











## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LOYOLA HISTORY ASSOCIATION (2024-25)

## SPECIAL LECTURE ON UNSUNG HEROES IN THE INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The Department of History organized a special lecture on the unsung heroes of the Indian freedom movement on 13th August 2024 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at YD Hall. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Sakhti Murali, Managing Director of Sakhti Art Gallery and Sakhti Publishers, Chennai. The convener for the event was Dr. R. Xavier, Assistant Professor, Department of History. The objective of the lecture was to enlighten students about the lesser-known figures who played significant roles in India's struggle for independence.

The event commenced with a prayer song and the rendition of Tamil Thai Valthu by the department choir team, invoking divine blessings. Following this, the introductory address was delivered by Mr. Prakash, the Department Secretary. The head of the department, Dr. Arputha Selvi, honored the chief guest with a shawl and a memento, marking the beginning of the lecture.

Mr. Sakhti Murali initiated his lecture with an interactive session, prompting students to name notable freedom fighters. While several students mentioned prominent figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, one student brought up the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which led the speaker to narrate a lesser-known story about him and other forgotten revolutionaries.

He highlighted how Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose recruited young individuals from across India to form an army against British rule. He narrated the story of Ramdev, a courageous 15-year-old who aspired to join Netaji's army. Unfortunately, Ramdev, along with two other comrades, was captured by the British and subjected to severe punishment in prison. They endured brutal

beatings, and one of them, Madhava Rao, succumbed to the torture. The surviving members, including Ramdev, were later transferred to the Chennai prison, which was known for its advanced facilities.

Despite his suffering, Ramdev displayed immense resilience. Before his death, he wrote a heartfelt letter to his mother and sister, who anxiously awaited his return. His mother, unaware of his demise, spent years searching for him, ultimately reaching Chennai, where she learned of his tragic fate. The grief was unbearable, leading to her mental instability and eventual death. This account deeply moved the audience, highlighting the sacrifices made by lesser-known patriots.

The speaker also shed light on the contributions of Muthuammal and Oomathurai, the brother of the legendary Veerapandiya Kattabomman. Following Kattabomman's execution, Oomathurai continued the struggle against British rule, demonstrating unwavering courage and leadership.

Mr. Sakhti Murali concluded his speech by urging students to explore and acknowledge the contributions of such unsung heroes. He emphasized the importance of recognizing these forgotten warriors and understanding their sacrifices in the larger context of India's independence.

The event ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Ramakrishnan, a third-year undergraduate student. He expressed sincere gratitude to the chief guest, the Head of the Department, faculty members, and the students who actively participated in making the event a success.

This special lecture served as an eye-opener for students, encouraging them to delve deeper into history and appreciate the immense sacrifices of these forgotten freedom fighters.