



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY – ANNUAL REPORT (2021-22)

The Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, is a vibrant body of students and teachers which is led by Dr. Amita Paliwal, Teacher-in-Charge and Convenor History Association, Dr. Sanghamitra R Verman, Co Convenor History Association, Ms Diya Das, President and Ms. Srushti Sharma, Vice-President, History Association. Other faculty members include Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar, Dr. Saumya Varghese, Dr. Richa Raj, Dr. Maya John, Dr. Tanu Parashar and Dr. Sonu Vincent. Under their leadership, the department has conducted several talks, seminars and other events during the academic year 2021-22. The department also made successful presentation before NAAC Peer team in November 2021 where the departments faculty profiles, achievements, presentations, publications, notable visitors, speakers, outstanding alumni, students' progressions, social outreach programmes, strengths and weaknesses were clearly defined.

A student core committee includes the following list of students: Ruby Thomas, Stanzin Youdon, Lumaren M. Walling, Maria, Shreya Mathus, Ankita Harshal, Daisy Mehta, Ishika Ahluwalia, Noyanika Chatterji, Manjari Singh, Caron, Gracy Raj, Jessica Sharma, Kavyamshi Biswas, Mahreen Alam, Shaivie Sharma, Ananya Rai, Jessentha Joji, Avnika Sinha, Sarah Grace, Tanisha Kaushik. Anindita Ray, Sehar Sabharwal, Aksa Anna, Brinda Mathur, Somiwon YL, Honey A. Babu, and Lea De Menezes. Apart from this, the total strength of the department exceeds 200.

With the active cooperation and support of the students and the faculty, the department held its first academic talk of the session in collaboration with *Dastaan*: The Art and Architecture Society. It was a webinar on the topic, "De-Historicizing 19th Century Literary Works: A Case Study of John Masters' Novels" by Dr. Akbar Joseph A. Syed. Dr. Syed is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University, who is well recognized for his work on Women, Capitalism and Patriarchy. Some of his most famous works include 'Buckling Under Feminist Charges: Women in Ayn Rand's Lesser Known Works', 'Criticism And Counter Criticism'. Some of his other works are 'Second Class' Existence: A Study of Women Characters in Ayn Rand's, 'The Fountainhead and Atlas Shrugged'.

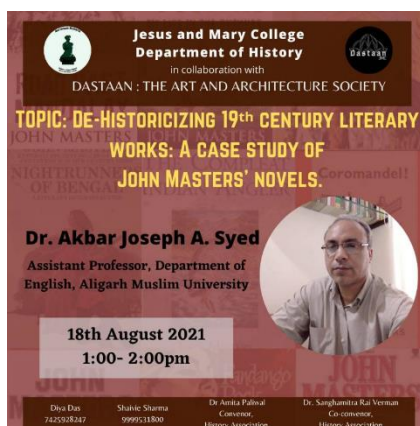


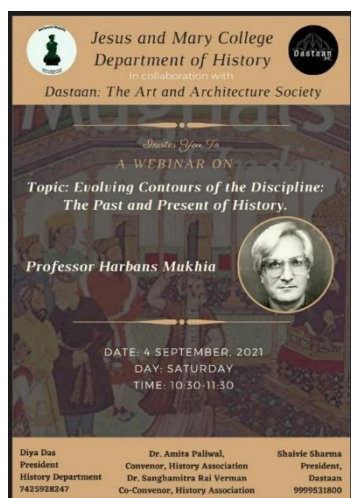
Image: Online talk by Dr. Akbar Joseph A. Syed, August 18, 2021 (Wednesday)

On August 27, 2021, the department, in collaboration with the Women's Studies Centre, held a webinar, "In conversation with Dr. Meera Velayudhan on her mother, Dakshayani Velayudhan's extremely inspiring journey'. Dr. Velayudhan is a policy analyst with a PhD in Modern Indian History who has been actively engaged in the field of Gender Studies since the 1980s. She is the daughter of Dakshayani Velayudhan who was the first Scheduled-Caste Women Graduate as well as the youngest and only Dalit woman member of the Constituent Assembly and brought key changes in issues of untouchability, forced labour, and slavery.



