

REPORT

ONE DAY EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP TO KALSI

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20 NOVEMBER 2019

On 16 November 2019, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archeology organised a one day educational field trip to Kalsi for students. On the way to Kalsi, students visited Suketi Fossil Park in Simla district of Himachal Pradesh. Students were informed about the different life forms on Earth from earliest form Azoic, 4600 m.y.a. to current life form of Holocene by Professor Renu Thakur, Professor Paru Bal Sidhu and Caretakers of the Museum. The Museum also have various historical evidence found across the Shivalik range and various parts of India. These evidences suggest evolution of various types of species like Elephant, Crocodile, Fish, Bivalves etc. Remains of tools used by primates like cleavers, hand axes, blades etc, gave the idea about evolution of stone tools with time. After visiting the Museum, everyone had breakfast and then in afternoon reached Kalsi which is famous for Ashokan Rock Edict. This rock edict is unique because it is the only place in North India where the Great Mauryan Emperor has inscribed one of the set of fourteen rock edicts. The language of these edicts is prakrit and script is Brahmi. These inscriptions bear testimony to the fact that why he is acclaimed as one of the greatest emperors in the world. While returning to Chandigarh students visited Panta Sahib Guru Dvara, situated on the bank of river Yamuna, built in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth guru of sikhs. After offering prayers, the students enjoyed the langar and visited the bank of river Yamuna, which concluded the trip and returned home. Overall, the trip was very knowledgeable and interesting. Students enjoyed it a lot as it was adventure with knowledge.

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28/11/2019



SINHALIC FOSSIL PARK, SUKETI



FIELD TRIP REPORT

PLACES - (1) SIVALIK FOSSIL PARK, SUKETI SIRMOUR HP
(2) ASOKAN ROCK EDICT, KALSI UTTARAKHAND.

DATED - 16 NOV 2019, SATURDAY.

On 16th November 2019 our department (AIHCA) organised one day trip to kalsi, uttrakhand and sivalik fossil park, sirmour HP for the students of 1st and 2nd year.

On the morning of 16th Nov. at 7:00 am we started our trip with 31 students and teachers. We reached suketi at 9:30 am. While in the museum Dr. parv Bal sidhu ma'am explained and educated us about the fossils, antique tools and paintings and other things in the museum. One of the assistant of the museum told us about the fossils and how these fossils were recovered by the team.

Important details about the museum.

Suketi fossil park is notified National Geo-heritage monument fossil park in the Sirmour district in HP. It has collection of primitive vertebrate fossils and skeletons recovered from the upper and middle Sivalik geological formations of sandstones and clay of suketi. The park has a display of the fossil finds and an open air exhibition of six life sized fiberglass models of extinct mammals in a reconstruction of the Sivalik Hill environment of the Pliocene-Pleistocene era (circa 2.5 mya). A museum, within the premises of the park created and exhibits the fossils. Sivalik is Asia's biggest fossil park. The exhibits in park are used to generate scientific interest among the public, and facilitate special international studies by visiting research scholars from all over the world.

The GSI, in association with the govt of HP established the park on 23 march 1974. The park also mentioned by the geological survey of India. Scientists believe that Sivalik hills which formed

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GHARIAL



EVOLUTION OF ELEPHENT

about 25 mya show the evolution of mankind. The mammalian fossils found in the Siwalik of the park are one of the world's richest antiquities.

The first glass models on display in museum area, outside the museum are of six extinct animals.

They were: Huge land tortoise, gharial, four horned giraffe, sabre-toothed cat, large tusked elephant and hippopotamus.

MOBILES-

A model depicts a sabre-tooth cat with very long upper canine teeth to tear its prey. This animal became extinct about a million years ago. At the same time that many species of elephant became extinct. The hippopotamus model life size and similar to its modern counterpart has six incisors with a comparatively large mouth but with a small brain cavity longer lower jaw and legs like pig. This species, which existed in a large number about 2.5 million years ago, is now extinct.

The model of giant land tortoise, representing a species found in Siwalik region, is the largest of all the tortoise but its modern counterpart is much smaller.

