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HENRY BAKER COLLEGE MELUKAVU

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

ACADEMIC
YEAR

2023-24

FROM DARKNESS INTO MARVELLOUS LIGHT

Henry Baker College, Melukavu, a Christian, Minority, Co-Educational, Government- aided Arts and Science College Established In 1981, affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade and An ISO 9001:2015 certified Institution.

PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
HENRY BAKER COLLEGE, MELUKAVU
Annual Report 2023-24

1. Quit India Day Quiz Competition

08/08/2023

Objectives:

The event aimed to test the participants' knowledge of Indian history, specifically focusing on the significance and impact of the Quit India Movement.

Report:

The Post Graduate Department of History at Henry Baker College organized a quiz competition as part of the Quit India Movement commemoration. Assistant professor, Lakshmi S from the History department expertly hosted the quiz competition. The competition involved four participants - Anjana, Sreelakshmi, Taniya from the MA course, and Sreehari from the BA course. These participants were selected after a preliminary round conducted throughout the history department.

The quiz took place in college seminar hall on 08/08/2023 at 1.20 pm. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as students eagerly awaited the commencement of the competition. Participants showcased their knowledge, composure, and quick thinking as they navigated through a series of challenging questions. The quiz covered various aspects of the Quit India Movement, including its historical context, key leaders, significant events, and its impact on India's struggle for independence. About twenty five people including both students and faculties were present.

The quiz competition conducted by the Post Graduate Department of History at Henry Baker College was not only an engaging and informative event but also a platform to commemorate the Quit India Movement.

Outcome: By promoting the spirit of the Quit India Movement, this quiz competition served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and the importance of preserving India's hard-fought independence. The event was a testament to the academic prowess and dedication of the participants and the historical significance of the Quit India Movement itself.



Brochure



Teams on the stage



Dr.Beena Paul addressing the audience



Lakshmi S conducting quiz



Dr. Gireesh Kumar G S awarding Sreelakshmi with memento

2. Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Peace Rally

09/08/2023

Objectives:

To promote and advocate for peace, unity, and non-violence in society.

Report:

On commemorating Hiroshima Nagasaki Day, the Post Graduate Department of History at Henry Baker College organized a peace rally on 09/08/2023 at 1.30pm. The event aimed to remember the devastating bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II and to spread awareness about the need for global peace. The rally was attended by students, faculty, and staff members of the college. The esteemed Principal, Dr. Gireesh Kumar G.S. and Head of the Department of History, Dr. Beena Paul delivered heartfelt peace messages to inspire the participants.

The peace rally commenced at the Kirby College garden, where students and faculty members gathered to raise their voices for peace. Participants carried posters and banners with messages advocating for peace and condemning the use of nuclear weapons. The atmosphere was filled with solemnity and determination to create a world free from the horrors of war.

Dr. Gireesh Kumar G.S., the Principal of Henry Baker College, delivered an inspiring peace message to the audience gathered at the rally. He stressed the importance of remembering the tragic events of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a reminder of the devastating consequences of war and the urgent need for peace and harmony. Principal emphasized the responsibility of the youth in shaping a peaceful future and encouraged them to actively work towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Dr. Beena Paul's message resonated deeply with the participants, as she highlighted the significance of peace education and the role of educational institutions in fostering a culture of peace, understanding, and tolerance.

The peace rally organized by the Post Graduate Department of History at Henry Baker College on Hiroshima Nagasaki Day was a resounding success. The event not only served as a means to commemorate the tragic bombings but also stood as a testament to the college's dedication to promoting peace and nuclear disarmament.

Outcome:

Through their active participation in the rally, students, faculty, and staff members of Henry Baker College demonstrated their commitment to global peace and their influential role in shaping a harmonious future. The rally left a lasting impact on the participants, reinforcing the importance of peace and serving as a call to action for them to contribute to a more peaceful society.



Brochure



Peace Rally



Dr. Gireesh Kumar G. S delivering the peace message



Dr Beena Paul addressing the gathering

3. NET Coaching 2023-24

Objective:

The program aimed at acquainting the students with the strategies for cracking UGC NET.

