

Curriculum Vitae of Professor Sahara Ahmed

Personal Details

Name: Sahara Ahmed

Designation: 1. Professor

2. Head

Department: 1. Department of History

2. Department of ENVS



Faculty: Arts

University: Rabindra Bharati University

Former Positions held: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Lalbaba College, Belur

Teaching Experience (in number of years): 24

Visiting fellow/ Professorships (National & International): Received the Charles Wallace India Trust Short-Term Fellowship, 2017, United Kingdom.

Educational Qualifications: PhD. In History

Areas of Interest/Specialisation: Environmental History -Forestry

Email ID: sahara.ahmed@rbu.ac.in / sahara_ahmed2005@yahoo.co.in

Mobile No: +91 9830374908 / 7980286915

1. Publications (give details in APA/ MLA style)

A. Book(s)/ Edited book(s)/ Monographs: Annexure I

B. Journal edited: Annexure II

C. Article(s)/ Book Chapter(s): Annexure III

D. Translations work(s): No

E. Article(s) in Newspaper/ Magazine: No

F. Exhibition Catalogue(s)/ Exhibition review(s): No

G. Script/ Adaptation work/Director's note/ Drama Pamphlet: No

1. Papers Presented in National/ International Seminars/Conferences: Annexure IV

2. Invited Speaker / Resource Person / Chaired Sessions in National/ International Seminars/ Conferences/ Conventions/ Workshops/ FDPs, etc.: Annexure V

3. Organised Seminar/ Conferences/ Exhibitions/ Workshops/FIP/ FDPs etc.:

Annexure VI

4. Participated in Seminars/ Conferences/ Exhibitions/ Workshops: **Annexure VII**

5. Programmes/ Performances (online or offline) Participated/ Organised: No

6. Artist Camp / Artist Residences Participated/ Organised: No

7. No. of Research Project(s): Completed: 02 Ongoing:

8. Mention the Details of Research Project(s): **Annexure VIII**

9. No. of Ph.D. Guidance: Awarded: 16 Ongoing: 08

10. No. of M.Phil. Guidance: 24

11.

Till date participated in Faculty Development Programs(FDP) (RC/ OP/ FIP/ Short Term Course) (online or offline) (Add rows below if required):					
Sl. No.	Title or Theme of the FDP	Name of the Organizer	Place of the FDP	Start date (dd/mm/yyyy)	End date (dd/mm/yyyy)
1.	"Challenges in Climate Crisis and Resilience- Ecological, Political and Historical Perspectives"	Amity Institute of Social Sciences and Amity Institute of Environmental Science, Amity University, Kolkata	Amity University, Kolkata	1 July 2024	4 July 2024
2.	"Faith Healing and Folk Medicine amongst some Indigenous Tribes of sub-Himalayan Bengal"	Jadavpur University	Jadavpur University	30 January 2025	

12. Responsibilities and Experiences in Academic Administration:

A. Within the Campus:

1. Head, Department of History, from 2018-2021 (January).
2. Head, Department of Environmental Studies, since November 2021 till date.

B. Beyond Campus:

1. Course Coordinator, Department of History, Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay. Bolpur, Sriniketan.
2. Executive Committee member of Paschim Banga Itihas Samsad (2010-14).

3. Life Member of the Indian History Congress.
4. Life Member of Bangiyo Shahitya Parishad.
5. Life Member of Calcutta University Institute.
6. Member of the Board of Studies, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, till date.
7. Served as visiting guest faculty member in the Department of History Aliah University in 2017-18.
8. Consultant Visiting Faculty in Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay since 26 January 2021

