

CSIR – NAL – Pensioner’s Welfare Association
S.R.Valluri Campus, Bengaluru 560017
ONE DAY TRIP TO MELUKOTE on 12th Dec 2024

Secretary’s Report

Melukote- Lord Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple

Melukote in kannada language Melu means “ at the Top “ and Kote means fort. This refers to a temple built over a rocky hill called Yadugiri. Melukote town is situated about 133 Kms away from Bengaluru city. The town can be approached from Mandya town on Bengaluru Mysuru highway. It is a popular pilgrim centre in Karnataka. The main attraction is the Lord Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple located in Melukote town and the Lord Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple located at the top of hillock. The Lord Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple can be accessed only by climbing several hundred steps. There are several other historic and attractive locations which are described elsewhere in this write up.

On 12th Dec a few NAL Pensioners and their families assembled in NAL and boarded a 33 seater Bus at around 6:30 AM and travelled towards ISKCON Temple near Mahalakshmi Layout to pick up the remaining passengers enroute to Melukote. As soon as we boarded the Bus we celebrated the birthday of Shri B V Nagaraj with the distribution of cake and sweets in the bus. After this, the first stop was at Sambrama Hotel on Hassan Road where all of us had a good breakfast.



Breakfast at Sambrama Hotel



After Breakfast we travelled for about 90 mins and arrived at Lord Cheluvanarayanaswamy Temple in Melukote at 11:30 AM and had a darshan of the Lord Cheluvanarayanaswamy. We were also fortunate to have Darshan of the Lord Cheluvanarayanaswamy Uthsava murthy procession outside the temple. These can be seen in the photos.



Lord Cheluvanarayan Temple at Melukote



A view of Lord Cheluvanarayan Temple Uthsavamurthy procession

After completing the darshan of Lord Cheluvanarayan Temple, we hired autorickshaws to travel half way to the steps to have a Darshan of Lord Yoganarasimhaswamy. This Temple is situated at the top of the Yadugiri hillock. We have to climb a few hundred steps to enter the temple as can be seen in the photos.



Lord Yoganarasimha Temple , climbing steps and taking rest after climbing down the steps.

After climbing down the steps, we again travelled in autorickshaws to the Pushkarni Tank of Melukote.



Pushkarni Tank



View of Lord Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple from the Pushkarni tank.

After having a brief “prokshana” (sprinkling of Holy water over our heads) of Pushkarni Water, we proceeded to Subbanna Mess for our Lunch.

Lunch at Subanna Mess , Melukote



After Lunch we travelled by Autorickshaw to visit the following three places:

- a) Veda Pushkarni , where great Saint Ramanuja took Deeksha for sainthood which also has Datta Paada in one corner of this Pushkarni. (Pushkarni means a small pond adjoining a Temple surrounded by steps and the water is considered as divine or holy)
- b) Two Pushkarnis adjoining each other called Akka , Thangi Kola (Elder and Younger sisters)
- c) Kote Bagilu (Means Entrance to the Fort)

All these can be seen in the following photographs:



Veda Pushkarni where Shri Ramanujam took Deeksha



Akka Thangi Kola



Kote Bagilu

“ Kote Bagilu “ is an incomplete “ Raya Gopura” (Royal Tower) situated at the southern end of the Cheluvayaswamy Temple. Constructed in the 16th century by Dalapathi Gopalaraya, a representative of the Vijayanagara empire. It has four pillars with attractive carvings. If it was completed it would have been a magnificent entrance to the Lord Cheluvayaswamy temple.



Carvings at Kote Bagilu

From Kote Bagilu we travelled back to our Bus Parked in Melkote Town by autorickshaws. All of boarded back into the Bus and travelled for about 15 mins to Shri Nambi Narayana Temple and had darshan of Lord Nambi Narayana.



Lord Nambi Narayana Temple (20 Kms from Melkote)

After having the Darshan of Lord Nambi Narayana we proceeded once again to Thonnur Kere which is large lake which provides irrigation and drinking water to surrounding villages. The beauty of the Lake can be seen from the photographs.



