”, scheduled on 22nd -23rd October, 2018. The seminar is being organized by The Department of History in collaboration with Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Jammu and Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Center, Jammu.

May I request you to kindly send us the Abstract of your presentation latest by 05th of October, 2018 so that we are able to prepare schedule of presentations in advance.

A Copy of the concept note and the sub-themes to be deliberated upon in the seminar is attached for your kind perusal.

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(Seminar Convenor)
Head, Department of History
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Prof.Suman Jamwal
(Seminar Co-Convenor)
Director, CWS
Ph: (M) 09419141236

Guidelines for submission for abstract:

The soft copy of the abstract should be sent on the Email and the format given below:

Email Address: 1.shyamnlal@gmail.com
2. sumanjamwal@gmail.com

Format for Abstract:

Title, Author (s), Institute: Format: A4 size, M.S.Word ,Length: 500-750 words. Line space: 1.5 ,Font: Times New Roman,Font size: Heading-14, Text-12,Margin: 1.5 inches on all four sides.

Last date for submission of abstracts: 05/10/18 Submission of full paper on or before 15/10/18

Please note that the submission of full paper is mandatory .

Registration Fee:

1. Teacher: 1000/-
2. Research Scholars:500/-

Concept note

Re-situating the Life and Contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh

Despite an impressive output of historical research and a robust, complex and contesting historiographic debate on the history of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, the assessment of the life and the works of Maharaja Hari Singh still remains a matter of marginal concern to the world of scholarship. The absence of informed, objective writings has allowed almost every author writing on him, or the period of his rule, to bring a point of view, an internal bias, to the subject of his life and contributions. What has been rather unsettling is resurrection, in some of the recent writings, of the colonial axiomatic pronouncement upon him and the narrativisation of his rule as one of crisis and conspiracy. He has also been projected as religiously partisan, politically indecisive and the maker of the present crisis. These writings, inspired and motivated by partisan political end, tend to take away the credit and the place that Maharaja Hari Singh deserves in the annals of the history of the India in general and of Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

Despite located in an uneasy social and political context, he went on to launch an aggressive, systematic and extensive reforms which became the harbinger of modernization in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. From agrarian and taxation systems, to police and courts, schools, hospitals, and administration, the footprint of his reforms were visible everywhere. When we look beyond the miasma of current historiographic debate and put his life and works on a larger canvas, particularly the manner in which he negotiated with the difficult political situation within the state, the comprehensive reforms touching upon every realm of public life, the maturely and skillfulness with which he defeated the pernicious agenda of the Colonial empire, the firmness with which he stood behind the state at the difficult time of partition and the ease with which he gave up his authority and power to be a part of democratic India, he undeniably emerges as one of the greatest rulers of the state and also one the most important personality of 20th century.

It is against this background that the present seminar is being organized. It intends to revisit critically the available historiographic debate and discussion on the life and career of Maharaja Hari Singh, the context in which he was located, the institutions that he promoted, and the resistance that he offered to the colonial design. The seminar may also be seen as a serious engagement to reevaluating the multi-layered life and works of Maharaja from many more angles and in the light of new sources in order to accord Maharaja Hari Singh the due place in history that he rightfully deserves.

The major theme of the Seminar is broadly categorized into following sub-themes:

- 1. Revisiting historiography and historical discourses on Maharaja Hari Singh**
- 2. Understanding the context of his rule: Political configuration within the state and outside**
- 3. The Maharaja and the Colonial empire**

4. Maharaja and the modernization of state: Deconstructing his agenda of Social, Political and Economic Reforms

5. Maharaja and the Issue of Accession.

6. Special session on Maharja Hari Singh and the issues of reform in the realm of women

Note: Though the Seminar seeks to provide forum for addressing issues centered on the sub-themes listed above; they, however, are not exhaustive. Paper not directly related to the sub-themes but having bearing on them may also be entertained.