



## CONCEPT NOTE

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

# THE PUNJAB: HISTORY AND CULTURE

ORGANIZED BY: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESEARCH (NIHCR),  
QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY (QAU), ISLAMABAD

### CONFERENCE SUMMARY

**Theme:** The Punjab History and Culture from Antiquity to Modern Times  
**Dates:** January 6-8, 2020  
**Venue:** University of Lahore, 1-KM, Defence Road, Lahore  
**Language:** Papers may be written either in English or Urdu. In case of Urdu, the 'Abstract' should necessarily be in English.  
**Links for Further Information:** [www.nihcr.edu.pk](http://www.nihcr.edu.pk)  
[www.qau.edu.pk](http://www.qau.edu.pk)

The NIHCR was established in December 1973. Since then, the Institute has been promoting research and publishing works on the history and culture of Muslims of South Asia, Muslim Freedom Movement, Quaid-i-Azam and the Islamic State of Pakistan. It has a rich library which is visited by a large number of national and international researchers and scholars. The Institute has organized a great number of seminars, conferences and workshops on research and development at national and international levels. In this regard, a series of conferences on regional history and cultures of Pakistan was initiated in 2012. NIHCR has conducted international conferences on **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: History and Culture**, **Balochistan: History and Culture**, and **Sindh: History and Culture** in 2012, 2014 and 2015 respectively. The fourth international conference of this series titled, '**The Punjab: History and Culture**' is planned to be organized on **January 6-8, 2020**.

### Call for Papers

International conference on **The Punjab: History and Culture** is scheduled to be held in January 2020. It is worth mentioning here, that arranging conferences is one of the primary mandates of the NIHCR to bring scholars and students together to, not only highlight comparatively ignored areas of research with reference to a specific topic but also to provide an opportunity to the young scholars, to meet experts on their area of research to seek guidance and explore dynamic avenues of research. In this pursuit, the present conference is focusing the largest province, in terms of population, of Pakistan.

The history of the Punjab can be traced back to 3000 BCE, experiencing different rulers from diverse origins. On this point, it seems pertinent to mention that Ibn-e Batuta was the first known person who referred about the Punjab in his writing, *Tuhfat al-anzar fi gharaaib al-amsar waajaib al-asfar* [A Gift to those who contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Traveling]. That title is a bit of a mouthful so

the text is generally called Ibn Battuta's Rihla, or Journey. Then, *Therikh-e Sher Shah Suri* [Persian: History of Sher Shah] dating 1580 CE, a historical work compiled by Abbas Khan Sarwani is proved to be a source to make the term Punjab to be used for this particular region. After him, writers of the Mughal era used the word Punjab to mention this piece of land in their historical accounts. Literal meaning of the Punjab is the Land of Five Rivers, referring to the five rivers which pass through it. Being the land of rivers; it got the potential of the high agricultural production that also attracted different invaders including the British.

Through archaeological discoveries, it is evident that by about 3000 BCE small communities were settled around Indus Basin which gave birth to the Indus Valley Civilization. One of its prominent archeological remains is Harrapa (near Sahiwal in the Punjab, Pakistan). This region also remained under the influence of Aryans and Buddhist traditions. Alexander also came to this region. Sultans of Delhi and Mughals also influenced this region which was followed by the British. The end of British rule culminated in the division of the Punjab between India and Pakistan. Keeping in view the diversified aspects of the history of the Punjab, a conference on the History and Culture of the Punjab is planned to focus its historical tradition which the present generations share with the previous ones.

The Punjab – the land of five rivers owes diverse cultural milieu with a variety of languages. All of its cultural traditions and traits are worthwhile in enhancing the value of its historical significance and play an important role in the regional, economic, political and social growth of the society as a distinct cohesive entity. History of the Punjab has been mostly unattended by the historians; consequently many aspects of the Punjab are still waiting for the historians. The present conference is an attempt to attract the historians towards its rich cultural and historical paragon to create a better understanding about this region.

### Main themes of the conference are:

- History and Culture
- Historiography and Cultural Mapping
- Various perspectives in History Writing
- Historical Evolution of the Punjab (from ancient to the present)
- Indus Valley Civilization , Harrapan Civilization and the Punjab (Ancient Narratives)
- Archeology and Museology
- The Punjab through Ages
- Politics: Continuity and Change (Politics of the Punjab during Freedom Movement and post-partition)
- Mysticism: Sufis and Saints of the Punjab
- Cultural/Lingual traditions and diversity
- Press and Media
- Literature: Alternate Perspectives of Fictional Ideas
- The Punjab's Arts, Crafts and Civil Society
- Oral History; Folklore and Oral Tradition
- Gender Issues and Women Contribution in Development
- Princely States of the Punjab and their merger with Pakistan
- Industrial Development
- Elements of Convergence and divergence in the East and West Punjab

### Participants

The conference is open to academia, educators, civil society, lawyers, media professionals, technocrats, agrarian, industrial and political practitioners extending their contributions corresponding to the main

scope and themes of the conference. Local and international researchers and students of higher education are also encouraged to avail the opportunity. It is estimated that 250 national and international participants will be attending the conference apart from the presenters, panelists and experts. We invite you all to join hands with us and be a substantial part of the conference.

### Contact Us:

#### Conference Secretary

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