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Annual Report of The History Society  
Academic Year: 2024-25

Staff Advisor: Ms. Sangeeta Luthra Sharma

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## Events Organised:

Over the previous academic year (2024-25) the History Society has organised a number of lectures, workshops and seminars- spreading across many diverse themes and involving a number of speakers, while engaging with different media. A list of the same is given below:

Name of the Event	Nature of the event	Speaker/Guest	Date	Particulars
<i>Reading Images, Seeing Texts: The City and the Forest in Sanchi Sculptures</i>	Lecture	Prof. Parul Pandya Dhar	6. 09.2024	The Inaugural Lecture by Dr. Dhar explored the unique intersection of urban and foreign landscapes through the lens of the Sanchi sculptures. She spoke about three representations of the Buddha's life, death and legacy. Thus, three dynamic narratives of the Buddha's life were analysed via their different representations in the toranas in Sanchi.
<i>Dastan-e-Guru Nanak</i>	Dastangoi performance	Ms. Mansi Grover	7.09.2024	Performers from the Atelier Repertory Company used the rich Urdu art form of dastangoi to express the inspirational journey of Guru Nanak via stories of wisdom, compassion and truth. This event was organised in collaboration with Virsa, The Punjabi Literary Society and

				Bazm-e-Adab, the Urdu Literary Society of St. Stephen's College.
<i>The Rise and Fall of Warren Hastings</i>	Lecture	Prof. Amar Farooqui	18.10.2024	<i>In this captivating lecture on the life of Warren Hastings, Prof. Farooqui explored Hastings' early career in the East India Company, highlighting the Governor General's administrative innovations and efforts to integrate Indian traditions into governance.</i>
<i>When Mlecchas became Kings: The Scythians in India</i>	Lecture	Prof. Upinder Singh	10.02.2025	Prof. Upinder Singh examined the socio-political context of this period in Early India, highlighting how the Scythians, originally from Central Asia, became significant players in Indian history by the 2nd century BCE.
<i>Book discussion on King, Country and War: Ideology and Memory and Written Indian History c. 1600-1900</i>	Lecture	Prof. Anirudh Deshpande	17.02.2025	Prof. Deshpande explored the complex interplay of ideology, memory, and historical narratives in India between the 17th and 19th centuries. Drawing on a wide range of primary sources, he examined how the portrayal of

				kingship, war, and the concept of nationhood evolved over this period.
<i>Precarity in the News Media: Platformisation, COVID-19 and Beyond</i>	Lecture	Prof. Kabir Upmanyu	20.02.2025	Prof. Upmanyu explored the evolving challenges of the news industry in the digital era, the impact of COVID-19 on journalism, and the future of media platforms.
<i>Dastkhat: Endorsements of Progress and its Fatal Natal Bearings (1935-39).</i>	Lecture – Faculty Seminar Series	Prof. Tushar Srivastava	26.03.2025	Prof. Srivastava gave an insightful lecture on the Progressive Writers’ Movement in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. This lecture captivated the audience with a deeper understanding of modern Indian history during the struggle for independence.
<i>India Ekologika: The Short 20th Century, 1900–1991</i>	Lecture	Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan	8.04.2025	This lecture explored the intersections of ecology, history, and politics in 20th-century India, offering fresh perspectives on a rapidly transforming world. This event was organised in collaboration with the Gandhi Ambedkar Study Circle and The Environmental Society.

<i>Historical Pedagogy: The Goals of Education</i>	Lecture	Prof. Anita Rampal	15.04.2025	The lecture delved into the evolving philosophies and aims of education through a historical lens, guided by one of the most respected voices in the field. This session succeeded in sparking meaningful conversations on how educational goals have been shaped over time and what they signify for the future.

### **Kaalchakra, The Annual Festival of The History Society**

The History Society organized its annual fest Kaalchakra 2025, on the theme “Counter Narratives: Memory, Identity and Resistance Across Histories”. Through this theme, we sought to examine how these sites of memory acted as repositories of identity and resistance. By exploring regional histories, oral narratives and collective memory, the festival aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the co-existence of history and memory, and the critical role of memory in sustaining cultural resilience and resistance against dominant historical narratives.