Other models depicts giant elephants that roamed the area 7 to 1.5 mya. Compared to modern elephant they had a smaller cranium unusually long tusks and huge limbs. 15 of these species vanished about 15 mya.

A model of four horned giraffe depicts an ancestor of the modern species that lived in the region 7 to 1.5 mya. It has an unusually large skull but comparatively short neck. The models were initial with in the park.

Museum exhibits contain remains of diff group of skulls, and limbs of mammals skull of Hexaprotodon, tortoises, gharial and crocodiles, tusk of 22 species of elephants rock and clast and

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and painting related to the several aspects of plant and animals life of the past and present.

The stone items on display belong to the Early Palaeolithic man also preserved in the museum are of fossils two genera of extinct primates, *Siapithecus* and *Ranapithecus*.

Exhibit also include one Indian postage stamp with images of two elephants and tigers issued in 1951 on the occasion of the centenary of the GSI.

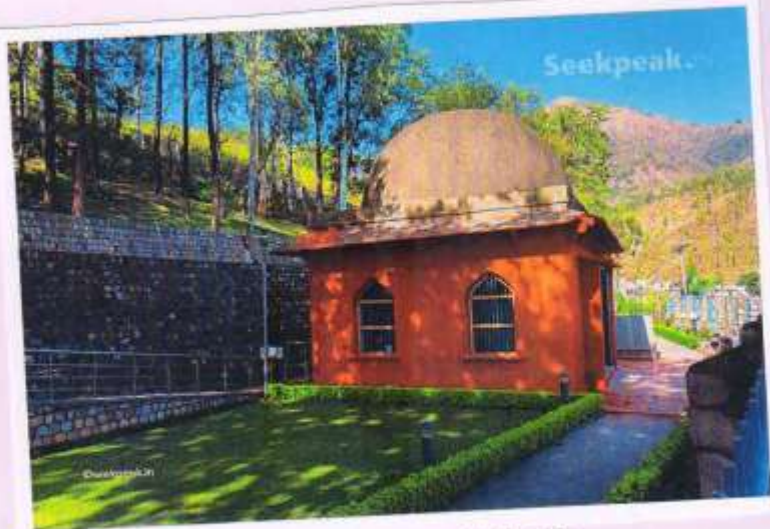
At 11 am we refreshed ourselves with tasty food. At 11:30 we again started our journey towards Kashi UK. At 1 clock we reached Kashi UK where we saw Asoka rock edict and also read the inscription written on the rock with the help of Dr. Renu Thakur ma'am.

The site of Asoka's inscription at Kashi the only place in north India where the great Mauryan emperor has inscribed the set of the 14 rock edicts. The language of these edicts is Pali and the script is in Brahmi which refers Asoka's humane approach in his internal administration. His further concerns for the moral and spiritual welfare of his subjects and his commitment to Non-violence and abandonment of warfare. For this Asoka proclaimed certain restraints restrictive policies on restraint on worldly amusement of warfare. For the Asoka proclaimed certain restrictive policies restraint in worldly amusement, in gratuitous slaughter or non use destruction of animals and participating in the depicable and unclean beliefs and practices and in glorification of one's own faith.

The perspective ones self control, purity of mind, gratitude,

Aruntham

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ASOKAN ROCK EDICT (KALSI)



STUDENTS

and firm attachment services to parents and experts, also to brahmins and sramanas, seemly behaviour towards friends, relatives, acquaintances, sramans, and slaves concordance in religious matters.

To implement his policies Ashoka put restraint in killing animals for the royal kitchen, established hospitals and planted medicinal herbs for both human being and animals. He did not only within his empire but also in neighbouring kingdom - Cholas, Pandya, Satyaputra, Keralaputra upto Tambapanni (Sri Lanka) in the south and of Hellenic king in the west. He appointed dharmadutas for promotion of righteous conduct, and replacing sound of trumpet signalling war with sound of dharmaduta where by he claims to have gained dharmavijay (Victory by means of (righteousness) even in the kingdom of his contemporary Hellenic kings namely Antiochus (i) then of Syria Ptolemy (ii) Philadelphia of Egypt and Alexander of Epirus.

