

Atal Fellow

Prof. J.S. Rajput



Jagmohan Singh Rajput is an Atal Fellow at Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where he is working on “The Millennial Transition: Education and the Socio-Cultural Transformation”. He is known for introducing a series of sweeping reforms in the education sector. He has served the Government of India in several capacities, including as Principal of the Regional Institute of Education Bhopal 1977-88, Joint Educational Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development, 1989-94; Chairman, National Council for Teacher Education, NCTE, 1994-99 and the Director of the NCERT, 1999-2004. Though a professor of Physics, he is known for regulating the B. Ed correspondence courses as the first Chairman of NCTE and for starting the innovative two-year B. Ed course. He has extensively published research papers, guided doctoral level research and has authored several books, both in Hindi and English. His columns in print media receive widespread attention and acclaim. Professor Rajput dexterously works for strengthening social cohesion and religious amity. His book “Education of Muslims in India” was released by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on June 15, 2015 and his latest book “Dynamics of Indian education” was released by the Hon’ble Vice-president of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on August 01, 2019. He received Padma Shri in 2015. He was appointed India’s Representative on the Executive Board of the UNESCO appointed in March 2018 for a four-year term. Prof. Rajput is recipient of the Jan Amos Comenius Medal of UNESCO, Maharishi Veda Vyas National Award, Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya Award, and Vidya Bhushan Award from Government of UP in 2019.

In November 2018, he was elected for four years as the Chairman, Board of Governors of the ‘Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development’. He is also a member, the Press Council of India and Chairperson, Board of Governors, Inter-University Center for Teacher Education, IUC-TE: BHU.

Senior Fellow

Prof. Rajeev Malhotra



Prof. Rajeev Malhotra is a Senior Fellow at PMML, where he is working on India's development transition 1947 to 2047: Successes, failures and insights for policy correctives. He bridges the world of academics and policymaking with a professional work experience of over 37 years. From August 2012 to September 2023, he was Professor and Director Public Policy Programmes at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Delhi NCR. As a development economist and a civil servant, he has worked with the Government of India where until August 2012 he was Economic Adviser to the then Union Finance Minister of India. From 2002 to 2008, he worked at UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and prior to that at the Planning Commission, New Delhi. He is a visiting professor at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and Mohali.

Prof Malhotra has been frequently engaged as a consultant with international organizations including, UN OHCHR, UNDP, WHO, World Bank, FAO, UN ESCAPE and at national level in Asia, Africa and in the South Pacific Island countries. He has published widely in books, journals and some popular media writings. His research interest includes conceptual and empirical work on macroeconomic issues in development policy; fiscal policy; poverty estimation and human development; and human rights and development. He has studied at the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University; the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London; and at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi from where he has a PhD in Economics.

Dr. Rohit Wanchoo



Dr. Rohit Wanchoo did his M.A. in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and his PhD from Cambridge University in Britain. His dissertation was on the economic and political factors that led to Indian independence. From 1985 onwards he taught history at St Stephen's College, Delhi University for more than three decades. He served as the head of the history department for several years and retired in late 2021. Between 2009 and 2011 he was a Fellow of NMML and worked on identity formation in north India. For two and a half years he taught modern Indian history at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. He held the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Chair of Indian Studies between 2019 and 2021.

He has presented over a dozen papers at several conferences in India and abroad. As a subject expert, over a period of two decades, he has written a dozen units for the Indira Gandhi National Open University on the economic and political history of India. In 2007 he published a chapter on British Imperialism in India in a volume edited by J.B. Dasgupta. In 2008 he co-authored a book on literatures, politics and identities together with Mukesh Williams. In 2010 a paper on Dalit identities and ideas of self and community was published by the Indian History Congress and in 2011 a paper on group rights and justice was published by Oxford University Press in a book edited by Gurpreet Mahajan. An Occasional paper on the politics of language was published by the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library under the title *Imagining Hindi* in 2014. An article on the politics of Dalit conversion in the 1930s was published by *Studies in History* in 2020 and another one assessing Benoy Sarkar as scholar and spokesman was published by *Cracow Indological Studies* in 2021. At present he is a Senior Fellow of the Prime Ministers Museum & Library working on Independence, Partition and the Indian State: The Congress and Sardar Patel in the 1940s.

