



ICSSR, ICHR & KCHR SPONSORED

4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE KOLKATA (SHSK)

Organized By

THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT

REFLECTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY IN INDIA



17,18,19 September 2026



EMS Seminar Complex



**Annual Conference
Society for the History of Science Kolkata (SHSK)**

**Organized by
The Department of History
University of Calicut, Kerala**

With the generous financial support of the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR), 17-19 September 2026

EMS Seminar Complex, University of Calicut, Kerala

Day One: 17 September

Inaugural Session (10:30-11:30 AM)

Venue: EMS Seminar Complex Main Hall

- Welcome Address** : **Dr. Satheesh Palanki**,
Assistant Professor, Department of History,
University of Calicut, and Convenor of the Conference
- Chair** : **Dr. M.R Manmathan**,
Associate Professor & HoD,
Department of History, University of Calicut
- Address by
the Secretary, SHSK** : **Prof. Sahara Ahmed**,
Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University,
Kolkata
- Inaugural Address** : **Prof. (Dr.) P Raveendran**,
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Calicut
- Key Note Address** : **Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan**,
Professor of Environmental Studies & History,
Chair (Hon.), Ashoka Archives of Contemporary
India, Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana
- Vote of Thanks** : **Dr. Suvabrata Sarkar**,
Assistant Professor, Department of History,
Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata; and
Treasurer, SHSK





Invited Lecture (11:30 AM - 12:15 PM)
Venue: EMS Seminar Complex Main Hall

- Chair** : **Prof. Smritikumar Sarkar**,
Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Burdwan;
Member, Governing Council, ICHR; Member,
National Commission for History of Science, INSA;
and Executive Committee Member, SHSK
- Speaker** : **Prof. Rohan D'Souza**,
Graduate School of Asian & African Studies,
Kyoto University, Japan

Tea Break (12:15 PM - 12:30 PM)

First Technical Session (12:30 PM -01:30 PM)
Venue : Main Hall

- Welcome** : **Mr.Sadique Ali KT**,
Assistant Professor, Department of History,
University of Calicut
- Chair** : **Dr. Vineeth R**,
Assistant Professor, Department of History,
University of Calicut
- Speaker 1** : **Amol Saghar**,
Independent Historian & Writer
- Topic** : **Kings, Creatures, and Cosmologies:**
Human-Animal Entanglements in Precolonial
Tamil Politics, 5th to 13th centuries, CE
- Speaker 2** : **Suresh J**,
Professor of History, University College,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Topic** : **Backwaters as Historical Hydrosopes:**
Human Nature Interactions in Kerala's Lagoon Systems
- Speaker 3** : **Karthik P Nair**,
PhD Research Scholar, Kerala University
- Topic** : **Sacred Groves to Concrete Temples:**
Taravad Decline, Land Reforms,
and the Environmental Unravelling of
Kerala's Kavus (1930s-1980s)





Lunch Break (01:30 PM - 02:30 PM)

Second Technical Session (02:30 PM - 03:30 PM)

Venue : Main Hall

- Chair** : **Prof. M P Mujeebu Rehiman,**
Professor, Department of History, University of Calicut
- Speaker 4** : **Anup Sharma,**
Doctoral Fellow, IIT Gandhinagar
- Topic** : **Colonial Landscapes and Scientific Knowledge:**
Rethinking Sikkim's Place in the Environmental
History of Evolution
- Speaker 5** : **Preet Choudhary,**
Research Scholar, Centre for Studies in Science Policy,
SSS, JNU, New Delhi
- Topic** : **The Bull of Empire:**
A Socio-Environmental History of Animal
Breeding Science in Colonial India
- Speaker 6** : **Rohini Panicker,**
PhD Scholar, Department of International Studies,
Political Science, and History, CHRIST University,
Bangalore
- Topic** : **Gender, Empire, and the Game:**
British Women's Participation in Colonial
Hunting Culture

Third Technical Session (03:30 PM-04:30 PM)

Venue : Main Hall

- Chair** : **Dr. Jagdish N Sinha,**
Formerly of the Department of History,
Rajdhani College (University of Delhi);
Member, National Commission for
History of Science, INSA; and Executive
Committee Member, SHSK





