

Report of the one-day study tour dated 28th September 2022 of MEd 2020-22 batch students of School of Pedagogical Sciences (SPS), Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU)

Preface: The study tour as per the curriculum is intended to provide the students an exposure to a place of educational or historical importance. The day of the tour was 28th September 2022. The tour programme of School of Pedagogical Sciences was planned as a one-day trip. All the necessary arrangements were done well in advance by the course coordinator Dr Ismail Thamarasseri, Deputy Leader Ms Reshma Lal and tour coordinator Mr Shibin K. Varghese with the able guidance of the Head of the Department Prof. (Dr.) Minikutty A. The destination was Ernakulam district. It is place of vibrancy, multicultural heritage and a seat of ancient Kochi kingdom. Ernakulam bordering the district of Thrissur in the north, Idukki in the East, Alappuzha and Kottayam in the south, Lakshadweep Sea in the west is an amalgam of a hoary heritage and global growth of industry and commerce. For the outside world, Ernakulam is part of Kochi referred to in the history of Kerala as the Queen of Arabian Sea. The densely populated Ernakulam District embodies the achievements of the Kerala State in literacy, industry, trade and commerce. With an inclusive culture, relatively high per capita income and an unstoppable interest of the people in updating themselves of the political, economic, social and cultural happenings in the national and international spheres, Ernakulam represents the high modern phase of the Kerala society.

Learning Outcomes: Providing situations for student-teachers to learn and get acquainted with the process of organizing / conducting a study tour/ field work and understanding the environment around.

Tour Report

The students and staff are gathered in SPS campus around 6.30 am, and set off the journey at 6.50 am. The students were accompanied by course coordinator Dr Ismail Thamarasseri, faculty members Dr Muhammed KV, Dr Smitha S, Administrative Officer Mr Satheeshkumar J and Asst Section Officer Mr Saran Dev S. The team reached Chottanikara at 8.30 am, had the breakfast. As per the decisions made, the places to visit were Hill Palace, Thripunithura, Fort Kochi Beach, Mattancherry street that includes Police Museum, Synagogue, Jew Street and lastly Boating at Marine Drive. The team reached the primary destination Hill Palace, Thripunithura at 9.08 am.



Figure 1 Hill Palace, Thripunithura

Hill Palace is an archaeological museum and palace located in the Thrippunithura neighbourhood of Kochi city in the Indian state of Kerala. It is the largest archaeological museum in the state and was the imperial administrative office and official residence of the Cochin Maharaja. Built in 1865, the palace complex consists of 49 buildings in the traditional architectural style, spreading across 54 acres (220,000 m²). The complex has an archaeological museum, a heritage museum, a deer park, a pre-historic park and a children's park. The campus of the museum is home to several rare species of medicinal plants. Presently the palace has been converted into a museum by The Kerala State Archaeology Department and is open to public. The palace is about 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) from the city centre and is approachable by road and rail. The team left the palace at 11.19 am and reached Fort Kochi beach around 12:30 pm.



Figure 2 Fort Kochi Beach

The very beautiful Fort Kochi beach is located on the western coast of India and is often known as the 'Queen of the Arabian Sea'. It's a serene beach that offers a scenic view and natural beauty to its visitors. With its pristine water and tranquil ambience, it is extremely admired by tourists and local people as well. Whether you are alone or with your loved ones, this beach offers a soothing atmosphere to relax and chill out. The main attraction of this beach is the historic fort, which is the perfect example of the European architecture and the annual Kochi Festival that takes place every year on the white sands of the Fort Kochi Beach. Holiday trip to this beach is like an ideal blend of the historical and cultural moments. Stroll along the Fort Kochi beach and over the slippery sands, where we can see the Chinese Fishing Nets. This beach is a perfect getaway bored for the people who are bored with the hustle and bustle of the city. Foodies can find several restaurants and eating joints that offer delicious cuisines. Hence, Fort Kochi beach has become a retreat for visitors of different part of the world. Then the team had our lunch at 1.50 pm at the famous kayees biryani restaurant.

Mattancherry - Synagogue and Jew Street: The team reached Mattancherry around 3 pm, and visited synagogue, police museum, and jew street. The Paradesi Synagogue Cochin Jewish Synagogue or the Mattancherry Synagogue is a synagogue located in Mattancherry Jew Town, a suburb of the city of Kochi, Kerala, in India. It was built in 1568 A.D. by Samuel Castiel, David Belila, and Joseph Levi for the flourishing Paradesi Jewish community in Kochi. Cochin Jews were composed mainly of the much older Malabari Jews and the newly arrived Sephardic refugees from the Portuguese religious persecution of Jews in Spain and Portugal. It is the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations. Paradesi is a

word used in several Indian languages, and the literal meaning of the term is "foreigners", applied to the synagogue because it was built by Sephardic or Portuguese-speaking Jews, some of them from families exiled in Aleppo, Safed and other West Asian localities.



Figure 3 Paradesi Synagogue

The synagogue is located in the quarter of Old Cochin known as Jew Town, and is the only one of the seven synagogues in the area still in use, though the Kadavumbhagam Synagogue (1544 A.D) and Thekkumbhagam Synagogue (1647 A.D) (extinct) are much older and are the three synagogues in Mattancherry. The complex has four buildings. It was built adjacent to the Mattancherry Palace temple on the land given to the community by the Raja of Kochi, Rama Varma. The Mattancherry Palace temple and the Mattancherry synagogue share a common wall.

