

Department of Humanities and Applied Sciences

Report on Historical Visit

Introduction: -

Educational and historical visits play an important role in enhancing students' understanding of Indian history, culture, and heritage beyond classroom learning. Such visits enable students to connect theoretical concepts taught under the Indian Knowledge System with real-world historical and cultural evidence.

As a part of the academic curriculum, a historical visit was organized for First Year Engineering (FE) students of Atharva College of Engineering to Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai. During this visit, students explored the ancient Kanheri Caves under the guidance of FE faculty members.

Objectives: -

The main objectives of this industrial visit were:

- To understand Indian heritage through the Indian Knowledge System perspective.
- To study the historical and cultural significance of Kanheri Caves.
- To explore ancient Buddhist philosophy, architecture, and way of life.
- To promote experiential learning outside the classroom.
- To create awareness about conservation of heritage and environment.

Sanjay Gandhi National Park:-

Location:- Borivali (East & West), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Overview:-

Sanjay Gandhi National Park is one of the largest national parks located within a metropolitan city. It is known for its rich biodiversity as well as its historical significance due to the presence of Kanheri Caves within its premises.

Kanheri Caves:-

Historical Background:-

The Kanheri Caves are ancient rock-cut caves carved from basalt rock, dating from the 1st century BCE to the 10th century CE. These caves served as a major center for Buddhist learning, meditation, and monastic life, reflecting the deep roots of Indian knowledge traditions.

Architectural Features Observed:-

Students observed the following features during the visit:

- 1. Chaityas and Viharas** – Prayer halls and residential monasteries.
- 2. Rock-cut Stupas** – Important structures used for worship and meditation.
- 3. Sculptures and Carvings** – Depicting Buddhist symbols and teachings.
- 4. Water Management Systems** – Advanced rainwater harvesting systems carved in stone.
- 5. Ancient Inscriptions** – Written in Brahmi and Devanagari scripts.

Key Observations & Learnings:-

- Reflection of ancient Indian wisdom and Buddhist philosophy.
- Excellence in rock-cut architectural techniques.
- Scientific approach to water conservation in ancient times.
- Harmony between nature, spirituality, and architecture.
- Importance of preserving India's cultural heritage.

Educational Importance:-

The visit strengthened students' understanding of Indian Knowledge Systems by linking historical evidence with philosophical and cultural studies. It encouraged interdisciplinary learning and enhanced students' appreciation of India's ancient scientific and cultural achievements.

Conclusion:-

The historical visit to Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Kanheri Caves on 4th and 5th February 2026 was a valuable educational experience for FE students. Conducted under the Indian Knowledge System subject and guided by FE faculty members, the visit successfully enriched students' knowledge of Indian heritage, architecture, and ancient wisdom traditions.