13. Achievements as Teacher / Performer:

14. Patents/ Awards/ Recognitions: Received the Charles Wallace India Trust Short-Term Fellowship, 2017, United Kingdom.

15. Other Academic Activities (if any):

1. Coordinator of Examinations Paper I and Paper VI of M.A. Part I and Part II, respectively, of the Directorate of Distance Education of Rabindra Bharati University, 2009-10.
2. Member of the Teachers' Council, Rabindra Bharati University
3. Teachers' Representative from the Department of History, 2008-10 and from 2016 to date.
4. Member of Departmental Committee.
5. Member of Board of Studies.
6. Member of the Research and Development Cell, Rabindra Bharati University.
7. Member of the Executive Council, Rabindra Bharati University.
8. Member of the Board of Studies, Aliah University, Kolkata.
9. External expert in the Moderation Board and Research Advisory Committee, Diamond Harbour Women's University.
10. Member of the Board of Studies, P.G. Department, University of Burdwan.
11. External expert in the Moderation Board and Research Advisory Committee, Jadavpur University.
12. Secretary of the Society for the History of Science Kolkata.

Annexure I

Book(s)/ Edited book(s)/ Monographs: (MLA 9th edition)

- *Woods, Mines and Minds - Politics of Survival in Jalpaiguri and the Jungle Mahals, 1860-1970*. Primus 2019, ISBN:978-93-5290-693-29 (Hardcover)ISBN:978-93-5290-694-9 (POD).
- *Decolonizing Science and Modernity in South Asia: Questioning Concepts, Constructing Histories*. Sahara Ahmed, and Suvobrata Sarkar (Eds.). Springer, 2024, ISBN: 978-981-97-1828-3 (Hardcover), ISBN: 978-981-97-1831-3 (online).

Annexure II

Journal edited:

- *Modern Historical Studies Vol 13-14*, Rabindra Bharati University Press, 2019-2020, ISSN: 0972 6756.
- *Modern Historical Studies Vol 15-16*, Rabindra Bharati University Press, 2020-2021, ISSN: 0972 6756.

Annexure III

Article(s)/ Book Chapter(s):

- Ahmed, S. (forthcoming). The Science of Dentistry and Dr. R. Ahmed Dental College and Hospital, Calcutta: An Institutional History c.1920s-1950s. Indian Journal of History of Science, Springer Nature.
- Ahmed, S. (2025, September). Medical missionaries and health care in Sub-Himalayan Bengal, c.1870s-1940s. Indian Journal of History of Science, 60, 338–348. Springer Nature.
- Ahmed, S. (2025). Epidemics in Tribal Folklore: Sub-Himalayan Bengal in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries in Pandemics and Literature in Kamlesh Mohan & Saurav Rai (eds.), Routledge, 2025.
- Ahmed, S. (2024). Colonial pasts and legacies: Forests, climate change, and disaster management in the Northern Circle, c.1860s–1870s. In M. Ghosh (Ed.), *The shattered earth, histories of climate catastrophe, and the wilderness* (pp. 182–212). Primus Books.
- Ahmed, S. (2023). Epidemics and the indigenous tribes: Sub-Himalayan Bengal and the Jungle Mahals, 1860-1930. In P. Bala & R. Viljoen (Eds.), *Epidemic, encounters, communities, and practices in the colonial world* (pp. 311–336). Lexington Books.
- Ahmed, S. (2023). Muses on the cult of the Charkha. *Gitanjali and Beyond*, 6 (Samaj/Society and Freedom(s); The Relevance of Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas Today), 62–75. Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies.
- Ahmed, S. (2022). Designing scientific mining, evolution and implementation, c. 1860s-1960s. In S. Sarkar (Ed.), *History of science, medicine, technology and environment* (pp. 175–194). Routledge.
- Ahmed, S. (2022). 'Ecological refugees' and Indo-Bangladesh relations: Issues and challenges. In M. Mamoon & M. Bintey Rahman (Eds.), *Liberation war and genocide* (pp. 89–105). Centre for Genocide Torture and Liberation War Studies.
- Ahmed, S. (2022). Green regimes and colonial pasts: Vignettes of botanical garden and histories of marginalized people, c.1890-1970. In P. Chattopadhyay, A. Dhar, & B. Sarkar (Eds.), *Memoirs as history: Contextualising Bengal* (pp. 109–128). Setu Prakasani.

