




**University Faculty Details Page on DU Web-site**

Title	<b>Prof./Dr./Mr ./Ms. Prof.</b>	First Name	<b>Upinder</b>	Last Name	<b>Singh</b>	
Designation	<b>Professor and Head</b>					
Department	<b>History</b>					
Address (Campus)	<b>Dept. of History, Faculty of Social Sciences, Delhi University, Delhi 110007</b>					
(Residence)	<b>B-1, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University</b>					
Phone No (Campus)	<b>27666659</b>					
(Residence)optional	<b>27667356</b>					
Mobile						
Fax						
Email	<b>upinders@gmail.com</b>					
Web-Page						
<b>Education</b>						
Subject	Institution	Year	Details			
<b>PhD</b>	<b>McGill University</b>	<b>1991</b>	Thesis topic: Kings, Brahmanas, and Temples in Orissa: an epigraphic study (300-1147 C.E.)			
<b>MPhil History</b>	<b>Delhi University</b>	<b>1984</b>	Subjects: Ancient Indian history			
<b>MA History</b>	<b>Delhi University</b>	<b>1981</b>	Subjects: Ancient India specialization			
<b>Career Profile</b>						
Organisation / Institution	Designation	Duration	Role			
<b>Dept. of History, Delhi University</b>	<b>Reader, Professor</b>	<b>2004 onwards</b>				
<b>St. Stephen' College, Delhi University</b>	<b>Lecturer, Reader</b>	<b>1981-2004</b>				
<b>Research Interests / Specialization</b>						
<b>Ancient Indian history</b>						
<b>Teaching Experience ( Subjects/Courses Taught)</b>						

BA Honours and MA courses. In MA, have taught Courses 2A, 5, and 6 ad Course 10 (Cultural interactions in South and Southeast Asia (upto 1500 CE), Section A in MA (P).  
Currently teaching HSM 303, Part A (Elements of Epigraphy), HSM 304 (Historicizing ancient Indian texts), and HSM 319 (Ideas and Emotions in Ancient India)

#### Honors & Awards

Awarded the Infosys Prize for Social Sciences-Humanities, 2009

#### Publications (during LAST FIVE YEARS)

##### Books / Monographs

<u>Year of Publication</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Co-Author</u>
2014	Ed. Asian Encounters: Exploring Connected Histories	Delhi: Oxford University Press	Parul Pandya Dhar (co-editor)
2011			
2009	Ed. Rethinking Early Medieval India	Delhi: Oxford University Press	
	Ed. Dilli: Prachin Itihas	Delhi: Orient Blackswan	
2009	Eds. Ancient India: New Research	N. Delhi: Oxford University Press	Nayanjot Lahiri (co-editor)
2008	A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: from the stone age to the twelfth century	N. Delhi: Pearson Longman	

##### In Indexed/ Peer Reviewed Journals (during last 5 years)

<u>Year of Publication</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Journal</u>	<u>Co-Author</u>
2012	Governing the state and the self: political Philosophy and practice in the edicts of Asoka	<i>South Asian Studies</i>	

**2012**

The power of a poet: kingship, empire and war in Kalidasa's *Raghuvamsa*. *The Indian Historical Review* 38, 2: 177-98

2010 Exile and Return: The Reinvention of Buddhism and Buddhist Sites in Modern India *South Asian Studies* 26, 2: 193-217

2010 Politics, Violence, and War in Kamandaka's Nitisara *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 47, 1.

Other Articles (during last 5 years)

2014. "Varna and Jati in ancient India: some questions." In *Irreverent History: Essays for M.G.S. Narayanan*. Edited by Kesavan Veluthat and Donald R. Davis Jr. (Delhi, Primus Books).

2012. "Historical perspectives: Between 400 BCE and 600 CE." In the *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, vol. 4.

2011. 'Archaeologists and Architectural Scholars in 19<sup>th</sup> century India.' In Parul Pandya Dhar ed. *Indian Art History: Changing Perspectives*, Delhi: DK Printworld and National Museum Institute, 2011, pp. 47-58.

