

Jesus and Mary College

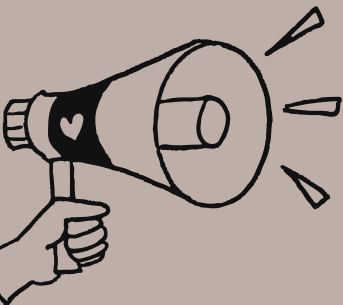
University of Delhi

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
&
IQAC JMC

Young Scholars' National Seminar

9th & 10th APRIL 2026

"Bridging the Past and Present: Themes, Methods, and Meanings in History."



Convener: Dr. Maya John
Co-Convener: Dr Blessy C. Abraham

President: Shivanshi Budhlakoti (90276 93679)
Vice-President: Anika Kanodia (79915 51973)

historydepartmentjmc

Inaugural Lecture

By Dr. Prabhu Mohapatra



Topic- Of Traces and Clues and the Everyday: Reflections on Methods of History and Historians

He is a retired professor of modern Indian history. He taught for several years at the University of Delhi, and is known for his pioneering work on labour, migration, and global labour histories. One of his very well known publications is the volume Labour Matters. He is one of the founding members of the Association of Indian Labour Historians (AILH).



9th April '26



9:30am



3rd Floor Hall

Valedictory Lecture

By Dr. Meera Visvanathan



Topic- Songs of the Mortar and Pestle: Women's Words and Women's Work in the Therigatha

She is an Associate Professor at Shiv Nadar University specializing in ancient and early medieval Indian history, with a focus on Brahmi inscriptions, caste, gender, and public engagement with the past.



10th April '26



2:00pm



AV Room

CHAIRING PANEL

Dr. Aali Kumar



Aali Kumar is a food historian and the founder of The House of Zaikanama, a research-led initiative that believes food is evidence. The House of Zaikanama works across multiple verticals, each engaging with different research questions and formats. She has taught in the Department of History across colleges under the University of Delhi for over a decade, and it was through her interactions with the students that the methodological foundations of Zaikanama took shape. Her work has been featured in publications including South China morning Post and The New Indian Express. Her first book, The History of Delhi Through 10 Meals, is forthcoming from Aleph Book Company. In addition to research, her practice extends to talks, collaborations, and Archival Dining™—a specialized format she developed that uses the historical method of reconstruction.

Dr. Sabina Kazmi

Dr. Sabina Kazmi teaches history at St. Stephen's College. Her doctoral research was titled Law, Customs and Traditions in a Shia Kingdom: A Case Study of the Begums of Awadh upto the 1850s. Her other research areas include issues of authority and kingship in the medieval-early modern period, women in courtly politics and imperial households within Islamic/Persianate settings, the establishment of early colonial rule, Shi'a traditions and practices, and the articulations of authority through courtly practices, art, literature and religious patronage. She has also published on the colonial interventions in Awadh, the political interventions of the Begums of Awadh, and the role of begums in the management of their property as well as in cultural-religious developments of the region.



Prof. Prabhu Mohapatra



Prof. Prabhu Prasad Mohapatra is a retired professor of modern Indian History at the Department of History, University of Delhi. He completed his PhD from JNU in 1990 on the agrarian economy of Chhota Nagpur. Since then, he has been researching and writing on labouring communities like indentured and migrant workers within a broader global framework. His co-edited volume Labour Matters: Towards Global Histories remains a landmark contribution to the field. He has also been associated with the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Yale University, and the University of Amsterdam. At the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, he established the Integrated Labour History Research Programme, and helped create one of India's earliest digital archives of labour history. He has also been one of the founding members of the Association of Indian Labour Historians (AILH).

Prof. Sangeeta Dasgupta

Sangeeta Dasgupta teaches in the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is also Senior Research Associate at the Centre for World Environmental History, University of Sussex, Brighton. She is an editor of the The Indian Economic and Social History Review. Her research interests are in Adivasi Studies, Environmental History, Colonial Ethnography, Missionary Studies, Anthropological Representations and Visual Culture. She is author of Reordering Adivasi Worlds: Representation, Resistance, Memory (Oxford University Press, 2022) and co-editor of The Politics of Belonging in India: Becoming Adivasi (Routledge, 2011). She was also co-editor for a special issue titled 'Multiple Worlds of The Adivasi' of the Modern Asian Studies (September 2022). She is presently working on a digitization project funded by the Modern Endangered Archives Programme of the UCLA Library, and writing a biography of the anthropologist Sarat Chandra Roy.



