

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Department Association Meeting was convened on 25th July 2025 at Fr. Louis Xavier Hall. On this occasion, the Department had the privilege of inviting Dr. Kattalai Kailasam (Retd. Professor) as the distinguished resource person. He delivered an illuminating lecture on the Conservation and Preservation of Manuscripts, a field in which he possesses profound expertise.

Dr. Kailasam, renowned for his lifelong dedication, has meticulously collected hundreds of invaluable manuscripts from diverse regions in and around Tirunelveli. His insightful presentation captivated the audience, while the students listened with keen enthusiasm and observed his scholarly contributions with great admiration. The rare manuscript collections he showcased not only enriched the academic spirit of the gathering but also inspired the students to appreciate the significance of safeguarding cultural heritage.



**Professors, Chief Guest, Dr. Kattalai Kailasam
and I B.A., Students**



**Professors, Chief Guest Dr. Kattalai Kailasam
and II B.A., Students**



**II B.A., Archaeology students
Observing the manuscripts**

Museum Visit

The Department of Archaeology organized a Museum Visit on 29 July 2025 for the students of I B.A. and II B.A. Archaeology as part of their academic enrichment activities.

The I B.A. Archaeology students were systematically divided into three groups, with each group guided under the meticulous supervision of three esteemed professors. The faculty members took charge of explaining the significance, typology, chronology, and cultural context of every museum object on display. The students exhibited great enthusiasm and curiosity while observing the collections. They were particularly fascinated by the Prehistoric assemblage, which included hand-axes, microliths, and polished stone axes. Equally captivating were the Iron Age antiquities such as urns, offering vessels, and ornaments, along with traditional gaming pieces and early historic loose sculptures, all of which provided tangible insights into the evolution of material culture.

The II B.A. Archaeology students were actively engaged in the academic exercise of documenting and preparing detailed reports on the exhibited loose sculptures. This task enhanced their skills in observation, analysis, and descriptive report writing, thereby sharpening their scholarly approach towards archaeological material.

The visit proved to be an intellectually stimulating and practically rewarding experience for both batches of students, as it deepened their understanding of prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic cultural developments while nurturing their analytical abilities and research orientation.



Professors, I B.A., and II B.A., Archaeology students



With Museum Curator

Exploration

Keeladi Museum Site Visit Report

Date: August 13, 2025

Submitted by: Faculty Coordinators – Department of Archaeology

On August 13, 2025, the Department of Archaeology organized a field visit to the Keeladi Museum, Sivaganga District, for the 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students as part of their curriculum-based exposure to archaeological research and heritage preservation. The visit was coordinated and supervised by Assistant Professor Dr. Ramesh P, Assistant Professor Mr. Dinesh Kumar, and Assistant Professor Ms. Rosilo Joseph. Given the students' academic background, the visit served as a practical extension of their classroom learning, offering direct engagement with one of Tamil Nadu's most significant archaeological discoveries.

The Keeladi Museum, which houses the findings of the excavations conducted at the Keeladi site, provided students with firsthand insights into Sangam-era urban civilization. The exhibits showcased a wide array of materials such as inscribed pottery (Tamil-Brahmi script), terracotta figurines, beads, iron tools, spindle whorls, and everyday objects made from bone and ivory. The students were particularly drawn to the structural remnants that indicated sophisticated urban planning, sanitation systems, and evidence of trade and literacy. These findings are of immense relevance to the academic understanding of early South Indian civilization and its parallels with other ancient cultures such as the Indus Valley Civilization.

A major highlight of the visit was the audio-visual (AV) presentation arranged by the museum authorities. The presentation offered a chronological and thematic overview of the Keeladi excavations, beginning with their initiation in 2015 and continuing through the various stages of discovery and research. It effectively illustrated how the Keeladi site challenges and expands existing historical narratives by establishing that a highly organized and literate urban society existed in Tamil Nadu. The students were able to comprehend the methods of archaeological excavation, stratigraphy, material culture analysis, and the significance of conserving heritage sites through this well-curated visual session.

This site visit was especially meaningful for archaeology students, as it allowed them to observe real-world applications of excavation techniques, artifact classification, and interpretive frameworks. It sparked thoughtful discussion, critical inquiry, and a deeper appreciation for the responsibilities involved in archaeological fieldwork and research. The faculty encouraged students to reflect on their experiences, document observations, and consider areas for further academic exploration or project work.

The Keeladi Museum visit was a highly productive and intellectually enriching experience, directly aligned with the educational goals of the Department of Archaeology. We thank the museum authorities for their hospitality and the institutional leadership for supporting this initiative. The visit not only deepened the students' academic understanding but also reinforced their passion for exploring and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu.