2010. "Discovering the ancient in Modern Delhi," In Mala Dayal ed. *Celebrating Delhi*. Ravi Dayal Publishers and Penguin-Viking.

International Conferences organized:

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Dec., 2011. Co-convenor of an international conference on 'The Buddhist Revival in Asia,' organized by the ICCR and the Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre, ISEAS, in Singapore.

31st Oct.-4<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2011. Co-convened an international conference on 'Asian Encounters: networks of cultural interaction' along with Dr. Parul Pandya Dhar (Dept. of History). The conference was organized in association with the IIC-Asia Project, ASI and IGNCA at the University of Delhi and the IIC.

Conference presentations, participation and special lectures (last 5 years):

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Presented a paper titled "Sacred Footprints – Bodhgaya: the view from Myanmar," at an international conference organized by the Bihar Heritage Development Society at Bodhgaya.

20<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2014. Delivered the keynote address titled "Reassessing Alexander Cunningham," at an international seminar on 'Alexander Cunningham and the art heritage of India,' organized by the Dept. of the History of Art at Banaras Hindu University.

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Presented a paper titled 'The problem of war in ancient Indian thought' in History and Theory: seminar in memory of Professor R. S. Sharma, organized by the ICHR (Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013).

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Participated in the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University—ICHR international workshop on 'Water and Sacred Spaces: A case-study of the Ellora-Khuldabad-Daulatabad Historic Region' at Ellora, 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2012.

Delivered the Professor Hari Ram Gupta Memorial Lecture 2012 at Panjab University, Chandigarh on "The Problem of War: perspectives from ancient India."

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2012. Gave the Valedictory Address in the international conference on 'Kingship in Indian History' organized by the Archive India Institute (Bangalore) in Delhi.

16 Feb. 2012. Delivered a public lecture on 'Religion through the lens of archaeology, inscriptions and art' in the National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore, as part of the Science and Society public lecture series of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore.

15 Feb. 2012. Delivered a public lecture on 'Politics and violence: the view from ancient India,' as part of the Science and Society public lecture series of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore.

27 Jan. 2012. Participated in a discussion on 'Rediscovering ancient India,' in the Kolkata Literary Meet, with John Keay and Rudrangshu Mukherjee

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Dec., 2011. Co-convenor of an international conference on 'The Buddhist Revival in Asia,' organized by the ICCR and the Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre, ISEAS, in Singapore. Presented a paper titled 'Buddhism, Archaeology and the Nation: Nagarjunakonda, 1926-2006.'

10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Presented a paper titled 'Beneath the Metro and the Malls: glimpses of ancient Delhi' in a seminar on Ancient and Sultanate Delhi organized by INTACH at the IIC.

31<sup>st</sup> Oct.-4<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2011. Co-convened an international conference on 'Asian Encounters: networks of cultural interaction' along with Dr. Parul Pandya Dhar (Dept. of History). The conference was organized in association with the IIC-Asia Project, ASI and IGNCA at the University of Delhi and the IIC. Also presented a paper titled 'Gifts from other lands: Southeast Asian religious endowments in India' (Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>).

28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2011. Gave a lecture titled 'Beneath the Metro and the Malls: glimpses of ancient Delhi' in a National Seminar on Celebrating Delhi through the ages organized at Shivaji College, Delhi (28-29 Sept.).

18<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Gave a lecture on 'Trends in Indian Archaeology till John Marshall' for the

Orientation Course on Recent Advances in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India.

6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2011. Gave a lecture on 'Religion through the lens of material remains', at a National Seminar on the theme 'Revisiting the Sources of History' held at Jammu University.

14 Nov., 2010. Spoke at the Hay Literary Festival, Tiruvananthapuram, on the theme 'Unwritten Histories.'

20 October, 2010. Speaker in a panel discussion "From the Ridge to the River," as part of the exhibition titled 'Dehlinama' organized by the Delhi Urban Arts Commission.