- Ahmed, S. (2022, July 30). Review Article of Scholars of Faith: South Asian Muslim Women and the Embodiment of Religious Knowledge. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 57(31).
- Ahmed, S. (2022, July 30). Voices and choices of Muslim women. Review article of *Scholars of Faith: South Asian Muslim Women and the Embodiment of Religious Knowledge*. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 57(31).
- Ahmed, S. (2018, April). Review Article of In Quest of the Historian's Craft, Essays in Honour of Professor B.B.Choudhuri, edited by Arun Bandopadhyay and Sanjukta Dasgupta. *Monthly Bulletin of the Asiatic Society*, 47(4), 27–29.
- Ahmed, S. (2018). Conflicting stakes in the forest: Gender relations in Mech society, c. 1890-1980. In M. Sarkar & S. Biswas (Eds.), *Glimpses of environmental history* (pp. 107–127). Jadavpur U & Alphabet Books.
- Ahmed, S. (2014). Green regimes and social protest: Jalpaiguri, c. 1868-1950. In M. Ray (Ed.), *Environmental history of India* (pp. 31–47). Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya.
- Ahmed, S. (2013, January). Baigyanik Bonosrijan, Adivasi Janajati O Paribeshchinta : Oupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, c. 1870-1970. *Itihas Anushandhan, Paschimanga Itihas Samsad*, 1090–1095.
- Ahmed, S. (2013). Andal. In R. Chakraborti (Ed.), *Dictionary of historical places, Bengal, 1757-1947* (1st ed., p. 18). Primus Books and Dept. of History, Jadavpur U.
- Ahmed, S. (2012). A legacy of participation: Forest management and development, Jalpaiguri, c. 1880-1980. *Itihas Probondhamala*, 284–289. Itihas Academy.
- Ahmed, S. (2011–2012). Review Article of Bina Agarwal's Gender and Green Governance: The Political Economy of Women's presence within and Beyond Community Forestry, OUP, New Delhi, 2010. *Modern Historical Studies*, 8, 171–174.
- Ahmed, S. (2011, January). Khanishilpa, Prakriti O Unnayaner Bhabdhara : Jungle Mahal, c. 1860s-1970. *Itihas Anushandhan, Paschimanga Itihas Samsad*, 1170–1178.
- Ahmed, S. (2011). Transitions in a Bengal frontier: Forests and forest dwellers in Jalpaiguri District, c. 1880s-1950s. *Itihas Probondhamala*, 86–94. Itihas Academy.
- Ahmed, S. (2007, July). Review Article of Tribes, Forest and Social Formation in Indian History, edited by B.B.Choudhuri and Arun Bandopadhyay. *The Indian Historical Review*, 34(2), 221–225.

- Ahmed, S. (2007). Conflicting claims: The colonial state forests and forest dwellers in the Jalpaiguri District, 1869-1947. In R. Chakrabarti (Ed.), *Situating environmental history* (pp. 263–278). Manohar.
- Ahmed, S. (2006, July–December). Flood Mayhem and the Colonial Government Disaster Management and Policy Implementation in the District of Jalpaiguri, c. 1880-1950. *Calcutta Historical Journal*, 26(2), 91–111.
- Ahmed, S. (2006, January–June). Review Article of Gender Relations in Forest Societies in Asia: Patriarchy at Odds by Govind Kelkar, Dev Nathan, Pierre Walter (Sage, New Delhi, 2003). *Calcutta Historical Journal*, 25(1), 101–105.
- Ahmed, S. (n.d.). Scientific forestry and popular proclivities: Jalpaiguri, c.1870s-1950s. In A. Chatterjee (Ed.), *People at large popular culture in modern Bengal* (pp. 67–111). Setu.

Annexure IV

Papers Presented in National/ International Seminars/Conferences

Presented a paper on “Stories from Two Leaves and a Bud” in an international seminar on New Perspectives of Writing Regional History, organized by Aliah University (6 and 7 March 2024).