Keeladi Museum



**Professors and I B.A., and II B.A., Girls Students
Keeladi Museum**



**Professors and I B.A., and II B.A., Boys Students
Keeladi Museum**

Site Visit Report – Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal

Date: August 13, 2025

Submitted by: Faculty Coordinators – Department of Archaeology

On August 13, 2025, the Department of Archaeology organized a field visit to the historic Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal, located in Madurai, for the 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students. The visit was part of the department's academic outreach to expose students to significant heritage structures and conservation practices. The students were accompanied by faculty members **Head and Asst Prof Dr. Ramesh P, Assistant Professor Mr. Dinesh Kumar, and Assistant Professor Ms. Rosilo Joseph.**

The students were warmly received at the site by **Mr. M. Aanathi, Archaeological Officer**, who conducted a highly informative session about the historical, architectural, and cultural importance of the Mahal. She explained that the palace, built in 1636 CE by King Thirumalai Nayak, stands as a prime example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, reflecting a unique blend of Dravidian and Islamic styles. Mr. Aanathi elaborated on key features of the structure, including the massive circular pillars, ornate arches, and the grand central courtyard which once served as the royal audience hall.

In addition to the historical background, **Mr. Aanathi also discussed the conservation process carried out, highlighting the challenges faced in preserving the original structure after parts of it were damaged during the colonial era.** Her insights helped students understand the critical importance of heritage conservation, as well as the technical and administrative efforts required to restore and maintain such monuments.

Further enriching the visit, the faculty members conducted a live academic session on-site. They engaged students in reflective discussions on the architectural techniques of the Nayak period, material usage, and the symbolic elements present in the palace design. Students were encouraged to take observational notes, ask questions, and connect their field experience with classroom theories related to art history, architecture, and conservation practices.

The visit proved to be an intellectually stimulating and practically valuable experience for the students of archaeology. It not only enhanced their understanding of monumental architecture and heritage management but also gave them real-time exposure to the role of archaeologists and conservation officers in the field.

The visit to Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal was a highly successful academic initiative. The Department of Archaeology sincerely thanks Mr. M. Aanathi, Archaeological Officer, for her informative and engaging session, and the site authorities for their support. We also acknowledge the encouragement of the institutional leadership in promoting experiential learning opportunities for students.

Monthly Special Lecture

The Department of Archaeology organized its **Monthly Special Lecture on 26th August 2025 at Fr. Louis Xavier Hall (Communication Skill Centre)**. The session was graced by the presence of the distinguished resource person, **Mr. Vasantha Kumar, from the State Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu.**

Mr. Vasantha Kumar delivered an erudite lecture on the theme “**Scientific Excavation at Thulukkarpatti, Tirunelveli District.**” His presentation meticulously highlighted the systematic methodologies employed in excavation, the rich material culture unearthed, and the antiquities that provide crucial insights into the past.

A particularly significant aspect of his discourse centered on the graffiti marks, which constituted a substantial corpus recovered during the excavation. He emphasized their interpretative value, underscoring how such symbols could illuminate facets of communication, cultural expression, and socio-religious practices of the ancient community.

The lecture proved to be both intellectually stimulating and academically enriching, providing students and faculty with a deeper appreciation of the scientific rigor and cultural significance embedded in archaeological excavations.



**Ms. Rosilo Joseph Asst. Professors
Introducing the Resource Person
Mr. Vasantha Kumar**



Department students and staff members



Mr. Vasantha Kumar presenting his lecture

World Tourism Day Commemorated by the Department of Archaeology

The Department of Archaeology commemorated **World Tourism Day on 26th September 2025 with a vibrant Photo Exhibition and a Special Lecture**, creating an intellectually enriching platform for students and faculty alike.

The programme commenced with the **Welcome Address delivered by Dr. P. Ramesh, Head and Assistant Professor of Archaeology**. This was followed by the Presidential Address by **Rev. Fr. Principal, Dr. Godwin Rufus, S.J.**, who highlighted the significance of tourism as a cultural bridge and a tool for global harmony.

The gathering was further honoured with felicitations from distinguished academicians and administrators—**Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Lazar, S.J., Dr. A. Lourdusamy, and Rev. Fr. S. Aruldoss**—who commended the department for fostering heritage awareness among students.

The highlight of the event was the Special Lecture delivered by **Dr. N. Preetha, Assistant Professor, Meenakshi College (Autonomous), Kodambakkam, Chennai**, on the theme “UNESCO Heritage Sites: Mantle for Archaeological Tourism.” With scholarly depth and engaging clarity, she emphasized the global responsibility of preserving heritage monuments as living testimonies of civilization and as pillars of sustainable tourism.