Report:

The Department of History conducted a NET coaching programme for the PG students in association with IQAC. As a first step towards this programme was inaugurated on 15th September 2023 and followed by that an orientation was provided online by Dr. E. Kumar, the eminent NET coaching faculty and former Professor of University College. It was a two hour session in which he introduced the syllabus and explained to the students with the strategies of learning. The students got the opportunity to discuss and their doubts were cleared. Participants in the orientation programme were 43.

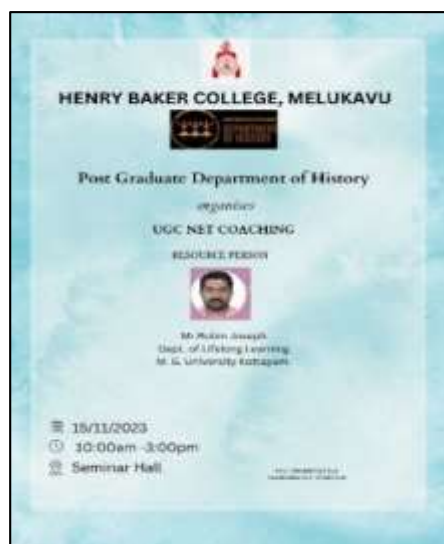


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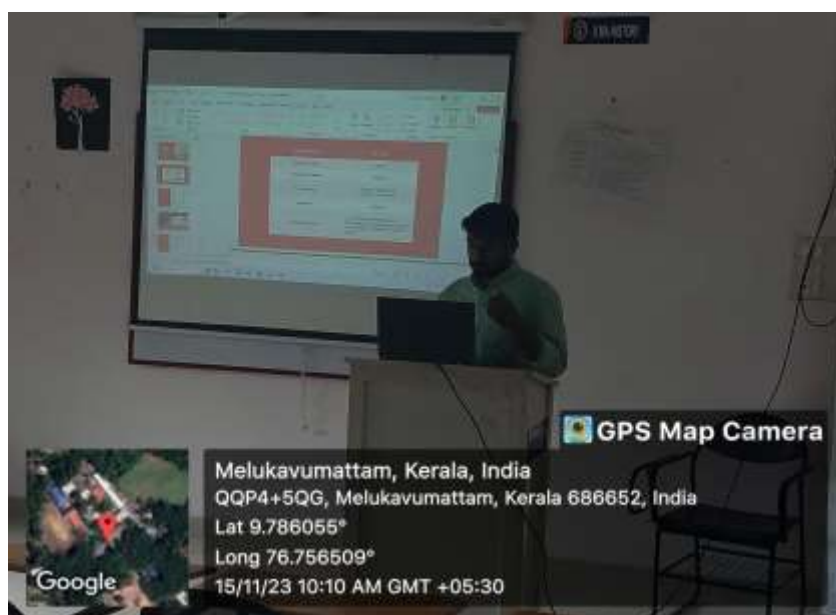


Online Orientation

The first class for the students was given by Mr. Robin Joseph from Department of Lifelong Learning, M.G. University, Kottayam on 15/11/2023. The class was on Indian history, especially on general framework and chronology. Sixteen P G Students attended the class. The class was really good and students were very enthusiastic.



Brochure



Mr. Robin Joseph, Department of Lifelong Learning, M.G. University, Kottayam

Second class was on General paper. It was provided by Mr. Justin Jose of the Department of Commerce, Henry Baker College on 17/11/2023. He covered a session on Research and Teaching Aptitude. Seventeen students attended the class.



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Third class on general paper was provided by the department on 23/11/2024. Dr. Ansa Andrews of the English Department took a class on the topic “Comprehension”. 17 PG students attended the class. PG students attended all the classes with great enthusiasm.



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Dr. Ansa Andrews

Outcome:

The sessions were fruitful and provided insight into the topics and the students got in touch with the preparation strategy for the exam.

4. Workshop on 'Research in History: Methods and Practices'

16/09/2023

Objective:

The workshop aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of historical research methodologies and best practices, catering to history students.

