



## **One-Day National Seminar**

on

*“Sarasvati River: Cultural Perspective, Geographical Dimensions and Tourism Potential”*

(Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 2024)

Organized by

**Institute of Hotel & Tourism Management (IHTM),**

**Department of Geography &**

**Department of History & Archaeology**

In collaboration with

**Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board**

Under the aegis of

**Chaudhry Ranbir Singh Institute of Social & Economic Change**

**Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak, Haryana**

(A State University established under Haryana Act No. XXV of 1975)  
(‘A+’ Grade University Accredited by NAAC)

## **Concept Note:**

The One-Day National Seminar aims to explore the multi-faceted dimensions of the Sarasvati River, delving into its Cultural significance, geographical dimensions, and untapped tourism potential. Sarasvati, revered in ancient Indian scriptures as a sacred river, has been a subject of scholarly debate, and cultural significance.

The Cultural perspective of Sarasvati River traces its roots in ancient Hindu scriptures, where it is revered as the goddess of knowledge, music, and art. The seminar will unravel the intricate narratives surrounding Sarasvati, examining the various mentions in Vedic texts, Puranas, and epics, and how these cultural threads have woven into the cultural tapestry of the Indian subcontinent.

In addition to its cultural importance, the seminar will delve into the geographical dimensions of the Sarasvati River. While the river itself is believed to be lost to the sands of time, scholars and researchers have attempted to trace its course through geological studies, satellite imagery, and archaeological findings. The seminar will provide a platform for experts to present and discuss their research findings, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the river's cultural and geographical significance.

Furthermore, the seminar will explore the untapped tourism potential associated with Sarasvati River. The region believed to have been traversed by Sarasvati holds archaeological treasures, cultural sites, and natural landscapes that could be developed into tourism hubs. By bringing together scholars, archaeologists, geographers, and tourism experts, the seminar aims to identify opportunities for sustainable tourism development, preserving the cultural heritage while boosting local economies.

The One-Day National Seminar on "Sarasvati River: Cultural Perspective, Geographical Dimensions, and Tourism Potential" seeks to provide a holistic platform for interdisciplinary discussions, fostering a deeper understanding of the river's diverse facets. The event will encourage collaboration among scholars, researchers, and practitioners, paving the way for future studies and initiatives that contribute to the preservation and promotion of the rich cultural and geographical heritage associated with Sarasvati River.



### **Maharshi Dayanand University:**

Maharshi Dayanand University, established in 1976, is a leading university of the state of Haryana. Accredited with 'A+' grade by NAAC in March 2019, the university has been placed at 96<sup>th</sup> rank amongst Indian Universities in the NIRF survey 2023 conducted by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, notably, the university is 1<sup>st</sup> among the state universities of Haryana in this NIRF survey. The university, established with the objective of promoting inter-disciplinary higher education and research with special emphasis on studies of Environment. Ecological and Life Science, is making rapid progress in all spheres. It has an excellent track record in academics, research, literary and cultural activities, games and sports as well as social outreach.

The University has 41 Post-Graduate Departments (UTDs), 10 faculties and one off-campus centre-MDU Centre for Professional & Allied Studies in Gurugram, Its Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) is providing quality education to the students with various undergraduate and post-graduate programs. Besides, excellent standards of teaching and research, well qualified faculty members, effective administrative and responsive set-up, pulsating campus life and key national and international linkages, the university enjoys reputation for timely holding of examinations and time-bound declaration of results, and offers ample avenues for holistic development of the personality of students. Its community-service approach, special emphasis on providing opportunities for students coming from rural background, girl students, and students from marginalized sections of the society, and e-linked delivery centric administrative set-up makes M.D.University, a university with difference. Owing to its overall excellence, global outlook and deep commitment towards social and community causes, MDU is set to emerge as an academic centre of excellence attracting students from all over the country and the world.

To know more about the university please visit: [www.mdu.ac.in](http://www.mdu.ac.in)

### **Chaudhry Ranbir Singh Institute of Social & Economic Change:**

Chaudhry Ranbir Singh Institute of Social and Economic Change is a constituent establishment of the Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. It is an independent advanced research centre to carryout basic grass-root level research on the socio- economic issues specific to the State of Haryana and also those confronting the country as a whole. In the process of undertaking its defined research activities, aims at providing useful inputs for policy formulations and their execution, besides acting as a nucleus of training programmes for Government, Non-Government, NGO officials and other manpower. The Institute carry out quality research and evaluation studies, including field based research studies, on priority themes such as education, health, gender, adolescents, child labour, declining sex ratio, aging and old age problems, women's empowerment, poverty issues, problems of dalits, social exclusion, environment and rural development, life, work and philosophy of social thinkers, reformers, and educationists, including those in whose names research chairs have been instituted by the university.

Institute identifies the training needs of the lower and the middle level personnel working at the district-level Panchayati Raj Institutions and those working in the various other development departments of the State. The institute designs need- based training modules for them, and execute the same strictly as per user requirements. It is proposed to impart certificate / diploma / degree courses on issues related to socio-economic change and human development.

