



**AMITY UNIVERSITY**

National Conference  
On

**“Science, Technology and Medicine in the History of Modern India:  
Exploring Recent Trends, Interdisciplinary Approaches and New Sources”**  
(23-24 March, 2020)

*Organized by*

**Department of History, Amity Institute of Social Sciences, Amity University, Noida**

Sponsored by



**Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi**

Send us your papers at

[madhumitasaha30@gmail.com](mailto:madhumitasaha30@gmail.com)

[swati.shastri5@gmail.com](mailto:swati.shastri5@gmail.com)

Important Dates

Submission of Abstracts

**20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**

Full Draft Paper

**15<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

Conference Dates

**23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

Patron

**Prof. (Dr.) Balvinder Shukla  
(Vice Chancellor)**

Convener

**Dr. Madhumita Saha**  
Dept. of History, AISS

Amity University, Noida  
M. 8130960635

Co-Convener  
**Dr. Swati Shastri**  
Dept. of History, AISS  
Amity University, Noida  
M. 8426996727

Organizing Secretary  
**Dr. Pushpraj Singh**  
Dept. of History, AISS  
M. 9654220460

Organizing Committee  
**Prof. (Dr.) Veenus Jain**  
**Dr. Rakesh Rai**  
**Dr. Anna Nath Ganguly**  
**Dr. Mayank Tomar**

### **Registration**

Participants must register by filling the registration form. Registration will be considered complete only after receiving the registration fee. The payment of fee can be made by sending bank Demand Draft drawn in favour of ..... Amity University payable at Amity University, Noida, to .....

Alternatively, payment can also be made online (NEFT Transfer) as per the details given below:

**Name of the Bank & Branch:**

**Branch Code:**

**NEFT (IFSC) Code:**

**MICR Code:**

**Account Name:**

**Account Number:**

### **Registration Fee**

- **Academicians:** INR 1200, Student/Research Scholar: INR 1000
- Amity University will provide conference kit, breakfast, High Tea, Lunch, Dinner and Accommodations to outstation participants staying at the Amity University Guest House during the conference days.

- A scanned copy of the same should be emailed to [madhumitasaha30@gmail.com](mailto:madhumitasaha30@gmail.com) with 'Payment Details' as the subject of the email.

### **How to reach Amity**

- **Railway Station:**

It takes 27 minutes to travel from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station to Amity University. Approximate driving distance between Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station and Amity University is 23 kms or 14.3 miles or 12.4 nautical miles. Travel time refers to the time taken if the distance is covered by a car.

- **Nearest Metro Station:**

Okhla Bird Sanctuary  
Botanical Garden

- **Air Link**

Distance between Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) to Amity University  
1 h 13 min (33.2 km) via Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Setu

### **CONCEPT NOTE & BRIEF SUMMARY**

The proposed conference on histories of science, technology and medicine in India will build on existing historiography and seek new ways of writing the discipline's histories. The conference aims to recover the specificities of the Indian experiences of science, technology and medicine by exploring a gamut of case studies on related topics. It will critically engage with both intellectual histories as well as practices of techno-scientific and medical researches. While the presenters will delve on a range of topics on techno-scientific and medicinal researches, including histories of institutions, individuals, and instruments, it will also bring to focus other lesser studied topics, such as histories of material cultures, private corporations, and research funding patterns, history of philanthropy, and diplomatic history.

The temporal focus of the conference will be on modern India, covering the colonial and post-colonial period. But the conference does not intend to frame histories of science, technology and medicine in terms of binaries of colonialism and nationalism as recent researches bring out limited nature of the control exercised by any form of governments in the use of science, technology and medicine as a 'tool' to fulfil all its ambitions. Rather, the goal is to find out what roles the process of state formation, modernisation, Cold War politics and the associated social, political, economic and cultural contexts played in influencing the trajectory of techno-scientific and medical researches.

Exploring the twin themes of 'agency' and 'denial' is an important goal of the conference. The papers will seek out the interaction between science, technology and its users not simply in terms of acceptance or

resistance but how the new artefacts or knowledge gave agency to people of different strata of society. At the same time, it will also look into how technologies, medical and scientific knowledge came to be denied to members of society in name religion, caste, feminine virtue etc. The conference wants to explore the histories of science and technology with that of medicine not because we believe that they are of similar nature. Rather, the case studies from the respective fields will show how there are thematic overlaps, convergences and diversities when we look at questions of colonialism, modernity, state building, power politics, and agency through the lens of history of science, technology and medicine.

## **Featured Panel**

### **➤ Science and other Indian knowledge systems**

The panel discussion will explore the relationship between science and other knowledge systems. In doing so, the discussants will interrogate the categories, reflect on their nature and recount the experience of its practitioners. But most importantly, the discussants will try to give us a roadmap as to what could be the variety of sources for writing the History of Science, Technology & Medicine.

### **➤ Confluence: History of Science, Technology & Medicine**

As History of Science, Technology & Medicine of South Asia is increasingly enjoying a very high standing in the academic world, it is imperative that we find new ways of making the discipline innovative and exciting. Also, it is very important that we start exploring new methodological approaches, which would take us beyond the constraints of the archives, to write these histories through engaging with other historical sources. The resource person attending the conference will look into how histories of science, technology and medicine can be more incisively written by including a more multidisciplinary approach, for instance, sociology of science, STS, anthropology, gender studies and post-colonial studies to name a few.

## **BROAD THEMES**

- **Through the Lens: Science, Technology & Medicine in Construction of History**
- **Technology, Power and Development**
- **Public Health, Disease and Medicine**
- **Techno-Scientific Knowledge Production**
- **State, Science and Native Response**
- **Confluence: History of Science, Technology & Medicine**
- **Technology and Environment**

- **Technology and Democracy**

## **EMINENT SPEAKERS**

- **PROF. DEEPAK KUMAR**  
(Former Faculty, Zakir Husain Center for Educational Studies, JNU, New Delhi)
- **PROF. KUMAR RATNAM**  
(Member-Secretary, ICHR, New Delhi)
- **PROF. GIRISH SAHANI**  
(Director General, CSIR, New Delhi; Secretary, DSIR, Government of India)
- **PROF. T. JAYARAMAN**  
(Chairperson, Center for Science, Technology and Society, TISS)
- **PROF. BALAGANAPATHI DEVARAKONDA**  
(Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi)
- **PROF. SANJEEV KUMAR H.M.**  
(Dept. of Political Science, University of Delhi)
- **PROF. SYED ZIAUR RAHMAN**  
(Faculty, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh)
- **DR. MADHUMITA MAJUMDAR**  
(Faculty, DA-IICT)
- **DR. RONALD WITTJE**  
(Faculty, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras)
- **Dr. JOHN MATTHEW**  
(Faculty, IISER, Pune)
- **Dr. MEERA NANDA**  
(Faculty, IISER-Pune)
- **DR. SHIJU SAM VARGHESE**  
(Faculty, Central University of Gujarat)

- **DR. YASSER ARAFAT**

(Faculty, University of Delhi, New Delhi)

- **DR. APARAJITH RAMNATH**

(Faculty, Ahmedabad University)