
EDITORIAL FOREWORD



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Date-19-09-2026

"All history is contemporary history." --- Benedetto Croce

It gives me immense pleasure and profound scholarly satisfaction to welcome the inaugural volume of the *Indian History Journal*. The publication of this journal marks a significant addition to the landscape of historical scholarship, offering an intellectual forum for rigorous engagement with the past and its diverse interpretations.

History is not merely the reconstruction of bygone events; it is an evolving dialogue between evidence, memory, historical consciousness, and the questions posed by successive generations. In this spirit, the journal seeks to promote rigorous scholarship, critical historiographical reflection, methodological diversity, and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the past.

I hope its pages will stimulate fresh enquiries, enrich historiographical debates, and encourage meaningful scholarship across periods, regions, and themes. I extend my warmest congratulations to the editorial team and contributors and wish the Indian History Journal, a distinguished and enduring academic journey.

Dr. Tabish Hashmi

Professor & Head

Department of History

Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India

Member, Editorial Board of the Indian History Journal

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A New Dawn

Study of history is one of the most underrated, unappreciated and overlooked aspects in academia, particularly in our part of the world. Serious history scholarship is, almost, a thing of past. This is notwithstanding the fact that history in India is not just a record of dead events; it is rather a living, contested field that helps shape contemporary identity, enlivens politics, and defines social relations. Given South Asia's ancient, multi-layered civilizational exchanges, and a very contested past, how the present is understood and navigated has a lot to do with how we perceive our past.

Comprehending history within the Indian background—and realising why a completely new academic platform is needed in the changing academic atmosphere, needs understanding a few critical aspects. First and foremost is the fact that India's historical trajectory is influenced, to a large extent, by longstanding indigenous traditions, Turkish rule as well as numerous cycles of migrations including central Asian migrations, coastal trade that created an all new identity beyond dogmatic religion and of course the later identity politics mainly based on religion and belief. How Arabs and Zamorin rulers of Malabar co-operated, for hundreds of years, above and beyond religious beliefs is a case in point.

Another very important aspect is the fact that historical consciousness can serve as a bulwark against pseudo-history as well as political manipulation of the history. In many societies where history is mixed with myth, rigorous empirical history becomes important to differentiate factual continuity from ideological inventions.

I am sure that the *Indian History Journal* would be able to play an important role by improving the understanding of history and by bridge-building between primary archives and modern discourses as well as analytical methods. It would be able to help improve the Indian historical study beyond old polemical debates and improve understanding through a nuanced and evidence-driven understanding of the South Asia's past.

Syed Ubaidur Rahman

Director, Centre for History and Heritage, New Delhi
Member, Editorial Board of the Indian History Journal

CHIEF EDITOR



On this occasion, I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the ***Indian History Journal, Volume 1, Issue No. 1, 2026***. This Journal's launch is a significant initiative towards the development of a focused academic forum for scholars, researchers, teachers and students to discuss the multidimensional aspects of Indian history.

The Indian History Journal seeks to stimulate original research, critical thinking and purposeful scholarly debate about the history of India and its institutions, societies and traditions. The journal aims to advance the understanding of the Indian past in a rigorous manner and from an interdisciplinary viewpoint.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the authors, reviewers, members of the editorial board, and all who have helped this academic effort. I hope this first issue will give young scholars, historians, and people of India a thrust to continue research, discussion and collaboration on Indian history.

Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Dar

Assistant Professor, Guru Kashi University, Punjab

Editor -in- Chief (First Issue) of Indian History Journal

Member, Editorial Board of the Indian History Journal

MANAGING EDITOR

Behind every issue of a journal lies a story that readers rarely see, the story of its making.

For this inaugural issue, we received a wide and encouraging response from historians, researchers, and scholars across the country and beyond. Abstracts poured in from established academics and first-time contributors alike, covering an impressive range of periods, regions, and methodologies — from ancient epigraphy to postcolonial memory, from regional oral histories to reinterpretations of well-trodden archives.

Each submission was read closely, discussed, and evaluated through a rigorous peer-review process. Our reviewers gave generously of their time and expertise, offering critical feedback that sharpened arguments, tightened evidence, and, in many cases, transformed promising drafts into publishable scholarship. This process was neither quick nor easy — but it was necessary, and it is the foundation on which this journal's credibility will rest.

Of the submissions we received, eighteen papers made it through to final publication in this issue. Each represents not just a piece of research, but months of dialogue between author and reviewer, of revision and refinement. I am deeply grateful to every contributor for their patience through this process, and to every reviewer for their care.

To our readers: what you hold is the result of many hands and many rounds of scrutiny. I hope it reflects the standard of scholarship we intend to uphold in every issue to come.

Nazreen

Managing Editor of Indian History Journal
PhD Candidate at Department of History and Culture
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

“Historiography is the discipline of doubting well, meaning the practice of holding a narrative accountable to the evidence it claims to rest upon.”

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of purpose that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of the *Indian History Journal*. This publication is born from a simple but urgent conviction: that the vast, layered, and often contested story of the Indian subcontinent deserves a dedicated space for rigorous scholarship, fresh perspectives, and open inquiry.

India’s past is not a single narrative but a confluence of many — empires and villages, faiths and philosophies, resistances and reconciliations, spanning millennia and defying easy summary. As custodians of this history, historians carry the responsibility not merely to record events, but to interrogate sources, question inherited assumptions, and illuminate voices that have too often been pushed to the margins — those of women, of marginalized communities, of regional and vernacular traditions that mainstream narratives have overlooked.

This journal aims to be a home for exactly that kind of work. In the pages that follow, and in every issue to come, we hope to bring together established historians and emerging scholars alike, encouraging dialogue across methodologies, regions, and eras. We are committed to scholarly rigor without losing sight of accessibility, to specialization without losing sight of the larger conversations that connect one era of India’s history to another.

I want to thank the scholars who have entrusted us with their work in this founding issue, the peer reviewers whose careful scrutiny has strengthened every contribution, and the editorial team whose labor has turned an idea into a tangible publication. Above all, I thank you, the reader, for joining us at this beginning.

History, as they say, is written by those who choose to remember. It is our hope that this journal becomes a small but meaningful part of that act of remembering — honest, plural, and enduring.

Mohammad Salman

Executive Editor of Indian History Journal