



Indian History Congress

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In Memoriam: Professor Hermann Kulke

The Indian History Congress expresses its deep sorrow at the passing of Professor Hermann Kulke, an eminent historian whose scholarship made a lasting contribution to the study of early medieval Indian history.

Professor Kulke, long associated with the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, was widely respected for his pioneering work on state formation, kingship, and religious institutions in early India. His influential concept of the “integrative state” opened new perspectives on the nature of political authority in early medieval polities. His studies on the Jagannath cult and the historical significance of the Jagannath Temple remain foundational for understanding the relationship between religion, regional identity, and political legitimacy in eastern India.

Through his scholarship and teaching, Professor Kulke contributed significantly to the international study of India’s past and maintained close intellectual ties with historians and institutions in India.

The Indian History Congress mourns the loss of a distinguished scholar and extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, students, and friends. His work will continue to inspire historians and students of Indian history for years to come.