Name of Event	Nature of Event	Speaker	Date	Particulars
History Walk to the Qutub Minar	Guided Walk	Ms. Swapna Liddle	25.02.2025	Ms. Liddle offered fascinating insights into the monument's

				architectural features, historical context, and cultural relevance. Through her engaging narration, participants explored the layers of Delhi's past, gaining a deeper appreciation for its heritage and the significance of preserving historical monuments.
The Origins of the War in Palestine	Keynote lecture	Prof. Madhavan Palat	3.03.2025	Prof. Palat traced the evolution of the war through colonial legacies, geopolitical interests, and nationalist movements, engaging the audience with scholarly analysis and thought-provoking interpretations of the enduring Middle Eastern crisis.
The Memory of Tribal Resistance	Panel Discussion	Prof. Sangeeta Dasgupta, Prof. Sanghamitra Misra Moderator: Prof. Tushar Srivastava	3.03.2025	The panel discussion focused on the historical and cultural significance of tribal movements in India. The conversation emphasised how collective memory and oral traditions play a crucial role in understanding tribal contributions to resistance and shaping a more inclusive national history.

Resistance and Its Aftermath: The Social Memory of the Rambuan in Mizoram (1966-1986)	Lecture	Prof. Joy Pachuau	4.03.2025	Prof. Pachuau examined the impact of insurgency and resistance on the Mizo society. She discussed how memories of the Rambuan period shaped social identities and community narratives, highlighting the long-term effects of conflict on collective memory and regional consciousness in Mizoram.
Counter Narratives of Lives in Revolution	Lecture	Prof. Aparna Vaidik	4.03.2025	Professor Vaidik highlighted overlooked personal stories and alternative perspectives that had challenged the dominant nationalist narratives. By emphasizing lived experiences, emotional struggles, and diverse motivations, she presented a more complex and humanized understanding of India's path to independence via its freedom fighters.
Sita Sings The Blues	Movie Screening	-	5.03.2025	The screening of Sita Sings the Blues showcased Nina Paley's animated retelling of the Ramayana from Sita's perspective, blending myth, personal narrative, and 1920s

				jazz. Viewers appreciated its bold visual style and feminist reinterpretation. The film sparked discussions on tradition, modernity, and storytelling, offering a unique and emotionally resonant take on an ancient Indian epic.
Lecture on Kathak and Dance Performance	Lecture and Performance	Ms. Shikha Sharma	5.03.2025	Ms. Sharma delivered an insightful lecture on Kathak, tracing its historical roots, evolution, and cultural significance. She explained the nuances of rhythm, gesture, and storytelling in the classical dance form. The lecture was followed by a captivating performance that brought theory to life, leaving the audience with a deeper appreciation of Kathak's expressive power and artistic richness.



## **The History Society's Trip to Agra**

The Society organised a three-day educational trip to important historical sites in Agra. This educational trip to Agra was an enriching journey through the heart of India's historical and cultural heritage.

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

No. of participants: 80

Accompanying faculty: Dr. Sabina Kazmi, Dr. Jeena Sarah Jacob, Ms. Pooja Thakur, Mr. Tushar Shrivastav and Mr. Aakaash Awasthi.

Brief overview of the Trip:

Day 1: 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

The trip began with students departing college at 10:00 AM. After a long journey, they reached Sikandra at 3:00 PM. By 5:30 PM, they visited the historical tombs of Akbar and Mariam, exploring the rich Mughal architecture and learning about the emperor's legacy. The group took time to enjoy the peaceful gardens surrounding the monuments. After the sightseeing, they returned to the hotel to rest and prepare for the following day's early start.

Day 2: 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

An early morning began with a visit to the iconic Taj Mahal at 5:30 AM, allowing the group to experience its beauty at sunrise. They returned to the hotel by 9:00 AM for breakfast. At 11:00 AM, they left for the Agra Fort, exploring its majestic palaces and courtyards. After a 3:00 PM lunch, they visited Itimad-ud-Daulah's Tomb and Mehtab Bagh by 5:30 PM, enjoying views of the Yamuna River. Some students and faculty also visited the Jama Masjid before returning for dinner.