Dr. Mohsin Ali



Mohsin Ali is a Senior Fellow at the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where he is working on “Dara Shikoh and his Comparative Hermeneutics of Islam and Hinduism”. He teaches at the Department of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia Millia Islamia. He specializes in the Persianate world studies through literature, cultural and historical perspectives. He obtained PhD degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and PG degree in Turkish Literature from Erciyes University, Kayseri, Republic of Turkey. He has been pursuing specialization uninterruptedly in studies of Indo-Iran relations, comparative literature & Culture, Modern Persian Language & Literature and Turkic world through Turkish language, culture, and historical perspectives. He has been associated with Turkish language and literature programme since the day of its inception and is presiding over its evolutionary process and teaching Persian and Turkish language at different levels. He has more than 18 years of teaching & research experience. He has supervised several PhD students. He is member of various committees of state and central universities of India.

Dr. Ali has contributed research papers to more than forty international and national seminars and conferences held in India and abroad. He has translated eight volumes of *Qissehay-e-Khoob Baray-e-Bachchey-e-Khoob* from Persian language to Urdu language published by Brown Books. In addition to this, he has three books to his credit from Turkish to English published by Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. and quite a few articles in Persian and Turkish languages of national and international journals. He has visited centres of higher learning and research of central Asian and west Asian countries.

Fellow

Dr. Atul Bhardwaj



Atul Bhardwaj is a Fellow at the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where he is working on “Eurasian Connectivity and Concomitant Erosion in the Monopoly of the Marine Service of the Industry in Controlling the International Trade Flows”. He is the author of *India-America Relations 1942-62- Rooted in the Liberal International Order* (Routledge, London 2019). He has been writing a Strategic Affairs Column in the *Economic and Political Weekly* since 2013. He has been a visiting Fellow in the department of International Politics, City University of London, Research Fellow at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, Delhi and Senior Fellow, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Delhi. He is also an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi. He has a doctorate in History from Ambedkar University, Delhi, and a graduate in War Studies from King’s College London. He holds a BSc degree from National Defence Academy, Pune. He has served in the Indian Navy in the aviation branch for two decades.

Dr. M. Arshad Amanullah



M. Arshad Amanullah is a Fellow at Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where he is working on “The Pasmada Factor in the Indian Political Communication: Documenting and Decoding Bharatiya Janata Party’s Outreach to the Pasmada Muslims of India”. He has been trained in Communication and South Asian Studies. He uses qualitative methods such as ethnography and critical discourse analysis in his research on media transformations, digitalization, political Islam and ethnic politics in India. Arshad’s PhD thesis at National University of Singapore (2022) was on news production practices in Muslim-oriented media outlets in India. He is the recipient of SICCI Prize for South Asian Studies (2021-2022) for the best Ph.D. thesis in the South Asian Studies Programme. He worked with Centre for Culture, Media & Governance of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi from 2012 to 2017. His research interests include media sociology, political communication, and South Asian Muslim Public Sphere. Arshad’s papers have appeared in leading international journals in Media Studies and South Asian Studies, *Journalism*, *Culture Unbound*, *Economic and Political Weekly* and *International Journal of Digital Television*. In addition, he has contributed several book chapters and popular articles. He had the opportunity to present his work in many international conferences. His writings can be accessed from his [ResearchGate page](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Arshad-Amanullah): <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Arshad-Amanullah>.

