



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

CHENNAI-34

HOSTS

DR.M.X.MIRANDA ENDOWMENT LECTURE

ON

MARITIME HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA

BY

DR.V. SELVA KUMAR

HEAD & ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF MARITIME HISTORY

AND MARINE ARCHEOLOGY

TAMIL UNIVERSITY, THANJAVUR.

Date & Time: 12th OCTOBER 2021 at 06:00PM

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The master of ceremony, Prof Jeevith extended his warm welcome to the participants on behalf of the Department of History, Loyola College (Autonomous), and acquainted them with the topic, after which Mr Sasha rendered the prayer song. Dr A. Arputha Selvi introduced Dr M.X. Miranda, Dr D. Anuradha, the Head of the Department, felicitated the guests. Dr Xavier introduced the Speaker, Dr V. Selvakumar, Head & Associate Professor, Department of Maritime History and Marine Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur.

Dr V. Selvakumar began his lecture with an introduction to existing texts and literature to understand the maritime history of India. He also provided recent updates on the historical studies and challenges faced by historians in assessing Maritime history. He briefed about the historical sources of maritime history and literary sources - Vedas, Arthashastra, and Jataka stories (movement of people from India to Swarnadweepa) and archaeological sources - ceramics, beads, commodities, temples and sculpture.

The focal area in Maritime history was the subtopic of the lecture. It included Harappan trade, India and Southeast Asia, Indo-Roman trade, Indian Ocean trade, Silk Road perspective, the spice trade, coastal ports, and trade networks. Elaborating on the different levels of studying maritime history, he explained local, regional, meta, macro, and global levels (Afro-Eurasian perception). The other topics of the lecture were themes in maritime history, the role of Sangam literature, Harappan trade, and cities engaged in Maritime activities. He concluded with the 'role of maritime activities in shaping the culture of India'.

The endowment lecture was enriching and informative. Within the limited time, Dr Selvakumar covered all aspects of maritime history. He also patiently answered the numerous questions asked by the students and supplemented each answer with volumes of facts. Finally, Prof. Karoliya Jancy Rani delivered the vote of thanks.