

ACTIVITIES 2019-2020

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IOR): DYNAMICS OF GEOPOLITICS, SECURITY AND GLOBAL COMMONS

The Department of History organised a Two Day International Conference on India and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR): Dynamics of Geopolitics, Security and Global Commons in association with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 12/07/2019 and 13/07/2019 in Women's Christian College. The Conference was inaugurated by VCNS Prof KantiBajpai, Naval HQ Lee Kuan Yew, NUS.



The Head of the Department Felicitating the Dignitaries

The sessions on Day 1 covered on issues like on Indian Ocean: Culture, Civilizations and Connectivity, Power Politics in IOR: Geostrategies and Geoeconomics. India's Strategic Interests in IOR- maritime security, power projections, evolving partnerships which brought together expertise from various National and International organisations and institutions like mdeUdayBhaskar (retd.) from SPS, Delhi. Dr.G.Padmaja, Regional Director, NMF, Vizag, Dr. Vijay Sakhuja Former Director, NMF, and Dr Suba Chandran, NIAS, Amb. TCA Raghavan, IFS (retd.), DG, ICWA, Dr. Lawrence Prabhakar (MCC), Dr. Mohan Guruswamy (Hyderabad) and Dr. Jabin Jacob (ICS, Delhi), Vice Adm Shekar Sinha (retd), Cmde Somen Banerjee, Amb Antonio Chiang (Taiwan) and Group Captain PB Nair (DSSC, Wellington).



Ambassador Antonio Chiang (Taiwan) seated in the audience

Day 2 started with a Panel Discussion on India's Strategic Approaches- Between Aspirations and Contradictions with Air Marshal Matheswaran (The Peninsula Foundation) chairing the session. Session IV and V was carried out by Dr. Joshua Thomas I CSSR, Shillong), Dr. Dhanuraj, Rear Adm S Shrikande (retd), Rear Adm. Krishna Swaminathan (FOST, SNC Kochi), Lt Gen S

Narasimhan (retd.)Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, MEA, Dr. R P Pradhan (BITS, Goa), Dr.Arabinda Acharya (NDU, Washington) and Air Vice Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, AD CommanderSouthern Air Command, Trivandrum. Some of the issues discussed were Session IV: International Cooperation and Global Commons, Impact of Trade and Migration Flows: Past and Present, International Institutions :SLOCs, Chokepoints, Freedom of Navigation, India's Ability to Provide Net Security and Balance Global Public Goods, Session V: Transnational Issues, Threats and Challenges in Indian Ocean Region, India and the Blue Economy: Evolving Partnerships, Non Traditional Security Threats: Piracy, Maritime Terrorism, Climate Change, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, Illegal Immigration, and Smuggling of arms and drugs and International and Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management.

The Valedictory address was delivered by Dr. T C A Raghavan (DG, ICWA). The students gained knowledge of the strategic role of India and the countries in the Indian Ocean on world politics and economics.

TALK BY DR. LATHA VARADARAJAN AND DR. EMMANUEL SACCARELLI

The Department of History organised a talk on 6/01/2020. The topic of the talk was “Imperialism – Past & Present”. The resource persons were Dr.LathaVaradarajan and Dr. Emmanuel Saccarelli from San Diego State University (San Diego).

The students were enlightened on the history of imperialism through the ages. Dr.LathaVaradarajan and Dr. Emmanuel Saccarelli spoke extensively citing interesting examples and incidents which kept the audience captivated.

REPORT ON ART WORKSHOP- CERAMIC PAINTING



Some of the ceramic painted plates done by students

The Department of History organized an Art workshop for the III Year students in connection with the paper on Art History of India and the West. Mrs. Jayashree gave practical training on the art of Ceramic painting. With the materials provided the students learnt on how to make an artistic work on ceramics. It was a practical session in which every student was given individually a ceramic object and asked to prepare an art on it based on the techniques that were taught in the

workshop. It took almost 3 to 4 hours in painting on the ceramic plates. Ordinary paints cannot be used on it. Everything about the art work was clearly briefed to the students. It was a fun filled infotainment session which made the students to know the procedure of ceramic artwork.

GUEST LECTURE BY Dr.T.V. PAUL

The Department of History organised a talk by Dr.T.V.Paul from James McGill University, Montreal, Canada On “Restraining Great Powers: Soft Balancing from Empires to the Global Era”. The talk was held on 30/01/2020 in collaboration with the International Relations Department, Women’s Christian College. He has authored or edited eighteen books, including The Warrior State and The Tradition of Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons. He served as president of the International Studies Association (ISA) during 2016–2017.



