

## **REPORT ON HERITAGE WALK**

**Date: 3 February 2018**

**Organised by: Heritage club, SSMRV college**

The Heritage club of SSMRV college organised a heritage walk for the students on 3 February 2018 to some of the historic monuments of eighteenth century Bangalore. The monuments in the itinerary were The Kote Venkateswara temple, The Bangalore Fort, Tippu Sultan's Summer Palace and an armoury; all these within 500m radius.

The walk started from the Kote Venkateswara temple, a silent witness to forgotten tumultuous history of Bangalore. The students learned about the features of the Dravidian styles of temples. The structure that caught the attention of the students was the *garuda gamba* or the pillar that saved the life of Tippu Sultan during the 1791 Mysore war. Tippu Sultan and Hyder Ali showed enormous respect towards the temple making it represent the Hindu and Muslim unity. The students wished that this unity always remain strong and secured.

The next destination was the Tippu Sultan's palace. The students were explained about the history of this palace specifically about how Tippu used it to hold his durbar during the summers and later how the British administration used it as a secretariat after Tippu's death. The walk continued to the museum on the ground floor that contains artifacts from Hyder-Tippu regime. It housed the rare rockets developed by Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan. The fact that astonished the students was that these rockets worked on the same technology of our present day missiles and how Indian rulers were well versed with technological knowledge even in eighteenth century. Interestingly, the mechanical toy of Tippu Sultan was also exhibited in the museum which was the first of its kind in the country.

The walk next continued to the Armoury of Tippu Sultan which was just 10 minutes walk from the palace. The students learned as to how this acted as a lifeline during the long wars Tippu fought against the British. Hyder Ali, the 18th century ruler of Mysore, and his son and successor, Tipu Sultan were the first ones to develop and use Mysorean rockets in the war against the British and how it was stored in the armoury. The fact that interested the students was that this rocket technology was later used to advance European rocketry.

The last destination was the Tippu Sultan's fort. The young members explored each and every place with a very inquisitive mind and got enlightened with the beginnings of the fort, the transition of a mud fort to a stone fort and how it witnessed the tough war fought by Tippu Sultan against the British. The ambience of the place and its beauty was magnificent. Students opined that it is necessary to preserve this monument as a respects to a great Sultan who fought incessantly for freedom against the British.