

RAYAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA'S
SADGURU GADAGE MAHARAJ COLLEGE, KARAD
(An Autonomous College)

Department of Botany and Plant protection

Botanical excursion at Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar

Tour Report

Botanical Excursion was conducted by the Department of Botany and Plant Protection for B. Sc. I year students during academic year 2022-23 at Panchgani and, Mahabaleshwar on Saturday 25/02/2023.

The main objectives of this excursion were

1. Visit to Gurhegar Biodiversity Park Panchgani and observing various plants.
2. Visit to old Mahabaleshwar.

Ecological conditions of Mahabaleshwar

1. Latitude : 17.9250⁰ N
2. Longitude : 73.6575⁰ E
3. Altitude: 1,439 m
4. Temperature : Minimum: 13⁰C
Maximum: 38⁰C
5. Annual rainfall: 2064.4 mm
6. Soil type : Red soil
7. Humidity : 98%

1. Old Mahabaleshwar

Echo Point

It is named after the lovely daughter Kate of Sir James Malcolm, an authority of the British raj, this point is also known as Echo point. The geographic location and structure of the hills results into a total reflection of sound resulting into an extremely clear echo. Our students did experiment and heard their echo. Really, it was amazing to listen your own echoed voice.

Tiger Spring Point

Tiger spring is a 10 minute walk away from the Arthur's Seat Point in Mahabaleshwar. The natural thermal spring near the Savitri River is believed to be infused with spiritual powers. The shallow waters are ideal to experience and spend a solitary relaxing time amidst the gifts of nature. As per the natives tiger comes at night to drink water and in old era British hunters used to shoot from the top at this point. The spring water is fresh and we saw many tourists drinking it. Even we tasted it; and its indeed pure, fresh and potable.

Arthur's Seat Point

It is also popularly called as Queen of the Points, original name of the point is Madhi Mahaal. It is also known as 'Suicide Point.' Located at around 13 KM from Mahabaleshwar Market, Arthur's Seat point is at height of 1470m. Arthur's Seat is famous for floating of light objects. If you throw light things like cold drink cap in the valley, it comes up again due to air pressure (in the month of April only). This point is named Arthur Malet who lost his wife and 1- month old daughter in a tragic ferry accident in Savitri River. Arthur used to sit here and stare at the river. From Arthur's Seat Point, one can see picturesque vista having Kokan on one side and Desh (Deccan) on the other.

Mahabaleshwar Temple

The reason for its popularity is not only the story behind its origin, but also the location and the scenic beauty. Lord Shiva is the presiding deity here. Set up amidst the hilly terrain, this picturesque temple glorifies the Maratha Empire and its rule during the 16th century. It was built by Chandra Rao More in 16th century.

Mapro

Mapro is a famous tourist attraction settled in the beautiful hill station of Panchgani. Mapro is famous for delicious Products, a brand name associated with delicious fruit-based products. Students did a lot of shopping.

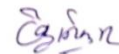
Gurhegar Biodiversity Park

Biodiversity parks are unique landscapes which consist of the form of diverse communities and provide ecological, social & educational benefits to the urban society. Gurhegar biodiversity Parks in Panchgani are unique landscapes that harbour diversity of plants, animals and microbes living in ecologically sustainable

biotic communities. They render multiple ecological services including carbon sequestration, recharge of ground water aquifers and educational as well as recreational benefits to the urban society. The Biodiversity Park with its rich flora and fauna are ideal instruments for promoting conservation education that ultimately will have positive impacts on environmental quality and conservation ethics.

List of Plants observed in biodiversity park-

Sr. No.	Botanical name	Common name/ Marathi name	Family
1	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i>	ironwood, anjani	Melastomataceae
2	<i>Elaeagnus conferta</i>	Silverberry	Elaeagnaceae
3	<i>Bridelia retusa</i>	Asanaa	Phyllanthaceae
4	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i>	Haadsandhi, Thipani	Sapindaceae
5	<i>Catunaregam spinosa</i>	Gela	Rubiaceae
6	<i>Meyna laxiflora</i>	Aloo	Rubiaceae
7	<i>Terminalia chibula</i>	Hirada	Combretaceae
8	<i>Terminalia alata</i>	ain	Combretaceae
9	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Jambhool	Myrtaceae
10	<i>Actinodaphne angustifolia</i>	Pisa	Lauraceae
11	<i>Habenaria panchganensis</i>	Panchgani habeamari	Orchidaceae
12	<i>Conchidium filiforme</i>	Thread orchid	Orchidaceae
13	<i>Malaxis rheedii</i>	Thorny crown orchid	Orchidaceae
14	<i>Dendrobium barbatulum</i>	orchid	Orchidaceae
15	<i>Dendrobium nanum</i>	Vaman amari orchid	Orchidaceae
16	<i>Ariedes crispum</i>	orchid	Orchidaceae
17	<i>Ariedes maculosa</i>	Peacock orchid	Orchidaceae
18	<i>Rhyncostylis retusa</i>	orchid	Orchidaceae
19	<i>Pecteilis gigantea</i>	orchid	Orchidaceae



Head

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