

## PG & Research Department of History

### **Report on the Webinar held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 on Findings from excavations in Tamilnadu with specific Reference to Keeladi**

The PG & Research Department of History a webinar on Findings from excavations in Tamilnadu with specific Reference to Keeladi The resource person of the Webinar was Professor Sadasivan, Formerly Head Department of History, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. The moderator of the programme was Dr. Bonita Lynette Cooper, Assistant Professor of History.

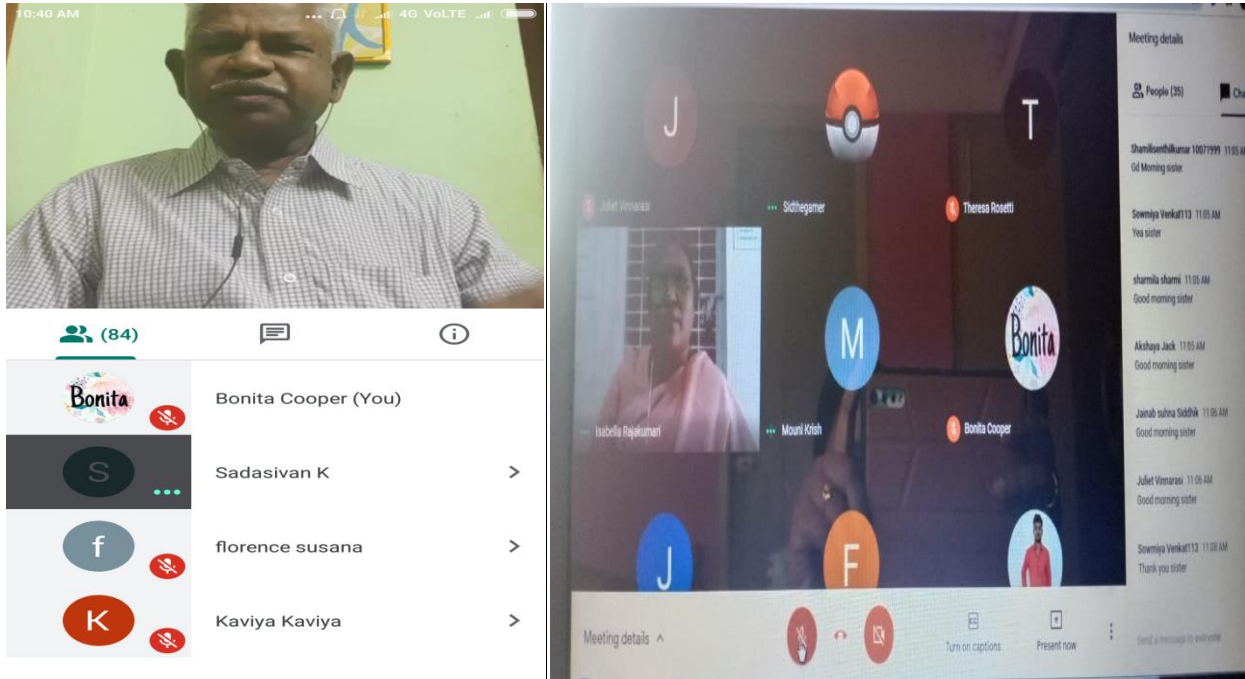
The webinar started with a prayer followed by Felicitations by Rev. Dr. Sr. Christina Bridget, Principal of our College. A warm welcome was given by Rev. Dr. Sr. Rajakumari. P. Head of the Department of History and she presented accolades of the resource person who is an expert in the archaeology. He is instrumental in the excavations of Keeladi which is now drawing a changed course in the history of Indian civilization.

Professor Sadasivan had narrated the prelude to excavations and how it prompted the archaeological department to start excavations in Keeladi. He said that recent dating was very significant and based on radiometric dates recovered from archaeological sites like Kodumanal, Alagankulam and Porunthal [all in Tamil Nadu], it was found that Tamil [the Tamil-Brahmi script] was dated to 5th century BCE. But the recent scientific dates obtained from the Keeladi findings push back the date by another century. Professor said that the recent excavations conducted in the State, including in Kodumanal and Porunthal, which have been “strengthened by a large number of radiocarbon dates, have brought about a sea-change in understanding of the archaeological developments in Tamil Nadu, taking the gaze from megalithic burials and the finds of Roman coins to megalithic habitation sites and their chronological developments.

Professor Sadasivan also said that the findings have also invited comparisons with the Indus Valley Civilisation which points to the similarities in urban planning between the Indus Valley and Keeladi. He quoted Professor Rajans’ work where he referred to the cultural gap of 1,000 years between the two places which presents a cultural gap which was generally filled with Iron Age material in south India. He said that the graffiti marks encountered in Iron Age sites of south India served as the only residual links between the Indus Valley Civilization and south India. A power point presentation on the excavation personally conducted by Professor was presented which showed Keeladi as an urban habitat reflected all the characteristics of an urban civilization, with brick structures, luxury items and proof of internal and external trade. An interesting feature of Keeladi is that it has not revealed any signs of religious worship in all the five rounds.

Till now, it has been a tale of an industrious and advanced civilization that celebrated life. A visual display on power point enlightened the participants with a collection of artifacts unearthed at Keeladi include seven gold ornaments, copper articles, gem beads, shell and ivory bangles, and brick structures that point to the existence of industrial units. Structures that could

have been used to convey molten metal or filter liquid strongly point to the existence of people who were involved in industrial work. Finally Professor had said that the Keeladi excavations have triggered a healthy debate on Indian civilization and added value to the discipline of archaeology. After the presentation of the resource person questions were posed and it was moderated and answered by the Resource Person. The webinar concluded by Vote of Thanks rendered by Dr.Sr.Isabella Rajakumari, Head PG& Research Department of History.



Professor Sadasivan(Resource Person for Webinar on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020)  
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