

S.I.W.S.

**N.R. SWAMY COLLEGE OF COMMERCE & ECONOMICS &
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Date: 09/09/2019

Hiking Club

Report for 2019-20

The Hiking Club of our college organized a one day hike to Matheran on Saturday, 21st September 2019. Located in the state of Maharashtra, Matheran is a quaint hill station famous for its scenic beauty. An eco-sensitive destination, it is the only automobile-free hill station in the continent.

The hike began at 7:00am in the morning. Teachers (**Dr. Sunita Shirvalkar & Dr. Swapnesh Rangnekar**) and students (**20 students**) assembled at Dadar station and boarded a Karjat bound train. The excited group alighted at Neral station for the hike to Matheran. The hike was for around 3 hours. The students were enthralled by the beauty of mother earth. During the trek they saw a few spots of tourist interest like Echo point, Charlotte Lake and Monkey point. After a small refreshment break at Matheran station, both students and teachers walked to the pristine Charlotte Lake. The entire group was mesmerised by the peace and stillness experienced during the visit. The elated group also trekked to a few spots of tourist interest like Echo point, Monkey point.

CHARLOTTE LAKE

Also known as the Sharlott Lake, the Charlotte Lake is one of the most spectacular attractions of Matheran. Located only a walking distance away from the main market area, this lake is the primary source of fresh drinking water for the population of Matheran. The origin of the lake is a dam, which overflows when it rains and forms a pristine little

waterfall to form the shimmering lake in monsoon. A visit to Matheran is incomplete without witnessing the tranquil beauty of Lake Charlotte. For the believers, the lake has an archaic temple of Lord Shiva - Pisharnath Mahadev Mandir and for the explorers and nature lovers at heart, all Charlotte has to offer is the charming ambience of the tarn itself and the bountiful emerald green all around.

ECHO POINT

One of the most popular spots in this hill station is the Echo Point. As the name suggests, this photogenic point is famous for the reverberations and echoes it generates. In addition to this phenomenon, this destination is also famous for its natural virgin beauty.

Engulfed in a fluffy blanket of cotton clouds, the Echo Point of Matheran is an unlikely physics lesson with its real life illustrations of the acoustics of echoing. The hilltop also gives a bird's eye view of the entire region which is a sight for sore eyes. Carpeted with a blanket of green grass, the mountains of Sahyadri are a sight to behold. With its pleasant weather and spotlessly clean surroundings, Echo Point was the perfect learning experience.

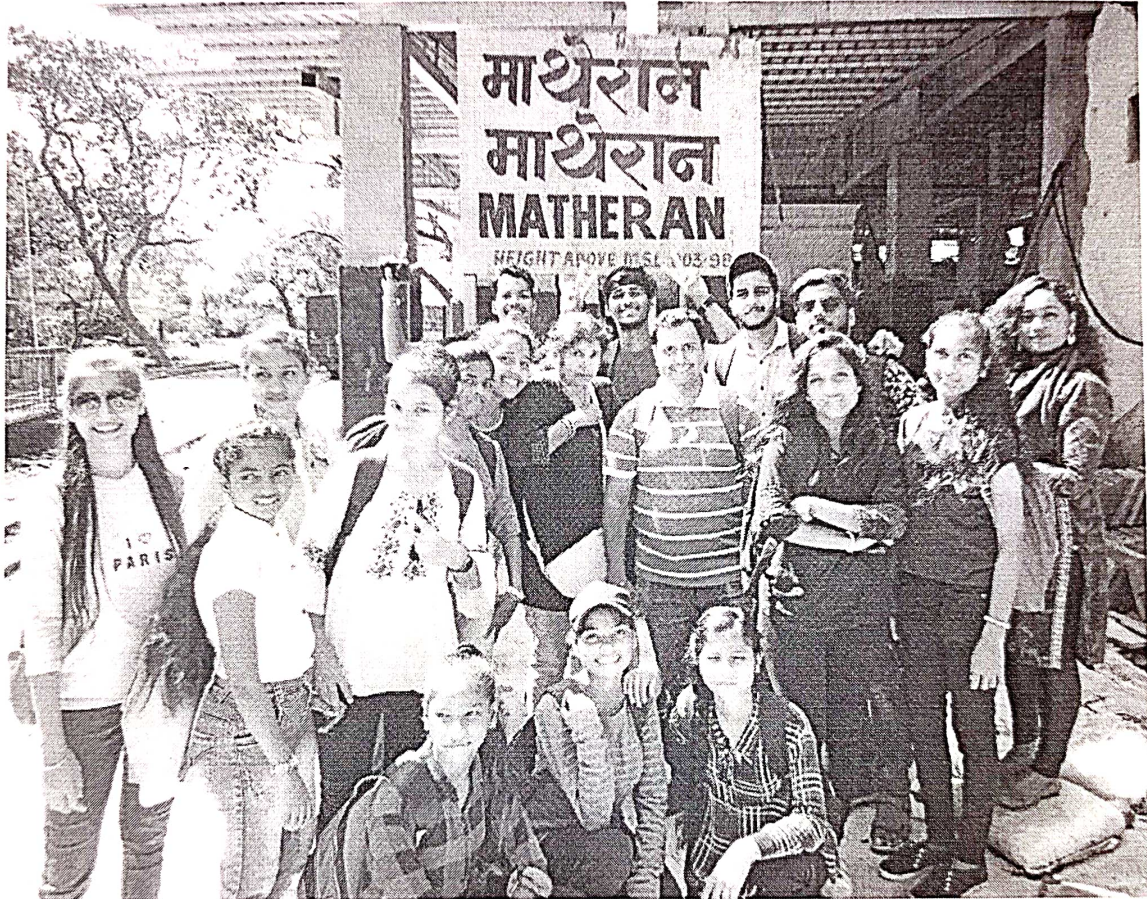
MONKEY POINT

The Monkey Point of Matheran is a unique destination, which overlooks a beautiful scenery of the Western Ghats and its intimidating mountains and deep gorges. As the name suggests, this place is often frequented by gangs of monkeys. This destination also has abundant quantities of indigenous flora and fauna and makes up for an interesting way to learn about the local weather and vegetation. Famous for its mesmerizing sunsets and many monkeys, the Monkey Point of Matheran is a popular spot. The rocky terrain of this destination also makes it an unlikely trekking destination. With numerous monkeys to keep you company, this trek was certainly one to be remembered.

Matheran, is also a food lover's delight, as various stalls and small shops provide delicious local Maharashtrian delicacies at reasonable prices. All assembled after lunch at Matheran

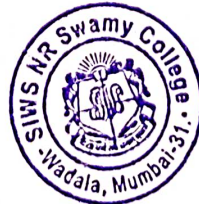
station from where the return journey began. There were many memorable experiences during the trail. Reached Neral station to board the local train to Mumbai.

The objective of the hike was fulfilled and the entire group went home happily without any guilt feeling about wasting college duty time and the students study time.



Twenty students and two teachers participate in the hike to Matheran on 21st September, 2019

Dr. Sunita D. Shirvalkar
Convenor



Dr. Usha S. Iyer
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PRINCIPAL

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