Presented a paper on “Ideas That Shaped a Tribal World: Verrier Elwin’s Sojourns amongst the Indigenous Communities”, in a national seminar on Revisiting the Intellectual History of India’s Struggle for Independence: Decoding the Debates and Discourses, emphasizing the importance of Thoughts and Actions, organized by St. Xavier’s College, Raghavpur Campus in collaboration with MAKAIAS (13th and 14th August, 2022).

Presented a paper on “A Luminous Persona: Many Facets of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam through his Writings” in a state-level seminar on A.P.J. Abdul Kalam organized by the Institute of Historical Studies (May 11, 2019).

Presented a paper on “Gender Relations in Forest Societies: Impact of Pre-colonial Customs and Colonial Laws on Mech and Santhal Women” in a national-level seminar on History of Environmental Ideas, held at Diamond Harbour Women’s University (November 19, 2019).

Presented a paper on “Revisiting the Jangalmahals – Retrospect and Prospect” in an international seminar organised by The Asiatic Society, Kolkata (July 19–21, 2017).

Presented a paper on “Designing Scientific Mining” at an international seminar at the University of Sussex, CWEH (June 13, 2017).

Presented a paper in a national-level Seminar on “Land Rights and Santhal Women” at Aliah University (April 2017).

Presented a paper in International Seminar on Global Climate Change entitled, “Colonial Pasts and Legacies: Forests, Climate Change and Disaster Management in the Northern Circle, c. 1860s-1970s” (January 2015).

Presented a paper in a National Seminar entitled, “Green Regimes and Social Protest, Jalpaiguri: 1868-1950,” at the National Level Seminar on Environmental History of India held at Naba Ballygunge Mahavidya (March 18, 2014).

Presented a paper in a National Seminar on “Green Regimes and Forest Policies” at Lalbaba College, Belurmath, Howrah (March 4, 2013).

Presented a paper entitled, “Jalpaiguri Jelar Adibashi Janajati: Sanskriti, Parichay O Rajniti, 1860-1955,” in a U.G.C. sponsored National Seminar on ‘Culture, Identity and Politics in South Asia,’ organized by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University (March 5–6, 2012).

Presented a paper entitled, “Green Regimes and Colonial Pasts : Vignettes of Botanical Garden and Histories of Marginalized People, c. 1890-1970,” at a National Seminar under

the DRS Programme in History on 'Biography, Autobiography and Memoir: Contextualising Bengal,' by the Department of History, Burdwan University (February 23–24, 2012).

Presented a paper entitled, "A legacy of Participation: Forest Management and Development, Jalpaiguri, c. 1880- 1980," at an International Seminar organized by Itihas Academy, Dhaka (February 17, 2012).

Presented a paper entitled, "Baigyanik Bonosrijan, Adivasi Janajati O Paribesh Chinta : Aupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, c. 1870-1970," (International Seminar) (January 24–26, 2012).

Presented a paper entitled, "Scientific Forestry and Popular Proclivities: Jalpaiguri and Jungle Mahals, c. 1870s-1980s," at a U.G.C. sponsored National Seminar on 'Popular Culture in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Bengal,' organized by Ramsaday College, Amta, Howrah (November 24, 2011).

Presented a paper at a U.G.C. and I.C.H.R sponsored National Seminar at Malda College, entitled, "Forest Policies and Historical Legacies : Participatory Forest Management in Jalpaiguri, c. 1720s – 1980s" (April 28 & 30, 2011).

Presented a paper in Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad (International Seminar) entitled "Khanishilpa, Unnayan O Prakritik Bharshamya: Jungle Mahals, c. 1910-1960" (January 2011).

Presented a paper entitled, "Bonshonrokhyon O Shamajik Protirodh : Oupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, 1868-1950," in the National Seminar on Protests, Resistance and Revolts in Pre-Independence India, organised by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University (March 22–23, 2007).

Presented a paper entitled, "Bonoshonkhoron O Prakritik Bharshamya : Oupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, c. 1869 – 1950," in the XXIIIrd Annual Conference of the Paschim Banga Itihas Samsad held at the Department of the University of Calcutta (January 27–29, 2007).