27 September, 2010. Delivered a public lecture on "People and Technology in Ancient Delhi" as part of the 'Our Science and Technology Heritage lecture Series' at the National Science Centre, New Delhi.

24 January, 2010. Part of a panel discussion in Jaipur Literary Festival, along with Oscar Pujol and Sudha Gopalakrishnan on "Ancient Indian Knowledge in Modern Times: manuscripts, texts, histories."

#### Total Publication Profile optional

##### Authored Books

2008: *A History of Ancient and Early medieval India: from the stone age to the twelfth century*. N. Delhi. Pearson Longman.

2006: *Ancient Delhi* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, with a new Preface and Introduction), N. Delhi, Oxford University Press.

2004: *The Discovery of Ancient India: early archaeologists and the beginnings of archaeology*, New Delhi, Permanent Black.

1999: *Ancient Delhi*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi

1994: *Kings, Brahmanas, and Temples in Orissa: an epigraphic study (AD 300-1147)*  
Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi.

2002: *Mysteries of the past: archaeological sites in India* (a book for children). New  
Delhi, National Book Trust.

**Edited books:**

2014. *Asian Encounters: exploring connected histories*. N. Delhi, Oxford University Press  
(co-edited with Parul Pandya Dhar).

2011. *Rethinking early medieval India*. N. Delhi, Oxford University Press.

2009. *Dilli: Prachin Itihas* (in Hindi). Delhi, Orient Blackswan.

2006: *Delhi: ancient history*, N. Delhi, Social Science Press.

2009. Co-edited with Nayanjot Lahiri, *Ancient India: New Research*. N. Delhi, Oxford  
University Press.

In Indexed/ Peer Reviewed Journals

2012. "Governing the state and the self: political philosophy and practice in the edicts of  
Aśoka." *South Asian Studies* 29.2.

2012. 'The power of a poet: kingship, empire and war in Kalidasa's *Raghuvamsa*.' *The  
Indian Historical Review* 38, 2: 177-98.

2010. "Exile and Return: The Reinvention of Buddhism and Buddhist Sites in Modern India." *South Asian Studies* 26, 2: 193-217.

2010. "Politics, Violence, and War in Kamandaka's Nitisara." In *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 47, 1.

2004. "Cults and Shrines in early historical Mathura (c. 200 B.C. to AD 200)," *World Archaeology*, 36, 3.

2001: "Amaravati: the dismembering of the mahacaitya (1797-1886)," *South Asian Studies*, no. 17.

1998: "Texts on Stone: Understanding Asoka's epigraph-monuments and their changing contexts," *Indian Historical Review*, 24.

1996: "Sanchi: The history of the patronage of an ancient Buddhist establishment," *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 33.

1996: Co-authored with Nayanjot Lahiri and Tarika Oberoi: "Preliminary Field Report on the Archaeology of Faridabad -- the Ballabgarh Tehsil," *Man and Environment* XXI (1).

#### Other Articles

2014. "Varna and Jati in ancient India: some questions." In *Irreverent History: Essays for M.G.S. Narayanan*. Edited by Kesavan Veluthat and Donald R. Davis Jr. (Delhi, Primus Books).

2012. "Historical perspectives: Between 400 BCE and 600 CE." In the *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, vol. 4.

2011. 'Archaeologists and Architectural Scholars in 19<sup>th</sup> century India.' In Parul Pandya



Dhar ed. *Indian Art History: Changing Perspectives*, Delhi: DK Printworld and National Museum Institute, 2011, pp. 47-58.

2011. "Harappan Civilization: The Decline of India's Oldest Civilization." *World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras*, ABC-CLIO, Web 27 Sept. 2011.

2010. "Discovering the ancient in Modern Delhi," In Mala Dayal ed. *Celebrating Delhi*. Ravi Dayal Publishers and Penguin-Viking.

2009. "Brahmana Settlements in Ancient and Early Medieval India." In B.D. Chattopadhyaya ed. *A Social History of Early India*. New Delhi. Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture. Vol. II part 5.

