

# SANTOSH HASNU

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Historian specialising in the colonial history of Northeast India, with a focus on transport infrastructure, labour, ecology and frontier politics. PhD (University of Delhi, 2018). Permanent faculty since 2022.

## EDUCATION

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**PhD in History** – University of Delhi (2012–2018, awarded 19 November 2018)

*“A History of Transport in Northeast India, circa 1824–1945”*

Study of waterways, roadways, railways and airways in colonial Northeast India through the *longue durée*.

**M.Phil in History** – University of Delhi (2009–2012, awarded 19 March 2013)

*“State, Territory and Ecology: Changing Political Frontiers in Southern Assam, circa 18th–19th Century”*

**M.A. History** – University of Delhi (2007–2009, awarded 20 March 2010)

**B.A. History (Hons)** – North-Eastern Hill University (2004–2006, awarded 14 November 2006)

## ACADEMIC POSITION

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**Assistant Professor (Academic Level 11)** – Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi

Permanent faculty since 24 November 2022.

### Courses taught:

- History of Modern China (1840–1950s)
- History of India 1858–1947
- History of India 1200–1550
- Colonialism and Nationalism: Nineteenth to Early Twentieth Century India

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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**Three-Month Visiting Fellowship** – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), 2018 (not availed)

Awarded by the Charles Wallace India Trust (CWIT).

**Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship** – 2009–10

University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi.

**National Eligibility Test (NET) for Lectureship** – 2009

University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- ‘Inception of Aviation Routes between India and China’, *Economic and Political Weekly Journal*, Volume 52, Issue No.33, 19 August 2017, pp. 24-26. (ISSN 0012-9976).

- 'Aviation in India: A Historical Overview,' *Shodkosh: Journal of Visual and Performing Arts*, June 2024, 5 (6), pp. 1894-1898. (ISSN 2582-7472).
- 'Transport Infrastructure in North-East India', *History Research Journal*, Vol. XXX, (September) 2023, pp. 92-96. ISSN 0976-5425 (Print).
- 'The Making of Colonial Boundary: The Case of Cachar in Northeast of Bengal', *Bengal, Past and Present*, Vol. 140, No. 1, Jan-April 2022, pp. 77-83. ISSN 0005-8807 (Print).
- "Alibis of Conquest: Colonial takeover of Cachar state", *Bengal, Past and Present*, Volume 139, pp. 139–144. (ISSN 0005-8807).

### Book Chapters

- "Disciplining the hill tribes into coolie labor for road building", book chapter in *The Palgrave Handbook of Bondage and Human Rights in Africa and Asia*, edited by Gwyn Campbell & Alessandro Stanziani (Palgrave Macmillan Publication: New York, 2020).
- 'Colonial State and Annexation of Cachar in a Strategic Frontier of British Bengal,' book chapter in *State vs. Society in Northeast India: History, Politics and The Everyday*, edited by G. Amarjit Sharma (SAGE Publication: New Delhi, 2021).
- 'Coolie Labour, Tea Planters and Transport System in colonial India,' book chapter in an ITH edited volume on *Global Commodity Chains and Labor Relations*, edited by Andrea Komlosy & Goran Musić (Brill Publication: Leiden, 2021).
- 'Road Construction in North-East Frontier of India, 1820s-1830s', book chapter in a book *Road Communication in North East India and Beyond: Bridging Culture and People* (Concept Publishing Company: New Delhi, 2018).
- 'Colonial Archives and its representations of pre-colonial Dimasa polity and practices', chapter published in a book "*Studies on Dimasa: History, Language and Culture*" Volume I, DVS Publishers, Guwahati, 2017.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

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### International Conferences & Seminars

- Presented a paper on 'The cross-cultural connections enabled by WW II:A case study of British India & the Chinese Nationalist Government' in the International Seminar organized by South Asia Institute, Harvard University in collaboration with Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, Delhi held at IIC Annex, Delhi on 18 October 2024.
- Presented a paper on 'Local Girls and American GIs during the Second World War in Eastern India' at the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Asia Global History Network (SAGHN) Workshop organized by SAGHN & Department of History, University of Delhi, from 8-9 March 2024.
- Presented a paper on 'Recruiting the Khasi & Garo hill peoples as Labour Corps for the WW I' at the International Conference on 'India and First World War' held at Nehru Memorial Museum Library, New Delhi, from 27—28 November 2018.

