

# The Bengal Symposium

14–15th November 2025

Archaeology, History and Heritage  
Beyond Colonial Divides

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM | (1ST EDITION, ONLINE)



**Department of AIHC & Archaeology**  
Visva Bharati University, India



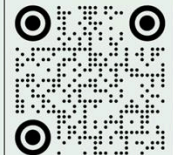
**Department of Archaeology**  
Comilla University, Bangladesh



**Department of Archaeology**  
Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh



**Department of Anthropology**  
Mardin Artuklu University, Turkey





## **2nd Circular: Call for Participation**

THE BENGAL SYMPOSIUM  
14 – 15 November 2025  
**Archaeology, History, and Heritage Beyond Colonial Divides**  
(1ST Edition | **Online**)

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to take part in the inaugural Bengal Symposium. Without the need for formal membership, this working group-like transdisciplinary academic gathering is aim to fosters meaningful scholarly exchange —transcending colonial legacies of division and marginalization— centering the lived experiences of common people across the historical landscapes of Bengal.

**Symposium Dates:** 14 – 15 November 2025

**Submission Deadline:** 31 August 2025

**Format:** Entirely online

**Registration Fee:** Free of charge

**More Information:** <https://www.artuklu.edu.tr/bengal>

### **CONGRESS FOCUS**

The guiding purpose of the symposium is to reimagine and reconstruct the historical and cultural narratives of Bengal from the ground up. Rather than privileging dominant or state-centered discourses, the Bengal Symposium seeks to foreground subaltern voices, local knowledge systems, and alternative historiographies that speak to the deep entanglements with cultures, ethnicities, memory, shared-survival history, and shared human–environment dynamics in Bengal and its surrounding regions.

Our key goals are:

- (1) To introduce Bengal's archaeology, history, and heritage to a broader global audience;
- (2) To highlight the contributions of international scholars whose work can inspire and support students and early-career researchers in Bengal.

The first edition of the symposium will serve as a general introduction to archaeology, history and heritage of Bengal. The overarching theme is: **“Archaeology, History, and Heritage Beyond Colonial Divides”**

## **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Bishnupriya Basak, University of Calcutta – India

Iftekhar Iqbal, Universiti Brunei Darussalam – Brunei

Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, University of Wisconsin – USA

Manjil Hazarika, Cotton University – India

Mohammad Yusuf Siddiq, ICSBA – Bangladesh

Ryosuke Furui, University of Tokyo – Japan

Swadhin Sen, Jahangirnagar University – Bangladesh

## **FORMATS AND FEATURES**

The symposium will be fully online and free of registration fees, in line with our goals of inclusivity and financial accessibility. Presentation type will be oral presentation only. The symposium will not include recorded presentations, videos, or posters. The focus on oral presentations only is intended to ensure dynamic interactions, scholarly dialogue, and meaningful discussions.

## **FULL PAPER SUBMISSION**

Submitting a full paper is not mandatory for participation. However, contributors will have the opportunity to publish their work in a free-of-charge, open-access proceedings volume or in a special issue of an international journal. All accepted participants who attend the symposium will receive a certificate of attendance.

## **THEMATIC AREAS**

Submissions may engage, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Reassessing colonial archaeology and historiography, and their impact on Bengal.
- The role of archaeological heritage in reconstructing Bengal's shared past.
- Oral histories and indigenous knowledge as tools for historical reconstruction.
- Archaeological and historical discoveries in West Bengal, Bangladesh, and neighboring regions.
- Cross-border cultural and historical continuities in Bengal.
- Heritage conservation efforts in Bangladesh and West Bengal.
- Impact of colonial geographic and psychological borders on cultural formation and common life across Bengal.
- Landscape Archaeology: Case studies on human–land interactions and settlement patterns in Bengal.
- Sacred spaces and their historical contexts.
- Ancient and medieval technologies in Bengal.
- Bengal's past through epigraphic and numismatic sources.
- Architecture and aesthetics in ancient and medieval Bengal.
- Art history of Bengal.
- Application of scientific approaches in understanding the shared history and heritage in Bengal.

For its inaugural edition, the Bengal Symposium welcomes contributions from scholars at all career stages. We also would encourage early-career researchers and graduate students to join us in building this platform.

Please also feel free to share this announcement with colleagues or networks who might be interested.

For detail information about the initiative and the Symposium please visit our website: <https://www.artuklu.edu.tr/bengal>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of our organization members or symposium secretariat at: [bengalsymposium@gmail.com](mailto:bengalsymposium@gmail.com)

We look forward to your participation!

With best regards,

### **Organizing Committee**

#### **The Bengal Symposium**

Abu B. Siddiq, Mardin Artuklu University – Türkiye

Elora Tribedy, Nalanda University – India

Coline Lefrancq, CNRS-University of Paris I – France

Mahmudul H. Khan, Comilla University – Bangladesh

Masood Imran, Jahangirnagar University – Bangladesh

Mizanur Rahaman, Jahangirnagar University – Bangladesh

Sabikun Naher, Jahangirnagar University – Bangladesh

Shohrab Uddin, Comilla University – Bangladesh



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