Day 3: 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

After breakfast, the group left the hotel at 8:00 AM and reached Fatehpur Sikri by 11:00 AM. They toured the main complex at 12:30 PM, appreciating the grandeur of Akbar's capital. At 3:00 PM, they visited the imposing Buland Darwaza, marveling at its architectural brilliance. The historical insights and rich cultural experiences made a lasting impression. At 4:30 PM, they departed Agra and returned to Delhi by 9:00 PM, concluding an educational and memorable three-day journey.

This experience left us with lasting memories, immense knowledge and a renewed passion for exploring our collective past.

### **Day Trip to Rakhigarhi**

The History Society organized an unforgettable day trip to Rakhigarhi, one of the largest and most significant sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation, on 22nd March, 2025. This trip was organised in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Haryana.

Upon arrival, participants embarked on a guided visit to the archaeological site. The tour was led by Dr. Apu Saharan, who provided fascinating insights into the settlement's layout, artifacts, and significance within the broader Indus Valley network. The visit allowed students to witness firsthand the remnants of an urban civilization that once thrived over 4,500 years ago.

Following the site visit, lunch was served at the resort. After the break, participants engaged in a pottery workshop and were demonstrated traditional techniques and encouraged hands-on learning, linking craft practices to ancient cultural expressions.

The group departed from Rakhigarhi enriched by a day of discovery and dialogue. The trip offered a unique blend of academic learning and immersive experience, making the past come vividly to life.

## **I. H. Qureshi Memorial Lecture**

The Department of History, St. Stephen's College organised its 18<sup>th</sup> I. H. Qureshi Memorial Lecture on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025. This year's Lecture was delivered by Prof. Richard Eaton, Professor of History, University of Arizona. The event was chaired by Prof. Farhat Hassan from the University of Delhi.

The title of the Lecture was "Exploring the Deccan: A Historical Analysis by Prof. Richard M. Eaton". Prof. Eaton, an esteemed historian, delved into the cultural and technological dynamics between Northern and Southern Deccan, focusing on the Chalukya legacy. This day-long event was organised in two sessions and Prof. Eaton left the audience captivated with his research.

## **Satyam Jha Paper Presentation Series**

The History Society of St. Stephen's College invites abstracts for The Satyam Jha Paper Presentation Series, a two-day conference at St. Stephen's College. The presentation series is dedicated to Satyam Jha, a student of History at St. Stephen's College, member of The History Society and a friend to many of us, whom we lost to COVID-19 in 2021. Active and engaging, Satyam discussed, critiqued and shared ideas on themes in history and politics; in his memory, this series hopes to fuel many such interactions and exchanges among students.

This year's theme was titled 'Framing Gender: Spatial Boundaries and Identity in Architectural History.' Invitees were requested to submit their papers in accordance to a concept note curated for this theme. The judges for the Paper Presentation Series were Dr. Sabina Kazmi and Dr. Snigdha Singh. The papers were presented in St. Stephens College on the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of January, 2025.

The following are the papers that were presented as part of this Series:

Paper Title	Author
Beyond the Veil: Purdah Hospitals in Northwestern British India	Amna Asim Khan
State v. Women–The ‘Monumental’ Battle for Meaning in the ‘Muslim’ Heritage of Delhi	Tasha Ahmed
Room of Her Own: Reconstructing the Teenage Girl’s Bedroom through Popular Imagination as sites of Gendered Upbringing and Socialisation	Baibhabhi Hazra & Sakshi Singh
The Landscapes of Gender: Tracing Women in the Ghats of Hooghly in 19th Century Calcutta	Khushi Bhatia & Shruti Khare
Leisure, Capital and Anti-Work Subversion: A Marxist Feminist reading of Sarojini Nagar	Madiha Tariq
Written in Stone? Mughal Women’s Architecture and Counter-Narratives of Gender	Muhammad Yusuf Ghazali
Master Builder’s Doll’s House: The Representation of Modernity in Ibsen’s Architectural Space	Sanya Chandra

Understanding the Divine Feminine in Yogini Temples	Ananya Dixit
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## Results:

