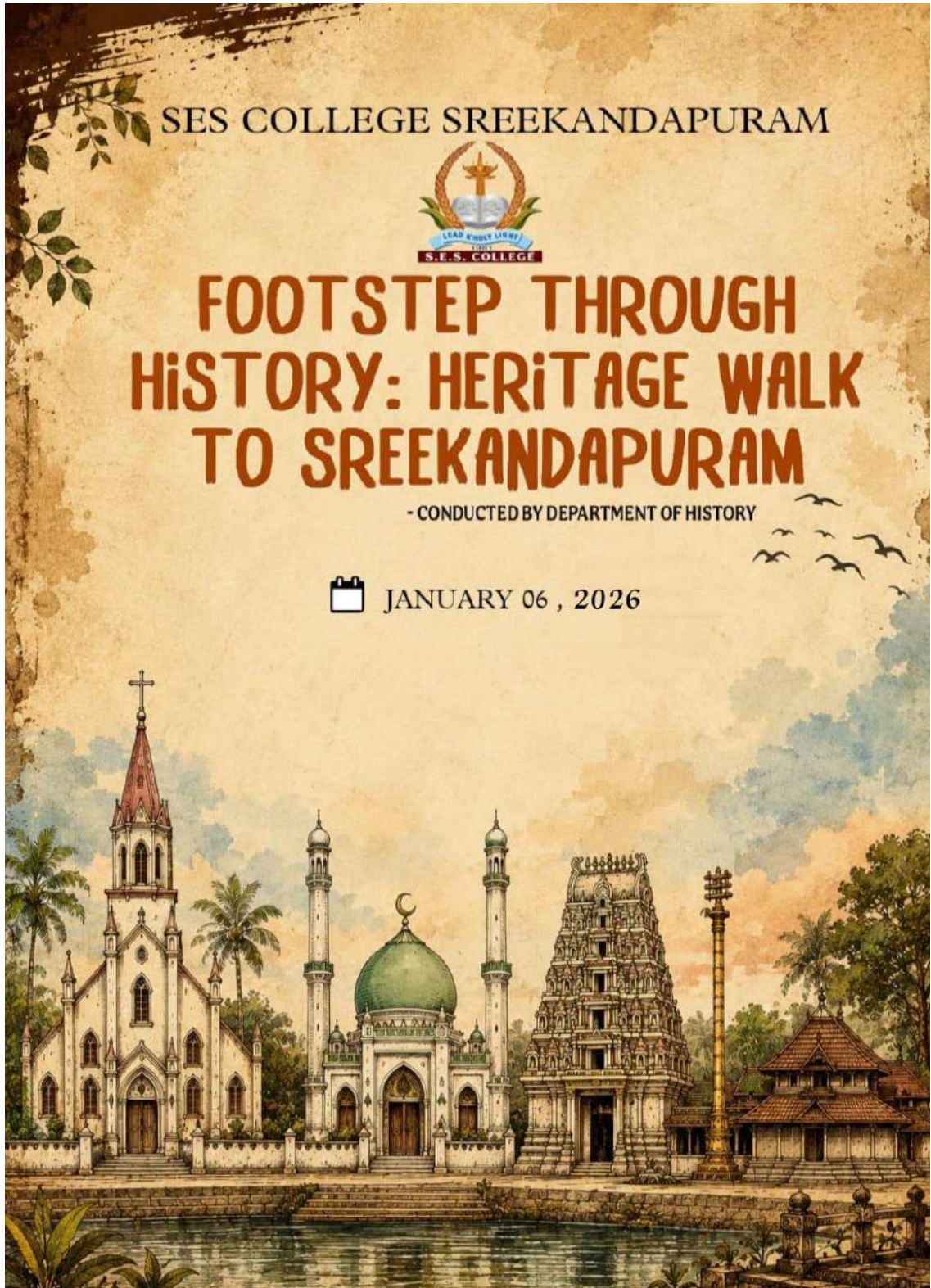


Department of History- Annual Report
(2025–2026)

Footsteps through History – A Heritage Walk to Sreekandapuram



The Department of History organized an Academic Extension Activity titled "Footsteps through History: A Heritage Walk to Sreekandapuram" on 06 January 2026. The programme was designed to provide students with experiential learning opportunities by exploring the historical, religious, and cultural heritage of Sreekandapuram, one of the historically significant settlements in northern Kerala. The heritage walk aimed to help students understand the historical evolution of the region through direct observation, interaction with local communities, and field-based learning.

