



SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

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

Academic Year 2024-2025

Report on the Educational Trip to Junnar, Shivneri Fort, Malshej Ghat and Ozar

Date of Visit: 10th September 2025

The ITEP faculty organised an educational trip on 10th September 2025 to explore significant historical, geographical, and cultural places in Maharashtra. The main aim of this trip was to enrich our understanding of local heritage, history, and natural landscapes, and to experience how these places are connected to our literature and culture.

The faculty members, including 15 teaching staff, started their journey early in the morning at 6:00 am. Everyone was excited to travel together, away from regular classrooms, and to directly

Our first destination was Junnar, a town known for its ancient caves and rich cultural heritage. Surrounded by hills and lush greenery, Junnar gave us a glimpse of the life and settlements that existed in this region centuries ago. The serene environment and old stone structures reminded us of the deep historical roots of Maharashtra. This stop helped us see how geography influences the way people lived, worked, and built their communities in earlier times.

From Junnar, we travelled to the famous Shivneri Fort, the birthplace of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Climbing up the fort was both exciting and challenging. While walking along the ancient stone steps and seeing the fort's strong walls, we could imagine the courage and planning that shaped Shivaji Maharaj's early life. The fort stands proudly on a hill, overlooking the surrounding valleys, symbolising bravery and strategic thinking. Learning about the historical events that took place here helped us connect history with the literature and stories we have studied in our classrooms.



After the fort visit, we headed towards Malshej Ghat, a mountain pass in the Western Ghats. The view was breathtaking, with tall cliffs, deep valleys, and thick forests. Because it was the monsoon season, the hills were covered in mist and greenery. We also witnessed several waterfalls flowing down the rocks, creating a magical and peaceful atmosphere. The beauty of nature here gave us a chance to appreciate the geographical richness of Maharashtra. It also helped us understand how such landscapes have inspired poets and writers for generations.



Our final stop was the Vigneshwara Temple at Ozar, one of the Ashtavinayak temples dedicated to Lord Ganesha. The temple has simple yet beautiful architecture, and the surroundings were calm and spiritual. Visiting this sacred place gave us insight into the religious and cultural traditions of the

region. We could see how faith and literature are closely linked in Indian society, as many ancient texts and poems praise Lord Ganesha and other deities.



This educational trip gave us a rare opportunity to step outside the classroom and experience history, geography, and literature in real life. Visiting Junnar and Shivneri Fort deepened our respect for our history and heroes. Exploring Malshej Ghat and its waterfalls brought us closer to nature and helped us understand the physical geography of our state. Praying at the Ozar Ashtavinayak temple connected us to the cultural and spiritual roots of our society.

The trip also strengthened our bond as colleagues, as we shared learning, laughter, and beautiful memories together. It reminded us that education is not only about books, but also about experiencing the world around us.

Overall, this trip was educational, inspiring, and refreshing for everyone. It encouraged us to bring more real-life experiences into our teaching, so our students can also feel the same excitement about learning.