Dr. Madhwi



Dr Madhwi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Bharati College, University of Delhi. Her work focuses on migration, indentured labor, imperial ideologies in the Indian Ocean world, gender history, regional cultures, social history of medicine, and the intersections of identity, power, and knowledge in South Asia. She is the author of Health, Medicine and Migration: The Formation of Indentured Labour, c. 1834-1920 (Primus, 2020), and has contributed to Global Histories of Disability (Routledge, 2023), where she examines disability and indenture in Mauritius and Natal. She has also been awarded the Parth Sarthi Gupta Memorial and P.C. Jha Memorial Prize at the Indian History Congress for her research on women, labor, and sexuality in colonial Natal. She is also a recipient of several prestigious fellowships and grants, including those from the Wellcome Trust, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, etc.

CHAIRING PANEL

Dr. Ruchika Sharma



Dr. Ruchika Sharma is an Assistant Professor of History at Mata Sundri College for Women, Delhi University. She has been exploring and publishing on themes like mixed-race domesticities, women through legal history, Nautch women, Ganika (courtesans), gender and European travel literature, historical understanding of literary figures like sakhi/duti/go-between, PoSH Laws, diversity and inclusion (DEI), etc. She is the recipient of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Book Writing Fellowship in 2019. She has recently published her book, *Concubinage, and Law in Early Colonial Bengal. Bequeathing Intimacy, Servicing the Empire*, that looks at the wills left by the British men in 18th century India mentioning their Indian bibis (concubines) and families they had with them. She is currently the Principal Investigator for an ongoing project titled *Embodying Cultural Heritage and Creating Living History: Case Study of Bikaner House in Delhi*.

Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar

Dr Nilima Chitgopekar, (retd.) was an Associate Professor at the Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University. She has authored eight books and edited one, along with several articles and essays on Hindu gods and other related matters. Her latest book is *Shiva: God of Gods*. Two of her books are prescribed readings for students of Delhi University. She has been the recipient of prestigious fellowships, including the Oxford Centre of Hindu Studies, Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship and USIS fellowship at Boston College and has lectured widely in India and overseas. She has featured in and worked with the BBC documentaries and radio programs. In her attempt to take Hindu mythology to a far larger audience, she has been involved in making several online films, covering topics like the history of a god, iconography and gender roles in the celestial world, etc.



Dr. Amar Farooqui

Amar Farooqui is retired Professor of History, University of Delhi. He has been Member-Secretary of the Indian Council of Historical Research, and Joint-Secretary of the Indian History Congress. He was President of the Modern India Section of the Indian History Congress at its Platinum Jubilee Session. His areas of specialisation are colonialism and narcotics, princely states, and urban history. He is a member of the editorial board of *Social Scientist*. His publications include, *Smuggling as Subversion: Colonialism, Indian Merchants and the*

Politics of Opium; Opium City: The Making of Early Victorian Bombay, Sindias and the Raj, and Zafar and the Raj. His latest book, *Governors of Empire* was published in 2025.

Dr Srimanjari

Dr Srimanjari has taught history at Miranda House, University of Delhi for over 35 years, till her retirement in August 2025. Her area of research has been Bengal during the World War-I years, with primarily the Famine of 1943 in focus. Her work was published as the book, *Through War and Famine, Bengal 1939-45* (2009), published by Orient BlackSwan. This apart, she has written on the Quit India Movement as well as on early human societies and the heritage of the Northern Ridge of Delhi.



Dr. Meera Visvanathan

Dr Meera Visvanathan is an Associate Professor at the Department of History and Archaeology, Shiv Nadar University. Her areas of research and writing focus on the history of ancient and early medieval India. She has particularly been working on Brahmi inscriptions of the early historic period and the social history of early India, with a focus on themes of caste and gender. She has also written multiple book reviews and popular articles and delivered several presentations focused on public engagements with the past.