Report:

On 16th September 2023, a workshop on "Research in History: Methods and Practices" was held at the PG Department of History, Henry Baker College. The workshop was intended for UG students. The resource person, Santhosh George, Assistant Professor in History, Pavanatma College, Murikkassery provided an overview of historical research methods and also helped the students to identify research problem to develop research questions, to prepare literature review, and instructions on the collection historical sources as well as the impartial handling of source materials. He highlighted the differences between qualitative and quantitative approaches and discussed the strengths and limitations of each. The workshop had many interactive activities. Participants were divided into groups and asked to identify a research topic, develop a research question, to identify and analyze sources, and present their findings.

Outcome:

These activities fostered collaboration and provided practical experience in historical research and had the advantage of getting a frame work for their UG History Project.



Santhosh George @ Workshop

5. Workshop on ‘Effective Methods in Historical Research’

18/09/2023

Objective:

The primary objective of the workshop was to equip students with advanced research methodologies, critical analysis techniques, and practical skills necessary for conducting high-quality historical research.

Report:

On 18th September 2023, the Department of History organized a workshop titled "Effective Methods in Historical Research", specifically aimed at Postgraduate students. The workshop was held at the College Seminar Hall and had 16 participants.

The resource person of the workshop was Dr. Jojoy Thomas, Assistant Professor, S.D. College, Kanjirapally. He talked on the importance of a well-defined research question, comprehensive literature review, and the selection of appropriate methodologies.

As PG projects were individual projects, they were asked to find out a topic for research. Also asked to develop research questions, conduct a preliminary literature review, identifying primary and secondary sources, and prepare a brief presentation of their findings.

Outcome:

Activity oriented workshop provided practical application the research and was an experience for future research.



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Dr. Jojy Thomas @ workshop



Inauguration

6. Workshop on ‘Museology in Practice’

02/02/2024

Objective:

To provide participants with practical skills and knowledge essential for effective museum management and exhibition design.

Report:

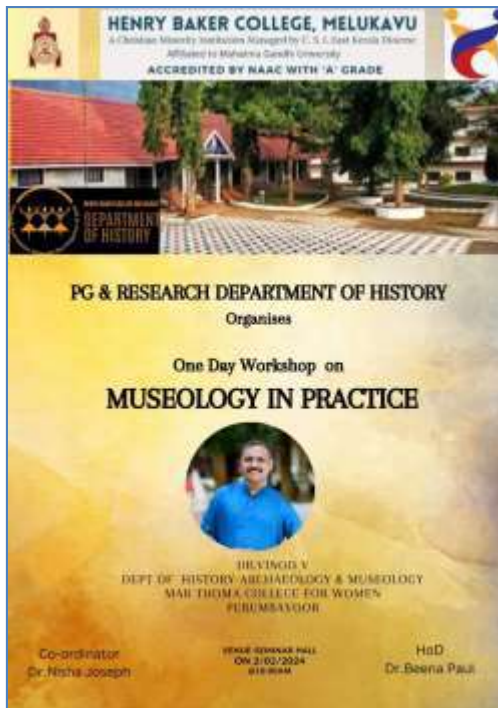
The PG and Research Department of History, organized a workshop on "Museology in Practice" on February 2, 2024. The workshop aimed to shed light on the practical aspects of museology, particularly focusing on the creation and preservation of museums. Dr. Vinod V, Department of History- Archaeology & Museology, Marthoma College for Women, Perumbavoor was the resource person. He brought a wealth of experience and expertise in the field, making him an ideal guide for the attendees. The event commenced with a warm welcome extended by Dr. Beena Paul, setting the tone for an engaging and enlightening session. Principal Dr. Gireesh Kumar GS presided over the meeting. In his presidential address, principal emphasized the significance of acquiring new knowledge in the realm of preserving history. He underscored the importance of museums as repositories of cultural heritage and historical artifacts, highlighting the crucial role they play in fostering a deeper understanding of our past. Throughout the workshop, Dr. Vinod V delved into various aspects of museology, offering practical insights into the process of museum creation. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about curatorial practices, exhibition design, artifact conservation, and other essential components of museum management. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Nisha Joseph, expressing gratitude to all participants and the resource person for their invaluable contributions. In essence, the workshop on "Museology in Practice" proved to be a resounding success, providing attendees with a deeper appreciation of the intricacies involved in preserving and presenting historical narratives. 81 students attended the workshop.

