

Invitation and Call for Papers

Two-Day National Seminar on

Crises in Bangladesh: Problems and Challenges for India

24-25 February 2025



**School of Humanities & Social Sciences
Central University of Haryana
Mahendergarh-123029**

About the Seminar.

On August' 24, when India was celebrating its 78th Independence Day, a coup was taking place in our neighbouring country, Bangladesh, with which India shares the longest land border. The recent coup in Bangladesh is a big development that will have long-term consequences for the country and its neighbours.

The partition of British India in 1947 sparked cultural, linguistic, political, and economic problems, culminating in the establishment of Bangladesh in 1971. Pakistan was formed after British India was partitioned. It has a Muslim majority and two physically and culturally distinct territories: West Pakistan (present-day Pakistan) and East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh). These territories were separated by 1,600 kilometres of Indian territory. Despite its bigger population, East Pakistan was exposed to institutionalised bias. The imposition of Urdu as the national language in the 1950s triggered the linguistic uprising, despite the fact that Bengali was the primary language spoken by the majority of East Pakistanis. While West Pakistan's elites dominated the military and bureaucracy, excluding Bengali politicians, East Pakistan's economy gained immensely from jute exports but received nothing in terms of infrastructure or development.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League became the voice of East Pakistani complaints, utilising the Six-Point Program in its quest for autonomy. Following a landslide victory in the 1970 general elections, the Awami League earned a majority in Pakistan's national assembly. However, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Yahya Khan's West Pakistani leadership prevented the Awami League from forming a government. Tensions rose as a result of the political standstill, and on March 25, 1971, the violent military operation known as Operation Searchlight began. The operation that targeted Dhaka and other regions of East Pakistan resulted in mass deaths, rapes, and massive damage.

On March 26, 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence, and the Mukti Bahini, or Liberation Army, launched a guerilla campaign against the Pakistani forces.

India, led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, played an important role in Bangladesh's independence. As a result of the crackdown in East Pakistan, about 10 million Bengali migrants fled to India, putting a strain on the country's resources. In response, India called attention to the humanitarian crisis and offered the Mukti Bahini military and humanitarian assistance. India promptly entered the battle on December 3, 1971, when Pakistan launched preemptive bombings on Indian airbases. The Mukti Bahini and the Indian military planned a fast assault that culminated on December 16, 1971, with the surrender of Pakistani soldiers in Dhaka. This success altered South Asian geopolitics while also creating and recognised Bangladesh as an independent country.

India had a number of roles in Bangladesh's independence, including diplomatic efforts to legitimise the new country, military intervention, and humanitarian help. India's participation served two purposes: reducing Pakistan's influence in the region and fulfilling a moral commitment to put an end to atrocities. The founding of Bangladesh demonstrates the people's persistence and India's significant help throughout one of the most turbulent periods in South Asian history.

Bangladesh's political crisis began in mid-July 2024 due to student-led protests over employment quotas. The Supreme Court's decision to reinstate job quotas for specific categories, including 30% for descendants of soldiers from the 1971 liberation struggle, sparked the current unrest. This discontent quickly grew into broader anti-government protests, which addressed more serious issues like as human rights violations, corruption, and economic hardship. After weeks of deadly rioting that killed over 300 people, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had been in office for 15 years, resigned and flew to India. India's support for Hasina has sparked concern among its Western friends, particularly the United States, which has condemned her anti-democratic acts. India faces

problems in maintaining positive relations with foreign countries while supporting an unpopular leader.

India's strategic objectives will be heavily influenced by the ideological makeup of the future administration, whether it is led by the military or opposition parties. The Indian High Commissioner's attendance at the swearing-in ceremony demonstrated India's ongoing support for Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus.

