

TUMKUR UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr. P. Sadananda Maiya Block, University Campus, Tumkur - 572 103

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

DEFENCE ARCHITECTURE DURING MEDIEVAL AND EARLY COLONIAL KARNATAKA

Organized on Wednesday, the 30th of November, 2011

Under the auspices of Tumkur University, the Department of History & Archaeology organized a one day National Conference on the topic, "*Defence Architecture During Medieval and Early Colonial Karnataka*" on the 30th of November, 2011 in the premises of Dr.P. Sadananda Maiya Block of the campus.

The programme began, as per schedule, at 9.30 a.m. with Invocation from Shriyuts L. Basavaraju and Girisha (Final year students), followed by Welcome address by Dr. M. Kotresh, Organizing Secretary (Associate Professor, Department of History & Archaeology). He highlighted briefly the academic and extra-curricular activities undertaken successfully by the Department of History and Archaeology and delineated the objectives and focus of the above conference, besides welcoming all the dignitaries, resource personnel, and the delegates (hailing from different parts of the home State as well as India). He also brought to the fore the immense efforts of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. S. C. Sharma and Prof. D. Shivalingaiyah, the Registrar for successfully galvanizing the academic activities of the Tumkur University and the appreciative words showered by the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka for the strides taken by this budding university.

The formal inauguration of the conference was done in an interesting manner by Dr. K. M. Suresh [Director (Museum), Kannada University, Hampi] through the projection of a video-clip showing the famous fort of Chitradurga with heroic war music in the background.



Dr. K. M. Suresh inaugurating the Conference by Projecting a video clip. Dr. S. K. Joshi, Prof. U. S. Moorti, Dr. L P Raju and Dr. M. Kotresh are seen

In his Inaugural address, Dr. K. M. Suresh highlighted the historical significance of forts and fortifications with numerous examples and also brought out their role in shaping the history of Karnataka. He also mentioned several ancient literary works such as the Epics, Puranas etcetera that throw light on the form and types of different forts and fortifications and also how those help us to comprehend the developments related to defence architecture of the foregone ages.



Dr. S. K Joshi delivering the Keynote Address

The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. S. K. Joshi (Former Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi), a senior archaeologist and a stalwart on the studies on defence architecture in Karnataka. Highlighting the importance of intense sensitivity to understand the pages of history, Dr. Joshi mentioned that there are over 5000 forts in India which are concrete expressions of the many intelligent facets of the Indian mind and there is a dire need to preserve those historical and cultural vestiges for the posterity. He also stressed the need to evolve a suitable curriculum for understanding the nuances of defence architecture in different historical periods of Karnataka so as to develop requisite strategies for the preservation and conservation of these important monuments. Emphasizing, in a poetic way, he brought out through examples the story (or stories) that each stone of a fort or fortification can convey, if only we have an ear to listen to their whispers and how those could enlighten us about the web of intricacies surrounding the existence of human life and how in turn that could help us to improve the quality of our own lives.

In the concluding remarks as the President of the Inaugural, Dr. M. Jayaramu [Director, Departments of Post-Graduate Studies] brought out to the notice of all the concerned the immense responsibilities of the society in general, but students in particular, about the protection of these national cultural treasures. The Vote of thanks for the Inaugural was given by Dr. L. P. Raju (Associate Professor, Department of History & Archaeology) gratefully recapitulating the steady support and contribution of all the elders and scholars in the progress of the Department. The participating scholars/resource personnel were honored by the respective Session Presidents namely Dr. S. K. Joshi and Dr. K. M. Suresh with mementos.



Participants during the conference

The following scholars presented illustrated research papers of high quality on their respective topics that were highly appreciated by the participants:

FIRST SESSION [Compered by Dr. Madhulika Samanta]
(10.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M.)

PRESIDENT: DR. K.M. SURESH, KANNADA UNIVERSITY HAMPI, VIDYARANYA

1. **Dr. S. K. Joshi**
Former Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India,
New Delhi-110001
Title: Fort Architecture in Karnataka
2. **Dr. S. Thippeswamy**
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Government Arts College, Chitradurga-577501
Title: Techniques of Defence Architecture (Rakshana Vyavastheya Tantragarikegalu)
3. **Dr. K. V. Muddaveerappa**
Lecturer in Kannada, Government Pre-University College, Iraka Sandra Colony-572129
Title: Oral Traditions on the Forts of Tumkur District (Tumkur Jilleya Kotegala Nirmanada Maukhika Sankhatanagalu)
4. **Dr. S. Y. Somashekhar**
Assistant Professor, Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, Kannada University Hampi, Vidyaranya-583276
Title: The Role of Weaponry in the Development of Vijayanagara Defence Architecture
5. **Dr. S. K. Aruni**
Deputy Director (R), Indian Council of Historical Research, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Bengaluru-560009
Title: Forts of Tipu Sultan: Understanding Defence Architecture and Technology
6. **Dr. D. N. Yogeewarappa**
Associate Professor, Department of History, Sri Siddaganga College for Women, Tumkur-572103
Title: Defence Architecture of Tumkur District with Special Reference to Sira Fort

SECOND SESSION [Compered by Dr. Priya Thakur]
(2.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M.)