Outcome:

Equip participants with the tools and knowledge to explore new research avenues and pursue diverse career opportunities within the field of museology.



Inaugural Ceremony



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Dr. Vinod V @ Workshop



7. Release of Manuscript Magazine Historica Vol. XIII - ORBO

07/12/2023

Objectives:

The objectives of this project were to provide a clear, compelling, and accurate portrayal of war's impact, aiming to raise awareness and provoke thoughtful discussion. Additionally, the process sought to develop the students' research and writing skills, fostering critical thinking and effective communication on a significant and sensitive topic.

Report:

ORBO, Historica Vol. XIII, a manuscript magazine regularly prepared annually by the PG and Research Department of History, was released on 7th December 2023. The magazine was meticulously prepared by IBA history students, with the theme focusing on 20th-century wars, their societal impact, and the human rights violations that occur during and after these conflicts. Each student contributed articles to the magazine and collected photographs from the war front.

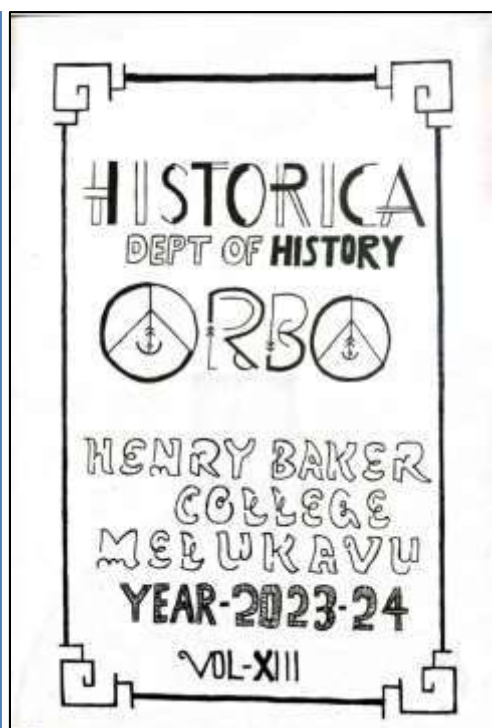
The magazine's release was part of the Human Rights Observation Day organized by the Department of History. The meeting was presided over by our esteemed principal, Dr. Gireeshkumar G.S., who officially released the magazine. On this occasion, he spoke about the importance of world peace and how even a single step towards peace is highly commendable. He congratulated the students and staff for their efforts in raising awareness about a peaceful world in which they live. Prizes were awarded to all students who participated in this project.

Outcome:

This project helped students develop their writing, research, and critical thinking skills, and encouraged them to actively participate in and contribute to important social discussions regarding wars and their related atrocities. The involvement in this activity was an eye-opener for the students, significantly raising their consciousness and awareness about these critical issues.



Brochure



Front page of Historica Vol. XIII



Release of Manuscript Magazine

8. Museum Expo

Objectives:

The museum expo aimed to educate students about cultural, historical, and scientific artifacts, promote awareness and appreciation of heritage, foster community engagement, and provide a platform for learning and inspiration through interactive and diverse exhibits.

Report:

The PG and Research Department of History organized a museum expo in three series on 01-03-2024, 07-03-2024, and 15-03-2024 at the College Seminar Hall. The National Museum Kolkata, Salar Jung Museum Hyderabad, and National Museum Delhi were featured in the expo.

The first in the series was the National Museum Kolkata, exhibited on 1st March 2024 at 3:30 PM. Dr. Beena Paul, HOD of History department addressed the students and talked on the importance of museums and the specialities of the museum at Kolkata. Also known as the Indian Museum, it is the largest and oldest museum in India, founded in 1814. It houses an extensive collection of artifacts, including ancient sculptures, fossils, coins, and textiles, offering a rich insight into India's diverse cultural heritage and history. The exhibition sparked curiosity and enthusiasm among history students, with 48 students attending.



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Dr. Beena Paul introducing the theme.