2009. "Alexander Cunningham's Contributions to Indian Archaeology," in Gautam Sengupta and Kaushik Gangopadhyay, *Archaeology in India: Individuals, Ideas and Institutions*. New Delhi, Munshiram Manoharlal, in association with the Centre for Archaeological Studies & Training, Eastern India, Kolkata.

2009. "Interrogating *varna* and *jati* in ancient and early medieval India." Presidential Address, Ancient India section, in *Punjab History Conference Proceedings volume, (40<sup>th</sup> session) March 14-16, 2008*. Punjabi University, Patiala.

2006. "Early Medieval Orissa: the data and the debate," in Martin Brandtner and Shishir Kumar Panda eds. *Interrogating History: Essays for Herman Kulke*, N. Delhi, Manohar.

2009. "Alexander Cunningham's Contributions to Indian Archaeology," in Gautam Sengupta and Kaushik Gangopadhyay, *Archaeology in India: Individuals, Ideas and Institutions*. New Delhi, Munshiram Manoharlal, in association with the Centre for Archaeological Studies & Training, Eastern India, Kolkata.

2009. "Interrogating *varna* and *jati* in ancient and early medieval India." Presidential

Address, Ancient India section, in *Punjab History Conference Proceedings volume, (40<sup>th</sup> session) March 14-16, 2008*. Punjabi University, Patiala.

2008. "Brahmana Settlements in Ancient and Early Medieval India." In B.D. Chattopadhyaya ed. *A Social History of Early India*. New Delhi. Pearson Longman. Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture.

2006. "Early Medieval Orissa: the data and the debate," in Martin Brandtner and Shishir Kumar Panda eds. *Interrogating History: Essays for Herman Kulke*, N. Delhi, Manohar.

2004. "Documentation and Destruction: The Case of Amaravati (1797-1886)," in Himanshu Prabha Ray and Carla M. Sinopoli eds. *Archaeology as History in Early South Asia*, New Delhi, Indian Council for Historical Research and Aryan Books.

1999: Co-authored with Nayanjot Lahiri: "In the shadow of Delhi: Understanding the landscape through village eyes." In Peter J. Ucko and Robert Layton edited, *The Archaeology and Anthropology of Landscape* (Routledge, 1999). This paper was presented at the 1994 World Archaeological Congress, New Delhi.

#### Conference Presentations and special lectures

26<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. Delivered the Inaugural Address at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Karnataka History Congress, Mangalore, titled 'Ancient Indian history: challenges for the future.'

Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Gave the inaugural lecture on 'Dissatisfaction and the writing of History' at the workshop on the History and Archaeology of Ancient India organized by the IIT--Gandhinagar Archaeological Sciences Centre.

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Participated as an interlocutor in symposium 'Nauras: the many arts of the Deccan,' the Aesthetics Project, at the IIC, Delhi.

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Gave a lecture at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Kerala History Conference in Calicut on 'Ancient India: the need for new histories.'

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>: Presented a paper in a workshop, 'Tales from the Crypt: museum storage and meaning,' organized by the Nantes Institute of Advanced Study and Indian and European Advanced Research Network (IEARN), in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Presented a paper titled "Sacred Footprints – Bodhgaya: the view from Myanmar," at a conference organized by the Bihar Heritage Development Society at Bodhgaya.

20<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2014. Delivered the keynote address titled "Reassessing Alexander Cunningham," at an international seminar on 'Alexander Cunningham and the art heritage of India,' organized by the Dept. of the History of Art at Banaras Hindu University.

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18<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Gave a lecture on 'Trends in Indian Archaeology till John Marshall' for the Orientation Course on Recent Advances in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India.

6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2011. Gave a lecture on 'Religion through the lens of material remains', at a National

Seminar on the theme 'Revisiting the Sources of History' held at Jammu University.

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24 January, 2010. Part of a panel discussion in Jaipur Literary Festival, along with Oscar Pujol and Sudha Gopalakrishnan on "Ancient Indian Knowledge in Modern Times: manuscripts, texts, histories."

