

Field Trip Report- 2024

Destination : Thalassery
Organized by : Social Science Department
Participants : Krishna Kumar Sir, Suneesh Sir and 10 students
Date : 19/12/2024

Introduction

As part of our curriculum, the Social Science Department organized a field trip to Thalassery to explore the rich local history and heritage of the region. The primary objective of this trip was to gain a practical understanding of historical sites and their significance, thereby connecting classroom knowledge to real-world heritage. The trip provided us an opportunity to witness monuments that stand as a testament to colonial history, local culture, and architecture.

Objective of the Field Trip:

- To explore the historical and cultural heritage of Thalassery.
- To understand the colonial influence on the region.
- To identify key historical landmarks and their relevance to local and national history.
- To appreciate the role of historical preservation in education.

Places Visited

■ St. John's Anglican Church:

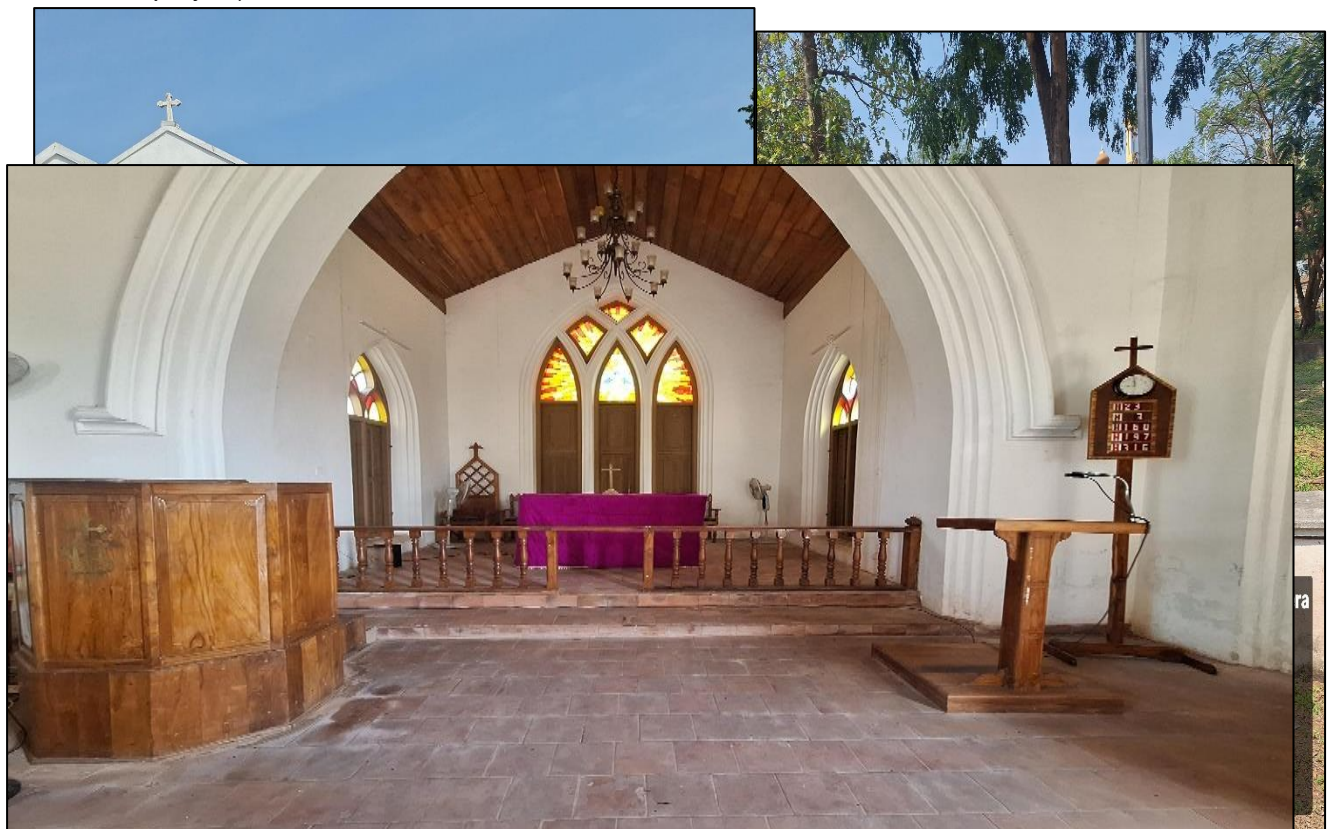
Our first stop was St. John's Anglican Church, one of the oldest churches in Kerala, built during the British colonial period. Here, we were guided by Sunil Sir, who provided detailed insights into the church's history. He explained its origin during the 19th century as a centre of worship for British officers and residents. Sunil Sir shared information about the Church. The St John's Anglican Church, near Thalassery Fort, was built in 1869 by Sir Edward Brennan, who reportedly reached Thalassery after a shipwreck. He was the Master Attendant at Thalassery during the British rule. Though he provided the funds for the construction of the church, it could be completed only after his death. His tomb can be seen in the church cemetery with an epitaph that reads "The Sterling Upright Englishman". He also shared fascinating information about the Britishers cremated here, including; Edward Brennan –[a renowned British officer who significantly contributed to the development of the Malabar region], TH Baber – [another prominent British figure closely

associated with administrative reforms during the colonial era] and several others. The church is a fine example of the Anglican and Gothic styles of architecture. The structure received a facelift in the recent past with funds provided by the Departments of Archaeology and Tourism. The visit helped us connect the site to the lives of notable colonial officials who played key roles in shaping the local history of Thalassery.

