

# Podar Hikers' Club



**Teacher In-charge:** Mr. Sanjay Dhage  
**Student Secretary:** Ms. Gauri Rajput

## **About the forum:**

The Podar Hikers' Club organizes treks for Podarites throughout the academic year. It also conducts other activities like rappelling, rock climbing, etc., which are generally carried out during Enigma and Rapport. Apart from developing the spirit of adventure, the club offers a good opportunity for the students to experience nature through trekking.

*Podar: Nurturing Intellect, Creating Personalities*

The hikes are easily affordable and safe for students. The hikes play an important role in personality development too. We get to know our fellow Podarites, especially ex-Podarites. People come together, and this helps build team spirit. It is worth experiencing a hike with the club, especially if you are Podarite!

### **1: Takmak Fort**

**Day and date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023

**Time and Venue:** 6:00 a.m., Takmak Fort

**No. of Attendees:** 5 male, 2 female

**Number of participants:** 25 male, 18 female

#### **Description:**

On July 9, 2023, students embarked on a one-day trek to Takmak Fort. After assembling at the college at 5:45 am, they left by 6:30 am on an exquisite and fun-filled bus journey. Breakfast of homemade idlis was followed by games to acquaint everyone. The trek, starting at Sakwar base village, had a simple initial climb that later divided groups by pace. Despite a slightly delayed summit arrival, the panoramic view brought a sense of accomplishment and peace. A communal lunch shared like a buffet, preceded a descent starting at 2 p.m. Descending was pleasant, with overcast conditions, a mini waterfall, and refreshing water. After reaching the base at 5 p.m. and changing clothes, the return journey began at 5:30 p.m. Despite heavy rain and mild traffic, students maintained high energy by playing games and taking a refreshing halt at a restaurant. The lively atmosphere persisted until the college drop-offs at 10:30 p.m., marking the end of a mesmerizing day full of memories.

### **2: Ahupe Ghat Trek**

**Day and date:** Sunday, August 6, 2023

**Time and Venue:** 6:30 a.m., Ahupe Ghat Trek

**No. of Attendees:** 6 males, 0 females

**No. of Participants:** 18 male, 16 female

#### **Description:**

The second successful monsoon trek of the year (2023-2024) involved 40 participants, including two faculty members and ex-core members of the Podar Hikers Club. Departing from college at 6:30 a.m. for Ahupe Ghat, the bus journey was filled with fun activities, including Antakshari. Despite challenges with local guides at Khopivali, the group decided to climb without one. Starting the trek at 10:05 a.m., the initial bright sun took its toll, but the group's determination prevailed. A refreshing halt at a waterfall boosted spirits. After 3.30 hours of climbing, the summit was reached by 1:30 pm, and lunch was shared. The return journey began at 2:30 pm, accompanied by rain, and the descent was careful due to slippery conditions. Reaching the base village by 5:30 pm, the entire journey took 7.30 hours. After changing into dry clothes, the return journey started at 6:40 p.m. A tea break was taken, and despite fatigue, the group opted for a non-stop return to college, arriving by 10:45 p.m. The trek was a wonderful experience, fostering camaraderie among participants and the hope for more treks in the future.

### **3: Sagargad Trek**

**Day and date:** Sunday, August 13, 2023

**Time and Venue:** 6:00 a.m., Sagargad Trek

**No. of Attendees:** 4 male, 2 female  
**Number of participants:** 21 male, 23 female

**Description:**

The Podar Hikers' Club organized a junior college special trek to Sagargad Fort on August 13, 2023, providing new college students with a chance to experience muddy trails and mountains. The group, full of enthusiasm, gathered at 5:45 a.m., and after attendance and introductions, they boarded the bus from Matunga. Antakshari on the bus helped everyone bond and get acquainted. Reaching the base at 10 a.m., introductions continued, and the trek started toward the waterfall. A visit to a mandir was accompanied by mischievous monkeys. The group enjoyed a small waterfall, clicked pictures, and had a lunch break, sharing food with the monkeys. The highlight was the mighty waterfall, which left a lasting impression on everyone. Returning to the base on time, the bus got stuck in the mud, creating a memorable challenge. With the spirit of unity, all participants pushed the bus together, successfully overcoming the obstacle. The journey back to Mumbai started, and the group reached college around 9 p.m. Despite being a small hike, it was an exciting and memorable experience, holding a special place in the hearts of the participants.