List of Panels

DAY-1, 9TH APRIL

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Seminar Hall

Panel 1: Food, Community, and Trade

Chair: **Dr. Aali Kumar (Food Historian and Founder of Zaikanama)**

- **Hanna Mariam Aji:** Kitchen, Culture and Colonialism: British Memsahibs' Culinary Encounters (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Faizah Afzal Ali:** Food Fascism and Denial of Dining: Nourishment to Dalits (Loreto College, Kolkata; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Adrija Chatterjee:** The Architecture of Aromas: Taste of Displacement and Tactical Resilience of Partition Refugees (University of Calcutta; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Ananya Cherian:** Culinary Traditions, Marginalities, and Community in Early Modern Malabar (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Aksa Mary Abey:** Spice and Power: Cultivation, Commerce and Indigenous Agency in the Black Pepper Trade (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | AV Room

Panel 2: Women in Ancient and Medieval Times

Chair: **Dr Sabina Kazmj (Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University)**

- **Anushka Lohiya:** From Purdah to Power: Rajput Women's Role in Politics and Culture (16th–18th c.) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Anshumita Sharma:** Women in Bondage and Changing Patterns of Female Slavery in Northern India (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Diksha Vats:** Voices from the Centre and Periphery: Women's Economic Rights (c. 300–600 CE) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Anjali Kashyap:** Lived Worlds, Agency and Social Presence of Women in Sufi Literature (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Room 305

Panel 3: Engendering Displacement, Migration and Diaspora

Chair: **Prof. Prabhu Mohapatra (Professor (retd.), Dept. of History, Delhi University)**

- **Diksha Sharma:** Women's Consent vs State Recovery Policies Post-Partition (1947–1956) (Department of History, University of Delhi)
- **Anusha Solomon:** From Roots to Present Generations: A Sociological Study of Tamilian Burmese Communities in Delhi (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) Sociology)
- **Urviza Saxena:** Colonial Displacement and Diasporic Identity: The Indian Experience in Mauritius (Pondicherry University; M.A. History)
- **Jahnavi Kumar:** Severed Ties, Parallel Lives: Tracing the Impact of Marriage on Women's Migration (University of Petroleum and Energy Studies; B.Sc. History & Politics)

List of Panels

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | 3rd Floor Hall

Panel 4: Sources, Silences, and Frameworks
Chair: **Prof. Sangeeta Dasgupta (Associate Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU)**

- **Prachi Rawat:** Archival Silences and Oceanic Utopias: Queer Kinship in Black Sails and Our Flag Means Death (Gargi College; B.A. (Hons) English)
- **Taniya Bandyopadhyay:** Making of a Deltaic Frontier: Oral-Environmental History in the Sundarbans (Hansraj College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Neha Solanki:** Buddhism as Social Critique: Continuities from the Buddha to Ambedkar (University of Delhi; M.A. History)

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Room 305

Panel 5: Public Health, Medical Traditions and the State
Chair: **Dr. Madhwi (Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Bharti College, Delhi University)**

- **Sana Khurshed:** Translating the Body: Persian Medical Texts and Colonial Knowledge in South Asia (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Aakansha Jha:** Medicalization of Childbirth and Modern Midwifery in Colonial India (University of Delhi; PhD Scholar)
- **Abin Joshy V:** Motherhood Reimagined: Regulating Childbirth in the Madras Presidency (Jawaharlal Nehru University; PhD Scholar)
- **Ribha Kumari:** औपनिवेशिक भारत में स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था और स्वदेशी चिकित्सा का स्थान (1918–1952) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | AV Room

Panel 6: Histories from the Margins: Oral Traditions, Identity, and the State

Chair: **Dr. Sangeeta Dasgupta (Associate Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU)**

- **Priyal Sharma:** Tribe, Identity and Colonial Knowledge: The Lohra Community in Chotanagpur (Janki Devi Memorial College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Chara Vursha Moyon:** Mapping the Bujuur: Colonial Ethnography and MoyonBujuur Naga (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Phannihring K. Langhu:** Anal Nagas: Oral Tradition, Migration, and Culture (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Seminar Hall

Panel 7: Political Authority, Emotions, and Intellectual Traditions

Chair: **Dr. Ruchika Sharma (Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Mata Sundari College, Delhi University)**

- **Khadijah Hussain:** Trade, Sarais and Market Networks: Urban Growth during the Sur Period (Aligarh Muslim University; PhD Scholar)
- **Adila Ali:** Emperor Jahangir's Emotional Binaries: Severity vs Serenity (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- **Sanchi Pahwa:** Analyzing Emperor Humayun through the Humayun-nama (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

List of Panels

DAY-2, 10TH APRIL

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Room 206

Panel 8: Religion, Ritual, and Sacred Geographies

Chair: Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar (Associate Professor (retd.), Dept. of History, JMC, Delhi University)

