

## **LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI**

### **DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

#### **Ashok Metha Endowment Lecture - November 1, 2022**

The Department of History, Loyola College conducted ASHOK METHA ENDOWMENT LECTURE on Archeological excavations in Tamil Nadu - Recent trends at Y.D. Hall Loyola College, lecture by Prof. S. Rajavelu (Retd.), Department of Maritime History and Marine Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur.

The program started with a prayer by the Department's choir and a welcome speech by Dr. I. Princess. The chief guest was honored by Mr. Naresh with a shawl followed by the introduction of the chief guest by Dr. A. Arputha Selvi.

The Chief guest started his lecture with the Keezhadi archaeological site, saying that there are more than 175 sites in Tamil Nadu by Keezhadi excavation which made awareness in the minds of people. Then he spoke about the 420 seals found at Indus Valley sites which were not deciphered. He told about the drawings on pots found in Tamil Nadu. He added that the 13 rock edicts of Ashoka explain that Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas were neighbors. He then focused on Alexander Cunningham, the Father of Indian Archaeology, and next on John Marshall who was the first to declare the Harappan civilization as Dravidian Civilization. He then explained about the first Site in Tamil Nadu which is Attirampakkam. He also talked about nomenclature, ages in Tamil country, Tondaimandalam, etc.

The program gave students various insights upon identification of the artifacts and the process followed later. The experiences of Mr. Rajavelu in carrying out excavations were also very much helpful.

This program ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Monicka.