Dr. T.V. Paul discoursing on Soft Balancing

He highlighted that balance of power theory has become irrelevant to understanding state behavior in the post-Cold War international system dominated by the United States. Second-tier major powers (such as China, France, and Russia) and emerging powers (such as Germany and India) have refrained from undertaking traditional hard balancing through the formation of alliances or arms buildups. None of these states fears a loss of its sovereign existence as a result of increasing U.S. power. Nevertheless, some of these same states have engaged in soft-balancing strategies, including the formation of temporary coalitions and institutional bargaining, mainly within the United Nations, to constrain the power as well as the threatening behaviour of the big powers.

WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION

The Three-day Workshop was conducted by Dr.V.Jeyaraj, Director, Hepzibah Institute of Heritage Conservation, Chennai from 27/01/2020 to 29/01/2020. The III year students participated in this Workshop as part of the paper Archaeology.



The department of history organized a three day workshop on conservation and preservation of museum artifacts for the final year students. The workshop was headed by Dr. Victor Jeyaraj, Director of Hephzibah Institute for Heritage Conservation and former curator of Egmore Government Museum. The workshop took place on campus and off campus. The students were enhanced with the conservation and preservation techniques of different artifacts which were excavated from the past. Different types and methods for preserving even a small object were thought in both practical and theoretical way. Students were allowed to clean the artifacts both on campus and in the museum with the help of different chemicals and other preservatives. The three day workshop sparked new ideas for all the students opening a broad minded way in the museology syllabus.



ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP – START UP TO SCALE UP

The Department of History organized a One-Day Workshop on Entrepreneurship - Start up to Scale up that took place inside the campus of Women's Christian College on 19th February, 2020. The event brought together about eight successful entrepreneurs, idea builders and great speakers, professors and students from various colleges in Chennai. The workshop began with opening remarks and introductory notes by Ms. Titty Phillips, Head, Department of History introduced and welcomed the event Partners and the Chief Guest Ms. LathaPandiarajan.



Mrs. LathaPandiarajan, The Chief Guest for the Inaugural

Apart from the students of History Department and Department of International Relations of our College, the Workshop drew great participation from other Colleges in the city, namely Meenakshi College for Women, Stella Maris College, DG Vaishnav College, New College and Loyola College.



Students from other Colleges The Opening Plenary

The founders and director of Ma Foi Foundation in Chennai, Ms. LathaPandiarajan highlighted the entrepreneurship in a different light by quoting that entrepreneurship skills are important and required for everyone in today's world.

She enlightened us the life's most important two words, i.e 'Will and Skill'. She asserted that everyone should have the will to learn, to risk and to apply. Ms.Pandiarajan disclosed the unique solution for being successful in life. She motivated us to be curious, learn simple things, be able to think out of the box, enabling present modern technology, acquiring and sharpening creativity

She explicated these by illustrating with examples of successful stories of Google, Native Special, Cavinkare, Uber, Ola, Native Lead Foundation and Nikah. She even shared her own experience of starting up and the challenges she faced at the time of foundation of Ma Foi. She acknowledged us with several programs, schemes for capital formation that are now offered to young entrepreneur. She ended her speech by quoting " Don't just go through life, grow through life"

Marketing and Branding

The first session of the workshop started with the note 'You can't ignore marketing' by Ms. AarthiSrinath from Partner Inception Business Services. She cited the fact that Social Media of this modern society is a double edged weapon in which it can either be used as a tool for marketing or as a weapon of mass distraction. She stated the positive ways to workout social media by creating attention of the consumers, understanding the customer's frame of mind.

She came out with Dolly Pattern Challenge and it's understanding. Ms. Aarthi defined Brand Building through awareness posts, engagement, customers support and explained us about the B2C brands, Lead generation, engagement, B2B brands and networking. She finally tagged by steering upon key stone habits such as regular exercise, being gritty, admiring the Heidis around us and adopt to the saying never say never.

The second speaker was Ms. PavitraSagar is a former model and a fashion entrepreneur. She has been involved in merchandising and designing textiles for her family run business. She is the co-founder of FunkyFish along with Ms. Nikitha, Chennai's most fashionable popup and bringing a lot of designers to Chennai and other areas. Ms. Pavitra advised us to be intellectually free, in the sense that though we are preparing ourselves intellectually in our respective fields, we should not close our mind to other calling.

She said that in today's world it's extremely important to be equipped with multiple ideas and different skill sets in order to be ready to try your hand at different alternatives, because it is difficult to find creative people who are self-sufficient. Their marketing was done only through social media that is Facebook and Instagram. She also added that when you are passionate about your career you end up being satisfied and happy. Finishing up she said Follow your passions and be practical, accept your pros and cons and the key is to settle with a career that you love and which gives you some if not great financial success. In this worlds it important to have various skills, have an open mind to everything, be ready to embrace change and be ready to take on to new opportunities.

