

YTIET

FIRST YEAR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

HISTORICAL PLACE VISIT TO ELEPHANTA CAVES REPORT (13 FEB 2026)

The historical place visit as per the curriculum was an exposure to a place of Historical importance. The tour programme of first year Engg from YTIET College, KARJAT was planned for ONE day. It was a journey from GATEWAY OF INDIA TO ELEPHANTA CAVES with lot of excitement and enthusiasm. We covered all the important historical places at Elephanta.

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of the educational tour was to acquaint the students with the process of organizing, understanding the surrounding and learning History with authentic examples.

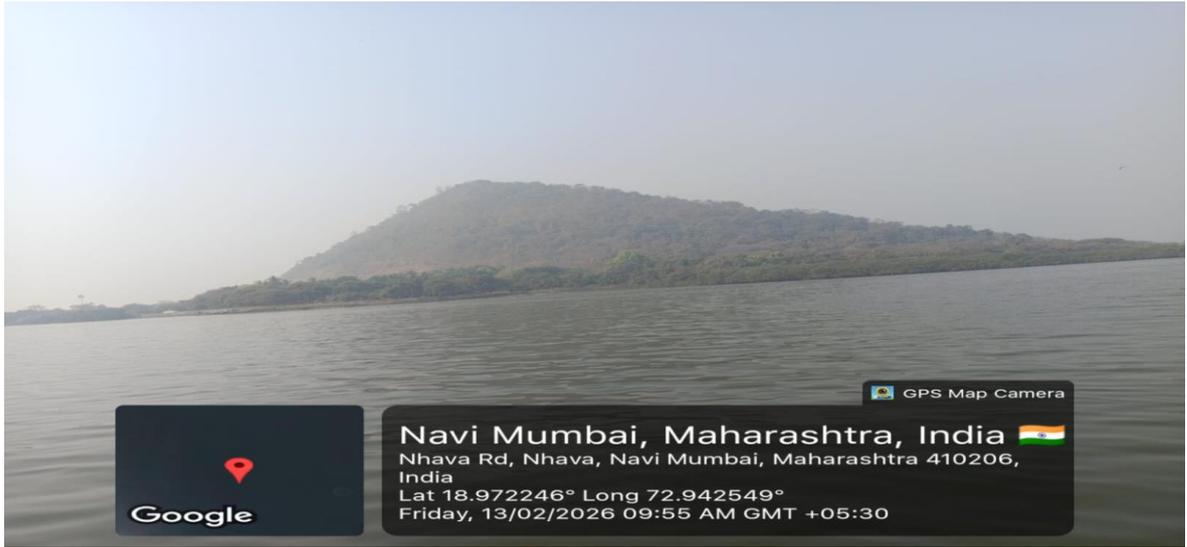
On **13 Feb 2026**, 65 students accompanied by three Staff members started the journey at 9:30am from gateway and reached the destination, **ELEPHANTA** caves at 11:30 am.

Elephant caves

The Elephanta Caves are located in Western India on Elephanta Island (otherwise known as the Island of Gharapuri), which features two hillocks separated by a narrow valley. The small island is dotted with numerous ancient archaeological remains that are the sole testimonies to its rich cultural past. These archaeological remains reveal evidence of occupation from as early as the 2nd century BC. The rock-cut Elephanta Caves were constructed about the mid-5th to 6th centuries AD. The most important among the caves is the great Cave 1, which measures 39 metres from the front entrance to the back. In plan, this cave in the western hill closely resembles Dumar Lena cave at Ellora, in India. The main body of the cave, excluding the porticos on the three open sides and the back aisle, is 27 metres square and is supported by rows of six columns each.



Students entry to Elephant Island



Elphanta Island

The panel in the east side of the portico next to the north entrance is Shiva in Yoga. This form of Shiva is called Yogishvara, Mahayogi



Mahayogi shiv

The panel in the northwest side of the cave, on the wall near west entrance and the Linga shrine, is an uncommon sculpture about the *Andhakasura-vadha* legend. It shows Bhairava, or Virabhadra, a ferocious form of Shiva killing the demon *Andhaka* (literally, "blind, darkness"). The relief is much ruined below the waist, is 3.5 m (11 ft) high and posed in action. Though a relief, it is carved to give it a three-dimensional form, as if the ferocious Shiva is coming out of the rocks and impaling Andhaka with his trident



Andhakasura vadh caves



Students in front of main caves

Sadashiva: Trimurti

The Trimurti is considered a masterpiece and the most important sculpture in the caves it is carved in relief on the south wall of the cave facing the north entrance, along the north–south axis. It is also known as *Sadashiva* and *Maheshmurti*. The cave is, 7m(23ft) in height, depicts a three-headed Shiva, representing Panchamukha Shiva. The three heads represent three essential aspects of Shiva: creation, protection, and destruction. As per another version, the three heads symbolise compassion and wisdom. The right half-face (west face) shows him holding a lotus bud, depicting the promise of life and creativity. This face is symbolism for Brahma, the creator or Uma or Vamadeva, the feminine side of Shiva and creator.

The left half-face (east face) is that of a moustached young man. This is Shiva as the terrifying Aghora or Bhairava, the chaos creator and destroyer. This is also known as Rudra-Shiva, the Destroyer. The central face, benign and meditative Tatpuruasha, resembles the preserver Vishnu. This is the Shiva form as the "master of positive and negative principles of existence and preserver of their harmony". The three-headed Shiva are his creator, preserver and destroyer aspects in Shaivism. They are equivalently symbolism for Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma, they being equivalent of the three aspects found in Shaivism.



Students standing in front of Trimurti

Conclusion

This visit taught the students History in a realistic way. The visit was a pleasant experience and enhanced the knowledge about the great historical places and our rich culture and tradition.