Image: Webinar by Dr. Meera Velayudhan, August 27, 2021 (Friday)

An online talk in collaboration with *Dastaan* was conducted by the department on "Evolving Contours of the Discipline: The Past and Present of History" by Prof. Harbans Mukhia on September 4, 2021. Prof. Mukhia is an eminent historian who specialises in Medieval India. He is the founding editor of *The Medieval History* and a Retired Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Some of his most celebrated works include, "Was There Feudalism in Indian History?", *The Mughals of India*, *Historians and Historiography*, *Feudalism and Non-European Societies* to name a few.



Images: Prof. Harbans Mukhiya on "Evolving Contours of the Discipline: The Past and Present of History" in collaboration with Dastaan, September 4, 2021 (Saturday)

Another collaborative talk was held by the department and *Dastaan* on September 11, 2021 on the topic, "The Acceptance of Coinage in the Marketplace" by Dr. Arthur Needham. As a researcher of numismatics, Dr. Needham has studied prehistoric rock art and coinage in India. He, along with co-

researcher Sir Mohammed Tariq Ansari, wrote the History of Indian Numismatics and introduced a new method of coin illustration including colour coding of coin inscriptions for easier study and understanding as well as the introduction of a comprehensive alpha-numeric coding system for Indian numismatics. They also introduced the Unit system of Coin Metrology and assisted in the designing of museum displays and numismatic course work at the postgraduate level. They also co-authored a series of books titled, Coins of India: The Mughal Emperors. The aim and purpose of these was to introduce coins, offer a catalogue, and help coin enthusiasts to decipher coins.

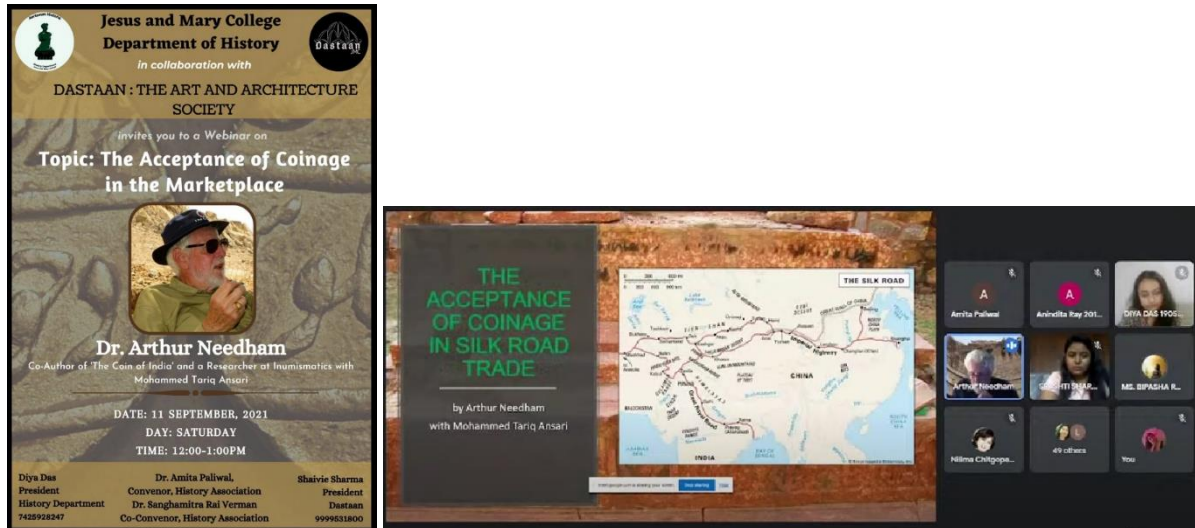


Image: Talk by Dr. Arthur Needham, September 11, 2021 (Saturday)

An interesting webinar was organised on September 15, 2021 on “The Violence of Normal Times: Women in Resistance” by Ritu Menon, a feminist writer and publisher who has worked extensively on women and violence, on gendering of citizenship, women and religion, and the condition of women during armed conflicts. She has authored and co-authored several books such as ‘Borders Boundaries: Women in India’s Partition’ and is the co-editor of several important books and stories written on the theme of gender. She also co-founded Kali for Women (KFW), India’s first feminist press. She is also a founding member of Women’s WORLD (International), an international free speech network of writers who work on gender-based censorship worldwide.