- Speaker 7** : **Shivangi Maindola**,
Research Scholar, Department of History,
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow
- Topic** : **Hybridizing the Woods:**
Scientific Forestry, Knowledge, Exchange,
and the Legacy of the FRI
- Speaker 8** : **Mili Saha Podder**,
Independent Scholar
- Topic** : **Eco-materialism and ecological diversification
from the viewpoint of economic geology:**
An assessment through the lens of Pramatha
Nath Bose and the foundation of TISCO, 1900-1947)
- Speaker 9** : **Arunima Ghosh**,
Faculty, Department of History, Gour Mahavidyalaya,
Malda, West Bengal (The migration of people in Malda,
caused by the Ganges-bank erosion)
- Topic** : **The migration of people in Malda, caused by
the Ganges-bank erosion**

Executive Committee Meeting of the Society (05:00 PM -06:00 PM)

07.30 PM - 09.30 PM

Cultural Program:

Theyyam:

Ritual Performing Art of Kerala





Day Two: 18 September

Venue : EMS Seminar Complex Side Hall

Special Session

**Ecologies of the Backwaters:
Perspectives on the Environmental History of Kerala**

Chair : Prof. K S Madhavan,
Professor, Department of History, University of Calicut

Speaker 1 : Prof. Justin Mathew,
Department of History, Hansraj College,
University of Delhi

**Topic : Towards an Urban Environmental
History of Kerala**

Speaker 2 : Dr. Sebastian Joseph,
Associate Professor, Tropical Institute of Ecological
Studies, Kottayam, Kerala

**Topic : A Pass for Cochin Express and the Erasure
of Ecological Memory**

Speaker 3 : Dr. Shumais U,
Assistant Professor, Department of History,
Farook College, Calicut, Kerala

Topic : Beyond Climate Change:
Colonial Plantation Capitalism and the Genesis of
Landslide in Wayanad

Fourth Technical Session (11:15AM-12:15PM)

Venue : Main Hall, EMS Seminar Complex

Chair : Prof. Rohan D'Souza,
Graduate School of Asian & African Studies,
Kyoto University, Japan





- Speaker 10** : **Anirban Bandopadhyay**, Associate Professor of History, KISS University, Bhubaneswar Jointly with **Gautam Kumar Bhagat**, Research Assistant, INSA
- Topic** : **Not a Straight Line:**
Energy Regimes and the Evolution of Motive Power in Calcutta's Tramways
- Speaker 11** : **Agney Sai C**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Govinda Pai Memorial Government College, Manjeshwar, Kerala
- Topic** : **Materiality and Memory:**
Assessing Ecological Agency in the Longue Durée of Kerala
- Speaker 12** : **Rajeshwari Roy**, Guest Faculty, Department of Environmental Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata; and Research Associate, SHSK
- Topic** : **Necro-Ornithology and the Colonial Archive in British India (1860-1885)**

Tea Break (12:15 PM - 12:30 PM)

Fifth Technical Session (12:30 PM - 01:30 PM)

Venue : Main Hall, EMS Seminar Complex

- Chair** : **Dr. V V Haridas**, Professor, Department of History, University of Calicut
- Speaker 13** : **Aditya Ramesh**, Assistant Professor of History and Sustainability Studies, Nayanta University, Pune
- Topic** : **Agrarian pasts and environmental futures:**
genealogies of the Green Revolution to salt and energy in postcolonial South India
- Speaker 14** : **Srinivasa Rao Yenda**, Associate Professor, Department of History, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu
- Topic** : **Colonial State, Firewood Conservation, Plantation and Seigniorage and Development in Madras Presidency, 1860-1930**





- Speaker 15** : **Nirmala Shah**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women (University of Delhi), New Delhi
- Topic** : **Environment and Segregation in Colonial Delhi**

Lunch Break (01:30-02:30PM)

Sixth Technical Session (12:30 PM -01:30 PM)
Venue : EMS Seminar Complex Main Hall