- Abhimeet Nandi:** Contours of the Goddess: The Idea and Imagery of Kamakhya (Cotton University, Assam; PhD Scholar)
- Ruchira Bhagabati:** The Kalika Purana as a Source for Kamakhya Worship (Indraprastha College for Women; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Ruchi Mohapatra:** Ritual Continuity and Vaishnava Devotion at Khirachora Gopinath Temple (Sambalpur University; PhD Scholar)
- Tanushka Puri:** Cult of Jhulelal/Khwaja Khizr: Dreams, Visions, and Oral Narratives (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Anushka Pant:** Lakshmi Beyond the Consort (2nd century BCE – 6th century CE) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | AV Room

Panel 9: Historicising Performance, Visual and Literary Cultures

Chair: Prof. Amar Farooqui (Professor (retd.), Dept. of History, Delhi University)

- Anushka Singh:** Gender and Performativity in North Indian Painting (Dyal Singh Evening College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Insha Moquit:** Rekhti Poetry as an Archive of Queer Negotiation (Indraprastha College for Women; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Hritima Randhawa:** Representation of Nation in Amar Chitra Katha (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Tushar Saini:** Representations of Heritage Sites in Hindi Film Songs (Indian Institute of Heritage; M.A. History of Art)
- Arun Prakash Raj N:** Dravidian Cinema and On-Screen Politics (Ambedkar University Delhi; PhD Scholar)

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Room 202

Panel 10: Colonial–Postcolonial Modernity and Gender

Chair: Dr. Srimanjari (Associate Professor (retd.), Dept. of History, Miranda House, Delhi University)

- Naaz Khan:** HSRA Women's Hidden Logistic Network (Aligarh Muslim University; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Neelima:** Writing Women Back into History: Durga Bhabhi (Daulat Ram College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Aparajita Shrivastava:** Lt. Asha Sahay Choudhary and the Rani of Jhansi Regiment (Lady Shri Ram College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Anima Lakra:** From Raj to Swaraj: Presentation Convent School (1924–50) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Anjali Thakur:** Age of Consent and Women's Agency in Colonial Discourse (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Angelina Ng:** Historical Contextualisation of Phoolan Devi (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

List of Panels

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM | Room 202

Panel 11: Politics of the Body

Chair: Dr. Srimanjari (Associate Professor (retd.), Dept. of History, Miranda House, Delhi University)

- Yashika Sharma:** Material Culture and Ritual Symbolism of Keshha in the Vedic Period (Ramjas College; B.A. Programme – History & Economics)
- Himanshi:** Body as an Archive of Resistance: Reclaiming the "Monstrous Feminine" (Kamala Nehru College; B.A. (Hons) English)
- Steffi R. Varghese:** Law, Evidence, and the Female Body: Rape Adjudication in India (1800–1990s) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Bedantika Baishya:** Construction of the 'Lazy' Native and Opium Policies in Colonial Assam (University of Hyderabad; M.A. History)
- Bhawna Bhardwaj:** औपनिवेशिक भारत में महिलाओं की पत्रिकाएँ और उनके मुद्दे (1900–1947) (Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College; M.A. Hindi)

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM | AV Room

Panel 12: Changing Socio-Cultural Life and Urban Spaces

Chair: Prof. Amar Farooqui (Professor (retd.), Dept. of History, Delhi University)

- Nivedita Singh:** Power and Urban Space in Central Lucknow (1857–1877) (Daulat Ram College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Praveen Kumar:** Contested Heritage and the Politics of Memory: The Story of Jinnah House (University of Delhi; PhD Scholar)
- Anjali Sharma:** Public Sphere of Hindi and Urdu in Delhi (1850s–1940s) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM | Room 206

Panel 13: Material Cultures, Economy and Polity in Transition

Chair: Dr. Meera Visvanathan (Associate Professor, Dept. of History, Shiv Nadar University)

- Himanshu Meena:** Coins as Texts: Authority and Economic Thought in Medieval Mewar (Bhupal Nobles' University; PhD Scholar)
- Prachi Bhati:** Power, Patronage and Temple Architecture under the Gurjar Pratiharas (Amity University; PhD Scholar)
- Nivedita Mishra:** From Coercion to Compassion: Crime and Punishment in the Mauryan Period (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Aleena G. Netto:** Kaikkolar Community: Transformation from Soldiers to Weavers (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)
- Ancy P. Shaji:** Indian Silk Industry in Crisis (19th–20th Century) (Jesus and Mary College; B.A. (Hons) History)

ORGANISING MEMBERS

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