Watching Museum Expo

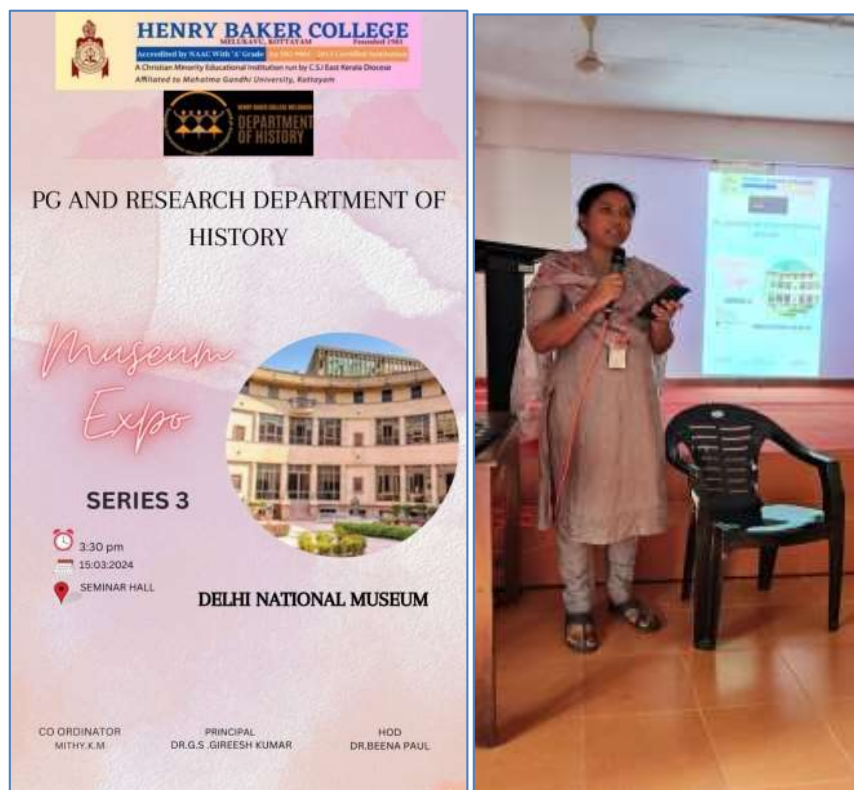
The second in the series was the Salar Jung Museum Hyderabad, presented on 7th March 2024. The details of the museum were explained to the students by Dr. Nisha Joseph. As one of India's premier art museums, established in 1951, it is renowned for its vast and diverse collection of artifacts from various civilizations, including sculptures, paintings, textiles, and manuscripts. Watching the video on the Salar Jung Museum was a wonderful experience for the 79 students who attended.



Brochure

Dr. Nisha Joseph introducing the theme

The third exhibition in the series was the National Museum Delhi, exhibited on 15th March 2024. Established in 1949, it is one of India's largest and most comprehensive museums, with an extensive collection of artifacts spanning over 5,000 years of Indian history and culture, including ancient sculptures, manuscripts, paintings, and decorative arts. Thirty-one students attended this show.



Brochure

Dr. Nisha Joseph introducing the theme

Outcome:

The exhibition enabled students to see a diverse range of artifacts, including terracotta, textiles, metal, bone, and wood, exhibited in the museums. It also helped them understand collections ranging from Indian art to Middle Eastern and European art, providing awareness about the style and patterns of museum keeping and highlighting the importance of museums in preserving our heritage and national memories.

9. Cross Age Teaching 2023-24

Objectives

Cross-age teaching helps the older students to reinforce their own knowledge while mentoring younger students, creating a mutually beneficial learning environment. This approach also fosters a sense of responsibility and improves communication skills, enhancing the educational experience for both age groups.

Report:

The Department of History conducted a cross age teaching programme on 22/3/2024 and 25/3/2024. The session included three classes given by the students of II MA History to the students of II BA History.

The first session of the class was on 22/3/2024 at 11:00 am. Sreehari, I BA History student, welcomed Alaka, M.M, II MA History to their class. Alaka. M. M took the class on the topic “Sangam Literature”. Eleven Students attended the class. The students interacted very well and had a live session.



