

## Special Lecture on “Recovering the History of the Ancestors”

10/10/2023

**Name of the Department:** Department of History

**Title of the activity:** Special lecture

**Topic of Lecture:** Recovering the History of the Ancestors

**Date:** 10/10/2023

**Participants:** 43 participants

**Speaker’s Profile :** Dr Uma Chakraborty, Associate Professor, Seth Soorajmal Jalan College.

### **Synopsis of the Lecture:**

Rock art, the very first picture of human civilization constitutes the greatest body of evidence of the intellectual life of our ancestors. This massive, semi-permanent and cumulative record is the most direct evidence we have of how pre-humans first became human and then evolved complex social system. Distinctive artistic activity in ancient India began with Harappan miniature art pieces which reflects the development of an urban culture. An art, monumental in conception and precise in execution is noticed in the Mauryan period. The native style of simplicity and folk appeal is best represented in the narrative Sunga art which forms a treasure house of fables, visually represented. The Kushana sculptures fostered a mixed culture with Graeco-Roman affiliation. The sensuous sculptural art that bloomed at Amaravati and Nagarjunikonda display a mastery in detailed ornamentation. The human figure, the pivot of Gupta sculpture expressed a characteristically refined taste and charm .The synthesis culminated in the Pala-Sena period is a fusion of classical mannerism with the indigenous style of Bengal. The magnificent open air bas-relief sculpted out of rock at Mahabalipuram glorifies Pallava art. Casting of bronzes under the imperial **Cholas** was an age of refinement of Dravidian art. This innovation and creativity exerted lasting influence on the socio-cultural, political, religious and economic life of our ancestors that glorify Indian tradition and culture.