Police Museum: International Tourism Police Station and Police Museum at Mattancherry in Ernakulam district is the first of its kind in the country which not only addresses grievances of tourists but also showcases the history of the Kerala Police. The primary aim of the station is to make the state of Kerala more tourist-friendly. Started in 2010, the station offers a host of services and facilities to travellers visiting the state. Tourists can clear their doubts and get details on passport, visa, hiring vehicles, tourist places, transport facilities and accommodation units. Not only this, tourists can also lodge complaints regarding lost valuables or any crime. The Tourism Police Station helps tourists make their trips easy, convenient and comfortable. The police museum in the campus is a great way to learn about the history, evolution and services of the Kerala Police. It exhibits police uniforms, combat weapons, armoury, badges and ranks, etc., with suitable description and display boards. All these are arranged in a chronological order, right from the colonial period to the present day. There is a separate section which details the type of injuries inflicted by various weapons. The museum is located in Jew Town and is at a walkable distance from Mattancherry Synagogue. The Dutch Palace, the Jain Temple and an Antique Museum are some of the tourist places in the neighbourhood.



Figure 4 Police Museum Mattancherry

Jew Town / Antique Shops: Jew Street in Mattancherry has numerous antique and craft stores. The antique sellers of these streets are the descendants of a fast-dwindling population of Jews who settled down here in AD 52. Scores of small firms huddle together in old, dilapidated buildings and the air is filled with the pungent aromas of cardamom, cumin, turmeric, ginger, and cloves. Many Jewish names are visible on business premises and houses, but the community has diminished rapidly since Indian independence.



Figure 5 Jew Town / Antique Shops

The Jew Street is lined with shops that sell curios, antique pieces of crockery, carved wooden furniture, bronze and brass sculptures, remnants of traditional houses, and jewellery. Once a Jews enclave, the Jews Street is now bereft of that community which left to Israel except one or two families. The Star of David inscribed variegated arches wear a worn-out look. The marvellous blue and green facades stand faded. The spice shops and curio souks – so interestingly developed by Jews are still thriving in Market Road. In one end is a Synagogue with Malayalam (Kerala's language) and Hebrew tomb-stones. There were 7 Synagogues, but now only this 400 years old Pardesi Synagogue. Interior with curved brass columns, intricately carved teak chest, Belgian crystal chandeliers, and Torah crowns with gems set in gold look marvelous. Hand-painted porcelain tiles from Canton, each tile in a different pattern, reinforced the flooring. Two copper plates with details of privileges bestowed on the Jews during the regime of Bhaskara Ravi Varman are preserved as invaluable. The 45-ft

clock-tower warrants special attention as its 4 dials bear four different numerals in Arabic, Hebrew, Latin, and Malayalam. Once one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world, but now many of the inhabitants have moved to Israel and the once bustling Jewish community has now largely shut up shop and the street is quiet. The nearby Market Road still bustles with spice market and tourist curio shops dominated by Kashmiri shopkeepers selling mostly wood carvings, oil lamps, spice box, snake boats, and some tempting coffee table books. In the heart of Jew Town stands the Kochi International Pepper Exchange, which has switched to online trading recently.

Marine Drive: Marine Drive is a picturesque promenade in Kochi, India. It is built facing the backwaters, and is a popular hangout for the local populace. Despite its name, no vehicles are allowed on the walkway. Marine Drive is also an economically thriving part of the city of Kochi. With several shopping malls it is as an important centre of shopping activity in Kochi. Major fast-food chains, including Marrybrown, DiMark, Coffee Bar are present along the walkway. The view of the setting and rising sun over the sea mouth, and the gentle breeze from the Vembanad Lake has made Marine Drive an important tourist destination in Kochi. Hundreds of people throng the walkway during the evenings. The walkway starts from the High Court Junction and continues until the Rajendra Maidan. There are also several boat jetties along the walkway. The walkway has three bridges: the Rainbow bridge, the Chinese Fishing Net Bridge and the House Boat Bridge. Marine drive was our final destination, the team reached there at 5.00 pm and had a tea and at 6.00pm we set off for a boating at the lake in a Boat named Lake Queen. There was a cultural programme arranged on the boat that the students thoroughly enjoyed and set their feet tapping to the music. And the team had dinner at 8.00pm and returned to MG university around 11.30pm. The overall experience of the journey was incredible and enjoyable. The students learned the historical and cultural significance of the places were visited and also got an opportunity to conduct a tour programme successfully.











**SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY**

**ONE DAY EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF 4TH SEMESTER
MEd (2020-22 BATCH),
Wednesday, 28th September 2022**

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

06:00 am Departure from SPS MG University
08:30 am Breakfast at Thrippunithara
09:00 am Hill Palace Thrippunithara
11:00 am Bolgatty Palace
12.00 noon Indo-Portuguese Museum, Fort Kochi
01.00 pm Lunch
**01.30 pm Mattancherry Palace / Dutch Palace, Jew Street
& Jewish Synagogue**
04.00 pm Marine Drive, Boat Journey
07.30 pm return from Marine Drive Kochi
09:00 pm Back at SPS MG University



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**SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY**

**ONE DAY EDUCATIONAL
TOUR OF 4TH SEMESTER MED
(2020-22 BATCH)**

WEDNESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2022

06:00 am

HILL PALACE THRIPPUNITHURA

BOLGATTY PALACE

INDO-PORTUGUESE MUSEUM, FORT KOCHI

**MATTANCHERRY PALACE /
DUTCH PALACE, JEW STREET &
JEWISH SYNAGOGUE**

MARINE DRIVE, BOAT JOURNEY

09:00 pm