

QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE (A), MYLAPORE, CHENNAI -4
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES REPORT (2025 - 2026)

The Department of Historical Studies continued to actively engage in academic, research, and student development activities during the academic year **2025–2026**. Various programmes, seminars, academic achievements, and student-oriented initiatives were organised to enhance historical understanding, civic awareness, and research culture among students and scholars.

Academic and Skill Development Programmes

On **1 July 2025**, the students of the Department participated in a programme organised by the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation**, which aimed at enhancing employability skills and career awareness among students. The programme provided valuable exposure to skill development opportunities and career pathways aligned with contemporary employment trends.

Further strengthening experiential learning, the **final year undergraduate and postgraduate students** attended the **Global Tourism Summit** inaugurated by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu held at **Mahabalipuram** on **2 February 2026**. The summit offered students insights into the tourism industry, heritage management, and sustainable tourism, enabling them to understand the practical dimensions of heritage conservation and cultural tourism.

Research Achievements

The department witnessed significant academic accomplishments during the year with **five research scholars** successfully completing their doctoral degrees. The scholars who were awarded the **Ph.D. degree** are: Ms. T. Arunthathi, Mr. P. Lingesan, Ms. P. Puratchiselvi, Mr. D. Joseph Rohith and Ms. J. Ruksana.

In addition to the scholars, **Mrs. K. Seethalakshmi**, a faculty member of the department, was also awarded with the **Ph.D. degree** from the **University of Madras**, marking an important academic milestone and contributing to the strengthening of the department's research profile.

Student Competitions and Cultural Activities

As part of the **Kalloori Kalai Thiruvizha** celebrations during October 2025, the Department of Historical Studies organised two major events – **Debate** and **Youth Parliament**. These programmes were coordinated by **Dr. M. Raziya Parvin**, **Dr. C. Ramalakshmi**, and **Dr. K. Seethalakshmi**. The events encouraged students to develop analytical thinking, public speaking skills, and awareness of democratic processes.

Orientation and Government Skill Initiatives

In **September 2025**, **Dr. M. Raziya Parvin** and **Dr. M. Thenmozhi** conducted an orientation programme for college students on the **Naan Mudhalvan Scheme**, an initiative of the **Government of Tamil Nadu** aimed at enhancing the employability and professional skills of students. The orientation session guided students on the opportunities available through the scheme.

Constitution Day Celebrations

The **76th Constitution Day** was celebrated on **26 November 2025** by the Department of Historical Studies to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The programme featured a special address by **Prof. A. Karunanandan**, who highlighted the significance of constitutional values, democratic principles, and the importance of civic responsibility among youth. The event was organised by **Dr. M. Thenmozhi** and the students were benefitted.

Department Association Inauguration

The **Department Association Inauguration** was held on **30 December 2025** at **Velu Nachiyar Hall, Queen Mary's College, Chennai**. The programme was inaugurated by **Mr. R. Rahamathulla**, Director of **Radiant IAS Academy**, who served as the Chief Guest.

In his address titled *“Myth vs. Reality: Cracking the Competitive Examinations Without the ‘Perfect’ Background,”* he motivated students to pursue competitive examinations with confidence and perseverance. He emphasized that dedication, hard work, and strong analytical skills are more important than background in achieving success. He also highlighted the importance of historical knowledge in understanding contemporary social and political developments and encouraged students to actively engage in academic and career-oriented pursuits.

Student Achievements

Students of the department actively participated in various intercollegiate competitions and brought laurels to the institution. **Ms. K. Viji** of III B.A. Historical Studies (EM) received a **cash prize of ₹4,500** in the essay competition conducted during the **Tirukkural Vaara Vizha**, organised by the **Department of Tamil, Queen Mary's College** in association with the **Tamil Nadu School Education Department** on **7 January 2026**.

The same student also secured **Second Place in “The Knowledge Quest” Quiz Competition** organised by the **Department of History, Loyola College, Chennai** as part of the **Madras Day Celebrations** held on **26 August 2025** in Chennai.

In the **Kalloori Kalai Thiruvizha 2025–2026** conducted at **Queen Mary's College, Chennai**, **R. Rabimma**, I M.A. History, won **Second Prize in Silambam (Solo)**. The **Youth Parliament competition** conducted as part of the festival saw **UG and PG students of the Department of History** securing the **First Prize**.

Further, in the **Intercollegiate Quiz Competition** organised by the **Department of Tourism and Travel Management, A. M. Jain College, Meenambakkam** on **17 February 2026**, **K. Priyadharshini (EM)** and **J. Papitha (TM)** of First Year Shift II secured **Second Prize**, receiving a **cash prize of ₹600**.

Student Support and Old Student Meetings

Remedial classes are regularly conducted after college hours for students who require additional academic support, helping them improve their understanding and performance in their studies.

The **SOSA meeting** was conducted on **14 February 2026**, providing a platform for interaction between students and faculty members. The meeting facilitated discussions on academic progress, student activities, and future initiatives of the department.

Academic Competitions

An **Essay Writing Competition** (Intra-departmental) on the theme of the **United Nations** was conducted on **3 January 2026** by **Dr. K. Suja**. The competition encouraged students to engage with global issues and develop analytical and writing skills related to international relations and world history.

Student Research Awareness Programme

On **5 January 2026**, **Ms. Aishwarya**, a **Ph.D. Research Scholar**, delivered a talk in the Chief Minister's programme explaining the **Chief Minister Research Fellowship** scheme. Her presentation motivated students to pursue research and informed them about funding opportunities for higher studies.

Faculty Participation in Academic Forums

The faculty members of the department actively participated in academic forums and curriculum development activities. **Dr. M. Raziya Parvin** and **Dr. S. Kamaladevi** participated in the **poster presentation on History Curriculum** organised by the **Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education** during **August 2025**. Their participation contributed to discussions on curriculum innovation and academic reforms in history education.

Special Lectures Delivered by the Faculty

Dr. M. Raziya Parvin delivered special lectures in reputed academic institutions. She delivered a lecture at the **Veltech School of Law** on **17 September 2025** and another lecture at the **Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University** on **4 December 2025**. These lectures addressed important themes related to gender history, law, and contemporary social issues.

Book Recognition and Publication

The scholarly contributions of the department were further recognised when **Dr. M. Raziya Parvin's book** was displayed at the **New Delhi World Book Fair 2026**, one of the largest international book exhibitions in India. Adding another milestone, **Dr. M. Raziya Parvin's** sixth book titled **"My Inspiring Women in History A-Z"** was formally released during the **Women's Day Celebrations** held on **11 March 2026** at the **G.J. Hall of Queen Mary's College, Chennai**. The book was released by **Dr. B. Uma Maheswari**, the Principal of the college. The publication highlights inspiring women personalities in history and aims to promote awareness about women's contributions to society and history.

The academic year **2025–2026** was marked by significant achievements in research, publications, student engagement, and academic outreach. The Department of History continued to uphold its commitment to academic excellence, critical thinking, and holistic development of students through a variety of programmes and scholarly activities.

- **Dr. M. Raziya Parvin (Head – Department of Historical Studies)**