Over bury's folly

Our field trip to Overbury's Folly, a historical site in Thalassery, provided an excellent opportunity to explore the history and heritage of this coastal town. Overbury's Folly is a partially completed colonial-era structure named after its creator, E. N. Overbury, who was a British judge in Thalassery during the 19th century.

The construction of Overbury's Folly began in the early 19th century under the supervision of E. N. Overbury. His vision was to build a rest house for British officials overlooking the Arabian Sea. The structure remained incomplete due to unknown reasons, possibly Overbury's untimely death or lack of funds, leading locals to refer to it as a "folly" (a term used for an extravagant but unfinished project).



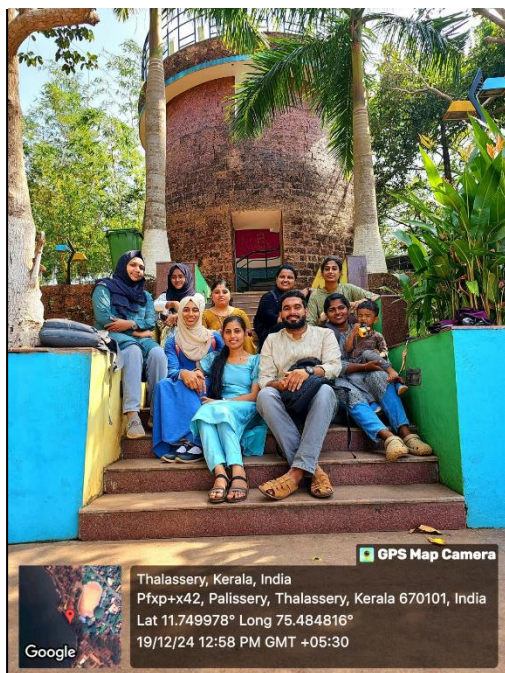
Overbury's Folly is now a popular heritage site and a vantage point that offers panoramic views of the Arabian Sea. It is a reminder of the colonial era and Thalassery's role as a key British settlement.

The structure features elements of colonial architecture, with remnants of arched windows and open spaces. Though incomplete, it showcases the grandeur of its intended design.

The site is located on a cliff near the sea, surrounded by lush greenery. The sound of the waves and the sea breeze added to the experience.

Overbury's Folly is part of the larger historical landscape of Thalassery, which includes other landmarks like the Thalassery Fort, the pier, and old European-style building. We walked around the structure, observing its features and enjoying the view of the sea.

The trip to Overbury's Folly was an enlightening experience. It offered insights into Thalassery's colonial past and provided a serene environment to connect with history. The visit emphasized the importance of preserving heritage sites and understanding their historical significance



Thalassery Fort

Thalassery Fort, a significant historical landmark in Kerala, offers a glimpse into the colonial past of the region. Located in the coastal town of Thalassery, the fort was built by the British East India Company in 1708 to establish their dominance in Malabar. Its massive laterite walls, secret tunnels, and strategically designed architecture highlight the engineering prowess of the era. During the visit, the fort's panoramic view of the Arabian Sea captivated everyone. The intricate carvings, ancient cannons, and the remnants of the British era tell tales of battles and trade. The fort also houses a cemetery and a lighthouse, adding to its historical intrigue. The lush greenery surrounding the area enhances the serene ambiance, making it an ideal spot for exploration and learning. The fort played a pivotal role in shaping the history of Kerala, particularly during the struggles against the British. Informative boards and guides provided rich historical context, making the visit educational. The experience was enriching, offering insights into the colonial influence, cultural exchanges, and architectural marvels of the time.

Overall, the visit to Thalassery Fort was an unforgettable journey through history, blending heritage with natural beauty, and leaving a lasting impression



Impact of the Field Trip

The field trip was a valuable learning experience that broadened our understanding of local history and its connection to colonial India. Key takeaways from the trip include:

- A deeper appreciation for historical preservation and heritage.

- Insight into the contributions of colonial figures like Edward Brennan and TH Baber in shaping the region's administrative and cultural landscape.
- An understanding of the architectural and strategic significance of forts like Thalassery Fort and Overbury's Fort.
- Enhanced curiosity to explore more about local history and its relevance to the present.

By seeing the historical monuments firsthand and listening to Sunil Sir's explanations, we were able to bridge the gap between textbook knowledge and real-life historical exploration.

The field trip to Thalassery was an enriching experience that left a significant impact on all of us. It allowed us to understand how history is preserved through monuments and how colonial influences have shaped our local heritage. The sites we visited—St. John's Anglican Church, Thalassery Fort, and Overbury's Fort—provided us with a deeper connection to the past and highlighted the importance of protecting historical landmarks for future generations.

The guidance of Krishna Kumar Sir, Suneesh Sir, and Sunil Sir was instrumental in making this trip a success, offering us knowledge beyond the classroom. This field trip will remain a memorable chapter in our academic journey, inspiring us to appreciate and study history with a fresh perspective.