

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
LOYOLA COLLEGE
in collaboration with
Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai

**LITERATURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY:
A CASE STUDY OF SANGAM TAMIL CORPUS**

The Department of History, Loyola College in collaboration with Roja Muthiah Library has organised a special lecture on the topic "Literature and Archaeology: A case study of Sangam Tamil corpus" on 12.12.2022 in the L.S Hall. The lecture was headed by R. Balakrishnan IAS (R) - Indus researcher and chief advisor to the Chief Minister of Odisha, G. Sundar, Director of Roja Muthiah Library, Rev. Dr. A. Thomas S.J., Principal, Loyola College (Autonomous), Dr. D. Anuradha, Head of the Department, Mr. J. Ranganathan, Coordinator - Shift - II. The programme started at 4:30 pm with the prayer song by the Department choir. The MC part was done by Kaviya and Jeeva in a bi-lingual manner.

The Head of the Department Dr. D. Anuradha gave the welcome address. Rev. Dr. A. Thomas S.J. honoured the chief guest Shri. R. Balakrishnan IAS (Retd.). Mr. J. Ranganathan honoured the chief guest Mr. G. Sundar. Then, Rev. Dr. A. Thomas S.J spoke about literature and archaeology and expressed his interest in knowing the relation between Indus and Sangam era excavated sites and the significance of how these studies will shed light on the complexity and interests on the young minds assembled. And he also appreciated Dr. B Balakrishnan for his involvement in those studies beyond being an IAS officer in Odisha. He spoke about the collaboration of Roja Muthiah research library with History department, Loyola College.

Mr. G Sundar introduced the speaker of the day, Dr. R. Balakrishnan IAS and his works. He highlighted his biographical sketch, books and the concept of high west and low east. The chief guest R. Balakrishnan spoke about the affection he has in the Tamil language. He started his speech by saying "History is important and inevitable". He said that the idea of connecting Indus and excavations in the south was developed in the 1920s and 1930s. He presented a presentation on his topic. It comprised about the evidence, source on Sangam literature. He stated that Indus civilization had a much

better urbanised life and without the knowledge of trade, the Indus would not have been developed. He explained about the concept of high west and low east. He said that the Sangam literature has documented not only the incident took place at that time, but also the events happened before that also.

The Sangam literature speaks of lions, camels where there were no lions, camels in the southern areas. The Sangam literature speaks of camel eating bone which cannot be found in other literatures. Recent studies indicate that in a deficiency condition camels consume in this manner. And he spoke about how he found the similarities between the bull sports of Indus and Tamil.

He explained about how the Sangam literature recorded the winds (through animals), that the wind blows from the north will always be chill winds, the west will always be hot wind. After that, he spoke about the Keeladi findings and its Sangam reference, especially the dice found in Keeladi.

Then finally he concluded his lecture with mentioning the impact created by this evidence in connecting the Indus and southern regions. This was followed by a question and answer session moderated by Mr. Ahilan Joe Woutres, Assistant Professor, Department of History. Then Mr. J. Ranganathan, Coordinator of History Department Shift -II delivered the vote of thanks.