



Indian History Congress

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OBITUARY

**Professor Sumit Sarkar
(1939–13 August 2026)**

Professor Sumit Sarkar, one of India's foremost historians of modern India, has passed away. A son of historian Susobhan Sarkar, he taught at Delhi University from 1974 to 2004.

His seminal works, *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal*, *Modern India, 1885–1947*, and *Writing Social History*, redefined colonial and nationalist historiography by centring peasants, workers, caste, gender, and popular politics.

A Marxist associated with Subaltern Studies, he later became a sharp critic of its turn, embodying rare intellectual independence. He was a steadfast defender of secular, evidence-based history against political encroachment.

As a teacher, he shaped generations of scholars. His legacy of rigorous inquiry and self-revision will endure.

The Indian History Congress mourns his loss and offers heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and students.