

Exposure Visit to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai

As part of its ongoing commitment to holistic and experiential learning, Matru Schaya Social Welfare Society (MSSWS) organized an exposure visit to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai's iconic museum of history and culture. The visit, held on 5th May 2025, brought together 58 students from Grade 7 and 8, along with 18 adults—including teachers, local Panchayat members, and MSSWS staff—on a journey that blended education, exploration, and inspiration.



The primary aim of this visit was to provide children an opportunity to experience learning beyond their classrooms by immersing them in India's rich historical and cultural tapestry. With the generous support of the CSMVS team, entry tickets for all participants were waived, and a specially curated museum orientation and demonstration on Stone Age tools was organized. Children were able to physically engage with replicas of ancient tools and learn about the evolution of human life—sparking their curiosity and connecting them with a distant yet fascinating past.

The visit then allowed children to independently explore the museum's many galleries, accompanied by their adult mentors. As they walked through halls of miniature paintings,

ancient sculptures, textiles, and coins, children asked questions, made observations, and shared insights - transforming the museum into a living textbook. For many, it was a first-time encounter with India's cultural heritage presented in such depth.



Outcomes of the Visit:

- The children gained firsthand exposure to historical artifacts and cultural knowledge, enhancing their learning in subjects like history, art, and social studies.
- Their critical thinking, imagination, and observational skills were strengthened through interactive sessions and guided exploration.
- The visit helped build confidence and expression, as children later would share their experiences through storytelling and discussion.
- It also fostered a sense of pride and cultural identity among students, creating a lasting impact on how they view their own heritage.

Building on the success of this exposure, MSSWS plans to introduce follow-up activities such as creative writing, drawing, and group reflection sessions to help students process and articulate their experiences. Students will be encouraged to document their learnings through essays and visual art.

Further, MSSWS will explore collaborations with CSMVS under the **Trunk Museum** initiative—aimed at bringing curated museum kits to remote schools. This will extend the learning from a

one-time visit to an ongoing, hands-on educational experience in village classrooms. This exposure visit was more than a trip—it was a gateway to learning through seeing, touching, questioning, and imagining. MSSWS remains committed to organizing such initiatives that spark curiosity, promote cultural awareness, and nurture confident, thoughtful learners.



Student Testimonials – CSMVS Museum Exposure Visit

1. Atish Jagdish Andher

Grade 8, Modgaon Khoripada School | Village: Modgaon

"I really enjoyed seeing the animals in the museum. It felt like I was seeing them in real life! I learned their names and what they look like. It was very exciting."

2. Prathamesh Pradip Bundhe

Grade 7, Shensari Patilpada School | Village: Shensari

"The coins, birds, and swords fascinated me the most. I also loved the view of the sea and the beach. It made me wish I could spend time at the beach someday!"

3. Mamta Umesh Parhyad

Grade 7, Gyanmata Adivasi Vidya Mandir, Talasari | Village: Shilonda, Paraspada

"I loved the statue of Shivaji Maharaj, and I enjoyed seeing all the birds, animals, and especially the elephants. Now I really want to see the beach too!"

4. Pratima Prakash Dalvi

Grade 8, Secondary School Udhwa | Village: Raipur, Madipada

"I liked seeing the birds and animals at the museum. The garden was beautiful and peaceful. I also made many new friends during the trip—it was a really happy day for me."

