



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LOYOLA HISTORY ASSOCIATION (2024-25)

Valedictory Function of the Loyola History Association

The Department of History at Loyola College, Chennai, hosted the Valedictory Function of the History Association on March 11, 2025, at the Viscom Preview Theatre. The event marked the culmination of a dynamic and enriching academic year that witnessed an impressive array of student-led initiatives, scholarly engagements, and community-based historical exploration.

Bringing together faculty, students, and esteemed guests, the function served as a vibrant platform to reflect on the achievements of the association, appreciate the dedication of student leaders, and inspire a renewed enthusiasm for the study and appreciation of history.



The event was graced by the distinguished presence of Dr. N. Dhanalakshmi, Professor of History and Tourism Studies and Chairperson of the School of Social Sciences, Tamil Nadu Open University, who honoured the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The function commenced with an atmosphere of warmth and anticipation. Dr. A. Arputha Selvi, the Head of the Department of History, welcomed the gathering with an eloquent address. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest, faculty, students, and support staff, emphasizing the association's role in promoting historical discourse and cultural engagement on campus. Her speech traced the journey of the association throughout the academic year, highlighting how it functioned as a bridge between classroom learning and experiential historical understanding.

Dr. Selvi noted that the History Association had become a vital hub for nurturing curiosity, collaboration, and creativity among students, turning historical learning into a living, breathing practice beyond textbooks and syllabi.



Annual Report Presentation: A Journey Through the Year

One of the most eagerly awaited segments of the event was the **Annual Report Presentation**, a thoughtful and comprehensive recap of the association's activities.

Visual Storytelling Through Video

This year, the report took a multimedia approach with a vibrant video presentation. The video captured the breadth and depth of the association's engagements — from guest lectures by renowned historians, research paper presentations, and academic workshops, to heritage walks, museum visits, and student-led panel discussions on current and historical themes. Music, narration, and images combined to transport the audience back through the year's milestones, creating a moving retrospective of shared experiences and achievements.

Student Reflections by Association Presidents

Complementing the visual journey were **audio reflections** delivered by the Presidents of both shifts:

- **Dr. R. Xavier** (President – Shift I)
- **Mr. A. Jeevith Anguram** (President – Shift II)

Their heartfelt messages recounted their experiences leading the association. They spoke of the challenges and learning curves that shaped their leadership and the sense of unity, collaboration, and purpose that animated their team. Both expressed deep gratitude toward their fellow office bearers, faculty mentors, and peers, emphasizing the spirit of teamwork that had made every success possible.

Recognizing Excellence: Honouring Student Leaders

A special highlight of the event was the **Recognition Ceremony** for students who had played a central role in the functioning of the association.



Medals for Office Bearers

Medals were awarded to **office bearers of both shifts**, recognizing their exemplary dedication and contribution to the academic and cultural vitality of the department. These student leaders had meticulously organized events, managed logistics, encouraged participation, and ensured that every initiative was executed with professionalism and enthusiasm.

“Stars of the Awards”

A newly introduced award titled “Stars of the Shifts” was launched to honour students who had made exceptional contributions in academics, leadership, and extracurricular activities. These students were lauded for their well-rounded development and commitment to excellence. The award served both as a recognition of their accomplishments and as an inspiration for their peers to aim higher.

The atmosphere during this segment was jubilant and emotional, with applause and cheers filling the auditorium. The pride on the faces of students and faculty alike was a testament to the powerful bonds forged through collective effort and mutual encouragement.

Chief Guest’s Address: The Value of History in a Changing World

The keynote address by Dr. N. Dhanalakshmi was a thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating highlight of the day.

With her deep academic experience and passion for historical studies, she spoke on the theme of “Reclaiming the Relevance of History in Contemporary Society.” Drawing upon examples from global and Indian history, she illustrated how the study of the past informs our understanding of present challenges — from cultural identity and heritage conservation to political developments and social justice.

Dr. Dhanalakshmi emphasized the importance of:

- Field-based learning and hands-on research
- Critical engagement with historical sources

- The development of analytical thinking through historical inquiry

Her words resonated deeply with the students, urging them to take history beyond the classroom and to view it as an essential tool for civic consciousness, professional insight, and personal growth.

As the function drew to a close, Rev. Dr. J. Arockiasamy, Coordinator of Shift II, offered words of inspiration and guidance. In his concluding remarks, he reminded students of the enduring value of intellectual curiosity and the transformative power of education. He encouraged them to pursue their academic and personal aspirations with passion, humility, and a commitment to truth.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by faculty members and office bearers. With grace and sincerity, they expressed appreciation for:

- The Chief Guest and special invitees
- The college management and administrative staff
- Faculty mentors and event coordinators
- The vibrant student community whose energy sustained the association throughout the year

Closing Moments: A Celebration in Unity

The event concluded with a group photograph session, capturing the smiling faces and warm camaraderie that had defined the association's journey over the past year. Faculty and students posed together, celebrating not just the completion of an academic calendar, but the bonds, memories, and milestones that made it special.



The Valedictory Function was not merely an end-of-year event, but a powerful reminder of the collective spirit, intellectual fervour, and vibrant community that defines the Department of History at Loyola College.

A Legacy of Learning and Leadership

The Valedictory Function of the History Association was a resounding success — an event filled with joy, reflection, recognition, and inspiration. It highlighted the department's dedication to holistic student development and its unwavering belief in the transformative potential of historical study.



As students look forward to a new academic year, the memories and motivation from this celebration will remain a guiding force. With a renewed commitment to academic excellence, cultural engagement, and historical inquiry, the History Association continues to uphold the values of scholarship, service, and leadership — shaping the historians and thought leaders of tomorrow.