



## **DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY – ANNUAL REPORT (2023-24)**

The Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, is a vibrant body of students and teachers which is led by Dr. Richa Raj, Teacher-in-Charge and Convenor, History Association, Dr. Amita Paliwal, Co Convenor, History Association, Ms Manvi Pandey, President and Ms Sana Khursheed, Vice-President, History Association. Under their leadership, the department has conducted several Talks, Seminars and other Events during the academic year 2023-24. Working along with them are the Faculty Members as well as the Student Core Team. The Faculty members include:

Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar, Associate Professor

Dr. Saumya Varghese, Assistant Professor

Dr. Maya John, Assistant Professor

Dr. Sanghamitra Rai Verman, Assistant Professor

Dr. Sonu Vincent, Assistant Professor

Ms. Blessy Chinnu Abraham, Assistant Professor

Mr. Dias Mario Antony, Assistant Professor

The Student Core Team includes the following members: Anna Thomas, Anoushka Patni, Nancy, Shivani Negi, Aparna Nair, Salvika Shahi, Urja Kaushik, Anjali Sharma, Anushka Lohiya, Safa Manzoor, Shobha Gaire, Priyal Naik, Yashisola Jamir, Bhavya Srivastava, Kimbiakmawi Dousel, Kumari Savita, Mansha Sharma, Neeti Gupta, Sanchi Pahwa, Maria Elsa, Steffi, Tanya, Sahana Shiv Kumar, Ramish Mushi, Tanushka Puri, Bhavya Awasthi, Gunjan Madan, Neeti Agrawal, and Adila Ali. Apart from this, the total strength of the department exceeds 200.

## **DEPARTMENT TALKS/SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS**

With the cooperation and support of the faculty and the students, the department held its first academic talk on September 20, 2023, by Dr. Shahana Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of History, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. Dr. Bhattacharya gave a thought-provoking insight on “Caste, Class and Stigmatised Work: Reflections from the History of Labour in the Leather Industry in Colonial India” which was attended by the students and faculties of various colleges, universities of Delhi.



**Image: Talk by Dr. Shahana Bhattacharya, September 20, 2023 (Wednesday)**

Following this, the department organised Fresher’s Debate in collaboration with the English Debating Society on September 29, 2023 to foster a healthy debating culture amongst the first-year students of the College. The motion of the debate was: “This house believes that the principles of nationalism as articulated by Bhagat Singh are in complete contradiction with contemporary politics in the name of nationalism.”



**Image: Fresher’s Debate Held in Collaboration with the English Debating Society, September 29, 2023 (Friday)**

The department also organised a Freshers Event for the newly inducted first years of the department on the theme, “Glitz & Glam” on October 6, 2023. The fun filled event included performances by first year students and the faculties also competed in some of the events. It ended with a competition among the first years announcing the titles, “Ms. Freshers’23” and “Ms. History 23”.



**Image: Freshers’23, October 6, 2023 (Friday)**

October and November saw some important Student Seminars on UPSC CSE Preparation. These were conducted in collaboration with Unacademy. The first was held on October 20, 2023, on “How to prepare for UPSC CSE, while still in college” by Mr. Atul Garg. The second Seminar was held on November 1, 2023 on “UPSC CSE: Prospects and Preparation Strategies” by Mr. Armstrong Pame, an IAS Officer who is also known as the ‘Miracle Man’ and awarded with ‘India’s Distinguished IAS Officer’ Award in 2021, as well as Mr. Atish Mathur, an Unacademy Educator. The Seminar was attended by large number of students across Delhi University and others and ended as a huge success.



**Image: Seminar on “How to prepare for UPSC CSE, while still in college” in collaboration with Unacademy, 20th October 2023 (Friday)**



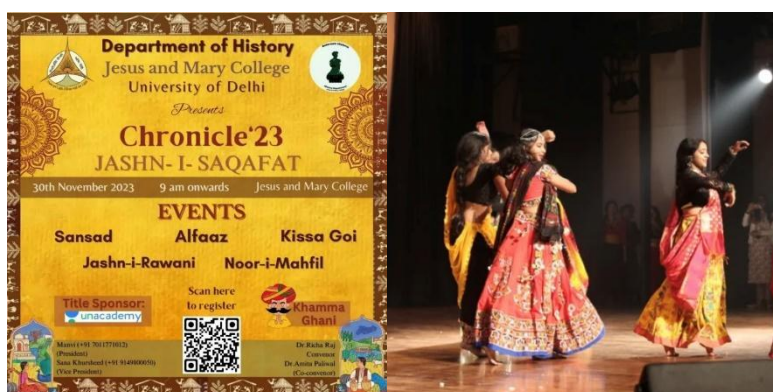
**Image: Seminar on “UPSC CSE: Prospects and Preparation Strategies” in collaboration with Unacademy, November 1, 2023 (Wednesday)**