Presented a paper entitled, "Forest, Forest Dwellers and Survival Strategies: Jalpaiguri, 1869-1947," in the International Conference on "Environment, Livelihoods and Development in South Asia: Historical Probing in A Comparative Framework," organised by the Department of History, Calcutta University (March 6–8, 2006).

Presented a paper entitled, "Conflicting Claims: The Colonial State Forests and Forest Dwellers in the Jalpaiguri District, 1869-1947," in the International Seminar on 'Situating The History of Environment' held, organised by Jadavpur University and sponsored by the Special Assistance Programme of the University Grants Commission (March 3–5, 2005).

Presented a paper in the Indian History Congress entitled, "Forest Policies and Historical Legacies: Scientific Forestry and its Implementation in Jalpaiguri and the Jungle Mahals of Bengal, c. 1860-1950," held from 28th - 30th January at Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan (Undated).

Annexure V

Invited Speaker / Resource Person / Chaired Sessions in National/ International Seminars/ Conferences/ Conventions/ Workshops/ FDPs, etc.:

Delivered a lecture on “Ecological Refugees and Indo-Bangladesh Relations: Issues and Challenges” in a national seminar on Making Science Social in Modern India, organized by the Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, on September 18, 2025.

Delivered a lecture on "Faith Healing and Folk Medicine amongst some Indigenous Tribes of sub-Himalayan Bengal" in a Faculty Development Program organized by Jadavpur University on January 30, 2025.

Delivered a lecture in a Faculty Development Program on “Challenges in Climate Crisis and Resilience-Ecological, Political and Historical Perspectives organized by Amity Institute of Social Sciences and Amity Institute of Environmental Science, Amity University, Kolkata, on July 3, 2024.

Delivered a lecture on “Environmental History of Modern India”, organized by the 16th Faculty Induction Programme, UGC Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), University of Calicut (in Hybrid Mode).

Delivered a Special Lecture on Environmental Issues: Historical background, Environmental Acts, Impact on People, Risk Assessment & Disaster Management, organized by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in collaboration with National Council for Science Museums, Off-Campus Work Integrated Learning Programme MTech (Science Communication), during January 8 - 27, 2024 (6 lectures).

Chaired a Session—Assessment of Seminars/assignments, in the Refresher Course in Curriculum Design and Assessment for Teachers of Social Science on March 26, 2024.

Delivered a lecture on “Subhas-The Pioneering Leader of the Indian Freedom Struggle”, in a national seminar on Center for Adivasi Research and Development (CARD), Odhisa in Association with Ravenshaw University, Cuttack & National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, 25 November 2022.

Delivered a lecture on “Pandemics in History” in a state-level webinar organised by Hiralal Mazumdar College for Women, 14 June 2020.

Delivered a lecture on “Revisiting Epidemics and Pandemics in India: A Comparative Study Emphasizing the Outrages of COVID-19”, in a National Level Webinar organized by St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata (Raghavpur Campus).

Delivered a lecture on “Ecological Refugees & Indo-Bangladesh Relations: Issues and Challenges” in an international seminar on 1971:Genocide-Torture, organized by the Archive and Museum, 23 & 24 October 2019.

Commentator in a session in an International Seminar on 200 Years of Vidyasagar: Probing Social Reforms, organized by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, September 2019.

Delivered a lecture on “Gendering the Forest Societies” in a National Seminar on Gender Sensitisation, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, September 2019.

Chaired an academic session in the Indian Social Sciences and Humanities Congress, Samagam, 2019.

Co-ordinated, participated and chaired a session at the International Seminar on “Revisiting 1942” organised by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, on March 20 & 21, 2018.

Chaired an academic session in the Indian Social Sciences and Humanities Congress, Samagam, 2018.

Chaired an academic session in the Indian Social Sciences and Humanities Congress, Samagam, 2018. (Duplicate entry for 2018 retained).

Delivered a Special Lecture on “Partition and its Aftermath: Different Perspectives,” Department of History, St. Xavier's College, Raghavpur Campus, Kolkata, 2017.

