



**90th Convocation of the
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
March 15, 2008**

**Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*
on
Irfan Habib
Professor Emeritus of History
Department of History, A.M.U., Aligarh**

CITATION

Born in 1931 at Aligarh, Sri Irfan Habib is an eminent historian, a former Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research and a *Padma Bhushan* awardee.

Sri Habib completed his M. A. from Aligarh Muslim University and D. Phil. from New College, Oxford. He was Professor of History at Aligarh from 1969-94. Dr. Habib has worked on the Historical Geography of Ancient India, the History of Indian Technology, Medieval Administrative and Economic History, Colonialism and its Impact on India and Historiography. He has been described as one of the two most prominent Marxist historians of India today and at the same time, one of the greatest living historians of India between the twelfth and eighteenth centuries.

He has held a number of positions *viz.* Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research during 1987-93, President, Indian History Congress (1981), Radhakrishnan Lecturer, Oxford (1991), Elected Corresponding Fellow, British Royal Historical Society (1997) and Professor Emeritus, Aligarh Muslim University (2007). Dr. Habib identifies himself as a Marxist and uses Marxist historiography in his work.

Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Prof. Habib, the most prominent are Jawaharlal Nehru Fellow (1968); Watumull Prize of American Historical Association (1982); Padma Bhushan (2005) and Muzaffar Ahmad Memorial Prize (2006).

He has written enormously on History. The most significant works are *The Agrarian System of Mughal India 1556-1707*; First published in 1963, *An Atlas of the Mughal Empire: Political and Economic Maps*, Oxford University Press, 1982; *Essays in Indian History – Towards a Marxist Perception*, Tulika Books, 1995; *The Economic History of Medieval India: A Survey*, Tulika Books, 2001; *People's History of India – (Part 1 to Part 5)*, Aligarh Historians Society and Tulika Books.

He has edited & co-edited many books, some of them are *The Cambridge Economic History of India – Volume I: 1200-1750*; *UNESCO History of Civilization of Central Asia, Vol 5: Development in contrast: from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century*; *UNESCO History of Humanity, (Vol 4: Vol 5)*; *The Growth of Civilizations in India And Iran*; *Sikh History from Persian Sources*; *Akbar and His India*; *India-Studies in the History of an Idea*; *State & Diplomacy under Tipu Sultan*; *Confronting Colonialism*; *Medieval India – 1 and A World to Win – Essays on the Communist Manifesto*.

By conferring *Honoris Causa* degree of Doctor of letters of Banaras Hindu University on Prof. Irfan Habib, the University is recognizing an eminent historian and an outstanding scholar.