

St. Xavier's Institute of Education
An Interdisciplinary Virtual Heritage Walk
Organized by Pedagogy of History Unit
Monday, 24th August, 2020

An Interdisciplinary Virtual Heritage Walk was organized by the Pedagogy of History Unit of St. Xavier's Institute of Education on 24th August, 2020. The event was organized keeping in mind the objectives:

- To create awareness among the student teachers about how application of knowledge from different disciplines can lead to greater understanding
- Sensitize student teachers about the rich historic heritage fabric of Mumbai
- Provide an opportunity to student teachers to engage in authentic learning activities
- To emphasis on the relevance of skill of observation in teaching and learning
- To develop the sense of preserving the heritage sites among the student teachers
- To develop the habit of appreciating the aesthetic value of heritage sites
- To provide learning experiences to develop transferable skills of critical thinking, synthesis and research

The virtual journey through Mumbai's layered past was conducted by Ms. Alisha Sadikot, Founder & Facilitator, The Inheritage Project. Principal Dr. Sosamma Samuel welcomed the staff and the student teachers for the event. Dr. Elvina Pereira, staff coordinator then gave a brief introduction of the resource person Ms. Alisha.

Virtual Heritage Walk was extremely informative, energetic, engaging and industrious for our student teachers of different pedagogies. The resource person's expertise was an enriching experience which kept all the students and the faculty members engaged throughout the tour and which truly kept history alive. The Heritage walk gave our student teachers renewed enthusiasm.

Virtual environment has the potential to be used as a medium to facilitate cultural learning. The Virtual Heritage Walk provided an interesting and meaningful knowledge about Mumbai's History right from its origin till date. The entire journey was amazing as it unfolded the Mumbai's Hidden Histories

The entire experience of virtual walk gave an amazing information about, 'Mumbai the Historic City Centre.' The information about what is so hidden about Mumbai's Histories was a different experience altogether. From a fortified town to a grand, celebrated colonial core built in the late 1800's in an audacious bid to declare the town then known as Bombay a global powerhouse and the 'first city' of India, we zoom away to congested, poor working class areas hidden from view and devastated by the

Bubonic Plague at the end of the 19th century. Onward then, to planned neighbourhoods built for the first time, post the Plague, for people, by people. Finally, we time travel to independent Bombay as it stumbles, falls and navigates its new found freedom. This whirlwind tour with a virtual twist is Mumbai's story - good, bad, funny, and mostly ugly - all from the comfort of home.

The virtual journey of Mumbai's layered past which was narrated through architecture, urban form, maps, art and literature as our guides. The walk was highly interactive and encouraged discussion among the student teachers due to resource person's conversational tone throughout.

The student teachers were also encouraged to read books for their further exploration of the city. Some of the suggested readings were:

1. Jerry Pinto and Naresh Fernandes eds., *Mumbai Meri Jaan*
2. Gyan Prakash, *Mumbai Fables*
3. Suketu Mehta, *Maximum City*
4. Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
5. Rohinton Mistry, *Tales from Firozshah Bagh*
6. Amar Farooqui, *Opium City: The Making of Early Victorian Bombay*
7. Mark Twain, *Following the Equator*
8. Naresh Fernandes, *City Adrift*
9. Jerry Pinto: *Em and the Big Hoom*
10. Amrita Mahale: *Milk Teeth*
11. Poetry by Nissim Ezekiel & Arun Kolatkar

As a follow-up activity of the Virtual Heritage Walk a Quiz was conducted for the student teachers of SXIE. The following student teachers were declared the winners:

First Place:

Ms. Risal Gonsalves

Ms. Adelaide Pereira

Second Place:

Ms. Joslin Cardoza

Third Place:

Ms. Thresia Pellissery

Mr. Taha Merchant

Consolation:

Ms. Jinelle D'costa

Ms. Francina Karadi

Ms. Nicole Fernandes

Ms. Bazela Hawa

Ms. Janhavi Pujari