The session evoked keen interaction as students participated with enthusiasm, raising pertinent questions and engaging in thoughtful discussions with the resource person. Their active involvement reflected the deep curiosity and academic spirit nurtured within the department.

The proceedings concluded with a gracious **Vote of Thanks by Ms. Ambika, II B.A. Archaeology**, appreciating the contributions of all dignitaries, participants, and organizers. The event was ably coordinated by **Mr. K. Dinesh Kumar and Ms. Rosilo Joseph, Assistant Professors of the Department of Archaeology**.

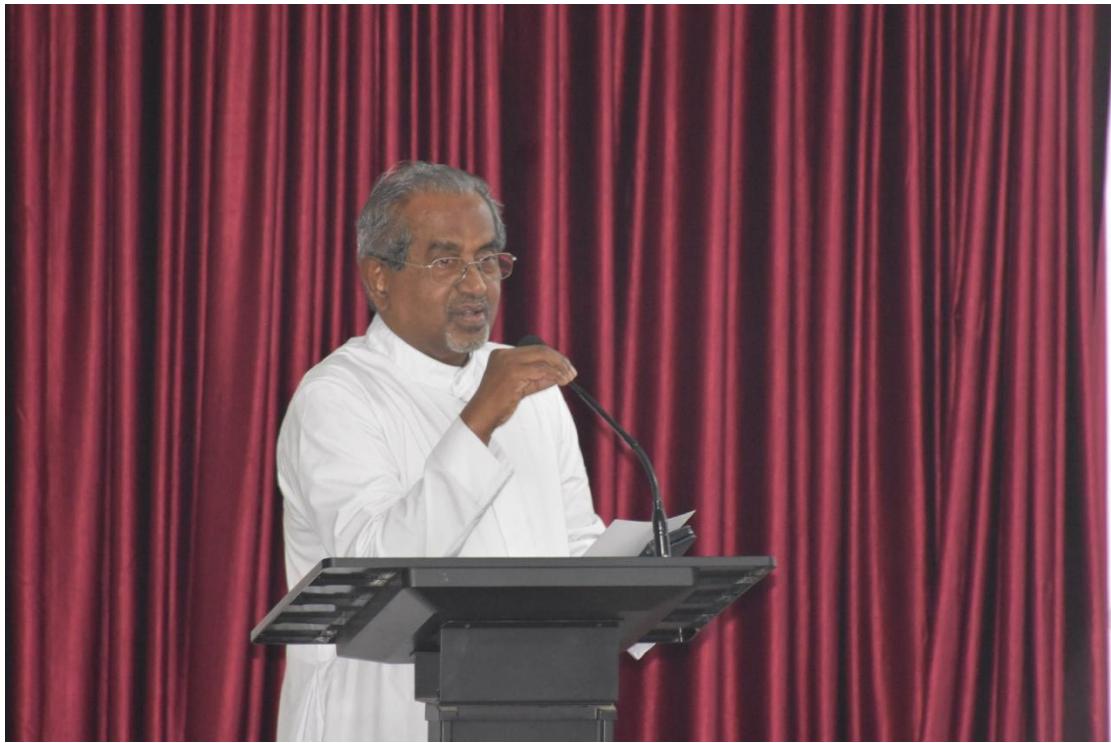
The programme proved to be insightful, informative, and profoundly beneficial for the students, leaving them inspired to view archaeology and tourism not merely as academic pursuits but as essential pathways to cultural preservation and global understanding.



Rev Fr. Principal Dr. Godwin Rufus S.J lighting the lamp



Rev Fr. Principal honour the chief Guest



Felicitation address: Rev.Fr. Dr. S. Lazar S.J



Photo exhibition inaugurating by the Chief Guest



**Head and Asst Prof Dr.P.Ramesh
explaining the World Heritage Monuments
and Sites**

Report on Motivational Talk

Department of Archaeology

Date: 29th September 2025

Venue: AV Hall St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

The Department of Archaeology organized a motivational talk on 29th September 2025 for the 1st and 2nd year students. The program commenced with a prayer song, followed by a welcome address delivered by Dr. P. Ramesh, Assistant professor, Head of the Department. Ms. Rosilo Joseph, Assistant Professor, introduced the distinguished speaker of the day.

The session was conducted by Dr. J. Rexy, Assistant Professor and Dean of Service Organizations, Department of Computer Science, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. she was formally honoured by the Head of the Department before delivering his lecture.