At the end of the talk Ms. Pavitra was felicitated by Dr. Joy Sheryl, Convener of the Workshop. The vote of thanks was given by Ms. Shabna of 2nd year History, Women's Christian College.

The third speaker was Ms. AkilaRajeshwar, Executive Director of TIE Chennai, who enlightened us on the fact that if we have an idea we should approach TIE Chennai without any fear, if you have skills of risk taking, leadership, aptitude, learnability, adaptability, problem solving qualities you can also become an entrepreneurs. She said that they work out of 5 pillars- networking,

mentoring, education, incubation, funding. She also added that they have launched an initiative for women called TIE Women, for women entrepreneurs, while the second initiative, is TIE Catalyst, personal transformation and business transformation.

The speaker was felicitated by Ms. A.Anuradha, the Convenor of the Workshop.

The fourth speaker was Mr. Samir Mehta, Vice Chairman of Mehta hospitals who spoke on creativity exercises in entrepreneurship. Mr. Samir did a game of cards wherein students had to form teams and a pack of cards having key ingredient to entrepreneurship and choose five core and five supporting elements for entrepreneurship. He added that different companies have different needs when it comes to business, there are certain products which should be thought of competing with and the most important feature of an entrepreneur is to prioritise the most important things in the core.

He said that there are three different people in a company, who think with their head, people who work with their bones example people in logistics while ones who work with their heart.

The fifth speaker was Ms.Vinusha, a very young entrepreneur, who taught that no matter what, you can be what you want only if you have the will to. She showed live on how to make the *Aval laddoo* and a high protein salad. She has also made Vinusha's baking kit which has all the things needed for baking.



The Workshop brought together industry experts and start-up owners under one roof. It was a real eye-opener for the students and it deeply inspired them to think outside the box, to know about the various opportunities and prospects that lie ahead, the challenges and measures to combat such challenges and develop a deep understanding of Entrepreneurship.

GUEST LECTURE – 20/02/20

A Guest Lecture was organised by the Department of History on 20 February 2020 for the Paper “History of Chennai”. Mr.VenkateshRamakrishnan, an eminent speaker, writer-author, columnist and a history enthusiast gave a talk on “History of Tamil Cinema”. He has authored books like KaviriMaidan, KanchiTaragai, ThillaiyiloruKollaikaran and Gods, Kings and Slaves. He is also the proud recipient of the Vedavalli Memorial Heritage Award from the Tag Center, Chennai.



Mr.Venkatesh inspiring the students to discover “Local History”

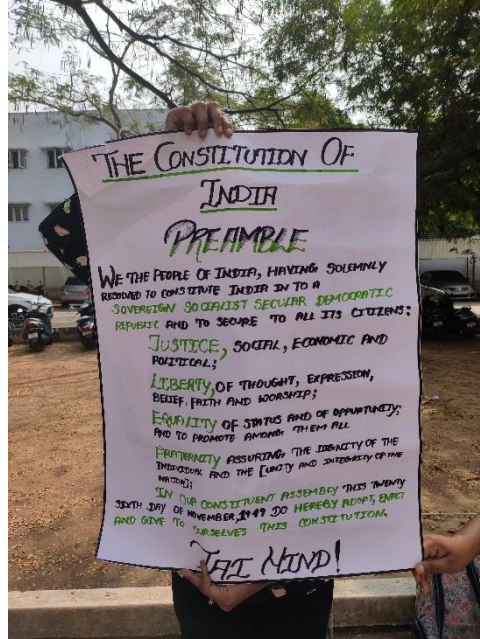
The students were completely engaged and enlightened on the historical trail of the unravelled side of history. Mr.Venkatesh stated that everyone should concentrate on discovering the Local History which is usually not discussed or touched upon by the historians. He urged the students to become young historians by unravelling their local history. He kept the excitement on by retelling the unknown stories connected to the stars and superstars of the Tamil Film industry from its genesis to 1950's. The Guest lecture was productive and resulted in the students gaining clear and crisp knowledge of the history of the Silver Screen in Madras.



Students enthralled with stories of the 1940s Stars and Superstars

GUEST LECTURE AND HUMAN CHAIN- 04//03/2020

The Department organised a Guest Lecture and Human Chain formation on 4th March 2020 as part of the paper Constitution of India and to commemorate Constitution Day. The students formed a human chain holding pluck cards with features and significance of our Constitution.



Students of I B.A. History in Human Chain formation creating awareness on Indian Constitution

Dr.Saravanan, Dy. Head of the Department of History, Pachaiyappa’s College, Chennai and Coordinator of NSS, Chennai was invited to give a talk on the Indian Constitution. He traced the history of Constitution from the early period. He enlightened

Professor Saravanan spoke on the some of the important Constitutional Provisions enshrined in the Indian Constitution, especially the provisions framed for the weaker sections including the schedule tribes and schedule castes. Prof.Saravanan focused on how the Constitution of India evolved over time and how many new articles and schedules were added. He analysed the trajectory of tribal rights and their recognition within the Constitution.