First Position: Tasha Ahmed – State v. Women–The ‘Monumental’ Battle for Meaning in the ‘Muslim’ Heritage of Delhi

Second Position: Ananya Dixit - Understanding the Divine Feminine in Yogini Temples

Third Position: Amna Asim Khan - Beyond the Veil: Purdah Hospitals in Northwestern British India

Third Position: Madiha Tariq - Recreation, Capital and the Neoliberal Urban Bazar: Anti-Work Feminism in Sarojini Nagar

## Walks

### Humayun’s Tomb and Sundar Nursery Walk – 28.09.2024

The Talks and Walks vertical organised a walk to Humayun’s Tomb and Sundar Nursery. The walk was led by Himakshi Vinay and Sabreena Sareen and accompanied by Dr. Jeena Sarah Jacobs. It was aimed to help interested Junior Members gain important historical insights and explore the rich tapestry of medieval Mughal architecture alongside its natural beauty.

### The Sultanate Ruins and Serene Waters: Exploring the Hauz Khas Complex – 19.09.2024

The Talks and Walks vertical organised a walk to the Hauz Khas Complex. The walk was led by Himakshi Vinay and Sabreena Sareen and accompanied by Dr. Jeena Sarah Jacobs. The walk was organised for Junior Members to get a more comprehensive understanding of the Sultanate complex and analyse the changes in its narrative.

## Syncrretism and the City: A Walk through the Lanes of Hazrat-e-Dehli – 7.02.2025

The Talks and Walks vertical organised a walk Old Delhi. The walk was led by Dr. Jeena Sarah Jacobs, Dr. Sabina Kazmi and Mr. Aakaash Awasthi. Old Delhi, with its narrow lanes, delicious street food, bustling markets and ancient monuments, provided Junior Members with the unique opportunity to better understand the Mughal legacy and its historical intricacies.

## 'Tombs and a Tale Through Time' - Safdarjung's Tomb and Lodhi Gardens Walk – 7.04.2025

The Talks and Walks vertical organised a walk to Safdarjung's Tomb and Lodhi Gardens. The walk was led by Eva Tewary and Himakshi Vinay, and accompanied by Dr. Jeena Sarah Jacobs and Dr. Sabina Kazmi. The walk explored the late Mughal-era grandeur of Safdarjung's Tomb, a symbol of declining imperial power, and the Lodhi Gardens, home to 15th- and 16th-century tombs from the Sayyid and Lodhi dynasties. Through detailed historical commentary, participants engaged with narratives of political transition, architectural evolution, and the shaping of Islamicate heritage in Delhi's urban landscape.

## Rewind, the Podcast of the History Society

Rewind, the official podcast of The History Society, is a collection of conversations on diverse aspects of history featuring distinguished historians, writers, curators, and individuals working at the intersection of history and other disciplines.

Name of Episode	Date of Publishing
Urvashi Butalia in conversation with Angela Mathew and Diya Rao Jaini	17.08.2024
Mukul Mangalik in conversation with Pinju Sanjay	6.10.2024
Aali Kumar in conversation with Eva Tewary and Himakshi Vinay	27.03.2025

Patrick Olivelle in conversation with Aanya Herman and Vidit Srivastava	28.06.2025
Tanika Sarkar in conversation with Pinju Sanjay	4.07.2025

### **Edited Articles on Historically Speaking – the online blog of the History Society.**

Along with events, The History Society also published student-written articles on its online blog Historically Speaking at <https://historicallyspeakingssc.wordpress.com/>. The articles published were as follows:

Name of the Article	Name of Author (s)	Date of Publishiing
Resistance and Revolutionary Violence: The IRA in London	Arish Isa	7.09.2024
Culture of Contradictions: Singapore, Neo-Orientalism and the New Asian	Pinju Sanjay	11.09.2024
Kahawan Main Dhoondhu?	Suyog Raghuvanshi	11.11.2024
Women in Urban Spaces: Prostitutes in Sixteenth-Century Rome	Dylan Joseph	11.11.2024
The Last Nawab's Nawabi Shauk?: Colonial Narratives And Shatranj Ke Khiladi	Viraj Thakur	17.11.2024
Power Dynamics and Spatial Arrangements: A Historical Perspective on Urban-Rural Dichotomy in India	Devananda S	17.09.2024
Nooks and Corners: Histories from the Urban Peripheries	Nirbhay Singh	17.11.2024