The department, with the aim to understand the histories of the ‘other’ regions such as the North-East of India, collaborated with Ethnic Eight, the North East Society of JMC to conduct an academic talk on November 9, 2023 at the Thevenet Hall by Prof. Joy L.K. Pachau. Prof. Pachau talked on “Visual Histories and Beyond: Constructing the History of Mizoram through the Photo Archive” which was attended by large number of students of JMC as well as across the colleges of Delhi.



**Image: Talk by Prof. Joy Pachuau in collaboration with Ethnic Eight Society, November 9, 2023 (Thursday)**

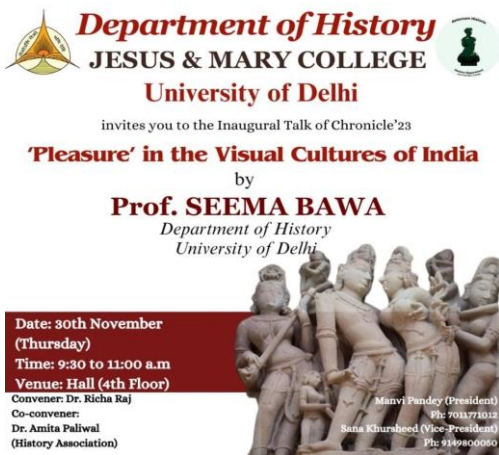
The Annual Fest of the Department: Chronicle'23 was held on November 30, 2023 under the theme, "Jashn-i-Saqafat: Celebration of Indian Culture". The Inaugural Talk was delivered by Prof. Seema Bawa on "'Pleasure' in the Visual Cultures of India," which was attended by the students and faculties of various departments and universities of Delhi. This was followed by several competitions: *Kissa Goi*: The Drama Competition; *Sansad*: The Mock Parliamentary Debate Competition on the theme, "Glorification and Elimination of Cultures in Education and its Impact on Youth"; *Jashn-i-Rawani*: Display of Cultural Diversity; as well as *Alfaaz*: Bilingual Poetry Competition on the theme "*Sarhadon ka Safar*." The Fest was also lined up with several stalls such as those of Food, Jewellery, Snacks, and Handicraft items highlighting the cultural diversity of India. The highlight of the day was the Cultural Event, *Noor-e-Mahfil*, which involved several artists such as Dwani Girish, Sinan Najeeb, Sayyid Sarfas, Milind RM, Urban Bhangra Girls, *Annhad*, *Tarannum*, *Nrityanjali*, Ethnic Eight, and a Department Fusion Dance.



**Image: Chronicle'23, Jashn-i-Saqafat, November 30, 2023 (Thursday)**



Image: *Alfaaz*: Bilingual Poetry Competition on the theme “*Sarhadon ka Safar*”.



Poster of the inaugural talk of Chronicle 2023



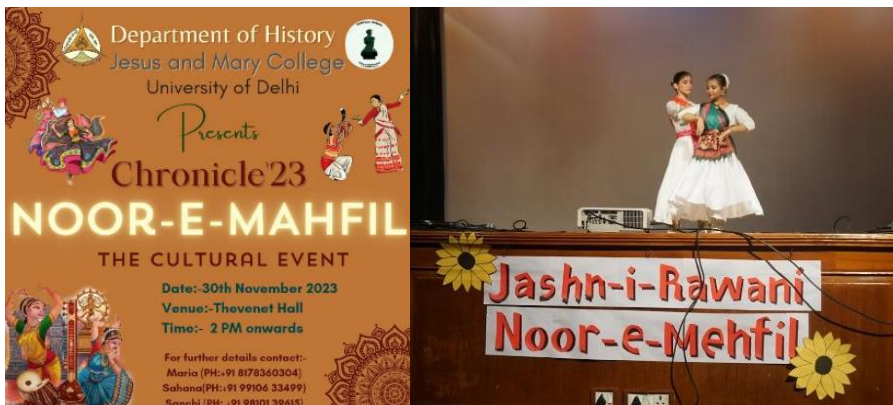
Image: *Jashn-i-Rawani*: Display of Cultural Diversity