Dr. Lalit Kumar



Lalit Kumar is a Fellow at Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where he is working on “Deendayal Upadhyaya: The Idol and the Enigma”. He teaches English at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, University of Delhi. His articles have appeared in many national dailies such as *The Hindu*, *The Indian Express*, *The Times of India* and *Jansatta*. Some of his publications include the English co-translation of the Hindi bestseller *Twelfth Fail* (HarperCollins, 2022), translation of the classic Maithili novel *Kanyadan* as *The Bride* (HarperCollins, 2023), and a co-edited volume titled *Amaranatha Jha: Selected Essays on Literature, Languages and University Education* (Sahitya Akademi, forthcoming). A recipient of the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) Book Award for his English translation of *Kanyadan*, Kumar earned a doctorate at the department of English, University of Delhi on the coming of print culture in the Mithila region of Bihar.

Dr. Smarika Nawani



Smarika Nawani is a Fellow at Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where she is working on “Interactions and Confluences: The Making of Coastal World of Indian subcontinent (16th-18th centuries)”. Smarika’s larger key research interests include studying various aspects of early modern South Asia and the Indian Ocean world in the region-specific and global history contexts. She carries a post-PhD research and teaching experience of almost 15 years. In the past, she has held fellowships at Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, India and Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, Lisbon, Portugal. She has presented her research at international and national platforms since the year, 2001. Some of her publications include a monograph titled, *Entangled Spaces: Some Aspects of Portuguese Presence in Coromandel-Southeast Asia Complex*, published by Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, India, in 2017(<http://books.iias.org/home/search?q=SmarikaNawani>;<https://www.flipkart.com/entangled-spaces-some-aspects-portuguese-presence-coromandel-archipelago-southeast-asia-complex/p/itm3c69d6e857ca2>); a chapter titled, *The Misericórdia and the Bishopric in Peninsular India during the Course of Retreat (C.1600-1641)* in Yogesh Sharma and J.L. Ferreira (eds), *Portuguese Presence in India in 16th and 17th Centuries*, published by Viva Books in association with Instituto Camões, New Delhi, India, 2008 (<https://www.worldcat.org/title/portuguese-presence-in-india-during-the-sixteenth-and->

[seventeenth-centuries/oclc/294864488](https://www.jstor.org/stable/44158873)); articles published in Indian History Congress volumes in 2014 and 2015 titled, *The Portuguese in Archipelago Southeast Asia (1511-1666 A.D.)* (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/44158873>) and *Journeys, Spaces and Culture: The Europeans under Mast in 16th and 17th centuries* (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/i40173783>) respectively; a newsletter piece published by International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden (The Netherlands) titled, *Rhythms of the Portuguese presence in the Bay of Bengal* in *Recentering the Bay of Bengal : Connected spaces in an inter-Asian border sea*, in *The Focus*, The Newsletter No. 85, Spring 2020 (<https://www.iias.asia/the-newsletter/article/recentering-bay-bengal-connected-spaces-inter-asian-bordersea>).

Dr. Pratik Kumar



Pratik Kumar is a Fellow at the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where he is working on “History Textbooks and Politics of National Identities: A Case Study of NCERT”. Dr. Kumar teaches History at the Department of History, Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi. He is an alumnus of Ramjas College, University of Delhi, and the Centre for Historical Studies (CHS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His areas of interest include religious and intellectual history of ancient and early medieval Indian history, the history of Southeast Asia, and the history of education. He served as a visiting faculty of the PG Diploma in South-East (Agneya) Asian Studies (PGDSEAS) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi during 2019-2020. Some of his publications include *Imagining Kingship, Duty, and Love in Ancient India: Perspectives from the Priyadarśikā and the Ratnāvalī of Śrī-Harṣa* (Research India Press, New Delhi, 2019); a co-edited volume, *India and Southeast Asia: A Legacy of Cultural Influences*; and a paper, “Krishna: Connecting India and Southeast Asia” (Research India Press, New Delhi, 2019). He has published many research papers in the national and international journals besides, presenting many research papers at reputed national and international conferences. As an expert in the subject, Dr. Kumar served at the State Public Service Commission, Undergraduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF) under NEP 2022 (University of Delhi), the Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT-2020), and National Testing Agency (NTA), New Delhi.