Dr Saravanan enlightened the students with features of the Constitution

He enlightened the students with unknown or lesser known interesting facts about the Indian Constitution and its historical drafting. The final draft of the Indian Constitution which is the longest in the world, was adopted on 26 November 1949 after almost 2 years, 11 months and 17 days. It was legally enforced on 26 January 1950, the day that we celebrate as Republic Day ever since. There are a total of 117,369 words in the English version of the Constitution of India which contains 444 articles in 22 parts, 12 schedules and 115 amendments. With so much of writing, the

Indian Constitution is the longest of any sovereign country in the world. In its current form , it has a Preamble, 22 parts with 448 articles, 12 schedules, 5 appendices and 115 amendments. It is the longest handwritten constitution of any country on earth. The original Constitution is hand-written, with each page uniquely decorated by artists from Shantiniketan including Beohar Rammanohar Sinha and Nandalal Bose and was handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada. He also wowed the students by telling them that three men from Madras Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, T T Krishnamachari and N Gopalaswami Ayyar were part of the drafting committee of the Constitution.

Ms. VERA AUGUSTUS ENDOWMENT LECTURE – 16/03/2020

The Department of History annual Endowment lecture, the Ms. Vera Augustus Endowment Lecture was held on 16th March 2020. The Chief guest of the day was Mr. Varghese Eipe, Transformation Leader and Coach, Proprietor of Aurora Leadership Development.

A Dynamic personality and Transformational speaker, Varghese Eipe, who has always been very passionate about making a positive and lasting difference in the lives of people and organizations through the process of Internal Transformation. With his experience of working with some of the Best companies in the world, across industry segments, having lived and worked in various countries, enables him to share his learning's and experiences garnered over the last 25 years.



Mr. Varghese Eipe motivating the audience on nuances of Leadership

He has touched and changed lives through structured intervention programs of Aurora Leadership Development and through 'Born to Win' at companies such as HCL, Decathlon, Maverick, KPR Group, Chandra Motors, PMA, PEEKAY Steels, PreCot Meridian, Gaitonde, Good Leathers, Suyati Technologies, Gestamp, Jamuna Auto, Premier Mills WCC and many others. He energizes people to meet the challenges of the world around them by weaving skillfully his life stories into the fabric of their life.

Varghese Eipe covered the topics on becoming Future ready for the young student community.

The essence of the lecture was on Recognising that Change is Inevitable and unavoidable. The rapidity at which this change is happening is probably the fastest in Recorded history and therefore what should the student community do to be prepared to handle this.

Key learnings from the lecture was on

1. Being aware of the changes.
2. Learn continuously using Online and other platforms
3. Taking advantage of experts.
4. Taking risks
5. Getting newer experiences
6. Forced earlier retirement and it's implications

7. Health and its relevance in today's context.

The outcome from the lecture was to enable the students to be aware of how their future could be and what they need to start doing from now to help them to become the future development.

The recipient of the theMs.Vera Augustus Award 2020 was Ms. Pranitha Timothy.

Pranitha is a Senior Consultant and Co-Founder of Justice & Hope, a charitable organization that works to end sex trafficking, end child sexual abuse and supports victims of domestic violence. Her expertise is based on decades of pioneering grassroots work as a human rights defender. She first began working with life sentenced prisoners, set up community and child development centres and is most popularly known for her courageous documentations and rescue work that helped free thousands of bonded labourers.

She has created novel systems of restoration for survivors of trauma and advocated for criminal justice reformation.



Ms. Pranitha Timothy, the recipient of the Award

Pranitha is a consistent champion for the vulnerable and has been outspoken on the matters of justice and community intervention both in India and around the world. Her past engagements include the Global Leadership Summits in Chicago and Germany, The Lausanne Movement at South Africa, Indonesia and is a 'Trust Women Scholar' awarded by Thomsom Reuters, London. A German author has written her biography titled 'Love Beyond Borders' and it is her journey of establishing justice and hope in this world.

Pranitha is married to Timothy Vanderputt and has two children, her daughter Diya is 12 years old and son David is 5 years old. As a family they have served hundreds of teens and youth through their open home that's been a safe place for anyone who longsto belong and hang out. Pranitha's passion for life stems from her receiving God's unconditional love that has given her security, self worth and a purpose. Isaiah 42 has been her vision

“And you will be a light to guide the nations.
You will open the eyes of the blind.
You will free the captives from prison,
releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.”