

**The India Habitat Centre, Max Mueller Bhavan and Zubaan are pleased to invite you to the ninth programme in their series
Partition: *The Long Shadow***

Making sense of history: A Panel Discussion on Psychiatry and the Partition of 1947

Venue: Casurina, India Habitat Centre, Saturday 28 June 2008, 6.30 pm

Speakers: Dr Sanjeev Jain, Psychiatrist, NIMHANS, Bangalore, Dr Indivar Kamtekar, Historian, Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi, Sanjeev Saith, Photographer, Delhi, Dr Alok Sarin, Psychiatrist, Sitaram Bhartia Hospital, New Delhi.

There have, over the past few years, been a number of joint medical initiatives between India and Pakistan. These have involved mainly conferences and joint teaching programmes. Psychiatry has been a medical specialty in the forefront of such initiative. What has been intriguing however has been the fact that all these conferences and workshops have been virtual blueprints of other programmes conducted the world over. This would be fine in any other context, but when it comes to India and Pakistan, this is intriguing. These are two countries, split from one whole, which have only half a century ago witnessed the largest, most traumatic transmigration of populations in the history of humankind, and which have, in many ways still to come to terms with their shared and troubled past. The two countries have a deeply ambivalent, conflicted history, with extreme warmth at one level and an equal distrusting antagonism at another. For many Indians, like myself, whose parents came from what is now Pakistan, this ambivalence has been a way of life. Medical psychiatry, with its focus on syndromes, diagnoses and psychopharmacology, has, in many ways, overlooked the huge impact of partition and its sequel. It has in fact been left to history, sociology, literature and the arts, to attempt to address these issues. Psychiatry, with its medical roots has been conspicuously silent on this issue. With the opening of many sub-continental dialogues, the time may be good to begin the process of looking at these issues. This attempt can only be the beginning of a process, and it would be interesting to see where this journey takes us.