PRESIDENT: DR. S.K. JOSHI, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

7. **Dr. K.M. Suresh**
Director (Museum), Kannada University Hampi, Vidyaranya-583276
Title: Fort Gateways of Capital Vijayanagara (Hampi)
8. **Dr. Sujata Natekal-Patil**
Lecturer in History, Shri Veerendra Patil College, Hyderabad-Karnataka Education Society, Bengaluru-560090
Title: Fort at Jaladurga on River Krishna: A Study

9. Dr. T. K. Vanishree

Lecturer in History, Government First Grade College, Belagavi-590016

Title: Fort at Belagavi: A Study

10. Shri J. K. Mallikarjunappa

Department of History, A.R.G. College, Davanagere-577002

Title: Defence Architecture in Karnataka with Special Reference to Harapanahalli Taluk

11. Dr. M. Kotresh

Associate Professor, Department of History & Archaeology, Tumkur University,
Tumkur-572103

Title: Defence Architecture in Karnataka with Special Reference to Kittur, Belavadi, Uchangidurga, and Karadidurga

12. Prof. U. S. Moorti

Chairman, Department of History & Archaeology, Tumkur University, Tumkur-572103

Title: Defence Architecture in Karnataka: Some Theoretical Issues

The Valedictory began, again as per the scheduled timings, at 5.00 p.m. with a Prayer conjointly done by Kumari N. Lakshmidevi and Shri Rajanna (First year students).

To get feed back on the Proceedings of the conference, valued opinions of the participants were sought and Shri M. B. Irshad (Associate Professor, Department of History, Government First Grade College, Hassan); Dr. B. P. Kumar (Assistant Professor, Department of History, Government First Grade College, Davanagere); and Shri B. E. Renukaswamy Odeyar (M.A. Final year student, Department of History & Archaeology, Tumkur University) volunteered on behalf of the participants. Their consensus opinion, reflected in their observations, was that it had been a fruitful academic experience and helped them comprehend the significance of the principal theme of conference. They unanimously congratulated the Tumkur University as also its Department of History and Archaeology for conceiving this rather neglected but important historical theme and heartily thanked the Organizers for successfully conducting the proceedings with excellent arrangements.



Shri N. Lakshmikantha, Registrar (Evaluation) delivering the Presidential Address during the valediction

Shri N. Lakshmikantha [Registrar (Evaluation)] who graced the occasion as the President of the Valedictory opined that there is a need to undertake a comparative study of defence architecture of different periods and societies so as to gain a deeper understanding of the processes involved. He also greatly appreciated the efforts of the Department of History & Archaeology for successfully accomplishing the above national conference.

Prof. U. S. Moorti, Chief Convenor (Chairman, Department of History & Archaeology), in his Vote of thanks remembered profusely the encouragement and support extended by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. S. C. Sharma and Prof. D. Shivalingaiah, Registrar of Tumkur University (both of whom are deeply respected by the staff and students alike) as well as the administrative and academic staff (particularly the Faculty and Technical staff of the Departments of Post-Graduate Studies, Tumkur University as also its Post-Graduate Centre at Sira) for facilitating in various ways for the execution and success of this conference. The generosity and kind support of Shri K. B. Srinivas (M.E.), Syndicate Member, Kannada University, Hampi and Shri Lokaraj of Rani Chenna Bhairadevi Digambar Jain Trust, Kshemapura was gratefully remembered. He also deeply thanked

the visiting scholars for their immense contribution to the field as also for sharing their expertise and concerns with the participants on the above theme. Also heartily remembered were the warmth and co-operation of all the students of the Department of History & Archaeology as well as the Post-Graduate Center at Sira (Tumkur University) for helping organize various activities related to the above conference efficiently.

Dr. Priya Thakur (Assistant Professor, Department of History & Archaeology) and Dr. Madhulika Samanta (Assistant Professor, Department of History & Archaeology) very efficiently and effectively helped comperere the Inaugural, Academic Sessions, and Valedictory part of the conference. Dr. Meenakshi Khandimath, Rapporteur (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science) for this national conference competently and gracefully took on her shoulders the related tasks.

Participants, numbering over 200, hailing from different parts of Karnataka as well as India took keen interest in the theme and actively participated in the proceedings making the eve a memorable one.

By:

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and

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