11 and 12 April, 2009. Delivered two lectures at Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, on "Reconstructing ancient religions through material remains" and "Ancient India: the need for new histories."

17 Feb., 2009. Presented a paper titled "Nagarjunakonda: Interpreting the ruins of a Buddhist cosmopolis" at a Conference on "Buddhism Across Asia: Networks of Material, Intellectual and Cultural Exchange," 16-18 Feb. 2009, organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

14 March, 2008. Delivered the Presidential Address, Ancient India section, at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Punjab History Conference, Patiala, on the theme: "Interrogating *varna* and *jati* in ancient and early medieval India."

5 March, 2008. Gave a lecture titled "Nineteenth-century Indian archaeology and the role of photography" in the National Museum, New Delhi, as part of the inauguration of the exhibition titled "Photographic Splendour: Early Indian Heritage Views from the Vogel

Collection, The Netherlands.”

15 Feb. 2008. Gave a lecture titled “Ancient Indian Historiography: New Perspectives,” at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.

4 Dec. 2007. Gave a lecture titled “The adventures of three pillars,” in a seminar on “Delhi: Images, Imaginations and Perceptions” held at Kamala Nehru College, New Delhi.

5 Oct. 2007. Presented a paper titled “A Buddhist Revival in a Globalized World: India and the Impact of the East” at a Conference organized by Ryukoku University, Kyoto, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, in Kyoto, Japan.

29 Oct. 2006. Read a paper titled “Defining moments in ancient Indian history: literary and archaeological perspectives” at the Beijing Forum, Beijing, 27-29 Oct., 2006.

19 Sept. 2006. Presented a paper titled “Archaeologists and Architectural Scholars in Nineteenth Century India,” at a National Seminar on Historiography of Indian Art and Emergent Methodological Concerns, organized by the Dept. of History of Art, National Museum Institute, N. Delhi (Sept. 19-21).

22 Aug. 2006: Delivered the second Sir Sobha Singh Memorial Lecture on Delhi at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Title of lecture: “Discovering the Ancient in Modern Delhi.” An excerpted version of this lecture was telecast on Lok Sabha Television and also aired on All India Radio.

27 Feb. 2006: Presented a paper titled ‘Ancient remains in the Delhi region and their medieval and modern transformations,’ in an interdisciplinary seminar on Delhi – ‘Dilli Jo Ek Tha, Aur Hoga... Delhi – That Once Was, and Will Be,’ organized by the Dept. of History, Delhi University in collaboration with The Sarai Programme, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

2 Dec., 2005: Gave a lecture titled “The History of Archaeology in 19<sup>th</sup> century India” in the

Institute of Archaeology, New Delhi.

5 Nov., 2005: Presented a paper titled “Alexander Cunningham’s contribution to Indian archaeology,” at a National Seminar on the History of Archaeology in India, 5-8 November, at the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India, Kolkata.

25 April 2005: Delivered a lecture titled “Amaravati—the modern history of an ancient Buddhist site” at the University of Michigan.

14 April 2005: Delivered the Tarak Nath Das Lecture at Yale University on “Amaravati: the modern history of an ancient Buddhist monument.”

15 March, 2005: Delivered a lecture titled “The case of the disappearing stupa: the modern history of ancient Amaravati,” in the South Asia Without Borders Seminar series at Harvard University.

April 1994: Presented a paper on the inscriptions of Sanchi at a seminar 5-7 April) on Government and Society, Dept. of History, University of Delhi

#### Public Service / University Service / Consulting Activity

Head of the Department of History, University of Delhi from August 2014 onwards

#### **Member, the Indian Historical Records Committee, National Archives of India**

Member, Advisory Board, Murty Classical Library (Harvard University Press, under the general editorship of Sheldon Pollock)

#### Professional Societies Memberships

#### Projects (Major Grants / Collaborations)

**Nagarjunakonda: from prehistory to 2007 (for this, received a grant from Delhi University’s scheme to strengthen R&D doctoral research programmes in 2007)**

#### Other Details