Image: *Sansad*: The Mock Parliamentary Debate Competition



**Image: *Kissa Goi*, The Drama Competition**



**Image: *Noor-e-Mahfil*, The Cultural Event**

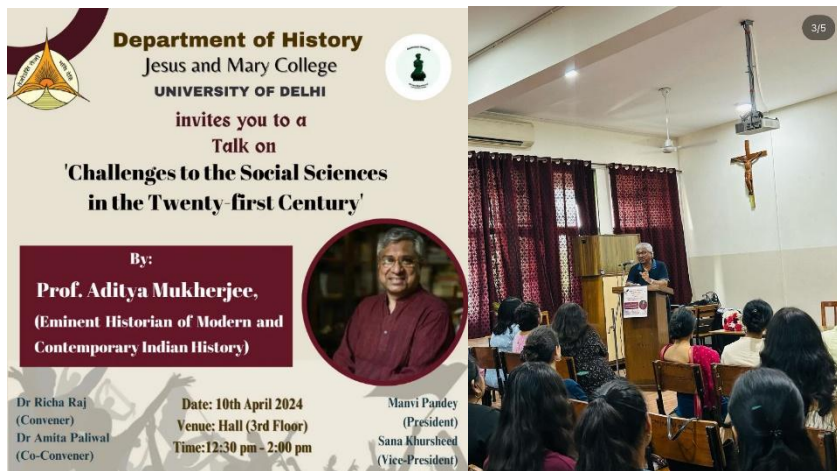
The new year started off with the exciting March Past Competition held by the Sports Department during its Annual Sports Meet on March 5, 2024. This was a competition of the departments in which the students proudly marched and our star athletes, Ananya Singh, brought victories for the department in the 100 metre race, 200 metre race as well as the Train Race.



**Image: March Past Competition, March 5, 2024 (Tuesday)**

The department conducted its last academic talk on 10th April 2024. It was an insightful session on the topic “Challenges to the Social Sciences in the Twenty-first Century” by Prof. Aditya Mukherjee,

an eminent historian of Modern and Contemporary Indian History. The talk focused on several key issues pertaining to present-day India, was attended by students and teachers alike.



**Image: Talk by Prof. Aditya Mukherjee, April 10, 2024 (Wednesday)**

The academic year ended with the launch of the third volume of *Maazinama: The Annual Academic Journal of the Department* on the topic, “Conservation, Preservation and History Writing: Changes and Continuities”, as well as an Undergraduate Students’ Seminar on “Contested Terrains: Tracing North-East India” on April 30, 2023. It marked the end of a successful academic year under the guidance of the faculties and the leadership of the students.



**Images: The Release of *Maazinama* Volume III and the Paper Presentation Competition, April 30, 2024 (Tuesday)**

The Sponsorship Team of the Department continued to work till the end of the year and brought another Sponsorship Webinar on “Careers on Law: How Law Graduates Drive Social Change” by Pritam

Barua, Dean and Head of School of Law as well as the recipient of scholarships from Oxford and University College London. It was held on May 5, 2024 and was attended by over 200 people.



Image: Webinar by Pritam Barua, May 5, 2024 (Sunday)

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

### Oral History Archive

The Department throughout the academic session was actively involved in various academic and intellectual pursuits contributing to the Discipline of History. The Oral History Archive (OHA), an initiative of the department of History, established in 2022 aims to record and preserve the oral traditions, memories, and experiences of individuals and communities across the region and across various economic and social strata. The larger aim is to archive interviews that fit into the paradigm of Political, Economic, Social, Cultural, Subaltern, and Intellectual histories. Led by the President, Dr. Richa Raj, as well as the Student Coordinator, Aparna Nair (3rd Year, B.A. History Honours), and Student Co-Coordinator, Tanushka Puri (2nd Year, B.A. History Honours), the Project is divided into four major teams:

1. Team *Histories of Sexualities* coordinated by Dr. Richa Raj and headed by Ms. Safa Manzoor and Ms Anjali Sharma;
2. Team *Life-Stories of Public Intellectuals in India* coordinated by Dr. Maya John and headed by Ms Kimbiakmawi Dousel and Ms Muskan Joshi;
3. Team *Memories of Institutions* coordinated by Dr. Saumya Varghese and Dr. Sonu Vincent and headed by Ms Ananya Devgun and Ms Madiha Khan;
4. Team *People's History of Heritage in India* coordinated by Dr. Amita Paliwal and headed by Ms Adila Ali and Ms Bhavya Srivastava;

OHA has successfully conducted several interviews. The session started with an interview of Ms. Sylvia Lal under Team *Memories of Institutions* on October 11, 2023. Ms. Sylvia Lal, a JMC alumna herself made significant contributions over many years by serving as the Personal Assistant to the Principal. With unwavering dedication, she played a vital role in the college community from the 1980s until her retirement in 2019.





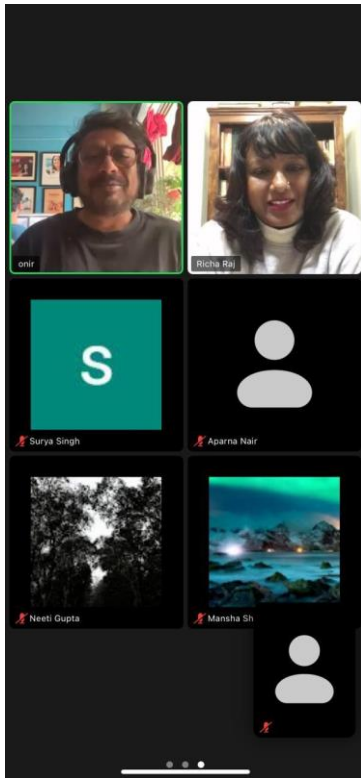
**Image: Interview of Ms. Sylvia Lal, October 11, 2023**

On 1st December, 2023, Team Histories of Sexualities conducted an interview with VQueeram or Vikramaditya Sahai, a gender non-conforming writer, researcher, vocal queer activist, and independent academics based in Delhi who has extensively written and spoken on a diverse array of critical themes in contemporary Indian discourses on gender and sexuality, rights and criminality, etc.



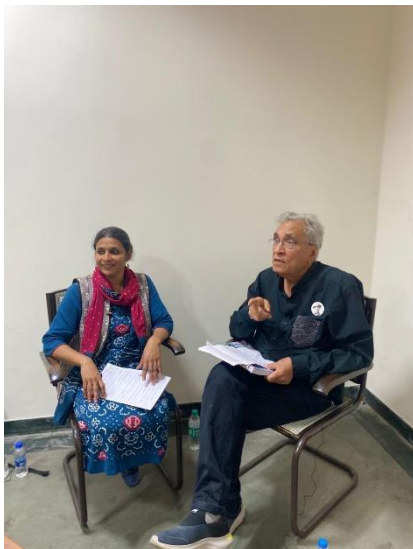
**Image: Interview of VQueeram, 1st December 2023**

The Team also conducted an online interview of the well-known Director, Surya Onir (Anirban Dhar), on January 20, 2024. Onir's work as a filmmaker, producer, screenwriter and editor spans across issues of same-sex relationships, widowhood, and queerness. His film "I Am" won the Indian National Film Award for the Best Film in 2011.



**Image: Interview of Onir (Anirban Dhar), January 20, 2024**

On 21st February, 2024, Team Life-Stories of Public Intellectuals in India, conducted the interview of Dr. Shamsul Islam. Dr. Islam is a well-known author, columnist and street theatre activist who focuses on issues of religious nationalism, 'religious bigotry', dehumanisation, totalitarianism and the persecution of women, Dalits and minorities.



**Image: Interview of Dr. Shamsul Islam, February 21, 2024**

Team Life-Stories of Public Intellectuals in India conducted yet another interview on April 9, 2024 with Palagummi Sainath, an acclaimed writer, journalist as well as the 2007 winner of the Ramon Magsaysay Award. He is also the Founder Editor of the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) which focuses on the rural lives and the failure of the corporate media to cover their issues.



**Image: Interview of P. Sainath, 9th April 2024**

The department also organised an educational trip to Dalhousie, Khajjiar and Chamba, Himachal Pradesh from April 11-13, 2014. It was attended by 35 students and 4 faculty members.

