



"I know that it (Infosys Prize) will be a source of great inspiration for my future research and writing. I would like to add that I think it is wonderful that the Infosys Science Foundation has thought of this way of making a statement that the world of academics, research and teaching counts. That our universities and research institutions count; that science, the social sciences, history, even ancient history matters."

Upinder Singh

Professor, Department of History, and Reader, University of Delhi

- M.A. in History from the University of Delhi
- M.Phil. in History from the University of Delhi
- Ph.D. in History from McGill University, Montreal

Professor Upinder Singh is being recognized for her contributions as an outstanding historian of ancient and early medieval India. She has been a pioneer in supplementing literary sources with an impressive array of archaeological, epigraphic and numismatic evidence to reconstruct early Indian history brilliantly. The vast chronological span of her scholarship stretches across millennia from the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic ages to 1200 CE.



Rediscovering ancient Indian history



History is about keeping records about our past. It is also about putting events in the past in a context that's relevant to our present. From the Stone Age to a modern day India, the nation's history has often been studied and interpreted by scholars from various schools of thought. These analyses were often colored or shaped by several factors — be they political, cultural, religious or economic.



Prof. Upinder Singh's work is an exciting and challenging exploration of ancient Indian history. Her work not only attempts at giving us a deeper understanding of Indian history, but also evokes intellectual inquiry and debate that form a standard part of learning history for university students and general readers.



Prof. Singh's work has covered different regions in India and looked at the roles people have played in shaping the country's history. She has used sources such as texts, currency, inscriptions and other objects from various periods unearthed by archaeologists to build a strong account of ancient India.



This liberal historian also contributed to the study of ancient cities in India with a detailed study of the city of Delhi through the ages.



Working meticulously, Prof. Singh has attempted a modern rediscovery of ancient India. Her intense study, connecting elements in archaeology and history, while also drawing on relevant literary sources, has made her works commendable.