As part of the programme, students visited important heritage sites, including ancient mosques, temples, and churches located in and around Sreekandapuram. The activity enabled them to appreciate the area's rich cultural diversity, religious harmony, and historical significance .

Sreekandapuram Mosque

The Sreekandapuram Mosque is regarded as one of the most significant mosques associated with the early Islamic history of Kerala. It is traditionally believed to have been established by Malik ibn Dinar during the early medieval period, generally dated between the eighth and ninth centuries CE. Sreekandapuram emerged as an important centre of early Islamic settlement, reflecting the long-standing presence of Muslim communities in the region and the spread of Islam through Arab maritime trade networks along the Malabar Coast.

Because of its historical importance, the mosque continues to attract historians and researchers studying the early phases of Islamic expansion in Kerala. It stands as an important cultural and historical monument symbolizing the peaceful transmission of Islam through trade, cultural interaction, and settlement. During the visit, students interacted with local residents and conducted informal interviews to gather oral historical information regarding the early Muslim settlement in the area. These interactions enhanced their understanding of local historical traditions and the role of oral history in reconstructing the past.

Nilamuttam Mosque

Nilamuttam Mosque is another important centre of Islamic heritage in the Sreekandapuram region. The mosque is associated with the early history of Islam in northern Kerala and is known for its historical and cultural significance. The surrounding graveyard (kabristan) contains numerous ancient tombs that local traditions associate with the early Muslim settlers of the region. Although precise archaeological dating remains limited, these graves and the maqam (shrine) structures are regarded by the local community as valuable evidence of the area's long-standing Islamic heritage. The mosque also serves as an important centre for religious and cultural gatherings, including the annual Uroos, which attracts devotees from different parts of Kerala and reflects the continuity of local religious traditions.

Kottur Sree Mahavishnu Temple

The heritage walk also included a visit to the Kottur Sree Mahavishnu Temple, one of the historically significant temples located in the culturally rich Sreekandapuram–Irikkur region. The temple has long served as an important religious institution while contributing to the social and cultural life of the surrounding communities. It represents the continuity of Kerala's temple traditions and illustrates the historical role of temples as centres of worship, administration, and community life.

Thrikkadamb Maha Vishnu Temple

Another major destination of the heritage walk was the Thrikkadamb Maha Vishnu Temple, one of the prominent temples in the region. The temple occupies an important place in the historical and cultural landscape of Kannur district. Historically, it has functioned not only as a place of worship but also as a centre for social interaction, cultural activities, and community integration. Like many traditional temples of Kerala, the Thrikkadamb Maha Vishnu Temple has played a significant role in promoting regional identity through festivals, rituals, and collective cultural practices. Its continued importance highlights the close relationship between religion, culture, and society in the historical development of the region.











Programme Outcomes

The Heritage Walk successfully promoted experiential and field-based learning by enabling students to engage directly with historically significant sites and local communities. The programme strengthened students' understanding of Sreekandapuram's multicultural heritage and highlighted the coexistence of diverse religious traditions that have shaped the history of the Malabar region. Through site visits, observation, and interaction with local residents, students developed practical skills in historical inquiry, oral history collection, heritage documentation, and field research. The activity enhanced their ability to interpret historical monuments within their broader social, cultural, and historical contexts. The programme also fostered greater awareness of the importance of preserving local heritage, promoting communal harmony, and safeguarding historical monuments for future generations.