





# International BHU Alumni Meet (IBAM 2020) & Seminar



## **■ Banaras Hindu University**

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), an internationally reputed temple of learning, situated in the holy city of Varanasi was founded by the visionary nationalist leader, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in 1916, with the cooperation of social reformers like Dr. Annie Besant, who viewed it as the 'University of India'. BHU has nurtured many freedom fighters and builders of modern India, contributing to the progress of the nation through large number of renowned scholars, artists, scientists and technologists who have graced its portals. The area of the main campus of this premier University is spread over 1300 acres with extensive greenery and buildings which are architectural marvel. An additional campus of 2700 acres at Barkachha, Mirzapur came up in 2006.

#### Mahamana & Alumni

Mahamana dreamt of creating an ideal scheme of education which would serve the cause of nation building, rise above narrow sectarian interests, combine the best in western scientific methods with all that is good and great in Indian culture and promote a "broad liberation of mind and religious spirit". Every student who passes through the portals of this great institution

carries these seeds of the timeless vision of Mahamana with him/her. Our alumni ardently desire a common platform where they could come together, renew links with their alma mater and reflect on how they can best spread the lofty ideals of Mahamana. Several Alumni Meets (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2015) have been organized at BHU with this objective. The vision of Alumni Meet has been to engage and encourage alumni to stay connected to their alma mater, spread its vision and contribute to its success. Our alumni are the ambassadors of BHU, dedicated to the welfare of the university, the preservation of traditions of excellence in education and service, and human advancement with a zeal to serve the nation and the global community.

<sup>66</sup> Divinity lies in developing Human values.<sup>77</sup>

Mahamana



Swatantrata Bhawan Auditorium of BHU will be the venue of the IBAM 2020 and Seminar on:

Higher Education in the 21st century India and Mahamana's Vision



17-18, JANUARY 2020 | SWATANTRATA BHAWAN | BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

## Seminar Topic: Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century India and Mahamana's Vision

## **Concept Note**

Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, a patriot par excellence, freedom fighter, social reformer and an educationist earnestly believed that education has emancipatory potential. Working within the Indian tradition, which has always been diverse, pluralistic and inclusive, he was not unmindful of other traditions. Mahamana always sought to amalgamate different strains of ideas, practices and perspectives with a view to curate transnational intellectuals with quintessential Indianness. He always had an unfathomable aspiration for the 'universal', and argued for the continual intellectual striving to connect the local with the global, east with the west, and modernity with tradition so that citizens of India acquire a profound understanding of their own culture but without self-containment and insularity. His philosophy of education constantly challenged the divisions of body and mind, self and society, ethical and pragmatic. To be brief, Mahamana envisioned a critical pedagogy of nurturing wholeness in individuals. With this vision, he founded Banaras Hindu University in 1916, which he stated thus:

"A teaching university would but half perform its function, if it does not seek to develop the heart power of its scholars with the same solicitude with which it develops their brain power. Hence, this University has placed formation of character in youth as one of its principal objects. It will seek not merely to turn out men as Engineers, Scientists, Doctors, Theologists, Merchants, but also as men of high character, probity and honour, whose conduct through life would show that they bear the hallmark of a great university."

Mahamana's vision continues to flow through the veins of this university; however, it is yet to be realized fully. There can be no denying that India's higher education

system stands at the crossroads today. With new initiatives and major transformations to affect Indian education system in the near future, challenge is to ensure inclusive and high-quality higher education to all. With over 800 universities and approximately 40,000 colleges, it is important to discuss how the focus on higher education is immediately needed to transform India into a knowledge economy. But there are some attendant risks of transformations too. One, higher education under neo-liberal late capitalism places unbelievable pressure on institutions to conform to the idea of economic 'progress.' Two, it also reflects a major push towards 'profit,' in the age of 'academic austerity.' Three, it changes the nature of academic habitus, wherein the majority of the institutions are found driven by economic concerns, not by educational values. Four, it may also disconnect individuals from their cultural roots.

So how to generate an affirmative dialogue against disruptive neoliberal academic system? How to ensure the successful implementation of major policy reforms? How to create an academic habitus which is receptive to 'critical thinking' and ideas of innovation? What should be the methodologies of the much needed pedagogic resistance?

With a view to debate and discuss, the Alumni Cell of Banaras Hindu University invites scholars, students, guardians, industrialists, and all other stakeholders to reflect on the challenges and opportunities Higher Education poses in the 21st century India and how the conceptual frameworks of Mahamana's vision can help the world understand and meet the challenges ahead. The goal is to arrive at some common consensus with regard to nature and function of higher education in India to boost policy frameworks in place.

# Seminar Topic: Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century India and Mahamana's Vision

# We invite proposals related to, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Fundamentals of Indian Education System: Contemporary Responses
- Ancient Indian Systems of Education
- Critiquing 'Two Cultures' Theory: Stories of Conflict between Sciences and Humanities
- Envisioning Critical Pedagogies of Teaching, Learning and Research
- Ethics and Politics of Higher Education in 21st Century India
- Challenges of Information Technology education in the 21st
   Century
- Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future
- Gender Equality and Higher Education
- ❖ Towards Utopian Futures: New Sciences and the Future of Man
- The Idea of University: Government, Corporate and the Academia
- Alternative Classrooms: Possibilities of E-Revolution in Higher Education

## Registration Fee

- > Delegates from India: ₹ 1500/= per person
- > Delegates from overseas: US \$ 250/= per person

The accompanying persons are expected to register with the same fee separately. The registration fee covers the registration kit, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

## **Mode of Payment**

Demand Draft / Crossed cheque / Bank Transfer in favour of Registrar, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi - 221005

#### **Details for online payment:**

Beneficiary: Alumni Cell, BHU

Beneficiary Bank: State Bank of India, BHU Branch

**Account Name: Alumni Cell Account no: 31465075636** 

IFS Code: SBIN0000211

**Swift code: SBININBB501** 

(Registration Fee and all donations should be sent in favour of the Registrar, BHU for Alumni Cell)

- > Address: Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005, India
- Message: Participant's name, address and "Alumni Cell (IBAM 2020)" to be mentioned. The duly filled in registration form along with the demand draft/Crossed cheque should be sent to: Alumni Cell, First Floor, Central Office, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- > Arrangements have also been made to accept cash payment at the office of Alumni Cell for the convenience of our delegates.