**4: Peth Kothaligad**

**Day and date:** Sunday, October 1, 2023  
**Time and Venue:** 6:00 a.m., Peth Kothaligad  
**No. of Attendees:** 6 male, 1 female  
**No. of Participants:** 17 male, 21 female

**Description:**

On October 1st, 2023, a group of 45 people embarked on the Kothaligad trek, meeting at the college at 5:30 a.m. This independent journey included a joyful bus ride, introductions, and a breakfast stop. Despite slippery stones due to algae, the group reached the fort's top by 1:56 p.m., capturing moments and enjoying the scenery. A heartwarming highlight was supporting a hesitant trekker, who, with encouragement, transformed into a confident adventurer. The trek showcased the power of teamwork, encouragement, and the resilient human spirit in overcoming challenges.

**5: Sunset Point, Matheran**

**Day and date:** Sunday, November 5, 2023  
**Time and Venue:** 8:00 a.m., Sunset Point, Matheran  
**No. of Attendees:** 5 male, 1 female  
**No. of Participants:** 19 male, 5 female

**Description:**

The 5th trek of the year, with 30 participants, including ex-core members of PHC, took an unexpected turn. Without faculty, the group faced a bus issue, necessitating a quick replacement. Despite this, an enjoyable introduction session took place in the classroom, and the bus arrived at 8:00 a.m. Skipping any further delays, they departed for the location, arriving by 9:45 a.m. Facing the challenge of a guide charging extra fees, the group proceeded without one on a sunny day, navigating through tall grass. Unable to find a proper road, they opted for a rocky trail along the river route, reaching a halt by 1:00 pm due to exhaustion and a lack of water. After lunch and pictures, the return journey began at 2:15 p.m. Reaching the base village of Dhodani by 4:00 pm, the group changed clothes and left for college at 5:00 pm. Despite a slightly unfulfilled trek, participants had overall fun, and the experience provided valuable lessons. The trek, while incomplete, offered important insights, and the guidance of ex-core members will be applied in future treks to avoid such situations.

### **6: Tung Fort**

**Day and date:** Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th December 2023

**Time and Venue:** 10 p.m., Tung Fort

**No. of Attendees:** 6 male, 0 female

**Number of participants:** 24 male, 15 female

#### **Description:**

Initially, the venue for this trek was Tikona Fort, but due to some circumstances, the venue was changed to Tung Fort. The first overnight trek marked a unique experience, meeting at the college at 10 p.m. on Saturday. With ex-students and Mr. Sanjay Dhage, sir, the faculty in charge, the group departed at 11:05 pm, enjoying the journey and taking a food court halt at 1:05 am for tea and breakfast. Resuming at 2 pm, traffic delayed the arrival at the base village until 4:45 am, where a brief break was taken to combat the early morning cold. After making sandwiches for everyone, the trek started at 6:15 a.m. Reaching the top by 7:15 am, the group enjoyed pictures, tiffins, and a good time before starting the return journey at 9:30 am and returning to the bus at 10:30 am. With time to spare, the group visited Pawna Lake for lunch before starting the journey back. Fatigue set in, and most participants took a nap, returning to college at 5:45 p.m. This trek provided a different and amazing experience, with the anticipation of more treks in the future.

### **7: Rajmachi Fort**

**Day and date:** Saturday and Sunday, January 13th and 14th, 2023

**Time and Venue:** 11:48 p.m., Rajmachi Fort

**No. of Attendees:** 6 male, 0 female

**Number of participants:** 25 male, 9 female

#### **Description:**

The second overnight trek with PHC included Shashi Dada, the non-teaching staff. The group gathered at the college at 10:30 p.m., departing at 11:48 p.m. After a hectic day, half of the group slept on the bus while others enjoyed themselves. Upon reaching the location, everyone took a nap, and for breakfast, they had bread with peanut butter. The trek began at 4:15 a.m., aiming to reach the top. After a 4-hour climb, they reached the top at 8:15 a.m., exploring both Shrivardhan Fort and Balkilla. After enjoying the climb, taking photos, and having tiffins, the return journey to the bus started at 1:10 pm, reaching near the bus by 4:15 pm. Changing clothes, the return journey commenced at 5 p.m., with a tea break at a restaurant. The group reached college at 8:50 pm, concluding a great trek with breathtaking views and epic memories. Despite being longer than previous treks, everyone completed it without injuries, anticipating more such amazing treks in the future.