Dr. Sajjan Kumar



Sajjan Kumar is a Fellow at Prime Minister Memorial Museum and Library, where he is working on “Rivalry, Brotherhood and the Making of Contemporary Indian Right”. He teaches politics at SIMC, Symbiosis University, Pune. He is also the founding Director of Research Organisation, *Policy Research & Centre for Contemporary India Study*, (PRACCIS), New Delhi. He is member of the Advisory Board of the Symbiosis Centre for Research in Media and Creative Industries (SCRMCI). He is also a regular invitee at ICSSR, New-Delhi in various research projects. He is also the member of ECSAS where he was one of the Panel Convenor in 2018, Paris. Further, he is also a renowned psephologist wherein he has studied the political and electoral discourses at all states of India (except Tamil Nadu and Kerala) since 2010 by employing qualitative method combining the investigative tools of *political-economy* and *political-psychology*.

He is the Co-author of the book, *Maya Modi Azad: Dalit Politics In The Time Of Hindutva*, published by HarperCollins, New Delhi in May 2023. Besides, he has published 10 book-chapters; academic articles in peer-reviewed international journals. He also writes for popular News outlets like *The Hindu*, *The Indian Express*, *The New Indian Express*, *Hindustan Times*, *The Times of India*, *News-18*, *First Post*, *The Quint*, *The Wire*. He has conceptualised and coined and written on the concept, Subaltern-Hindutva– which is now in popular usage in academic and media. His forthcoming book is at the stage of manuscript submission at Penguin, India.

Dr. Ankur Kakkar



Dr. Ankur Kakkar is presently a Fellow at the Prime Ministers Museum and Library in New Delhi where he is working on the research topic titled “Rethinking Nationalist Education: A Study of Indigenous Enterprises (1880-1980)”. At present, Dr. Kakkar is on a sabbatical leave from Indus University, Ahmedabad where he serves as Associate Professor at the Centre for Indic Studies. Dr. Kakkar teaches core and elective courses on Indian Knowledge Systems (focussing on Indian history and Indian education) to undergraduate students. Dr. Ankur Kakkar received his doctorate degree in History from the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany. His doctoral dissertation entitled “The Dayanand Anglo-Vedic school of Lahore: A Study of Education Reform in Colonial Punjab (1880-1920)” was supervised by Prof. Gita Dharampal, daughter of eminent historian Shri Dharampal.

Junior Fellow

Shri Arjun Singh Kadian



Arjun Singh Kadian is a Junior Fellow at the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where he is working on “Haryana and (Bharat) India: Political History and Linkages”. He is an academic and policy professional based in Haryana and Delhi. A Geologist by training, he graduated from Hansraj College, University of Delhi, and received a gold medal in MSc. In addition to teaching, Arjun has worked at the Chief Minister’s Office, Haryana, and travelled widely across the region to understand the nuances of the state. Arjun is an alumnus of the Observer Research Foundation and ZEIT-Stiftung. He is also a fellow at Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Arjun is also involved with projects like Indic Academy, Rath Foundation and has initiated the Haryana Thinkers Forum. He has given many presentations on issues pertaining to Haryana on multiple platforms, both in print and digital spaces. His first book *Land of the Gods: The Story of Haryana* was published by Rupa Publications India in 2021 and his second book, *Neeraj Chopra: From Panipat to the Podium*, in 2022, by Rupa Publications India.