Welcome by Sreehari K.S IBA History



Alaka M. M

The second session of the class was at 1.30 pm on the same day. The second session was taken by Bedsi.P John on the topic “Tinai Concept”. In the second session also students interacted very well and had a good session.



Bedsi P. John II MA History

On March 25, 2024, Ranjana C.P, a second-year MA History student, conducted the third session of the cross-age teaching program on the topic of Sangam Society. As Sangam period was very much related to Kerala History, students were curious to know about Sangam life during Sangam as well as society and economy during the period. The session was very live and the had 15 participants.



Ranjana C.P, II MA History

Outcome: The students could properly interact with their young teachers. The session also helped to develop confidence and positive attitude in the minds of both the teachers and the students. They could identify the skills of teaching and communication inherent in them.

10. Merit Day Celebrations 2023-24

26/03/2024

Objectives:

Merit Day is intended to recognize and reward students' academic achievements, motivate them to strive for excellence, and foster a culture of hard work and dedication among the student body. Additionally, these celebrations aim to boost students' self-esteem, encourage healthy competition, and highlight the importance of academic success within the college community.

Report:

The PG Department of History conducted Merit Day on March 26, 2024. The program was held in the College Seminar Hall, with the Principal of the college, Dr. G.S. Gireesh Kumar, presiding over the meeting. The Head of the Department of History, Dr. Beena Paul, and other faculty members were also present at the event. The Principal and the HOD expressed their appreciation for the winners' achievements.

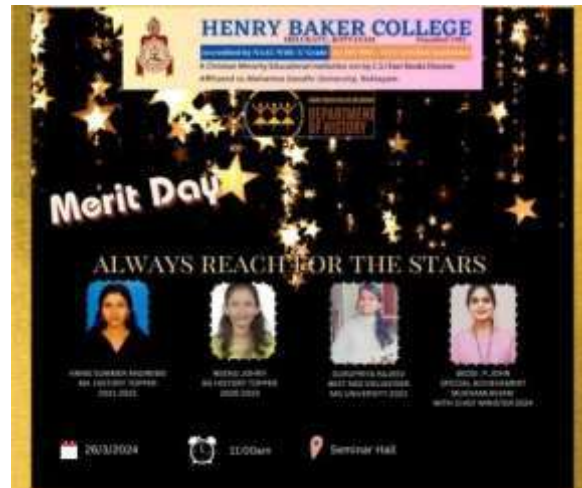
Prizes were awarded to class toppers, internal exam toppers, and university exam toppers. Annie Summer Andrews (2021-2023) and Neenu Johny (2020-2023) were recognized as the final year MA and BA History toppers, respectively. These students received mementos and books as awards.

Ranjana C.P. was honored as the IIMA topper, while Sreelakshmi C.M. was recognized as the I MA topper of the Internal Examinations. Special appreciation and rewards were given to Sreejith of I BA History, Jessy Mol Chacko of II BA History, and Anil Sebastian and Rehana Unni of III BA History, who were class toppers for Internal Examinations.

Gurupriya Rajeev of III BA History was celebrated as the Best NSS Volunteer of MG University 2023, receiving a memento for her achievements. Bedsi P. John of III Sem MA History was given a special achievement award for participating in "Mukhamukham" with the Chief Minister.

Outcome:

The Merit Day celebrations instilled a sense of pride and self-confidence among the achievers and served as an inspiration to other students. The event motivated students to work hard and excel in both curricular and co-curricular activities. It set a benchmark for students to aim for, encouraging them to perform better and strive for excellence.



Brochure



Presidential Address



Annie Summer Andrews, II MA Topper



Special Achievement Bedsi.P.John



Principal, Staff & Awardees

11. Study Tour

17/02/2024

Objective: To provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the region's cultural, historical, economic, and environmental aspects, while also fostering collaboration, experiential learning, and personal growth.