These these inscription bear testimony to the facts that what Ashoka preached also practiced. That is why he is what Ashoka preached also practiced. He is acclaimed as one of the greatest emperors in the world.

At 2:30 pm we started our journey back to Chandigarh. On our way we paid visit at Gurudwara Panthakali Srimour. After worshipping and having 'langar' we also saw the bank of Yamuna river near the Gurudwara.

Finally after the leaving the Gurudwara at 4:30 pm we reached Chandigarh at 9 PM safely.

The one day field trip was enjoyable and full of knowledge. I enjoyed alot in the company of our teachers and friends.

The main thing I observed in this trip was that the inscription and fossils we read in the book we got a chance to see them live and to practically experienced them. The trip was very helpful for us. I would like thank to my department for organizing this wonderful trip.

Q5. Prepare a report on the recent field trip.

→ The department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University, recently on 16th of November, 2019 organised a field trip to Suketi Fossil Park, Himachal Pradesh and Kalsi, Uttarakhand. In archaeology, field visits are very significant which help students to understand the concepts of the subject. The recently conducted field visits aimed to provide the students with first hand experience of both prehistoric archaeology and paleogeography and epigraphy.

The first site that was visited was the Suketi Fossil Park or Shivalik Fossil Park. It is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument fossil Park in the Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. The idea to establish a museum was mooted to preserve the fossil site and the fossils from indiscriminately extracted and vandalized. It was also intended to provide prehistoric period scientific information for scholarly research. The Geological Survey of India, in association with the Government of Himachal Pradesh, established the park on 23rd March, 1974. The park is also maintained by the Geological Survey of India.

The Geological Survey of India identifies the fossils as vertebrates that lived in the area about 2.5 million years ago. Scientists believe that the Shivalik Hills, which formed about twenty-five million years ago, show the evolution of mankind. The mammalian fossils found in the Shivaliks of this park are one of the world's richest antiquities.

The fiberglass models on display in an open area, outside the museum are of six extinct animals. They are: Huge land tortoise, gharial, four horned giraffe, sabre-toothed cat, large tusked elephant, and hippopotamus.

The museum exhibits contain skeletal

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remains of different groups of skulls and limbs of mammals. Skulls of Hexaprotodon, tortoises, gharials and crocodiles, tusks of 22 species of elephants, rocks of various kinds, and charts and paintings related to several aspects of plant and animal life of the past and present. The stone items on display belong to the early Paleolithic era. Also preserved in the museum are fossils of two genera of extinct primates - Sivapithecus and Ramapithecus.

It was to our fortune that we saw three fossils, still embedded on the rock, which were recovered just before a month. The samples were indeed very fascinating and it was for the very first time we saw fossils in this manner. Dr. Paru Bal Sidhu imparted us with facts and how-tos about the fossils and also guided us throughout all the displayed objects in the museum.

Exhibits also include an Indian postage stamp with images of two elephants and tusks, issued in 1951 on the occasion of the centenary of Geological Survey of India.

The next site in our itinerary was that of the Ashoka Rock Edict, Jikala in Kalsi district of Uttarakhand. The site of Ashoka's inscription at Kalsi is the only place in North India where the great Mauryan emperor has inscribed the set of the fourteen rock edicts. The language of the edict is Pali and the script is Brahmi which reflects the humane approach of Ashoka.

The site is situated on the western bank of the Tama river. The edict is on a huge boulder of quartz. The block is 10 feet long and 10 feet high and about 8 feet thick at bottom. The main inscription measures

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5 feet in height, with a breadth of $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet at top, which increases towards the bottom to 7ft 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The whole inscription roughly translates to Ashoka ordering the writing of more and more rescripts on morality.

The Chairperson of the department Dr. Renu Thakur in order to give us a first hand experience in reading the Brahmi script asked each and every student of Masters second year to read one line of the inscription. This exercise was quite fruitful for us - the ability to read an ancient script is very necessary for the holistic development of us as growing historians or archaeologists.

The field trip to both the sites was one that was full of on hand experience. A shift from the daily classroom schedule not only broke the monotony but helped us to understand the various components of our syllabi in another dimension. The field trip was indeed enlightening for us and will surely of great help in the future.

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