Links to Books: For Land of the Gods-The Story of Haryana <https://amzn.eu/d/grvt9C1>
For Neeraj Chopra- From Panipat to Podium: <https://amzn.eu/d/gGtGb2Y>

Dr. Priyanka Khanna



Priyanka Khanna is a Junior Fellow at the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, where she is working on “Concubines, Power and Statecraft in Early Modern Marwar”. She worked previously as an Assistant Professor at the GD Goenka University in Sohna, as a Visiting Lecturer at the BML Munjal University in Gurgaon and as an Academic Consultant at the

IGNOU, New Delhi. Dr Khanna holds a PhD in History from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She specializes in the histories of women, gender, and early modern Rajasthan. Her doctoral thesis examines the status, roles and lived experiences of women who had to live as the concubines of Rajput Maharajas in early modern Marwar (Western Rajasthan). She has presented her work on several platforms, including the University of Texas, NTU (Singapore), and the University of Zurich, and has published parts of her doctoral work in reputed peer-reviewed journals such as *Studies in History*, and as chapters in edited volumes. Her major publications include ‘Service, Sex and Sentiments: Concubinage in the Early Modern Rajput Household of Marwar’, in Nitin Sinha, Nitin Varma & Pankaj K. Jha, eds., *Servants’ Pasts: Sixteenth to Eighteenth Century South Asia*, Vol.1, 2019, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi. <https://www.orientblackswan.com/opaccess>; ‘The Female Companion in a World of Men: Friendship and Concubinage in Late Eighteenth Century Marwar’, *Studies in History* (special issue on Friendship and Sociability in Pre-colonial South Asia, ed. Daud Ali), Vol. 33, Issue 1, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0257643016677458>; ‘Embodying Royal Concubinage: Some Aspects of Concubinage in Royal Rajput Household of Marwar (Western Rajasthan)’, *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, Vol. 72, Part I, 2011. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44146726>.

Dr. Maryam Sikander



Maryam Sikander is a Junior Fellow at Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML), where she is working on “Awadh Punch (1877): National and Transnational Imaginaries”. She has done her MA and MPhil from the Department of English, University of Delhi, and PhD from the Department of South Asia, SOAS, University of London. At SOAS, she was the recipient of the Jit Kaur Babak and Chanchal Singh Babak Nottingham Research Award. She was also awarded the Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarship, and the Curran Fellowship by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals to further research Anglo-Indian Victorian periodicals. In 2022, her PhD thesis won the Sally Mitchell Dissertation Prize given by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals.

At PMML, she is examining late nineteenth and early twentieth-century humorous Urdu periodicals, especially the last years of the illustrated Urdu weekly *Avadh Punch* that became an increasingly fertile space for the literary resources of satire and parody to forge national and transnational solidarities.

Dr. Raka Banerjee



Raka Banerjee is a Junior Fellow at Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) where she is working on “Post-Colonial ‘Integration’ of Andaman Islands: Rehabilitation Scheme (1965-80) and the Transitioning Island Imagery”. She earned her PhD in Women’s Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her doctoral research titled ‘Adrift in the Bay, at Home in the Island: Post-Partition ‘Settler Women’ in Neil Island, Bay of Bengal’, combines Island Studies, Gender Studies, and Partition scholarship, to explore the Bengali women’s ‘settler’ identity in the Andaman Islands. The thesis has been longlisted for the ICAS (International Convention of Asia Scholars) Book Prize 2023 under the ‘Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences’ category. Raka Banerjee is a recipient of the JIWS (Journal of International Women’s Studies) Fellowship (2022-23); Asian Graduate Student Fellowship (2020), Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore; Jawaharlal Nehru Scholarship for Doctoral Studies (2019-20); and Ministry of Culture Junior Fellowship (2016-17), among others. She writes on gender, Island Studies, Bengal Partition, and the Bay of Bengal region. Her published works have appeared in edited volumes, including *Entire of Itself? Towards an Environmental History of Islands*, White Horse Press; *Regional Perspectives on India’s Partition: Shifting the Vantage Points*, Routledge and Taylor & Francis Group; *CoronAsur: Asian Religions in the Covidian Age*, University of Hawai‘i Press; *Asian Studies, The Twelfth International Convention of Asia Scholars*, Amsterdam University Press; Journals: *Journal of International Women’s Studies*; *Journal of Marine and Island Cultures*; *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*; and academic websites: *Society for Cultural Anthropology*; *The Newsletter, IAS*.