Institute serves as an effective forum for interaction among eminent scholars drawn as visiting faculty and/ or as scholars-in-residence and adjunct faculties programmes for carrying out specific-purpose project-based research and to deliver lectures, conduct research, and promote extension activities. It organizes and holds seminars and symposia, conferences, workshops, and extension lectures in areas of larger social, cultural and economic concerns with a view to generate ideas for bringing about desirable social change compatible with fast changing socio-economic scenario at both local as well as national levels.

Visit the institute online at: <https://mdu.ac.in/Department/DepartmentHome.aspx?Dept=148>

### **Institute of Hotel & Tourism Management (IHTM):**

Institute of Hotel & Tourism Management (IHTM) is an integral part of M.D. University Rohtak. IHTM is an AICTE approved institute and proudly stands in the listing of schools of World Directory of Tourism Education (World Tourism Directory). The institute formally came into existence on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in Faculty of Management Sciences, M. D. University, Rohtak. The young & multi- disciplinary faculty of the institute is dedicated to transform it into learning centre par excellence at the national as well as at international level. The institute has quality infrastructure and latest learning resources supplemented by electronic equipment and a rich library. This all provides a fertile ground for teaching-learning environment and the students at the national level strives to seek admission in this institute as their first choice. The institute is recipient of a prestigious grant of Rs. Two crores under Central Financial Assistance Scheme from Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. IHTM is a perfect place to learn, work, play, relax to live and grow to the full potential to herald the future today. Visit the institute online at: <https://www.mdu.ac.in/Department/DepartmentHome.aspx?Dept=39>

### **Department of History & Archaeology**

The Department of History was established in the year 1978 as a pioneer department of Faculty of Social Sciences and the multi-faculty University. The department is composed of four specialized fields of History viz. Archaeology, Ancient Indian History, Medieval Indian History and Modern Indian History. The department of History envisions promoting quality education and research through interdisciplinary understanding, state-of-the-art learning, and the use of emerging knowledge for developing world-class human resources capable of mastering the global challenges of future. The department seeks to create, preserve and disseminate knowledge to build competitive capability for holistic development of man and society. It is our earnest desire and deep commitment to provide the best education to our students. We not only facilitate our students in enhancing their knowledge of the specialization of their choice, but also in fostering other important attributes of a civilized human society.

Visit us online at: <https://mdu.ac.in/Department/DepartmentHome.aspx?Dept=23>

## **Department of Geography**

The Department of Geography came into existence in 1983 with a vision to become a leading center of teaching, learning, and research on the interface between physical and human domains. A distinct identity for the department is its interdisciplinary nature with an emphasis on spatial thinking. The department is multifaceted and has diverse fields ranging from geosciences, and GIS, to social and cultural geography. The broad academic backgrounds of the faculty and the spatial thinking approach make the department easy to connect with many other disciplines in collaborative endeavors. The vision of the department is to lead the interdisciplinary investigation of many critical social and natural challenges and problems tied to regional, landscape, and environmental changes through a spatiotemporal lens. We emphasize geospatial concepts and lead the development of geography, and GIS programs to attract outstanding graduate and research students and faculty. Our faculty's research focuses on GIS, earth-environment interactions, human dimensions of climate change, and spatial analysis of social issues. These four clusters emphasize the importance of space, place, humans, and the environment in addressing important research issues across natural and social sciences. The overarching goal of our programs is to train the next generation of students to serve society and be critical spatial thinkers, using geographic theories and approaches to tackle some of the most challenging problems and questions facing the discipline and society.

Visit us online at: <https://mdu.ac.in/Department/DepartmentHome.aspx?Dept=21>

### **Distinguished Speakers:**

- **Prof. Bhagwan Singh Chaudhary**- Department of Geophysics, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.
- **Prof. Manjula Chaudhary**-Department of Tourism & Hotel Management, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra & Former Director-IITTM, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.
- **Prof. Manmohan**- Professor (Retd.) Department of History, M.D University – Rohtak.
- **Prof. A R Chaudhary**- Department of Geology, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.
- **Prof. Syed Inayet Ali Zaidi**- Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

**CHIEF PATRON**

**Prof. Rajbir Singh**

(Vice-Chancellor, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak)

**CHIEF GUEST**

Sh. Dhuman Singh Kirmach

(Deputy Chairman, Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board)

**CONVENER OF THE SEMINAR**

**Prof. Sonia Malik:** Director, Chaudhry Ranbir Singh Inst. of Social & Economic Change

**SEMINAR DIRECTORS**

**Prof. Ashish Dahiya:** Director, Institute of Hotel & Tourism Management

**Prof. Mehtab Singh:** Head, Department of Geography

**Prof. Jaiveer Singh Dhankhar:** Head, Department of History & Archaeology

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**OFFICE SUPPORT**

Sh. Sajan Aggarwal, Sh. Satish Kumar, Sh. Ram Kumar

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