The theme of the motivational talk was "*Born to Win.*" Dr. Rexy inspired the students by emphasizing the relevance of archaeology and its scope, highlighting job opportunities in the field, and sharing practical insights on how to study the subject effectively. She encouraged the students to utilize opportunities wisely and underlined the importance of values such as discipline, perseverance, and integrity in achieving success. Students expressed that the session was highly interesting, inspiring, and motivating, leaving them with a renewed sense of confidence and clarity about their academic and professional journeys.

The session was well received, keeping the students engaged with its motivating and thought -provoking content. Faculty members Dr. P. Ramesh, Assistant professor, Head of the Department, Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Assistant professor and Ms. Rosilo Joseph, Assistant professor also took part in the program, adding their encouragement to the event.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. P. Ramesh, who expressed gratitude to the resource person, faculty, and students for making the event a success. The talk proved to be a memorable and inspiring session, leaving students with a renewed sense of confidence and the realization that each of them is indeed "*born to win*".



Dr. J. Rexy delivering her Motivational talk

Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India
Pp9q+87g, High Ground Rd, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu 627002, India
Lat 8.718323° Long 77.73807°
29/09/2025 05:14 PM GMT +05:30

GPS Map Camera

WORLD HERITAGE WEEK CELEBRATION

*Organized by the Department of Archaeology

*Held on 2 December 2025 at Fr. Caussanel Hall

1. Introduction

The Department of Archaeology organized a special programme in commemoration of World Heritage Week (19–25 November). The event took place on 2 December 2025 at the Fr. Caussanel Hall, with the primary objective of enriching students' knowledge on heritage conservation, archaeological awareness, and the cultural significance of historic monuments.

2. Welcome Address

The celebration commenced with a gracious welcome address delivered by **Dr. P. Ramesh, Head and Assistant Professor**, who highlighted the importance of heritage preservation and underscored the educational value of World Heritage Week.

3. Felicitations

Following the welcome, felicitations were offered by:

**Dr. A. Lourdusamy, Deputy Principal, and
Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Aruldoss, Vice Principal**

Both dignitaries provided insightful remarks on the relevance of world heritage, stressing the collective responsibility of society—especially the younger generation—to safeguard ancient monuments and archaeological landscapes.

4. Introduction of the Resource Person

The resource person was introduced by **Ms. N. Padmapriya**, II B.A. Archaeology student, who presented an impressive overview of his academic achievements and contributions to historical research.

5. Technical Sessions by the Resource Person

The invited Resource Person, **Dr. K. Vengatesan, Assistant Professor**, delivered two erudite lectures, each addressing a theme of immense value to archaeological and historical studies.

5.1 Lecture I: Crime and Punishment from Inscriptions

The first lecture explored the concept of crime and punishment as documented in ancient inscriptions. **Dr. Vengatesan** drew from diverse historical sources, including:

- * The Hammurabi Code,
- * Sangam and Post-Sangam literature,

* Epigraphical records of various dynasties such as the Cholas and Pandyas.

His presentation was enriched with multiple examples, inscriptions, and field-based evidence, offering students a deep understanding of ancient judicial systems.

5.2 Lecture II: Why Protect Heritage and Historical Monuments

The second lecture emphasized the importance of heritage protection, discussing:

- * The observance and purpose of World Heritage Week,
- * The historical and cultural value of ancient monuments,
- * The urgent need for safeguarding heritage structures for future generations.

The lecture was further strengthened by the resource person's field experiences, illustrated with photographs and examples that underscored the necessity of heritage conservation.

6. Student Participation

The students participated with exceptional enthusiasm and displayed genuine interest in both lecture sessions. The presentations inspired meaningful engagement, and several students expressed a deeper appreciation for epigraphy, heritage studies, and conservation ethics.

7. Vote of Thanks

The programme concluded with a sincere Vote of Thanks delivered by **Ms. Megevarshini, II B.A. Archaeology student**. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries, the resource person, faculty members, and all participants for contributing to the success of the event.

8. Master of Ceremonies

The event was effectively coordinated by the Masters of Ceremonies,

- * **Ms. S. Rajasri, and**
- * **Ms. K. Ambika,**
both from II B.A. Archaeology.

Their poised and efficient anchoring ensured the smooth flow of the entire programme.

9. Programme Coordination

The overall organization and execution of the event were meticulously planned and coordinated by Assistant Professors **Mr. K. Dinesh Kumar and Ms. Rosilo Joseph**, whose dedicated efforts contributed significantly to the programme's success.

10. Conclusion

The celebration of World Heritage Week 2025 proved to be an academically enriching and inspiring experience. Through insightful lectures, active student participation, and committed faculty coordination, the programme successfully underscored the vital importance of protecting heritage sites and preserving historical monuments for generations to come.