Delivered a Special Lecture on “Comprehending Environmental History: From Ancient Times to the Modern,” Department of History, Mrinalini Dutta Mahavidyalaya, 2016.

Presided over the Hiralal Gupta Memorial Lecture on Readings of 1971: Bangladesh Liberation War and Women, Institute of Historical Studies, Kolkata, 2016.

Delivered Special Lecture on “The Revolt of 1857 and its Myriad Interpretations,” Department of History, Shri Shikshayatan College, May 5, 2014.

Delivered a Special Lecture on Environmental History of Modern India, organized by 16th Faculty Induction Programme, UGC Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), University of Calicut (in Hybrid Mode) (Undated).

Annexure VI

Organised Seminar/ Conferences/ Exhibitions/ Workshops/FIP/ FDPs etc.:

- International “Environmental Humanities: Recent Trends and Future Dimensions”, 13 January 2023; organized by the Department of Environmental Studies, Rabindra Bharati University
- National Seminar On “Climate Change and Global Issues”, 21 March 2024; organized by the Department of Environmental Studies, Rabindra Bharati University
- National Seminar on “Comprehending Climate Change: Insights from India”, 21 March 2025; Organized by Department of Environmental Studies, Rabindra Bharati University

Annexure VII

Participated in Seminars/ Conferences/ Exhibitions/ Workshops:

Attended and participated in the UGC sponsored National Seminar on History and Historiography of Science, Medicine, and Technology in Colonial India at Rabindra Bharati University on 25th January, 2009.

Attended and participated in the National Seminar on 'Explorations in the Contemporary History of India', organised by the Centre for Advanced Studies, Department of History, University of Calcutta, on 28th February 2009.

Attended National Seminar on Noakhali Gandhi organized by the Department of History and Gandhi Centre, January 2010.

Attended U.G.C sponsored National Seminar on "Perspectives of Colonial and Post-colonial Bengal, 9th March, 2010. • Attended National Seminar on Historiography of Medieval India organized by Department of History, Calcutta University, 19th March 2010.

Attended National Seminar organized by the Institute of Foreign Policy, Department of History, Calcutta University, 15th March 2010.

Attended National Seminar on Twentieth Century India: Continuity and Changes (Literature, Culture and Science), organized by Vidyasagar Centre for Indological Studies, 10th March 2010.

Attended National Seminar on Thakkar Brothers: Early Rebels against every form of Servitude, organized by Calcutta Historical Society and Netaji Institute, 26th March, 2010

Participated in the 30th Annual International Convention of Paschimanga Itihas Samsad held at P.N.Das College, Palta from 24th to 26th January, 2014.

Participated in the National Seminar on "Emerging Issues in the History of Colonial and Post Colonial India", organised by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University on 21 March 2014.

Participated in a National Seminar on Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar in Light of 125th Birth Anniversary: Consequence, Conflict and Charisma" on 26th – 27th March, 2015.

Participated in the Regional Knowledge Conclave for Colleges and Universities, Kolkata, from August 24 and 25, 2017, organised by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

Participated in a National Level Seminar on "Indian Newspaper: Yesterday & Today", on February 23, 2018 by the Vidyasagar Centre for Indological Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

Participated in a Workshop on, “Exploring New Avenues of Research and Research Funding” organised by IQAC, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, February 28, 2018.

Participated in a National Level Seminar on “Exploring India-Russia Relationship: Pre and Post Revolutionary (1917) Phases” from March 15- 16, 2018, by the Vidyasagar Centre for Indological Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

Annexure VIII

Details of Research Project(s):

- Successfully completed University Research Project (URP) funded by Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, on “Dr. R. Ahmed Dental Medical College and Hospital and the Science of Dentistry: An Institutional History of Bengal (1920-1950)” from 1 March 2022 to 30 April 2023.
- Successfully completed project on “Medical Missionaries and Healthcare in Sub-Himalayan Bengal, 1870s-1970s” funded by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi. project on “Medical Missionaries and Healthcare in Sub-Himalayan Bengal, 1870s-1970s” funded by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023