Religious extremism in Bangladesh has been fuelled by a combination of political instability, social disparity, and radical groups strategically using disruption as an opportunity. The mid-2024 student-led rallies, which were initially focused on democratic changes, accidentally created a power vacuum that gave radical organisations more clout. By framing the campaign in religious terms and exploiting communal tensions, these organisations incited violence against minorities, particularly Hindus. Concerns about increasing radicalism were heightened by the arrest of Hindu leaders, including Chinmoy Krishna Das, who was affiliated with ISKCON, as well as targeted attacks on Hindu organisations. Hefazat-e-Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami are two religious organisations that have publicly questioned Bangladesh's secular legal system, calling for a revolution and the establishment of an Islamic State regulated by Sharia law. Given their common history and culture, India has expressed deep worry over these tendencies and asked the Bangladeshi government to respect minorities' rights and encourage intercommunal harmony. India's suspension of visa services and recall of citizens owing to safety concerns, which has exacerbated tensions, reflect a deteriorated bilateral relationship and a cautious approach to avoiding direct intervention in Bangladesh's internal affairs. The upheaval in Bangladesh coincides with India's ongoing challenges, which include the Maldives' recent diplomatic disagreement with

India, tensions with Pakistan, insecurity in Myanmar, strained relations with Nepal, and the Taliban's assumption of power in Afghanistan. Because of concerns about insurgency in its northeastern borders, India sees its relationship with Bangladesh through two lenses: national security and connectivity, which encompasses both physical infrastructure and energy linkages. If Islamist militancy grows, the Hindu minority may be at greater risk. To avoid conflicts in the region, India must carefully manage its citizenship offers to Hindu immigrants.

Last but not least, Dhaka regards PM Modi's demand for the safety of Bangladesh's Hindus and minorities, as well as the formation of a committee to ensure their safety, as politicised, which may exacerbate tensions. A five-member team led by a senior Border Security Force (BSF) official was formed to monitor ongoing developments.

Theme of the Seminar

The Department of Political Science considers this issue on utmost level. For this, a seminar is organised to investigate how these social, cultural, religious, linguistic, minority and other problems are incorporated. The proposed seminar will focus on exploring various dimensions that can be applied to address the challenges of South Asian unrest and disharmony.

1. Extremism and Violence in Bangladesh
2. Instability and the Humanitarian Challenges
3. Economic Implication and Unrest in Bangladesh
4. Minority and Gender Rights
5. The Challenges to Human Rights

6. Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Bangladesh
 7. Bangladesh Crisis and Challenges for India
- Any other topic relevant to the theme

Outcome of the Seminar:

The organizers plan to publish the proceedings of the conference in the form of a book with ISBN. As such, all presenters will have to submit one hard copy of the presented paper at the time of registration. There is also the provision of publishing an Abstract Volume which will be provided in the Conference Kit. Proceedings and recommendations will be submitted to the concerned ministries, and government of India for further consideration and action.

Important dates:

Deadline for Submission of Abstract (300 words):	10 th February 2025
Communication of Acceptance:	12 th February 2025
Communication of Payment Link:	12 th February 2025
Full Papers to be Submitted by:	18 th February 2025
Conference Presentation:	24 th -25 th February 2025

Registration Fee:

Faculty/Academic Staff -	1200/
Research Scholars -	1000/
PG Students & Participants-	300/
CUH Research Scholar -	500/

Interested participants are requested to send their abstract and full paper to email: cuhschoolofhumanities@gmail.com

Guidelines for Submission for the abstract and full paper:

The guidelines for submission of abstracts and full papers are as follows.

Abstract:

The abstract should not exceed 300 words. It should include title of the abstract, keywords, the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, mailing address, contact number, and E-mail ID.

Full Paper:

- The length of the full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 6000 to 6,500 words.
- The full paper should be in English and typed in MS Word in Times New Roman with font size 12 and 1.5 space.
- Bibliographical references should be arranged alphabetically and given at the end of the text in the APA 2021 format.
- The full version of the paper should be sent latest by **18th February 2025** to cuhschoolofhumanities@gmail.com
- A committee will review the abstracts and full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection, and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. The selected papers will be published through a reputed publisher with ISBN NO.

For any Query-Email: cuhschoolofhumanities@gmail.com

Convenor

Organizing Secretary