



A talk on the

## **The Significance of the Holocaust for India**

By:

**Dr. Navras Jaat Aafreedi**

Assistant Professor of History, Presidency University  
Kolkata

### About the Speaker:

**Dr. Navras Jaat Aafreedi** is an Indo-Judaic Studies Scholar working as Assistant Professor of History at Presidency University, Kolkata. He is the author of *Jews, Judaizing Movements and the Traditions of Israelite Descent in South Asia* (2016) and numerous other publications, several of which have been translated into German, Spanish, French, Russian and Turkish. He has held visiting fellowships at the University of Sydney and the Institute of Asian Studies in Australia; Woolf Institute, Cambridge, UK; Tel Aviv University, Israel; and the Centre for Communication & Development Studies, Pune, India, and his lectures have been well received in Australia, Austria, India, Israel, Switzerland, UK and USA. He sits on the editorial boards of the peer reviewed journals *Journal of Indo-Judaic Studies* and *The Social Ion*, on the international advisory board of the *Asian Jewish Life* and the Jerusalem Press Club, and is referee to the *Journal of Studies in History & Culture* and the *Journal of South Asian Studies*. He has to his credit the first ever Holocaust Films Retrospective in South Asia, which he held in 2009 at the universities in Lucknow (India), a major centre of Muslim scholarship and the first ever Hindi language Holocaust themed play, *Sipahi* (Soldier) which he inspired his students to write and enact in January 2015 at Gautam Buddha University where he used to teach before he joined Presidency University this year. He held a series of Holocaust film screenings at Gautam Buddha University and has just introduced an undergraduate course at Presidency University focused on the Holocaust, perhaps the only such course in South Asia. In May this year he co-convoked an international multidisciplinary conference on Mass Violence and Memory at Jindal Global University. It was the first ever conference aimed at generating Indian scholarly interest in the Holocaust. Dr. Aafreedi is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar on Holocaust and Genocide Education and was a delegate at the Australia India Youth Dialogue in 2014. Participated in panel discussions on Holocaust education at conferences at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, and the Global Forum of the American Jewish Committee.

Dr. Aafreedi in his lecture will point out the significance of the Holocaust for India, a country not affected by it directly. He will also explain why India needs Holocaust education, while pointing out the implications of the absence of Holocaust Studies in India, and how it can be introduced in the country both at the secondary and the tertiary level. Besides this he will also briefly discuss India's response to the Holocaust and India's historical connections with the colossal tragedy.