

**Loyola College (Autonomous)
Chennai – 600 034**

Department of History

Dr. G J Sudhakar Endowment Lecture

The Department of History, Loyola College organized Dr. G.J Sudhakar endowment lecture on 28th February 2018. Dr. S. Rajavelu, Professor, Department of Maritime History and Marine Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur was the guest speaker. The lecture was on '*Recent trends in Archaeology*'. The programme started with Prayer Song. Dr L Selvanathan, Head of the Department of History delivered the welcome address.



Prayer Song



Honouring the speaker by

Presenting the shawl
Dr. V.Yesubhakthan, Co-ordinator, Shift II



Presenting the memento
Mrs. Anuradha, Assistant Professor

Dr. V. Yesubhakthan, the Co-ordinator shift II and Mrs. Anuradha, Assistant Professor honoured the guest speaker with a shawl and memento. Mr. **T. Vignesh** of III B.A History introduced the speaker.



Introducing the Chief Guest: **Mr. T. Vignesh** III B.A

The speaker Dr. S. Rajavelu explained his background as an epigraphist and archaeologist, on the need of evidences to construct History. He had defined archaeology as the combination of History and Science. The speaker brought in the classification of the time periods into Pre- History, Proto - History and History and added that history started from the time when written information is available, and Proto History is the time when written evidences are available, but is not deciphered by the epigraphist. He placed Indus Valley Civilization as an example of Proto- History. History succeeds both Pre-history and Proto history.

Imparting the knowledge on general classification of the time periods, the speaker focussed in sharing the pictures and evidences related to his excavation that were identified in and around Tamil Nadu. He identified Tamil Nadu as the prime state that should be identified as the centre of human habitation before it was identified or discovered in other parts of India. He introduced the pioneers of Archaeological studies in India and especially in Tamil Nadu, Robert Bruce Foote (excavations at Pallavaram), Sir John Marshall (Indus valley Civilization), Alexander Cunningham (excavations based on *puranas* and *epics*), and Mortimer Wheeler. He enunciated the division of the Palaeolithic period into Early, Middle and Upper. The Palaeolithic sites at Athirambakkam, Ariyalur and Prof. Rajavelu informed that Palaeolithic Man could be seen all over Tamil Nadu and Microlithic tools are also found from different parts of Tamil Nadu.

Interactive Session



Mr. T.M Jaiganesh III B.A

Mr. Vijay Kumar I B.A

After explaining on the evolution of the Man from Pre-History, the speaker brought to light the development of paintings in India like the wall paintings at Madhya Pradesh and Pictographic in Bhimbetka. In Tamil Nadu he talked on the pictograph at Sittavarai (ladies dancing around the chief priest). These are examples of Red ochre paintings which are older compared to the white ochre paintings which were drawn the later periods.

Later he moved to the New Stone Age or the Neolithic period where potteries were made by hands. Later the speaker shifted to the Megalithic period when big stones were used to indicate the presence of burial grounds (Menhir). The speaker highlighted on the excavations conducted at Adichanallur by Alexander Ray in 1902, there the tools were made of copper and bronze. The Speaker compared this excavation with the excavation conducted by Satyamurthy in the same place in 2004. He showed the rare pictures of the excavated evidences that made the topic more interesting. The Bronze Mother Goddess (Adhichanallur), the skulls with an opening on the forehead, Golden pattams, urns, cists, image of Muthu *kotravai*, Carnelian stones etc. created an impact in the minds of every aspiring student of humanities.



Vote of Thanks
Mr. Lakshman II B A



Master of Ceremony
Ms. Leanne Miranda I M.A

Mr. Lakshman of II B A proposed the vote of thanks. The Mistress of Ceremony was Ms. **Leanne Miranda Georgina** I M.A.