- Presented a paper on 'Border Roads and Imperial Expansion of Late British and Qing Empire: A Case Study of the Lohit Valley Road' at the International Conference on Northeast India & Southeast Asia: Exploring Continuities held at Ambedkar University, Delhi, from 25-26 October 2018.
- Presented a paper 'Disciplining the hill tribes into *coolie* labour' at a Summer School on Bonded Labour in Global Perspective held at EHESS (Paris), organized by Research University Paris (PSL) from 13–16 June 2017.
- Presented a paper on 'Labour Circulation and Transport System in colonial Assam' at the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Conference for Labour and Social History, held at Steyr, Upper Austria, 15-17 September 2016.
- Presented a paper on 'The Commercial and Strategic Aspects of Sadiya-Rima Road for British Assam and Tibet' at the Research Scholars' Workshop held in the Department of History, University of Delhi on 3 March, 2016.
- Presented a paper on 'Air Transport from India: Diplomacy and Business in WW II' at an International Workshop on "The Indian Predicament: South Asia in World War II", held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, from June 5-6, 2016.
- Presented a paper on 'Colonial Road Construction and Labour Mobilisation in Nineteenth Century Northeast Frontier of India' at a workshop organised by Centre de recherches historiques, EHESS held at Collège de France, Salle Claude Lévi-Strauss, Paris, from 30 September – 2 October 2015.
- Presented a paper on 'Colonial Road Construction in Northeast India, c.1824-1891' at Nehru Memorial Museum Library (NMML), New Delhi on 20 April 2015.
- Presented a paper on 'Politics of Road Building in Colonial Expansion into Northeast India' at the 23<sup>rd</sup> European Conference on South Asia, held at the University of Zurich (Switzerland), from 23-26 July 2014.

### Invited Lectures

- Delivered a special lecture titled "Recent Historical Literature on the History of India's Northeast" organized by Varāhamihira Multidisciplinary Institute, a component Asiatic Society for Social Science Research, New Delhi on 10 August, 2024.
- Delivered a special lecture in the Two-Days National Seminar on the topic "*Women of North East India and Indian Freedom Struggle*" organized by IQAC and Department of History in collaboration with MAKAIAS, Kolkata held in Pranabananda Women's College, Dimapur on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- Delivered a lecture titled 'Infrastructure and Public Works as Instruments of state-making in the eastern Himalayas' for an online certificate course on *Academic Writing, Research Methodology and New Frontiers of Research for Humanities and Social Sciences* organized by Student Learning Centre, IQAC in collaboration with the Department of English, Hansraj College on 15 January 2022.
- Delivered a lecture titled 'Labour Mobilisation for Road Building in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Northeast Frontier of India' at the Faculty Development Programme on New Perspectives on the History of North East India Series-II organized by Department of History and Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University (Arunachal Pradesh), from 02-06 November 2020.

## **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

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- NEP 2020 Orientation & Sensitisation Programme (Malaviya Mission – UGC), Hansraj College (online), 16–30 December 2023 (two weeks).
- Faculty Induction Programme, Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Centre (MHRFDC), Hansraj College, 1–30 December 2022 (one month).
- FDP ‘WE TOO WERE THERE: Women in India’s Freedom Struggle’, Ram Lal Anand College / MHRFDC (online), 8–14 July 2022.
- Interdisciplinary FDP on Historiography and Research Methodology, Department of History, Hansraj College / MHRFDC, 19–24 April 2021.
- FDP on E-Content Generation and Online Teaching, Sri Aurobindo College (E) / MHRFDC, 11–17 December 2020.

## **OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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- Indian Delegation Member to Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu (China) for academic exchange between Indian and Chinese institutions, organised by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, July–August 2017.
- Participant, Summer School on “Labour, Coercion and Rights – Local Bondage in Global Perspective”, EHESS, Paris, 13–16 June 2017 (Research University Paris / PSL).
- Participant, India–China Corridor Spring School “Modern Empires, Flows, Environments and Livelihoods”, IIT Guwahati, 25–26 March 2017.
- Participant, U21 Masters Intensive Module “Security in a Globalised World”, Universities of Birmingham, Delhi & Melbourne, 31 January–4 February 2011.