The Portraits of Victorian Slum Women – Representations in Popular Culture, Notions of Femininity and Class Differences in East London	Aditi Sarkar	17.11.2024
The Archive as Authority: Power, Exclusion and Historical Production	Angela Mathew	30.01.2025
Recreation, Capital and the Neoliberal Urban Bazar: Anti-Work Feminism in Sarojini Nagar	Madiha Tariq	8.02.2025
Beyond the Veil: Purdah Hospitals in Northwestern British India	Amna Asim Khan	0.02.2025
Understanding the Divine Feminine in Yogini Temples	Ananya Dixit	8.02.2025
State v. Women–The ‘Monumental’ Battle for Meaning in the ‘Muslim’ Heritage of Delhi	Tasha Ahmed	8.02.2025
Construction of Colonial Narratives: An Analysis of the Events of 1856-1857, Awadh.	Priyam Mishra	16.02.2025
Can History be Unbiased? Lessons from Savarkar’s Historical Writings	Mayank Yadav	12.03.2025
Left at the Margins? The Hammer and Sickle in Indian Independence	Pinju Sanjay	30.03.2025

## Timelapse

*Timelapse* is the official bi-monthly periodical of The History Society, curated by the Talks and Walks Vertical. *Timelapse* brings to you a regular dose of history in the form of write-ups and recommendations along with exclusive recaps of and updates on the recent activities of The History Society.



This year Timelapse released three issues. The same- No. 6 (September-October 2024), No. 7 (December 2024 – January 2025) and No. 8 (February-March 2025) - may be found at:  
<https://historicallyspeakingssc.wordpress.com/timelapse-the-history-society-periodical/>

## **Tarikh – The Annual Journal of the History Society**

*Tarikh* is the annual journal of The History Society, St. Stephen's College. Its editions study themes in History, and at the confluence of History and other disciplines, from varied and curious perspectives.

Tarikh 2024-25 sought to examine tourism as a lens to reveal aspects of normal practices that would otherwise remain opaque, seeing tourism's discursion as a tool to uncover the social world. It aimed to study the organisation and regulation of the separate social practices of leisurely travel and organised, working travel. Counter-intuitively, it also seeks to trace the evolution of tourism into another form of organised travel in modern times. How places are chosen to be gazed upon—through a constructed fantasy or anticipation of experiential pleasure—is also a function of social patterning; images of Paris as the 'Romance Capital of the World', or the mountains and countryside as 'escapes.' The reproduction and redistribution of the idea of such spaces, through print media, memory or spoken word, is also of interest.

Journal Submission	Author//Interviewer
Spectacle on the Move: Travel, Labour and Leisure in the Peripatetic American Circus	Author: Muskan Rathi
A Plunge Into Barbarism: The Shadow of Leisure over A Corner in India	Authors: Megh Mazumdar and Soumya Singh
Languages of Empire: Tourism, Colonial	Author: Aliya Akbar

Gaze and Postcolonial Memory	
An Interview with Professor Richard M. Eaton	Interviewers: Aanya Ruth Herman and Arish Isa
A Sojourn to Siddhartha's Grove	Authors: Harsh Singh and Sristi Ganguly
Women on the Rails: Negotiating Mobility and Gendered Spaces in Mid-20 Century Indian Railways	Author: Vithi Singh
Rituals of Reassurance: French Travellers' Experience in Interwar Nazi Germany	Authors: Arish Isa and Baibhab Hazra
Excerpts From An Interview With Professor Patrick Olivelle	Interviewers: Aanya Ruth Herman and Vidit Srivastava
Paths to Power: Mughal Women, Mobility, and the Politics of Leisure	Authors: Anushka Lohiya and Neeti Gupta
A Promising Land For Women: Gretna Green - Romance, Rebellion, and The Road to Self-Expression	Authors: Khushi Vats and Ragini Goswami
Socotra and Wonder: A Conceptualisation	Author: Aditi Vashishtha

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