



Historian Chittabratan Palit, Pioneer of Agrarian History, Dies

Why in News?

Chittabrata Palit, a renowned expert in the agrarian history of [colonial Bengal](#), as well as in indigenous science, technology, medicine, and American history, passed away in Kolkata on 13 June 2025 at the age of 82.

- He is remembered for his **significant contributions to academia**, particularly in the areas of **Bengal's [rural society](#)** and the history of science.

Key Points

- **Early Life and Education:** He was born on 18 October 1941, in Khulna, Bangladesh.
 - He completed his PhD on the [land system](#) in agrarian Bengal at Cambridge University.
- **Career:** He began his teaching career at Burdwan University before joining the history department at Jadavpur University, where he spent a significant portion of his professional life.
 - He retired from Jadavpur University in 2010, later being appointed Emeritus Professor in 2012.
 - He was also a member of the **Indian delegation to the International Conference of History of Sciences** in 2013, where he presented a paper on **Girish Chandra Bose** and Indian Botany.
 - In January 2015, he was awarded the **Legend of History of Science** at the International Conference of History of Science Kolkata Chapter.
- **Academic Contributions:** In 1996, He founded the **Corpus Research Institute** with his former students, which has published over 50 titles.
 - He authored more than 100 books on various subjects, including the [economic history of Bengal](#), science and nationalism, and the history of medicine in India.

OCT 18, 1941- JUNE 14, 2025

➤ Did his PhD on the land system in agrarian Bengal at Cambridge before taking up his first teaching assignment at Burdwan University



➤ Awarded Legend of History of Science at the International Conference of History of Science Kolkata Chapter Jan 2015

➤ Elected a fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, London in 2005

➤ Founded Corpus Research Institute with his ex-students in 1996. It has published more than 50 titles

➤ He joined JU's history department from where he retired in 2010. He was Emeritus Professor of History, JU since 2012

➤ A former director of Institute of Historical Studies, Kolkata

➤ Chosen as a member of the Indian delegation to the International Conference of History of Sciences, held in Manchester in 2013

➤ Wrote over 100 books specializing in economic history and history of science in Bengal

➤ He has guided more than 100 students in PhD and MPhil