



SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

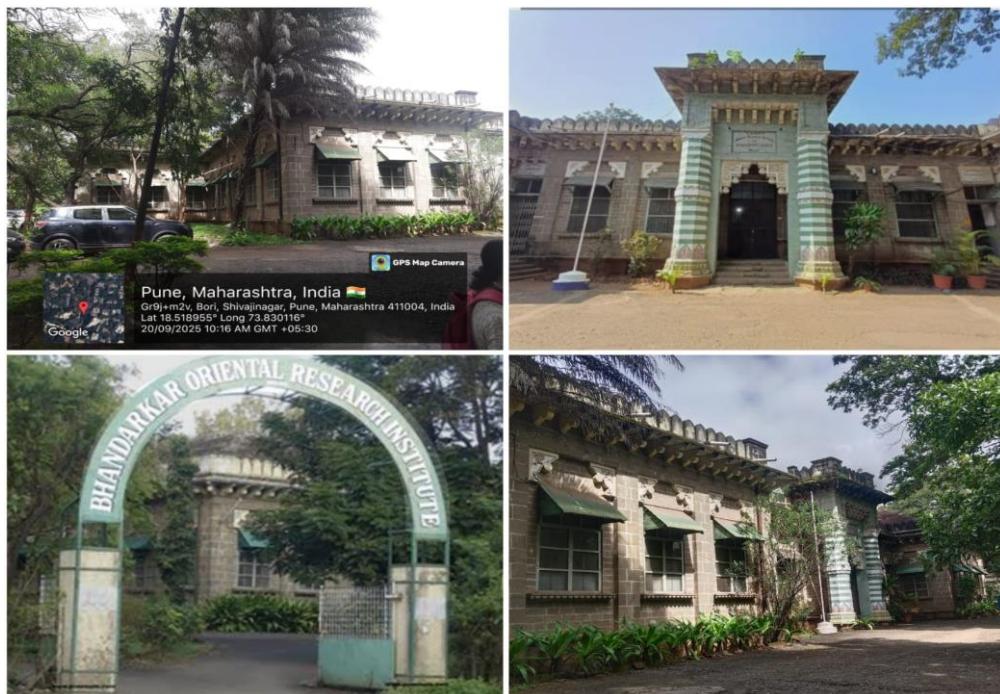
S.N.D.T. College of Education, Pune

Academic Year 2025-2026

Integrated Teacher Education Programme B.A.B.Ed

Report on Field visit to Bhandarkar Oriental Institute

On September 20, 2025, SNDT College of Education, Pune—a Constituent College of SNDT Women's University, Mumbai—organized an educational visit to the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI). Renowned for its work in the conservation, preservation, and research of ancient manuscripts and rare books, BORI is a cornerstone of Orientalist and Indological scholarship.



The visit began with an introductory session led by the institute's faculty, who shared the rich history of BORI. We learned that the institute was envisioned by J.N. Tata, whose contributions to its development were both visionary and foundational.



A key highlight of the session was the demonstration of manuscript preservation methods. The faculty explained how rare materials such as banana paper, Japanese tissue, and other specialized papers are used to restore and conserve ancient texts—an intricate process that blends science with heritage care.



We were then guided to the manuscript section, where century-old documents are meticulously stored in wooden cupboards and wrapped in red cloth for protection. Among the treasures housed here were:

- A script in the Assyrian language
- Mughal-era documents and photographs
- Ancient manuscripts of the Mahabharata

The reverence with which these items are preserved was deeply moving.



Next, we visited the library, which boasts a staggering collection of over 2 lakh volumes. These span a wide range of subjects including the Mahabharata, the Vedas, Buddhism, and Jainism. The sheer depth and diversity of the collection left a lasting impression on all of us.

The visit concluded at the institute's theatre hall, a venue that exudes a magical ambiance. Designed to accommodate over one lakh people, it is built to host large gatherings and cultural programs. Its scale and architectural elegance added a grand finale to our enriching experience.



Our visit to the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute was very interesting and educational. We learned how old manuscripts are carefully preserved using special materials. Seeing rare documents and ancient books helped us understand the importance of protecting our history. The large library and beautiful theatre hall made the experience even more memorable. Overall, the visit inspired us to learn more and appreciate our rich cultural heritage.