The third-year BA History students set about a study tour to explore the historical and cultural richness of Mysore and Kodagu districts from the 17th to the 19th of February 2024. The tour aimed to provide students with a firsthand experience of the historical sites, monuments, and cultural heritage of these regions, enhancing their understanding of South Indian history. On first day students visited Mysore Palace, a symbol of grandeur and architectural brilliance. The palace's intricate carvings, sprawling courtyards, and opulent interiors left us in awe, offering a glimpse into the royal legacy of the Wadiyar dynasty. After a guided tour of the palace, students visited the Jaganmohan Palace, renowned for its exquisite paintings, including the famous series of Raja Ravi Varma. Also explored the Mysore Zoo, one of the oldest and most well-maintained zoos in India, known for its diverse collection of wildlife. Next the St. Philomena's Church, an iconic Neo-Gothic

style church in Mysore was visited. This artistic treasure trove provided insights into the cultural patronage and artistic finesse of the Mysore rulers. In the afternoon, went to the Chamundi Hill, home to the iconic Chamundeshwari Temple. The panoramic view of Mysore from the hilltop was breathtaking, and the temple's architecture reflected the region's religious fervor and devotion.

On the 18th morning, we set off for Kodagu, commonly known as Coorg, a picturesque district nestled amidst the verdant hills of the Western Ghats. Our first destination was the Madikeri Fort, a historic landmark that bore witness to the region's tumultuous past. The fort's ramparts, secret passages, and ancient structures offered insights into Kodagu's strategic significance and cultural heritage. After the visit to the fort, we proceeded to the Namdroling Monastery in Bylakuppe, one of the largest Tibetan settlements in India. The monastery's serene ambiance, vibrant murals, and imposing golden statues provided a glimpse into Tibetan Buddhism's rich traditions and spiritual practices. We delved deeper into Kodagu's cultural tapestry by visiting a coffee plantation, where we learned about the region's coffee cultivation practices and its pivotal role in shaping Kodagu's economy and identity.

The study tour to Mysore and Kodagu was a transformative experience, enabling us to connect with the rich tapestry of South Indian history, culture, and heritage. Through visits to historical monuments, temples, monasteries, and natural landmarks, we gained a deeper appreciation for the region's diverse legacies and the enduring impact of its past on the present. This immersive exploration not only enriched our academic understanding but also fostered a sense of reverence and admiration for the vibrant heritage of Mysuru and Kodagu.

Outcome: The three day study tour enriched its stakeholders with myriad experiences and insights about historical places of Mysuru and Kodagu.



Mysore Palace



St. Philomena's Church Mysore



Chamundi Hills



Namdroling Monastery in Bylakuppe, Kodagu

12. Study Tour

30/09/2024

Objective: The study tour aimed to offer a unique blend of academic exploration, cultural exchange, and personal enrichment.

The study tour embarked upon by the final year BA students of the PG and Research department of Henry Baker College to Trivandrum was a remarkable journey blending academic exploration, cultural exchange, and personal enrichment. Departing on 30/9/23, 30 the students delved into the heart of Kerala's capital city, immersing themselves in its rich cultural and academic tapestry.

Their itinerary comprised visits to esteemed landmarks, including the Napier Museum, a testament to architectural grandeur and a treasure trove of historical artifacts. The museum's 19th-century origins house a captivating array of bronze idols, ancient ornaments, and ivory carvings, offering profound insights into Kerala's heritage.

The Natural History Museum provided an immersive experience for nature enthusiasts, showcasing a diverse array of specimens and interactive displays. From taxidermy animals to fossils and botanical exhibits, students gained a comprehensive understanding of the region's biodiversity and geological history, fostering an appreciation for the wonders of the natural world.

Journeying through space and time at the Planetarium, students were treated to informative narrations and stunning visuals, igniting a sense of awe and wonder about the cosmos. The visit

not only deepened their understanding of astronomy but also sparked a newfound curiosity about the universe.

The Zoo proved to be another highlight, captivating animal lovers and offering insights into wildlife conservation efforts.

Outcome: Through these experiences, students gained not only academic knowledge but also a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity and the richness of the land. The tour facilitated holistic development, nurturing educational, cultural, personal, and social growth among the participants. Overall, the study tour to Trivandrum left an indelible mark on the students, shaping their perspectives and enriching their academic journey.



In front of Natural History Museum



In front of Planetarium



Inside Planetarium



At Zoo