A View of Thonnur Kere



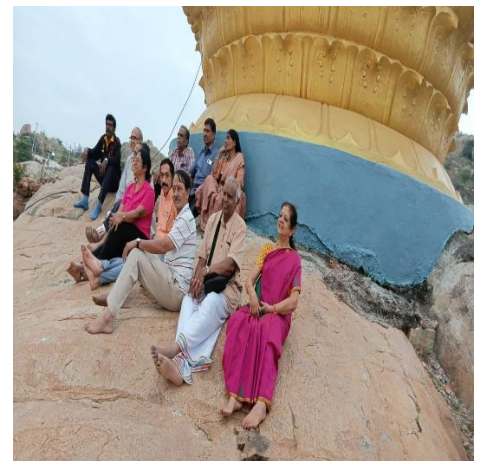
Group Photograph



Water flowing out of Thonnur Kere for irrigation

Adjoining the Thonnur Kere is Magnificent Large Statue of Shri Ramanajacharya, the great Vaishnava saint has been installed and surrounded by a beautiful garden. . According to historians, in the 12th century, the great Vaishnava saint, Sri Ramanujacharya lived here for 14 years and thus Melukote has become a spiritual centre for Vaishnavites. Shri Ramanujacharya's spiritual impact was quite impressive that he could convert the contemporary Jain King Bittideva into Vaishnavism and renamed him as King Vishnuvardhana who constructed the world famous Lord Chennakeshava Temple in Belur known for its intricate and delicate carvings. Vasihnavites were hounded out adjoining Tamil Kingdom of Cholas who were staunch Saivites (Devotees of Lord Shiva), and thus Shri Ramanujacharya took refuge in Karnataka at Melukote.

The Statue of Shir Ramanujacharya is surrounded by a small lake and a beautiful flower garden.



Statue of Shri Ramanujacharya along with group Photos

All of us boarded the Bus after seeing this picturesque place and headed back to NAL Bengaluru. We stopped at Maddur Tiffany's for Maddur vada - Coffee break.



Our Bus and Shri Munisadappa

All NAL Scientists and Staff are associated with "Tejas" Fighter Aircraft flying at Supersonic speeds. For a Change NAL Pensioners and families travelled inside "Tejas" bus to and back

safely from Melukote at very safe subsonic speeds due to the Divine blessings of the Lord Cheluvarayaswamy, Lord Yoganarsimhaswamy and Shri Ramanujacharya..

Sl. Nos		Names		Names
1	Dr.	Amarnarayan		
2	Shri	Sivasankaran		
3,4	Shri	Ashok Kamath	Smt	Sarojini A. Kamath
5,6	Shri	Narasimhaiah K	Smt	Indira Narasimhaiah
7,8	Shri	Jayram K Y	Smt	Padmavathi
9,10,11	Smt	Aarthi Suresh	Shriyuth	Manik Nihal and Likhith Sagar
12,13	Smt	Vijaya Narasimhan	Shri	Narasimhan J
14,15	Smt	Indira Sriram	Shri	Sriram
16	Mrs	Saroja		
17,18	Shri	Unnikrishnan	Smt	Prasanna
19,20	Smt	Nagalakshmi	Smt	Jayashree Shiva
21,22	Shri	Somanarayanan	Smt	Karpagam
23,24	Shri	MVE Moorthy	Smt	Bhuvana
25,26	Smt	Rekha Deepak	Shri	Deepak M N
27	Smt	Kamala		
28	Shri	Manjunatha		
29	Dr.	Raju J Iyer		
30	Shri	Nagaraja B V		
31	Shri	Munisadappa		
32	Shri	Mohan Das		

GROUP PHOTOS at VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN MELUKOTE





An ancient residential House in Melukote



Hooka Smoking carving on a pillar a surprising aberration to a divine place in Melukote



Ever Present Monkeys attacks pilgrims protect yourself with sticks.

The Melukote Trip ended happily with all the families returning to their homes safely.

The President and Secretary of NAL PWA express their thanks to all to who cooperated to make this trip a happy one:

- a) Sri Narasimhan and Smt Vijaya for having planned in details for the entire trip.
- b) Sri Narasimhaiah K as cultural secretary for coordinating the trip
- c) Sri Nagarajan E for making the Transport arrangements
- d) Sri Sivasankaran for taking of the accounts and finance matters of the trip
- e) Guidance for writing this report to Sri Somanarayanan and family.
- f) All the MC members who gave valuable suggestions and helped in organising the trip

With Best wishes to all to those who attend this trip for their Valuable cooperation.

Ashok Kamath
Secretary, NAL PWA