

## PODAR HIKERS' CLUB- ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

### Activities conducted during the year 2013-14:

2013-14, 28th year of Podar Hikers' Club (PHC) was a year full of adventure. This year witnessed 7 hikes and a Rappelling session in college.

#### **GANPATIGARAD (3000 ft) -- 14th July '13 (one day):**

The CLUB announced its first monsoon hike for the year to Ganpati Gadad caves, a group of 6-7 caves located near Palu / Sonavale villages beyond Murbad. The caves are spacious and clean with a seasonal waterfall providing a spectacular facade. The main central cave-temple resembles a raised altar with many Ganpati idols being kept for worship. It is said that the caves were connected to the Shivneri fort (birth place of Shivaji) by a secret underground passage which was later destroyed. Approximately 130 students participated, in 3 buses.

#### **TAVLI (2594 ft) -- 28th July '13 (one day):**

Tavli was the second hike organized specially for junior college students. It is a prominent group of three pinnacles visible from Kakuli lake or Badlapur station and is one of the northern most peaks adjacent to Haji Malang in the Matheran mountain ranges. A flat top near the pinnacles is known as Tavli which is connected to another top Badlapur hill through a saddle at a height of 600 mtr. Though we could not complete the hike, it turned out to be a little adventurous picnic with students enjoying waterfall. Approx. 35 students enjoyed it.

#### **CHANDERI (685 mt./2250 ft.)-- 11th August '13 (one day):**

Chanderi fort, a vast Mughal fort, dominates the skyline of the lovely old town of Chanderi. A good location for Trek near Badlapur. Enjoying climb through streams with rocks covered with moss & then steeper climb on slippery muddy route in thick jungle. The high speed wind combing grassy patches of slopes on opposite side mountain of "Mhasmal" was a sight to behold. This hike proved out to be day & night hike as we reached college rather late. Approx. 30 students joined.

#### **TAVLI (2594 ft) -- 15th September '13 (one day):**

After the unfinished climb of Tavli earlier, we planned to complete it. And the job was done successfully by students under guidance of some old ex-students. Approx. 30 students took up the challenge.

#### **KALSUBAI (5400 ft) -- 19 & 20 October '13 (overnight):**

Kalsubai with its towering height of 5400 ft, is recognized as the **highest peak of Maharashtra**. It is situated on Kalsubai mountain range which is an offshoot from main sahyadri range and runs from west to east. The name of this mountain range has been derived from the name of Kalsubai peak itself. Kalsubai, though the highest peak, is easy from trekking point of view. The peak has a temple and to visit this temple many people trek to the top. The hike was made more enjoyable as we climbed from a new, longer route and came down on traditional route. Approx. 15 students took this opportunity to climb the highest point.

### **HARISHCHANDRAGAD (4671 ft) -- This was a 3-day hike on 30th Nov, 1 & 2nd Dec.'13**

Harishchandragad is a fort located in the Ahmednagar district. It has one of the largest plateaus and held a lion's share in controlling the surrounding areas. This fort has got an eye-pleasing natural beauty, along with a diverse flora and fauna. Harishchandragad is famous for a lot of specialties such as its marvelous natural beauty, tough trek & the incomparable marvel Konkan Kada. Podar hikers' club jointly with Girivhar climbed Harishchandragad from 3 different routes like the challenging & difficult Nali-chi-vaat, moderate route from Pachnai, and an offbeat Khireswar-Junjar Darwaza route.

The hikes to HARISHCHANDRAGAD were a truly great experience. Our group consisted of 9 participants, while Girivhar had 19.

### **KENJALGAD & RARESHWAR -- 26 & 27th December '13 (overnight):**

KENJALGAD (4273 ft) is situated on the Mandhardev spur of the Mahadev range eleven miles north-west of Wai. It is a flat-topped hill of an irregular oval shape, about 250 yards long and one hundred yards wide. Khelanj fort is said to have been built by the Bhoj Rajas of Panhala who flourished in the twelfth century.

RARESHWAR (4589 ft), Tableland of Pachgani is very famous but higher and longer tableland is the plateau of Rayari. It is 8 km away from Bhor. It looks beautiful in monsoon. Raireswar was considered to develop as a hill station & in real sense it is hill station. Raireswar is historically important; Shivaji Maharaj took the Oath of Swaraj in a temple of Lord Shiva. A temple surrounded by hills, surroundings covered by natural beauties. Stone structured temple of the 16th century is the main attraction of Raireswar. Approx. 30 students participated.

Apart from these hikes, the CLUB has also successfully conducted Rappelling sessions, wall climbing competition, and rock-climbing camps.

### **RAPPELLING SESSION -- 31st August '13:**

After our third hike to Chanderi we had organized an adventurous session of rappelling on 31st August which was held on facade of R.A.Podar College. Under the guidance of experts like Vikas Kavle Sir, Rajendra Phadke Sir. We came across with great response and enthusiasm with participation of over 20 members. Ensuring safety on part of organizers and with complete fun n enjoyment on part of participants.

### **WALL CLIMBING COMPETITION -- 2nd October '13:**

PODAR HIKERS' CLUB jointly with Girivhar organized a competition on our very own climbing wall. This event was successfully completed with winners getting prizes and everyone others getting applauded of appreciation.

### **MANALI ROCK CLIMBING CAMP -- 18th - 27th May '13:**

5 students from our college had been to the camp which was situated at base village of Dhundi. Various activities such as rock climbing, rappelling, river crossing and adventures treks were organized for the participants.



**A Podar Hikers' Club student rappelling at R. A. Podar College**



**Podar Hikers enjoying the trek**



**Sir Apa Sherpa rock climbing**