

QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE (A), MYLAPORE, CHENNAI -4
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES REPORT (2023 - 2024)

With the nation's 77th Independence Day celebrations, on the horizon, the Department of Historical Studies in association with the QMC Women's Champion Club resonated with the spirit of freedom and expression. And in commemoration of this occasion, we chose to celebrate not just the past, but also the unsung heroines who adorned the tapestry of Tamil Nadu's freedom struggle. On the 14th of August, 2023 as anticipation tingled in the air, the campus of Queen Mary's College, Chennai where knowledge thrived buzzed with a different kind of energy. Young women from various departments of this institution converged with ideas, stories, and perspectives to be unfurled onto paper. The theme - "Unsung Women Heroines of Freedom Struggle in Tamil Nadu" - was a rallying call for the participants to dive into the annals of the past, resurrect the forgotten tales of courage, and etch them anew in the collective memory. With each stroke of the pen, the young women embarked on a journey through time. On the whole, around 70 students participated in the competition. Cash prizes were given to the first two places both in English and Tamil. During the Independence Day Celebrations in the College, the Principal Dr. B. Uma Maheswari gave away the prizes. The first prizes were given to Ms. Joshika of B.A. Sociology and Ms. Priyadharshini of B.A. History. And the second prizes were given to Ms. Tiripuralakshmi of B.A. History and Ms. Princy of B.Com (CS). This programme was possible because of "Arul Arakkattalai" which didn't just sponsor an event; but they sowed seeds of inspiration and advocacy.

The Department of Historical Studies has taken the charge of the Student's Union for this academic year 2023-24 and organised the Independence Day celebrations in a grand manner on 15th August, 2023. We have also celebrated the Teacher's Day with great fervour and enthusiasm on 5th September 2023 in the Golden Jubilee Hall. Pongal celebrations were also organised and prizes were distributed to the best teams of the college. QMC Festa '24 – the annual cultural extravaganza happened in a grand manner during 29th February, 1st and 2nd March, 2024. And the students of the entire college enjoyed to the core level with special guests from various fields. The Valedictory function was also organised by our Department on 26th March 2024 with the retiring staff members as special guests for the function. They were honoured well and prizes were given to the students for their extra-curricular activities and we as the Student's Union for this year conducted most of the functions very successfully.

The association meeting of the Department of Historical Studies and the Archaeological Exhibition in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was inaugurated on 27th February, 2024 at the Golden Jubilee Hall Block. The Chief Guest Mr. Amarnath Ramakrishna, the Director of Keezhadi excavation delivered an informative speech about the archaeological excavations undertaken in the Vaigai river civilization of Keezhadi and Adhichanallur in Tamil Nadu. He stated that one of the notable aspects of the Keezhadi excavation is the discovery of a large number of Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions on pottery, providing valuable insights into the language and writing systems of the ancient Tamil society. These findings challenge previous historical narratives and contribute significantly to our understanding of the early Tamil civilization. The exhibition displayed the pictures of the artefacts and excavated sites of Indus Valley civilization and the Vaigai river civilizations. This historical event was an eye opener for our students and it was received well by the students.

Dr. M. Thenmozhi arranged for the visit to the Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai for the second year PG students and the students had gained good benefits. The students also successfully completed the *Internship Training* during the period 4th September 2023 to 4th October 2023. This training helped the students to understand how to protect our historical sites, handling of archaeological evidences, acquaintance about coins and other necessary details related with the museum. In order to make the learning effective among the under-graduate and post-graduate students, the audio-visual techniques are being used and some documentaries were screened by *Dr. M. Raziya Parvin* on various topics such as Human Rights, Contemporary History of Tamil Nadu and the History of the Women Empowerment during different days of this academic year.

Dr. M. Raziya Parvin, Head – Department of History contributed an article in the edited book entitled “India @75: Achievements, Challenges and Prospects” published by National Academic Press during August 2023. Under her guidance, Ms. M. Usha completed her PhD viva voce on 16th August, 2023. She has written two Books “*Trends and Patterns of Women’s Political Participation in Tamil Nadu*” and “*Saluting Women in Indian History*” published by MJP Publishers, New Delhi during this academic year. The latter book has won the **Golden Book Award 2024** given by Wings Publication International on 2nd February, 2024. On account of Women’s Day, this book was released by Hon’ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth in the programme held at the C P Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation Chennai. The copies of the book were received by Dr. Nanditha Krishna (Director of CPRIIR) and Dr.

Chithra Madhavan, Indian Historian. Dr. Raziya Parvin participated as the Chief Guest and delivered speech in the institutions – Lalaji Memorial International School (Annual Day), JBAS College for Women (Madras Day), SBIOA (Women’s Conference), Stella Maris College (Constitution Day), SBOA Matric Coimbatore (Teacher’s Training) and Chintadripet Kalyanam School (Republic Day). She has also chaired a session in the International Conference on “*Gender Dynamics in History, Society, Culture and Power Structures*” in the Stella Maris College held on 31st January, 2024. **Dr. M. Raziya Parvin** acted as the University Nominee in the BOS of Govt Arts College for Men, Nandanam and SDNB Vaishnav College, Chrompet for this academic year. **Dr. S. Kamala Devi, Dr. C. Ramalakshmi, Dr. K. Suja, Dr. M. Thenmozhi** and **Dr. R. Karpagam** acted as the subject experts in the TRB, TNPSC paper valuation and TANSCH and contributed during different periods of this year.

The staff and the Research Scholars of the Department participated and presented research papers in various Conferences, Seminars, Tamil Nadu History Congress, South Indian History Congress and Indian History Congress organised in and out of Chennai during this academic year with great fervour. The PhD and PG students participated in the Bharathi Women’s College International Symposium in relation to women, in the Govt Arts College for Men about human rights and women empowerment and in the International seminar organised by the Department of Geography on Global Sustainability. The PG students also participated in the Endowment lectures organised by the Department of Indian History, University of Madras during 8th January, 9th February and 28th February 2024. The undergraduate and post-graduate students participated very enthusiastically in various Inter-Collegiate competitions held at different city Colleges such as the New College, Loyola College and gained good number of prizes during this academic year. **Ms. G. Priyadarshini** of **III BA Historical Studies EM** (President of Student’s Union for 2023-24) has come out in flying colours as she won various cash prizes in Debates and Essay-writing

The staff from the Department of Historical Studies, conducts the **Parent Teacher Meet** at regular intervals wherein the tutors of the classes meet the parents and they were asked to instruct their wards to study well and complete their courses successfully. The tutors discussed about the rules and regulations of the college and highlighted the problems faced by students, relating to attendance and usage of cell phones inside the campus.

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