#### The registration is open with immediate effect.

#### Accomodation

#### > Types of Accommodation

Limited accommodation is available through the Alumni Cell in the Guest Houses, Hostels and Dharmshalas. In order to avail this facility, please tick your preference in the Registration Form. Our alumni may also explore the possibility of staying with their friends on the University Campus. Delegates are requested to book hotel accommodation by themselves, if desired.

#### > Accommodation Charges

Registration fee does not cover accommodation. Accordingly, delegates are requested to pay ₹ 2000/- (Cheque/DD in favour of 'Alumni Cell') in advance if the booking has to be made through the Alumni Cell.

#### Deadlines & Format for sending Abstract

Submission of abstract with full paper: December 20, 2019 on email: <a href="mailto:alumni@bhu.ac.in">alumni@bhu.ac.in</a>

Note: Submission of paper is not a pre-requisite for participation in the Meet. BHU alumni who do not present a paper/talk are also most welcome and invited to the Meet and Seminar. For Abstract/Paper publication registration details must be given along with the soft & the hard copy being sent to Alumni Cell.

➤ Abstract of paper in duplicate should carry the title of the paper, names of authors & addresses, and the salient feature of the paper in approximately 500 words. Name of the author presenting the paper should be underlined. A soft copy of full paper with abstract in English (Times New Roman, font size12) & Hindi (Kruti Dev 10, font size 14) should also be sent to the email address at alumni@bhu.ac.in and post.

#### **Organizing Committee**

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Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar
Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University

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Prof. V.K. Shukla

**Rector, Banaras Hindu University** 

Patron

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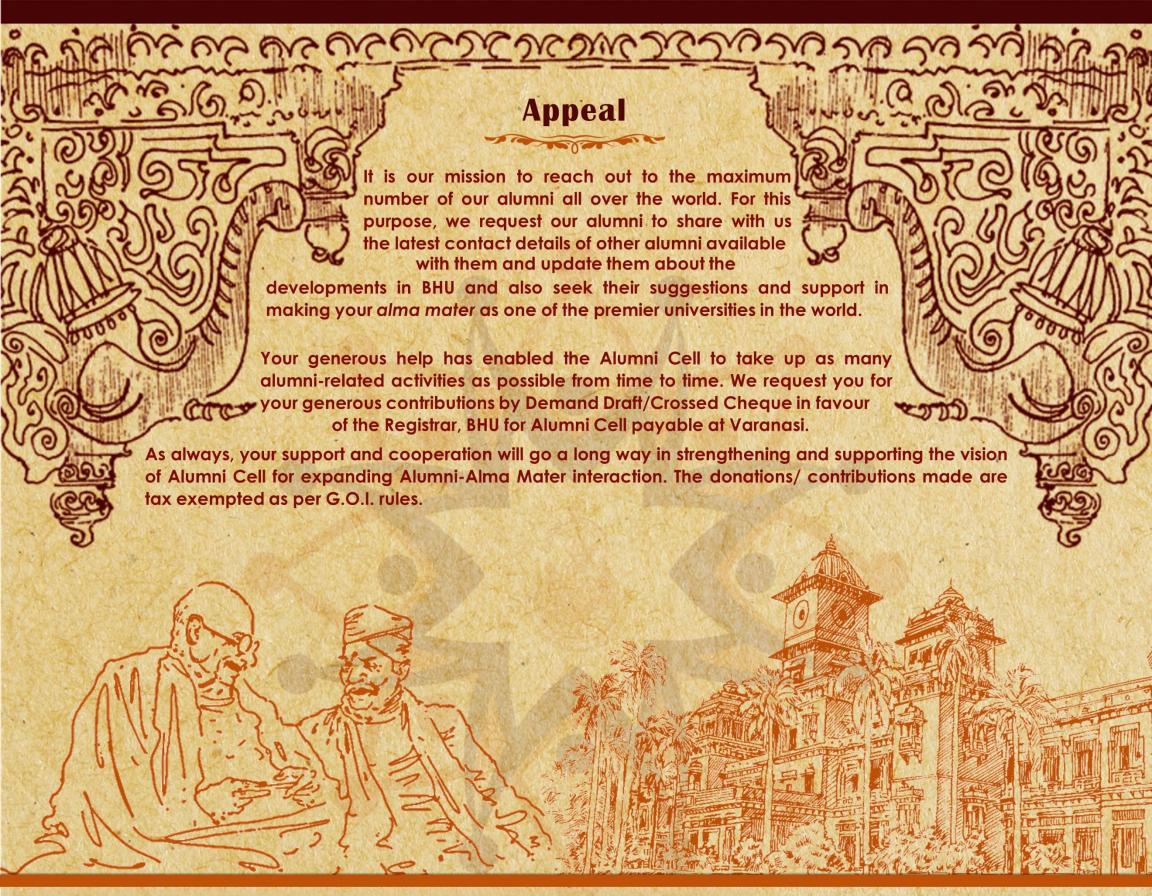
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