Image: Webinar by Ritu Menon, September 15, 2021 (Wednesday)

October 28, 2021 the department of History organised Chronicle'21, the annual academic fest of the department. The event was organised in Online mode considering the pandemic situation. The online fest began with an informative session by Prof. Alessandro Portelli on "Life and Death of the Word: Oral History, Memory, Archives" and Prof. Sucheta Mahajan on "Oral History and Memory Work". This was followed by several competitions: *Alfaaz*: Bilingual Poetry Competition on the theme "Women Emancipation"; *Sansad*: The Mock Parliamentary Debate Competition on the theme "Proposed Legislation on Marital Rape (Prohibition, Redressal and Rehabilitation)"; and an Undergraduate Research Paper Competition on "Oral History: The Turn to Memory and its Historicization".



Images: Events held on Chronicle'21, October 28, 2021 (Thursday)

The new semester started off with an interesting offline talk-cum-interview of Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar on "The Plurality of the Goddess Tradition as 'Shakti' – An Exploration" on March 30, 2022. Dr. Chitgopekar has authored several books like 'The Reluctant Family Man: Shiva in Everyday Day Life', 'Rudra: The Idea of Shiva' and others. She has also been a part of BBC documentary series and has been fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. Following the talk, a special segment in the form of an interview was also conducted by the students on her recent book, 'Shakti : An Exploration of the Divine Feminine'.

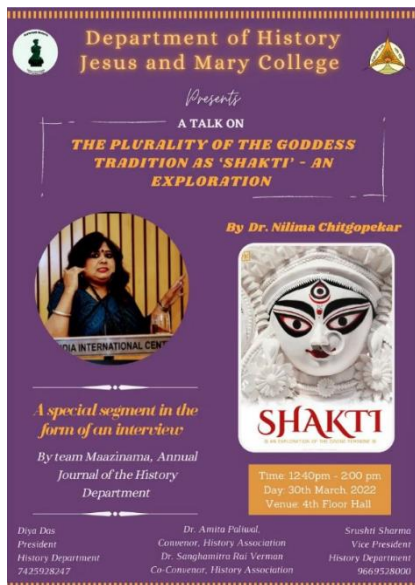


Image: Talk by Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar, March 30, 2022 (Wednesday)

The department, to further conduct events and programmes, held a Fundraising event for its upcoming project, Oral History Archive, on 1st April 2022.



Image: Fundraising Event, 1st April 2022 (Friday)

The academic year ended with the fantastic launch of the innovative and unique project of the department of History, The Oral History Archive (OHA) as well as *Maazinama*: The Annual Academic Journal of the department of History, Vol I on 27th April 2022. It started off with the screening of the award-winning documentary by Bani Singh, 'Taangh: The Longing'. The documentary focuses on the members of independent India's first hockey team in which many members were uprooted from their motherland due to partition. One such member, Nandy Singh, who suffered from a stroke, following which his daughter, Bani Singh tried to trace her father's journey through archival footage and interviews. Following this was a presentation by Ms. Anchal Singh, scholar on 1947 Partition Archive,

researches on the methods of recording and preserving oral histories. This event marked the end of a successful academic year under the constant teamwork and coordination of the students with the support of the faculty members.

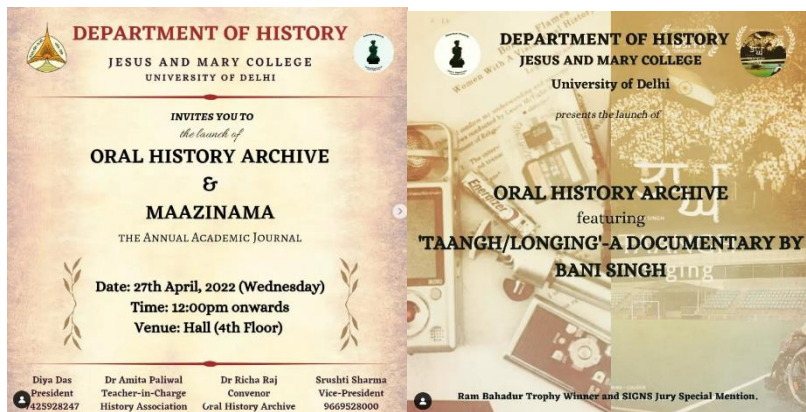


Image: Launch of Oral History Archive and *Maazinama*, April 27, 2022 (Wednesday)