

D.A.V. PUBLIC SCHOOL

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REPORT ON ONE-DAY FIELD TRIP TO MAHABALIPURAM – CLASS XI

Our school organized a one-day educational field trip to **Mahabalipuram**, a historic town in Tamil Nadu renowned for its ancient temples, rock-cut sculptures, and monuments. The trip aimed to provide students with practical knowledge of Indian history, architecture, and culture, complementing classroom learning. The trip also allowed them to observe and admire the artistry and skills of ancient Indian craftsmen directly.

142 Students and 10 escort teachers departed from school on the morning of 30 September, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. and reached Mahabalipuram at around 10.20 a.m. The first stop was the **Shore Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This architectural marvel is one of the earliest structural stone temples in South India and is situated along the Bay of Bengal. The temple's intricately carved sculptures of gods, lions, and elephants reflected the ingenuity of the Pallava dynasty. Standing in front of the temple, the students could feel the historical aura, and many of them took notes and photographs to capture its architectural beauty. The scenic view of the sea as the backdrop to the temple made it even more picturesque.

After exploring the Shore Temple, a **sumptuous lunch** with delicious food provided the students the much-needed energy for the rest of the day. The dining space became a ground for interaction with classmates and teachers, sharing excitement about the historic monuments.

A Quick stroll led the students to the **PanchaRathas**, a group of five monolithic rock-cut structures, each carved in the shape of a chariot. The popular belief is that each ratha is a dedication to Pandavas and representation of the skill of Pallava architects in carving the monoliths into complex structures. The details on the walls, the pillars, and the roofs amazed the touring students as each mural demonstrated the precision and creativity of ancient craftsmen. Students actively observed the carvings and asked questions about the history and construction techniques, making the visit both educational and interactive. A massive bas-relief sculpture depicting scenes from the Mahabharata - Arjuna's Penance and Krishna's Butter ball willed the adventurous to make an uphill climb or squeeze through narrow passaged tunnels.

The last stop enroute to Chennai - **Tiger Cave**, another remarkable rock-cut monument in Mahabalipuram left the students spellbound. The Tiger Cave named so for the large tiger carvings on its walls and intricate carvings depicted mythological scenes and animals.

The thrilling climb up and down the flight of steps to the cave, carefully examining the carvings that showcased the artistic excellence of the Pallavas in the peaceful and serene environment, allowed time for all to reflect on the cultural significance of such monuments. Many students sketched parts of the carvings in their notebooks.

The final stop was the **Mahabalipuram Beach**, with its blissful and scenic beauty of the coastline. The beach provided a perfect opportunity to appreciate the natural environment alongside historic landmarks. The gentle waves and fresh sea breeze made the experience refreshing, and some students collected small shells as souvenirs. Another takeaway of the trip was the historical significance of Mahabalipuram as a port city and its role in trade during ancient times.

The trip concluded with a visit to local souvenir shops, where artefacts and handicrafts inspired by Mahabalipuram's monuments were purchased. This allowed the students to take a piece of history back home as a memory of the educational journey.

Overall, the field trip was highly educational, enjoyable, and inspiring. It gave students a chance to witness history and architecture up close, fostering a sense of cultural pride and curiosity. The hands-on experience made learning much more engaging.

A day spent at Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) in the midst of Architectural wonders sculpted during Pallava Dynasty

