

Department of History

Events organised during 2023-24

The Department of History at Kamala Nehru College encourages students to think independently and often engages them with visual narratives that showcase historical experiences. The department is committed to actively engaged students in mastering the methods of historians. This expertise not only prepares them to become subject specialists but also equips them with critical thinking, writing, and reasoning skills essential for success in any profession. During the 2023-24, the department organized various initiatives aimed at deepening students' understanding and appreciation of our nation's rich heritage, encouraging them to critically engage with history while cherishing its cultural and intellectual legacy.

The new academic session commenced with a field visit for History Honours and B.A. Program students titled "In Search of Krishna", led by Ms. Shagufta Siddiqui and Ms. Vishnupriya Goswami on October 10, 2023, at the National Museum, Delhi.

On October 11, 2023, the department organised a lecture on the "Music of Kumar Gandharv", by Dr. Anubhuti Sharma from Eklavya Foundation, followed by an online Lecture by Prof. Gary Kates of Pomona College, USA, titled 'Enlightenment and the French Revolution'.

Dr. Archana Ojha accompanied third-year history honours students for an insightful Heritage walk of Shahjahanabad on 5th December, 2023. This collaborative walk with Ramanujan College students covered landmarks such as Qila-e-Mubarak, Jama Masjid, and the bazaars of Old Delhi.

As part of the Skill Enhancement Course Museum and Museology (Semester II), students visited the Partition Museum on 2nd March, 2024 with Dr. Surabhi Pandey. The visit aimed to explore the contemporary museology practices that are beyond the conventional museum practices. It offered profound insights into understanding partition not merely as a historical tragedy but as a deeply personal and collective emotion, experienced and expressed in diverse ways by the people of our country.

Semester II students of 'Delhi Through the Ages', visited the Mutiny Memorial on 9th March, 2024, accompanied by Ms. Victoria Potshangbam. The students visited several significant sites of the 1857 Mutiny in North Campus. The visit not only enhanced the understanding of the rebellion but also deepened their appreciation of Delhi's layered and complex history.

The Departmental Annual Newsletter, 'Chronicle' was unveiled on March 21, 2024. This year's edition delved into the theme "Tracing Sixty Years of Kamala Nehru College: From Founding to Future Unveiling College History," celebrating the rich legacy of the institution and its remarkable contributions to women's education for over six decades.

On 24 April, 2024, a workshop was organized by the Indian Cultural portal under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture. The session played a pivotal role in equipping students and faculty with the knowledge to effectively navigate and utilize the diverse e-resources available on the platform. Additionally, students gained valuable insights into the various opportunities and initiatives offered by the portal and broadening their academic and professional horizons.

The department of history successfully organized an Inter-University paper presentation titled “Histories of Entertainment and Recreation: Global Scenario”, on 24th April, 2024, which delved into the evolution of entertainment as a vital component of human culture and history. Undergraduate students from several colleges across Delhi presented their papers. The conference emphasized the role of ‘entertainment’ as a cultural and social tool, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds in shared public spaces. Participants explored cultural representations in everyday life, particularly those reflected in public spaces, and analyzed how socio-spatial dynamics shaped collective human experiences. The winners were given cash prizes for best paper award.

On April 27, 2024, the students of Museums & Museology (Semester IV) visited the Red Fort Archaeological Museum under the guidance of Ms. Deepika. The visit provided valuable insights into the significance and functioning of site museums, enhancing the students’ understanding of their role in preserving and presenting historical narratives.

In its ongoing effort to explore fresh and unconventional themes, the department organized the Annual History Lecture on May 1, 2024, titled “Sketching History: Unravelling the Potential of Cartoons and Satire Through Time.” Dr. Ritu Gairola Khanduri from the University of Texas, Arlington, USA, delivered a lecture on “Gender, Politics, and Cartoons in the US,” followed by a talk by Dr. Prabhat Kumar from CSDS. The event culminated with a thought-provoking session by celebrated cartoonist E.P. Unny from The Economic Times and Indian Express, who delivered an interactive lecture titled “The Art of Dissent: A Quick Look at Indian Cartoons.” In his lecture, Mr. Unny reflected on how cartoons have been a visible and significant form of dissent in the Indian press.

On May 14th, 2024, students of the BA Program visited the National Museum, Delhi, followed by a visit to the National Gallery of Modern Art on May 15th by the history honours students of semester II. Both visits were organized by Ms. Shikha Prakash. These educational excursions marked the conclusion of the academic session for 2023-24.

The new academic session of 2024, began with a field trip to the Partition Museum, Delhi on 31st August, 2024 led by Ms. Jayanti Bala Gupta.

The department organized a visit to the National Museum on 27th September, 2024 for students of history honours, semester I, III, and V as well as students from the Museum and Museology course. The visit emphasized the role of museums as social institutions that impart knowledge about India’s invaluable heritage. The visit was led by Dr. Shobhana Warrier, Ms. Vinita Malik, Ms. Deepika, and Dr. Surabhi Pandey.

The history student council election for the post of President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer and Class Representatives for the academic year 2024-25 was held on 18th October, 2024.

On 24th October, 2024, the department organised its annual lecture *Chrono 2024* titled “Revolt of 1857: Some Historiographical Issues”. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Amar Farooqui, a distinguished historian and professor in the Department of History, University of Delhi, delved into the historiographical debates surrounding the uprising. Prof. Farooqui highlighted the evolution of narratives, from colonial accounts framing it as suppression to nationalist

perspectives emphasizing rebellion. He noted the underdeveloped historiography of the revolt and discussed how early colonial writings served political agendas. He explained how the national movement played a crucial role in challenging and reshaping these dominant narratives, offering fresh historical insights.

On 30th November, 2024, the department hosted a memorable Alumni Meet, celebrating the bond between former students and faculty. Principal Dr. Pavitra Bhardwaj highlighted the significance of alumni in fostering the college's legacy. Senior faculty member Dr. Archana Ojha reflected on her journey with the college, emphasizing financial independence for women and leaving a lasting impact. Teacher-in-Charge Dr. M.V. Shobhana Warriar reinforced the department's commitment towards empowering young women. The event concluded with a cultural program, showcasing the talents of current students, and evoking a spirit of nostalgia and connection among attendees.

On 14th December, 2024, students of Museums & Museology visited the National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy, accompanied by Dr. Shubhra Sinha and Dr. Surabhi Pandey. The visit offered a profound insight into India's cultural and artistic heritage. Highlights included exploring the award-winning village complex, along with witnessing a vibrant Bihu dance performance, and admiring traditional art forms like Madhubani and Warli.