- Chair** : **Prof Ishrat Alam**, Former Professor of History, Aligarh Muslim University; Member, National Commission for History of Science, INSA; Executive Committee Member, SHSK
- Speaker 16** : **Tirthankar Ghosh**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal
- Topic** : **Disaster and Governance:**
Investigating Colonial Seismology, Politics of Relief, and Urban Planning in the aftermath of the Quetta Earthquake, 1935
- Speaker 17** : **Pradeepkumar S**, Assistant Professor of English, Department of Education, Social Science and Humanities, Regional Institute of Education (NCERT), Mysuru Jointly with Vivekananda A, Guest Faculty in English, Government First Grade College, Channapattana
- Topic** : **Human-Nature Symbiosis:**
An Eco-critical Reading of K.P. Purnachandra Tejaswi's Carvalho and the Story of My Environment
- Speaker 18** : **Sumisha P**, Doctoral Candidate, Department of History, University of Calicut
- Topic** : **Monsoon, Drought and Disease:**
Reframing Cholera through the Hydrologic Environment in Colonial Malabar





Speaker 19

: **Sunayana Dutta**, Doctoral Candidate, Department of History, University of Hyderabad

Topic

: **Mapping Landscape, Environment and Diseases in John M'Cosh's Topography of Assam**

Round Table Discussion (03:30-04:30PM)

Venue : Side Hall, EMS Seminar Complex

Panel Discussion

*Trajectories of environmental history in South Asia and Latin America:
A comparative analysis (Hybrid Mode)*

Moderator

: **Prof. Rohan D'Souza**, Graduate School of Asian & African Studies, Kyoto University, Japan

Panelists

: **Prof. Claudia Leal**, Department of History, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia; and President of the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO)

Prof. Arun Bandopadhyay, Former Nurul Hasan Chair Professor of History, and Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Calcutta, and Vice-President, SHSK

Dr. Lise Sedrez, Associate Professor, Department of History, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Prof. Sajal Nag, Distinguished Professor in History, The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati; Former Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Chair Professor of Social Sciences, Presidency University, Kolkata; Former Professor of History and Dean, School of Social Sciences, Assam University, Silchar

Tea Break (04:30 PM)





6.30 PM-9.00 PM

Cultural Programme : 1. Kerala Natanam Dance Program
(Ms. Arya Krishna Aneesh and Team)

2. Kolkkali (Folk Art)

Day Three: 19 September
Invited Lecture Two (10:30 AM -11:15AM)
Venue : EMS Seminar Complex Main Hall

Chair : **Prof. Arun Bandopadhyay**, Former Nurul Hasan
Chair Professor of History, and Former Dean,
Faculty of Arts, University of Calcutta, and
Vice-President, SHSK

Speaker : **Prof. Rajib Handique**, Professor in History &
Academic Registrar, Former Dean, Faculty of Arts,
Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam;
Rotary International Peace Scholar

Invited Lecture Three (11:15 AM-12:00 PM)

Venue : EMS Seminar Complex Main Hall

Chair : **Prof. Smritikumar Sarkar**, Former Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Burdwan; Member, Governing
Council, ICHR; Member, National Commission for
History of Science, INSA; and Executive Committee
Member, SHSK

Speaker : **Prof. Prem Prakash Solanki**, Department of
Chemistry, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu
University, Varanasi





General Body Meeting of the Society (12:30 PM -01:30 PM)

Lunch Break (01:30 PM - 02:30 PM)

Valedictory Session (02:30 PM -03:30 PM)

Venue : EMS Seminar Complex Main Hall

Welcome Address : Dr. Ashitha M, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Calicut

Chair : Dr Sivadasan P, Senior Professor, Department of History, University of Calicut

Announcement of the result of the S.P. Banerjee Memorial Prize for the History of Engineering & Technology – Ms. Nivedita Banerjee will present the endowment award to the winner

Inauguration : Prof. (Dr.) C D Sebastian, Registrar, University of Calicut

Valedictory Address : Dr. John Bosco Lourdusamy, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Madras.

Conference Rapporteur : Ms. Maria Vincent, PhD Scholar, Department of History, University of Calicut.

Vote of Thanks : Dr. Satheesh Palanki, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Calicut, and Convenor of the Conference



